

Systematic Review of Literature on Quality of Preschool Services in Anganwadis

Kalpna Singh¹, Dr. Suvidha²

¹Designation- Research Scholar Department of Human Development and Family Studies
Institute, Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan, India

²Designation- Associate Professor Department of Human Development and Family Studies
Institute, Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan, India

ABSTRACT

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The paper highlights the implementation and execution of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) which was started in 1975. The scheme has been popularized with its need based programs for the larger benefit of millions of children across the country, who is the real assets of the country. The study focus the various aspects of ECE like organizational structure, learning climate, health and hygiene, monitoring and supervision mechanism as well as the infrastructure of the Anganwadi Centers. Pre-school education shoulders the responsibility of making children able to enter into formal schooling. It needs to be recognized as a precondition for the healthy mental and emotional development of children. Rapid growth during the early childhood stages requires the provision of a suitable environment to catalyze the multifaceted development of young children.

Keywords: Integrated Child Development Scheme, Anganwadi Centers, Anganwadi Workers, Preschool Education.

I. INTRODUCTION

With increasing awareness, masses are nowadays realizing the ardent need of focusing on the growth and development of young children. the advocacy of various psychologists and human developmentalists like, 'Freud', Erikson Rousseau, John Dewey and many more has established that early years of a child's life are most crucial for her or him entire prospective personality. Even governments worldwide thrust their focus upon the fact and

acknowledge that for the growth and stability of a nation, it is a mandatory to invest in the holistic development of children. Therefore various policies and programs have been designed and implemented to ensure the cognitive, social, physical, emotional and psychologically sound development of young children, in order to make them socially noteworthy and contributing citizens of the nation.

To implement the idea, the government of India in 1975 started a scheme called ICDS (integrated child development scheme). That contains a package of

multi folded services which aim to eliminate malnutrition, morbidity and mortality in young children. Along with the focus on health status of children and expectant mothers it also emphasizes preschool education to lay the solid foundation of a bright future for children aged up to 6 years. ICDS runs through the Anganwadi centers so as to reach masses with the help of Anganwadi workers.

The research problem has been taken up to find the gaps in execution of educational programmes components of ICDS scheme. For focusing on the wider picture the quality assessment of Anganwadis was also taken into account so as to ensure the presence of infrastructural and services that are needed for educational programmes.

II. REVIEWS

Authors	purpose	Research design	Target population	Psychosocial assessment	Result
Anju ade et.al. 2010	A package for preschool education was developed and implemented on intervention in anganwadis to observe the improvement.	Experimental study	4-6 years children	Stanford Binet test Developmental screening test	Results indicated the improvement in education and development of children. Also a leap in intelligence quotient was noticed.
Rajni Dhingra et.al. 2011	To evaluate the service of preschool education in Jammu district provided by the ICDS program.	Observational study	60 Anganwadi centers	Observation interview schedule,	According to the study, the activities of preschool education were being planned and conducted regularly by the Anganwadi workers. But he lacked innovation. Non-availability of infrastructure was observed as a proactive deterrent in the conduct of activities. Therefore, high level facilities should be made available to bring qualitative change in ICDS services.
Samridhi Arora et.al. 2011	To Study of school readiness on areas such as basic knowledge and vocabulary, concept of time, social work etc. and comparing boys and girls in Anganwadi centres.	Observational study	80 Anganwadi children	School Readiness Assessment Inventory and observation	The study found that school readiness increases with age; no gender differences were noticed. The Anganwadi centers pay more attention to visual motor performance after basic information, vocabulary and self-help. Improvement is required in the areas of number concept and coordination, object, square, shape, color concept

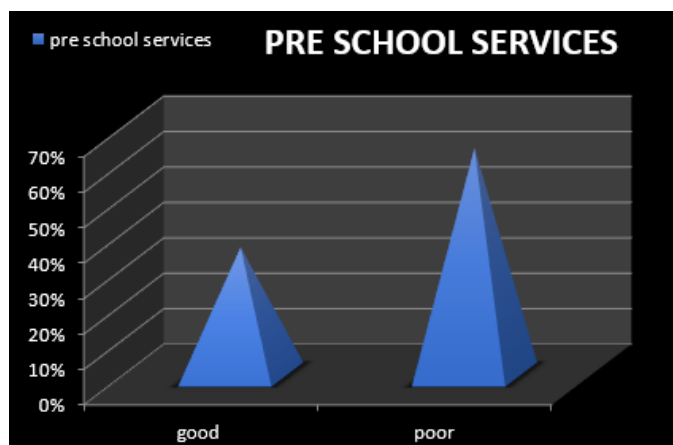
					etc. in the children.
Shashi Manhas et.al. 2012	To study the awareness of Anganwadi workers about the services provided by ICDS project in Bishnah and Purmandal blocks.	Observational study	Anganwadi worker	Self-devised interview schedule	This study shows that the Anganwadi workers lacked information about the services of ICDS. Therefore, there is a need for improvement in the training that is given to them before going to the field job.
Deepmala Shrivastav et.al. 2012	To evaluate the non-formal preschool education service provided by integrated child development scheme (ICDS).	Observational study	18 Anganwadi center	observation Sheet, Interview Schedule	The implementation of preschool education was not proper due to lack of study material and proper spaces, support staff etc. in the Anganwadi center.
Sarbjit singh 2013	To evaluate the pre-school education offered by the ICDS project in Barnala district of Punjab.	Observational study	3-6 years Anganwadi children	Personal interview	This study shows that the names of 45.42% children were registered in the register of pre-school education. 03.33% of children know only 3-4 colors. 8.33% of children recognize pictures of 5-6 vegetables. Mostly children were unable to keep colors and crayons in shape.
Rajesh k chudasama et.al. 2014	To evaluate ICDS program with reference to the functioning of Anganwadi centers, infrastructure, input, coverage, utilization of services, and program related issues in 12 districts of Gujarat.	Facility (Anganwadi) based study	Anganwadi workers	Personal interview, and Anganwadi records	The results show that there are program gaps in all services offered by ICDS such as referral of sick children, coverage of nutritional supplements in children, preschool activity coverage, and regular health checkups.
Anjum Ahad 2014	To study all working Anganwadi Centres in Project Area Zaldagar of District Srinagar.	Evaluative study	Anganwadi centers	1. Check list 2. Questionnaire developed by Prof. Nadeem and Shah in (2000). 3. Interview	This study shows that preschool education was being provided in Anganwadi Centers established by J&K in the Zaldagar region.
Dr.G.M.	The aim of the	Cross-sectional	40	Interview with	Attendance of the children

Nagaraja et.al. 2014	study is to understand the reasons behind the dropout of children and to determinants of dropout from Anganwadi centers.	study	Anganwadi center	107 parents	was irregular to the Anganwadi center. Because the attention of the Anganwadi worker was more on preparing supplementary nutrition and maintaining records rather than on preschool educational activities.
Sarbjit Singh kular 2015	To evaluate the pre-school education offered by the ICDS project in Barnala district of Punjab.	Observational study	3-6 years Anganwadi children	Personal interview	This study shows that only 43.70 children were enrolled in the Anganwadi register for preschool education. In which 6.66% children could recognize 5-6 pictures of vegetables, 2.50% children could recognize 3-4 colors.
Rituparna Das et.al. 2015	To assess the use of the services provided by the ICDS program in children under 6 years of age and to study the factors that determine the use of the services.	cross-sectional study	2 Anganwadi center	Interview	The study suggests that there is a need for improvement in the area of performance of coverage of ICDS centers in child health services.
Akash Malik et.al. 2015	To assess the facilities and services provided by the Anganwadi workers to children of 0-6 years at Anganwadi centers as per norms of ICDS program.	Cross-sectional study.	41 AWCs	Interview	The study pointed out the lack of facilities in the Anganwadi centers and the poor knowledge of Anganwadi workers about the ICDS programme. Therefore, along with the availability of adequate facilities, there is a need for regular training and supportive supervision to the Anganwadi workers.

Siva kumar et.al. 2015	To assess the gaps in decision making of services and programs provided to children of 3-6 years of age in urban ICDS Block of Kozhikode Corporation.	A cross sectional descriptive study	117 Anganwadi centers	Interview, Anganwadi centers records	According to the study, there is a need for coordination between health workers and Anganwadi workers in the services provided by ICDS.
Narendra Singh et.al. 2015	Assessment and comparison of morbidity and nutritional status in urban and rural ICDS centers in children under 6 years of age.	longitudinal and comparative study	Anganwadi children bellow 6 years	Pre-designed pretested proforma	There is a program gap in all the services offered by ICDS in rural areas.
Ipsita Debata et.al 2016	Assessment of the availability of infrastructure of Anganwadi centers as per ICDS programme.	Cross-sectional study	21 Anganwadi centers	Prevalidated checklist	Anganwadi is the nodal point of service delivery under the ICDS programme. Toilet facilities were found in 57.1% of Anganwadi centers and cleanliness of rooms and kitchens was good in 61.9%.
Jitendra Kumar Meena et.al. 2017	Assessment of work of Anganwadi workers regarding health services, infrastructure and logistics provided at anganwadi centres.	Descriptive case study	Anganwadi workers	Personal interview, and Anganwadi records	Current studies show poor infrastructure, community participation and coverage. The level of vaccination and referral networking is not appropriate. ICDS can work by creating effective strategies to improve the services.
Kanwal Preet K. Gill Et.al. 2017	To assess the basic infrastructure in AWCs of Punjab.	Observational study	Anganwadi workers	Personal interview	Sufficient infrastructure along with regular supply of ration need to be ensured for proper functioning of Anganwadis.
Jitendra Kumar Meena et.al. 2017	To evaluate the services of the ICDS program in an urban slum in delhi, india.	mix-methods descriptive case study	Anganwadi center	Interview	The study shows that the average coverage of ICDS services was 58.3%. The services of supplementary nutrition, immunization, preschool education and growth monitoring were satisfactory and nutrition

					and health education, maternal and child health services were unsatisfactory.
Samridhi Arora et.al. 2018	To assess the level of preschool education, parental awareness and utilization of these services provided at anganwadi centers.	Observational study	Anganwadi workers, Anganwadi children's parents	Personal interview	The present situation shows that children were given pre-school education in Anganwadi centers. Teaching materials made from household items were used to teach the children. Most of the parents were happy with the education provided in Anganwadi and some were not happy, they felt that Anganwadi pays more attention to nutrition and not to education.
Rajesh K. Chudasama et.al. 2019	To evaluate the various aspects of ICDS such as inputs, results and processes in the context of the issue of the ICDS program.	Evaluative study	130 Anganwadi centers	Interview, Anganwadi centers records	The study reported gaps in terms of training coverage, supplies, status of preschool education, activities in Anganwadi centers and various services provided to the beneficiaries.
Sumana Samanta et.al. 2019	To assess the early childhood education component of ICDS services and other correlations through measurement of school readiness.	Cross-sectional evaluation study	3-6 years Anganwadi children	ECE Programme Evaluation Package developed by World Bank tool	Physical facility in Anganwadi centers to provide preschool education to the children, Supportive supervision of Anganwadi workers and conducive environment at home is the most important need of the hour.
Rajesh K. Chudasama et.al. 2019	To assess the issues infrastructure facilities, Anganwadi worker and Anganwadi center.	Observational study	60 Anganwadi centers	Interviewed using a predesigned and pretested proforma as provided by NIPCCD	There is a need to improve the mother and child health services provided in Anganwadi centers. Optimizing the functioning of the ICDS scheme requires coordinated steps to deliver the various services provided at the centers.
Harpreet Singh et.al. 2019	To assess the functioning of Anganwadi centers, maintenance of documents and regular visits of	Observational cross-sectional study	30 Anganwadi centers	Interview	The centers were regular in giving NFPSE, arranging VHNDs and weighing the children. The level of record keeping and activities was reasonable in most of the centers.

	supervisors.				
Rajesh K. Chudasama et.al. 2019	To evaluate the nutrition and other activities services in the Anganwadi Centers offered by ICDS in different districts of Gujarat State.	Evaluative study	60 Anganwadi centers	interviewed using a predesigned and pretested proforma as provided by NIPCCD, Anganwadi centers records	The study found that there was a lack of activities in the preschool education of 3-6 year old children in Anganwadi centers, there was also a lack of teaching material. This needs to be promptly addressed.
Dr. Pranab Saikia et.al. 2020	To find out about the activities related to preschool education in Anganwadi centers of Lakhimpur District	Observational study	120 Anganwadi workers	Self structured questionnaires	The preschool curriculum should be designed in such a way that the child is encouraged to learn and understand on his own. This is the first step for the child to get education and become a better citizen.



On the basis of the analysis of review of literature it has been unraveled that only 36% of Anganwadi centers were providing adequate preschool education services and programs whereas 64% of Anganwadi were lagging behind in preschool services and facilities that indicates serious requirement of amendment in educational services and policies.

III.CONCLUSION

Children are the future of a nation. "There is increasing evidence from the fields of neuroscience, social science, and psychology that the first five years

play an important role in children's learning. Recent findings suggest that the environment plays an important role in children's development." Hence, needless to say that meeting the needs of children through ICDS should be given due priority by its more efficient implementation. A good pre-school experience has the potential to profoundly affect a child's learning and development. It can be concluded that the focus should be on child centric curriculum for their all round growth and development. All the Anganwadi workers should be given adequate training and retraining about the pre-school education component of the ICDS scheme at appropriate intervals of time so that they engage the children and their interest in learning. Anganwadi centers were found be struggling with building spaces as most of them were whichever on rent or were running in panchayat ghar, religious spaces. Centers were conducting kitchen work within classroom area. Children were made to sit on mats, rug or in some cases on bare floor. Turunen et al. 2014 stated that physical building design and construction impact child's learning and behavior. The research studies which were reviewed found that the centers

IV. REFERENCES

conducted both outdoor and indoor activities in form of free conversations, storytelling, poems, puppets, paper activities, role play, building blocks, science activities, activities for physical development activities for cognitive development, creative activities, songs, riddles, quiz picture reading, describing objects, naming and identification, nature walks, water activities and games. However, not a single centre was found to be carrying out all the activities but was conducting either one or few of them. A small number of centers were not carrying out any activities. Centers had stationery materials like blackboards, flannel boards, whiteboards, colored chalks, scissors, paper, sketch pens, pens and pencils. Print materials that are charts, maps, posters, photographs, picture books, alphabet cards, flash cards, story books and vocabulary cards were available. Manipulative materials like seeds, pebbles, soft pea, colored wooden balls, wooden cubes, cylinder, colored wooden squares, building blocks, beads, buttons, abacus, toys, counting frames, magnetic alphas, and handmade materials were available. Availability of material was there however, they were found not being used by centers. So it can be concluded that the early childhood education delivered by Anganwadi workers under ICDS scheme is a good platform for providing a good teaching learning opportunity to the children of weaker section of our society before they enter in primary school at their door step. In the selected area of present research early childhood education was not powerfully delivered by Anganwadi workers due to lack of infrastructure, and community support, corruption and factional politics in villages etc. Therefore to combat these issues a systematic and well organized module was designed to fulfill all the aims and expectation of early childhood education. Moreover to stimulate all the creative and cognitive faculties of child's brain as well as the physical growth and development.

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