SECOND HALF YEARLY MONITORING REPORT OF CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES ON MID DAY MEALS IN SCHOOLS IN LAKSHEDWEEP UNION TERRITORY

DURING THE PERIOD OF 1st October, 2013 to 31st March, 2014

Island Monitored/Covered Kavaratti



FOREWORD

Centre for Development Studies, the Monitoring Institute in charge of monitoring Lakshadweep Union Territory feels privileged to be one of the Monitoring Institutions across the country for broad based monitoring of SSA, RTE and MDM activities. This is the second half yearly report on Mid Day Meals (MDM) for the year 2013-15 and is based on the data collected from Kavaratti island in Lakshadweep Union Territory.

I hope the findings of the report would be helpful to both the Government of India and the Government of Lakshadweep union territory to understand the functioning of and the achievements with regard to Mid Day Meals (MDM) in the union territory. The problems identified at the grass root level may be useful for initiating further interventions in the implementation of Mid Day Meals (MDM) in the union territory.

In this context I extend my hearty thanks to C. Gasper, Nodal Officer for monitoring Mid Day Meals (MDM) in Lakshadweep and his team members who have rendered a good service by taking pains in assessing the data and preparing the report in time. I am extremely thankful to the officers of the MDM Project at the union territory level for their unhesitating cooperation during the time of monitoring and supervision of various activities concerned with the implementation of Mid Day Meals (MDM) in the union territory.

Dr. Amit Shovon Ray Director Centre for Development Studies Ulloor, Thiruvananthapuram Kerala -695011

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In the process of monitoring the functioning of MDM in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, the Directorate of School Education in Lakshadweep has been very supportive. In particular, I am very grateful to the Secretary to Government **of** Union Territory of Lakshadweep in Education Department and the Director of Education. I am thankful to the co-ordinator of MDM in Education Department, Kavaratti for being helpful to me during the time of my visit to Lakshadweep.

I am thankful to all head teachers and the teachers in the schools. They have very kindly responded to me. They have also been very helpful in contacting the students in the classrooms and the parents of the students. I am thankful to all who have cooperated with us in the monitoring and supervision of MDM in the island.

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Chinnappan Gasper Centre for Development Studies Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala-695011 gasperij@gmail.com

Monitoring the functioning of Mid Day Meals in schools in Kavaratti island, Lakshadweep union territory During 1st October, 2014 to 31st March, 2015

There are 36 coral islands in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. They are scattered in the Arabian Sea. Only 10 of these islands are inhabited. They are Minicoy, Bitra, Kiltan, Chetlat, Kadmat, Amini, Kavaratti, Agatti, Androth and Kalpeni as shown in the map below:



The present study is focussed on the implementation of Midday meals in schools in Kavaratti island. The total area of land available in the ten islands of Lakshadweep is depicted in the following figure:



The total area of land available in Kavaratti island is 3.6 square kms. It is the third largest island in Lakshadweep. There are 64,429 persons living in Lakshadweep UT according to Census 2011. The density of population is 2,013 inhabitants per square kilometre. The sex ratio is 946 females for every 1000 males. The literacy rate is 92.28 per cent.

The population of the island is Muslim. They belong to ST community. The percentage of girls is 40 to 47 per cent in schools. There are five Lower Primary (LP) schools and five Upper Primary (UP) schools. All the ten schools are visited in the month of March, 2014.

1. At school level

S.No.	Indic	ators
1.	Avail	ability of foodgrains
	i)	Whether buffer stock of food grains for one month is available at the school?
		All the ten schools in the island do keep rice and other grains required for feeding the children of their school for a month.
	ii)	Whether food grains are delivered in school in time by the lifting agency?
		All the ten schools purchase food grains from the cooperative stores in the island.
	iii)	If lifting agency is not delivering the food grains at school how the food grains is transported up to school level?
		The head teacher or the teacher-in-charge of Noon meals in the schools brings the food grains from the co-operative stores to the schools.
	iv)	Whether the food grains is of FAQ of Grade A quality?
		The food grains are of FAQ of Grade A quality.
	v)	Whether food grains are released to school after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month?
		Food grains are released to schools after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month.

S.No. **Indicators** Timely release of funds 2. i) Whether State is releasing funds to District / block / school on regular basis in advance? If not, a) Period of delay in releasing funds by State to district. b) Period of delay in releasing funds by District to block / schools. c) Period of delay in releasing funds by block to schools. The Director of Education at Kavaratti has released (has etransferred) funds to the account of the Principal of the Senior Higher Secondary School (the Lead School) in Kavarathi Island. All schools in the island are permitted to make purchases (credit purchase) according to the amount of grant each school is entitled to and submit the bills to the Principal of the Lead School at the end of month. The cost of cooking meals is settled by the end of every month. Hence there is no delay in making purchases required for MDM. The salary of the cooks and helpers are paid by the government directly. ii) Any other observations. 3. **Availability of Cooking Cost** i) Whether school / implementing agency has receiving cooking cost in advance regularly? ii) Period of delay, if any, in receipt of cooking cost. iii) In case of non-receipt of cooking cost how the meal is served? iv) Mode of payment of cooking cost (Cash / cheque / e-transfer)? The cooking cost has been e-transferred to bank account of the Lead School in the island by the beginning of the academic year (ie., in the month of May). All schools in the island are permitted to make purchases according to the amount of grant each school is entitled to and submit the bills to the Principal of the lead school in the island every month. Hence there is no delay in making purchases required for MDM. The salary of the cooks and helpers are paid by the government directly by issuing cheques.

S.No.	Indicators							
4.	Avail	ability of Cook-cum-helpers						
	i)	Who engaged Cook-cum-helpers at schools (Department / SMC / VEC / PRI / Self Help Group / NGO /Contractor)?						
		The cooks and helpers for each school are appointed by the UT government. Some of the cooks and helpers are permanent and others are daily wage earners.						
	ii)	If cook-cum-helper is not engaged who cooks and serves the meal?						
		The cooking is done by the appointed cooks and helpers only; and they are supported by the teachers and the students in serving the food.						
	iii)	Is the number of cooks-cum-helpers engaged in the school as per GOI norms or as per State norms?						
		The cooks and helpers are paid according to the UT norms.						
	iv)	Honorarium paid to cooks cum helpers.						
		Salaries and wages are paid to the cooks and helpers.						
	v)	Mode of payment to cook-cum-helpers?						
		Cheques are given to them.						
	vi)	Are the remuneration paid to cooks cum helpers regularly?						
		Just like the school teachers, the cooks and helpers are paid by the UT government at the end of every month.						
	vii)	Social Composition of cooks cum helpers? (SC/ST/OBC/Minority)						
		The entire population in the island belongs to Muslim ST community. Naturally all the cooks and helpers belong to Muslim Scheduled Tribes.						

S.No.	Indicators							
	viii)	Is there any training module for cook-cum-helpers?						
		There is no training module is available in the island.						
	ix)	Whether training has been provided to cook-cum-helpers?						
		No special training has been given to the cooks.						
	x)	In case the meal is prepared and transported by the Centralized kitchen / NGO, whether cook-cum-helpers have been engaged to serve the meal to the children at school level.						
		There is no involvement of centralized kitchen or NGO in the MDM scheme.						
	xi)	Whether health check-up of cook-cum-helpers has been done?						
		The cooks and the helpers have said that they had taken periodical health check-ups.						
5.	Regularity in Serving Meal							
	Whether the school is serving hot cooked meal daily? If there was interruption, what was the extent and reasons for the same?							
	Hot cooked meal is served to all students in the schools at every noon.							
6.	Quality & Quantity of Meal							
	Feed	back from children on						
	i)	Quality of meal						
		The students say that the meal is good.						
	ii)	Quantity of meal						
	,	They are satisfied with the quality of the meal given to them.						
	iii)	Quantity of pulses used in the meal per child. Only dhal and not other pulses is cooked as curry and given to children along with rice and is adequate for every student.						



iv) Quantity of green leafy vegetables used in the meal per child.

Fresh lefty vegetables are not available in the islands. Hence they are very rarely provided.

v) Whether double fortified salt is used?

Yes. It is used in cooking.

vi) Acceptance of the meal amongst the children.

The students are used to non-vegetarian meal at home. Hence they do not have much liking for vegetarian meal in the school.

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

No school has standard gadget for measuring grains. There is need to provide all schools with standard gadgets for measuring the quantity of food grains to be cooked.

7. Variety of Menu

i) Who decides the menu?The menu is decided by the school and the SMC.

S.No. **Indicators** Whether weekly menu is displayed at a prominent place noticeable ii) to community? All schools have menu; but not displayed on the notice board. Is the menu being followed uniformly? iii) It is difficult to follow the menu; for everything except fish has to come from the mainland. Whether menu includes locally available ingredients? iv) Locally available fish is included in the menu. Locally available coconut oil and coconut power are used in cooking. V) Whether menu provides required nutritional and calorific value per child? We assume, yes.

- 8. i) Display of Information under Right to Education Act, 2009 at the school level at prominent place
 - a) Quantity and date of food grains received
 - b) Balance quantity of food grains utilized during the month.
 - c) Other ingredients purchased, utilized
 - d) Number of children given MDM
 - e) Daily menu

This information was available on the wall in one school as shown below:



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

The logo was found within the school. It is shown below:



9. | **Trends**

Extent of variation (As per school records vis-à-vis Actual on the day of visit).

- i) Enrolment
- ii) No. of children present on the day of the visit.
- iii) No. of children availing MDM as per MDM Register.
- iv) No. of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit as per head count.

All children participate in the meals.

10. Social Equity

i) What is the system of serving and seating arrangements for eating?

The food is distributed to the children at a point (say near the kitchen). The children collect the food and eat in the dining halls as shown below:











ii) Did you observe any gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements? There is no discrimination on the basis of caste or gender in the schools. All students belong to the one and the same community. iii) The name of the school where discrimination found of any kind may be mentioned in the main body of the report along with date of visit. No discrimination observed. iv) If any kind of social discrimination is found in the school comments of the team may be given in the inspection register of the school.
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No discrimination observed.
11. Convergence With Other Schemes
1. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
The dining halls, toilets and water tanks are the contributions of SSA. Medical camps are organised by SSA. One and the same department conducting and organised SSA and MDM in the island.
2. School Health Programme
i) Is there school Health Card maintained for each child? These cards are not available.
ii) What is the frequency of health check-up? Once in a year.
iii) Whether children are given micronutrients (Iron, folic acid, vitami – A dosage) and de-worming medicine periodically? These are given to children.
iv) Who administers these medicines and at what frequency?
Health personal from the Community health centre in the island.

S.No. Indicators	
v) Whether height and weight record of the children is being inc in the school health card.	licated
At the time of medical check-up, they are calculated.	
vi) Whether any referral during the period of monitoring.	
No referral during the period of monitoring.	
vii) Instances of medical emergency during the period of monitor	ing.
The Lead School in the island has a ambulance for the use students, teachers and all people in times of emergency.	of all
viii) Availability of the first aid medical kit in the schools.	
The schools have a first-aid kit.	
ix) Dental and eye check-up included in the screening.	
At the time of medical check up, if doctors are available dental and eye check-ups are also done.	, then
x) Distribution of spectacles to children suffering from refractive	error.
In the island, it very d.ifficult to find specialist doctors and or medical camps. However, medical check is done and special are distributed to children.	_
2. Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme	
 i) Whether potable water is available for drinking purpo- convergence with Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme Drinking water is available in the island. 	
3. MPLAD / MLA Scheme	
The lead school in the island has an ambulance from the MP fundambulance is used for all students in all schools in the island.	d. The

S.No. Indicators 4. Any Other Department / Scheme. 12. Infrastructure 1. Kitchen-cum-Store a) Is a pucca kitchen shed-cum-store i) Constructed and in use

- ii) Under which Scheme Kitchen-cum-store constructed MDM/SSA/Others
- iii) Constructed but not in use (Reasons for not using)
- iv) Under construction
- v) Sanctioned, but construction not started
- vi) Not sanctioned

All schools have kitchen which are old.

b). In case the pucca kitchen-cum-store is not available, where is the food being cooked and where the food grains/other ingredients are being stored? Food is cooked in the temporary shed only as shown below:



c) Kitchen-cum-store in hygienic condition, properly ventilated and away from classrooms.

The kitchen is well ventilated because the sides are open for free flow of air.

- d) Whether MDM is being cooked by using firewood or LPG based cooking?
- Only firewood is used for cooking. Coconut leaves and fibres are available without cost.
- e) Whether on any day there was interruption due to non-availability of firewood or LPG?

There is no interruption in the supply of mdm.

2. Kitchen Devices

- i) Whether cooking utensils are available in the school?
- ii) Source of funding for cooking and serving utensils Kitchen Devices fund / MME / Community contribution / others.
- iii) Whether eating plates etc are available in the school?

Adequate number of plates and tumblers is available in all schools. The vessels required for cooking and serving are also adequate. All these are supplied by the government.



S.No. Indicators iv) Source of funding for eating plates - MME / Community contribution / others? Government of UT has provided funds for the purchase of plates and tumblers. 3. Availability of storage bins i) Whether storage bins are available for food grains? If yes, what is the source of their procurement?

The MDM programme has been functioning even before government of India introduced it. As such the UT government has purchased the storage bins earlier. Some storage bins are available in schools. The large quantities of rice are kept in sacks in some schools. The kind of storage bins available in the schools is shown in the pictures below:



4. Toilets in the school

- Is separate toilet for the boys and girls are available?Separate toilets are available for boys and girls.
- ii) Are toilets usable?

They are in usable condition.

5. Availability of potable water

i) Is Tap water / tube well / hand pump / Well / Jet pump available?

All schools in the island use well water. They have water tank above the building and the water is supplied throw pipe.



ii) Any other source

6. Availability of fire extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are available in schools.

7. IT infrastructure available @ School level

a) Number of computers available in the school (if any).

All schools have computers. Three schools have 6 to 10 computers, one school has 11 to 15 computers and the remaining one school has more than 20 computers. Moreover some computers are functional in every school. In three schools, only 3 computers are functional; in one school, 6 computers are functional; and in another school, more than 10 computers are functional.

	Number of computers available in schools								
Schools	0	1	2-3	4-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	Above 20	Total
Government					3	1		1	5

	Number of computers functional in schools							
Schools	0	1	2	3	6	9	Above 10	Total
Government				3	1		1	5

S.No.	Indica	ators
	ŕ	Availability of internet connection (If any). Only the Higher Secondary school has internet connection. Using any IT / IT enabled services based solutions / services (like e-learning etc.) (if any) No other IT based services are available.
13.	Safet	y & Hygiene:
	i)	General Impression of the environment, Safety and hygiene:
		The cooking is done in a safe and hygiene manner.
	ii)	Are children encouraged to wash hands before and after eating
		The children are encouraged to wash the hands before and after eating. One thing is sure that they wash their hands and the plate after eating.
	iii)	Do the children take meals in an orderly manner?
		The children sit in the orderly manner for meals.
	iv)	Conservation of water?
		They do have the tendency to conserve water, for water is scarce in the islands.

S.No.	Indic	ators
	maic	uto: o
	v)	Is the cooking process and storage of fuel safe, not posing any fire hazard?
		The cooking process and storage of firewood are safe and not posing any fire hazard.
14.	Com	munity Participation
	i)	Extent of participation by Parents / SMC / VEC / Panchayats / Urban bodies in daily supervision and monitoring. Parents do visit the schools occasionally.
		r arents do visit the schools occasionally.
	ii)	Is any roster of community members being maintained for supervision of the MDM?
		No roster is available.
	iii)	Is there any social audit mechanism in the school?
		Nothing to hide in the island. It is a very small and one and the same community. People are aware of all things taking place in the island. Departmental auditing is also conducted.
	iv)	Number of meetings of SMC held during the monitoring period.
		Three meetings have been held. Further the SMC members meet in the school quite often informally.
	v)	In how many of these meetings issues related to MDM were discussed?
		In all SMC meetings the issues relating to MDM figure; for every item, the schools and the community depend on the shipment from the mainland.
15.	Inspe	ection & Supervision
	i)	Is there any Inspection Register available at school level? Available.

S.No.	Indic	ators							
	ii)	Whether school has received any funds under MME component?							
	,								
		Schools have received funds under MME component for maintaining the kitchen.							
	iii)	Whether State / District / Block level officers / officials inspecting the MDM Scheme?							
		MDM in the school is being inspected by CRC and BRC coordinators and UT officials.							
	iv)	The frequency of such inspections? Twice in a month.							
16.	<u>Impa</u>	<u>ct</u>							
	i)	Has the mid day meal improved the enrolment, attendance, retention of children in school?							
	ii)	Whether mid day meal has helped in improvement of the social harmony?							
	iii)	Whether mid day meal has helped in improvement of the nutritional status of the children?							
	iv)	Is there any other incidental benefit due to serving of meal in schools?							
		'Midday meal scheme' has been functioning in the islands for decades. It was funded by government of Lakshadweep. Further Lakshadweep's enrolment in school education and literacy rate are higher than many states in the country. As such it is very difficult to assess the impact of MDM in the island.							
17.	Griev	vance Redressal Mechanism							
	i)	Is any grievance redressal mechanism in the district for MDMS?							
		There are no grievances. One and the same community in the island. No one gets the temptation to steal away from the schools. However, the Principal of the Lead School in the island (Kavaratti) listens to the grievance, if any.							
	ii)	Whether the district / block / school having any toll free number?							
		Yes.							

2. Monitoring of Centralized Kitchens

There are no centralized kitchens in the island