

## Study on the status and functioning of AWCs in Hisar district of Haryana

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### ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out to monitor the status and functioning of AWCs in Hisar district of Haryana. A total of 100 AWCs were selected. The data were collected personally through interview-cum-questionnaire method by paying repeated visits to the study area. From the study, it was found that 45% *anganwadis* were running in buildings specially constructed for *anganwadis*. Scarcity of drinking water and toilet facilities were noticed. Sitting facilities for visitors were also lacking. Growth monitoring chart was accurately plotted by 76 % of the *anganwadi* workers. It is recommended that for proper functioning of AWCs, the existing training of AWWs needs to be evaluated and infrastructure facilities should be improved.

**KEY WORDS :** *Anganwadi*, Growth monitoring chart, AWC

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### INTRODUCTION

Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) in India today represents one of the world's largest programmes for early childhood development. ICDS scheme has played a significant role in improving the nutritional status of preschool children. This programme was started in 1975 by the Government of India, with the main objectives to improve the health of mothers and children under age six by providing health, nutrition education, health services, supplementary foods and preschool education. One of the main objectives of ICDS is to improve nutritional and health status of children 0-6 years through *anganwadi* centres. There are an estimated 1.053 million *anganwadi* centres employing 1.8 million mostly-female workers and helpers. These *anganwadis* cover about 58.1 million children and 10.23 million pregnant or lactating women across the country. The ICDS team comprises the *Anganwadi* workers, *Anganwadi* helpers, Supervisors, Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) and District Programme Officers (DPOs). *Anganwadi* worker, a lady selected from the local community, is a community based frontline honorary worker of the ICDS Programme. Other objectives of this programme are to lay the foundation for proper

psychological, physical and social development of the child, to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout, to achieve effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development and to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education. They provide outreach services to poor families in need of immunization, healthy food, clean water, clean toilets and a learning environment for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. They also provide similar services for expectant and nursing mothers. No study has been conducted recently to monitor and evaluate this programme in Haryana state. Therefore, the present study was conducted to monitor the present status and functioning of existed *anganwadi* centres of Hisar district of Haryana.

### METHODOLOGY

Hisar district of Haryana state was selected purposively. From Hisar district, four blocks viz., Agroha, Adampur, Uklana and Barwala were selected randomly. Fifteen villages from Agroha, ten villages from Adampur, ten villages from Uklana and fifteen villages from Barwala

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