Assessment of AWCs under POSHAN ABHIYAAN in 3 projects of district Jaisalmer , Rajasthan .

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INTRODUCTION

- **POSHAN ABHIYAN** POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India, which ensures convergence with various programmes.
- The program through the targets will strive to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight babies.
- **ICDS(Integrated Child Development Services)** Launched on 2nd October, 1975, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is one of the flagship programs of the Government of India and represents one of the world's largest and unique programs for early childhood care and development.

- **MALNUTRITION** is a physical condition, which is a direct consequence of having an inadequate amount of nutrients in one's body. Malnutrition refers to both overweight/obesity and undernutrition.
- **UNDERNUTRITION** stems from the inadequate quantity and/or quality of food being consumed, and/or repeated infection or disease resulting in improper absorption of vital nutrients. It manifests itself through wasting, stunting, and micronutrient deficiencies.
- **WASTING** is a condition where a child's weight is too low for his/her height, and his/her body wastes away. It is associated with a high risk of mortality in young children.
- **STUNTING** is a condition where a child's height is too low for his/her age because of long-term nutritional deprivation. It is associated with long-term developmental and health risks.

Table -1: Year wise Target to be achieved

**State average – RSOC 2013-14, Rajasthan*

#	Objectives	Baseline (NFHS -4)	Overall Mission Target	Target				
				2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1.	Prevent and reduce stunting in children (0-6 years)	37.4	By 10% @ 2% point per year	35.4	33.4	31.4	29.4	27.4
2.	Prevent and reduce under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) in children (0-6 years)	37.4	By 10% @ 2% point per year	35.4	33.4	31.4	29.4	27.4
3.	Reduce prevalence of anaemia among young children (6-59 months)	42.5	By 15% @ 3% per year	39.5	36.5	33.5	30.5	27.5
4.	Reduce prevalence of anaemia among women and adolescent girls (15-49 years)	33.6	By 15% @ 3% point per year	30.6	27.6	24.6	21.6	18.6
5.	Reduce Low Birth Weight	23.2	By 15% @ 3% point per year	20.2	17.2	14.2	11.2	8.2

Research Question

- What gaps are to be fulfilled to strengthen the existing AWCs in the 3 Projects of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan?

OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

- To assess the services provided by the Anganwadi centre at Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan
- To assess the infrastructural status of Anganwadi centre, education level of the Anganwadi worker and availability of growth monitoring devices and essential supplements

Methodology

Research Design:
The study was Descriptive Cross-sectional

Study Area: 3 block (Sam, Pokaran & Jaisalmer) Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

Duration of the Study: 3 Months(2 February to 2 May, 2018)

Sample Size:- 85 AWCs

Methodology

Data Analysis Procedure:

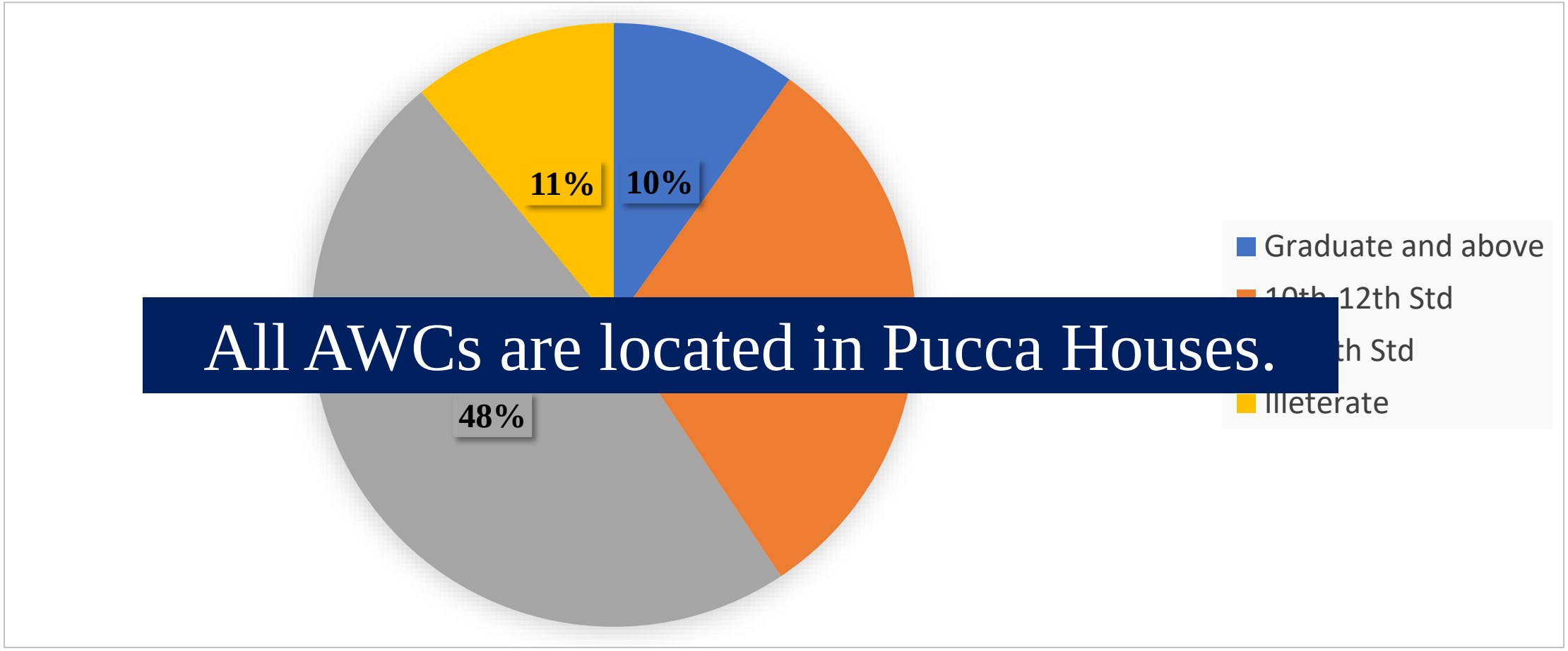
“After the collection of data, it was compiled in Microsoft excel. Most of the data, analysis was done on Microsoft excel by Using frequency table, cross tabulation, method and Figures in Microsoft excel.

Type of Data Collection:

Primary data was collected with the help of Anganwadi check list.

Results

Fig 1. Educational status of Anganwadi Workers, Jaisalmer, 2019 (n=85)



All AWCs are located in Pucca Houses.

Fig 5. Availability of MUAC tape at AWCs and ASHA (n=85)

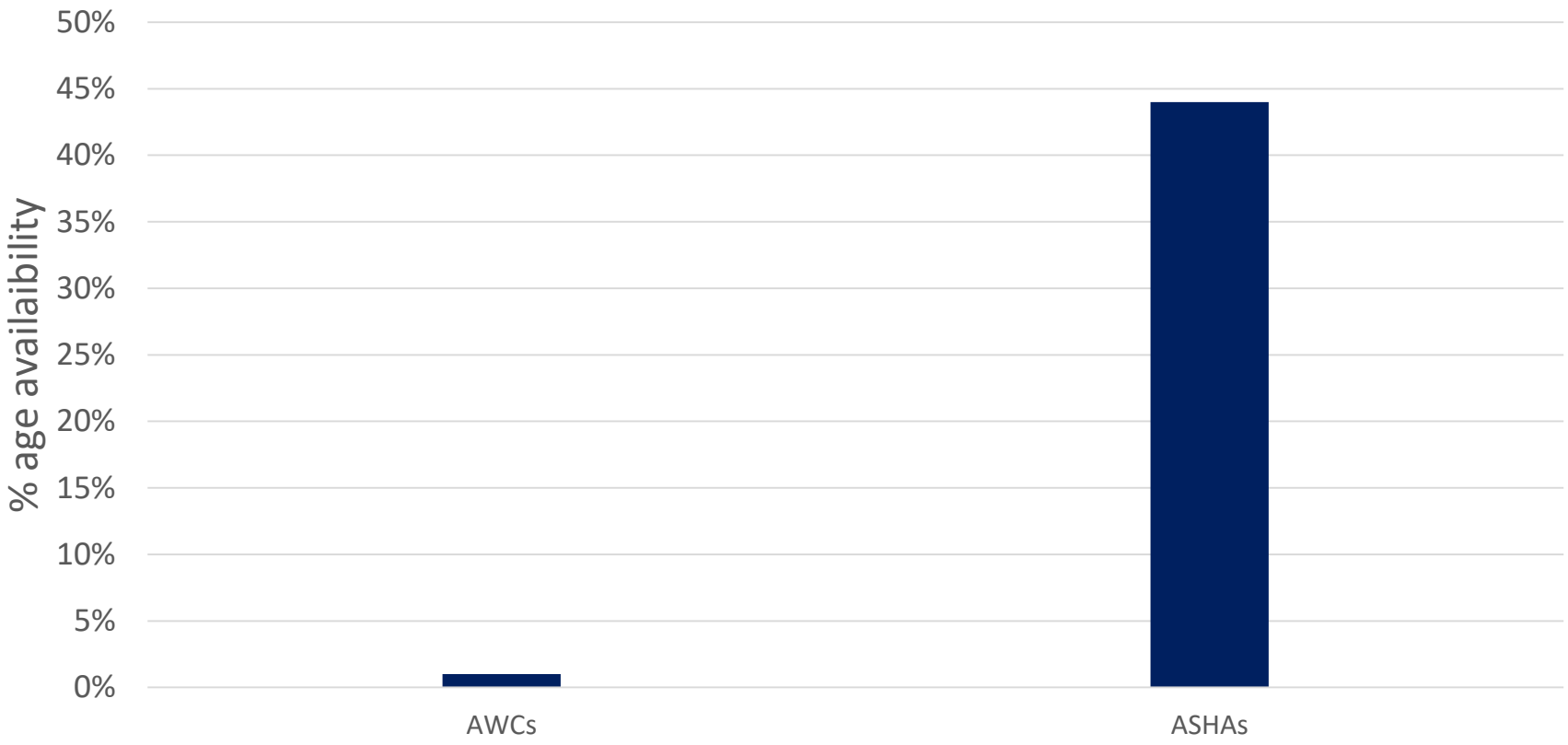


Fig 6. Availability of Growth Monitoring Devices at AWCs (n=85)

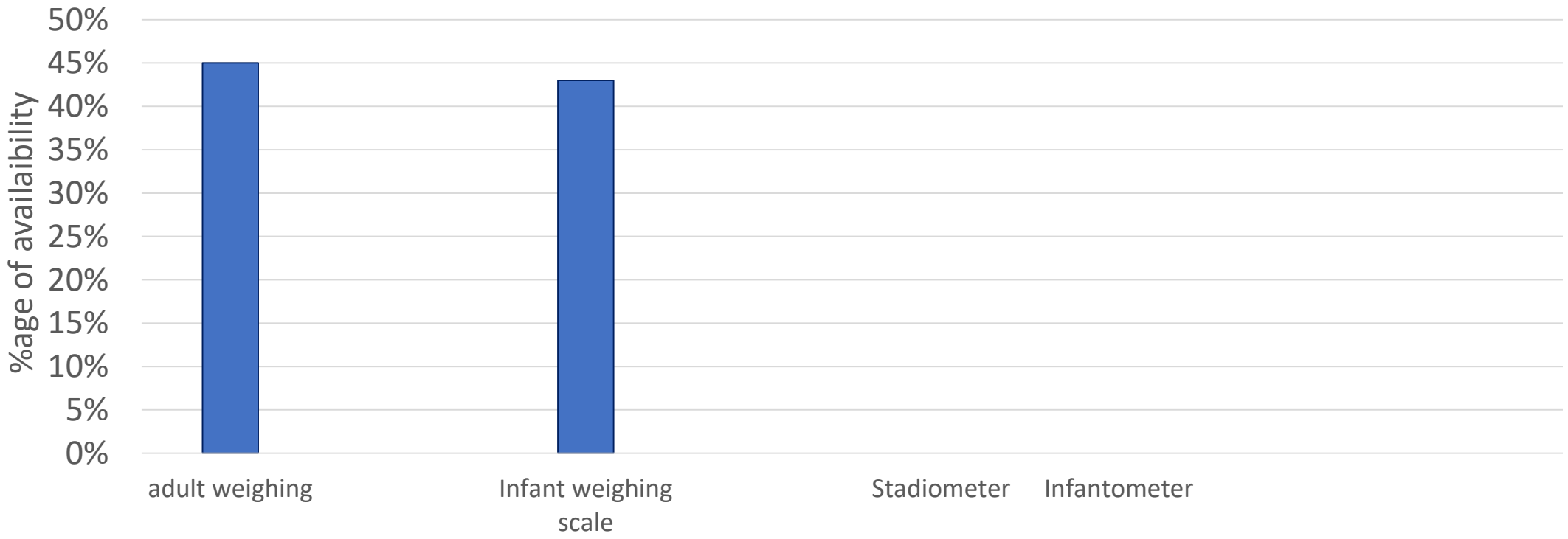


Fig 7 Beneficiaries who are receiving THR at AWCs regularly (n=85)

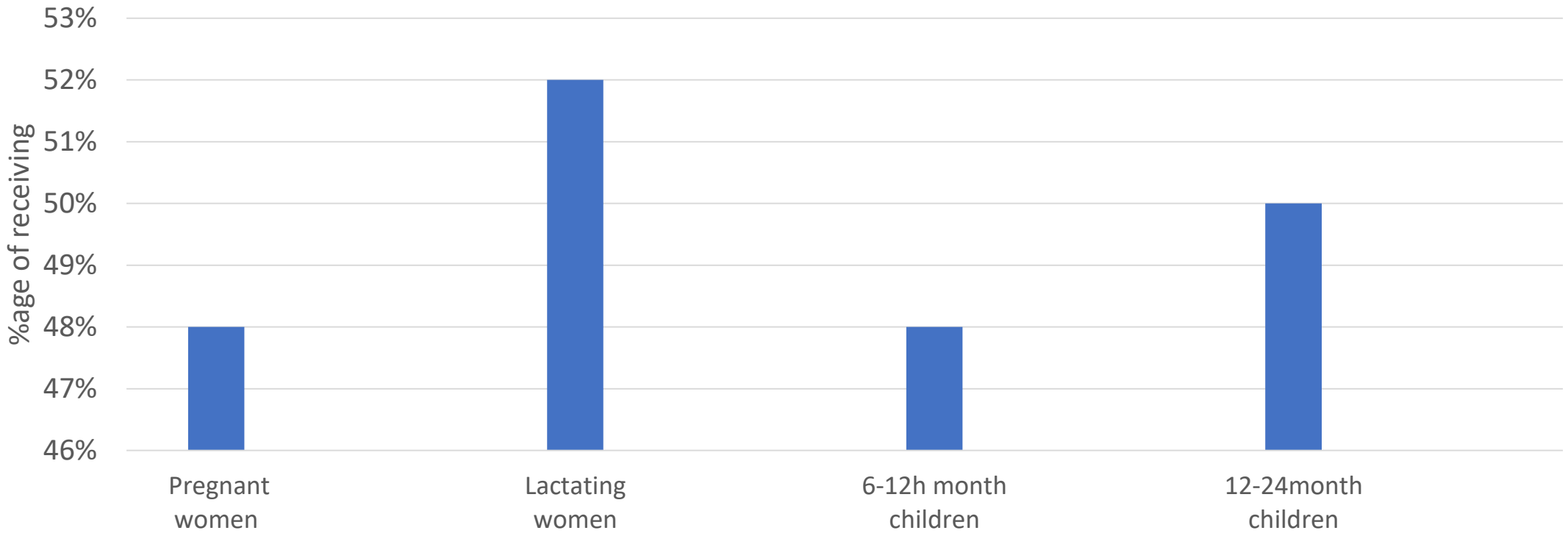


Fig 8. Availability of drugs at AWCs (n=85)

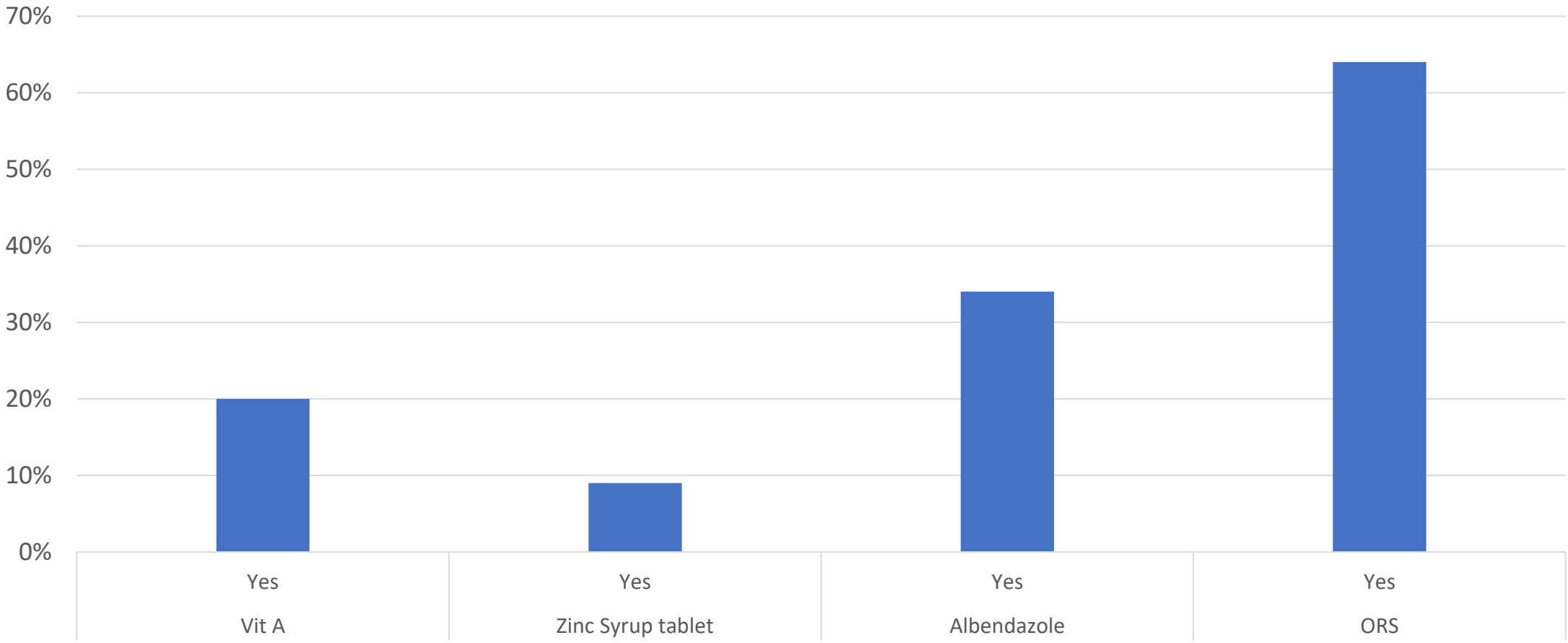
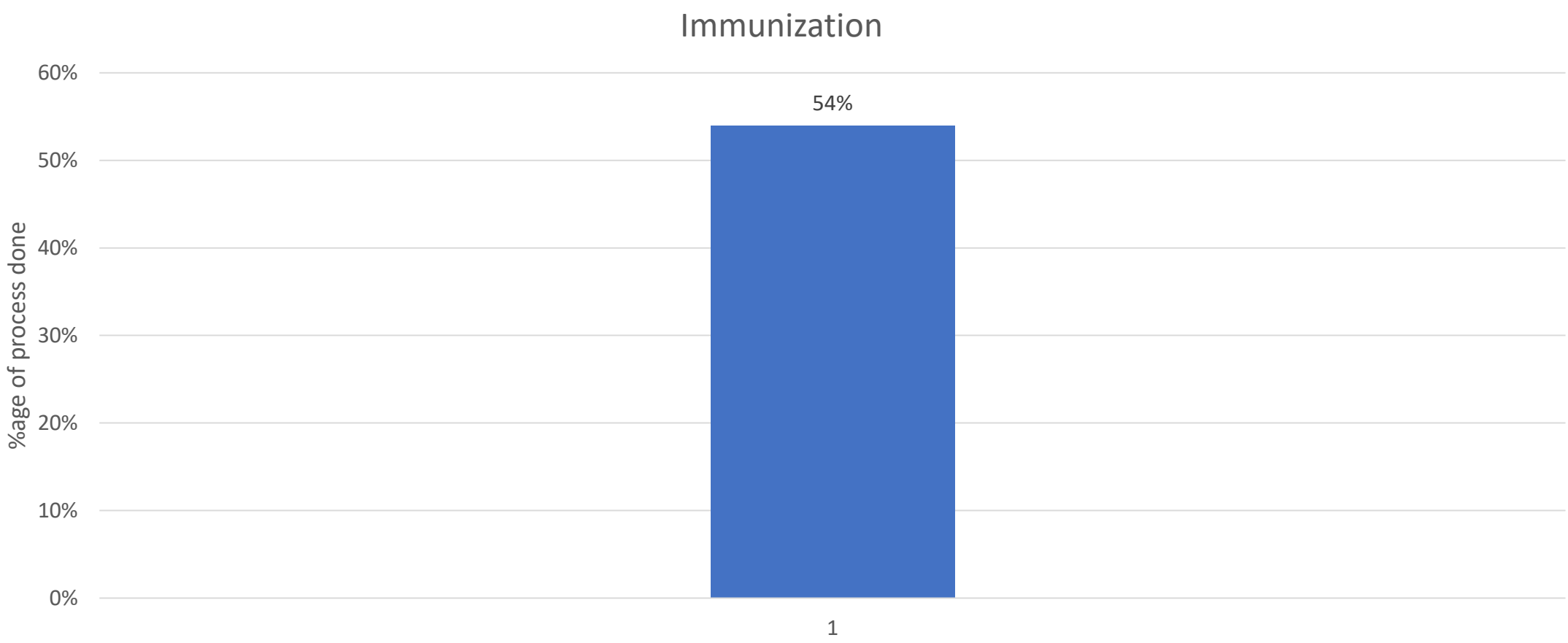


Fig 10. Routine immunization process done at AWCs (n=85)



Suggestions

- Formation of district convergence committee and district convergence action plan.
- Train the frontline workers for the appropriate use of growth monitoring devices.
- Motivate and keep surveillance on the govt. staff to perform their work efficiently.
- Spread awareness among people about their children’s health and nutrition.

Suggestions

- To manage the cases of malnutrition, anemia and diarrhea, essential supplements such as IFA Syrups and Tablets, etc. were not available in most of the AWCs. IFA tablets are essential for anemia management which is one of the major components of POSHAN Abhiyaan that needs to be tackled. Therefore, these supplements need to be made available in the AWCs.
- Under the POSHAN Abhiyaan, it is mandatory to monitor the growth of the children, pregnant women and adolescent girls which is done through various growth monitoring devices. Almost all of the AWCs had majority of the growth monitoring devices but none of the AWCs have growth charts to capture stunting (height for age) and wasting (weight for height). These two are the important components of POSHAN Abhiyaan which needs to be lowered but due to lack of growth charts it cannot be identified. Hence, the growth charts should be made available in all the AWCs.

Conclusion

- Anganwadi centres of district Jaisalmer, Rajasthan needs improvement in providing their services efficiently.
- Only planning and initiating programs once is not the way, to meet the goals or objectives of any programme.
- For this, regular monitoring and, supervision is required, starting right from the ground level up to the highest, administrative level.
- Only then will the gaps be identified in time, and corrective measures, planned, and appropriate action taken.”

Thank you