

Assessing the factors influencing enrollment of beneficiaries in Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

A Study in the Junagadh District of Gujarat

Presented by

Dr. Tonmoy Dutta

Roll No: I394

PGDHM -17 (Health)

Under the Guidance

Dr. P R Sodani

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Introduction

Started by the Government of India in 1975, the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) has been instrumental in improving the health and wellbeing of mothers and children under 6 by providing health and nutrition education, health services, supplementary food, and pre-school education. It reaches more than 34 million children aged 0-6 years and 7 million pregnant and lactating mothers.

ICDS Objectives

- To improve the nutritional status of preschool children 0-6 years of age group.
- To lay the foundation of proper psychological development of the child.
- To reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity malnutrition and school drop out.
- To achieve effective coordination of policy and implementation in various departments to promote child development.
- 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.

Rationale for the study

- When eligible beneficiaries are not enrolled under ICDS, they are deprived of services which are their due right.
- There have been few or no studies which analysed the factors for non-enrolment of beneficiaries in the ICDS Anganwadi centres.
- Thus, this study was conducted to understand the factors influencing enrolment process of beneficiaries in AWCs functioning under the Junagadh district of Gujarat.

Research Question

- **What are the factors influencing enrollment of beneficiaries (Children from 0-6 Years of age) at the Anganwadi center?**

Objective of the Study

1. To Assess the profile of non-enrolled children and their families.
2. To Assess the knowledge and awareness level among the community about the ICDS programme.
3. To Assess the various factors that influence the non-enrollment of children.
4. To Recommend strategies for better enrollment in ICDS.

Methodology

- Type of Study: Descriptive Cross-sectional study
- Study Area: The present study was conducted to the 2 blocks of District Junagadh, Gujarat during the year 2014 for a four month period (February-May) for the the non– enrolled children.

Sampling

- Study Blocks -2 blocks were selected through purposive sampling out of 18.
- Non enrolled Children were selected in these 2 blocks through simple random sampling.

SAMPLE SIZE-

- 100 non enrolled children aged 0 to 6 years

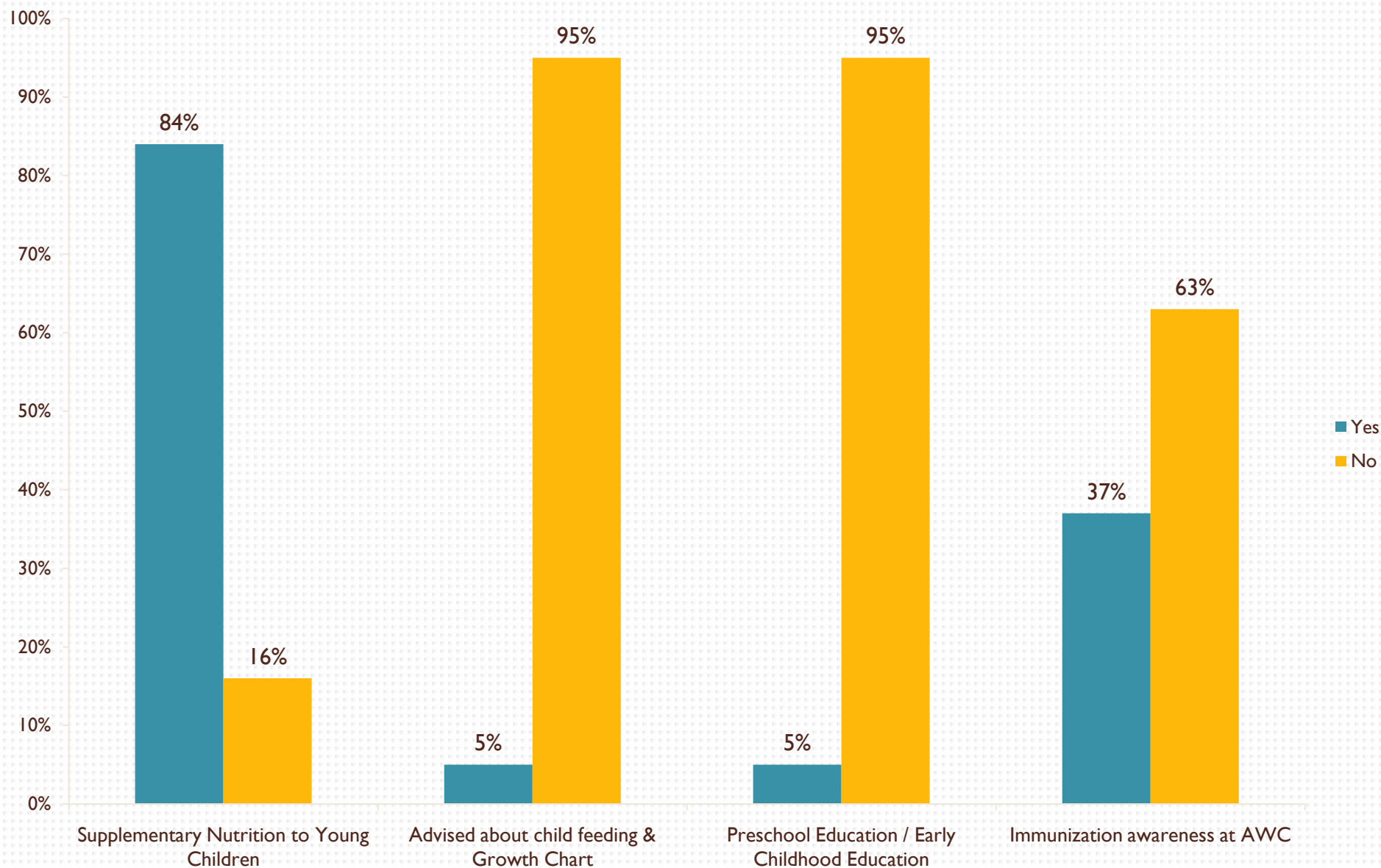
- **Respondents:** Mothers of Children (0-6 Years)
- **Data collection Method:** Interview Technique
- **Tool for data collection:** Interview Schedule

Results

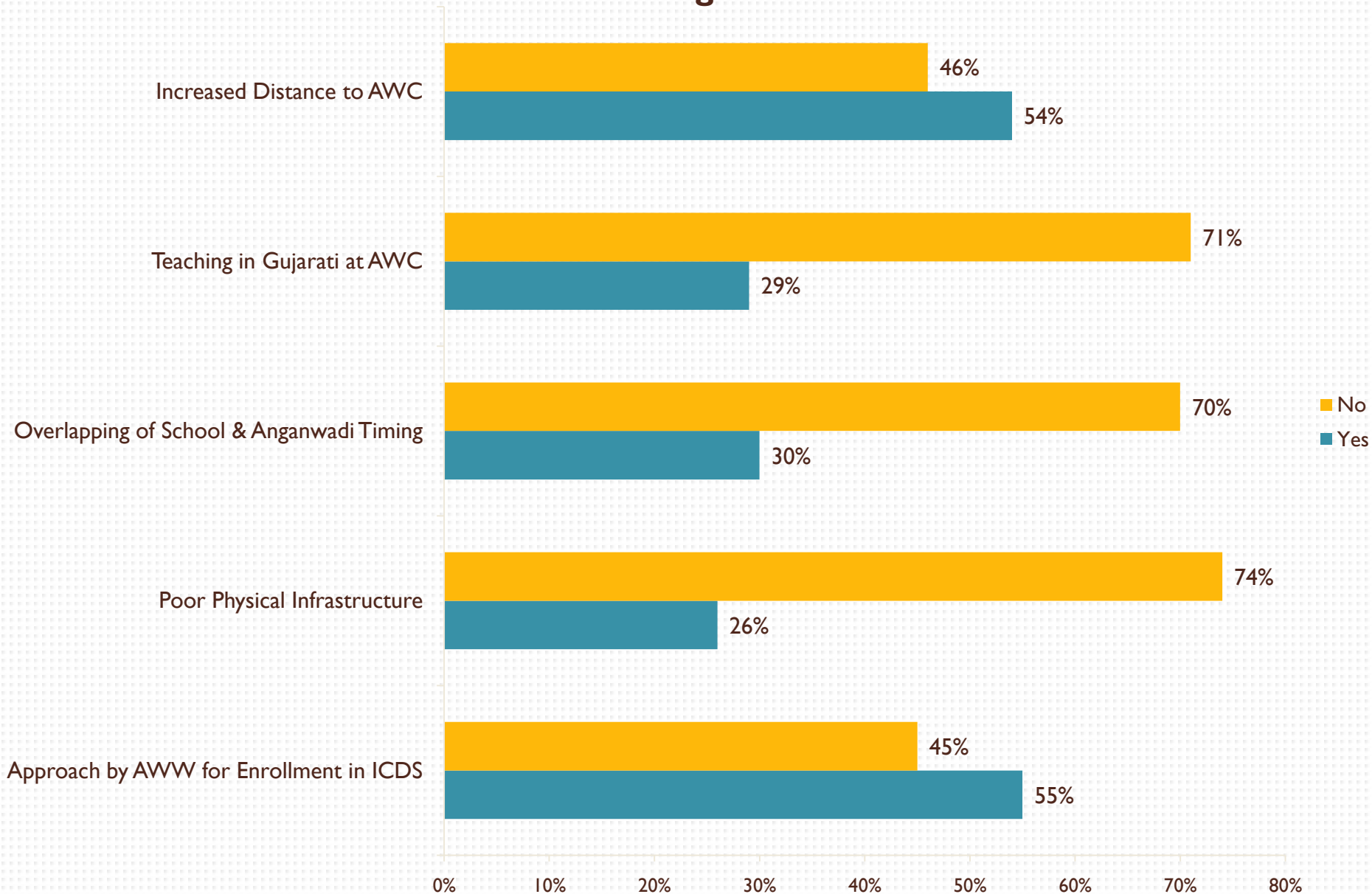
Demographic & Socio economic Indicators		Percentage of Respondents
Age	<1 Year	2
	1 Year - 3 Year	24
	3 Year - 5 Year	74
Class Passed	No school	76
	LKG	10
	KG	9
	HKG	3
	Ist STD	1
	Tuition	1
Religion	Hindu	43
	Muslim	57

Demographic & Socio Economic Indicator			Percentage of Respondents	
Household Occupation	Farmer		27	
	Labor Work		67	
	Others		6	
Family Types	Joint		79	
	Nuclear		21	
Type of Household	Kuccha		2	
	Semikuccha		25	
	Pucca		73	

Community Perception About ICDS



Factors influencing Non Enrollment



Recommendation

- Anganwadi should be upgraded to some play school like Anganwadi cum crèches.
- Training for the staff should emphasize the value of their work, impart skills to mobilize community support, and also sensitize them about the Right to Participation of children in AWCs.
- Information, Education & Communication (I.E.C) activities needs to be strengthened.

- To create awareness in the community regarding the services available at the AWC and utilization of services by the beneficiaries.
- There is a need to involve both parents by devising special IEC program for them to draw attention of their vital role in parenting. As there is a need for creating awareness regarding the importance of husband wife communication which plays a significant role in utilization of ICDS services for the beneficiaries.
- Health staff and AWW should motivate the beneficiaries to register their name in the AWC.

Conclusion

- From the above study, it can be concluded that majority of the respondents were aware about the supplementary nutrition services of ICDS followed by Immunization. Whereas, other services like child feeding & growth chart and PSE/ECE are less known.
- Topmost 5 factors for non enrollment in District are: Increased distance to AWC, Teaching in Gujarati, Overlapping of Anganwadi timing with primary school, Poor physical infrastucture, Approach by anganwadi worker for enrollment in AWC.

Thank You