

From Hunger to Hope: Celebrating 1 Crore Mid-Day Meals Served!

We are thrilled to mark a historic milestone – DBM India has successfully served over 1 Crore Mid-Day Meals to children in Budget Private Schools in the slums of M-Ward, Mumbai, from January 2008 to 31st March 2025.

This achievement isn't just about numbers – it represents 1 crore moments of nourishment, 1 crore smiles, and 1 crore steps toward a brighter, healthier future for underprivileged children.



Why Mid-Day Meals Matter

Mid-Day Meals are one of the largest and most impactful school-feeding programs globally. The benefits are profound and far-reaching:

- **Improved School Attendance & Enrollment**

A World Bank study (2004) revealed that school enrollment increased by 22% in institutions providing mid-day meals. For many families, a nutritious meal at school is a strong incentive to send their children, especially girls, to school regularly.

In the schools supported by DBM too there has been a remarkable increase in school enrolment. We have realised that food is a big draw for these children as their parents have to leave early and most of the time they have to come to school without eating anything. The hot nutritious mail by DBM is often the only proper and wholesome meal that they eat throughout the day.

- **Better Academic Performance**

All our supported schools have reported improved academic performance as the students start coming regularly and their attention span in the classroom improves once they are not hungry anymore. This corroborates with similar studies conducted in India.

A study by Afridi (2010) in rural Madhya Pradesh found that “Mid-Day Meals improved test scores by 9% in Mathematics and Language.”

NIPCCD (2006) also reported increased classroom participation and reduced dropout rates among children receiving mid-day meals.



- **Improved Nutrition & Health**

According to the International Food Policy Research Institute (2013), “Children receiving mid-day meals had better growth indicators – height-for-age and weight-for-age – compared to non-recipients.” This impact is even more significant among children from marginalized communities.

In DBM supported schools, there has been a marked drop in the number of children suffering from undernourishment and malnourishment. We conduct bi annual medical camps to monitor the same and adjust the diet as per the need of a particular school.

So Nutrition Fuels the Brain

A well-nourished child learns better. Proper nutrition supports:

- Attention and concentration
- Memory and problem-solving skills
- Emotional regulation and impulse control
- Overall brain development

Food doesn't just fill stomachs – it empowers minds.



Our Journey: From 50 to 1 Crore Meals

DBM India began its Mid-Day Meal Program in 2008 with just one school and 50 children in M-Ward – an area marked by poverty and limited resources.

Today, we serve 2,000 nutritious meals daily, helping children stay in school and thrive in their learning environment.



Gratitude to Our Donors

This journey would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our generous donors especially :

- Mr. K.K. Jhunjunwala
- Mr. Ramesh Kacholia & Mr. Ashish Kacholia (Caring Friends)
- Jewalex India Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Abhay Bhagat
- Mr. Manjunath Bidare
- Mr. Sundeep Chhabra
- Mr. K H Gopal

...and many more compassionate individuals who believe in a hunger-free, educated India. Your support has not just fed children – it has nourished dreams and uplifted communities. A Milestone of Hope and Nourishment



1 Crore Meals and Counting!

This is more than a milestone – it is a celebration of shared purpose, community support, and the power of consistent care. Thank you to every volunteer, partner, and supporter who helped us reach here.

Together, we are not just feeding children – we're fueling futures.

Here's to many more milestones and a hunger-free, empowered India.

With Gratitude

A heartfelt thank you to all our donors and supporters – your generosity has nourished over 1 crore dreams.

"Giving is not just about making a donation, it's about making a difference."



Together, we've nourished over 1 crore dreams – but there are many more waiting.



Help us reach the next milestone. Please consider donating and be a part of building a hunger-free, educated India.

A Reason to Smile: DBM Hosts Free Dental Camp at Trombay & Deonar Centers

Organised by: DBM India
Collaborator: MGM Hospital

DBM India, in partnership with MGM Hospital, successfully organized a Free Dental Camp at its Trombay and Deonar centers, benefiting underserved communities in the M-Ward.

The camp provided essential dental check-ups and treatment, reaching a total of 319 beneficiaries, including 180 children and 148 community members. This initiative not only offered access to quality dental care but also aimed to raise awareness about the importance of oral hygiene and preventive dental practices.

We sincerely appreciate the efforts of the medical team and staff who contributed to making this camp a success.





A Historic First for M East Ward: M-Power Celebrates Shrushti Kulye's Civil Service Success

Shrushti Kulye, a bright and determined student from M-Power Library and Study Centre, run jointly by BMC, TISS and DBM India in Deonar, has made history by becoming the first person – and the first woman – from M East Ward to clear the Civil Services Examination, securing an impressive All India Rank of 831.

Her journey from a modest background to the nation's most prestigious exam is a powerful reminder of what belief, opportunity, and perseverance can achieve.

Shrushti's success is a shared victory – one that belongs to every dreamer in our community and every supporter who believes in the power of change.

Udaan Star Farhan Soars to the Top!

Farhan, a bright and talented 9th standard student from our Udaan program, has been awarded the 'Best Student' title by Swami Ramkrishna Paramhans High School.

Farhan consistently excels in academics, actively participates in sports, and has also won accolades in arts and painting competitions. His all-round excellence truly reflects the spirit of Udaan.



Book Sessions & 'Reader of the Week' Launched at Udaan

At DBM India's Udaan Centres in Bandra and Deonar, we recently hosted engaging Book Reading Sessions to foster a love for reading among our students.

To further encourage consistent reading habits, we've also launched a new initiative – 'Reader of the Week', celebrating students who show enthusiasm and commitment towards reading.

Knowledge Series: Guest Sessions at Our Centres

Advocate Dilshad Chunara from i-Volunteer conducted an engaging session on Communication Skills and Human Rights for Class 9th to 11th students at our Udaan Bandra Centre.

She introduced the 5 Ws – What, Where, When, Why, and How – as tools to help students express themselves clearly and confidently.

The session also focused on Human Rights, especially the Right to Education (RTE), encouraging students to understand and value their rights.

It was an interactive and enriching session, leaving students inspired and informed.



Ms. Payal Saxena from i-Volunteer conducted a valuable session with our Class 9th, 10th, and 11th students of our Udaan Deonar centre, focusing on essential life skills.

She emphasized the importance of discipline and active listening, highlighting how these habits contribute to personal growth and long-term success. She also discussed the impact of first impressions and appearance, explaining how presenting oneself well can open doors to greater opportunities.

The session was both practical and thought-provoking, leaving students with key takeaways for real-life application.



A group of dedicated volunteers from **Atlas SkillTech University** – Mr. Aarsh Wadhwa, Mr. Mohit Bathija, Mr. Kaviesh Dhingra, Mr. Arjun Vithlani, Mr. Bineet Arora, and Mr. Kunal Mistry – conducted a Financial Literacy session for Grade 10 and 11 students at our Udaan Bandra Centre.

They introduced students to key financial concepts such as income, assets, stocks, mutual funds, bonds, real estate, gold, inflation, and the importance of risk and diversification.

An interactive activity made the session fun and engaging, helping students better understand the concepts.

It was an insightful session, equipping students with practical financial skills for the future.



Pune Update

Celebrating Skills, Dreams & Determination Certificate Distribution

On 12th April 2025, DBM India's Pune Centre proudly hosted a Certification Ceremony for 31 students who successfully completed courses in Combo Beautician, Basic IT, Combo Tailoring, and Henna Art.

The event was graced by esteemed guests:

- Ms. Aiman Mehta, well-known socialite and Director of RAAH & RAAHAT Foundation,
- Dr. Shafi Inamdar, Founder Trustee of IDEAL Education Society, and

Col. Alexander also delivered inspiring words, encouraging students to continue learning and striving for excellence.

We were very grateful to have our old trainer Ms. Kavita Patil, who has been an important part of our Center DBM India's pioneer Beautician Trainer.

The ceremony featured heartfelt speeches from students and warm appreciation from the guests, who lauded the impactful work of DBM India Pune in empowering communities through skill development.

Each of the 31 graduating students received certificates, marking a significant step forward in their journey toward financial independence and self-reliance.



Beautician Stars Placed!

We're proud to share that four of our Beautician batch students have been successfully placed this month:



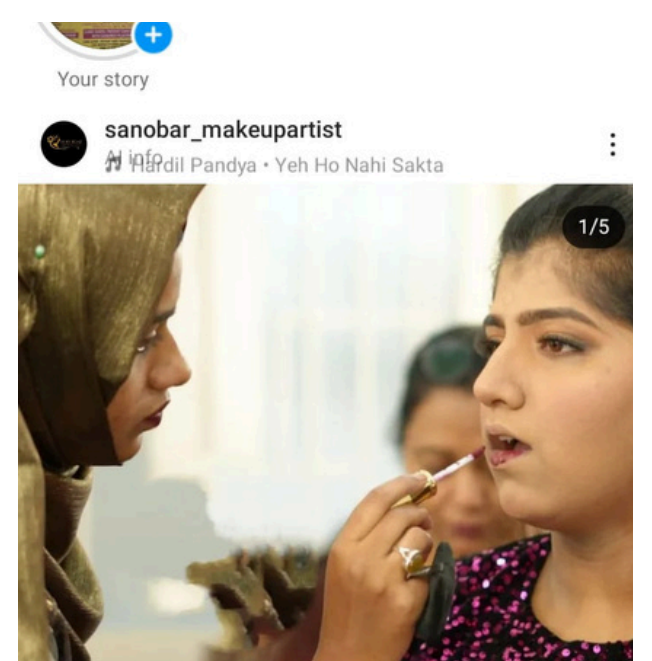
Kajal Bhalerao – Ki & Ka Beauty Parlor



Ayesha Shaikh– KP Salon, Hadapsar



Zeenat Shaikh– Ki & Ka Beauty Parlor



Sandbar Shaikh– Make Up Artist: Freelancer

CRM Batch Inauguration at Khar Centre

Supported by: Jewelex

On 14th April 2025, we successfully inaugurated a new CRM batch students at our Khar Centre.

The presence of Mr. Paramjeet Singh, Trustee added immense value to the occasion. His inspiring words and interaction with the students left them motivated and eager to begin their learning journey with confidence and purpose.



GDA Batch 12 Bids Farewell with Pride and Purpose

DBM India recently hosted a heartfelt send-off ceremony for GDA Batch 12, marking the completion of their theoretical training and the beginning of their internship journey.

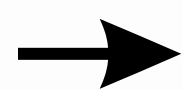
We were privileged to welcome Mr. Cheong Ming Foong, Consul General of Singapore, and Ms. Neeti Chand Mehra, Advisor, DBM India, as our esteemed guests.

Their motivating words and encouragement inspired our students to step forward with confidence and purpose. The event celebrated not just the end of classroom learning, but the start of impactful careers in the field of healthcare and caregiving.

Thankyou donors for being with us everyday
"Your kindness makes a difference each time, every time"



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