

**INDEPTH-MONITORING OF 'SCHOOL FEEDING
PROGRAMME IN POVERTY PRONE AREAS'**

Final Report



Submitted by

Md. Mofazzal Hossain

Consultant

**Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division
Ministry of Planning
Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh
Sher-E- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.**

June, 2014

Executive Summary

Introduction

Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Ministry of Planning has taken initiative to take In-Depth Monitoring of some important projects by the National Consultant under revenue Budget. According to this initiatives " School Feeding Programme in poverty-prone Areas" under Ministry of Primary & Mass Education (MPME) has been selected for In -Depth Monitoring by the National Consultant. Accordingly consultant is selected and appointed for this purposes.

Background of the Project

Education is the backbone of the nation and Primary education is the foundation of education. But in Bangladesh, children of very poor people most of the cases do not go to school. Some of students drop out before completing Primary Education.

The major thrust in Primary Education Sub-Sector is to bring all primary age children under universal primary education program of the Government. The Government is committed to enroll all primary school age children in the primary schools and retain them for five years in the schools. With a view to enrolling all children of the primary school-age population of the poverty prone areas, the Government has undertaken 'School Feeding Program' with joint funding of GoB and United Nations World Food Program (UN-WFP).

The Original approved cost of the project is Tk. 114279.91 Lakh (GoB- Tk. 59770.56 Lakh, WFP-54509.35 Lakh) for a period of 4 years (July 2010 to June 2014). The project is revised due to extension of the project implementation period and extension of project areas. The estimated cost of the revised (DPP) has now stood at Tk. 157793.11 Lakh (GoB Tk. 87574.50 Lakh and WFP. Tk 70218.61 Lakh).

The main component of the project is to supply 75 gram of fortified biscuits per day for each of the children of primary education grades 1 to 5 (including pre-primary and Ebtedayee students). Seventy-five grams of fortified biscuits provide 338 kilocalories

per day. Biscuits are fortified with fourteen vitamins and minerals.

The Main objectives of the project are:

- To contribute in achieving universal primary education and Millennium Development Goal-2
- To increase enrolment and attendance of the primary school students in the food-insecure areas
- To improve health and learning ability of the primary school children through reducing of micro-nutrient deficiencies
- To enhance GoB capacity to implement the School Feeding Program efficiently and effectively

Consultant's Assignment

- i. To examine and review component wise implementation progress (Physical and Financial) of the project;
- ii. To monitor increase in student enrolment rate, rate of attendance and quality of primary education in poverty prone areas;
- iii. Monitor the nutrition level of the students after supplying of 75 gram of fortified biscuits which provides 338 kilocalories per day;
- iv. Monitor the role of community in implementing the project;
- v. Monitor the tender documents to verify whether the existing government rules (PPA-2006, PPR- 08) are being followed in procuring goods and services under the project;
- vi. Monitor the quality of goods and services procured and verify whether these have been procured as per specification of the tender document;
- vii. Monitor whether implementation any of the component has been delayed and identify the reasons responsible for the delay;
- viii. Identify the strengths and weakness (if any) of the implementation process of the project and formulate appropriate recommendations; and
- ix. Monitor whether the project needs any further improvements in its design to run the project more efficiently and effectively.

Methodology and Approaches of the Assignment

To perform the Assignment the consultant has collected data with the help data collector appointed by IMED from 23 Upa-Zila out of 72 Upa-Zila through Questionnaire from District Primary Education Officers, Upa-Zila / Thana Education Officers, Teachers, Guardians and Students. Information collected from project Officials, discuss with project related persons, information collected from Focused Group Discussion Meetings; all information thus collected are scrutinize, compiled, analysis and report has been prepared.

Findings

- i) The main component (93 % of project cost) of the project is to supply one packet of 75gm fortified Biscuit per day for each school student of selected primary school. From the data collected from sampling areas, it is found that all the school children are getting Biscuit regularly. The quality of Biscuit is good and there is no complain against the quality of Biscuit.
- ii) From the data collection in the sampling areas, it is shown that fortified biscuit distribution attracted students to come at school regularly and in time;
- iii) This program has improved attendance rate in the classes;
- iv) It has improved student's health. No skin disease was found among the primary School children;
- v) Supply of Biscuit reduces drop out rate;
- vi) Most of the stakeholders prefers Biscuit to cooked food;
- vii) Biscuit is given in the first period of the class;
- viii) 69% schools have health measuring equipments while 31% schools have no health measuring equipments;
- ix) 94% students got two de-worming tablets each year while 6% students did not get de-worming tablets;
- x) 36% schools have health measuring records while 64% schools have no health

measuring records;

- xii) Average rate of attendance of students in schools located in the sample areas is 79%;
- xiii) Average result of all classes in the sampled schools in 2013 is better than year 2010, 2011 and 2012. It indicates that the result of students is improving;
- xiv) Result of terminal examination of sampled schools in 2013 is better than year 2010, 2011 and 2012. It also indicates that the result of students is improving gradually;
- xv) 92% schools have facilities for drinking water while 8% schools have no facilities for drinking water and in 7% School's drinking water facility is inadequate;
- xvi) 83% schools in the sampled areas have play ground while 17% schools in the sampled areas have no play ground. On the other hand, 6% school's playground is inadequate;
- xvii) 94% schools of the sampled areas have room to preserve Biscuit while 6% schools have no room to preserve Biscuit;
- xviii) 64% sampled schools have garden while 36% sampled schools have no garden. On the other hand, space for garden of 8% school is inadequate;
- xix) Among the sampled schools, 64% teachers prefers biscuit while 31% like cooked food and rest of 5% like giving cash;
- xx) Regarding advantage and disadvantages of cooked food, 17% respondents said about advantages and 83% mentioned about disadvantages;
- xxi) Monthly Income of 66% sampled guardians is within Tk. 5000/00 ;
- xxii) Most of the sampling Schools (50%) were found teacher shortage ;
- xxiii) Many students come to school without having breakfast ;
- xxiv) Infrastructural facilities of some sampling Madrasas are found to be very poor,
- xxv) Rate of attendance of students in the class of Feeding school is higher than Non-Feeding school ;
- xxvi) Results of students of Feeding school is found better than Non-Feeding school.

xxv. One sample tested by BCSIR found that Fat and Protein content is lower than the acceptable range as prescribed by WFP. Project Authority should look into the matter and take necessary actions against it.

Suggestions for Special Design of the Project

Data collection from sampling areas through questionnaire shows that it is a very effective project. Many Guardians of poverty prone areas want to include their school under the project. But resources are limited. So, within limited resources maximum benefits try to be achieved. To give more benefit the following steps should be taken by the concerned authority :

- I. As Economic and Social condition is changing of different areas of country, Poverty Map should be re-designed up to Union level;
- II. All Schools within poverty prone areas specially very poor areas should be included in the project;
- III. Biscuit should be given most of the schools where Biscuit distribution is suitable.
- IV. Cooked food should be given to the natural calamities prone areas where people are very poor and these schools have physical facilities for cooking;
- V. Efforts should be taken by the concerned Ministry to get more Foreign Assistance and GOB money to expand the program all over the country;
- VI. There is a gap between the students' enrolment in the class and attendance in the examination. Efforts should be taken to reduce the gap.
- VII. Monitoring arrangement should be intensify to implement the project more successfully;
- VIII. There are many variation in Students Teacher Ratio. Steps should be taken to reduce the gap;
- IX. Physical facilities like rooms, water supply, latrine, chair, benches, almirah should be created and supplied according to the requirement;
- X. Motivation works should be intensified;
- XI. Project should be revised according to the recommendations stated above;
- XII. Area of Feeding Program should be extended to all Primary schools of the country gradually and
- XIII. To prepare a full data based separate ID profile with photograph for each Primary school with a view to remove the gap between enrolment and attendance of Students of Primary schools

students, in some schools latrines and drinking water facilities were found poor;

- iv. **Shortage of teacher:** Most of the sampled schools have shortage of teacher. According to standard teacher student ratio is 1:50. But about 50% sampled schools, teacher and student ratio is more than 1:50;
- v. **No room to preserve Biscuit:** Some sampling schools(6%) have no room to keep Biscuit. Biscuit is kept in the house of member of school management committee or teacher's house or in other places;
- vi. **No Latrines and drinking water:** Some schools specially some NGO's school have no latrines and drinking water;
- vii. **No playground:** Some sampling schools(17%) have no playground for the students;
- viii. **No gardens:** Some sampling schools have no garden. Whereas some school's gardens are unprotected, no fencing were found around the gardens;
- ix. **Lack of Security:** Some school's security system is found to be weak. Handle of Tube well and other things are sometimes stolen;
- x. **Poverty areas out of feeding project:** Some areas are poverty prone but not included under feeding project.
- xi. Sometimes Syllabus are given to the Teacher lately; Some Teachers are not appointed according to Merit.

6.3 Recommendations:

- i. Infrastructural facilities should be created in the school where it is necessary;
- ii. Required number of benches, chairs, tables, educational equipments should be given according to the necessity;
- iii. For creating educational facilities, sufficient numbers of teachers should be employed according to the standard ratio of teacher and student;
- iv. Room for preserving biscuit in good condition should be built where it is lacking ;
- v. Most of the stakeholders in the sampling schools prefer Biscuit instead of cooked food and cash. So, most of poverty prone areas should be covered under biscuit distribution

system. On the other hand, between cooked food and cash; almost all stakeholders like cooked food;

vi. Cooked food should be given in very poverty prone areas where natural calamities like storm, tidal bore, heavy flood occurs repeatedly. But school should have space and room as well as necessary arrangements for cooking food. There should be system in the kitchen room for emission of smoking;

vii. Very poverty prone areas not yet covered by the project should be included gradually;

viii. Average rate of attendance in the sampled school is 79%. Steps should be taken for further improvement;

ix. Teachers, members of school management committee, guardians should jointly take more initiatives in getting re-admission of the dropped out children;

x. WFP should increase their financial and other co-operation because this project Proved itself as an important and successful project;

xi. Home visit, Mother gathering, Rally is needed more for attracting non-student children, re-admission of dropped out children in the school as well as to increase their regular attendance at school;

xii. Syllabus should be given to the Teacher at the beginning of the Academic Year;

xiii. All Teachers should be appointed according to their Merit.

xiv. More importance should be given to produce quality biscuits. Because any fault in the quality of biscuit will harm the good image of the project.