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A STUDY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTIC SUPPLY PROBLEMS AT AWCs: IN RURAL ICDS BLOCK (MEHAM) HARYANA

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ABSTRACT

Government of India launch Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme on 2nd October, 1975 on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 106th birthday anniversary. It provides integrated services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school education and health and nutrition education. The focal point for delivering ICDS services is known as Anganwadi Center which is managed by an AWW (Anganwadi Worker) and one helper. Only this scheme can help government of India to overcome the problem of child health, malnutrition, hunger and school dropouts. The main objectives of the paper were to analyze building status and available infrastructure of Anganwadi centers, to study infrastructure related problems and to study logistic supply related problems. The study was based on primary data which was collected by personal visits made to Anganwadi centers. To analyze the data collected from field survey, simple statistical tools as tabulation and percentage method used for the result.

KEYWORDS

AWC, infrastructure, logistic supply, problems.

INTRODUCTION

India is a developing country with 2nd largest population in the world. A large number of Indian children do not have adequate living conditions due to poverty and a majority of parents are unable to provide much stimulation to their children because of their own limitations. So, government of India decided to launch Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme on 2nd October, 1975 on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 106th birthday anniversary which represents as one of the world's largest and unique program for promoting early childhood care and development. Only this scheme can help government of India to overcome the problem of child health, malnutrition, hunger and school dropouts. In beginning stages ICDS was implemented in 33 selected communities of the country with a view to provide a package of six services to children in the age group 0-6 years, adolescent girls, expectant and lactating mothers. The focal point for delivering ICDS services is known as 'Anganwadi'. The word Anganwadi is developed from the Hindi word 'Angan' which refers to the courtyard of a house. In the rural areas an Angan is that place where people get together to discuss, meet, and socialize. The Angan is also used occasionally to cook food or for household members to sleep in the open air. This part of the house is seen as the 'heart of the house'. So, Anganwadi center is a courtyard play center which provides integrated services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school education and health and nutrition education. It is a childcare center located within the village or the slum area itself (Prasanti Jena, 2013). Each Anganwadi center is managed by an AWW and one helper or Sahayika. Both women are from same locality and paid honorarium. The AWW have various types of job responsibilities. The work of AWW is supervised by higher authorities. It is obvious that an AWW might have to face many problems while performing different types of functions. So, in this study we want to find out which types of problems faced by AWWs during their working time. In Haryana ICDS Scheme is being implemented in 148 ICDS projects including 21 urban projects with the network of 25,962 Anganwadi Centers including 512 Mini Anganwadi Centers. And government provided a sum of 1,05,723.93 lakh in the budget for the year 2014-15 for this scheme (Haryana Economic Survey 2014-15).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Chudasama R. K., et al (2014) in their study made an attempt to evaluate ICDS program in terms of infrastructure of Anganwadi centers, inputs, process, coverage and issues related to program operation in Gujarat state. The study concluded that almost of Anganwadi center's buildings were owned, having concrete building, adequate indoor space and toilet facility. Half of children were covered by supplementary nutrition. In pre-school education (PSE) low cost games, posters and play way method were used. AWWs were explained about various issues such as non-availability of storage facility, inadequate outdoor space and non-availability of separate kitchen.

Satia Asha and Nath M. (1982) in their study made an attempt to find out organizational structure of ICDS and problems faced by ICDS functionaries in Haryana state. They found that job responsibilities of CDPO and BDO were not clearly defined. Supervision at Anganwadi centers was not close, shortage of paramedical staff and inadequate use of vehicle which was provided to supervisor.

Shamasul H. and Naseer A.W. (2013) in their study made an attempt to analyze the availability of infrastructure related to various services of the ICDS scheme in Anganwadi centers in Kashmir. The study found that ICDS scheme was not being implemented properly as mentioned in the norms of the scheme. Infrastructure, lack of separate kitchen, storage facility, inadequate training and supervision were the factors which were responsible for malfunctioning of Anganwadi centers.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the paper were:

- To analyze building status and available infrastructure of Anganwadi centers.
- To study infrastructure related problems.
- To study logistic supply related problems.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was carried out in Mokhra, Medina and Muradpurtekn village of Meham block of Rohtak district. Thirty Anganwadi workers were selected as respondents. Samples were randomly selected for the purpose. The study was based on primary data which was collected by personal visits made to Anganwadi

centers. For the collection of data, we have adopted interview schedule and observation as major techniques. To analyze the data collected from field survey, simple statistical tools as tabulation and percentage method used for the result.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

TABLE 1: BUILDING STATUS

Anganwadi center's building	No. of AWCs	Percentage
Own/Govt. building	8	26.72
School building	0	0
Panchayat-building without rent	5	16.75
Rented building	13	43.41
AWW/helper's house	4	13.34

Source: Primary Data

Table-1 represents the building status of AWCs. Majority (43.41 percent 13) of AWCs were in the rented building, 26.72 percent 8 AWC buildings were owned or provided by state govt., and 16.75 percent 5 AWCs were in Panchayat-building without rent and very few 13.34 percent 4 AWC buildings were in AWW/helper's house. There was not any single AWC which was running in a school building.

TABLE 2: AVAILABLE INFRASTRUCTURE OF ANGANWADI CENTERS

Type of facility	AWCs with facility	AWCs without facility
Pucca building	30(100)	0 (0)
Electricity	25 (83.35)	5 (16.75)
Fan	26(86.76)	4 (13.34)
Drinking water	27 (90)	3 (10)
Sanitary toilet	30 (100)	0(0)

Source: Primary Data

For the effective implementation of ICDS program, the development of a suitable infrastructure in the form of pucca Anganwadi building and toilet facility is an essential requirement. Table-2 shows the availability of infrastructure at AWCs. There was pucca building and sanitary toilet facility in each AWC. Mostly AWCs had fan (86.76 percent 26) and drinking water (90 percent 27) facility. Only 13.34 percent 4 and 10 percent 3 AWC had not fan and drinking water facility respectively. 83.35 percent 25 AWC had electricity facility, only 16.75 percent 5 AWC were without electricity facility. There was not any AWC without pucca building and sanitary toilet facility.

TABLE 3: INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED PROBLEMS

Problems	No. of AWCs	Percentage
Adequate outdoor & indoor space	30	100
Adequate cooking space	26	86.75
Separate space for storage of food and other items	29	95.65
Adequate utensils for cooking	30	100
Adequate utensils for food distribution	29	95.65

Source: Primary Data

Every AWC should have indoor-outdoor space where children can not only move around but can also work in small groups, in pairs and in circle depending upon the activity. Table-3 represents infrastructure related problems at AWCs. All 100 percent 30 AWCs had the problem of adequate outdoor-indoor space and adequate utensils for cooking. Almost 95.65 percent 29 AWCs had the problem of adequate utensils for food distribution and separate space for storage of food and other items. Due to this a large part of food items were spoiled. Only 86.75 percent 26 AWC had the problem of adequate cooking space.

TABLE 4: LOGISTIC SUPPLY RELATED PROBLEMS

Type of supply	Anganwadi centers with adequate supply		Anganwadi centers without adequate supply	
	No.	%	No.	%
Registers	12	40	18	60
Weighing scale	26	86.65	4	13.34
Growth cards	27	90	3	10
NFPSE material	28	93.34	2	6.66
Medicines	5	16.65	25	83.35
Vit.A supplement	4	13.35	26	86.65
Supplementary nutrition	23	76.66	7	23.34

Source: Primary Data

Logistic supply related problems were associated with mostly AWCs. Table-4 shows that availability of adequate NFPSE (Non-Formal Pre-School Education) material, growth cards and weighing scale had been observed in 93.34 percent 28, 90 percent 27 and 86.65 percent 26 AWCs respectively. On the other hand 6.66 percent 2, 10 percent 3 and 13.34 percent 4 AWCs respectively were observed without adequate supply. 76.66 percent 23 AWCs were with adequate supply of supplementary nutrition and 23.34 percent 7 AWCs were without adequate supply of supplementary nutrition. 86.65 percent 26, 83.35 percent 25 and 60 percent 18 AWCs were without adequate supply of vit.A supplement, medicines and registers respectively.

CONCLUSIONS

The findings of the study clearly indicated that all AWCs had pucca building and sanitary toilet facility. And a majority of AWCs had fan and drinking water facility. However, it was sad to see that majority of Anganwadi centers were not running in their own building because mostly AWCs were in the rented building and only about one-fourth AWC buildings were owned or provided by state govt. The study revealed that all AWCs had the problem of adequate outdoor-indoor space and adequate utensils for cooking. Almost AWCs had the problem of adequate utensils for food distribution and separate space for storage of food and other items. Due to this a large part of food items were spoiled. In present study logistic supply related problems felt by AWWs were mainly inadequate supply of vit.A supplement, medicines and registers. There was adequate supply of NFPSE material, growth cards and weighing scale at AWCs. The present study felt the need of improving infrastructure facilities and adequate logistic supply at AWCs for better implementation of ICDS scheme.

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