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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY
SHASTRI BHAVAN
NEW DELHI-110 115

D.O. No. 14-1/2013-EE.6(MDM 3-1)

8th January, 2014

Dear *Sh. Meena*,

The 5th Joint Review Mission visited Arunachal Pradesh from 10th to 19th December, 2013 to review the implementation of Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) and to assess the nutritional status of the beneficiary children, in two districts – Lower subansiri and East Siang as per the prescribed Terms of Reference (ToRs). The JRM team was headed by Dr.R.Hari Kumar Scientist 'D', in the Division of community studies, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad. The other members of the team were representatives from MHRD and Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Scientist 'D', Sr. Technical Officer, Technician and Research Assistants from the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, and Consultants from Ed CIL's Technical Support Group for Mid-Day Meal Scheme assisted the JRM. A total of 31 schools and 1129 children (535 boys and 594 girls) were covered during the survey.

The anthropometric survey (using Body Mass Index – Z scores) on a sample of 1129 school children (535 boys and 594 girls) availing of Mid Day Meal, showed that in Lower Subansiri District 2.9% boys and 2.7% girls were under-nourished whereas in East Siang District 8.1% boys and 6.1% girls were under-nourished. Overall the prevalence of stunting was about 22.8%. The prevalence of stunting was similar amongst boys and girls in both the districts.

Based on their observations, the JRM team has made the following recommendations:

- Mid Day Meal should be served in the schools regularly and daily,
- It is recommended that in pursuance of MDM Guidelines the foodgrains should be delivered at school doorstep and the buffer stock of the food grain should also be maintained in the schools.
- State should define and design a suitable mechanism for the availability of cooking cost in advance at the school level and honorarium to cook cum helpers on time as per their entitlement.



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना
Mid Day Meal Scheme

- The State Government may give instructions to the District level officers for proper preparation of challan/ 'A'Roll to be signed by the school teachers after receipt of the cooking cost and honorarium to cook cum helpers.
- Monthly review meeting should be conducted at District and block level to review the implementation of the MDMS.
- Involvement of Block Level Officers in implementation of MDMS : Currently Block Level Officers are playing role of inspection and supervision of MDMS. They may be involved in implementation of the MDMS at block level with delegation of few responsibilities in the implementation as well.
- The Mission recommends that the monitoring mechanism at all the levels, especially at the district and below, needs to be strengthened. There is a strong need to create an accountable monitoring mechanism to look into the implementation aspects of the scheme.
- The JRM also recommends that the meeting of the District Monitoring and Vigilance Committee under the Chairmanship of Member of Parliament should be convened in each quarter without fail.
- Kitchen gardens or green squares can be introduced in the schools as most of the schools are having good open space for the same. This can become an innovative and creative school based activity for the participation of children and teachers to grow seasonal vegetables for use in MDM.
- Convergence with State Health Department or NRHM could be sought for regular health check-ups of the students in the schools. A Health calendar should be prepared for each school and each concerned Primary Health Centre be provided a list of schools in its area with Health Calendars to ensure that they cover their schools within stipulated time, and are made accountable for follow-up and/ or other gaps in the target. Health cards should be prepared for all children and a record should be maintained in all schools about the visit of health team along with information about the children for follow-up and referrals.
- Grievance Redressal Mechanism: The Mission recommends that the Grievance Redressal mechanism upto grass root level may be set up and the toll free number should be displayed at a prominent place in the schools in order to address the genuine complaints of all stakeholders etc., and to make the scheme more responsive to the stakeholders.
- The frequency of the SMC meetings be increased and the implementation of MDM should be made a compulsory agenda and records for the same should be maintained to ensure the smooth running of the scheme.
- MDM logo, MDM Menu and Entitlement of children should be displayed at prominent locations in the School compound.

- Regular inspection should be made mandatory by the State Government by different District and Block level officials. Effective monitoring mechanism should be developed by the State Govt. to ensure periodic inspection of the scheme by officials at all levels. Inspecting Officers should record their observations on the implementation of the Scheme. The PRI or SMC member or any government official visiting the school should write their remarks/comments about their observations on MDM in school.
- Provisions of Social and Community Audits should be made by the State Govt to evaluate the implementation of programme and to identify gaps, with the involvement of PRIs and S.M.C members. The process should begin with capacity building of the concerned persons for the purpose.
- JRM recommends the State Govt to take proper initiative for wide publicity for all the stake holder regarding MDMS particularly with reference to certain key issues such as Nutritive value of food as per norms, Entitlement of the children, Hand washing and Hygiene and cleanliness .
- Capacity building of all the stakeholders at every level is required for effective implementation of the MDMS. A module for school teachers on roles and responsibilities of teachers under MDM may be included in the training curriculum of the teachers under SSA highlighting the nutritional and health needs of the children. Training of the MDM in charge and the head masters on record keeping of MDM is necessary. Training of cook-cum-helpers should be conducted for safety, hygiene and quality in MDM preparation.
- Certain amount of funds may be earmarked from the MME fund for procurement of large containers for storing food grains in schools to prevent insect and rat infestation.
- A committee should be constituted and a number for “Medical Help Line” should be displayed in all the schools in order to cope with an emergency and First Aid Box may be provided to all schools.
- The JRM Team highly recommends that the district officials should be sent for exposure visit to other better performing States in the implementation of MDMS.
- Rice and wheat preparations should be provided alternatively in order to make the meal “wholesome”. Locally available foods should be used order to increase acceptability of food by children.
- Include all variety of pulses in rotation like Moong dal, Redgram dal, Lentil, Green gram dal, channa dal etc. in the menu.
- Eggs and fruits should give at least 3 times a week. Locally available fruits to be given 2-3 times in a week.

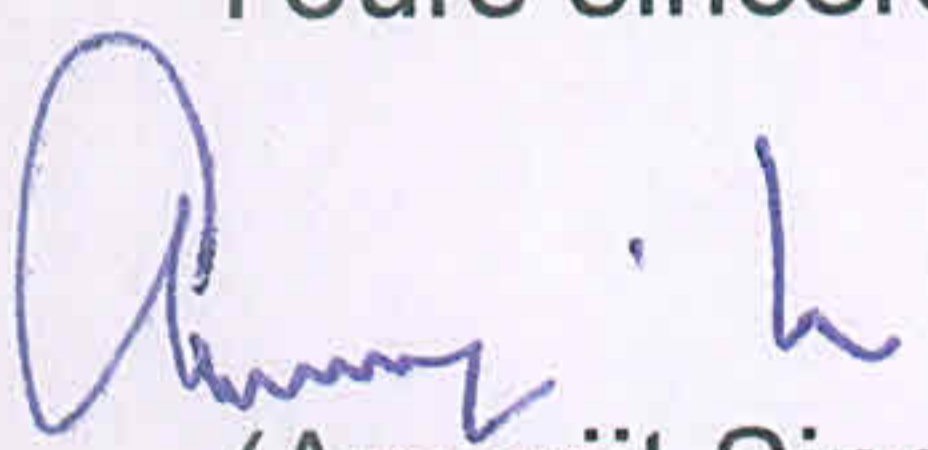
- Vegetables should provide according to the MDM nutritional norms and locally available fresh green leafy vegetables like palak, drumstick & radish leaves, ambat chukka, should be incorporated in recipes to make it more nutrient dense.
- The quantity of each of ingredients used to prepare recipes of Mid Day Meal prepared has to be modified daily depending on the attendance of children.
- The children who are vegetarian on that particular day can be given either fruit/roasted groundnuts.

The complete report is being enclosed alongwith for your perusal.

It will be appreciated if you could send an action taken report on the above within 30 days. A little concerted effort on your part will ensure that no child in a school remains hungry in your State.

With regards

Yours sincerely


(Amarjit Singh)

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