

**In This Issue**

**Report on Status of Malnutrition in Municipal Schools in Mumbai (2013-14 to 2015-2016)**

  
1 in every 3 students in civic schools malnourished



**PRAJA**  
May 2017 Issue 78  
**DIALOGUE**  
for private circulation only

**Big Story**

The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) has for long staked its reputation on penguins. But its manner of working could well have taken inspiration from ostriches. The civic body's default response to a crisis seems to be to pretend that it does not exist, and hope that it will go away. The growing crisis of child malnutrition in MCGM schools exemplifies this situation.

The MCGM's own data suggests that the estimated number of malnourished children in Mumbai's municipal schools has grown from 30,461, (i.e. 8% of 4,04,251 total students), in 2013-14 to 1,30,680 (i.e. 34% of 3,83,485 total students) in 2015-16. This is a huge rise of over four times in three years. It is in spite of the fact that the budget for mid-day meals for class 1 to class 5 has increased from Rs. 29 crores to Rs 32 crores in the same period. Similarly, the budget for mid-day meals for class 6 to 8 increased from Rs. 33 crores to Rs. 39 crores. The utilization of the budget, however, has seen a sharp dip from 81% to 65% for class 1 to 5. The corresponding figures for class 6 to 10 are 83% and 64%. Clearly, lack of funds is not a problem for Asia's largest civic body.

There are no prizes for guessing which regions fare the worst. M/E ward, which comprises the areas of Govandi and Mankhurd has the highest number i.e. 15,038 malnourished children in MCGM schools in 2015-16.

This ward has the lowest human development index (0.05) in the city, lower than even extremely poor countries such as Central African Republic and South Sudan. M/E ward has been in the news for malnutrition deaths. Other wards which fare poorly are Santacruz (H/E), Kurla (L) and Chembur (M/W).

Among the children who are found to be malnourished, there is a significant gender disparity-with girls suffering more than boys consistently over the years. In 2015-16, 35% (34,222) girls were found to be malnourished, as against 33% (30,459) boys.

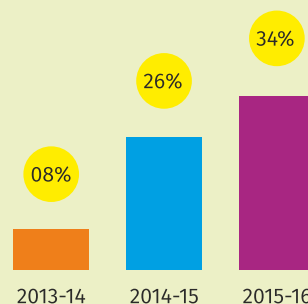
In 2015-16, the percentage of malnourished children in class 1 was as high as 43% and 42% for girls and boys respectively. This indicates that the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) and other welfare schemes for children leave much to be desired. One must keep in mind that the budget for the ICDS in Maharashtra has decreased from Rs. 2,947 crores (revised budget, 2016-17) to Rs. 2033 crore (budget allocation, 2017-18), as per media reports.

In a cause for further worry, over the past three years, the number of malnourished children has actually seen a greater increase in higher classes than in lower classes. Between 2013-14 and 2015-16, malnourished students in MCGM schools in class I increased by 246% (3,123 to 10,802). In the same period, malnourished students in class V increased by 308% (2,591 to 10,562). This raises serious questions on the efficacy of the mid-day meals being provided by the civic body to students.

A large number of factors could be behind the increasing problem of child malnutrition. To cite an example, the number of cases of diarrhoea increased from 99,839 in 2011-12 to 1,19,342 in 2015-16. From April 2015 to December 2015, children below 14 years of age accounted for as much as 29% of total deaths due to diarrhoea. This indicates that diarrhoea disproportionately affects people at a younger age. The prevalence of such diseases leads to stunted development for children and an intergenerational cycle of poor health.

The huge problem of malnutrition persists in spite of the multitude of government schemes and programmes designed to address it. This is reflective of the general predicament of governance in India, in which government initiatives often fall woefully short of attaining their stated objectives. Growing child malnutrition in municipal schools should be a cause for immediate concern for two reasons. Firstly, it shows the inadequacy of municipal schools in serving the needs of the economically weaker sections of society, whom they seek to target. Secondly, as children are the future of our country, it means that we may be frittering away our large demographic dividend.

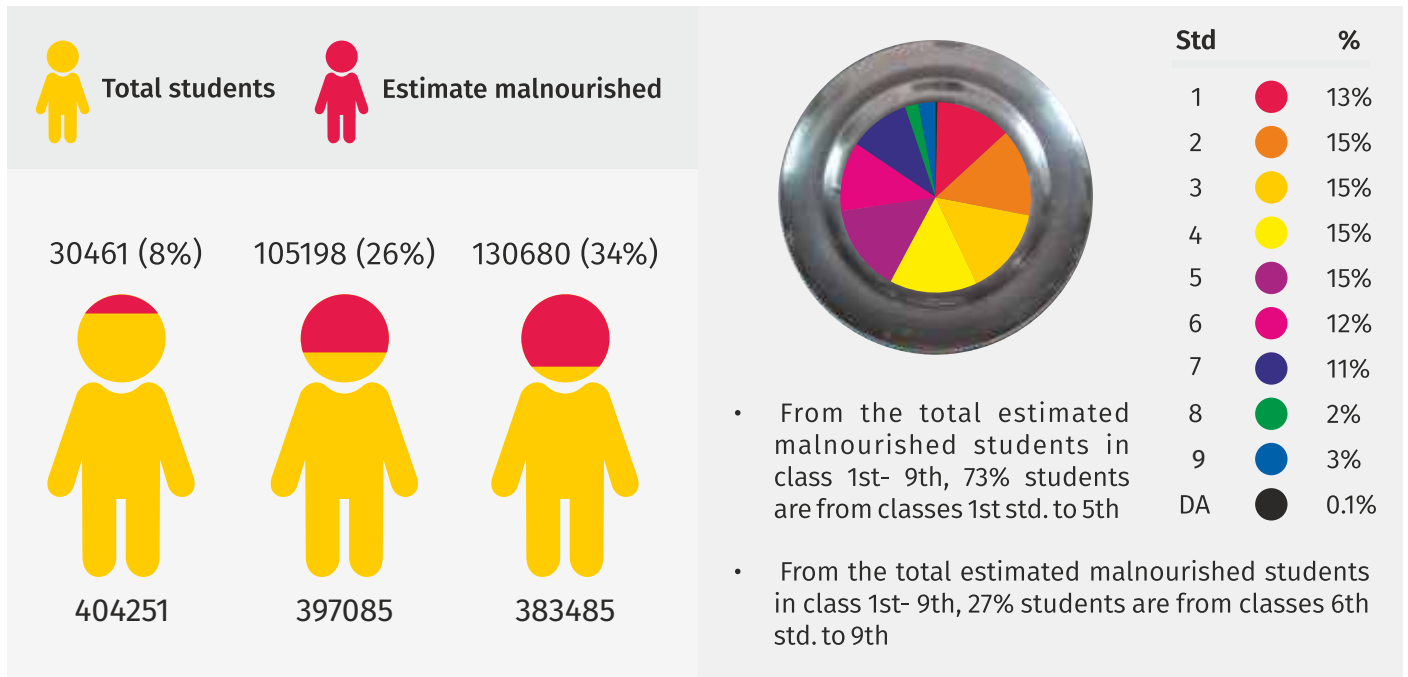
**# Social Media**



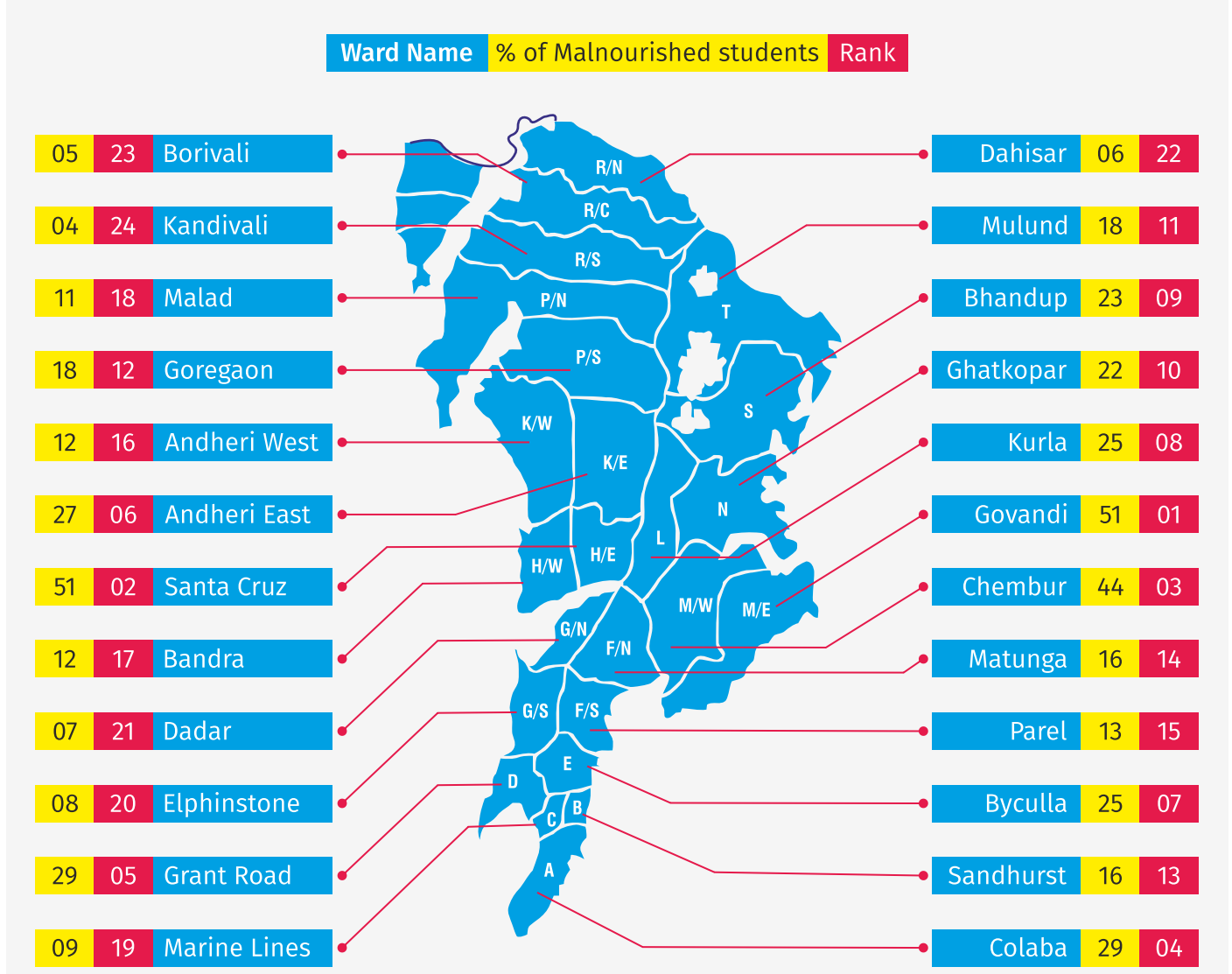
**@Prajafoundation**  
*The problem of malnutrition persists in spite of multitude government schemes designed to address it.*  
**#Prjareport**

**Graph 1** Estimated malnourished students from 2013-14 to 2015-16

**Graph 2** Standard-wise estimated malnourished students in 2015-16



**Graph 3** Ward- wise average malnourished students in MCGM schools from 2013-14 to 2015-16



**Mid-day Meal Budgets of MCGM schools 2013-2016**

- Budget estimates for 1st to 5th class increased from Rs. 29 crores in 2013-14 to Rs. 32 crores in 2015-16, while budget estimates for 6th to 8th class increased from Rs. 33 crores in 2013-14 to Rs. 39 crores in 2015-16. Disturbingly, budget utilisation during the same period reduced from 81% to 65% for 1st to 5th class, and reduced from 83% to 64% for 6th to 8th class.

**Deliberation by MLAs and Councillors**

**Table 1 Issues Raised by MLAs from Winter 2014 to Monsoon 2015 sessions**

	Mumbai	State
<b>No. of MLA who have asked questions on Malnutrition</b>	16	20
<b>No. of Questions asked on malnutrition</b>	43	77

- In winter session 2014 to monsoon session 2015, 16 MLAs from Mumbai raised 43 issues on malnutrition.
- Only 13 issues were raised by MLAs from the six wards worst hit by malnutrition namely, M/E, H/E, M/W, A, D and K/E wards.

**Table 2 Issues Raised by Councillors**

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
<b>No. of Councillors who have asked questions of Malnutrition</b>	15	13	13
<b>No. of questions asked on malnutrition</b>	17	15	16

- No issues were raised on malnutrition by councillors from A, D, M/W wards from 2013-16, despite the fact that these wards are chronic when it comes to malnutrition.
- While M/E ward is worst hit by malnutrition, only 5 questions were asked by councillors from this ward in the last 3 years.

**School Health Services**

In 1913, the Education Committee of MCGM started periodic health checkups of school children and this responsibility was taken over by Public Health Department in 1938. The aim of the School Health Services is to provide the all-round development of the child by making available diagnostic and therapeutic services. In today's global scenario, prevention has gained prime importance. Thus, a positive attitude towards health education is imparted in the schools. The main objectives of School Health Services are: – 1) Promotion of positive health 2) Prevention of diseases 3) Early diagnosis, treatment and follow up 4) Providing conducive environment.

Objective: Regular medical of the municipal school children is conducted so that early diagnosis and treatment of diseases can be done. These objectives are achieved through 37 medical inspection units, each comprising of one medical officer, one health visitor and one peon. There is a well-planned programme for each academic year with set objectives.

During routine medical inspection, the Medical Officers carry out a detailed checkup of students and screen them for minor and major ailments. During the course of the examination, minor ailments detected such as skin problems, conjunctivitis, vitamin deficiencies, worms, Upper Respiratory Tract, fever Infections, Anemia, fever and Diarrhea etc. are referred to nearby Municipal dispensaries for further treatment. Children with signs of major diseases like heart problems, Tuberculosis, leprosy, handicaps and those who need institutional treatment are referred to School Clinics located at Sion, KEM, Nair, Nair Dental, Rajawadi, Cooper & Bhagwati Hospital. In the school clinics, children are examined and treated by expert doctors.

School Clinic organisers take the children from schools by school buses to hospitals for expert's opinion, investigation, operative treatment and rehabilitation aids. Parents and children are advised on proper treatment, preventive measures, and steps to maintain the health of the child. Whenever necessary, first aid facility is being provided to school children. Diphtheria (D.P.T.) or Tetanus Toxoid (T.T.) for 1st Std. and Tetanus Toxoid (T.T.) immunization for Vth and Xth standard. is carried out in all schools through health post staff. Besides detailed check-up, a lot of emphasis is laid on Health Education which is carried out through daily health talks to students. Health awareness is spread to teachers and community by arranging parents-teachers meetings. Sanitary inspection of school building is a routine task of medical team members, which has helped, immensely for promoting clean environment.

Services

- 1) Preventive services – Diphtheria Pertussis or Tetanus (DPT) and Tetanus Toxoid immunization to children of Std. I Tetanus Toxoid immunization to children of Std. Vth & Xth.
- 2) Curative Services - Free dispensary services for minor ailments Free hospital services in special school clinics. Hospitalization and operative services. Rehabilitation services like provision of special boots, calipers, spectacles etc.
- 3) Educational Services Health takes parent's Interviews Parents teachers' meetings.
- 4) Statistical services data analysis.

Media Coverage

# पालिका शाळेतील कुपोषित मुलांची संख्या वाढली

■ मुंबई: गेल्या तीन वर्षात मुंबई महापालिकेच्या शाळांमधील कुपोषित मुलांची संख्या दिवसेंदिवस वाढत असून, गेल्या तीन वर्षात पालिकेच्या शाळांमध्ये मुलांमध्ये कुपोषणाचे प्रमाण चौपटीपेक्षा जास्त वाढले आहे. ही धक्कादायक बाब 'प्रजा फाउंडेशन' या 'एनजीओ'ने मंगळवारी पत्रकार परिषदेत मांडली.

या अहवालानुसार कुपोषित मुलांची अंदाजे संख्या २०१३-१४ मध्ये ३० हजार ४६९ (८ टक्के) एवढी होती. त्यात वाढ होऊन २०१५-१६ मध्ये तब्बल एक लाख ३० हजार ६८० (३४ टक्के) झाली आहे. मुंबई पालिकेच्या शाळांमध्ये एक मोठे संकट निर्माण होत असून, सर्व सरकारी पाठशाळांवर जेथे मुलांच्या पोषणासंबंधी काम केले जाते, त्यांनी हा प्रश्न तातडीने हाताळला पाहिजे, असे 'प्रजा'चे संस्थापक आणि व्यवस्थापकीय विश्वस्त निताई मेहता यांनी सांगितले. मुंबई

संचालक मिलिंद म्हस्के म्हणाले. 'पालिकेच्या इयत्ता पहिली ते पाचवीसाठी २०१३-१४ च्या अर्थसंकल्पामध्ये अंदाजे २९ कोटी रुपये निधी होता. त्यात वाढ होऊन २०१५-१६ मध्ये ३२ कोटी रुपये झाला तसेच सहावी ते आठवीसाठी अंदाजे ३३ कोटीचा निधी होता, तोदेखील वाढून

गेल्या तीन वर्षात कुपोषित मुलांच्या संख्येत चौपटीपेक्षा अधिक वाढ

२०१५-१६ मध्ये ३९ कोटी रुपये झाला. याच काळात निधीचा वापर कमी होऊन पहिली ते पाचवीसाठी ७१ टक्क्यांवरून ६५ टक्क्यांवर आणि त्याचबरोबर सहावी ते आठवीसाठी ८३ टक्क्यांवरून ६४ टक्क्यांवर आला. एम/पूर्व वॉर्ड, जेथे मुंबईतील सर्वात कमी 'मानव विकास निर्देशांक (एचडीआय) आढळतो, तेथे

अनुक्रमे ९,१०० आणि ६,५८६ इतके आहे, अशी माहिती म्हस्के यांनी दिली. गोवंडी आणि मानखुर्द येथे मुंबईतील सर्वात वाईट सामाजिक आणि आर्थिक स्थिती आहे, असे सांगताना, २०१५-१६ मध्ये कुपोषित मुलांची टक्केवारी (३५) कुपोषित मुलांपेक्षा ३३ टक्के जास्त आढळून आली आहे. २०१४-१५ मध्ये तेच प्रमाण मुलांमध्ये २६ टक्के आणि मुलांमध्ये २७ टक्के होते तसेच २०१३-१४ मध्ये मुलांमध्ये ते ९ टक्के आणि मुलांमध्ये ६ टक्के एवढे होते, असे म्हस्के यांनी सांगितले.



पुण्य नगरी Smart Mumbai

■ बुधवार, ३१ मे २०१७

What Needs to be done

- Impact assessment has to be done keeping the end User in the focus: For malnutrition there are many programmes and schemes such as ICDS, mid-day meal, school health check-ups, and so on. All this schemes target children upto 14 years of age. Hence, only an impact assessment on the nutrition levels of the children with periodic benchmarking can only give a true picture of the impact.
- Conduct third party audits of programmes keeping in mind the attainment of their stated objectives.
- Chronic wards such as M/E, H/E, M/W, A, D and K/E need to be given special attention.

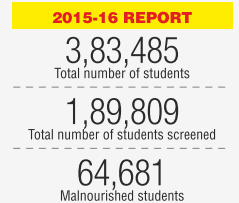


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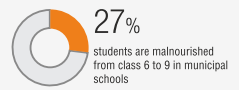
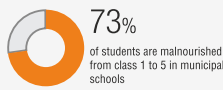
## 1 in every 3 students in civic schools malnourished: Praja

DNA Correspondent  
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In what reflects a sorry state of provision of nutrition and health among children in the city a report by civil society NGO Praja has found that one in every three students of municipal schools is malnourished. The children undergo annual medical screening and Praja obtained the data by filing RTIs. "This report reflects the state of nutrition among the poorest in the city. The government is spending money but is the programme effective?" questioned Nitai Mehta, founder trustee, Praja Foundation. Close to 3.83 lakh students study in city's municipal schools of which 1.8 lakh were screened in 2015-16. Of these, 34 per cent children were found to be malnourished, according to the report. The M/E (Govandi) ward performed the worst with the most number of malnourished students



followed by H/E (Santacruz) and M/W (Chembur) among the city's 24 wards. "This does not come as a surprise as Govandi and Mankhurd have the worst socio-economic indicators," said Milind Mhaske, project director at Praja. What does come as a surprise is that, even wards like A (Colaba), D (Malabar Hill, Grant Road) and K/E (Andheri east), have a significant number of malnourished children."



## नवभारत टाइम्स

मुंबई > बुधवार, ३१ मे २०१७

## BMC स्कूलों में हर तीसरा विद्यार्थी कुपोषित

Akhlesh.Pande @timesgroup.com  
■ मुंबई: देश की सबसे बड़ी महानगर पालिका बीएमसी के स्कूलों में पढ़ने वाले 34 प्रतिशत बच्चे कुपोषण के शिकार हैं। यह खुलासा प्रजा फाउंडेशन की एक रिपोर्ट में हुआ। इस रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, बीएमसी स्कूलों में पढ़ने वाले नववीनर हर तीसरा बच्चा कुपोषण का शिकार है। पिछले 3 सालों में इन स्कूलों में पढ़ने वाले बच्चों में कुपोषण के मामलों में 4 गुना वृद्धि हुई है। प्रशासन की लापरवाही और जनप्रतिनिधियों के उदासीन रविये के चलते हर साल बच्चों में कुपोषण की समस्या बढ़ रही है। हालांकि बीएमसी की माने, तो स्कूल में आने वाले बच्चे परीच और सुविधापूर्वक होते हैं और वे स्कूल आने से पहले ही कुपोषण के शिकार होते हैं।

गंभीर मुद्दा प्रजा फाउंडेशन की रिपोर्ट में हुआ खुलासा, 3 साल में 4 गुना हुए ऐसे मामले

लड़कियाँ अधिक कुपोषित

गोपी सरकार द्वारा महिलाओं के शेरकर कत के लिए 'बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ' अभियान संचालित जा रहा है। फिर भी बीएमसी स्कूलों में लड़कियाँ कुपोषण की अधिक शिकार हैं। रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, 2013 में कुल 11,831 कुपोषित बच्चों में 6,993 लड़कियाँ और 4,938 लड़के थे।

'बजट खर्च नहीं': प्रजा के मुताबिक, बच्चों में बढ़ रही इस समस्या के पीछे बजट का खर्च न होना भी एक वजह है। मिड-डे मिल के तहत बीएमसी स्कूलों को मिलने वाले कुल बजट का केवल 65 प्रतिशत ही 2015 में खर्च हुआ।

सबसे ज्यादा

1. गोवंडी
2. सांताक्रुज
3. चेम्बूर

सबसे कम कादिवली

जनप्रतिनिधि गंभीर नहीं

- ▶ बीएमसी में 3 तीन साल में कुपोषण पर पूछे गए केवल 49 प्रश्न
- ▶ केवल 41 नगरसेवकों ने बीएमसी में उदात्ता कुपोषण का मुद्दा
- ▶ कक्षा 1 से 5 तक के 73 प्रतिशत विद्यार्थी कुपोषण के शिकार

बीएमसी स्कूलों के विद्यार्थियों में कुपोषण के मामलों में लगातार वृद्धि के लिए प्रशासन की लापरवाही और जनप्रतिनिधियों का उदासीन रवैया जिम्मेदार है। - निताई मेहता, प्रजा फाउंडेशन

बीएमसी स्कूलों में गरीब बच्चे पढ़ते हैं। उन्हें स्कूल आने से पहले ही कुपोषण जैसी समस्या रहती है। हम समय-समय पर उनकी जांच कराकर उपचार भी करते हैं। - आर्.ए. कुंभार, अतिरिक्त आयुक्त, शिक्षा विभाग (बीएमसी)

Next Issue

Watch out for our June 2017 Newsletter to know more about RTE norms in Mumbai

To \_\_\_\_\_

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