



स्मृति जूबिन इरानी  
Smriti Zubin Irani

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MINISTER

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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The Mid Day Meal Scheme is a flagship programme of the Govt. of India providing hot cooked Mid Day Meals to more than 10 crore children across the country. Several States have introduced best practices and innovative implementation strategies to enrich the Scheme at the State level. These best practices are shared among the States and have been replicated in other States as well.

One of the successful innovative practices is called the 'Tithi Bhojan' in Gujarat and this best practice has also been shared with the State Governments. Under the Tithi Bhojan, important days, such as child birth, marriage, birthdays, success in exams, anniversaries, festivals in the family or in the larger community are celebrated by the concerned persons serving quality meals in schools on that day. The Tithi Bhojan is voluntarily served among school children in a school or a group of schools in different forms, such as sweets or namkeens with regular MDM meal, a full meal, or supplementary nutritive items like sprouted beans, cooked snacks, etc. This allows enrichment and supplementary nutrition for school children while creating large scale community participation. It also generates social harmony, feeling of equity and brotherhood among children, and brings the School Administration and the community closer.

The Govt. of Gujarat has reported that in the last year itself more than 90 lakh meals were served as Tithi Bhojan at an estimated cost of ₹ 9.65 crore and in the last 8 years, 575 lakh meals at a cost of about ₹ 44 crore have been given. In addition to complementary food, the schools have also received several useful articles such as cooking ware, utensils, dinner sets or glasses for drinking water etc.

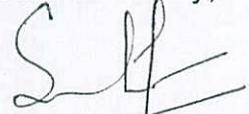
Tithi Bhojan is one tradition that exists in many States with regional variations. It is, felt that the strength of this social tradition could be channelized for enrichment of Mid Day Meal Scheme in your State. This matter was also discussed in the meeting of the Empowered Committee on Mid Day Meal Scheme under my Chairpersonship on 15.10.2014 and it was unanimously decided that, drawing upon the experience of Gujarat, the tradition of Tithi Bhojan for Mid Day Meal Scheme should be encouraged in other States.

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You may consider replicating the practice of Tithi Bhojan for MDM in your State using the same nomenclature or adopt a local nomenclature suited to your State. Necessary instructions with appropriate guidelines may be given to all schools covered under Mid Day Meal Scheme to facilitate and use Tithi Bhojan to enrich implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme in your State. My Ministry will be happy to provide you further details and clarifications, if so required.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Smriti Zubin Irani)