

## **‘ Maa’ committees in Uttar Pradesh to check mid-day meal quality**

### **Summary:**

Maa committees are formed at school level to keep a check and look at all aspects of mid-day meal implementation. The committee undertake responsibility to keep a check on cleanliness in kitchen, preparation of quality and nutritious food and serving of food equally and on time among all students.

### **Objectives and Rationale:**

With increasing number of complaints received about mid-day meal, its quality and implementation in elementary schools, the state has undertaken a more cohesive approach in engaging mothers of students availing MDM at respective schools. The state will now form ‘Maa’ committees in each school to keep a check on mid-day meal served to students and that nutritious food is prepared in hygienic conditions.

### **Key Stakeholders:**

The key stakeholders are state Programme Management Unit, MDM, U.P., mothers of children studying in school, head of school and school itself.

### **Implementation Strategy:**

The implementation strategy is to form a committee of six mothers, representation from all sections of society, whose children are studying in that school. This committee will then look at all aspects of mid-day meal implementation that is from cleanliness in kitchen to quality and nutritious food being prepared and to food served equally and on time among all students.

### **Resource Utilization:**

The resources utilized in this model are socially acclaimed and acceptable mothers who will represent mothers view in ensuring hygienic, nutritious and same quantity of MDM to all students enrolled in elementary schools.

### **Impact:**

The impact of the model can be already seen, in terms of improved quality and implementation of MDM and more effective and accountable participation from society/ parent’s community. This practice will also ensure that the unintended consequence related to scheme are also reduced considering mothers/ maa committees will now own major administrative responsibilities that were initially performed by schoolteachers or head of schools.

### **Replicability and Sustainability:**

The model is implemented in similar formats across various states and union territories such as Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand etc.