

A Study on Intervention Implementation of Mid day Meal Scheme During Lockdown in Giridih, Jharkhand

At

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List of Abbreviation

UT	Union Territory
EGS	Education Guarantee Scheme
AIE	Alternative Informal Education
NFSA	National Food Security Act
GOI	Government of India
NFHS	National Family Health Survey
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
MDM	Mid Day Meal
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

Chapter-1

Introduction

Abstract

Mid-day meal program is one of the largest school meal feeding program in the world. It provides millions of Indian children with nutritious food. It has also contributed to an improvement in student enrollment and school attendance. However, the programme was severely impacted due to the pandemic caused by the Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19, with school closures. Union Government announced additional expenditure of Rs. 16,000 crores to provide mid-day meal to the schools because for the underprivileged students, this programme is the only source of nutritious food. This paper tries to analyse the intervention implementation of mid-day meal scheme in Giridih District of Jharkhand, India.

Introduction

The Mid-Day Meal Scheme is one of the Indian government's most important initiatives to support nutrition of the school children. On 28 November 2001, the Supreme Court of India passed a mandate saying, "We direct the State Governments/U.T. to implement the Mid-Day Meal Scheme by providing a prepared midday meal to every child in each Government and Government assisted primary school." Consequently, under this system, school children receive free and healthy meals on school days to improve the nutritional levels among children and also to improve the literacy rate by increasing school enrolment and increasing school attendance and there are other benefits also like improve socialisation among castes, empower women through employment.

But the pandemic caused due the Covid-19 forced government of India to take safety precaution resulting in the closure of schools. And schools were the important places where the cooked mid-day meal was served, due to this closure there was hindrance in practicing Mid-day Meal Scheme e during covid-19. To overcome the hindrance caused the Jharkhand state took initiative to carry on the Mid-day meal program during this pandemic situation by providing dry ration

and aid of cooking, egg/fruit cost in form of money transfer. As per the census 2011 Jharkhand is primarily rural state whose 75.95 percent live in the villages of rural areas and the literacy rate is around 67 percent which is lower than most of the state which raise a huge concern that are they benefiting from the mid-day meal if no than what are the problem they are facing in relation to that and if yes than then the aid which is being given to them in form of money are they using it for the same or not. Education sector is one of the most badly affected sector. The risk of emotional and physical abuse against them has also risen when schools are shut down. It also impacts children belonging to deprived and disadvantaged parts of communities. Young children are said to be the ones facing the worst consequences of COVID-19, particularly in low and middle-income countries.

Significance of Study

The project 'Intervention implementation of mid-may meal scheme during covid-19' was a project which was for the period of 6 weeks of summer internship programme for PGDRM students of XISS. The main goal was to communicate with the company and learn about the operation and running of the company, which was an incentive for students at the organisational level. It was practical laboratories where, after completion of the course, researchers had to apply all theoretical knowledge in the fields and in the organisation to expertise with the skills and capacity to work further in any organisation.

According to India's constitution all children have the right to obtain primary education. And if it has not been a hundred percent success, a constant tremendous growth has emerged. The government has therefore introduced an amendment to declare the maximum number of students in the 6-12 year age group for free education. The Mid Day Meal Scheme is a multi-purpose programme of the Government of India that, to address issues of food security,

lack of nutrition and access to education. This Scheme was launched in the year 1995 August 15th in nationwide by the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India. In the year 2002, this scheme was extended to cover the children studying in Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative Informal Education (AIE). In September 2002, an attempt was made to revise the mid-day meal scheme providing 300 kilocalories and 8-12 grams of protein respectively to all students of class I-V both government and government-aided schools. With all that fruitful results, Scheme was extended to the upper primary classes (VI to VII) in the year October 2007. It offers both Primary and Upper Primary classes free lunch on working days. This scheme is India's largest school lunch programme, with an eloquent goal of providing nutritional assistance to school children in both rural and urban areas. But due to sudden outbreak of the pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2 and lockdown in entire country made it extremely difficult of the government to continue the mid-day meal as schools were closed as precautionary measure and majority of the schools were turned into isolation centres during the initial stages of lockdown.

To overcome this situation and to continue the mid-day programme, government decided to distribute ration along with the cooking cost. According to the new orders, it was made necessary for school management committee to distribute ration along with the cooking cost and cost of eggs among the children every week in their respective hamlet.

School Education and Literacy Department of Jharkhand issued few guidelines according to which it was made mandatory to provide 100 gm of rice and cooking cost of Rs. 4.48 daily to the students from class I to V and 150 gm of rice and cooking cost of Rs. 6.71 daily along with extra Rs.6 each for 4 eggs and department also instructed to to click pictures of distribution to avoid any discrepancy.

Jharkhand State Food Commission was constituted to ensure the effective implementation of NFSA, 2013 in the state and suggest policy intervention to improve the National Security Act in the state and it talks about food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach by ensuring access to adequate quantity of food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. This act was published in the Gazette of India on 10th Sept. 2013 but deemed to have come into force on 5th of July, 2013 and as per provision under section 16 of this Act, every State Government shall, by notification, constitute a State Food Commission for the purpose of monitoring and review of implementation of this Act.

Afterwards, Government of Jharkhand decided to constitute an exclusive commission and accordingly the Department of Food, Public Distribution and & Public Affairs, constituted Jharkhand State Food Commission on 13th April 2017. In the FY 2018-19, social audit was conducted in 1256 schools out of all the 3773 schools currently functioning across all the 24 districts of Jharkhand. This study will help in find out the status of implementation of mid-day meal scheme and actually the beneficiaries are getting the benefits or not during the covid and lockdown era.

Chapter-2

Literature Review

National Food Security Act 2013 (NFSA) was a unique initiative taken by Indian government to fight against hunger and protect right of the people for food. With its peculiarities including the life cycle method, women empowerment, consideration of disadvantaged sections of society (Tanksale, 2015). Food security at the national level refers primarily to the availability of food in the country. The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA 2013) converts into legal entitlements for existing food security programmes of the Government of India. It includes the Midday Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services scheme and the Public Distribution System. The Mid- day meal program was officially started in Tamil Nadu. Under this programme, cooked mid-day meals were to be introduced in all government, government aided and local body schools for children at primary level. However, in the first six years after the scheme was launched (until 2001), most states failed in putting required arrangements and thus provided monthly dry ration based on the attendance of the students (Khera, 2006). One of the aims of the MDM is to resolve hunger in the classroom and provide children with adequate nutrition. There are many students who go to school with an empty stomach and could not concentrate on studies, so MDM provides them with nutrition and lets them focus on activities in the classroom. Even in absence of MDM students go to their home for lunch and never return. Adequate food stocks to meet domestic demand, either by domestic demand, Provision or by imports. The global population and even our nation have been caught off guard by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In India, both the government and the population are struggling to curb this pandemic. As a preventive strategy to reduce the spread of the coronavirus disease, the Government of India (GOI) placed a countrywide lockdown. The

uncertainties about the potential strategies for containing this pandemic cause us to prioritise and plan to step up different initiatives in the field of health. In the midst of urgent health needs, an agenda that will definitely have to be prioritised by politicians would be to ensure that food is available for child nutrition during this crisis. According to the 2011 Census, in the age group 0-6 years, 16.45 Cr children and in the age group 0-14 years, 37.24 Cr children comprise 13.59 percent and 30.76 percent of the total population, respectively. India accounts for around one third of the estimated population of stunted preschool children worldwide. The prevalence of stunting in India is 38.4 percent, while waste is 15.7 percent and the number of underweight children under the age of five is 32.7 percent, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted in 2015-16. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Program and Mid Day Meal Scheme are now in place to meet the nutritional needs of this especially vulnerable and significant segment of the population. Almost 13.5 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) are operating in India across 36 states & Union Territories, covering 1022.33 lakh recipients under supplementary nutrition. The Central Government, in partnership with the State Governments and the Union Territories, is introducing the National Mid Day Meal in Schools Programme, also known as the Mid Day Meal (MDM) Scheme. Under this scheme, on each school day (at least 200 days a year), each child studying in elementary classes (I-VIII) in government and government aided schools is provided with one hot cooked mid-day meal containing the prescribed energy and protein. At present, through 11.34 lakh schools in India, about 11.59 crore children are enrolled under this scheme (Upadhyay, 2020). In order to ensure social distancing in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the closing of AWCs and schools may provide some immediate benefits in terms of disease control and the prevention of the burden on the already overwhelmed health system, but may leave children undernourished. The closure of centres and schools in Anganwadi has led to interruptions in the delivery of nutrition services throughout India (Economic

Times Online, 2020). Availability of food in regional marketplace is another problem which affected the children in lower socioeconomic strata. Panic purchases of food like those recently experienced in countries around the world also broke the supply chain and also triggered regional price hikes. Transport bans and border closures between states, despite government attempts to ensure the availability of essential commodities, further exacerbated the local availability of food and made it more costly (Upadhyay, 2020). The economically backward suffered the most in this situation. The MDM programme also tackles health concerns such as micronutrient shortages and mass deworming, in addition to eliminating classroom hunger. In the case of economically deprived households, school meals from MDM serve more as a substitute than as a complementary meal, shielding the whole family from endemic hunger. The lockdown months in India have already triggered disturbances in the supply chain of the agricultural sector, leading to food shortages (Reardon, 2020). Similarly, more than 100 million pregnant and lactating mothers and children under the age of 6 who depend on Anganwadi centres (rural child care centres) for both cooked meals and taking home rations to meet basic nutritional needs are likely to be affected by disruption in the supplementary nutrition programme provided under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme. The lack of access to school feeding and supplemental nutrition services is likely to further jeopardise the already fragile food security of the urban and rural poor, which could have long-term health and economic implications. According to UNICEF's latest report on food insecurity and food safety, Nutrition around the world, contributing 83-132 million undernourished people to the recent pandemic in 2020 (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, 2020). UNICEF data suggests that on an average 370 million children may miss on nutritious school meals (UNICEF, 2020). An online survey was conducted by the Jharkhand Educational Project Council, Government of Education, a questioner to seek information about whether to open school during the pandemic or not. The mid-day meal question

included what mode of mid-day meal, that is, serving cooked food, dry ration with direct bank transfer, should become operational and from the lockdown 1 only the distribution of dry ration was started to serve the purpose of providing free nutrition to the children of primary and upper primary classes.

Chapter-3

Methodology of the Study

3.1 Objective of the study

- To know about the socio- economic condition of the beneficiaries of Mid-day meal scheme during covid-19.
- To know about the problems faced by the beneficiaries during the implementation of Mid-day scheme during covid-19.
- To know how well the beneficiaries are aware of Mid-day meal scheme.
- To know how well the beneficiaries are aware about the procedure of filing a complaint.

3.2 Study Methodology

Research is a long-term process which needs to be planned out before its initiation. The selection of the methods of research depends upon various factors like scope and objectives of the enquiry, time, subject matter of the research, kind of information required, degree of accuracy etc. To measure the need, available resources, benefit accrued, access of project services, assessment of capacity building intervention, challenges faced and impacts of project intervention an effective methodology is required. It provide detailed information about the objectives of the study, sample of the study, measure of study, the tool and technique implied and the procedure followed during the study phase.

3.2.1 Universe of study

Universe of study was beneficiaries of Mid-day meal scheme in Giridih District.

3.2.2 Sampling

Since the research had to be completed within a specific period of time,the study was being relying on sampling method. The study followed random sampling method.

3.2.2.1 Sampling design

The research design for the following study included the following steps:

- Preparation of survey tool for data collection.
- Telephonic conversation with the parents or guardians of beneficiaries.
- Data entry and data analysis

3.2.2.2 Source of data collection

In the present study both primary and secondary data were collected during the research. The source of data collection area follows:

3.2.2.1.1 Primary sources

The primary source of data were the response from the respondents of beneficiaries of Mid day meal scheme. The primary data was collected by following method:

- Structured interview schedule

In this study, the telephonic interview was structured as specific points and question were previously decided to ask. The interview were conducted for the parents of beneficiaries of Mid-day meal scheme living in Giridih district of Jharkhand.

3.2.2.1.2 Secondary sources

The secondary sources of data were collected from the following sources:

- Interview schedule of NFSA Social Audit for the month of April and May.
- JSFC official website
- Mid-day official website

3.2.2.3 Tools and Techniques for data collection

During the virtual study following tools and techniques were used for data collection:

3.2.2.3.1 Tool for data collection

For collection data, structured interview schedule was prepared and digital survey tool was used for the collection of data

3.2.2.3.2 Technique

Telephonic conversation technique was used for the collection of primary data.

Chapter-4

Profile of organization and Study Area

4.1 Profile of the organization

As per the provisions under section 16 of this National Food Security Act, it was made mandatory for every State Government to constitute a State Food Commission for the purpose of monitoring and review of implementation of this Act.

Subsequently, Government of Jharkhand decided to constitute an exclusive commission and accordingly the Department of Food, Public Distribution & Consumer Affairs, constituted Jharkhand State Food Commission vide Notification No. 1632 on 13th April, 2017. Pursuant to the said notification, offers of appointment were issued to appoint Mr. Sudhir Prasad, I.A.S.(Retd.) as the first Chairperson of the Commission along with Shri Upendra Narayan Oraon, I.A.S.(Retd.), Smt. Bina Mishra, Mr. R.K Karan, Mr. Haldhar Mahto and Ranjana Kumari as Members. All of them assumed charge between 14th April to 15th May 2017. Subsequently Mr. Sunil Kumar Sinha (J.A.S) assumed charge as Member Secretary.

The commission has a mandate to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) in the State. Three schemes namely- Targeted Public Distribution System, Integrated Child Development Services and Mid Day Meal come within the purview of this Act.

Statutory functions of Jharkhand State Food Commission:

- i. To inspect the non-compliance of policy decisions of the Government relating to National Food Security Act.
- ii. To organise regional camps to build awareness about benefits and entitlements under the Act.
- iii. To define measures for redressal of grievances in three implementing departments i.e. Food, Public Distribution & Consumer Affairs, Women & Child development and Social Security and School Education and Literacy.

4.2 Profile of study area

4.2.1 State profile

After decades of struggle, sometimes bloody, the 28th State of the Union, carved out of Southern part of erstwhile Bihar, created 'JHARKHAND'. The formal inauguration of newly created state Jharkhand was done on 15th Nov. 2000. Historically speaking, Ranchi district remain a hotbed of Jharkhand agitation and when statehood was given to Jharkhand, Ranchi was declared State Capital. There are 24 districts in the State and from administrative point of view Ranchi is the capital. The State occupies significant place in the World Map because of its vast reserve of minerals. Mica deposits and a large stock of precious gems & stones as well. Many good quality and quantity of forest produce, including herbs and herbal plants, abound in the dense Forest of the State. This wealth have not, however been placed into 'economic exploitation'. The State also maintains in its reserves 45825349.00 million tonnes of deposits of granite and other stones. Sadly, they do not get the right price and are sold at cheaper rates by stone crushers.

Table 4.1 Population of the Jharkhand State

Total Population	32988134
Male	16930315
Female	16057819
Rural Population	25055073[75.95%]
Urban Population	7933061 [24.05%]
Scheduled Caste	39,85,644[12.08%]
Scheduled Tribe	86,45,042[26.21%]

Jharkhand State shares its boundary to Bihar in north, Chhattisgarh to west, West Bengal to east, Odisha to south and Uttar Pradesh to north west. Some of the major rivers of Jharkhand are Sone, Subarnarekha, Damoder and Koyal. Jharkhand state has 5 division, 45 sub division, 24 districts

4.2.2 Demography

The total population of the State is 3,29,88,134 with 1,69,30,315 male population and 1,60,57,819 female population. The sex ratio of the the state is 948. The SC population of the state is 39,85,644 and the ST population of the state is 86,45,042 and rest 2,03,75,488 belongs to other caste. In Jharkhand about 75.95% of population lives in village. The population density per sq. km is 414. Most of the vilaaage population in Jharkhand are either labourer or cultivator. The official language of Jharkhand is Hindi. The other language of

the state are Angika, Bhojpuri, Bengali, Ho, Kharia, kurukuh, Khorta, Kurmali, Magahi, Maithili, Mundari, Nagpuri, Odia, Santhali and Urdu. Hinduism is the major religion of the state followed by Islam and Chirstinaty. Other religion constitute 12.8% of population. 66.41% population in the State is litreate. This litreate population consist of 76.84% of male litreate and 55.42% of female litreate.

Figure 4.1 Map of Jharkhand



4.4 District Profile

Giridih District, a Jharkhand administrative district, has its headquarters in Giridih. On 4 December 1972, it was carved out of the Hazaribagh District. The area is between the north latitude of 24 degrees 11 minutes and the east

longitude of 86 degrees 18 minutes. This district is bordered by Jamui District and part of Nawada District of Bihar on the north, by the districts of Deoghar and Jamtara on the east, by Dhanbad Bokaro on the southwest, by Hazaribagh Kodarma, almost in the central part of the North Chota Nagpur Division. Giridih District is spread over an area of 4853.56 sq km. The city is situated on the plateau of Chota Nagpur. Dense forest vegetation and hill locks cover the entire area. The area is populated by many tribal groups that have been living for centuries. The areas were part of Hazaribagh prior to independence. The traditional rulers of this tribal land were the Mundas.

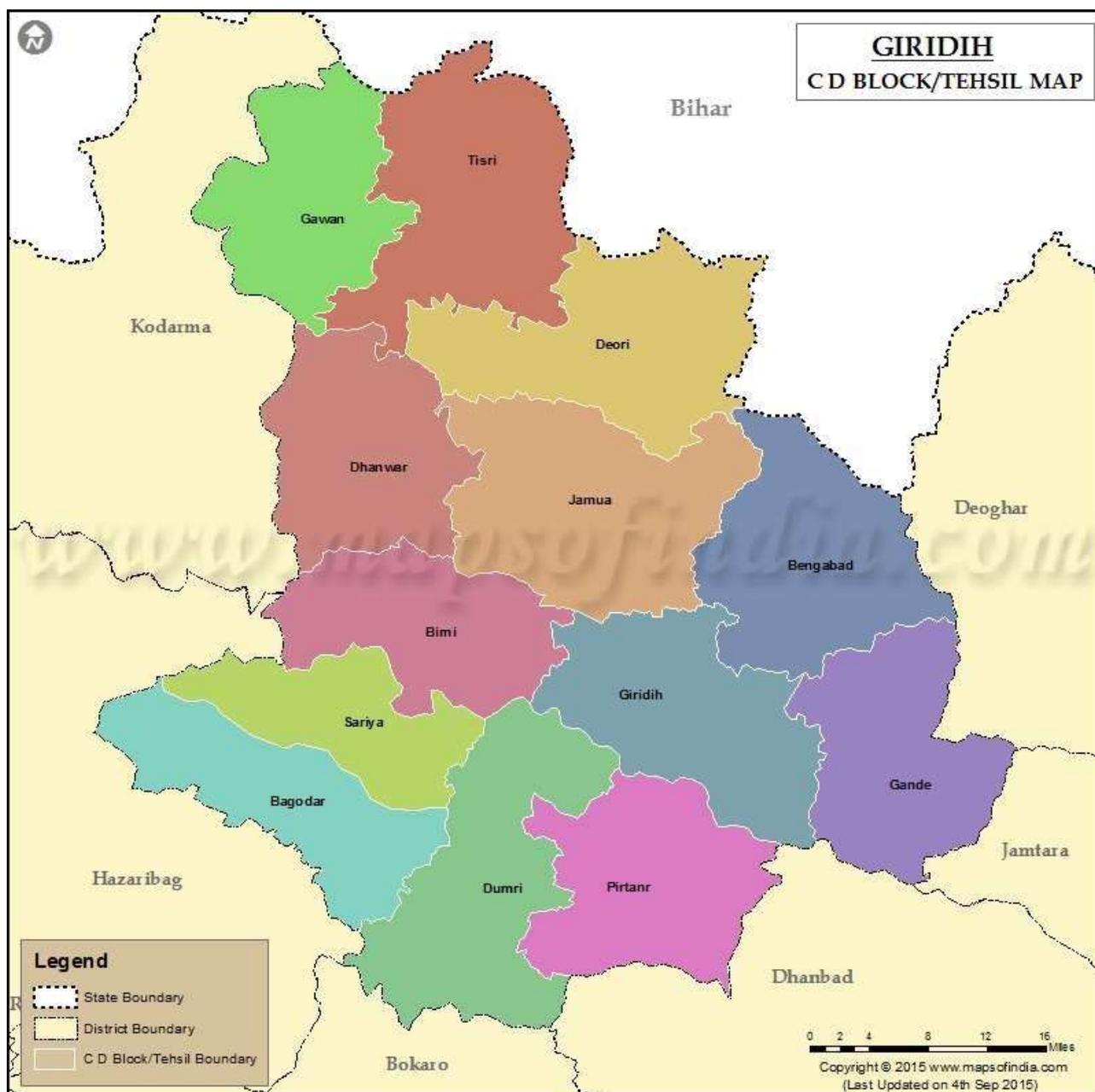
4.4.1 District demography

Among the twenty-four districts of Jharkhand, Giridih district ranks third in terms of total population in the state and fourth in terms of decadal population growth rate (2001-11). It ranks seventh in the state with a sex ratio of 944. The district contains 13 blocks. As per Census 2011, in four assembly constituencies, the district has 2558 villages and 5 towns distributed. Figures from the 2011 Census showed that the proportion of the scheduled caste population to the total population was 13.31 percent, whereas that of the scheduled tribes was 9.74 percent. The percentage of BPL households in rural areas was 63.77 percent, based on the number of total rural households in the Census 2011 and BPL Revision Survey 2010-11. Total population of Giridih is 2445474 out of which 1258098 are male and 1187376 are female.

Table 4.2 Basic Indicators of Giridih district

Population	2445474
Male	1258098
Female	1187376
Rural population	2237450
Urban population	208024
SC population	325493
SC population male	166447
SC population	159406
ST population	238188
ST population male	120646
ST population female	117542
Child population(0-6 yrs)	460251
Child population %	18.82%

Figure 4.2 Map of Giridih



4.4.2 Block profile

4.4.2.1 Bengabad

Bengabad is one of the 13 blocks of Giridih district. It is situated at a distance of 200 km from the state capital Ranchi. It is spread over an area of 40250.09 hectare out of which 11332.81 hectare is forest land. Rice, Maize, Wheat and

Marua are the major crops grown here. Mica and coal are found in abundant quantity in bengabad.

4.2.2.1.1 Demography

As per census 2011, total population of Bengabad block is 118951 out of which 60420 are male and 58531 are female. About 14.41 % of total population belongs to SC category where as 17.93% population belongs to ST category. Rice, Wheat, Maize and Marua are the major crops grown here.

Table 4.3 Demography of Bengabad

Population	118951
Male Population	60420
Female Population	58531
SC Population	16849
ST Population	21335
Literacy	40604
Minerals	Mica, Coal
Rivers	Ghagha, Pathro
Panchayats	20

4.2.2.2 Gawan

Gawan is one the 13 blocks of Giridh district. It is situated at a distance of 227 km from the state capital Ranchi. It is spread over an area of 33675.04 hectare out of which 16362.02 hectare is forestland. Mica is found in abundant quantity in Gawan block. Sankh, Barki, Chakli, Sakri and Likhari are the major rivers which flows through Gawan block.

4.2.2.2.1 Demography

As per census 2011, total population of Gawan block is 88594 out of which 43678 are male and 44916 are female. About 15.37 % of total population belongs to SC category where as 5.14% population belongs to ST category. Rice, Wheat, Maize and Marua are the major crops grown here.

Table 4.4 Demography of Gawan block

Population	88594
Male Population	43678
Female Population	44916
SC Population	13620
ST Population	4554
Literacy	26137
Minerals	Mica
Rivers	Sankh, Barki, Chakli, Sakri, Likhari
Panchayats	17

4.2.2.3 Suriya

Suriya is one of the 13 blocks of Giridih district. About 19340.20 hectare area of Suriya block is covered with forest and has a population of 115000 people. Rice, Wheat, Maize and Mung are the major crops grown here. Barakar is the major river which flows through this block. There are 23 Gram Panchayats in Suriya block

Chapter-5 Findings and Analysis

Table 5.1 Block and Panchayat wise distribution of respondents.

Block	Gram Panchayat	Respondents
Bengabad	Sonbagh	2
Gawan	Gawan	3
	Parwa	1
	Kurchi	1
	Serua	2
	Sankh	3
Suriya	Kirtodih	2
Jamua	Modiladah	1

Table 5.1 depicts the total no. of respondents for 4 blocks of Giridih district. Out all the 15 respondents, 2 respondents were from Bengabad block, 10 were from Gawan block, 2 respondents were from Kirtodih panchayat of Suriya block and 1 respondent was from Modiladah panchayat of Jamua block.

Table 5.2 Block wise classification of caste

Block	Caste				Total
	General	SC	ST	OBC	
Bengabad	0	0	0	2	2
Gawan	3	3	0	4	10
Suriya	0	0	0	2	2
Jamua	0	0	0	1	1

Table 5.2 depicts the caste wise classification of all the respondents. 60% of all the respondents were OBC whereas rest 40% were equally from general and SC class. There were 0 respondents from ST caste.

Table 5.3 Source of income of respondents

Source	No. of respondents
Daily wage labourer	6
Farming(in others land)	1
Regular Employment(Govt./ Private)	2
Self Employed(Cultivator)	3
Self Employed(Non- Cultivator)	3

Table 5.3 depicts the classification of source of income of respondents. Majority of the respondents i.e. 40% were daily wage labours whereas approx. 13% were employed in either government or private firm. 40% respondents were self-employed out of which 20% were cultivators and rest 20% and rest 20% were indulged in other non-cultivating activities like money lending, small businesses etc.

Table 5.4 Block wise classification of type of house

Block	Type of house	No. of families
Bengabad	Kuccha	2
	Cemented	0
Gawan	Kuccha	8
	Cemented	2
Suriya	Kuccha	2
	Cemented	0
Jamua	Kuccha	1
	Cemented	0

Table 5.4 depicts the type of house of respondents i.e kuccha or pakka. Majority(87%) of the household reside in kuccha whereas rest 13% are the beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna and reside in cemented house.

Table 5.5 Block wise classification of earning status of families during lockdown.

Block	Earning status	No. of families
Bengabad	Earning	0
	Not Earning	2
Gawan	Earning	4
	Not Earning	6
Suriya	Earning	1
	Not Earning	1
Jamua	Earning	1
	Not Earning	0

Table 5.5 is showing us the earning status of all the respondents from 4 blocks of Giridih district during the time of lockdown. The table depicts us that majority of the respondents i.e 9 were not earning during lockdown. Out of all the blocks, Gawan was having the highest no. of earning respondents i.e. 4.

Table 5.6 Block wise distribution of accessibility status of MDM during lockdown

Block	Status	No. of respondents
Bengabad	Accessible	2
	Not accessible	0
Gawan	Accessible	9
	Not accessible	1
Suriya	Accessible	2
	Not accessible	0
Jamua	Accessible	1
	Not accessible	0

Table 5.6 depicts the accessibility of Mid- day meal scheme in 4 blocks of Giridih district. Out of all the 15 respondents from 4 blocks only 1 respondent from Gawan block responded that they are not receiving the benefits of Mid-day meal.

Table 5.7 Block wise punctuality of receiving dry ration

Block	Status of punctuality	No. of respondents
Bengabad	Punctual	2
	Not punctual	0
Gawan	Punctual	6
	Not punctual	3
Suriya	Punctual	1
	Not punctual	1
Jamua	Punctual	1
	Not punctual	0

Table 5.7 is depicting the punctuality of receiving the dry rations i.e. whether beneficiaries are receiving dry ration in each month or not. Majority of the respondents responded that they are receiving dry ration on time except 3 respondents from Gawan block and 1 respondent from Suriya block.

Table 5.8 Block wise response of receiving monetary benefits during lockdown

Block	Status	No. of respondents
Bengabad	Received	0
	Not received	2
Gawan	Received	2
	Not received	7
Suriya	Received	1
	Not received	1
Jamua	Received	1
	Not Received	0

Table 5.8 depicts that whether all the beneficiaries were receiving monetary benefit from MDM. 10 respondents out of 15 respondents responded that they are not receiving any monetary benefits.

Table 5.9 Block wise response on quantity of dry ration as per requirement of child

Block	Response	No. of respondents
Bengabad	Yes	0
	No	2
Gawan	Yes	2
	No	7
Suriya	Yes	1
	No	1
Jamua	Yes	0
	No	1

Table 5.9 depicts the perception of respondents over the quantity of dry ration. According to 79% respondents, the quantity of ration is not adequate to meet the nutritional requirements of their child.

Table 5.10 Weekly consumption of green vegetables

No. of days/ week	No. of respondents
1-2 days/ week	7
3-4 days/ week	5
More than 4 days	2
None	1

Table 5.10 depicts the weekly consumption of green vegetables of respondents. Only 2 respondents responded that they consume green vegetables more than 4 days per week whereas 7 respondents which comprises of about 47% of total respondents responded that they are only able to consume vegetables 1-2 days per week.

Table 5.11 Weekly consumption of fruits

No. of days/ week	No. of respondents
1-2 days/ week	2
3-4 days/ week	1
More than 4 days	0
None	12

Table 5.11 shows the weekly fruit consumption of respondents. About 87%

respondents responded that they are unable to have fruits even for a single day in a week.

Table 5.12 Preference of meal during lockdown

Meal	No. of respondents
Rice	10
Chapatti	2
Both	3

Table 5.12 depicts the response of respondents on their preferable food between rice and chapatti and 66 % respondents chose rice over chapatti whereas 20 % respondents responded that they are comfortable with both i.e. rice and chapatti.

Table 5.13 Response of child after receiving dry ration

Response	No. of respondents
Satisfied	8
Unsatisfied	5
Not sure	2

Table 5.13 shows the response of child that whether they are satisfied with the facilities of MDM during lockdown or not and children of 8 respondents responded that they are satisfied with the benefits of MDM whereas children of 5 respondents were not satisfied.

Table 5.14 Ever complained to the concerned authorities in case of irregularities

Response	No. of respondents
Always	1
Sometimes	5
Never	9

Table 5.14 depicts whether respondents try to contact concerned authorities in case of any irregularities in distribution of food/ ration or not and 9 out of 15 respondents said that they had never tried to contact any higher authorities whereas 5 respondent said that they have contacted only one or two times.

Table 5.15 Block wise distribution of government official inspection regarding MDM

Block	Response		Total
	Yes	No	
Bengabad	2	0	2
Gawan	1	9	10
Suriya	0	2	2
Jamua	1	0	1

Table 5.15 depicts the block wise inspection status of government officials regarding MDM. There were 2 respondents from Bengabad block and both of them responded that government inspection has been done. Out of 10 respondents from Gawan, 9 responded that no government inspection has been done. Likewise, both the respondents from Suriya block responded that no government inspection has been done in their block and only respondent from Jamua said that official inspection has been done in their block.

Table 5.16 Block wise response on trusting the grievance redressal mechanism

Block	Response		Total
	Yes	No	
Bengabad	2	0	2
Gawan	2	8	10
Suriya	1	1	2
Jamua	0	1	1

Table 5.16 depicts the response of respondents on asking whether they trust of the grievance redressal mechanism or not and 67% respondents said that they don't trust the redressal mechanism. Bengabad was the only block where 100% respondents said that they trust the grievance redressal mechanism.

Chapter- 6

Discussions and Suggestions

The survey was conducted to get the feedback from the beneficiaries of Mid-day Meal and to know the issues they were facing regarding the implementation of Mid-day meal during lockdown. Based on the data collected by filling interview schedule and challenges faced during the data collection, following recommendations have been suggested to the organisation to improve the efficiency of mid-day meal. The recommendation has been made in accordance with the access to project services

6.1 Access to project services

The recommendation that can be given to increase the efficiency of mid- day meal on the basis of the findings from the survey are illustrated below about access to the project services:-

According to the survey it has been found that although 93% of the population was able to access and avail the project benefits but partially i.e. in form of dry ration only whereas they were unable to avail the monetary benefit which they were supposed to get on behalf of fruits and eggs.

The second important suggestion would be regarding the adequacy of the ration. About 79% of the respondents stated that the quantity of the ration they receive is not adequate for their child.

6.2 Strengthening the grievance redressal mechanism and mandating the timely inspection by the officials

The recommendation from the survey conducted about the grievance redressal is stated below:-

It has been found that 60% of the respondents have never filed any complaint to the higher authorities regarding any issues and when asked about whether they trust the grievance redressal mechanism then 67% respondents responded that they don't trust.

Lack of timely inspection by the officials is also found during the survey.

6.3 Creating awareness regarding the modes of filing a complaint

During the survey, It was also found that majority of the respondents were unaware of the online mode of complaint, they were only knowing the traditional

method of registering the complaint and during covid era it is not possible for them to file a complaint through conventional method.

6.4 Other suggestions

These few suggestions are based on the challenges faced by me during the process of data collection over telephonic conversation:-

So, the first is regarding the contact information of the beneficiaries. Majority of the contact nos. in the given data sheet were not reachable and few nos. were either of different district or of different state like Bihar.

Second problem was regarding the knowledge or awareness of the respondents about their rights and the provisions made by the government. Most of the respondents were unaware about the provision of monetary benefits.

Chapter-7

Conclusion

Union Government of India, announced additional expenditure to provide mid-day meal scheme as for the underprivileged and vulnerable the meal program is one of the major supplementary source of nutrition but due to lack of awareness among the community, the beneficiaries are not getting the full benefits of the program. Majority of the beneficiaries are not receiving the monetary benefit which they were supposed to get on behalf of the eggs and cooking cost. One more factor which plays a very important role is the quantity of dry ration. In the survey, it was found that quantity of the ration is not adequate to meet the nutritional requirements of children. Beneficiaries were also not satisfied with the quantity of the dry ration provided and they wanted to bring this issue to the officials but majority of the beneficiaries are unaware of the process of filing a complaint. Few people are aware of offline method but during covid-19 and lockdown, it was not possible for them. Although, the process of online method is available but no one has any idea how to file complaint through online mode. One more factor which plays a very important role in performance of any program is monitoring and evaluation. After lockdown and closure of schools, new amendments were done in the existing scheme but after implementation monitoring was not done in the systematic manner which also resulted in beneficiaries not receiving the full benefits of the program. Regular inspection from government officials plays a very vital role in smooth running of any program but this was also missing from the various blocks of Giridih district which was resulting in irregularities in the implementation of program. We all know that Mid day meal is the world's largest school feeding program and also is a secondary source of nutrition for the underprivileged and vulnerable children and for the proper functioning of the program it is important that it is well monitored. As schools are still closed due to pandemic, there are chances of improvement (Mid Day Meal, n.d.)and after that it will surely serve the purpose in a better and efficient manner.

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