



Indira Rasoi Yojana: A Transformative Path to Food Security in Rajasthan

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Abstract

This case study delves into the consequential transformation brought about by The Indira Rasoi Yojana, launched in Rajasthan in August 2020, which stands as a transformative social welfare initiative designed to provide affordable and nutritious meals twice daily to the underprivileged. This scheme, with plates comprising 100 grams of pulses, 250 grams of chapati, and pickles, aligns with the principles of World Food Day 2020. Implemented in collaboration with local voluntary organizations, it strategically places centers near public stations. The scheme, replacing the previous Annapurna Rasoi Yojana, targets serving 1.34 lakh people daily, benefiting 50.30 lakh individuals to date. A comprehensive survey conducted at the Pratapgarh Bus Station outlet revealed the scheme's profound impact, offering beneficiaries convenience, affordability, and fostering community support. The initiative not only addresses immediate nutritional needs but also contributes to community upliftment, showcasing its potential for replication and scalability in promoting inclusive social.

Introduction:

Launched on August 20, 2020, by the Rajasthan Government, the Indira Rasoi Yojana stands as a transformative social welfare initiative designed to address the critical issue of food security.



The primary objective is to provide affordable and nutritious meals twice a day to the underprivileged, aligning with the principles of World Food Day 2020. This comprehensive article delves into the various facets of the program, exploring its implementation, impact, and the significant strides it has made in enhancing food security and community well-being across the state.

Programme Overview:

At the core of the Indira Rasoi Yojana is a commitment to provide nutritious meals to the poor and needy at concessional rates. The carefully crafted meal includes 100 grams of pulses and vegetables, 250 grams of chapati, and pickles. By strategically placing centers near key locations such as bus stands, railway stations, hostels, and hospitals, the program ensures accessibility to those who need it the most. The scheme replaced the earlier Annapurna Rasoi Yojana, broadening its scope and focusing on the dual pillars of monitoring and quality control.

Implementation and Monitoring:

Local voluntary organizations play a pivotal role in the successful implementation of the scheme. These organizations collaborate to establish centers in strategic locations, ensuring that the benefits of the program reach the intended beneficiaries. A monitoring committee, headed by the District Collector, oversees the implementation, ensuring strict adherence to food quality and safety standards. To add transparency to the entire process, a dedicated app facilitates real-time monitoring, allowing for prompt intervention and improvement.

Target and Impact:

The ambitious goal of the Indira Rasoi Yojana is to serve 1.34 lakh people daily across the state. Since its inception, the scheme has surpassed expectations, benefitting a staggering 50.30 lakh individuals. This remarkable impact is not just in numbers; it is evident in the positive changes observed in the lives of the beneficiaries.

Survey Findings:

To comprehensively assess the impact of the scheme, a survey was conducted at the Indira Rasoi



Yojana outlet situated at the Bus Station in Pratapgarh, Rajasthan. On average, 300 people per day are served food at this particular outlet, making it a microcosm of the larger success of the program.

1. **Convenience and Time Savings:** Respondents unanimously expressed the convenience of having an Indira Rasoi Yojana outlet at the Bus Station in Pratapgarh. Many beneficiaries faced challenges going home during the evening for lunch, and the process was deemed time-consuming. The Rasoi emerged as a practical solution, allowing individuals to consume affordable and nutritious meals conveniently at the station.
2. **Affordability and Accessibility:** The affordability of the meals provided by the Indira Rasoi Yojana was a key highlight. Beneficiaries, including beggars and economically disadvantaged individuals, previously relied on others and NGOs for food, given the high cost of meals at local dhabas or food shops (averaging around 60 rupees per plate). The Rasoi emerged as a blessing for those who couldn't afford regular meals, offering them three meals a day at a minimal cost of 8 rupees per serving.
3. **Social Impact:** The scheme had a profound social impact, as highlighted by instances where individuals, even without money, were provided meals by others who covered the cost. This fostered a sense of community support and solidarity, emphasizing the humane aspect of the initiative.
4. **Student Community:** Students attending the survey emphasized the time-consuming nature of cooking, especially when focused on studies. The Rasoi emerged as a preferred choice for them due to its cost-effectiveness and time-saving attributes. The availability of affordable and hygienic meals directly at the bus station contributed significantly to the well-being of the student community.

5. **Travelers' Perspective:** Travelers, including those commuting to other locations by bus, acknowledged the previous challenges of consuming food outside. Dhabas were considered expensive and lacked hygiene. The availability of Indira Rasoi outlets in each district was seen as a positive development, encouraging travelers to opt for these outlets for their meals.
6. **Economic Impact and Varied Demographics:** The scheme's impact was evident across various demographics, benefiting people from different economic classes and states. The provision of low-cost, quality meals at public stations catered to a diverse group, ensuring that individuals from various backgrounds could access nutritious food.
7. **Overall Community Upliftment:** The survey findings collectively highlight the Indira Rasoi Yojana's role in community upliftment. By providing accessible, affordable, and hygienic meals, the scheme not only addressed immediate nutritional needs but also contributed to the well-being and dignity of the beneficiaries. The sense of empowerment and community support fostered by the scheme underscores its positive impact on the lives of the people in Pratapgarh, Rajasthan.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the Indira Rasoi Yojana has emerged as a transformative initiative, transcending the mere provision of meals to become a catalyst for holistic community well-being. By addressing not only the nutritional needs of the economically challenged but also promoting a sense of community well-being, the scheme has significantly improved the lives of diverse beneficiaries. Its success in Pratapgarh exemplifies its potential for replication and scalability, offering a sustainable model for inclusive social welfare and securing food security in Rajasthan. The program, with its meticulous implementation, monitoring mechanisms, and tangible impact on the ground, stands as a beacon of hope and a testament to the positive outcomes achievable



through well-designed government interventions. As it continues to uplift communities and individuals across Rajasthan, the Indira Rasoi Yojana serves as a shining example of how targeted initiatives can create lasting and meaningful change in the pursuit of comprehensive food security.