

Children are Akshaya Patra's most important stakeholders and we keep them central to all our efforts. Serving children safe, nutritious, and hygienic food has always been a priority for us. With the responsibility of feeding millions of children every day, we take all the necessary steps to ensure that our mid-day meals are not just safe and hygienic, but nutritious and tasty as well.

Our mid-day meals are in strict compliance with the prescribed nutrition norms and MDM Guidelines, i.e., 450 calories and 12g protein for children studying in class I-V and 700 calories and 20g protein for children in class VI-VIII. We strive to provide all the food groups blended into the meal combinations as given in the Government's prescribed menu chart. Our meals are designed taking into consideration the ideal combination of cereals to pulses ratio as prescribed by the Government.

Our recipes are scientifically designed in labs, with ingredients judiciously selected to meet and deliver adequate nutrients. This ensures nutrition diversity as well as taste and local acceptability. Cyclic menu is implemented to cover diverse food groups and keep the interest in our meals high among children. The diverse menu with a cyclic mix of various combinations provides better palatability to children. Our standardized recipes include majorly all the stipulated and seasonal vegetables. We ensure that children get their daily intake of nutrient-dense foods, such as leafy greens, carrots, beetroot, tomatoes, etc., alongside cereals and legumes.

We also make a systematic effort to revise the menu in a timely manner so that children get more variety and a change of taste in terms of the food served as we understand that children's acceptability is paramount when it comes to school lunch programmes. We take feedback from children and school authorities and instill appropriate

corrective measures to improve the menu in terms of quality and taste, thus increasing consumption.

For nearly two decades, we have been closely working with the Government as the implementing partner of the Mid-Day Meal Programme to provide well-balanced, nourishing, and hygienic meals to children. Throughout our journey, we have received the support and encouragement of the Government of India and State Governments in our service to children.

We will continue with our commitment to serve tasty, nutritious, quality and hygienic food to school children every day with the support of the governments, corporate and individual donors, school authorities, supporters, and all other stakeholders.