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

DURING THE PERIOD OF 1st October, 2014 to 31st March, 2015

Island Monitored/Covered Andrott



FOREWORD

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

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

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

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

I am thankful to all head teachers and the teachers in the schools. They have very kindly responded to me. They have also been very helpful in contacting the students in the classrooms and the parents of the students. I am thankful to all who have cooperated with us in the monitoring and supervision work in the four districts in one way or the other.

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Monitoring the functioning of Mid Day Meals in schools in Lakshadweep union territory

During 1st October, 2014 to 31st March, 2015

The empirical evidence relating to various aspects of implementation of Midday meals in schools in Andrott island in Lakshadweep union territory is analysed and reported against each indicator below:



There are 36 coral islands in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. They are scattered in the Arabian Sea. Only 10 of these islands are inhabited. They are Minicoy, Bitra, Kiltan, Chetlat, Kadmat, Amini, Kavaratti, Agatti, Androth and Kalpeni. Androth is the biggest (area-wise) island. The total area of the island is 5 square kms. It is a protected territory and tourists are not allowed to this island. It is the nearest island of Lakshadweep to the main land. The distance between Andrott and Cochin is 300 kms. It can be reached by the speed and mechanized boats and ships. Fishing is the major activity in the island.

There are 64,429 persons living in Lakshadweep UT according to Census 2011. The density of population is 2,013 inhabitants per square kilometre. The sex ratio is 946 females for every 1000 males. The literacy rate is 92.28 per cent.

The population in Andrott island is about 11 thousands. There are 7 schools in this island. All schools are covered in the monitoring visit during 12-02-15 to 16-02-15. There are 2 LP schools having classes from I to V, 3 UP schools having classes from I to VII, one Senior Higher Secondary School for girls having LP section (classes from I to IV) and UP section (classes from V to VIII) and one Senior Higher Secondary School (MGSSS) having UP section (classes from VI to VIII) in the island.

It is categorised as a rural island. Therefore, all schools (7 schools) are considered as rural schools. All are government schools. The average distance between the houses of the students enrolled in the LP classes is less than one kilometer. Similarly, the average distance between the houses of the students enrolled in the UP schools and the UP schools/sections is one kilometer.

The classroom-students ratio varies from 1:13 to 1:25. The population of the island is Muslim. They belong to ST community. The percentage of girls is 40 to 47 per cent in schools. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:21 in one school; and it varies from 1:10 to 1:14 in the remaining 6 schools.

The following are the schools in the island:

- 1. 31010300103 GJBS (CHE), Andrott
- 2. 31010300104 GJBS (Centre), Andrott
- 3. 31010300105 GGHS, Andrott
- 4. 31010300106 GHS, Andrott
- 5. 31010300107 GSBS (Port) Andrott
- 6. 31010300108 GJBS, Moola, Andrott
- 7. 31010300109 GJBS, Unda, Andrott

1. At school level

S.No.	Indicators	
1.	Availability of foodgrains	
	i)	Whether buffer stock of food grains for one month is available at the school?
		All the seven schools in the island do keep rice and other grains required for feeding the children of their school for a month.
	ii)	Whether food grains are delivered in school in time by the lifting agency?
		All the seven schools purchase food grains from the cooperative stores in the island.
	iii)	If lifting agency is not delivering the food grains at school how the food grains is transported up to school level?
		The head teacher or the teacher-in-charge of Noon meals in the schools brings the food grains from the co-operative stores to the schools.

S.No.	Indicators		
	iv)	Whether the food grains is of FAQ of Grade A quality?	
		The food grains are of FAQ of Grade A quality.	
	v)	Whether food grains are released to school after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month?	
		Food grains are released to schools after adjusting the unspent balance of the previous month.	
2.	Time	ly release of funds	
	i)	Whether State is releasing funds to District / block / school on regular basis in advance? If not,	
		a) Period of delay in releasing funds by State to district.	
		b) Period of delay in releasing funds by District to block / schools.	
		c) Period of delay in releasing funds by block to schools.	
	ii)	The Director of Education at Kavaratti has released (has etransferred) funds to the account of the Principal of the Senior Higher Secondary School (the Lead School) who is the Officer-incharge of Andrott Island. All schools in Andrott island are permitted to make purchases (credit purchase) according to the amount of grant each school is entitled to and submit the bills to the Principal of the <i>Lead School</i> at the end of month. The cost of cooking meals is settled by the end of every month. Hence there is no delay in making purchases required for MDM. The salary of the cooks and helpers are paid by the government directly.	
3.	Avail	lability of Cooking Cost	
	i)	Whether school / implementing agency has receiving cooking cost	
	''	in advance regularly?	
	ii)	Period of delay, if any, in receipt of cooking cost.	
	iii)	In case of non-receipt of cooking cost how the meal is served?	
	iv)	Mode of payment of cooking cost (Cash / cheque / e-transfer)?	
		The cooking cost has been e-transferred to bank account of the Lead School in Andrott island in the beginning of the academic	

S.No.	Indic	ators
		year (ie., in the month of May). All schools in the island are permitted to make purchases according to the amount of grant each school is entitled to and submit the bills to the Principal of the lead school in the island every month. Hence there is no delay in making purchases required for MDM.
		The salary of the cooks and helpers are paid by the government directly by issuing cheques.
4.	Avail	ability of Cook-cum-helpers
	i)	Who engaged Cook-cum-helpers at schools (Department / SMC / VEC / PRI / Self Help Group / NGO /Contractor)?
		The cooks and helpers for each school are appointed by the UT government. Some of the cooks and helpers are permanent and others are daily wage earners.
	ii)	If cook-cum-helper is not engaged who cooks and serves the meal?
		The cooking is done by the appointed cooks and helpers only; and they are supported by the teachers and the students in serving the food.
	iii)	Is the number of cooks-cum-helpers engaged in the school as per GOI norms or as per State norms?
		The cooks and helpers are paid according to the UT norms.
	iv)	Honorarium paid to cooks cum helpers.
		Salaries and wages are paid to the cooks and helpers.
	v)	Mode of payment to cook-cum-helpers?
		Cheques are given to them.
	vi)	Are the remuneration paid to cooks cum helpers regularly?
		Just like the school teachers, the cooks and helpers are paid by the UT government at the end of every month.

S.No.	Indicators	
	vii)	Social Composition of cooks cum helpers? (SC/ST/OBC/Minority)
		The entire population in the island belongs to Muslim ST community. Naturally all the cooks and helpers belong to Muslim Scheduled Tribes.
	viii)	Is there any training module for cook-cum-helpers?
		There is no training module is available in the island.
	ix)	Whether training has been provided to cook-cum-helpers?
		Only one lady cook has reported that she had been given training.
	x)	In case the meal is prepared and transported by the Centralized kitchen / NGO, whether cook-cum-helpers have been engaged to serve the meal to the children at school level.
		There is no involvement of centralized kitchen or NGO in the MDM scheme.
	xi)	Whether health check-up of cook-cum-helpers has been done?
		The cooks and the helpers have said that they had taken periodical health check-ups.
5.	Regu	ılarity in Serving Meal
		ther the school is serving hot cooked meal daily? If there was uption, what was the extent and reasons for the same?
	H noon	lot cooked meal is served to all students in the schools at every .
6.	Qual	ity & Quantity of Meal
	Feed	back from children on
	i)	Quality of meal
	'/	The students say that the meal is good.
		, , ,

S.No. **Indicators** Quantity of meal ii) They are satisfied with the quality of the meal given to them. iii) Quantity of pulses used in the meal per child. Only dhal and not other pulses is cooked as curry and given to children along with rice and is adequate for every student. The dhal curry can be seen in the picture: iv) Quantity of green leafy vegetables used in the meal per child. Fresh lefty vegetables are not available in the islands. Hence they are very rarely provided. Whether double fortified salt is used? v) Yes. It is used in cooking. Acceptance of the meal amongst the children. vi) The students are used to non-vegetarian meal at home. Hence they do not have much liking for vegetarian meal in the schools.

No school has standard gadget for measuring grains. There is

Method / Standard gadgets / equipment for measuring the quantity

of food to be cooked and served.

vii)

S.No.	Indicators		
7.	Variety of Menu		
	i) Who docides the many O		
	i)	Who decides the menu?	
		The menu is decided by the school and the SMC.	
	ii)	Whether weekly menu is displayed at a prominent place noticeable to community? All schools have menu; but not displayed on the notice board. In	
		one school, viz., Government Girls' Senior Secondary School, we have noticed the menu displayed on the wall in the dining hall.	
		GOVT GIRLS SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL ANDROTH WEAKLY MENU UNDER MID DAY MEALS ONDOLLY MENUS THE SECONDARY SCHOOL ANDROTH THE SE	
		THE STATE OF THE S	
	iii)	Is the menu being followed uniformly?	
		It is difficult to follow the menu; for everything, except fish has to come from the mainland.	
	iv)	Whether menu includes locally available ingredients?	
		Yes. Locally available fish is included in the menu. Locally available coconut oil and coconut power are used in cooking.	
	v)	Whether menu provides required nutritional and calorific value per child?	
		We assume, yes.	
8.	i)	Display of Information under Right to Education Act, 2009 at	
		the school level at prominent place	
		a) Quantity and date of food grains received	
		b) Balance quantity of food grains utilized during the month.	
		c) Other ingredients purchased, utilized	

- d) Number of children given MDM
- e) Daily menu

This information is not displayed on the wall in any school. But similar data has been found on the wall in the office of the head teacher in a school as shown below:



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

The logo was found in only school only. It is shown below:



S.No. Indicators 9. Trends Extent of variation (As per school records vis-à-vis Actual on the day of visit). i) Enrolment ii) No. of children present on the day of the visit. iii) No. of children availing MDM as per MDM Register. iv) No. of children actually availing MDM on the day of visit as per head count. Almost all children participate in the meals.

10. **Social Equity**

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

The food is distributed to the children at a point (say near the kitchen). The children collect the food and sit in the classrooms where dining halls are not available. Only 3 out of 7 schools have dining halls.

Food is being distributed at Girls' Senior Secondary School, Andrott



Students dining at Girls' Senior Secondary School, Andrott





ii) Did you observe any gender or caste or community discrimination in cooking or serving or seating arrangements?

There is no discrimination on the basis of caste or gender in the schools. All students belong to the one and the same community.

iii) The name of the school where discrimination found of any kind may be mentioned in the main body of the report along with date of visit.

No discrimination observed.

iv) If any kind of social discrimination is found in the school, comments of the team may be given in the inspection register of the school.

No discrimination observed.

S.No.	Indicators		
11.	Convergence With Other Schemes		
	1. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan		
	The dining halls, toilets and water tanks are the contributions of SSA. Medical camps are organised by SSA. One and the same department conducting and organised SSA and MDM in the island.		
	2. School Health Programme		
	i) Is there school Health Card maintained for each child? These cards are not available.		
	ii) What is the frequency of health check-up? Once in a year.		
	iii) Whether children are given micronutrients (Iron, folic acid, vitamin – A dosage) and de-worming medicine periodically?These are given to children.		
	iv) Who administers these medicines and at what frequency?		
	Health personal from the Community health centre in the island. v) Whether height and weight record of the children is being indicated in the school health card.		
	At the time of medical check-up, they are calculated.		
	vi) Whether any referral during the period of monitoring.		
	No referral during the period of monitoring.		
	vii) Instances of medical emergency during the period of monitoring. The Lead School in the island has a ambulance for the use of all students, teachers and all people in times of emergency.		
	viii) Availability of the first aid medical kit in the schools.		
	The schools have a first-aid kit.		
	 ix) Dental and eye check-up included in the screening. At the time of medical check up, if doctors are available, then dental and eye check-ups are also done. 		
	x) Distribution of spectacles to children suffering from refractive error. In the island, it very difficult to find specialist doctors and organize		
	medical camps.		

- 2. Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme
 - i) Whether potable water is available for drinking purpose in convergence with Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme.
 Drinking water is available in the island.

3. MPLAD / MLA Scheme

The lead school in the island has an ambulance from the MP fund. The ambulance is used for all students in all schools in Andrott island.



4. Any Other Department / Scheme.

12. Infrastructure

- 1. Kitchen-cum-Store
 - a) Is a pucca kitchen shed-cum-store
 - i) Constructed and in use
 - ii) Under which Scheme Kitchen-cum-store constructed MDM/SSA/Others
 - iii) Constructed but not in use (Reasons for not using)
 - iv) Under construction
 - v) Sanctioned, but construction not started
 - vi) Not sanctioned

 All schools have kitchen which are old.
 - b). In case the pucca kitchen-cum-store is not available, where is the food being cooked and where the food grains/other ingredients are being stored?
 - c) Kitchen-cum-store in hygienic condition, properly ventilated and away from classrooms.
 - d) Whether MDM is being cooked by using firewood or LPG based

cooking?

Only firewood is used for cooking. Coconut leaves and fibres are available without cost.





e) Whether on any day there was interruption due to non-availability of firewood or LPG?

2. Kitchen Devices

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



Adequate number of plates is available in the schools.



The dining hall in UP school



iv) Source of funding for eating plates - MME / Community contribution / others?

Government of UT has provided funds for the purchase of plates and tumblers.

3. Availability of storage bins

i) Whether storage bins are available for food grains? If yes, what is the source of their procurement?

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





S.No. Indicators 4. Toilets in the school i) Is separate toilet for the boys and girls are available? Separate toilets are available for boys and girls.

ii) Are toilets usable?

They are in usable condition.

5. Availability of potable water

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

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



(Poor crows are the only birds available and they are found only in Andrott island).

ii) Any other source

6. Availability of fire extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are available in schools.

7. IT infrastructure available @ School level

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

The availability of computers in each school is given in the table below. While all schools have many computers, many of them are

S.No. **Indicators** not working in all but one school. That school is the senior higher secondary school. For the use of higher secondary students, all the computers in that school are kept ready. This indicates that if the island wants, it can maintain the computers in the working condition for the use of students during school hours. The table below presents the availability of computers in schools: Availability of computers in schools Number of computers Schools Available Working Not working 103. Govt. Junior Basic School, Chemmachery 104. Govt. Junior Basic School, Centre 105. Govt. Girls' Higher Secondary School, 31 16 15 Edachery 106. Govt. Mahatma Gandhi Senior Sec. 15 15 0

b) Availability of internet connection (If any).Only the Lead school has internet connection.

107. Govt. Senior Basic School, Pandath 108. Govt. Junior Basic School, Moola

Govt. Senior Basic School, Keechery

Govt. Junior Basic School, Mechery

school, Mechery

 Using any IT / IT enabled services based solutions / services (like e-learning etc.) (if any)

11

3

14

9

2

10

No other IT based services are available.

13. **Safety & Hygiene:**

i) General Impression of the environment, Safety and hygiene:

It is in a safe and hygiene manner, the cooking takes place in the schools.

ii) Are children encouraged to wash hands before and after eating

The children are encouraged to wash the hands before and after eating. One thing is sure that they wash their hands and the plate after eating.

iii) Do the children take meals in an orderly manner?

The children sit in the orderly manner to take meals.

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

S.No.	India	ators
0.140.	ii)	Whether school has received any funds under MME component?
	")	whether school has received any funds under wind component?
		Schools have received funds under MME component for maintaining the kitchen.
	iii)	Whether State / District / Block level officers / officials inspecting the MDM Scheme? MDM in the school is being inspected by CRC and BRC coordinators and UT officials.
	iv)	The frequency of such inspections? Once in a month.
16.	Impa	<u>ct</u>
	i)	Has the mid day meal improved the enrolment, attendance, retention of children in school?
	ii)	Whether mid day meal has helped in improvement of the social harmony?
	iii)	Whether mid day meal has helped in improvement of the nutritional status of the children?
	iv)	Is there any other incidental benefit due to serving of meal in schools?
		All schools in the island have been implementing 'Midday meal scheme' funded by government of Lakshadweep even before Government of India stepped in. Further Lakshadweep's enrolment in school education and literacy rate are higher than many states in the country. As such it is very difficult to assess the impact of MDM in the island.
17.	Griev	vance Redressal Mechanism
'''	21101	Talled Italia and Internation
	i)	Is any grievance redressal mechanism in the district for MDMS?
		There are no grievances. One and the same community in the island. No one gets the temptation to steal away from the schools.
	ii)	Whether the district / block / school having any toll free number?
		The Andrott island is small in size. It is the biggest island among the ten islands of habitation in Lakshadweep; and it has 4.9 square kilo meters. Total population is just 11000. In such a small island,

S.No.	Indicators
	it is easy for community to monitor what is happening in the schools. Moreover all the people in the UT belong to one and the same community. There are no security guards. People guard themselves.

2. Monitoring of Centralized Kitchens

There are no centralized kitchens in the island