



Government of India

Ministry of Human Resource Development

Department of School Education & Literacy



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना
Mid Day Meal Scheme

Report of 5th Joint Review Mission on
Mid Day Meal Scheme

Uttar Pradesh

(8th July- 17th July, 2013)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Joint Review Mission Team for the Fifth Review Mission – Uttar Pradesh 2013-14 would like to thank the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the support rendered in facilitating the Team to undertake the Review successfully.

The members of the Mission acknowledge and value the support and hospitality extended by the Secretary, Basic Education; to the teachers working in the far flung, remote villages; the State office of the Mid Day Meal Scheme and the kitchen staff working in the MDM kitchens; the Department of Health; the Food Corporation of India and the State Department of Food and Civil Supplies; SMC members of the villages and most importantly the students of the visited schools.

The team has had an earnest effort to include in the report the wide range of observations and discussions held at various levels with key officials and other stakeholders. It sincerely hopes that the recommendations that have emerged through this multi-pronged exercise would help the Government of Uttar Pradesh in strengthening the implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme in schools and ensure that every school going child avails its right to nutritious food in the State.

The JRM Team
July 17, 2013
Lucknow
INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education also known as Mid-Day Meal Programme, was launched as a centrally sponsored scheme on 15th August 1995. Its objective was to boost universalization of primary education and to improve the nutritional status of children by the food being given to them at the school.

On 28th November 2001, the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed the following order:-

1. We direct the State Government/Union territories to implement the mid-day meal scheme by providing every child in every government and government assisted primary schools with a prepared mid-day meal with minimum contents of 300 calories of energy and 8-12 grams of protein each day of school for a minimum of 200 days. Those governments providing dry rations instead of cooked meals must within 3 months start providing cooked meals in all government aided primary schools in all of the districts of the state (in order of poverty) and must within a further period of 3 months extend the provisions of cooked meals to the remaining parts of the state.
2. We direct the Union of India and the FCI to ensure provision of fair average quality grain for the scheme on time. The State/Union Territories and the FCI are directed to do joint inspection of food grains. If the food grains are found, on joint inspection, not to be of fair average quality, it will be replaced by the FCI prior to lifting.

In compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 28-11-2001 cooked meal is being served to the beneficiaries of Mid-Day Meal from 1st September 2004. The food being served has been enriched by raising its protein contents and calorific value from 15th August 2006 and now it must have 450 calories of energy and 12 grams of protein in Primary Schools. In Upper Primary Schools, it should provide 700 calories and 20 grams of protein. In Upper Primary Schools, the mid-day meal programme has started from 17th October, 07 in 695 Educationally Backward Blocks and Forest Areas of 66 districts. Now this programme is running in upper primary schools of all blocks of the State. Improved weekly menu has been circulated. The menu provides for such a diet so as to meet the enhanced energy level and protein contents.

The objective of the scheme is to increase enrolment, retention and the learning abilities of the beneficiaries, especially of children belonging to poor and downtrodden sections of the society, and, to provide a delicious meal to school going children. It is also visualized that such a meal would promote friendship and feelings of brotherhood among the children belonging to different caste, colour and creed.

I. Constitution of Review Mission and its objectives

A programme of scale and magnitude of Mid Day Meal requires close monitoring and evaluation at all levels. 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.

This Joint Review Mission team visited Uttar Pradesh from 8th July, 2013 to 18th July, 2013 to review the implementation of Mid Day meal scheme in the State keeping in view the following TORs:

1. Review the system of fund flow from State Government to Schools/cooking agency and the time taken in this process.
2. Review the management and monitoring of the scheme from State to School level.
3. Review the 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. Role of Teachers,
5. Convergence with School Health Programme (SHP) for supplementation of micronutrients and health checkups and supply of spectacles to children suffering from refractive errors.
6. Creation of capital assets through kitchen-cum-store/kitchen devices
7. Appointment of Cook-cum-Helpers for preparation and serving of meal to the children
8. Availability of dedicated staff for MDM at various levels
9. Review the maintenance of records at the level of school/cooking agency.
10. Review the availability of infrastructure, its adequacy and source of funding.
11. Review of payment of cost of foodgrains to FCI by the districts
12. Review the involvement of NGOs/Trust/Centralized kitchens by States/UTs
13. Government in implementation of the Scheme.
14. Management Information System (MIS) from school to block, district and State Level to collect the information and disseminate it to other stakeholders
15. Assess the involvement of Community' in implementation of MDM schemes and give suggestions for improvement in the implementation of the programme.

ToRs for the Assessment of Nutritional Status of children:

1. To assess the anthropometric measurements of a sample of children availing MDM: Height, Weight, Mid arm Circumference.
2. To Calculate the Body Mass Index (BMI) on the basis of measurement of Height and weight.
3. To identify the children who are undernourished and over nourished.
4. To assess the nutritive value of the served MDM on the day of visit by 24 hour food. recall method.
5. To review the quality and quantity of the served MDM.
6. To review the satisfaction of the children parents and community on the served meal. under MDM in respect of quality and quantity.
7. To suggest some nutritionally balance region specific recipes.
8. To assess the ways for better convergence with School Health Programme.

and covers an area of 243,238 km sq. The state is surrounded by the country of Nepal and Uttarakhand to the north, Delhi and Haryana to the northwest, Rajasthan to the west, Madhya Pradesh to the southwest, Bihar to the east and Jharkhand to the southeast.

Districts and Administration of Uttar Pradesh: Uttar Pradesh has 75 districts which have 18 divisions. Each district is governed by a District Collector or a District Magistrate, appointed by the Indian Administrative Service or the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission. Each district is divided into Sub-Divisions, governed by a Sub-divisional magistrate. Sub-divisions are further divided into blocks, which comprise of panchayats and town municipalities.

Uttar Pradesh is primarily an agrarian economy with more than 60% of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihood. The state is the largest producer of food grain in India and offers a diverse agro climatic condition which is conducive for agricultural production. Uttar Pradesh is known for its highest contribution to nation's sugarcane basket. However, the state offers excellent investment opportunities for industrial development.

State Capital	:	Lucknow
State Area	:	2,40,928 Square km.
Population (As per census 2011 Provisional data)	:	19,95,81,477
(a)Males (As per census 2011)	:	10,45,96,415
b)Females (As per census 2011)	:	94,985,062
Decennial Growth rate (2001-2011) (As per census 2011)	:	20.09 percent
Sex Ratio (As per census 2011)	:	908 per thousand
Density (persons per sq. km.) (As per census 2011)	:	828 per thousand
Child Population (0-6 years) (As per census 2011)	:	29,728,235
Child sex ratio (0-6 years) (As per census 2011))	:	899 per thousand
Total Literacy rate-		
Persons	:	69.72 percent
a)Male Literacy	:	79.24 percent
b)Female Literacy	:	59.26 percent
Districts	:	75
Cities & Towns	:	689
Development blocks	:	820
Nagar Nigams	:	12

Note: Statistical Department U.P. & Directorate census, Lucknow.

Educational Institutions in the State:

School Education:

Primary School (Govt.+LB+G.A.+Madarsa/Maqtab)	:	114399
Upper Primary (Govt.+LB+G.A.)	:	53938
NCLP	:	1284

Total : 169621

Implementation of the National Flagship Programmes such as SSA, RTE Act and MDM in Uttar Pradesh has given an impetus to the spread of education in the recent years. Various steps taken by the State Government in implementing educational schemes with the assistance of Central Government have brought about remarkable improvement in access, enrolment and retention. Efforts are being put on for achieving the goal of quality education and objectives of RTE Act in the State.

Coverage status of institutions, children and working days for the financial year 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 is shown in the following tables

1. Coverage of Schools

S.no	Stage	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13	
		Approved	Coverage	Approved	coverage	Approved	coverage
1	Primary	108390	106345	107546	106309	116107	110051
2	Upper Primary	51881	47182	46530	51798	53499	52402
	Total	160271	153527 (96%)	154076	158107 (103%)	169606	162453 (96%)

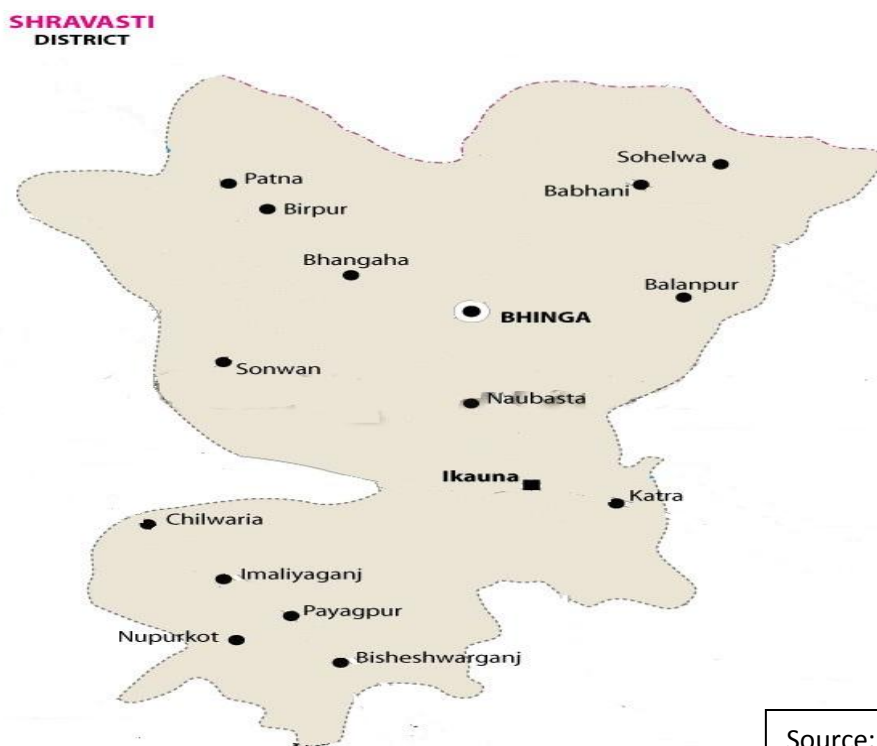
2. Coverage of Children & Working days

S.no	Stage	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13	
		Approved	Beneficiaries	Approved	Beneficiaries	Approved	Beneficiaries
1	No. of Children						
1.1	PAB approval vs Coverage						
	Primary	10203750	8685569 (85%)	9058455	8479926 (94%)	9000000	7638993 (85%)
	Upper Primary (including NCLP)	3524347	2628708 (75%)	3200000	3130922 (98%)	3400000	3052740 (90%)
	Total	13728097	11314277	12258455	11610848	12400000	10691733

1.2	Enrolment* vs Beneficiaries of Children						
	Primary	15170833	8685569 (57%)	14505991	8479926 (58%)	14087769	7638993 (54%)
	Upper Primary	5832249	2628708 (45%)	5872175	3130922 (53%)	5892528	3052740 (52%)
	Total	21003082	11314277	20378166	11610848	19980297	10691733
1.3	No. of Working Days						
	Stage	Approved	Coverage	Approved	Coverage	Approved	Coverage
	Primary	220	224 (102%)	220	225 (102%)	234	215(92%)
	Upper Primary	220	224 (102%)	220	226 (103%)	234	216 (92%)

IV. District Profile of SHRAVASTI District

Shravasti is a newly created district of Uttar Pradesh (India) carved out from districts of Gonda and Bahraich . Besides these two districts, Shravasti shares its border with district Balrampur. Bhinga, the District Headquarter of Shravasti, is approximately 175 k.m away from the state capital, Lucknow. Shravasti, the northeastern district of Uttar Pradesh, is located near river Rapti. This town is closely associated with the life of Lord Buddha.



Source: Maps of India

Population of the District (2011 Census)	-	1114615 As Per Provisional Population 2011
Males	-	594318
Females	-	520297
Literacy Rate	-	49.13%
Male literacy	-	59.55%
Female literacy	-	37.07%
Sex Ratio	-	875 females to 1000 males
Density	-	604 Person per sq km

Educational Institutions and Children in the Shravasti:

No. of Institutions

Sl/No.	Stage	Govt. + L.B	Govt. Aided	EGS / AIE	Total
1	Primary	887	1	0	888
2	Upper Primary	392	15	0	407
Total		1279	16	0	1295

Enrolment & No. of Beneficiaries under MDM Scheme in PS and UPS during 2010-11, 2011-12 & 2012-13 of Shravasti District

Year	No. of Children Enrolled			No. of children opted for MDM (No. of Beneficiaries)		
	PS	UPS	Total	PS	UPS	Total
2010-11	116909	23558	140467	29718	6270	334968
2011-12	110376	32006	142382	39071	10758	335837
2012-13	112998	34761	147759	39695	11221	347566

Target for implementation of MDM in 2013-14

1	Numbers of Block to be covered	5
2	Numbers of schools proposed to be covered (Primary)	888
3	Numbers of schools proposed to be covered (Upper Pry.)	407
4	Total Numbers of schools proposed (Pry. + Upper Pry.)	1295
5	Total Numbers of Cook-cum-Helper Engaged(January to March 2013)	3211

Mid day meals District Plan – Cooking Cost and Honorarium to Cook-cum-helpers 2010-11,2011-12 & 2012-13

Conversion Cost

Year	Funds Released (in lakhs)			Expenditure (In Lakhs)		
	PS	UPS	Total	PS	UPS	Total*
2010-11	224.96	86.34	311.3	179.6	56.63	236.23
2011-12	200.90	96.96	297.86	257.42	106.16	363.58
2012-13	186.41	92.76	279.17	274.18	116.06	390.24

Honorarium to Cook-Cum-Helper.

Year	Funds Released (in lakhs)	Expenditure (In Lakhs)
2010-11	346.91	346.91
2011-12	264.38	264.38
2012-13	284.14	284.14

V. District Profile of Sitapur

Sitapur is a district in Uttar Pradesh. Sitapur was established by the king Vikarmaditya after the name of Lord Ram's wife Sita. This place is concerned with ancient, medieval and modern history. This is a land of seer and sufis. Purans were written by Rishi VedVyas on this holi land. According to Hindu mythology the 'PanchDhamYatra' journey of five main religious Hindu places will not be completed without visiting the Neemsar or Naimisharanya, a religious ancient place in Sitapur. The City is situated on the river bank of 'Sarayan', at Lucknow-Delhi National Highway No-24, 89 Km. from state capital Lucknow. Whole district is divided into six tehsils - Sitapur, Biswan, Mishrikh, Laharpur, Mahmoodabad and Sidhauli. There are 19 blocks, two parliamentary constituencies (Sitapur, Mishrikh (SC)) and nine assembly constituencies (Sewta, Biswan, Mahmoodabad, Sidhauli(SC), Laharpur, Sitapur, Hargaon(SC), Mishrikh and Maholi). Total population of the district is 36,19,661 and the area is 5743 Sq. Km.



Population of the District (2011 Census)	-	4483992 As Per Provisional Population 2011
Males	-	2375264
Females	-	2108728
Literacy Rate	-	61.12%
Male literacy	-	70.31 %,
Female literacy	-	50.67 %
Sex Ratio	-	879 females to 1000 males
Density	-	779 Person per sq km

Educational Institutions and Children in the Sitapur:

1. No. of Institutions

Sl/No.	Stage	Govt. + L.B	Govt. Aided	EGS / AIE	Total
1	Primary	2963	11	0	2974
2	Upper Primary	1129	155	0	1284
Total		4092	166	0	4258

Enrolment & No. of Beneficiaries under MDM Scheme in PS and UPS during 2010-11, 2011-12 & 2012-13 of Sitapur District

Year	No. of Children Enrolled			No. of children opted for MDM (No. of Beneficiaries)		
	PS	UPS	Total	PS	UPS	Total
2010-11	424690	126086	550776	244207	73007	317214
2011-12	421672	142816	564488	285925	98286	384211
2012-13	423203	163515	586718	253858	95464	349322

2. Target for implementation of MDM in 2013-14

1	Numbers of Block to be covered	19
2	Numbers of schools proposed to be covered (Primary)	2974
3	Numbers of schools proposed to be covered (Upper Pry.)	1284
4	Total Numbers of schools proposed (Pry. + Upper Pry.)	4258
5	Total Numbers of Cook-cum-Helper Engaged (January to March 2013)	10611

Mid day meals District Plan – Cooking Cost and Honorarium to Cook-cum-helpers 2010-11,2011-12 & 2012-13

Conversion Cost

Year	Funds Released (in lakhs)			Expenditure (In Lakhs)		
	PS	UPS	Total	PS	UPS	Total*
2010-11	2138.90	741.06	2879.96	1351.30	685.51	2036.81
2011-12	1067.24	668.06	1735.3	1652.48	852.32	2504.80
2012-13	2207.02	1176.00	3383.02	1634.06	927.25	2561.31

Honorarium to Cook-Cum-Helper.

Year	Funds Released (in lakhs)	Expenditure (In Lakhs)
2010-11	895.83	895.83
2011-12	1433.75	1468.90
2012-13	1089.25	1089.25

METHODOLOGY

The JRM adopted a multi stage sampling design to collect information and data for the review. In the first stage two districts – Shravasti and Sitapur were selected. District Shravasti was selected by the Ministry of Human Resource Development because of its poor performance while Sitapur district was selected by the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh. The team visited a total of 66 schools comprising of 31 schools of Shravasti district and 31 schools from Sitapur district. The team also visited 4 schools in Kanpur City out of which 3 were NCLP schools and 1 Primary school where MDM was supplied by centralized kitchen. The team adopted the primary method of interviewing the children, teachers, community members and other stakeholders. The secondary method was the MDM register, SMC meeting registers, school health cards and the records from the Civil Supplies and Kotedar.

In order to ensure maximum coverage of schools, the JRM members split themselves into three teams. The routes for visiting the schools were planned in consultation with the state and district administration, keeping in mind the following points-

- Rural and remote schools to study the implementation of the scheme in village schools and far flung areas.
- NCLP Schools.
- Govt. Aided and Madarasa/Maqtab.

Apart from these, the JRM team also visited a warehouse of the Department of Food & Civil Supplies in Shravasti and Fair Price Shops in both the Districts.

Briefing Sessions

One session was held with State Officials in which the Director Mid Day Meal Authority, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh made a presentation regarding the implementation and the status of MDM Scheme in the State. Apart from this the team also held a meeting with the District and the Block level officials of district Shravasti and Sitapur.

Review of the Documents

The JRM team carried out a critical review of the documents pertaining to MDMS that had been provided by the State as well as the schools.

Interaction with the Stakeholders

Record based enquiry methodology and interviews with stakeholders were undertaken to collect information on the performance of the scheme in the State. In-depth discussions were held with State, District, Block and School level functionaries to get information about the modalities being followed for implementation of the scheme in Shravasti and Sitapur Districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Assessment of Nutritional Status

The JRM team was also assigned the task of assessing the nutrition profile of the students availing the benefit of MDMS. For this purpose, 889 students from the sample schools were selected through stratified random sampling. The nutrition profile was assessed by taking their anthropometric measurements, studying the BMI and carrying out critical appraisal to see the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies. The 24-hour recall Method was used on the subjects from class 3rd to 8th to

study their overall food pattern and assess their nutrient intake. A copy of the inventory used for the purpose has been furnished as an Annexure.

Areas of concern

1. **Disruptions in serving of MDM:** The Review Mission found that there were huge disruptions in serving of MDM during the months of March, April and few days of July 2013 due to non supply of food grains by Village Pradhans in district Shravasti. In the District in most of the schools of Ikona Block and Hariharpur Rani block, MDM was served for 150 days as against the approval of 234 days during 2012-13. There was also misappropriation of Food Grains by Village Pradhans which led to the disruption.
2. **No record of Food Grains:** Pradhans did not maintain account of food grains received from Kotedar. The Team could not ascertain from schools about the stock position as it is not maintained in the schools. No inspection of food grain was possible by the team issued for the schools in Shravasti District.
3. **Low coverage of children:** On the basis of data collected for the last 10 days it was observed that out of 66 schools visited , on an average 44% of children availed MDM against enrolment. In Shravasti 37% and in Sitapur 51% children availed MDM against enrolment
4. **Poor nutritional status of Children:** Nutritional status of children is very poor in Shravasti as found by the JRM (nutrition team). Micronutrients are not administered by the Primary Health Centre on the orders of former District Magistrate as some children had fallen sick after consuming IFA tablets. The team felt that the children having not being fed MDM regularly and by not administering the micronutrients has resulted in Malnutrition.
5. **Lack of plates:** Plates have neither being procured by the State Government nor donated by the community. As a result children bring plates from home. Generally they bring quarter plates which is insufficient to hold meals as per norms. It leads to dirtying the room and subsequent extensive cleaning is not done.
6. **Water:** Drinking water is available only through hand pumps which is unhygienic. In a campus where both primary and upper primary schools are there only one hand pump was found which is insufficient for hand wash and drinking.
7. **Unhygienic Toilets:** toilets are mostly non-functional. They are locked and there is no water supply.
8. **Lack of Community involvement:** Parents of the children are mostly uneducated and have no awareness about proper maintenance of the schools premises. The community does not donate for creation of infrastructure of the schools like plates, fans, hand pumps etc. The parents also do not participate in SMC meetings in Shrivasti District.
9. **Lack of security in the schools:** The security of the schools is a concern. Cooking devices, Plates fans are stolen frequently. The schools authority has to remove the gas cylinders where coking is done by LPG after school closes.
10. **Poor Inspection:** There is practically no inspection by block and district level authorities on availability of food grain, cooking of MDM. Had a regular inspection taken place by the Block Education Officers disruption could have been avoided.

The Review Mission has appreciated some of the BEST PRACTICES followed by the state government in the implementation of the scheme like-

- **Real Time Monitoring through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS)**

I.V.R.S. system has been introduced to supervise the M.D.M. program implementation at school level on day to day basis. Daily monitoring of regularity of meals provided being successfully done through IVRS based real-time monitoring. IVR System collect data from the school by calling the teacher and ask for the number of children having mid day meal on the present day (“AAJ AAPKE VIDYALAY ME KITNE BACHCHON KE KHANA KHAYA, KRIPAYA BATAN DABA KAR BHARIYE”). Data obtained by using IVRS is updated/validated in the month end from the records/photocopy of MDM register page maintained at school level. It is done with the help of NPRCs. Commissioners, District Magistrates, BSAs, Nagar Shiksha Adhikaria and Block Education Officers have been given a Login on the website (www.upmdm.in) to monitor and supervise the programme on daily basis with the help of IVRS. SMSs are sent to the teachers about the information of food grain, Conversion Cost and Cooks-Honorarium allotted to their schools. This is very helpful to the teachers since they come to know their allotment details. It is also being planned to verify the payment of cooks through I.V.R. system. Configurable Exception reports like MDM not served schools, Information not received, Teachers not responding to IVR call and BEO/NSA not logged-in is available on the website. Apart from these an SMS also send to the Director MDM, DM, BSA and BEO/NSA regarding the number of schools with no MDM served on daily basis. Similarly the information of Schools where MDM not served for more than 3 days is also sent via email to the DM and BSAs on weekly basis. The IVRS based Daily Monitoring System **has received many awards and accolades** including the National e-Governance Gold Trophy for Innovative Use of Technology and NASSCOM and UNICEF Award for Innovation for children.

- **Web Based Management Information System**

A web based reporting system is being run by the state in which reporting is being done by the each and every district on monthly basis on the given prescribed format of QPRs by Government of India. All these reports are automatically compiled at the State level and generate the reports as required by the MDMA officials to analyze the information. Now a provision has also been made on the web regarding reporting of FCI Bills and payment module in the MIS for better monitoring of payment to FCI. FCI Officers in each district will have to login and ENTER their FCI bills and upload a copy of bill, immediately those bills will be visible to the respective district’s BSA login. After Payment, BSA will login and ENTER the payment made against the bill raised. This payment status will be available to the FCI for them to see.

- **System of online budget allocation and e-payment to Madhyan Bhojan Nidhis of the schools**

In compliance of recommendations of the 1st JRM which visited the State in 2010 the State Govt. has opened Madhyanh Bhojan Nidhi for all the schools in the nearest CBS branches. From FY 2013-14 the State Govt. has introduced system of e-payment from treasury to the bank accounts. Since the schools already have their accounts in CBS branches, the system of e-payment has been implemented in a smooth manner. Along with that the State Govt. has also implemented online budget allocation. As a

result the budget is allocated by Finance Controller MDMA from a central point against the sanctions and the time delay which was experienced in manual budget allocation at district level has been reduced drastically.

- **Stakeholder Training and Capacity Building**

Since the year 2010 officials of the Basic Education Department of the Government of Uttar Pradesh at Division, District and Block level as well as NGO partners have undergone orientation on various aspects of implementing the MDMS. The training experience of UP has been shared by MHRD with other states as a best practice with a recommendation for replication.

- **e-Communication**

All communications including GOs and MDMA circulars, fund and foodgrain releases are sent through emails to District Magistrates, AD Basic, BSAs and officials of the MDMA at Division and District level. Simultaneously system generated SMS alerts are also sent to these levels.

- **Proactive efforts in Financial Management of Scheme**

It is remarkable to note that State Finance Deptt. released Central and State share well in advance to Districts in anticipation of release of Central Assistance by Government of India.

MAJOR OBSERVATIONS

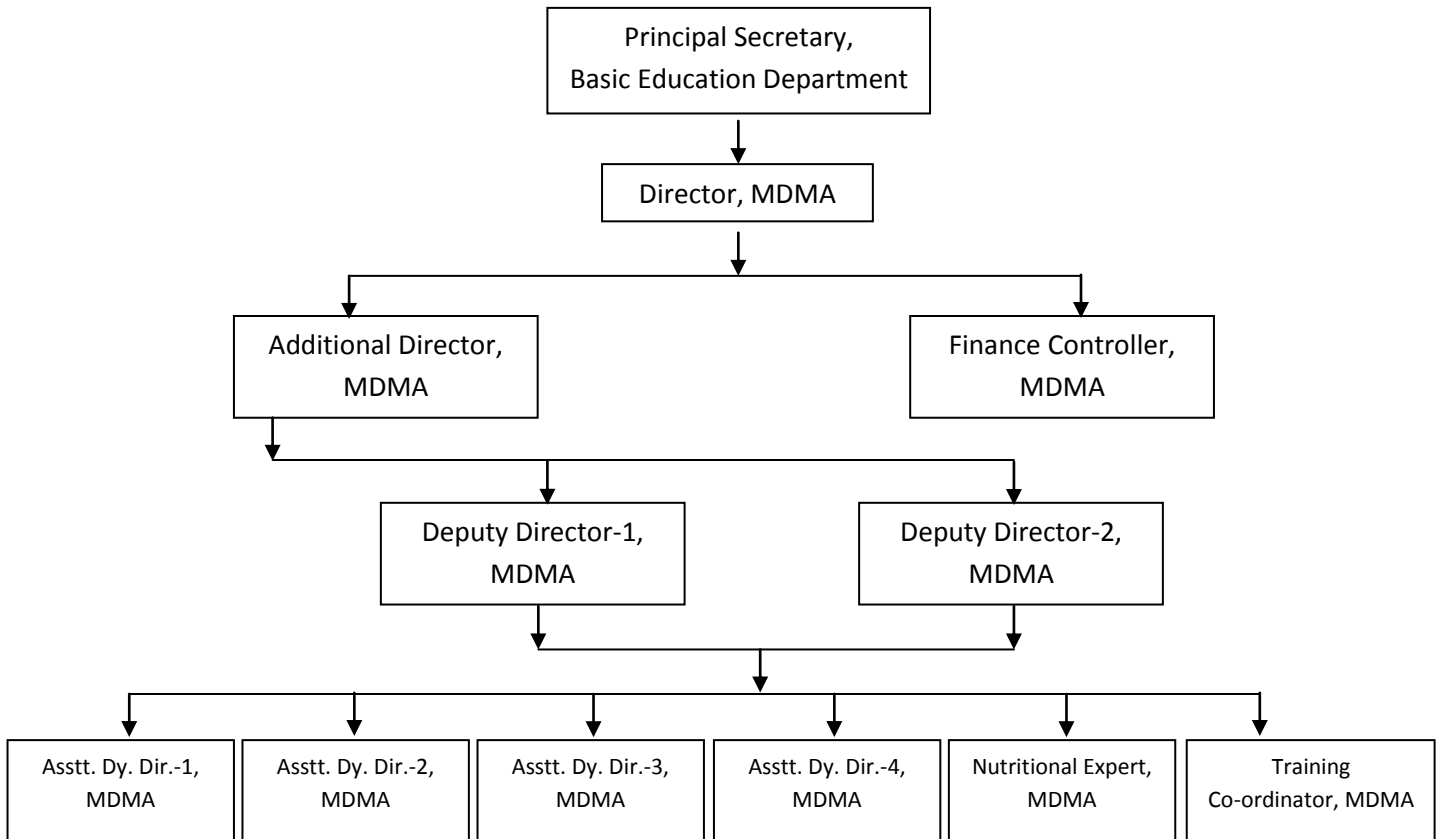
On the basis of the data made available, field observations, interaction with various stakeholders as well as the nutritional assessment of the students, the observations made by the Mission have been discussed herein. To facilitate the discussion, these observations have been categorized into two sections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

A: Implementation of MDMS

IMPLEMENTATION OF MDM IN THE STATE

Implementing agencies in the State

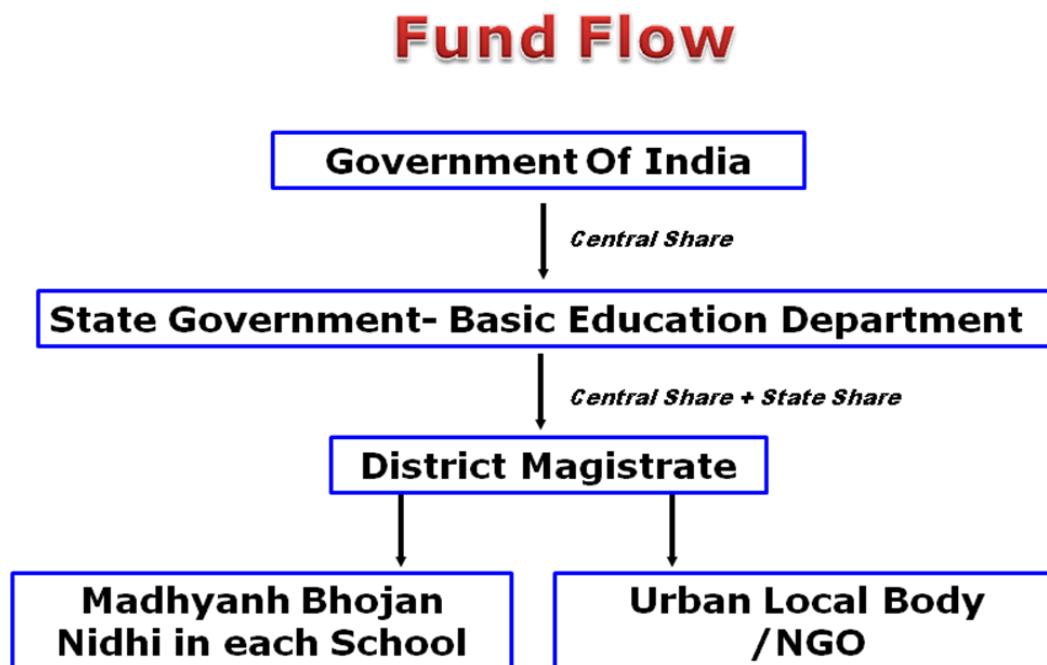
The Department of Basic Education implements the MDM Programme in the State. The organization chart shown below indicates the implementation of the programme from State to School level:



1. Review of the system of fund flow from State Government to Schools/cooking agencies and the time taken in this process.

The Govt of India releases funds in three installments to the states/ UTs. The first is Ad hoc instalment (25%) which is issued without taking into consideration unspent balance of the previous year. The first installment of 35% is released after obtaining the unutilized balance from the States and UTs. The 2nd installment of 40% is released after taking into consideration the expenditure position of first two installments. The State Government after seeking credit confirmation from State Finance Department releases funds to Basic Education of Uttar Pradesh. The funds thereafter flow from Basic Education of Uttar Pradesh to the District Magistrate in all the Districts. Thereafter the funds (Conversion Cost and Honorarium to cook-cum-helper) from the District Magistrate is transferred to “Madhyanh Bhojan Nidhi” in each school of the districts in the rural areas; and in urban areas funds is released to Nagar Nigams, Nagar Palika, Nagar Panchayats, town areas etc, as the case may be. In urban areas where NGO’s are in operation, the conversion cost and Honorarium to cook-cum-helper is given to NGOs according to the bills raised by them after verification from the education department. The funds received from the Govt. of India are deposited in the consolidated funds of the state government.

The following flow chart indicates movement of funds from Central Govt. to the implementing agencies:



The details of the funds the balance of 1st Instalment (Centre's Share) released to the state during 2013-14 and outlay expenditure upto 30th June 2013 is tabulated below is tabulated below

A) At State level

Funds flow

Components	Date of fund received by the state from GOI	Date of fund received by the state (state share)	Date of fund release by State to directorate	Gap(No of days) between funds receiving and releasing	Reason for delay if any
cooking cost	01-05-2013	18/04/2013 06-05-2013	18/04/2013 06/05/2013	(-16) Days	N/A since State Govt. released central and state share even before release of central assistance by GOI.
Kitchen Sheds					
Kitchen Devices					
MME	01-05-2013	18-04-2013	18-04-2013	(-16) Days	N/A since State Govt. released central and state share even before release of central assistance by GOI.
Tarnspotation	01-05-2013	18-04-2013	18-04-2013	(-16) Days	N/A since State Govt. released central and state share even before release of central assistance by GOI.

Provisional Outlay and expenditure upto 30th June 2013 at State level

Outlay and expenditure

Components	Funds Allocation	fund received by the state	Expenditure as on 30th June 2013 against fund received	Percentage Expenditure	Reason for low expenditure if any
cooking cost	26059.57	20544.38	11341.52	55	
Kitchen Sheds	0	0	0	0	
Kitchen Devices	0	0	0	0	
MME	1000	607.55	142.8	24	
Tarnspotation	394.77	622.36	46.76	8	

Details of fund flow and expenditure up to June. 2013 of Shravasti**Funds flow**

Components	Date of fund received by the district from state	Date of fund release by District to Block	Gap(No of days) between funds receiving and releasing	Reason for delay if any
Cooking cost	18-04-2013/ 06-05-2013	25-06-2013		Sent as per schedule
Kitchen Sheds	-	-	-	-
Kitchen Devices	-	-	-	-
MME	28-03-2013	07-03-2013		Sent as per schedule
Tarnsportation	18-04-2013	-	-	-

Provisional Outlay and expenditure upto 30th June 2013 at State level**Outlay and expenditure (in lakhs)**

Components	Funds Allocation	Fund received by the District	Expenditure as on June 2013 against fund received	Percentage Expenditure
Cooking cost	132.7	132.7	62.19	46.87
Kitchen Sheds	0	0	0	
Kitchen Devices	0	0	0	
MME	3.51	3.51	0.66	18.80
Transportation	2.67	2.67	0	

Details of fund flow and expenditure up to June. 2013 of Sitapur**Funds flow**

Components	Date of fund received by the district from state	Date of fund release by District to Block	Gap(No of days) between funds receiving and releasing	Reason for delay if any
Cooking cost	18-04-2013/06-05-2013	18-06-2013	43	Sent as per schedule
Kitchen Sheds	-	-	-	
Kitchen Devices	-	-	-	
MME	28-03-2013	30-03-2013	2	Sent as per schedule
Tarnsportation	18-04-2013	03-07-2013	75	Sent as per schedule

Provisional Outlay and expenditure upto June 2013 at Sitapur**Outlay and expenditure (in lakhs)**

Components	Funds Allocation	Fund received by the District	Expenditure as June 2013 against fund received	Percentage Expenditure
Cooking cost	920.12	920.12	398.66	43.33
Kitchen Sheds	0	0	0	0
Kitchen Devices	17.5	17.5	17.5	100
MME	16.936	16.936	16.936	100
Transportation	12.56	12.56	0	0

Thus it is seen from the above table that GOI released an adhoc recurring assistance of 25% i.e. Rs. 34360.01 Lac by sanction letter dated 01.05.2013. It is remarkable to note that State Govt. issued financial sanctions – both central and state share – on 18.04.2013 in advance which reached the districts the same days through e-mail. Thus, there was no delay in releases and State Govt. has been infact proactive in releasing funds. As a result sufficient fund were noticed in all the visited schools in both the districts.

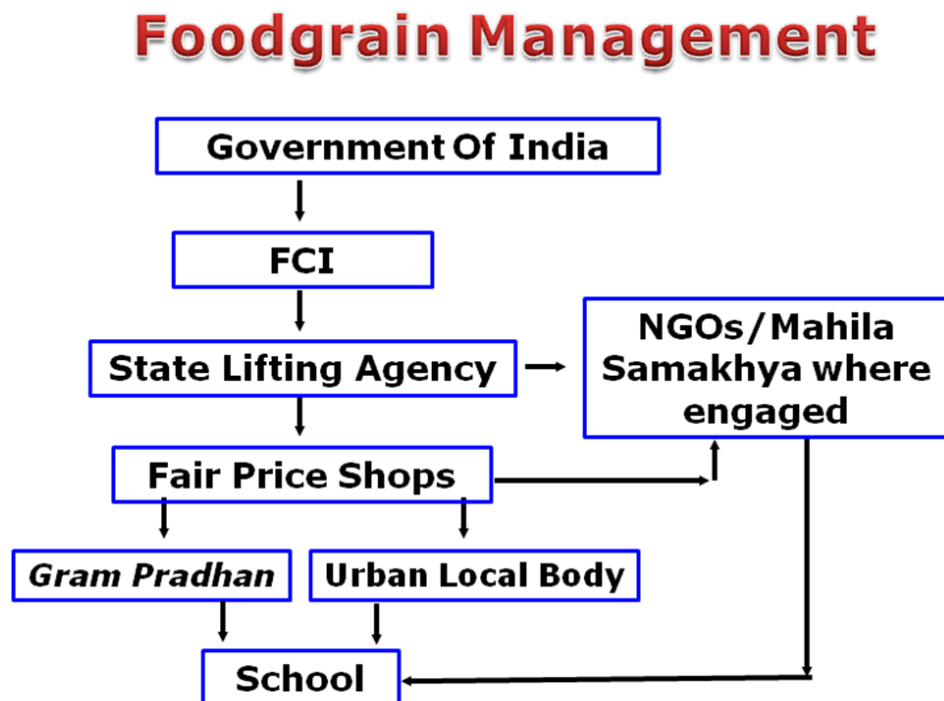
In compliance of recommendations of the 1st JRM which visited the State in 2010 the State Govt. has opened Madhyanh Bhojan Nidhi for all the schools in the nearest CBS branches. From FY 2013-14 the State Govt. has introduced system of e-payment from treasury to the bank accounts. Since the schools already have their accounts in CBS branches, the system of e-payment has been implemented in a smooth manner. Along with that the State Govt. has also implemented online budget allocation. As a

result the budget is allocated by Finance Controller MDMA from a central point against the sanctions and the time delay which was experienced in manual budget allocation at district level has been reduced drastically.

2. Review of implementation of the scheme with reference to availability of food grain

The Food Corporation of India provides grains to regional go-downs from where it goes to Block level go-downs and finally to fair price shops. To ensure timely lifting and sampling of food grains, government orders have been issued from the Department of Food and Civil Supplies that the food grains would be lifted well in advance and information regarding the blockwise lifting would be made available to lifting authorities. The fair price shop owners receive the grains from Block go-downs and they in turn make it available to Gram Pradhan/ Ward members/NGO. In order to ensure supply of grains as per the quality specification of Government of India, the Government of U.P. has issued instructions for Joint inspection of food grains by a team consisting of senior officers from FCI and Department of Education. Besides this, the provision of keeping sample of food grains allocated for MDM purposes at district and block level has been ensured, so that cross checking of quality of grains could be done during inspection. The timely lifting of food grain is regularly monitored. The transportation cost is paid to the Civil Supplies Department/Food & Essential Commodity Supply Corporation by Districts.

The flow chart for the food grain management is given as under:



The food grain is the most important component of Mid - day meal scheme. The food grain requirement is ascertained by state government before the end of every financial year and communicated to Government of India in Annual Work Plan & Budget for the approval before Programme Approval Board.

The Government of India allocates food grains on the basis of average attendance of children during the preceding year in advance after the concurrence of department of food and public distribution.

The Food Corporation of India provides food grains to its go downs from where it is taken to Block level go downs by State Food Department/State Food Corporation. From there the kotedars lift the food grains and supply it to respective schools. The number of children is supplied by the Education Department. To ensure timely lifting and inspection of food grains, government orders have been issued from the Department of Food and Civil Supplies that the food grains would be lifted well in advance (may be three months before consumption), and information regarding the block wise lifting would be made available to inspecting authorities. The kotedars would make the grains received by them and available to Gram pradhan/ Ward members/NGO.

Team was informed that state lifting agency lifts the food grains from FCI godowns during 23-25th day of every month and store at their block go downs. Fair price shop owner popularly known as Kotedar lifts the food grains from block go down during 25-30/31st day of every month and supplies it to gram pradhan/school.



Variations in the weight of Bags of Food grains weighed in Block Warehouses.

Allocation and Release of Food Grains: 2012-13

Primary

Period	Date of release from GOI	Allocation by GOI			Date of release from State	Released to Districts		
		Rice	Wheat	Total		Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
April-June	16-Feb-12	20196.00	10404.00	30600.00	02-03-2012	20196.00	10404.00	30600.00
July to September		38016.00	19584.00	57600.00	11-06-2012	38016.00	19584.00	57600.00
Oct. to December	29-Aug-12	40392.00	20808.00	61200.00	21-09-2012	34604.02	17604.98	52209.00
Additional Allocation 3rd QTR					12-12-2012	5787.98	3203.02	8991.00
Jan to March		40392.00	20808.00	61200.00	12-12-2012	28404.15	13957.09	42361.24
Additional Allocation 4th QTR					11-03-2013	412.70	196.13	608.83
Total		138996.00	71604.00	210600.00		127420.85	64949.22	192370.07

Upper Primary

Period	Date of release from GOI	Allocation by GOI			Date of release from State	Released to Districts		
		Rice	Wheat	Total		Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
April-June	16-Feb-12	11222.59	5781.33	17003.92	02-03-2012	11222.59	5781.33	17003.92
July to September		20726.59	10677.33	31403.92	11-06-2012	20726.59	10677.33	31403.92
Oct. to December	29-Aug-12	24064.28	12396.75	36461.03	21-09-2012	19471.31	9892.01	29363.32
Additional Allocation 3rd QTR					12-12-2012	4592.97	2504.74	7097.71
Jan to March		24064.28	12396.75	36461.03	12-12-2012	15637.28	7915.32	23552.60
Additional Allocation 4th QTR					11-03-2013	383.09	179.72	562.81
Total		80077.74	41252.16	121329.90		72033.83	36950.45	108984.28

Foodgrain Allocation 2013-14

Primary

Period	Date of release from GOI	Allocation by GOI			Date of release from State	Released to Districts		
		Rice	Wheat	Total		Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
April-June	15-12-2013	21978.00	11322.00	33300.00	11-03-2013	21978.00	11322.00	33300.00
July to September		41580.00	21420.00	63000.00	30-05-2013	41580.00	21420.00	63000.00
Total		63558.00	32742.00	96300.00		63558.00	32742.00	96300.00

Upper Primary

Period	Date of release from GOI	Allocation by GOI			Date of release from State	Released to Districts		
		Rice	Wheat	Total		Rice	Wheat	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
April-June	15-12-2013	12761.48	6574.10	19335.58	11-03-2013	12761.48	6574.10	19335.58
July to September		23856.66	12289.79	36146.45	30-05-2013	23856.66	12289.79	36146.45
Total		36618.14	18863.89	55482.03		36618.14	18863.89	55482.03

The Status of foodgrain allocation and its lifting in FY 2012-13 is as under:

Food grains utilization (Shravasti)				
Components	Foodgrain Allocation	Foodgrains lifted	Food grains Utilized	Percentage Utilization
Foodgrains	1288.890 MT	1288.890 MT	1271.780 MT	98.67
Food grains utilization (Sitapur)				
Components	Foodgrain Allocation	Foodgrains lifted	Food grains Utilized till June 2013	Percentage Utilization
Foodgrains	8414.47 MT	8414.47 MT	8337.787 MT	99.09

The Status of foodgrain allocation and its lifting in FY 2013-14 is as under:

Food grains utilization (Shravasti)				
Components	Foodgrain Allocation	Foodgrains lifted	Food grains Utilized till June 2013	Percentage Utilization
Foodgrains	1024.830 MT	471.235 MT	200.16	42.48
Food grains utilization (Sitapur)				
Components	Foodgrain Allocation	Foodgrains lifted	Food grains Utilized till June 2013	Percentage Utilization
Foodgrains	6862.9 MT	1647.01 MT	1283.263 MT	76.66

Major observations

- i. As the above table shows state government is following a cycle of 3 months to release the food grain stock to districts from where as mentioned earlier it is released on monthly basis. As the table clearly shows there is no delay in grain flow between central and state government and from state to districts. But from the district level it is lifted from FCI or State Food Corporation go downs by Fair Price shop owners (kotedars) or Pradhan /NGO every month. Though the time schedule is fixed at the district level there is delay in lifting the grain from go downs leading to disruptions in supply of food grains to schools.
- ii. The UC of district Shravasti and Sitapur shows that there has been near utilization of food grains in both the district-98.67 in Shravasti and 99.09 percent in sitapur in year 2012-13. This clearly shows that food grains have reached village level but in spite availability of food grains there is huge disruptions in serving the MDM that clearly indicates that there may be huge pilferage, misappropriation and mismanagement of food grains at village level which requires enquiry and audit at the district level.
- iii. It has been found that meal was not served due non availability of food grains at school level. There are many instances of disruptions in MDM (**Annexure-2**). The glaring examples are--In district Shravasti in block Sirsia-PS- Semrhateteheria there is a gap of 25 days in July, 10 days in Sep, Full month in October'12, 16 days in Jan'13, Full month in Feb'13, 3 days in July'13.

A handwritten record sheet with columns for school name, block, and MDM status. It lists various schools and their corresponding MDM service status.

Another handwritten record sheet, similar to the first one, showing school names and MDM service status.

Records showing disruptions in MDMS in Schools

A third handwritten record sheet, detailing school information and MDM service status.

by Pradhan and by NGO.

In district Sitapur in block Gondlamau in PS Khalegarhi there was disruptions in MDM for the whole month of July'12, again in Nov and Dec'12 and then in Jan'13. The major violations have taken place where children were served biscuits worth Rs 2/per child though Pradhan took regular full convergence cost.

These are few glaring examples but almost in every school the team found disruptions in serving MDM. Irregularity and delays of food grain supply is often cited as a reason by school officials,

Interruption/Disruption in the Delivery of MDM

From visits to the schools in both the districts, it was found that regular provision of hot cooked meals has been irregular in 26 of the 31 schools visited in Shrawasti district and in nine schools in Sitapur district. The number of days when food was not made available in these schools varied from 2 days to 112 days. The Mission took note of this serious lapse in the implementation of the MDMS in the state. To understand this, the Mission delved deeper into the data on the quantity of foodgrain lifted by the Kotedar in the four quarters of 2012-13. Details in this regard are given in the table below. It is evident from the table that disruption in the provision of midday meals is not on account of grain shortage.

Disruption in Serving MDM vis-à-vis Food Grain Lifted by Kotedar in 2012 : DISTRICT SHRAWASTI

S. No	Name of the Block	Name of School	Enrolment of School	Disruption	Food Grain Lifted by Kotedar				
					Quarter	Rice (in Qt.)	Wheat (in Qt.)	Total (in Qt.)	Date of Lifting
1	Jamunaha	UPS Gauspur	92	10 days in March, April (Full Month), 2013	January to March 2013	1.491	0.746	2.237	1.2.13

2	Jamunaha	PS Gauspur	99	9 days in Jan, 14 days in Mar, Apr (Full Month), 2013	January to March 2013	1.027	0.513	1.540	1.2.13
3	Ikona	PS Baidora Masrik <i>Cooking Cost received regularly</i>	122	7 days in March, April (Full Month), 3 days in July, 2013	January to March 2013	1.426	0.713	2.139	1.2.13
4	Ikona	UPS Baidora Masrik <i>Cooking Cost received regularly</i>	63	7 days in March, April (Full Month), 3 days in July, 2013	January to March 2013	1.092	0.546	1.638	1.2.13
5	Sirsia	PS Semrhateteheria <i>Cooking cost not received for 6 months</i>	68	25 days in July, 10 days in Sep, Full month in October, 2012	July to September 2012	1.817	0.909	2.726	26.6.12
				16 days in Jan, Full month in Feb, 3 days in July, 2013	January to March 2013	0.859	0.429	1.288	1.2.13
6	Gilola	PS Mohamadapur <i>Irregularity in receipt of conversion cost</i>	94	Whole of July and 5 days in August 2012	July to September 2012	2.475	1.238	3.713	26.6.12

S. No	Name of the Block	Name of School	Enrolment of School	Disruption in serving MDM	Food Grain Lifted by Kotedar				
					Quarter	Rice (in Qt.)	Wheat (in Qt.)	Total (in Qt.)	Date of Lifting
7	Sirsia	PS Girls, Teteheria <i>Cooking Cost received regularly</i>	85	25 days in July, 6 days in Sep,	July to September 2012	2.068	1.034	3.102	26.6.12
				31 days in Oct, 10 days in Dec, 2012	October to December 2012	1.012	0.506	1.518	10.10.12
				17 days in Jan, 23 days in Mar, 13 days in Apr, 2013	January to March 2013	1.073	0.537	1.610	1.2.13
8	Hariharpur Rani	PS PandeyPurwa <i>Cooking</i>	119	13 days in Jul, 6 days in Aug, 16 days in Sep 2012	July to September 2012	1.849	0.924	2.773	26.6.12

		<i>Cost received regularly</i>		8 days in Oct, 6 days in Nov, 3 days in Dec 2012,	October to December 2012	1.180	0.590	1.770	10.10.12
				14 days in Jan, 15 days in Feb, 1 day in Mar, 14 days in Apr, 3 days in May, 2013	January to March 2013	1.196	0.598	1.794	1.2.13
9	Hariharpur Rani	UPS PandeyPurwa <i>Records of Cooking Cost not available</i>	61	11 days in Jul, 5 days in Sep 2012	July to September 2012	1.380	0.690	2.070	26.6.12
				19 days in Oct, 6 days in Nov 2012	October to December 2012	0.900	0.450	1.350	10.10.12
				3 days in Jan, 1 day in Feb, 20 days in Apr, 2013	January to March 2013	1.325	0.663	1.988	1.2.13
10	Hariharpur Rani	Anwar Muslim Jr. High School - <i>No supply from May-Sep, 2012</i>	219	July, Aug, Sep 2012	July to September 2012	6.800	3.400	10.200	26.6.12
				Oct 2012 (Full month)	October to December 2012	5.100	2.550	7.650	10.10.12
11	Gilola	PSDarjipura <i>Receipt of Cooking Cost irregular</i>	129	July, August up to 20 September, 2012	July to September 2012	3.227	1.614	4.841	26.6.12

- iv. The team was informed that other major reason for disruptions in supply at school level is the process of recovery of unused food grain from Pradhans which began since 2010-11 and is still ongoing. Due to this though the documents shows availability of food grains on paper in reality grains have been squandered by Pradhan and state is making its best efforts to recover the grains. Though this is a good initiative and people who violated the rules and used MDM grains for personal use need to be taken to task, in reality it has disrupted the supply at the school level. This fact was brought to the notice of Commissioners appointed by Hon. Supreme Court of India and Commissioners wrote letter to state authorities on 15th May'12. (**Annexure-8**). The team was informed that the process is now almost complete and state is supplying grains regularly so the children are served MDM without disruptions.

- v. The food grains are stored at the Pradhans house or at Kotedar's shop, despite all schools having good infrastructure available for storage. There was only a day's ration at the school. The reason cited was theft of food grains from the school premises. This led to misappropriation & undue control of pradhans. It is also additional burden on cooks as they have to pick up grains every day from Pradhan's house for daily MDM.



The notable exception is where MDM is managed by SMC. Here the food grains were stored at school level and were guarded by SMC members and are available for inspections.

- vi. The calculation of food grain for cooking was not based on the standardized food allocation for each child. This also leads to violation of required allocation as per MDM norms as often Pradhan allocates grains on basis of average attendance of children and not exact attendance of the particular day.
- vii. The quality of food grains was found to be satisfactory except in some schools. Often the quality gets affected by the fact that grains at Pradhan's house are not stored properly and also there is no quality check at village level to ensure that grains supplied by state reaches the school.
- viii. The team was informed that bags supplying MDM grains have MDM logo stamped in order to ensure no pilferage is taken place and quality is maintained. But team found logo only on few bags in the schools where the implementation is done by Mahila Samakhya and which was not very visible. Also, as school has only a daily ration it is difficult to ensure the quality of MDM.
- ix. There is no availability of storage bins to store the grains at school level. In few schools there were small bins for storage of atta which were not sufficient either in terms of its quantity or in numbers.
- x. As per the GoI guidelines, certain information should be displayed on weekly/ monthly basis as suo moto disclosure of information under Right to Information Act.
- Quantity of food grain received, date of receipt.
 - Quantity of food grain utilized.
 - Other ingredients purchased and utilized
 - No. of children given MDM
 - Daily menu
 - Roster of community members involved in the programme.



The Team however found that none of the schools are displaying the above facts. The compliance of the above guidelines must be ensured.

The team was informed that the practice of checking the quality and weight of the grains being supplied by FCI to the Warehouses is not fully functional. The trucks carrying the grains are weighed at the dispatch point of the FCI Warehouse and there is no means of verifying the quantity and quality of the grains supplied in gunny bags to the Warehouse of the lifting agent. This has often led to blaming each other about the quality and quantity of the grains that eventually reach the Pradhan. It was also brought to the notice of the team that the supply of food grains is not timely/regular leading to interruptions in delivery. The practice of making alternative arrangements like borrowing food grains from the nearby schools was not reported.

3. Role of Teachers

The Ministry of Human Resource Development Guidelines of 2006 for Mid Day Meal Scheme (p. 24) specifically mentions that teachers should be involved in ensuring that (a) good quality, wholesome food is served to children, and (b) the actual serving and eating is undertaken in a spirit of togetherness, under hygienic conditions, and in an orderly manner so that the entire process is completed in 30-40 minutes. It should however, be ensured that the food prepared is tasted by 2-3 adults including at least one teacher before it is served to children.

Thus, the role of teachers is very clearly delineated and as the responsible persons at the site of delivery they are primarily responsible for the quality of the food served, the way it is served and eaten and the system that is in place for delivery of the mid day meal scheme. The role of teachers becomes all the more important as he/she is the only official who is physically present to monitor the process of preparing the MDM – measure the grains in accordance with the number of children present on a given day, ensure the availability of requisite food grains, other material including vegetables required and fuel for cooking, quality of the food cooked, regularity in serving hot cooked meals, the way it is served to the children, hygiene standards followed by the children before and after eating the meal, seating arrangement of the children during the meal and so on.

Teachers are also responsible for general oversight on issues of hygiene and cleanliness of the kitchen as well as the practices followed by the cooks in preparing the meals and the surroundings in which the meals are served. In several schools stray dogs were found to be disturbing children while they were eating their food and the teachers in the schools did little about this menace.



Practices to be discouraged

The Head Teacher of the schools visited maintained the MDM Register where the number of children availing of the MDM scheme on each day, what has been cooked, quantity of food grains consumed and the amount of conversion cost utilized, reason for interruption when MDM is not cooked, etc are recorded. However, the records are just for the month and it is not possible to ascertain the stock of food grains and the funds available with the school. Though the MDM Register has made provision for recording these details, these records are not being maintained. Besides this, the attendance register of cooks and helpers and disbursement of their monthly honorarium are also maintained by the Head Teacher.

The bank passbook for the MDM account was found with the Head Teacher and many a times it was not updated. As a result teachers were often unaware of amounts debited to their account and payments were outstanding for long periods of time. Though the Pradhan is a joint signatory of the MDM bank account, they usually did not keep track of the fund flow. The teachers reportedly experience problems with the bank in getting the pass book updated. In one instance the team saw a pass book that had four incomplete entries in hand in a computerized passbook from which it was not possible to understand whether the amounts were debited or credited and their purpose. The recent introduction of conveying to teachers through SMS about fund transfer will surely help improve this situation.

In one school the teacher paid for the conversion cost which amounted to Rs 8,000 and the Pradhan was not signing the cheque to reimburse her the expenditure she had incurred. In the same school the payment to Cooks was pending for six months because of the Pradhan's indifference. As a result the scheme, the concerned functionaries and the children suffered. The Mission, while visiting this school, ensured that the Pradhan signed on all the cheques to clear the pending payments due to the teacher and cooks.

The responsibility of the teacher is far more in schools where the Pradhan is not coordinating the delivery of the mid day meal, either because the Pradhan is living at a distance from the school and it is not possible for the cook to collect the daily supplies or because of differences between the Pradhan and Head Teacher. In the former situation the food grains are stored in the residence of one of the cooks.

Coordinating with the Pradhan for release of food grains in accordance with the number of children present on a given day is a challenge as children keep coming to the school after the school opens. If the meals are cooked on the basis of estimated attendance on that day, it is likely that the meals can be served in the stipulated time. On the contrary, it may not be possible to keep to the time schedule in case the food grains are to be cooked according to the number of children present. The dilemma is whether to provide estimated quantities of cooked meals in time or well measured quantities with possible delay in serving the meals.

The hot cooked meal is not routinely tasted by the teacher and two other adults, as stipulated in the MDM scheme. But in most schools teachers were eating the meal along with the children. In a school in Sitapur, the members of the Mother Teacher Association visit the school daily to check on the quality of the mid day meal served and the school maintains a roster of their visit. This practice has ensured minimum standards of the mid day meal available in this particular school and is recommended for replication by other schools.

The involvement of teachers is more in aided schools where there is no involvement of the local representative of the panchayat (Pradhan) in providing MDM. In such schools teachers have to bear the additional responsibilities of purchasing vegetables and condiments, like pulses, oil and spices and keeping track of the food grain and fund flow.

4. Creation of Capital Assets through Kitchen-cum-stores/Kitchen Devices

Central assistance has been released to the State for the construction of 110467 kitchen-cum-stores. The State has constructed kitchen-cum-stores in 110144 (99.7%) schools. The construction work is in progress in 226 schools. However, the construction in 150 schools is yet to start. **Annexure-3**

Shravasti district has been sanctioned 924 kitchen-cum-stores out of which construction has been completed in all the schools. Similarly, Sitapur district was sanctioned 3165 kitchen-cum-stores out of which construction has been completed in all the schools.

The Joint Review Mission observed that all the visited schools except government aided schools had pucca kitchen-cum-stores. However it was observed in some of the schools (e.g. P S Ratanpur in Sirsiya block of Shravasti) that the food was cooked outside the kitchens as wood/chulha was used as the mode of cooking and there was a lack of proper ventilation. The MDM guidelines envisage that aided schools are



also eligible for assistance for construction of kitchen- cum-store. RTE Act, 2009, also stipulates that all schools must have kitchen-cum-store by 2012-13. The Review Mission found that State Government has not provided funds to Aided school for construction of kitchen-cum-stores.

Central assistance has been released to the State for the procurement of kitchen devices for 176874 schools. Out of these, the State has procured kitchen devices for 158616 (89.7%) schools. The procurement is not yet started for 19854 schools.

Shravasti district has procured all the sanctioned units i.e. 1293 of kitchen devices. Similarly, Sitapur district has also procured all the sanctioned units i.e. 4241 of kitchen devices.



Joint Review Mission also observed though adequate number of cooking utensils were available in majority of the visited schools but still a large number of schools (11) have reported insufficient cooking devices especially in Shravasti district. Some of the schools have also reported cases of thefts. Apart from the cooking utensils, eating plates were not available in majority of the schools. Children were bringing their own eating plates. This resulted in a lot of variation in the shapes and sizes of utensils, many of which were not sufficient to contain adequate amount of food as per norms.



5. Appointment of Cook-cum-helpers

The State Government has engaged 3,90,181 Cook-cum-helpers. Thus the State Government is following the MDM guidelines for empowering the women by providing them opportunities for employment and income generation.

The Review Mission observed that the visited schools had engaged adequate number of cook-cum-helpers for preparing and serving the mid-day-meal to the children in both the districts viz. Shravasti and Sitapur **Annexure-4**. Joint Review Mission further noticed that some Primary and Upper Primary schools located in the same premises have engaged cook-cum-helpers on the basis of combined enrolment for both the schools. In some schools the cooking is also done in one kitchen shed only. Ministry of HRD have initiated a program for training of cook cum helpers as Master trainers through Institutes of Hotel Managements under Ministry of Tourism.

6. Capacity building and Training for MDM officials and SMC members.

In order gear the system for efficient implementation efforts have been made in Uttar Pradesh to develop a clear understanding of the MDM scheme among officials at different levels of the

delivery structure. Orientation workshops have been organised from 2010-11 for Divisional, District and Block level officials of the Basic Education Department with support from UNICEF.

Year	Officials Oriented	Number of Officials Oriented	Duration	Content
2010-11	Divisional and District Coordinators (MDM)	88	Batch 1 26-27 April 2010 (2 days) Batch 2 28-29 April 2010 (2 days)	Orientation Training Programme (MDM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspective building on MDM • Technical inputs on MDM • Gaps and best practices • Motivational and management inputs (including financial) • Convergence with other programmes • Specific functions and aspects of MDM • Success story – Centralised Kitchen • Community participation in MDM • Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) • Interactive session
2010-11	Divisional and District Coordinators (MDM)	88	Batch 1 28 Sept. 2010 (1 day) Batch 2 29 Sept. 2010 (1 day)	Refresher Training (MDM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic management of MDMS • Role of community participation in effective implementation of MDMS • Safety and hygiene measures to avoid mishaps • Role of Coordinators (MDM) in the scheme • Problems faced in the Field and their remedy
2010-11	Members of NGOs engaged in MDMS	180	Batch 1 30 Nov – 1 Dec 2010 (2 days) Batch 2 2-3 Dec. 2010 (2 days) Batch 3 4-5 Dec. 2010 (2 days)	Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic management of MDMS • Role of community participation in effective implementation of MDMS • Safety and hygiene measures to avoid mishaps • Problems faced by NGOs in the field • Suggestions for improvement in MDM
2011-12	Block Education officers	231	Batch 1 30 Nov 2011 (1 day) Batch 2 1 Dec 2011 (1 day) Batch 3 2 Dec. 2011 (1 day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines and Supreme Court orders on MDMS and Best Practices introduced in MDMS of various state • Management of MDM Register (School, Block, District level) • Role of Community in Efficient management of MDMS • Roles and Responsibilities of BEO and Stakeholders in MDMS • Leadership, Motivation and management skills • Financial Management • The MDMS in the Context of the RTE Act • Nutrition Education • Problems and Remedies related to goodgrain

			<p>Batch 4 22 Dec. 2011 (1 day)</p> <p>Batch 5 23 Dec. 2011 (1 day)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS)
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In addition to the above trainings, one day orientation of BSAs has been scheduled on 2-3 August 2013 in two batches.

The training experience of UP has been shared by MHRD with other states as a best practice with a recommendation for replication.

The team observed that there is a need for training on record keeping which was found to be a weak link in the entire delivery mechanism of the mid day meal scheme in UP. The team was also of the view that the cooks need to be trained on hygiene, safety and security, and inclusive practices so that the scheme is delivered in a non-discriminatory mode.

7. Review of availability of infrastructure, its adequacy



The long term viability and success of the Mid Day Program must be linked to the provision of basic infrastructure required for efficient implementation of the program so that minimum distraction of the teachers as well as the students takes place under the program. All the visited schools

had drinking water facility. Hand pump was used as source of drinking water in most of the visited schools **Annexure-3**. Since only single outlet was available children had to stand in queue for drinking as well as hand washing. Multipoint water taps may be installed in schools for saving water in schools enable a group of children to wash hands in several points.

Non-availability of usable toilet facility leads to less attendance in the schools especially the girl child. Though toilet facilities were available in most of the visited schools, they were not usable/operational in a large number of schools. The cleanliness of the toilets is a big issue. They were stinking and not properly cleaned. Some of them were totally blocked. There is no regular supply of water in the toilets.



Toilets in different conditions

All the visited schools had fire extinguishers in the schools. In some of the schools, the shelf life of fire extinguishers had expired. They were advised to get these filled again if the period of its shelf life had expired.

8. Review of the Cost of Food grain to Food Corporation of India (FCI)

The State Government has made payment of Rs. 159.86 Crore to FCI against the bills raised to the tune of 160.08 Crore during 2012-13. Lifting was 296293MTs for the year 2012-13.

The State has already lifted 38224.57 MTs of food grain till June, 2013. An amount of Rs. 3.66 Crore has been paid to FCI out of bills received to the tune of 10.98Crores

9. Review of the involvement of Mahila Samkhya in the implementation of the scheme.

The Team visited 4 schools in Sitapur where the implementing agency was Mahila Samkhya. The Team observed that there was disruption in MDM and absence / improper record maintenance which effected the smooth implementation of the scheme adversely. The cooks informed that the they are not paid the full honorarium as per the GOI norms. This appears to be a matter of serious concern and the team recommends audit of funds and food grain flow and other aspects of implementation of MDMS.

10. Review of the National Child Labour Project(NCLP) schools:



There are 1,284 NCLP Schools in the state. One team visited Kanpur urban and inspected 3 NCLP Schools. The Schools are run by NGOs and each schools had an enrollment of 50 children. MDM was been served regularly in those schools. record was been maintained of number of children fed and amount of food grains on daily basis. the buffer stock at school level was also maintained. The schools had kitchen sheds and kitchen devices including plates. The cook cum helper are being paid

honorarium regularly except in 1 school (honorarium was paid till Sept, 2012) where the NGO had not submitted the utilization certificate, as a result the teachers were not paid salary for the 12 months by Labour Department, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh.

11. Allocation of Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME) funds to schools.

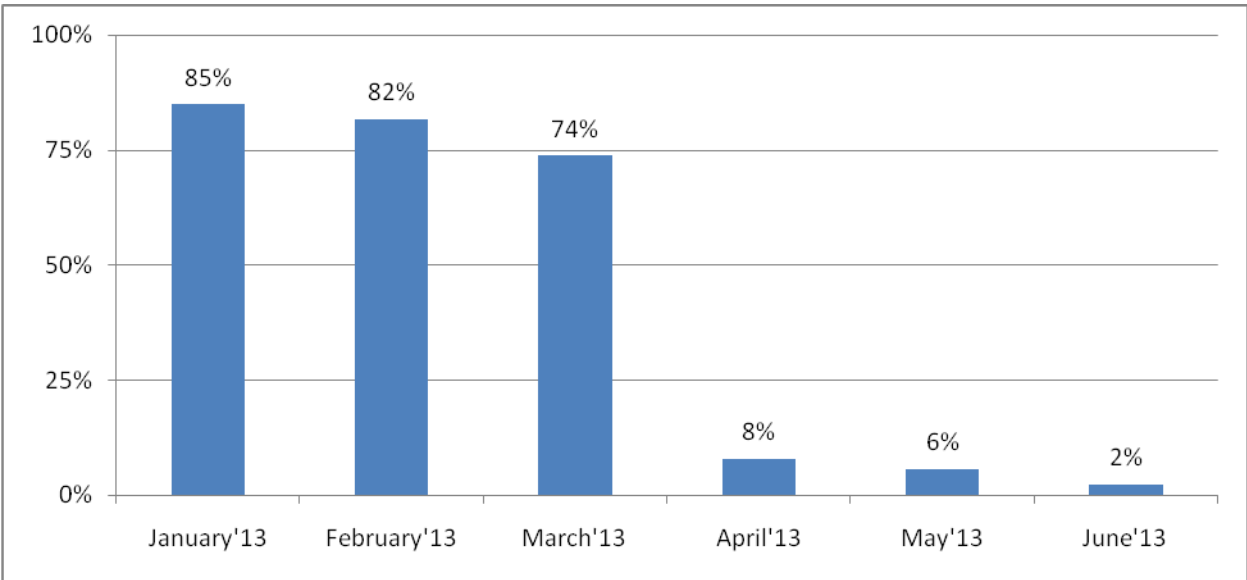
Govt. approved budget of Rs. 2327.82 Lac. under MME in Financial Year 2012-13. Out of the central assistance of Rs. 20178.74 Lac. release by GOI in centrally funded components of food grain cost, MME and transportation, State Govt. released Rs. 2327.82 Lac under MME from State Budget 2012-13. MDM Authority has reported an expenditure of Rs. 2319.52 Lac. in the component as per QPRs of 2012-13.

In Financial Year 2013-14 central assistance of Rs. 607.55 Lac has been released by GOI under MME as adhoc grant. however State Govt. has released Rs. 1000.00 Lac as 1st installment under MME in anticipation of receipt of central assistance well before its actual receipt in State Exchequer. MDM Authority has released Rs. 331.64 Lacs out of this to the districts as 1st installment of fund allocation under MME. An interim expenditure of Rs. 142.80 Lac has been reported under MME till June 2013.

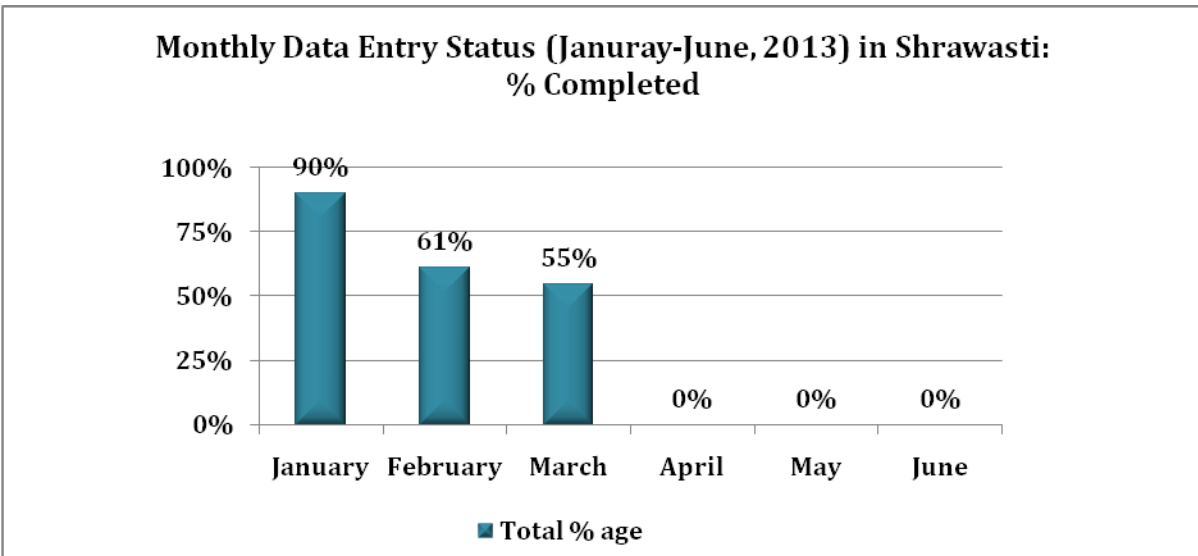
12. Management Information System from School to Block, district and State level to collect the information and dissemination to other stake holders.

MIS is an important management tool for monitoring the implementation of the scheme. It is relevant to mention the Govt. of India had launched MDM-MIS portal in collaboration with NIC. In this connection various orientations as well as hands-on training sessions have been conducted at regular intervals. The State has completed Annual Data Entry 99.8% of the schools in the financial year 2012-13. Further, both the Districts have completed Annual Data Entry for almost all the schools in financial year 2012-13. As far as Annual Data Entry for the financial year 2013-14 is concerned, the State has completed the same for 14% of the schools.

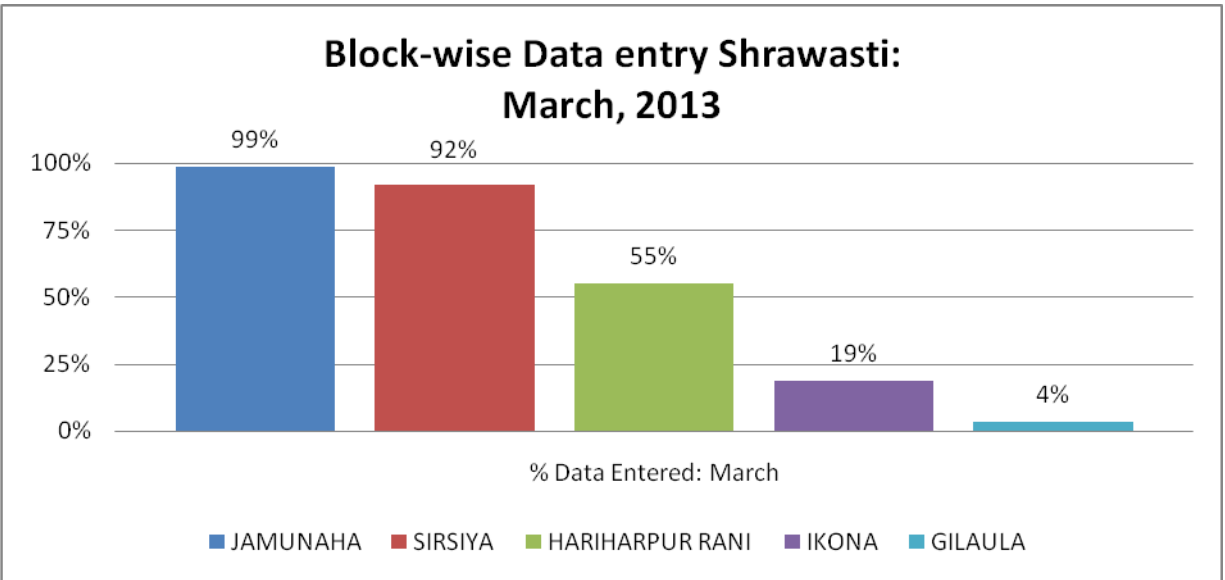
As far as monthly data entry is concerned, the State has completed the same for 74% of the schools in the month of March, 2013 though the same has reduced to 2% in the month of June, 2013 **Annexure-7**.



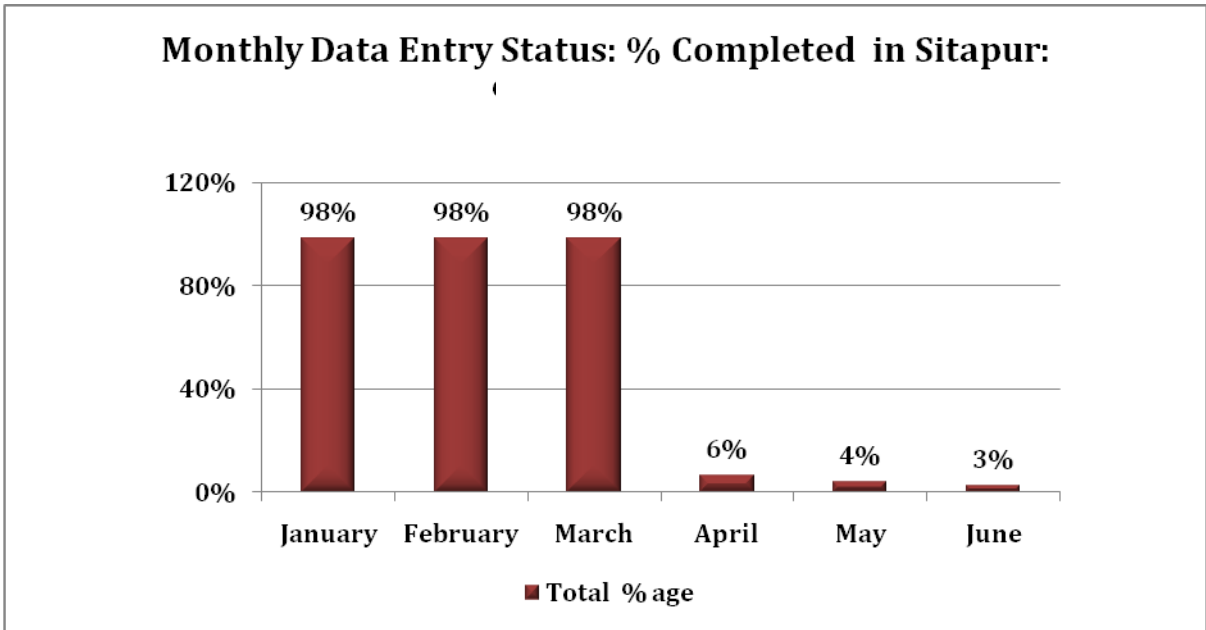
Further, in Shravasti district, the data entry has been completed for only 55% schools in month of March which further reduces to 0% in the subsequent months i.e. April, May, June, 2013. The issue was discussed with the officials at district and block. It was informed that the data is collected from the schools by the block level officials and same is submitted to the district headquarters where the data is being entered. It was also informed that it becomes quite difficult to enter the data all the schools monthly by a single data entry operator at the district level.



The block-wise data entry status for the month of March, 2013 was also analyzed. The data for 99% of the schools have entered in Jamunaha block whereas the same has been completed for only 4% of the schools in Gilaula block.



The monthly data entry position is a lot better in Sitapur district, where the data entry has been completed for 98% schools in the month of March, 2013 though the same has reduced drastically in subsequent months i.e. only 3% in the month of June, 2013.



State should take appropriate action for completing the monthly data entry on priority basis especially in Shrawasti District.

The team also analyzed the monthly data of the visited schools captured in the MDM-MIS portal (as per the completion of monthly data entry) and compared the same with the data captured during the school visit. The major discrepancies observed are as under:

Discrepancies in data reported during field visit and MDM-MIS portal: disruption

S.No	District Name	Name of the Block	Name of School	Month & Year	Disruption in serving MDM	
					As per school visit	As per MIS
1	Shravasti	Jamunaha	U P S, Gauspur	March, 2013	14 days	1 Day
2	Shravasti	Jamunaha	P S, Gauspur	Mar, 2013	10 days	1 Day
3	Shravasti	Hariharpur Rani	P S, Pandey Purwa	Feb, 2013	15 days	1 Day
4	Sitapur	Pisawan	U P S, Arthana	Mar, 2013	Full Month	No disruption
5	Sitapur	Pisawan	P S, Arthana	Mar, 2013	Full Month	No disruption
6	Sitapur	Gondlamau	Pry school Khelgarhi	Jul, 2012	Full Month	No disruption

It was observed that a disruption in serving of MDM was observed in some of the schools during the visit whereas the same has not been reported in the monthly data entered in the MDM-MIS portal. It is recommended that the functionaries at the block and District level should be oriented to enter the correct data into the MDM-MIS portal.

13. Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS)

I.V.R.S. system has been introduced to supervise the M.D.M. program implementation at school level on day to day basis. Daily monitoring of regularity of meals provided being successfully done through IVRS based real-time monitoring. IVR System collect data from the school by calling the teacher and ask for the number of children having mid day meal on the present day (“AAJ AAPKE VIDYALAY ME KITNE BACHCHON KE KHANA KHAYA, KRIPAYA BATAN DABA KAR BHARIYE”). Data obtained by using IVRS is updated/validated in the month end from the records/photocopy of MDM register page maintained at school level. It is done with the help of NPRCs. Commissioners, District Magistrates, BSAs, Nagar Shiksha Adhikaria and Block Education Officers have been given a Login on the website (www.upmdm.in) to monitor & supervise the programme on daily basis with the help of IVRS. SMSes are sent to the teachers about the information of food grain, Conversion Cost and Cooks-Honorarium allotted to their schools. This is very helpful to the teachers since they come to know their allotment details. It is also being planned to verify the payment of cooks through I.V.R. system. Configurable Exception reports like MDM not served schools, Information not received, Teachers not responding to IVR call and BEO/NSA not logged in on the website. Apart from these an SMS also send to the Director MDM, DM, BSA and BEO/NSA regarding the number of schools with no MDM served on daily basis. Similarly the information of Schools where MDM not served for more than 3 days is also sent via email to the DM and BSAs on weekly basis.

The team also analyzed the data collected on the disruptions in serving MDM in the schools and same was verified with the corresponding data collected through IVRS. It was found that large disruptions for the corresponding period have also been reported by IVRS also. This indicates that though IVRS has helped a lot in gathering the MDM related data from the grassroot level, the follow up action is not taken timely by the concerned authorities. The block level officials should have inspected the schools where significant disruption has been reported. Had the timely action been taken after receiving/viewing the exception reports generated by the IVRS, large scale disruptions would have been avoided.

S.No	District Name	Name of the Block	Name of School	Disruption in serving MDM
1	Shravasti	Jamunaha	U P S, Gauspur	10 days in March, April (Full Month), 2013
2	Shravasti	Jamunaha	P S, Gauspur	9 days in Jan, 14 days in Mar, Apr (Full Month), 2013
3	Shravasti	Ikona	P S, BaidoraMasrik	7 days in March, April (Full Month), 3 days in July, 2013
4	Shravasti	Ikona	U P S, BaidoraMasrik	7 days in March, April (Full Month), 3 days in July, 2013
5	Shravasti	Sirsia	P S, Ratanpur	12 Days in April, 4 days in May, 2013
6	Shravasti	Sirsia	U P S, Semrhateteheria	30 days
7	Shravasti	Sirsia	P S, Semrhateteheria	25 days in July, 10 days in Sep, Full month in October, 2012 16 days in Jan, Full month in Feb, 3 days in July, 2013
8	Shravasti	Sirsia	P S, Girls, Teteheria	25 days in July, 6 days in Sep, 31 days in Oct, 10 days in Dec, 2012 17 days in Jan, 23 days in Mar, 13 days in Apr, 2013
9	Shravasti	Hariharpur Rani	P S, PandeyPurwa	13 days in Jul, 6 days in Aug, 16 days in Sep, 8 days in Oct, 6 days in Nov, 3 days in Dec 2012, 14 days in Jan, 15 days in Feb, 1 day in Mar, 14 days in Apr, 3 days in May, 2013
10	Shravasti	Hariharpur Rani	U P S, PandeyPurwa	11 days in Jul, 5 days in Sep, 19 days in Oct, 6 days in Nov, 3 days in Jan, 1 day in Feb, 20 days in Apr, 2013

11	Shravasti	Hariharpur Rani	Anwar Muslim Jr. High School	July, Aug, Sep, Oct (Full month), 3 days in Nov, 2012
12	Shravasti	Gilola	Pry School Mohamadapur	5 days in July 2013, 5 days in May 2013, whole July 2012, 5 days in August 2012
13	Shravasti	Gilola	Pry school Darjipura	4 days July 2013, July , August upto 20th September in 2012
14	Shravasti	Sirsia	Pry school Kathkuia Kala	15 days in April 2013
15	Shravasti	Sirsia	Up school Kathkuia Kala	15 days in April 2013
16	Shravasti	Sirsia	Pry School Kathkuia	2 days in May, 2 days in March, 2 days in April, 4 days July 2013
17	Shravasti	Sirsia	Pry school Gulra	7 days in January 2013, 4 days in March 2013, 19 days in April 2013,
18	Sitapur	Sidhauri	PadhishVidyaMandir Jr. High School	11 days in Jul, 7 days in Sep 2012 16 days in Jan, 6 days in Feb, 5 days in May 2013
19	Sitapur	Pisawan	U P S, Arthana	9 days in Jul, 10 days in Dec 2012, March (Full Month), April(14 days) 2013
20	Sitapur	Pisawan	P S, Arthana	9 days in Jul, March (Full Month), April(14 days) 2013
21	Sitapur	Sidholi	Pry school Neelgaon –I	7 months from 21st March 2009 to 24th September 2009
22	Sitapur	Gondlamau	Pry school Khelgarhi	Few days in January 2013, Whole month in July, few days in Nov and Dec 2012
23	Sitapur	Gondlamau	Pry school Barbatpur	2 days in July 2013, 5 days in November and 10 days in December 2012

The team also tried to validate the data collected on number of children availed MDM in last 10 days with the corresponding data collected through IVRS. It was observed that in most of the schools the results matched except some of the schools.:

School: PS Baidora Mashrikh **District:** Shravasti **Block:** Ikona

Reported through	Date	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
IVRS	जुलाई, 2013	0	0	0	11	11	11	-	11	11
Field Inspection		0	0	0	15	35	40		20	27

The above data shows that constant figure is continuously reported through IVRS whereas as per the data collected through inspections the figures are varying.

School name-Janta Inter College **District:** Shravasti **Block:** Hariharpur Rani

Reported through	Date	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
IVRS	July, 2013	145	160	160	52	105	100	-	75	75
Field Inspection		106	123	108	52	106	100		50	53

School: PS Khalegarhi **Block:** Gondlamau **District:** Sitapur

Reported through	Date	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
IVRS	July, 2013	40		49	54	34	45	-	44	45
Field Inspection		20		34	54	34	40	-	44	45

The above data shows that per the IVRS number of children availed MDM has been reported more than that reported in the school registers.

The team recommends that some of the patterns may be identified e.g. same number reported for consecutive number of days, coverage of children same as children enrolled. Accordingly the exceptions reports should be generated and shared with the functionaries at Block and District level so that data can be validated and timely action can be taken accordingly.

The team also recommends that system should be able to validate the data entered by the school representatives. The phone numbers of the village panchayat and/or VEC committee members may be collected and every week, some of the sample data (2-5% weekly) collected through IVRS may be shared with members of panchayat and VEC committee members through SMS along with the call center helpline number where the member can call in case of any variations observed.

14. Assess the involvement of community in implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme

Involvement of Community in implementation of MDM scheme.

Presently, the Pradhan as the head of the village level elected body (Gram Panchayat) under the system of local self-government and also as the representative of the local community has been vested with the responsibility of managing the provision of the MDM in schools. While the Pradhan's role is to manage the regular delivery of the MDM scheme with quality in coordination with different actors, oversight by the parents of the children availing the meals as well as members of the local community can further contribute towards improving the quality of the meals being served in the schools.

The Mission tried to understand the dimension of community involvement in the implementation of the MDM scheme through interactions with multiple stakeholders at the school level and found rather low levels of community participation. In most instances, the community remained cut off from the process and was not aware of the quality and quantity that was being served to the children. They neither showed any specific interest in this regard. The exception was the one school in Sitapur district where the Mother Teacher Association members checked the MDM on a daily basis and maintained a roster of the visits made.

Though there is no specific mention in either the national or state guidelines on MDM that the SMC will be involved in the implementation of the same, the team members explored this further to understand whether the SMCs were playing any direct role in the implementation of the MDM scheme or were overseeing other aspects of the hot cooked meals being provided to the children. Evidently their involvement has been limited in most of the schools visited. From the register of the SMC monthly meeting minutes it was found that only a few of the SMCs actually discussed issues related to the MDM being served. This was rather encouraging and the Mission would recommend that oversight by the SMC be mandated as it is supposed to be working for the betterment of the school and the children under the RTE Act 2009.



Social Audit : Attempt by the JRM

While visiting the schools at Ikona Block of Shrawasti District, it was observed that there were huge disruptions in serving mid day meals in the District. It was also found that the schools were not having food grains as it was stored in the houses of the Pradhans and no record were maintained in the schools. The position was not clear about the status of utilization of food grains. It was also not possible for the Team could to physically inspect the quantity and quality of food grains. This matter was raised before the District Magistrate, Shrawasti and a request was made that District Supply Officer may accompany the Team to the Kothedar/Fair Price Shop to study the trail of the food grains supply and availability.

A visit was made to the Kothedar in Baidora Masri of Ikona Block of Shrawasti district on 9.7.2013 and records from the Kothedar were obtained. The Team went to PS and UPS Baidora Masri and called the Pradhan, Smt Maina Devi, and her husband (who was operating as the de facto Pradhan) to be present. The husband of Pradhan was also called there and the issue of food grains was raised in public – by then members of the local community including parents of the children enrolled in the schools had gathered. The following facts came to light:-

Period Jan-March 2013	P.S. Baidora Mishrikh			U.P.S. Baidora Mishrikh		
	Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
Food grain received by Gram Pradhan (in Quintals)	3.720	1.860	5.580	2.912	1.456	4.368
Food grain utilized in school (in Quintals)	2.656	0.185	2.841	2.189	0.168	2.357
Food grain misappropriated (!)(in Quintals)	1.064	1.675	2.739	0.723	1.288	2.011

The above facts show that in 3 months' time the gram Pradhan had misappropriated more than 4 quintals of food grain. The villagers who had collected in the schools were asked whether their children are getting the mid day meal regularly. They unequivocally said that mid day meal is not served regularly on the ground that there is no food grain. The villagers further stated that they are prepared to register complaints in this regard.

15. Grievance Redressal Mechanism

State Government has a Toll-Free Number 1800-4190-102 for registration of complaints regarding the implementation of scheme. In 2012-13 MDM Authority received 154 complaints through this channel out of which 83 complaints were resolved and rest are in the process of resolution. Around 20 complaints have been resolved through phone. Complaints could also be lodged by sending a simple letter to MDM Authority at State level or other district level authorities like DM, SDM, BDO or BSA.

The team observed in all the visited schools in both the districts the Toll-Free number was not found to be displayed on the prominent wall of the schools. The team strongly feels that for the better implementation of the scheme and to create awareness, the toll-free number should be displayed on prominent wall of the schools.

16. Use of Fuel for cooking

Fuel used in the MDM kitchens was an area of study by the JRM team. In all 21 schools visited were using LPG for cooking – six in Shravasti and 15 in Sitapur. Of these 21 schools six had provisions of cooking with firewood as well. And two of these schools are in Shravasti and four in Sitapur. There were some issues related to the supply of LPG refill cylinders because there is no door step delivery system and the distance of the agency from the school. All the four NCLP schools visited in Kanpur city were using LPG and reportedly had to purchase the cylinders from the open market to meet their requirements.



be more hygienic and clean.

As against this, a majority of the schools were found to be using firewood for cooking the meals – of the 46 schools, 26 are in Shravasti and 20 in Sitapur. Talking to the management of these schools most of them seemed to be unaware of the provision of LPG under the mid day meal scheme. They should be encouraged to get LPG connections as that would reduce the health hazard and risk involved in cooking with firewood. Besides the health gains, the process of preparing the meals could



17. Hand wash

Handwashing with soap has been found to be one of the most cost-effective interventions to prevent diarrhoea related deaths and disease; it reduces the incidence of ARIs by more than 20%. Handwashing at critical times (before eating or preparing food and after using the toilet - can reduce diarrhea rates by almost 40 per cent. Handwashing in institutions such as primary schools reduces

the incidence of diarrhea by an average of 30 per cent. Lower morbidity in turn results in reduced absenteeism among primary school children.

Government of India has accordingly, embarked on a new initiative to promote hand washing with soap before the Mid Day Meals, as a campaign in all schools of India.

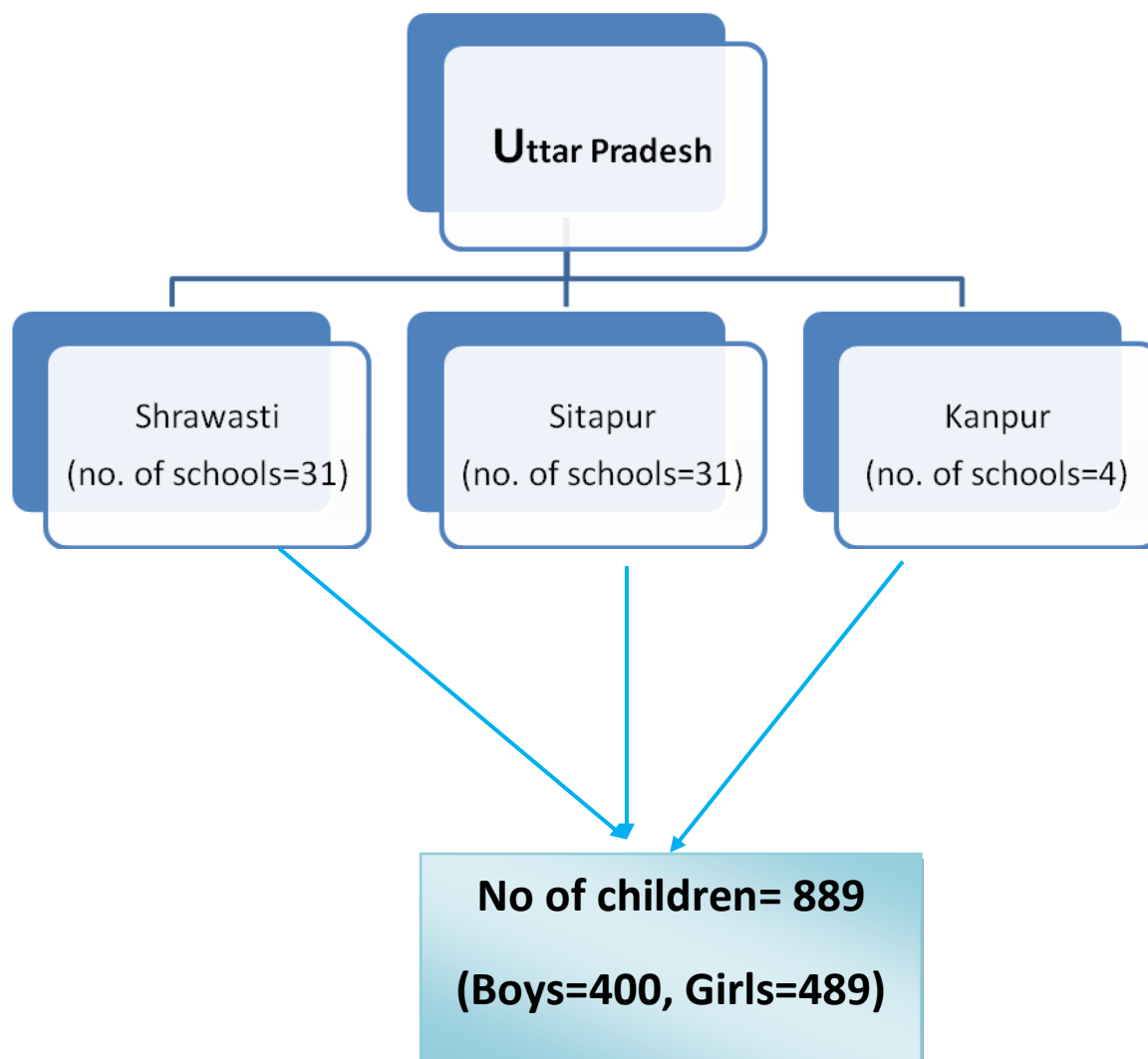
All states have been requested to initiate simple, cost effective and sustainable interventions that promote hand washing by school children as part of the daily school activity that is monitored and encouraged by the school teachers. In collaboration with UNICEF, the Ministry is promoting simple and scalable multiple hand washing facilities in schools that allow children to exchange messages through eye-to-eye contact as a fun time activity. Hand washing platforms are designed to encourage children to wash hands with soap as a social norm. Leading Corporate Undertakings, have been requested to allocate a generous amount to reach the maximum number of students from their CSR budgets. For a sum of Rs 6 crores they can reach 10000 schools and almost 2,00,000 children. The State Govt. may also send a proposal to the GOI in this regard.

B: Nutrition assessment of children availing MDM in schools of Uttar Pradesh

Methodology

Sampling design

Three districts i.e. Shrawasti, Sitapur and Kanpur were selected. Sixty six schools were taken. A total number of 889 school children availing MDM were studied. Sub sample of school children comprised of 400 boys and 389 girls. 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 year 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).

The nutritional status of children was assessed on the basis of BMI Z-score classification given by WHO:

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

Children were categorized stunted i.e. low height for age based on WHO criteria which is Z-score lower than -2SD. Likewise children were also categorized as wasted i.e. low weight for age as per WHO criteria i.e. weight for age having less than -2SD.

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).

Clinical survey

Clinical survey was conducted to observe clear cut visible signs of deficiencies in different body parts related with protein, vitamin A, B complex and iron.

Diet pattern

The students were asked for their daily diet 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 of the previous day. No. of meals and the foods taken in different meal were noted. The no.of meals taken by the child in a day were analyzed to see the contribution of MDM in the diet of school children.

Food pattern

Apart from staple diet i.e. wheat, rice and potato which was taken by almost all the children proportion of children taking Dal, fruits and vegetables, milk and meat & egg were analyzed.

Anthropometric measurements and nutritional status:

Total 889 subjects were selected from 66 schools of the state. Studied population consisted of 400 boys and 489 girls. Out of 889, 618 were from primary school and 271 were from upper primary school. All the children were measured for their height, weight and MUAC. The average values are given in Table 1 for weight, height and MUAC.

Table 1. Age-wise anthropometric measurements of children of UP availing MDM

Age (years)	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	MUAC (cm)	BMI (kg/m ²)
Boys				
5+	104.50±0.71	15.50±0.71	14.50±0.71	14.19±0.46

6+	110.61±8.11	15.95±4.27	13.85±2.07	12.92±2.38
7+	113.73±7.91	16.53±2.71	14.68±2.14	12.82±1.87
8+	117.52±7.89	18.08±3.38	15.23±2.09	13.04±1.76
9+	123.29±9.15	19.99±3.18	15.72±1.32	13.16±1.65
10+	127.43±8.64	22.01±4.41	16.52±2.19	13.49±1.91
11+	135.05±9.70	25.26±5.22	17.80±2.69	13.78±1.95
12+	137.79±7.63	27.17±4.26	18.09±1.81	14.27±1.70
13+	138.69±7.50	27.54±4.75	18.42±2.10	14.25±1.53
14+	148.06±12.67	32.97±6.39	20.06±2.29	14.94±1.48
15+	154.00±6.22	35.25±8.50	20.88±2.50	14.71±2.30
Girls				
6+	110.61±7.04	16.00±3.52	14.84±2.41	13.04±2.32
7+	112.95±8.41	16.90±4.79	14.92±1.17	13.09±2.67
8+	116.98±6.70	18.58±3.40	15.74±1.33	13.54±1.98
9+	121.90±8.81	19.88±3.72	15.95±1.54	13.33±1.61
10+	124.88±8.14	21.58±3.95	16.27±1.84	13.79±1.67
11+	132.41±8.32	24.54±4.84	17.60±1.64	13.90±1.86
12+	140.27±8.06	29.17±5.36	18.67±1.97	14.77±2.04
13+	143.32±9.22	31.36±7.09	18.95±2.61	15.15±2.45
14+	146.92±5.43	34.96±5.06	21.09±2.18	16.21±2.23
15+	143.71±4.15	36.00±4.86	22.57±1.99	17.45±2.36
16+	149.50±0.71	37.50±6.36	23.25±0.35	16.77±2.69

Table 2. Nutritional status of primary and upper primary school children as per gender in Shrawasti District

BMI Z Score				
Primary schools				
Gender	Normal n (%)	Moderate undernutrition n (%)	Severe undernutrition n (%)	Total
Boys	47 (44.34)	25 (23.58)	34 (32.07)	106
Girls	65 (53.72)	33 (27.72)	23 (19)	121
Total	112 (49.34)	58 (25.55)	57 (25.11)	227
Upper Primary schools				
Boys	20 (32.26)	14 (22.58)	28 (45.16)	62
Girls	31 (41.33)	22 (29.33)	22 (29.33)	75
Total	51 (37.23)	36 (26.28)	50 (36.49)	137

In Shrawasti out of 227 children, 50 per cent children were normal and 50 per cent were moderately and severely undernourished in primary schools. In upper primary school of Shrawasti district, incidence of undernutrition was higher i.e. 63 per cent. Proportion of undernutrition was higher among upper primary schools showing continued malnutrition with increasing age.

Table 3. Nutritional status of primary and upper primary school children as per gender in Sitapur District

BMI Z scores					
Primary school					
Gender	Normal n (%)	Moderate undernutrition n (%)	Severe undernutrition n (%)	Overweight n (%)	Total
Boys	72 (45.57)	44(27.85)	41 (25.95)	1 (0.63)	158
Girls	115 (58.08)	43 (21.71)	39 (19.69)	1 (0.50)	198
Total	187 (52.53)	87 (24.44)	80 (24.47)	2 (0.56)	356
Upper primary school					
Boys	26 (46.43)	15 (26.78)	15 (26.78)	0	56
Girls	46 (58.97)	21 (26.92)	11 (14.10)	0	78
Total	72 (53.73)	36 (26.86)	26 (19.40)	0	134

In Sitapur district similar trend was observed in primary school i.e. 52 per cent were normal and 48 per cent were having moderate and severe undernutrition, respectively. The condition in upper primary school was better in Sitapur district as the percentages of normal children was 54 per cent and about 46 per cent were undernourished.

Table 4. Nutritional status of primary and upper primary school children as per gender in Uttar Pradesh

BMI Z Score					
Primary school					
Gender	Normal n (%)	Moderate undernutrition n (%)	Severe undernutrition n (%)	Overweight n (%)	Total
Boys	123 (43.61)	73 (25.89)	85 (30.14)	1(0.35)	282
Girls	185 (55.05)	77 (22.92)	73 (21.73)	1 (0.29)	336
Total	308 (49.83)	150 (24.27)	158 (25.57)	2 (0.32)	618
Upper primary school					
Boys	46 (38.98)	29 (24.58)	43 (36.44)	0	118
Girls	77 (50.33)	43 (28.10)	33 (21.57)	0	153
total	123 (45.39)	72 (26.57)	76 (28.04)	0	271

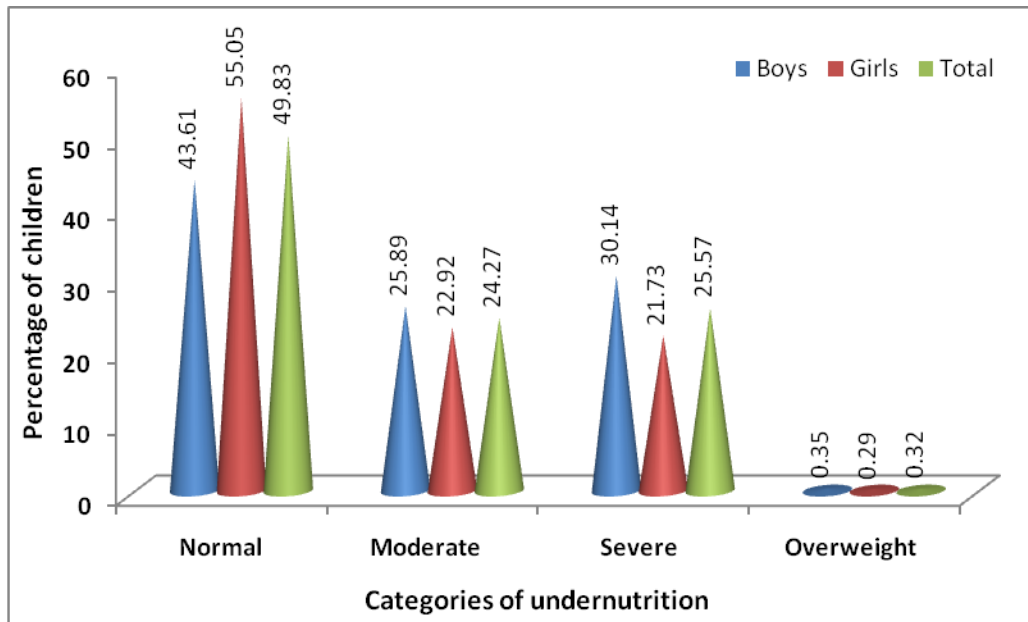


Fig. 1 Prevalence of under nutrition among primary school children based on BMI z-score

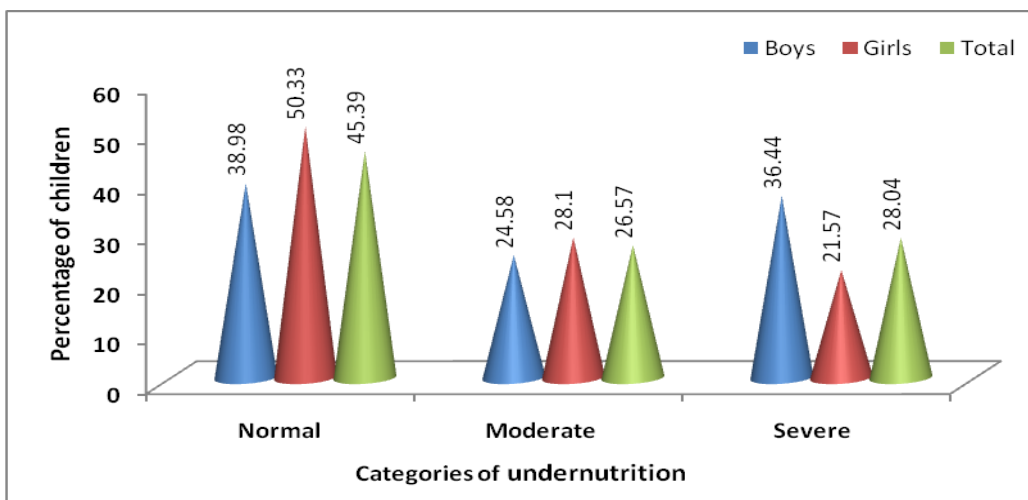


Fig. 2 Prevalence of under nutrition among upper primary school children

Using the criteria of height for age (Z- score) children were classified into two categories stunted and normal. In the present state more than half of boys availing MDM in school were found to be stunted i.e. 50.25 per cent. Similar was the case with girls as more than half i.e. 54.40 per cent were found to be stunted. No specific pattern was found in the prevalence of stunting among children in relation to age. This could be related to intake of MDM which is contributing 30-50 per cent of daily nutrient intake of 66 per cent of children.

Table 5. Classification of School children on the basis of height for age (Z score)

Boys			
Age (years)	Stunted n(%)	Normal n(%)	Total
5+	0	2	2
6 +	17 (41.46)	24 (58.54)	41
7 +	18 (54.54)	15 (45.45)	33
8 +	18 (58.06)	13 (41.94)	31
9 +	21 (50)	21 (50)	42
10 +	39 (51.32)	37 (48.68)	76
11 +	20 (36.36)	35 (63.64)	55
12+	28 (49.12)	29 (50.88)	57
13+	20 (62.5)	12 (37.5)	32
14+	18 (69.23)	8 (30.77)	26
15+	2(40)	3 (60)	5
Total	201 (50.25)	199 (49.75)	400
Girls			
Age (years)	Stunted	Normal	Total
6 +	12 (31.58)	26 (68.42)	38
7 +	24 (55.81)	19 (44.19)	43
8+	24 (53.33)	21 (46.67)	45
9+	33 (51.56)	31 (48.44)	64
10+	55 (68.75)	25 (31.25)	80
11+	46 (60.53)	30 (39.47)	76
12+	33 (47.14)	37 (52.86)	70
13+	19 (50)	19 (50)	38
14+	11 (44)	14 (56)	25

15+	6 (85.71)	1 (14.29)	7
16+	1 (50)	1 (50)	2
17+	0	1 (100)	1
Total	266 (54.40)	223 (45.60)	489

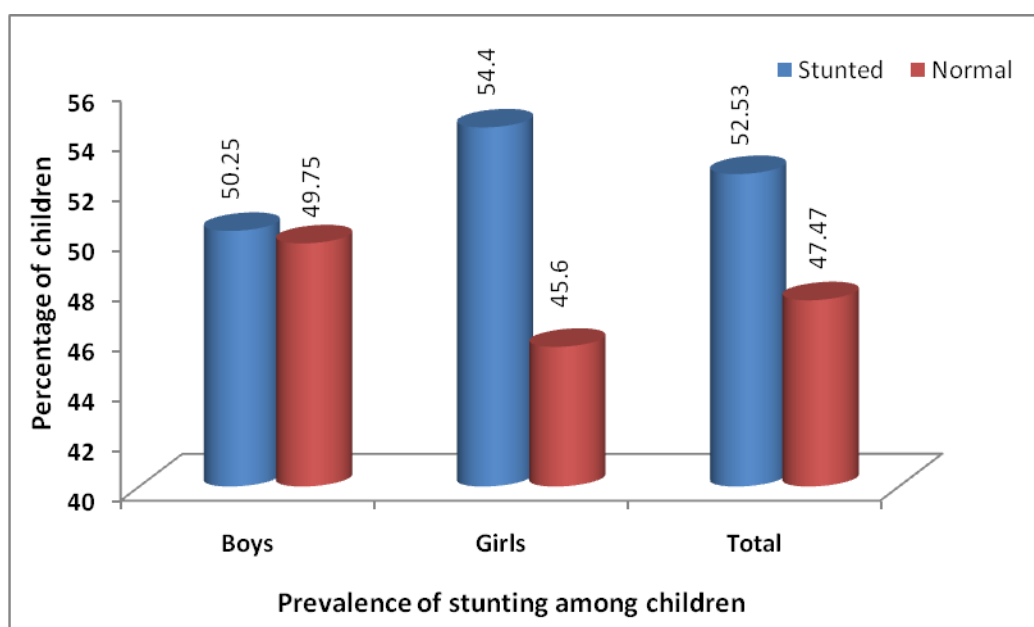


Fig. 3 Classification of children on the basis of height for age (Z score)

Using the standard weight for age (z score) children were classified into two categories normal and wasted. This criterion shows low weight for age. In the present state, 72.64 per cent boys and 64.82 per cent girls, respectively, availing MDM in the schools were found to be wasted.

Table 6. Classification of children on the basis of weight for age (Z score)

Boys			
Age (years)	Wasted n(%)	Normal n(%)	Total
5+	0	2 (100)	02
6 +	22 (70.97)	9 (29.03)	31
7+	26 (78.79)	7 (21.21)	33
8+	27 (87.96)	4 (12.90)	31

9+	34 (80.96)	8 (19.05)	42
10+	45 (60)	30 (40)	75
Total	154 (72.64)	60 (27.36)	214
Girls (years)			
Age (years)	Wasted	Normal	Total
6+	17 (44.74)	21 (55.26)	38
7+	24 (55.81)	9 (20.93)	43
8+	28 (62.22)	17 (37.78)	45
9+	43 (67.19)	21 (32.81)	64
10+	63 (78.80)	17 (21.2)	80
Total	175 (64.82)	85 (31.48)	270

This shows the condition of wasting due to low intake of protein and calories. Wasting indicates the immediate low intake of diet. Data on stunting and wasting indicate that the nutrients intake in past as well as in the present time is inadequate. Therefore, the quality of MDM needs to be improved.

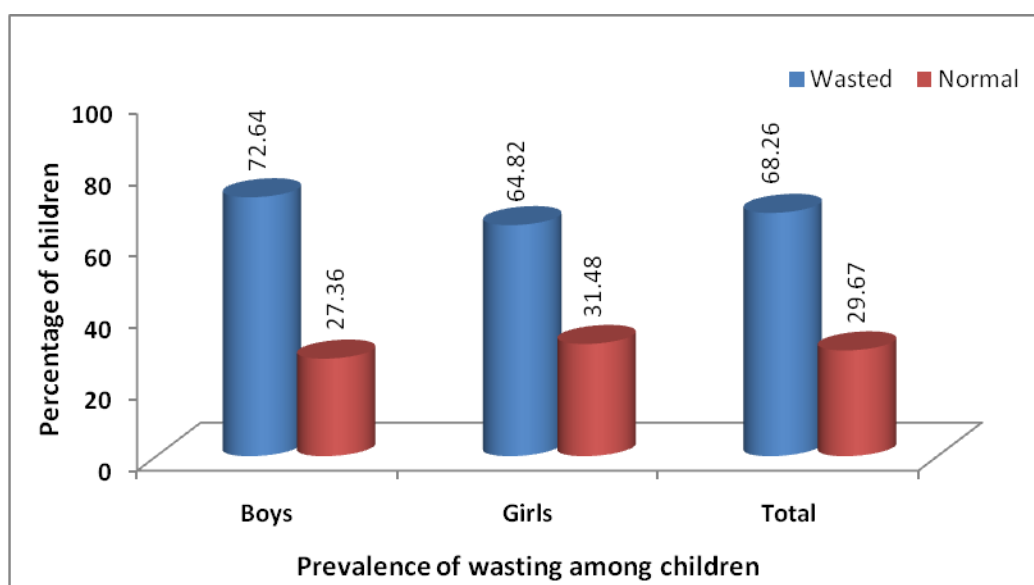


Fig. 4 Classification of children on the basis of weight for age (Z- score)

Nutritional status as per clinical symptoms

All the children were clinically examined by the JRM team members and physicians of PHC of Uttar Pradesh. Proportions of children with varying degree of clinical signs and symptoms related with nutrient deficiency were observed in school children (N=889). The major deficiency signs observed were depigmentation of hair suggestive of protein deficiency, evident in 38% of school children. Pale conjunctiva and pale skin suggestive of anaemia of varying degrees was evident in 50% of children. This could be correlated with the intake of the food by the children which is deficient in protective foods like pulses, egg, milk, fruits and vegetables.

Table 7. Clinical signs and symptoms of nutrient deficiency in school children of three districts of U.P.

Body Parts	Symptoms	Proportions of children with varying degree of clinical symptoms (N=889)							
		0		+		++		+++	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Hair	Depigmentation	549	61.75	236	26.55	78	8.78	26	2.92
	Easy Pluckability	799	89.87	67	7.54	12	1.35	11	1.24
Eyes	Dark adaptation time	817	91.91	66	7.42	5	0.56	1	0.11
	Bitot spot	849	95.50	35	3.94	4	0.45	1	0.11
	Pale conjunctiva	443	49.83	320	36	98	11.02	28	3.15
Teeth	Mottled enamel	648	72.89	204	22.95	30	3.37	7	0.79
	DMF teeth	554	62.31	264	29.7	55	6.19	16	1.8
Gums	Spongy bleeding gums	853	95.95	32	3.6	4	0.45	0	0
Mouth	Cracked lips	861	96.86	25	2.81	2	0.22	1	0.11
	Cracked at the corner of lips	840	94.5	42	4.72	5	0.56	2	0.22

	Magenta tongue	858	96.52	26	2.92	5	0.56	0	0
Skin	Pale skin	448	50.4	347	39.03	72	8.1	22	2.47
	Rough skin/dermatitis	829	93.25	47	5.29	10	1.12	3	0.34
	Follicular hyperkeratosis	869	97.76	17	1.91	2	0.22	1	0.11

Note: 0-Absence of clinical symptoms

+, ++,+++ shows mild, moderate and severe deficiency respectively

Proportion of protein deficiency was more in girls than boys whereas evidence of anaemia was almost same in both boys and girls.

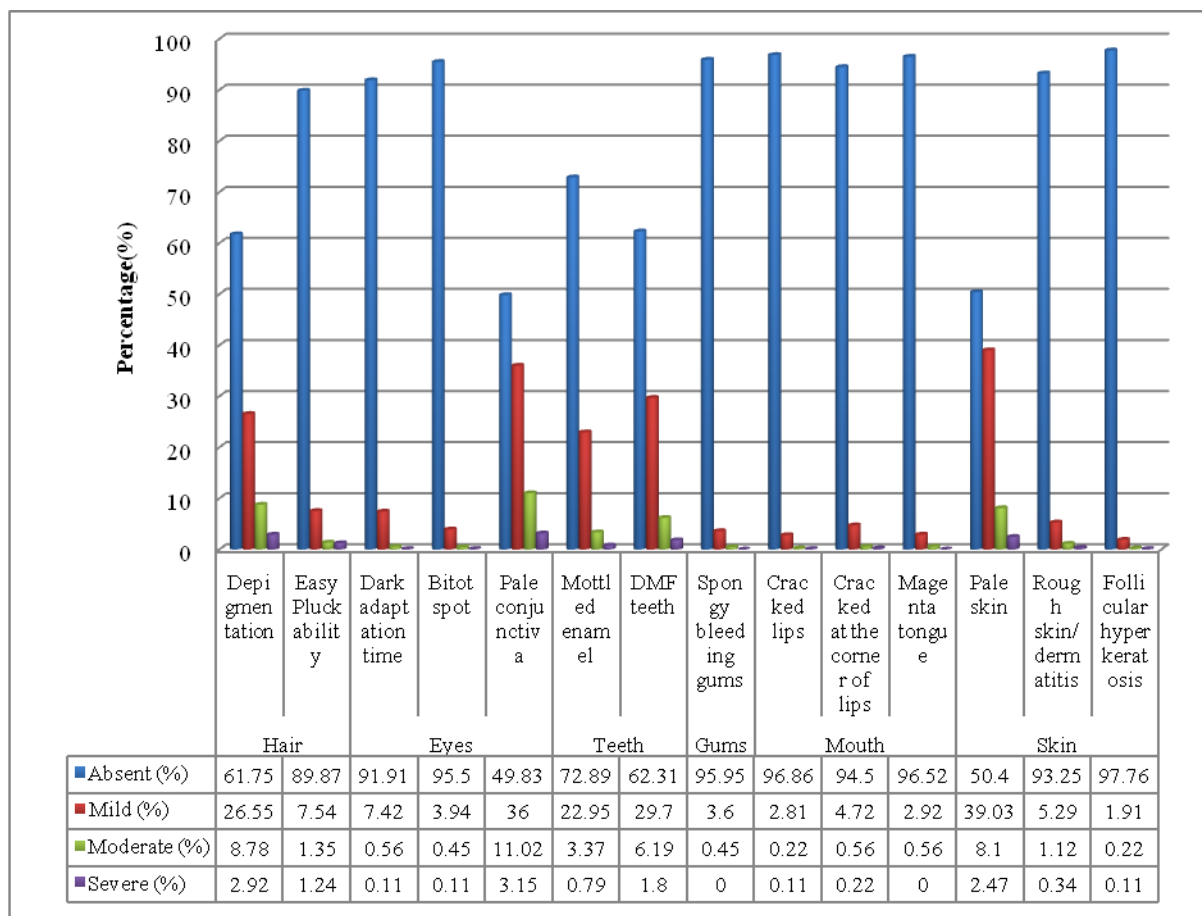


Fig 5. Clinical signs and symptoms of nutrient deficiency in school children of three districts of U.P

Table 8. Contribution of MDM in the diet of school children (N=889)

Districts	Breakfast Intake		Consumption of Whole MDM		Satisfaction with MDM menu	
	Yes (n)	No (n)	Yes (n)	No (n)	Yes (n)	No (n)
Shrawasti	290 (79.67)	74 (20.33)	339 (93.13)	25 (6.87)	362 (99.45)	2 (0.55)
Sitapur	349 (71.22)	141 (28.78)	476 (97.14)	14 (2.86)	484 (98.78)	6 (1.22)
Kanpur	28 (80)	7 (20)	30 (85.71)	5 (14.29)	32 (91.43)	3 (8.57)
Total	667 (75.03)	222 (24.97)	845 (95.05)	44 (4.95)	878 (98.76)	11 (1.24)

*Data in parenthesis indicates per cent.

On the whole, approximately 25 per cent were not taking breakfast and only 75 per cent were taking breakfast daily. Out of which, a sizeable number was taking tea-biscuit or only tea suggesting major contribution of MDM in the daily diet. Ninety five per cent of the children were taking complete MDM provided to them whereas approx. 5 per cent were sharing it with siblings or throwing it. Approx. 99 per cent children showed satisfaction for the MDM menu

Table 9. Protective food intake by school children in Uttar Pradesh (N=889)

Districts	Pulse Intake		Milk/Curd Intake		Other Vegetable Intake		Egg/Meat Intake	
	Yes (n)	No (n)	Yes (n)	No (n)	Yes (n)	No (n)	Yes (n)	No (n)
Shrawasti	175 (48.08)	189 (51.92)	88 (24.18)	276 (75.82)	143 (39.29)	221 (60.71)	22 (6.04)	341 (93.68)
Sitapur	369 (75.30)	121 (24.70)	76 (15.51)	414 (84.49)	197 (40.20)	293 (59.80)	52 (10.61)	438 (89.59)
Kanpur	22 (62.86)	13 (37.14)	23 (65.71)	12 (34.29)	14 (40)	21 (60)	20 (57.14)	15 (42.86)
Total	566 (63.67)	323 (36.33)	187 (21.03)	702 (78.97)	354 (39.82)	535 (60.18)	94 (10.57)	795 (89.43)

*Data in parenthesis indicates per cent.

Apart from cereals and potatoes which was the major food groups in the diet of children, pulse was included in the diet of 60 per cent children, milk and curd in 20 per cent, other vegetables in 40 per cent and egg & meat in 11 per cent children.

Table 10. Contribution of MDM in daily food intake of school children (N=889)

Districts	Schools	n	Contribution of MDM in the daily diet of children			
			25 %	33 %	50 %	100 %
Shrawasti	P.S.	227	80 (35.24)	119 (52.42)	19 (8.37)	9 (3.96)
	U.P.S.	137	25 (18.25)	100 (72.99)	12 (8.76)	0
Sitapur	P.S.	356	102 (28.65)	171 (48.03)	79 (22.19)	4 (1.12)
	U.P.S.	134	71 (52.99)	45 (33.58)	18 (13.43)	0
Kanpur	P.S.	35	6 (17.14)	21 (60)	5 (14.29)	3 (8.57)
Total		889	284 (31.95)	456 (51.29)	133 (14.96)	16 (1.80)

*Data in parenthesis indicates per cent.

दिन	नवान मनु	व्यजनका प्रकार	100 बच्चा हतुवाधतसामग्रा
सोमवार	रोटी-सब्जी जिसमें सोयाबीन अथवा दाल की बड़ी का प्रयोग	100 ग्राम गेहूँ की रोटी एवं दाल (दाल में मौसमी सब्जियों का स्वाद के अनुसार मिश्रण) अथवा मौसमी सब्जी एवं सोयाबीन	आटा 10 किग्रा- सोयाबीन अथवा दाल की बड़ी तथा सब्जी 6 किग्रा, तेल/घी 500 ग्राम
मंगलवार	चावल, सब्जीयुक्त दाल अथवा चावल-साम्भर	100 ग्राम चावल एवं सब्जी (मौसमी) मिश्रित दाल अरहर की दाल साम्भर मशाला एवं मौसमी सब्जी	दाल 2 किग्रा- चावल 10 किग्रा सब्जी 5 किग्रा- तेल/घी 500 ग्राम
बुधवार	कढ़ी-चावल अथवा खीर	100 ग्राम चावल, बेसन मट्ठा/ दही कढ़ी मानकानुसार दूध चीनी भेजे का मिश्रण।	चावल 10 किग्रा- 10 ली दूध से बना दही बेसन 25 किग्रा- तेल/घी 500 ग्राम चावल 10 किलो, दूध 10 ली- चीनी 3 किग्रा-
गुरुवार	रोटी सब्जीयुक्त दाल	100 ग्राम गेहूँ की रोटी एवं दाल (दाल में मौसमी सब्जियों का स्वाद के अनुसार मिश्रण) अथवा मौसमी सब्जी एवं सोयाबीन	आटा 10 किग्रा- सब्जी मिश्रित दाल 6 किग्रा- तेल/घी 500 ग्राम
शुक्रवार	तहरी	100 ग्राम चावल एवं सब्जी (आलू सोयाबीन एवं समय-समय पर उपलब्ध मौसमी सब्जियों)	चावल 10 किग्रा, सब्जी सोयाबीन की बड़ीयुक्त 6 किग्रा, तेल/घी 500 ग्राम
शनिवार	सब्जी-चावल सोयाबीन अथवा खीर	100 ग्राम चावल एवं सोयाबीन तथा मसाले एवं ताजी सब्जियों का प्रयोग किया जाय।	चावल 10 किग्रा- सब्जी सोयाबीन 6 किग्रा- चावल 10 किग्रा- दूध 10 ली- एवं चीनी 3 किग्रा-

Fifteen per cent of the children get 50 per cent of their daily nutrient intake from MDM. Fifty one per cent get 33 per cent of their daily nutrient intake daily. Therefore 66 per cent of the children are getting their nutrient intake from Mid Day Meal, a sizeable contribution. Therefore, quality and quantity is important in the growth and development of children.

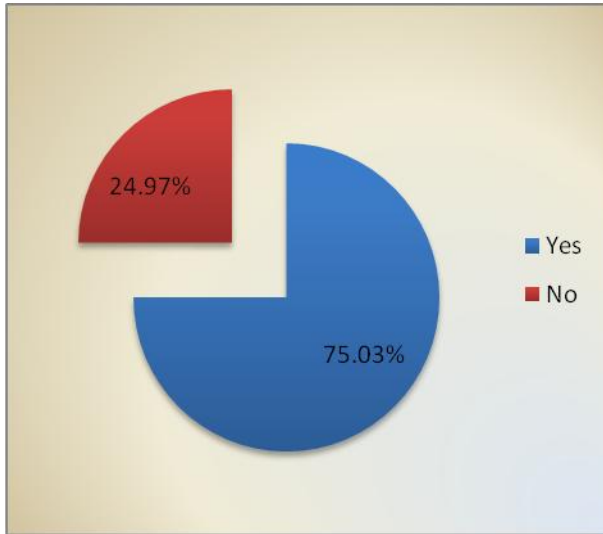


Fig 6. Percentage of children taking full MDM provided

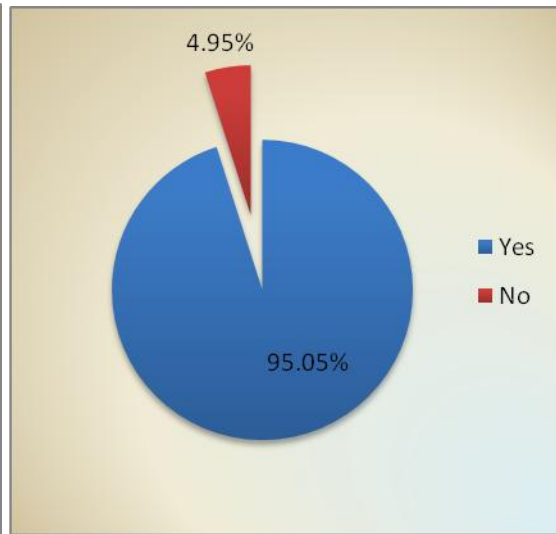


Fig. 7 Percentage of children consuming breakfast

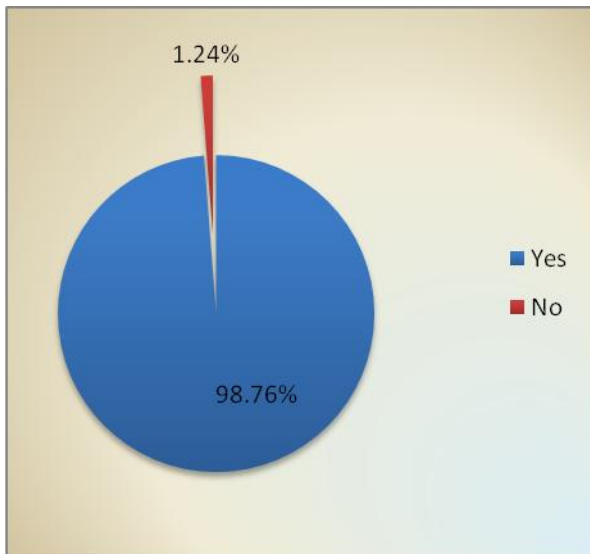


Fig 8. Percentage satisfaction of children for MDM menu

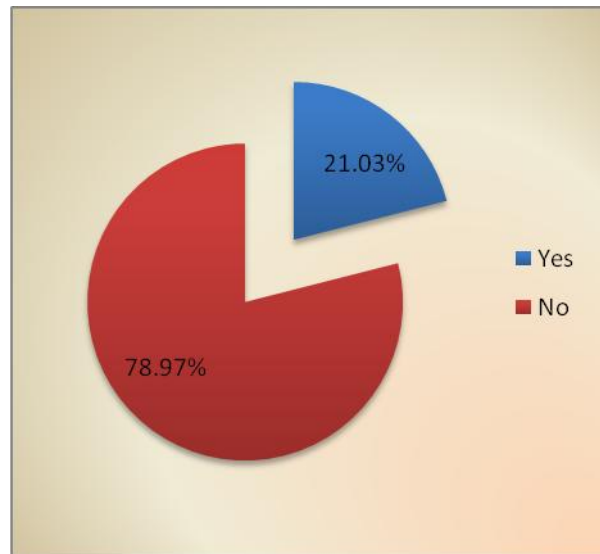


Fig. 9 Percentage milk intake by School children

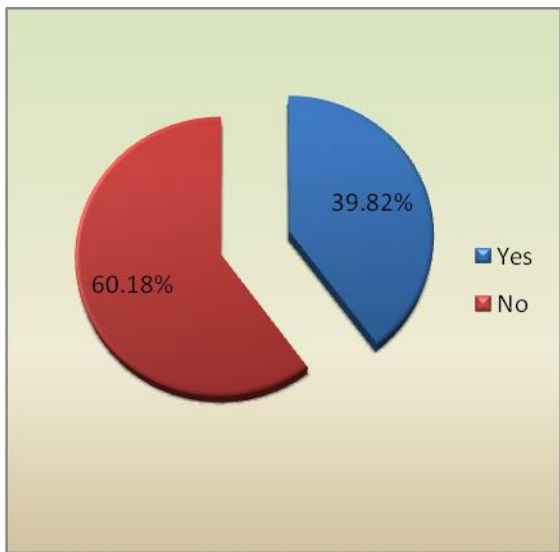
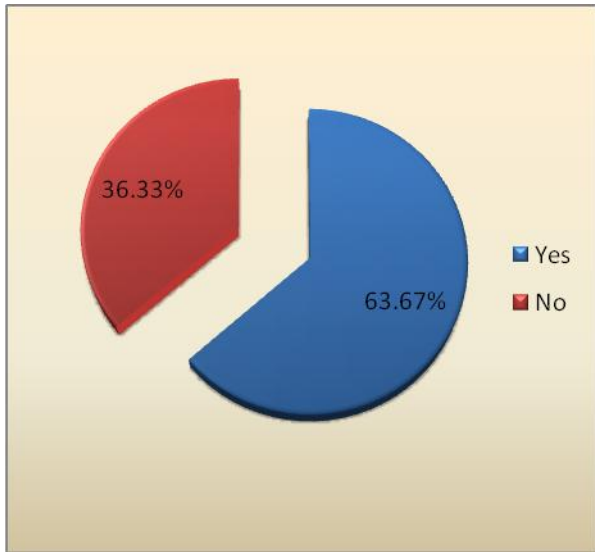


Fig. 10 Percent pulse intake by School Fig. 11 Percent other vegetables/fruits intake children by school children

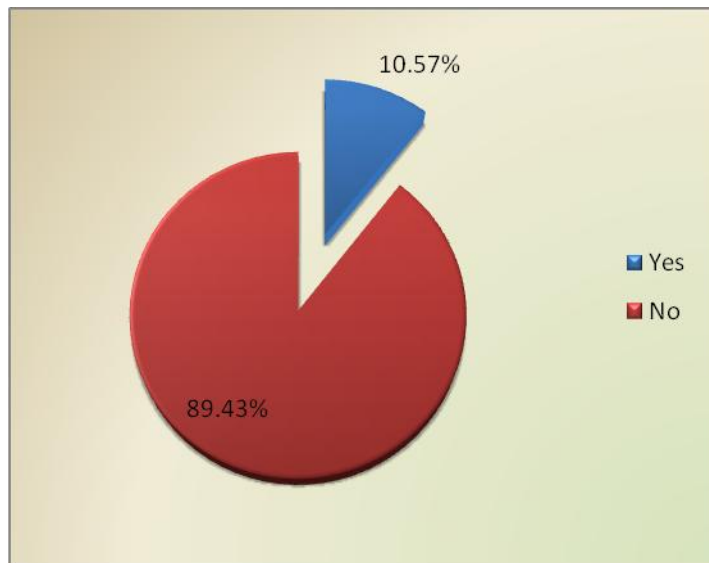


Fig. 12 Percent egg & meat intake by school children

ISSUES OF CONCERN

- 1) Under nutrition was prevalent to the extent of 50-55% which was evident in low weight for age and low height for age in almost similar proportion of children.
- 2) Daily diet intake data of the children shows that 33-50% of the daily nutrient intake of children was met through MDM. Therefore, its quantity and quality are important, specifically in relation to nutrition, hygiene and safety.
- 3) Protective foods like animal products, milk and egg, and fruits and vegetables were lacking in the diet of children which is also evident in clinical signs observed related with nutrient deficiency like protein, energy deficiency and anaemia.
- 4) There is disruption in supply of food grains due to which for number of days, meal is not cooked in the schools which adversely affects the nutrient intake of children.
- 5) Distribution of iron folic acid and deworming tablets is also irregular in schools which are also contributing to the malnutrition.
- 6) The prevalence of anaemia and protein deficiency affect school performance of the children and work productivity, hence are of major concern.



GLIMPSES OF JRM MDM



GLIMPSES OF JRM MDM NUTRITION

Recommendations

1. The Mid Day Meal is implemented by the people's representatives the Pradhans of the Panchayats. They are the custodians of the MDM food grains and conversion cost. The team found during field visits in Shravasti district that the Pradhans are not supplying food grains from the stock held by them which led to huge disruptions in serving of mid day meal. As the Pradhans are too busy with other schemes and many Pradhans expressed their inability to implement the Scheme, hence the Team recommends that the School Management Committees (SMCs) may be strengthened. Village Education Committees can be the supervising bodies and the SMCs can be engaged to implement Mid Day Meal Scheme on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan model in a few Districts. The food grains may be placed under the custody of SMC Presidents in those districts. The MDM account may be operated jointly by the SMC President and Head Master. Names and coordinates of SMC members be displayed at prominent places in the schools. The option of engaging SMCs and Pradhans may be left to the District Magistrates. Involving SMCs would lead to improved community participation.
2. In order to avoid large scale disruption in Mid Day Meal Scheme which is mainly due to non-supply of food grains by the Pradhans SPECIALLY IN Shravasti District, direct transportation of food grains from Block warehouse to schools by Civil Supplies Department is recommended where the implementing agency is the SMC. Issuance of food grain record cards similar to ration cards is also recommended.
3. FCI should be given the responsibility of coloring the food grain bags as mere stamping of MDM logo is not enough. It was observed that there is practice in all districts that three sample is collected at the time of lifting of foodgrains from FCI. As per prevalent norms, one should remain with FCI, one with lifting agency and third with Basic Shiksha Adhikari at district level. But it is found that no sample is available at BSA office and there is no signature of BSA or his nominee. It is proposed that the samples should bear the signature of BSA/ his nominee and be available at BSA office. Also the time taken in transporting foodgrains from FCI godown to block godown should also be monitored and recorded.
4. Food grain at any cost should be placed under the custody of SMC member where ever they are the implementing agency. Sufficient storage should be provided in schools to store the grains.
5. Generally the bags of Food grains supplied by the FCI are less than 50Kg. In many States like Tamil Nadu the Civil Supplies Department reweigh the bags and make it for 50Kg and then only supply to the schools. The similar practice may also be followed by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
6. The Team observed that the Pradhan /Mahila Samkhya are not maintaining any records of the Food Grains received and there is a gap in the records of the food grains supplied by the Kotedar and received/Utilized by the school. The Team recommends that the records of food grains should be maintained at all levels through which it passes by the implementing agencies be it Pradhan /Mahila Samkhya.
7. There need to more stringent monitoring mechanism to ensure that food grains are lifted by Kotedars. The best practice is to do door step delivery up to school level as suggested by Hon. Supreme Court of India.

8. GoI guidelines, on displaying key information related to food grains received , utilized and number of children served MDM are not being displayed by the schools. The Team however found that none of the schools are displaying the above facts. The compliance of the above guidelines must be ensured in the schools.
9. The MDM has started the pilot to inform SMC president by system generated sms of allocation of food grain and conversion cost which is a good initiative. This should be widened and all SMC members should be informed by sms as it will ensure checks and balances and will prevent pilferage.
10. There is need to take very strict action against the officials of all levels and elected representatives who violates the Guidelines.
11. The team observed disruption in serving of MDM by the Mahila Samkhya and there was either absence or improper record maintenance which effected the smooth implementation of the scheme adversely. The cooks informed that they are not paid the full honorarium as per the GOI norms. This appears to be a matter of serious concern and the team recommends audit of funds and food grain flow and other aspects of implementation of MDMS.
12. Social audit of Mid Day Scheme has already started. It is intended to start in Uttar Pradesh also. Increased involvement of SMCs in the conduct of Social Audit will facilitate its smooth functioning.
13. The Team visited 4 schools in Sitapur where the implementing agency was Mahila Samkhya. The Team observed that there was disruption in MDM and absence / improper record maintenance which effected the smooth implementation of the scheme adversely. The cooks informed that they are not paid the full honorarium as per the GOI norms. This appears to be a matter of serious concern and the team recommends audit of funds and food grain flow and other aspects of implementation of MDMS
14. Though IVRS is being used to monitor the scheme on real time basis, the use of the IVRS data may be optimized. The exception reports are shared with various stakeholders at Block/District/State. It was found that large disruptions observed by the team during the school visit have been reported by IVRS also. This indicates that the follow up action is not taken timely by the concerned authorities. The block level officials should have inspected the schools where significant disruption has been reported. Had the timely action been taken after receiving/viewing the exception reports generated by the IVRS, large scale disruptions would have been avoided. It is recommended that the follow up action should be taken timely in case of continuous disruptions and action taken report should be submitted to the concerned competent authorities
 - Also, some of the key IVRS data like number of schools not serving MDM for significant number of days may also be placed in the public domain so that data can be used as tool for social audit.
 - The team recommends that some of the patterns may also be identified e.g. same number reported for consecutive number of days (which was observed), coverage of children same as children enrolled. Accordingly the exceptions reports should be generated and shared with the functionaries at Block and District level so that data can be validated and timely action can be taken accordingly.

- The team also recommends that system should be able to validate the data entered by the school representatives. The phone numbers of the village panchayat and/or VEC committee members may be collected and every week some of the sample data (2-5% weekly) collected through IVRS may be shared with members of panchayat and VEC committee members through SMS along with the call center helpline number where the member can call in case of any variations observed. It is noteworthy that MDMA is already in the process of collecting mobile numbers of non official members of the SMC and proposes to send IVR verification calls to these members on random basis.
 - With the help of IVRS, a huge database has been created. It is recommended that the usefull data should be analysed with the help of some premier education institutions.
15. Cooking is done mainly by firewood which not only denudes the forests but also produces a lot of smoke which is hazardous for health. The State Government may now install/convert chulhas into smokeless chulhas to combat the above problem. Use of LPG may also be encouraged in schools in towns and small cities where there are LPG dealers. Alternate method of fuel like bio gas may also be initiated.
 16. There is an acute need for providing full size eating plates to the children in the school. As insufficient funds are available under MME for this purpose, school grant released under SSA may be utilized for purchase of plates.
 17. Frequent thefts of school property like fans, gas cylinders, plates have been reported; hence measures may be taken to ensure security of school property through the involvement of SMCs and village panchayat.
 18. Considerable disruption was found in the schools due to lack of food grains and the same could have been avoided if regular inspections had taken place by block level officials. Hence there is a need for strengthening the field level monitoring system and ensuring that monitoring takes place, the State Govt. may consider involvement of ABRCs to report on 10 schools in a month.
 19. Awareness may be spread to adding more vegetables in MDM to meet the food norms and to improve nutritional status of children. Kitchen gardens may be developed including plantation of fruit bearing trees like banana, guava, mango, papaya, etc
 20. The implementing agencies should certify the quarterly utilization to substantiate the expenditure incurred against conversion cost in order to ensure transparency in the scheme. The existing MDM register format could be modified to capture expenditure details on the right hand page. This would provide actual expenditure against the present practice of calculating on the per child cost basis.
 21. Provision of imprest money to SMC members/cooks for purchase of vegetables, condiments, oil etc on a weekly basis and they would settle accounts against bills and vouchers. This is recommended because the Pradhan is often responsible for a number of schools besides other responsibilities under the Panchayati Raj system
 22. All assets under the MDM scheme should be recorded in the stock register maintained in schools.
 23. All states have been requested to initiate simple, cost effective and sustainable interventions that promote hand washing by school children as part of the daily school activity that is monitored and encouraged by the school teachers. In collaboration with UNICEF, the Ministry is promoting simple and scalable multiple hand washing facilities in schools that allow children to exchange messages through eye-to-eye contact as a fun time activity. Hand washing platforms

are designed to encourage children to wash hands with soap as a social norm. Leading Corporate Undertakings, have been requested to allocate a generous amount to reach the maximum number of students from their CSR budgets. For a sum of Rs 6 crores they can reach 10000 schools and almost 2,00,000 children. The State Government may send a proposal to MHRD accordingly.

24. State Review Mission: The State Govt. should also constitute Review Mission at the State level and send them to various districts of the State every six months to review the implementation of the programme. The Stat Govt. officials looking after MDMS may join the Review Mission in other states under exchange scheme. Orientation visits to other states to see the implementation of the scheme will also widen the horizon of the officials.
25. The team observed that there is an need for training on record keeping which was found to be a weak link in the entire delivery mechanism of the mid day meal scheme in UP. The team was also of the view that the cooks need to be trained on hygiene, safety and security, and inclusive practices so that the scheme is delivered in a non-discriminatory mode.
26. Teachers may also be trained on nutrition. SCERT can include curriculum on Mid Day Meal.
27. Schools be graded as Model Schools on the basis of performance in implementation of the scheme like coverage of children, utilization of funds and food grains, payment of honorarium to CCH, better management of available infrastructure facilities in Blocks and Districts. President of School Management Committee may be honored on the basis of performance.
28. As MDM is a major contributor of nutrition for primary and upper primary school children it is recommended that MDM should be supplemented with pulses, green leafy vegetables and soybean. Weekly inclusion of milk and egg in the MDM is also recommended.
29. For effective implementation of MDM, all the functionaries involved in the scheme need to be aware about nutrition, health, hygiene and safety of foods. It is recommended that in different states Agricultural Universities, Foods and Nutrition Department and Horticulture Department can develop model schools in their districts by providing training to the BRC coordinators, teachers and cook-cum-helpers regarding nutrition, health, hygiene and food safety. Horticulture Department can also help in growing vegetables in model schools. It can be later followed by other districts.

(The above recommendations may be implemented within a period of three months with a compliance report.)

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Date: 17.07.2013

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