

## Features of Mid-day Meal

- **Mid day meals in all primary government schools are compulsory** Children of 6 to 14 years, i.e. class 1 to 8th who enrol and attend the school are eligible
- **A hot cooked meal with the appropriate nutritional standard is served to children free of charge**
- **Food with a minimum content of 300 calories of energy and 8 to 12 gram of protein per day is served for a minimum of 200 days in a year.**

- All government and govt. aided schools are covered under the scheme, madarsa are also covered (supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan)
- It is the world's most extensive school nutrition program.
- Meals are served across 12.65 lakhs school, and 12 crore students are benefited from it.

## objective of mid day meal scheme

- Boost students enrolment
- Helps to promote students attendance
- Serves as an incentive not only for the children but also for the parents as it has an implicit subsidy
- The attraction for children who are otherwise reluctant to go to school
- The nutritional impact which helps students in their learning
- Helps to solve deficiency-related diseases that are endemic in some areas of the country.

# Shortcomings of the Midday meals Scheme

- Corruption is involved in the delivery system due to which children are getting low quality and insufficient food.
- Lack of proper monitoring and supervision is also the biggest problem of this scheme.
- Sometimes reports have found dirtiness, unhygienic conditions at kitchen shed in rural areas, to the extent of insects and lizards being spotted in food.

- Fake enrolments are also done to embezzle money.
- Reports have also shown children falling ill and being hospitalised due to poor quality of Mid-day meal.

## **Financial Provision for the Mid-day meal scheme**

Both central and state government shares its a central government-sponsored scheme but the funds. The shares fund in the ration of 75:25. The Central government provides the state government with rice-wheat and other ingredients, as well as bear the expanse of constructing storeroom and kitchen sheds for cooking.

The union government gives a subsidy to the state government for transporting food articles from one place to another under prescribed norms.

Besides the central government also shares the expenditure accrued on running of the scheme as well as its monitoring under prescribed norms.