

CONTENTS

SECTION	PAGE
Acknowledgements	2
List of abbreviations	4
Executive Summary	5
Composition of the Joint Review Mission Team	6-7
Introduction	8-9
Brief profile of Tripura	10-18
Methodology	19
Observations	20-42
Nutritional Assessment	43-53
Recommendations	54-57
Photographs	--
ANNEXURE	---

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The Mission also values the hospitality and support extended by the Department of Education from the Principal Secretary Primary Education to the school teachers; the state office of the Mid Day Meals to the MDM kitchen staff in schools; the Department of Health; from the Department of Food and Civil Supplies to the FPC licensees; the SMC members and the Members of Gram Panchayat in villages of Gomati and West Tripura and finally, the student and the village community more importantly.

The team has strived to capture the entire range of discussions and observations at various levels with all the officials and key stakeholders earnestly. It sincerely hopes that the recommendations that have emerged through interactions with the officials, experts, implementers and the right holders – children, would be of help to the State Government in strengthening the implementation of the Mid–Day Meal Scheme and ensure the right to nutritional food security of school going children of Tripura.

The JRM team

26th June, 2013
Agartala, Tripura

List of abbreviations:

SSA- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

NCLP- National Child Labour Programme

GoI- Government of India

MHRD- Ministry of Human Resource Development

MME- Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

JRM- Joint Review Mission

MDM- Mid Day Meal

PAB- Programme Approval Board

TA- Transportation Assistance

CCH- Cook cum helpers

TTAADC-

SMC- School management Committee

MTA-

I/S- Inspector of schools

Executive Summary

The National Programme of Nutritional support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) The Fifth Joint Review Mission on MDM for Tripura interacted with various stakeholders of the MDM programme during 18-26 June 2013 in Gomati and West Tripura districts.

This being a one of the flagship programmes of the Government of India addressing hunger among all govt school children serves hot cooked meal that helps children come to the formal education system, concentrate on classroom activities and receive nutritional support and break the social barriers of caste discrimination.

The Mission while interacting with stakeholders to review this national programme of MDM in schools observed that although the MDM encouraged poor children belonging to disadvantaged sections of the society to attend school more regularly, the goal of full coverage in the State has been a challenge. Convergence with department of health for school health program requires strengthening.

The introduction of eggs in the MDMS has been received well by the students. The state has initiated innovative measures like dining hall ,and upkeep of school premises with the participation on local self governments in several places with convergence with other state programs. .

Composition of Review Mission

1. Dr. Rita Singh Raghuvanshi, Dean, College of Home Science, Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar- Team Leader
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The Review Mission team was assisted by :

Sr No	Name	Designation	Office
1	Sri Anil Chandra Das	Branch Officer (MDM),	Directorate of School Education, Govt. of Tripura
2	Sri Gour Gopal Das	Dy. Director	Directorate of School Education, Govt. of Tripura
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12	Sri Chandan Dutta	Dy. I/S Bishalgarh	District Education Office, West Tripura
13	Sri Ajay Chakraborty	Dy. I/S Udaipur	District Education Office, Gomati
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INTRODUCTION

The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (**NP-NSPE**) popularly known as Mid Day Meal Scheme, is a flagship Scheme of Ministry of Human Resource Development. The programme was launched on 15th August, 1995 in Government, Government aided and Local Body Schools to enhance enrolment, attendance and retention of primary class school children and to mitigate their class room hunger through nutritional support. Since its inception the scheme has undergone many changes in its coverage and content. Provision of dry ration in the initial phase has been replaced by hot cooked meals. Presently, the scheme is being implemented in primary and Upper Primary classes of Government, Government aided, Local body Schools, National Child Labour Project Schools, Madrasas and Maqtabas supported under SSA.

The basic objectives of the Mid-Day-Meal scheme include prevention of malnutrition among children, achieve universalization of Elementary Education by increasing enrolment, retention and attendance of students and there-by reducing dropout rate and improve the nutritional level of children.

Article 21 A provides that Right to Children for free and compulsory education. This has been ensured through the enactment of Right to Education Act 2009, which came into force on 1st April 2010. SSA has been designated as the vehicle to realize the provisions of RTE Act, 2009. Chapter 4, Para 21 of RTE Act, 2009 stipulates that preference will be given to disadvantaged groups and weaker sections while nominating the representatives for the School Management Committee. The Act further states that all schools should have all weather building consisting of a kitchen-cum-stores to cook mid day meal in the school by 2012-13. The model rules under RTE Act also provide that School Management Committee will monitor the implementation of the Mid Day Meal in the school.

Government of India constituted Review Missions (RM) in 2009 to review the implementation of the scheme as per the defined Terms of Reference (ToR) in various States across the country. The objectives of the Review Mission are as under:-

- (i) To review the performance of the Scheme in the selected State in the light of the Guidelines of the Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- (ii) To suggest policy measures for effective implementation of the Scheme in the State.

The State of Tripura was selected for visit of Review Mission and the 5th Review Mission visited Tripura from 18th June- 26th June, 2013 to see the implementation of the scheme in the State. Terms of Reference (ToR) of this Review Mission are attached at *Annexure-I*. The recommendations of the Review Mission are based on the evidences collected and the information gathered during the review of implementation of the Scheme in Gomathi and West Tripura districts.

BRIEF PROFILE OF TRIPURA

Tripura, among the north eastern states, is the only state which has borders with a single country, i.e. Bangladesh, on three sides. Geographical isolation, poor infrastructural facilities, low capital formation, low industrial activity, prolonged insurgency, poverty and unemployment characterize the state. It shares a long boundary with Bangladesh (856 KM) and with neighbouring states of Assam and Mizoram. The state was merged with Indian Union on October 15, 1949. India. Tripura is identified as a 'special criteria state' by Planning Commission, Government of India.

Out of the total workers of 3,85,708 persons in 2005, 67.38 per cent were engaged in rural areas and 32.61 per cent in urban areas. Of the total employments in the non-agriculture sector, maximum number of workers was found engaged in retail trade (28.21 per cent), followed by manufacturing (18.60 per cent), public administration (14.54 per cent), education (14.40 per cent) and other community and personal services (4.84 per cent), totalling to 80.59 per cent of the total employment.

The state's share of union taxes and duties and grants from central government are the major source of revenue for the state of Tripura. The combined revenue from this two sources are approximately 87 to 83 per cent of the total budget. The various capacities of revenue of Tripura can be understand from the structure of budget of the Government of Tripura.

Government of Tripura – Budget

(Rs. in crores)

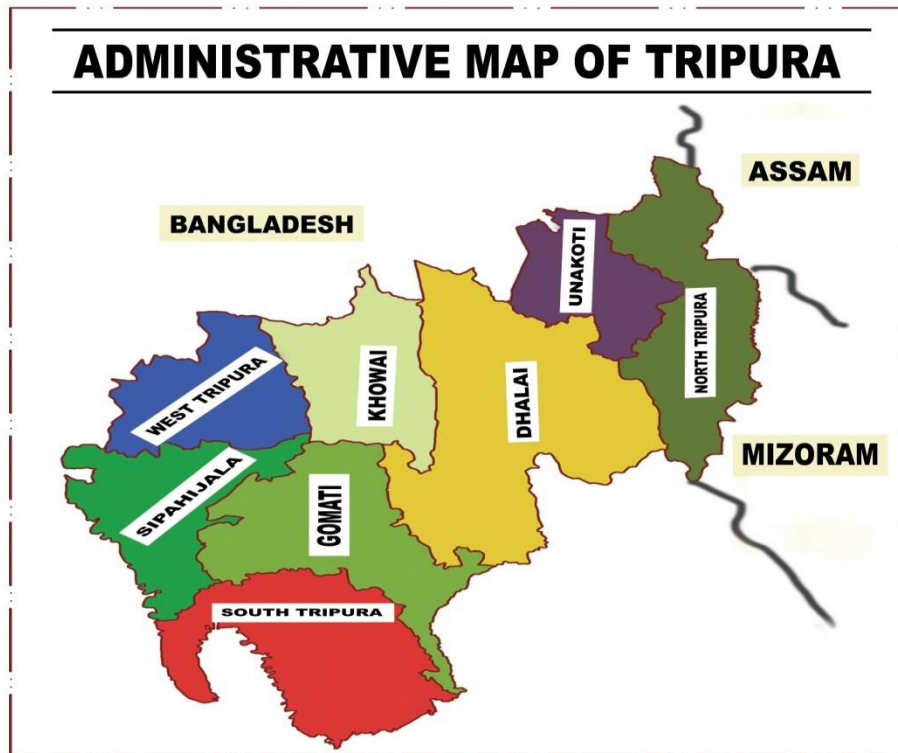
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Revenue Receipts	3698.34	4076.78	4401.35	5168.02	6476.90
i) State's own Tax Revenue	370.70 (10.12)	442.50 (10.85)	527.01 (11.97)	621.75 (12.03)	858.02 (13.25)
ii) State's own Non-tax revenue	115.41 (3.12)	149.04 (3.66)	125.40 (2.85)	131.79 (2.55)	214.22 (3.31)

iii) State's share of Union Taxes and Duties	650.62 (17.59)	686.52 (16.84)	706.34 (16.05)	1122.3 6 (21.72)	1307.5 6 (20.19)
iv) Other Grants from Central Government	2561.6 1 (69.26)	2798.7 2 (68.65)	3042.6 0 (69.13)	3292.1 2 (63.70)	4097.1 0 (63.26)
Capital Receipts	110.54	282.08	787.80	754.25	560.09
i) Recovery of loans	3.27	3.25	3.55	0.96	1.89
ii) Borrowings	50.09	208.69	493.81	552.55	417.88
i) Loans from Public Account	57.18	70.14	290.44	200.74	140.32
Total Receipts	3808.8 8	4358.8 6	5189.1 5	5922.2 7	7036.9 9
Total Expenditure	3835.1 1	4511.0 4	5757.4 9	5624.3 2	6437.7 4

Source: Budgets at a glance, Government of Tripura

Government of Tripura, in its gazette notification dated 8th November 2011, has increased the number of districts from the existing four to eight districts, namely, West Tripura, South Tripura, North Tripura, Dhalai, Gomati, Unokoti, Khowai and Sepahijala. All the districts have border with Bangladesh.

Map of Tripura



Sketch Map: Not to Scale.

Demographic Data of Tripura

- ❖ **Geographical Location** : Tripura is one of the small state of seven North-Eastern states. Three sides surrounded by Bangladesh.
- ❖ **Total Area** : 10,491.69 Sq. Km
- ❖ **No. of Districts** : 08
- ❖ **No. of Sub-Divisions**: 23
- ❖ **No. of R.D. Blocks** : 45
- ❖ **Population** : 36,71,032
- ❖ **Density** : 350 / Sq. Km
- ❖ **Sex Ratio** : 961:1000 (Female : Male)
- ❖ **Average Literacy rate** : 87.75%
- ❖ **Male Literacy rate** : 92.18%
- ❖ **Female Literacy rate** : 83.15%

Education:

Tripura has made a considerable progress in the field of education. Literacy rate has increased to 87.75 per cent in 2011 in the state with male literacy of 92.18 per cent and female literacy of 83.15 per cent. The state is implementing the national programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid Day Meal (MDM) schemes to enroll 100 per cent children of age group 6 – 14 years. Rishtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA) is also implemented in the state for the universalization of secondary education.

Table: Distribution of Schools in districts of Tripura

(as on 31.08.2012)

District	Primary	Upper Primary	Secondary	Higher Secondary	TOTAL
Dhalai	532	244	56	29	861
West Tripura	301	155	98	100	654
Sepaijala	259	148	86	48	541
Khowai	256	122	61	35	474
North Tripura	221	152	62	38	473
Unokoti	177	83	42	28	330
Gomati	296	176	76	39	587
South Tripura	343	168	94	51	656
TOTAL	2385	1248	575	368	4576

The state has a central university and a private university, and 23 general degree colleges apart from an Fisheries College, two medical colleges, two engineering colleges including one NIT and other vocational and polytechnics.

Profile of the Districts:**Gomati**



Gomati district is located in Tripura, India. This district was created in January, 2012 when four new districts were created in Tripura.

POPULATION (As per 2001 Census)

Human resources	Nos.
Total Population of the District	7,67,440
Male	3,94,605
Female	3,72,835
Urban	54,147
Rural	7,13,293
ST	2,89,519
SC	1,27,307

LITERACY

Overall Literacy Rate	Male	Female
69.90%	79.00%	60.30%

OCCUPATIONAL STATUS

a) Total no of families in the district	1,64,161
b) Occupation (Number)	-
Agricultural labourer	49,288
Non-agri labourer	41,725
Cultivators	48,563
Artisans (Weavers,Porter etc.)	4,126
Household Industries	3,026
Business	6,870
Service in Government and Private Offices/Institutions	14,063

viii) Others	6,811
Below the Poverty Line	72% of the total rural population

GEOGRAPHY

District total area	2966.2 Sq. KM
(a) Length of border with Bangladesh or other Indian States	170 Km
(b) Length of the border wire fencing built so far	148.5 Km
Latitude	22 56 to 24 32
Longitude	91 59 to 92 22

CLIMATE

i) Normal annual rainfall (mm)	2055.2
ii) Average actual annual rainfall (mm)	1924.2
iii) Highest annual rainfall (mm)	2165
Temperature	35.23 (maxi)/7.43 (mini)

FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Ration Shop	406
Average monthly requirement of rice (MT)	5825.8
APL Card	90,877
BPL Card	53,663
Ration Card	1,78,723
No. of Godown	16
Annapurna	4,455
Antoday	34,183

IRRIGATION

Cultivable Area (ha)	81303.6
Irrigable Area (ha)	24,076.70
Gross potential area created (ha)	28282.52

FORESTRY

i) Total Forest area (sq. Km)	2005.4
ii) Plantation area of rubber (hac)	16,800.32

HEALTH

Total No. of Sub-Centres	167
Total No. of PHC	26
Total No. of Rural Hospitals	3
Total No. of Sub-Divisional Hospital	3
Birth Rate	16.6
Death Rate	6.1

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

a) No. of Anganwadi Centre	2637
b) No. of Primary School	652

c) No. of Upper Primary (upto Class VIII) Schools (SB)	316
d) No. of High Schools	142
e) No. of H/S(+ 2 Stage) School	76
f) No. of English Medium School	4
g) No. of Madrasa	11
h) Jawhar Nabodaya Vidyalaya	1
i) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan	1
j) Privately run Schools (Un - aided)	
i) High School	8
ii) Senior Basic School	2
iii) Junior Basic School	8
k) Degree Colleges	4

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

a) Tripureswari Temple, Udaipur
b) Trishna Wild Life Sanctuary, Belonia
c) Chandrapur (Dimatali) Mosque, Belonia
d) Buddha Math at Bankul Mahmuni, Sabroom
e) Kalapania Natural Park, Sabroom
f) Dumbur Lake, Amarpur
g) Noabari Eco Park, Udaipur
h) Lailakbari Orange Spot, Udaipur
i) Hurijala, Udaipur
j) Eco Park Ichachara, Udaipur
k) Chabi Mura, Amarpur
l) Lalgiri Lake & Park, Amarpur
m) Tepania Eco Park, Udaipur
n) Bhubaneswari Temple, Udaipur
o) Jagannath Bari, Udaipur
p) Mahadeb Bari, Udaipur
q) Maharani Barrage, Udaipur
u) Pillal Tourism, Santirbazar

West Tripura : --



LOCATION AND AREA

While Tripura as a whole lies approximately between the north latitude 22 degrees 56' and 24 degrees 32' and between longitude 91 degrees 0' and 92 degrees 20' east, the West Tripura district lies approximately between latitude 23 degrees 16' to 24 degrees 14' north and longitude 91 degrees 09' east to 91 degrees 47' east. The West Tripura District is bounded by Bangladesh in the north and west by North Tripura in the east and by South Tripura in the south. Total area of the district is 3544 sq.kms. The district headquarters is located at Agartala, which is also the capital of the State.

Area - 10486 sq. kms

Population Figures - The figures for West Tripura District and the State of Tripura is as summarized below:-

State / District	Population 2001			Population 2011			Decadal growth rate		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	1981-1991	1991-2001	2001-2011
Tripura	3,191,168	1,636,138	1,555,030	3,671,032	1,871,867	1,799,165	34.30	15.74	14.75
West Tripura	1,530,531	783,825	746,706	1,724,619	877,930	846,689	32.53	18.29	12.50

West Tripura District constitutes 47% of the State's population. Sex Ratio and Population Density:- The District figures vis-à-vis State figures are as follows:-

State/ District	Sex ratio			Density		
	1991	2001	2011	1991	2001	2011
Tripura	945	950	961	263	304	350
West Tripura	944	953	964	427	505	576

4. Literacy Rate:-

State/District	Literates			Literacy Rate								
				1991			2001			2011		
	Persons	Males	Females	Tot	Male	Female	Tot	Male	Female	Tot	Male	Female
Tripura	2831742	1515973	1315769	60.44	70.58	49.65	73.66	81.47	65.41	87.75	92.18	83.15
West Tripura	1724619	877930	846689	65.83	75.87	55.15	77.82	85.02	70.24	88.91	92.91	84.76

5. Child Population (0-6 years) by age and their sex ratio:-

State/ District	Child population in the age group 0-6			Sex ratio (0-6 years)
	Persons	Male	Female	
Tripura	444055	227354	216701	953
West Tripura	184656	95085	89571	942

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The districts of Gomati and West Tripura are selected for the study. Gomati is one of the eight newly constituted districts of Tripura. The total population of the district is 4,36,868 comprising 42 per cent of ST population. The literacy rate is 86 per cent. The district has 7 development blocks with 3 sub-divisions. The sex ratio is 959 and density of population per square km is 287.

West Tripura district is reconstituted with 9,17,534 population. The percentage of ST population in the district is 20 and the literacy rate is 91 percent. The sex ratio of the district is 972 and the density of population is 973. There are 6 developmental blocks and 3 sub-divisions.

The study by JRM (MDM) has focused on the primary and upper schools of Gomati and West Tripura districts. The JRM has adopted the following methodology in the study:

List of all primary and upper primary schools were collected from Education Department. A sample of 28 schools from the Gomati and 20 schools from the West Tripura districts were selected for the study. The type of habitation, coverage of tribal populations (TTADC areas) and distance from the main roads, Sub Division headquarters were the criteria adopted for selection of schools. The detail list of the schools is attached in the Annexure.

The JRM team was divided into two groups to examine the various issues relating to implementation of mid day meal in the said districts of Tripura. A set questionnaire, observations, perceptions and measurements were taken as tools.

From the schools around 10 percent children was selected for assessment of nutritional status on the basis of anthropometric and clinical assessment. The data collected are analysed through standard computer softwares.

Finally, the report of the JRM (MDM) was prepared and presented as per the terms and conditions.

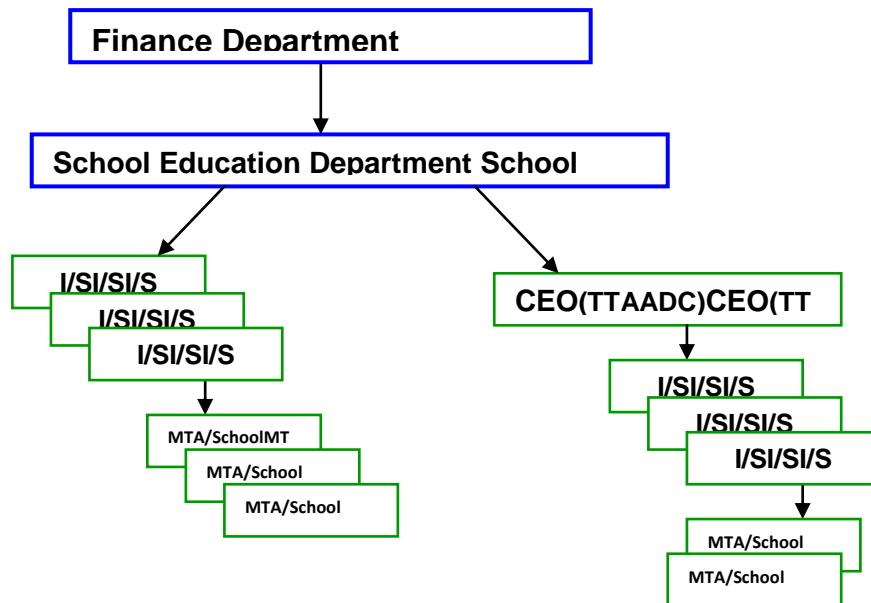
OBSERVATIONS OF THE JOINT REVIEW MISSION

On the basis of the data made available, field observations, interaction with various stakeholders as well as the nutrition assessment of the students, the observations made by the Mission have been discussed herein. To facilitate the discussion, these observations have been categorized into two sections – assessment of MDMS and assessment of nutrition status.

Assessment of MDMS

1. Review the fund flow from the State Government to schools/cooking agency and the time taken in this process

The finance department of the State Government releases fund based on requisition of the School Education Department both against central assistance and state share. Then the School Education Department directly place fund with all Inspector of Schools and the Chief Executive officer for schools under TTAADC. The Inspector of Schools draw fund on submission of A.C. bills to the concerned Treasury / Sub-Treasury Officers and transfer the fund to joint Account of HM &MTAs of all schools under their respective jurisdiction through banks. In case of TTAADC, the School Education Department transfers the fund to the P.L.Account of TTAADC. Thereafter, the Chief Executive Officer transfer the fund to all Inspectors of School (TTAADC) through bank draft.



The actual time taken in transfer of funds from State to districts has been shown in the following table:

Components	Date of fund release by State to Directorate	Date of Fund release by Directorate to District/ Block	Gap (No of Days) between funds receiving and releasing	Reason for Delay
1	2	3	4	5
Cooking Cost	Ad-hoc- 11/6/2012	5/7/2012	25	It is not abnormal delay after observing treasury procedures
	1st Installment- 23/08/2012	13/09/2012	22	
	2nd & Final- 04/02/2013	5/3/2013	30	
Kitchen Sheds	7/12/2012	24/01/2013	49	Delayed due to collection of proposal from concerned schools
		13/03/2013	97	
Kitchen Device	7/12/2012	7/1/2013	32	It is not abnormal delay after observing treasury procedures
	4/2/2013	13/03/2013	38	
MME	Ad-hoc- 11/6/2012	5/7/2012	25	Some technical errors.
	1st Installment- 23/08/2012	29/11/2012	38	
	2nd & Final- 04/02/2013	14/03/2013	39	
Transportation	Ad-hoc- 11/6/2012	20/07/2012	40	Late presentation of bills from the Department of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs.
	1st Installment- 23/08/2012	3/10/2012	42	
	2nd & Final- 04/02/2013	3/10/2012	37	

Delay in transfer of cooking cost from State to District is ranged between 20- 40 days. As per the State Government this delay is not abnormal and happens mostly due to treasury procedure. The maximum delay (97 days) has been observed in case of transfer of fund for construction of kitchen cum stores. This delay has been occurred due to late proposal submission by the School authority. Apart from that delay has been observed in transferring the fund for all the components from State to Districts. The reasons stated by the State Government

are technical errors, late presentation of bills from the concerned Department etc

.Observations from JRM:

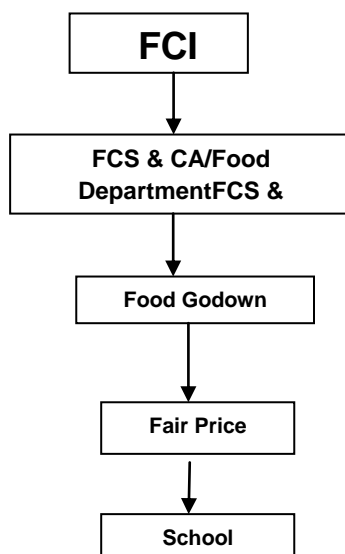
On receipt of sanction letter from Government of India. the delay from State to District offices for fund release can be shortened by combining the seeking of administrative and financial approval together from Department to State Finance Department for allocation to different I/S offices .

The information provided regarding fund flow details of two the visited districts are as indicates that there is no delay in transfer of fund from district to block offices. But in many schools negative balance of cooking cost has been observed by the JRM which should be an outcome of delay of release of fund from District to Blocks or from Blocks to Schools. In 38% of schools it was found that there was a negative balance at the beginning of June 2013, which is very high at some places . The negative balances in cooking cost is especially hard in some schools since firewood and vegetables have to be brought on payment and no credit is available from small farmers/ vendors.

The delay in transfer of funds to the school accounts was attributed to several reasons. The A/c bills can only be released only for one demand per month which is as per allocation per quarter. In case of non-availability of full fund requisition for one quarter,. Leading to negative balance at the school as well as due to delay by the bank (Tripura Gramin Bank). It has been observed that the system of withdrawal per quarter of requirement is highly complicated, thereby delays in any one quarter cannot be recovered in a timely manner by the Inspector of Schools. The fund flow system from the state to the schools needs to be streamlined along with appropriate monitoring and redressal systems so as to ensure that there is no delay in transfer of cooking costs leading to negative balances in the school MDMS accounts.

2. Food grain flow

In Tripura, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department is the Nodal Agency for lifting of food grains from FCI Godown and then storing it in the Sub-Divisional Godown of the State. Thereafter, the dealers of Fair Price shops lift food grains from Sub-Divisional food godown and store it in their respective store house. The School authorities arrange for lifting of rice from F.P. Shops and keep the lifted rice in safe storage in school.



The Inspector of Schools submits quarterly requirements of rice showing school-wise shortfall or surplus of rice of previous quarter to the MDM Section of Directorate of School Education. On the basis of these requisitions, the MDM Section prepare Inspector of schools and feeder godown wise reallocation memo of rice of the allocated rice by the GOI and send it to FCS & CA Deptt. for lifting and this also informed to the I/Ss. Then after the Sub-Divisional food controller issues D.O against each concerned Fair Price Shops dealers to collect rice from Sub-Divisional foodgodown and to supply it to different schools for MDM programme.

The food grain flow from State to Districts is shown in the following table:

Components	Date of foodgrains released by State to District	Date of foodgrains received by the district from release by District to Block	Gap (No of Days) between foodgrains receiving and releasing	Reason for Delay
1	2	3	4	5
Food grains	16/04/2012	22/06/2012	67	Lifted the allotment after clearing of old stock maintained in the Schools
	2/8/2012	25/08/12	23	
	8/10/2012	21/12/2012	75	
	28/01/2013	6/2/2013	9	

Observations:

It has been observed in all of the visited schools that from Fair Price shop, the Organizers of MDM lift the food grain and bring it to schools. They are paid transport cost for this purpose.

As per guidelines issued by the MHRD, GOI, the cost of lifting of food grains is paid directly to the Area Manager, FCI, Agartala after bills are received duly certified by the Department of Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA Deptt.). Bills are paid on a quarterly basis.

The JRM team visited the FCI Godown at Nandannagar , Agartala. which had a storage capacity of 10,000 MT in all. The Godown had fully covered four structures of 2500 MT capacity each, Grains were stored in jute bags, stacked with plastic sheets on the floor. Grain quality was found to be good and reportedly was of Grade A quality and was always available in adequate quantity.

3. Management and monitoring of the scheme from the State to school level

The present Management structure of Mid-Day Meal is totally under the Directorate of School Education Department. At the State level Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Govt. Of Tripura controlled all the financial transaction regarding MDM and there is a Senior Research Officer working as Branch Officer of Mid-Day-Meal Section who are assisting the Director, School Education Department to oversee the implementation of MDM. However, at the District and the Block level, the implementation of the scheme is supervised and monitored by the District Education Officer and the Inspector of Schools who are commonly implementing all schemes of the Department. There are no separate supervisory at these level. The existing management structure for implementation of the scheme has been shown in the following diagram.

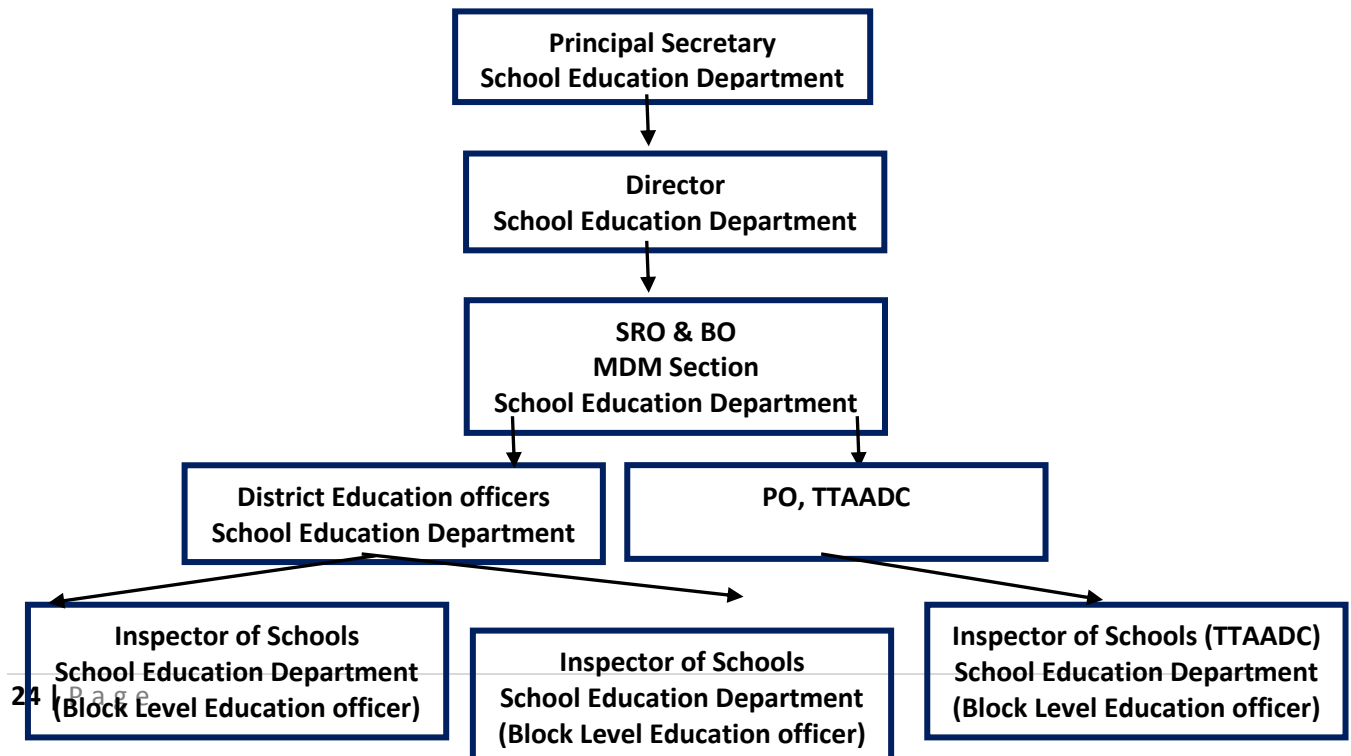
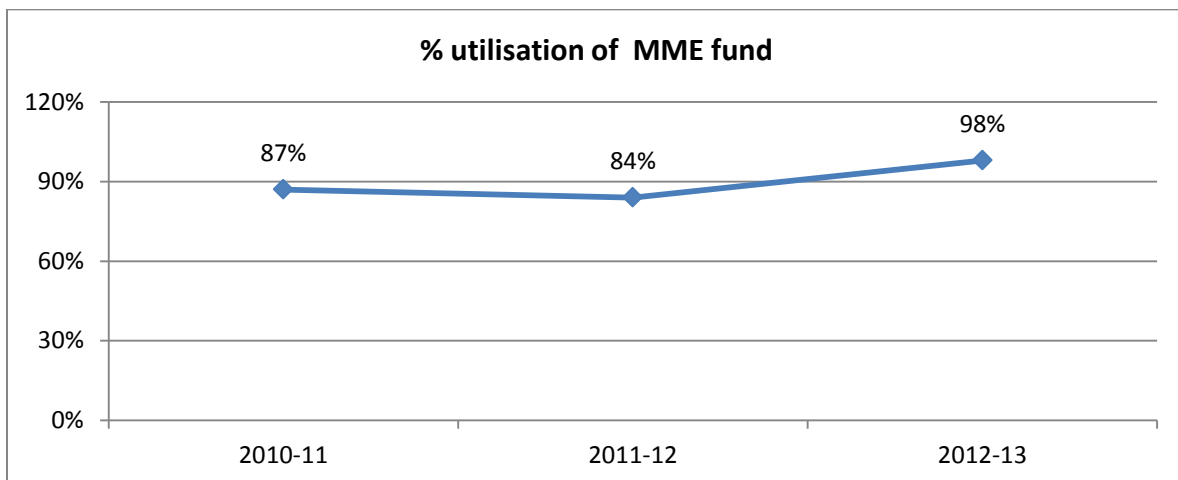


Figure: Management Structure for implementing MDMS

State Government has made an inspection target for all the Officers associated with this programme. The targets per Officer has been shown in the following table:

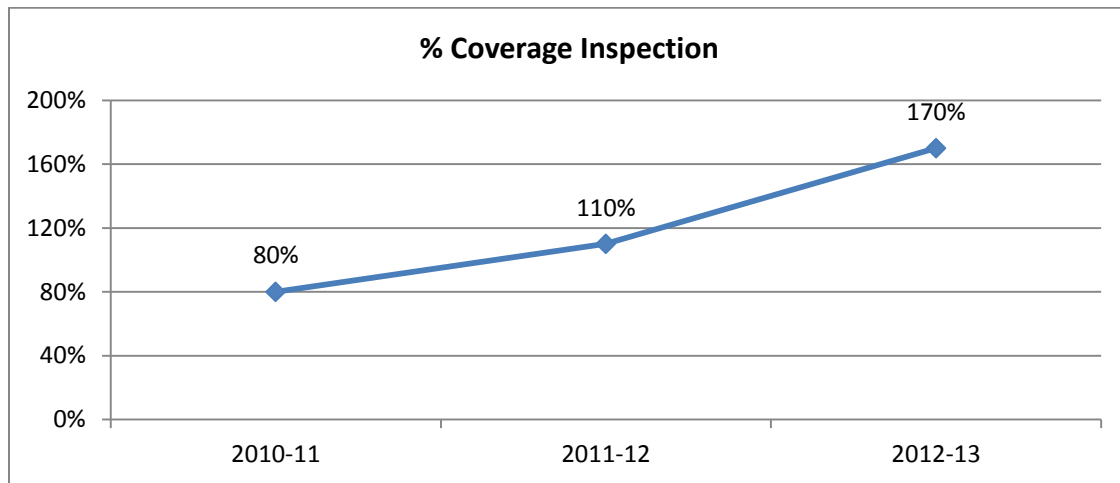
Sl.No.	Officer	No. of Inspection per Month
1	Principal Secretary	10
2	Director School Education	20
3	SPD (SSA, Rajya Mission)	20
4	Director , SCERT	15
5	Joint Director / Dy. Director/ SRO/Account Officer	10
6	District Education Officers	15
7	District Inspector of Schools	15
8	Inspector of Schools	20
9	Dy. Inspector of Schools	25

Monitoring is an integral part of implementation of the MDM scheme and utilisation of Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME) fund shows the performance of the States/UTs in monitoring of the MDMS. The year wise utilisation of MME fund has shown in the following graph.



The above data depicts the fact that compared to previous two financial year, the utilisation percentage has been improved during 2012-13.

The corresponding data on inspection of schools has been shown below.



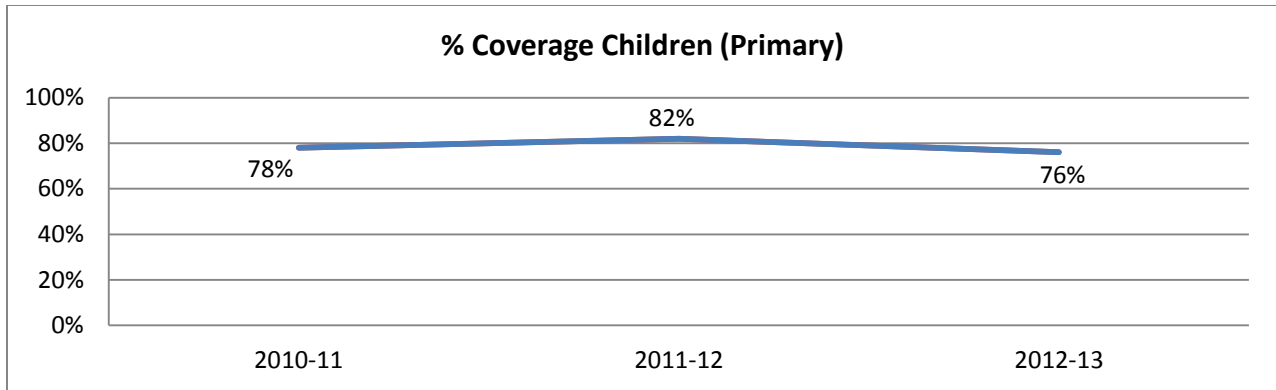
The inspection of schools has also been improved over the period of time. More than 100% inspection coverage depicts the fact that all the existing schools have been inspected at least once by any Govt. official during the financial year and some of the schools have been inspected more than once.

Observation: Schools have been visited by School Inspectors. The School inspectors reports should also include remedial action to be taken for shortfalls in food grains and cooking costs, operational drinking water facility and toilets.

4. Implementation of the scheme with reference to availability of food grains, quality of MDM, regularity in serving MDM as per approved norms and mode of cooking

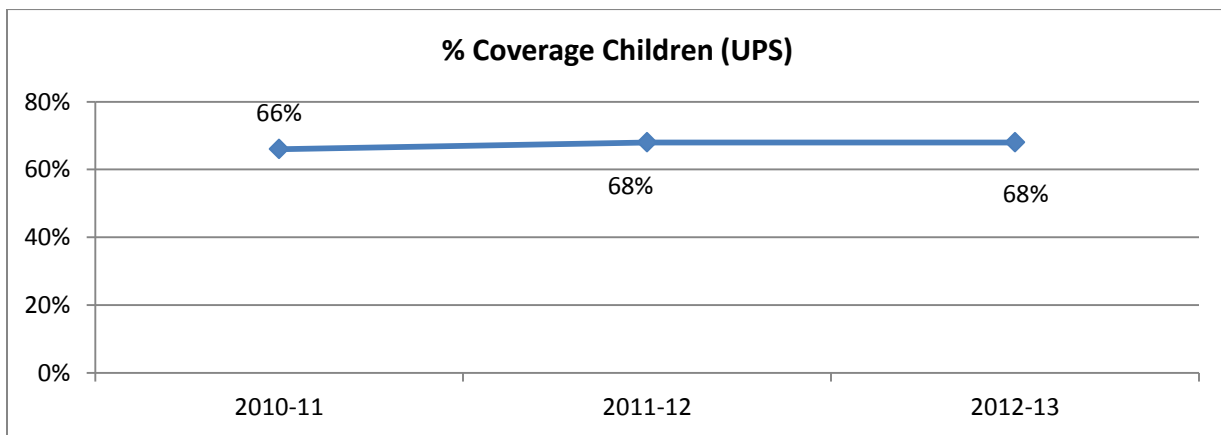
4.1. Percentage Coverage of children against enrolment (Primary and Upper Primary)

The coverage of children against enrolment in Primary for the last three financial years has been shown in the following graph.



It depicts from the above graph that the percentage coverage of children during the last three financial years is lowest during 2012-13. It is increased 4% from 2010-11 to 2011-12 but decreased by 6% from 2011-12 to 2012-13.

On the other hand the percent coverage of children in upper primary section has been slightly improved from 66% in 2010-11 to 68% in 2011-12 and the same percentage coverage (68%) of children has been reported at the end of 2012-13.



District Data

The coverage of Schools, children and working days for the two districts are shown in the following tables:

Table: Coverage of schools and working days for MDMS of Gomati District

Stage	Total no. of Schools/Centers	No. of children approved	No. of working days approved	No. of schools/centers actually served	No. of children covered	No. of working days
PS	521	38,243	230	521		234
UPS	264	21,458	230	264		234

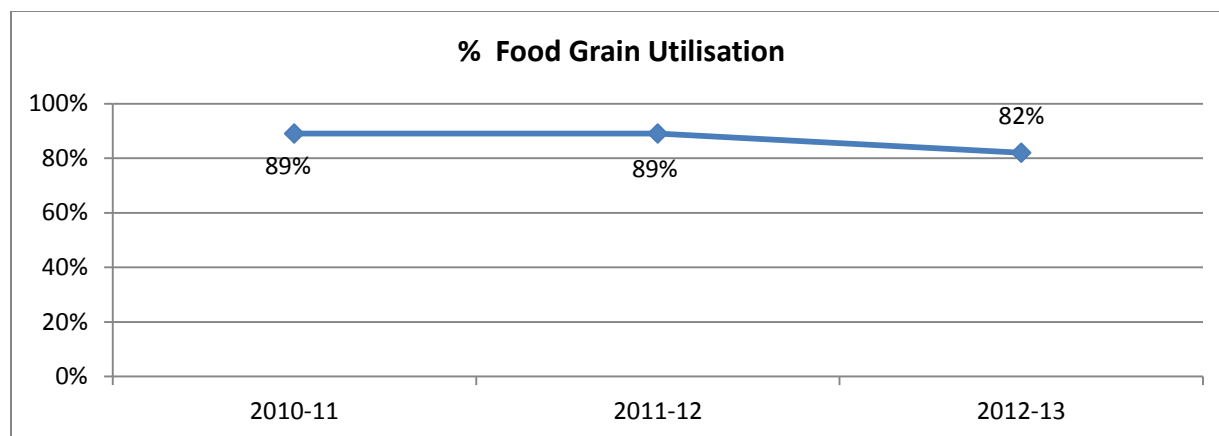
Table: Coverage of schools and working days for MDMS of West Tripura District

Stage	Target			Achievement		
	Total No. of School	No. of Children Approved	No. of Working Days Approved	No. of School Actually Served	No. of children covered	No. of Working Days
PS	1226	123312	230	1226		220
UPS	802	84136	230	802		220

Observation: all the schools visited were cooking and serving meals daily to all the children present in the schools.

4.2. Food grain utilization

Utilization of food grains is an important indicator to understand the performance of implementation of the MDMS in the State. As per the available data of last three financial years, it is found that the food grain utilization is decreased from 89% in 2010-11 and 2011-12 to 82% during 2012-13. This utilization has been decreased solely due to fall in coverage of children in primary schools of the State. The graphical representation is shown below.



District wise information provided by the State Govt. depicts the fact the Gomati District have utilized 100% of allocated food grains (9198.645 quintal) at the end of the 2012-13. On the other hand, as per the information West Tripura district have utilized 75% of the allocated food grains till the end of 2012-13. It has also utilized the previous balance of food grains during this period. (Details in Annexure)

Observation: It has been observed that in some of the visited schools huge quantity of food grains is in stock which is more than mandatory one month buffer stock. In most of the visited schools the storage of food grains requires improvement and monitoring. In 25% of schools visited, schools were found to have negative balances for rice in the beginning of June. The D.O for the rice was issued in April, however the FPS shop owner said that the required quantity of rice was not allocated till June. There was however no disruption in MDMS as the school authorities borrowed the grain from other schools in the area during the period of shortfall. In spite of formal system for information, it is not being followed or the SMC / H/m to send information regarding the shortfall in rice in order to maintain the recommended minimum balance of one month of stock of rice.

4.3 Utilization of cooking cost

The utilization of cooking cost against allocation for the last three financial years has been shown in the following graph.

It is represented from the above figures that in compliance with fall in coverage of children in primary schools, the cooking cost utilization has also been decreased from 99% in 2011-12 to 84% during 2012-13. Although the utilization was increased between 2010-11 and 2011-12 from 91% to 99%.

As per the information provided by the District authority Gomati District has utilized 82% of the allocated cooking cost where as the West Tripura District has utilized 100% of the allocated fund.

Observation: In many schools it has been observed that cooking cost is not available at the school level. It has been reported by school teachers and MDM Organizers that in case of unavailability of cooking cost MDM runs on credit from the local grocery shops. Unavailability of cooking cost may be resulted in interruption in serving of MDM on regular basis to the children. Record keeping of the materials purchased under cooking cost is not maintained.

4.4. Quality of MDM

Observations regarding quality and quantity of the food served under MDMS are as follows-
General quality of MDM was good. Variety is observed in menu and decided menu is followed at most places. Dilution factor is not constant specially for vegetable curry and Khichdi. Very dilute khichdi is served at few places. This makes the recommended nutritive value lesser available from MDM.

Nutritive value (approximate) of served food in primary school

Food served		Protein (g) range	Calories (Kcal) Range
Egg curry + rice		15.3 (13.0-17.6)	489 (387-590)
Vegetable with soyabean+rice		9.2 (7.2-11.2)	414 (317-510)
Khichadi		6.75 (4.0-9.5)	273 (165-380)
Recommended Value (MDM)	(primary)	12	450
	(Upper primary)	20	700

The estimated nutritive value of menu served ranges from 273 Kcal to 489 Kcal and 6.75 gram to 15.3 gram protein. The amount of MDM served is not fixed at any place. Payes the sweet preparation is generally prepared in MDM as children do not like it. Egg is served 2 times a

week. Salt used for cooking purpose is not kept in proper containers which may lead to loss of iodine.

4.5 Regularity in serving MDM

MDM was being served in all the schools visited. Except from one school it was noted that on the previous day food was not served as there was no water supply due to electricity failure. In another school food was not served as cook and helper both have not attended the school.

4.6 Mode of cooking

Use of firewood as cooking mode was observed in all rural and tribal schools due to poor availability of LPG and its high cost. Very few schools were using LPG to cook MDM on the day of visit. The open chullah's led to smoke filled kitchen sheds and soot deposition on the walls.

5 Role of teachers

Role of teachers is very critical in the implementation of MDM at the school level as he/she is the only official who is physically present to monitor the entire process of MDM – procurement of food grains and other material, quality of food, regularity in serving hot cooked meal, issues relating to hygiene and sanitation and so on. The Ministry of HRD guidelines of 2006 for MDM specifically mention that teachers should be involved in ensuring that good quality, wholesome food is served to children, and that the actual serving and eating is undertaken in a spirit of togetherness, under hygienic conditions, and in an orderly manner so that the meal times are maintained without extending them. The teachers are also expected to taste food prepared before it is served to children.

It is often assumed that the MDM is an additional activity for the school teachers and hence at some places it was not taken seriously. During the school meetings and interaction with the school teachers the Mission observed two different kinds of scenarios in schools. In some schools community has participated and teachers were involved. In those schools quality of MDM was of better quality. In the schools where organisers were given whole responsibilities, the quality and quantity of food served was not upto the mark.

6 Convergence with School Health Programme (SHP) for supplementation of micronutrients and health check-ups and supply of spectacles to children suffering from refractive errors

There is poor convergence of NRHM and School Health programme. Schools get medicines, IFA and deworming tablets from Department of Education. Deworming tablets are to be given once in six months and IFA tablets on weekly basis to all the children of primary and upper primary schools.

OBSERVATION:

All teachers were not aware about frequency of distributions of the tablets. In some schools teachers were also not aware that IFA tablets are to be given even to boys. Frequency of distribution of tablets were irregular in few schools. Health cards are not provided by NRHM. Only in one school health card were prepared by the school with the recording of height and weight, but health check up was not there.

Visit to Mandai TADC health centre at Mandai: There are 3 allopathic (including dental)and 3 ayush doctors in the centre. They were given the responsibility of 28 School health programs. The visits were awaiting the allocation of funds from the department. Visits were planned during the first quarter of 2014. The health cards need to be issued at the earliest and necessary instructions be given for program to be carried out regularly.

7 Creation of capital assets through kitchen cum store/kitchen devices tand infrastructure

Status of kitchen cum store and kitchen devices in the State

Components	Physically Allocation since 2006-07 as on 31st March 2013	Physically Progress since 2006-07 as on 31st March 2013		
		Constructed	In Progress	Not Started
	Total allocation (units)			
Kitchen Sheds	6318 (4875 sectioned by GOI and 1252 through convergence)	5139	987	192

Kitchen Devices	6510	5629	881	----
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Observation

- The JRM observed that all the visited schools had kitchen cum sheds available.
- Majority of the schools were using firewood as fuel..
- There was smoke due to these chullah's, creating a hazard for not only the cooks, but also thick blackening of walls. It is imperative that all the kitchen sheds incorporate smokeless chullah's in the design, which use lesser wood fuel as well and maintain cleanliness of the shed. Funds for advanced Chulha may be provided by the Government of India initially, however full efforts should be ensured to provide LPG in all schools.
- Majority of these had been built with the funds provided for in the Scheme. It was observed that all the schools cooking MDM on the premises had adequate number of cooking utensils.
- Most of the schools had *Plates* for serving meals that had been obtained through community participation. But the size of the *plates* was small in some of the schools, especially for serving meals to upper primary children.
- It has been observed that storage bins are not adequately available in schools visited.
- Dining hall is available in many schools. Teachers and parents have opined that dining halls should be made in all the schools so that all the children can take MDM in orderly manner.
- Toilet facilities are available for both, boys as well as girls in most of the visited schools. There was no running water in the toilets in some of the rural schools.
- Fire extinguishers were available in few of the schools but were kept away from kitchen, usually in the Head teacher's office. In some schools sand buckets were available.
- Drinking water facility is available in most of the visited schools. It is being supplied by PHE supply line to the schools. Some schools have their deep tube well as well as source of drinking water. Due to electric supply interruption sometimes water availability becomes difficult which may hamper cooking of meals.

8 Appointment of cook cum helpers for preparation and serving of meals to the children

As per State Governments record 10815 Cooks for Primary & Upper Primary have been engaged for running MDM programme in the State. The norms for engagement of Cooks cum Helpers are as follows.

SI No	Enrolment	No. of Cooks eligible
1	School having 1 - 50 Students	1
2	Above 50 – 100 Students	2
3	Every addition of 100 students	1 Additional beyond 100 above

The above norm does not match with the prescribed norm of Government of India for engagement of cook cum helpers.

SI No	Enrolment	No. of Cooks eligible
1	School having 1 - 25 Students	1
2	Above 26 – 100 Students	2
3	Every addition of 100 students	1 Additional beyond 100 above

Categorization of cook cum helpers

Sex	SC	ST	OBC	Minority	Others	Total
Male	287	472	404	395	267	1825
Female	1529	2607	2164	1078	1612	8990
Total	1816	3079	2568	1473	1879	10815

It is revealed from the above table that nearly 87% of the engaged cook cum helpers are females and most of them belong to SC/ST/OBC category.

District wise details of engagement of cook cum helpers is shown in the following tables:

Gomati District:

Total No. of Cooks engaged	Category of cooks			
	SC	ST	OBC	Others
1139	197	619	107	216
848+291(State+ADC)				

West Tripura District:

Status of Cook	Category of Cooks				Total
Total Nos. of Cook	SC	ST	OBC	Others	
PS	359	650	359	875	2243
UPS	237	430	237	579	1483

Observation:

- It was observed that in most of the visited schools, less number of Cook-cum-helpers have been engaged than the required number as per norms related with enrolment of children.
- The JRM observed that the State employs an organiser at the school level for proper arrangement of MDM. The main responsibility assigned to them is procurement of raw materials and transportation of food grains. The organiser takes the cooking cost of 10ps per child/ per day. In one school, we came across an SHG that was playing the role of the organiser.
- The major area of concern is the payment of honorarium to cook cum helpers. It has been found that there is delay in this regards. In all of the visited schools they have been paid upto March 2013. Unfortunately most of them reported that before that they had been paid during October/ November 2012. Therefore the delay in payment of cook cum helpers resulted from 3 months to 6 months.

There were several complaints regarding the deduction from the banks on account of not maintaining minimum balances and for updation of records/ passbooks from the Tripura Grameen Bank by the cooks cum helpers. Several passbooks were found not be updated since April 2012. Requisite instructions require to be passed to the banks to consider these accounts as zero balance accounts.

9 Availability of dedicated staff for MDM at various levels

Current Staff position for implementation of MDM in the State, District and block level is shown in the following table:

Sl. No	Designation	Working Under MDMS			
		State Level	District Level	Block Level	Total
A	Regular Employee				
1	Branch Officer	01	08	18	27
2	Head Clark	01	00	00	01
3	Sr. Consultant	01	00	00	01
4	UDC	01	00	00	00
5	LDC	03	08	18	29
6	Group-D	02	08	18	28
B	Contractual / Part time employee				
1	System Analyst	01	00	00	01
2	Consultant	01	00	00	01
3	LDC cum Data Entry Operator	01	08	18	27

For functioning of the programme all the vacant position should be fulfilled.

10 Review the maintenance of records at the level of schools /cooking agency

It has been observed that feeding register, stock register of food grains, cash book, MTA register, inspection register are maintained in the schools. However, the following issues need to be addressed to in order to improve the implementation of the MDMS:

- Printed feeding register was not available in all the schools.
- The discussion regarding MDMS in the SMCs was held only occasionally, that too in a few schools.
- The Visit Book and the Inspection Register related to MDMS had only a few entries, implying scanty visits by the supervisory staff.
- In MTA registers parents have entered their views about MDM but it is irregular in nature.

11 Payment of cost of food grain to FCI by the districts

As per guidelines issued by the MHRD, GOI, the cost of lifted foodgrains is paid directly to the Area Manager, FCI, Agartala after bills are received duly certified by the Department of Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA Deptt.). Bills are paid on a quarterly basis.

As per the information, total allocation for the financial year 2012-13 was Rs.667.94 lakhs. FCI has raised bill of Rs. 503.17 lakhs and full payment has been made. So there is no pendency for payment of food grains to FCI

12. Involvement of the community in implementation of the MDMS program

Education is vital in improving the growth and development process of an economy. This is more important for states like Tripura. SSA and MDM schemes are structured in such a way that community participation can play an important role in disseminating knowledge among the students. As such, formation of school management committees became mandatory in every school so that community including the parents of the students can play a bigger role in the day-to-day activities of the schools.

Observations: The involvement of the community (MTA/SMC) in the MDMS program was found to be directly proportional to the effective implementation of the MDM Scheme. In all primary schools, MTA's were formed and meetings were held at least twice a year. In several schools, the MTA members were regularly visiting the kitchen as well as engaged in tasting of the meals. In one school, where the quality of rice was found to be poor, the MTA minutes had recorded that the rice be changed and good quality of rice be obtained from the FPS. In several other schools, committee members had been actively engaged in supervision of the kitchen shed construction as well as in dining halls. In addition, members of SMC were visiting parents whose children were not attending school regularly to assess the problems and motivate parents to send wards to schools.

In Upper primary schools and Higher secondary schools, SMC's had been formed, though the degree of supervision and engagement with the schools varied. Some of the SMC's had not changed membership since inception and several members were such whose wards were no longer studying in the school or had moved away from the area (e.g. NIT school). Membership of the SMC should have current parents of students as well as active members from the community. In ADC area schools in particular, attention needs to be paid

to engage the SMC's/ MTA's , especially with parents from weaker sections where there were first generation learners.

There is some confusion regarding the committees to be formed in the school. Currently, in an higher secondary school, there were committees such as SMC, MDM (MTA), SSA (MTA), SSA (upper primary), RKMSA, and VEC, Each of these committees maintained separate registers, membership and handled different accounts. However, there were no common meetings between the committees. The SMC of every school could be made as a parent body, with various committees formed under it so as to maintain continuity in community engagement. In addition for each school if there was a common register to record minutes of the meeting as well as visit records from the members of the SMC, it would be easier to track Action taken on recommendations/ resolutions.

Other Schools/ centres run by SSA in the State:

Case Study

Education centres(AIE/NRSTC) run by SSA - Mizo-Rihang relief camps in North Tripura.

There are 16 NRSTC's , priorly run as AIE's by SSA catering to 2335 children in primary sections in the Relief camps set up for Mizo Rihang displaced populations since 1997. None of these centres have the Mid May Meal Scheme.

In the visit of 24th June, 2013 at Narsingpara camp schools by one member, it was observed that children had not got textbooks, notebooks for the year. There was no school furniture except for a blackboards available at the school. The centres were set up in semi pucca buildings but no fans, light , drinking water facility or toilets were available for this large number of primary school children.

Narsiingpara Camp, Block B Centre, 24 June, 2013.



It was brought to our notice that in the year 2013-14, under the NRSTC scheme, refreshment budgets of Rs. 6/- per child had been allocated. However, There are no hot cooked meals or food being provided in the area. Hot cooked meals should be provided in all these centres/ schools at the earliest. This may be made possible by creating an School Management Committee on the lines of regular schools under the RTE for

management of the meals in the program..Requisition for allocation of rice for these centres/ schools may be done from appropriate authorities (FCI/ GOI/) on the lines of provision for MDMS . Drinking water and toilets in the schools / centres should also be made available at the earliest. It is recommended that these centres be taken under the MDMS scheme as in other schools.

13. Management Information system

Government of India has already launched MDM MIS portal in collaboration with NIC for the data entry of the major indicators related to MDM. In this connection various trainings and workshops have also been conducted time to time.

Annual Data Entry

District wise annual data entry status is given below:

School Annual Status Report (As on Date : -- 25-06-2013, Time:12:35 PM)

Financial Year	2013 – 2014
State	Tripura

S. No.	District	Total Schools	Completed (Saved)	% completed	Pending	% pending
1	<u>Tripura</u>	6549	6239	95.27%	310	4.73%

District wise Details for Annual Data Entry Status

S. No.	District	Total Schools	Completed (Saved)	% completed	Pending	% pending
1	<u>DHALAI</u>	1147	1147	100%	0	0%
2	<u>GOMATI</u>	782	782	100%	0	0%
3	<u>KHOWAI</u>	673	664	99%	9	1%
4	<u>NORTH TRIPURA</u>	695	695	100%	0	0%
5	<u>SIPAHIJALA</u>	865	642	74%	223	26%
6	<u>SOUTH TRIPURA</u>	964	964	100%	0	0%
7	<u>UNAKOTI</u>	481	481	100%	0	0%
8	<u>WEST TRIPURA</u>	942	864	92%	78	8%

	Total	6549	6239	95%	310	5%
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The above table signifies that the Overall Annual Data Entry for the FY. 2013-14 has been 95% completed but there is still 5% pending. If We consider on District wise on Annual Data Entry, then we find that Gomati District have Completed 100%, but in West Tripura District there is still 8% Annual Data Entry is pending.

Monthly Data Entry

School Monthly Status Report (As on Date : -- 25-06-2013, Time:12:40PM)

Financial Year	2013 - 2014
State	Tripura

S. No.	District	Total Schools	Freeze Schools	April	%completed	May	%completed
1	Tripura	6549	6239	4585	70.01%	3230	49.32%

District wise Details for Annual Data Entry Status

S. No.	District	Total Schools	Freeze Schools	April	%completed	May	%completed
1	DHALAI	1147	1147	577	50%	557	49%
2	GOMATI	782	782	779	100%	181	23%
3	KHOWAI	673	664	529	79%	251	37%
4	NORTH TRIPURA	695	695	695	100%	695	100%
5	SIPAHIJALA	865	642	219	25%	65	8%
6	SOUTH TRIPURA	964	964	867	90%	755	78%
7	UNAKOTI	481	481	481	100%	481	100%
8	WEST TRIPURA	942	864	427	45%	230	24%
	Total	6549	6239	4574	70%	3215	49%

The above table is Evident of Overall Monthly Data Entry for the Month of April 70% and for May 49% has been Completed for the FY 2013 -14. But there is still 30% for the month of April and 51% for May is pending. If We consider on District wise Monthly Data Entry, then we find that Gomati District have Completed 100% for April and only 23% for May for this FY

2013-14. Comparatively if we consider about West Tripura District, then it is evident that West Tripura District have Completed only 45% for April and 24% for May for this FY 2013-14. So there is still Pending Monthly Data Entry in to Web portal about 55% for April and 76% for May for this FY 2013-14 even after a long gap of execution.

This matter needs continuous follow up at All Level from **State to District** & Simultaneously from **District to Block** to ensure timely (Latest by 5th. of Next Month) data entry for MHRD. GOI for Management & Planning of this Scheme.

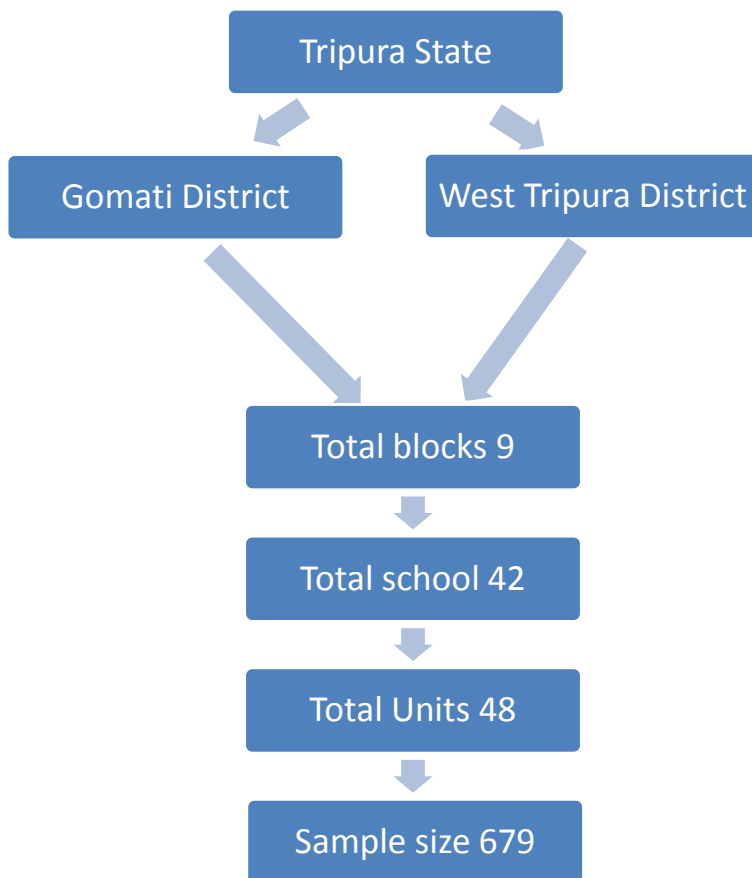
NUTRITIONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE CHILDREN

Methodology

As per the term of reference to assess the nutritional status the following methodology was observed.

Sample selection

Two districts i.e. Gomati and West Tripura were selected. Forty-two schools were taken which had total enrollment of 6,384 children. Sub sample of school children comprised of 297 boys and 382 girls which amount to 10.63 per cent of total enrollment. Out of 679, 296 were from primary school and 383 were from upper primary school. To assess nutritional status of the children the information was collected on anthropometric measurements, clinical assessments and dietary pattern of children.



Anthropometric assessment

Measurements of anthropometric parameters viz. body weight, height, mid upper arm circumference (MUAC), were recorded for school children as per the following methods.

Body weight

Body weight (kg.) indicates the body mass and is a composite of all body constituents like water, minerals, fat, protein, bone etc. For the present study, body weight (kg) was taken by personal weighing machine with the maximum capacity of 120 kg and the minimum division of 0.5 kg. The following precautions were taken to measure body weight (kg.) The school children were instructed to be without shoes. All the school children were in the school uniform. School children were asked not to lean against or hold any support, while the weight (kg.) was being recorded (Gibson, 1990).

Height

Height (cm.) of the school children was taken by anthropometric rod. School children were asked to stand erect on a leveled surface, without shoes, looking straight with heels together and toes apart. The anthropometric rod was placed behind the school children in the centre of the heels perpendicular to the ground. The investigator standing on left side of the school children held firmly the chin of the school children with his/her left hand and the occiput of the school children with his right little finger to maintain the Frankfurt plane horizontal (an imaginary line joining the tragus of the ear and infra orbital margin of the eye). The moving head piece of the anthropometric rod was placed in the sagittal plane over the head of the subject applying a slight pressure to reduce the thickness of hair. The readings were taken when the anthropometric rod was still in position (Gibson, 1990).

Mid upper arm circumference (MUAC)

MUAC (cm.) indicates the status of muscle development. For the present investigation, MUAC was taken using fiber glass tape with minimum count of 0.1 cm. The mid point between the tip of the acromion of scapula and the tip of the olecranon process of the (fore arm bone) ulna, with the arm flexed at the elbow at right angle; was marked with a marker pen. Arm of subject was hanged freely and the fiber glass tape was gently, but firmly placed embracing the arm without exerting too much pressure on the soft tissues. The reading was taken to the nearest millimeter, with the tape still in position (Gibson, 1990).

BMI

Body Mass Index was calculated using weight in Kg dividing it by height in meter squared. The nutritional status of children was assessed on the basis of BMI Z-score classification given by WHO:

\geq Median -2SD to $+<$ 1SD	: Normal
Median $<$ -2SD TO $>$ -3SD	: Moderate undernutrition
$>$ Median -3SD	: Severe Undernutrition
Median \geq +1SD to $<$ +3SD	: Overweight
\geq +3SD	: Obesity

Clinical survey

Clinical survey was conducted to observe clear cut visible signs of protein deficiency, vitamin A deficiency, B complex deficiency, ascorbic acid deficiency, iodine deficiency disorders and iron deficiency anaemia. The results are presented in the tabular form.

Diet pattern

The students were asked for their dietary pattern that is they informed about what they have taken in the morning before coming to school during the school and after the school till they sleep. A 24 hour dietary recall method was employed for the previous day. The information was further placed as general dietary pattern and food items consumed.

Calculation of nutritive value of MDM meal One serving of MDM meal was collected, weighed and converted to raw ingredients to determine the nutritive value.

Observations

Table-1 Anthropometric parameters and BMI of school children as per age

Table-2 nutritional status of school children as per age and genders

Age	(n)%	Height	Weight	BMI	MUAC
5	(6) 0.88	112.41± 2.43	17± 1.26	13.44± 0.74	15.83 ±0.93
6	(55) 8.10	115.06 ± 6.98	18.39± 3.99	13.76± 1.44	15.88± 1.63
7	(35) 5.15	118. 28± 6.35	18.84 ±2.90	13.40± 1.14	15.61± 1.33
8	(72)10.60	123.38 ± 5.88	21.89± 3.93	14.30 ± 1.76	17.11± 1.85
9	(56)8.24	128.77± 6.21	23.65± 3.53	14.24 ± 1.71	17.28± 1.57
10	(72)10.60	133.48 ± 6.51	26.30 ± 4.35	14.72 ± 1.90	18.04± 2.01
11	(82)12.07	138.85 ± 8.16	30.42 ±6.33	15.66 ±2.15	19.06 ±2.68
12	(129)18.99	144.77 ± 7.35	34.54± 8.14	16.33 ± 2.82	19.66± 2.44
13	(115)16.93	150.43 ± 6.17	39.27± 7.78	17.26 ±2.68	20.92 ±2.72
14	(49)7.21	151.91 ± 8.25	40.95± 7.45	17.76 ± 3.24	21.13± 2.48
15	(3)0.44	155.66 ± 4.72	43± 5.19	17.71 ±1.69	26.00± 3.21
16	(5)0.73	159.80 ± 9.89	44.2 ± 8.92	17.27 ± 2.63	21.80± 2.19

Age	N		Height (cm)		Weight (kg)		BMI (kg/m ²)		MUAC (cm)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
5	4	2	111.25 ±1.50	114.75 ±0.25	16.50 ±1.00	18.00 ±0.00	13.33 ±0.69	13.67 ±0.06	15.62 ±0.94	16.25 ±1.06
6	24	31	117.22 ±5.01	113.38 ±4.19	19.75 ±2.83	17.33 ±1.84	14.18 ±1.14	13.44 ±0.99	16.25 ±1.67	15.56 ±1.56
7	17	18	119.97 ±5.20	116.69 ±4.90	19.85 ±2.12	17.88 ±2.20	13.75 ±0.83	13.07 ±0.69	15.88 ±1.48	15.36 ±1.16
8	36	36	125.01 ±4.20	121.75 ±4.58	22.75 ±2.80	21.04 ±3.07	14.49 ±1.26	14.11 ±1.53	17.25 ±1.84	16.97 ±1.87
9	26	30	127.63 ±5.61	129.77 ±4.01	23.36 ±2.71	23.9 ±2.92	14.29 ±0.86	14.19 ±1.45	17.01 ±1.41	17.51 ±1.68
10	34	38	133.01 ±4.89	133.90 ±5.14	25.92 ±3.23	26.64 ±3.55	14.64 ±1.46	14.80 ±1.39	18.10 ±2.14	17.98 ±1.92
11	29	53	137.18 ±7.62	139.76 ±8.37	29.62 ±6.29	30.85 ±4.83	15.61 ±2.22	15.69 ±1.69	18.72 ±2.61	19.24 ±2.72
12	50	79	143.74 ±8.81	145.43 ±6.23	32.59 ±6.30	35.77 ±8.93	15.65 ±1.85	16.76 ±3.24	19.28 ±1.95	19.90 ±2.65
13	46	69	149.50	151.05	37.28	40.60	16.52	17.75	20.59	21.14

			±7.60	±4.90	±9.00	±6.59	±2.76	±2.53	±3.07	±2.24
14	27	22	153.96 ±8.79	149.40 ±6.92	39.55 ±7.77	42.68 ±6.83	16.58 ±2.43	19.23 ±3.57	20.64 ±2.51	21.72 ±2.36
15	2	1	156.50 ±6.36	154.00 ±0.00	41.50 ±6.36	46.00 ±0.00	16.88 ±1.22	19.40 ±0.00	26.00 ±4.24	24.00 ±0.00
16	2	3	164.00 ±9.89	157.00 ±10.82	52.00 ±9.89	39.00 ±3.00	19.99 ±1.36	15.98 ±2.57	23.75 ±0.35	19.75 ±1.76

Till age 10 both the genders had similar height, thereafter height of girls became more till the age of 13 (Table 1). From age 14 onwards height of boys was more than girls. This is because girls achieve puberty at an earlier age around 11 years and boys around 14 years. Weight of boys and girls was almost similar by the age of 9. Slight increase in weight of girls from 10 to 14 years was seen. Boys had more weight than girls at the age of 16 years. Adolescence is a period of rapid growth and the age for this growth differs for boys and girls. Also age of attainment of maximum height and weight is different for boys and girls. Therefore, in comparison no common pattern is observed. BMI and MUAC has shown continuous increasing trend which is normal and expected.

Using BMI Z score prevalence of under nutrition among primary and upper primary school children was assessed and is presented in Table 3 and Fig 1 and 2. Only 68.92% primary school children and 66.84% upper primary school children were observed to be normal (Table 3). **Table 3 Nutritional status of primary and upper primary school children as per gender**

BMI (Z scores)						
Lower Primary School						
Gender	Normal n (%)	Moderate undernutrition n (%)	Severe undernutrition n (%)	Overweight n (%)	Obese n (%)	total
Male	102(73.34)	27(19.14)	9(6.38)	3 (2.12)	0	141
Female	102(65.80)	35(22.58)	14(9.03)	4(2.58)	0	155
total	204 (68.92)	62 (20.94)	23 (7.77)	7 (2.36)	0	296
Upper Primary School						
Male	97(62.17)	44 (28.20)	10(6.41)	4(2.56)	1 (0.64)	156

Female	159(70.04)	46(20.26)	6 (2.64)	15 (6.60)	1 (0.44)	227
total	256 (66.84)	90 (23.50)	16 (4.17)	19 (4.96)	2 (0.52)	383

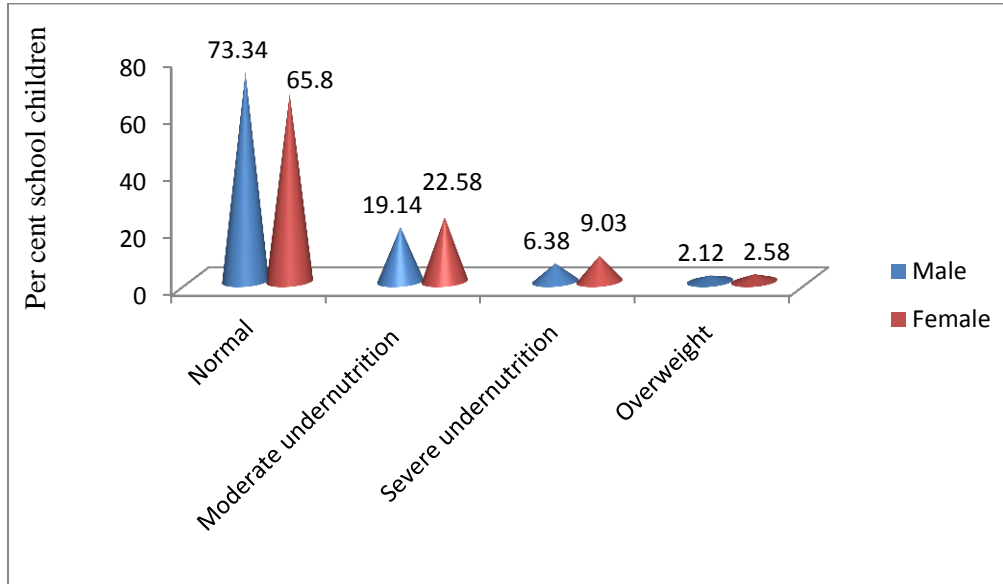


Fig.2.1 Prevalence of undernutrition among lower primary school children
Male (n=141, Female (n=155)

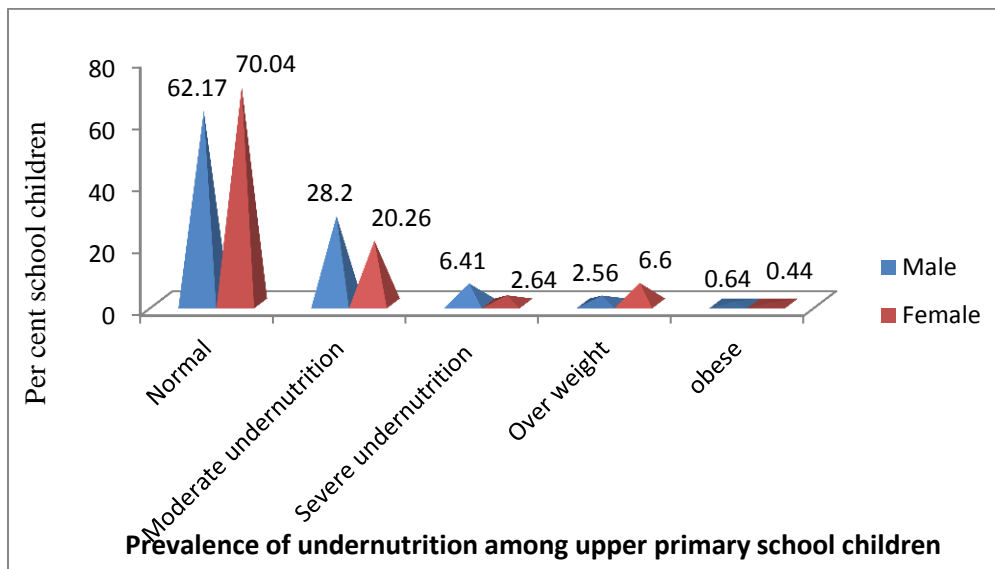


Fig.2.2 Prevalence of undernutrition among upper primary school children
male (n=156), Female (n=227)

A total number of 296 children comprising of 141 males and 155 females were observed from lower primary school and it was found that 73.34 per cent of males were normal, 19.14 were moderately undernourished, 6.38 % were severely undernourished and only 2.12 per cent were overweight. In case of females 65.80 per cent were normal, 22.58 % were moderately undernourished, 9.03 were severely undernourished and 2.58 % were found to be overweight. In the study it was found that the nutritional status of males was better than females in lower primary school children.

A total number of 383 upper primary school children comprising of 156 males and 227 females were studied and it was found that 62.17 % males were normal, 28.20 were moderately undernourished, 6.41 % were severely undernourished, 6.46 % were overweight and only 0.64 % were obese. In case of females 70.04 % were normal, 22.26 % were moderately undernourished, 2.64 % were severely undernourished, 6.64 % were overweight and Only 0.44 % were obese. In upper primary nutritional status of females were better than boys. If we see the overall picture, it is evident that during the adolescent years the severity of under nutrition increases.

Clinical symptoms

- Hair depigmentation in 7 % children indicated deficiency of protein at some point of time.**(Fig:1)**
- Bleeding gums in nearly 18 per cent children emphasizes poor oral hygiene coupled with ascorbic acid deficiency.**(Fig:2)**
- Mottled enamel was found in nearly 46 % children. Also 46 per cent children had cavities in teeth. The high prevalence of mottled teeth is due to **less** fluorine in water. Poor oral hygiene along with it influences teeth.**(Fig:3& 4)**
- Pale conjunctiva and condition of nails indicates only tip of the iceberg of anemia prevalence. Biochemical tests are required to confirm and take care of the problem.**(Fig:5).**
- Iodized salt, vitamin E and vitamin B complex are generally available from the diet therefore, clinical symptoms are not present significantly. Night blindness, conjunctival

dryness and bitot's spot prevalence was seen. In the season, mangoes are available which are good source of beta-carotene.(Fig:6)

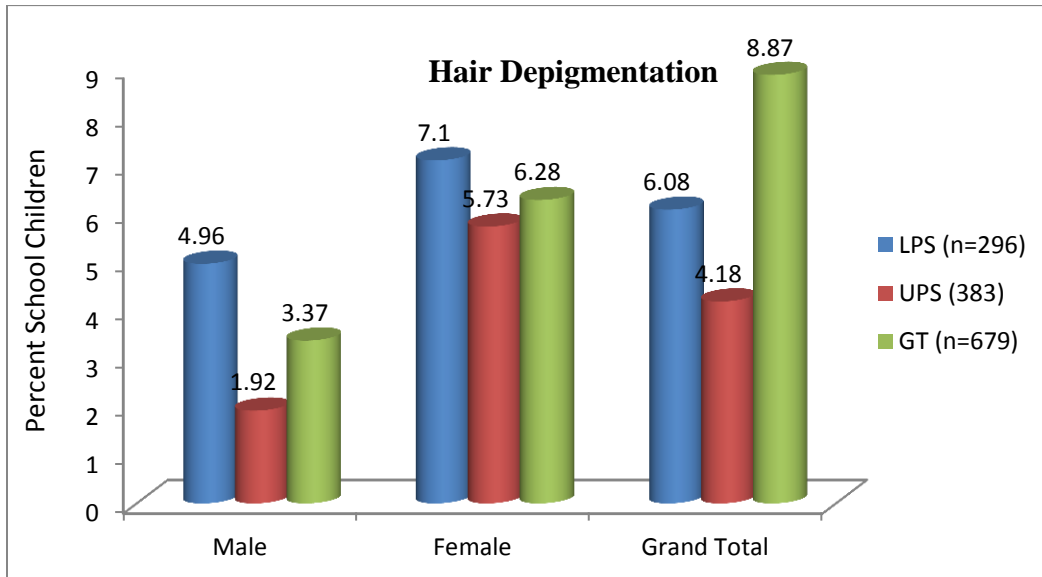


Fig:1 Profile of hair depigmentation

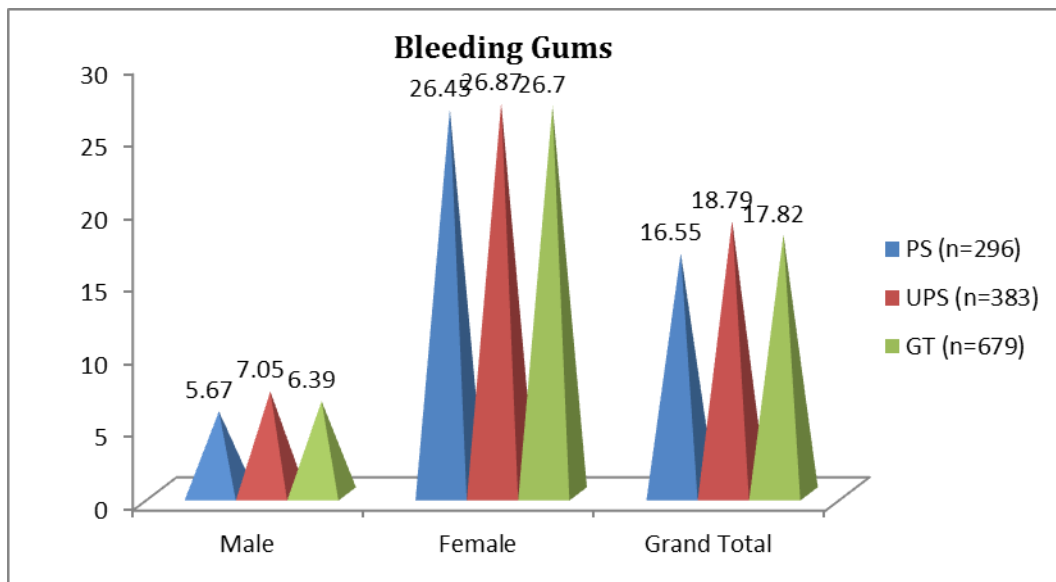


Fig:2 Profile of bleeding gums

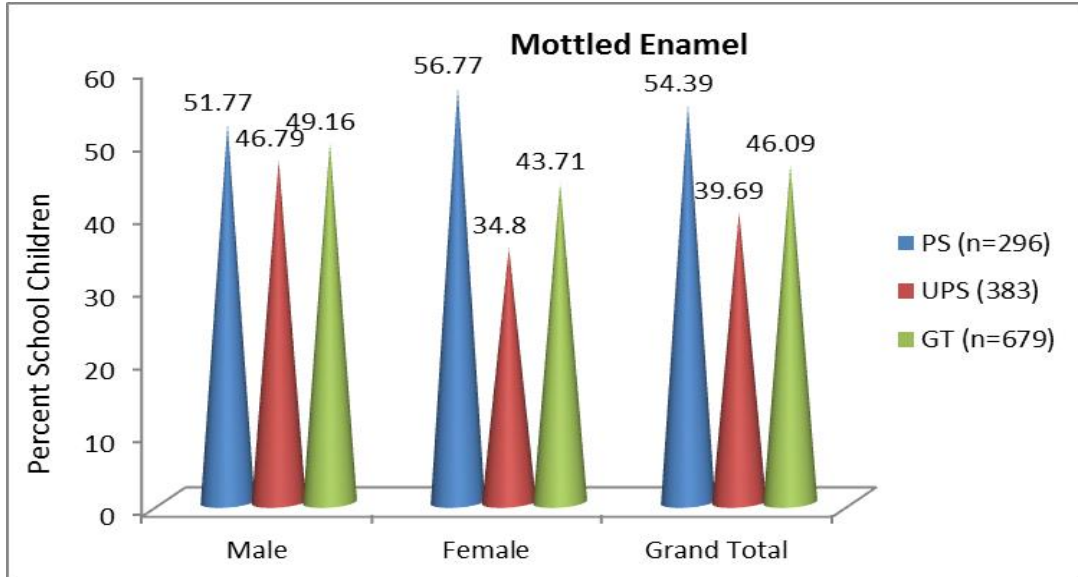


Fig:3Profile of mottled enamel

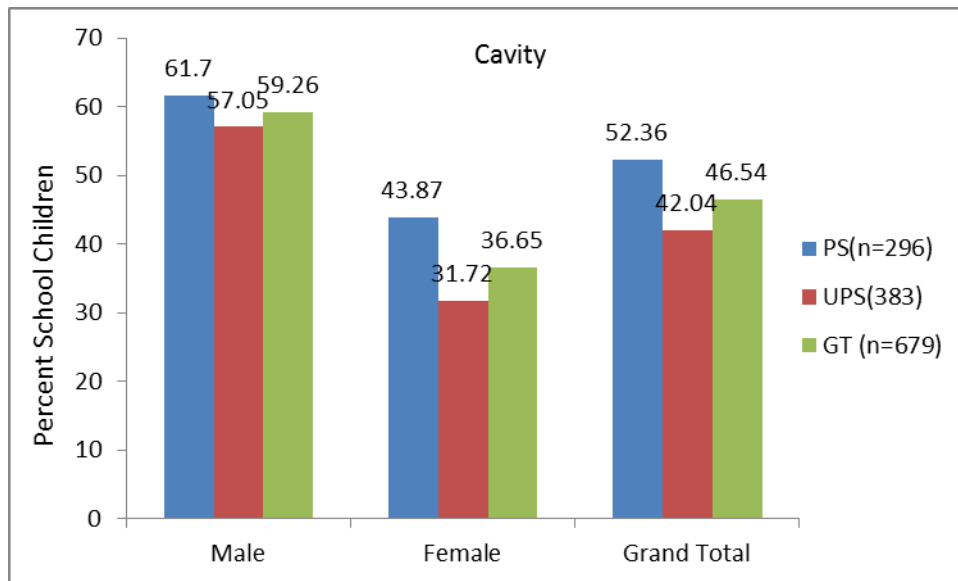


Fig:4 Cavity profile

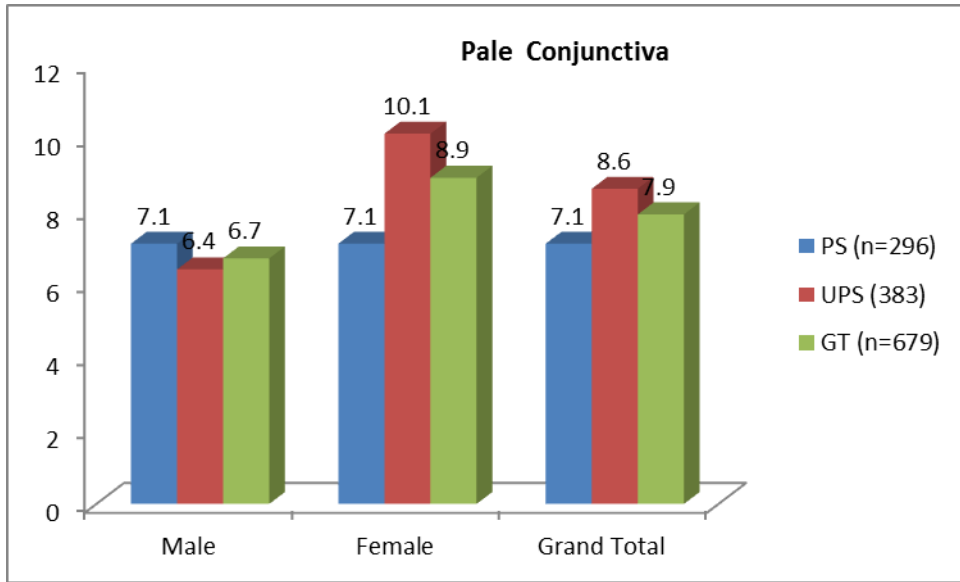


Fig:5 Profile of pale conjunctiva

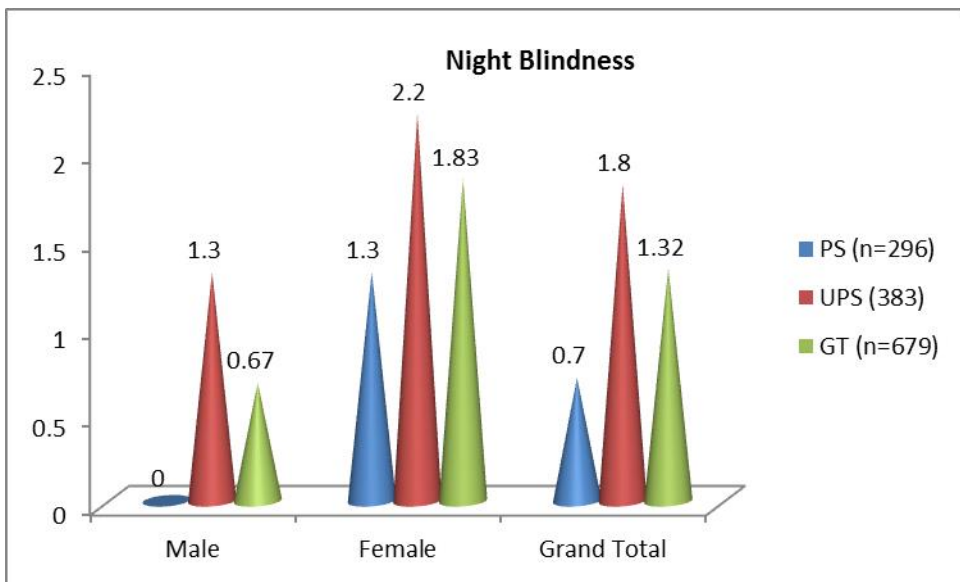


Fig:6 Nightblindness profile

Food consumption pattern

- School children normally follow three meals pattern a day.
- Some children who come to school at 11:00 a.m. do not eat anything before coming to school.
- One per cent children have reported consuming roti (wheat flour), less than one per cent children reported bread, rest all are eating rice throughout the day. No body has reported any other cereal or millet consumption.
- Less than 10 per cent children reported consuming fruits at least once a day at home.
- Fruits preferred / available are pineapple, jackfruit and mango. Only a few children mentioned consuming banana and jamun, probably it was available at their homes Latkan (a fruit) and coconut is available in locality, however no body mentioned about it. It needs to be studied.
- Milk consumption has been reported by very few children.
- Pulse consumption chickpea and masoor, lentil dal including soy nuggets at home is about 24 per cent,
- All the families are non vegetarian.
- Egg, fish are highly preferred items by children. It is being prepared at home almost everyday. Meat is also cooked in these families alternatively.
- Vegetables/bhazi/tarkari are available and consumed by 35 % families however children have not shown much interest.
- General concept of vegetables is mixed vegetable of potato, patal (parval), Karkal (spine gourd), Chalkorma (ash gourd), data (amaranthus stem) , torai (ridge gourd), poi sag, Kumraha (pumpkin), pumpkin stem of plant, sehjan (drumstick), baigun (brinjal) and lingud (edible fern).-Sometimes in fish preparation also vegetables like potato and pumpkin are added.
- Bamboo shoots are preferred mostly in tribal areas.
- Godak/ Chokhaya is a mashed fish preparation with vegetables (Chutney). It is preferred by tribal children.
- Out of processed food some children reported consuming moori (puffed rice), horlicks and biscuits in the morning.
- Fats and sugar consumption is negligible in this area.
- Before coming to school some children take Muri (puffed rice), biscuit or rice. However, a large number of children do not consume anything before MDM

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the observations and issues identified, the Review Mission would like to make following recommendations keeping in mind the TOR for the review –

1. It is important that all schools are instructed to display MDM logo outside walls of kitchen premises as well on any other prominent place in school so that general public is aware of the MDM scheme being implemented in the school.
2. On receipt of sanction letter from Government of India., the delay from State to District offices for fund release can be shortened by combining the seeking of administrative and financial approval together from Department to State Finance Department for allocation to different I/S offices. The fund flow system from the state to the schools needs to be streamlined along with appropriate monitoring systems so as to ensure that there is no delay in transfer of cooking costs leading to negative balances in the school MDMS accounts.
3. RTE Act has strengthened Community participation through SMCs. However the perusal of minutes of the SMCs indicated that apart from taking the approval of the committee for disbursing funds for MDM no quality discussion is held to improve the implementation of the scheme. It is recommended that the frequency of the meetings be increased, converge various committees under the SMC and the implementation of MDM should be made a compulsory agenda during the meeting to ensure the smooth running of the scheme.
4. The Tripura Gramin Bank must ensure that cheques to MDMS school accounts must be cleared within 7 days. There should not be any deductions on account of not maintaining minimum balances from the accounts of cooks cum helpers. Bank managers may be directed to revert such deducted amounts to the account holders.
5. Inspection is an important component for smooth implementation of the Scheme at the grass root level. Regular inspection has been 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 PRIs or SMC member or any government official can write their remarks/comments about their observations of MDM in school.
6. The grievance redressal mechanism at the district and state level through receipt of complaints through phone calls should be publicised in all posters/ awareness drives of the MDMS.
 7. Provisions of Social and Community Audits should be made by the government 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.
 8. 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 their nutritional and health needs of the children. Training of the MDM in charge and the head masters on record keeping of MDM is necessary.
 9. Schools have got large areas that could be used for kitchen gardening. Teachers have reported that due to unavailability of boundary wall they cant develop kitchen garden within their premise. It is therefore recommended that boundary walls may be provided in the schools either from SSA grant or using other Government funds. Roof Raiin water harvesting in schools can also be propagated simultaneously in areas where there is a deficit of quality and availability of drinking water..
 10. Convergence with MNREGAS for maintenance of school kitchen gardens could be sought for all schools across the state. Kitchen gardens or green squares can be introduced using the waste water from kitchen and hand washing of children. This can become innovative and creative school based activity for the participation of children and teachers to grow drumstick trees and seasonal greens for use in MDM. The nutrition education then can be one of the major activities for children and use of vegetables in MDM can also be ensured. In the senior classes NSS students can also given the responsibility of managing the kitchen garden as observed as a best practice in one of the schools.
 11. In view of the high prevalence of fire wood chulhas as a mode of cooking in the rural areas action may be initiated to provide environment eco-friendly smokeless chulhas in convergence with the concerned department in the State
 12. It is observed that each of the State/UT is following some best practices in the implementation of MDM. In this connection, it is recommended that the inter-State

exposure visits can be conducted for MDM implementing officials for better implementation of the scheme.

13. Tripura state has diversified populations and some migrant populations from Mizoram. They are placed in camps where SSA supported Non residential training schools are running. But they are not receiving hot cooked meals along the lines of MDMS. This population and any other such population which is attending formal or non formal schools in the state should also be brought under the purview of MDMS. Till such time, requisition for Rice from FCI be done so as to provide hot cooked meals from the Rs. 6/- per child allocated in the scheme through the management of SMC like committees formed at the centre.
14. A book of low cost nutritious recipes be developed keeping the profiles of different regions of the state in mind to ensure standardised intake of cereals, pulses and other food groups. To facilitate scaling up of the recipes a ready reckoner for cooking in varying quantities be developed.
15. In anticipation of separate establishment to be set up for Mid-Day Meal, required number of man and machinery will be put in place. This is essential because if the planning has to be done from District, then as already practiced by SSA and RMSA with their staffs to assist the District Officer, likewise, MDM also has to engage separate staffs right from the State to District to Inspectorate level. Hence, certain amount has to be earmarked for their wages.
16. Certain amount may be earmarked from the MME fund for procurement of large containers for storing food grains in schools so that rats and other insects may not spoil the rice..
17. Providing effective water filters in all the schools especially in rural areas.
18. Introduce and promote healthy competition amongst the implementers of MDM mainly School Authority and Inspectors of schools by declaring award in the form of cash/kind.
19. First Aid Box may be provided in all the MDM implementing schools.
20. Short documentary may be developed on health and hygiene and activities related to these aspect and which may be sent to all schools through CDs to be shown to the children and guardians as part of campaign.
21. Convergence of NRHM with MDMS is required urgently and essentially. Special emphasis should be given on this aspect.

22. Dietary Recommendations : There need to be an extensive survey on edible plants available in tribal areas. It is desirable to analyse its nutritive value and suggest proper recipes to meet nutrient requirements.
23. More varied menu should be there.
24. In MDM menu, greens are used only as seasoning, quantity is very less (1 bunch of greens for all the children in school). Separate green based recipes should be incorporated in menu.
25. Water should not be drained off while cooking rice.
26. Serving size is highly approximate. All head teachers should be asked to get cooked one unit of kichadi, one unit of rice (100 g or 150 g)and one unit of sabji in school. They should measure the cooked amount in one vessel/serving device. This measure should be used to serve food as per norms
27. Measures to weigh raw amount of food should be provided in the schools.
28. No record is maintained of the vegetables, pulses, soyabean, egg, oil, salt purchased which is always less than the reported value. It should be recorded properly.
29. Some schools have developed good dinning areas/ halls. Others make children sit in the class room or sit in the verandah in line. In these schools some better sitting arrangements should be made.
30. Hand washing before meal is not being followed properly. It should be ensured.
31. Iron and folic acid tablets are distributed in schools, however, weekly distribution is irregular. In register data are not mentioned when it was distributed and how much distributed.
32. In some schools teachers do not know the frequency for distribution of tablets. It should distributed weekly. Awareness generation camp for teachers, parents and children should be organized with health camp.
33. Parents should be made aware that MDM is not a replacement of home food.

34. MDMS is a national programme of nutritional support to school education. As the programme is growing and being fine tuned, nutritional component would increase to meet the personal requirement. Nutritional professionals from State shall be required. Foods and nutrition is a major component of the Home Science discipline, which is a four year degree programme. In the State of Tripura, there is need to have a college of home science for B.Sc Home Science and M.Sc foods and nutrition. Till then State Government should nominate students to college of Home Science Tura under CAU, Imphal where certain number of seats are reserved for the State Of Tripura.

A Compliance Report/ Action Taken Report on the above recommendations may be sent to the Government of India within two months from today.

Dr. Rita Singh Raghuvanshi, Dean, College of Home Science, Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar- Team Leader

Shri B. D. Shivani, Deputy Secretary, MHRD, Govt. of India

Mr. P. K. Chakraborty, Director, Education (School) Department, Govt. of Tripura

Dr. Pranati Das, Principal Scientist, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam

Ms. Sejal Dand, Representative of Office of Supreme Court Commissioner

Dr. Ashis Nath, Associate Professor, Tripura University, (MI)

Date: 26 June, 2013

Place: Agartala, Tripura

Annexure A

Observations of the 5th Joint Review Mission to Tripura from June 18-26, 2013 under the leadership of Dr. Rita Singh Raghuvanshi, Dean, College of Home Science, Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar

Areas of concern, which need attention of the State Government

- i) Using Body Mass Index Z score (WHO 2007) as recommended by WHO, on a sample of 679 school children availing mid-day meal, approximately 68.92% primary school children (296) and 66.84% upper primary school children (383) were observed to be normal. The remaining children need nutritional support.

Hair depigmentation was observed in 7% children indicating the deficiency of protein. Bleeding gums in nearly 18% of children emphasized poor oral hygiene coupled with ascorbic acid deficiency. Mottled enamel was found in nearly 46% children. Pale conjunctiva and condition of nails indicated high level of anemia.

- ii) Schools have got large areas of surplus land that could be used for kitchen gardening. Convergence with MNREGA for maintenance of school kitchen gardens could be sought for all schools across the State. Kitchen gardens or green squares can be introduced using the waste water from kitchen and hand washing of children. Drumstick trees and seasonal green vegetables can be grown in these gardens and utilised in MDM. Students of senior classes can also be given the responsibility of managing the kitchen garden. Parents should also be involved; they should be further made aware that MDM is not a replacement for home food.
- iii) There is a need for a more varied menu; in MDM menu, green vegetables are used only as seasoning; the quantity of vegetables is very less (1 bunch of greens for all the children in school). Separate green vegetable based recipes should be incorporated in menu. Fruits of Edible plants such as Coconut, Jackfruit, Pineapple etc available in tribal areas may also be utilised in the MDM for increasing the nutritive value of mid day meal.
- iv) The JRM observed that there is no standard kitchen devices/serving spoons for serving required quantity of mid day meal to the children. The MDM is served by an approximation method. The serving devices should be standardised so that the children get adequate quantity of MDM as per the prescribed guidelines. The raw food grain should also be weighed before giving it for cooking to the Cook-cum-helpers. Utmost care should

be taken that the small vessels for measuring the oil etc. are clean and not contaminated.

- v) A book of low cost nutritious recipes could be developed keeping the profiles of different regions of the state in mind to ensure standardised intake of cereals, pulses and other food groups. To facilitate scaling up of the recipes, a ready reckoner for cooking in varying quantities needs to be developed. Simple but useful practices like not draining off water in which, pulses and rice have been soaked while cooking rice need to be promoted.
- vi) Poor record management of the items of mid-day meal such as vegetables, pulses, soybean, egg, oil, salt was observed. It was not possible to know the quantity of these items purchased and utilised in the mid day meal. As a result, the possibility of pilferage of these items cannot be ruled out. The JRM recommends that there should be proper accountability and transparency in the record management.
- vii) Food grains should be stored in the silos in moisture free atmosphere to prevent it from pest and rodent infestation. Only branded and Agmark ingredients such as condiments, oil/fats etc. should be purchased in sealed covers and stored carefully to avoid any untoward incident.
- viii) Proper convergence with School Health Programme should be ensured so that there are regular health check ups of the children at regular intervals. The JRM observed that Iron and folic acid tablets are distributed in schools; however, weekly distribution is irregular. The data did not indicate the date of distribution of IFA tablets, De-worming tablets, Vitamin-A or the spectacles issued to the children with refractive errors. Awareness generation camp for teachers, parents and children should be organized with health camp.
- ix) First Aid Box needs to be provided in all the schools, with clear instructions to the school teachers on steps to be taken in case a food poisoning or any untoward incident.
- x) Hand washing before meals is not being followed properly; it should be ensured. A short documentary may be developed on health and hygiene and activities related to these aspects and sent to all schools through CDs for educating the children on the importance of hand washing.
- xi) Tripura state has diversified population and some migrant populations from Mizoram. They are placed in camps where SSA supported Non residential training schools are running. But they are not receiving hot

cooked meals along the lines of MDMS. This population and any other such population, which is attending formal or non formal schools in the state should also be brought under the purview of MDMS.

xii) Need for setting up of the Management Structure at various levels.

There is no dedicated structure at State, District and Block levels for monitoring of the scheme. The MDM guidelines envisage that contractual staff can be engaged through MME funds for the monitoring of MDM Scheme. These guidelines further state that State Government officials are required to inspect at least 25% of the schools in a quarter. Because of the shortage of dedicated manpower under the scheme, the monitoring of the scheme is not done properly. The role and responsibilities of the concerned authorities of the field functionaries should be clearly defined for rigorous monitoring of the Scheme. A few States viz. Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha etc. have set up the requisite structures at different levels for effective monitoring of the Scheme. You may consider setting up similar exclusive monitoring structures for the Mid Day Meal Scheme for effective monitoring and implementation of the Scheme.

xiii) Meetings of the State Level Steering Monitoring Committee

As per MDM guidelines, the State Level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committees are required to meet once in every quarter. However, only two meetings of the SLMC were held during 2012-13 against mandated four meetings in a year. The SLMC provides an ideal platform to ensure convergence with the other line departments such as Health, FCI, Drinking Water, Total Sanitation etc. for removing bottlenecks in the smooth implementation of the scheme, it is essential that the meetings of SLMC are held on a quarterly basis.

xiv) Meeting of the District/Block Level Monitoring Committee

The meetings of the District Level Monitoring Committee are required to be held once in a month under the Chairmanship of District Magistrate/Collector. There are eight districts in the State. Therefore, 96 meetings of the DLMC should have been held during 2012-13. However, only 14 meetings of DLMC were held during 2012-13. The State Government may advise all district authorities to convene DLMC meetings at regular intervals at least once in a month for monitoring the progress of the scheme at grass root level.

Similarly, the Block Level Monitoring Committee are also required to be held on once in every month under the Chairpersonship of Sub-Divisional Officer. But the State Government could not provide information on the number of Block Level Meetings held during the year. Necessary instruction need to be issued to all the Block authorities to hold these meeting regularly.

xv) Meetings of School Management Committees

The meetings of SMC are to be held every month under the Chairpersonship of the President, SMC but the JRM observed that these

meetings are not held at regular intervals. Even where these meetings are held, no discussions are held on improving the quality, hygiene and safety of mid-day meal. The perusal of the minutes of the meetings by JRM revealed that SMC generally discuss non-MDM issues.

xvi) Tasting of Mid Day Meal by 2-3 members including one Teacher

As per MDM guidelines, MDM is to be tasted by 2-3 members of SMC one of which, should be Teacher before it is served to the children. The concerned members are required to sign the Taste Register as token of record for having tasted the meal. But JRM observed that Teacher or SMC members who claimed to have tasted the meal, did not sign the Taste Register. In most of the schools, the Taste Register was not maintained. Necessary instructions need to be issued to all Schools to maintain Taste Register and prepare a roster for tasting of meal on a rotational basis by various teachers and members of SMC. If possible, the community participation for tasting of meal should also be ensured.

xvii) Delay in release of Funds by State Finance Department

The delay in receipt of funds affects the smooth functioning of the scheme at various levels. On receipt of sanction letter from Government of India, the delay from State to District offices for fund release can be shortened by combining the seeking of administrative and financial approval together from Department to State Finance Department for allocation to different districts and schools. The fund flow system from the state to the schools needs to be streamlined along with appropriate monitoring systems so as to ensure that there is no delay in transfer of cooking costs leading to negative balances in the school MDMS accounts.

xviii) Deduction from Honorarium of Cook-cum-Helpers by Tripura Gramin Bank

The honorarium to Cook-cum-Helpers(CCH) is disbursed through Tripura Gramin Bank which insists on maintaining minimum balance in the saving bank account failing which the bank deducts Rs.50/- from the bank account of CCH. Since the CCH are paid a nominal honorarium of Rs.1000/- per months, the deduction of Rs.50/- from their account is undesirable because they come from socially and economically weaker section of the society. Bank managers may be advised to refund such deducted amounts to the account holders. Secondly, the CCH are paid honorarium after four to six months of delay. They should be paid regularly every month. The bank authorities may also be advised to clear their cheques within seven working days.

xix) **Awareness drives of the MDMS.**

JRM found that logo, entitlements of children are not displayed at prominent places. Instead, they have been painted on the flexi boards which are kept in the rooms of either Head Teachers or in the kitchen. These should be displayed along with SSA logo on the outside wall of the school and also at prominent places in the school.

xx) **Grievance Redressal Mechanism**

The toll free number for making complaints by the public may be displayed in all the schools at prominent places. The complaints received should be attended to promptly for redressing the grievances of the complainants.

xxi) **Social Audit**

Social audit may be encouraged by the Community so as to bring transparency in the implementation of the scheme. Members of SMC and PRIs may also be involved in the process of social audit.

xxii) **Capacity Building**

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. It is recommended that the inter-State exposure visits can be conducted for MDM implementing officials for better implementation of the scheme

xxiii) **Promotion of Gas based Cooking**

In view of the high prevalence of fire wood chulhas (burner) as a mode of cooking in the rural areas action may be initiated to provide environment eco-friendly smokeless chulhas in convergence with the concerned Department in the State or use of LPG may be encouraged.

Nomination of students for Home Science Course

MDMS is a national programme of nutritional support to school education. As the programme is growing and being fine tuned, nutritional component would increase; to meet the personnel requirement nutritional professionals from State shall be required. Food and nutrition is a major component of the Home Science discipline, which is a four year degree programme. In the State of Tripura, there is need to have a college of

home science for B.Sc. Home Science and M.Sc. Food and Nutrition. Till then State Government should nominate students to College of Home Science Tura under CAU, Imphal where certain number of seats are reserved for the State of Tripura.

Apart from the observations of JRM, I would also like to draw your attention to Monitoring Institute's observations in the North Tripura during 1st April, 30th September, 2012, which inter alia include non serving of meal for 30 days (from January to October, 2012 in Chandrapur Govt H.S. School. Quality of meal was not up to the mark and students do not prefer to take the meal. In tribal dominated area the menu was not according to local tastes therefore, the students are not liking the same. In some of the visited schools the foodgrains/other ingredients are stored in Class room/staff room/Cook's house whereas the Govt of India is providing funds for kitchen cum stores and storage devices.

Action Taken on the above, attached JRM report as well as MI's observations may be submitted to the MHRD within a period of 3 months from the date of submission of JRM report.

A little effort on your part will ensure that no child goes hungry in schools in your State!