

BEST PRACTICE -1

“ONDUHOTTHU KAI THUTTHU” (MID-DAY MEAL)

Students at University College are invaluable assets, many of whom come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, rural areas, and distant locations, particularly from the neighboring state of Kerala and North Karnataka. Due to their early morning commutes, many students faced hunger and weakness that negatively impacted their ability to focus on studies. Rightly recognizing this issue, teaching and non-teaching staff personally pooled funds to initiate a mid-day meal program.

Launched on September 27, 2016, the program initially started with 75 students, serving with hot, freshly cooked hygienic meals, free of charge. Not only did the program provide support for struggling families, it also reduced student hunger and malnutrition.

It currently serves 250 student beneficiaries, thanks to generous contributions from alumni, the Parent-Teacher Association, staff members and donors. Students are responsible for all aspects of the program, from fetching the food from the kitchen to serving it. Teachers closely monitor attendance, and failure to provide excuses leads to disciplinary action. The program benefits many eligible students, including postgraduates.

Applications are invited from needy students, and a selection committee headed by the Principal conducts interviews to determine eligibility. Priority is given to students who are:

- Financially poor,
- Have lost their parents/Single parents
- Those who come from distant locations,
- Have health problems.

In conclusion, the mid-day meal program at University College Mangalore serves as a model of a socially responsible and student-centric initiative that not only addresses student hunger but also contributes to holistic education and community building.

PHOTOS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

❖ STUDENTS FETCHING FOOD FROM THE CANTEEN



❖ STUDENTS SERVING FOOD



❖ MID-DAY MEAL STUDENTS STANDING IN QUEUE



❖ **STUDENTS HAVING THEIR MEALS**



❖ **MARKING ATTENDANCE OF MID DAY MEAL STUDENTS**



❖ **MID-DAY MEAL ROOM**



MID -DAY MEAL STUDENTS STATISTICS BOARD

Year	Total Applications Received	Total No. of Boys	Total No. of Girls	Total Beneficiaries
2016-2017	478	63	74	137
2017-2018	232	182	160	211
2018-2019	229	111	99	210
2019-2020	272	185	117	222
2020-2021	No Mid - Day Meal Scheme due to Covid - 19			
2021-2022	316	183	121	224
2022-2023	355	116	127	243
2023-2024				
2024-2025				
2025-2026				

You Take You Eat

Today's Wastage is Tomorrow's Shortage