Rohtak District and Mid-day Meal

Chapter - 4
CHAPTER- 4
Rohtak District and Mid-day Meal

The present study, entitled “Implementation of Mid-Day Meal Programme in Haryana: A Case Study of Rohtak District” has been conducted in the setting of Rohtak, an educational city and one of the divisional headquarters of Haryana State. The Rohtak district is strategically situated in the passage from the north-west through the Delhi gateway to the broad Ganga plains. The route from Peshawar and Multan to Delhi converge here. This area as a whole, witnessed some important historical events and movements.

4.1) Rohtak in Historical Perspective:

Rohtak is one of the important districts of Haryana State. It has a long history as a district. It derives its name from its headquarter’s town Rohtak; which is said to be a correction of Rohtashgarh, a name still applied to the ruined sites (also called khokra-kot) of two older cities, one lying immediately north of the present town and other about 3 miles to the east. Traditionally, it is named after Raja Rohtash in whose days city is said to have been built. It is also claimed that the town derives its name from the Roherra (Tacoma undulate) tree called Rohitak in Sanskrit. It is said that before the town came into existence, it was the site of a forest of Rohitaka trees and hence its name became Rohtak. Another version also connects Rohtak with Rohitaka, which is mentioned in Mahabharta in connection with campaign of Nakula, the Pandva warrior. But the dominant view or general accepted opinion is that it is correction of Rohtasgarh.

4.2) History of the District as an Administrative unit:

The areas comprising the Rohtak district underwent many changes, extending over hundreds of years before the administrative unit in its present from emerged. Under

1 Haryana District Gazetteer, Rohtak, p.1
the Mughal Emperor Akbar, when his Minister Todar Mal divided North India into administrative circles, the areas of Rohtak (as a part of Suba of Delhi) fell within the Sarkars of Delhi and Hisar firuqa. Lying close to the imperial city of Delhi, the tract which now comprises the Rohtak district was often granted in military Jagir by the Sultan and Mughal emperors to the Nobles of the Court. For this reason Rajput, Brahman, Afgan and Baluch chiefs have at different times enjoyed its revenues. On the death of Bahadur-Shah-I (1707-12), the successor of Aurangzeb, the Mugal Empire began to decline rapidly. The areas of Rohtak frequently experienced a change of masters. The claims of Imperials were contested sometimes by the Rajputs, Jats and Sikhs and often by the Marathas. George Thomas, the protage of a Maratha leader, Appa Kandirao, established his authority at Hansi and extended it to Meham and Rohtak for a number of years, until Sindhia and various other regional forces combined to drive him away. Sindhia was, however, not destined to hold for long his conquests to the west of the Yamuna.

By the treaty of Surjit Arjungaon, signed on December 30, 1803, the Rohtak area alongwith the other possessions of Sindhia situated to the west of Yamuna passed to the British and came under the administration of the North-West Provinces. At that time the British had no intention to hold large territories beyond the Yamuna. Accordingly, a number of Chiefs and leaders who had done good military service against the Marathas or had at least remained neutral, were settled in this tract to form a barrier of independent outposts between the British border and the cis-Sutlej Sikh estates as well as the trans-Sutlej rising kingdom of Ranjit Singh. Accordingly, the Jhajjar territory was given to Nawab Nijabat Ali Khan and the Baluch possessions at Bahuadegarh to his brother, Nawab Ismail Khan. Gohana and Kharkhoda-Mandothi tehsils were given to Raja Bagh Singh of Jind and Bhai Lal Singh of Kaithal as life jagirs. The villages Lohari, Patudha and Kheri Sultan in the south east corner of Jhajjar tehsil were given as separate jagir to Faiz Muhammad Khan Son of Nawab Nijabat Ali Khan. The estates of Hassngarh, Kirhaul, Pyladgarh (Pehladpur) and Khurampur in Sampla area were also granted to him for life. Rohtak, Beri and Meham tehsils of the present district were given

2 Ibid., p.2.

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to the Nawab of Dujana who abandoned the major portion of the gift in A.D.1809 because it was beyond his power to manage it.

The formation of present Rohtak district began when the gift was abandoned by the Dujana Chief. The Gohana and Kharkhoda-Mandothi estates lapsed to the British Government after the death of Bhai Lal Singh in A.D.1818 and Bhagh Singh in 1820. Later on when the Hisar district was created, the Beri and Meham-Bhiwani tehsils were included in Hisar and the other portions of the present northern tehsils in Panipat.

In 1824 the Rohtak district was formed as a separate unit consisting of Gohana, Kharkhoda-Mandothi, Rohtak- Beri and Meham-Bhiwani tehsils. The Bahadurgarh territory formed its eastern and Jhajjar its southern boundary. Until A.D.1832, the whole area, including Rohtak, was under the Resident at Delhi. Subsequently it was brought under the same regulations as the rest of North India, the Resident became Commissioner. The district was abolished in A.D.1841; Gohana going to Panipat, and rest of tehsil to Delhi but in the very next year it was created again.3 On the abolition of Hisar Division in 1884, the Rohtak District was transferred to Delhi division. It consisted of four tehsils- Rohtak, Gohana, Jhajjar and Sampla, but in April, 1910, Sampla tehsil was abolished for reasons of administrative economy and its area was divided between the Rohtak and Jhajjar tehsils. In September, 1912, on the separation of Delhi Territory from the Punjab the district was attached to Ambala division.

In 1948, Dujana state was merged in Jhajjar tehsil and a new sub-tehsil of Nahar was created.4 Thus, Rohtak district was given a shape with four Tehsils i.e. Rohtak, Sonipat, Jhajjar and Gohana with Nahar and Meham as sub-tehsil of Jhajjar and Gohana tehsils respectively. Tehsil of Bahadurgarh was created in 1973 from Jhajjar tehsil. In 1973 Meham sub-tehsil was upgraded as tehsil. Sonipat tehsil was created by bifurcating Rohtak district, and Gohana and Sonipat tehsils were allotted to Sonipat district. One more tehsil, Kosli was created out of Jhajjar tehsil and Nahar sub-tehsil was abolished and the bifurcated Rohtak district, comprised of five tehsils, namely Rohtak, Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar, Meham and Kosli and one sub-tehsil Matanhail was also created. In November, 1989, reorganisation of district took place and Gohana tehsil was again attached with

3 Ibid., p.3.
4 Ibid., p.4.
Rohtak district. Three sub- tehsils of Badli, Matanhail and Beri were created again in July, 1992. Gohana tehsil was again transferred to Sonipat district and Badli sub-tehsil was abolished later on. In July, 1997, Jhajjar district was created after bifurcating Rohtak district into Rohtak and Jhajjar districts and the present Rohtak district consists of Rohtak and Meham Tehsils, while Jhajjar and Bahadurgarh tehsils are in Jhajjar district.

Map of the district Rohtak
Table 4.1

Rohtak District at a Glance (Census 2001)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Position in the districts of Haryana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
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<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share in the total population of Haryana</td>
<td>4.45 %</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Density</td>
<td>539 per sq. km</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child population in total population (0-6 year)</td>
<td>14.51</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Sex Ratio (0-6 years)</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban population</td>
<td>35.06 %</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy Rate</td>
<td>73.52 %</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Literacy Rate</td>
<td>62.59 %</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: R.S. Doon, Jan Suchna Sagar, District Administration, Rohtak.

4.3) Geographical Features:

4.3.1) Location and Extension:

Rohtak district is located in south-eastern part of Haryana State and constitutes a major part of eastern Haryana plain. It lies between 28° 19' and 29° 18' north latitude and 76° 13' and 77° 13' east longitude and compact in shape. National highway No 10 leading Delhi to Hisar passes through the district. Rohtak District, a part of eastern Haryana plain is bordered by Jind and Karnal districts on the north, Gurgaon and Mahendergarh districts on the south, Jhajjar and Sonipat district on the east and Hisar and Bhiwani districts on the west side. Gurgaon district lies on its South-East. The altitude of district is about 220 meter from mean sea level. There is a gentle slope from north to south i.e. 19 cm per km. upto Jhajjar town in the northern part of the district and there is considerable slope west to east. The district headquarter is one of the eight identified priority towns in National Capital Region. Thus the location plays a vital role for the development of the district. Due to proximity to National Capital, the developmental activities are taking place very rapidly.

Ibid.
4.3.2) Area and Population:

The district is having an area of 1668.47 sq. km with 146 villages and 151 Panchayats. According to 2001 Census of India, the total population of Haryana State is 2,10,82,989 and Rohtak district has come out with 9,40,036 persons - 5,08,885 males and 4,31,151 females. Out of the total population 6,10,476 people live in rural areas (331899 male and 278587 females) 3,29,550 people live in urban areas (176986 male and 152564 females.). The district contributes 4.46 per cent of the State population. The decadal growth rate of population during 1981-91 was 17.79 per cent and during 1991-2001 it was 20.99 per cent against 27.4 per cent 1981-91 and 28.06 per cent in 1991-2001 for the Haryana State as a whole. As per 2001 Census, the Rohtak District occupies 13th position in the State and 424th place in the Country.

According to 1991 Census sex ratio (calculated as number of females per 1000 males) of Rohtak district was 849 which declined to 847 during 2001. As against this, the overall Sex Ratio of Haryana State was 865 in 1991 which has also declined to 861. In terms of sex ratio, the rank of Rohtak in the State is 15th and in country it is 554. Such a sex ratio will see many males not getting their partner which may create a social evil and is a serious matter for the society. In Rohtak District, the total population of 0-6 age group is 1,34,712 out of which there are 7,5016 males and 59696 females. In 1991, if we see Child Sex Ratio, it was 868 which declined to 796 in 2001. Correspondingly, in Haryana State it was 879 in 1991, which declined to 820 in 2001. On this bases, Rohtak occupies 15th rank in the state and 578th in the country.

The density of population in Rohtak district was 445 per sq. km. in 1991 which increased to 539 in 2001. In this regard it stands 8th in the State and 188th in the country.

4.3.3) Climate and Rainfall:

The district is characterized by Semi-arid climate having hot and cool conditions during summer and winter. The winter season starts towards the later half of November.
when both day and night temperature falls rapidly with the advance of season. May and June are the hottest months. In the monsoon months humidity is high. April and May are usually the driest months, humidity in the afternoons being less than 20 per cent during these months. During rainy season salts are washed down towards ground water and in summer evaporation takes place. On reaching the surface these salt solutions evaporate and crystallize as a white incrustation on the surface appearing like a skin disease. The climate is ideal for agricultural development, particularly for wheat, rice, sugarcane and cotton crops. Limited rainy season, good and healthy climate is suitable for industrial development also.

Rainfall in this region comes during July to September. The average annual rainfall in the district is 457.6 mm. (18.01”). The rainfall generally increases from the south-west to the north-east. The rainfall in the south-west monsoon season which reaches its peak in the month of July constitutes about 74 per cent to the annual rainfall. On an average, there are 24 rainy days (i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm or more) in a year in district. This number varies from 16 at Salhawas to 29 at Rohtak and Sonepat. The heaviest rainfall recorded in 24 hours at rainy station in the district was 484.1 mm (19.06”) at Rohtak on September 19, 1933 when streets were traversable only by boats.10 Some amount of rainfall is received from western disturbances during winter season. Due to less rainfall and its short duration the agricultural activities is mostly dependent upon canal irrigation and tubewells. The average temperature of the district is 24° C ranging from 0° C to 44° C.

4.3.4) Soil:

The soils are tropical arid brown to arid brown with alluvial origin, calcareous in nature, sandy to loam with pH 7.02 to 8.5, low in nitrogen, and medium in phosphorus and medium to high in potassium availability. The thickness of column is more than 150 cm and the structure varies from massive to angular blocky. The available moisture capacity is good with imperfectly drained and moderate permeability. The status of organic carbon content of soil is low. The soils are having the problem of salinity and

alkalinity due to brackish underground water vis-à-vis poor drainage system and insufficient availability of good quality irrigation water.

4.4) Places of Interest:

4.4.1) Rohtak:

Rohtak city is the headquarter of Rohtak Tehsil and a District. It is situated on Delhi Hisar N.H.10. The ruins of the ancient town at Khokrakot prove that perhaps the town is as old as Indus Valley Civilization as the Minar finds at Khokhrakot are typical of Indus Valley sites. It is also identified with Rohitika, mentioned in the Mahabharta. It was quite possibly the capital of Bahudhanyaka the kingdom of Yaudheyas. In the vinaya of the Mulasarvasti-vadins, Jivaka is represented as taking journey from Taxila in the north west of Bhadramkara, Udumbasa, Rohitaka and Nathura in the Ganga Doab. The ancient highway carried the trade of the ganga valley to Taxila passing through Rohitika to Sakala. The existence of the town during the rule of Kushanas is testified by the recovery of Khushana Pillar Capital decorated with carving of winged lions and riders. The Pillar capital represents the sculptor's excellence in his professional skill. An example of a lion capital of 1-2 century A.D., it resembles the lion capital in the British museum at London, famous for its inscriptions. The riders on it are similar to the riders on elephant at Karle cave and figures at Sanchi Gateway. It is a significant example of the sculptural art of Haryana towards the beginning of the Christian era. Clay mounds of coins discovered at Khokhrakot have thrown important light on the process of casting coins in ancient India. The coin moulds of the later Yadhyayas of the 3-4 century A.D. have been discovered in large number here of the same and subsequent dates are several clay sealings. A Gupta terracota plague and a head of later date have also been discovered. The town continued to flourish till the 10th century A.D. as coins of samanta Deva, the Hindus King of kabul have been found here.

4.4.2) Asthal Bohar:

Asthal Bohar is situated 6-7 Km east of Rohtak city on Rohtak-Delhi N.H.10. The place is known for its Math and sculptured stone idols. According to a legend, Pooran Bhagat of Sialkot and disciple of Guru Gorakhnath, came here and founded this
place. After being neglected, the Math was revived in 1791 or so, when Baba Mast Nath came here. Now here are Ayurvedic Degree College, Free Hospital, Business Management Institute, Engineering College and other institutions being run by the Math.

4.4.3) Meham:

Meham town is situated 30 km. west of Rohtak city on Rohtak Hisar N.H.No.10. Tradition assigns the settlement of the town to Mahabharta period when it was a site of big fort. Later it was re-founded by Rai Ballu, a Powerful Rajput, before the reign of Prithvi Raj Chauhan. It is said to have been destroyed by Mohammad Gauri. But this place of antiquity is not historically recovered before the reign of Akbar, when he gave it in Jagir to Shahbaz Khan, an Afgan. Later in the reign of Aurangzeb, it was sanctified from Afgans by the Rajputs. Ancient monuments in the town include a bain or baoli(well with steps leading to it and two mosques i.e. Jama Masjid and Pirzada Masjid. The baoli is having 101 steps and has suites of rooms near the well. An inscription on a marble slab records the fact that it was made by Sidu, a Chobdar in A.D.1656-57. It is made of Kankar (Gravel) and sand stone. It is, however, not the oldest baoli of the town, having been built to replace another one which had fallen into disuse due to change in the alignment of Delhi Hisar Road. The new baoli is towards the south of the town, while the old one is towards east. The Jama Masjid, was constructed in the time of Humayu in A.D.1531, as seen from the inscription under the pulpit stairs. Outside and over the south arch is another inscription of the time of Aurangzeb, A.D. 1667-68, stating that the mosque has built by Khawaja Rahmet Ullah. Two Arabic inscriptions also show that a mosque existed there even before the reign of Humayu. The Pirzada Masjid is a small Masjid towards south of Jama Masjid built in the reign ofd Babar by Sheikh Yasaf of Hisar as per inscription.

4.5) Economy of Rohtak District:

4.5.1) Agriculture and Irrigation:

The economy of the Rohtak district is primarily agriculture i.e. agrarian economy. Nearly 52.58 per cent of the total workforce is engaged in agriculture and allied activities which is less than the state average of 57.77 per cent. The main crops grown in the district are wheat, bajra, sugarcane, mustard and gram. Recently sunflower and rice
cultivation is also increasing in the district. About 92.7 per cent (1,40,062 Ha) of the total geographical area is under cultivation. The total irrigated area in the district is 99800 (Ha) of which 90 per cent (90900 Ha) is irrigated by tubewells. There is no perennial river in the district. Underground water level is relatively high. The district is faced with the problem of brackish water and water logging in many parts of the district. The district has 7949 Ha area under forest which is 4.76 per cent of the total geographical area of the district. The farmers of the district are quite progressive and therefore mechanization and adoption of modern technology in farming is gaining momentum. There has been constant increase in number of tractors, thresher weeding-wheels, seed drills, pumpset, tubewells etc. Various agriculture-development oriented policies have been initiated by State Government in the district and there has been tremendous achievement in productivity due to the adoption of high-yielding varieties of seeds, judicious use of chemical fertilizers, plant protection measures and development.

Though agriculture is the main occupation of the people in the district, yet to supplement their meager income, they are also engaged in various allied activities viz dairying, poultry, piggery, sheep-goat rearing etc. Dairying is the most important allied activities in the district. The district has one milk-plant unit at Rohtak and two sheeps and wool extention centres at Ritoli and Pilana villages.

4.5.2) Industry:

Industrially, Rohtak is one of the fast developing district of Haryana, having good industrial base with 32 large and medium scale industries, along with 11746 small scale units. The distribution of industrial activities is however uneven. The majority of industrial units are concentrated at Rohtak-Delhi road. Ample agriculture resources, availability of skilled labors, a good net work of infrastructure facilities and various incentives offered by government coupled with its close proximity to Delhi has given impetus to the new entrepreneurs to establish their industries in the district. Now some more industries are expected to be shifted in Rohtak district because of judgment of the Supreme Court to shift some category of industries out of Delhi.

12 Ibid.
4.5.3) Road & Rail Transport:
A well planned and efficient network of transport is essential for a developing economy. Roads are the basic means of communication for the development of any economy. In order to further strengthen the road network and making it more efficient as per traffic requirements, the main emphasis is on the improvement/upgradation of road network, construction of by passes and completion of road construction works which are already in progress. All the town and villages are well connected with each other by minor mettled roads. There is a good transport network in Rohtak district. The old Bus Stand situated in the vicinity of city was very congested and therefore, it has been shifted out of the city to meet the requirements of the people. Rohtak is well connected by Rail network to neighboring cities and states and its located on the N.H.-10, which is just 60 km away from National Capital, "Delhi". Direct trains are available going in north to Pathankot, Jammu, Sri Ganganagar, in east to Farukhabad, Gorakhpur and Howrah, in south direction to Chennai Kanya Kumari, Mangalore, and in west to Hisar, Sirsa, and Bhatinda.

4.6) Social Sector:
4.6.1) People and Culture:
The people of Rohtak district are simple, straight-forward, enterprising and hardworking. Since ancient times, they have survived many upheavals holding the traditional glory and greatness of the level, to this day. They have preserved their old religious and social traditions. They celebrate festivals with great enthusiasm and traditional flavor. The region has its popular folk songs and musical instruments. The women are diligent and assist the men folk on the farms. The people have simple food habits. They are known for their love for cattle and abundance of milk and curd in their diet.

Among social services, the highest priority has been accorded to the provision of pension for the old, the handicapped, the widows and the destitute as these are the most vulnerable sections of the society and the district owes a moral responsibility towards them. Woman and Children are the other vulnerable sections which also need the District care. District Administration is implementing innovative schemes like "LADLI" for the
benefit of the girl child, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Indira Gandhi Priyadarshni Viwah Shagun Yojana, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) National Slum Development Programme etc.

Moreover, the Rohtak city can rightly boast of having the first Radio Station established in the State. The city also has a mini Secretariat, District Jail and vast net of Central offices. The city has a very sophisticated Divisional Level Telephone exchange. It is a big commercial centre, as it has biggest cloth market named Shourie Cloth Market and two (one old and one new) grain markets, one vegetable market and one fodder market. As a result of this there are as many as 116 Commercial Banks and a number of Co-operative and Gramin Banks and 118 Post Offices.

4.6.2) Health:

The Health Services are being provided to the people of Rohtak district through a well connected network of Government Hospitals and dispensaries numbering 156. Besides there are several Ayurvedic, Unani and Homeopathic Intuitions in the district. The district has the honour of having the first Health University in the State named Pt. B.D. Sharma University of Health Sciences. Apart from this there are two Ayurvedic Colleges named Baba Mast Nath Institute of Ayurvedic Asthal Bohar and Gaur Brahman Ayurvedic College Brahmanwas.

4.6.3) Education:

Educationally, the district occupies one of the most important place in the State. There is a University named Maharshi Dayanand University established in April 1976. Besides the district has as many as 29 degree colleges, 313 Higher/Senior Secondary Schools, 60 Middle Schools, 400 Primary Schools having 187868 students and 7073 teachers in recognized schools. Further, the Rohtak district has a very renowned educational institute named Baba Mast Nath. In this institute there is an Engineering

\[13\] Ibid., p.1
\[14\] Ibid.
College, Management Institute, Pharmacy College, Dental College and a residential Public School.

4.6.4) Literacy Status:

Five years after the formation of Haryana State i.e. 1971, the literacy level in Rohtak district was only 32.45 per cent. Of these, 43.82 per cent were males and 17.78 per cent females. By 1981, the same had increased to 56.4 per cent for males and 26.8 per cent for females with an average level of 42.5 per cent. Further, by 1991, the literacy level had increased to a great extent for males as well as females, 76.19 per cent and 44.74 per cent respectively, with an average of 62.24 per cent (excluding age group 0-6). According to 2001 Census, the literacy rate of Haryana is 68.59 per cent in which 79.25 are males and 56.31 per cent females. In comparison to the overall literacy rate of the State, it is higher in Rohtak District i.e 74.56 per cent, of which 84.29 per cent are males and 63.19 per cent females. Rohtak District stands at 4th position in literacy in the State and 140th position in the country.15

4.7) Administrative Set-up:

Rohtak is one of the oldest districts of the State, which has been reorganised many times. The district is divided into Rohtak and Meham tehsil for administrative convenience. These two tehsil further divided into five community development blocks i.e. Meham, Lakhan Majra, Rohtak, Kalanaur and Sampla. (See Table 4.2) A brief profile of each block is given below:

Table- 4.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Division</th>
<th>Tehsil</th>
<th>C. D. Block</th>
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<td>Rohtak</td>
<td>Rohtak</td>
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<td>Meham</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Lakhan Majra</td>
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15 Census of India 2001, Series-7, p-143.
4.8) Profile of C.D. Blocks:

4.8.1) Rohtak Block:

Rohtak Block was created in 1954 comprising 57 villages, 55 panchayats and two towns. It is a densely populated block in the district. It has a total population of 214065 in which 116815 Males and 97250 Females with an area of 572.74 sq. km. This block has total 129204 Literate persons in which 81772 are males and 47432 females with 70.76 per cent literacy rate. It has total 118 primary schools out of which 48 are boys, 35 girls and another 35 co-educational ones.

4.8.2) Kalanaur Block:

Kalanaur Block comprises of 28 villages and one town with the population of 85719 in which 46077 are males and 39642 females. Its area is 287.64 sq km. and literacy rate is 68.20 per cent. There are total 38 primary schools in which 12 are co-education, 13 each for boys and girls. The economy of the block is mainly agrarian. The block is served by 9 bank branches. There is some new industrial units and one degree college at Kalanaur.

4.8.3) Sampla Block:

Sampla Block is situated on the eastern part of the district. The area of the block is 22658.98 Ha covering 24 villages and 25 panchayats. It has a population of 116881 in which 63536 are males and 53345 females. It has an area of 226.55 sq. km. There are 72237 literate persons (44870 males and 27367 females) with 72.73 per cent literacy rate. It has 37 primary schools out of which 12 are for boys, 9 for girls and 16 co-educational. Industrial growth is gaining momentum at Sampla, agricultural implements being the main industrial products.

4.8.4) Meham Block:

Meham Block is situated in the north-west of the district. The block has a total area of 414.97 sq. km. and total population of 134102 in which 73063 are males and 61039 females. It has total 75037 literate persons (48123 males and 26914 females) with
66.45 per cent literacy rate. In this block agriculture is the main occupation of the people and the main source of irrigation is canals.

4.8.5) Lakhan Majra Block:

Lakhan Majra Block was formed in the year of 1974. It has a total area of 166.53 sq. km. and a total population of 59757 persons (32553 males and 27204 females), spreading over 18 villages. There are as many as 32228 literate persons with 67.59 per cent literacy rate. The block has 5 offices of the banks. There are 22 primary schools out of which 8 are for boys and 7 for girls while another 7 are co-educational.

From the preceding discussion it becomes clear that Rohtak is one of the important districts and divisional headquarter of Haryana State. It has a hoary past with glorious traditions. Presently, it consists of two Sub-Division and five Community Development Blocks. It has an area of 1668.47 sq. km. with density of 539 persons per sq. km and from this point of view it stands 8th in the State. The total population of the district, as per 2001 Census is 9, 40,128 out of which 5, 08,855 are males and 4, 31,151 females. Its share in the total population of the State is 4.46%. It may be pointed out that the sex ratio of the district is just 847. From this standpoint it ranks 15th in the State. Such a sex ratio will see many males not getting their life partners which may create a social evil and is a serious matter for the society. However, it is noteworthy that the literacy rate of the district is 73.52% and from this point of view it occupies 4th position in the State.

Geographically, Rohtak district is situated in north eastern part of Haryana and falls under National Capital Region. Though agriculture is the main stay of the economy of the district, yet it is making rapid strides in industrial development too. The district is well connected with mettalled roads and has an impressive network of rail and road transport. The main urban area of the district is Rohtak city which is fast developing into a mega city. It is also emerging as educational hub of the State.
4.9) Mid-day Meal Programme in Rohtak:

In Rohtak district Mid-day Meal Programme was launched on 15th August, 1995 when the Haryana Government decided to implement it in all the primary schools of the State with a view to have a beneficial impact on children and their school attendance. To achieve this cherished objective, the scheme provided for free meals having a calorific value equivalent to 100gms wheat/rice per day to school children in primary classes 1st to 5th subject to a minimum attendance of 80 per cent in a month for ten academic months during a year.

The original MDM Scheme has been revised/modified from time to time by the Central government in view of the experiences gained and bottlenecks faced in its implementation. Accordingly, the Central Government has directed the state government to incorporate these modification/changes at the state level. The Haryana Government while adhering to these changes further directed the district authorities to follow the changes effected in the Scheme in its true letter and spirit.

At present, Mid-day Meal Scheme in the Rohtak district is serving 264 primary and 208 upper primary schools. Further, It is estimated that as many as 47,665 primary and 25,518 upper primary students i.e. a total of 73,243 students are to be benefited from MDM Scheme during 2010-11.16

4.10) Organizational Set-up:

The implementation of such a Programme of vast magnitude like MDMP, requires an elaborate organizational set-up. According to MDMP guidelines every State Government will designate one nodal officer (e.g. the District Collector) who shall be assigned an over-all responsibility of effective implementation of the programme at the district level.

As far as the organizational structure of MDMS of Rohtak district is concerned, instead of District Collector, the Additional Deputy Commissioner has been made the nodal officer. He/she has been made an overall in-charge to look after the Mid-day Meal Scheme in the district. He/she is assisted by District Education Officer (DEO) who is actually responsible for implementation of the Mid Day Meal Programme in the district.

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16 District Primary Education Office, MDMS Student Enrolment File.
The DEO is supported by District Elementary Education Officer (DEEO) and Block Education Officers (BEO). At the grass-root level Head-teacher looks after proper implementation of the programme. The organizational chart at the district level may be presented as under:

**Organizational Set-up for MDM Programme at the District Level**

1. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC)
   - District Education Officer (DEO)
   - District Elementary Education Officer (DEEO)
   - Block Education Officer (BEO)
   - Head-teacher

Evidently, the organizational set-up for MDMS in Rohtak district is formal and hierarchical with Additional Deputy Commissioner at the apex. He is followed by DEO, DEEO, BEO and Head-teacher.

**4.11) Supply of foodgrains and other Articles:**

The foodgrain (wheat and rice) is supplied through CONFED (State Federal of Consumer’s Co-operative Whole-sale Stores) direct to the school. Other ingredients like grams, pulses, jeera, salt, pepper, cooking oil etc. are purchased by District Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner by calling open tenders and supplied to the schools. Perishable vegetables are purchased daily as per need by the head-teacher. However, in view of some problems in following the above mentioned method of supplying ingredients, the Haryana Government has decided that ingredients
should be purchased locally through a committee.\textsuperscript{17} Thus, from November 2008, in Rohtak district, the practice of purchasing ingredients (Condiments, Ghee, Salt, Oil, Jeera, Fuel and Vegetables etc.) locally through a committee comprising of Head-teacher and a lady panch started. Likewise, in urban areas this purchase is be made by a committee of Municipal Commissioner and school head teacher. It is worth mentioning here that in order to further streamline the supply of ingredients, SHGs have been authorized to purchase the same w.e.f. 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2010.\textsuperscript{18}

To maintain regularity in the mid-day-meal programme, schools heads have been given instructions by the district authorities to take foodgrains on loan locally if the stock of foodgrains is finished in the school and there is delay in reaching the grains from CONFED. On receipt of foodgrains the same quantity of grains are given back. This helps in providing mid day meal to the children without interruption. It may be pointed out that the menu of meals is same as prescribed by the State Government.

\textbf{4.12) Infrastructure Facilities:}

Infrastructure facilities like kitchen, utensils. LPG, potable water cook etc. are the sine-qua-non for the proper implementation of the MDMS. As regard availability of these facilities in the Rohtak District is concerned, it can be said that the kitchen sheds have not been constructed in the schools of the District by the State Government. Though the State government has provided Rs.1.5 lac per school per kitchen shed but District Elementary Education Office has not released this amount to the schools. Now, there is a proposal for construction of 195 kitchen sheds under SSA in the entire district.\textsuperscript{19} For cooking meals two gas cylinders and one chullah, two containers of one quintal capacity and other necessary utensils have been provided to each school. The school can refill their gas cylinders after one week from the respective Gas Agency.

For preparing Mid-day Meal it is imperative to appoint cooks and other staff like helpers. At present, there are 460 cooks in the various schools of the district.\textsuperscript{20} Generally local people are recruited for it. Preference is given to Schedule Caste women. They are

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{17} Director Elementary Education Haryana, Chandigarh, letter No. 1/90-2008MDM (2) 21-10-2008.
  \item \textsuperscript{18} District Elementary Education Officer, Rohtak, letter No. MDM-2010/520-29, 29/3/210
  \item \textsuperscript{19} Information collected from District Elementary Education Office, Rohtak.
  \item \textsuperscript{20} Ibid.
\end{itemize}
engaged in cooking activities on purely temporary and part time basis and they are given honorarium of Rs.1000 per month. However, there is no provision for recruiting the helpers.

It is pertinent to mention that on the directions of the State Government, Self Help Groups have been formed under SGSY and they have been assigned the task of looking after the cooking of Mid-Day Meals at primary and upper-primary stage in government and government–aided schools in the entire District from 1 April, 2010.

4.13) Fund Flow System at the District Level:

Availability of adequate funds and their proper flow is essential for the uninterrupted implementation of the MDMP at the district level. In this regard, it may be mentioned that the District Elementary Education Officer (DEEO) directly transfers funds electronically to Head teacher’s account book. In every head teachers account minimum Rs.5000/- to Rs.12000/- according to the strength of students are credited. Head-teacher gives the funds to SHG according to their monthly expenditure. SHG utilizes the funds to buy perishable items, fuel, Ghee, Salt, Oil, Jeera, Vegetables etc. The fund flow system at the district level has been depicted in Figure 4.2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District Elementary Education Officer (DEEO)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self Help Group (SHG)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further, it may be pointed out that recently a new system has been adopted for releasing funds for cooking cost. For this Joint Bank Accounts have been opened at District Headquarters in the name of Additional Deputy Commissioner and District
Elementary Education Officer. They can only transfer amount from this fund to the school funds but can not withdraw amount from this account.

4.14) Supervision and Monitoring of the Programme:

So far as the supervision and monitoring of MDMP in Rohtak is concerned, it is monitored regularly by District Elementary Education Officers as well as Block Education Officers. They have been directed to inspect at-least 25 schools in a month. Further, Steering cum Monitoring Committees have been formed at District, Sub-Division and Block levels for monitoring this programme regularly. Deputy Commissioners and other Senior Officers at the field level have also been authorized to monitor this programme up to village level. At the school level Members of Gram Panchayats, Village Education Committee (VEC) and Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) in turn check the cooked meal and supervise distribution of Mid-Day-Meal. Mothers are also being motivated for supervising and distributing the meals.

In brief, it can be said that an elaborate arrangements has been made at the district level for the implementation of the MDMS. However, it cannot be denied that real functionaries at the grassroots level are Head-teacher and Teachers in-charge and actual beneficiaries are the students. Therefore, it is imperative to know the views, ideas and perceptions of these stakeholders regarding the successful implementation of the Programme in the district which has been dealt, in detail, in the next chapter