



Mid-Day Meal Scheme, GOI 2009-10

Background: Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDM) is the world's largest school-feeding programme aimed at promoting universalisation of elementary education by increasing enrolment, retention, attendance, and simultaneously impacting the nutritional status of students.

Target: Children studying in Classes I to Class VIII

Coverage: Rs. 11.19 crore children per school day were served MDM in 2008-09

Contents: Cooked meals with minimum 450 calories (750 calories for Class VI-VIII) and 12 grams (20 grams for Class VI-VIII) of protein content, and essential micronutrients (iron, folic acid, and Vitamin-A etc).

Cost Share and Implementation: It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Cooking costs are shared between the centre and the states in a 75:25 ratio. The overall responsibility of implementation rests with the state.

Complete expenditure data is publically available only for FY 2007-08.

Highlights

Allocation for education in FY 2009-10 (in crore)	Rs. 44,528
Allocation for Mid Day Meal (MDM) in FY 2009-10 (in crore)	Rs. 8,000
Released for MDM in FY 2008-09	84%
Unspent for MDM in FY 2007-08*	20%
Spent in second half in FY 2007-08*	62%

*Complete data is only available for FY 2007-08. FY 2008-09 data available till January 2009.

Key Facts and Analysis

- ♦ **64%** of MDM funds came from Education Cess.
- ♦ State government allocations for MDM components such as cooking costs vary widely. Uttar Pradesh allocates Rs. **3.60** per child per school day for cooking costs, while Bihar allocates Rs. **2.60** and Tamil Nadu allocates Rs. **4**.
- ♦ Collection of allocated food grains by state governments also varies. Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat collected over **90%** of food grains allocated. Bihar and Assam collected **64%** and **45%** respectively.
- ♦ Consumption of food grains by states does not always correlate with cooking costs. In Assam, **28%** of food grains allocated was consumed and **80%** of cooking funds were spent. In Bihar **53%** of allocated food grains were consumed, and **28%** cooking funds were spent.
- ♦ MDM reporting is based on enrolment and not attendance. In FY 2008-09, Orissa and Rajasthan reported that **100%** of enrolled children benefited from MDM. However, on average, school attendance rates in the states were about **69%** and **72%** respectively.

Trends in Central Government Allocations and Expenditures

- Rs. **8,000** crore was allocated for MDM in FY 2009-10. When controlled for inflation, this is a **4** percent decline from the previous year’s allocations.
- Education cess or Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (PSK) is the main source of funds. PSK is a **2** percent tax-on-tax paid by the general public. Over the last two years the cess has contributed a steady **64** percent to MDM.

64% of MDM funded through the Education Cess

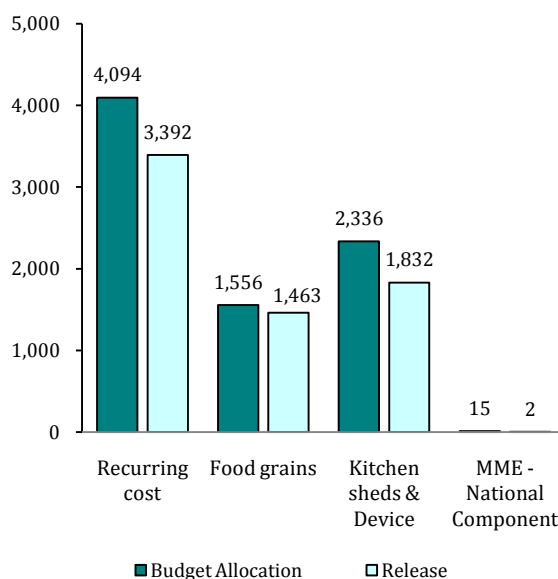


Source: Calculated from Expenditure Budget- 2007-09 incorporating notes on demand for grants, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education and Literacy. Note: All figures are in percentages.

- Central government funds are tied to certain expenditure items. Recurring costs including cooking costs, transportation and monitoring, management and evaluation (MME) constitute **51** percent. Food grains constitute **19** percent of MDM allocations.

- All allocated funds are not released. In FY 2008-09, while **94** percent of food grains were released, **17** percent of the recurring costs, **20** percent of the kitchen sheds fund and **49** percent of the kitchen device funds were **not** released by the central government.

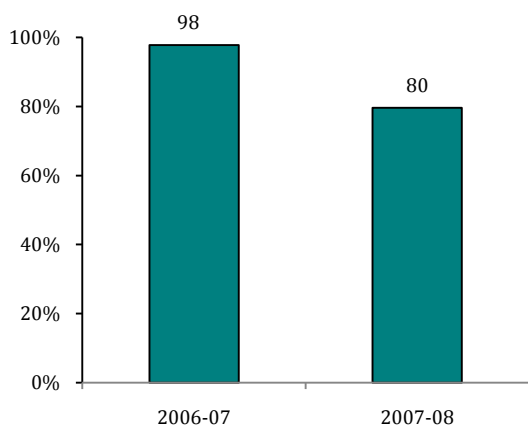
84% of total allocations for MDM were released



Source: Calculated from NATIONAL_AWP&B-2008-09_DS&AS, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education and Literacy. Note: Data for both primary and upper primary schools. All figures in crores of rupees.

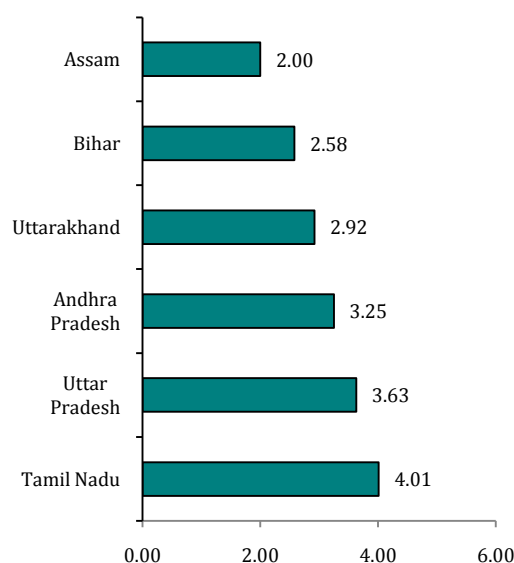
- Spending capacity varies. In 2007-08, **20** percent of allocated funds remained unspent. However, in 2006-07, only **2** percent of allocated funds remained unspent.

20% of funds allocated in 2007-08 remained unspent



Source: Calculated from Scheme-Wise Statement of Expenditure for 2006-2007 and 2007-08, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education and Literacy. Data on expenditure is available till January 2009. (As accessed on January 10, 2010). Note: figures are in percentages

Variation in provision of cooking costs (primary schools) across states

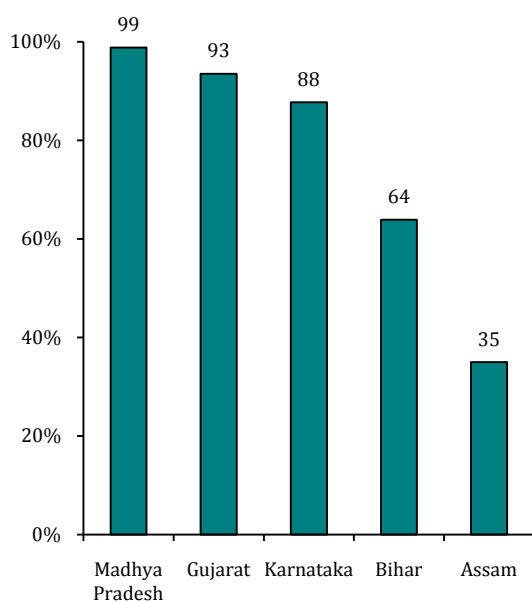


Source: Calculated from NATIONAL_AWP&B-2008-09_DS&AS, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education and Literacy. Data is for Primary level. (For the Period 01.4.08 to 31.3.09). Note: Figures are in rupees per child per day.

Trends in State Government Allocations and Expenditures

- Wide variations in state government allocations for MDM. Cooking costs (calculated on a per child, per school day basis), are shared between the centre and states on a **75:25** ratio. Effective from December 1, 2009, for primary schools the fund allocation norms for cooking costs are Rs. **2.50** per child per day (up from Rs. **1.58**), with states providing Rs. **0.62**. For upper primary the allocation norms are Rs. **3.75** per child per day (up from Rs. **2.08**), with states providing Rs. **0.94**.
- Yet some states provide more than the required norm. In 2008-09, Uttar Pradesh allocated Rs. **3.63** for cooking costs per child per school day for primary schools, while Bihar allocated Rs. **2.58**. Tamil Nadu is among the top states with allocations for cooking cost at Rs. **4** per child per school day.
- Data on procurement of food grains tells a similar story. Some states collect more of the allocated food grain than others.

Some states collect more food grains than others

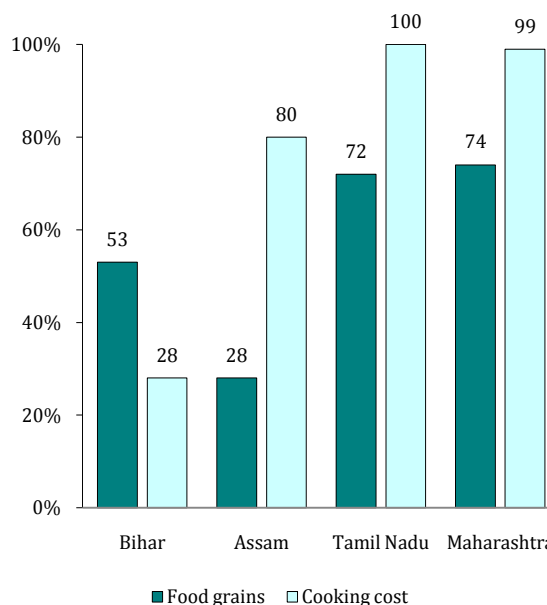


Source: Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education and Literacy. MDM Release information, <http://education.nic.in/mdm/Foodgrains%20All-oc-Lift-2008-09.xls>, sheet 2. Note: Data includes both primary and upper primary. Figures are in percentages.

- In part, this variation is a consequence of the fact that most states usually have a stock of unused grain (opening balance) at the start of any given financial year. For instance, in FY 2008-09 Gujarat had an opening balance of **3,323** Metric Ton (MT), while Bihar had an opening balance of **13,497** MT.
- However, even when this opening balance is taken into account, variations persist. Gujarat collected over **90** percent of food grains allocated (excluding opening balance) in FY 2008-09, while Bihar collected only **64** percent of net allocations.

- Consumption of food grains by states does not always correlate with cooking costs.

Variations between % of food grains consumed and cooking costs incurred



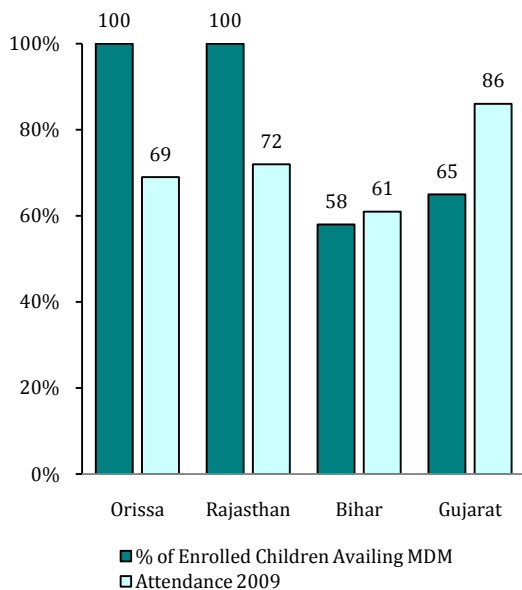
Source: Calculated from NATIONAL_AWP&B-2008-09_DS&AS, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education and Literacy. (For the Period 01.4.08 to 31.3.09). Note: Data includes both primary and upper primary. Figures are in percentages.

- In Assam, **28** percent food grains allocated were consumed and **80** percent of cooking funds were spent. In Bihar **53** percent of allocated food grains were consumed and **28** percent of cooking funds were spent.

Coverage

- Reporting is based on school enrolment and not attendance.

Mismatch between MDM coverage and attendance



Source: Calculated from NATIONAL_AWP&B-2008-09_DS&AS, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of School Education and Literacy. Data is for Primary level. (As on 30th September 2008) and Attendance data is taken from the report submitted in the Meeting of State Education Secretaries. Average Attendance Rate of Students based on Headcount during 2009. Note: Figures are in percentages.

- The reported coverage for MDM varies across states. In 2008-09, Orissa and Rajasthan reported that **100** percent of enrolled children availed MDM whereas in Gujarat and Bihar the reported coverage was **65** percent and **58** percent respectively.
- Data on MDM coverage indicates over-reporting by some states. Tamil Nadu reported **84** percent coverage, which is consistent with school attendance rates. Orissa and Rajasthan, on the other hand, reported **100** percent coverage, but had only **69** percent and **72** percent of enrolled students attending schools on any given day, according to GOI data. Attendance rates can also be corroborated with ASER 2009 data which shows that for Orissa and Rajasthan, attendance rates are **74** percent and **72** percent respectively.

This section offers some practical leads to accessing further and detailed information on the union government's education sector budget. However, reader patience and persistence is advised as a lot of this information tends to be dense and hidden amongst reams of data.

Data Sources	Useful Tips
Union Budget, Expenditure Vol,2 www.indiabudget.nic.in	This volume provides total ministry-wise and department-wise allocations as well as disaggregated data according to sectors and schemes from 1998-99 onwards. The data has both revised and budgeted estimates and should be calculated according to the Major-Head and Sub Major-Head. For elementary education, the head is 2202.01 It is important to remember to account for the North-East Region Component.
Department of School Education and Literacy, http://education.nic.in/Elementary/mdm/downloads.htm _NATIONAL AWP&B 2009-10 (Data Sheets & Analysis Sheets AT4). <i>Accessed on December 17, 2009,</i>	State-wise and Component wise Allocation, and Expenditure for MDM and the data on Enrolment and Number of children availing the MDM scheme
Department of School Education and Literacy, http://education.nic.in/Elementary/mdm/Releases_Information.htm . Releases Information. Available at: http://education.nic.in/mdm/Foodgrains%20All-loc-Lift-2008-09.xls .(Sheet 2). <i>Accessed on January 1, 2009</i>	The amount of food grains allocation and lifting under Mid Day meal scheme.
Department of School Education and Literacy, http://education.nic.in/Elementary/mdm/Events_%26_Meetings.htm , 2nd N.S.M.C. Meeting (Slide 31). <i>Accessed on December 17, 2009</i>	Extent of Mismatch in Utilisation (primary and upper primary) between the food grain and the cooking cost for the year 2008-09,
Economic Survey 2008-09, and http://eaindustry.nic.in/asp2/list_d.asp All India Wholesale Price Index <i>Accessed on December 17, 2009</i>	The current series of WPI Base Year 1993-94 (All commodities).
SSA portal. http://ssa.nic.in/monitoring/conference-of-state-educatin-secretaries-and-state-project-directors/minutes-of-the-state-education-secretaries-conference-held-from-30th-july-to-1st-august-2009/?searchterm=State Education Secretaries . Annexure – VII, Presentation on Quality Progress.	This attendance data is based on one visit in 2009.

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