

**Title : Role of Public Private Partnership in Implementing Mid Day Meal Programme:  
Viewpoint of the beneficiaries**

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**Keywords :** *Mid Day Meal Programme, Teachers, Parents, Children*

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**Introduction:**

School children are at risk population for nutritional deficiency but little attention is paid towards this age group in terms of quality of life and nutritional disorders. School feeding programs are designed to provide nutritious food to the children and to improve their physical, mental and psychosocial health. The Government initiated public private partnership with The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF) for better implementation of the MDM programme. The present study was conducted to obtain the feedback of teachers, parents and children about TAPF.

**Methodology:**

The exit interviews were taken from 16 schools using stratified random sampling with four schools from each zone. All the teachers present in 16 schools (N=125), children studying in 3rd – 7th standard (N=301) and parents (n=71) who could be contacted at school were interviewed using a semi-structured KAP questionnaire. The objective was to obtain their feedback regarding the implementation of the MDM programme provided by TAPF.

**Results:**

A positive impact in the nutritional status of school children was seen by 92% of the teachers while 78% felt positive changes in the interest of children towards education and acquiring knowledge after the introduction of meals provided by TAPF. Nearly 85% of the children responded that the quality of food provided by TAPF was much better than the earlier menu. Children preferred meals provided by TAPF as compared to the meals cooked at schools as the quality of food provided by TAPF was good. 50% of the children reported that they were consuming MDM on all the school days. The most preferred food item by the children was Dal, Rice and Sukhadi. All the parents acknowledged that their children were consuming MDM offered by TAPF. Majority of the parents felt improvement in the health of their children after TAPF intervention as the food provided by TAPF is good. The feedback obtained from parents, teachers and children revealed that the objectives envisaged through MDM have been achieved up to great extent through public private participation.

**Conclusion:**

Majority of the teachers and parents felt improvement in health of the children after introduction of school meals provided by TAPF and also suggested for continuation of the programme.

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