

**PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF ANGANWADI CENTRES IN
IMPHAL WEST DISTRICT OF MANIPUR,INDIA**

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ABSTRACT

The present paper attempts to study the remarkable need and requirement of the Anganwadi Centres for the proper growth and development of our children from the grassroot level. It also attempted to identify the problems faced by the Anganwadi Workers for the proper functioning of the centres. The present paper used descriptive-survey method as the methodology of the study and chosen 9 (nine) Anganwadi Centres from the Imphal West district of Manipur by using simple random sampling technique. A Self-designed questionnaire giving weightage of '1' for 'Yes' and '0' for 'No' was employed as the tool of the study. Average percentage is used as a statistical technique in order to analyze the collected data. From the study, it can be concluded that Angawadi Centre plays a significant role in the nourishment and training of our children even before birth and after birth so as to achieve the dream of our nation, "Education For All."

KEY WORDS :Anganwadi, Anganwadi Helper, Anganwadi Worker, ICDS,National Policy for children.

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Introduction

Children constitute the supreme form of wealth of any nation. They are the sacred trust of the family, community and nation. Children are the valuable human resources on whose development depends the future of the nation. So, a special responsibility lies on us, the elders to ensure that every child grows into a responsible adult possessing a strong character, a unique caliber and a profound knowledge of our culture. The National Policy for children declares that children are a supremely important assets of the nation, whose nurture is therefore, a national responsibility. It affirms that it shall be the duty of the state to provide adequate services to children both before and after birth and through the period of growth to ensure their full physical, mental and social development. It has also been realized that all basic essential services for the proper development of the child viz, nutrition, health and education should be provided simultaneously to children and mothers-right in their own village or ward. Accordingly, the Scheme of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) was initiated in 1975. ICDS is a Centrally sponsored programme implemented by the Department of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Human Resources Development of the Government of India, but the responsibility for its actual implementation rests with the State Government under the Directorate of Social Welfare at the State Level, ICDS Projects have been setup in the blocks, with each block having one Anganwadi Centre per 1000 population. At the block-level, the Child Development Project Officer is the officer-in-charge. There are supervisors who oversee the work at the Anganwadi Centres in each of the project areas while the Anganwadi Worker is responsible for the activities in each Anganwadi centre at the unit-level.

The Anganwadi is the focal point for delivery of the package of service to children and mothers right at their door step i.e. in the village or ward. An Anganwadi normally covers a population of about 1,000 in rural/urban areas and 700 in tribal areas. The Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) is in overall charges of each ICDS Project. She/he is responsible for implementation of the programme. As one CDPO is not able to supervise and guide the work of all Anganwadi, Supervisors are provided for supervision. Usually one supervisor supervises 20 Anganwadi in a rural project, 17 Anganwadis in a tribal project and 25 Anganwadi in an Urban project. At the health services of the ICDS Programme are delivered by the staff of the Primary Health Centre (PHC) and sub-centres, viz, Doctors, Health Assistant Female (HAF) and Health Workers

Female (HWF). At the district level, the collector or Deputy Commissioner is responsible for co-ordination of the programme. At the State level, the Secretary, Social Welfare or the Department Concerned with the ICDS, has the overall responsibility for the direction and implementation of the programme. At the Central level, the Department of Women's Welfare (Ministry of Human Resource Development) responsible for direction or implementation of the scheme.

The innovative step of Anganwadi by the Government of India was launched in Manipur in 1975. As an integral part of welfare and public service oriented towards the children and their mother, ICDS scheme of Anganwadi was introduced on 2nd October 1975 as a Pilot Project at Ukhrul T.D. Block. This was followed by opening of 2 blocks in Tengnoupal, Chandel district in 1979 and Jiribam and Sawombung in 1980. At present, in Manipur 1 ICDS Project opened in each block and 42 in all, the number of Anganwadi Centres has amounted to 9698.

Statement of the Problem

Problems and Prospects of Anganwadi Centres in Imphal West District of Manipur, India.

Objectives of the Study

- 1) To study the Awareness Programme conducted by the Anganwadi Centres in Imphal West district of Manipur.
- 2) To study the Teaching Methodology in the Anganwadi Centres.
- 3) To study the various co-curricular activities imparted in the centres.
- 4) To study the Teaching Aids of the Anganwadi Centres.
- 5) To study the People Participation in the Anganwadi Centres.

Hypotheses of the Study

- 1) There is significant Awareness programme conducted by the Anganwadi Centres in Imphal West district of Manipur.
- 2) There is significant in the Teaching Methodology in the Anganwadi Centres.
- 3) There is significant in the various co-curricular activities imparted in the centres.
- 4) There is significant in the Teaching Aids of the Anganwadi Centres.
- 5) There is significant in the people participation in the Anganwadi Centres.

Methodology

In the present study, descriptive-survey method is adopted as the methodology of the study.

Sample

The present study chosen 9 (nine) Anganwadi Centres using simple random sampling technique.

Tools

A self-designed questionnaire based on 5 (five) dimensions viz – Awareness programme, Teaching Methodology, Co-curricular Activities, Teaching Aids and People’s Participation in the Anganwadi Centres is employed as a tool in the present study. The responses is to be given either ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ with the weightage of ‘1’ mark for ‘Yes’ and ‘0’ mark for ‘No’ respectively.

Statistical Technique

Average percentage is used as a statistical technique in order to analyze the collected data.

Analysis and Interpretation

TABLE – 1

Awareness Programme of the Anganwadi Centres

CENTRE NO.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
AWARENESS (IN %)	100	83.3	100	91.6	100	100	83.3	100	91.6
Average (%)	94.42 %								

Table-1 indicates that the Anganwadi Centres in Imphal West district of Manipur have high Awareness Programme towards the ICDS project. Therefore, the hypothesis is accepted.

TABLE – 2

Methodology of Teaching in the Anganwadi Centres

CENTRE NO.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
METHODOLOGY (IN %)	100	91.6	100	75	100	91.6	91.6	100	100
Average (%)	94.42%								

Table-2 indicates that the Anganwadi Centres have significance in the Teaching Methodology. Therefore, the hypothesis is accepted.

TABLE – 3

CO-Curricular Activities in the Anganwadi Centres

CENTRE NO.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (IN %)	91.6	91.6	91.6	91.6	83.3	91.6	91.6	91.6	91.6
Average (%)	90.67 %								

Table-3 shows that there is active functioning of Co-curricular activities in the Centres. Therefore, the hypothesis is accepted.

TABLE – 4

Teaching Aids in the Anganwadi Centres

CENTRE NO.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
TEACHING AIDS (IN %)	50	75	75	41.6	50	58.3	75	75	50
Average (%)	61.1 %								

Table-4 shows that the centres tend to possess a high significance towards Teaching Aids in teaching-learning process. Therefore, the hypothesis is accepted.

TABLE – 5

People's Participation in the Programme

CENTRE NO.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION (IN %)	83.3	91.6	91.6	83.3	83.3	83.3	83.3	83.3	75
Average (%)	84.22 %								

Table-5 indicates that the people of the Anganwadi Centres in Imphal West district of Manipur actively participated in the functioning of the Anganwadi Centres in their respective areas. Therefore the hypothesis is accepted.

Suggestion for Improvement and Recommendations

1. Awareness Programme

- a) To aware the people residing in slum areas about the nutritional and health programme of the pregnant mother and children conducted by the Anganwadi Centre.
- b) To organize workshops about the various programme like health, nutrition and education by the Department and aware the common people specially in rural areas.
- c) To aware the NGO's and other organizations for community education in sanitation and immunization programme.
- d) To take up actions by the government in rural areas for the awareness of the people on Anganwadi programme.
- e) To aware the workers and helpers about the treatment of minor ailments of the children.

2. Teaching Methodology

- a) To introduce specific methods of teaching for backward children and slow learners.
- b) Special coaching and proper individual attention for slow learners.
- c) Assessment of the Anganwadi Centres by the concerned CDPO's in actual environment to examine the teaching methods being applied.
- d) Giving preference to play-way method for children below 4 years.
- e) Applying methods for social, cultural and moral development among the students in teaching process.

3. Co-Curricular Activities

- a) To suggest for organizing cultural activities once in a month for development of the child socially and mentally.
- b) To include games and sports according to the age group of the children for physical development.
- c) For organizing educational trips to historical places and museums for direct learning.

- d) To organize competitions among the Anaganwadi Centres for improvement.
- e) To organize activities that showskills of the workers and hence enable themselves to motivate each other.

4. Teaching Aids

- a) To provide Audio-visual aids to Anganwadi Centres for effective learning.
- b) To provide training programme to the Anganwadi workers for preparing models, charts and other sources.
- c) To aware the pregnant women and nursing mothers about the various diseases by showing video clips.
- d) To supply teaching aids such as models, abacus etc to the centre by the government.
- e) To use more teaching aids by the workers for effective teaching and learning process.

5. People's Participation

- a) To provide feedbacks and suggestions by the parents and guardians.
- b) To check the functions of programme of the centres by the community.
- c) To provide active participation in the various activities of the children like immunization etc.
- d) To send their children to the Anganwadi Centres by the parents for preparing their children for per-school.
- e) To provide support and guidance by the parents and guardians in participating the Bal-Mela and others programme of Anganwadi Centres.

Conclusion

Children are a supremely important assets of the nation, whose nurture is therefore, a national responsibility. There is likelihood that, process of the Anganwadi constitutes a very important factor in the development of the Children. Attention needs to be given by everyone concerned with the quality of Anganwadi. It is the responsibility of the state as well as the Nation to take different steps for the development of Anganwadi in every part of India.

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