

**Internship
at
ICDS, Surat**

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Organization Profile

Integrated Child Development Scheme Mission ,Gujarat

1.1 Introduction

India is the nation with high-level of regional inequality, social hierarchy and multicultural society. With high level of economic and social inequality, health and nutrition inequalities are also pervasive and persistent. According to WHO classification of 14 sub regions, India comes in the region of South East Asian Region (SEAR D), which is characterized as high child and adult mortality (WHO, 2000). In India, mortality for children less than 5 years of age is currently around 74 per 1000 live births (NFHS-3, 2005-06). Poor status of health and nutrition among the children of deprived group challenging to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set forth by United Nation. To combat this situation, the Government of India initiated the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) scheme on experimental basis from 2nd October 1975 to reduce the level of infant and child mortality rates. Today ICDS represents one of the world's largest programmes for early childhood development (GOI, 2010).

The main objective of this programme is **to cater to the needs of the development of children in the age group of 0-6 years**. Pre-school education aims at ensuring holistic development of the children and to provide learning environment to children, which is helpful for promotion of social, emotional, cognitive development among children. Universalization of the ICDS was originally considered to be achieved by the end of 1995-96, through the development of services all over the country. It is one of the largest child care programmes in the world aiming at child health, hunger, malnutrition and its related issues.

ICDS services are provided a vast network of ICDS centers, it is known as **“Anganwadi”**. The word Anganwadi is developed from the Hindi word “Angan” which refers to the courtyard of a house. In rural areas an Angan is where people get together to discuss, meet, and socialize. The Angan is also used occasionally to cook food or for household members to sleep in the open air. This part of the house is seen as the ‘heart

of the house'. A network of "Anganwadi Centre (AWC)" literally it is a courtyard play centre, provides integrated services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school education and health and nutrition education. It is a childcare centre located within the village or the slum area itself. It is the central point for the delivery of services at community levels to children below six years of age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and adolescent girls.

Under the ICDS scheme, one trained person is selected to focus on the health and educational needs of children age 0-6 years. This person is the **Anganwadi worker (AWW)**. The Anganwadi worker is the most important functionary of the ICDS scheme. The Anganwadi worker is a community based front line voluntary worker of the ICDS programme. This service will help the children to get into the right from the pre-school age. The Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) scheme is utilized to help the family especially mothers to ensure effective health and nutrition care, early recognition and timely treatment of ailments.

In spite of the ongoing direct nutrition interventions like ICDS, India still contributes to about 21% of the global burden of child deaths before their fifth birthday (UNICEF 2007). They also found little evidence of programme impact on child nutrition in villages with ICDS centre. ICDS is the foremost symbol of India's commitment to her children – India's response to the challenge of providing pre-school education on one hand and breaking the vicious cycle of malnutrition, morbidity, reduced learning capacity and mortality.

World Bank has also highlighted certain key shortcomings of the programme including inability to target the girl child improvements, participation of wealthier children more than the poorer children and lowest level of funding for the poorest and the most undernourished states of India (World Bank, 2011).

1.2 The main objectives of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS):

The basic purpose of the ICDS scheme is to meet the health, nutritional and educational needs of the poor and vulnerable infants, pre-school-aged children, and women in their child-bearing years. Its specific objectives are:

- To develop the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years.
- To put the groundwork for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child.
- To reduce the prevalence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout.
- To achieve effective co-ordination of policy and functioning along with the various departments to promote child development.
- To improve the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

1.3 SPECIAL FEATURES OF ICDS

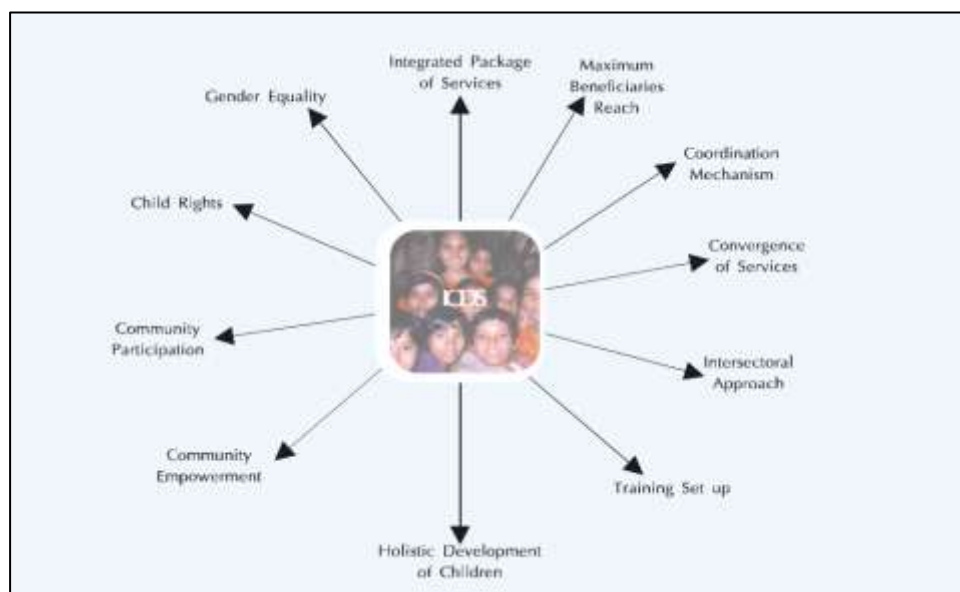


Figure 1.3.1 Features of icds

1.4 Services provided by Anganwadi Centres

The above objectives are necessary to be achieved through a package of services. Delivery of services under ICDS scheme is managed in an integrated way through Anganwadi centres, its workers and helpers. The services of Immunization, Health Check-up and Referral Services delivered through Public Health Infrastructure under the Ministry of Health and Family and Welfare UNICEF has provided necessary equipment for the ICDS scheme since 1975. World Bank has also assisted with the financial and technical support for the programme. The cost of ICDS programme averages \$10–\$22 per child a year. The scheme is centrally sponsored with the state governments contributing up to 1.00 (US\$ 0.02) per day per child. Furthermore, the (GOI 2008) adopted the World Health Organization (WHO) standards for measuring and monitoring the child growth and development, both for the ICDS and the National Rural Health Mission (NHRM). These standards were developed by WHO through an intensive study of six developing countries since 1997. They are known as New WHO Child Growth Standard and measure of physical growth, nutritional status and motor development of children from birth to 5 years age.

1.5 Intergenerational Cycle of Malnutrition

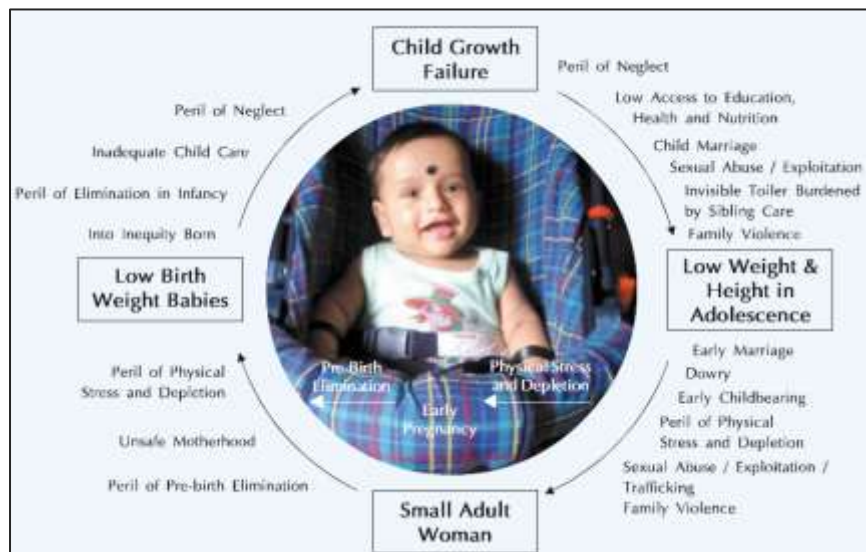


Figure 1.5.1 Intergenerational Cycle of Malnutrition

- ✓ ICDS intervenes across the life cycle as early as possible to fulfill the needs and rights of the girl child
- ✓ ICDS through its package of services creates an environment to reduce gender discrimination at all stages

There are six dimensions or services of ICDS scheme which are provided by AWCs.

1. Supplementary Nutrition
2. Immunization
3. Health check-up
4. Referral services
5. Non-formal Preschool education
6. Nutrition and health education

1.6 ICDS Beneficiaries and Services

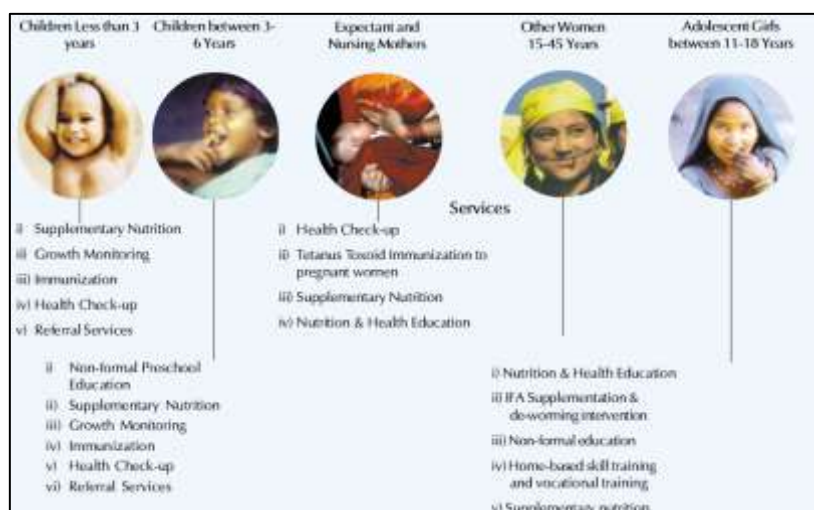


Figure 1.6.1 ICDS Beneficiaries and Services

1.7 Supplementary Nutrition

Supplementary Nutrition is one of the important factor for balancing the nutrition status of the children. This includes supplementary feeding and growth monitoring; and against vitamin A shortage and control of nutritional anaemia. All families in the community are surveyed, to identify children below the age of six and pregnant & nursing mothers. Anganwadi workers are advantage of 4 supplementary feeding supports for 300 days in a year. For nutritional purposes ICDS provides 300 calories (with 8-10 grams of protein) every day to every child below 6 years of age. For adolescent girls it is up to 500 calories with up to 25 grams of protein every day.

By providing supplementary feeding, the Anganwadi attempts to bridge the caloric gap between the national recommended and average intake of children and women in low income and disadvantaged communities. Growth Monitoring and nutrition are two important actions that are undertaken. Children below the age of three years of age are weighed once a month and children 3-6 years of age are weighed quarterly. Weight-for-age growth cards are maintained for all children below six years. This helps to find out the growth flattering and helps in assessing their nutritional status. In addition, highly

malnourished children are focused with special supplementary feeding and referred to medical services for the betterment

1.8 Immunization

To prevent the child from health related problem, immunization is utmost necessary. Immunization of pregnant women and infants protects children from six vaccine preventable diseases, tetanus, tuberculosis and measles. These are major preventable that helps in preventing the child mortality, disability, morbidity and related malnutrition. Immunization of pregnant women against tetanus also reduces the risk of maternal and neonatal mortality.

1.9 Health Check-Up

The health check-up includes children less than six years of age, antenatal care of mothers and postnatal care of nursing mothers. The different health services provided by Anganwadi workers for those children and Primary Health Centre (PHC) staff includes regular health check-ups, recording of weight, immunization, management of malnutrition, treatment of diarrhoea, and distribution of simple medicines etc

1.10 Referral Services

During health check-ups of malnourished children and timely medical attention are referred to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) or its sub-centre. The Anganwadi workers have also been oriented that the young children are not capable. She enlists all such cases in a special register and refer them to the medical officer of the PHC.

1.11 Non-formal Pre-School Education

Non-Formal Pre-School Education (NFPSE) is a part of the ICDS and it is mostly considered as its backbone, because its services basically cover the Anganwadi. Anganwadi Centre (AWC) – a village courtyard is the main platform for delivering of the services. These AWCs have been set up in every village of the country. In its functioning, the commitment to the

cause of India's children, present government has decided to set up an AWC in every human occupation / settlement. As a result, total number of AWC would go up to almost 1.4 million. This is also the most joyful play-way daily activity, visibly sustained for three hours a day. It brings and keeps young children at the Anganwadi centre- an activity that motivates parents and communities. Pre-school education (PSE), as considered in the ICDS, focuses on total development of children chiefly six year olds, mainly from the poor groups or those who are mostly needy. **Its programme for the three-to six years old children in the Anganwadi is directed towards providing and ensuring a natural, joyful and motivating environment, with importance on necessary inputs for most advantageous growth and development.** The early learning component of the ICDS is a significant contribution for providing a sound foundation for increasing lifelong learning and development. It also contributes to the universalization of primary education, by providing the necessary preparation for primary schooling and offering alternative care to younger siblings, thus freeing the older ones especially girls to attend school.

1.12 Nutrition and Health Education

Nutrition, Health and Education (NHED) is a key element of the the Anganwadi worker. This is a part of the BCC (Behaviour Change Communication) strategy. This has the long term goal of capacity-building of women particularly in the age group of 15-45 years so that they can look after their own health, nutrition and development needs as well as that of their children and families.

1.13 Key Features of ICDS in Mission Mode

- Programmatic Management and Institutional reforms
- Anganwadi as “Vibrant ECD centre” through revised packages of services
 - Greater focus on under three years children
 - Strengthening early childhood education
 - Care and counseling of mothers and family
- More than 2 lakh Anganwadi to be constructed
- More than 2700 new technical human resources
- More than 4.5 lakhs additional Anganwadi workers/nutrition counselors/link workers
- Improved Supplementary nutrition
- 70,000 Anganwadi cum crèches
- Intensive monitoring, training and capacity building
- Greater convergence and linkages with other sectors health, education PRIs and Rural Development
- Flexibility to states and flexibility in programme implementation

1.14 Indicators of Achievement under ICDS Mission

- Reduction in underweight prevalence
- Improved IYCF
- Contribute to reduction in anaemia, IMR and MMR in collaboration with health
- Reduction in incidence of low birth weight babies
- Improved early learning outcomes

1.15 ICDS in District Surat

In the year 1960 when Gujarat state was formed after it for children’s all-round development and mainly social and financial development for poor people many targets are decided and for it many effective steps have been taken. Due to these steps combined (overall) child development scheme’s 33 components were started all over the country in 1975-76 at an

experimental level. Among it in Gujarat, it was first experimented in Vadodra District's chhotadaipurtaluka. It is known from evaluation these components that due to this scheme children's health/nutrition standard has improved back class, divas, and poor children have benefited considerably. Encouraged by the results of scheme government has decided to increase the area where it is used this scheme. At present, in Gujarat state, work is done in total 260 blocks.

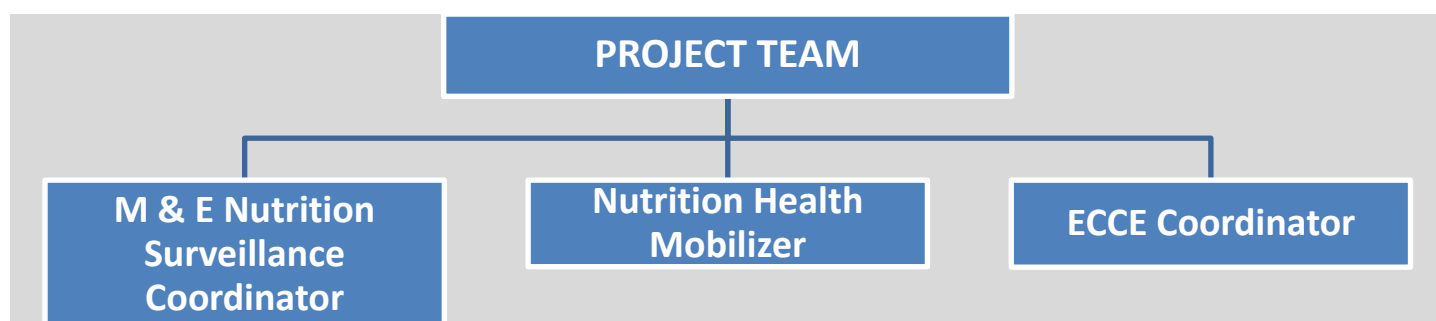
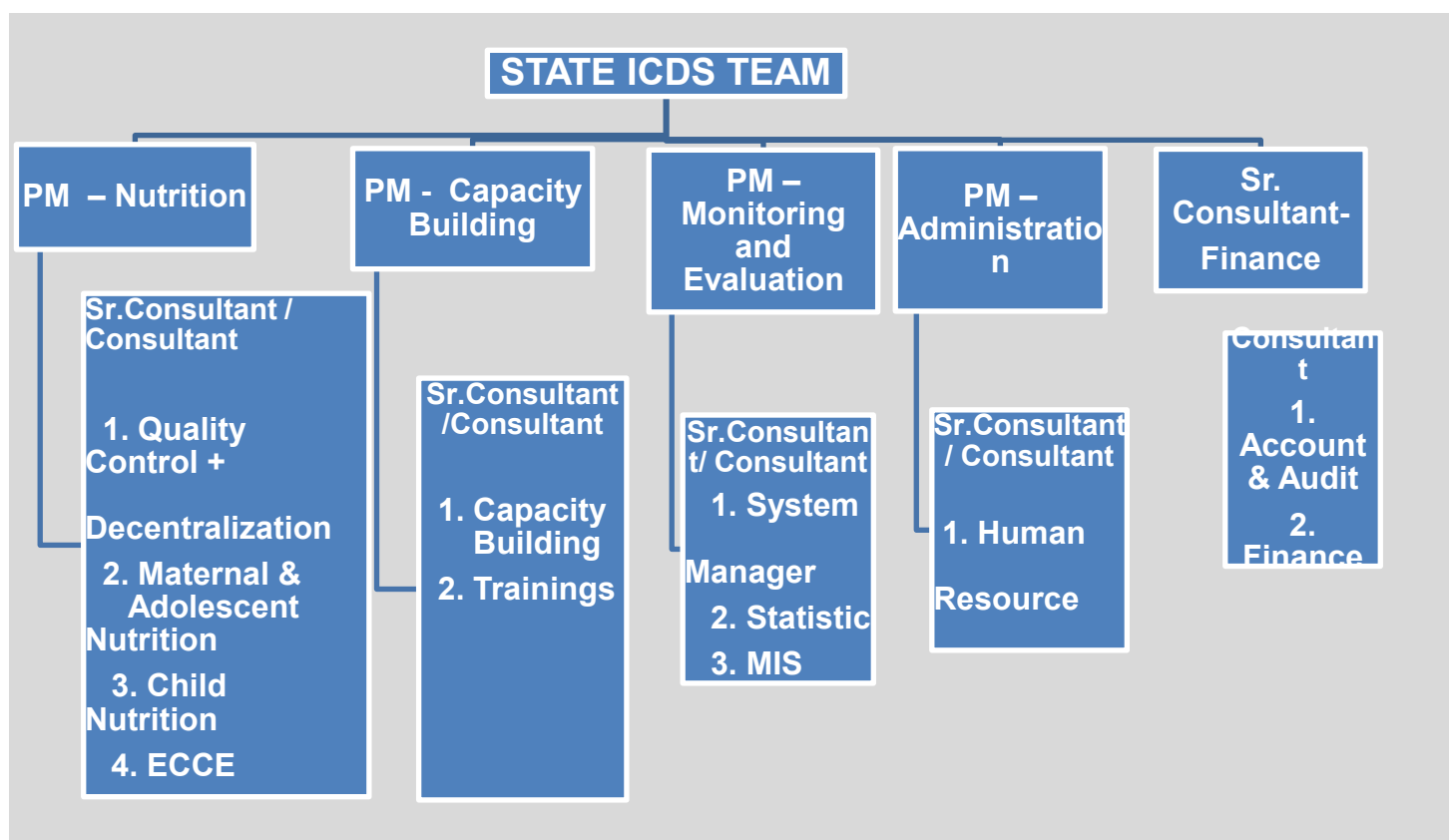
In Suratdistrict 3114anganwadicenters are working at present. In which service are given as under.

- 6 months to 6 years children, pregnant ladies, feeding mothers, and young girls are given supplementary nutrition.
- Pre-primary education to children in the age group of 3-6 years.
- Health and nutrition education to pregnant women, feeding mothers and other women in the age group of 15-45 years.
- 0-6 years children, pregnant ladies disease ingraining vaccines.
- Medicinal check up of 0-6 years children, pregnant ladies and feeding mothers.
- Services related to 0-6 years children, pregnant ladies and feeding mothers.
- Under KSY (Kishori Shakti Yojna)-Supplementary nutrition to young girls, living education training, iron tablets distribution.

1.16 Key Indicators

S.No	Indicator	Source	India	Gujarat
1.	MMR	SRS 2009	212	148
2.	IMR	NFHS 3	57	50
3.	Early neo natal Mortality rate	Census 2011	25	24
4.	Neo natal Mortality rate	Census 2011	33	31
5.	Institutional deliveries	NFHS 3	40.8	56.4

1.17 Organogram of Team ICDS



1.18 Key learning during internship

- Learning of implementation and monitoring of Child Health programmes running under ICDS Gujarat
- Understanding of the organizational culture and functions of ICDS Gujarat
- Meeting key resource persons from different developmental partners

1.19 Observations of the field visit:

- During my visits to Anganwadi Center, in general all of them were maintained properly and many need to be maintain properly. Having spent lot of money and providing flexi funds and contingency fund to improve the facility and daily requirement of AWC , Proper orientation of AWW require to utilize them or benefits of beneficiaries, unfortunately the kitchen, toilets were not maintained properly.
- Medicine Kits are provided to all the AWC but AWW not having proper knowledge of using the medicine provided in Medicine kits.
- Proper Hand Washing and washing of Utensils of Beneficiaries are not present in most of the AWC .
- Mamta divas sessions held are an example of intersectoral convergence of Health and ICDS.
- Only children were attended during the morning session.ANC is taken up in the afternoon, along with Adolescent girls.
- Height is measured but proper marking on growth chart is not persent at AWC.
- Quantity and Quality of food is not maintained which are provided to children.
- Counseling is not observed.
- ECCE activities are present at AWC.
- AWW are not receiving the incentives of MAMTA DIVAS on time or not received from few years
- Supervisors (MukiyaSevika) are not visiting to the field frequently.
- Only AWW and AWH are active during MamtaDivas ,ASHA just sitting at AWC along with FHW.
- Only Immunization is done no proper health check up at AWC of Children.

- No 24 hours stay at CMTC centre and children admitted in CMTC not gaining recommended 15 % weight gain.

1.20 Specific Project –

1. Organizing Committee member of Mata Yashoda Award at district level.
2. Implemented Hand Washing and maintaining Hygiene of Children at AWC before and after Meal.
3. Ensured timely salary and clearance of other bills of AWW.
4. Regulating GhanishthaPoshanAbhiyan in Anganwadi Centres.
5. Implementation of KishoriPothi at AWC.