

3RD HALF YEARLY MONITORING REPORT OF

Indian Institute of Technology Madras

on

Mid Day Meal for the State of TAMIL NADU

Period: 1st October 2011 to 30th April 2012


Districts Covered

- 1. TIRUNELVELI-----2 - 13**
- 2. RAMANATHAPURAM-----14 - 25**
- 3. DINDIGUL-----26 - 38**

Mid-Day Meal Scheme: Tirunelveli District

(i)	Name of the Monitoring Institution	IIT Madras
(ii)	Period of the report	2012
(iii)	Name of the District	Tirunelveli
(iv)	Date of visit to the Districts/EGS/Schools	23rd Jan 2012 – 6th Feb 2012

1.	<u>REGULARITY IN SERVING MEAL:</u> 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	
	Hot cooked meals are being served daily in all schools.				
2.	<u>TRENDS:</u> Extent of variation (As per school records vis-à-vis Actual on the day of visit)*			School level registers, MDM Registers Head Teachers, Schools MDM level functionaries / Observation of the monitoring team.	
	No.	Details	Day previous to date of visit		On the day of visit
	i.	Enrolment	6013		
	ii.	No. of children attending the school on the day of visit	4792		4792
	i.	No. of children availing MDM as per MDM Register	3857		3571
	v.	No. of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit	3857		3571
*approximate value...not verified					

3.	<p><u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING FOOD GRAINS TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u></p> <p>(i) Is school receiving food grain regularly? If there is delay in delivering food grains, what is the extent of delay and reasons for the same?</p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.</p>
	<p>All the schools are receiving food grains regularly. The quantity of food grain supplied was not as per the marked indicated weight in all schools.</p>	
	<p>(ii) Is buffer stock of one-month's requirement is maintained?</p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries</p>
	<p>The buffer stock of 30-45 days requirement is maintained in all schools except in PUPS Kasidarmam and G (ADW) Valasai where they maintain buffer only for 15 days. The quantity of food grains supplied was as per the marked indicated weight in all schools except 2 where there was 2-3 kg difference in the weight. (CMS Rahumanpettai and PUPS Kalakad).</p>	
		

	(iii) Is the food grains delivered at the school?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries
	The food grains are delivered at the school in all the 40 schools.	
4.	<u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING COOKING COST TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u> (i) Is school receiving cooking cost in advance regularly? If there is delay in delivering cooking custom what is the extent of delay and reasons for it?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	The schools receive cooking cost not in advance but on time in most schools. No interruption in the flow of funds is observed. This information could not be verified in the case of TDTA Chettikulam as the organizer was on leave on the day of the MI team's visit.	
	(ii) In case of delay, how schools manage to ensure that there is no disruption in the feeding programme?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	In case of delay, the schools claim that the organizer arranges the money so that there is no disruption in the implementation of the scheme.	
	(iii) Is cooking cost paid by Cash or through banking channel?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
The cooking cost is paid by banking channel (ATM) in the case of 38 schools. In PUPS Melagaram the cooking cost is paid in hand and it is paid through cheque in CPS Quide Milleth.		
5.	<u>SOCIAL EQUITY:</u> Did you observe any gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements?	Observations

	<p>No overt gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements was observed by the MI. In the case of 24 schools the children were seated in the Verandah for MDM. In 15 schools they were seated in the class room and only in one school (GPS Balasubramaniyapuram) they had a separate room to serve MDM food to the children.</p> <p>In PUPS Karisalkudiyiruppu, it was observed that the children availing MDM are given numbered plates. Every student is assigned with a number and he/she is not supposed to use any other plate which has a number not assigned to him/her. The teachers commented that the student's strength to avail MDM was quite low when the plates were not numbered. The students do not want to use the plates that are used by other caste/group/section of the society. Only after the plates were numbered, all the students who belong to different sections of the society avail MDM without any hesitation and the student's attendance also had improved.</p> <p>This instance points to the urgent need to address social issues in the habitation itself. Whatever positive social change the school might bring about would be wasted unless parents and community members themselves overcome caste prejudices.</p>	
6.	<p><u>VARIETY OF MENU:</u></p> <p>(i) Has the school displayed its weekly menu, and is it able to adhere to the menu displayed?</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
	<p>The menu was displayed only in the 9 schools either on the notice board or on the black board. The remaining 31 schools did not have a display of the weekly menu. The menu is displayed inside the stock room or in the kitchen. 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.</p>	

7.	(ii) Is there variety in the food served or is the same food served daily?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	The same type of food is served daily. The only difference is in the mix of vegetables added to the Sambar. The food has rice, dal, eggs and vegetables. In GHS Melashengottai, they serve different varieties of Kaarakuzhambu (a popular spicy curry) every day.	
	(iii) Dose the daily menu include rice / wheat preparation, dal and vegetables?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
The daily menu includes rice, Dal, eggs and vegetables. There is no wheat preparation.		
8.	<u>QUALITY & QUANTITY OF MEAL:</u> Feedback from children on	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	a) Quality of meal:	
	The quality of meal was average in almost all schools. In PUPS Nallankulam the taste and quality of food was excellent.	
	b) Quantity of meal:	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	All children felt that the quantity of meal is adequate.	
c) {If children were not happy Please give reasons and suggestions to improve}	Observations of Investigation during MDM service	
Most children felt that they are given adequate food and the quality is satisfactory.		

	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY:</u> (i) Whether children are given micronutrients (Iron, folic acid, vitamin – A dosage) and de-worming medicine periodically?	Teachers, Students, School Record
	Yes.	
	(ii) Who administers these medicines and at what frequency?	Teachers, Students, School Record
	The Health Check Up happens once in a year in all the 40 schools. In CMS Rahumanpettai, the students were not given any multi-vitamin tablets. The HM coordinates with the PHC to administer medicines in most of the schools.	
	(iii) Is there school Health Card maintained for each child?	Teachers, Students, School Record
	The health card is maintained only in 32 schools and the remaining 8 schools do not maintain the health card properly.	
9.	<u>STATUS OF COOKS:</u> (i) Who cooks and serves the meal? (Cook/helper appointed by the Department or Self Help Group, or NGO or Contractor)	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	In most schools, the cook/helper appointed by the Department cooks and serves the meal. In 15 schools the cooks and helpers engaged in the schools are not appointed as per GOI norms.	
	(ii) Is the number of cooks and helpers adequate to meet the requirement of the school?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	The number of cooks and helpers are adequate to meet the requirements.	

	(iii)What is remuneration paid to cooks/helpers?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	Organizers are paid in the scale of Rs 5000-5800 pm. The Head cook had a pay scale in the range of Rs 2000-2900 pm while the Helpers had a pay scale in the range of Rs1700-1900 pm.	
	(iv) Are the remuneration paid to cooks/helpers regularly?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	The remuneration is paid to cooks/helpers regularly in almost all the cases.	
	(v) Social Composition of cooks /helpers? (SC/ST/OBE/Minority)	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	The social compositions of the cooks are in the category of MBC and SC.	
10.	<p><u>INFRASTRUCTURE:</u></p> <p>Is a pucca kitchen shed-cum-store:</p> <p>(a) Constructed and in use (b) Constructed but not in use (c) Under construction (d) Sanctioned, but constructed not started (e) Not sanctioned</p> <p>Any other (specify)</p>	School records, discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.

	<p>The pucca kitchen shed cum store is constructed and in use in most schools. Yet, there were some unsettling issues in the quality of the kitchen shed cum store in certain schools which are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In PUPS Kasidharmam, a kitchen shed and room have been constructed but there is water logging near the kitchen, and frequently snakes enter the room. They are unable to use the newly constructed Kitchen and storeroom because of this issue. Currently, they are using a teacher's house for storage and cooking • In PUMS Venkatasalapuram, there is no separate storeroom available in the school. The food grains and other MDM materials are stored in the classroom itself. 	
11.	<p>In case the pucca kitchen shed is not available, where is the food being cooked and where the food grains /other ingredients are being stored?</p>	<p>Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members, Observation</p>
	<p>In STC branch MS Ambasamudram, the food is cooked inside the classroom in a corner.</p> <p>In PUPS Kasidharmam, the food is cooked in a teacher's house.</p>	
12.	<p>Whether potable water is available for cooking and drinking purpose?</p>	<p>-do-</p>
	<p>Generally, the schools get Panchayat or Municipality water for cooking and drinking purposes. In HPS Uchikulam, they bring water from a bore well located outside the school campus. In PUMS Kulasekarapari, the water is taken from hand pump. PUPS Puliampatti has got pipeline to get the Thamiraparani river water.</p>	
13.	<p>Whether utensils used for cooking food are adequate?</p>	<p>Teachers/Organizer of MDM Programme</p>
	<p>12 schools reported that the utensils used for cooking are inadequate. In GHS Melasengottai and CPS Quide Milleth there are no adequate plates or tumblers available. In PUMS Rosemiyapuram, the utensils are taken from other schools and they do not own any vessels in the school.</p>	

14.	What is the kind of fuel used? (Gas based/firewood etc.)	Observation
	Firewood is used as fuel in 25 of the schools. The remaining 15 schools use both Gas based and Firewood. In PUPS Kasidharmam, Gas cylinder connection is available but single gas cylinder doesn't serve for the entire month. When the cylinder is emptied there is no fund available with the school to get additional cylinder. So, they compensate the remaining days of the month by using firewood. It is the same case with G (ADW) MS Valasai where the gas lasts only for 11 days a month. In PUPS, Puliampatti they use 100% gas based fuel for cooking and it is observed to be good.	
15.	<u>SAFETY & HYGIENE:</u> i. General Impression of the environment, Safety and hygiene:	Observation
	There is a lot of smoke and soot on walls and ceiling because of using firewood for cooking. 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.	
	i. Are children encouraged to wash hands before and after eating	observation
	No prompts from the teachers/organisers were noticed during the field visits. The students washed their hands before and after meal in 30 schools but soap was not used in any of the schools. The children washed their hands only after the meal in 10 schools. The SSA has provided fund to buy soaps (Rs. 100/- pm for each school) and also given training in most of the schools on how to wash the hands. But this was not being implemented in most of the schools.	
	i. Do the children par-take meals in an orderly manner?	observation
	Yes	
	v. Conservation of water?	Observation
No wasteful practices were observed during the MI team's visits. In 31 schools, the children consume water after meals but in 9 of the schools it was observed that the children do not have the habit of drinking water after the meal.		
i. Is the cooking process and storage of fuel safe, not posing any fire hazard?	observation	

	<p>No particular hazardous conditions observed.</p> <p>Only in PUPS Kasidharmam the MI had to point out the importance of closing the cylinder knob every time after cooking.</p>	
16.	<p>COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:</p> <p>Extent of participation by Parents/VECs/Panchayats/Urban bodies in daily supervision, monitoring, participation</p>	<p>Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members</p>
	<p>Parents or community participation was reportedly unsatisfactory. No school had roster being maintained by the community members for supervision of the MDM.</p>	
17.	<p>INSPECTION & SUPERVISION</p> <p>Has the mid day meal programme been inspected by any state/district/block level officers/officials?</p>	<p>School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, VEC, Gram Panchayat members</p>
	<p>The mid day meal has been inspected by the Block level officers in most of the schools. There has been no instance of visit by State Level Officers in any schools in Tirunelveli district. In PUMS Rosemiyapuram they had a school inspection but not for MDM. Panchayat Union Chairman had once inspected the STC Branch MS Ambasamudram.</p>	
18.	<p>IMPACT</p> <p>Has the mid day meal improved the enrolment, attendance of children in school, general well being (nutritional status) of children? Is there any other incidental benefit due to serving cooked meal in schools?</p>	<p>School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, students, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.</p>
	<p>The MDM is extremely beneficial to the children, especially the rural and urban poor. The scheme should be strengthened through allocation of more meals per school and should include ONE FRUIT and ONE GLASS MILK for every child every day.</p>	

Specific observations regarding individual schools/specific problems in Ramnad district:

- In PUPS Maranthai, there is no proper infrastructure in the school. Drinking water facility is poor. The students are average in studies and they require motivation from the teacher's part. The kitchen and store room are the same. Firewood is used for cooking.
- TDTA Kallidaikurichi, the contribution of VEC is commendable in maintaining the clean school environment.
- In GHSS Muthaliarpatti, the Higher Secondary, Middle School and Primary School are situated in the same campus. The school infrastructure is good.
- The PUPS Pethanpillaikudiyiruppu, the school is located in a forest far flung area. The school infrastructure is good. The quality of mid day meal is not up to the mark. The students' strength is quite low. As it is being a forest region, the students are not encouraged or motivated by their parents or teachers to attend school regularly.
- In PUPS Kasidharmam, No meals available for 5 students on the day of visit. The MDM completely comes under HM control. They feel that 5 eggs per week is not required and it would be better if they provide egg for 3 days and remaining days could be replaced with vegetables.
- In HPS Uchikulam, 13 students had food without egg on the day of visit. There is no proper response from the organizer for inadequate eggs. There is a need for sweeper and office assistant.
- In PUPS Boopalamudram, the actual student strength is 153. The school has taken MDM funds only for 60 students because they maintain an imbalance account for eggs, Dal and rice. The higher officials of MDM give the remaining fund out of pocket sometimes or from utilize funds from other allocations.
- PUPS Sambakulam has no proper infrastructure in the school. Store room & Kitchen shed are together.
- PUMS Kulasekarapari has a very good school infrastructure. There is water scarcity in the school. Also, there is no proper furniture available in the classrooms.
- The GH School Devarkulam has been upgraded to higher sec from 23.12.11, but there is no HM appointed to suit this level. There are teachers who come on deputation and they couldn't take care of the students. There is water scarcity in the school and the drinking water is carried all the way from somewhere outside the school campus.
- The infrastructure of PUPS Periyakovilankulam is really good and hygienic. However, there is no sufficient place for the classes and hence the 3rd and 4th standards are

located in a different place and 1st and 2nd standard and also 5th standard function in different locations. The teachers are quite worried on such situation.

- In PUPS Nallankulam, the student strength is not sufficient. The MDM is very good in this school.
- The school infrastructure of PUPS Tharuvai is very good.
- The St. Aloysius MS T. Kallikulam is a government aided school. The school campus is not maintained properly. Mid day meals is not up to the mark. Drinking water and toilet facilities are not sufficient. This is an entirely management controlled school.
- The St. Theresa PS Koothenkuzhi is also an aided school. MDM food is of average quality. There is no proper supply of drinking water facility in the school. Infrastructure is not up to the mark.
- The organizer absent on the day of visit in TDTA Chettikulam. The MI team was able to collect only limited information.
- In SSS MPL PS Puliangudi, there are 34 SC community students in the school. The infrastructure is not good. It needs some additional care to develop the school. The cooperation from HM is need of the hour in school development.
- In PUMS Romesiyapuram, the 7th stand students were also taking food but found no allotment for 7th standard. Though there had been absenteeism on few days in the attendance register it is shown as 33 present on all days in MDM register.
- **NOTE: As one of the outcomes of the visit of the 3rd Review Mission to Tamil Nadu on Mid day meal scheme during Jan-Feb 2012, the members of the Review Mission have suggested that all schools should appoint an ayah/cleaner for cleaning the schools premises and the toilets so as to maintain the health and hygiene of the schools.**



Mid-Day Meal Scheme: Ramanathapuram District

(i)	Name of the Monitoring Institution	IIT Madras
(ii)	Period of the report	2012
(iii)	Name of the District	Ramanathapuram
(iv)	Date of visit to the Districts/EGS/Schools	20th February 2012 to March 5th 2012

19.	<u>REGULARITY IN SERVING MEAL:</u>		Students, Teachers & Parents		
	Whether the school is serving hot cooked meal daily? If there was interruption, what was the extent and reasons for the same?				
	The school is serving hot cooked meals daily in all schools.				
20.	<u>TRENDS:</u>		School level registers, Registers, Teachers, level functionaries / Observation of the monitoring team.		
	Extent of variation (As per school records vis-à-vis Actual on the day of visit)*				
	No.	Details		Day previous to date of visit	On the day of visit
	i.	Enrolment		5046	3085
	ii.	No. of children attending the school on the day of visit		3090	3085
	κ.	No. of children availing MDM as per MDM Register		3090	2796
κ.	No. of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit	2974	2796		
*approximate value...not verified					

21.	<u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING FOOD GRAINS TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u> (iv) Is school receiving food grain regularly? If there is delay in delivering food grains, what is the extent of delay and reasons for the same?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	All the schools are receiving food grains regularly. The quantity of food grain supplied was not as per the marked indicated weight in all schools.	
	(v) Is buffer stock of one-month's requirement is maintained?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries
	The buffer stock of 30-45 days requirement is maintained in all schools except in PUPS Kanjirankudi while they maintain buffer only for 2 days. The quantity of food grains supplied was as per the marked indicated weight all the schools except 3 schools. There was a difference of 1-2 kgs weight in PUPS Muthukutharavai and there was 5 kgs difference in PUPS Pamboor and PUPS Ramasamipatty.	
	(vi) Is the food grains delivered at the school?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries
	The food grains are delivered at the school in 37 schools. In case of PUPS Thalaithoppu and PUPS Mosukadi the food grains are delivered at a different place. In case of PUPS Asoor the food grains are stored at the organizer's house.	
22.	<u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING COOKING COST TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u> (iv) Is school receiving cooking cost in advance regularly? If there is delay in delivering cooking custom what is the extent of delay and reasons for it?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.
	The schools receive cooking cost not in advance but on time in most schools. No interruption in the flow of funds is observed.	

	(v) In case of delay, how schools manage to ensure that there is no disruption in the feeding programme?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head School level MDM Teacher, School MDM level MDM functionaries.
	In case of delay, the schools claim that the money of organizer is used so as to ensure that there is no disruption in the implementation of the scheme.	
	(vi) Is cooking cost paid by Cash or through banking channel?	School level registers, MDM Registers, Head School level MDM Teacher, School MDM level MDM functionaries.
	The cooking cost is paid by banking channel (ATM) in the case of 24 schools. In the remaining school the cash is paid in hand.	
23.	<u>SOCIAL EQUITY:</u> Did you observe any gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements?	Observations
	No gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements was observed by the MI. In the case of 22 schools the children were seated in the Varandah for MDM. In 4 schools they were seated in the class room and only in one school (PUPS R.S. Mangalam East) they had a separate room to serve MDM food to the children. In 3 schools the children were scattered and formed small groups inside the campus to have food (PUPS Manjur, PUPS Muthukuthavarai, PUPS Thavukadu). In CSI PS Paganadhi the children had food at the church area.	
24.	<u>VARIETY OF MENU:</u> (iv) Has the school displayed its weekly menu, and is it able to adhere to the menu displayed?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.

	<p>The menu was displayed only in the 6 schools either on the notice board or on the black board. The remaining 34 schools did not have a weekly display of the menu. The menu is displayed inside the stock room or in the kitchen. 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.</p>	
25.	<p>(v) Is there variety in the food served or is the same food served daily?</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
	<p>The same type of food is served daily. The only difference is in the mix up of vegetables added to the Sambar. The food has rice, dal, eggs and vegetables.</p>	
	<p>(vi) Dose the daily menu include rice / wheat preparation, dal and vegetables?</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
<p>The daily menu includes rice, Dal, eggs and vegetables. There is no wheat preparation.</p>		
26.	<p><u>QUALITY & QUANTITY OF MEAL:</u> Feedback from children on c) Quality of meal:</p>	<p>Observations of Investigation during MDM service</p>
	<p>The quality of meal was average in almost all schools.</p>	
	<p>d) Quantity of meal:</p>	<p>Observations of Investigation during MDM service</p>
	<p>All children felt that the quantity of meal is adequate.</p>	
	<p>c) {If children were not happy Please give reasons and suggestions to improve}</p>	<p>Observations of Investigation during MDM service</p>

	All the children felt that they are given adequate food and the quality is satisfactory.	
	<u>SUPPLEMENTARY:</u> (v) Whether children are given micronutrients (Iron, folic acid, vitamin – A dosage) and de-worming medicine periodically?	Teachers, Students, School Record
	Yes.	
	(vi) Who administers these medicines and at what frequency?	Teachers, Students, School Record
	The Health Check Up happens once in a year in 19 schools. In PUPS Kanjirakudi it happens once in 6 months, in PUPS Ramasamipatti the health check up is organized once in 3 months. Uniquely in PUMS Thanushkodi the health check up is done once in a week. The HM coordinates with the PHC to administer medicines in most of the schools.	
	(vii) Is there school Health Card maintained for each child?	Teachers, Students, School Record
	The health card is maintained only in 33 schools and the remaining 7 schools do not maintain the health card properly. In PUPS Vedalai, the health card has been given only to the 1 st standard students.	
27.	<u>STATUS OF COOKS:</u> (ii) Who cooks and serves the meal? (Cook/helper appointed by the Department or Self Help Group, or NGO or Contractor)	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.

In most schools, the cook/helper appointed by the Department cooks and serves the meal. In 18 schools the cooks and helpers engaged in the schools was not as per GOI norms.

Vacancy Status	School
Cook - vacant	PUPS, Kalloor
Helper vacant	PUPS, Muthukutharavai
Cook - vacant	PUPS, Paamboor
Cook - vacant	PUMS Peraiyur
Helper vacant	PUMS, M.R.Pattinam
Helper vacant	PUMS, Vannivayal
Organizer Vacant	PUMS, Ervadi
Organizer Vacant	PUPS, Samathuvapuram
Helper vacant	PUMS, Sakkarakottai

(ii) Is the number of cooks and helpers adequate to meet the requirement of the school?

Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.

The number of cooks and helpers are adequate to meet the requirements.


(iii)What is remuneration paid to cooks/helpers?


Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.

Organizers were paid in the scale of Rs 5000-5800 pm. The Head cook had a pay scale in the range of Rs 2000-2900 pm while the Helpers had a pay scale in the range of Rs1700-1900 pm.

	(viii) Are the remuneration paid to cooks/helpers regularly?	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	The remuneration is paid to cooks/helpers regularly in almost all the cases.	
	(v) Social Composition of cooks /helpers? (SC/ST/OBE/Minority)	Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.
	The social compositions of the cooks are in the category of MBC and BC.	
28.	<u>INFRASTRUCTURE:</u> Is a pucca kitchen shed-cum-store: (f) Constructed and in use (g) Constructed but not in use (h) Under construction (i) Sanctioned, but constructed not started (j) Not sanctioned Any other (specify)	School records, discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.

	<p>The pucca kitchen shed cum store is constructed and in use in most schools. Yet, there were some unsettling issues in the quality of the kitchen shed cum store in certain schools which are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In case of PUPS Asoor, the food is cooked at the cook's house and the food grains are stored at the organizer's house. • In case of PUPS Thavukadu, there is no store room, shed. This is a Tsunami affected region and rehabilitation of livelihood is going on. The food grains for MDM are delivered in a different place 7 kms away as there is no safe place in the school. • In PUPS Muthukutharavai and Sakkarakottai the store rooms are not maintained properly and it is in a bad shape. • In PUPS Mosukadi the food grains are stored at organizers house. In PUPS Manjur, 	
29.	<p>In case the pucca kitchen shed is not available, where is the food being cooked and where the food grains /other ingredients are being stored?</p>	<p>Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members, Observation</p>
	<p>In 19 schools the food grains are stored in the store room. The food grains are stored at a new rented house. In PUPS Pasipattinam the food grains are stored at the Panchayat Union building. In PUPS Kalathavoor the food grains are stored in an old building.</p>	
30.	<p>Whether potable water is available for cooking and drinking purpose?</p>	<p>-do-</p>
	<p>Generally, water for cooking and drinking purposes the school avail the Panchyat or municipality water. In PUPS Kalloor, water is carried all the way from a street hand pump which is at 100 meters distance. PUPS Muthukutharavai and Pamboor have Bore well inside the campus. PUPS Mosukadi take water from the street water pipeline. Hameedhiya MS Gangaikondan and PUPS Vedalai have got River Cauvery water connection. Sundaram MS Ariyendal and Azath PS Pottagavayal have got hand pump near the school. In PUMS Pasipattinam there is a well to meet water requirements.</p>	

31.	Whether utensils used for cooking food are adequate?	Teachers/Organizer of MDM Programme
12 schools reported that the utensils used for cooking are inadequate.		
32.	What is the kind of fuel used? (Gas based/firewood etc.)	Observation
Firewood is used as fuel in 38 schools. There are only 2 schools which use gas based cooking (PUPS Muthukutharavai and GHSS Thirupullani).		
		
33.	<u>SAFETY & HYGIENE:</u> iv. 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.		
v. Are children encouraged to wash hands before and after eating		observation

<p>No prompts from the teachers/organisers were noticed during the field visits. The children wash their hands only after the meal in 29 of the schools. The students wash their hands before and after meal in 30 of the schools but they do not use soap for washing hands. In PUPS Asoor the students use soap to wash their hands but there is only single soap that is being used by all the students. The SSA has provided fund to buy soaps (Rs. 100/- pm for each school) and also had given training in most of the schools on how to wash the hands. But, none of the schools implement the activities taught in the training.</p> <p>In PUPS Kallor there is no sufficient water as they carry water from a hand pump 100 meters away.</p>	
<p>i. Do the children par-take meals in an orderly manner?</p>	<p>observation</p>
<p>Yes</p>	
	
<p>i. Conservation of water?</p>	<p>Observation</p>
<p>No wasteful practices were observed during the MI team's visits. In 28 schools, the children consume water after meals but in 12 of the schools the children are not having a practice of drinking water after the meal was observed.</p>	
<p>i. Is the cooking process and storage of fuel safe, not posing any fire hazard?</p>	<p>observation</p>

	No hazardous conditions observed.	
34.	COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: Extent of participation by Parents/VECs/Panchayats/Urban bodies in daily supervision, monitoring, participation	Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members
	Parents or community participation was reportedly unsatisfactory. No school had roster being maintained by the community members for supervision of the MDM.	
35.	INSPECTION & SUPERVISION Has the mid day meal programme been inspected by any state/district/block level officers/officials?	School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, VEC, Gram Panchayat members
	The mid day meal has been inspected by the Block level officers in most of the schools. There has been no instance of visit by State Level Officers in any schools in Ramanathapuram district.	
36.	IMPACT Has the mid day meal improved the enrolment, attendance of children in school, general well being (nutritional status) of children? Is there any other incidental benefit due to serving cooked meal in schools?	School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, students, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.
	The MDM is extremely beneficial to the children, especially the rural and urban poor. The scheme should be strengthened through allocation of more meals per school and should include ONE FRUIT and ONE GLASS MILK for every child every day.	

Specific observations regarding individual schools/specific problems in Ramanathapuram district:

- In PUMS A. Puthur, the students' enrollment is quite low. The primary school teacher has taken Medical Leave and there is no responsible person to take care of the students from classes 1 to 4. The school infrastructure is quite poor and also there is no proper drinking water facility. There are majority of SC students in this school.

- In PUPS Kanjirankudi, The students' strength is quite good in the school. There is no HM in the school as recently the HM has got promotion and left the school. The I.C does not maintain any records. The previous HM also did not maintain any records on MDM.
- In PUMS Rameshwaram road, the school has been established to facilitate the children who reside in the sea shore area. The school has got average number of students and there are about 12 teachers. The BRTC visit is very minimal in the school and the activities are not cross checked often. The MDM quality is average in this school.
- In PUMS Vani, the school infrastructure is quite good and MDM is of good quality.
- In PUMS Pasipattinam, there is no BDO visit happened in the academic year 2011-12. Need to distribute student's smart card. MDM organizer complained that only 2 packets of cooking oil are provided while the request is made for 30 packets of oil. Need a stock register for eggs since the organizer pays recovery every day.

NOTE: As one of the outcomes of the visit of the 3rd Review Mission to Tamil Nadu on Mid day meal scheme during Jan-April 2012, the members of the Review Mission have suggested that all schools should appoint an ayah/cleaner for cleaning the schools premises and the toilets so as to maintain the health and hygiene of the schools.

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Mid-Day Meal Scheme: Dindigul District

(i)	Name of the Monitoring Institution	IIT Madras
(ii)	Period of the report	2012
(iii)	Name of the District	Dindigul
(iv)	Date of visit to the Districts/EGS/Schools	9 th April 2012 – 20 th April 2012

37	<u>REGULARITY IN SERVING MEAL:</u>			Students, Teachers & Parents	
	Whether the school is serving hot cooked meal daily? If there was interruption, what was the extent and reasons for the same?				
The school is serving hot cooked meals daily in all schools.					
38	<u>TRENDS:</u>			School level registers, Registers, Teachers, level MDM / Observation of the monitoring team.	
	Extent of variation (As per school records vis-à-vis Actual on the day of visit)*				
	No.	Details	Day previous to date of visit		On the day of visit
	i.	Enrolment	6404		4447
	v.	No. of children attending the school on the day of visit	4209		3863
	v.	No. of children availing MDM as per MDM Register	3705		3755
i.	No. of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit	3705	3755		
*approximate value...not verified					

<p>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING FOOD GRAINS TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</p> <p>(vii) Is school receiving food grain regularly? If there is delay in delivering food grains, what is the extent of delay and reasons for the same?</p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.</p>
<p>All the schools are receiving food grains regularly. The quantity of food grain supplied was not as per the marked indicated weight in few schools. In PUMS R. Kombai there was a difference of 1 or 2 kgs in the weight of food grains. In PUPS Keelanavayal and PUPS Periyamottanuthu there was a difference of 4 kgs and 5 kgs weight in the food grains respectively when compared with the register.</p>	
<p>(viii) Is buffer stock of one-month's requirement is maintained?</p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries</p>
<p>39 The buffer stock of 30-45 days requirement is maintained in all schools except in PUPS Kanjirankudi while they maintain buffer only for 30 days. In GHS Chellakuttiyar the buffer is maintained for 56 days during the last 8 months. The quantity of food grains supplied was as per the marked indicated weight in 37 school while there was difference found in 3 schools. There was a difference of 1-2 kgs weight in PUPS Muthukutharavai and there was 5 kgs difference in PUPS Periyamottanuthu.</p>	
<p>(ix) Is the food grains delivered at the school?</p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries</p>
<p>In PUPS Malayandipuram, the food grains are delivered at Pandrimalai which is 5 kms away from the school. In PUPS Keelanavayal the food grains are delivered at manavanur @ 9 kms distance in a private house. It is brought to the school by lorry or jeep. In PUMS Kakkayampatti the food grain is delivered at another school which is 7 kms away.</p>	

	<p><u>REGULARITY IN DELIVERING COOKING COST TO SCHOOL LEVEL:</u></p> <p>(vii) Is school receiving cooking cost in advance regularly? If there is delay in delivering cooking custom what is the extent of delay and reasons for it?</p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.</p>
	<p>The schools receive cooking cost not in advance but on time in most schools. No interruption in the flow of funds is observed except in PUPS Thoppupatty no cash allocated for buying salt, firewood, provisions, etc and the organizer spends his own money for these items.</p>	
40	<p>(viii) In case of delay, how schools manage to ensure that there is no disruption in the feeding programme?</p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.</p>
	<p>In case of delay, the schools claim that the money of organizer is used so as to ensure that there is no disruption in the implementation of the scheme.</p>	
	<p>(ix) Is cooking cost paid by Cash or through banking channel?</p>	<p>School level registers, MDM Registers, Head Teacher, School level MDM functionaries.</p>
	<p>The cooking cost is paid by banking channel (ATM) in the case of 24 schools. In the remaining school the cash is paid in hand.</p>	
41	<p><u>SOCIAL EQUITY:</u></p> <p>Did you observe any gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements?</p>	<p>Observations</p>

No gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements was observed by the MI. In the case of 33 schools the children were seated in the Varandah for MDM. In 5 schools they were seated in the class room and only in one school (PUPS Samuthirapatty) they had a separate shed to serve MDM food to the children. In 2 schools the children were scattered and formed small groups inside the campus to have food (GHSS Sullerumbu and GHSS Keeranoor).




VARIETY OF MENU:

(vii) **Has the school displayed its weekly menu, and is it able to adhere to the menu displayed?**

Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.

The menu was displayed only in the 6 schools either on the notice board or on the black board. The remaining 34 schools did not have a weekly display of the menu. The menu is displayed inside the stock room or in the kitchen. 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.


42


<p>(viii) Is there variety in the food served or is the same food served daily?</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
<p>The same type of food is served daily. The only difference is in the mix up of vegetables added to the Sambar. The food has rice, dal, eggs and vegetables.</p>	
<p>(ix) Dose the daily menu include rice / wheat preparation, dal and vegetables?</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
<p>The daily menu includes rice, Dal, eggs and vegetables. There is no wheat preparation.</p>	
<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px; vertical-align: top;">43</div>  </div>	

44	QUALITY & QUANTITY OF MEAL: Feedback from children on e) Quality of meal:	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	The quality of meal is good in almost all schools.	
	f) Quantity of meal:	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
	All children felt that the quantity of meal is adequate.	
	c) {If children were not happy Please give reasons and suggestions to improve}	Observations of Investigation during MDM service
All the children felt that they are given adequate food and the quality is satisfactory.		
SUPPLEMENTARY: (ix) Whether children are given micronutrients (Iron, folic acid, vitamin – A dosage) and de-worming medicine periodically?	Teachers, Students, School Record	
Yes.		
(x) Who administers these medicines and at what frequency?	Teachers, Students, School Record	
The Health Check Up happens once in a year in 19 schools. In PUPS Samuthirapatty and PUPS Sendurai it happens yearly twice, in PUMS Kakkayampatty the health check up is organized once in 3 months. ADWHSS Murugampatty deworming tablet is given once in 6 months. The HM coordinates with the PHC to administer medicines in most of the schools.		
(xi) Is there school Health Card maintained for each child?	Teachers, Students, School Record	
The health card is maintained only in 33 schools and the remaining 7 schools do not maintain the health card properly.		

<p><u>STATUS OF COOKS:</u></p> <p>(iii) Who cooks and serves the meal? (Cook/helper appointed by the Department or Self Help Group, or NGO or Contractor)</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>	
<p>In most schools, the cook/helper appointed by the Department cooks and serves the meal. In 18 schools the cooks and helpers engaged in the schools was not as per GOI norms.</p>		
<p>(ii) Is the number of cooks and helpers adequate to meet the requirement of the school?</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>	
<p>The number of cooks and helpers are adequate to meet the requirements.</p>		
45	<p>(iii)What is remuneration paid to cooks/helpers?</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
<p>Organizers were paid in the scale of Rs 5000-5800 pm. The Head cook had a pay scale in the range of Rs 2000-2900 pm while the Helpers had a pay scale in the range of Rs1700-1900 pm.</p>		
<p>(xii) Are the remuneration paid to cooks/helpers regularly?</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>	
<p>The remuneration is paid to cooks/helpers regularly in almost all the cases.</p>		

<p>(v) Social Composition of cooks /helpers? (SC/ST/OBE/Minority)</p>	<p>Observations and discussion with children teachers, parents, VEC members, Gram Panchayat members and cooks.</p>
<p>The social compositions of the cooks are in the category of MBC, BC and SC.</p>	
<p><u>INFRASTRUCTURE:</u></p> <p>Is a pucca kitchen shed-cum-store:</p> <p>(k) Constructed and in use (l) Constructed but not in use (m) Under construction (n) Sanctioned, but constructed not started (o) Not sanctioned</p> <p>Any other (specify)</p>	<p>School records, discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.</p>
<p>46 The pucca kitchen shed cum store is constructed and in use in most schools. Yet, there were some unsettling issues in the quality of the kitchen shed cum store in certain schools which are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In PUPS Keelanavayal, there is a need for Kitchen cum store room as the food is cooked in an open space. The food grains are stored in the class rooms. • In GHSS Keeranoor, an amount of Rs. 2.25 lakhs has been sanctioned to construct the Kitchen cum store room but the civil work is still pending for no reason. • In PUPS Thoppupatty, the cash has not been received to buy the provisions, salt, gas cylinder or firewood for the last 6 months. The organizer spends his own money for getting these items. There is also a need for Kitchen cum store room in this school. 	
<p>47 In case the pucca kitchen shed is not available, where is the food being cooked and where the food grains /other ingredients are being stored?</p>	<p>Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members, Observation</p>

	In 19 schools the food grains are stored in the store room. In the remaining schools the food grains are stored at the class rooms.	
	Whether potable water is available for cooking and drinking purpose?	-do-
48	Generally, water for cooking and drinking purposes the school avail the Panchyat or municipality water. In PUMS Perumalpudur there is a handpump near the school. In GHS Old Batlagundu, PUPS Muslim street, GHSS Keeranoor, Thiruvalluvar Middle School and PUPS N. Pudupatty the schools have borewell water.	
	Whether utensils used for cooking food are adequate?	Teachers/Organizer of MDM Programme
49	13 schools reported that the utensils used for cooking are inadequate.	
	What is the kind of fuel used? (Gas based/firewood etc.)	Observation
50	Firewood is used as fuel in 39 schools. The gas based cooking is used only in PUPS Kallipatty but they use firewood as well.	
	<u>SAFETY & HYGIENE:</u> vii. 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.	
51		

<p>i. Are children encouraged to wash hands before and after eating</p>	<p>observation</p>
<p>No prompts from the teachers/organisers were noticed during the field visits. The children wash their hands only after the meal in 29 of the schools. The students wash their hands before and after meal in 30 of the schools but they do not use soap for washing hands. In PUPS Andipatty the students use soap to wash their hands but there is only single soap that is being used by all the students. The SSA has provided fund to buy soaps (Rs. 100/- pm for each school) and also had given training in most of the schools on how to wash the hands. But, none of the schools implement the activities taught in the training.</p> 	
<p>k. Do the children par-take meals in an orderly manner?</p>	<p>observation</p>
<p>Yes</p>	
<p>i. Conservation of water?</p>	<p>Observation</p>
<p>No wasteful practices were observed during the MI team's visits. In 27 schools, the children consume water after meals but in 13 of the schools the children are not having a practice of drinking water after the meal was observed.</p>	
<p>i. Is the cooking process and storage of fuel safe, not posing any fire hazard?</p>	<p>observation</p>

	No hazardous conditions observed.	
52	COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: Extent of participation by Parents/VECs/Panchayats/Urban bodies in daily supervision, monitoring, participation	Discussion with head teacher, teacher, VEC, Gram Panchayat members
	Parents or community participation was reportedly unsatisfactory. No school had roster being maintained by the community members for supervision of the MDM.	
53	INSPECTION & SUPERVISION Has the mid day meal programme been inspected by any state/district/block level officers/officials?	School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, VEC, Gram Panchayat members
	The mid day meal has been inspected by the Block level officers in most of the schools. There has been no instance of visit by State Level Officers in any schools in Dindigul district.	
54	IMPACT Has the mid day meal improved the enrolment, attendance of children in school, general well being (nutritional status) of children? Is there any other incidental benefit due to serving cooked meal in schools?	School records, discussion with head teacher, teachers, students, VEC, Gram Panchayat members.
	The MDM is extremely beneficial to the children, especially the rural and urban poor. The scheme should be strengthened through allocation of more meals per school and should include ONE FRUIT and ONE GLASS MILK for every child every day.	

Specific observations regarding individual schools/specific problems in Dindigul district:

- In PUPS Malayandipuram, MDM register shows 20 students, school register 16, actual student strength is 9 on the day of visit. The organizer was on leave during MI visit. There is only cook who takes care of everything as the helper post is vacant. The people in locality are daily wage workers. There prevails seasonal migration in this region.
- GTR Kombaikadu is a Tribal Residential School. It was started in the year 2007 but there is no significant improvement in the school. The condition of class room is very poor in the Government Tribal Residential School, Kombaikadu of Kodaikanal Block. There is no maintenance grant provided to this school as there is no school building. Since this school is located in the forest area it does not have permission to construct buildings.

The school runs in an asbestos roofed shed where children sleep, bathe, study etc. There is no toilet or bathroom facility provided to the children and they use the open space. It requires a speedy action taken to develop the school.



- In PUPS Keelanavayal, it was observed that the children availing MDM are given numbered plates. Every student is assigned with a number and s/he is not supposed to use any plate which has a number not assigned to him/her. The teachers commented that the students' strength to avail MDM was quite low in number when the plates Keelanavayal were not numbered. The students do not want to use the plates that are used by other caste/group/section of society. Only after the plates were numbered did all the students who belong to different sections of society avail MDM without any hesitation and the students' attendance also improved. This instance points to the urgent need to address social issues in the habitation itself.
- In Municipal Middle school Adivaram, there is a good student strength in the school. As per the register there are 300 students opted for MDM but only 150 students avail the

food. As reported in local newspapers the excess food grains are apparently thrown into the gutters. It still continues to happen in this school.

There also seems to be some friction between the cook and the organizer in this school. The organizer belongs to BC community and the cook is a Dalit. The cook complains that she does not get firewood. The coconut husk that she is given often causes breathing difficulties. The previous cook who was also a dalit left the job for no apparent reason. The present cook has also submitted a request to transfer her to some other school.

- **NOTE: As one of the outcomes of the visit of the 3rd Review Mission to Tamil Nadu on Mid day meal scheme during Jan-April 2012, the members of the Review Mission have suggested that all schools should appoint an ayah/cleaner for cleaning the schools premises and the toilets so as to maintain the health and hygiene of the schools.**
