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Mid Day Meal and Its Accountability in Uttarakhand

MDM scheme is undoubtedly running very successfully in Uttarakhand at revolutionally changed the entire primary school and upper primary school children enrolment, retention, achievement level and nutritional level, and spread the message of equality and secularism amongst various different religion, culture, social and economic groups.

DR. RANJU BISHT & DR. SARITA CHAUHAN

The mid day meal scheme is a School meal programme of the Government of India designed to improve the nutritional status of school age children nation wide. The roots of the programme can be tracked back to the pre-independence era, when a mid day meal programme was introduced in 1925 in Madras corporation by the British administration. The Government of India initiate the National programme of Nutrition support to primary education popularly known as the mid meal (MDM) scheme. This MDM scheme was formally launched on the 15th August 1995. The Scheme envisaged every child in primary school to provided cooked meal during the school hours with a maximum energy content of 450 calories and 12gm of protein each day of school. Before 9 Nov. 2000 Uttarakhand was the part of Uttar Pradesh where dry ration distribution i.e. 3kg of rice.wheat was given to every child enrolled in primary school under mid-day meal scheme. After evaluation of day ration distribution scheme it was found that it improved the enrollment in school but retention of these children in school was still a challenge to the department and government, also dry ration distribution was not felt sufficient from nutritional point of view. Health status data shows that providing dry ration under MDM was not up to satisfaction as far as health of children and their retention in school is concerned.

While deciding a PIL the honorable supreme court of India directed all states and union territory through GOI to provide cooked nutritious meal to all children enrolled in primary school during school hours. Following the order of the honorable Apex Court Government of Uttarakhand started the cooked meal scheme on pilot basis for the 1st time in Sahaspur block of district Dehradun in the year 2001 -2002.

The scheme was extended to all 13 district (02 blocks from each district) of the state in 2002-2003. The cooked meal scheme was appreciated and hailed from all the quarters of the state and the government of Uttarakhand, then extended the scheme in all Govt. and Govt. aided primary school in year 2003-2004. The scheme has been a 100% success in terms of coverage at primary level. After the success at primary level the MDM scheme was extended in upper primary schools of educationally backwards block with effect from 01 January 2008, and then further extended in all upper primary school of the state from 01 April 2008.

The direction of Govt. regarding the scheme are mostly focused on sound structural organization, cleanliness managing food supply and quality of food grain, availability of funds and fuel. School management committee is formed separately at school level to given responsibility of implementing the scheme.

Objective of MDM Scheme :

- (1) To improve the effectiveness of primary education by improving the nutritional status of children thereby reducing malnutrition.
- (2) To increase the enrollment, retention and attendance in school.
- (3) To encourage children from disadvantaged background to attend school regularly and help them concentrate in school activities.
- (4) To promote a feeling of oneness and secularism amongst various different religion and cultures.
- (5) To promote healthy habits and healthy growth of a child like washing hands before and after eating, etc.
- (6) To promote social and gender equality.

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Management Structure :

At the state level deptt. of education is responsible for implementing the scheme. The state project director of "Uttarakhand Education for all" is responsible for the overall management of the programme. The state project director coordinates with secretary education, ICDS department and Deptt. of food and supply. Education secretary coordinates with govt. of India for the implementation of the scheme in the state. Food and supply deptt. share the responsibility of lifting the food grains from FCI godowns and providing it to school. District magistrate supervise the implementation and monitoring of scheme at district level. Under the supervision of District Magistrate additional district education officer(Nodal Officer) and district supply officer implement the scheme in all govt. and govt. aided schools in the district. The block education officer is a nodal officer for implementation of scheme at block level. The responsibility of implementation at school level of Head master and school management committee.

School Management Committee at Village Level

1	Elected Guardian of Student	Chairperson
2	Head Master or Head teacher	Secretary
3	Mothers of Children from Class 1 st to 5 th (out of these five at least two belonging to SC/ST/OBC)	Member
4	Three prominent people of Village (Retired teacher, Military man or member of NGOs)	Member
5	Two male parents	Member

Head Master maintain the record of food grain received-used, cooking cost received- used. Honorarium of cooks received-paid etc. Head master as a secretary organizes the meetings of VECs and SMCs where Various aspects of midday meal scheme are discussed like quality of food, availability of funds and food grain etc. SMCs and Head master are jointly accountable for the implementation scheme.

The Problems faced in the implementation of MDM :

- (1) VEC/SMC are not fully active.
- (2) Irregular supply of food grain to school level in some areas.
- (3) Unnecessary involvement of teachers.
- (4) Lack of monitoring staff and district, block and cluster level.
- (5) Drinking water problem.
- (6) Inadequate supply of food grains.
- (7) Gass connection are not available readily and inadequate supply of gass.

Measure taken to prevent any miss happening :

- (1) The cooked food by Bhojanmata is served under the supervision of teacher or SMC members present at that time.
- (2) Cleanliness and hygiene is maintain during cooking and serving.
- (3) Quality of food grains and material is checked before cooking.
- (4) Students should be kept away from cooking area.

(5) Inflammable substance LPG cylinder should be handled carefully.

(6) Repair and maintenance of Gas stove should be done on regular basis.

(7) Fire fighting material like water, sand should be kept ready to be used if required.

(8) All children should be served food in impartial way.

Finding of the study about MDM :

(1) The quality of food served was indeed good and the children were eating properly.

(2) It is a common lunch meant for all the children, belonging to various social and economic groups.

(3) MDM scheme has cut down many undesirable social barriers especially untouchability and cast system.

(4) It also improve the healthy habits among the children.

(5) Drop out rates from schools decreased among girls and across all social categories in school.

(6) Retention rates in class increased.

(7) Achievement level increases in school.

(8) The nutritional level of children increased

Conclusion :

MDM scheme is undoubtedly running very successfully in Uttarakhand at revolutionally changed the entire primary school and upper primary school children enrolment, retention, achievement level and nutritional level, and spread the message of equality an secularism amongst various different religion, culture, social and economic groups.

Aberration :

MDM - Mid day meal, FCI- Food corporation India, GOI- Government of India, VEC- Village Education Committee, SMC- School Management Committee.

References :

- (1) State project office, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (MDM Cell)
- (2) Additional district Education officer.
- (3) Uttarakhand Govt. website.
- (4) Deptt. of Home Science G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology Pant Nagar.
- (5) New concept information system Pvt. Ltd. Plot No 5, Sarita Vihar Institutional area New Delhi 110076.
- (6) J.P. S. Associates (P) Ltd. Consultant New Delhi.





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Effect of Socio Economic Conditions of Handloom Weavers, Khandak Bazaar in Meerut District

Handlooms have been known to India right from the historic ages. Basic needs of the handloom weavers are food, shelter and proper working conditions. This study explores the dynamics condition of handloom weavers in Meerut District. The Handloom weaving sector plays an important role in social and economic condition of urban & rural areas. In the present study, we have analysed the socio economic condition of handloom weavers. This study is based on both primary and secondary data sources.
Key Words : Handlooms, weaving, social and economic conditions.

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Introuction :

The handloom sector plays a very important role in the country's economy. The handloom industry is the second largest employment provider for the rural population in India after "agriculture". Indian handloom products are known for their unique design and finesses. It is one of the largest economic activities providing direct employment to over 65 lakhs persons engaged in weaving sectors. Weaving is the basic process among the various manufacturing stages of handloom cloth. In the process of weaving, the handloom weaver's achieve harmony of motion and rhythms.

Objectives of The Study :

- (1) To study the present situation (socio- economic condition) of handloom weavers.
- (2) To study the present problems faced by the handloom weavers
- (3) To examine the policy of the government of India towards promoting the handloom industry.
- (4) To examine the organizational issues having impact on the socio economic condition.

Methodology :

To obtain a comprehensive analysis the methodology mentioned below is adopted employing the following sample design.

Collection of Data :

The primary data has been collected from 40 respondents by the questionnaire and through the direct interview methods. Secondary data has been collected from the books, magazines, internet and other sources.

Primary Data : This data is collected from the survey

instrument the questionnaire contained qualitative data as well as quantitative data. The researcher personally questioned all these respondents.

Secondary Data : This data for the study is collected from the published and unpublished sources, journals, research and various related websites.

Sampling Techniques :

Random sampling was used in this research. Socio economic conditions of handloom weavers in Meerut district where the sampling unit and people of Meerut district were the sample population. Questionnaire has been collected from 40 respondents randomly through relatives and friends.

Area of Study :

This study was conducted Khandak Bazar in Meerut district.

Statistical Tools :

The tables are prepared with the help of primary data for easy understanding and these data are used for simple bar diagram, tables and pie diagrams. We have also applied percentage, average and correlation for analysing the primary data.

Results ad Discussion :

The data are collected from 40 sample respondents by supplying the questionnaires, the data are analysed by using tables, bar diagram, pie diagram on the basis of age, educational qualification, sex, family size, monthly income, major health problems and many other characteristics.

The table 1 shows that the working status wise classification of the respondents, 32.5% of the respondents were independent weavers, 30% of the weavers are working under middlemen, 22.5% of the weavers are working under

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Table 1 : Working Status of The Respondents

S. No.	Working Status	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Independent workers	13	32.5
2.	Working under middlemen	12	30
3.	Co-operation weavers	9	22.5
4.	None of the above	6	15
	Total	40	100

are cooperative weavers and 15% of the weavers worked as none of the above.

Table 2 reveals the social personal status of the respondents. 25% of the respondents were inherited

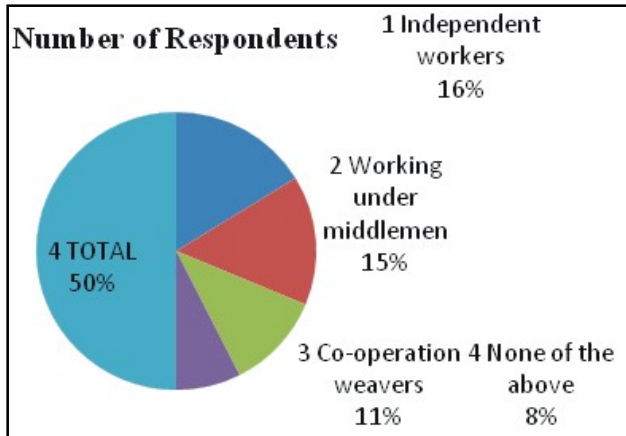


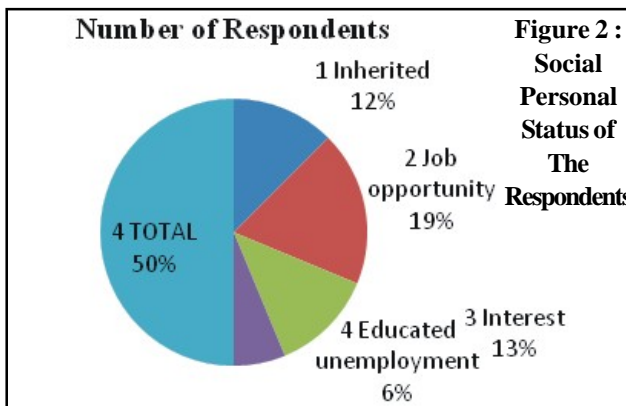
Figure 1 : Working Status of The Respondents

Table 2 : Social Personal Status of The Respondents

S. No.	Social-Personal Status	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Inherited	10	25
2.	Job Opportunity	15	37.5
3.	Interest	10	25
4.	Educated Unemployment	5	12.5
	Total	40	100

weavers, 37.5% of the respondents took it as a job opportunity, 12.5% got engaged in it due to their interest and 12.5% got engaged in it due to educated unemployment.

Table 3 shows the assets owned by the respondents. 37.5% of the respondents own a motor cycle, 22.5% of the



respondents own a bicycle, 20% of the respondents own a telephone and 20% respondents own mixer grinders.

Table 3 : Assets Owned by The Respondents

S. No.	Assets Owned	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Motor Cycle	15	37.5
2.	Bicycle	9	22.5
3.	Telephone	8	20
4.	Mixer Grinder	8	20
	Total	40	100

Table 4 shows the sources of procurement of raw material by the respondents, 27.5% of the respondents procure the raw material from the local suppliers and

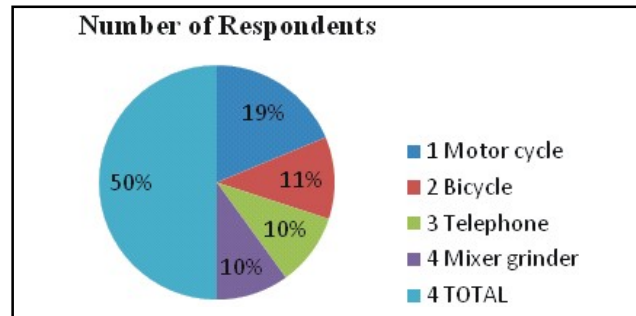


Figure 3 : Assets Owned by The Respondents

Table 4 : Sources of Procurement of The Respondents

S. No.	Sources of Procurement	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Local raw material dealer	11	27.5
2.	Directly purchased	10	25
3.	Cooperative society	11	27.5
4.	None of the above	8	20
	Total	40	100

cooperative society each, 25% of them procure raw materials by directly purchasing it and 20% of them purchased from none of these sources.

Table 5 shows the modes of payment used by the respondents, 30% of respondents use barter system as their

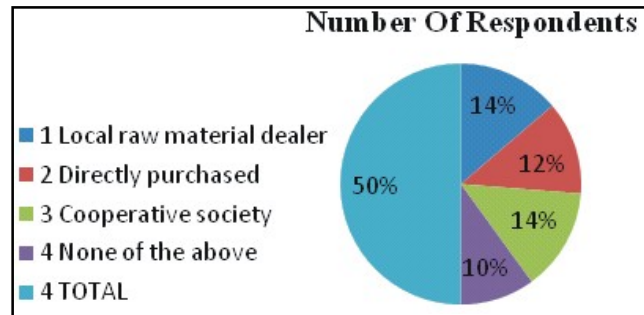


Figure 4 : Sources of Procurement of The Respondents

Figure 5 : Modes of Payment

S. No.	Mode of Payment	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Cash	6	15
2.	Credit	11	27.5
3.	Both cash and credit	11	27.5
4.	Through barter system	12	30
	Total	40	100

mode of payment, 27.5% of respondents use credit as well as both cash and credit as their mode of payment and 15% of the respondents use cash as their medium for payment.

Table 6 shows the serious health hazards suffered by the respondents. It can be analysed by the data that 30% of

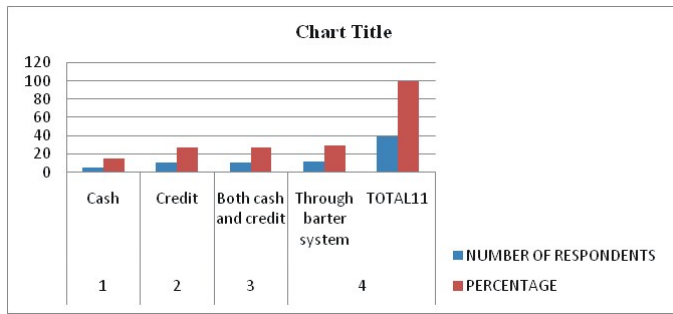


Figure 5 : Modes of Payment

Table 6 : Health Hazards Suffered by The Respondents

S. No.	Health Hazard	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Eye Sight	12	30
2.	Back Pain	10	25
3.	Knee And Joint Pain	11	27.5
4.	No Major Health Hazard	7	17.5
	Total	40	100

the weavers suffer from eye sight problem due to long and tiring working hours, 27.5% of the weavers suffer from knee and joint pain , 25% of the weavers suffer from back pain whereas 17.5% of the weavers suffer from no major health issue.

Suggestions :

Having studied the socio-economic conditions of the

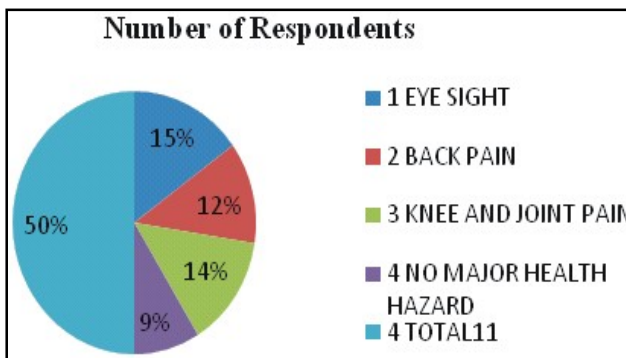


Fig. 6 : Health Hazards Suffered by The Respondents

weavers, an attempt has been made in this section to offer a few suggestions for improving the conditions of handloom weavers.

(i) The industry is facing the problem of lack of both fixed and working capital. The industry till now depended mainly on private sources or moneylenders for its credit requirements. A beginning was made to make available credit facility to the industry on an institutional basis through the introduction of the RBI schemes for financing the weavers. Co-operative societies this should be pursued vigorously.

(ii) Competition from power looms and mill sectors is

obviously a major threat. This can be countered if the handloom sector produces high value, and distinctive products for foreign market.

(iii) The Government shall take necessary measures to reorganize the defunct co-operative societies. If necessary, it has to initiate criminal proceedings against those responsible for missing these skills inherited from their family Management.

(iv) There is a need for a comprehensive legislation on occupational health and safety for the handloom sector. Key remedial measures need to focus on creating norms, raising awareness and providing capacity building services to help weavers to meet safety standards.

Conclusion :

From the present study it is concluded that the Handloom weavers in Meerut, mainly those who have inherited this occupation, are in a moderate condition owing to moderate socio-economic conditions. The study discloses the fact that about 30% of the weavers are young and belongs to the age group of 15-20 years. About 27.5% of these weavers were illiterates. About 30% of the weavers were earned about below 1500 per month. About 32.5% of the weavers were independent weavers. 37.5% of the weavers worked for up to 8 hours a day. 25% of the weavers. 27.5% of the weavers obtained the raw material from the local raw material supplier. 27.5% of the weavers use cash as their main mode of payment. 30% of the weavers suffered from the eye sight problems. 27.5% of the weavers completely agreed to the government policies.

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