

Summary report

Assessment of Mid-day Meal program supported by
JSW Foundation

Implemented by – The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF)

Introduction

JSW Foundation (JSW-F) and TAPF came together to address the poor quality of MDM being served to school students in Bellary. Through JSW-F's support TAPF set up their kitchen in Bellary.

JSW-F provided land for the kitchen and covered the capital expenditure for the set-up. JSW-F is also supporting the cost of MDM for an increasing number of school students in Bellary. In 2018-19, JSW-F supported the cost of MDM for 9,091 government school children at INR 1,100 (annual) per child i.e., a total contribution of INR 1,00,00,000.

The overall process entailed:



JSW-F engaged Grant Thornton to understand the outcomes and impact of the programme on the intended beneficiaries. The current study focused on FY 2018-19. The study was carried out in three phases, namely, i) planning and desk research; ii) data collection with beneficiaries; and iii) reporting. Quantitative data was collected from 149 school going children (including 68 girls) and qualitative interactions were undertaken with 17 School Development Management Committee (SDMC) members, 35 Parents and three (03) TAPF representatives.

Key findings (as of October 2020)

- TAPF reports the progress of the program through the number of meals served throughout the academic year.
- TAPF served meals for 278, 243 and 240 days in 2016—17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively.
- TAPF served mid-day meals in 67 schools in Bellary in 2018-19.
- Total 9099 children were served mid-day meals for 240 days which is total 21,83,760 meals for the year 2018-19.
- Students highlighted the provision of food as one of the reasons for coming to school.
- As per school administration, improvement in attendance, enrolment and academic focus of the children are some of the positive impacts of timely access to nutritional and tasty meals to students
- The time and efforts of the school authorities towards academics has improved because of less engagement in distribution and coordination for providing mid-day meals to students.
- Access to tasty and fulfilling food with second serving is appreciated by parents.
- As per the parents' feedback, students have become more disciplined w.r.t their eating habits as they eat everyday at the same time with other kids in school.
- Parents' feedback for the food is also taken occasionally or whenever there is a change in the menu.

End