

MONITORING REPORT (MDM), MIZORAM

Major Field Observations of Monitoring Institution, Mizoram University on Status of Implementation of MDM Scheme in Mizoram

(Period of Report: From 1st Oct, 2013 to 31st March, 2014)

I) GENERAL INFORMATION

- a) Name of the State : **Mizoram**
- b) No of Districts Covered: **Two**
- c) Names of Districts Cover : 1) Aizawl
2) Champhai
- d) No of Schools Visited : a) 40 in Aizawl District, and
b) 40 in Champhai District.
- e) Dates of Field Visit: a) Aizawl District: From 20th to 31st Jan, 2014
b) Champhai District: 14th to 25th Jan, 2014
- f) No. of Schools Personally
Visited by the Nodal Officer: a) 10 Schools (25%) in Champhai District
b) 33 schools (80%) in Aizawl District

II) MAJOR FIELD OBSERVATIONS:

A) Achievements:

1. All the 40 schools selected as sample schools (100%) in Aizawl district served hot cooked meals to students on a daily basis. In Champhai district, 36 schools (90%) were able to serve hot cooked meal on a daily basis.
2. All the schools in both the districts had Kitchen Shed constructed and in use.
3. All the schools (100%) in both the districts received food-grains regularly. Release of food - grains was done on a quarterly basis by F & CS Department, Government of Mizoram.
4. Buffer stock of rice of one month's requirement was found in 39 (97.5 %) and 40 (100%) schools respectively in Aizawl and Champhai districts on the day of visit by the MI.
5. Gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking and serving MDM was absent in all the schools in both the districts.
6. In Aizawl district, quality of meal was reported to be good in 37 (92.5%) schools and quantity adequate in all the (100%) schools. In Champhai district all the schools (100%) reported that the quality as well as the quantity of meal was good.
7. Children in all the schools (100%) in Aizawl District and large majority (75%) in Champhai district were given micronutrients such as iron, folic acid and de-worming medicines, and these were administered by the health teachers or health in-charge after undergoing training.
8. The number of cooks and helpers engaged in all the schools (100%) in both the districts was as per GOI norms.

9. Potable water was available in large majority of the schools in both the districts.
10. All the schools (100%) in Aizawl district and 80% in Champhai district had utensils adequate for cooking.
11. Washing hands before and after eating of MDM was encouraged and practiced by all the schools.
12. The cooking process and storage of fuel was by and large safe in all the schools
13. As per the report of majority of the schools in both the districts, MDM had improved the attendance, general well being and nutritional status of the children.
14. All the schools (100%) in Champhai district reported that provision of MDM had improved enrolment of children in the school.

B) Critical Points:

1. Food grain was not delivered at schools covered by MI in Aizawl District while 62.5% of the schools in Champhai district reported the same problem.
2. The late release of cooking cost and cooks' salary continued to be a major problem faced by all the schools (100%).
3. No school in the districts under reference prepared and displayed weekly menu at a place noticeable to community.
4. Cooking cost is very low considering the price hike in all commodities especially firewood which is a major source of cooking in Mizoram.
5. Varied menu could not be served by majority of the schools in both the districts due to limited cooking cost.

6. Management, monitoring and supervision of MDM on the part of parents, VEC and community members were poor in large majority of the schools in both Aizawl and Champhai districts.
7. The level of awareness of parents and community members about the quantity of MDM per child and the level of general awareness about the overall implementation of MDM program were also poor in all (100%) the schools in both the districts.
8. There was no inspection of MDM by State, District and Block Level Officers was very rare.
9. As per the report of 26 (65%) schools in Aizawl district, MDM had not improved enrolment of children.



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Aizawl