

An Audit of Integrated Child Development Services Program (A Study of Salumbar Project)

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Introduction - Integrated Child Development Services is the only national program that addresses the needs of children under 6 years of age. It provides facilities like supplementary nutrition, health care and pre-school education to young children in an integrated manner. The health and nutritional needs of children cannot be met apart from their mother, that is why adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers have also been included in the programme.

Integrated Child Development Services provides its services through a vast network of Anganwadi centres. Anganwadi is actually a courtyard-based center which is run by an Anganwadi worker who receives normal honorarium and is assisted by a part-time assistant. Each Anganwadi has to reach a population of about 1000 (about 200 families). Local Anganwadi is the foundation stone of the framework of integrated child development services.

In the presented research article, the expenditure incurred by the government on supplementary nutrition to the beneficiaries of 20 centers associated with the project implemented in Salumber Panchayat Samiti of Salumber district under Integrated Child Development Services has been studied in the context of the financial year 2023-24.

Services Provided By Anganwadi Center

Immunization: Financial provisions and physical targets are not kept by the department for this service. Vaccination is done by medical and health department personnel at Anganwadi centres. Vaccines are very expensive and the government has to spend a lot of money in purchasing them, maintaining them and transporting them etc. But all vaccination services are provided free of cost to children and pregnant women in government health centers and hospitals.

Health check up: Financial provisions and physical targets are not kept by the department for this service also. On this day, growth monitoring table is maintained by taking the weight of severely malnourished and malnourished children. The health of children is checked by health workers. Pre- and post-natal care of women and health check-up of children are done by health workers and medicines for

treatment of diseases are also distributed at the centre. The beneficiaries will be provided with iron/folic acid tablets, Vitamin A supplements and ORS. packets are also distributed. Necessary medicines have also been distributed to sick children and mothers from the medical kits available at Anganwadi centers and through the Health Department.

Health and Nutrition Education: Financial provisions and physical targets are not kept by the department for this service also.

Preschool education: Financial provisions are not made by the department for this service also. Out of the six services of Integrated Child Development Services, Preschool education is an important service, which is provided at Anganwadi centers to children aged 3 to 6 years. Under this, activities related to physical, mental, creative, emotional, linguistic and social development of children are conducted. Children are prepared to study. The child has to stay at the centers for 4 hours, in which he is fed hot nutrition at an interval of two and a half to three hours.

Referral Services: Financial provisions are not made by the department for this service also. Pregnant women, lactating mothers and children below 6 years of age who are sick or malnourished are sent by the Anganwadi worker with a referral slip to the nearest Primary Health Center/ Community Center as per requirement.

Objectives Of Study:

1. To know the satisfaction levels and expenditure audit of beneficiaries with respect to supplementary nutrition services.
2. To know the satisfaction level of beneficiaries regarding health check-up service.

Sampling And Study Area: For the present study, Salumber Panchayat Samiti of Salumber district has been selected, out of total 191 Anganwadi centres, 20 Anganwadi centers have been selected from all the sectors.

Research Methodology: The nature of this study is author's. From the textual point of view, the library clarifies the descriptive nature of the research methodology. Research methodology is an important aspect without clarifying which no research can be completed. In the

collection of facts, the departmental budget and related expenditure will be inspected, officers, Anganwadi workers and Panchayati Raj representatives will be interviewed and the details of income and expenditure will be compiled and various items will be studied.

Supplementary Nutrition Service: Health check-up of women belonging to Anganwadi center reveals that they are pregnant and their names are registered in the Anganwadi centre. After this, under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme, pregnant women are benefited with supplementary nutrition through Anganwadi centres. The purpose of providing nutritional supplements to pregnant mothers for 7 days is so that their health can be checked again after 7 days. Pregnant women consume the said nutritional supplement by preparing different dishes for 7 days.

After delivery, the name of the pregnant woman is recorded in the column of lactating woman and she is given weekly nutritional supplements for six months so that she can breastfeed the baby better. Weekly nutritional food is also distributed to children aged 6 months to 3 years by the Anganwadi centre.

Children aged 3 to 6 years are provided hot supplementary nutrition and other services at Anganwadi centres. Two girls who do not go to school in the area related to the Anganwadi center are identified and provided weekly nutritional food. The details of expenditure on supplementary nutrition of pregnant women, lactating mothers, children between 6 months to 3 years, children between 3 years to 6 years and adolescent girls at 20 Anganwadi centers of Salumbar Project.

Supplementary Nutrition Of Pregnant Mothers: 13 percent of the beneficiaries were found to be completely satisfied with the nutrition provided to the pregnant mothers and 16 percent of the beneficiaries were only satisfied and 31 percent of the beneficiaries expressed neutrality on this subject and did not give any answer and 22 percent of the beneficiaries were dissatisfied while the nutritional food given to the pregnant mothers was found to be dissatisfied. 17 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely dissatisfied with the nutrition.

Supplementary Nutrition Of Lactating Mothers: 15 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely satisfied with the nutritional food given to lactating mothers and 16 percent beneficiaries were only satisfied and 29 percent beneficiaries expressed neutrality on this subject and did not give any answer and 22 percent beneficiaries were dissatisfied while the nutritional food given to lactating mothers was not satisfied. 19 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely dissatisfied with the nutrition.

Supplementary Nutrition Of Children Aged 0 To 3 Years: 11 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely satisfied with the nutrition provided to children aged between 0 to 3 years and 18 percent beneficiaries were only satisfied

and 21 percent beneficiaries expressed neutrality on this issue and did not give any answer and 25 percent beneficiaries were dissatisfied while 0 25 percent of the beneficiaries were found to be completely dissatisfied with the nutrition provided to children up to 3 years of age.

Supplementary Nutrition Of Children Aged 3 To 6 Years: 20.2 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely satisfied with the nutrition provided to children aged between 3 to 6 years and 19 percent beneficiaries were only satisfied and 20.4 percent beneficiaries expressed neutrality on this issue and did not give any answer and 25.2 percent beneficiaries were dissatisfied while 3 15.2 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely dissatisfied with the nutrition provided to children up to 6 years of age.

Supplementary Nutrition Of Adolescent Girls: 22.2 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely satisfied with the nutrition provided to adolescent girls and 21.2 percent beneficiaries were only satisfied and 15.4 percent beneficiaries expressed neutrality on this issue and did not give any answer and 21.2 percent beneficiaries were dissatisfied while the nutrition provided to adolescent girls was not satisfied. 19.6 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely dissatisfied with the nutrition.

Health Checkup Of Pregnant Mothers: 20.6 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely satisfied with the health checkup given to pregnant mothers and 21.8 percent beneficiaries were only satisfied and 31.4 percent beneficiaries expressed neutrality on this subject and did not give any answer and 13.4 percent beneficiaries were dissatisfied while the service of the said health checkup 12.8 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely dissatisfied.

Health Checkup Of Lactating Mothers: 23.6 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely satisfied with the health check-up given to lactating mothers and 19.2 percent beneficiaries were only satisfied and 29.4 percent beneficiaries expressed neutrality on this subject and did not give any answer and 14.2 percent beneficiaries were dissatisfied while the service of the said health check-up 14.6 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely dissatisfied.

Health Checkup Of Children Aged 0 To 3 Years: 24.6 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely satisfied with the health check-up given to children aged 0 to 3 years and 24 percent beneficiaries were only satisfied and 12.2 percent beneficiaries expressed neutrality on this subject and did not give any answer and 17.2 percent beneficiaries were dissatisfied while the above 19.8 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely dissatisfied with the health check-up service.

Health Checkup Of Children Aged 3 To 6 Years: 30.8 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely satisfied with the health check-up given to children of 3 to 6 years of age and 33.2 percent beneficiaries were only satisfied and 9.2 percent beneficiaries did not give any answer expressing

neutrality on this subject and 10.2 percent beneficiaries were dissatisfied while the above 17.6 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely dissatisfied with the health check-up service.

Health Check-Up Of Adolescent Girls: 24.4 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely satisfied with the health check-up given to adolescent girls and 35.2 percent beneficiaries were only satisfied and 9.4 percent beneficiaries expressed neutrality on this subject and did not give any answer and 11.4 percent beneficiaries were dissatisfied while the service of the said health check-up 19.6 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely dissatisfied.

Expenditure On Supplements For Pregnant Women: In the details of expenditure on supplementary nutrition for pregnant women, it was found that 237 pregnant women registered at 20 Anganwadi centers were given Rs. At the rate of Rs 55.8/- per beneficiary, the expenditure for one week was Rs 13224.6 while the total expenditure on nutrition distributed for 36 weeks was Rs 476089/-.

Expenditure On Supplements For Lactating Women: In the details of expenditure on supplementary nutrition for lactating mothers, it was found that Rs. 218 were spent on 218 lactating mothers registered at 20 Anganwadi centres. At the rate of Rs 55.8/- per beneficiary, the expenditure for one week was Rs 12164.4 while the total expenditure on nutrition distributed for 24 weeks was Rs 291949/-.

Expenditure On Nutrition For Children 6 Months To 3 Years: In the details of expenditure on supplementary nutrition for children aged between 6 months to 3 years, it was found that Rs. 430 was spent on 430 registered children aged between 6 months to 3 years at 20 Anganwadi centres. At the rate of Rs 45/- per beneficiary, the expenditure for one week was Rs 19350 while the total expenditure on nutrition distributed for 48 weeks was Rs 928800/-.

Expenditure On Nutrition For Children 3 To 6 Years: In the details of expenditure on supplementary nutrition for children between 3 years to 6 years, it was found that Rs. 416 registered children between 3 years to 6 years were spent on 20 Anganwadi centres. At the rate of Rs 9/- per beneficiary, the expenditure for one day was Rs 3744 while the total expenditure on nutrition distributed for 300 days was Rs 1123200/-.

Expenditure On Nutrition For Adolescent Girls: In the details of expenditure under the head of supplementary nutrition for adolescent girls, it was found that the expenditure for one week on supplementary nutrition of 240 registered adolescent girls at 20 Anganwadi centers at the rate of Rs 55.8/- per beneficiary was Rs 13392, while it was distributed for 48 weeks. The total expenditure on nutrition was Rs 642816/-.

Conclusion:

1. 13 percent were found to be completely satisfied with the nutrition provided to pregnant mothers and only 16

2. percent of the beneficiaries were found to be satisfied. 15 percent were found to be completely satisfied with the nutritional food provided to lactating mothers.
3. 11 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely satisfied with the nutrition provided to children aged 0 to 3 years.
4. 20.2 percent beneficiaries were found to be completely satisfied with the nutrition provided to children aged 3 to 6 years.
5. 22.2 percent beneficiaries were found completely satisfied with the nutrition provided to the adolescent girls and 19.6 percent beneficiaries were found completely dissatisfied with the nutrition.
6. In the details of expenditure on supplementary nutrition for pregnant women, it was found that the total expenditure on nutrition distributed for 36 weeks at the rate of Rs 55.8/- per beneficiary was Rs 476089/-.
7. In the details of expenditure on supplementary nutrition for lactating mothers, it was found that the total expenditure on nutrition distributed in 24 weeks at the rate of Rs 55.8/- per beneficiary was Rs 291949/-.
8. In the details of expenditure on supplementary nutrition for children aged between 6 months to 3 years, it was found that the total expenditure on nutrition distributed for 48 weeks at the rate of Rs 45/- per beneficiary was Rs 928800/-.
9. In the details of expenditure on supplementary nutrition for children aged between 3 years to 6 years, it was found that the total expenditure on nutrition distributed for 300 days at the rate of Rs 9 per beneficiary was Rs 1123200/-.
10. In the details of expenditure on supplementary nutrition for adolescent girls, it was found that it was distributed for 48 weeks at the rate of Rs 55.8/- per beneficiary, on which the total expenditure was Rs 642816/-.

Suggestion:

1. All information related to Anganwadi should be released by the administration on its own initiative. A board with important information should be displayed at each centre.
2. All the expenses of Anganwadi Center can be adjusted by the personal income of Gram Panchayats. Due to which the responsibilities of the state and central government can be transferred to the Panchayats.

References:-

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