



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना
Mid Day Meal Scheme

MDM- Karnataka

1st Half Yearly Monitoring Report

1st April 2014 to 31st October 2014

1st Half Yearly Monitoring Report

Mid Day Meal, Karnataka

Period: 1st April 2014 to 31st October 2014

Districts Covered

MYSORE

HASSAN

TUMKUR

CHIKABALLAPUR

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL & ECONOMIC CHANGE
BANGALORE

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District Level Half Yearly Monitoring Report (MDM)

Mysore District

Mysore District had a sample of 40 schools with 2 KGBV, 14 Lower Primary Schools and 24 Upper Primary Schools. The selection of sample schools has been done in consultation with the District SSA office and as per the criteria outlined by the MHRD/GoI. The present report refers to half-yearly monitoring for the period April 2014-October 2014.

A. At the School Level

1. Regularity in Serving Meal

All 38 schools of the sample serve hot cooked meal daily (2 KGBV also served the hot cooked meals). In 4 schools the MDM is served but not prepared in school (ISKON provides food in school). The further report gives status of MDM in 38 schools excluding KGBV.

2. Trends

Most of the students enrolled in a given school are eligible to avail mid-day meal facility. However, an individual child is entitled to make an option to avail or not the facility. It is in this context, data has been collected about the number of students availing mid-day meal and the actual number of students taking meal during the days of visit.

a)	Number of children enrolled in schools	-	3978
b)	Number of children opted for MDM	-	3452 (86.77%)
c)	Number of children attending the school on the day of visit	-	3227 (81.12%)
d)	Number of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit	-	3177 (79.86%)
e)	Number of children availed MDM on the previous day of visit	-	2970 (74.66%)

Considering the attendance, it may be noticed that about 19% of children were absent in schools on the day of visit. This Further considering the percentage of children actually consuming MDM, it is seen that about 79% of the students eat in the schools while close to 21% do not eat either because they are absent on the day or have decided to opt out of the

scheme. Even on the previous day of the school visit by MI, about 74.6% of children only found to have taken MDM suggesting that 26% remained out of the scheme coverage. There is a large gap between those who opted for the food and those who actually utilize the benefit and this is not an encouraging trend. Even discrepancies regarding number of students presented in school MDM register and number of children having food actually in school was varying certain schools.

The school HM/Teachers needs to be trained to maintain record of the MDM, in Mysore around 11 school's HM and teachers have not been trained.

Training Provided to Head Master/Teacher to Maintain MDM Records			
	Yes	No	NA
H D Kote	2	1	
Hunsur	2	4	
K R Nagara	4	1	
Mysore North	2		1
Mysore Rural	3	2	
Mysore South	1		1
Nanjanagudu	4	2	
Periyapattana	3	1	
T Narasipur	3		
Mysore	24	11	2

3. Regularity in Delivering Food Grains to School

Food grains are supplied to school through the outlets of Food Corporation of India (FCI). There are guidelines to the FCI with regard to supplying food grains to schools. The data collected from schools has indicated that 33 schools out of 34 schools (4 schools food is supplied by NGO) have been getting the supply of food grains on time. Only one school reported that the FCI supply is delayed.

Out of 34 schools visited 32 schools' HM said and the MDM register also reflected that the food grains are released after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month.

FCI delivers the food grains through lifting agency to the school. All schools in Mysore did not know about the payment made to the FCI.

Buffer Stock of One Month's Requirement Maintained			
	Yes	No	NA
H D Kote	4		
Hunsur	6		
K R Nagara	3	2	
Mysore North	2		1
Mysore Rural	4		1
Mysore South			2
Nanjanagudu	3	3	
Periyapattana	3	1	
T Narasipur	3		
Mysore District	28	6	4

In 28 schools the buffer stock for one month is maintained and 6 schools did not have the buffer stock for one month.

All schools are entitled for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of food grains from FCI. But only 31 schools confirmed having FAQ quality food grains.

Quality of food grain is of Fair Average Quality (FAQ)			
	Yes	No	NA
H D Kote	4		
Hunsur	5	1	
K R Nagara	3	2	
Mysore North	2		1
Mysore Rural	4		1
Mysore South			2
Nanjanagudu	6		
Periyapattana	4		
T Narasipur	3		
Mysore District	31	3	4

Nearly 3 schools did not get FAQ grains. If there is any lapse, the head teacher or the school is entitled to return the food grains for 'poor quality'. HM in few of the schools said they return the Grains if they are not satisfied with the quality.

4. Regularity in Delivering Cooking Cost to School Level

The mid-day meal grant is released either through a cheque, cash or e-transfer. This has been confirmed by all the sampled schools.

Mode of Transfer	Cheque	Cash	E-transfer	NA
Number of Schools	11	5	18	4

All schools cooking MDM in school get the grant/funds released on time but for one school. Although the MDM funds get transferred on time, still cooking cost gets delayed in reaching to schools.

Cooking Cost Received in Advance Regularly			
	Yes	No	NA
H D Kote	2	2	
Hunsur	5	1	
K R Nagara	3	2	
Mysore North	2		1
Mysore Rural	4		1
Mysore South			2
Nanjanagudu	5	1	
Periyapattana	3	1	
T Narasipur	3		
Mysore District	27	7	4

27 schools (out of 34 schools) which prepared mid-day meal in the school confirmed that they get funds for CG regularly without any delay. Seven schools get funds with a delay of one or two weeks. Reasons are not known.

5. Social Equity

There is no visible social discrimination in serving mid-day meal in **majority** of schools. Some of the possible factors of discrimination like caste, gender or community have not influenced MDM at any stage in the process of its implementation in most of these schools.

It is observed that in 35 schools all children are served mid-day meal in a systematic manner by forming a line. However in 3 schools there was no order in serving MDM.

Generally in higher primary schools, as girls belong to higher age cohorts and are in the pre-adolescent stage, most parents would expect schools to maintain some sort of segregation between boys and girls. *Because of this, girls and boys sit separately and definitely this does not amount to discrimination.*

Mysore	Seating Arrangement of Students During MDM					
Arrangement	In small circles	In long rows	Girls and boys separately	Haphazard manner	As per their own wish	All Sit in a big hall/classroom together
No. Of Schools	6	24	2	1	1	2

Of the 126 students interviewed, none of the students said there was any kind of discrimination practiced on basis of caste or gender in the school during MDM.

6. Menu

The guidelines issued by the MDM scheme have specifications relating to menu. Every school is expected to evolve and maintain menu details on a weekly basis. It is also expected to incorporate variety in the menu.

- (i) Only in 31 schools, weekly menu was displayed in the school and in 7 schools it wasn't displayed. The responses from the head teachers confirm that schools have a pre-planned menu schedule for all the days of the week.

Weekly menu displayed in school				
	Yes	No	Don't Know	NR
MI Observation	31	7	0	0
Student's Response	40	67	12	7

In 38 schools visited 126 children were interviewed. Students were asked about their awareness regarding the Menu of food; only 40 students said they have seen the menu. Of these 40 students who were aware of the menu of food, only 35 students said that the menu displayed was being followed in the school.

- (ii) Generally, the Cook and the Head teachers formulate the menu in schools.

Cook & HM	Teachers & HM	HM	Cook	NA	No Response
5	2	19	5	4	3

In spite of absence of the menu, students were aware of the food which they would get all through the week. Most of them said they like the food menu and what is cooked in the school. Only in one urdu medium school in Nanjangudu Block of Mysore students did not like the food served and were seen throwing the food. Teachers were not supervising the students having MDM.

7. Variety of Menu

The school is instructed to provide healthy locally grown vegetables, dal and rice/wheat to the students daily. The menu in most of the schools included Sambhar and rice from Monday to Friday and rice item like Chitrana, Pulao, Upma or Wheat daliya etc on a Saturdays. Sambhar would comprise of some seasonal vegetables every day.

In 38 schools in Mysore, 126 children were interviewed to get their view regarding the MDM food. When asked about the variety of food served, 26% of them said there is a variety of food served to them. Some of them were unable to distinguish between the vegetables in sambhar and they assumed it to be same every day. Similarly the SDMC was also asked about the variety of food served to the students, around 3% said there is no variety in food served.

	Similar every day	Sometimes variety is served	Everyday new variety	NR
Student Opinion	17 students	57 students	48 students	4 students
SDMC Opinion	3 Schools	16 schools	16 schools	

A description of the same is given in Table below

MDM Menu

Day 1 of Visit of MI	Anna Sambhar	Chitrana/ rice bath	Pulao	Godi upama	Curd Rice
Number of Schools	31	3	3	1	
Day 2 of Visit of MI	Anna Sambhar	Chitrana/ rice bath	Pulao	Godi upama	Curd Rice
Number of Schools	30	4	1	1	2

Sl. No.	Particulars	Daily	Twice / Thrice a Week	Weekly Once	Total
1	Rice / Dal	38	-	-	38
Vegetables (Mostly mixed with Dal) As answered by students					

	Vegetable served on Day of Visit	Vegetable served on Previous Day of Visit
Tomato	18 Students	16 Students
Potato	21 Students	6 Students
Bottle guard	4 Students	2 Students
Beans	16 Students	10 Students
Greens	21 Students	21 Students
Brinjal	6 Students	1 Student
Can't say (some vegetable mixed in Sambhar)	11 Students	27 Students
Don't Remember	5 Students	10 Students
Other items only on Saturday	All Students	

(In Mysore on 5 days of the week students are served Anna Sambhar. Students were interviewed and asked about what vegetable they had yesterday and a day before yesterday when MI visited. Sambhar has vegetables mixed inside it.).

- (ii) In all the schools rice is the common item served. It is the items prepared with dal and vegetables that take varied form. Generally, schools provide a distinct food item (rice bath) on Saturdays.

8. Quality and Quantity of Meal

The responses from the students, head teachers and observation by MI team members have indicated details relating to the quality and quantity of food. As per the field investigators, around 23 of the schools served adequate quantity of the food, whereas around 15 schools had served more quantity to the students.

Quantity of Food Served			
Mysore District	Ample	Adequate	Less
MI Observation (number of schools)	15	23	0

Out of 126 students interviewed in Mysore, 113 said they get adequate quantity of food, none of the students stated that they are getting less quantity.

Quantity of food served during MDM			
Mysore District	Adequate	Excess	Less
Student's response	113	13	0

In terms of quality of food served, 93.57 % of the students said they were happy after consuming the meals in school and that they like eating in school. As per MI observation students in 33 schools were happy after consuming the MDM. None of the student agreed that they come to school because they are served MDM in school; they all said they come to school to study.

Quality of Food Served		
Block Name	Average	Good
H D Kote	4	
Hunsur	6	
K R Nagara	4	1
Mysore North	2	1
Mysore Rural	5	
Mysore South	1	1
Nanjanagudu	5	1
Periyapattana	4	
T Narasipur	3	
MYSORE DISTRICT	34	4

Nearly all of the schools visited were serving good or average quality food to the students during MDM.

9. Supplementary (Health Check-up)

The data collected from schools has indicated that health check-up to children is conducted in all the 38 schools (100 per cent). All the schools have reported that they have conducted health check-up camps once in an academic year (100 per cent). Of 38 schools visited, 35 schools maintained the Health Card record for every child in school.

The data collected has confirmed the supply of vitamin tablets, de-worming medicine and iron folic acid tablets in all the schools but for two. The task of providing all this is handled by teachers, specially the class teachers. The vitamin tablets are supplied once in 15 days and de-worming is given once in six month. In 9 schools students said they were not provided with de worming tablets.

Health check up been done in school since it reopened			
	Yes	No	Don't Remember
Student Response	77	43	6
Micronutrients and De worming Medicines Provided			
Student Response	104	15	7
Height and Weight' Measured During Check-up			
Student Response	104	19	3

The health card record also displayed the 'Height and Weight' data up to date in Health Card. Nine students were provided with spectacles during the check up.

10. Cooks

The MDM guidelines specify the social composition of cooks and helpers. This has been done to avoid social discrimination and to help children to overcome prejudices and attitude of social distancing. All the schools make efforts to adhere to the norms. However, it has been observed that the social composition of the habitation/ village where school is located may not be able to get a person required to function as a cook or a helper.

In such situations, school will have limited options in adhering to the norms. It is due to this reason there may be certain amount of deviance in appointing cooks and helpers. However, most of the schools make choices on the basis of the availability of persons to perform the roles. The following table indicates the distribution and social composition of cooks and helpers in 38 schools:

Social Composition of Head Cook and Cook/Helpers

Mysore	SC	ST	OBC	Minority	General	No response/DNA	NA
Head Cook	7	4	12	6	0	5	4

Different schools had different number of helpers depending upon the strength of the students in school; however, the head cook can only be one in a school. Once the cook is appointed in the school, he/she is provided training and given a training manual to follow. The cook and helpers also need to undergo health check up at the time of joining. But in Mysore only the cook had training manual and had health check up done at the time of joining.

Training Manual Available with Cook	Yes	No	NA	No Response
Number of Schools	26	8	4	0
Salary of the Cooks Received on Time				
Number of Schools	16	2	4	16

The salary of cooks and helpers paid by all the schools is Rs.1700 and Rs.1500 respectively. 50 % of the schools received cook's salary on time. During the discussion with SDMC about cook's salary, 31 school's SDMC said the remuneration is received on time, in 2 schools they said it is not received regularly and gets delayed. In remaining schools the SDMC was unaware about the salary of the cooks. It was not applicable in 4 schools as food was supplied from NGO.

11. Infrastructure

The infrastructure needed to provide mid-day meal in the school includes facilities to cook food, availability of water, fuel and vessels. The data relating to these items indicates that most of the schools have separate kitchen or a separate space to cook. The details are given in table below.

Although in the four schools MDM is provided by Ngo, still in these schools provision of kitchen was available to provide milk to the students. It has been directed to all schools that the MDM logo be displayed in the school which is visible to the community. Still only 24 schools had displayed MDM logo in Mysore. Also the school is supposed to display the MDM attendance on transparency board/ HM room Board, but only 18 schools had displayed the MDM attendance on the notice board.

Details about Kitchen

Sl. No.	Particulars	Percentage
1	Separate kitchen	36
2	Class room	2
3	Unspecified place	
4	Supplied by other schools/ agencies	4 (not counted)
	Total	38

12. Safety and Hygiene:

All the schools have been making the best possible effort to ensure hygiene in the place where mid-day meal is prepared and served. There are a few cases where things could be improved for the better. In Mysore, in 29 schools the kitchen was maintained in hygienic condition and 27 school's kitchen had proper ventilation and in 25 schools it was placed away from other classrooms.

Mysore	Kitchen Well Maintenance & in Hygienic Condition		
	Yes	No	NA
	29	5	4
	Proper Ventilation in Kitchen		
	Yes	No	NA
	27	7	4
	Kitchen is Away from the Classrooms		
	Yes	No	NA
	25	9	4

In 27 schools the kitchen had storage bins to store food grains in the kitchen/store room. As per SDMC members the condition of kitchen in their schools is as follows:

Condition of kitchen in school				
Good Condition	Needs repair in rains	Very cramped kitchen	Kitchen is good but water facility needed	Not Applicable
28	2	2	2	4

In all schools, children wash their hands and plates before eating the food. But the places where the children wash the plates become clogged with water and children need to maneuver to reach the water source. In most of the schools, teachers monitored the behavior of the students while eating and usage of water without wasting.

24 schools had fire extinguisher in school. But most of the schools HM were not aware of how to use it in case of emergency.

13. Conservation of Water

The availability of water has been confirmed in all 38 schools (100 percent). The quality and quantity of water has been found to be good for purpose of cooking and drinking. However, only 30 schools had water availability in/near kitchen. In rest of the schools the water was brought from the water source in school/nearby areas.

Means for the Conservation of Water in Kitchen				
District	Yes	No	NA	No response
No of Schools	30	4	4	0

14. Utensils for Cooking and Serving Food

The responses from the schools indicate that all schools preparing mid-day meal have utensils to cook food and small serving utensils as well.

15. All the schools visited, had some or the other source of fuel for cooking.

Source of Fuel	Firewood	Gas (LPG)	Kerosene Stove
No. of Schools	4	30	2

The schools using LPG for cooking faced shortage of supply hence were making extra arrangements like borrowing from teacher's house or from other people in case of emergency.

16. Participation of SDMC, parents, local body members in MDM:

- (i) It was observed that the participation of SMC members to supervise mid-day meal varies from school to school. Focused Group discussion was held with the SDMC members of all the schools visited. Understanding of SDMC with regard to their roles and responsibilities towards MDM and the action taken by them to manage MDM activity in school were discussed during the FGD.

Sl. No	Monitoring Activity To be done by SDMC	Number of respondents	Action Taken By SDMC Members	Number of respondents
1	Monitoring of Stocks and Quality and Quantity of food served	21	Just Observe	17
2	MDM Attendance	2	Ensure discipline in serving and cooking MDM	6
3	Kitchen Maintenance	1	Help in cooking/serving when needed	2
4	Supervise MDM Functioning	2	Arrange for gas and water facility	4
5	Everything is good no need to monitor anything	6	Don't do anything	2
6	Not Applicable	4	Not Applicable	4

The community tries to participate in the school's MDM activity but they have their own constraints. In 21 schools the SDMC keeps stock of quantity and quality of food served to the students, in 17 school's SDMC members said they just observe while MDM or other school activities take place. SDMC in 6 schools ensured discipline during the MDM timings.

During discussion with the cooks in the school it was asked which SDMC members actively participates in MDM activities in school. Amongst 38 schools, only 8 school's head cook said that all members pay attention, in 19 schools they said SDMC president pays more attention to MDM activities, in two schools cook said none of the SDMC members pay any attention to the activities related to MDM.

- (ii) As per the norm, the MDM is being monitored and supervised by the parents on some of the days. The data collected from sample schools indicate that there is no roster of parents formally prepared with specified days. However, there is informal arrangement with parents to oversee MDM supply in few of the schools.
- (iii) A detailed analysis of the extent of awareness and participation in MDM program by the parents, SMC members and Panchayat/Local Body representatives has been made by examining the responses from the respective groups:
 - a) **Parents:** In Mysore district 132 parents were interviewed. The data collected from parents confirmed that most of the parents (interviewed by the MI team members) have an average understanding of the implementation of MDM programme. Largely parents trusted the school and said whatever the school is providing has to be good for their children. They were satisfied with the quantity of food given to the students and none of them said they ever faced any issue of discrimination in the school during MDM.

Knowledge of Parents regarding MDM				
	Yes	No	Can't say/Don't Know	NA
Menu of the food	52	31	36	4
Healthy food is served	109	4	17	
How children are Seated during MDM	122	7	3	

125 parents out of 132 said they were happy with MDM being provided in school. Only 4 parents said they were unhappy with the MDM service as they felt it affected school functioning.

Regarding the quality of food served, 94 % of the parents believed that the MDM takes care of nutritional and calorific requirements of the child.

Nutritional and Calorific Requirements of the Child Taken Care by MDM			
Yes	No	Can't say	No response
95	6	16	17

- b) Overall awareness and participation of the parents in implementation of MDM is fairly low in Mysore. The table below highlights the awareness status of parents on various parameters of functioning of MDM.

Community Participation in MDM (Response from Parents)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	No Response
1	Overall Awareness Regarding MDM	3	36	84	6	0	3
2	Awareness Regarding Supervision of MDM	50	3	71	0	0	8
3	Awareness Regarding Quantity Prescribed for students	29	61	31	0	0	6
4	Awareness Regarding Nutrition level of mid-day meal	34	44	34	1	0	14

*In four schools the food was being served from NGO hence the data in above table is for 34 schools only.

Only 15 parents out of 132 interviewed were aware of the grievance redressal mechanism in case of emergency in school. Of these 13 parents knew of the toll free number to dial in adverse situation. 39 parents said there is a roster maintained by the school for daily supervision by the parents.

- c) **SDMC Members:** The level of awareness among SDMC members regarding MDM implementation has been “Good” among majority of schools visited. It is also satisfactory for 7 school’s SDMC members. The supervision level has been “Good” among 17 schools and “Very Good” among 4 school’s SDMC members.

Community Participation in MDM (Response from SMC Members)

Sl. No.		Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	NA
1	Awareness regarding MDM implementation	4	7	17	4	2	2
2	Awareness regarding MDM supervision	Mostly the SDMC President visits frequently and is keenly involved in supervision of MDM related activities.					

18. Source of Awareness

An attempt has also been made to identify the sources of awareness. From most of the sources identified, parent’s awareness about MDM is gathered more or less from school or the students and teachers. Largely, teachers and students are the main source, though they are not significantly high. The details about other sources are indicated in Table below.

Source of Awareness of Parents about the MDM Scheme/ School Activities

Sl. No.	Particulars	Number of Respondents PARENTS
1	Newspaper/ Magazine	50
2	Radio	16
3	Television	29
4	Teacher	93
5	Students/ School	81
6	Website	3
7	Other Sources (villagers/friends)	54

*Each respondent is entitled to indicate more than one source.

For SDMC also the main source of awareness regarding MDM functioning is through teachers and students. Awareness source for the SDMC regarding MDM and other school activities is shown in the below table:

Source of Awareness for SDMC regarding MDM	Number of School's SDMC
Newspaper	17
Radio/TV	11
Teachers	30
Students	22
Panchayat Members / Mothers / community members / PTA members	10
Others	5 (Government officials)

19. Inspection and Supervision

The MDM scheme has to be supervised at the State, District, Block, Cluster and School level. There are many officials who are involved and assigned with this responsibility. There are provision of both periodical and surprise inspections from most these officials. On a daily basis, it is the SMC members or parents who supervise and inspect at the school level. The CRP, Assistant Director of Taluk Panchayat (Akshara Dasoha) and CRC, BEO/BRC supervise most of the schools at least once in a month. The district officials like the Deputy Project Coordinator (SSA), Education Officer (Zilla Panchayat) and other officials supervise and inspect as and when they visit schools. The officials at the State level also have their planned programme of supervision and inspection. The data collected from the sampled schools indicates that it is the Block Level and Cluster Level officials making more frequent visits of supervision and monitoring than the District Level and State Level Officers. The details of visit by different officials are given in Table below.

Inspection and Supervision by MDM Officials

Sl. No.	Particulars	Visit by Officials	Comment made by them
1	State Level MDM Officers (DyPC)	Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 1 school Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May)= 1school	36 of 38 monitored schools were not visited by state level MDM officers. In these schools the official commented on quality of education being good.
2	District level MDM officers (BEO)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June–Sept)= 9 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 0 schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May)= 2 schools	Only 11 schools out of 38 visited in Mysore were visited by the block level officers. In one school comment was made on MDM and that Dining hall should be made big. Kitchen should be shifted. In two schools comments were on food served well, cleanliness to be maintained, cooking process should be clean and food should be made better. Rest of the schools no comments were made on MDM.
3	Block Level Officers (BRC)	Visit in 1 st Quarter:(June–Sept)= 12 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan) = 9 schools	17 out of 38 schools were not visited by BRC in 2013-14. In the schools visited, comments were regarding the cleanliness of school, pure drinking water. In two schools BRC has commented on children's learning and radio program usage.
4	Other Educational Officers (ECO)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June–Sept) = 1 school Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 1 school Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 3 schools	ECO had visited in 5 schools of the 38 visited by MI. ECO had commented about food being provided by ISKON, in one school comment was on school development and developing a library in the school. In three schools no comments were given.
5	Akshara Dasoha Officials	Visit in 1 st Quarter (June–Sept) = 7 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 5 schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 3 school	Out of 38 schools visited by MI, Akshara Dasoha official had visited only 15 schools. In 2 schools comments were on what food been served, quality of food was good. In 2 schools comments were made on maintenance of MDM register. In one school the comment was on cleanliness of drinking water. Rest of the schools no comments were made.

6	CRP	Visit in 1 st Quarter (June–Sept) = 35 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 3 schools	CRP did not make any comment on food served in any of the schools visited. They mentioned about school cleanliness and toilet maintenance. Regarding Learning and Development CRP made comments on handling Nali Kali classes, follow CCE method, and school time table.
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Amongst all officials, CRPs visit the schools frequently for inspection and supervision of MDM and other school activities. Despite this supervision and inspection; there are instances of delay in supply of food grains as well as allotment of funds in the district which is a cause of concern. Monitoring work from higher officials has been neglected.

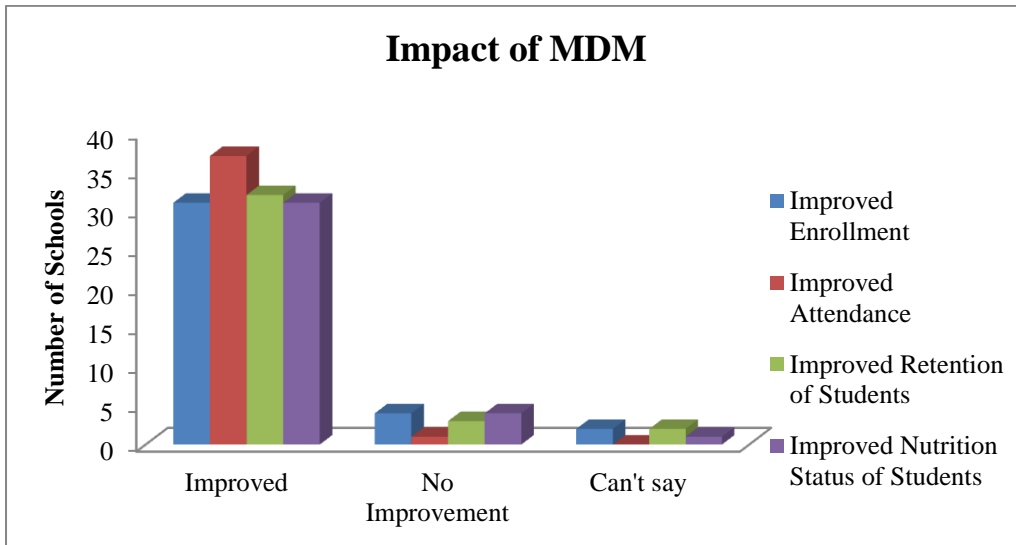
20. Impact

The mid-day meal scheme has been found to have made impact in many ways as reported by different stakeholders. Teachers, SMC members, & Parents have uniformly expressed the view that MDM has improved attendance, enrolment and nutritional status of children in schools.

Impact of MDM on Child					
	Yes now he/she is more healthy	Child has become more regular	Child is concentrating more on studies in school	Don't know	Giving MDM for all is good
Parent's Opinion	74	14	2	15	13

Around 58% parents said the MDM scheme has benefitted the children in a positive way. Few parents even said due to MDM in school child has become regular. They said earlier they used to see children would come back in lunch time and never go back to school to study.

The school Headmasters also believed MDM has helped in many ways. The graph below highlights few parameters on which HM felt MDM is contributing in a big way.



Around 31 school's Head teachers in the schools visited, said that MDM had improved enrollment in school, and 37 of them said attendance of students have improved, 32 school's HM said retention of the students in school has improved due to MDM. Around 31 of them said that it had improved the nutritional status of the students.

1st Half Yearly Monitoring Report



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना
Mid Day Meal Scheme

MDM- Karnataka

Period: 1st April 2014 to 31st October 2014

District Monitored - HASSAN

**INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL & ECONOMIC CHANGE
BANGALORE**

District Level Half Yearly Monitoring Report (MDM)

Hassan District

Hassan District had a sample of 40 schools with 1KGBV, 5 Lower Primary Schools and 34 Upper Primary Schools. The selection of sample schools has been done in consultation with the District SSA office and as per the criteria outlined by the MHRD/GoI. The present report refers to half-yearly monitoring for the period April 2014-October 2014.

A. At the School Level

1. Regularity in Serving Meal

All 38 schools of the sample serve hot cooked meal daily (1 KGBV also served the hot cooked meals). In 2schools the MDM is served but not prepared in school (ISKON provides food in school).The further report gives status of MDM in 39 schools excluding KGBV.

2. Trends

Most of the students enrolled in a given school are eligible to avail mid-day meal facility. However, an individual child is entitled to make an option to avail or not the facility. It is in this context, data has been collected about the number of students availing mid-day meal and the actual number of students taking meal during the days of visit.

a)	Number of children enrolled in schools	-	3809
b)	Number of children opted for MDM	-	3573 (93.80%)
c)	Number of children attending the school on the day of visit	-	3519 (92.38%)
d)	Number of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit	-	3500 (91.88%)
e)	Number of children availed MDM on the previous day of visit	-	3403 (89.34%)

Considering the attendance, it may be noticed that about 8% of children were absent in schools on the day of visit. This Further considering the percentage of children actually consuming MDM, it is seen that about 94% of the students eat in the schools while close to

6% do not eat either because they are absent on the day or have decided to opt out of the scheme. Even on the previous day of the school visit by MI, about 89% of children only found to have taken MDM suggesting that 11% remained out of the scheme coverage.

The school HM/Teachers needs to be trained to maintain record of the MDM, in Hassan around 22school's HM and teachers have not been trained.

Training Provided to Head Master/Teacher to Maintain MDM Records			
	Yes	No	NA
H D Kote	2	1	
Hunsur	2	4	
K R Nagara	4	1	
Mysore North	2		1
Mysore Rural	3	2	
Mysore South	1		1
Nanjanagudu	4	2	
Periyapattana	3	1	
T Narasipur	3		
Hassan	48	22	4

3. Regularity in Delivering Food Grains to School

Food grains are supplied to school through the outlets of Food Corporation of India (FCI). There are guidelines to the FCI with regard to supplying food grains to schools. The data collected from schools has indicated that 34 schools out of 39 schools (2 schools food is supplied by NGO) have been getting the supply of food grains on time. Only one school reported that the FCI supply is delayed.

In all the schools visited, HM said and the MDM register also reflected that the foodgrains are released after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month.

FCI delivers the food grains through lifting agency to the school. All schools in Hassan did not know about the payment made to the FCI.

In 34 schools the buffer stock for one month is maintained and 3 schools did not have the buffer stock for one month.

Buffer Stock of One Month's Requirement Maintained			
	Yes	No	NA
Alur	3		
Arakalugudu	4		
Arasikere	5	1	
Belur	2		2
Chanarayapatana	6		
Hassan	7	1	
Holenarasipura	4		
Sakaleshpura	3	1	
Hassan District	34	3	2

All schools are entitled for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of food grains from FCI. But only 34 schools confirmed having FAQ quality food grains.

Quality of food grain is of Fair Average Quality (FAQ)			
	Yes	No	NA
Alur	3		
Arakalugudu	3	1	
Arasikere	6		
Belur	2		2
Chanarayapatana	6		
Hassan	7	1	
Holenarasipura	3	1	
Sakaleshpura	4		
Alur	3		
Hassan District	34	3	2

Nearly 3 schools did not get FAQ grains. If there is any lapse, the head teacher or the school is entitled to return the food grains for 'poor quality'. HM in few of the schools said they return the Grains if they are not satisfied with the quality.

4. Regularity in Delivering Cooking Cost to School Level

The mid-day meal grant is released either through a cheque, cash or e-transfer. This has been confirmed by all the sampled schools.

Mode of Transfer	Cheque	Cash	E-transfer	NA
Number of Schools	15	2	21	1

All schools cooking MDM in school get the grant/funds released on time but for one school. Although the MDM funds get transferred on time, still cooking cost gets delayed in reaching to schools.

Cooking Cost Received in Advance Regularly			
	Yes	No	NA
Alur	3		
Arakalugudu	2	2	
Arasikere	5	1	
Belur	2		2
Chanarayapatana	4	2	
Hassan	7	1	
Holenarasipura	3	1	
Sakaleshpura	4		
Hassan District	30	7	2

30 schools (out of 39 schools) which prepared mid-day meal in the school confirmed that they get funds for CG regularly without any delay. Seven schools get funds with a delay of one or two weeks. Reasons are not known.

5. Social Equity

There is no visible social discrimination in serving mid-day meal in **majority** of schools. Some of the possible factors of discrimination like caste, gender or community have not influenced MDM at any stage in the process of its implementation in most of these schools. It is observed that in 20 schools all children are served mid-day meal in a systematic manner by forming a line.

Generally in higher primary schools, as girls belong to higher age cohorts and are in the pre-adolescent stage, most parents would expect schools to maintain some sort of segregation between boys and girls. *Because of this, girls and boys sit separately and definitely this does not amount to discrimination.*

Hassan	Seating Arrangement of Students During MDM					
Arrangement	In small circles	In long rows	Girls and boys separately	Haphazard manner	As per their own wish	All Sit in a big hall/classroom together
No. Of Schools	3	20	5	1	1	6

6. Menu

The guidelines issued by the MDM scheme have specifications relating to menu. Every school is expected to evolve and maintain menu details on a weekly basis. It is also expected to incorporate variety in the menu.

- (i) Only in 31 schools, weekly menu was displayed in the school and in 7 schools it wasn't displayed. The responses from the head teachers confirm that schools have a pre-planned menu schedule for all the days of the week.

Weekly menu displayed in school				
	Yes	No	Don't Know	NR
MI Observation	31	7	0	0
Student's Response	40	67	12	7

In 38 schools visited 112 children were interviewed. Students were asked about their awareness regarding the Menu of food; only 40 students said they have seen the menu. Of these 40 students who were aware of the menu of food, only 35 students said that the menu displayed was being followed in the school.

(ii) Generally, the Cook and the Head teachers formulate the menu in schools.

Cook & HM	Teachers & HM	HM	Cook	NA	No Response
5	2	19	5	4	3

In spite of absence of the menu, students were aware of the food which they would get all through the week. Most of them said they like the food menu and what is cooked in the school.

7. Variety in Menu

The school is instructed to provide healthy locally grown vegetables, dal and rice/wheat to the students daily. The menu in most of the schools included Sambhar and rice from Monday to Friday and rice item like Chitrana, Pulao, Upma or Wheat daliya etc on a Saturdays. Sambhar would comprise of some seasonal vegetables every day.

In 39 schools in Hassan, 112 children were interviewed to get their view regarding the MDM food. When asked about the variety of food served, 73 of them said there is a variety of food served to them. Some of them were unable to distinguish between the vegetables in sambhar and they assumed it to be same every day. Similarly the SMC was also asked about the variety of food served to the students; around SMC of seven schools said there is no variety in food served.

	Similar every day	Sometimes variety is served	Everyday new variety	NR
Student Opinion	6 students	73 students	32 students	1 student
SMC Opinion	7 Schools	10 schools	17 schools	1 school

A description of the same is given in Table below

MDM Menu

Day 1 of Visit of MI	Anna Sambhar	Chitrana/rice bath	Pulao	Godiupama	Curd Rice
Number of Schools	34	1	4		
Day 2 of Visit of MI	Anna Sambhar	Chitrana/rice bath	Pulao	Chapatti & Vegetable	Payasam
Number of Schools	34	0	3	1	2

Sl. No.	Particulars	Daily	Twice / Thrice a Week	Weekly Once	Total
1	Rice / Dal	39	-	-	39

Vegetables (Mostly mixed with Dal) As answered by students

	Vegetable served on Day of Visit	Vegetable served on Previous Day of Visit
Tomato	19 Students	16 Students
Potato	11 Students	9 Students
Bottle guard		1 Student
Beans	16 Students	11 Students
Greens	17 Students	11 Students
Brinjal	9 Students	2 Students
Can't say (some vegetable mixed in Sambhar)	32 Students	47 Students
Don't Remember	8 Students	11 Students
Other items only on Saturday	All Students	

(In Hassan on 5 days of the week students are served Anna Sambhar. In few schools they are also served Wheat Mudde and chapattis. Students were interviewed and asked about what vegetable they had yesterday and a day before yesterday when MI visited. Sambhar has vegetables mixed inside it).

- (ii) In all the schools rice is the common item served. It is the items prepared with dal and vegetables that take varied form. Generally, schools provide a distinct food item (rice bath) on Saturdays.

8. Quality and Quantity of Meal

The responses from the students, head teachers and observation by MI team members have indicated details relating to the quality and quantity of food. As per the field investigators, around 23 of the schools served adequate quantity of the food, whereas around 15 schools had served more quantity to the students.

Quantity of Food Served			
Hassan District	Ample	Adequate	Less
MI Observation (number of schools)	6	33	0

Out of 112 students interviewed in Hassan, 102 said they get adequate quantity of food, none of the students stated that they are getting less quantity.

Quantity of food served during MDM			
Hassan District	Adequate	Excess	Less
Student's response	102	9	1

In terms of quality of food served, 107 of the 112 students said they were happy after consuming the meals in school and they like eating in school. As per MI observation students in all 39 schools were happy after consuming the MDM. None of the student agreed that they come to school because they are served MDM in school; they all said they come to school to study.

Quality of Food Served		
Block Name	Average	Good
HASSAN DISTRICT	11	28

Nearly all of the schools visited were serving good or average quality food to the students during MDM.

9. Supplementary (Health Check-up)

The data collected from schools has indicated that health check-up of children is conducted in 36 schools. These schools reported that they have conducted health check-up camps once in an academic year. Of 39 schools visited, 32 schools maintained the Health Card record for every child in school.

The data collected has confirmed the supply of vitamin tablets, de-worming medicine and iron folic acid tablets in 32 schools. The task of providing all this is handled by teachers, specially the class teachers. The vitamin tablets are supplied once in 15 days and de-worming is given once in six month.

Health check up been done in school since it reopened			
	Yes	No	Don't Remember
Student Response	88	24	0
Micronutrients and De worming Medicines Provided			
Student Response	94	12	6
'Height and Weight' Measured During Check-up			
Student Response	97	13	2

The health card record also displayed the 'Height and Weight' data up to date in Health Card. 12 students were provided with spectacles during the health check up.

10. Cooks

The MDM guidelines specify the social composition of cooks and helpers. This has been done to avoid social discrimination and to help children to overcome prejudices and attitude of social distancing. All the schools make efforts to adhere to the norms. However, it has

been observed that the social composition of the habitation/ village where school is located may not be able to get a person required to function as a cook or a helper.

In such situations, school will have limited options in adhering to the norms. It is due to this reason there may be certain amount of deviance in appointing cooks and helpers. However, most of the schools make choices on the basis of the availability of persons to perform the roles. The following table indicates the distribution and social composition of cooks and helpers in 38 schools:

Social Composition of Head Cook and Cook/Helpers

Hassan	SC	ST	OBC	Minority	General	No response
Head Cook	8	9	9	7	1	5

Different schools had different number of helpers depending upon the strength of the students in school; however, the head cook can only be one in a school. Once the cook is appointed in the school, he/she is provided training and given a training manual to follow. The cook and helpers also need to undergo health check up at the time of joining. But in Hassan only the cook had training manual and had health check up done at the time of joining.

Training Manual Available with Cook	Yes	No	NA	No Response
Number of Schools	22	16		1
Salary of the Cooks Received on Time				
Number of Schools	22	2		15

The salary of cooks and helpers paid by all the schools is Rs.1700 and Rs.1500 respectively. 22 schools received cook's salary on time. During the discussion with SMC about cook's salary, 28 school's SMC said the remuneration is received on time, in 3 schools they said it is not received regularly and gets delayed. In remaining schools the SMC was unaware about the salary of the cooks.

11. Infrastructure

The infrastructure needed to provide mid-day meal in the school includes facilities to cook food, availability of water, fuel and vessels. The data relating to these items indicates that most of the schools have separate kitchen or a separate space to cook. The details are given in table below.

Details about Kitchen

Sl. No.	Particulars	Percentage
1	Separate kitchen	33
2	Class room	2
3	Unspecified place	2
4	Supplied by other schools/ agencies	2
	Total	39

It has been directed to all schools that the MDM logo be displayed in the school which is visible to the community. Still only 34 schools had displayed MDM logo in Hassan. Also the school is supposed to display the MDM attendance on transparency board/ HM room Board, but only 27 schools had displayed the MDM attendance on the notice board. Weekly menu was displayed in 32 schools and six schools had no menu. Only one school had the menus in place but did not display it.

12. Safety and Hygiene:

All the schools have been making the best possible effort to ensure hygiene in the place where mid-day meal is prepared and served. There are a few cases where things could be improved for the better. In 25 schools the food was served in a clean place and the place where children sat was also clean. In Hassan, in 29 schools the kitchen was maintained in hygienic condition and 27 school's kitchen had proper ventilation and in 25 schools it was placed away from other classrooms.

Hassan	Kitchen Well Maintenance & in Hygienic Condition		
	Yes	No	NA
	24	13	2
	Proper Ventilation in Kitchen		
	Yes	No	NA
	24	13	2
	Kitchen is Away from the Classrooms		
	Yes	No	NA
	29	8	2

In 20 schools the kitchen had storage bins to store food grains in the kitchen/store room. As per SMC members the condition of kitchen in their schools is as follows:

Condition of kitchen in school				
Good Condition	Needs repair in rains	No storage room but kitchen is good	Kitchen is good but water facility needed	Not Applicable
11	3	6	13	2

In four schools SMC did not respond to the question. In 34 schools, children wash their hands and plates before eating the food. But the several schools, places where the children wash the plates become clogged with water and children need to maneuver to reach the water source. In most of the schools, teachers monitored the behavior of the students while eating and usage of water without wasting. 27 schools had fire extinguisher in school.

13. Conservation of Water

The availability of water has been confirmed in all 39 schools (100 percent). The quality and quantity of water has been found to be good for purpose of cooking and drinking. However, only 33 schools had water availability in/near kitchen. In rest of the schools, water was brought from the water source in school/nearby areas.

Means for the Conservation of Water in Kitchen				
District	Yes	No	Available little far from the kitchen(cook has to carry)	NA
No of Schools	33	2	3	1

14. Utensils for Cooking and Serving Food

The responses from the schools indicate that all schools preparing mid-day meal have utensils to cook food and small serving utensils as well.

15. All the schools visited, had some or the other source of fuel for cooking.

Source of Fuel	Firewood	Gas (LPG)	Kerosene Stove	NA
No. of Schools	0	38	0	1

The schools using LPG for cooking faced shortage of supply hence were making extra arrangements like borrowing from teacher's house or from other people in case of emergency.

16. Participation of SMC, parents, local body members in MDM:

- (i) It was observed that the participation of SMC members to supervise mid-day meal varies from school to school. Focused Group discussion was held with the SMC members of the 35 schools (In three schools SMC members were not available for FGD). Understanding of SMC with regard to their roles and responsibilities towards MDM and the action taken by them to manage MDM activity in school were discussed during the FGD.

The community tries to participate in the school's MDM activity but they have their own constraints. In 21 schools the SMC keeps stock of quantity and quality of food

served to the students, in 7 school's SMC members said they just observe while MDM or other school activities take place. SMC in 11 schools ensured discipline during the MDM timings.

During discussion with the cooks in the school it was asked which SMC members actively participates in MDM activities in school. Amongst 39 schools, only 6 school's head cook said that all members pay attention, in 8 schools they said SMC president pays more attention to MDM activities, in 7 schools cook said none of the SMC members pay any attention to the activities related to MDM.

Sl. No	Monitoring Activity To be done by SMC	Number of respondents	Action Taken By SMC Members	Number of respondents
1	Monitoring of Stocks and Quality and Quantity of food served	21	Just Observe	7
2	MDM Attendance	1	Ensure discipline in serving and cooking MDM	11
3	Kitchen Maintenance	3	Help in cooking/serving when needed	3
4	Supervise MDM Functioning	3	Arrange for gas and water facility	3
5	Everything is good no need to monitor anything	3	Don't do anything	7
6	Cook Attendance	2	Cook Attendance ensured	2
7	Not Applicable	2	Not Applicable	2

- (ii) As per the norm, the MDM is being monitored and supervised by the parents on some of the days. The data collected from sample schools indicate that there is no roster of parents formally prepared with specified days. However, there is informal arrangement with parents to oversee MDM supply in few of the schools.
- (iii) A detailed analysis of the extent of awareness and participation in MDM program by the parents, SMC members and Panchayat/Local Body representatives has been made by examining the responses from the respective groups:

- d) **Parents:** In Hassan district 115 parents were interviewed. The data collected from parents confirmed that most of the parents (interviewed by the MI team members) have good understanding of the implementation of MDM programme. Largely parents trusted the school and said whatever the school is providing has to be good for their children. They were satisfied with the quantity of food given to the students and none of them said they ever faced any issue of discrimination in the school during MDM.

Knowledge of Parents regarding MDM				
	Yes	No	Can't say/Don't Know	NA
Menu of the food	45	45	23	2
Healthy food is served	93	4	18	
How children are Seated during MDM	105	3	7	

All parents said they were happy with MDM being provided in school. Regarding the quality of food served, 62% of the parents believed that the MDM takes care of nutritional and calorific requirements of the child.

Nutritional and Calorific Requirements of the Child Taken Care by MDM			
Yes	No	Can't say	No response
71	13	28	3

- e) Overall awareness and participation of the parents in implementation of MDM is fairly low in Hassan. The table below highlights the awareness status of parents on various parameters of functioning of MDM.

Community Participation in MDM (Response from Parents)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	No Response
1	Overall Awareness Regarding MDM	6	38	67	1		3
2	Awareness Regarding Supervision of MDM		55		54		6
3	Awareness Regarding Quantity Prescribed for students	29	61	31	0	0	6
4	Awareness Regarding Nutrition level of mid-day meal	29	59	25	2	0	29

Only 13 parents were aware of the grievance redressal mechanism in case of emergency in school. Of these 11 parents knew of the toll free number to dial in adverse situation.

- b) **SMC Members:** The level of awareness among SMC members has been “Good” among majority (42.86 per cent). It is also satisfactory for 34 % of SMC members. The supervision level has been “Very Good” among 5 % of the SMC members. .

Community Participation in MDM (Response from SMC Members)

Sl. No.		Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	Total
1	Awareness regarding MDM implementation	5	12	15	2	1	35
2	Awareness regarding MDM supervision	Mostly the SMC President visits frequently and is keenly involved in supervision of MDM related activities.					

18. Source of Awareness

An attempt has also been made to identify the sources of awareness. From most of the sources identified, parent’s awareness about MDM is gathered more or less from school or

the students. Largely, teachers and students are the main source, though they are not significantly high. The details about other sources are indicated in Table below.

Source of Awareness of Parents about the MDM Scheme/ School Activities

Sl. No.	Particulars	Percentage of Respondents PARENTS
1	Newspaper/ Magazine	51 parents
2	Radio	22 parents
3	Television	50 parents
4	Teacher	99 parents
5	Students/ School	97 parents
6	Website	6 parents
7	Other Sources	2 parents

*Each respondent is entitled to indicate more than one source.

For SMC also the main source of awareness regarding MDM functioning is through teachers and students (around 95%). Awareness source for the SMC regarding MDM and other school activities is shown in the below table:

Source of Awareness for SMC regarding MDM	Percentage of Respondents
Newspaper	25.5 %
Radio/TV	37.14%
Teachers	94.54 %
Students	71. 11%
Panchayat Members / Mothers / Community Members / PTA members	20%
Others	14 % (Government Officials)

19. Inspection and Supervision

The MDM scheme has to be supervised at the State, District, Block, Cluster and School level. There are many officials who are involved and assigned with this responsibility. There are provision of both periodical and surprise inspections from most these officials. On a daily basis, it is the SMC members or parents who supervise and inspect at the school level. The CRP, Assistant Director of TalukPanchayat (AksharaDasoha) and CRC, BEO/BRC supervise most of the schools at least once in a month. The district officials like the Deputy Project Coordinator (SSA), Education Officer (ZillaPanchayat) and other officials supervise and inspect as and when they visit schools. The officials at the State level also have their planned programme of supervision and inspection. The data collected from the sampled schools indicates that it is the Block Level and Cluster Level officials making more frequent visits of supervision and monitoring than the District Level and State Level Officers. The details of visit by different officials are given in Table below.

Inspection and Supervision by MDM Officials

Sl. No.	Particulars	Visit by Officials	Comment made by them
1	State Level MDM Officers (DyPC)	Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May)=1 school	38 of 39 monitored schools were not visited by state level MDM officers. In the school where the official visited, comment was made on teaching methods of English and Math subjects. No comments on MDM.
2	District level MDM officers (BEO)	Visit in 1 st Quarter (June–Sept) = 5 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 2 schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 3 school	29 out of 39 schools not visited by the block level officers. In schools visited also, there was no comment made on MDM. In 1 school comments were on hygiene and classroom maintenance and Nali kali.
3	Cluster Level Officers (CRP)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June–Sept) = All schools	All 39 schools were visited by CRP in 2013-14. In most of the schools the comments were made on VER/WER maintenance and learning of the students. No comments made on MDM.
4	Other Educational Officers (ECO)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June – Sept) = 3 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 2 schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 1 school	Of the total 39 schools visited, in 6 schools ECO had also visited and had commented about poor learning of students & Instructed to use computers to prepare lesson plan. Also talked about vegetables to be put in MDM.

5	AksharaDasoha Officials	Visit in 1 st Quarter (June–Sept) = 5 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 2 schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 3 school	19 out of 39 schools monitored were visited by Akshara Dasoha official. There were no comments made on learning of students in school and MDM, by the akshara Dasoha official. In 2 schools comments were on maintenance of MDM register. In other two schools comments were made on cleanliness in school.
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Amongst all officials, CRPs visit the schools frequently for inspection and supervision of MDM and other school activities. Despite this supervision and inspection; there are instances of delay in supply of food grains as well as allotment of funds in the district which is a cause of concern. Monitoring work from higher officials has been neglected.

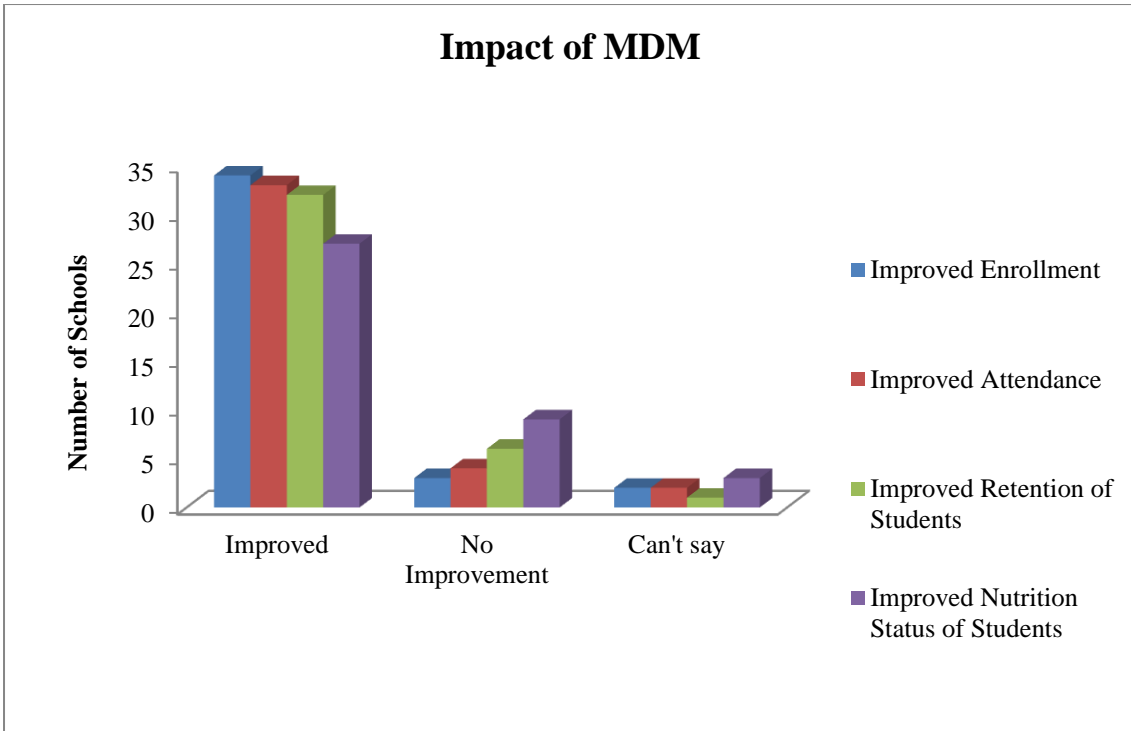
20. Impact

The mid-day meal scheme has been found to have made impact in many ways as reported by different stakeholders. Teachers, SMC members, & Parents have uniformly expressed the view that MDM has improved attendance, enrolment and nutritional status of children in schools.

Impact of MDM on Child					
	Yes now he/she is more healthy	Child has become more regular	Child is concentrating more on studies in school	Don't know	We don't have time to cook, so good it is provided in school
Parent's Opinion	61	5	19	7	2

Around 19 parents said the MDM scheme has benefitted the children in a positive way and it is a good thing to provide food to all. 2 parents said they leave for work very early in the morning and their children go to school on their own. Under such circumstances it is a big relief that our children are fed in school.

The school Headmasters also believed MDM has helped in many ways. The graph below highlights few parameters on which HM felt MDM is contributing in a big way.



Around 99% of the Head teachers in the schools visited, claimed that MDM had improved enrollment in school, and 84.6% of them said attendance had improved, 82% said retention of the students in school has improved due to MDM. Around 69% of them said that it has improved the nutritional status of the students.

1st Half Yearly Monitoring Report



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना
Mid Day Meal Scheme
MDM- Karnataka

Period: 1st April 2014 to 31st October 2014

District Monitored - TUMKUR

**INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL & ECONOMIC CHANGE
BANGALORE**

District Level Half Yearly Monitoring Report (MDM)

Tumkur District

Tumkur District had a sample of 40 schools, with 2 Lower Primary Schools and 38 Upper Primary Schools. The selection of sample schools has been done in consultation with the District SSA office and as per the criteria outlined by the MHRD/GoI. The present report refers to half-yearly monitoring for the period April 2014-October 2014.

A. At the School Level

1. Regularity in Serving Meal

In 39 schools of the sample serve hot cooked meal daily. In 1 school the MDM is served but not prepared in school (NGO provides food in school). The further report gives status of MDM in 40 schools.

2. Trends

Most of the students enrolled in a given school are eligible to avail mid-day meal facility. However, an individual child is entitled to make an option to avail or not the facility. It is in this context, data has been collected about the number of students availing mid-day meal and the actual number of students taking meal during the days of visit.

a)	Number of children enrolled in schools	-	5617
b)	Number of children opted for MDM	-	5559 (98.96%)
c)	Number of children attending the school on the day of visit	-	4970 (88.48%)
d)	Number of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit	-	4914(87.48%)
e)	Number of children availed MDM on the previous day of visit	-	5056(90.01%)

Considering the attendance, it may be noticed that about 11% of children were absent in schools on the day of visit. This Further considering the percentage of children actually consuming MDM, it is seen that about 99% of the students eat in the schools while close to 1% do not eat either because they are absent on the day or have decided to opt out of the

scheme. Even on the previous day of the school visit by MI, about 90% of children only found to have taken MDM suggesting that 10% remained out of the scheme coverage.

The school HM/Teachers needs to be trained to maintain record of the MDM, in Tumkur around 6 school's HM and teachers have not been trained.

Training Provided to Head Master/Teacher to Maintain MDM Records			
	Yes	No	NA
Chikkanayakanahalli	5		
Gubbi	6	1	
Kunigal	5	1	
Tiptur	6		
Tumkur	8	2	
Turuvekere	4	2	
Tumkur District	34	6	

3. Regularity in Delivering Food Grains to School

Food grains are supplied to school through the outlets of Food Corporation of India (FCI). There are guidelines to the FCI with regard to supplying food grains to schools. The data collected from schools has indicated that 38 schools out of 40 schools (1 school food is supplied by NGO) have been getting the supply of food grains on time. Only one school reported that the FCI supply is delayed.

Out of 40 schools visited 39schools' HM said and the MDM register also reflected that the food grains are released after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month.

FCI delivers the food grains through lifting agency to the school. All schools in Tumkur did not know about the payment made to the FCI.

Buffer Stock of One Month's Requirement Maintained			
	Yes	No	NA
Chikkanayakanahalli	5		
Gubbi	7		
Kunigal	5	1	
Tiptur	6		
Tumkur	9		1
Turuvekere	6		
Tumkur District	38	1	1

In 38 schools the buffer stock for one month is maintained and 1 school did not have the buffer stock for one month. One school has cooked food supplied by an NGO, hence buffer stock not needed.

All schools are entitled for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of food grains from FCI. 38 schools confirmed having FAQ quality food grains.

Quality of food grain is of Fair Average Quality (FAQ)			
	Yes	No	NA
Chikkanayakanahalli	5		
Gubbi	7		
Kunigal	6		
Tiptur	6		
Tumkur	8	1	1
Turuvekere	6		
Tumkur District	38	1	1

4. Regularity in Delivering Cooking Cost to School Level

The mid-day meal grant is released either through a cheque, cash or e-transfer. This has been confirmed by all the sampled schools.

Mode of Transfer	Cheque	Cash	E-transfer	NA
Number of Schools	11	2	26	1

36 out of 40 schools cooking MDM in school get the grant/funds released on time. Although the MDM funds get transferred on time, still cooking cost gets delayed in reaching to schools.

Cooking Cost Received in Advance Regularly			
	Yes	No	NA
Chikkanayakanahalli	4	1	
Gubbi	7		
Kunigal	6		
Tiptur	5	1	
Tumkur	8	1	1
Turuvekere	6		
Tumkur District	36	3	1

36 schools (out of 39 schools) which prepared mid-day meal in the school confirmed that they get funds for CG regularly without any delay. Three schools get funds with a delay of one or two weeks. Reasons are not known.

5. Social Equity

There is no visible social discrimination in serving mid-day meal in **majority** of schools. Some of the possible factors of discrimination like caste, gender or community have not influenced MDM at any stage in the process of its implementation in most of these schools. It is observed that in 39 schools all children are served mid-day meal in a systematic manner by forming a line.

Generally in higher primary schools, as girls belong to higher age cohorts and are in the pre-adolescent stage, most parents would expect schools to maintain some sort of segregation between boys and girls. *Because of this, girls and boys sit separately and definitely this does not amount to discrimination.*

Tumkur	Seating Arrangement of Students During MDM					
Arrangement	In small circles	In long rows	Girls and boys separately	Haphazard manner	As per their own wish	All Sit in a big hall/classroom together
No. Of Schools	5	27	1	0	0	2

6. Menu

The guidelines issued by the MDM scheme have specifications relating to menu. Every school is expected to evolve and maintain menu details on a weekly basis. It is also expected to incorporate variety in the menu.

- (i) Only in 32 schools, weekly menu was displayed in the school and in 8 schools it wasn't displayed. The responses from the head teachers confirm that schools have a pre-planned menu schedule for all the days of the week.

Weekly menu displayed in school				
	Yes	No	Don't Know	NR
MI Observation	27	11	2	40
Student's Response	68	51	12	17

In 40 schools visited 150 children were interviewed. Students were asked about their awareness regarding the Menu of food; only 84 students said they have seen the menu. Of these students who were aware of the menu of food, only 73 students said that the menu displayed was being followed in the school.

(ii) Generally, the Cook and the Head teachers formulate the menu in schools.

Cook & HM	Teachers & HM	HM	Cook	NA	No Response
4	2	25	5	0	3

In spite of absence of the menu, students were aware of the food which they would get all through the week. Most of them said they like the food menu and what is cooked in the school.

7. Variety of Menu

The school is instructed to provide healthy locally grown vegetables, dal and rice/wheat to the students daily. The menu in most of the schools included Sambhar and rice from Monday to Friday and rice item like Chitrana, Pulao, Upma or Wheat daliyaetc on a Saturdays. Sambhar would comprise of some seasonal vegetables every day.

In 40 schools in Tumkur, 150 children were interviewed to get their view regarding the MDM food. When asked about the variety of food served, 64 of them said there is a variety of food served to them. Some of them were unable to distinguish between the vegetables in sambhar and they assumed it to be same every day. Similarly the SDMC was also asked about the variety of food served to the students, 18 said there is variety in food served.

	Similar every day	Sometimes variety is served	Everyday new variety	NR
Student Opinion	5 students	76 students	64 students	2 students
SDMC Opinion	1 School	18 schools	18 schools	1 School

A description of the same is given in Table below

MDM Menu

Day 1 of Visit of MI	Anna Sambhar	Chitrana/rice bath	Pulao	Godiupama	Curd Rice
Number of Schools	33	6	1		
Day 2 of Visit of MI	Anna Sambhar	Chitrana/rice bath	Pulao	Godiupama	Curd Rice
Number of Schools	31	5	3	1	

Sl. No.	Particulars	Daily	Twice / Thrice a Week	Weekly Once	Total
1	Rice / Dal	40	-	-	40
Vegetables (Mostly mixed with Dal) As answered by students					

	Vegetable served on Day of Visit	Vegetable served on Previous Day of Visit
Tomato	23	15
Potato	17	14
Bottle guard	1	2
Beans	10	5
Greens	27	19
Brinjal	6	5
Can't say (some vegetable mixed in Sambhar)	43	25
Don't Remember	9	15
Other items only on Saturday	All students	

(In Tumkur on 5 days of the week students are served Anna Sambhar. Students were interviewed and asked about what vegetable they had yesterday and a day before yesterday when MI visited. Sambhar has vegetables mixed inside it.).

- (ii) In all the schools rice is the common item served. It is the items prepared with dal and vegetables that take varied form. Generally, schools provide a distinct food item (rice bath) on Saturdays.

8. Quality and Quantity of Meal

The responses from the students, head teachers and observation by MI team members have indicated details relating to the quality and quantity of food. As per the field investigators,

around 35 schools served adequate quantity of the food, whereas around 5 schools had served more quantity to the students.

Quantity of Food Served			
Tumkur District	Ample	Adequate	Less
MI Observation (number of schools)	5	35	0

Out of 150 students interviewed in Tumkur, 130 said they get adequate quantity of food, none of the students stated that they are getting less quantity.

Quantity of food served during MDM				
Tumkur District	Adequate	Excess	Less	No response
Student's response	130	14	3	3

In terms of quality of food served, 142 students said they were happy after consuming the meals in school and that they like eating in school. As per MI observation students in 36 schools were happy after consuming the MDM. None of the student agreed that they come to school because they are served MDM in school; they all said they come to school to study. 36 out of 40 schools visited were serving good quality food to the students during MDM.

9. Supplementary (Health Check-up)

The data collected from schools has indicated that health check-up for children is conducted in all the 34 schools out of 40. And these 34 schools also maintained the Health Card record for every child in school.

The data collected has confirmed the supply of vitamin tablets, de-worming medicine and iron folic acid tablets in all the schools but for two. The task of providing all this is handled by teachers, specially the class teachers. The vitamin tablets are supplied once in 15 days and de-worming is given once in six month. In 6 schools students said they were not provided

with de worming tablets, but since it is served once in six months they might have forgotten or school might be planning to give them in future.

Health check up been done in school since it reopened			
	Yes	No	Don't Remember
Student Response	130	17	1
Micronutrients and De worming Medicines Provided			
Student Response	135	6	5
Height and Weight' Measured During Check-up			
Student Response	120	26	2

The health card record also displayed the 'Height and Weight' data up to date in Health Card. students were provided with spectacles during the checkup.

10. Cooks

The MDM guidelines specify the social composition of cooks and helpers. This has been done to avoid social discrimination and to help children to overcome prejudices and attitude of social distancing. All the schools make efforts to adhere to the norms. However, it has been observed that the social composition of the habitation/ village where school is located may not be able to get a person required to function as a cook or a helper.

In such situations, school will have limited options in adhering to the norms. It is due to this reason there may be certain amount of deviance in appointing cooks and helpers. However, most of the schools make choices on the basis of the availability of persons to perform the roles. The following table indicates the distribution and social composition of cooks and helpers in 38 schools:

Social Composition of Head Cook and Cook/Helpers

Tumkur	SC	ST	OBC	Minority	General	No response/DNA	NA
Head Cook	6	6	21	3	3		0

Different schools had different number of helpers depending upon the strength of the students in school; however, the head cook can only be one in a school. Once the cook is appointed in the school, he/she is provided training and given a training manual to follow. The cook and helpers also need to undergo health check up at the time of joining. But in Tumkur only the cook had training manual and had health checkup done at the time of joining.

Training Manual Available with Cook	Yes	No	NA	No Response
Number of Schools	15	24	1	0
Salary of the Cooks Received on Time				
Number of Schools	37	2	1	0

The salary of cooks and helpers paid by all the schools is Rs.1700 and Rs.1500 respectively. 37 schools received cook's salary on time. During the discussion with SDMC about cook's salary, 32 school's SDMC said the remuneration is received on time. In 5 schools the SDMC was unaware about the salary of the cooks.

11. Infrastructure

The infrastructure needed to provide mid-day meal in the school includes facilities to cook food, availability of water, fuel and vessels. The data relating to these items indicates that most of the schools have separate kitchen or a separate space to cook. The details are given in table below.

Details about Kitchen

Sl. No.	Particulars	Percentage
1	Separate kitchen	29
2	Class room	9
3	Open Ground	1
4	Supplied by other schools/ agencies	1
	Total	40

Although in one school MDM is provided by NGO, still in the school provision of kitchen was available to provide milk to the students. It has been directed to all schools that the MDM logo be displayed in the school which is visible to the community. Still only 25 schools had displayed MDM logo in Tumkur. Also the school is supposed to display the MDM attendance on transparency board/ HM room Board, but only 15 schools had displayed the MDM attendance on the notice board. Food Stock information was displayed by 15 schools in Tumkur.

12. Safety and Hygiene:

All the schools have been making the best possible effort to ensure hygiene in the place where mid-day meal is prepared and served. There are a few cases where things could be improved for the better.

Tumkur	Kitchen Well Maintenance & in Hygienic Condition		
	Yes	No	NA
	35	4	1
	Proper Ventilation in Kitchen		
	Yes	No	NA
	30	8	2
	Kitchen is Away from the Classrooms		
	Yes	No	NA
	28	11	1

In Tumkur, in 35 schools the kitchen was maintained in hygienic condition and 30 school's kitchen had proper ventilation and in 28 schools it was placed away from other classrooms. Students were encouraged to wash hands before eating in 34 schools.

In 33 schools the kitchen had storage bins to store food grains in the kitchen/store room. As per SMC members the condition of kitchen in their schools is as follows:

Condition of kitchen in school				
Good Condition	Needs repair in rains	No storage room but kitchen is good	Very Cramped Kitchen	Not Applicable/SMC doesn't Know
34	2	1	1	2

In 34 schools, children wash their hands and plates before eating the food. But the places where the children wash the plates become clogged with water and children need to maneuver to reach the water source. In most of the schools, teachers monitored the behavior of the students while eating and usage of water without wasting. 30 schools had fire extinguisher in school.

13. Conservation of Water

The availability of water has been confirmed in all 30 schools in 5 schools no water available, they need to fetch water from far off place. The quality and quantity of water has been found to be good for purpose of cooking and drinking. However, only 30 schools had water availability in/near kitchen. In rest of the schools the water was brought from the water source in school/nearby areas.

Means for the Conservation of Water in Kitchen				
District	Yes	No	Available little far from the kitchen(cook has to carry lots	NA
No of Schools	35	3	1	1

14. Utensils for Cooking and Serving Food

The responses from the schools indicate that all schools preparing mid-day meal have utensils to cook food and small serving utensils as well.

15. All the schools visited, had some or the other source of fuel for cooking.

Source of Fuel	Firewood	Gas (LPG)	NA
No. of Schools	2	37	1

The schools using LPG for cooking faced shortage of supply hence were making extra arrangements like borrowing from teacher's house or from other people in case of emergency.

16. Participation of SMC, parents, local body members in MDM:

- (i) It was observed that the participation of SMC members to supervise mid-day meal varies from school to school. Focused Group discussion was held with the SMC members of all the schools visited. Understanding of SMC with regard to their roles and responsibilities towards MDM and the action taken by them to manage MDM activity in school were discussed during the FGD.

Sl. No	Monitoring Activity To be done by SMC	Number of respondents	Action Taken By SMC Members	Number of respondents
1	Monitoring of Stocks and Quality and Quantity of food served	20	Just Observe	14
2	MDM Attendance	3	Ensure discipline in serving and cooking MDM	9
3	Kitchen Maintenance	6	Help in cooking/serving when needed	2
4	Cook Attendance	2	Arrange for gas and water facility	5
5	Everything is good no need to monitor anything	6	Don't do anything	9
6	Don't Know / No responsibility	2		
7	Not Applicable	1	Not Applicable	1

The community tries to participate in the school's MDM activity but they have their own constraints. In 20 schools the SMC keeps stock of quantity and quality of food served to the students, in 14 schools, SMC members said they just observe while MDM or other school activities take place. SMC in 9 schools ensured discipline during the MDM timings. During discussion with the cooks in the school it was asked which SMC members actively participates in MDM activities in school. Amongst 40 schools, only 4 school's head cook said that all members pay attention, in 25 schools they said SMC president pays more attention to MDM activities, in 6 schools cook said none of the SMC members pay any attention to the activities related to MDM.

- (ii) As per the norm, the MDM is being monitored and supervised by the parents on some of the days. The data collected from sample schools indicate that there is no roster of parents formally prepared with specified days in majority of schools. However, there is informal arrangement with parents to oversee MDM supply in few of the schools.
 - (iii) A detailed analysis of the extent of awareness and participation in MDM program by the parents, SMC members and Panchayat/Local Body representatives has been made by examining the responses from the respective groups:
- f) Parents:** In Tumkur district 133 parents were interviewed. The data collected from parents confirmed that most of the parents (interviewed by the MI team members) have a good understanding of the implementation of MDM programme. Largely parents trusted the school and said whatever the school is providing has to be good for their children. They were satisfied with the quantity of food given to the students and none of them said they ever faced any issue of discrimination in the school during MDM.

Knowledge of Parents regarding MDM				
	Yes	No	Can't say/Don't Know	No Response
Menu of the food	76	36	21	0
Healthy food is served	119	6	4	4
How children are Seated during MDM	122	5	4	2

130 parents out of 133 said they were happy with MDM being provided in school. Only 3 parents did not respond to this question.

Regarding the quality of food served, 59.42 % of the parents believed that the MDM takes care of nutritional and calorific requirements of the child.

Nutritional and Calorific Requirements of the Child Taken Care by MDM			
Yes	No	Can't say	No response
110	8	13	2

- g) Overall awareness and participation of the parents in implementation of MDM is fairly low in Tumkur. The table below highlights the awareness status of parents on various parameters of functioning of MDM.

Community Participation in MDM (Response from Parents)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	No Response
1	Overall Awareness Regarding MDM	5	24	7	96	0	1
2	Awareness Regarding Supervision of MDM	44	2	85	0	0	2
3	Awareness Regarding Quantity Prescribed for students	21	47	47	16	1	1
4	Awareness Regarding Nutrition level of mid-day meal	22	44	53	13	0	1

Only 13 parents out of 133 interviewed were aware of the grievance redressal mechanism in case of emergency in school. Of these 4 parents knew of the toll free number to dial in adverse situation. 45 parents said there is a roster maintained by the school for daily supervision by the parents. Three parents said they witnessed discrimination in school during MDM but did not elaborate on what kind of discrimination was observed.

- h) SMC Members:** The level of awareness among SMC members regarding MDM implementation has been “Good” among majority (47.37%) of schools visited. It is also satisfactory for 31.58 % school’s SMC members.

Community Participation in MDM (Response from SMC Members)

Sl. No.		Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	NR
1	Awareness regarding MDM implementation	1	12	18	4	3	2
2	Awareness regarding MDM supervision	Mostly the SMC President visits frequently and is keenly involved in supervision of MDM related activities.					

18. Source of Awareness

An attempt has also been made to identify the sources of awareness. From most of the sources identified, parent’s awareness about MDM is gathered more or less from school or the students and teachers. Largely, teachers and students are the main source, though they are not significantly high. The details about other sources are indicated in Table below.

Source of Awareness of Parents about the MDM Scheme/ School Activities

Sl. No.	Particulars	Number of Respondents PARENTS
1	Newspaper/ Magazine	46
2	Radio	10
3	Television	40
4	Teacher	100
5	Students/ School	117
6	Website	3
7	Other Sources (villagers/friends)	5

*Each respondent is entitled to indicate more than one source.

For SMC also the main source of awareness regarding MDM functioning is through teachers and students. Awareness source for the SMC regarding MDM and other school activities is shown in the below table:

Source of Awareness for SMC regarding MDM	Number of School's SMC
Newspaper	16
Radio/TV	16
Teachers	33
Students	31
Panchayat Members / Mothers / community members / PTA members	17
Others	13

More than 81% of the SDMC members gave credit to school and teachers as the source of their awareness regarding MDM related activities.

19. Inspection and Supervision

The MDM scheme has to be supervised at the State, District, Block, Cluster and School level. There are many officials who are involved and assigned with this responsibility. There are provision of both periodical and surprise inspections from most these officials. On a daily basis, it is the SMC members or parents who supervise and inspect at the school level. The CRP, Assistant Director of Taluk Panchayat (Akshara Dasoha) and CRC, BEO/BRC are supposed to supervise most of the schools at least once in a month. The district officials like the Deputy Project Coordinator (SSA), Education Officer (Zilla Panchayat) and other officials supervise and inspect as and when they visit schools. The officials at the State level also have their planned programme of supervision and inspection. The data collected from the sampled schools indicates that it is the Cluster Level officials making more frequent visits of supervision and monitoring than the District Level and State Level Officers. The details of visit by different officials are given in Table below.

Inspection and Supervision by MDM Officials

Sl. No.	Particulars	Visit by Officials	Comment made by them
1	State Level MDM Officers (DyPC)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June–Sept)= 1 school	39 of 40 monitored schools were not visited by state level MDM officers. In one of these schools the official commented on everything being good.

2	District level MDM officers (BEO)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June–Sept)= 4 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 2 schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May)= 2 schools	Only 8 schools out of 40 monitored in Tumkur were visited by the block level officers. In three schools no comments were made for MDM and Learning process. In one school comment was made on providing regular tablets to the students, MDM quality and cleanliness in most of the schools. In two school commented on Learning progress of students.
3	Cluster Level Officers (CRP)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June–Sept) = 30 schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 8 schools	All 38 schools were visited by CRP in 2013-14. In the schools visited, comments were regarding the cleanliness of school and good quality of food. In two schools CRP has commented on children’s learning progress and radio program usage in Nali kali classes.
4	Other Educational Officers (ECO)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June–Sept) = 7 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 1 school Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 3 schools	ECO had visited in 11 schools of the 40 schools visited by MI. ECO had commented not commented on MDM or learning of students in 6 schools. In about 5 schools comments were on cleanliness and MDM being served in school. Regarding learning and development the official commented on progress of students, improving their attendance in 4 schools.
5	Akshara Dasoha Officials	Visit in 1 st Quarter (June–Sept) = 2 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan) = 3 schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 4 schools	Out of 40 schools visited by MI, Akshara Dasoha official had visited only 9 schools. In 2 schools comments were on quality of food was good and maintaining cleanliness in preparing of food. In one school need for clean drinking water in school was mentioned. In three schools no comments were made on MDM. In two schools the comment was on learning progress of students.

6	CRP	Visit in 1 st Quarter (June–Sept) = 37 schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 3 schools	CRP commented on food served in the schools visited and emphasized on maintaining cleanliness. They mentioned about toilet maintenance also. Regarding Learning and Development CRP made comments in 17 schools on learning progress of students, on maintaining subject wise register in one school, using more TLMs in Nali Kali classes.
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Amongst all officials, CRPs visit the schools frequently for inspection and supervision of MDM and other school activities. Despite this supervision and inspection; there are instances of delay in supply of food grains as well as allotment of funds in the district which is a cause of concern. Monitoring work from higher officials has been neglected.

20. Impact

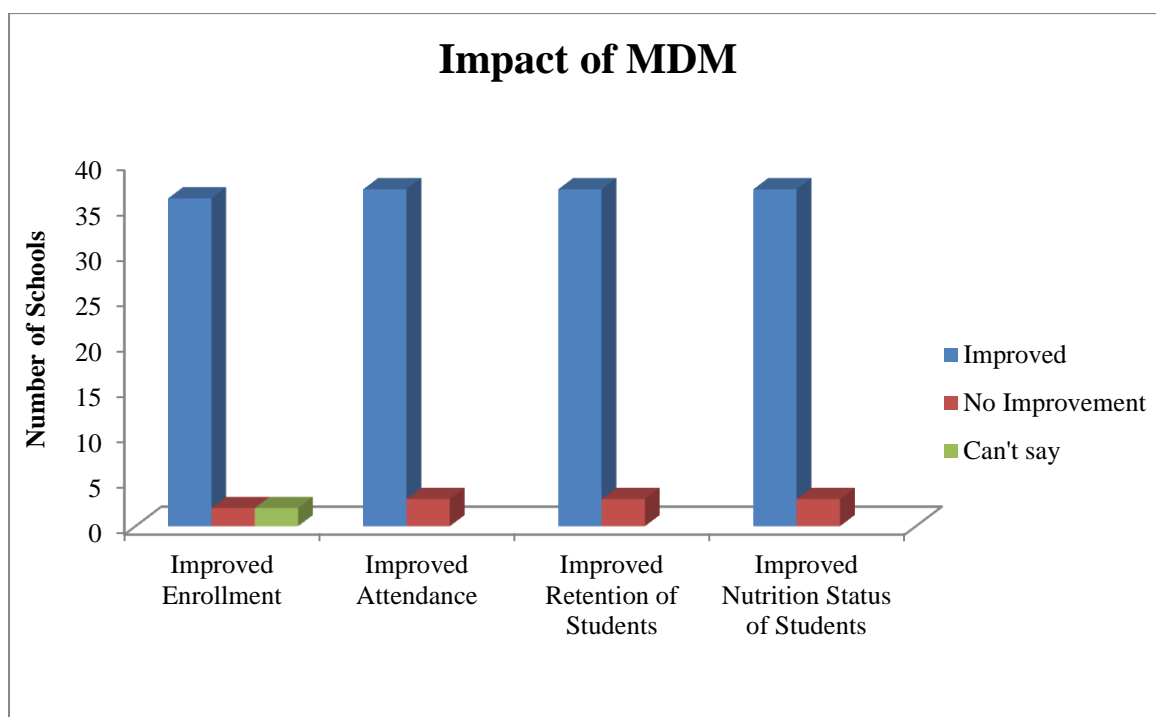
The mid-day meal scheme has been found to have made impact in many ways as reported by different stakeholders. Teachers, SMC members, & Parents have uniformly expressed the view that MDM has improved attendance, enrolment and nutritional status of children in schools.

Impact of MDM on Child					
	Yes now he/she is more healthy	Child has become more regular	Child is concentrating more on studies in school	Don't know	Giving MDM for all is good
Parent's Opinion	85	21	2	13	12

Around 55% parents said the MDM scheme has benefitted the children in a positive way. Few parents even said due to MDM in school child has become regular. They said earlier they used to see children would come back in lunch time and never go back to school to study.

The school Head masters (40 schools) also believed MDM has helped in many ways. Around 36 school's Head masters in the schools visited, said that MDM had improved enrollment in school, and 37 of them said attendance and retention of students have improved. Around 37 of them said that it had improved the nutritional status of the students.

The graph below highlights few parameters on which HM fell MDM is contributing in a big way.



1st Half Yearly Monitoring Report



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना
Mid Day Meal Scheme
MDM- Karnataka

Period: 1st April 2014 to 31st October 2014

District Monitored - CHIKABALLAPUR

**INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL & ECONOMIC CHANGE
BANGALORE**

District Level Half Yearly Monitoring Report (MDM)

Chikaballapur District

Chikaballapur District had a sample of 40 schools with 2 KGBV schools and 38 GHPS/GLPS schools. The selection of sample schools has been done in consultation with the District SSA office and as per the criteria outlined by the MHRD/GoI. The present report refers to half-yearly monitoring for the period April 2014-October 2014.

A. At the School Level

1. Regularity in Serving Meal

All 38 schools of the sample serve hot cooked meal daily (2 KGBV also served the hot cooked meals). In 4 schools the MDM is served but not prepared in school (ISKON provides food in school). The further report gives status of MDM in 38 schools excluding KGBV. In 4 schools in Chikaballapur the food was being provided by Centralized Kitchen and food was not being cooked in school.

2. Trends

Most of the students enrolled in a given school are eligible to avail mid-day meal facility. However, an individual child is entitled to make an option to avail or not the facility. It is in this context, data has been collected about the number of students availing mid-day meal and the actual number of students taking meal during the days of visit.

a)	Number of children enrolled in schools	-	5180
b)	Number of children opted for MDM	-	5015 (96.81%)
c)	Number of children attending the school on the day of visit	-	4489 (86.66%)
d)	Number of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit	-	4435 (85.61%)
e)	Number of children availed MDM on the previous day of visit	-	4562 (88.07%)

Considering the attendance, it may be noticed that about 14% of children were absent in schools on the day of visit. This Further considering the percentage of children actually consuming MDM, it is seen that about 85% of the students eat in the schools while close to 15% do not eat either because they are absent on the day or have decided to opt out of the scheme. Even on the previous day of the school visit by MI, about 88% of children were found to have taken MDM suggesting that 12% remained out of the scheme coverage. There is a gap between those who opted for the food and those who actually utilize the benefit and this is not an encouraging trend. Even discrepancies regarding number of students presented in school MDM register and number of children having food actually in school was varying certain schools.

The school HM/Teachers needs to be trained to maintain record of the MDM, in Chikaballapur around 14 school's HM and teachers have not been trained.

Training Provided to Head Master/Teacher to Maintain MDM Records		
	Yes	No
Bagepally	5	1
Chikaballapur	4	2
Chintamani	6	4
Gowribidnuru	4	4
Gudibanda	2	
Shidlaghatta	3	3
Chikaballapur District	24	14

3. Regularity in Delivering Food Grains to School

Food grains are supplied to school through the outlets of Food Corporation of India (FCI). There are guidelines to the FCI with regard to supplying food grains to schools. The data collected from schools has indicated that 33 schools out of 34 schools (4 schools food is supplied by NGO) have been getting the supply of food grains on time. Only one school reported that the FCI supply is delayed.

Out of 34 schools visited 32 schools' HM said and the MDM register also reflected that the food grains are released after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month.

FCI delivers the food grains through lifting agency to the school. None of the schools in Chikaballapur know about the payment made to the FCI.

Buffer Stock of One Month's Requirement Maintained			
	Yes	No	NA
Bagepally	5	1	
Chikaballapur	5		1
Chintamani	7	1	2
Gowribidnuru	8		
Gudibanda	2		
Shidlaghatta	3	2	1
Chikaballapur District	30	4	4

In 30 schools the buffer stock for one month is maintained and 4 schools did not have the buffer stock for one month.

All schools are entitled for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of food grains from FCI. But only 32 schools confirmed having FAQ quality food grains. In four schools the food grain is not supplied as the school is provided with cooked food from NGO.

Quality of food grain is of Fair Average Quality (FAQ)			
	Yes	No	NA
Bagepally	5	1	
Chikaballapur	5		1
Chintamani	8		2
Gowribidnuru	8		
Gudibanda	1	1	
Shidlaghatta	5		1
Chikaballapur District	32	2	4

2 schools did not get FAQ grains. If there is any lapse, the head teacher or the school is entitled to return the food grains for 'poor quality'. HM in few of the schools said they return the Grains if they are not satisfied with the quality.

4. Regularity in Delivering Cooking Cost to School Level

The mid-day meal grant is released either through a cheque, cash or e-transfer. This has been confirmed by all the sampled schools.

Mode of Transfer	Cheque	Cash	E-transfer	NA
Number of Schools	6	1	27	4

All schools cooking MDM in school get the grant/funds released on time but for one school. Although the MDM funds get transferred on time, still cooking cost gets delayed in reaching to schools.

Cooking Cost Received in Advance Regularly			
	Yes	No	NA
Bagepally	5	1	
Chikaballapur	4	1	1
Chintamani	7	1	2
Gowribidnuru	5	3	
Gudibanda	1	1	
Shidlaghatta	3	2	1
Chikaballapur District	25	9	4

25 schools (out of 34 schools) which prepared mid-day meal in the school confirmed that they get funds for CG regularly without any delay. Nine schools get funds with a delay of one or two weeks. Reasons are not known.

5. Social Equity

There is no visible social discrimination in serving mid-day meal in **majority** of schools. Some of the possible factors of discrimination like caste, gender or community have not influenced MDM at any stage in the process of its implementation in most of these schools. It is observed that in 34 schools all children are served mid-day meal in a systematic manner by forming a line. However in 4 schools there was no order in serving MDM.

Generally in higher primary schools, as girls belong to higher age cohorts and are in the pre-adolescent stage, most parents would expect schools to maintain some sort of segregation between boys and girls. *Because of this, girls and boys sit separately and definitely this does not amount to discrimination.*

Chikaballapur	Seating Arrangement of Students During MDM					
Arrangement	In small circles	In long rows	Girls and boys separately	As per their own wish	They go to their respective classes to eat food	All Sit in a big hall/ classroom together
No. of Schools	3	16	6	2	2	9

6. Menu

The guidelines issued by the MDM scheme have specifications relating to menu. Every school is expected to evolve and maintain menu details on a weekly basis. It is also expected to incorporate variety in the menu.

- (i) Only in 16 schools, weekly menu was displayed in the school and in 22 schools it wasn't displayed. The responses from the head teachers confirm that schools have a pre-planned menu schedule for all the days of the week.

Weekly menu displayed in school				
	Yes	No	Don't Know	NR
MI Observation	16	22	0	0
Student's Response	53	56	13	22

In 38 schools visited 144 children were interviewed. Students were asked about their awareness regarding the Menu of food; only 53 students said they have seen the menu. Of these 53 students who were aware of the menu of food, all of them said that the menu displayed was being followed in the school.

(ii) Generally, the Cook and the Head teachers formulate the menu in schools. ‘

Cook & HM	Teachers & HM	HM	Cook	NA	No Response
2	2	12	2	4	16

In spite of absence of the menu, students were aware of the food which they would get all through the week. Most of them said they like the food menu and what is cooked in the school.

7. Variety in Menu

The school is instructed to provide healthy locally grown vegetables, dal and rice/wheat to the students daily. The menu in most of the schools included Sambhar and rice from Monday to Friday and rice item like Chitrana, Pulao, Upma or Wheat daliya etc on a Saturdays. Sambhar would comprise of some seasonal vegetables every day.

In 38 schools in Chikaballapur, 144 children were interviewed to get their view regarding the MDM food. When asked about the variety of food served, 133 of them said there is a variety of food served to them. Some of them were unable to distinguish between the vegetables in sambhar and they assumed it to be same every day. Similarly in Chikaballapur focused Group discussion was conducted with around 33 school's SMC and was also asked about the

variety of food served to the students, around 8 school's SMC said there is no variety in food served.

	Similar every day	Sometimes variety is served	Everyday new variety	NR
Student Opinion	8 students	89 students	44 students	3 students
SMC Opinion	8 Schools	16 schools	9 schools	5 Schools

A description of the same is given in Table below

MDM Menu

Day 1 of Visit of MI	Anna Sambhar	Chitrana/rice bath	Pulao	Godi upama	Curd Rice
Number of Schools	35	0	3	0	0
Day 2 of Visit of MI	Anna Sambhar	Chitrana/rice bath	Pulao	Godi upama	Curd Rice
Number of Schools	36	1	1	0	0

Sl. No.	Particulars	Daily	Twice / Thrice a Week	Weekly Once	Total
1	Rice / Dal	38	-	-	38
Vegetables (Mostly mixed with Dal) As answered by students					

	Vegetable served on Day of Visit	Vegetable served on Previous Day of Visit
Tomato	51 Students	23 Students
Potato	14 Students	17 Students
Bottle guard	7 Students	1 Student
Beans	7 Students	10 Students
Greens	23 Students	30 Students
Brinjal	4 Students	10 Students
Can't say (some vegetable mixed in Sambhar)	15 Students	33 Students
Don't Remember	22 Students	27 Students
Other items only on Saturday	All Students	

(In Chikaballapur on 5 days of the week students are served Anna Sambhar. Students were interviewed and asked about what vegetable they had yesterday and a day before yesterday when MI visited. Sambhar has vegetables mixed inside it.).

- (ii) In all the schools rice is the common item served. It is the items prepared with dal and vegetables that take varied form. Generally, schools provide a distinct food item (rice bath) on Saturdays.

8. Quality and Quantity of Meal

The responses from the students, head teachers and observation by MI team members have indicated details relating to the quality and quantity of food. As per the field investigators, around 33 of the schools served adequate quantity of the food, whereas around 5 schools had served more quantity to the students.

Quantity of Food Served			
Chikaballapur District	Ample	Adequate	Less
MI Observation (number of schools)	5	33	0

Out of 144 students interviewed in Chikaballapur, 89 said they get adequate quantity of food, 6 students stated that they are getting less quantity.

Quantity of food served during MDM			
Chikaballapur District	Adequate	Excess	Less
Student's response	89	49	6

In terms of quality of food served, 138 students said they were happy after consuming the meals in school and that they like eating in school. As per MI observation students in 33 schools were happy after consuming the MDM. None of the student agreed that they come to school because they are served MDM in school; they all said they come to school to study.

Quality of Food Served		
Block Name	Average	Good
CHIKABALLAPUR DISTRICT	12	24

Nearly all of the schools visited were serving good or average quality food to the students during MDM.

9. Supplementary (Health Check-up)

The data collected from schools has indicated that health check-up to children is conducted in 33 schools, 5 schools did not conduct the health check up of students. All the schools have reported that they conduct health check-up camps once in an academic year (100 per cent). Of 38 schools visited, 32 schools maintained the Health Card record for every child in school.

The data collected has confirmed the supply of vitamin tablets, de-worming medicine and iron folic acid tablets in all the schools but for two. The task of providing all this is handled by teachers, specially the class teachers. The vitamin tablets are supplied once in 15 days and de-worming is given once in six month. In 9 schools students said they were not provided with de worming tablets.

Health check up been done in school since it reopened			
	Yes	No	Don't Remember
Student Response	111	31	2
Micronutrients and De worming Medicines Provided			
Student Response	104	37	3
Height and Weight' Measured During Check-up			
Student Response	109	26	9

The health card record also displayed the 'Height and Weight' data up to date in Health Card. Nine students were provided with spectacles during the check up.

10. Cooks

The MDM guidelines specify the social composition of cooks and helpers. This has been done to avoid social discrimination and to help children to overcome prejudices and attitude

of social distancing. All the schools make efforts to adhere to the norms. However, it has been observed that the social composition of the habitation/ village where school is located may not be able to get a person required to function as a cook or a helper.

In such situations, school will have limited options in adhering to the norms. It is due to this reason there may be certain amount of deviance in appointing cooks and helpers. However, most of the schools make choices on the basis of the availability of persons to perform the roles. The following table indicates the distribution and social composition of cooks and helpers in 38 schools:

Social Composition of Head Cook and Cook/Helpers

Chikaballapur	SC	ST	OBC	Minority	General	No response
Head Cook	4	6	19	5	3	1

Different schools had different number of helpers depending upon the strength of the students in school; however, the head cook can only be one in a school. Once the cook is appointed in the school, he/she is provided training and given a training manual to follow. The cook and helpers also need to undergo health check up at the time of joining. But in Chikaballapur only the cook had training manual and had health check up done at the time of joining.

Training Manual Available with Cook	Yes	No	NA	No Response
Number of Schools	23	14		1
Salary of the Cooks Received on Time				
Number of Schools	37		1	

The salary of cooks and helpers paid by all the schools is Rs.1700 and Rs.1500 respectively. All of the schools received cook's salary on time. During the discussion with SMC about cook's salary, 37 school's SMC said the remuneration is received on time, in 1 schools they did not know about it.

11. Infrastructure

The infrastructure needed to provide mid-day meal in the school includes facilities to cook food, availability of water, fuel and vessels. The data relating to these items indicates that most of the schools have separate kitchen or a separate space to cook. The details are given in table below.

Details about Kitchen

Sl. No.	Particulars	Percentage
1	Separate kitchen	34
2	Class room	4
3	Unspecified place	
4	Supplied by other schools/ agencies	4*
	Total	38

*although the food is supplied in four schools from centralized kitchen, still schools have kitchen in school

Although in the four schools MDM is provided by NGO, still in two of these schools provision of kitchen was available to provide milk to the students. It has been directed to all schools that the MDM logo be displayed in the school which is visible to the community. Still only 19 schools had displayed MDM logo in Chikaballapur. Also the school is supposed to display the MDM attendance on transparency board/ HM room Board, but only 15 schools had displayed the MDM attendance on the notice board.

12. Safety and Hygiene:

All the schools have been making the best possible effort to ensure hygiene in the place where mid-day meal is prepared and served. There are a few cases where things could be improved for the better.

Chikaballapur	Kitchen Well Maintenance & in Hygienic Condition		
	Yes	No	NA
	28	8	2
	Proper Ventilation in Kitchen		
	Yes	No	NA
	28	8	2
	Kitchen is Away from the Classrooms		
	Yes	No	NA
	19	16	3

In Chikaballapur, in 29 schools the kitchen was maintained in hygienic condition and 27 school's kitchen had proper ventilation and in 25 schools it was placed away from other classrooms.

In 28 schools the kitchen had storage bins to store food grains in the kitchen/store room. As per SMC members the condition of kitchen in their schools is as follows:

Condition of kitchen in school				
Good Condition	Needs repair in rains	No storage room but kitchen is good	Kitchen is good but water facility needed	Not Applicable/SMC doesn't Know
26	1	5	2	4

In 33 schools, children wash their hands and plates before eating the food. But the places where the children wash the plates become clogged with water and children need to maneuver to reach the water source. In most of the schools, teachers monitored the behavior of the students while eating and usage of water without wasting. 29 schools had fire extinguisher in school. But most of the schools HM were not aware of how to use it in case of emergency.

13. Conservation of Water

The availability of water has been confirmed in all 30 schools in 5 schools no water available, they need to fetch water from far off place. The quality and quantity of water has been found to be good for purpose of cooking and drinking. However, only 30 schools had water

availability in/near kitchen. In rest of the schools the water was brought from the water source in school/nearby areas.

Means for the Conservation of Water in Kitchen				
District	Yes	No	NA	No response
No of Schools	30	5	3	0

14. Utensils for Cooking and Serving Food

The responses from the schools indicate that all schools preparing mid-day meal have utensils to cook food and small serving utensils as well.

15. All the schools visited, had some or the other source of fuel for cooking.

Source of Fuel	Firewood	Gas (LPG)	Kerosene Stove
No. of Schools	2	35	1

The schools using LPG for cooking faced shortage of supply hence were making extra arrangements like borrowing from teacher's house or from other people in case of emergency.

16. Participation of SMC, parents, local body members in MDM:

- (i) It was observed that the participation of SMC members to supervise mid-day meal varies from school to school. Focused Group discussion was held with the SMC members of all the schools visited. Understanding of SMC with regard to their roles and responsibilities towards MDM and the action taken by them to manage MDM activity in school were discussed during the FGD.

S No	Monitoring Activity To be done by SMC	Number of respondents	Action Taken By SMC Members	Number of respondents
1	Monitoring of Stocks and Quality and Quantity of food served	19	Just Observe	8
2	MDM Attendance	1	Ensure discipline in serving and cooking MDM	10
3	Kitchen Maintenance	1	Help in cooking/serving when needed	2
4	Cook Attendance	7	Arrange for gas and water facility	2
5	Everything is good no need to monitor anything	4	Don't do anything	12
6	Not Applicable	4	Not Applicable	4

The community tries to participate in the school's MDM activity but they have their own constraints. In 19 schools the SMC keeps stock of quantity and quality of food served to the students, in 8 school's SMC members said they just observe while MDM or other school activities take place. SMC in 10 schools ensured discipline during the MDM timings.

During discussion with the cooks in the school it was asked which SMC members actively participates in MDM activities in school. Amongst 38 schools, only 1 school's head cook said that all members pay attention, in 10 schools they said SMC president pays more attention to MDM activities, in 5 schools cook said none of the SMC members pay any attention to the activities related to MDM.

- (ii) As per the norm, the MDM is being monitored and supervised by the parents on some of the days. The data collected from sample schools indicate that there is no roster of parents formally prepared with specified days in majority of schools. However, there is informal arrangement with parents to oversee MDM supply in few of the schools.
- (iii) A detailed analysis of the extent of awareness and participation in MDM program by the parents, SMC members and Panchayat/Local Body representatives has been made by examining the responses from the respective groups:

- i) **Parents:** In Chikaballapur district 138 parents were interviewed. The data collected from parents confirmed that most of the parents (interviewed by the MI team members) have a good understanding of the implementation of MDM programme. Largely parents trusted the school and said whatever the school is providing has to be good for their children. They were satisfied with the quantity of food given to the students and none of them said they ever faced any issue of discrimination in the school during MDM.

Knowledge of Parents regarding MDM				
	Yes	No	Can't say/Don't Know	No Response
Menu of the food	45	50	42	1
Healthy food is served	103	19	14	2
How children are Seated during MDM	128	8	2	

136 parents out of 138 said they were happy with MDM being provided in school. Only 2 parents said they were unhappy with the MDM service as they felt it affected school functioning.

Regarding the quality of food served, 59.42 % of the parents believed that the MDM takes care of nutritional and calorific requirements of the child.

Nutritional and Calorific Requirements of the Child Taken Care by MDM			
Yes	No	Can't say	No response
82	24	31	1

- j) Overall awareness and participation of the parents in implementation of MDM is fairly low in Chikaballapur. The table below highlights the awareness status of parents on various parameters of functioning of MDM.

Community Participation in MDM (Response from Parents)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent	No Response
1	Overall Awareness Regarding MDM	4	38	42	87	0	0
2	Awareness Regarding Supervision of MDM	71	0	66	0	0	1
3	Awareness Regarding Quantity Prescribed for students	29	61	31	0	0	6
4	Awareness Regarding Nutrition level of mid-day meal	16	66	45	9	2	

*In four schools the food was being served from NGO hence the data in above table is for 34 schools only.

Only 12 parents out of 138 interviewed were aware of the grievance redressal mechanism in case of emergency in school. Of these 9 parents knew of the toll free number to dial in adverse situation. 22 parents said there is a roster maintained by the school for daily supervision by the parents.

k) SMC Members: The level of awareness among SMC members regarding MDM implementation has been “Good” among majority of schools visited. It is also satisfactory for 36.36% school’s SMC members.

Community Participation in MDM (Response from SMC Members)

Sl. No.		Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent	NA
1	Awareness regarding MDM implementation	3	12	16	1	1	2
2	Awareness regarding MDM supervision	Mostly the SMC President visits frequently and is keenly involved in supervision of MDM related activities.					

18. Source of Awareness

An attempt has also been made to identify the sources of awareness. From most of the sources identified, parent’s awareness about MDM is gathered more or less from school or the students and teachers. Largely, teachers and students are the main source, though they are not significantly high. The details about other sources are indicated in Table below.

Source of Awareness of Parents about the MDM Scheme/ School Activities

Sl. No.	Particulars	Number of Respondents PARENTS
1	Newspaper/ Magazine	29
2	Radio	6
3	Television	26
4	Teacher	88
5	Students/ School	118
6	Website	1
7	Other Sources (villagers/friends)	1

*Each respondent is entitled to indicate more than one source.

For SMC also the main source of awareness regarding MDM functioning is through teachers and students. Awareness source for the SMC regarding MDM and other school activities is shown in the below table:

Source of Awareness for SMC regarding MDM	Number of School's SMC
Newspaper	14
Radio/TV	12
Teachers	28
Students	23
Panchayat Members / Mothers / community members / PTA members	10
Others	13

19. Inspection and Supervision

The MDM scheme has to be supervised at the State, District, Block, Cluster and School level. There are many officials who are involved and assigned with this responsibility. There are provision of both periodical and surprise inspections from most these officials. On a daily basis, it is the SMC members or parents who supervise and inspect at the school level. The CRP, Assistant Director of Taluk Panchayat (Akshara Dasoha) and CRC, BEO/BRC supervise most of the schools at least once in a month. The district officials like the Deputy Project Coordinator (SSA), Education Officer (Zilla Panchayat) and other officials supervise

and inspect as and when they visit schools. The officials at the State level also have their planned programme of supervision and inspection. The data collected from the sampled schools indicates that it is the Block Level and Cluster Level officials making more frequent visits of supervision and monitoring than the District Level and State Level Officers. The details of visit by different officials are given in Table below.

Inspection and Supervision by MDM Officials

Sl. No.	Particulars	Visit by Officials	Comment made by them
1	State Level MDM Officers (DyPC)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June–Sept)= 5 schools	33 of 38 monitored schools were not visited by state level MDM officers. In one of these schools the official commented on learning progress of students.
2	District level MDM officers (BEO)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June–Sept)= 7 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 2 schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May)= 2 schools	Only 11 schools out of 38 visited in Chikaballapur were visited by the block level officers. In one school comment was made on neatness to be maintained in kitchen, MDM quality and cleanliness in most of the schools. Rest of the schools no comments were made on MDM. In all schools visited comment were made on learning progress of children.
3	Cluster Level Officers (CRP)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June–Sept) = 30 schools Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 8 schools	All 38 schools were visited by CRP in 2013-14. In the schools visited, comments were regarding the cleanliness of school and good quality of food. In two schools CRP has commented on children's learning progress and radio program usage in Nali kali classes.
4	Other Educational Officers (ECO)	Visit in 1 st Quarter: (June–Sept) = 12 schools	ECO had visited in 12 schools of the 38 visited by MI. ECO had commented about MDM being served in school. Regarding learning and development the official commented on progress of students, improving their attendance, and 10 learning programs.

5	Akshara Dasoha Officials	Visit in 1 st Quarter (June–Sept) = 8 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 1 school Visit in 3 rd Quarter (Feb-May) = 3 schools	Out of 38 schools visited by MI, Akshara Dasoha official had visited only 12 schools. In 8 schools comments were on quality of food was good and neatness in preparing of food. In 2 schools comments were made on anna sambhar cooked was good. In five schools the comment was on learning progress of students.
6	CRP	Visit in 1 st Quarter (June–Sept) = 35 schools Visit in 2 nd Quarter (Oct-Jan)= 3 schools	CRP did not make any comment on food served in any of the schools visited. They mentioned about school cleanliness and toilet maintenance. Regarding Learning and Development CRP made comments on handling Nali Kali classes, follow CCE method, and school time table.

Amongst all officials, CRPs visit the schools frequently for inspection and supervision of MDM and other school activities. Despite this supervision and inspection; there are instances of delay in supply of food grains as well as allotment of funds in the district which is a cause of concern. Monitoring work from higher officials has been neglected.

20. Impact

The mid-day meal scheme has been found to have made impact in many ways as reported by different stakeholders. Teachers, SMC members, & Parents have uniformly expressed the view that MDM has improved attendance, enrolment and nutritional status of children in schools.

Impact of MDM on Child					
	Yes now he/she is more healthy	Child has become more regular	Child is concentrating more on studies in school	Don't know	Giving MDM for all is good
Parent's Opinion	108	13	2	9	6

Around 53% parents said the MDM scheme has benefitted the children in a positive way. Few parents even said due to MDM in school child has become regular. They said earlier they used to see children would come back in lunch time and never go back to school to study.

The school Headmasters (37 schools, one Head master did not respond to this question) also believed MDM has helped in many ways. Around 34 school’s Head masters in the schools visited, said that MDM had improved enrollment in school, and 33 of them said attendance of students have improved, 32 school’s HM said retention of the students in school has improved due to MDM. Around 32 of them said that it had improved the nutritional status of the students.

The graph below highlights few parameters on which HM felt MDM is contributing in a big way.

