

Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of School Education & Literacy

MID DAY MEAL SCHEME

First Review Mission

1st to 8th February, 2010

Uttar Pradesh



मध्याह्न भोजन योजना
Mid Day Meal Scheme

Introduction

Mid Day Meal Scheme is the largest school feeding programme in the world reaching out to about 12 crores children in more than ten lakhs primary and upper primary schools (Government, Government Aided and Local bodies), EGS/AIE centres and Madarsa and Maqtabas supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. A programme of scale and magnitude of Mid Day Meal requires close monitoring and evaluation at all levels. GOI decided to review the implementation of the programme in all its aspects through a Review Mission which will also provide suggestions for improvement. In the first phase GOI has constituted review missions for four states viz. Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. A team is constituted for review the scheme in Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of Director, MHRD, GOI.

The team comprising of the following members visited 2 districts of Uttar Pradesh:

- 1- Mr. Gaya Prasad, Director, MHRD, GOI
- 2- Mr. Amod Kumar, Director, Mid Day Meal Authority UP
- 3- Dr. Rubina Maiti, UNICEF, UP, Lucknow
- 4- Mrs. Arundhati Dhuru, NGO Representative.
- 5- Mr. R.K. Mishra, Chief Consultant, MHRD, GOI

The schedule of the mission is given below:

Date	Activity
1 st Feb, 2010	⇒ Briefing of the team by the Principal Secretary of the State and FCI. ⇒ Departure for Hamirpur
2 nd Feb, 2010	⇒ School Visit, visit to PDS shop owner (Kotedar), visited Pradhan. ⇒ Meeting with district level officers & DTF
3 rd Feb, 2010	⇒ Visit to BSA office & interaction with officials. ⇒ School Visit ⇒ Visit to block godown ⇒ Visit to SEWA NGO at Kanpur Nagar.
4 th Feb, 2010	⇒ Visit to BSA office Raebareli & interaction with officials ⇒ School Visit, visit to block godown. ⇒ Visit to BDO office, meeting with village secretaries & PDS shop owners (Kotedars). ⇒ Meeting with district level officers & DTF
5 th Feb, 2010	⇒ Discussion with MDM officials
6 th Feb, 2010	⇒ School Visit, visit to block godown, FCI godown Raebareli. ⇒ Visit to Ekta Shakti Foundation ⇒ Interaction with gram pradhans, village development officers.
7 th Feb, 2010	⇒ Report Writing
8 th Feb, 2010	⇒ Debriefing by the team to the officers who attended briefing. ⇒ Submission of the Report to the State Government.

Uttar Pradesh at a Glance

Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in the country accounting for 16.4 per cent of the country's population. It is also the fourth largest state in geographical area and comprises of 71 districts. As per 2001 census, there are about 2.23 crore households in UP of which about 1.80 crore are rural households and 0.43 crore are urban households.

Area	2,36,286 sq. km.
Population (2001 Census)	16,60,52,859
Male	8,74,66,301
Female	7,85,86,558
Decennial Growth Rate	25.80 per cent
Female literacy	42.98 per cent
Districts	71
Cities	631
Nagar Nigams	11
Members of Vidhan Sabha	404
Members of Vidhan Parishad	100
Fruits	Mango, Guava
Main Industries	Cement, Vegetable oils, Textiles, Cotton yarn, Sugar, Jute, Lock & Scissors, Carpet, Brassware, Glassware & Bangles
Main Folklores	Kajari, Chaiti, Alha, Puran Bhagat, Dhola Bhartrihari, Birha, Rasiya
Main Rivers	Ganga, Yamuna, Gomti, Ramganga & Ghaghara
Main Folk Dances	Pandav, Karma, Charkula, Paidanda, Tharu, Dhobiya, Rai and Shera
Tourist & Historical Places	Sarnath (Varanasi), Piprahwa, Kaushambi, Shravasti, Kushinagar, Agra, Lucknow, Chitrakut, Jhansi and Merrut.

Mid Day Meal Scheme in Uttar Pradesh

Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) was launched in Uttar Pradesh in September, 2004 in 70 districts of Uttar Pradesh (Now 71 districtis). The scheme covers Government, Local Body and Government aided primary and upper primary schools, EGS & AIE Centres and Madarsaas and Maqtabs supported under Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan.

The Scheme is being implemented by the Department of Basic Education, Govt. of UP in the State. Under Basic Education Department, a separate and independent Mid Day Meal Authority has been set up in October, 2006 in the State under full fledged Director with Chief Secretary being the Chairman of State level Governing Body. The Director is assisted by one Additional Director, one Finance Controller, one Chief Finance Officer, one Joint Director, two Deputy Directors and four Assistant Directors along with support staff.

The Chief Secretary of the State is the Chairman and Principal Secretary, Basic Education is the ex-officio Vice Chairman of the Governing Body. This committee has power to take all policy decisions and approve the action plan for implementation of the scheme. The following are the members of the Governing body:-

- i. Principal Secretary, Finance
- ii. Principal Secretary, Panchayati Raj
- iii. Principal Secretary, Rural Development
- iv. Principal Secretary, Urban Development
- v. Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare
- vi. Principal Secretary, Planning
- vii. Principal Secretary, Food & Civil Supplies
- viii. State Project Director, Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan
- ix. General Manager, Food Corporation of India
- x. Commissioner, Food & Civil Supplies
- xi. Director, Basic Education
- xii. Director, Panchayati Raj
- xiii. Director, Mid-Day Meal Authority, Member Secretary
- xiv. State Co-ordinator (Chief Field Officer), UNICEF, UP

There is a Finance Committee under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary. The committee is powered to examine the budget proposal and expenditure etc. as a sub-committee to the Governing Body. The members of the committee are:

- i. Principal Secretary/Secretary, Basic Education
- ii. Director, Mid-Day Meal Authority, Member Secretary
- iii. Finance Controller/Chief Finance Officer, Mid-Day Meal Authority

The Authority is responsible for planning, implementation and monitoring of the scheme in the State. It also co-ordinates with Food & Civil Supplies, FCI, Panchayati Raj, Health, Urban Dev. & other related Deptts.

The scheme covers 1.08 lac primary schools and 44,000 upper primary schools serving mid-day meal to 1.26 crores children in primary school and 27 lacs children in upper primary schools out of 1.71 crore children in primary and 44 lacs children in upper primary schools. In 2009-10, the GOI has released as Central Assistance Rs. 565.00 crore. In FY 2009-10, total Foodgrain allocation for the State is 303599.24 MTs. out of which 297365.21 MTs. foodgrain has been released by Government of India.

Objectives of the Review Mission

The main objectives of the Mission were :-

- a. Review the system of fund flow from State Government to school / cooking agency level and time taken in this process.
- b. Review the management and monitoring system and its performance from State to school level.
- c. Review the progress of the programme during 2009-10 with respect to availability of foodgrains and funds at the school / cooking agency level, quality and regularity in serving the meal in the selected schools and districts, transparency in implementation, role of teachers, involvement of community, convergence with School Health Programme for supplementation of micronutrients and health check up etc.
- d. Assess the satisfaction of children, parents and teachers about the implementation and impact of the scheme.
- e. Review the maintenance of records at school / cooking agency level.
- f. Review the availability of infrastructure, its adequacy and source of funding.
- g. Give suggestions for improvement in the implementation of the programme.

Methodology:-

1. Two districts viz., Hamirpur and Rae Bareilly were selected, Hamirpur by the state government and Rae Bareilly by the GOI. Two blocks from Hamirpur and three blocks from Rae Bareilly were chosen on random basis for selection of the schools. Seven schools from Hamirpur and four schools from Rae Bareilly were selected randomly to see the actual implementation of the scheme.
2. Interaction with the stake holders at different levels.

Scope and Coverage:-

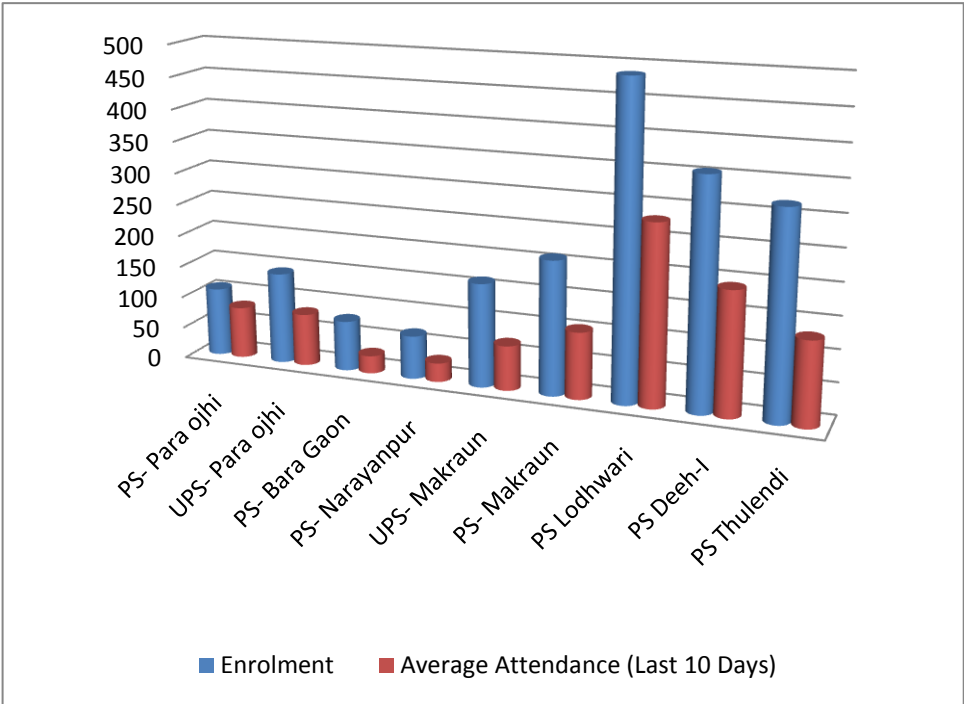
At the outset of the mission the members interacted with the Principal Secretary , Basic Education, Director-Mid Day Meal authority, General Manager, FCI and other concerned officials.

The team interacted with following people/ organisation at district/Block/School/ Village levels:

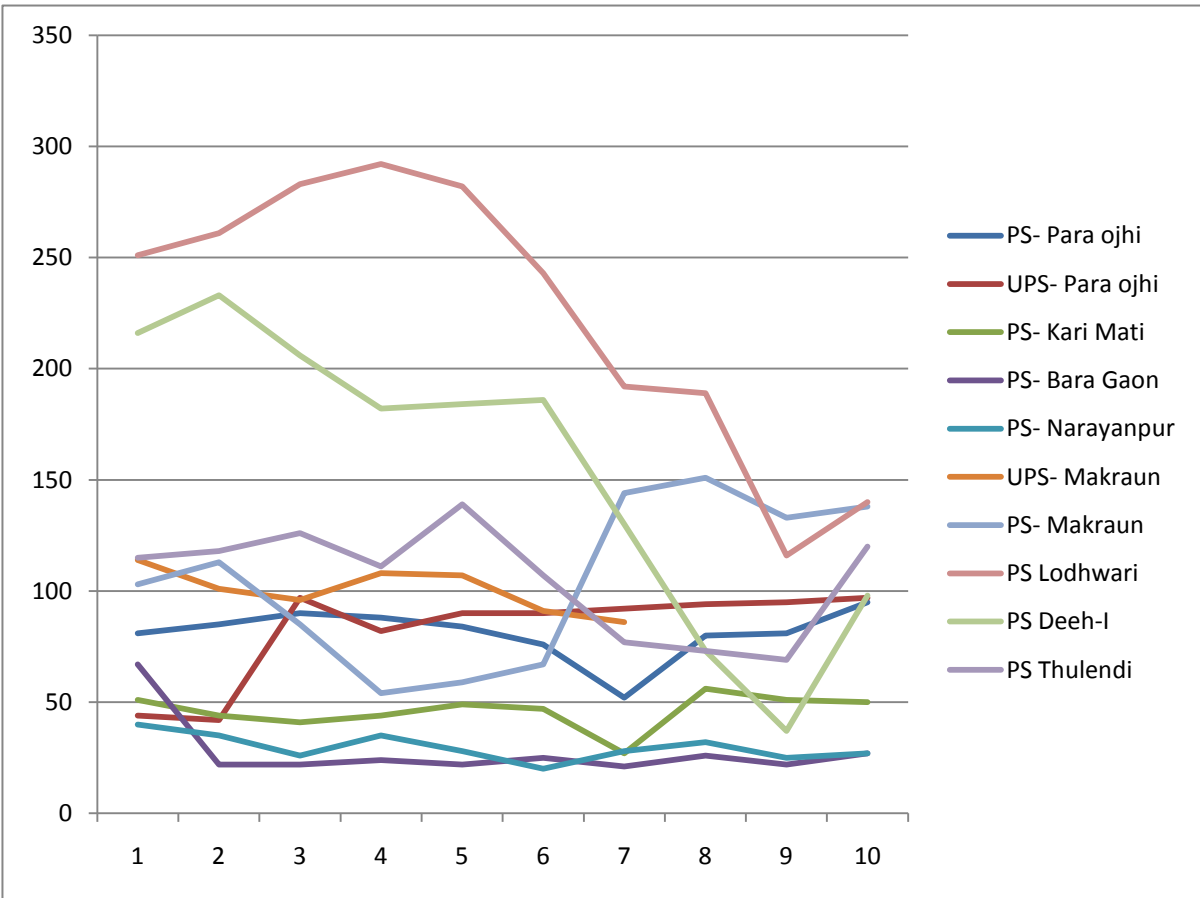
- i. District Task Force under the chairmanship of District Magistrate
- ii. Block Development Officer, Village Development Officers (Secretaries) and Gram Pradhans and fair price shop dealers (Kotedar)
- iii. Village Education Committee members, Community members and Parents/Guardians
- iv. Teachers
- v. Children
- vi. Cooks
- vii. FCI, SFC, Essential Commodities and Marketing Corporation, Staff at their godowns
- viii. Detailed interaction with Basic Shiksha Adhikari, District Coordinator - MDM and Assistant Basic Education officers, Nyaya Panchayat Resource Centre Coordinator and other education officials

Analysis and interpretation of data

School	Enrolment	Average Attendance (Last 10 Days)	% Attendance
PS- Para ojhi	108	81	75
UPS- Para ojhi	144	82	57
PS- Kari Mati	60	46	77
PS- Bara Gaon	79	28	35
PS- Narayanpur	68	30	44
UPS- Makraun	163	70	43
PS- Makraun	210	105	50
PS Lodhwari	487	281	58
PS Deeh-I	356	193	54
PS Thulendi	319	132	41



Attendance Trend in Last 10 days in visited schools



Food Grains Management

The Food corporation of India provides grains to regional godowns from where it goes to Block level godowns and finally to fair price shops. The number of beneficiaries is supplied by the education department. To ensure timely lifting and inspection of food grains, government orders have been issued from the Department of Food and Civil Supplies that the food grains would be lifted well in advance (may be three months before consumption), and information regarding the block wise lifting would be made available to inspecting authorities. The kotedars would make the grains received by them and available to Gram pradhan/ Ward members/NGO.

Financial Management

The state government makes budgetary provision for the conversion cost which is released to the district collectors. The district collectors deposit it in Gram Nidhi-V in the rural areas; and in urban areas they hand it over to Nagar Nigams, Nagar Palika, Nagar Panchayats, town areas etc, as the case may be. In urban areas where NGO's are in operation, the conversion cost is given to them according to the bills raised by them after verification from the education department. No NGO has been pressed in to service in rural areas except where the gram pradhans have shown their inability to run the scheme.

Field Visit

The team visited the following schools.

District - Hamirpur				
Sr. No.	Block Name	Gram Panchayat	Nyaya Panchayat	Name of School
1	Sumerpur	Para ojhi	Kuchechea	PS- Para ojhi
2	Sumerpur	Para ojhi	Kuchechea	UPS- Para ojhi
3	Sumerpur	Tikrauli	Kuchechea	PS- Surauli Khurd
4	Sumerpur	Saunkhar	Kuchechea	PS- Kari Mati
5	Sumerpur	Bara Gaon	Patevara	PS- Bara Gaon
6	Sumerpur	Saunkhar	Kuchechea	PS Narayanpur
7	Maudaha	Artara	Makraun	UPS Makraun
8	Maudaha	Artara	Makraun	PS Makraun
District – Rae Bareily				
1	Rahi	Lodhwari	Lodhwari	PS Lodhwari

2	Deeh	Deeh	Deeh	PS Deeh-I
3	Bachrawan	Thulendi		Madarsa
4	Bachrawan	Thulendi		PS Thulendi

Enrolment and Attendance Trend of last ten days:

The following table shows the attendance trend of last ten days in the schools visited by the team:

Sl. No.	School/Madarsa	Enrolment	Last 10 Days Attendance										Average attendance
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	PS- Para ojhi	108	81	85	90	88	84	76	52	80	81	95	81
2	UPS- Para ojhi	144	44	42	97	82	90	90	92	94	95	97	82
3	PS- Surauli Khurd		Head Master on leave and documents locked										
4	PS- Kari Mati	60	51	44	41	44	49	47	27	56	51	50	46
5	PS- Bara Gaon	79	67	22	22	24	22	25	21	26	22	27	28
6	PS Narayanpur	68	40	35	26	35	28	20	28	32	25	27	30
7	UPS Makraun	163	114	101	96	108	107	91	86				70
8	PS Makraun	210	103	113	85	54	59	67	144	151	133	138	105
District – Rae Bareilly													
9	PS Lodhwari	487	251	261	283	292	282	243	192	189	116	140	281
10	PS Deeh-I	356	216	233	206	182	184	186	130	73	37	98	193
11	Madarsa Salamuddin		N.A.										
12	PS Thulendi	319	115	118	126	111	139	107	77	73	69	120	132

Infrastructure at School level

Sl. No.	School	Pucca Kitchen	Kitchen Devices	Drinking Water	Toilets	Fire Exting	Fuel	No. of Cooks	Health Check
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		Shed in use				uisher			up
1	PS- Para ojhi	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	LPG	1	Y, Oct 09
2	UPS- Para ojhi	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Wood	1	N
3	PS- Surauli Khurd	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Wood	1	N
4	PS- Kari Mati	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	LPG/Wood	1	N
5	PS- Bara Gaon	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	LPG	1	N
6	PS Narayanpur	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Wood	2	N
7	UPS Makraun	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Wood	2	N
8	PS Makraun	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Wood	2	N
District – Rae Bareilly									
9	PS Lodhwari	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Wood	5	N
10	PS Deeh-I	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Wood	2	N
11	Madarsa	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Wood	2	N
12	PS Thulendi	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Wood	2	N

Fund Flow:

Government of India releases funds in advance to the States/UTs for timely serving meal to the children studying in schools (I-VIII).

The Basic Education Department of Government of Uttar Pradesh releases fund to districts directly through a Government Order by the Principal Secretary with concurrence of State Finance Department. The fund is routed through the treasuries of the State. The districts release funds to the Gram Panchayat in Bank account i.e. Gram Nidhi-V separately created for MDM. This account is operated by joint signatures of Gram Pradhan and Panchayat Secretary. The school wise demand is compiled by Assistant BSA of the concerned block and is placed at the district level. The district office raises the bill to the treasury for the consolidated amount along with a schedule of banks for transferring the funds to different Gram Nidhi-V of the district. In urban areas, where the scheme is implemented through wards of the Nagar Panchayat/Nigam, the funds are transferred to the ward account, which

is operated jointly by the corporator and the Executive Officer. In case of involvement of NGO in the implementation of the scheme the payments are made by the district level to NGO on basis of reimbursement of the actual expenditure incurred.

It has been observed that only cooking cost is being credited in the Gram Nidhi-V and cost of kitchen devices and kitchen sheds are being credited in another account i.e. Gram Shiksha Nidhi. The Gram Shiksha Nidhi account is operated by joint signatures of Gram Pradhan and Head Master of the school.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has released two instalments in advance in anticipation to receive the fund from GOI, whereas remaining two instalments have been released after 17 and 15 days respectively in the financial year 2009-10.

The districts have received sanctioned order on the same day through e-mail and the same is communicated through Telephone and a SMS that the respective Government order for financial sanction has been issued. The districts take two to three months to release fund to Gram Nidhi-V.

It has been also been observed that Panchayat Secretary is operating at least five accounts of different schemes and s/he is also in-charge of 4-5 gram panchayats. In other words s/he is operating 20-25 accounts of different schemes on an average without any assistance. As per the present system of day to day functioning at the school/village level, the headmaster provides compiled monthly attendance data of the last month to the gram pradhan. Based on the information furnished by the head master gram pradhan and panchayat secretary withdraw money from gram nidhi – V for serving meal to children. It was found that it is very difficult to identify school wise expenditure, if gram panchayat has more than one school under the jurisdiction of panchayat secretary.

At grass root level panchayat secretary is over burdened with so many developmental activities apart from operation of bank accounts. Circular of MDM Authority provides for certification of the monthly expenditure and balance available in gram nidhi –V jointly by gram pradhan and panchayat secretary. The team found that the head master has maintain his part of the MDM register certifying the attendance on daily basis but the right side of the MDM register has not been maintained in any school.

Date wise and component wise releases at different level is at annexure I.

Flow of Foodgrains:

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

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

Team found that state lifting agency lifts the foodgrains from FCI godowns during 23-25 of every month and store at their block godowns. Kotedar lifts the foodgrains from block godown during 25- 30/31 of every month and supplies it to gram pradhan/school.

It was found that food department government of UP is the lifting agency for Hamirpur and state food corporation for Rae Bareilly. It is pertinent to mention that state food department is

responsible for transportation in 14 divisions and state food corporation in 4 divisions of the state. There is one FCI godown at Mahoba from where state food department is lifting foodgrains for Hamirpur and one FCI godown for Rae Bareilly at Rae Bareilly.

It has been found that meal was not served due non availability of food grains at school level. School wise and date wise details are given in the table below:

School	Dates on which MDM not served	Reasons recorded in MDM Register
PS Lodhwari	1) 1 st to 11 th July 2009 2) 28 th July 2009 3) 1 st to 9 th August 2009 4) 5 th Sep 4,16 and 30 Nov, 1 st 26, and 29-31 Dec 2009 5) 27-28 January 2010	1) Food grains not provided by gram pradhan 2) –do- 3) Due to involvement of NGO in place of gram pradhan 4) Food grains not provided by gram pradhan 5) –do-
Madarsa Salam Oriental, Thulendi	8-10, 12-15 and 27-31 Dec 2009	Food grains not provided by gram pradhan

Team also visited FCI godown and Block godowns in Rae Bareilly district and Block godown in Hamirpur district and checked the quality and quantity of the foodgrains. The sample provided by FCI was checked at FCI godowns. The team checked one sample of rice for November 2009, two samples of rice of December 2009 and one sample of wheat of November and December 2009 each.

It has been found in Rae Bareilly that only representatives of FCI and State lifting agency sign on the sample sealed at FCI. There is no involvement of education department at the time of joint inspection of foodgrains before lifting. and sample provided by FCI was not available at block godown for verification.

Cooks cum helper

The norm for payment of honorarium to cooks cum helper has been issued to the districts. Norms for engagement of cooks cum helper is in process.

School Health Programme

The State has launched a health programme for primary schools under NRHM to provide fro health check up, eye test and referral on half yearly basis and provide de-worming and IFA tablets to children. This is called Aashirvaad School Health Programme to be implemented in phased manner to cover all local body primary schools. In the first phase 40 schools in each block.

The team found that this programme is going on in PS Para Ojhi. First health check up of children has taken place in October 2009 and school health card has been issued to them.

None of the schools visited had been covered the school health program except Para Ojhi. While interacting with the teachers it was found out that the medical check up of children had taken place & they had been provided with health cards as well. However, the teachers had

not been given any tablets of iron folic acid to administer to the children twice a week as mentioned in Aashirwad scheme

Monitoring :

The MDM Authority has formed task-forces at the state, district and block levels to constantly monitor the progress of the scheme. The reports of the task forces are analyzed at the district level. The district magistrates have been asked to take corrective measures on the reports of the inspecting officers. Village Education Committees (VECs) have been constituted with the approval of the governing body.

There is a separate website of MDM Authority www.upmdm.org for on line monthly and quarterly reporting. The authority has a mechanism of communicating with divisions and districts with emails and common user group (CUG) phone calls.

It has been observed that there is lack of operational monitoring system down the district levels to track the daily implementation of the scheme. As of now the state relies on monthly and quarterly reports and inspection of officials from state level.

Grievance Redressal System:

The state has issued a government order on 7th September 2009 by which different levels are made accountable if food is not served for more than three days. It was observed that the headmasters are not aware of the instruction issued by the state.

The state MDM Authority collects and compiles newspaper clippings and takes necessary remedial action on the same day.

“Amar Ujala” Kanpur edition published “ Mid Day Meal Khane Se 36 Bachche Achet” on 2nd February 2010. The state took immediate action on the same day and action taken report is annexed at annexure II

Observations:

1. Revised norms:

The GOI revised the conversion costs on 1st December 2009 after approval of the competent authority. The state issued a GO to this effect on 26th December 2009. However, neither the Pradhans, teachers, community members, cooks and members of the District Task Force(DTF) were aware of this revision. Mid Day Meal Authority U.P. widely publicized the revised norms through print media.

2. Quality of food grains:

The food grains quality was found inferior at school level.

3. Foodgrain Storage:

The food grains stored at the Pradhans house, despite all schools having good infrastructure available for storage. The reason cited was theft of food grains from the school premises.

4. Quality of MDM:

The quality of the cooked meals was average. It was being cooked according to the menu. The children told that the food served was ok, however, they felt that there should be more variety in the food, especially, where vegetables were concerned, they informed that only potatoes were served with lots of watery gravy. They wanted to have more green vegetables, these children also did not like sweet rice & wanted it to be removed from the menu as the cook only mixed rice & sugar in water & served it to the kids. They wanted milk to be added to sweet rice instead of water.

5. Quality of food ingredients:

Iodised salt was in use everywhere but the oil was not agmark & sealed. All the spices were sealed & were local made.

6. Kitchen Shed:

Separate kitchen sheds were there in all the schools & were in use & were found clean. The schools of PS karimati, JHS, Badagaon , PS and JHS, Makrao had fire extinguishers in the kitchen shed.

7. Fuel availability:

Almost all the cooks used chullahas & were using wood/dung cakes as fuel, with the exception of the schools of PS- Kari Mati & PS- Bara Gaon.

8. Provision of drinking water:

All the schools were clean & had provision of drinking water in the school premises.

9. Availability of toilets:

All the schools had toilets but were not being used regularly by the children. None of the toilets had any supply of water.

10. Availability of utensils:

All the schools had cooking utensils, were in use & in good condition, however with the exception of JHS, Para Ojhi, none of the schools had serving utensils. Children were expected to bring their plates from home. The children of PS, Para Ojhi informed that they brought their plates etc from home as they were not provided in the school & the teacher told them that they will be given it once their inventory is done. The teacher could not respond as to why they did not provide the children with plates despite having enough with them.

11. Cooks:

There are 1181 Primary & upper primary schools in Hamirpur. There are 399 SC cooks, 726 OBC cooks, 86 belong to minority & 57 belong to general caste. In whole, the caste wise percentage is 31.5% (SC), 57.3 (OBC), 6.8% (Minority), 4.5% (Gen). There are around 99.0% female & 1.0% male cooks. They were paid their salary quarterly; most of them were unaware about the revised salary. They knew that they were paid 40 p per child but were not very clear of the calculations & were dependent on the mercy of the Pradans for their payments & continuation of their jobs.

12. Role of pradhans:

Pradhans were inaccessible in all the places with the exception of JHS, Badagaon, PS and JHS, Makrao. They were aware of the scheme & its provisions. The Pradhan has a lot of control as he is in charge of the upliftment, supply & storage of grains as well as appointment of cooks. The pradhan of Makro was ready to give up this MDM scheme to SHGs.

13. Convergence with other departments:

There is good convergence among all the departments with regard to MDM scheme. Kitchen sheds were constructed under Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojna. Fire extinguishers were provided by Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

14. Record maintenance:

The MDM registers were maintained in all schools but it was not filled and signed by Panchayat Secretary and Pradhan.

15. Menu:

The menu has been painted on the walls of all the Primary Schools & Upper Primary School buildings so as to make people aware of the food being provided each day under MDM programme. The wall writing also displays the amount of ingredients needed for 100 children for preparing a dish.

16. NGO Involvement:

The team visited two NGOs viz. SEWA and Ekta Shakti Foundation. SEWA in Kanpur Nagar caters to 23,000 children in 255 schools. EKTA Shakti Foundation, New Delhi caters to 31,081 children from 227 schools from Tilohi and Amvaha blocks from dist Rai Bareli. Both the NGOs did not have proper accounts and records. SEWA informed that their bills are pending for payment at district but could not furnish any documents to the team which are required to settle the bills. Both the organizations did not have any system to track down daily allocations of cooked food. There is lack of supervision on the part of district officials.

SEWA informed that they have been receiving food allocations of 35 to 65 grams per child from 2007 and its previous bills have not been settled. It also informed that they have lodged their complaints to senior officers.

The district officials informed that Ekta was given the contract in November 2009, when pradhans had expressed their inability to provide food in less cooking costs.

Recommendations:

1. Madhyanh Bhojan Nidhi:

A separate account by the name of **Madhyanh Bhojan Nidhi** (MBN) may be opened for every school to be operated jointly by Gram Pradhan and head master of the school. It is also suggested that funds for each components may be routed through this account only. This will ensure timely availability of funds at school level in advance.

In view of the delay in reaching the funds to the schools/ cooking agency level, it is proposed that the above mentioned MBN accounts must invariably be opened in nearest CBS branch of banks to enable speedy transfer of funds.

2. Propositioning of resources at school level is essential for smooth functioning of the scheme. In view of this, the State may follow SSA society model in transfer of funds so that funds are allocated from central level to MDM authority at state level, that in turn transfer the funds to district level. The concerned district will transfer fund to school/cooking agency level. The society mode of transfer of funds will also solve the problem of revalidation of unspent balance. As balance at the end of the financial year will be spilled over.

3. Quality, quantity, availability, regularity:

Though the norms have been revised recently, keeping in mind the steep rise of the food prices, it is becoming increasingly difficult to provide good quality & sufficient quantity of food. The inclusion of pulses & green vegetables was found almost nil or minimal, therefore, it is important to revise conversion cost further in order to meet calorie norms & ensure vitamins & proteins in MDM.

4. The menu may be planned region wise but closely monitored keeping in view the eating preferences. The assistance of nutritional institutes can be taken to develop nutritional & area specific menu. The cooks & children should be encouraged to take up kitchen gardening as this will ensure the supply of green vegetables as well as provide the children scope to learn about horticulture.
5. FCI should be given the responsibility of stamping /coloring the food grain bags with MDM logo. It was observed that there is practice in all districts that three sample is collected at the time of lifting of foodgrains from FCI. As per prevalent norms, one should remain with FCI, one with lifting agency and third with Basic Shiksha Adhikari at district level. But it is found that no sample is available at BSA office and there is no signature of BSA or his nominee.

It is proposed that the samples should bear the signature of BSA/ his nominee and be available at BSA office.

Also the time taken in transporting foodgrains from FCI godown to block godown should also be monitored and recorded.

6. Kitchen devices:

Provisions should be increased in the budget to provide schools with utensils, both serving and cooking.

7. Gas Stove and Double Barrel Cylinder(DBC):

It is imperative from health & hygiene point of view that LPG and gas stove is provided to all the schools & its regular supply should be ensured. Due to scarcity of funds at state level it is proposed that one time money for Double Barrel Cylinder (DBC) and Gas Stove

may be provided by the GOI as central assistance. Solar energy can be explored as an option. The budget for the kitchen devices & fuel should be revised.

8. Fire extinguisher:

Fire extinguishers which were procured from convergence are a good practice & should be speeded up all over the state.

9. Food Storage:

In all the schools food grain was stored at the Pradhans house, this lead to misappropriation & undue control of pradhans. Foodgrains as per norms may be kept at school premises.

10. Availability of toilets:

The supply of water in toilets should be encouraged so that they may be used regularly & kept clean.

11. Cooks:

The cooks need to be trained on aspects of hygiene, health, sanitation apart from cooking. A pool of master trainers can be created for this purpose, who can be given training at the state/district level. These Master Trainers can then impart training to all the cooks at the block level.

12. Role of pradhans:

The pradhans already have too much of burden on them as they are involved in many implementation schemes. Many of them have been advocating that this scheme implementation may be taken away from them so that they can monitor the scheme properly. Keeping this in mind & the need to support the empowerment of women, SHGs may be involved in preparation and serving the meal.

13. Staff:

As there is only one staff at the district to look after MDM, it becomes difficult to manage & monitor the entire program. Thus, it is proposed that at least one more coordinator should be provided for each block.

14. Training:

The MDM coordinators & the staff of the BSA office need to be trained on aspects of management, funds flow, monitoring, guidelines, rules and regulations of MDM.

15. Monitoring & Evaluation:

To monitor the scheme in the districts, district authority has appointed district co-ordinator for monitoring and supervision of scheme in the entire district. The condition of the district MDM cell is very poor and needs to be strengthened by providing more contingency/Office expenses for effective functioning. It is proposed that a block co-ordinator may be engaged for each block. This will provide help in monitoring the scheme efficiently.

The criteria for incurring the expenditure under MME component is 50:35:15 at present. It was found that whereas funds under school expenses and management/supervision heads are not sufficient, there is saving in the external monitoring and evaluation head which is 15% of the total MME funds. It is proposed that this ceiling as percentage of total MME fund sanctioned may be made 50:50 by clubbing 35% and 15 % so that States/UTs may have flexibility to plan as per their requirement.

There is no proper mechanism to monitor the implementation of the MDM scheme in terms of regularity, quality & quantity below district level. It is suggested that for proper monitoring a web based MIS for transporting data directly from school to state level

should be developed. It was found that an action plan for SMS based daily MIS was prepared at the MDM authority level in July 2007, which may be helpful in designing and development of monitoring system (Annexure.....)

16. Grievance Redressal Mechanism:

A grievance redressal cell at state level may be set up with adequate staff. It will communicate complaints to the concerned authority without delay. For this a toll free interactive helpline which can be freely accessed by the community members may be introduced at the state level. Any person from the community can lodge a complain to ensure compliance of MDM.

17. Convergence:

Convergence with Health and family welfare and panchayati raj department needs to be strengthened to ensure proper implementation of the scheme.

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