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# CSR Impact Assessment Report

## Mid-Day Meal Distribution & Infrastructure Support at TAPF Kitchen Units

Prepared For



Prepared By



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# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CSR</b>	Corporate Social Responsibility
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<b>ICDS</b>	Integrated Child Development Scheme
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<b>MDM</b>	Mid-Day Meal
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Background



### Project activities

- Mid Day Meal Distribution & Infrastructure Support at TAPF Kitchen Units



### Project year

FY 2018 - 2021



### Beneficiaries

20K +  
Beneficiaries



### NGO Partner

The Akshaya Patra  
Foundation



### Project Location

Vrindavan, Lucknow (UP), Surat  
(Gujarat), Bangalore (Karnataka)

## SDG Goals



## Research Methodology



### Application of Quantitative Techniques

The quantitative study was used to assess the impact of divergent CSR Activities through the Structured tool of the Interview Schedule. This helped in getting quantifiable information.



### Application of Qualitative Techniques

Qualitative Techniques involved Interviews with Key Project Stakeholders. Interviews with the Project team, Principals, Teachers, and Parents were conducted to better understand the project.

### Geography Covered (States)

Vrindavan, Lucknow (UP), Surat (Gujarat),  
Bangalore (Karnataka)

### Sample Technique

Purposive & Stratified Random Sampling

### Direct Beneficiaries Covered

370 Direct Beneficiaries

### Stakeholders

Teachers, SMCs, Principal & Parents

## **Key Output:**



Post-intervention, all students (100%) have confirmed that they receive regular mid-day meals in their schools.



Almost all of the students (99.4%) have been receiving hot food on time.



Both parents and children express happiness and high satisfaction with the food provided by Akshaya Patra.



All students have confirmed that they regularly receive a variety of foods.



The interviewed principals noted that students enjoy the meals provided and, in cases of absence, they take the meals in their Tiffin boxes.

## **Impact:**



Principals and teachers confirm that Akshaya Patra's nutritious meals positively impact children's studies, promoting a healthy mind and enabling teachers to focus on students without distractions.



Principals report a 20-30% rise in attendance and a 30-40% increase in enrollment due to the mid-day meals provided by Akshaya Patra, compared to the previous system where village Pradhan and school management handled meals.



According to the teachers, the provision of mid-day meals in schools has led to an improvement in the attendance ratio of students.

# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

## Project Background

In the year 2018, HDB Financial Services collaborated with Akshaya Patra to implement the mid-day meal program in Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh. The principal objective of the program is to support the procurement of kitchen equipment, infrastructure, and distribution material for Akshaya Patra's kitchen in Vrindavan. Procured items were used to prepare and serve hot mid-day meals to students across schools in Vrindavan.

In the year 2018, HDB Financial Services collaborated with Akshaya Patra to implement the mid-day meal program in Mathura district, Uttar Pradesh. The objective of the program was to daily serve hot and nutritious meals prepared at the centralized kitchen in Vrindavan to nearly 10,100 students attending 161 low-income government-aided schools across blocks of Mathura district in Uttar Pradesh.

### The major activities under this program included:



Regular on-time delivery of hot, nutritious food for nearly 10,100 children at sponsored schools every school day



Quarterly summarization of meals served and funds utilized

To ensure the implementation of the above activities and to accomplish the desired objectives, HDB Financial Services committed an amount to the extent of Rs. 97,14,050.

In 2019, HDB Financial Services and its partner, Akshaya Patra implemented the mid-day meal program in the Mathura and Lucknow districts of Uttar Pradesh.

### The main objectives of the program were:



To serve hot and nutritious meals prepared at the centralized kitchen in Vrindavan to around 10000 students attending low-income-government schools across 5 blocks of Mathura district in Uttar Pradesh during the year 2019-20.



To procure food distribution vessels, delivery vehicles, and machinery required for the centralized kitchen in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

### **The activities included were:**

- Regular on-time delivery of meals
- Purchase capex items and registration
- A monthly update on the feeding count
- Quarterly submission of reports
- Outreach activities

To conduct the above activities and for the required support, HDB Financial Services provided CSR support of Rs. 2,12,73,560/- to Akshaya Patra.

In February 2021, HDB Financial Services committed and supported Akshaya Patra with an amount to the extent of Rs. 1,40,04,000/-.

### **The main objectives of the program are as follows:**



To serve hot and nutritious meals prepared at the centralized kitchen in Vrindavan to around 10,000 students attending low-income government-aided schools in Uttar Pradesh.



To serve hot and nutritious meals prepared at the centralized kitchen in Lucknow to around 10,000 students attending low-income government-aided schools in Uttar Pradesh.

### **The activities planned under the above program were:**

- Regular on-time delivery of meals
- A monthly update on the feeding count
- Quarterly report submission

In November 2021, HDB Financial Services supported the mid-day meal program with an amount to the extent of Rs. 97,10,000. The principal objective of the program was to support the procurement of food delivery vehicles and distribution vessels to provide mid-day meals for low-income schools in Surat and Bangalore.

### **Following were the activities scheduled under this program:**

- Procurement of vehicles
- Bodybuilding and branding
- Flag off
- Report Submission

## NGO Background

The Akshaya Patra Foundation is a non-profit organization based in India that aims to address the issue of hunger and promote education among children. Established in the year 2000, Akshaya Patra has become one of the largest NGO-run school meal programs in the world.

The primary objective of the Akshaya Patra Foundation is to provide nutritious meals to children attending government and government-aided schools in order to encourage regular school attendance and reduce classroom hunger. By providing wholesome meals, the organization aims to improve the overall health and nutritional status of children, which in turn positively impacts their educational outcomes.

Akshaya Patra operates centralized kitchens in multiple locations across India, equipped with modern technology and adhering to high standards of hygiene. These kitchens have the capacity to prepare large quantities of food, which is then transported to the beneficiary schools in custom-built vehicles known as "meal delivery vans." The foundation follows a hub-and-spoke model, where the food is prepared in the centralized kitchens and distributed to schools within a certain radius.

In addition to addressing the issue of hunger, Akshaya Patra also recognizes the importance of education in breaking the cycle of poverty. They believe that education is a powerful tool that can empower children and provide them with better opportunities in life. Through their school meal program, they strive to create an environment conducive to learning and academic development.

The Akshaya Patra Foundation operates on a public-private partnership model, collaborating with the Indian government, philanthropic donors, and corporate entities. This collaborative approach helps them scale their operations and reach a larger number of children. The organization also relies on the support of volunteers and individuals who contribute their time, resources, and donations to further the cause.

Overall, the Akshaya Patra Foundation plays a crucial role in providing nutritious meals to children in India, aiming to eliminate classroom hunger and promote education as a means of breaking the cycle of poverty.

# CHAPTER 2: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research was conducted by SoulAce using a mixed-method approach, which combines qualitative and quantitative research methods. By utilizing both qualitative and quantitative methods, researchers were able to gather a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the research topic. The qualitative component of the study involved collecting and analyzing non-numerical data such as interviews, observations, and open-ended survey responses. This approach allowed researchers to explore participants' perspectives, experiences, and subjective opinions, providing rich and nuanced insights into the research topic.

On the other hand, the quantitative component involved the collection and analysis of numerical data through surveys, questionnaires, or experiments. This method provided researchers with statistical data that could be analyzed using statistical techniques, allowing for the identification of patterns, correlations, and trends.

By employing a mixed-method approach, the study was able to capture both the breadth and depth of the research topic. The qualitative data provided detailed and contextualized information, while the quantitative data provided statistical evidence and generalizability. The integration of these two approaches allowed for a more comprehensive and robust understanding of the research phenomenon. The use of a mixed-method approach also strengthened the validity and reliability of the findings. The qualitative and quantitative data could be triangulated, cross-validated, or compared to ensure consistency and corroborate the results. Overall, the mixed-method approach employed in this study enabled researchers to gain a more comprehensive and holistic understanding of the research topic, combining the strengths of qualitative and quantitative methods to provide a well-rounded analysis.

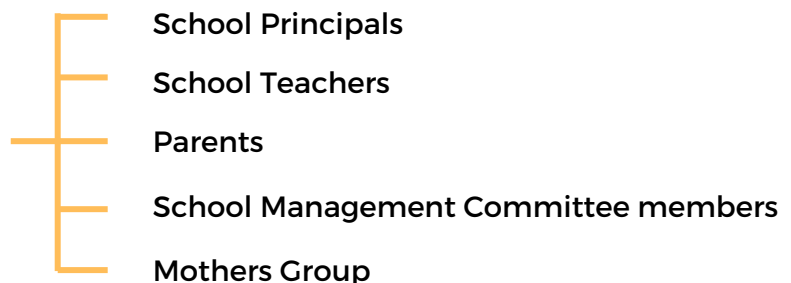
## Ensuring Triangulation

In this study, the researchers implemented triangulation as a methodological strategy to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings. Triangulation involves the use of multiple sources, methods, or perspectives to corroborate and validate research findings, minimizing bias and enhancing the overall credibility of the study.

## Research Design

- **Name of the project** : Mid-Day Meal Distribution & Infra. Support at TAPF Kitchen Units
- **Implementation Agency** : Akshaya Patra Foundation
- **Research Design** : Descriptive Research Design
- **Sampling Technique** : Stratified random sampling
- **Sample Size** : 370 School Students
- **Qualitative Methods Used** : In-depth Interviews & Testimonials

## Key Stakeholders



## Study Tools

A mobile application framework for data gathering has been created by SoulAce. This software was used by the field staff to carry out the research. Real-time data input, data transfer, GPS location information, and a poll for interacting with project recipients are all features of this application. A feature of the program allows users to photograph each respondent.

## Research Ethics

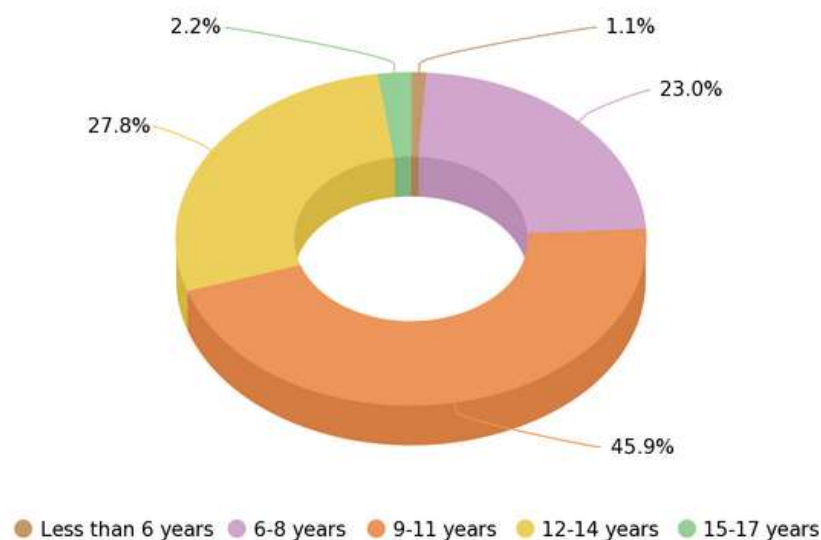
- **Respecting Consent:** The study strictly adhered to the principles of informed consent, ensuring that participants were fully informed about the study's purpose, procedures, potential risks, and benefits. They were given ample information to make informed decisions and had the opportunity to ask questions before deciding whether or not to participate.
- **Ensuring Confidentiality and Privacy:** Measures were in place to guarantee the confidentiality and privacy of participants. All collected data was securely stored and accessible only to authorized individuals. Participant identities were safeguarded, and any personal information was anonymized or coded to maintain strict confidentiality.

- **Voluntary Engagement:** Participation in the study was entirely voluntary, emphasizing the freedom of individuals to choose whether or not to take part. There was absolutely no coercion or pressure exerted on participants, allowing them to make their own independent decisions without any influence.
- **Ethical Consideration:** Throughout the study, participants were treated with the utmost respect, dignity, and fairness. Their well-being and rights were paramount, and they received any necessary support or assistance to ensure their welfare was prioritized.

# CHAPTER 3: MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

## Students

**Chart 1: Age distribution of respondents**

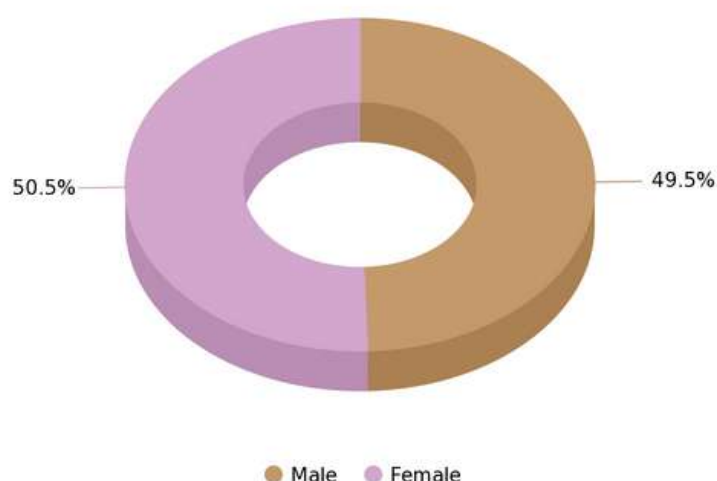


The data suggests that mid-day meal program effectively caters to the nutritional needs of children across various age groups, with a particular emphasis on serving children between 9-11 years old. The data indicates that the program serves children across various age groups. The majority of the beneficiaries, accounting for approximately 45.9%, fall within the 9-11 years age range. Additionally, around 23.0% of the beneficiaries are between 6-8 years old, while approximately 27.8% are aged 12-14 years. The data also shows that the program reaches a small percentage of children below 6 years and between 15-17 years old.

The HDB-Akshaya Patra Kitchen team, led by Mr. Mahindra Madhusudan, manages donor relationships and ensures the smooth operation of the mid-day meal program in Surat. Supported by utensils provided by HDB Financial Services, the team prepares and delivers an average of 125,000 meals per day to 640 schools. They follow nutritional guidelines and a well-designed menu, with the portion size determined according to government standards. The team maintains high food quality and handles excess food through their biogas plant. With a well-structured system in place, the kitchen team faces no significant challenges in executing the program.

**-HDB-Akshaya Patra Kitchen team, Mr. Mahindra Madhusudan**

**Chart 2: Gender distribution**



The mid-day meal program ensures equal access to nutritious meals for both male and female beneficiaries, promoting gender inclusivity. The table presents the distribution of beneficiaries based on gender. The data indicates a relatively balanced representation of both male and female beneficiaries. Out of the total beneficiaries, approximately 50.5% are female, while 49.5% are male. The relatively equal distribution of male and female beneficiaries highlights the program's commitment to inclusivity and ensuring that both boys and girls have access to nutritious meals.

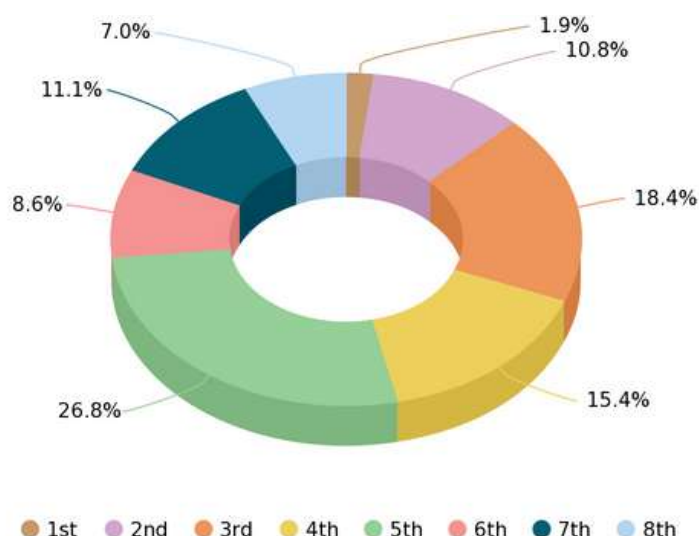
Shivani Arte, the HDB-Akshaya Patra Mid-day Meal Program Vehicle Coordinator in Surat, plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth logistics and operations of the program. The Mahindra Bolero Pick Up vehicles funded by HDB Financial Services efficiently transport meals to 640 schools, with approximately 30 schools served daily. The program maintains a Cook to Consumption ratio of 4 hours, prioritizing the timely delivery of hot and fresh meals to students. Rigorous temperature control measures are implemented during cooking and transportation, guaranteeing the food remains hot. Excess food is managed through a Bio-Gas plant, minimizing wastage. Stringent food safety protocols are followed, including taste tests and sample preservation for testing. The program vehicles are in good condition, and dedicated staff ensures efficient meal delivery. With a well-structured framework and effective coordination, the program successfully delivers nutritious meals to schoolchildren, making a positive impact on their lives.

**-Shivani Arte, Mid-day Meal Program Vehicle Coordinator, Surat**



Field Picture: Vrindavan

**Chart 3: Distribution of respondents by Grade**

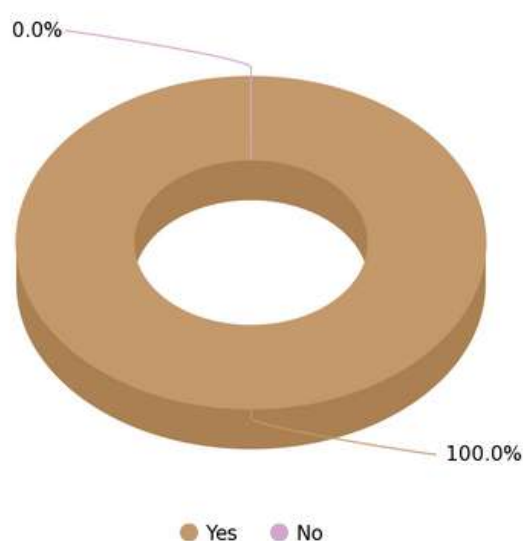


The data suggests that the mid-day meal program predominantly serves students in the primary education stage, with a significant number of beneficiaries in grades 3 to 5. The table provides information on the distribution of beneficiaries based on their class or grade. The data shows that the program caters to a range of grade levels, indicating its impact across multiple educational stages. The highest number of beneficiaries are in the 5th grade, constituting approximately 26.8% of the total. Following closely, the 3rd and 4th grades have 18.4% and 15.4% of the beneficiaries, respectively. The lower grades, such as 1st and 2nd, have relatively fewer beneficiaries, representing 1.9% and 10.8% of the total, respectively. The distribution gradually decreases in the higher grades, with grades 6th, 7th, and 8th accounting for 8.6%, 11.1%, and 7.0% of the beneficiaries, respectively.

Harendra Singh, the Team Leader for vehicle maintenance and arrangement at Akshay Patra in Vrindavan, provided information about the organization's food delivery vehicles and operations. They use 56 CNG Boleros, 7 CNG autos, 3 diesel autos, and 5 electric autos. Delivery is divided into two shifts, covering long and short routes. Drivers are informed about expected attendance, and breakdowns are managed with backup vehicles. Insulated vehicles and vessels ensure hot food delivery. Vehicle maintenance is good overall, but diesel autos need replacement. Challenges include kitchen delays, fruit counting, breakdowns in distant locations, and fuel management. Harendra recommends using electric vehicles for cost savings.

**-Mid-day meal program Vehicle coordinator**

#### Chart 4: Regular meals from schools

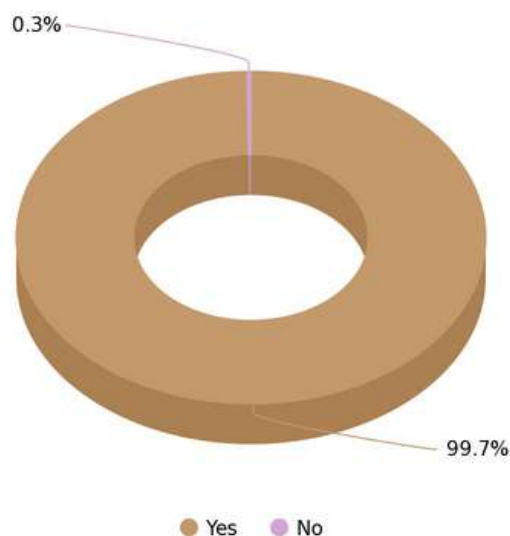


All beneficiaries of the mid-day meal program receive a consistent and reliable source of nourishment through regular meals provided by their school. The percentage of "Yes" responses is 100%, indicating that every student enrolled in the program is provided with a regular meal.

“Parents representing lower-income groups in various schools expressed their appreciation for the HDB Financial Services-Akshaya Patra Mid-Day Meal Program. They highlighted the tasty and warm meals provided, which alleviate their concerns about lunch for their children while they are at work. The program encourages regular attendance and ensures the timely delivery of hot meals. Previous arrangements for mid-day meals involved village ladies or the Gram Pradhan cooking in some schools. Parents had varying observations about menu changes but expressed satisfaction with the balanced diet and food quality. The meals arrive in the morning and are distributed according to the timetable. Parents appreciated the efforts to maintain food warmth using heavy vessels. Children enjoy the food and experience improved health, attendance, and academic performance. Parents have not observed any incidents of food contamination or illness. Overall, parents and school management are aware and satisfied with the program, with suggestions including kitchen visits and variations in spices for taste.

**-FGD Parents**

**Chart 5: Food on time**

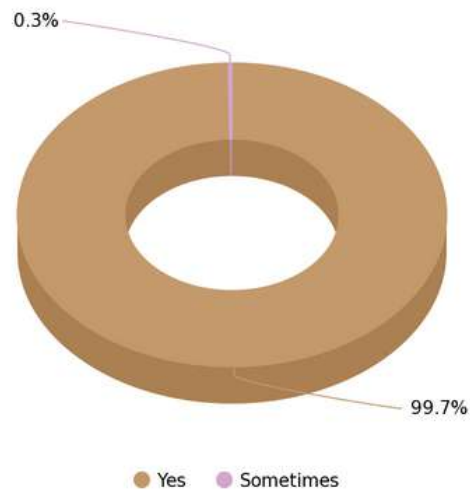


Mid-day meal program has a high success rate in delivering meals on time to the majority of its beneficiaries, with rare instances of delays reported. The data shows that 99.7% of the respondents receive their food on time, while only 0.3% reported not receiving their food on time.

“As a teacher, I've seen a dramatic shift in our student's educational experiences since the implementation of the mid-day meal program. It is very inspiring to see the good impact it has had on enrollment numbers and student engagement. Our pupils are now able to focus more on their academics and make the most of their classroom time thanks to the provision of nutritious meals. The program has certainly contributed to our pupils' increased academic achievement and brighter prospects. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone who helped make this effort a success.”

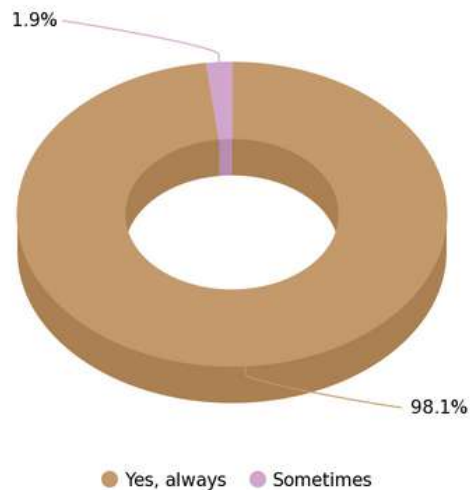
**-Savitri Devi, Assistant teacher, Adooki primary school, Vrindavan, Mathura**

### Chart 6: Hot food served in schools



HDB Financial Services mid-day meal program excels in providing hot meals to the vast majority of beneficiaries, ensuring consistent delivery of warm and nutritious food. The data reveals that approximately 99.7% of the respondents always receive hot food, while only 0.3% reported that hot food is served sometimes.

### Chart 7: Taste of food



The mid-day meal program receives a high level of positive feedback from the majority of students, indicating their overall satisfaction with the taste of the provided meals. 98.1% of the respondents always like the taste of the food, while 1.9% reported that they sometimes like the taste.

## **Umashankar Upadhyay Assistant Manager Distribution, Akshaya Patra** **Vrindavan Kitchen Team**

Umashankar Upadhyay, with 18 years of experience at Akshaya Patra, provided insights into the kitchen procedures and equipment used. Utensils are sanitized with steam, vessels, and equipment undergo proper washing, and food-grade chemicals are utilized. They have various machines like a jet machine, vacuum machine, and vegetable washing machine. Cooking vessels include rice cookers, large cookers for dal, vegetables, kheer, and kadhi, and a sizzling machine for a curry. They use insulated tiffin boxes for food storage.

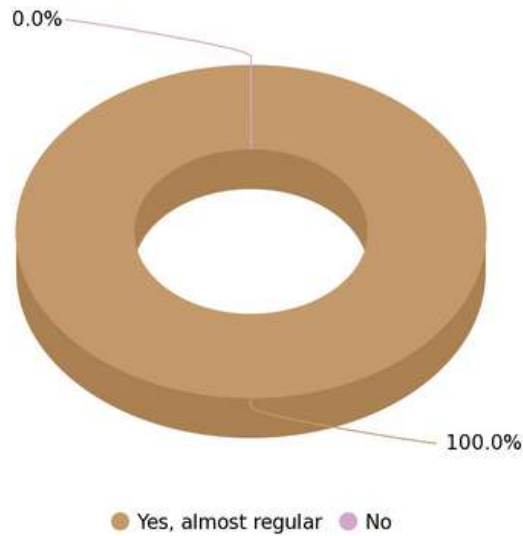
The Vrindavan Kitchen serves 149 HDB program schools, 1,700 schools in total, and provides meals to over 100,000 students daily. The government sets portion sizes, and Akshaya Patra can offer additional items within the specified menu. Communication is maintained for changes due to technical errors. Attendance is recorded, feedback is collected, excess food is used for biogas, and returned vessels are not washed on holidays. Various documents are maintained, data is updated in the ERP system, and vehicle GPS is tracked.

The kitchen team consists of around 450 staff members, including route helpers, drivers, supervisors, executives, kitchen staff, and quality monitors. Monthly feedback is obtained from 200 schools, covering all schools within six months. Challenges include transportation difficulties, narrow roads, backup vehicle arrangements, delayed funding, water supply issues, attendance updates, managing a large vehicle fleet, and providing quality meals at low prices. Umashankar suggests water supply arrangements, green initiatives, and rewarding good performers.

Akshay Patra has transformed school kitchens in Vrindavan, improving hygiene and nutrition standards. They use systematic approaches, lab testing, and an ERP system to ensure meals meet nutritional norms. A new machine makes rice and millet puffs to provide extra nutrition. Quality monitoring includes audits, supervisor checks, and SOP adherence. Insulated vessels and vehicles maintain meal temperature during transportation. Regular audits and surprise checks ensure compliance. Akshay Patra successfully delivers hot meals to 2,100 schools, covering 9,000 km daily. Challenges in rural areas are overcome through a commitment to quality and adherence to SOPs. Meals are delivered by 10 am.

**-Mr. Amit Kumar, Incharge Akshay Patra Vrindavan**

**Chart 8: Variety of food options**

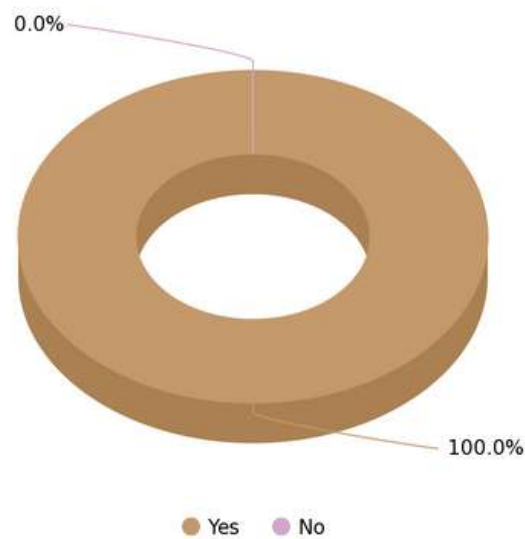


The program effectively provides a diverse and varied menu, offering students a wide range of food options to choose from and ensuring their nutritional needs are met. The data indicate that all the respondents, which accounts for 100% of the total, reported that the menu offers a variety of food options, with the majority stating that it is almost regular. The data indicates that the program is successful in offering a range of food options to cater to different tastes and preferences, ensuring that the students receive a well-rounded and balanced diet.



**Field Picture: Vrindavan**

**Chart 9: Enjoy the Mid-Day meal**



The program is highly appreciated by the students, as indicated by their enjoyment of the meals provided. The data reveals that all the respondents, accounting for 100% of the total, enjoy having the midday meal provided by the HDB Financial Services initiative. This high percentage indicates that the students derive satisfaction and pleasure from the meals they receive. It suggests that the program is successful in providing meals that are enjoyable and meet the students' dietary preferences. The positive response from the students indicates that the program is contributing to their overall well-being and positively impacting their dining experience during school hours.



**Field Picture: Vrindavan**

## Teachers and Principals

### Changes in the food menu

All the interviewed teachers & principals acknowledged that there have been no significant changes made to the food menu provided through the midday meal program in schools. Nevertheless, a few participants did mention some minor adjustments to the menu. It is worth emphasizing that the potential for menu modifications is restricted since the team strictly follows the government's predetermined food menu. Any revisions to the menu mandated by the government are promptly implemented by the Akshaya Patra team.

### Consultation with school authority

As per all the respondents, the program has been running for a considerable duration, and the government sets the menu in advance, allowing minimal scope for considering individual dietary preferences. However, it was highlighted that Akshaya Patra maintains a dedicated team that consistently evaluates the nutritional content. All participants unanimously agreed that there is no involvement in Block-level consultations concerning the menu and food quality, as there have been no significant concerns necessitating discussions.



“I have seen the incredible effort to deliver nutritious meals to our children. While the menu is set by the government, I admire the team's continual efforts in reviewing nutritional values. The program has been running successfully with no major concerns, thus there has been no need for consultation at the Block level. We appreciate their dedication to ensuring the nutritional balance and quality of the meals delivered.”

**-Shila Pokharia, Primary School Sugmau, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

## Quality of food in last three years

The majority of the respondents noted that there has been no notable alteration in the food quality. However, a few respondents mentioned a slight improvement over the past three years. All participants stated that their observations clearly indicate that the food quality provided by the Akshaya Patra team, with the support of HDB Financial Services, is excellent compared to schools where this initiative is not implemented.

## Updates to Akshaya Patra team

All the interviewed participants consistently provide regular updates to the Akshaya Patra team regarding the average daily student attendance. The school teachers or principals maintain direct contact with the vehicle driver and supervisor, ensuring that there is no food wastage.

## Delivery of meals

All the respondents affirmed that the meals provided by HDB Financial Services and the Akshaya Patra team are consistently delivered on time without any delays. In the event of unforeseen circumstances such as rain or traffic, the team promptly informs the school management and takes necessary measures to ensure that the meals are delivered prior to the scheduled lunch time. This remarkable dedication of the Akshaya Patra team is evident as they consistently strive to guarantee the timely delivery of hot and fresh meals.

## Hot and fresh meal served

All the respondents mentioned that the insulated vessels at schools effectively maintain the freshness and warmth of the food, even when it is delivered early in the morning, typically before or around 7 a.m. There is no requirement to reheat the food, and its quality remains consistently excellent. This clearly demonstrates that the food is served to all students hot and fresh.



“The quantity of meals served by Akshaya Patra has consistently met our expectations and provided ample nourishment to our students throughout the year. I am grateful for their unwavering commitment to ensuring that no child goes hungry and for their dedication to supporting the well-being of our students.”

-Dr. Anuradha Singh, Composite school, Narhouli, Vrindavan, Mathura

## Nutritional Balance

All respondents mentioned that the meals provided by Akshaya Patra are well-nutritionally balanced, as the diet and menu are prescribed by the government and have been followed consistently for several years.

## Serving of mid-day meals

According to all interviewed respondents, there is no specific staff or kitchen attendant designated for serving the food. The responsibility of ensuring the quality of the meals primarily lies with the teachers or members of the school management committee who inspect the food before it is served to the children. In certain schools, respondents mentioned the involvement of mothers' groups in monitoring meal quality. Additionally, student committees comprising 4 to 5 members are formed in all schools, who, under the guidance and supervision of teachers, are responsible for the distribution of meals. Moreover, in all schools, there have been no instances of spoiled food being delivered or served, and no reported cases of children falling sick after consuming the mid-day meals.

## Quantity of meal served

All the participants interviewed unanimously stated that the quantity of meals served by Akshaya Patra is ample and has been consistently maintained throughout the year.



“ I want to express our gratitude for the extraordinary efforts you have made to ensure that the meals served to our students are always fresh and warm. Insulated vessels effectively retain food temperature, even when delivered early in the morning. It's extremely impressive that there's no need to reheat the food, and the quality remains constantly high. Every day, we are happy to see our pupils eating hot and fresh meals. Thank you to provide our students with nourishment and a great dining experience.”

**-Nirmala Devi, Takrohi school, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**

## Enjoyment in the mid-day meal program

All the participants who were engaged in the discussion noted that there has been a noticeable change in the level of enjoyment and liking towards the meals provided in the mid-day meal program by the children over the past few years. Children are now actively enjoying their meals and exhibiting increased regularity in attending school compared to earlier times.

## Percentage of attendance

Among all the principals interviewed shared that there has been a significant increase in school attendance ranging from 5% to 35% over the past three years, attributed to the implementation of the mid-day meal program. Importantly, this increase in attendance has been consistently maintained.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to HDB Financial Services and Akshaya Patra for the remarkable impact of the mid-day meal program. The significant increase in school attendance, over the past three years, is a testament to the program's effectiveness. We are grateful for their unwavering support in nourishing our students and fostering a conducive learning environment. Thank you for making a lasting difference in the lives of our students."

**-Teaching staff, Upper Primary School, Dhangaon, Mathura**

## Growth of children

According to a few respondents, a team from district hospitals visits schools to monitor the growth of children using specific growth parameters. They expressed that the mid-day meal program has played a crucial role in facilitating significant growth among the students. The nutritious food provided has contributed to the overall development of the students, and all respondents expressed the indispensability of nutritious meals. Additionally, other respondents mentioned that they follow hospital parameters to regularly assess the growth of students. This practice has not only improved students' concentration and attendance at school but has also enhanced their learning outcomes.

## Enrolment in schools

Following the project intervention, there has been a noteworthy surge in student enrollment within schools. Through interactions with participants, it was observed that enrollment rates have increased by varying percentages, ranging from 5 to 25 percent. This unequivocally indicates the profound impact of the mid-day meal program in encouraging children's engagement with schools. Several school principals expressed their concern, stating that a substantial number of students may drop out if the program is discontinued for any reason.

100% of the respondents interviewed shared that the overall enrollment ratio has increased significantly as a result of the project intervention. This is attributed to the fact that students and teachers are no longer distracted by the need to cook or make arrangements for food preparation. The community and parents have also recognized that children now have more time to focus on their studies, as teachers are able to dedicate more time to teaching in the classroom. The participants clearly stated that the grades and academic performance of students have improved noticeably as a result of the mid-day meal program.



“As a principal, I am deeply grateful to the dedicated team at Akshaya Patra for their incredible efforts in implementing the mid-day meal program. I have personally witnessed the positive impact it has had on the health and growth of our children. Their nutritious meals have played a vital role in improving their overall well-being. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the entire team for their unwavering commitment to nourishing the future generation.”

**-Upendra Singhal, Principal, Primary School, Adooki**

## Feedback collection

100% of the respondents reported that there have been no issues concerning the delivery, quality, quantity, or any other aspect related to the meals, making it unnecessary to collect specific feedback. Nonetheless, the Akshaya Patra team regularly visits schools to gather feedback from teachers regarding the mid-day meal program.

## Parents

### Knowledge about the food menu

During the interviews with parents, it was discovered that all parents who were interviewed were well-informed about the menu for the mid-day meals. The food menu is prominently displayed in a common area accessible to all parents, ensuring their awareness of all the items being served.

### Opinion on the quality and quantity of meal served

All the participants interviewed expressed that their children did not raise any complaints regarding the quality and quantity of the food provided. They emphasized that the meals served to their children are consistently hot, fresh, and of excellent quality. Additionally, the quantity of food is deemed sufficient to meet the children's needs.



“The fact that the food menu is prominently displayed in a common area speaks volumes about the program's commitment to keeping us informed. It gives us peace of mind knowing what our children are being served and enables us to actively engage in their dietary choices. Thank you to the school and the entire team for implementing this initiative.”

**-Discussion with parents, Narhouli Primary school, Vrindavan**

## Kitchen set up at Surat

HDB Financial Services has played a vital role in supporting Akshaya Patra in establishing a kitchen in Surat, home to the largest kitchen in India. This kitchen serves an impressive number of 153,000 beneficiaries in Surat and Gujarat, with an additional 26,000 beneficiaries under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS). The Surat kitchen sets exemplary standards for cleanliness and hygiene in food storage.



"As parents, we would like to express our appreciation for the delicious meals provided to our children through the mid-day meal program." We are pleased to say that our children have never expressed dissatisfaction with the food's quality or quantity. Our children appreciate the meals since they are always provided boiling hot, fresh, and with a delicious flavor. We appreciate the entire team's efforts in ensuring that our children enjoy nutritious and satisfying meals on a daily basis."

**Adooki Primary School, Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh**



In their collaboration, HDB Financial Services has generously provided vehicles that play a crucial role in transporting mid-day meals to schools. These vehicles facilitate the efficient delivery of vessels to schools, greatly assisting the kitchen staff in maintaining the freshness and warmth of the food. The support provided by HDB Financial Services has made a significant impact, ensuring the success of the program in serving nutritious meals to children.

"We cannot thank HDB Financial Services enough for their incredible support in establishing our kitchen in Surat. The vessels and utensils they provided have truly transformed our operations, allowing us to keep the food fresh and warm for the children we serve. The contribution has been instrumental in our mission to provide nutritious meals to those in need.

**-Mahindra Madhusudan, Kitchen team, Surat**



Surat Kitchen



# CHAPTER 4: OECD FRAMEWORK

## RELEVANCE

### RATING



The Akshay Patra mid-day meal program is highly relevant as it addresses the pressing issue of child malnutrition and supports education outcomes. By providing nutritious meals to children, it contributes to their physical and cognitive development, enhancing their overall well-being. The program aligns with national development goals, such as eradicating hunger, reducing poverty, and improving access to quality education.

## COHERENCE

### RATING



The program demonstrates coherence by integrating well with other government initiatives related to education, poverty alleviation, and child welfare. It aligns with national policies and strategies, ensuring a coordinated and synergistic approach. Collaboration with various stakeholders, including schools, parents, and local communities, further enhances coherence and strengthens the program's impact.

The mid-day meal program contributes to the broader global efforts towards ending hunger, promoting good health, providing quality education, reducing inequalities, and fostering partnerships for sustainable development. It is aligned with the SGD Goals:

- SDG 2: Zero Hunger
- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals



## EFFECTIVENESS

### RATING



The Akshay Patra mid-day meal program has proven effective in achieving its objectives. It has significantly improved children's nutritional status, leading to better health and reduced malnutrition rates. The program has also positively influenced education outcomes, increasing school enrolment, attendance, and concentration levels among students. It effectively addresses the dual challenges of nutrition and education, contributing to holistic child development.

## EFFICIENCY

### RATING



The program demonstrates efficiency through its cost-effective and resource-efficient implementation. It optimizes the utilization of funds, infrastructure, and human resources to ensure maximum impact. Strategic planning, centralized kitchen facilities, and streamlined logistics enable efficient meal preparation and distribution, reaching a large number of children while minimizing waste and operational costs.

**Index:** 5 Points - Very High ; 4 Points - High ; 3 Points - Moderate ; 2 Points - Low ; 1 Point - Very Low

## IMPACT

### RATING



The Akshay Patra mid-day meal program has a profound impact on children, communities, and society as a whole. Beyond immediate outcomes, it creates long-term positive changes. Improved nutrition enhances children's cognitive abilities, leading to better academic performance and future prospects. The program also fosters social inclusion, reducing disparities in educational opportunities and improving overall well-being. Moreover, it positively affects families and communities by alleviating economic burdens and promoting community engagement.

## SUSTAINABILITY

### RATING



The program exhibits sustainability through its robust operational model and community participation. Akshay Patra collaborates with government agencies, NGOs, corporate partners, and volunteers to ensure the program's continuity and expansion. The organization's focus on innovation, technological advancements, and capacity-building further strengthens sustainability. By empowering local communities and building their ownership, the program promotes self-reliance and long-term sustainability.

# CHAPTER 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Feedback and Continuous Improvement:**

Encourage feedback from beneficiaries, parents, and other stakeholders to continuously improve the program. Regularly review the program's performance, address concerns, and incorporate suggestions for better outcomes.