

**(s) Mid-Day Meal Scheme: Tiruvarur**

(i)	<b>Name of the Monitoring Institution</b>	<b>IIT Madras</b>
(ii)	<b>Period of the report</b>	<b>2011</b>
(iii)	<b>Name of the District</b>	<b>Tiruvarur</b>
(iv)	<b>Date of visit to the Districts/EGS/Schools</b>	<b>Feb 14th 2011- March 5th 2011</b>

1.	<b><u>REGULARITY IN SERVING MEAL:</u></b> <b>Whether the school is serving hot cooked meal daily? If there was interruption, what was the extent and reasons for the same?</b>			<b>Students, Teachers &amp; Parents</b>	
	Hot cooked meal is provided in 100% schools.				
2.	<b><u>TRENDS:</u></b> <b>Extent of variation (As per school records vis-à-vis Actual on the day of visit)</b>			<b>School level registers, MDM Registers Head Teachers, Schools level MDM functionaries / Observation of the monitoring team.</b>	
	<b>No.</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Day previous to date of visit</b>		<b>On the day of visit</b>
	<b>i.</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	100%		100%
	<b>ii.</b>	<b>No. of children attending the school on the day of visit</b>	98%		98%
	<b>iii.</b>	<b>No. of children availing MDM as per MDM Register</b>	73%		73%
<b>v.</b>	<b>No. of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit</b>		71%		
3.	<b><u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING FOOD GRAINS TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u></b> <b>(i) Is school receiving food grain regularly? If there is delay in delivering food grains, what is the extent of delay and reasons for the same?</b>			<b>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.</b>	

	The school is receiving food grains regularly in 100% schools.	
	<b>(ii) Is buffer stock of one-month's requirement is maintained?</b>	<b>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries</b>
	A buffer stock of one-month's requirement is maintained in 95% schools. The MI found inadequate stock in 2 schools out of 40 (5%) [This is a layman's estimate.]	
	<b>(iii) Is the food grains delivered at the school?</b>	<b>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries</b>
	The food grains are delivered at the school in 100% cases. A stock for 45 days is maintained. In case of delay, the organisers go to the godown to tell the MDM Commissioner about the delay.	
4.	<b><u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING COOKING COST TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u></b> <b>(i) Is school receiving cooking cost in advance regularly? If there is delay in delivering cooking custom what is the extent of delay and reasons for it?</b>	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	In 90% cases, the schools are receiving cooking cost in advance. In the remaining cases it is not in advance, but reasonably on time.	
	<b>(ii) In case of delay, how schools manage to ensure that there is no disruption in the feeding programme?</b>	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	In case of delay the organiser spends her own money to pay for the MDM.	
	<b>(iii) Is cooking cost paid by Cash or through banking channel?</b>	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	Cooking cost is paid by Cash in 42.5% cases, and through banking channel in 57.5% cases.	
5.	<b><u>SOCIAL EQUITY:</u></b> <b>Did you observe any gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements?</b>	Observations

	<p>There was no gender or caste or community discrimination observed in cooking or serving or seating arrangements, though there were variations in the seating arrangements during the MDM. The variations in seating arrangements of the children were as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Variations in seating arrangements</th> <th>Percentage value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Seated inside classroom</td> <td>2.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seated outside classroom</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seated in the verandah</td> <td>82.5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Variations in seating arrangements	Percentage value	Seated inside classroom	2.5%	Seated outside classroom	15%	Seated in the verandah	82.5%
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6.	<p><b><u>VARIETY OF MENU:</u></b>  <b>(i) Has the school displayed its weekly menu, and is it able to adhere to the menu displayed?</b></p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>								
	<p>The school has displayed its weekly menu only in 5% schools.</p>									
7.	<p><b>(ii) Is there variety in the food served or is the same food served daily?</b></p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>								
	<p>Rice, Dal, eggs and Vegetables are served daily. There is no variety observed in the food served. The organizers of most of the schools said that the government of Tamilnadu guide is followed to provide rice, sambar and egg for each on all days. The representatives of MI also found that it is followed in all schools.</p>									
	<p><b>(iii) Dose the daily menu include rice / wheat preparation, dal and vegetables?</b></p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>								
	<p>Rice, Dal , eggs and Vegetables are served daily. There is no wheat preparation.</p>									
8.	<p><b><u>QUALITY &amp; QUANTITY OF MEAL:</u></b>  <b>Feedback from children on</b></p>	<p>Observations of Investigation during MDM service</p>								
	<p><b>a) Quality of meal:</b></p>									
	<p>About 72.5% children said that the quality of meal was good.</p>									
	<p><b>b) Quantity of meal:</b></p>	<p>Observations of Investigation during MDM service</p>								
<p>About 67.5% children said that the quantity of meal was good.</p>										

	<b>c) {If children were not happy Please give reasons and suggestions to improve}</b>	<b>Observations of Investigation during MDM service</b>												
	Most children felt that they are given adequate food and the quality is satisfactory. Some children expressed a desire for Puli Kuzhambu (curry made with tamarind) and Puli sadam (rice mixed with tamarind) as part of MDM. This is because the same food is provided in all days.													
9.	<b><u>SUPPLEMENTARY:</u></b> <b>(i) Whether children are given micronutrients (Iron, folic acid, vitamin – A dosage) and de-worming medicine periodically?</b>	Teachers, Students, School Record												
	Yes													
	<b>(ii) Who administers these medicines and at what frequency?</b>	<b>Teachers, Students, School Record</b>												
	The medicines are administered by the PHC on a yearly basis.													
	<b>(iii) Is there school Health Card maintained for each child?</b>	Teachers, Students, School Record												
85% of the schools visited in Tiruvarur district maintain health cards for each child.														
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10.	<b><u>STATUS OF COOKS:</u></b> <b>(i) Who cooks and serves the meal? (Cook/helper appointed by the Department or Self Help Group, or NGO or Contractor)</b>	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.												
	Cook/helper appointed by the Department cooks and serves the meals.													
	<b>(ii) Is the number of cooks and helpers adequate to meet the requirement of the school?</b>	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.												

The number of cooks and helpers adequate to meet the requirement of the school, though in 80% schools, the cooks and helpers are not appointed as per GOI norms.																			
<b>( iii )What is remuneration paid to cooks/helpers?</b>	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.																		
Organizers were paid in the scale of Rs 5000-5500 pm. The Head cook had a pay scale in the range of Rs 2300-2800 pm while the Helpers had a pay scale in the range of Rs1200-1400 pm. Festival allowances and insurance are also provided.																			
<b>(iv).Are the remuneration paid to cooks/helpers regularly?</b>	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.																		
The remuneration is paid to cooks/helpers regularly in 100% schools																			
<b>(v) Social Composition of cooks /helpers? (SC/ST/OBE/Minority)</b>	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.																		
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11.	<p><b><u>INFRASTRUCTURE:</u></b></p> <p><b>Is a pucca kitchen shed-cum-store:</b></p> <p>(a) Constructed and in use                  (b) Constructed but not in use under                  (c) Under construction                  (d) Sanctioned, but constructed not started                  (e) Not sanctioned</p> <p><b>Any other (specify)</b></p>	School records, discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.									
	<p>The following table illustrates the infrastructure of the kitchen shed-cum-store</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Constructed and in use</td> <td>77.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Constructed but not in use</td> <td>12.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Under construction</td> <td>2.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sanctioned, but construction not started</td> <td>2.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not sanctioned</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> </table>		Constructed and in use	77.5%	Constructed but not in use	12.5%	Under construction	2.5%	Sanctioned, but construction not started	2.5%	Not sanctioned
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12.	<p><b>In case the pucca kitchen shed is not available, where is the food being cooked and where the food grains /other ingredients are being stored?</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members, Observation</b></p>									
	<p>In case the pucca kitchen shed is not available, the food is being cooked in the classroom or in the Samuthaya hall.</p>										
13.	<p><b>Whether potable water is available for cooking and drinking purpose?</b></p>	<b>-do-</b>									
	<p>Potable water is available for cooking and drinking purpose in most schools. The source of drinking water is through the panchayat water connection in 82.5% cases. The other options include bore water (12.5%), hand pump (2.5%), and well water (2.5%).</p>										
14.	<p><b>Whether utensils used for cooking food are adequate?</b></p>	Teachers/Organizer of MDM Programme									
	<p>Utensils used for cooking food were found adequate in 70% schools.</p>										
15.	<p><b>What is the kind of fuel used? (Gas based/firewood etc.)</b></p>	<b>Observation</b>									
	<p>The kind of fuel used for cooking is firewood in 100% schools.</p>										
16.	<p><b><u>SAFETY &amp; HYGIENE:</u></b></p> <p><b>i. General Impression of the environment, Safety and hygiene:</b></p>	<b>Observation</b>									
	<p>Because of firewood there is a lot of smoke and soot on walls and ceiling. Working conditions are definitely NOT healthy for the kitchen staff. Ensuring proper ventilation in kitchens and shifting to gas based cooking will surely improve the situation.</p>										

	<b>ii. Are children encouraged to wash hands before and after eating</b>	<b>observation</b>
	In 60% of the schools (24 out of 40) the MI found that children were explicitly encouraged to wash hands. Usually, however, children rinse their plates before and after eating, which means hands too are automatically washed.	
	<b>iii. Do the children partake meals in an orderly manner?</b>	<b>observation</b>
	Children were observed to partake meals in an orderly manner in 85% cases.	
	<b>v. Conservation of water?</b>	<b>Observation</b>
	No wasteful practices were observed during the MI team's visits.	
	<b>vi. Is the cooking process and storage of fuel safe, not posing any fire hazard?</b>	<b>observation</b>
	No hazardous conditions were observed during the field trips.	
<b>17.</b>	<b>COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: Extent of participation by Parents/VECs/Panchayats/Urban bodies in daily supervision, monitoring, participation</b>	<b>Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members</b>
	Parents or community participation were reportedly unsatisfactory (37%). There was no roster being maintained by the community members for supervision of the MDM in 100% schools.	
<b>18.</b>	<b>INSPECTION &amp; SUPERVISION Has the mid day meal programme been inspected by any state/district/block level officers/officials?</b>	<b>School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, VEC, Gram Panchayat members</b>
	The mid day meal programme has been inspected only by the block level officers in most cases. There were no inspections reported by the state or by the district officials. In 62.5% cases the inspection happened once a year. Officers from the Municipal office visited MDM in 2.5% cases. 2.5% schools reported that the inspection happened once in two months. Inspection happened before 2010 in 5% cases while there has been no inspection in 27.5% cases.	
<b>19.</b>	<b>IMPACT Has the mid day meal improved the enrollment, attendance of children in school, general well being (nutritional status) of children? Is there any other incidental benefit due to serving cooked meal in schools?</b>	<b>School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, students, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.</b>
	The MDM is extremely beneficial to the children, especially the rural and urban poor. The scheme should be strengthened through allocation of more meals per school and should include ONE FRUIT and ONE GLASS MILK for every child every day.	

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**Observations regarding individual schools / specific problems in Tiruvarur District:**

**PUMS Marakadai** in Mannargudi block: In this school the number of allotted meals is 400. On the day of the MI visit 255 children availed the mid-day meal. It was reported by some staff members that generally about 300 children avail the MDM. The MI noted that the MDM register was not being filled by the organizer regularly. On the days of the visit as well as the previous day, entry had not been made in the MDM register.

In general it can be said that the problem of excess or inadequate allotment exists in a few schools in Thiruvarur district. Proper and regular monitoring by all stakeholders – the Block level officials, VEC/SMC members and parents – has to be ensured in order to deal with such issues.

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## Mid-Day Meal Scheme: Thanjavur

(i)	Name of the Monitoring Institution	IIT Madras
(ii)	Period of the report	2011
(iii)	Name of the District	Tanjavur
(iv)	Date of visit to the Districts/EGS/Schools	March 7 <sup>th</sup> 2011-March March 27th

20.	<b><u>REGULARITY IN SERVING MEAL:</u></b> Whether the school is serving hot cooked meal daily? If there was interruption, what was the extent and reasons for the same?			Students, Teachers & Parents	
	The school is serving hot cooked meals daily in 100% schools.				
21.	<b><u>TRENDS:</u></b> Extent of variation (As per school records vis-à-vis Actual on the day of visit)			School level registers, MDM Registers Head Teachers, Schools level MDM functionaries / Observation of the monitoring team.	
	No.	Details	Day previous to date of visit		On the day of visit
	ii.	Enrollment	100%		100%
	ii.	No. of children attending the school on the day of visit	97.5%		97.5%
	x.	No. of children availing MDM as per MDM Register	92%		86%
	x.	No. of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit		88%	
22.	<b><u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING FOOD GRAINS TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u></b> (iv) Is school receiving food grain regularly? If there is delay in delivering food grains, what is the extent of delay and reasons for the same?			School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.	

	The school is receiving food grains regularly in 97.5% cases. A stock for 45 days is maintained. In case of delay as in MPL Primary Pudupattinam, the organisers go to the godown to tell the MDM Commissioner about the delay.	
	<b>(v) Is buffer stock of one-month's requirement is maintained?</b>	<b>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries</b>
	Yes. The buffer stock of one-month's requirement is maintained in most schools.	
	<b>(vi) Is the food grains delivered at the school?</b>	<b>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries</b>
	Yes. The food grains are delivered at the school in 100% cases.	
23.	<b><u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING COOKING COST TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u></b> <b>(iv) Is school receiving cooking cost in advance regularly? If there is delay in delivering cooking custom what is the extent of delay and reasons for it?</b>	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	The school is receiving cooking cost in advance in 90% cases. In the remaining cases it is received not in advance but on time.	
	<b>(v) In case of delay, how schools manage to ensure that there is no disruption in the feeding programme?</b>	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	In case of delay, the money of the organizer is used so as to ensure that there is no disruption in the feeding programme.	
	<b>(vi) Is cooking cost paid by Cash or through banking channel?</b>	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	The cooking cost is paid by cash in 25% cases and by banking channel in 75% cases.	
24.	<b><u>SOCIAL EQUITY:</u></b> <b>Did you observe any gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements?</b>	Observations
	No	
25.	<b><u>VARIETY OF MENU:</u></b> <b>(iv) Has the school displayed its weekly menu, and is it able to adhere to the menu displayed?</b>	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.

	The weekly menu is displayed only in 17.5 % cases (PUPS Maneyeripatti, PUMS Thirupurampiyam, PUMS Santhankudi, PUPS Katukurichi, PUMS Manjamalli, PUPS Alathur, and PUMS Edaiyathikonartheru)	
26.	<b>(v) Is there variety in the food served or is the same food served daily?</b>	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	In most cases, the same kind of food is served daily. The organizers of most of the schools said that the Government of Tamilnadu guide is followed to provide rice, sambar and egg for each in all days. The representatives of MI also found that it is followed in all schools.	
	<b>(vi) Dose the daily menu include rice / wheat preparation, dal and vegetables?</b>	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	The daily menu includes rice dal , eggs and vegetables. There is no wheat preparation.	
27.	<b><u>QUALITY &amp; QUANTITY OF MEAL:</u></b> <b>Feedback from children on</b> <b>c) Quality of meal:</b>	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	About 90% children found the quality of food to be good.	
	<b>d) Quantity of meal:</b>	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	About 95% children found the quantity of food to be adequate.	
	<b>c) {If children were not happy Please give reasons and suggestions to improve}</b>	<b>Observations of Investigation during MDM service</b>
	Most children felt that they are given adequate food and the quality is satisfactory. Some children expressed a desire for Puli Kuzhambu (curry made with tamarind) and Puli sadam (rice mixed with tamarind) as part of MDM; This is because the same food is provided in all days.	
28.	<b><u>SUPPLEMENTARY:</u></b> <b>(iv) Whether children are given micronutrients (Iron, folic acid, vitamin – A dosage) and de-worming medicine periodically?</b>	Teachers, Students, School Record
	Yes.	
	<b>(v) Who administers these medicines and at what frequency?</b>	<b>Teachers, Students, School Record</b>
	The PHC administers the medicines. The medicines are administered twice a year (32.5%), once a year (52.5%), three times in a year (12.5%), or monthly (2.5%).	

	<b>(vi) Is there school Health Card maintained for each child?</b>	Teachers, Students, School Record												
Around 78 % of the schools visited in Tanjavur district maintain health cards for each child.														
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	The cook/helper appointed by the Department cooks and serves the meal.													
	<b>( ii ) Is the number of cooks and helpers adequate to meet the requirement of the school?</b>		Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.											
	Yes, though the cooks and helpers are not appointed as per the GOI norms.													
	<b>( iii )What is remuneration paid to cooks/helpers?</b>		Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.											
	Organizers were paid in the scale of Rs 5000-5700 pm. The Head cook had a pay scale in the range of Rs 2000-2800 pm while the Helpers had a pay scale in the range of Rs1580-2200 pm. Festival allowances and insurance are also provided.													
	<b>(iv).Are the remuneration paid to cooks/helpers regularly?</b>		Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.											
Yes.														

	<p><b>(v) Social Composition of cooks /helpers? (SC/ST/OBE/Minority)</b></p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>															
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<p><b>30.</b></p>	<p><b><u>INFRASTRUCTURE:</u></b></p> <p><b>Is a pucca kitchen shed-cum-store:</b></p> <p>(f) Constructed and in use (g) Constructed but not in use under (h) Under construction (i) Sanctioned, but constructed not started (j) Not sanctioned</p> <p><b>Any other (specify)</b></p>	<p>School records, discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.</p>															
	<p>The pucca kitchen shed-cum-store is constructed and in use in 75% schools. In 10% schools, the kitchen shed-cum-store is under construction (PUPS Neveli South, GHS Ammapet, PUPS Poolankollai, and PUPS Mallipattinam). The kitchen shed-cum-store is constructed but not in use in 5% schools (PUPS Vettikadu and PUPS Senniyaviduthi). In PUPS Senniyaviduthi, the construction of the pucca kitchen shed-cum-store is finished and will be used shortly. In the remaining schools, the pucca kitchen shed-cum-store is not sanctioned or the construction is not started.</p>																
<p><b>31.</b></p>	<p><b>In case the pucca kitchen shed is not available, where is the food being cooked and where the foodgrains /other ingredients are being stored?</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members, Observation</b></p>															
	<p>Open place is used for cooking (PUPS Poolankollai, PUPS Orathnadu Puthur, PUPS Neyveli South, PUPS Senniyaviduthi, and GHS Ammapet) while the stock is stored in classrooms. In ADWPS Pattukottai, food is cooked in Anganwadi centre. In PUPS Mallipattinam, and PUPS Dharasuram, food is cooked in classroom.</p>																

32.	<b>Whether potable water is available for cooking and drinking purpose?</b>	<b>-do-</b>
	Potable water for cooking and drinking is available in all schools except in ADWPS Pattukottai which doesn't have a pipe connection. The school children rely on the ADW higher secondary school Pattukottai for their water needs.	
33.	<b>Whether utensils used for cooking food are adequate?</b>	Teachers/Organizer of MDM Programme
	The utensils used for cooking were not found adequate in 12.5% schools. The cook in MPL Puthupattinam voiced a need for a bigger vessel to cook rice so that the cooking is faster and easier.	
34.	<b>What is the kind of fuel used? (Gas based/firewood etc.)</b>	<b>Observation</b>
	Firewood is used in 100% schools	
35.	<b><u>SAFETY &amp; HYGIENE:</u> iv. General Impression of the environment, Safety and hygiene:</b>	<b>Observation</b>
	Because of firewood there is a lot of smoke and soot on walls and ceiling. Working conditions are definitely NOT healthy for the kitchen staff. Ensuring proper ventilation in kitchens and shifting to gas based cooking will surely improve the situation.	
	v. <b>Are children encouraged to wash hands before and after eating</b>	<b>observation</b>
	In 67.5% of the schools (27 out of 40) the MI found that children were explicitly encouraged to wash hands. Usually, however, children rinse their plates before and after eating, which means hands too are automatically washed.	
	vi. <b>Do the children partake meals in an orderly manner?</b>	<b>observation</b>
	Yes	
	vii. <b>Conservation of water?</b>	<b>Observation</b>
	No wasteful practices were observed during the MI team's visits.	
	viii. <b>Is the cooking process and storage of fuel safe, not posing any fire hazard?</b>	<b>observation</b>

	No hazardous conditions observed.	
36.	<b>COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:</b> <b>Extent of participation by Parents/VECs/Panchayats/Urban bodies in daily supervision, monitoring, participation</b>	<b>Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members</b>
	Poor participation is reported from the parents/VECs/Panchayats/Urban bodies in daily supervision, monitoring, and participation.	
37.	<b>INSPECTION &amp; SUPERVISION</b> <b>Has the mid day meal programme been inspected by any state/district/block level officers/officials?</b>	<b>School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, VEC, Gram Panchayat members</b>
	The mid day meal programme has been inspected by block level officers in most cases. In MPL Primary Pudupattinam and MPL Primary Co-optive colony, the mid day meal programme has been inspected by the District Collector.	
38.	<b>IMPACT</b> <b>Has the mid day meal improved the enrollment, attendance of children in school, general well being (nutritional status) of children? Is there any other incidental benefit due to serving cooked meal in schools?</b>	<b>School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, students, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.</b>
	The MDM is extremely beneficial to the children, especially the rural and urban poor. The scheme should be strengthened through allocation of more meals per school and should include ONE FRUIT and ONE GLASS MILK for every child every day.	

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**Specific observations regarding individual schools/specific problems in Tanjavur**

**District:**

**In PUMS Nanjikottai**, the organizer was not present on the day of visit. The cook and helper were engaged in providing MDM. In a layman's estimate, the quality of food was poor. The HM and other teachers did not seem interested in MDM. When the MI representative asked the children for feedback, children said in the presence of the cook and helper that they were satisfied with the food. On being asked again when the cook and helper were not present, the children freely reported problems – such as finding worms in the food, tasteless food etc.

The MDM register and Visit note were not available in the school.

**In PUMS Shenbakapuram**, the organizer hurriedly came to the school on hearing about the MI's visit. In this school eggs are provided to children only for 3 days in a week though government of Tamilnadu has already issued orders to provide egg for each child on all working days. Children also reported that some days they get only half an egg each.

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## Mid-Day Meal Scheme: Nagapattinam District

(i)	<b>Name of the Monitoring Institution</b>	<b>IIT Madras</b>
(ii)	<b>Period of the report</b>	<b>2011</b>
(iii)	<b>Name of the District</b>	<b>Nagapattinam</b>
(iv)	<b>Date of visit to the Districts/EGS/Schools</b>	<b>January 24<sup>th</sup> to Feb 13th</b>

39.	<b><u>REGULARITY IN SERVING MEAL:</u></b> <b>Whether the school is serving hot cooked meal daily? If there was interruption, what was the extent and reasons for the same?</b>			<b>Students, Teachers &amp; Parents</b>	
	The school is serving hot cooked meals daily in 100% schools.				
40.	<b><u>TRENDS:</u></b> <b>Extent of variation (As per school records vis-à-vis Actual on the day of visit)</b>			<b>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teachers, Schools level MDM functionaries / Observation of the monitoring team.</b>	
	<b>No.</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Day previous to date of visit</b>		<b>On the day of visit</b>
	ii.	<b>Enrollment</b>	100%		100%
	v.	<b>No. of children attending the school on the day of visit</b>	92%		92%
	v.	<b>No. of children availing MDM as per MDM Register</b>	87%		88%
vi.	<b>No. of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit</b>		68%		

41.	<p><b><u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING FOOD GRAINS TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u></b></p> <p><b>(vii) Is school receiving food grain regularly? If there is delay in delivering food grains, what is the extent of delay and reasons for the same?</b></p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.</p>
	<p>All the schools are receiving food grains regularly. A buffer stock of one month's requirement is maintained. The quantity of food grain supplied was as per the marked indicated weight in most schools though differences were noticed in PUPS Pudupattinam, PU Elem Panchanathikulam west (1-2 kg less), Chinna Erahalli Thiru, (1-5 kg less), and PUES Sithambur (1-4 kg less). In some cases the quality of rice is bad while the quality of dal is good (PUPS Seeyathamangai).</p>	
	<p><b>(viii) Is buffer stock of one-month's requirement is maintained?</b></p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries</p>
	<p>The buffer stock of one-month requirement is maintained.</p>	
	<p><b>(ix) Is the food grains delivered at the school?</b></p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries</p>
<p>Yes</p>		
42.	<p><b><u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING COOKING COST TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u></b></p> <p><b>(vii) Is school receiving cooking cost in advance regularly? If there is delay in delivering cooking custom what is the extent of delay and reasons for it?</b></p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.</p>
	<p>The schools receive cooking cost not in advance but on time. No interruption in the flow of funds is observed.</p>	
	<p><b>(viii) In case of delay, how schools manage to ensure that there is no disruption in the feeding programme?</b></p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.</p>

	In case of delay, the schools claim that the money of organizer is used so as to ensure that there is no disruption in the feeding programme.	
	<b>(ix) Is cooking cost paid by Cash or through banking channel?</b>	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	The cooking cost is usually paid by cash.	
43.	<b><u>SOCIAL EQUITY:</u></b> <b>Did you observe any gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements?</b>	Observations
	No gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements was observed by the MI.	
44.	<b><u>VARIETY OF MENU:</u></b> <b>(vii) Has the school displayed its weekly menu, and is it able to adhere to the menu displayed?</b>	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	Most schools do not have a weekly display of menu (except in PUMS Pirinjimullai, APS Mayiladudurai, PUPS Eanangudi, and PUPS Thagattur). The organizer decides on the menu. Sometimes the menu is decided by the Union Panchayat (PUPS Arur). In some cases the PDO decides the menu (PUPS Ramakrishnapuram).	
45.	<b>(viii) Is there variety in the food served or is the same food served daily?</b>	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	The same type of food is served daily. The food has rice, dal, eggs and vegetables. The vegetables are not sufficient. The organizers of most of the schools said that the Government of Tamilnadu guide is followed to provide rice, sambar and egg for each on all days. The representatives of MI also found that it is followed in all schools.	

	<b>(ix) Dose the daily menu include rice / wheat preparation, dal and vegetables?</b>	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	The daily menu includes rice dal, eggs and vegetables. There is no wheat preparation.	
46.	<b><u>QUALITY &amp; QUANTITY OF MEAL:</u></b> <b>Feedback from children on</b>	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	<b>e) Quality of meal:</b>	
	Most children felt that the quality of meal is satisfactory. However, in <b>Nangur</b> half cooked rice and dal were being served to the children. The quantity of food provided to the children was inadequate. Poor quality rice and dal were being used. The MDM register was not available in the school and the organizer was absent.	
	<b>f) Quantity of meal:</b>	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	Most children felt that the quantity of meal is adequate.	
	<b>c) {If children were not happy Please give reasons and suggestions to improve}</b>	<b>Observations of Investigation during MDM service</b>
Most children felt that they are given adequate food and the quality is satisfactory. Some children expressed a desire for Puli Kuzhambu (curry made with tamarind) and Puli sadam (rice mixed with tamarind) as part of MDM. This is because the same food is provided on all days.		
	<b><u>SUPPLEMENTARY:</u></b> <b>(vii) Whether children are given micronutrients (Iron, folic acid, vitamin – A dosage) and de-worming medicine periodically?</b>	Teachers, Students, School Record
	Yes.	
	<b>(viii) Who administers these medicines and at what frequency?</b>	<b>Teachers, Students, School Record</b>

	Health check up happens yearly once in more than 90% schools. Micronutrients are provided once a year. PHC administers the medicines. In some cases the govt hospitals administers the medicine (PUPS Seeyathamangai). Medical camps are held yearly once (PUES Panchanathikulam west). In some cases the Municipal Health Department administers the medicines. In PUMS Nimmeli, the BDO administers the medicines while the Health Inspector or the VHN administers the medicines in the case of PUMS Puthur and PUMS Velanganni.	
	<b>(ix) Is there school Health Card maintained for each child?</b>	Teachers, Students, School Record
	35% schools in Nagapattinam District have maintained a health card.	
47.	<b><u>STATUS OF COOKS:</u></b> <b>(iii) Who cooks and serves the meal? (Cook/helper appointed by the Department or Self Help Group, or NGO or Contractor)</b>	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	The cook/helper appointed by the Department cooks and serves the meal.	
	<b>( ii ) Is the number of cooks and helpers adequate to meet the requirement of the school?</b>	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	In more than 90% schools, the number is adequate. But PUPS Nangur did not have an organiser while, AMS Kadavasal did not have a helper and PUMS Kichankuppam did not have a cook.	
	<b>( iii )What is remuneration paid to cooks/helpers?</b>	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.

	<p>Organizers were paid in the scale of Rs 5000-5500 pm. The Head cook had a pay scale in the range of Rs 2300-2800 pm while the Helpers had a pay scale in the range of Rs1200-1400 pm. Festival allowances and insurance are also provided.</p>																
(x)	<p><b>Are the remuneration paid to cooks/helpers regularly?</b></p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>															
	<p>The remuneration is paid to cooks/helpers regularly in most cases. Only in one instance (SMH Middle school, Sirkali) there were reports that the cooks/helper got the remuneration late.</p>																
(v)	<p><b>Social Composition of cooks /helpers? (SC/ST/OBE/Minority)</b></p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>															
	<p><b>The following table provides the social composition of cooks/helpers.</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Average</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SC /ST</td> <td>4</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BC</td> <td>18</td> <td>45%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OBC</td> <td>4</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MBC</td> <td>14</td> <td>35%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Category	Total	Average	SC /ST	4	10%	BC	18	45%	OBC	4	10%	MBC	14	35%
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48.	<p><b><u>INFRASTRUCTURE:</u></b></p> <p><b>Is a pucca kitchen shed-cum-store:</b></p> <p>(k) Constructed and in use                      (l) Constructed but not in use                      (m) Under construction                      (n) Sanctioned, but constructed not started                      (o) Not sanctioned</p> <p><b>Any other (specify)</b></p>	<p>School records, discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.</p>															

	<p>The pucca kitchen shed cum store is constructed and in use in most schools. Yet, there were some unsettling issues in the quality of the kitchen shed cum store in certain schools which are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In APS Aiyadimangalam, the pucca kitchen shed cum store is not sanctioned. The school had a poorly constructed kitchen shed without a store. The food is being cooked in the SMC'S house.</li> <li>• In PUMS Sembianmadevi, the kitchen shed cum store is not pucca, and not sanctioned. The school has an unclean kitchen and store room.</li> <li>• In the case of PUMS Vilundamavadi, the kitchen shed cum store is not pucca and is not sanctioned. The food is being cooked in the classroom. At the time of MI visit, the PDO and block revenue officer has apparently visited the school and inspected the MDM.</li> <li>• In the case of PUPS Chinnathampur (far flung area), the process of construction of a pucca kitchen shed-cum store is on.</li> <li>• In PUPS Seshamoolai, kitchen shed cum store is constructed but not in use because it is damaged. The cooking is done inside the school building.</li> <li>• PUPS Senniyeellur, does not have a room for storing stock while the store room in Kadambadi was rat infested.</li> </ul>				
49.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td> <p><b>In case the pucca kitchen shed is not available, where is the food being cooked and where the foodgrains /other ingredients are being stored?</b></p> </td> <td> <p><b>Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members, Observation</b></p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> <p>In the event of non availability of a proper kitchen shed cum store, the food is cooked in the classroom (PUMS Vilundamavadi and PUPS Seshamoolai).</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>In case the pucca kitchen shed is not available, where is the food being cooked and where the foodgrains /other ingredients are being stored?</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members, Observation</b></p>	<p>In the event of non availability of a proper kitchen shed cum store, the food is cooked in the classroom (PUMS Vilundamavadi and PUPS Seshamoolai).</p>	
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	<p>Potable water is available for cooking and drinking purposes in most schools. Public water service for drinking purpose is supplied by the Panchayat union (PUPS Seeyathamangai) or by the Corporation (MPS Chinna Erahalli Street). In some schools, the bore water is used for drinking and cooking purposes (PUMS Thevur, PUMS Sembianmadevi). The school in APS Aiyadimangalam had only one hand pump and one panchayat tap for collecting water.</p>	
51.	<p><b>Whether utensils used for cooking food are adequate?</b></p>	<p>Teachers/Organizer of MDM Programme</p>
	<p>Most schools reported that the utensils are adequate. Exceptions were reported in the schools at PUMS Nimmeli and PUMS Vilundamavadi.</p>	
52.	<p><b>What is the kind of fuel used? (Gas based/firewood etc.)</b></p>	<p><b>Observation</b></p>
	<p>Firewood. There was no instance of gas based cooking.</p>	
53.	<p><b><u>SAFETY &amp; HYGIENE:</u></b> <b>vii. General Impression of the environment, Safety and hygiene:</b></p>	<p><b>Observation</b></p>
	<p>Because of firewood there is a lot of smoke and soot on walls and ceiling. Working conditions are definitely NOT healthy for the kitchen staff. Ensuring proper ventilation in kitchens and shifting to gas based cooking will surely improve the situation.</p>	
	<p><b>i. Are children encouraged to wash hands before and after eating</b></p>	<p><b>observation</b></p>
	<p>No prompts from the teachers/organisers were noticed during the field visits. Usually children rinse their plates before and after the meal. This ensures that hands are also washed before and after eating.</p>	
	<p><b>ii. Do the children partake meals in an orderly manner?</b></p>	<p><b>observation</b></p>
	<p>Yes</p>	
	<p><b>iii. Conservation of water?</b></p>	<p><b>Observation</b></p>
	<p>No wasteful practices were observed during the MI team's visits.</p>	
<p><b>iv. Is the cooking process and storage of fuel safe, not posing any fire hazard?</b></p>	<p><b>observation</b></p>	
<p>No hazardous conditions observed.</p>		



54.	<p><b>COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:</b>  <b>Extent of participation by Parents/VECs/Panchayats/Urban bodies in daily supervision, monitoring, participation</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members</b></p>
55.	<p><b>INSPECTION &amp; SUPERVISION</b>  <b>Has the mid day meal programme been inspected by any state/district/block level officers/officials?</b></p>	<p><b>School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, VEC, Gram Panchayat members</b></p>
56.	<p><b>IMPACT</b>  <b>Has the mid day meal improved the enrolment, attendance of children in school, general well being (nutritional status) of children? Is there any other incidental benefit due to serving cooked meal in schools?</b></p>	<p><b>School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, students, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.</b></p>

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**Specific observations regarding individual schools/specific problems in Nagapattinam District:**

**MDM REGISTER NOT MATCHING:**

**PUMS, Vedaranyam 3<sup>rd</sup> street:**

Actual present 134. MDM allotted and cooked was 100, while at the time of the MI visit only 75 out of 134 children present availed the meal.

**SMH, MIDDLE SCHOOL, SOUTH CAR STREET:** The organizer, cook and helper got the salary late every month. The MDM register does not match with the school register – in terms of children actually present on that day and those who availed the mid-day meal.

**PUPS Arur,** the MDM register not matching with the school register.

**APS Neermulai,** number of children counted 74, but the eggs were only 14.

**PUPS Pudupattinam,** MDM register was not matching with the school register.

**General Problems:**

In several cases the MI observed a discrepancy between the number of meals allotted to a school and the number of children actually availing the MDM. For example, in SMH Middle School, South Car Street, Sirkali, the allotment is for 390 children. It was observed by the MI (as well as reported by some staff members) that on any given day not more than 200 to 225 children avail the food. However stocks are received and food is apparently cooked for the entire allotment of 390.

On the other hand, in some schools the allotment and/or the food available is clearly inadequate – as reported above in the case of PUPS Neermulai.

On the whole it can be said that proper and regular monitoring by all stakeholders – the Block level officials, VEC/SMC members and parents – has to be ensured in order to deal with such issues.