

An Evaluative Study of Pre-School Components of ICDS Project Area-Zaldagar in District Srinagar, J & K

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Abstract: The present study was conducted to study the total functional Anganwadi Centres in the Project Area Zaldagar in District Srinagar. The sample which consists of 5% of the total number of Anganwadi centres from the ICDS Project Area Zaldagar in District Srinagar were randomly selected for the present study. The Investigators used Check List, Questionnaire developed by Prof. Nadeem and Shah in (2000) and Interview Schedule for Anganwadi workers. The data was analyzed by employing Percentage Statistics. The results revealed that the Anganwadi Centres established by the Department of Social Welfare, Jammu and Kashmir Government in the Project Area Zaldagar imparted Pre-school education to the children within the age group of (3 to 6) years.

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1. Introduction

Education is as old as the human race. It is a never ending process of inner growth and development and its period stretches from cradle to grave. Education, in real sense, is to humanize humanity, and to make life progressive, cultured and civilized. It is through education that man is transformed into human, social, moral and spiritual being. Man learns something every day and every moment. His entire life is education. Hence education is a continuous and dynamic process. It is concerned with ever growing man in an ever growing society. Education is considered to be the most effective instrument for developing the best in the man and reducing disparities between human beings. When we say that education is the birth right of an individual, it means that it is not considered with any particular class and group but has to deal with entire population of the nation. The development of a nation cannot be conceived without the full development of its human potential. It is in this very spirit that the Government of India has clearly committed itself to investment in young children as potential human resource. It has conceived and formulated plans and policies for the provision of basic services, inclusive of education, to young children. In place of a rather generic and global recognition of the worth of children, the Government has acknowledged the need to make special policies and plans of action in favor of children. This recognition has led to the establishment of the Department of Women and Child Development within the Ministry of Human Resource Development. India is one of the few nations that have a National Policy for Children. Institutions like the NCERT and

NIPCCD have to steadily adopt a more active initiatory stand, that of searching out, helping to shape, financing and guiding individual projects in many parts of the country. There is a need for mutually supporting and concerted series of attempts to use and accelerate the process of change in educative ways, not merely to remove obvious impediments to human development but to actively promote better child rearing, better ways of self help involving appropriate technologies and the promotion of many kinds of communication. Unless there is sufficient investment in early childhood, the less would be the returns (when the child becomes a working adult), said Minja Yang, Director and UNESCO representative in India, at a function to release the annual report "Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2007".

Keeping in view the present scenario of early childhood education and the status of the field as a whole, one needs to take a realistic and pragmatic view about the future directions in which early childhood education programme and researches must move. Review of the literature indicates that the need for pre-school education is widely recognized but the status of pre-school education needs to be steadily raised and improved in qualitative terms. The Integrated Child Development Services programme is a dynamic programme. The ICDS scheme envisages it as a flexible programme, which can be suitably modified whenever necessary. Even the organizational structure of the programme, its goals and objectives, may also undergo far-reaching changes.

In the state of Jammu and Kashmir, the first ICDS Project was launched in Kangan block in (1975)

on experimental basis and now all the blocks in Jammu and Kashmir State have been covered under this scheme. There is a need to conduct an evaluative study of Pre-school component of ICDS Projects, so that investigator can highlight the structural and functional aspect of the Anganwadi centres operational under this scheme.

The purpose of the present study is to see and observe the conditions in Anganwadi centres that have been opened under ICDS scheme. The present study is also an attempt to collect and analyze the data collected from various projects and to see what achievements have been made by this scheme in District Srinagar especially with respect to Pre-school education component.

2. Statement Of The Research Topic

The research topic suggested for the study is:

“An Evaluative Study of Pre-school Component of ICDS Project Zaldagar in District Srinagar, J & K”

3. Objectives Of The Study

In order to carry out the evaluative study meaningfully, the following objectives are formulated for the study;

1) To make a survey regarding the total functional Anganwadi centres in the Project of Zaldagar.

2) To survey the number of children enrolled and who actually attending the Anganwadi centres.

3) To study the facilities for attaining Pre-school education by the children in these centres.

4) To identify the high and low performing Anganwadi centres at the Project/Block levels.

3. Sample

Considering the nature of the problem and the scattered population of the sample under investigation, the random proportionate sampling for data gathering was employed. Since the study focuses on studying the Pre-school component of ICDS Project Zaldagar, the samples (5%) of the total number of Anganwadi centres from the ICDS Project Zaldagar were considered for the present study. Hence the number came to be 20 centres (out of 386 centres) which were considered for data collection.

4. Tools

The following tools were selected to collect the data.

1. Check list
2. Questionnaire developed by Prof. Nadeem and Shah in (2000).
3. Interview schedule for Anganwadi Workers.

5. Statistical Analysis

The data was collected and analyzed statistically by employing percentage statistics.

Table 1: Showing the distribution of Anganwadi centres at Zaldagar in District Srinagar.

Name of ICDS Project	No. of AWC's* (Project-wise)	Sample Group of AWC's (US)**
Zaldagar	386	20

*AWC's – Anganwadi Centres,

**US – Under Study

Objective 1 of the study indicates that there are (386) Anganwadi centres in Project Zaldagar established by Department of Social Welfare, Jammu and Kashmir Government in District Srinagar, where Pre-school education is being imparted to the children

within the age group of (3 to 6) years. On the basis of 5% sample population (20) Anganwadi Centres have been randomly selected for the study from (386) Anganwadi Centres in the Project Area Zaldagar.

Table 2: Showing the Sex-wise enrolment and the total number of Anganwadi centres (Project Area Zaldagar)

Total No. of AWC's* (US)**	Total No. of children enrolled	Male Children	Female Children
20	432	205	227
Percentage		47.46%	52.54%

*AWC's — Anganwadi centres

**US—Under Study

The above table gives us the details that there are only (20) Anganwadi centres which are established at Project Area Zaldagar. The total enrolment is (432) Pre-school children. Among them at present 205 (47.46%) are the male children whereas 227 (52.54%) are the female children.

Table 3 clearly shows the facilities and the status with regard to Infra-structure in terms of Building, Playground, Play equipments, Furnishing, Supplementary nutrition, Bathroom and Drinking water utilized for the Anganwadi centres in Project at Zaldagar, Srinagar. It is evident from the table that

(100%) buildings are the rented ones and none of the building belongs to the Department of Social Welfare, Jammu and Kashmir Government. The table also reveals that only (25%) of Anganwadi centres have the playground facility, (60%) of these centres have the indoor and outdoor play equipments available for pre-school children whereas (70%) Anganwadi

centres are well furnished and the supplementary nutrition facility is provided by all the (100%) Anganwadi centres for Pre-school children, similarly (70%) Anganwadi centres have hygienic bathroom facility and (75%) Anganwadi centres provide drinking water facility.

Table 3: Showing the facilities/status with regard to Infra-structure in Anganwadi centres (Project Area Zaldagar)

S.No	Total No. of AWC's* (US)**	Facilities/ Status	No. of AWC's having facilities	Percentage
1	20	Rented Building	20	100
2		Government Building	0	0
3		Playground	5	25.00
4		Play equipments	12	60.00
5		Furnishing	14	70.00
6		Supplementary Nutrition	20	100
7		Bathroom	14	70.00
8		Drinking Water	15	75.00

*AWC's – Anganwadi centres

**US – Under Study

Table 4: Showing the ranks given to Anganwadi centres (ICDS* Project Zaldagar)

S.No.	Total No. of AWC's** (US)***	Name of AWC	CDPO**** Ranking	Parents Ranking	Investigators Ranking	Average Ranking	Ranks
1	20	Bohri Kadal	1	1	2	1.3	I
2		Wazir bagh A	2	2	8	4	II
3		Ram Bagh Payeen A	3	3	10	5.3	IV
4		Solina A	4	6	14	8	VI
5		Allochi Bagh A	5	5	3	4.3	III
6		Allochi Bagh B	6	4	19	9.6	VIII
7		Allochi Bagh C	7	10	17	11.3	XI
8		Khanwari A	8	7	15	10	IX
9		Khanwari B	9	9	13	10.3	X
10		Nawa Kadal	10	8	5	7.6	V
11		Saboon Kocha	11	11	18	13.3	XIV
12		Shah Mohalla B	12	12	20	14.6	XVII
13		Syed Mansoor Sahib	13	15	9	12.3	XII
14		Zaldagar A	14	13	1	9.3	VII
15		Zaldagar B	15	14	12	13.6	XV
16		Naid Kadal A	16	19	11	15.3	XVIII
17		Naid Kadal B	17	17	4	12.6	XIII
18		Nawa Bazar A	18	18	6	14	XVI
19		Nawa Bazar B	19	16	16	17	XX
20		Nawa Kadal	20	20	7	15.6	XIX

Key: *ICDS : Integrated Child Development Services Scheme

**AWC's : Anganwadi Centres

***US : Under Study

****CDPO : Child Development Project Officer

The above table clearly reflects the ranks as provided by the Child Development Project Officers (CDPO's) for their performance and execution of the work in various areas of the Project Zaldagar (District Srinagar).

Table 5: Showing the High and Low performing Anganwadi centres identified at Project Area Zaldagar in District Srinagar.

S.No	Name of the ICDS* Project	Rank	Name of AWC**	Name of the AWW***
1	Zaldagar	High	Bohri Kadal	Sharifa
		Low	Nawa Bazar B	Shazia Noor

Key: *ICDS : *Integrated Child Development Service Scheme*

**AWC : *Anganwadi centre*

***AWW : *Anganwadi Worker*

The perusal of table 4.4 shows that the present investigator has identified the high and low performing Anganwadi centres in the ICDS Project Zaldagar of District Srinagar. It is found that Anganwadi centre at Nawa Bazar 'B' was identified as the low performing centre in ICDS Project Zaldagar.

6. Findings and Conclusions

On the basis of analysis and interpretation of data and also on discussion of the results, the following conclusions have been drawn:-

1) The present study indicates that there are (386) Anganwadi centres established by the Department of Social Welfare, Jammu and Kashmir Government at the Project Area Zaldagar in District Srinagar, where Pre-school education is being imparted to the children within the age group of (3 to 6) years.

2) It has been found that in total there are (432) children within the age group of (3 to 6) years who are on rolls of Anganwadi centres in the Project Area Zaldagar in District Srinagar. Thus, out of these 205 (47.46%) are the male children and the number exceeds to 227 (52.54%) in case of female children.

3) Though, Department of Social Welfare, Jammu and Kashmir Government has established Anganwadi centres in every habitation but the study shows that maximum number of these centres are facing accommodation problem. Mostly the Anganwadi centres are placed in private/rented buildings without any facility of a separate kitchen.

4) It was found that the health and nutrition services offered by the ICDS scheme, works as an incentive to the beneficiaries for attending such centres.

5) Required materials and play equipments as per the scheme has not been found sufficiently available in any of these centres under study.

6) The statistical data for the identification of high and low performing Anganwadi centres, on analysis, included Child Development Project Officers (CDPO's) ranking, Parents ranking and also the rankings given by the concerned Investigator.

7) The study also reveals that the role of Anganwadi workers at the Project/Block levels in the District Srinagar varies in high and low performing Anganwadi centres. Anganwadi workers of high performing centres are much better in imparting Non-formal Pre-school education, motivation for immunization and also in imparting health and nutrition education when compared with the workers of low performing centres.

8) It was also found that qualification and training possessed by the workers plays a vital role in the better performance of the centres.

9) The study reflects that the performance of children coming from high performing Anganwadi centres was certainly better than those Pre-school children who came from the low performing centres.

10) All the CDPO's when approached, agreed that Anganwadi workers play an important role in promoting Pre-school education and simultaneously in reducing the malnutrition.

11) The data regarding perception of these workers has revealed that the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme offered by the Social Welfare Department, Jammu And Kashmir Government is generally useful for the public.

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