



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना
Mid Day Meal Scheme

MDM- Karnataka

2nd Half Yearly Monitoring Report

Period: 31st October 2013 – 31st April 2014

Districts Covered

**MANDYA
KODAGU
RAICHUR
UDUPI**

Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore

District Level Half Yearly Monitoring Report (MDM)

Mandya District

Mandya District had a sample of 40 schools with 2 Lower Primary Schools and 38 Upper Primary Schools. The selection of sample schools has been done in consultation with the District SSA office and as per the criteria outlined by the MHRD/GoI. The present report refers to half-yearly monitoring for the period September 2013-March 2014.

A. At the School Level

1. Regularity in Serving Meal

All 40 schools of the sample serve hot cooked meal daily. In 8 schools on the day of visit no mid-day meal was cooked in school premises due to the strike by appointed cooks.

2. Trends

Most of the students enrolled in a given school are eligible to avail mid-day meal facility. However, an individual child is entitled to make an option to avail or not the facility. It is in this context, data has been collected about the number of students availing mid-day meal and the actual number of students taking meal during the days of visit.

a)	Number of children enrolled in schools	-	4744
b)	Number of children opted for MDM	-	4744 (100%)
c)	Number of children attending the school on the day of visit	-	3997 (83.49%)
d)	Number of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit	-	2991 (62.65%)
e)	Number of children availed MDM on the previous day of visit	-	3655 (76.57%)

Considering the attendance, it may be noticed that about 17% of children were absent in schools on the day of visit. Further considering the percentage of children actually consuming MDM, it is seen that about 62.65% of the students eat in the schools while close to 40% do not eat either because they are absent on the day or have decided to opt out of the scheme.

Even on the previous day of the school visit by MI, about 76.57% of children only found to have taken MDM suggesting that 24% remained out of the scheme coverage. There is a large gap between those who opted for the food and those who actually utilize the benefit and this is not an encouraging trend. Even discrepancies regarding number of students shown in school MDM register and number of children having food actually in the school was different in some schools. The head count of students availing MDM does not include 8 schools where cooks were on strike and no food was served.

The school HM/Teachers needs to be trained to maintain record of the MDM, in Mandya around 24% of the school HM and teachers have not been trained.

	Yes	No
KR Pet (7)	57.14%	42.86%
Maddur	83.33%	16.67%
Mandya North (5)	75.00%	25.00%
Mandya South (3)	50.00%	50.00%
Nagamangala (8)	75.00%	25.00%
Pandavpura (4)	75.00%	25.00%
Srirangapattanam	100.00%	0.00%
Malvally	82%	18%
Mandya	74%	24%

3. Regularity in Delivering Food Grains to School

Food grains are supplied to school through the outlets of Food Corporation of India (FCI). There are guidelines to the FCI with regard to supplying food grains to schools. The data collected from schools has indicated that 97.52% of the (38 schools) schools have been getting the supply of food grains on time. Only one school in Maddur Block reported to have received supply late. Around 97.5% school's HM said and the MDM register also reflected that the food grains are released after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month.

FCI delivers the food grains through lifting agency to the school. All schools in Mandya knew about the payment made to the FCI.

Schools generally get one month buffer stock of food grains. It was found that all schools in Mandya have one month buffer stock.

All schools are entitled for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of food grains from FCI. But only 82% schools confirmed having FAQ quality food grains.

Quality of food grain is of Fair Average Quality (FAQ)				
	Yes	Rarely	No	NA
K R Pet	85.71%	0.00%	0.00%	14.29%
Maddur	50.00%	16.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Mandya North	75.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Mandya South	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Nagamangala	75.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%
Pandavpura	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Srirangapattanam	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Malvally	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Mandya District	82.50%	2.50%	12.50%	2.50%

Nearly 12.5% schools did not get FAQ grains. If there is any lapse, the head teacher or the school is entitled to return the food grains of 'poor quality'. HM in few of the schools said they return the Grains if they are not satisfied with the quality.

4. Regularity in Delivering Cooking Cost to School Level

The mid-day meal grant is released either through a cheque or e-transfer. This has been confirmed by all the sampled schools. All schools cooking MDM in the school get the grant/funds released on time but for one school. Although the MDM funds get transferred on time, still cooking cost gets delayed in reaching to schools. 82.5% of schools (33 schools) which are preparing mid-day meal in the school confirmed that they get funds for CG regularly without any delay. Only four schools got funds by a delay of one or two weeks and three schools got it after the delay of one month, reasons for which are not known.

5. Social Equity

There is no visible social discrimination in serving mid-day meal. Some of the possible factors of discrimination like caste, gender or community have not influenced MDM at any stage in the process of its implementation. It is observed that in all schools children are served mid-day meal in a systematic manner by forming a line. Generally in higher primary

schools, as girls belong to higher age cohorts and are in the pre-adolescent stage, most parents would expect schools to maintain some sort of segregation between boys and girls. *Because of this, girls and boys sit separately and definitely this does not amount to discrimination.*

Seating Arrangement of Students During MDM					
In a big hall or their respective classrooms to eat	As per their own wish	Girls and boys separately	In long rows (boys & Girls mixed)	In long rows, girls and boys separately	In small circles
5.13%	2.56%	5.13%	66.67%	2.56%	0.00%

6. Menu

The guidelines issued by the MDM scheme have specifications relating to menu. Every school is expected to evolve and maintain menu details on a weekly basis. It is also expected to incorporate variety in the menu.

- (i) Only in 11 schools, weekly menu was displayed in the school. In two schools Menu was there but kept in records. The responses from the head teachers confirm that schools should have a pre-planned menu schedule for all the days of the week.

Weekly menu displayed in school				
	Yes	No	Is there in school but not displayed	NR
MI Observation	26.83 %	65.85 %	2.44 %	4.88 %
Student's Response	16.2 %	77.5 %	No Response	3.4 %

When students were asked about their awareness regarding the Menu, only 43% students said they have seen the menu. Of these 43% also, only 13% said that the menu displayed is being followed in the school.

- (ii) Generally, the Cook and the Head teachers formulate the menu in schools.

Cook Decide the Menu	HM Decides the Menu	Cook & HM Together Decide the Menu
4.76	64.29	11.81

Out of the schools in which weekly menu was displayed, only 49% of the students said that the displayed menu was followed. In spite of absence of the menu, students were aware of the food which they would get all through the days. Most of them said they like the food menu and what is cooked in the school.

7. Variety Menu

The school is instructed to provide healthy locally grown vegetables, dal and rice/wheat to the students daily. The menu in most of the schools included Sambhar and rice from Monday to Friday and rice item like Chitrana, Pulao, Upma or Wheat daliya etc on a Saturdays. Sambhar would comprise of some seasonal vegetables every day.

In 40 schools in Mandya, around 150 children were interviewed to get their view regarding the MDM food. When asked about the variety of food served, 26% of them said there is a variety of food served to them. Some of them were unable to distinguish between the vegetables in Sāmbhar and they assumed it to be same every day. Similarly the SMC was also asked about the variety of food served to the students; around 3% said there is no variety in food served.

	Similar every day	Sometimes variety is served	Everyday new variety	NR
Student Opinion	10.6	50.4	33.3	5.7%
SMC Opinion	7.69 %	28.21%	64.10%	0%

A description of the same is given in Table below

MDM Menu

Sl. No.	Particulars	Daily	Twice / Thrice a Week	Weekly Once	Total
1	Rice / Dal	40	-	-	40
Vegetables (Mostly mixed with Dal)					
2	Tomato	17 [77.27%]	5 [22.72%]	-	22 [62.85%]
3	Raddish	4 [40%]	2 [20%]	4 [40%]	10 [28.57%]
4	Pumpkin	7 [41.17%]	4 [23.52%]	6 [35.29%]	17 [48.57%]
5	Drumstick	2 [40%]	2 [40%]	1 [20%]	5 [14.28%]
6	Potato	6 [22.22%]	10 [37.03%]	11 [40.74%]	27 [77.14%]
7	Heerekai	1 [10%]	4 [40%]	5 [50%]	10 [28.57%]
8	Carrot	3 [25%]	3 [25%]	6 [50%]	12 [34.28%]
9	Beans	4 [40%]	3 [30%]	3 [30%]	10 [28.57%]
10	Cucumber	1 [25%]	-	3 [75%]	4 [11.42%]
11	Greens	6 [22.22%]	10 [37.03%]	11 [40.74%]	27 [77.14%]
12	Cereals	-	-	15 [100.0]	15 [42.85%]
13	Brinjal	6 [42.85%]	3 [21.42%]	5 [35.71%]	14 [40%]
14	Ladies Finger	3 [50%]	1 [16.66%]	2 [33.33%]	6 [17.14%]
15	Other items only on Saturday			40 [100.0]	40 [100.0%]

(The use of these vegetables by 37 schools where mid-day meal is prepared. Since there are many vegetables used on different days, the frequency indicates the trend in the use of vegetables rather than the pattern of usage by a particular school).

- (ii) In all the schools rice is the common item served. It is the items prepared with dal and vegetables that take varied form. Generally, schools provide a distinct food item (rice bath) on Saturdays.

8. Quality and Quantity of Meal

The responses from the students, head teachers and observation by MI team members have indicated details relating to the quality and quantity of food. As per the field investigators, around 65 % of the schools served adequate quantity of the food, whereas around 10 % of the schools had served less quantity to the students.

Quantity of Food Served			
Block Name	Adequate	Ample	Less
KR Pet	66.67%	0.00%	16.67%
Maddur	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Malvally	71.43%	14.29%	14.29%
Mandya North	100.0%	0.00%	0.00%
Mandya South	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Nagamangala	37.50%	25.00%	25.00%
Pandavpura	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%
Srirangaptanam	66.67%	0.00%	0.00%
Mandya District	65.00%	17.50%	10.00%

However, around three per cent of the students have stated that they are getting less quantity.

Quantity of food served during MDM		
Mandya District	Adequate	Less
Student's perception	90.14	2.82

In terms of quality of food served, 93.57 % of the students said they were happy after consuming the meals in school and that they like eating in school. None of the students agreed that they come to school because they are served MDM in school; they all said they come to school to study.

Quality of Food Served			
Block Name	Average	Good	No response
KR Pet	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%
Maddur	20.00%	80.00%	0.00%
Malvally	42.86%	42.86%	14.29%
Mandya North	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Mandya South	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Nagamangala	37.50%	37.50%	25.00%
Pandavpura	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Srirangapatanam	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%
Mandya District	17.50%	67.50%	15.00%

Nearly 68 % of the schools visited were serving good quality food to the students during MDM.

9. Supplementary (Health Check-up)

The data collected from schools has indicated that health check-up to children is conducted in all the 40 schools (100 per cent). All the schools have reported that they have conducted health check-up camps once in an academic year (100 per cent). All schools visited, maintained the Health Card record for every child in school.

The data collected has confirmed the supply of vitamin tablets, de-worming medicine and iron folic acid tablets in all the schools. The task of providing all this is handled by teachers, specially the class teachers. The vitamin tablets are supplied once in 15 days and de-worming is given once in six month.

Health check up been done in school since it reopened			
	Yes	No	Don't Remember
Student Response	49.30	27.46	20.42
Micronutrients and De worming Medicines Provided			
Student Response	77.46	12.68	6.34

Up to data on 'Height and Weight' was displayed in the Health Card, displayed in the school.

10. Cooks

The MDM guidelines specify the social composition of cooks and helpers. This has been done to avoid social discrimination and to help children to overcome prejudices and attitude of social discrimination. All the schools make efforts to adhere to the norms. However, sometimes, it has been observed that the social composition of the habitation/ village where school is located may not be able to get a person required to function as a cook or a helper.

In such a situation, school will have limited options in adhering to the norms. It is due to this reason there may be certain amount of deviance in appointing cooks and helpers. However, most of the schools make choices on the basis of the availability of persons to perform the roles. The salary of cooks and helpers paid by all the schools is Rs.1100 and Rs.1000

respectively. The following table indicates the distribution and social composition of cooks and helpers in 40 schools:

Social Composition of Cooks and Helpers

District	SC	ST	OBC	Minority	General	No response/DNA
Head Cook	25.00%	0.00%	27.50%	0.00%	0.00%	48%
Social Composition of Helpers						
SC	ST	OBC	Minority	General	NA	No response/DNA
47.50%	6.25%	71.25%	0.00%	3.75%	21.25%	0.00%

Once the cook is appointed in the school, he/she is provided training and given a training manual to follow. The cook and helpers also need to undergo health check up at the time of joining. But in Mandya only 42 % of the cook had training manual and had health check up done at the time of joining.

90 % of the schools received cook's salary on time. During the discussion with SMC about cook's salary, only 84 % of them said the remuneration is received on time, 10.53 % said it is not received regularly and gets delayed. In remaining schools the SMC was unaware about the salary of the cooks.

11. Infrastructure

The infrastructure needed to provide mid-day meal in the school includes facilities to cook food, availability of water, fuel and vessels. The data relating to these items indicates that most of the schools have separate kitchen or a separate space to cook. The details are given in the table below.

Details about Kitchen

Sl. No.	Particulars	Percentage
1	Separate kitchen	85.00
3	Class room	0.00
4	Unspecified place	5.00
5	Supplied by other schools/ agencies	10.00
	Total	100.00

12. Safety and Hygiene:

All the schools have been making the best possible effort to ensure hygiene in the place where mid-day meal is prepared and served. There are a few cases where things could be improved for better. In Mandya, in nearly 75 % of the schools kitchen was maintained in hygienic condition.

Kitchen Well Maintenance & in Hygienic Condition			
	Yes	No	NA
Mandya	75.0	10.0	10.0
Proper Ventilation in Kitchen			
	Yes	No	NA
Mandya	66.67	20.51	2.56

Only 52 % of the kitchen had storage bins to store food grains in the kitchen/store room. Around 66 % of the kitchen was well ventilated and 85% of them were away from the classrooms.

As per SMC members the condition of kitchen in their schools is as follows:

Condition of kitchen in school				
Good Condition	Needs repair in rains	No storage room but kitchen is good	Kitchen is good but water facility needed	No response
74.36	5.13	5.13	0.00	15.38

In all schools, children wash their hands and plates before eating the food. But the places where the children wash the plates become clogged with water and children need to maneuver to reach the water source. In most of the schools, teachers monitored the behavior of the students while eating and usage of water without wasting.

72 % schools had fire extinguisher in school. But most of the schools HM was not aware of using the same in case of emergency.

13. Conservation of Water

The availability of water has been confirmed in all 40 schools (100 percent). The quality and quantity of water has been found to be good for purpose of cooking and drinking. However, only 47 % schools had water availability in/near kitchen. In rest of the schools water was brought from the water source in school/nearby areas.

Means for the Conservation of Water in Kitchen				
District	Yes	No	NA	No response
Mandya	47.50	35.00	15.00	2.50

14. Utensils for Cooking and Serving Food

The responses from the schools indicate that all schools preparing mid-day meal have utensils to cook food and small serving utensils as well.

15. All the schools visited, had Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) as fuel for cooking.

16. Participation of SMC, parents, local body members in MDM:

- (i) It was observed that the participation of SMC members to supervise mid-day meal varies from school to school. Focused Group discussion was held with the SMC members of all the schools visited. Understanding of SMC with regard to their roles and responsibilities towards MDM and the action taken by them to manage MDM activity in school were discussed during the FGD.

The community tries to participate in the school's MDM activity but they have their own constraints. 8.57 % of the SMC members said they just observe while MDM or other school activities take place. SMC in 28.57% of the schools ensured discipline during the MDM timings. But none of them admitted to be exercising this right.

S No	Monitoring Activity To be done by SMC	% of respondents	Action Taken By SMC Members	% of respondents
1	Monitoring of Stocks and Quality and Quantity of food served	8.33	Just Observe	8.57
2	MDM Attendance	33.33	Ensure discipline in serving and cooking MDM	28.57
3	Kitchen Maintenance	5.56	Help in cooking/serving when needed	34.29
4	Supervise MDM Functioning	2.78	Arrange for gas and water facility	2.86
5	Everything is good no need to monitor anything	16.67	Don't do anything	8.57
6	No Response	0.00	NR	0.00

- (ii) As per the norm, the MDM is being monitored and supervised by the parents on some of the days. The data collected from sample schools indicate that there is no roster of parents formally prepared with specified days. However, there is informal arrangement with parents to oversee MDM supply in few of the schools.
- (iii) A detailed analysis of the extent of awareness and participation in MDM programme by the parents, SMC members and Panchayat/Local Body representatives has been made by examining the responses from the respective groups:
- a) **Parents:** In Mandya district 123 parents were interviewed. The data collected from parents confirmed that most of the parents (interviewed by the MI team members) have an average understanding of the implementation of MDM programme (25.56%). Largely parents trusted the school and said whatever the school is providing has to be good for their children. They were satisfied with the quantity of food given to the students and none of them said they ever faced any issue of discrimination in the school during MDM.

More than 85 % of parents were happy with MDM being provided in school. Only 0.75 % parents said they were unhappy with the MDM service as they felt it affected school functioning.

Regarding the quality of food served, 47 % of the parents believed that the MDM takes care of nutritional and calorific requirements of the child.

Nutritional and Calorific Requirements of the Child Taken Care by MDM		
Yes	No	Can't say
47.37	3.76	48.87

- b) Overall awareness and participation of the parents in implementation of MDM is fairly low in Mandya. The table below highlights the awareness status of parents on various parameters of functioning of MDM.

Community Participation in MDM (Response from Parents)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	No Response
1	Overall Awareness Regarding MDM	5.26%	25.56%	15.79 %	39.85 %	0.00 %	13.53 %
2	Awareness Regarding Supervision of MDM	17.50%	62.50%	20.00%	0.00 %	0.00%	0.00 %
3	Awareness Regarding Quantity Prescribed for students	27.82 %	33.83%	23.31%	0.75%	1.50 %	12.78 %
4	Awareness Regarding Nutrition level of mid-day meal	36.84 %	30.83 %	18.80%	0.75%	0.75 %	12.03%

Only 3.76 % of the parents were aware of the grievance redressal mechanism in case of emergency in school. Of these none of the parents knew of the toll free number to dial in adverse situation

- b) **SMC Members:** The level of awareness among SMC members has been “Good” among majority (64.10 per cent). It is also satisfactory for 26 % of SMC members.

The supervision level has been “Good” among 40 % per cent and “Very Good” among 15 % of the SMC members. With regard to quantity of food available, majority of them expressed that it is “Good” (47.5 per cent) and “excellent” (10%) and satisfactory by 32.5% of people. An equally encouraging response comes from SMC members with regard to the nutritional level of the mid-day meal.

Community Participation in MDM (Response from SMC Members)

Sl. No.		Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Total
1	Awareness regarding MDM implementation	0.00%	25.64 %	64.10%	7.69 %	2.56 %	100 %
2	Awareness regarding MDM supervision	Mostly the SMC President visits frequently and is keenly involved in supervision of MDM related activities.					

18. Source of Awareness

An attempt has also been made to identify the sources of awareness. From most of the sources identified, parent’s awareness about MDM is gathered more or less from school or the students. Largely, teachers and students are the main source, though they are not significantly high. The details about other sources are indicated in Table below.

Source of Awareness of Parents about the MDM Scheme/ School Activities

Sl. No.	Particulars	Percentage of Respondents PARENTS
1	Newspaper/ Magazine	24.81 %
2	Radio	12 %
3	Television	27 %
4	Teacher	45 %
5	Students/ School	39.10 %
6	Website	0.0 %
7	Other Sources	0.75 %

*Each respondent is entitled to indicate more than one source.

For SMC also the main source of awareness regarding MDM functioning is through teachers and students (more than 80%). Awareness source for the SMC regarding MDM and other school activities is shown in the below table:

Source of Awareness for SMC regarding MDM	Percentage of Respondents
Newspaper	43.59 %
Radio/TV	48.72%
Teachers	61.54 %
Students	56.41%
Panchayat Members / Mothers / community members / PTA members	30.77%
Others	20.51 % (Government officials)

19. Inspection and Supervision

The MDM scheme has to be supervised at the State, District, Block, Cluster and School level. There are many officials who are involved and assigned with this responsibility. There are provision of both periodical and surprise inspections from most these officials. On a daily basis, it is the SMC members or parents who supervise and inspect at the school level. The CRP, Assistant Director of Taluk Panchayat (Akshara Dasoha) and CRC, BEO/BRC supervise most of the schools at least once in a month. The district officials like the Deputy Project Coordinator (SSA), Education Officer (Zilla Panchayat) and other officials supervise and inspect as and when they visit schools. The officials at the State level also have their planned programme of supervision and inspection. The data collected from the sampled schools indicates that it is the Block Level and Cluster Level officials making more frequent visits of supervision and monitoring than the District Level and State Level Officers. The details of visit by different officials are given in Table below.

Inspection and Supervision by MDM Officials

Sl. No.	Particulars	Visit by Officials	Comment made by them
1	State Level MDM Officers (DyPC)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June – Sept)= 3 Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May)=2 schools	35 of 40 monitored schools were not visited by state level MDM officers. In 4 schools the official commented on food being served was good. In one school comment was on improving learning level of students and their attendance.

2	District level MDM officers (BEO)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June–Sept)= 7 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 7 schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May)= 10 schools	Only 24 schools out of 40 visited in Mandya were visited by the block level officers. In 18 schools there was no comment made on MDM and in rest of the schools comments were on food served well. Only in 6 schools comments were on hygiene and Kheer bhagya as well, in few schools comments were on drinking water facility as well as using all kinds of vegetables. In one school BEO has mentioned about increasing admission.
3	Block Level Officers (BRC)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June–Sept) = 6 schools	34 out of 40 schools were not visited by BRC in 2013. In two schools comments were on regarding the usage of vitamin tablet, food was served well & also maintained well. In two schools BRC has commented on children's learning and radio program usage.
4	Other Educational Officers (ECO)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June – Sept) = 4 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 7 schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 15 schools	Only in 26 schools ECO had visited and had commented about CWSN students attendance, Learning of students & Instructed to maintain passbook and MDM cooked was good.
5	Akshara Dasoha Officials	Visit in 1 st Quarter (June–Sept) = 6 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 3 schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 1 school	30 out of 40 schools not visited by Akshara Dasoha. In 2 schools comments were on food stock was good and maintenance of grains. In 8 schools comments were regarding the maintenance of grains, maintenance of the ruchi book, mentioned what food been served, quality of food was good.

Amongst all officials, CRPs visit the schools frequently for inspection and supervision of MDM and other school activities. Despite this supervision and inspection; there are instances of delay in supply of food grains as well as allotment of funds in the district which is a cause of concern. Monitoring work from higher officials has been neglected.

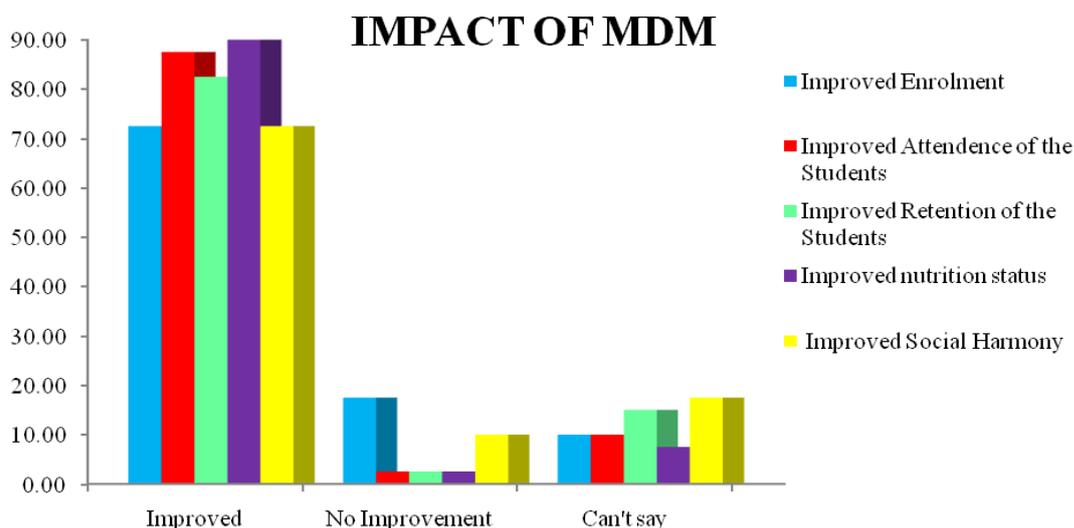
20. Impact

The mid-day meal scheme has been found to have made impact in many ways as reported by different stakeholders. Teachers, SMC members, & Parents have uniformly expressed the view that MDM has improved attendance, enrolment and nutritional status of children in schools.

Impact of MDM on Child					
	Yes now he/she is more healthy	Child has become more regular	Child is concentrating more on studies in school	Don't know	We don't have time to cook, so good it is provided in school
Parent's Opinion	33.83%	12.78 %	14.29 %	17.29 %	3.76 %

Around 81% parents said the MDM scheme has benefitted the children in a positive way. 3.76% parents said they leave for work very early in the morning and their children go to school on their own. Under such circumstances it is a big relief that our children are fed in school.

The school Headmasters also believed MDM has helped in many ways. The graph below highlights few parameters on which HM felt MDM is contributing in a big way.



@Around 72 % of the Head teachers in the schools visited, claimed that MDM had improved enrollment in school, and 82% of them said retention of the students in school has improved due to MDM. Around 90% of them claimed that it had improved the nutritional status of the students.



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना
Mid Day Meal Scheme

MDM- Karnataka

2nd Half Yearly Monitoring Report

Period: 1st November 2013 – 31st April 2014

District - KODAGU

**Institute for Social and Economic Change,
Bangalore**

District Level Half Yearly Monitoring Report (MDM)

Kodagu District

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A. At the School Level

1. Regularity in Serving Meal

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2. Trends

Most of the students enrolled in a given school are eligible to avail mid-day meal facility. However, an individual child is entitled to make an option to avail or not the facility. It is in this context, data has been collected about the number of students availing mid-day meal and the actual number of students taking meal during the days of visit.

a)	Number of children enrolled in schools	-	5427
b)	Number of children opted for MDM	-	5427 (100%)
c)	Number of children attending the school on the day of visit	-	4321 (79.6%)
d)	Number of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit	-	4211 (70.94%)
e)	Number of children availed MDM on the previous day of visit	-	4474 (82.48%)

Considering the attendance, it may be noticed that about 21% of children were absent in schools on the day of visit. This Further considering the percentage of children actually consuming MDM, it is seen that about 71% of the students eat in the schools while close to 30% do not eat either because they are absent on the day or have decided to opt out of the

scheme. Even on the previous day of the school visit by MI, about 82.48% of children only found to have taken MDM suggesting that 18% remained out of the scheme coverage. There is a large gap between those who opted for the food and those who actually utilize the benefit and this is not an encouraging trend.

The schools HM/Teachers need to be trained to maintain record of the MDM, in Kodagu around 15% of the school HM and teachers have not been trained.

Training of Teachers/HM to Maintain MDM Records

Block Name	Yes	No	No Response
Madikeri	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Somavarpeta	80.00%	13.33%	6.67%
Virajpet	69.23%	30.77%	0.00%
Kodagu	82.50%	15.00%	2.50%

3. Regularity in Delivering Food Grains to School

Food grains are supplied to school through the outlets of Food Corporation of India (FCI). There are guidelines to the FCI with regard to supplying food grains to schools. The data collected from schools has indicated that 92.52 % of the (37 schools) schools have been getting the supply of food grains on time. Around 97.5% school's HM said and the MDM register also reflected that the food grains are released after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month.

Two (5%) schools have food supplied from an NGO hence they do not need food grains. Only one school did not get the stock of food grains on time.

FCI delivers the food grains through lifting agency to the school. Only 79% of the school's HM knew about the payment made to the FCI in the previous month and even lesser i.e. 25% of them knew of the payment to FCI for the current month.

Schools generally get one month buffer stock of food grains. It was found that 92.5 % of the schools have one month buffer stock, whereas only one school indicated the absence of one month buffer stock.

All schools are entitled for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of food grains from FCI. But only 72.5% schools confirmed having FAQ quality food grains. Nearly 22.5% schools did not get FAQ grains. If there is any lapse, the head teacher or the school is entitled to return the food grains for 'poor quality'. HM in one of the schools said they return the Grains if they are not satisfied with the quality.

4. Regularity in Delivering Cooking Cost to School Level

The mid-day meal grant is released either through a cheque or e-transfer. This has been confirmed by all the sampled schools. All schools cooking MDM in school get the grant/funds released on time. Although the MDM funds get transferred on time, still cooking cost gets delayed in reaching to schools. 90% of schools (36 schools) which are prepare mid-day meal in the school, confirmed that they get funds regularly without any delay. Only two schools get funds with a delay of one or two weeks. Reasons are not known.

62.5% schools get the funds through e-transfer whereas remaining 30% schools get through cheque. One school gets payment in cash.

5. Social Equity

There is no visible social discrimination in serving mid-day meal. Some of the possible factors of discrimination like caste, gender or community have not influenced MDM at any stage in the process of its implementation. It is observed that in all schools children are served mid-day meal in a systematic manner by forming a line. Generally in higher primary schools, as girls belong to higher age cohorts and are in the pre-adolescent stage, most parents would expect schools to maintain some sort of segregation between boys and girls. *Because of this, girls and boys sit separately and definitely this does not amount to discrimination.*

Seating Arrangement of Students During MDM					
In a big hall or their respective classrooms to eat	As per their own wish	Girls and boys separately	In long rows (boys & Girls mixed)	In long rows, girls and boys separately	In small circles
7.69%	10.26%	7.69%	66.67%	5.13%	2.56%

6. Menu

The guidelines issued by the MDM scheme have specifications relating to menu. Every school is expected to evolve and maintain menu details on a weekly basis. It is also expected to incorporate variety in the menu.

- (i) Only in 25 schools, weekly menu was displayed in the school. The responses from the head teachers confirm that schools should have a pre-planned menu schedule for all the days of the week. On the contrary, 11 schools have not displayed the menu on the notice board.

Weekly menu displayed in school				
	Yes	No	Is there in school but not displayed	NR
MI Observation	64.10	20.51	7.69	7.69
Student's Response	42.6%	56.4%	No Response	1.1%

When students were asked about their awareness regarding the Menu of food, only 43% students said they have seen the menu. Of these 43% also, only 13% said that the menu displayed is being followed in the school.

- (ii) Generally, the Cook and the Head teachers formulate the menu in schools.

Cook Decide the Menu	HM Decides the Menu	Cook & HM Together Decide the Menu
35.90	20.51	43.59

Out of the schools in which weekly menu was displayed, only 49% of the students said that the displayed menu was followed. In spite of absence of the menu, students were aware of the food which they would get all through the day. Most of them said they like the food menu and what is cooked in the school.

7. Variety of Menu

The school is instructed to provide healthy locally grown vegetables, dal and rice/wheat to the students daily. The menu in most of the schools included Sambhar and rice from Monday

to Friday and rice item like Chitrana, Pulao, Upma or Wheat daliya etc on a Saturdays. Sambhar would comprise of some seasonal vegetables every day.

In 40 schools in Kodagu, around 150 children were interviewed to get their view regarding the MDM food. When asked about the variety of food served, 26% of them said there is a variety of food served to them. Some of them were unable to distinguish between the vegetables in sambhar and they assumed it to be same every day. Similarly the SMC was also asked about the variety of food served to the students, around 3% said there is no variety in food served.

	Similar every day	Sometimes variety is served	Everyday new variety	NR
Student Opinion	10.8%	61.3%	25.8%	2.2%
SMC Opinion	3.23%	64.52%	32.26%	0%

A description of the same is given in Table below

MDM Menu

Sl. No.	Particulars	Daily	Twice / Thrice a Week	Weekly Once	Total
1	Rice / Dal	40	-	-	40
Vegetables mixed with dal					
2	Tomato %	20 52.63	4 10.53	2 5.26	26 68.42
3	Raddish %	2 5.26	9 23.68	5 13.16	16 42.11
4	Pumpkin %	16 42.11	5 13.16	4 10.53	25 65.79
5	Drumstick %	3 7.89	8 21.05	10 26.32	21 55.26
6	Potato %	2 5.26	2 5.26	8 21.05	12 31.58
7	Heerekai %	5 13.16	4 10.53	14 36.84	23 60.53
8	Carrot %	18 47.37	6 15.79	3 7.89	27 71.05
9	Beans %	14 36.8	1 2.6	12 31.6	27 71.1

10	Cucumber	9	2	6	17
	%	23.68	5.26	15.79	44.74
11	Greens	3	19	2	24
	%	7.89	50.00	5.26	63.16
12	Cereals			2	2
	%	0	0	5.26	5.26
13	Brinjal	2	6	9	17
	%	5.26	15.79	23.68	44.74
14	Ladies Finger		1	1	2
	%		2.63	2.63	5.26
15	Other items only on Saturday			40	40
				[100.0]	[100.0%]

(The use of these vegetables by 34 schools where mid-day meal is prepared. Since there are many vegetables used on different days, the frequency indicates the trend in the use of vegetables rather than the pattern of usage by a particular school).

- (ii) In all the schools rice is the common item served. It is the items prepared with dal and vegetables that take varied form. Generally, schools provide a distinct food item (rice bath) on Saturdays.

8. Quality and Quantity of Meal

The responses from the students, head teachers and observation by MI team members have indicated details relating to the quality and quantity of food. As per the field investigators, around 87% of the schools served adequate quantity of the food. 5% of the schools had served less quantity to the students on the day of visit.

Quantity of Food Served			
Block Name	Adequate	Ample	Less
Madikeri	66.67%	25.00%	8.33%
Somvarpet	92.86%	0.00%	7.14%
Virajpet	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Kodagu District	87.18%	7.69%	5.13%

However, only two per cent of the students have stated that they are getting less quantity.

Quantity of food served during MDM		
Kodagu District	Adequate	Less
Student's perception	96.84	2.11

In terms of quality of food served, 98.91% of the students said they were happy after consuming the meals in school and that they like eating in school. None of the student agreed that they come to school because they are served MDM in school; they all said they come to school to study.

Nearly 74% of the schools visited were serving good quality food to the students during MDM.

Quality of Food Served			
Block Name	Average	Good	No response
Madikeri	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%
Somvarpet	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
Virajpet	38.46%	53.85%	7.69%
Kodagu District	23.08%	74.36%	2.56%

9. Supplementary (Health Check-up)

The data collected from schools has indicated that health check-up to children is conducted in all the 40 schools (100 per cent). All the schools have reported that they have conducted health check-up camps once in an academic year (100 per cent). All schools visited, maintained the Health Card record for every child in school.

The data collected has confirmed the supply of vitamin tablets, de-worming medicine and iron folic acid tablets in all the schools. The task of providing all this is handled by teachers, specially the class teachers. The vitamin tablets are supplied once in 15 days and de-worming is given once in six month.

Health check up been done in school since it reopened			
	Yes	No	Don't Remember
Student Response	72.63	20.00	7.37
Micronutrients and De worming Medicines Provided			
Student Response	93.68	5.26	1.05

The health card record also displayed the 'Height and Weight' data up to date in Health Card.

10. Cooks

The MDM guidelines specify the social composition of cooks and helpers. This has been done to avoid social discrimination and to help children to overcome prejudices and attitude of social distancing. All the schools make efforts to adhere to the norms. However, it has been observed that the social composition of the habitation/ village where school is located may not be able to get a person required to function as a cook or a helper. In such situations, school will have limited options in adhering to the norms. It is due to this reason there may be certain amount of deviance in appointing cooks and helpers. However, most of the schools make choices on the basis of the availability of persons to perform the roles. The salary of cooks and helpers paid by all the schools is Rs.1100 and Rs.1000 respectively. The following table indicates the distribution and social composition of cooks and helpers in 40 schools:

Social Composition of Cooks and Helpers

District	SC	ST	OBC	Minority	General	No response/DNA
Head Cook	28.95%	5.26%	39.47%	7.89%	5.26%	13%
Social Composition of Helpers						
SC	ST	OBC	Minority	General	NA	No response/DNA
17.11%	15.79%	52.63%	10.53%	2.63%	47.37%	3.95%

Once the cook is appointed in the school, he/she is provided training and given a training manual to follow. The cook and helpers also need to undergo health check up at the time of joining. But in Kodagu only 44% of the cook had training manual and had health check up done at the time of joining.

89% of the schools received cook's salary on time. During the discussion with SMC about cook's salary, only 87% of them said the remuneration is received on time, 6.45% said it is not received regularly and gets delayed. In remaining schools the SMC was unaware about the salary of the cooks.

11. Infrastructure

The infrastructure needed to provide mid-day meal in the school includes facilities to cook food, availability of water, fuel and vessels. The data relating to these items indicates that most of the schools have separate kitchen or a separate space to cook. The details are given in table below.

Details about Kitchen

Sl. No.	Particulars	Percentage
1	Separate kitchen	82.05
2	Class room	2.56
3	Unspecified place	10.26
4	Supplied by other schools/ agencies	5.13
	Total	100.00

12. Safety and Hygiene:

All the schools have been making the best possible effort to ensure hygiene in the place where mid-day meal is prepared and served. There are a few cases where things could be improved for the better. In Kodagu, in nearly 87% of the schools kitchen was maintained in hygienic condition.

Kitchen Well Maintenance & in Hygienic Condition			
	Yes	No	NA
Kodagu	87.2	7.7	5.1
Proper Ventilation in Kitchen			
	Yes	No	NA
Kodagu	84.62	12.82	2.56

Only 69% of the kitchen had storage bins to store food grains in the kitchen/store room. Around 84% of the kitchen was well ventilated and 82% of them were away from the classrooms. As per SMC members the condition of kitchen in their schools is as follows:

Condition of kitchen in school				
Good Condition	Needs repair in rains	No storage room but kitchen is good	Kitchen is good but water facility needed	No response
77.42	6.45	3.23	6.45	6.45

In all schools, children wash their hands and plates before eating the food. But the place where the children wash the plates become clogged with water and children need to maneuver to reach the water source. In most of the schools, teachers monitored the behavior of the students while eating and usage of water without wasting.

92% schools had fire extinguisher in school. But most of the schools HM were not aware of how to use it in case of emergency.

13. Conservation of Water

The availability of water has been confirmed in all 40 schools (100 percent). The quality and quantity of water has been found to be good for purpose of cooking and drinking. However, only 66% schools had water availability in/near kitchen. In rest of the schools the water was brought from the water source in school/nearby areas.

Means for the Conservation of Water in Kitchen				
District	Yes	No	NA	No response
Kodagu	66.67	25.64	2.56	5.13

14. Utensils for Cooking and Serving Food

The responses from the schools indicate that all schools preparing mid-day meal have utensils to cook food and small serving utensils as well.

15. All the schools visited, had Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) as fuel for cooking.

16. Participation of SMC, parents, local body members in MDM:

- (i) It was observed that the participation of SMC members to supervise mid-day meal varies from school to school. Focused Group discussion was held with the SMC members of all the schools visited. Understanding of SMC with regard to their roles and responsibilities towards MDM and the action taken by them to manage MDM activity in school were discussed during the FGD.

Sl. No	Monitoring Activity To be done by SMC	% of respondents	Action Taken By SMC Members	% of respondents
1	Monitoring of Stocks and Quality and Quantity of food served	45.2%	Just Observe	22.58
2	MDM Attendance	6.5%	Ensure discipline in serving and cooking MDM	48.39
3	Kitchen Maintenance	6.5%	Help in cooking/serving when needed	12.90
4	Supervise MDM Functioning	12.9	Arrange for gas and water facility	3.23
5	Everything is good no need to monitor anything	3.2%	Don't do anything	3.23
6	No Response	22.6%	NR	9.68

The community tries to participate in the school's MDM activity but they have their own constraints. 22.58% of the SMC members said they just observe while MDM or

other school activities take place. SMC in 48% of the schools ensured discipline during the MDM timings. Regarding SMC's knowledge regarding the quantity, Quality and Stock for MDM only 42% said they were aware of this responsibility. But none of them admitted to be exercising this right.

- (ii) As per the norm, the MDM is being monitored and supervised by the parents on some of the days. The data collected from sample schools indicate that there is no roster of parents formally prepared with specified days. However, there is informal arrangement with parents to oversee MDM supply in few of the schools.
 - (iii) A detailed analysis of the extent of awareness and participation in MDM programme by the parents, SMC members and Panchayat/Local Body representatives has been made by examining the responses from the respective groups:
- c) Parents:** In Kodagu district 123 parents were interviewed. The data collected from parents confirmed that most of the parents (interviewed by the MI team members) have an average understanding of the implementation of MDM programme (25%). Largely parents trusted the school and said whatever the school is providing has to be good for their children. They were satisfied with the quantity of food given to the students and none of them said they ever faced any issue of discrimination in the school during MDM.

More than 92% of parents were happy with MDM being provided in school. Only 1.6% parents said they were unhappy with the MDM service as they felt it affected school functioning.

Regarding the quality of food served, 69% of the parents believed that the MDM takes care of nutritional and calorific requirements of the child.

Nutritional and Calorific Requirements of the Child Taken Care by MDM			
Yes	No	Can't say	NA
69.92	3.25	24.39	2.44

- d) Overall awareness and participation of the parents in implementation of MDM is fairly low in Kodagu. The table below highlights the awareness status of parents on various parameters of functioning of MDM.

Community Participation in MDM (Response from Parents)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	No Response
1	Overall Awareness Regarding MDM	33.33%	25.20%	9.76%	26.02%	0	5.69%
2	Awareness Regarding Supervision of MDM	15%	62.50%	17.50%	0	0	5%
3	Awareness Regarding Quantity Prescribed for students	21.95%	51.22%	19.51%	2.44%	2.44%	2.43%
4	Awareness Regarding Nutrition level of mid-day meal	25.20%	49.59%	19.51%	3.25%	0	2.4%

Only 8.94% of the parents were aware of the grievance redressal mechanism in case of emergency in school. Of these none of the parents knew of the toll free number to dial in adverse situation

- b) SMC Members: The level of awareness among SMC members has been “Good” among majority (48.39 per cent). It is also satisfactory for 23% of SMC members. The participation of the SMC members in arranging mid-day meal ranges from “Good” for majority of SMC members (52.5%) The supervision level has been “Good” among 47.5 per cent and “Very Good” among 7.5% of the SMC members. With regard to quantity of food available, majority of them expressed that it is “Good” (47.5 per cent) and “excellent” (10%) and satisfactory by 32.5% of people. An equally encouraging response comes from SMC members with regard to the nutritional level of the mid-day meal.

Community Participation in MDM (Response from SMC Members)

Sl. No.		Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Total
1	Awareness regarding MDM implementation	9.68	22.58	48.39	16.13	3.23	100%
2	Awareness regarding MDM supervision	Mostly the SMC President visits frequently and is keenly involved in supervision of MDM related activities.					

18. Source of Awareness

An attempt has also been made to identify the sources of awareness. From most of the sources identified, parent's awareness about MDM is gathered more or less from school or the students. Largely, teachers and students are the main source, though they are not significantly high. The details about other sources are indicated in table below.

Source of Awareness of Parents about the MDM Scheme/ School Activities

Sl. No.	Particulars	Percentage of Respondents PARENTS
1	Newspaper/ Magazine	44%
2	Radio	17%
3	Television	37%
4	Teacher	52%
5	Students/ School	60.16%
6	Mothers/Community/PTA members	39%
7	Website	12.20%
8	Other Sources	0.81% (Own Children)

*Each respondent is entitled to indicate more than one source.

For SMC also the main source of awareness regarding MDM functioning is through teachers and students (more than 80%). Awareness source for the SMC regarding MDM and other school activities is shown in the below table:

Source of Awareness for SMC regarding MDM	Percentage of Respondents
Newspaper	48.39
Radio/TV	38.71
Teachers	87.10
Students	80.65
Panchayat Members / Mothers / community members / PTA members	19.35
Others	3.23(Government officials)

19. Inspection and Supervision

The MDM scheme has been supervised at the State, District, Block, Cluster and School level. There are many officials involved and assigned with this responsibility. There are both periodical and surprise inspections from most these officials. On a daily basis, it is the SMC members or parents who supervise and inspect at the school level. The CRP, Assistant Director of Taluk Panchayat (Akshara Dasoha) and CRC, BEO/BRC supervise most of the schools at least once in a month. The district officials like the Deputy Project Coordinator (SSA), Education Officer (Zilla Panchayat) and other officials supervise and inspect as and when they visit schools. The officials at the State level also have their planned programme of supervision and inspection. The data collected from the sampled schools indicates that it is the Block Level and Cluster Level officials making more frequent visits of supervision and monitoring than the District Level and State Level Officers. The details of visit by different officials are given in Table below.

Inspection and Supervision by MDM Officials

Sl. No.	Particulars	Visit by Officials	Comment made by them
1	State Level MDM Officers (DyPC)	Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 10.5% of schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 7.9 %	63.8 % of schools no visits made by state level MDM officers. In 2.6% of school comments were on preparation of the food was good. In rest schools no comments were made on MDM.

2	District level MDM officers (BEO)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June – Sept) = 8 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 10 Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 6	64% of schools no visits made by district level of MDM officers. In 2 schools comments were on attendance of MDM, in 1 school on register maintenance, in one school Khseera bhagaya. 3 schools commented on quality of food and on attendance of MDM. In 31 schools no comments were made about MDM
3	Block Level Officers (BRP)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June – Sept) = 6 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 4 Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 1	27 schools out of 40 were visited by the block level officer. In 5.2 % of school comments were Khisra Bhagya and kitchen kept clean and good.
4	Other Educational Officers (ECO)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June – Sept) = 7.9 % of schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 2.6% of schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 13.2 % of schools	76% of schools had no visit by the other educational officers. In 5.3% of schools comments were on providing boiled water on time for the students and 5.3% of schools on hygiene and food were good.
5	Akshara Dasoha Officials	1 st Quarter (June–Sept)= 6 schools 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 5.2% 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 10.5%	Only 11% (19) schools visited by Akshara Dasoha official. In 10% schools comments were on MDM logo. In 5% schools the official commented on Hygiene of the kitchen and 2.6% schools were commented upon the quality of food.

All officials from state level to CRC level visit the schools frequently for inspection and supervision of MDM. Despite this supervision and inspection; there are instances of delay in supply of food grains as well as allotment of funds in the district which is a cause of concern.

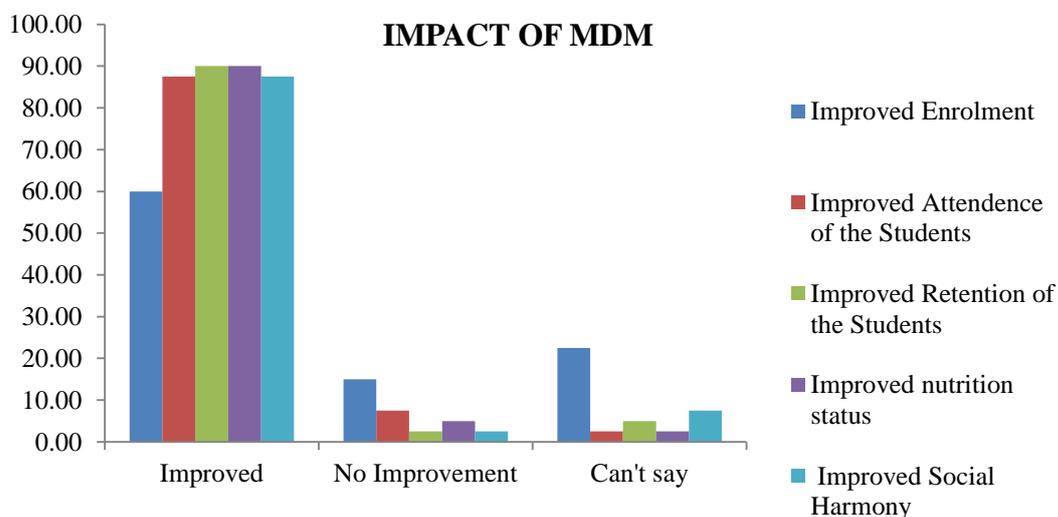
20. Impact

The mid-day meal scheme has been found to have made impact in many ways as reported by different stakeholders (Table 10). Teachers, SMC members, Parents & GP members have uniformly expressed the view that MDM has improved attendance, enrolment and nutritional status of children in schools.

Impact of MDM on Child					
	Yes now he/she is more healthy	Child has become more regular	Child is concentrating more on studies in school	Don't know	We don't have time to cook, so good it is provided in school
Parent's Opinion	73.17	7.32	0.81	7.31	11.38

Around 81% parents said the MDM scheme has benefitted the children in a positive way. 11% parents said they leave for work very early in the morning and their children go to school on their own. Under such circumstances it is a big relief that our children are fed in school.

The school Headmasters also believed MDM has helped in many ways. The graph below highlights few parameters on which HM felt MDM is contributing in a big way.



Around 60% of the Head teachers in the schools visited, claimed that MDM had improved enrollment in school, and 87% of them said retention of the students in school has improved due to MDM. Around 90% of them claimed that It had improved the nutritional status of the students.



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना
Mid Day Meal Scheme

MDM- Karnataka

2nd Half Yearly Monitoring Report

Period: 1st November 2013 – 31st April 2014

District - RAICHUR

**Institute for Social and Economic Change,
Bangalore**

District Level Half Yearly Monitoring Report (MDM)

Raichur District

Raichur District had a sample of 40 schools with 16 Lower Primary Schools and 24 Upper Primary Schools. The selection of sample schools has been done in consultation with the District SSA office and as per the criteria outlined by the MHRD/GoI. The present report refers to half-yearly monitoring for the period September 2013-May 2014.

A. At the School Level

1. Regularity in Serving Meal

All 40 schools of the sample serve hot cooked meal cooked by appointed cooks daily.

2. Trends

Most of the students enrolled in a given school are eligible to avail mid-day meal facility. However, an individual child is entitled to make an option to avail or not the facility. It is in this context, data has been collected about the number of students availing mid-day meal and the actual number of students taking meal during the days of visit.

a)	Number of children enrolled in schools	-	7719
b)	Number of children opted for MDM	-	7276 (94.2%)
c)	Number of children attending the school on the day of visit	-	4900 (63.05%)
d)	Number of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit	-	4766 (61.74 %)
e)	Number of children availed MDM on the previous day of visit	-	5080 (65.81%)

Considering the attendance, it may be noticed that about 37% of children were absent in schools on the day of visit. Further considering the percentage of children actually consuming MDM, it is seen that about 60-65% of the students eat in the schools while close to 35-40% do not eat either because they are absent on the day or have decided to opt out of the scheme. Even on the previous day of the school visit by MI, about 66% of children had taken MDM

suggesting that 34% remained out of the scheme coverage. There is a large gap between those who opted for the food and those who actually utilize the benefit and this is not an encouraging trend.

The school HM/Teachers needs to be trained to maintain record of the MDM, in Raichur around 55.56% of the school HM and teachers have not been trained.

Block Name	Yes	No
Deodurg	33.33%	66.67%
Lingasugur	50.00 %	50.00%
Manvi	57.14 %	42.86 %
Raichur	40.00 %	60.00%
Sindhanur	40.00 %	60.00 %
Raichur	44.44 %	55.56 %

3. Regularity in Delivering Food Grains to School

Food grains are supplied to school through the outlets of Food Corporation of India (FCI). There are guidelines to the FCI with regard to supplying food grains to schools. The data collected from schools indicated that 77% of the (31 schools) schools have been getting the supply of food grains on time. Around 92.5% (37) schools' HM said and the MDM register also reflected that the food grains are released after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month. In two schools there was no register maintained for MDM.

FCI delivers the food grains through lifting agency to the school. Only 59% of the school's HM knew about the payment made to the FCI in the previous month and even lesser i.e. 30% of them knew of the payment to FCI for the current month.

Schools generally get one month buffer stock of food grains. In 92.5 % of the schools foodgrains were released after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month and ensuring that one month buffer stock is maintained.

All schools are entitled for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of food grains from FCI. But only 72.5% schools confirmed having FAQ quality food grains. Nearly 22.5% schools did not get FAQ grains. If there is any lapse, the head teacher or the school is entitled to return the food grains for 'poor quality'.

4. Regularity in Delivering Cooking Cost to School Level

The mid-day meal grant is released either through a cheque or e-transfer. This has been confirmed by all the sampled schools. In 62.5% schools (25schools) cooking cost for MDM is released on time. Nearly 35% schools said the extent of delay is more than one month in receiving cooking cost.

5. Social Equity

There is no visible social discrimination in serving mid-day meal. Some of the possible factors of discrimination like caste, gender or community have not influenced MDM at any stage in the process of its implementation. It is observed that in all schools children are served mid-day meal in a systematic manner by forming a line.

Seating Arrangement of Students During MDM					
adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month	As per their own wish	Girls and boys separately	In long rows (boys & Girls mixed)	In long rows, girls and boys separately	In small circles
0.00 %	2.56 %	0.00%	84.62 %	0.00%	0.00 5

6. Menu

The guidelines issued by the MDM scheme have specifications relating to menu. Every school is expected to evolve and maintain menu details on a weekly basis. It is also expected to incorporate variety in the menu.

- (i) In 20 schools (50%) menu was displayed in the school. However in 7 schools Menu was there but written in a register and not displayed. In 33 schools visited there was no MDM logo displayed in school. Even HM were unaware of the logo. 10 schools displayed the MDM attendance on the notice/blackboard.

Weekly menu displayed in school				
	Yes	No	Is there in school but not displayed	
MI Observation	50.00 %	48.41 %	2.56 %	
Student's Response	18.8 %	77.9%	No Response	0.6 %

When students were asked about their awareness regarding the Menu of food, only 18.8 % students said they have seen the menu.

- (ii) Generally, the Cook and the Head teachers formulate the menu in schools.

Cook Decide the Menu	HM Decides the Menu	Cook & HM Together Decide the Menu
22.50 %	52.50 %	17.50 %

Out of the schools in which weekly menu was displayed, only 58% of the students said that the displayed menu was followed. In spite of absence of the menu, students were aware of the food which they would get all through the day. Most of them said they like the food menu and what is cooked in the school.

7. Variety of Menu

The school is instructed to provide healthy locally grown vegetables, dal and rice/wheat to the students daily. The menu in most of the schools included Sambhar and rice from Monday

to Friday and rice item like Chitrana, Pulao, Upma or Wheat daliya etc on a Saturdays. Sambhar would comprise of some seasonal vegetables every day.

In 40 schools in Raichur, around 150 children were interviewed to get their view regarding the MDM food. When asked about the variety of food served, 89% of them said there is a variety of food served to them. Some of them were unable to distinguish between the vegetables in Sambhar and they assumed it to be same every day. Similarly the SMC was also asked about the variety of food served to the students, their opinion was as follows:

	Similar every day	Sometimes variety is served	Everyday new variety	NR
Student Opinion	7.5 %	76.9%	12.5%	3.4 %
SMC Opinion	0.00 %	36.36 %	15.155	48.48 %

A description of the same is given in Table below

MDM Menu

Sl. No.	Particulars	Daily	Twice / Thrice a Week	Weekly Once	Total
1	Rice / Dal	38	-	-	40
Vegetables mixed with dal					
2	Tomato %	10 25.00	2 5.00	3 7.50	15 37.50
3	Raddish %	1 2.50	3 7.50	5 12.50	9 22.50
4	Pumpkin %	6 15.00	5 12.50	2 5.00	13 32.50
5	Drumstick %	3 7.50	6 15.00	2 5.00	11 27.50
6	Potato %	1 2.50	2 5.00	8 20.00	11 27.50
7	Heerekai %	7 17.50	2 5.00	4 10.00	13 32.50
8	Carrot %	4 10.00	4 10.00	3 7.50	11 27.50
9	Beans %	21 52.5	5 12.5	5 12.5	31 77.5
10	Cucumber %	5 12.50	2 5.00	6 15.00	13 32.50
11	Greens %	24 60.00	12 30.00	2 5.00	38 95.00
12	Brinjal %	5 12.50	1 2.50	2 5.00	8 20.00

(The use of these vegetables by 40 schools where mid-day meal is prepared. Since there are many vegetables used on different days, the frequency indicates the trend in the use of vegetables rather than the pattern of usage by a particular school).

- (ii) In all the schools rice is the common item served. It is the items prepared with dal and vegetables that take varied form. Generally, schools provide a distinct food item (rice bath or Godi Upma) on Saturdays. In few schools where strength of students is less, cooks sometimes make chapatti also.

8. Quality and Quantity of Meal

The responses from the students, head teachers and observation by MI team members have indicated details relating to the quality and quantity of food. As per the field investigators, around 84.62 % of the schools served adequate quantity of the food, whereas around 15 % of the schools had served more quantity to the students.

Quantity of Food Served		
Block Name	Adequate	Ample
Deodurg	85.71 %	14.29 %
Lingasugur	75.00 %	25.00 %
Manvi	83.33 %	16.67 %
Raichur	87.50 %	12.50 %
Sindhanur	90.00 %	10.00 %
Raichur	84.62 %	15.30 %

However, around two per cent of the students have stated that they are getting less quantity.

Quantity of food served during MDM		
Raichur District	Adequate	Less
Student's perception	96.75	1.30

In terms of quality of food served, 94.16 % of the students said they were happy after consuming the meals in school and that they like eating in school. None of the student agreed

that they come to school because they are served MDM in school; they all said they come to school to study.

Nearly 71 % of the schools visited were serving good quality food to the students during MDM.

Quality of Food Served		
Block Name	Average	Good
Deodurg	14.29 %	85.71 %
Lingasugur	50.00 %	50.00%
Manvi	33.33 %	66.67 %
Raichur	37.50 %	62.50 %
Sindhanur	10.00%	90.00 %
Raichur District	28.21 %	71.29 %

Although students liked the food served in school, teachers find it derogatory to eat the MDM in school. In several schools the teachers have expressed surprise about the fact that MI wants to eat the MDM during the lunch hour. The quality of rice served to students in schools was not of the same quality served in Udupi, Mandya and Kodagu districts.

9. Supplementary (Health Check-up)

The data collected from schools has indicated that health check-up to children is conducted in all the 33 schools (82.5 per cent). All the schools have reported that they conducted health check-up camps once in an academic year (100 per cent). Of all schools visited, 92.5% maintained the Health Card record for every child in school.

The data collected has confirmed the supply of vitamin tablets, de-worming medicine and iron folic acid tablets in all the schools. The task of providing all this is handled by teachers, specially the class teachers. The vitamin tablets are supplied once in 15 days and de-worming is given once in six month.

The health cared record also displayed the 'Height and Weight' data up to date in Health Card. The schools where health check was not done, in those schools the record of previous

year was observed. Not all the schools had Health cards with them, few of them were maintaining the child records in a register.

Health check up been done in school since it reopened			
	Yes	No	Don't Remember
Student Response	14.94	64.94	20.13
Micronutrients and De worming Medicines Provided			
Student Response	75.66	17.76	4.61

10. Cooks

The MDM guidelines specify the social composition of cooks and helpers. This has been done to avoid social discrimination and to help children to overcome prejudices and attitude of social distancing. All the schools make efforts to adhere to the norms. However, it has been observed that the social composition of the habitation/ village where school is located may not be able to get a person required to function as a cook or a helper.

In such situations, school will have limited options in adhering to the norms. It is due to this reason there may be certain amount of deviance in appointing cooks and helpers. However, most of the schools make choices on the basis of the availability of persons to perform the roles. The salary of cooks and helpers paid by all the schools is Rs.1100 and Rs.1000 respectively. The following table indicates the distribution and social composition of cooks and helpers in 40 schools:

Social Composition of Cooks and Helpers

District	SC	ST	OBC	Minority	General	No response/DNA
Head Cook	35.00 %	12.50 %	17.50 %	7.50 %	7.50 %	20 %
Social Composition of Helpers						
SC	ST	OBC	Minority	General	NA	No response/DNA
40.00%	30.00%	26.25 %	20.00 %	1.25 %	22.50 %	10.00%

Once the cook is appointed in the school, he/she is provided training and given a training manual to follow. The cook and helpers also need to undergo health check up at the time of joining. But in Raichur only 30 % of the cook had training manual and had health check up done at the time of joining.

60 % of the schools received cook's salary on time. During the discussion with SMC about cook's salary, only 36 % of them said the remuneration is received on time, 6.06 % said it is not received regularly and gets delayed. In remaining schools the SMC was unaware about the salary of the cooks.

11. Infrastructure

The infrastructure needed to provide mid-day meal in the school includes facilities to cook food, availability of water, fuel and vessels. The data relating to these items indicates that most of the schools have separate kitchen or a separate space to cook. The details are given in table below.

Details about Kitchen

Sl. No.	Particulars	Percentage
1	Separate kitchen	89.74
2	Unspecified place	10.26

12. Safety and Hygiene:

All the schools have been making the best possible effort to ensure hygiene in the place where mid-day meal is prepared and served. There are a few cases where things could be improved for the better. In Raichur, in nearly 76 % of the schools kitchen was maintained in hygienic condition. But ventilation was a major concern as around 61 % of the kitchen were well ventilated and 89 % of them were away from the classrooms

Kitchen Well Maintenance & in Hygienic Condition			
	Yes	No	NA
Raichur	76.9	20.5	2.6
Proper Ventilation in Kitchen			
	Yes	No	NA
Raichur	61.54	33.33	2.56

Only 46 % of the kitchen had storage bins to store food grains in the kitchen/store room.. As per SMC members the condition of kitchen in their schools is as follows:

Condition of kitchen in school		
Good Condition	Needs repair in rains	No response
36.36	12.12	48.48

In all schools, children wash their hands and plates before eating the food. But the places where the children wash the plates become clogged with water and children need to maneuver to reach the water source. In most of the schools, teachers were observed monitoring the behavior of the students while eating and usage of water without wasting.

85 % schools had fire extinguisher in school. But most of the schools HM were not aware of how to use it in case of emergency.

13. Conservation of Water

The availability of water has been confirmed in all 40 schools (100 percent). The quality and quantity of water has been found to be good for purpose of cooking and drinking. However, only 56 % schools had water availability in/near kitchen. In rest of the schools the water was brought from the water source in school/nearby areas.

Means for the Conservation of Water in Kitchen		
District	Yes	No
Raichur	56.41	43.59

14. Utensils for Cooking and Serving Food

The responses from the schools indicate that all schools preparing mid-day meal have utensils to cook food and small serving utensils as well.

15. Fuel Used

All the schools visited, did not use Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) as fuel for cooking. Out of 40 schools 27 schools had LPG connection. School sighted lack of gas availability as one of the reasons for the MDM being cooked on firewood.

Firewood	9	22.5%
LPG Gas	27	67.5%
Firewood & LPG Gas	4	10%

In few schools pressure cook was also being used by cooks, in Manavi block there was a case of pressure cooker blasting during cooking time.

Also it takes a very long time to register the school for Akshara Dasoha as a school supplying the MDM in school. One school HM reported that for past six months the school has been preparing food saperately for its students (which earlier used to get MDM for its students from the nearby school) and was not provided with Cooking Grant. Only reason being the name of school not being added in the digirtal list of 'schools providing MDM in school'.

16. Participation of SMC, parents, local body members in MDM:

- (i) It was observed that the participation of SMC members to supervise mid-day meal varies from school to school. Focused Group discussion was held with the SMC members of all the schools visited. Understanding of SMC with regard to their roles and responsibilities towards MDM and the action taken by them to manage MDM activity in school were discussed during the FGD.

Sl. No	Monitoring Activity To be done by SMC	% of respondents	Action Taken By SMC Members	% of respondents
1	Monitoring of Stocks and Quality and Quantity of food served	30.30	Just Observe	12.12
2	MDM Attendance	0.00	Ensure discipline in serving and cooking MDM	15.15
3	Kitchen Maintenance	3.03	Help in cooking/serving when needed	6.06
4	Supervise MDM Functioning	0.00	Arrange for gas and water facility	0.00
5	Everything is good no need to monitor anything	0.00	Don't do anything	12.12
6	No Response	54.48	NR	23.08

The community tries to participate in the school's MDM activity but they have their own constraints. 12.12 % of the SMC members said they just observe while MDM or other school activities take place. SMC in 15.15 % of the schools ensured discipline during the MDM timings. But none of them admitted to be exercising this right. SMC is considered a political position in Raichur district. SMC members are generally active in participating in everyday activities of the school. But their contribution for the uplift of the school or betterment of the kitchen and other things in school is negligible.

- (ii) As per the norm, the MDM is being monitored and supervised by the parents on some of the days. The data collected from sample schools indicate that there is no roster of parents formally prepared with specified days. However, there is informal arrangement with parents to oversee MDM supply in few of the schools.
- (iii) A detailed analysis of the extent of awareness and participation in MDM programme by the parents, SMC members and Panchayat/Local Body representatives has been made by examining the responses from the respective groups:
- **Parents:** In Raichur district 160 parents were interviewed. The data collected from parents confirmed that most of the parents (interviewed by the MI team members) have an average understanding of the implementation of MDM programme (18.63 %). Largely parents trusted the school and said whatever the school is providing has

to be good for their children. They were satisfied with the quantity of food given to the students and none of them said they ever faced any issue of discrimination in the school during MDM. More than 99 % of parents were happy with MDM being provided in school.

Regarding the quality of food served, 75 % of the parents believed that the MDM takes care of nutritional and calorific requirements of the child.

Nutritional and Calorific Requirements of the Child Taken Care by MDM			
Yes	No	Can't say	NA
75.49	2.94	21.57	0.00

- Overall awareness and participation of the parents in implementation of MDM is fairly low in Raichur. The table below highlights the awareness status of parents on various parameters of functioning of MDM.

Community Participation in MDM (Response from Parents)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
1	Overall Awareness Regarding MDM	28.43 %	18.63%	12.75%	40.20%	0.00 %
2	Awareness Regarding Supervision of MDM	17.95 %	71.79 5	10.26 %	0.00 5	0.00 %
3	Awareness Regarding Quantity Prescribed for students	32.35 %	43.14 %	16.67 %	6.86 %	0.98 %
4	Awareness Regarding Nutrition level of mid-day meal	39.22%	27.45%	25.49%	6.86%	0.98%

Only 9.80 % of the parents were aware of the grievance redressal mechanism in case of emergency in school. Of these none of the parents knew of the toll free number to dial in adverse situation

- b) **SMC Members:** The level of awareness among SMC members has been poor among majority (48.48 per cent) and is satisfactory for 24 % of SMC members. Only 12.12 % of awareness of SMC been well

Community Participation in MDM (Response from SMC Members)

Sl. No.		Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Total
1	Awareness regarding MDM implementation	48.48%	24.24%	12.12%	12.12%	3.03%	100 %
2	Awareness regarding MDM supervision	Mostly the SMC President visits frequently and is keenly involved in supervision of MDM related activities.					

18. Source of Awareness

An attempt has also been made to identify the sources of awareness. From most of the sources identified, parent's awareness about MDM is gathered more or less from school or the students. Largely, teachers and students are the main source, though they are not significantly high. The details about other sources are indicated in Table below.

Source of Awareness of Parents about the MDM Scheme/ School Activities

Sl. No.	Particulars	Percentage of Respondents PARENTS
1	Newspaper/ Magazine	9.80 %
2	Radio	7 %
3	Television	6.87 %
4	Teacher	17 %
5	Students/ School	15.69 %
6	Mothers/Community/PTA members	9 %
7	Website	1.96 %
8	Other Sources	No other source

*Each respondent is entitled to indicate more than one source.

For SMC also the main source of awareness regarding MDM functioning is through teachers and students (more than 55%). Awareness source for the SMC regarding MDM and other school activities is shown in the below table:

Source of Awareness for SMC regarding MDM	Percentage of Respondents
Newspaper	18.18
Radio/TV	18.18
Teachers	30.30
Students	24.24
Panchayat Members / Mothers / community members / PTA members	12.12
Others	3.03

19. Inspection and Supervision

The MDM scheme has been supervised at the State, District, Block, Cluster and School level. There are many officials involved and assigned with this responsibility. There are both periodical and surprise inspections from most these officials. On a daily basis, it is the SMC members or parents who supervise and inspect at the school level. The CRP, Assistant Director of Taluk Panchayat (Akshara Dasoha) and CRC, BEO/BRC supervise most of the schools at least once in a month. The district officials like the Deputy Project Coordinator (SSA), Education Officer (Zilla Panchayat) and other officials supervise and inspect as and when they visit schools. The officials at the State level also have their planned programme of supervision and inspection. The data collected from the sampled schools indicates that it is the Block Level and Cluster Level officials making more frequent visits of supervision and monitoring than the District Level and State Level Officers. The details of visit by different officials are given in Table below.

Inspection and Supervision by MDM Officials

Sl. No.	Particulars	Visit by Officials	Comment made by them
1	State Level MDM Officers (DDPI)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June – Sept) = 7.0% of schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 0% of schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 2.5% of schools	Only in one school DDPI had commented on hot MDM being served.
	State Level MDM Officers (DyPC)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June – Sept) = 7.0% of schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 2.5% of schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 0% of schools	Only 4 out of 40 schools were visited by the DyPC. 90 % of schools were not visited by state level MDM officers. In only one school (2.5%) comment was made on cooking MDM in hygienic conditions. In all schools visited DyPC had shown concern about OoSc and discipline in school.

2	District level MDM officers (BEO)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June – Sept) =17.5% of schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)=17.5% of schools	65 % (26) of schools not visited by district level MDM officers. In 15% of school comments were on food observation, MDM cooking stuff used, quality of food, bore well water for the kitchen and attendance need to be checked. In 85% schools there were no comments on any other matters. In one school BEO made comment on bridge course.
3	Block Level Officers (BRC)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June – Sept) =35% of schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)=7.0% of schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 7% of schools	In 47% of schools (19) no visit conducted by block level officers. In 72.5% schools there were no comments on MDM, in remaining 7.5% of schools comments were on the MDM maintenance was good and anna sambhar cooked was also good. In 10% of schools, quality of food well prepared.
4	Other Educational Officers (ECO)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June – Sept) =20% of schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)=17.5% of schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 2.5% of schools	62.5 % of schools had not visited by the ECO. In 5.0% of schools gave suggestion about HM and cook joint account. In 15% of school comments were on MDM serving was good, use more vegetable, bore well water for kitchen, and informed to prepare rice. In 5% schools they also commented on CCE and TLMs to be used by teachers.
5	CRP Akshara Dasoha Officials	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June – Sept) = 20 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)=15 schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 2.5% of schools Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June – Sept) =10% of schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)=5.0% of schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 5.0% of schools	In 42% schools visited CRP commented on the menu of the food cooked and its quality. In 10% schools the CRP emphasized on maintaining cleanliness. In one school HM has been advised to maintain joint account with Cook and in one school due to lack of cylinder food was not cooked in school. In 77.5 % of schools had not visited by the Akshara Dasoha officials. In 17.5 % of schools comments were on cleanliness of kitchen, stock room not kept clean, cooking stuff , quality of food was good and also verified the pass book etc. In 82.5% schools there were no comments made by the akshara Dasoha official.

All officials from state level to CRC level visit the schools frequently for inspection and supervision of MDM. Despite this supervision and inspection; there are instances of delay in supply of food grains as well as allotment of funds in the district which is a cause of concern.

20. Impact

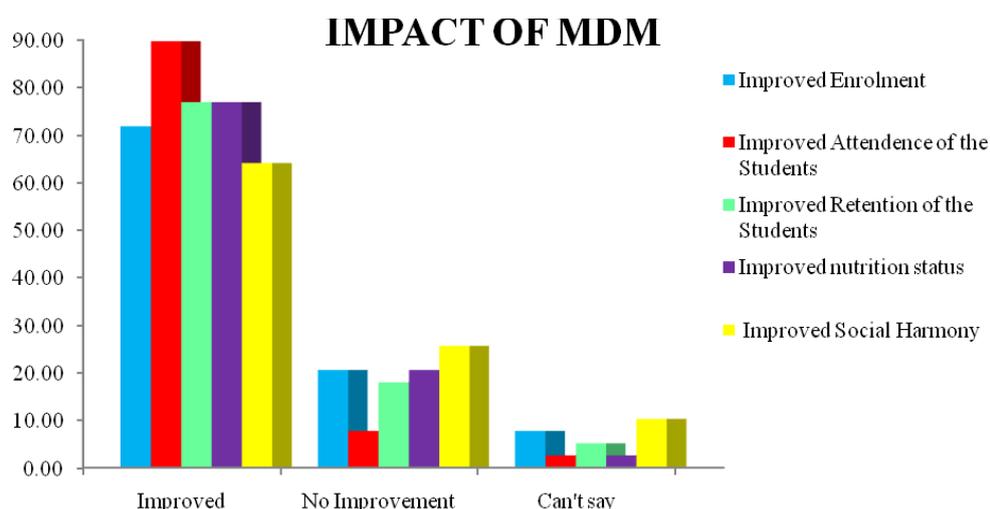
The mid-day meal scheme has been found to have made impact in many ways as reported by different stakeholders (Table 10). Teachers, SMC members, Parents & GP members have

uniformly expressed the view that MDM has improved attendance, enrolment and nutritional status of children in schools.

Impact of MDM on Child					
	Yes now he/she is more healthy	Child has become more regular	Child is concentrating more on studies in school	Don't know	We don't have time to cook, so good it is provided in school
Parent's Opinion	52.94 %	3.92 %	3.92 %	20.59 %	3.92 %

Around 66% parents said the MDM scheme has benefitted the children in a positive way. 4% parents said they leave for work very early in the morning and their children go to school on their own. Under such circumstances it is a big relief that our children are fed in school.

The school Headmasters also said MDM has helped in many ways. The graph below highlights few parameters on which HM fell MDM is contributing in a big way.



Around 72 % of the Head teachers in the schools visited, said that MDM had improved enrollment in school, and 76 % of them said retention of the students in school has improved due to MDM. Around 76.9% of them stated that it had improved the nutritional status of the students.



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना
Mid Day Meal Scheme

MDM- Karnataka

2nd Half Yearly Monitoring Report

Period: 1st November 2013 – 31st April 2014

District - UDUPI

**Institute for Social and Economic Change,
Bangalore**

District Level Half Yearly Monitoring Report (MDM)

Udupi District

Udupi District had a sample of 39 schools with 2 Lower Primary Schools and 37 Upper Primary Schools. The selection of sample schools has been done in consultation with the District SSA office and as per the criteria outlined by the MHRD/GoI. The present report refers to half-yearly monitoring for the period September 2013-May 2014.

A. At the School Level

1. Regularity in Serving Meal

All 39 schools of the sample serve hot cooked meal daily. 37 schools serve mid-day meal cooked in their premises by appointed cooks and 2 schools get the food supplied by the NGO.

2. Trends

Most of the students enrolled in a given school are eligible to avail mid-day meal facility. However, an individual child is entitled to make an option to avail or not the facility. It is in this context, data has been collected about the number of students availing mid-day meal and the actual number of students taking meal during the days of visit.

a)	Number of children enrolled in schools	-	5418
b)	Number of children opted for MDM	-	5318 (99.10%)
c)	Number of children attending the school on the day of visit	-	4851 (89.56%)
d)	Number of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit	-	4562 (84.20%)
e)	Number of children availed MDM on the previous day of visit	-	4796 (88.56%)

Considering the attendance, it may be noticed that about 11% of children were absent in schools on the day of visit. This Further considering the percentage of children actually consuming MDM, it is seen that about 84% of the students eat in the schools while close to 16% do not eat either because they are absent on the day or have decided to opt out of the

scheme. Even on the previous day of the school visit by MI, about 12% of children ate MDM suggesting that 22% remained out of the scheme coverage. There is a large gap between those who opted for the food and those who actually utilize the benefit.

The school HM/Teachers needs to be trained to maintain record of the MDM, in Udupi around 7.89 % of the school HM and teachers have not been trained.

Training of Teachers/HM to Maintain MDM Records			
Block Name	Yes	No	No Response
Brahmavar	14.29 %	42.86 %	42.86 %
Byndoor	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Karakal	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Kundapur	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Udupi	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Udupi	2.63 %	7.89 %	89.47 %

3. Regularity in Delivering Food Grains to School

Food grains are supplied to school through the outlets of Food Corporation of India (FCI). There are guidelines to the FCI with regard to supplying food grains to schools. The data collected from schools has indicated that 50 % of the schools have been getting the supply of food grains on time. The schools where supply is not reaching on time, the delay ranges from one month to six months. In these schools, HM arrange for food grains from neighboring schools or ration shop in the nearby locality. Once the FCI provides them with food grains they return the borrowed material.

Food Grains Received from FCI on Time			
	Yes	No	No Response
Brahmavar	71.43%	14.29%	14.29%
Byndoor	37.50%	50.00%	12.50%
Karkala	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%
Kundapura	28.57%	28.57%	42.86%
Udupi	42.86%	42.86%	14.29%
Udupi District	50.00%	34.21%	15.79%

Around 78% school's HM said and the MDM register also reflected that the food grains are released after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month.

Food Grains Released After Adjusting Unspent Balance of Previous Month			
	Yes	No	NR
Brahmavar	85.71%	0.00%	14.29%
Byndoor	87.50%	0.00%	12.50%
Karkala	62.50%	12.50%	25.00%
Kundapura	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Udupi	57.14%	0.00%	42.86%
Udupi District	78.38%	2.70%	18.92%

FCI delivers the food grains through lifting agency to the school. Only 79% of the school's HM knew about the payment made to the FCI in the previous month and even lesser i.e. 25% of them knew of the payment to FCI for the current month.

Schools generally get one month buffer stock of food grains. It was found that 92.5 % of the schools have one month buffer stock, whereas only one school indicated the absence of one month buffer stock.

All schools are entitled for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of food grains from FCI. But only 72.5% schools confirmed having FAQ quality food grains. Nearly 22.5% schools did not get FAQ grains. If there is any lapse, the head teacher or the school is entitled to return the food grains for 'poor quality'. HM in one of the schools said they return the *Grains* if they are not satisfied with the quality.

4. Regularity in Delivering Cooking Cost to School Level

The mid-day meal grant is released either through a cheque or e-transfer. This has been confirmed by all the sampled schools. All schools cooking MDM in school get the grant/funds released on time. Although the MDM funds get transferred on time, still cooking cost gets delayed in reaching to schools. 84% of schools (32 schools) which are preparing mid-day meal in the school confirmed that they get funds regularly without any delay. Six schools get funds with a delay of one or two weeks. Reasons are not known.

95% schools get the funds through e-transfer whereas remaining 2 schools get through cheque brought by CRP. One school gets payment in cash.

5. Social Equity

There is no visible social discrimination in serving mid-day meal. Some of the possible factors of discrimination like caste, gender or community have not influenced MDM at any stage in the process of its implementation. It is observed that in all schools children are served mid-day meal in a systematic manner by forming a line.

Seating Arrangement of Students During MDM				
In a big hall or their respective classrooms to eat	As per their own wish	Girls and boys separately	In long rows (boys & Girls mixed)	In small circles
2.63 %	2.63 %	2.63 %	73.68 %	7.89%

6. Menu

The guidelines issued by the MDM scheme have specifications relating to menu. Every school is expected to evolve and maintain menu details on a weekly basis. It is also expected to incorporate variety in the menu.

- (i) Only in 29% schools, weekly menu was displayed in the school. The responses from the head teachers confirm that schools should have a pre-planned menu schedule for all the days of the week. On the contrary, 2.5% schools have not displayed the menu on the notice board.

Weekly menu displayed in school			
	Yes	No	Is there in school but not displayed
MI Observation	28.95 %	68.42 %	2.63 %
Student's Response	25.2 %	73.5 %	2% No response

When students were asked about their awareness regarding the Menu of food, only 25% students said they have seen the menu.

(ii) Generally, the Cook and the Head teachers formulate the menu in schools.

Cook Decide the Menu	HM Decides the Menu	Cook & HM Together Decide the Menu
38.46	43.59	2.56

In spite of absence of the menu, students were aware of the food which they would get all through the day. Most of them said they like the food menu and what is cooked in the school.

7. Variety of Menu

The school is instructed to provide healthy locally grown vegetables, dal and rice/wheat to the students daily. The menu in most of the schools included Sambhar and rice from Monday to Friday and rice item like Chitrana, Pulao, Upma or Wheat daliya etc on a Saturdays. Sambhar would comprise of some seasonal vegetables every day.

In 39 schools in Udupi, around 150 children were interviewed to get their view regarding the MDM food. When asked about the variety of food served, 26% of them said there is a variety of food served to them. Some of them were unable to distinguish between the vegetables in sambhar and they assumed it to be same every day. Similarly the SMC was also asked about the variety of food served to the students; around 3% said there is no variety in food served.

	Similar every day	Sometimes variety is served	Everyday new variety	NR
Student Opinion	25.8%	58.3%	7.3%	0.00%
SMC Opinion	5.13%	58.97%	25.64 %	10.01

A description of the same is given in Table below:

MDM Menu

Sl. No.	Particulars	Daily	Twice / Thrice a Week	Weekly Once	Total
1	Rice / Dal	38	-	-	38
Vegetables mixed with dal					
2	Tomato	15	4	4	23
	%	39.47	10.53	10.53	60.53
3	Raddish	1	3	5	9
	%	2.63	7.89	13.16	23.68
4	Pumpkin	13	5	6	24
	%	34.21	13.16	15.79	63.16
5	Drumstick	3	5	10	18
	%	7.89	13.16	26.32	47.37
6	Potato	2	2	8	12
	%	5.26	5.26	21.05	31.58
7	Heerekai	7	2	14	23
	%	18.42	5.26	36.84	60.53
8	Carrot	14	4	1	19
	%	36.84	10.53	2.63	50.00
9	Beans	25	1	5	31
	%	65.8	2.6	13.2	81.6
10	Cucumber	9	2	6	17
	%	23.68	5.26	15.79	44.74
11	Greens	15	19	2	36
	%	39.47	50.00	5.26	94.74
12	Brinjal	6	6	1	13
	%	15.79	15.79	2.63	34.21
13	Other items only on Saturday			40	40
				[100.0]	[100.0%]

(The use of these vegetables by 34 schools where mid-day meal is prepared. Since there are many vegetables used on different days, the frequency indicates the trend in the use of vegetables rather than the pattern of usage by a particular school).

- (ii) In all the schools rice is the common item served. It is the items prepared with dal and vegetables that take varied form. Generally, schools provide a distinct food item (rice bath) on Saturdays.

8. Quality and Quantity of Meal

The responses from the students, head teachers and observation by MI team members have indicated details relating to the quality and quantity of food. As per the field investigators, around 92 % of the schools served adequate quantity of the food, whereas around 5.26 % of the schools had served less quantity to the students.

Quantity of Food Served			
Block Name	Adequate	Ample	Less
Brahmavar	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Byndoor	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Karakal	88.89%	0.00%	11.11%
Kundapur	71.43%	28.57 %	0.00%
Udupi	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Udupi District	92.11%	5.26%	2.63%

In terms of quality of food served, 90.73 % of the students said they were happy after consuming the meals in school and that they like eating in school. None of the student agreed that they come to school because they are served MDM in school; they all said they come to school to study.

Quantity of food served during MDM		
Udupi District	Adequate	Less
Student's perception	92.05%	0.00%

Nearly 92 % of the schools visited were serving good quality food to the students during MDM.

Quality of Food Served			
Block Name	Average	Good	Poor
Brahmavar	0.00 %	100.0 %	0.00 %
Byndoor	0.00 %	100.0 %	0.00 %
Karakal	22.22 %	77.78%	0.00 %
Kundapur	0.00 %	85.71%	14.29%
Udupi	0.00 %	100.0 %	0.00 %
Udupi District	5.26%	92.11%	2.63%

9. Supplementary (Health Check-up)

The data collected from schools has indicated that health check-up to children is conducted in all the 39 schools (100 per cent). All the schools have reported that they have conducted health check-up camps once in an academic year (100 per cent). All schools visited, maintained the Health Card record for every child in school.

The data collected has confirmed the supply of vitamin tablets, de-worming medicine and iron folic acid tablets in all the schools. The task of providing all this is handled by teachers, specially the class teachers. The vitamin tablets are supplied once in 15 days and de-worming is given once in six month.

Health check up been done in school since it reopened			
	Yes	No	Don't Remember
Student Response	86.75	6.62	5.30
Micronutrients and De worming Medicines Provided			
Student Response	92.05	2.65	1.99

The health card record also displayed the 'Height and Weight' data up to date in Health Card. The measurement of height and weight is also done by the school teachers.

10. Cooks

The MDM guidelines specify the social composition of cooks and helpers. This has been done to avoid social discrimination and to help children to overcome prejudices and attitude

of social distancing. All the schools make efforts to adhere to the norms. However, it has been observed that the social composition of the habitation/ village where school is located may not be able to get a person required to function as a cook or a helper.

In such situations, school will have limited options in adhering to the norms. It is due to this reason there may be certain amount of deviance in appointing cooks and helpers. However, most of the schools make choices on the basis of the availability of persons to perform the roles. The salary of cooks and helpers paid by all the schools is Rs.1100 and Rs.1000 respectively. The following table indicates the distribution and social composition of cooks and helpers in schools:

Social Composition of Cooks and Helpers

District	SC	ST	OBC	Minority	General	No response/DNA
Head Cook	0.00%	21.05%	65.73%	0.00%	2.63%	10%
Social Composition of Helpers						
SC	ST	OBC	Minority	General	NA	
38.16 %	19.74 %	2.63 %	0.00 %	0.00%	43.42%	

Once the cook is appointed in the school, he/she is provided training and given a training manual to follow. The cook and helpers also need to undergo health check up at the time of joining. But in Udupi only 60 % of the cook had training manual and had health check up done at the time of joining.

92 % of the schools received cook's salary on time. During the discussion with SMC about cook's salary, only 85 % of them said the remuneration is received on time, 5.13 % said it is not received regularly and gets delayed. In remaining schools the SMC was unaware about the salary of the cooks.

11. Infrastructure

The infrastructure needed to provide mid-day meal in the school includes facilities to cook food, availability of water, fuel and vessels. The data relating to these items indicates that most of the schools have separate kitchen or a separate space to cook. The details are given in table below.

Details about Kitchen

Sl. No.	Particulars	Percentage
1	Separate kitchen	84.21
3	Class room	5.16
4	Unspecified place	10.53
5	Supplied by other schools/ agencies	0.00
	Total	100.00

12. Safety and Hygiene:

All the schools have been making the best possible effort to ensure hygiene in the place where mid-day meal is prepared and served. There are a few cases where things could be improved for the better. In Udupi, in nearly 89 % of the schools kitchen was maintained in hygienic condition.

Kitchen Well Maintenance & in Hygienic Condition		
	Yes	No
Udupi	89.47	10.53
Proper Ventilation in Kitchen		
Udupi	97.37	2.63

Only 89 % of the kitchen had storage bins to store food grains in the kitchen/store room. Around 97 % of the kitchen was well ventilated and 84% of them were away from the classrooms.

As per SMC members the condition of kitchen in their schools is as follows:

Condition of kitchen in school				
Good Condition	Needs repair in rains	No storage room but kitchen is good	Kitchen is good but water facility needed	No response
48.72	7.69	12.82	12.82	2.56

In all schools, children wash their hands and plates before eating the food. But the places where the children wash the plates become clogged with water and children need to maneuver to reach the water source. In most of the schools, teachers monitored the behavior of the students while eating and usage of water without wasting.

89 % schools had fire extinguisher in school. But most of the schools HM were not aware of how to use it in case of emergency.

13. Conservation of Water

The availability of water has been confirmed in all schools (100 percent). The quality and quantity of water has been found to be good for purpose of cooking and drinking. However, around 81 % schools had water availability in/near kitchen. In rest of the schools the water was brought from the water source in school/nearby areas.

Means for the Conservation of Water in Kitchen			
District	Yes	No	NA
Udupi	81.58	15.79	2.63

14. Utensils for Cooking and Serving Food

The responses from the schools indicate that all schools preparing mid-day meal have utensils to cook food and small serving utensils as well.

15. All the schools visited, had Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) as fuel for cooking.

16. Participation of SMC, parents, local body members in MDM:

- (i) It was observed that the participation of SMC members to supervise mid-day meal varies from school to school. Focused Group discussion was held with the SMC members of all the schools visited. Understanding of SMC with regard to their roles and responsibilities towards MDM and the action taken by them to manage MDM activity in school were discussed during the FGD.

Sl. No	Monitoring Activity To be done by SMC	% of respondents	Action Taken By SMC Members	% of respondents
1	Monitoring of Stocks and Quality and Quantity of food served	41.03	Just Observe	10.26
2	MDM Attendance	0.00	Ensure discipline in serving and cooking MDM	25.64
3	Kitchen Maintenance	7.69	Help in cooking/serving when needed	7.69
4	Supervise MDM Functioning	10.26	Arrange for gas and water facility	5.13
5	Everything is good no need to monitor anything	12.82	Don't do anything	7.69
6	No Response	10.25	NR	23.08

The community tries to participate in the school's MDM activity but they have their own constraints. 10.26 % of the SMC members said they just observe while MDM or other school activities take place. SMC in 25.64% of the schools ensured discipline during the MDM timings. But none of them admitted to be exercising this right.

- (ii) As per the norm, the MDM is being monitored and supervised by the parents on some of the days. The data collected from sample schools indicate that there is no roster of

parents formally prepared with specified days. However, there is informal arrangement with parents to oversee MDM supply in few of the schools.

(iii) A detailed analysis of the extent of awareness and participation in MDM programme by the parents, SMC members and Panchayat/Local Body representatives has been made by examining the responses from the respective groups:

- **Parents:** In Udupi district in each school four parents were interviewed. The data collected from parents confirmed that most of the parents (interviewed by the MI team members) have an average understanding of the implementation of MDM programme (37.06%). Largely parents trusted the school and said whatever the school is providing has to be good for their children. They were satisfied with the quantity of food given to the students and none of them said they ever faced any issue of discrimination in the school during MDM.

More than 94 % of parents were happy with MDM being provided in school. Only 4.90 % parents said they were unhappy with the MDM service as they felt it affected school functioning.

Regarding the quality of food served, 85 % of the parents believed that the MDM takes care of nutritional and calorific requirements of the child.

Nutritional and Calorific Requirements of the Child Taken Care by MDM			
Yes	No	Can't say	NA
85.31 %	2.80 %	11.89 %	0.00%

- Overall awareness and participation of the parents in implementation of MDM is fairly low in Udupi. The table below highlights the awareness status of parents on various parameters of functioning of MDM.

Community Participation in MDM (Response from Parents)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	No Response
1	Overall Awareness Regarding MDM	9.09 %	37.06 %	4.20 %	46.85 %	2.80 %
2	Awareness Regarding Supervision of MDM	26.32 %	18.42 %	47.37 %	0.00 %	0.00 %
3	Awareness Regarding Quantity Prescribed for students	34.97 %	26.57 %	26.57 %	11.89 %	0.00 %
4	Awareness Regarding Nutrition level of mid-day meal	35.66 %	26.57 %	25.17 %	12.59 %	0.00 %

Only 14.69 % of the parents were aware of the grievance redressal mechanism in case of emergency in school. Of these none of the parents knew of the toll free number to dial in adverse situation

- b) **SMC Members:** The level of awareness among SMC members regarding awareness of MDM is has been “very good” among majority (46.85 per cent). It is also satisfactory for 37.06% of SMC members.

The awareness regarding supervision level has been “Good” among 34 % per cent and “poor” amongst 26.32% of the SMC members. With regard to quantity of food prescribed for students, awareness level of majority of them was “Poor” (35 per cent) and “very good” (11%) and satisfactory by 26.5% of people. An equally encouraging response comes from SMC members with regard to the nutritional level of the mid-day meal.

Community Participation in MDM (Response from SMC Members)

Sl. No.		Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Total
1	Awareness regarding MDM implementation	30.77 %	12.82 %	38.46 %	15.38 %	2.56 %	100 %
2	Awareness regarding MDM supervision	Mostly the SMC President visits frequently and is keenly involved in supervision of MDM related activities.					

18. Source of Awareness

An attempt has also been made to identify the sources of awareness. From most of the sources identified, parent's awareness about MDM is gathered more or less from school or the students. Largely, teachers and students are the main source, though they are not significantly high. The details about other sources are indicated in Table below.

Source of Awareness of Parents about the MDM Scheme/ School Activities

Sl. No.	Particulars	Percentage of Respondents PARENTS
1	Newspaper/ Magazine	33 %
2	Radio	15 %
3	Television	39.86 %
4	Teacher	59 %
5	Students/ School	72.72 %
6	Mothers/Community/PTA members	36 %
7	Website	12.90 %
8	Other Sources	No other source

*Each respondent is entitled to indicate more than one source.

For SMC also the main source of awareness regarding MDM functioning is through teachers and students (more than 80%). Awareness source for the SMC regarding MDM and other school activities is shown in the below table:

Source of Awareness for SMC regarding MDM	Percentage of Respondents
Newspaper	46.15
Radio/TV	56.41
Teachers	76.92
Students	76.92
Panchayat Members / Mothers / community members / PTA members	41.03
Others	12.82

19. Inspection and Supervision

The MDM scheme has been supervised at the State, District, Block, Cluster and School level. There are many officials involved and assigned with this responsibility. There are both

periodical and surprise inspections from most these officials. On a daily basis, it is the SMC members or parents who supervise and inspect at the school level. The CRP, Assistant Director of Taluk Panchayat (Akshara Dasoha) and CRC, BEO/BRC supervise most of the schools at least once in a month. The district officials like the Deputy Project Coordinator (SSA), Education Officer (Zilla Panchayat) and other officials supervise and inspect as and when they visit schools. The officials at the State level also have their planned programme of supervision and inspection. The data collected from the sampled schools indicates that it is the Block Level and Cluster Level officials making more frequent visits of supervision and monitoring than the District Level and State Level Officers. The details of visit by different officials are given in Table below.

Inspection and Supervision by MDM Officials

Sl. No.	Particulars	Visit by Officials	Comment made by them
1	Other Educational Officers (ECO)		In 2.5% of schools visited by ECO. In 10.5% of schools not visited by other educational officers.
2	Akshara Dasoha Officials	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June – Sept) = 7.8 % of schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan) = 13.0% of schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 5.2% schools	In 42.1 % of school not visited by Akshara Dasoha. In 15.0 % of school comments were on cleanliness maintained, student and food served, kitchen kept clean and vegetable grown and over all good.

All officials from state level to CRC level visit the schools frequently for inspection and supervision of MDM. Despite this supervision and inspection; there are instances of delay in supply of food grains as well as allotment of funds in the district which is a cause of concern.

20. Impact

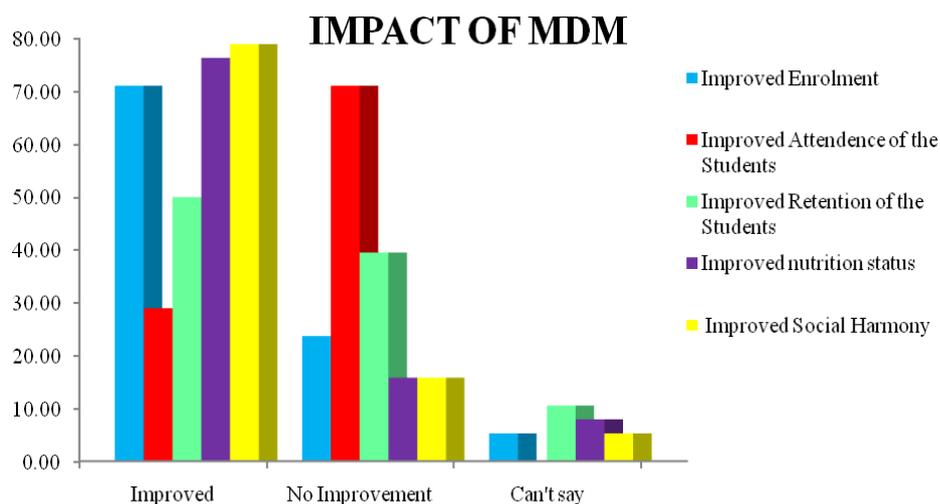
The mid-day meal scheme has been found to have made impact in many ways as reported by different stakeholders (Table 10). Teachers, SMC members, Parents & GP members have uniformly expressed the view that MDM has improved attendance, enrolment and nutritional status of children in schools.

Impact of MDM on Child					
	Yes now he/she is more healthy	Child has become more regular	Child is concentrating more on studies in school	Don't know	We don't have time to cook, so good it is provided in school
Parent's Opinion	71.33	4.90	8.39	12.59	2.80

*a parent can have more than one comment

Around 84% parents said the MDM scheme has benefitted the children in a positive way. 2.8% parents said they leave for work very early in the morning and their children go to school on their own. Under such circumstances it is a big relief that our children are fed in school.

The school Headmasters also said MDM has helped in many ways. The graph below highlights few parameters on which HM felt MDM is contributing in a big way.



Around 71 % of the Head teachers in the schools visited, claimed that MDM had improved enrollment in school, and 50% of them said retention of the students in school has improved due to MDM. Around 76 % of them claimed that it had improved the nutritional status of the students.
