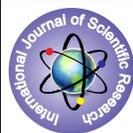


Financial Status of ICDS Initiative by Government of India



Sociology

KEYWORDS : Accountability, budgetary allocation, supplementary nutrition

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ABSTRACT

ICDS is a Centrally-sponsored Scheme implemented through the State Governments/UT Administrations. Prior to 2005-06, 100% financial assistance for inputs other than supplementary nutrition, which the States were to provide out of their own resources, was being provided by the Government of India. Since many States were not providing adequately for supplementary nutrition in view of resource constraints, it was decided in 2005-06 to support to States up to 50% of the financial norms or to support 50% of expenditure incurred by them on supplementary nutrition, whichever is less. From the financial year 2009-10, Government of India has modified the funding pattern of ICDS between Centre and States. The sharing pattern of supplementary nutrition in respect of North-eastern States between Centre and States has been changed from 50:50 to 90:10 ratio. So far as other States and UTs, the existing sharing pattern of 50:50 continues. However, for all other components of ICDS, the ratio has been modified to 90:10(100% Central Assistance earlier). In this backdrop this present paper is to analyze the ICDS accountability initiative by Government of India 2012-13.

Introduction

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) was launched in 1975 in 33 blocks of the country. The scheme was universalized in 2005 following a Supreme Court order. ICDS is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme implemented through the State Governments/Union Territories administrations. Until FY 2005-06, Government of India (GOI) provided 100% financial assistance for inputs other than supplementary nutrition which was funded entirely through state budgets. In FY 2009-10, GO modified the ICDS funding pattern. Supplementary nutrition is now funded through a 50:50 ratio except for north-eastern states which have a 90:10 ratio. For all other components GOI provides 90% of the budget. Complete data on state share for ICDS is not publicly available through GOI sources. The primary objective of this present study is to examine the trends in budgetary allocations and expenditures details in Government of India.

Financial Allocation

In FY 2012-13, GOI allocations for the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) have increased by 58% from the previous year. As on November 2011, 95% of sanctioned Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) and mini AWCs were operational across India.

Table-1 Financial Allocation

S.No	Year	Amount in Rs
1.	GOI allocation for Women and Child Development in FY 2012-13 (in crores)	Rs.18,584
2.	Allocations for ICDS in FY 2012-13 (in crores)	Rs.15,850
3.	GOI allocation for Women and Child Development in FY 2011-12 (in crores)	Rs.12,733
4.	Allocations for ICDS in FY 2011-12 (in crores)	Rs.9,294

Since the ICDS was universalized in 2005, GOI budgetary allocation have increased from Rs.3,326 crores in 2005-2006 to Rs.9,294 crores in FY 2011-2012. According to ICDS data, 84% of the required Anganwadi Centers(AWCs) and mini AWCs were operational across India by March 2010 but only 78% of sanctioned Anganwadi workers(AWWs) were in-position.

Trends in Central Government Allocations and Expenditures in 2012-2013

- Launched in 1975, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme was targeted at children from below poverty line (BPL) households. In 2005, following a Supreme Court order, the programme was extended to the entire country. Rs.15, 850crores have been allocated to ICDS in FY 2012-13, a 58percent increase from the previous year.
- ICDS is the largest programme run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and accounts for 85 percent of its allocated budget.

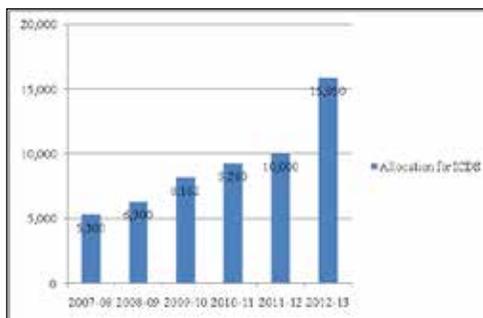


Figure-1 Rs.15, 850crores allocated to ICDS in FY 2012-13

Source: Ministry of Women and Child Development, Annual Report 2010-11. Available online at: <http://wcd.nic.in/publication/ar201011e.pdf> and www.indiabudget.nic.in. All figures are in crores of rupees. All figures are revised estimates except for FY 2011-12 and FY 2012-13, which are budget estimates.

Trends in Central Government Allocation and Expenditure in 2011-12

- The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme was launched in 1975, targeted at children from below poverty line households. In 2005, following a Supreme Court order, the programme was extended to the entire country.
- Since then, allocations have seen a significant increase from Rs.3,326crores in FY 2005-06 to Rs.9,294 cores in FY 2011-12. ICDS is the largest programme run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development accounting for 73% of its allocated budget.

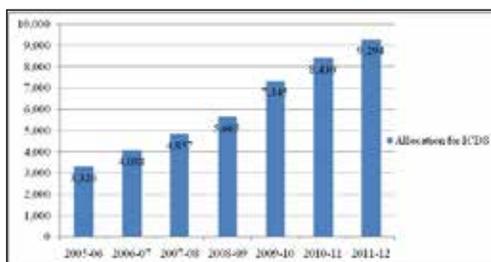


Figure-2 Rs.9, 294Crore Allocated to ICDS in FY 2011-12

Source: Calculated from Expenditure Budget-FY 2005-06 to FY 2011-12 incorporating notes on demand for grants, Ministry of Women and Child Development. Note: All figures are in cores of rupees and do not include the north-east component. Estimates pertain to revised estimates expect for FY 2011-12.

- ICDS is designed to provide basic education and health services to children below 6 years of age as well as pregnant and lactating mothers. These objectives are sought to be achieved through a package of services comprising: a) Provision of pre-school non-formal education b) Nutrition and health education, and c) Supplementary nutrition. Other services like immunization, health check-ups and referral services come under the purview of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).
- Pre-school education, nutrition and health education are provided through the ICDS (general), while Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) is a separate component of ICDS.
- The funding pattern for both components is different. GOI provides 90% funds for ICDS (general) and 50% for SNP. However, for north-eastern states, GOI provides 90% funds even for SNP.

Conclusion

ICDS is no longer only available to below the poverty line beneficiaries; hence states are responsible to register all eligible beneficiaries. In accordance with this development the third phase of the ICDS scheme has begun. The GOI has sanctioned 792 additional Projects, 213286 additional Anganwadi Centers and 77102 Mini-Anganwadi Centers. This expansion aims especially to reach SC/ST and minority population in remote rural areas. To support these increases the eleventh Five Year Plan has set aside Rs.51, 400crores for ICDS which includes Rs.9000 Crores for Conditional Maternity Benefit Scheme.

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