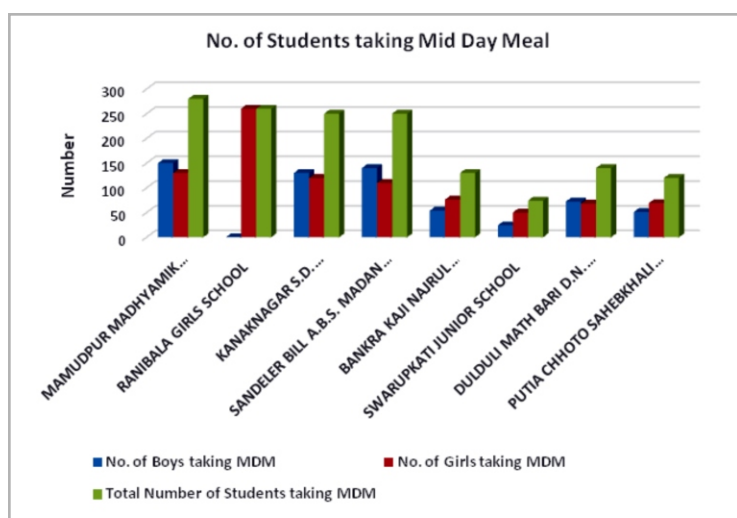




## EXPERIENCE FROM SCHOOL GARDEN PICTORIAL REPORT (2019-20)

Over the last three decades, DRCS has been working for ensuring sustainable environment, ecological agriculture and livelihood. Our endeavour has always been driven by the niche of the deprived and vulnerable section of the society. Our partnership with SWISSAID paved the way forward in this regard.

The education team, of DRCS, in collaboration with our Agriculture and Natural Resource Management team, has helped 10-15 High Schools, 20-25 Primary schools & 5-6 ICDS centers to grow some vegetables in small compounds around the teaching & learning places to be used for mid-day meals. A few of them have involved some teachers and students in management of the gardens, a few have experimented with garden centered learning. The interventions have mostly focused on introducing garden in the school, selection of school, garden space and rapport building with teachers and parents, capacity building with the teachers, students, parents, planning, initiation and maintaining garden throughout the year, keeping diet diversity chart and strengthening health record keeping, process of the existing mainstreaming activities and involving mothers' group in maintenance of the garden through monthly parents' meeting. Further the school garden is used as a living laboratory/ Orientation on concept



of Ecological Agriculture where modules are developed by mapping the EVS or social science curriculum with garden based learning, conducting classes of EVS/social science in the garden along with the teacher, involving children in maintaining/monitoring/managing the garden in rotational basis.

DRCS introduced Organic School Kitchen Garden Project for 6 months trial in 8 schools (Higher secondary school, Secondary school, Junior high school, MSK) in Hingalganj Block, North 24 Pgs with support from SWISSAID, India to raise school garden and supply the vegetable to the School Mid-Day meal and impart the students with knowledge and skill of ecological agriculture. The duration of the project was from July to December 2019. Quality



education, means education that genuinely equips and prepares children for life, is responsive to the needs of children, communities and society, and is relevant and inclusive for all children. It is for creating an environment that is child-friendly, stimulating, and free of violence and abuse and nurtures the ability of children to acquire knowledge and critical learning skills

The organic School Kitchen Garden Project covered 1600 children from 8 schools of Hingalganj and the level was V to VIII class. Among the 1600 children, more than 900 were girls who were directly benefited from our project. Further, we have also taken regular session with 640 children on organic school garden and ecological lifestyle under our project.

The gardens started in June 2019 and the school got two seasons for gardening, late kharif & Rabi season respectively. Various seasonal seeds of Malabar Spinach, Radish, Small fenugreek, Coriander, Pumpkin, Bottle Gourd, Water Spinach, Carrot, Beans, Okra, Indian Spinach, Bitter Gourd, Fenugreek, Souf, Black Cumins, Ridge gourd, Red leaf amaranth etc. have been planted. Additionally saplings & cuttings of Brinjal, Chili, Tomato, Kohlrabi, Papaya, Taro, Garlic, Ivy Gourd, Ceylon Spinach, and plants like Basil & Marigold are planted. Different models &

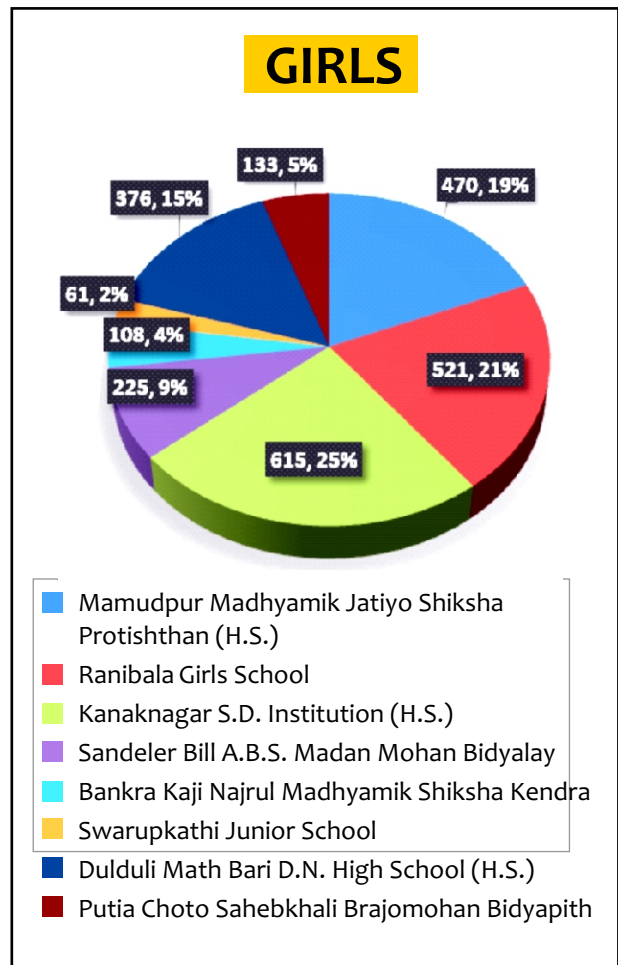
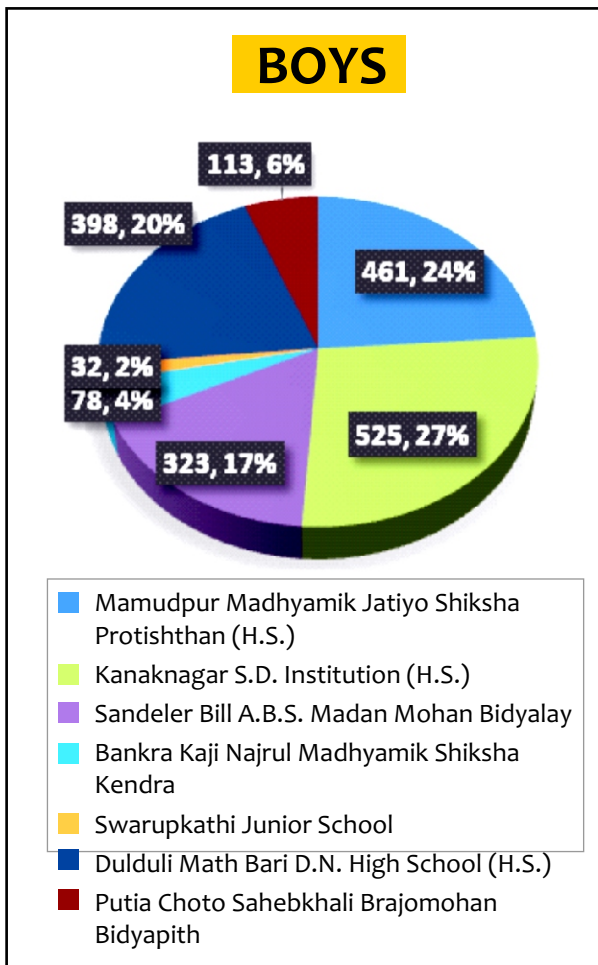


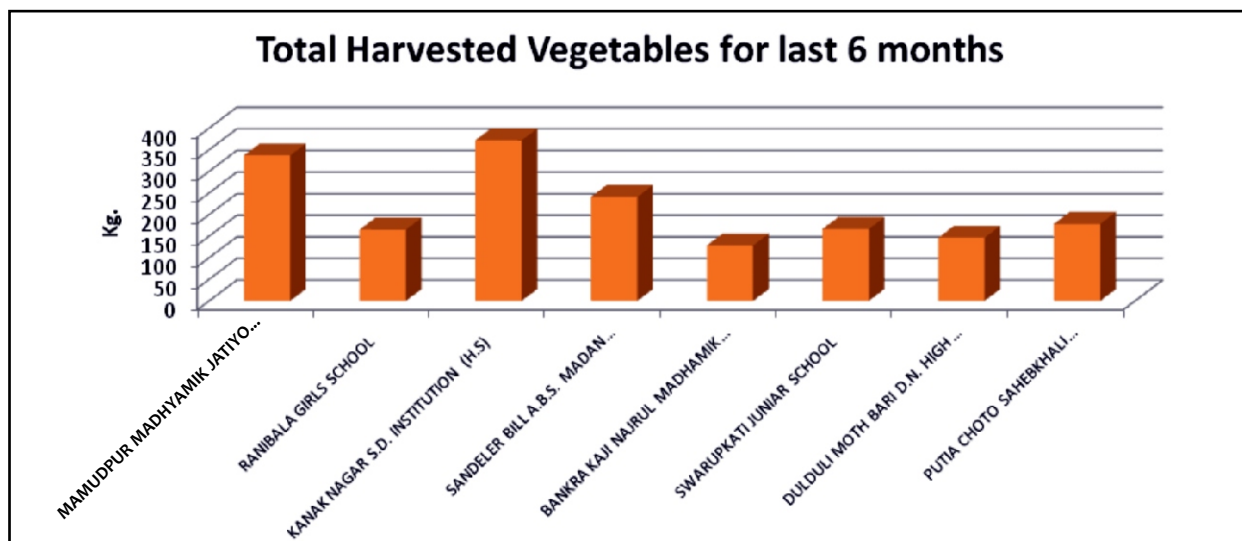
techniques like Circle garden, Key-hole garden, Square Metre Garden, cultivation in grow bags/sacks, trellis, Pitcher irrigation, *Basundhara* irrigation, Rainwater harvesting, Liquid manure, *Amritpani*, Compost etc. are used.

Garden based education is a method and tool which is widely popular in present day education where school garden turns into a living classroom, creating fun opportunities for students to cultivate several essential life skills, generating scopes to achieve higher academic skills by linking what they learn in their books to the garden, promoting healthy life styles by leaving green-print in their ecosystem. A school garden helps shaping child’s intellectual, emotional and social capabilities and skills. It helps in building 21<sup>st</sup> century skills like curiosity, flexibility, open-mindedness, informed skepticism, creativity, and critical thinking. Much of Life Science and Environmental Science studies can be learnt by working in a garden.



From this garden, students not only learn how to grow, tend and harvest, but also learn to prepare nutritious seasonal produce, in the educational settings of the classroom, the garden,





the school kitchen, and the home. Such food-based strategies have the merit of sustainability: they create long-term healthy dietary habits for children, as well as their families, which in the long run addresses malnutrition and dietary problems.

Growing garden also creates a responsible citizen who cares about his environment and takes responsibility.

Nutrition and Education are two key priorities for children as mentioned in the Sustainable Development Goals and we are trying our best to reach the goals. Hence, DRCSO involved in training teachers and students to grow and maintain school garden, developing activities which support academics and supplement nutrition to the students of schools through the garden.

#### Scope of the Garden:

- Supply Fresh vegetable in the mid-day meal
- Zero waste School or effective waste management
- Garden can use as a learning tool or leaving laboratory
- Knowing about eco-friendly lifestyle
- Development of practical skills (Composting, Pest control, ecological understanding etc.)



**For more details**

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