



School Canteen Policy 2006

Ministry of Education
Ministry of Health

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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Introduction

About twenty five percent of the Sri Lankan Population comprised of school children and nutritional status of them has a significant influence over their educational performances. Since the school environment has a great potential to influence many lifestyle choices of school children, focus on school canteen is mandatory to improve their nutritional status.

School Canteen Policy

The broad aim of the School Canteen Policy is to optimising the educational performance among school children by improving their nutritional status

In this respect the Government has identified the following areas needing focused attention.

Need for school canteens in all larger schools (children >200), involvement of school community over canteen conduct, making the canteens available with nutritious food, maintenance of proper hygiene, prevention of food related disorders among students and development of healthy dietary habits among them

Measures will be taken to optimise the educational performance among school children by improving their nutritional status by drawing attention to above mentioned areas and adopting following strategies.

1. The government will ensure the right of school children to have nutritious, culturally acceptable food available at a reasonable cost within the school premises.

2. Ensure hygiene of the food provided.
3. Facilitate school children to get their meals during the school hours.
4. Develop the school canteen as a health-promoting centre as an integral part of the health promoting school
5. Promote child friendly service provision at school canteens
6. Allocate necessary funds to improve the facilities of school canteens.
7. Support & strengthen Human Resource Development to improve the quality of services to a level acceptable to the consumer
8. Build up a regular monitoring system with the participation of relevant officers in both health and education sector in all National, Provincial, District, Zonal & Divisional levels.
9. Take every opportunity to develop healthy dietary habits among school children by improving their knowledge, attitudes and practices over diet
10. Evaluation at national level to assess the achievement of the broad aims of the policy.

Implementation

The school canteen policy will be implemented through the Central and Provincial ministries of Education.