

## A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SUPPLEMENTARY NUTRITION PROGRAM AND PRE- SCHOOL EDUCATION BENEFICIARIES OF ICDS PROJECTS

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### **Abstracts:**

Present study is based on the comparison between the numbers of beneficiaries of supplementary nutrition programme and Pre-School Education of ICDS programme. The Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) beneath the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) in India offers a completely unique state level meals distribution initiative for pre-school education to cope up with the severity of malnutrition problem and illiteracy in India. Targeted at pregnant, lactating ladies, children (zero-6 years) and adolescent girls, this paper examined the comparative difference between the beneficiary's number of SNP in 2017 to 2021 and difference between number of beneficiaries of pre-school education in 2017 to 2021 in India.

**Key words:** Supplementary Nutrition Programme, malnutrition, Child Development Services

**Introduction:** The Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP), and pre-school education is an important program of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme of the Government of India, is a nutritious meals, cost chain-primarily based public food distribution initiative to make sure that vulnerable groups get the specified vitamins and get proper at least pre-school education. ICDS provides health, nutrition, immunization, preschool education, health and nutrition education, and referral services to young children and their mothers. ICDS also empowers mothers to take better care of their children<sup>2</sup>. ICDS is a mandated social safety measure concentrated on girls and children launched by the Government of India in 1975. The goal of the programme is to provide vital services to make certain the fitness and vitamins consequences of kids zero-6 years of age, adolescent ladies, pregnant ladies and lactating mothers. Food distribution is a prime component of ICDS, and SNP is the biggest feeding programme targeted on enhancing the nutritional status of youngsters and ladies in India. Haque S et al. in their study in 2013<sup>8</sup> found that supply of supplementary nutrition was inadequate in all AWCs. On the other hand, the results showed in a study conducted by Dixit S et al. in 2010 revealed that there was shortage of supplementary nutrition in all assessed AWCs.

Globally, social protection is seen as a powerful medium in the post-2015 development agenda to address root cause of malnutrition, illiteracy or school dropout. The target groups receive supplementary feeding support for 300 days in a year. Besides, severely malnourished children are given special supplementary feeding and referred to medical services. Studies in the last decade have examined effectiveness of agri-food value chains for nutritional gains (Allen and de Brauw 2017; Henson et al. 2013; Gelli et al. 2015; Hoddinott et al. 2015; Hawkes and Ruel 2011); however, focus on consumers has been missing (Hawkes 2009; Gelli et al. 2015). Social protection programmes like SNP play a food safety-internet position

for the vulnerable businesses. Engle et al. (2011) notice that early formative years interventions are established pathways for decreasing inequality in low- and middle-earnings countries. Targeted meals distribution programmes have the capability for effect on nutrition outcomes (GloPan 2014). A study on ICDS in India confirms less prevalence of undernourished children in areas with significant coverage of ICDS centres (Saxena and Srivastava 2009).

**Significance of the study:**

ICDS has played an essential position in enhancing the health and educational condition of the growing children in India at macro level. This was showed the micro analysis of Uttar Pradesh with the intention to explain about the prevailing situation of the ICDS. In every nation, the approach of implementation of ICDS is exclusive. Thakare (2011); The study shows that awareness about ICDS services increases with the increased level of education. This will help to recognize the drawbacks in implementation of ICDS. Since government is allocated certain range of sanctioned ICDS initiatives, for the betterment of beneficiaries of ICDS. Government would like to reduce the uses of funds to reach the Anganwadi centres and also prevents misuse of food resources to AWCs for providing cooked meals and free education to the vulnerable Children and Women.

**Methodology:** This research paper essentially based on the secondary assets/data of facts and it was observed from the reports of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India from 2017-2021. The study constructed from geographical analysis because the researcher has done a comparative analysis number of beneficiaries of supplementary nutrition programme and pre-school education from 2017 to 2021 data in Uttar Pradesh. Researcher was used to simple comparison between selected five year data. The researcher was analysed the comparison of physical achievements of SNP and pre-school education programme from 2017-2021 variables associated with ICDS.

**Objectives of the study:** To compare the difference of SNP and Pre-school Education programme during five years.

Year ending	Number of Operational		Number of beneficiaries (in lakh)	
	Projects	AWCs	Supplementary Nutrition Program	Pre-School Education
31.3.17	7074	1354792	983.42	340.52
31.3.18	7075	1363021	892.77	325.91

**Table: 1 Number of operational ICDS projects and its Beneficiaries**

31.3.19	7075	1372872	875.61	301.92
31.3.20	7075	1381376	855.05	245.04
31.3.21	7075	1387432	831.83	230.38

Source: Annual Report of Ministry of Women and Child Development Government of India. March 2017- March 2021.

**Discussion:** The above table shows that in 2017 the number of operational ICDS projects were 7074 and active Anganwadi centres were 1354792. In 2017 there were 983.42 beneficiaries got benefitted from supplementary nutrition program and 340.52 got benefitted from preschool education. While there is one ICDS project was increased in 2018 and 1363021 in spite of 1354792. And number of beneficiaries of supplementary nutrition program and pre-school education were reduced that is 892.77 and 325.91 in comparison to 983.42 and 340.52 respectively.

Likewise in year 2019 anganwadi centres were 1372872 and in 2020 it was increased up to 1381376. number of beneficiaries of supplementary nutrition program were 875.61 and pre-school education were 301.92 in 2019 while in 2020 it was quite decreased and fell down up to 855.05 and 245.04 respectively. Thakre MM et al. in 201110 in their study showed that there was adequate supply of supplementary nutrition in all AWCs (100%).

Out of 7075 ICDS projects there are 1387432 anganwadies were functional while in 2017 it was 1354792 functional anganwadies were exists. In 2021 number of beneficiaries of supplementary nutrition program and pre-school education were reduced that is 831.83 and 230.38 in comparison to 2017 it was 983.42 and 340.52 respectively.

Present data shows that there is only one ICDS project was increased and 32640 anganwadi centers were new opened and functioned in last five years. So we can say that ICDS is working good and get progressive. In 2021 number of beneficiaries of supplementary nutrition program and pre-school education were reduced up to 151.59 and 110.14 in comparison to 2017 respectively.

**Conclusion:** India has done several efforts to overcome the health situation of vulnerable women and children in India. Uttar Pradesh ICDS programme also works very effectively. During last five years number of beneficiaries of supplementary programme and pre-education children become decreased while the number of anganwadi centers become increased. The overall performance of ICDS is deserved to get appreciation in standard through its assessment. ICDS is performing a very effective method to improve the children and women health improvement. ICDS are spreading their wings to improve Indian vulnerable groups health day by day.

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