3rdHALF YEARLY MONITORING REPORT ON MID DAY MEAL SCHEME FOR THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU

SUBMITTED BY

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY MADRAS

Period: 1st April 2014 to 30th September 2014



Districts Covered

1.	SIVAGANGAI	11
2.	VIRUDHUNAGAR	27
3.	TIRUNELVELI	45

2NDHALF YEARLY MONITORING REPORT ON MID DAY MEAL SCHEME IN THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU FOR THE PERIOD April 2014 TO September 2014

INTRODUCTION

The Monitoring of Mid-day Meal Scheme in 13 districts of Tamil Nadu is being carried out by Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) as a 3rd party evaluating institute with the guidance and support of MHRD. In the 1st Phase, IITM has conducted the monitoring and evaluation in 3 districts, Sivagangai, Virudhunagar, and Tirunelveli. The tool for data collection has been prepared and given by MHRD. The selection of schools for monitoring was coordinated by the district SSA office and the monitoring carried out with the support of District Collector Office of the respective districts. Accordingly, the Monitoring Institute selected 40 schools from each district as per the guidelines provided by MHRD.

This monitoring report has been prepared based on the school visits, interviews with HM, teachers, SMC members, MDM organiser, Cook/Helpers and discussions with the students and community.



Executive Summary

<u>District</u>	Number of schools visited by the MI where MDM was functional
Sivagnagai	40
Virudhunagar	39
Tirunelveli	40

Virudhunagar

PUPS Thendral Nagar has no MDM provision. Food is served for these children by PUPS Samathuvapuram.

1. Availability of food grains:

- The buffer stock is maintained in for 45 days, all the schools visited in Sivagangai, Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli.
- In all the schools visited by the MI, the food grains are delivered at the school. Most of the schools have a proper storage room. In few schools, the food grains are stored at the corner of the class room.
- The food grains are delivered at the school in all the 119 schools.
- In most cases, the food grain was not of Grade-A quality. The school authorities expressed that the quality of rice and dal are of good quality few months and sometimes the quality found to be poor.
- The food grain is released at the fixed quantity every month for each school. There is no adjusting done on the unspent balance of the previous month.

The palm oil that is provided to the schools has a validity period of 3 months. In some schools,
the MI found that the palm oil packets in stock and use were past their period of expiry by
several months. The problem appears to be that unused stock, caused by local holidays and
absenteeism, is neither returned nor accounted for while new stock is delivered at the school,
causing the excess oil to be stored past three months.

2. Timely release of funds

- There is no disruption or delay in the release of funds by the state or the district. In some of the schools, there is a delay of 5 to 10 days in receiving funds from the block. In such case, the organizer contributes his personal money to meet the day-to-day expenditure for procuring vegetables, Masala and other cooking ingredients.
- The mode of payment of cooking cost is through bank transfers.

3. Availability of cook cum helper

- At least one cook/helper was found in the 119 schools visited by the MI
- The cooks cum helpers were found, in most schools to be from the community that the majority of the students came from. The social composition of cook cum helpers is from SC, OBC, BC(M/C) in several schools. No ST cooks/helpers were observed in the schools the MI visited.
- There is no training module available for cook-cum-helpers.
- No. Health check-up is not being done for cook-cum-helpers in any of the schools in the 4 districts.

4. Regularity in Serving Meal

 All the schools serve hot cooked meals regularly. There is no disruption in serving of meals noted in any of the schools. • In all the 119 schools children were seated in the veranda or in a classroom to have the mid day meal.

5. Quality & Quantity of Meal

- The quantity and quality of meal was found satisfactory in almost all the schools.
- The funding allocated for green vegetables per child was found to be insufficient in most schools that bought vegetables at the district market price. Children receive very small quantities of vegetables or only few times a week.
- The children accept the meal. But, in most of the schools, the rice was found to be overcooked due to poor quality rice.
- There are no standard gadgets/equipments used by the cook/organizer for measuring the quantity of food.

6. Variety of Menu

- Most of the schools follow the menu decided by the Government of Tamil Nadu and in some cases
 the schools follow the menu given by the BDO/PWD/Collector. Everyday menu and purchase of
 vegetables are decided either by the school HM or organizer.
- The food has rice, dal, eggs and vegetables. Only on Tuesdays, boiled black chickpea (Channa) is distributed to the children.
- There is no wheat or millet preparation.

Daily menu

1. Plain boiled rice and Sambar (with varieties of vegetables each day), Mixed rice flavoured with tamarind or lemon, or

Vegetable biryani.

2. Boiled egg or Egg curry.

<u>District</u>	Number of children given MDM according to records	% of total enrollment
Sivagangai	2496	90%
Virudhunagar	2946	78%
Tirunelveli	2694	66%

7. Social Equity

• There was no caste or community discrimination prominently seen inside the school premises with regard to cooking or serving or seating arrangements.

8. Convergence with other schemes (Health)

Tirunelveli:

There is a school health card maintained for each child in 38 schools in the district. In 2 schools this data could not be verified.

Sivagangai:

The health card is maintained only in 23 schools and the remaining schools do not maintain the health card regularly, though have been issued. In 4 schools this data could not be verified.

- Children are given micronutrients Iron, folic acid, vitamin-A dosage and de-worming medicine periodically in all the schools. Height and weight of the children are noted in the health cards.
- First Aid medical kit was available in all schools the MI visited though some schools have never used them.
- Dental and eye check-up are included in the screening. Spectacles are distributed to children suffering from refractive error are distributed in schools.

9. Convergence with other schemes (Water and Sanitation)

- Whether potable water is available for drinking purpose in convergence with Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme.
- All schools get their water supply from the Panchayat. Some schools also have a bore well
 installed.

10. Infrastructure and materials

- A kitchen cum store room constructed under MDM is available in almost all the schools.
- Kitchen-cum-store in several cases was not in a hygienic condition due to lack of ventilation and lighting. The walls of some of the MDM rooms further darkened by the soot from the stove receive very less light. Old, unused utensils, remains of firewood, and food waste stacked beside soot walls accumulate dust and insects. Since fresh food is cooked and stored in the same room in less light, there is potential health hazard for the cook and the helper, and to the students who eat the food.
- Several new buildings were also found to be built without sufficient ventilation in the cooking area.
- In almost all the schools firewood is being used for cooking. Orders have been sanctioned to several schools for LPG based cooking and initiated. But, there is no separate fund allotted for purchasing LPG cylinder. The firewood based cooking cannot be replaced with LPG based at the same cost.

Virudhunagar:

5 schools use a combination of LPG gas and firewood to cook.

- No, there was no interruption to MDM noted by the schools on any day due to non-availability of firewood or LPG.
- Sufficient storage bins were not seen in many schools. The stock is kept in the same gunny bags in which they received the food grains.
- Due to lack of drinking glasses, the children bring water from home reusing disposable plastic

containers of soft drinks and refill them in the school.

- In case the pucca kitchen-cum-store is not available the food is being cooked in an open space and the food grains and other ingredients are stored in the class rooms.
- Utensils are available in all the schools, though it looks very old, larger in size than required, or insufficient. Aluminum vessels are only used for cooking.
- In majority of the schools, children bring plates and water bottles from home. The school authorities do not oppose such practice. It could be due to lack of sufficient plates in the school.

Sivagangai:

When the MI visited PUPS Mulliyarendhal, the building had not been opened by the authorities concerned. The cooking was being done in a shed.

In 7 schools the utensils were insufficient.

Virudhunagar:

In 9 schools the utensils were insufficient or the available utensils were too huge in size to use.

11. Sanitation and safety

- Most schools in all the four districts had toilets that require better maintenance. The MI is of the
 opinion that school managements in general have to be sensitized on the need to keep the school
 toilets neat and clean.
- Due to inattention to the drains in the toilet, in several schools water stagnation is found in the toilet area making the toilets less usable.
- There are no staffs appointed for cleaning and maintaining the toilets.

12. IT infrastructure

<u>District</u>	Number of schools visited in which at least one functioning computer was available
Sivagangai	29
Virudhunagar	18
Tirunelveli	21

• No internet connection is available in any of the schools visited. Dial-up modem based connection available in the office room is intermittent or does not work in most schools.

13. Safety and Hygiene:

- Because of firewood there is a lot of smoke and soot on walls and ceiling. Working conditions are
 definitely NOT healthy for the kitchen staff. Ensuring proper ventilation in kitchens and shifting to
 gas based cooking will surely improve the situation.
- At least one fire extinguisher is available in all the schools but it is found in HM room or
 Administration/office room. It is not made available near the Kitchen cum Store room. Training on
 handling the fire extinguisher has been given only to HMs. Other responsible persons at the next
 level have not been trained on using fire extinguishers at the time of emergency.
- Hygienic practices are prompted by the teachers or organizers. The children wash their hands only
 after the meals but not before taking meals. In some schools the MI saw that the children washed
 their hands in the same bucket of water causing it to be unhygienic and murky.
- Very few schools provide soap for children to wash their hands before and after meals.
- The cooking process and storage of fuel is safe and does not pose any fire hazard in any of the schools.

14. Community participation and inspection:

- There is no social audit mechanism in the school. The participation of the community in MDM implementation and running was seen to be minimal
- Implementation of MDM scheme is being inspected by the block level officials and at times by the district level. This inspection is done at least once in 6 months in all schools.
- MDM has helped in improvement of the nutritional status of the children. Children who come from below poverty line families are highly benefited.
- As an incidental benefit of MDM scheme, Women cooks are getting empowered. With minimum
 educational qualification and using the skills they already possess, they get the employment
 benefits.

SIVAGANGAI DISTRICT

1. At school level

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
1.	Indicators Availability of food grains i) Whether buffer stock of food grains for one month is available at the school? The buffer stock is maintained in all the 40 schools for 45 days in Sivagangai district.	
	ii) Whether food grain is delivered in school in time by the lifting	
	agency? In all the 40 schools, the food grains are delivered at the school. Most of the schools have a proper storage room. In few schools, the food grains are stored at the corner of the class room.	
	iii) If lifting agency is not delivering the food grains at school how the food grains is transported up to school level?The food grains are delivered at the school in Sivagangai district.	

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	iv) Whether the food grain is of FAQ of Grade-A quality?	
	In most cases, the food grain was not of Grade-A quality. The school authorities expressed that the quality of rice and dal are of good quality few months and sometimes the quality found to be poor.	
	v) Whether food grain is released to school after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month?	
	No. this is not being followed in any of the schools. The food grain is released at the fixed quantity every month for each school. There is no adjusting done on the unspent balance of the previous month.	
2.	Timely release of funds	Danada /
	 i) Whether State is releasing funds to District / block / school on regular basis in advance? If not, 	Records / observation / interaction with teachers
	Yes. There are no disruptions in the release of funds from the state.	and any other person.
	a) Period of delay in releasing funds by State to district.	
	There is no delay in release of funds.	
	b) Period of delay in releasing funds by District to block / schools	
	In some of the schools, there is a delay in releasing of funds for at- least 5 to 10 days. In such case, the organizer contributes his/her personal money to meet the day-to-day expenditure for procuring vegetables, Masala and other cooking ingredients.	
	c) Period of delay in releasing funds by block to schools.	
	The period of delay is 5 to 10 days.	
	ii) Any other observations	
3.	Availability of Cooking Cost	
J.	Availability of Cooking Cost	

S.No.	Indica	Source of Information	
	i)	Whether school / implementing agency is receiving cooking cost in advance regularly? The school is receiving cooking cost advance regularly. In few schools there is a delay of 5-10 days in receiving the cooking cost.	School level registers, MDM Registers,
	ii)	Period of delay, if any, in receipt of cooking cost. 5 to 10 days delay in receipt of cooking cost.	Head Teacher, School level MDM
	iii)	In case of non-receipt of cooking cost how the meal is served? The organizers take the in charge of serving the meal in case if cooking cost is received late.	functionaries. SHG/ implementing
	iv)	Mode of payment of cooking cost The mode of payment of cooking cost is through bank transfers.	agency
	<u>Availa</u>	bility of Cook-cum-helpers	
		engage Cook-cum-helpers at schools strict collectors engage the cook-cum-helpers at schools	Observations and discussion with children teachers,
	There	k-cum-helper is not engaged who cooks and serves the meal? is no such instance in any of the school. If the cook or helper is on the cook from nearby schools are deputed for few days.	parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat
		number of cooks-cum-helpers engaged in the school as per GOI or as per State norms?	members and cooks-cum-helpers.
	GOI no	ne number of cooks-cum-helpers engaged in the schools are as per orms except PUPS Maruthapandiar nagar, Sivagangai town where was no helper appointed.	·
	Cook: Helper Organi The sa streng of stud	Rs. 3000 to Rs. 3500 r: Rs. 1800 to Rs. 2500 izer: Rs. 6500 to Rs. 8200 llary for organizer, cook and helpers are determined based on the th of children in each school. It varies according to the total number dents avail MDM. The salary ranges between Rs. 3000 to Rs. 3500 to Rs. 1800 to Rs. 2500 to Helper and Rs. 6500 to Rs. 8200	
		of payment to cook-cum-helpers? ransfer payment is made to cook cum helpers.	
	Yes. Th	e remuneration paid to cooks cum helpers regularly? ne remuneration is paid regularly in most schools. In PUPS hapandianagar Sivagangai town, the cook had not been paid for a	

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	period of six months on the day the MI visited.	
	Social Composition of cooks cum helpers? (SC/ST/OBC/Minority) Cooks and helpers in the schools MI visited were found to be predominantly from OBC, MBC, BC(C), or BC(M) groups. Few SCs and no ST	
	employees were found.	
	Is there any training module for cook-cum-helpers? There is no training module available for cook-cum-helpers.	
	Whether training has been provided to cook-cum-helpers? In few schools where the new variety rice menu is being followed, training has been given to cook cum helpers to cook vegetable biriyani, tamarind rice, different varieties of egg masala, etc.	
	In case the meal is prepared and transported by the Centralized kitchen / NGO, whether cook-cum-helpers have been engaged to serve the meal to the children at school level. No such case was found.	
	Whether health check-up of cook-cum-helpers has been done? No. Health check-up is not being done for cook-cum-helpers in any of the schools in Sivagangai district.	
	Regularity in Serving Meal	
	Whether the school is serving hot cooked meal daily? If there was interruption, what was the extent and reasons for the same?	Students, Teachers & Parents, and
	All the schools serve hot cooked meals regularly. There is no disruption in serving of meals noted in any of the schools in Sivagangai district. In all the 40 schools children were seated in the veranda to have the mid day meal.	MDM register
	Quality & Quantity of Meal	
	Feedback from children on hazard Quality of meal — The quality of meal is satisfactory in most of the schools. In some schools, it was observed by the monitoring team that the rice is overcooked and doesn't taste good. Quantity of meal	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	The quantity of meal was found satisfactory in almost all the schools. Quantity of pulses used in the meal per child. Rice – 100 gm for classes I to V, 150 gm for classes VI to VIII. Dal – 15 gm across all ages.	

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	Oil – 3 ml, Salt – 1.9 gm (0.01paise), Black gram – 20 gm, green gram – 20	
	gm, Other provisions: Rs. 0.14 per child for classes I to V, Rs. 0.17 per child for classes VI to VIII	
	Firewood: Rs. 0.24 for classes I to V, Rs. 0.27 for classes VI to VIII	
	Total cost: Rs. 0.70 paise per child for classes I to V, Rs. 0.80 paise per child for classes VI to VIII (including vegetables, provisions and firewood)	
	Quantity of green leafy vegetables used in the meal per child. Potato – Rs. 0.20 per child, Vegetables – Rs. 0.32 per child for classes I to V, Rs. 0.36 for classes VI to VIII.	
	The funding allocated for green vegetables per child was found to be insufficient in most schools that bought vegetables at the district market price. Children receive very small quantities of vegetables or only few times a week.	
	Whether double fortified salt is used? Yes. Government of Tamil Nadu has supplied double fortified salt for MDM in all the schools.	
	Acceptance of the meal amongst the children. The children accept the meal, they are feeling bored with the same kind of menu that is being followed. In many schools, the rice is overcooked due to poor quality rice. Also, same vegetables are added in the sambar everyday.	
	Method / Standard gadgets / equipment for measuring the quantity of food to be cooked and served.	
	There are no standard gadgets/equipments used by the cook/organizer for measuring the quantity of food.	
	{Please give reasons and suggestions to improve, if children were not happy.}	
	Variety of Menu	
	Who decides the menu?	Observations
	Most of the schools follow the menu decided by the Government of Tamil Nadu and in some cases the schools follow the menu given by the BDO/PWD/Collector. Everyday menu and purchase of vegetables are decided either by the school HM or organizer.	and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC
	The food has rice, dal, eggs and vegetables. Only on Tuesdays, boiled black chickpea (Channa) is distributed to the children. There is no wheat or millet	members, Gram

preparation. Whether weekly menu is displayed at a prominent place noticeable to community, In all schools except PUMS Muthupatty, the menu was displayed on the display board inside the school. Is the menu being followed uniformly? Yes, the menu is being followed uniformly Whether menu includes locally available ingredients? Not all the time. Sometimes they use locally available vegetables to add it to sambar or masala if they are more affordable at the allocated price than potatoes, tomatoes, and onions; and no other ingredients are used. Whether menu provides required nutritional and calorific value per child? Menu has an egg, rice, dal and vegetables. The nutritional and calorific values are not being measured in any of the school. Display of Information under Right to Education Act, 2009 at the school level at prominent place Quantity and date of food grains received	Information Panchayat members and cooks. Obtain a copy of menu.
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level at prominent place	
Quantity and date of food grains received	
Quantity and date of 1000 Stains received	
In few schools, the quantity and date of food grains received are displayed	
on the board near the kitchen.	
Delegas acception of food engine utilized during the mouth	
Balance quantity of food grains utilized during the month.	
Yes. The balance quantity of food grains utilized during the month.	
However, every month the same quantity of food grains are delivered and the balance of previous month not being adjusted.	Observation /
8	interaction
Other ingredients purchased, utilized	with teacher,
Chilly powder, Turmeric powder, Oil, Mustard seeds, Jeera, Vegetables.	children,
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	community
Number of children given MDM	members.
2496 children were given MDM	
Daily menu	
Plain boiled rice and Sambar (with varieties of vegetables each	
day), Mixed rice flavoured with tamarind or lemon, or	
Vegetable biryani.	
2 Poiled agg or	
2. Boiled egg or	
Egg curry.	

S.No.	Indicators					Source of Information
	Display of MDI school.	M logo at pro	minent place p	oreferably outsic	de wall of the	
		l schools. In f	ew schools MD	OM logo found a M logo has beer ooking shed.	•	
	<u>Trends</u>					
	Extent of varia (As per school		-vis Actual on t	he day of visit).		School level registers,
	Enrollment	No. of childreno pted MDM	No. of children attending school	No. availing MDM (as per register)	No. availing on day of visit	Registers Head Teachers, Schools level MDM functionaries
	2767	2496	2723	2496	2492	Observation of the monitoring
	2500 2400 2300 2200 2100 2000 1900 1800	llment No. of c	hildren No. o MDM childre attendi schoo	en MDM (as per ng register)	No. availing on day of visit	
	In some of the veranda and the in a queue with	schools, child ney were serven n their bowls/	Iren were made ed with meals. plates to receiv	arrangements for the to sit orderly in In many schools we the food from lives sit in a row o	the school , children stand the cook. After	Observations / interaction with the children, parents and community

S.No.	Indicators	Source Information	of n
	groups with their friends, and have their food.	members.	· •
	Did you observe any gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements?		
	There was no caste or community discrimination prominently seen inside the school premises with regard to cooking or serving or seating arrangements.		
	In some of the schools, children were made to sit orderly in the school veranda and they were served with meals. In many schools, children stand in a queue with their bowls/plates to receive the food from the cook. After taking food from the cook children themselves sit in a row or in small groups with their friends, and have their food. It was observed by the field investigators (in conversation with cooks, helpers and children) that practices of discrimination are found in the nearby villages/habitations in which the schools are located. However, inside the school premises, there were no physical discriminatory practices found in seating or serving meal to children.		
	The name of the school where discrimination found of any kind may be mentioned in the main body of the report along with date of visit. If any kind of social discrimination is found in the school, comments of the team may be given in the inspection register of the school.		
	Inside the school premises, there were no physical discriminatory practices found in seating or serving meal to children.		
	Convergence With Other Schemes		
	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan MDM programme functions independently and there are no convergence with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.	Teachers, Students, School Record/	
	School Health Programme School Health programme has no convergence with MDM. In convergence with the health department, the health check-up happens once a year. The HM coordinates with the Primary Health Center (PHC) to administer medicines in most of the schools. The health card is maintained only in 23 schools and the remaining schools do not maintain the health card regularly.	School heal card	th
	Is there school Health Card maintained for each child?		

S.No.	Indicators	Source Informatio	of n
	Yes. There is a school health card maintained for each child in the 23 schools. These were not found in PUMS V Soorakudi, PUPS Kannagi Amman Nagar, PUMS Pasankarai, PUMS V Pudhukkulam.		
	What is the frequency of health check-up? Health check up happens once in a year.		
	Whether children are given micronutrients (Iron, folic acid, vitamin – A dosage) and de-worming medicine periodically? Yes. Children are given micronutrients Iron, folic acid, vitamin-A dosage and de-worming medicine periodically in all the schools.		
	Who administers these medicines and at what frequency? The HM organizes health camps and these medicines are distributed through Primary Health Care Centers.		
	Whether height and weight record of the children is being indicated in the school health card. Yes. Height and weight record of the children is being indicated in the school health card		
	Whether any referral during the period of monitoring No referrals during the period of monitoring		
	Instances of medical emergency during the period of monitoring. There were no medical emergency during the period of monitoring		
	Availability of the first aid medical kit in the schools. Yes. First Aid medical kit was available in all schools the MI visited though some schools have never used them.		
	Dental and eye check-up included in the screening Yes. Dental and eye check-up included in the screening		
	Distribution of spectacles to children suffering from refractive error Yes. Spectacles to children suffering from refractive error are distributed in schools.		
	2. Drinking Water and SanitationProgramme Yes. Potable water is available for drinking purpose in all the schools. Most schools get their water supply from the Panchayat.		
	3. MPLAD / MLA Scheme No such special schemes announced or implemented in any of the monitored school.		

No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	<u>Infrastructure</u>	
	1. Kitchen-cum-Store	School
	a) Is a pucca kitchen shed-cum-store	records,
	The kitchen cum store room is available in almost all the schools.	discussion with head
	Constructed and in use	teacher,
	Under which Scheme Kitchen-cum-store constructed	teacher, VEC,
	Apart from PUMS Peyampatti, PUMS Anna nagar, and PUPS Perumacheri,	Gram
	the kitchen-cum-store has been constructed under the MDM scheme.	Panchayatme mbers.
	Constructed but not in use (Reasons for not using)	ilibers.
	When the MI visited PUPS Mulliyarendhal, the building had not been	
	opened by the authorities concerned. The cooking was being done in a shed.	
	stored?	
	In case the pucca kitchen-cum-store is not available the food is being cooked in an open space and the food grains and other ingredients are stored in the class rooms.	
	In case the pucca kitchen-cum-store is not available the food is being cooked in an open space and the food grains and other ingredients are	
	In case the pucca kitchen-cum-store is not available the food is being cooked in an open space and the food grains and other ingredients are stored in the class rooms. Kitchen-cum-store in hygienic condition, properly ventilated and away	
	In case the pucca kitchen-cum-store is not available the food is being cooked in an open space and the food grains and other ingredients are stored in the class rooms. Kitchen-cum-store in hygienic condition, properly ventilated and away from classrooms Kitchen-cum-store in several cases was not in a hygienic condition due to lack of ventilation and lighting. The walls of some of the MDM rooms further darkened by the soot from the stove receive very less light. Old, unused utensils, remains of firewood, and food waste stacked beside soot walls accumulate dust and insects. Since fresh food is cooked and stored in the same room in less light, there is potential health hazard for the cook and the helper, and to the students who eat the food. Several new buildings were also found to be built without sufficient	





Whether on any day there was interruption due to non-availability of firewood or LPG?

No, there was no interruption on any day due to non-availability of firewood or LPG.

2. Kitchen Devices

Whether cooking utensils are available in the school?

Utensils are available in all the schools, though it looks very old. Aluminum vessels are only used for cooking.

In the following schools the utensils were insufficient. The available utensils were too huge in size to use:

PUPS AR.SAMATHUVAPURAM
PUMS MUTHUPATTY
PUPS-KATTAIYANPATTI
PUMS, KALAYARMANGALAM
PUPS PERUMACHERI

S.No.	Indicators	Source Information	of n
	PUMS MUKKUDI		
	PUPS ALLINAGARAM		
	Source of funding for cooking and serving utensils – Department of social welfare department has distributed cooking and serving utensils.		
	Whether eating plates etc are available in the school? Yes. Eating plates are available in the school, but there are no tumblers available for drinking water. The children bring water from home reusing disposableplastic containers of soft drinks.		
	Source of funding for eating plates – The eating plates are given by the social welfare department		
	3. Availability of storage bins		
	Whether storage bins are available for food grains? If yes, what is the source of their procurement?		
	Storage bins were not seen in many schools. The stock is kept in the same gunny bags in which they received the food grains.		
	Toilets in the school		
	Most schools in Sivagangai district had toilets that require better maintenance. The MI is of the opinion that school managements in general have to be sensitized on the need to keep the school toilets neat and clean.		
	Is separate toilet for the boys and girls are available?		
	Yes, there are separate toilets available for girls and boys.		
	Are toilets usable? Yes. The toilets are usable but not very clean. There is no daily maintenance of toilets.		
	Due to inattention to the drains in the toilet, in several schools water stagnation is found in the toilet area making the toilets less usable.		
	Availability of potable water		
	Source: Panchayat or Corporation Water is being used by the schools for drinking and cooking purposes. The Panchayat or Municipal water is supplied through pipes and it is stored in a syntex tank.		

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	Availability of fire extinguishers	
	Yes, fire extinguisher is available in all the schools but it is found in HM room or Administration/office room. It is not made available near the Kitchen cum Store room. Training on handling the fire extinguisher has been given only to HMs. Other responsible persons at the next level have not been trained on using fire extinguishers at the time of emergency.	
	IT infrastructure available @ School level	
	Number of computers available in the school (if any). There is at least one computer available in 29 schools in Sivagangai.	
	Availability of internet connection (If any). No internet connection is available in any of the schools visited. Dial-up modem based connection available in the office room is intermittent or does not work in most schools.	
	Using any IT / IT enabled services based solutions / services (like e-learning etc.) (if any)	
	No such usage of IT/IT enabled services based solutions are seen in any of the schools.	
	Safety & Hygiene:	
	General Impression of the environment, Safety and hygiene: Because of firewood there is a lot of smoke and soot on walls and ceiling. Working conditions are definitely NOT healthy for the kitchen staff. Ensuring proper ventilation in kitchens and shifting to gas based cooking	Observation / interaction
	will surely improve the situation.	
	Hygienic practices are prompted by the teachers or organizers. The children wash their hands only after the meals but not before taking meals. In some schools the MI saw that the children washed their hands in the same bucket of water causing it to be unhygienic and murky.	
	Are children encouraged to wash hands before and after eating	
	All the children wash their hands after eating, but not all the children wash their hands before eating.	
	Do the children take meals in an orderly manner? Yes. Children take meals in an orderly manner in all the schools.	

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	Conservation of water?	
	The water is supplied by the corporation or Municipality in Sivagangai district. The water is stored in a syntax tank and supplied through pipes. The water is used only for cooking and for cleansing utensils. The children bring water in plastic bottles for the purpose of drinking in most of the schools.	
	Is the cooking process and storage of fuel safe, not posing any fire hazard? Yes, the cooking process and storage of fuel issafe and does not pose any fire hazard in any of the schools.	
	Community Participation	
	Extent of participation by Parents / SMC / VEC / Panchayats / Urban bodies in daily supervision and monitoring. Parents or community participation was reportedly unsatisfactory. No school had roster being maintained by the community members for supervision of the MDM. There is awareness amongst the community regarding MDM. Some parents visit the school very often and check the quality of meals served to children Is any roster of community members being maintained for supervision of the MDM? No, there is no roster of community members being maintained in any of the school. Is there any social audit mechanism in the school? No. There is no social audit mechanism in the school. Number of meetings of SMC held during the monitoring period. The SMC meetings are held once in every quarter. In most of the schools, discussion on MDM is not in the agenda of meeting. In how many of these meetings issues related to MDM were discussed?	Discussion with head teacher, teacher, Parents, VEC, Gram Panchayat members
	Inspection & Supervision	
	Is there any Inspection Register available at school level? Yes. Inspection register is available at school level in Sivagangai district	School records, discussion
	Whether school has received any funds under MME component? No, the schools have not received any funds under MME component	with head teacher,

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	Whether State / District / Block level officers / officials inspecting the MDM Scheme? Yes. Implementation of MDM scheme is being inspected by the block level officials and at times by the district level.	teachers, VEC, Gram Panchayat members
	The frequency of such inspections? At block level, it happens once in 6 months and at district level yearly once. There had been no inspection at the state level	
	<u>Impact</u>	
	Has the mid day meal improved the enrollment, attendance, retention of children in school? Some studies have suggested that there is a correlation. However, as part of monitoring it is not possible to evaluate MDM in terms of improved enrolment, attendance, retention of children in school. Whether mid day meal has helped in improvement of the social harmony? No. There is no evidence to show that MDM has helped in improvement of social harmony. Inside the school campus, there are no instances of social discrimination; however it prevails in the habitation. Whether mid day meal has helped in improvement of the nutritional status of the children? Yes. MDM has helped in improvement of the nutritional status of the children. Children who come from below poverty line families are highly benefited. Is there any other incidental benefit due to serving of meal in schools? Women cooks are getting empowered. With minimum educational qualification and using the skills they already possess, they get employment.	School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, students, VEC / SMC, Gram Panchayat members.
	Grievance Redressal Mechanism Is any grievance Redressal mechanism in the district for MDMS? There is no proper grievance Redressal mechanism followed or established for MDM in Sivagangai district. The MDM organizer in each school takes the responsibility of grievance Redressal. At the next level it is addressed by the school HM and then some of the cases get resolved in the SMC meetings.	Observation / interaction with teacher, children, parents and community members.
	Whether the district / block / school having any toll free number? No there is no toll free numbers available at any level.	

Any other issues relevant to implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme

- The major concern is maintenance of toilets in almost all the schools. There is no staff appointed
 for cleaning and maintaining the toilets, though running water is available in most of the
 schools.
- The palm oil that is provided to the schools has a validity period of 3 months. In many schools, the MI found that the palm oil packets in stock and use were past their period of expiry by several months. The problem appears to be that unused stock, caused by local holidays and absenteeism, is neither returned nor accounted for while new stock is delivered at the school, causing the excess oil to be stored past three months.
- Very few schools provide soap for children to wash their hands before and after meals.
- In majority of the schools, children bring plates and water bottles from home. Even though plates are available in the schoos, the school authorities do not oppose such practice. In some cases it could also be due to lack of plates in the school.
- The absence of LPG stoves was conspicuous and in all the schools visited, firewood was being used due to gas cylinders and stoves not being provided.
- In some schools, the quality of food grains especially dal was perceived to be substandard.
- The overall cooking process in the schools was marked by an inadequate supply of vegetables and pulses, due to the funds for cooking cost being disproportional to the number of students being served.
- Kitchen-cum store was built in almost all the schools, although the maintenance had a lot of room for improvement. <u>In most schools, ventilation in the kitchen was a problem.</u>Soot covered walls accumulate dust and insects since food and firewood waste is also stored in the same area. This might be a cause for health issues and fire hazards, especially given the use of firewood.

VIRUDHUNAGAR DISTRICT

At school level

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
1	Availability of food grains	
	i) Whether buffer stock of food grains for one month is available at the school?	School level registers, MDM
	The buffer stock is maintained in all the visited schools for 45 days in Virudhunagar district.	Registers, Head Teacher,
	PUPS Thendral Nagar has no MDM provision. Food is served for these children by PUPS Samathuvapuram.	School level MDM functionaries.
	ii) Whether food grain is delivered in school in time by the lifting agency?	SHG/ implementing agency
	In all theschools with MDM that the MI visited, the food grains are delivered at the school. Most of the schools have a proper storage room. In few schools, the food grains are stored at the corner of the class room.	
	iii) If lifting agency is not delivering the food grains at school how the food grains is transported up to school level?	
	The food grains are delivered at the school in Virudhunagar district.	
	iv) Whether the food grain is of FAQ of Grade-A quality?	
	In most cases, the food grain was not of Grade-A quality; they are mostly of grade III quality. The school authorities expressed that the quality of rice and lentils are of usable quality few months and sometimes the quality found to be poor.	
	v) Whether food grain is released to school after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month?	
	No. this is not being followed in any of the schools. The food grain is released at the fixed quantity every month for each school. There is no	

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	adjusting done on the unspent balance of the previous month.	
	Timely release of funds	
	a) Whether State is releasing funds to District / block / school on regular basis in advance? If not,	Records /
	Yes. There are no disruptions in the release of funds from the state.	observation / interaction with teachers
	b) Period of delay in releasing funds by State to district.	and any other
	There is no delay in release of funds.	person.
	c) Period of delay in releasing funds by District to block / schools	
	In some of the schools, there is a delay in releasing of funds for at-least 5 to 10 days. In such case, the organizer contributes his personal money to meet the day-to-day expenditure for procuring vegetables, masala and other cooking ingredients.	
	d) Period of delay in releasing funds by block to schools.	
	The period of delay is 5 to 10 days.	
	Any other observations	
i)	Availability of Cooking Cost	
	a. Whether school / implementing agency has receiving cooking cost in advance regularly?	School level registers,
	The school is receiving cooking cost advance regularly. In few schools there is a delay of 5-10 days in receiving the cooking cost.	MDM Registers,
	b. Period of delay, if any, in receipt of cooking cost.	Head Teacher, School level
	5 to 10 days delay in receipt of cooking cost.	MDM
	c. In case of non-receipt of cooking cost how the meal is served?	functionaries. SHG/
	The organizers take the in charge of serving the meal in case if	implementing

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	cooking cost is received late.	agency
	d. Mode of payment of cooking cost	
	The mode of payment of cooking cost is through bank.	
	Availability of Cook-cum-helpers	
		Observations
	Who engage Cook-cum-helpers at schools The district collector engage the scale sum helpers at schools	and discussion
	The district collector engage the cook-cum-helpers at schools	with children teachers,
	If cook-cum-helper is not engaged who cooks and serves the meal?	parents, VEC
	There is no such instance in any of the school. If the cook or helper is on	members,
	leave the cook from nearby schools are deputed for few days.	Gram Panchayat
	Is the number of cooks-cum-helpers engaged in the school as per GOI	members and
	norms or as per State norms?	cooks-cum-
		helpers.
	Yes.	
	Honorarium paid to cooks cum helpers	
	Cook : Rs. 3000 to Rs. 3500	
	Helper: Rs. 1800 to Rs. 2500	
	Organizer : Rs. 6500 to Rs. 8200	
	The salary for organizer, cook and helpers are determined based on the	
	strength of children in each school. It varies according to the total number	
	of students avail MDM. The salary ranges between Rs. 3000 to Rs. 3500 to	
	cook, Rs. 1800 to Rs. 2500 to Helper and Rs. 6500 to Rs. 8200	
	Mode of payment to cook-cum-helpers?	
	Cash payment is made to cook cum helpers.	
	Are the remuneration paid to cooks cum helpers regularly?	
	Yes. The remuneration paid to cooks cum helpers regularly in all the	
	schools.	
	Social Composition of cooks cum helpers? (SC/ST/OBC/Minority)	
	The cooks cum helpers were found, in most schools to be from the	
	community that the majority of the students came from. The social	
	composition of cook cum helpers is from SC,OBC,BC(M/C) in several	
	schools. In the ADW schools inPattiyoor, Nallukurichi, Idaiyankulam, the	
	cooks were from the SC community. No ST cooks/helpers were observed in the schools the MI visited.	
	the schools the IVII visited.	
	Is there any training module for cook-cum-helpers?	

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	There is no training module available for cook-cum-helpers.	
	Whether training has been provided to cook-cum-helpers? In few schools where the new variety menu rice is being followed, training has been given to cook cum helpers to cook vegetable biriyani, tamarind rice, different varieties of egg masala, etc.	
	In case the meal is prepared and transported by the Centralized kitchen / NGO, whether cook-cum-helpers have been engaged to serve the meal to the children at school level. There is no Whether health check-up of cook-cum-helpers has been done? No. Health check-up is not being done for cook-cum-helpers in any of the schools in Virudhunagar district.	
	Regularity in Serving Meal	
	Whether the school is serving hot cooked meal daily? If there was interruption, what was the extent and reasons for the same?	Students, Teachers & Parents, and
	All the schools serve hot cooked meals regularly. There is no disruption in serving of meals noted in any of the schools in Virudhunagar district.	MDM register
	PUPS ThendralNagar had no MDM implementation; PUPS Samathuvapuram's MDM facility served the students of this schools.	
	Quality &Quantity of Meal	
	Feedback from children on hazard Quality of meal — The quality of meal is satisfactory in most of the schools. In some schools, it was observed by the monitoring team that the rice is overcooked and doesn't taste good.	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	Quantity of meal The quantity of meal was found satisfactory in almost all the schools. Quantity of pulses used in the meal per child. Rice – 100 gm for classes I to V, 150 gm for classes VI to VIII. Dal – 15 gm across all ages. Oil – 3 ml, Salt – 1.9 gm (0.01paise), Black gram – 20 gm, green gram – 20 gm, Other provisions: Rs. 0.14 per child for classes I to V, Rs. 0.17 per child for classes VI to VIII Firewood: Rs. 0.24 for classes I to V, Rs. 0.27 for classes VI to VIII Total cost: Rs. 0.70 paise per child for classes I to V, Rs. 0.80 paise per child for classes VI to VIII (including vegetables, provisions and firewood)	

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	Quantity of green leafy vegetables used in the meal per child.	
	Potato – Rs. 0.20 per child, Vegetables – Rs. 0.32 per child for classes I to V, Rs. 0.36 for classes VI to VIII.	
	The quantity of green seasonal vegetables and potato available per child at market price for the amount of funds allocated per child was found to insufficient. The cooks often skip vegetables on the days when Lemon or tamarind rice is served, to save money to buy a reasonable quantity of vegetables on another week day.	

S.No. Indicators Source of Information



Whether double fortified salt is used?

Yes. Government of Tamil Nadu has supplied double fortified salt for MDM in all the schools.

Acceptance of the meal amongst the children.

The children accept the meal. In most of the schools, the rice is overcooked due to poor quality rice. Also, same vegetables are added in the sambar everyday.

Method / Standard gadgets / equipment for measuring the quantity of food to be cooked and served.

There are no standard gadgets/equipments used by the cook/organizer for measuring the quantity of food.

Variety of Menu

Who decides the menu?

Most of the schools follow the menu decided by the Government of Tamil Nadu and in some cases the schools follow the menu given by the BDO/PWD/Collector. Everyday menu and purchase of vegetables are decided either by the school HM or organizer. In 14 schools, menu was displayed on the notice board and in the remaining 26 schools it was

Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members,

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	displayed on the notice board in Virudhunagar district.	Gram
	The same type of food is served daily. The only difference is the vegetables	Panchayat members and
	added to the Sambar. The food has rice, dal, eggs and vegetables. Only on	cooks. Obtain
	Tuesdays, boiled black chickpea (Channa) is distributed to the children. There is no wheat preparation.	a copy of menu.
	Whether weekly menu is displayed at a prominent place noticeable to community,	
	No, the weekly menu is not displayed at a prominent place noticeable to community.	
	Is the menu being followed uniformly? Yes, the menu is being followed uniformly	
	Whether menu includes locally available ingredients? Not all the time. Sometimes they use locally available vegetables to add it to sambar and no other ingredients are used.	
	Whether menu provides required nutritional and calorific value per child? Menu has rice, dal and vegetables. The nutritional and calorific values are not being measured in any of the school.	
	Display of Information under Right to Education Act, 2009 at the school level at prominent place	
	Quantity and date of food grains received In few schools, the quantity and date of food grains received are displayed on the board near the Kitchen.	
	Balance quantity of food grains utilized during the month. Yes. The balance quantity of food grains utilized during the month. However, every month the same quantity of food grains are delivered and	
8	the balance of previous month not being adjusted.	Observation / interaction
0	Other ingredients purchased, utilized Chilly powder, turmeric powder, oil, mustard seeds, jeera, vegetables.	with teacher, children, community
	Number of children given MDM 2946 children were given MDM	members.
	Daily menu 1. Plain boiled rice and Sambar (with varieties of vegetables each day), Mixed rice flavoured with tamarind or lemon, or Vegetable biryani.	

S.No.	Indicators					Source of Information
	2. Boiled e Egg cur					
	Display of MDN school.	/I logo at pro	minent place p	referably outsid	e wall of the	
	_	schools. In fe	ew schools MDI	MDM logo foun M logo has been ooking shed.	•	
	<u>Trends</u>					
	Extent of variat visit).	ion (As per s	chool records v	vis-à-vis Actual c	on the day of	School level registers,
	Enrollment	No. of children opted MDM	No. of children attending school	No. availing MDM (as per register)	No. availing on day of visit	MDM Registers Head Teachers, Schools level MDM
	3696	3270	3308	2946	2526	functionaries Observation of the monitoring team.
	4000					team.
	2500					
	1500					
	500					
	Enroll	ment No. of c opted	hildren No. o MDM childre attendi schoo	n MDM (as per ng register)	No. availing on day of visit	
	Social Equity What is the sys	tem of servir	ng and seating a	arrangements fo	or eating?	Observations / interaction

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	In some of the schools, children were made to sit orderly in the school veranda and they were served with meals. In many schools, children stand in a queue with their bowls/plates to receive the food from the cook. After taking food from the cook children themselves sit in a row and have their food.	with the children, parents and community members.
	Did you observe any gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements?	
	There was no caste or community discrimination prominently seen inside the school premises with regard to cooking or serving or seating arrangements.	
	In some of the schools, children were made to sit orderly in the school veranda and they were served with meals. In many schools, children stand in a queue with their bowls/plates to receive the food from the cook. After taking food from the cook children themselves sit in a row and have their food. It was observed by the field investigators (in conversation with cooks, helpers and children) that practices of discrimination are found the nearby villages/habitations in which the schools are located. However, inside the school premises, there were no physical discriminatory practices found in seating or serving meal to children.	
	The name of the school where discrimination found of any kind may be mentioned in the main body of the report along with date of visit.	
	If any kind of social discrimination is found in the school, comments of the team may be given in the inspection register of the school.	
	Inside the school premises, there were no physical discriminatory practices found in seating or serving meal to children.	
	Convergence With Other Schemes	Teachers,
	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan MDM programme functions independently and there are no convergence with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.	Students, School Record/
	School Health Programme	School health card
	School Health programme has no convergence with MDM. In convergence with the health department, the health check-up happens once a year. The HM coordinates with the Primary Health Center (PHC) to administer medicines in most of the schools. The health card is maintained in all the schools in Virudhunagar district.	

S.No.	Indicators	Source Information	of n
	Is there school Health Card maintained for each child?	1 10110	
	Yes. There is a school health card maintained for each child.		
	What is the frequency of health check-up?		
	Health check up happens once in a year.		
	Whether children are given micronutrients (Iron, folic acid, vitamin – A dosage) and de-worming medicine periodically? Yes. Children are given micronutrients Iron, folic acid, vitamin-A dosage and de-worming medicine periodically in all the schools.		
	Who administers these medicines and at what frequency? The HM organizes health camps and these medicines are distributed through Primary Health Care Centers.		
	Whether height and weight record of the children is being indicated in the school health card.		
	Yes. Height and weight record of the children is being indicated in the school health card		
	Whether any referral during the period of monitoring No referrals during the period of monitoring		
	Instances of medical emergency during the period of monitoring. There were no medical emergency during the period of monitoring		
	Availability of the first aid medical kit in the schools. Yes. First Aid medical kit was available in all the schools.		
	Dental and eye check-up included in the screening Yes. Dental and eye check-up included in the screening		
	Distribution of spectacles to children suffering from refractive error Yes. Spectacles to children suffering from refractive error are distributed in schools.		
	2. Drinking Water and SanitationProgramme Whether potable water is available for drinking purpose in convergence with Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme. YES. Most schools get their water supply from the Panchayat.		
	3. MPLAD / MLA Scheme		
	No such special schemes announced or implemented in any of the monitored school.		

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	<u>Infrastructure</u>	
	1. Kitchen-cum-Store	School
	a) Is a pucca kitchen shed-cum-store	records,
	The kitchen cum store room is available in almost all the schools.	discussion
		with head
	Constructed and in use Under which Scheme Kitchen-cum-store constructed	teacher,
	The Kitchen-cum-store is constructed mostly under SSA	teacher, VEC, Gram
	Constructed but not in use (Reasons for not using)	Panchayatme
	Constructed but not in use (Neasons for not using)	mbers.
	b) In case the pucca kitchen-cum-store is not available, where is the food	
	being cooked and where the food grains /other ingredients are being stored?	
	In case the pucca kitchen-cum-store is not available the food is being	
	cooked in an open space and the food grains and other ingredients are	
	stored in the classrooms.	
	Kitchen-cum-store in hygienic condition, properly ventilated and away from classrooms	
	Yes. Kitchen-cum-store in hygienic condition and properly ventilated and away from class rooms.	
	Whether MDM is being cooked by using firewood or LPG based cooking?	
	In almost all the school firewood is being used for cooking. There are orders	
	sanctioned to several schools that LPG based cooking can be used. But,	
	there is no separate fund allotted for purchasing LPG cylinder. The LPG based cooking cannot be replaced with firewood based at the same cost.	
	based cooking cannot be replaced with firewood based at the same cost.	
	The following schools use a combination of firewood and LPG for cooking:	
	PUMS Chithalakundu	
	PUPS Viswanatham	
	PUMS Nathikudi	
	PUPS Kanajampatti	
	PUPS O.Mettupatti	

Э.	Indicators	Source	of
		Informatio	n
	Whether on any day there was interruption due to non-availability of firewood or LPG?		
	No, there was no interruption on any day due to non-availability of firewood or LPG.		
	2. Kitchen Devices		
	Whether cooking utensils are available in the school?		
	Utensils are available in all the schools, though it looks very old, larger in size than required, or insufficient. Aluminum vessels are only used for cooking. Plates are brought by the children from home in most of the schools. The following schools do not have sufficient utensils:		
	PUMS Thinmapuram		
	PUPS Pallapatti		
	PUMS Kanchapuram		
	PUMS Chithalakundu		
	PUPS Salaimaraikulam		
	PUPS Viswanatham		
	PUMS Nathikudi		
	PUPS O.Mettupatti PUMS Malanalayam		
	PUMS Melapalayam	1	

S.No. Indicators Source of Information



Source of funding for cooking and serving utensils – Department of social welfare department has distributed cooking and serving utensils.

Whether eating plates etc are available in the school?

Yes. Eating plates are available in the school, but there are no tumblers available for drinking water. The children bring water from home in the disposable plastic bottles of soft drinks such as coke and pepsi.

Source of funding for eating plates -

The eating plates are given by the social welfare department.

3. Availability of storage bins

Whether storage bins are available for food grains? If yes, what is the source of their procurement?

Storage bins were seen in many schools. If not, the stock is kept in the same gunny bags in which they received the food grains.

Toilets in the school

Most schools in Virudhunagar district had toilets that require better maintenance. The MI is of the opinion that school managements in general have to be sensitized on the need to keep the school toilets neat and clean.

Is separate toilet for the boys and girls are available?

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	Yes, there are separate toilets available for girls and boys.	
	Are toilets usable? Yes. The toilets are usable but not very clean. There is no daily maintenance of toilets. The lack of regular running water supply hinders regular and sufficient cleaning of the toilets.	
	Availability of potable water	
	Source: Panchayat or Corporation Water is being used by the schools for drinking and cooking purposes. The Panchayat or Municipal water is supplied through pipes and it is stored in a syntex tank.	
	Availability of fire extinguishers	
	Yes, fire extinguisher is available in all the schools but it is found in HM room or Administration/office room. It is not made available near the Kitchen cum Store room. Training on handling the fire extinguisher has been given only to HMs. Other responsible persons at the next level have not been trained on using fire extinguishers at the time of emergency.	
	IT infrastructure available @ School level	
	Number of computers available in the school (if any). At least one computer is available in 18 of the primary schools visited in Virudhunagardistrict	
	Availability of internet connection (If any). No internet connection is available.	
	Using any IT / IT enabled services based solutions / services (like e-learning etc.) (if any)	
	No such usage of IT/IT enabled services based solutions are seen in any of the schools.	
	Safety & Hygiene:	
	General Impression of the environment, Safety and hygiene:	Observation /
	Because of firewood there is a lot of smoke and soot on walls and ceiling. Working conditions are definitely NOT healthy for the kitchen staff. Ensuring proper ventilation in kitchens and shifting to gas based cooking will surely improve the situation.	interaction

S.No. **Indicators** Source of Information PUPS S Pudhur, and PUMS Melapalayam schools in particular were found to be in poor condition. Hygienic practices are not prompted by the teachers or organizers. The children wash their hands only after the meals but not before taking meals. Are children encouraged to wash hands before and after eating All the children wash their hands after eating, but not all the children wash their hands before eating. Do the children take meals in an orderly manner? Yes. Children take meals in an orderly manner in all the schools. Conservation of water? The water is supplied by the corporation or Municipality in Virudhunagar district. The water is stored in a syntax tank and supplied through pipes. The water is used only for cooking and for cleansing utensils. The children bring water in reused disposable plastic bottles for the purpose of drinking in most of the schools. Is the cooking process and storage of fuel safe, not posing any fire hazard? Yes, the cooking process and storage of fuel are safe and not posing any fire hazard in any of the school. **Community Participation** Extent of participation by Parents / SMC / VEC / Panchayats / Urban Discussion

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	bodies in daily supervision and monitoring. Parents or community participation was reportedly unsatisfactory. No school had roster being maintained by the community members for supervision of the MDM. There is awareness amongst the community regarding MDM. Some parents visit the school very often and check the quality of meals served to children. Is any roster of community members being maintained for supervision of the MDM? No, there is no roster of community members being maintained in any of the school. Is there any social audit mechanism in the school? No. There is no social audit mechanism in the school. Number of meetings of SMC held during the monitoring period. The SMC meetings are held once in every quarter. In most of the schools, discussion on MDM is not in the agenda of meeting. In how many of these meetings issues related to MDM were discussed?	with head teacher, teacher, Parents, VEC, Gram Panchayat members
	None. Inspection & Supervision	
	Is there any Inspection Register available at school level? Yes. Inspection register is available at school level in Virudhunagar district	School records, discussion
	Whether school has received any funds under MME component? No, the school has not received any funds under MME component Whether State / District / Block level officers / officials inspecting the MDM Scheme? Yes. Implementation of MDM scheme is being inspected by the block level officials and at times by the district level.	with head teacher, teachers, VEC, Gram Panchayat members
	The frequency of such inspections? At block level, it happens once in 6 months and at district level yearly once. There had been no inspection at the state level	
	<u>Impact</u>	
	Has the mid day meal improved the enrollment, attendance, retention of children in school? It is quite difficult to evaluate MDM in terms of improved enrolment, attendance, retention of children in school.	school records, discussion with head

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
		teacher,
	Whether mid day meal has helped in improvement of the social harmony? There are no evidences to show that MDM has helped in improvement of social harmony. Inside the school campus, there are no instances of social discrimination; however it prevails in the habitation.	teachers, students, VEC / SMC, Gram Panchayat
	Whether mid day meal has helped in improvement of the nutritional status of the children?	members.
	Yes. MDM has helped in improvement of the nutritional status of the children. Children who come from below poverty line families are highly benefited.	
	Is there any other incidental benefit due to serving of meal in schools? Women cooks are getting empowered. With minimum educational qualification they get the employment benefits.	
	Grievance Redressal Mechanism	Observation / interaction
	Is any grievance Redressal mechanism in the district for MDMS? There is no proper grievance Redressal mechanism followed or established for MDM in Virudhunagar district. The MDM organizer in each school takes the responsibility of grievance Redressal. At the next level it is addressed by the school HM and then some of the cases get resolved in the SMC meetings.	with teacher, children, parents and community members.
	Whether the district / block / school having any toll free number? No there is no toll free numbers available at any level.	

Any other issues relevant to implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme

- The major concern is maintenance of toilets in almost all the schools. There is no staff appointed for cleaning and maintaining the toilets. Running water is available in most of the schools.
- The Kitchen-cum-store room facility in most schools was not ventilated properly. Construction of kitchen-cum stores was done through private funds in most schools.
- In some schools, cooking costs exceeded the funds provided by the department, and hence, vegetables and pulses were being bought in small amounts.
- Understaffing plagued some of the schools, and this along with a general paucity of MDM funds forced organizers to spend their own money to buy supplies in Virudhunagar district.

- In some schools, the quality of food grains was perceived to be substandard.
- The overall cooking process in the schools was marked by an inadequate supply of vegetables and pulses, due to the funds for cooking cost being disproportional to the number of students being served. Eggs were also inadequate in few schools.
- The palm oil that is provided to the schools has a validity period of 3 months. In several schools, the MI found that the palm oil packets in stock and use were past their period of expiry by several months. The problem appears to be that unused stock, caused by local holidays and absenteeism, is neither returned nor accounted for while new stock is delivered at the school, causing the excess oil to be stored past three months.

TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

S.No.	Indicat	ors	Source of Information
	<u>Availal</u>	bility of food grains	
	vi)	Whether buffer stock of food grains for one month is available at the school?	School level registers, MDM
	The bu district	ffer stock is maintained in all the 40 schools for 45 days in Tirunelveli .	Registers, Head Teacher, School level
	vii)	Whether food grain is delivered in school in time by the lifting agency?	MDM functionaries. SHG/ implementing
	schools	ne 40 schools, the food grains are delivered at the school. Most of the s have a proper storage room. In few schools, the food grains are at the corner of the class room.	agency
	viii)	If lifting agency is not delivering the food grains at school how the food grains is transported up to school level?	
	The foo	od grains are delivered at the school in Tirunelveli district.	
	ix)	Whether the food grain is of FAQ of Grade-A quality?	
	author	st cases, the food grain was not of Grade-A quality. The school ities expressed that the quality of rice and dal are of good quality few s and sometimes the quality found to be poor.	
	x)	Whether food grain is released to school after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month?	
	release	is is not being followed in any of the schools. The food grain is ed at the fixed quantity every month for each school. There is no ng done on the unspent balance of the previous month.	
	Timely	release of funds	
	_	nether State is releasing funds to District / block / school on regular sis in advance? If not,	Records / observation / interaction with teachers
	Yes. Th	ere are no disruptions in the release of funds from the state.	and any other person.

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	f) Period of delay in releasing funds by State to district.	
	There is no delay in release of funds.	
	g) Period of delay in releasing funds by District to block / schools	
	In some of the schools, there is a delay in releasing of funds for at-least 5 to 10 days. In such case, the organizer contributes his personal money to meet the day-to-day expenditure for procuring vegetables, masala and other cooking ingredients.	
	h) Period of delay in releasing funds by block to schools.	
	The period of delay is 5 to 10 days.	
	Any other observations	
i)	Availability of Cooking Cost	
	a. Whether school / implementing agency has receiving cooking cost in advance regularly?	School level registers,
	The school is receiving cooking cost advance regularly. In few schools there is a delay of 5-10 days in receiving the cooking cost.	MDM Registers,
	b. Period of delay, if any, in receipt of cooking cost.	Head Teacher, School level
	5 to 10 days delay in receipt of cooking cost.	MDM
	c. In case of non-receipt of cooking cost how the meal is served?	functionaries.
	The organizers take the in charge of serving the meal in case if cooking cost is received late.	SHG/ implementing agency
	d. Mode of payment of cooking cost	
	The mode of payment of cooking cost is through bank.	
ii)	Availability of Cook-cum-helpers	
	Who angage Cook sum halpers at schools	Observations and discussion
	Who engage Cook-cum-helpers at schools The district collector engage the cook-cum-helpers at schools	with children
		teachers,
	If cook-cum-helper is not engaged who cooks and serves the meal?	parents, VEC
	There is no such instance in any of the school. If the cook or helper is on leave the cook from nearby schools are deputed for few days.	members, Gram
	included the control of the days.	Panchayat
	Is the number of cooks-cum-helpers engaged in the school as per GOI	members and

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	name and a name Chata name 2	
	norms or as per State norms?	cooks-cum-
	Number of cooks-cum-helpers was engaged as per GOI norms.	helpers.
	The social composition of cook cum helpers is from underprivileged section of the society in several schools.	
	Honorarium paid to cooks cum helpers Cook: Rs. 3000 to Rs. 3500 Helper: Rs. 1800 to Rs. 2500 Organizer: Rs. 6500 to Rs. 8200 The salary for organizer, cook and helpers are determined based on the strength of children in each school. It varies according to the total number	
	of students avail MDM. The salary ranges between Rs. 3000 to Rs. 3500 to cook, Rs. 1800 to Rs. 2500 to Helper and Rs. 6500 to Rs. 8200	
	Mode of payment to cook-cum-helpers? Cash payment is made to cook cum helpers.	
	Are the remuneration paid to cooks cum helpers regularly? Yes. The remuneration paid to cooks cum helpers regularly in all the schools. Social Composition of cooks cum helpers? (SC/ST/OBC/Minority) Cooks from SC, OBC, and Minority groups were found according to the social composition of the students. No ST cooks were observed.	
	Is there any training module for cook-cum-helpers? There is no training module available for cook-cum-helpers.	
	Whether training has been provided to cook-cum-helpers? In few schools where the new variety menu rice is being followed, training has been given to cook cum helpers to cook vegetable biriyani, tamarind rice, different varieties of egg masala, etc.	
	In case the meal is prepared and transported by the Centralized kitchen / NGO, whether cook-cum-helpers have been engaged to serve the meal to the children at school level. None.	
	There is no Whether health check-up of cook-cum-helpers has been done? No. Health check-up is not being done for cook-cum-helpers in any of the schools in Tirunelveli district.	
iii)	Regularity in Serving Meal	
	Whether the school is serving hot cooked meal daily? If there was	Students,

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	interruption, what was the extent and reasons for the same?	Teachers &Parents, and
	All the schools serve hot cooked meals regularly. There is no disruption in serving of meals noted in any of the schools in Tirunelveli district.	MDM register
	In all the schools children were seated in the veranda to have the mid day meal.	
iv)	Quality &Quantity of Meal	
	Feedback from children on hazard Quality of meal — The quality of meal is satisfactory in most of the schools. In some schools, it was observed by the monitoring team that the rice is overcooked and doesn't taste good. Quantity of meal The quantity of meal was found satisfactory in almost all the schools. Quantity of pulses used in the meal per child. Rice — 100 gm for classes I to V, 150 gm for classes VI to VIII. Dal — 15 gm across all ages. Oil — 3 ml, Salt — 1.9 gm (0.01paise), Black gram — 20 gm, green gram — 20 gm, Other provisions: Rs. 0.14 per child for classes I to V, Rs. 0.17 per child for classes VI to VIII Firewood: Rs. 0.24 for classes I to V, Rs. 0.27 for classes VI to VIII Total cost: Rs. 0.70 paise per child for classes I to V, Rs. 0.80 paise per child for classes VI to VIII (including vegetables, provisions and firewood)	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	Quantity of green leafy vegetables used in the meal per child. Potato – Rs. 0.20 per child, Vegetables – Rs. 0.32 per child for classes I to V, Rs. 0.36 for classes VI to VIII.	
	Whether double fortified salt is used? Yes. Government of Tamil Nadu has supplied double fortified salt for MDM in all the schools.	
	Acceptance of the meal amongst the children. The children accept the meal, they are feeling bored with the same kind of menu that is being followed. In most of the schools, the rice is overcooked due to poor quality rice.	

S.No.	Indicators	Source Information	of 1
	Method / Standard gadgets / equipment for measuring the quantity of food to be cooked and served. There are no standard gadgets/equipments used by the cook/organizer for measuring the quantity of food.		
v)	Who decides the menu? Most of the schools follow the menu decided by the Government of Tamil Nadu and in some cases the schools follow the menu given by the BDO/PWD/Collector. Everyday menu and purchase of vegetables are decided either by the school HM or organizer. In 10 schools, menu was displayed on the notice board and in the remaining 30 schools it was displayed on the notice board in Tirunelveli district. The same type of food is served daily. The only difference is the vegetables added to the Sambar. The food has rice, dal, eggs and vegetables. Only on Tuesdays, boiled black chickpea (Channa) is distributed to the children.	Observation and discussi with childr teachers, parents, V members, Gram Panchayat members a cooks. Obta a copy	ion ren 'EC
	There is no wheat preparation. Whether weekly menu is displayed at a prominent place noticeable to	menu.	

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	community, No, the weekly menu is not displayed at a prominent place noticeable to community.	
	Is the menu being followed uniformly? Yes, the menu is being followed uniformly	
	Whether menu includes locally available ingredients? Not all the time. Sometimes they use locally available vegetables to add it to sambar and no other vegetables such as potato, tomato, and onion are affordable.	
	Whether menu provides required nutritional and calorific value per child? Menu has rice, dal and vegetables. The nutritional and calorific values are not being measured in any of the school.	
	Display of Information under Right to Education Act, 2009 at the school level at prominent place Quantity and date of food grains received In few schools, the quantity and date of food grains received are displayed	
	on the board near the Kitchen. Balance quantity of food grains utilized during the month. Yes. The balance quantity of food grains utilized during the month. However, every month the same quantity of food grains are delivered and the balance of previous month not being adjusted.	Observation /
8	Other ingredients purchased, utilized Chilly powder, turmeric powder, oil, mustard seeds, jeera, vegetables.	interaction with teacher, children, community
	Number of children given MDM 2694 children were given MDM	members.
	Daily menu 1. Plain boiled rice and Sambar (with varieties of vegetables each day), Mixed rice flavoured with tamarind or lemon, or Vegetable biryani.	
	Boiled egg or Egg curry.	

S.No. Indicators Source of Information



<u>Display of MDM logo at prominent place preferably outside wall of the school.</u>

In Tirunelveli, during our visit there was no MDM logo found at prominent place in several schools. In few schools MDM logo has been printed on a white paper and stuck at the entrance of cooking shed.



S.No. Indicators Source of Information 2. **Trends Extent of variation** School level (As per school records vis-à-vis Actual on the day of visit). registers, **MDM** Registers No. of No. of Head children children No. availing No. availing Teachers, opted attending MDM (as on day of Schools level **Enrollment** MDM school per register) visit MDM functionaries / Observation 4080 2759 3673 2694 2644 of the monitoring team. Enrollment, No. of 4500 4080 children No. availing 4000 attending MDM school, (as per No. of 3500 No. availing 3673 register), children opted on day of visit, 2694 MDM, 2759 3000 2644 2500 2000 1500 1000 500 0 Enrollment No. of No. of No. availing No. availing children children MDM (as per on day of visit attending opted MDM register) school 3. **Social Equity** Observations interaction What is the system of serving and seating arrangements for eating? In some of the schools, children were made to sit orderly in the school with the veranda and they were served with meals. In many schools, children stand children, in a queue with their bowls/plates to receive the food from the cook. After parents and taking food from the cook children themselves sit in a row and have their community food. members.

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	Did you observe any gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements?	
	There was no caste or community discrimination prominently seen inside the school premises with regard to cooking or serving or seating arrangements.	
	In some of the schools, children were made to sit orderly in the school veranda and they were served with meals. In many schools, children stand in a queue with their bowls/plates to receive the food from the cook. After taking food from the cook children themselves sit in a row and have their food. It was observed by the field investigators (in conversation with cooks, helpers and children) that practices of discrimination are found the nearby villages/habitations in which the schools are located. However, inside the school premises, there were no physical discriminatory practices found in seating or serving meal to children.	
	The name of the school where discrimination found of any kind may be mentioned in the main body of the report along with date of visit.	
	If any kind of social discrimination is found in the school, comments of the team may be given in the inspection register of the school.	
	Inside the school premises, there were no physical discriminatory practices found in seating or serving meal to children.	
4.	Convergence With Other Schemes	Teachers,
	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and MDM programme functions independently and there are no convergence with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.	Students, School Record/
	School Health Programme	School health
	School Health programme has no convergence with MDM. In convergence with the health department, the health check-up happens once a year. The HM coordinates with the Primary Health Center (PHC) to administer medicines in most of the schools. The health card is maintained in 38 schools in Tirunelveli.	dara
	The data could not be verified in the following schools: TDTA PS,THALAIVANKOTTAI PUP S MARANTHAI PUPS,SETHURAYANPUTHUR	

S.No.	Indicators	Source Information	of n
	Is there school Health Card maintained for each child? Yes. There is a school health card maintained for each child.		
	What is the frequency of health check-up? Health check up happens once in a year.		
	Whether children are given micronutrients (Iron, folic acid, vitamin – A dosage) and de-worming medicine periodically? Yes. Children are given micronutrients Iron, folic acid, vitamin-A dosage and de-worming medicine periodically in all the schools.		
	Who administers these medicines and at what frequency? The HM organizes health camps and these medicines are distributed through Primary Health Care Centers.		
	Whether height and weight record of the children is being indicated in the school health card. Yes. Height and weight record of the children is being indicated in the school health card		
	Whether any referral during the period of monitoring No referrals during the period of monitoring		
	Instances of medical emergency during the period of monitoring. There were no medical emergency during the period of monitoring		
	Availability of the first aid medical kit in the schools. Yes. First Aid medical kit was available in all the schools.		
	Dental and eye check-up included in the screening Yes. Dental and eye check-up included in the screening		
	Distribution of spectacles to children suffering from refractive error Yes. Spectacles to children suffering from refractive error are distributed in schools.		
	2. Drinking Water and SanitationProgramme Whether potable water is available for drinking purpose in convergence with Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme.		
	3. MPLAD / MLA Scheme		
	No such special schemes announced or implemented in any of the monitored school.		

S.No.	o. Indicators	
5.	<u>Infrastructure</u>	
	 Kitchen-cum-Store Is a pucca kitchen shed-cum-store The kitchen cum store room is available in almost all the schools. Constructed and in use Under which Scheme Kitchen-cum-store constructed Constructed but not in use (Reasons for not using) b) In case the pucca kitchen-cum-store is not available, where is the food being cooked and where the food grains /other ingredients are being stored? In case the pucca kitchen-cum-store is not available the food is being 	School records, discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayatme mbers.
	cooked in an open space and the food grains and other ingredients are stored in the class rooms. Kitchen-cum-store in hygienic condition, properly ventilated and away from classrooms Yes. Kitchen-cum-store in hygienic condition and properly ventilated and away from class rooms.	
	Whether MDM is being cooked by using firewood or LPG based cooking? In almost all the school firewood is being used for cooking. There are orders sanctioned to several schools that LPG based cooking can be used. But, there is no separate fund allotted for purchasing LPG cylinder. The LPG based cooking cannot be replaced with firewood based at the same cost. If cylinder gets over fire wood is used for cooking. Only one cylinder is allowed per month and it is not sufficient.	

S.No. Indicators Source of Information



LPG connection has been set up in few schools but gas cylinder has not been provided yet.

Whether on any day there was interruption due to non-availability of firewood or LPG?

No, there was no interruption on any day due to non-availability of firewood or LPG.

2. Kitchen Devices

Whether cooking utensils are available in the school?

Utensils are available in all the schools, though it looks very old. Aluminum vessels are only used for cooking. Plates are brought by the children from home in most of the schools.

Source of funding for cooking and serving utensils -

Department of social welfare department has distributed cooking and serving utensils.

Whether eating plates etc are available in the school?

Yes. Eating plates are available in the school, but there are no tumblers available for drinking water. The children bring water from home in the disposable containers like coke, pepsi, bottles.

Source of funding for eating plates -

The eating plates are given by the social welfare department

S.No.	Indicators	Source Information	of n
	3. Availability of storage bins		
	Whether storage bins are available for food grains? If yes, what is the source of their procurement?		
	Storage bins were not seen in many schools. The stock is kept in the same gunny bags in which they received the food grains.		
	Toilets in the school		
	Most schools in Tirunelveli district had toilets that require better maintenance. The MI is of the opinion that school managements in general have to be sensitized on the need to keep the school toilets neat and clean.		
	Is separate toilet for the boys and girls are available?		
Yes, there are separate toilets available for girls and boys.			
	Are toilets usable? Yes. The toilets are usable but not very clean. There is no daily maintenance of toilets.		
	Availability of potable water		
	Source: Panchayat or Corporation Water is being used by the schools for drinking and cooking purposes. The Panchayat or Municipal water is supplied through pipes and it is stored in a syntax tank.		
	Availability of fire extinguishers		
	Yes, fire extinguisher is available in all the schools but it is found in HM room or Administration/office room. It is not made available near the Kitchen cum Storeroom. Training on handling the fire extinguisher has been given only to HMs. Other responsible persons at the next level have not been trained on using fire extinguishers at the time of emergency.		

S.No.	Indicators	Source o
	B C	Information
	IT infrastructure available @ School level	
	Number of computers available in the school (if any). At least one computer is available in 21 of the primary schools that MI visited in Tirunelveli district.	
	Availability of internet connection (If any). No internet connection is available for teaching purposes. In some schools dial-up modem based internet connection is available in the office, though often not in working condition.	
	Using any IT / IT enabled services based solutions / services (like e-learning etc.) (if any)	
	No such usage of IT/IT enabled services based solutions are seen in any of the schools.	
1.	Safety & Hygiene:	
	General Impression of the environment, Safety and hygiene:	Observation interaction
	Because of firewood there is a lot of smoke and soot on walls and ceiling. Working conditions are definitely NOT healthy for the kitchen staff. Ensuring proper ventilation in kitchens and shifting to gas based cooking will surely improve the situation.	craction
	Hygienic practices are not prompted by the teachers or organizers. The children wash their hands only after the meals but not before taking meals.	
	Are children encouraged to wash hands before and after eating	

S.No.	.No. Indicators			
	All the children wash their hands after eating, but not all the children wash their hands before eating.			
	Do the children take meals in an orderly manner? Yes. Children take meals in an orderly manner in all the schools.			
	Conservation of water?			
	The water is supplied by the corporation or Municipality in Tirunelveli district. The water is stored in a syntax tank and supplied through pipes. The water is used only for cooking and for cleansing utensils. The children bring water in plastic bottles for the purpose of drinking in most of the schools.			
	Is the cooking process and storage of fuel safe, not posing any fire hazard? No, the cooking process and storage of fuel safe and not posing any fire hazard in any of the school.			
2.	Community Participation			
	Extent of participation by Parents / SMC / VEC / Panchayats / Urban bodies in daily supervision and monitoring. Parents or community participation was reportedly unsatisfactory. No school had roster being maintained by the community members for supervision of the MDM. There is awareness amongst the community regarding MDM. Some parents visit the school very often and check the quality of meals served to children.	Discussion with head teacher, teacher, Parents, VEC, Gram Panchayat members		
	Is any roster of community members being maintained for supervision of	members		
	the MDM? No, there is no roster of community members being maintained in any of the school.			
	Is there any social audit mechanism in the school? No. There is no social audit mechanism in the school.			
	Number of meetings of SMC held during the monitoring period. The SMC meetings are held once in every quarter. In most of the schools, discussion on MDM is not in the agenda of meeting.			
	In how many of these meetings issues related to MDM were discussed? None.			
3.	Inspection & Supervision			

S.No.	Indicators	Source of Information
	Is there any Inspection Register available at school level? Yes. Inspection register is available at school level in Tirunelveli district	School records, discussion
	Whether school has received any funds under MME component? No, the school has not received any funds under MME component	with head teacher, VEC,
	Whether State / District / Block level officers / officials inspecting the MDM Scheme?	Gram Panchayat
	Yes. Implementation of MDM scheme is being inspected by the block level officials and at times by the district level.	members
	The frequency of such inspections? At block level, it happens once in 6 months and at district level yearly once. There had been no inspection at the state level	
4.	<u>Impact</u>	
	Has the mid day meal improved the enrollment, attendance, retention of children in school? It is quite difficult to evaluate MDM in terms of improved enrolment, attendance, retention of children in school. Whether mid day meal has helped in improvement of the social harmony? There are no evidences to show that MDM has helped in improvement of social harmony. Inside the school campus, there are no instances of social discrimination; however it prevails in the habitation. Whether mid day meal has helped in improvement of the nutritional status of the children? Yes. MDM has helped in improvement of the nutritional status of the children. Children who come from below poverty line families are highly benefited. Is there any other incidental benefit due to serving of meal in schools? Women cooks are getting empowerment. With minimum educational qualification they get the employment benefits.	School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, students, VEC / SMC, Gram Panchayat members.
5.	Grievance Redressal Mechanism	Observation / interaction
	Is any grievance Redressal mechanism in the district for MDMS? There is no proper grievance Redressal mechanism followed or established	with teacher, children,

S.No.	Indicators	Source of
		Information
	for MDM in Tirunelveli district. The MDM organizer in each school takes the responsibility of grievance redressal. At the next level it is addressed by the school HM and then some of the cases get resolved in the SMC meetings.	parents and community members.
	Whether the district / block / school having any toll free number? No there is no toll free numbers available at any level.	

Any other issues relevant to implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme

- In some of the schools, MDM organizers do not show interest in executing the work. The organizers are supposed to visit the school in the morning and provide the stock (rice, dal, oil, vegetables) to cook based on the respective day's attendance at school. But, at instances, the organizers visit the school previous day evening and give the stock to cook by referring the previous day's attendance. The stock will be inappropriate to the students' strength the next day.
- In almost all the schools, the organizers affirmed that the quantity indicated and the actual weight
 was not similar in case of food grains (Rice and Dal). There is an approximate mismatch of 5-7 kg in
 the food grains supplied.
- The problem of inadequate vessels was found in majority of the schools. There are no tumblers available for drinking water. Hence, the students were asked to bring water from home. The children bring water in disposable plastic bottles (non-reusable coke, pepsi plastic bottles). The food is cooked only in aluminium vessels which is unhealthy. The organizers request to provide adequate vessels for cooking.
- None of the schools have a wastage bin to dispose the food wastes.
- One of the major concerns would be the need for a cordial relationship between the MDM staff and the school authorities. This situation has been observed in almost all the schools.
- All the schools have recently received a circular from the District Collector office that food should be tasted by at least one teacher before it is fed to children. Hence in the recent past, a teacher has

- been appointed or else the HM tastes the food every day in all the schools. The food is tasted by the HM/organizer and half an hour later food is served to the children.
- The field investigators observed that cooks and helpers are not using the hair masks and gloves at the time of cooking or serving the meals to children.
- The vegetarian alternative to egg, a banana, is not seen in any of the schools visited.
- The quality of rice supplied is not good in most of the schools. Only grade-III food grains are supplied to the schools for MDM.
- The palm oil that is provided to the schools has a validity period of 3 months. In a few schools, the MI found that the palm oil packets in stock and use were past their period of expiry by several months. The problem appears to be that unused stock, caused by local holidays and absenteeism, is neither returned nor accounted for while new stock is delivered at the school, causing the excess oil to be stored past three months.

APPENDIX

Schools selected for MDM Monitoring – Sivagangai District

Sl.No	NAME OF THE BLOCK	School Code	School Name	Specific Area	
1	SIVAGANGAI	33230100205	PUPS AR.SAMATHUVAPURAM	HIGHER PROPORTION OF SC/ST STUDENTS	
2	SIVAGANGAI	33230100301	PUMS MUTHUPATTY	CWSN	
3	SIVAGANGAI	33230103805	PUMS PASANKARAI	LOW ACHIEVEMENT	
4	SIVAGANGAI	33230103003	PUMS ANNANAGAR	IN AND OUT BOUND SEASONAL MIGRATION	
5	KALAIYARKOIL	33230206201	PUPS OYYAVANTHAN	HIGHER PROPORTION OF SC/ST STUDENTS	
6	KALAIYARKOIL	33230202701	PUMS SEVALPUNJAI	CWSN	
7	KALAIYARKOIL	33230212801	PUMS KALAYARMANGALAM	LOW ACHIEVEMENT	
8	KALAIYARKOIL	33230209501	PUMS PERILYA KILUVACHI	MIGRATION	
20	MANAMADURAI	33230301204	PUPS KEELAKOMBUKARANENDAL	IN AND OUT BOUND SEASONAL MIGRATION	
9	MANAMADURAI	33230303003	PUMS V.PUDHUKULAM	LOW ACHIEVEMENT	
10	MANAMADURAI	33230302001	PUPS PERUMACHERI	SC/ST	
11	MANAMADURAI	33230302208	PUPS KANGAI AMMAN NAGAR	CIVIL WORK	
12	THIRUPPUVANAM	33230400802	PUPS AGARAM	SC/ST	
13	THIRUPPUVANAM	33230402001	PUPS D.KARISAKULAM	LOW ACHIEVEMENT	
14	THIRUPPUVANAM	33230400501	PUPS ALLINAGARAM	CWSN	
15	THIRUPPUVANAM	33230402701	PUPS MUKKUDI	SCHOOLS HAVING SIZEABLE NUMBER OF OOSC	
16	ILAYANKUDI	33230500802	PUPS S.KOTTAIYUR	HIGHER PROPORTION OF SC/ST STUDENTS	
24	ILAYANKUDI	33230504802	PUPS KARAIKULAM	LOW ACHIEVEMENT	
17	ILAYANKUDI	33230500302	PUPS MAHALAKSHMI COLONY	LOW RETENTION / HIGHER DROPOUT RATE	
18	ILAYANKUDI	33230500103	PUMS NAGARAKUDI	CWSN	
19	DEVAKOTTAI	33230606301	PUPS THIRANI	HIGH GENDER GAP IN ENROLLEMENT	
21	DEVAKOTTAI	33230602201	PUPS THALAKAVAYAL	SC/ST	
22	DEVAKOTTAI	33230600701	PUMS KALLANGUDI	oosc	
23	KANNAKUDI	33230701202	PUMS VADAKEELKUDI .	HIGHER PROPORTION OF SC/ST STUDENTS	
25	KANNAKUDI	33230701103	PUPS PERUNGANOOR.	SCHOOLS LOCATED IN FOREST	
26	SAKKOTTAI	33230800301	PUMS V. SOORAKUDI	HIGHER PROPORTION OF SC/ST STUDENTS	
27	SAKKOTTAI	33230802001	PUMS SAKKAVAYAL	HIGH GENDER GAP IN ENROLLEMENT	
28	SAKKOTTAI	33230801002	PUMS NESAVALAR COLONY	CWSN	
29	THIRUPPATHUR	33230901504	PUPS S.VELANGUDI	HIGHER PROPORTION OF SC/ST STUDENTS	
30	THIRUPPATHUR	33230901003	PUMS MANGUDI	HIGHER DROPOUT RATE	
31	THIRUPPATHUR	33230901802	PUPS SAMATHUVAPURAM	SIZEABLE NO.OFOU OF SCHOOL CHILDREN	
32	THIRUPPATHUR	33230901301	PUMS DEVARAMBOOR	IN-BOUND SEASONAL MIGRATION	
33	SINGAMPUNERI	33231000101	PUMS VENGAIPATTI	HIGHER PROPORTION OF SC/ST STUDENTS	
34	SINGAMPUNERI	33231001801	PUMS KALLAMPATTI	SIZEABLE NO.OFOU OF SCHOOL CHILDREN	
35	SINGAMPUNERI	33231000404	PUPS SILANEERPATTI	IN-BOUND SEEASONAL MIGRATION	
36	S.PUDUR	33231100901	PUPS KATTAIYANPATTI	HIGHER PROPORTION OF SC/ST STUDENTS	
37	S.PUDUR	33231105701	PUMS-MELAVANRARIRUPPU	SCHOOLS LOCATED IN FOREST ,HILLY AREA	
38	KALLAL	33231202102	PUMS, PEYAMPATTI	HIGH GENDER GAP IN ENROLEMENT	

39	KALLAL	33231202901	PUMS N.VAIRAVANPATTI	CWSN
40	KALLAL	33231201402	PUPS KONGARATHI	IN AND OUT BOUND SEASONAL MIGRATION

Schools selected for MDM Monitoring –Virudhunagar District

	MDM Monitoring - Selected School List –Virudhunagar District			
S.NO	Block Name	School Name		
1	ARUPPUKOTTAI	PUPS.KOVILANGULAM		
2	ARUPPUKOTTAI	PUPS.RAMALINGANAGAR		
3	KARIYAPATTI	PUMS KEELAALAGIYANALLUR		
4	KARIYAPATTI	PUPS, SALAIMARIKULAM		
5	KARIYAPATTI	G PS KARIYAPATTI		
6	KARIYAPATTI	RSTC KARIYAPATTI		
7	KARIYAPATTI	PUPS SIVAPUDHUR		
8	NARIKUDI	ADWS NALLUKURICHI		
9	NARIKUDI	KGBV, MUKKULAM		
10	NARIKUDI	PUMS THIMMAPURAM		
11	RAJAPALAYAM	PUPS THENDRALNAGAR		
12	RAJAPALAYAM	ADWA PS PATTIYUR		
13	RAJAPALAYAM	PUMS AMMAIYAPPAPURAM		
14	SATTUR	MPS MELAGANDHINAGAR		
15	SATTUR	PUPS PADANTHAL		
16	SATTUR	PUPS O.METTUPATTI		
17	SIVAKASI	PUPS,ANAIKUTTAM		
18	SIVAKASI	PUMS,SATHYANAGAR		
19	SIVAKASI	PUPS,PALLAPATTI		
20	SIVAKASI	PUPS VISWANATHAM		
21	SRIVILLIPUDHUR	PUMS PERUMALDEVANPATTI		
22	SRIVILLIPUDHUR	MPL. MS.KAMMAPATTI		
23	SRIVILLIPUDHUR	ADW PS EDAIYANKULAM		
24	SRIVILLIPUDHUR	PUMS KONGALAPURAM		
25	THIRUCHULI	PUMS CHITHALAKUNDU		
26	THIRUCHULI	PUPS TAMILPADI		
27	THIRUCHULI	PUMS ILUPPAIKULAM		
28	THIRUCHULI	PUPS AMBANERI		
29	VEMBAKKOTTAI	PUMS NATHIKUDI		
30	VEMBAKKOTTAI	PUPS SANKARAPANDIYAPURAM		
31	VEMBAKKOTTAI	PUPS KANJAMPATTI		
32	VEMBAKKOTTAI	PUMS KANGARSEVAL		
33	VIRUDHUNAGAR	PUPS AVUDAIYAPURAM		
34	VIRUDHUNAGAR	PUPS NADUVAPATTI		
35	VIRUDHUNAGAR	PUPS KUNDALAPATTI		
36	WATRAP	PUMS KANCHAPURAM		

37	WATRAP	PUMS MELAPALAYAM
38	WATRAP	PUMS SETHUNARAYANAPURAM
39	VIRUDHUNAGAR	RSTC KUNDALAPATTI
40		PUPS MUTHANADHI

Schools Selected for MDM Monitoring - Tirunelveli District

Schools Selected for MDM Monitoring - Tirunelveli District				
Sl.no	Block	School Code	School Name	Criteria
1	ALANGULAM	33290104001	PUP S MARANTHAI	GENDER GAP
2	AMBASAMUDRAM	33290203826	PUPS KARAIYAR MELANAI	SC/ST
3	AMBASAMUDRAM	33290203828	GTR PS KANIKUDIYIRUPPU	HILLY AREA
4	AMBASAMUDRAM	33290204207	PUMS AMBASAMUDRAM	CAL
5	CHERANMAHADEVI	33290300501	PUPS MALAYANKULAM	SC/ST
6	CHERANMAHADEVI	33290300605	PUPS ULUPPADIPARAI	CAL
7	KADAYAM	33290400801	PUMS RAVANASAMUDRAM	CAL
8	KADAYAM	33290400802	PUPS MANTHIYUR	SC/ST
9	KADAYANALLUR	33290504601	PUPS VALASAI	CAL
10	KADAYANALLUR	33290504604	PUPS ACHAMPATTI	CAL
11	KALAKAD	33290602101	PUP SC KEELAKARUVELANKULAM	SC/ST
12	KALAKAD	33290602802	PUPS KADAMBODU VALVOO NAGAR COLONY	SC/ST
13	KEELAPAVOOR	33290702401	PUMS THIRAVIANAGAR	SC/ST
14	KEELAPAVOOR	33290702901	PUPS SIVAGURUNATHAPURAM	CAL
15	KURUVIKULAM	33290804401	PUPS SEVALKULAM	CAL
16	KURUVIKULAM	33290804809	PUPS KEELAMARATHONI	CAL
17	MANUR	33290900101	PUPS UKKIRANKOTTAI	SC/ST
18	MANUR	33290900502	PUPS MARUTHAPPAPURAM	SC/ST
19	MELANEELITHANALLUR	33291002601	PUPS RENGANATHAPURAM	SC/ST
20	MELANEELITHANALLUR	33291002606	PUMS KULASEKARAMANGALAM	SC/ST
21	MELANEELITHANALLUR	33291002702	PUPS KARAIKANDARKULAM	SC/ST
22	NANGUNERI	33291103801	PUPS MOOLAIKARAPATTI	CAL
23	PAPPAKUDI	33291302601	PUMS KASINATHAPURAM	CAL
24	PAPPAKUDI	33291304001	PUPS VAZHUTHUR	CAL
25	RADHAPURAM	33291401502	PUPS SINGARATHOPPU	CAL
26	RADHAPURAM	33291401603	PUPS PANNAIARKULAM	SC/ST
27	SANKARANKOVIL	33291500601	PUPS KEELAVAYALI	SC/ST
28	SANKARANKOVIL	33291502401	PUPS VEERASIGAMANI	RSTC
29	SHENGOTTAI	33291600112	GPS THAVANAI	CAL
30	SHENGOTTAI	33291600202	GPS KATTALAIKUDIYIRUPPU	CAL
31	TENKASI	33291700901	PUPS PANPOLI	CAL
32	TENKASI	33291701001	PUPS KANAKAPILLAIVALASAI	CAL
33	VALLIYOOR	33291800101	PUPS VALLIYOOR	CAL
34	VASUDEVANALLUR	33291902302	TDTA PS THALAIVANKOTTAI	CWSN
35	VASUDEVANALLUR	33291900104	TDTA PS DEVIPATTINAM	SC/ST

36	PALAYAMKOTTAI URBAN	33292002403	LOYOLA CONVENT PS PALAYAMKOTTAI	SC/ST
37	PALAYAMKOTTAI URBAN	33292002203	ST ANTONY PS PALAYAMKOTTAI	SC/ST
38	ALANGULAM	33290106702	PUPS NOCHIKULAM	CAL
39	MANUR	33290904401	PUPS SETHURAYANPUTHUR	
40	RENGASAMUDRAM	33291304001	PUPS VALUTHUR	