

## Performance of Mid Day Meal Programme in Mumbai

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### **Abstract**

*The Mid Day Meal Programme (MDMP) is one of the largest nutrition programmes in India, and the only one aimed at addressing childhood hunger and malnourishment in the 6-14 years age group. Mumbai has been the worst performing district in Maharashtra as far as MDMP coverage is concerned for the last four consecutive years. Since very few attempts have been made to investigate the reasons for abysmal performance of Mumbai in MDMP, the present study, keeping MDMP guidelines (as laid down by the MHRD) as a benchmark, strives to evaluate MDMP with specific reference to Mumbai district. The study is a descriptive one, based on intensive field work and secondary data released by the State in its Annual Work Plan and Budgets (AWP&B). Findings indicate that while on one hand, the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai as an implementing agency can be commended for unfailingly providing hot cooked meals on a daily basis to the vast multitudes of children studying in its civic and aided schools, the singular lack of concern or focus on the nutritional and taste factors of the meals provided is a real let down, given the abundance of every possible resource it has at its disposal. Basic features like round-the clock vigilance, pre-emptive action, innovation, regular interaction with all stakeholders are conspicuous by their absence in its overall functioning. The welfare and well-being of the school children is taken for granted, while the administrative machinery chugs on in a mechanical or almost melancholic manner, going through the motions, devoid of inspiration, innovation and enthusiasm.*

**Keywords:** *Mid Day Meal Programme, Mumbai, Schools*