



DAY CARE CENTRES IN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION -PRACTICES

KEYWORDS

Selvi .A

Dr.G.Victoria Naomi

Ph.D. scholar Department of Special Education, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore – 43, Tamil Nadu, India.

Professo Department of Special Education, Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore – 43, Tamil Nadu, India.

ABSTRACT

Inclusive Education for the Disabled under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme, a centrally sponsored scheme has several components and Day Care Programme has one among them. The study adopted descriptive survey to find out the status of Day Care Centres. Through descriptive survey many facts have been found out in the study process. But today's Day Care programmes though a boon to children with severe disabilities, a long way to go for scaling up and effective implementation.

Introduction

"Child care" or "Day care" is care of a child during the day by a person other than the child's legal guardians typically performed by someone outside the child's immediate family. Inclusive Education for the Disabled under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme, a centrally sponsored scheme has several components and Day Care Programme has one among them. Since their programme is of a new origin a study is entitled services in the Day Care Centres is planned. Day care is typically on ongoing service during specific periods Such as the parent's time at work. Day care is often a great way to go. In fact, nearly 30% of children under the age of five with working mothers attend day care.

History of Day Care Programme

Child care or Day care programmes, often called "day care," began in the United States in the 19th century. The first American childcare center was in Boston. Child care programs were sponsored by the government during the Great Depression and World War II. Kaiser Corporation was the first company to privately sponsor child care centers. Private sponsorship of child care programs is common today.

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The objectives of the study are to,

1. To explore the type of children with special needs at Daycare center established under Inclusive Education (IED,SSA)
2. To find out the type of services offered in Daycare programme.
3. To study the service delivery model for children with special need of Daycare programme under Inclusive Education (IED-SSA).

The current study was conducted in the Day Care Centres in Coimbatore district. The centres were located in the IED-SSA (Inclusive Education for the Disabled – Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan) programme Blocks.

The total size of the sample was 10 Day care centres located in Coimbatore Education district.

Checklist was used to identify the overall atmosphere of the Day Care Centers. In the checklist, the physical infrastructural facilities, learning environment, availability leaning resources, routine activities, assessment and learning methods and records used for the progress of the children, quality of meals provided, safety needs sanitation and staff training details were noted.

Interview Schedule

An interview schedule was developed to find out the level of functional, academic and social skill development of children. It also included components such as intervention of parents, monitoring and evaluation, about implementing agency, role of Day Care Teachers and special teacher, physiotherapist, government officer's role and funding resources.

OVERALL STATUS

The overall status of the centre was analyzed with the rating as: Low, Moderate, and High. The table below indicates the status.

Level	No.	Percent
Low(<=28)	4	40
Moderate (29-30)	1	10
High(>30)	5	50
Total	10	100

The results revealed that 40% of Day Care Centers were at low level in the service delivery, whereas 10% were at moderate level and 50% Day Care Centers offering effective services.

Infrastructural Facilities in the Day Care Centre

S.No	Assessment Aspect	Low %	Moderate %	High %
1.	Physical Facilities	40	40	20
2.	Routine Activities	40	-	60
3.	Quality of Meals	20	70	10
4.	Safety Needs	10	60	30
5.	Sanitation	20	70	10
6.	Staff Training	20	60	20

The overall status indicates that most of the centres were at moderate level. In the physical facilities only 20% showed higher level where as routine activities were effective in 60% of the centres. Seventy percent of the centres offered moderate level of meals. The overall observation was that most of the centres were at moderate level.

Findings

The findings emerged out of the study are listed below:

1. In general the Day Care Centers were found to be effective in serving children with special needs.
2. A majority (60%) of the centres conducted routine activities effectively and 40% was found to be not offering activities regularly.
3. With regard to sanitation, most of the centers (70%) were found to be having good sanitation and 20% with poor condition. Cleanliness was found to be good at in 10% the centres.

Conclusion

Today Human Development is considered to be a very important aspect of a country's progress. India's concern for children is evident in the constitutional provisions, policies, programmes and legislation. Day care centre for the CWSN is of recent and effective move by the government of India. This programme is aviable alternative for severely disabled children and parents of those children. But today's Day Care programmes though a boon to children with severe disabilities, a long way to go for scaling up and effective implementation.

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