

Best Practice: Construction of DINING HALL

In pursuance to the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the State Government began providing cooked meal to the eligible primary (I to V) school children on all school days since 1st April 2003 under Mid-Day-Meal Programme and from the year 2008 to all the children of classes VI to VIII (Upper primary level). But in the scheme, there is no provision for making sitting arrangements for taking mid-day-meal in the school.

With the objective of giving children an opportunity to sit together and eat their meal (MDM) comfortably and hygienically, Directorate of Elementary Education, Govt. of Tripura has taken the initiative to construct dining hall in the schools. **Tripura is the only state in the country that has constructed dining halls in the school premises from its own resources.** All the dining halls are of permanent pucca construction in nature with a sitting capacity of around 100 students at a time. The construction works generally take 2-3 months for completion.

The Elementary Education, Govt. of Tripura is implementing the constructions of dining halls through the help of PWD (R & B) and Tripura Housing Development & Construction Board, Govt. of Tripura. The approval of necessary fund and expenditure sanction are also being accorded by Elementary Education when fund is available.

The project of construction of dining hall in school premises has a very effective and positive impact. By this project it has become possible to provide better infrastructure facility for the benefit of the students. The children are taking their mid-day-meals in a healthy, hygiene and disciplined manner. This initiative really improved the eagerness of the students to take mid-day-meal and can prevent the unwanted incident to some extent.

At present in **250** selected schools, construction of dining halls has already been completed and construction works are going on in **16** schools. The Department intends to construct more dining halls in phased manner. All the MPs (Tripura) were also requested to provide fund for construction of dining hall in his / her area.



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