



## A STUDY ON KNOWLEDGE OF ANGANWADI WORKERS ABOUT INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AT PIMPRICHINHWAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

### Community Medicine

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### ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUND:** Most of the studies have concentrated on the nutritional and health status of the beneficiaries of ICDS. Studies to assess the knowledge, awareness and practice among AWW are very few, although they are the principal resource persons in the ICDS Programme.

**METHODS:** A cross-sectional study was undertaken among 100 Anganwadi workers from all 100 Anganwadis under the PimpriChinchwad municipal corporation. The knowledge for each AWW was calculated based on the responses to a questionnaire containing 27 questions.

**RESULTS:** Out of 100 Anganwadi workers, 40 (40%) were in the age group 36- 45 years, 38 (38%) had studied up to higher secondary school and 77 (77%) Anganwadi workers were Hindus. 79% of Anganwadi workers had adequate knowledge on immunization, 66% had knowledge of supplementary nutrition, 84.2% had knowledge of growth monitoring, 95.6% had knowledge of prophylaxis against nutritional blindness and 72% Anganwadi workers had knowledge of nutrition and health care. 88% AWWs felt that their salary was inadequate, 80% mentioned that infrastructure of anganwadi was poor, 90% complained of not enough logistic supply, 100% stated that work load was heavy and 81 % AWWs felt that help from community was lacking.

**CONCLUSIONS:** The study showed that 75% AWWs had good knowledge about Integrated Child Development Services, however, 80% to 90% faced various problems in implementing the scheme.

### KEYWORDS

AWW (Anganwadi workers), ICDS (Integrated child development services), Problem

### 1. INTRODUCTION

World's largest and most comprehensive program for development in early childhood is the ICDS Scheme 1. It is symbolic of the commitment of India for their children. Services such as immunization, supplementary nutrition, health check-up, referral services, preschool non-formal education, and nutrition & health education for young children and their mothers are provided under ICDS Scheme. In this scheme mothers are trained regarding care of their children for better development.

The Anganwadi Worker (AWW) is selected from the same village or slum area of the city. She is selected to focus mainly on educational need and health of 0-6 year children under ICDS scheme.

The Anganwadi Worker is the most important functionary person of the ICDS scheme. She is also known as community based front line voluntary worker of the ICDS programme. From the pre-school age, the children get initiated into society under ICDS scheme. The Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) scheme is also useful for family mainly for mothers in nutrition and effective health care, early recognition and timely treatment of ailments and thereby timely treatment.

The AWW is assisted by a helper. The helper is a local woman for assistance of Anganwadi worker, other frontline workers including the gram sevikas, primary school teacher, local women's self- help group, Mahila Mandals, youth clubs, local organizations, Panchayat Samitis and Balvikas Mahila Samiti members.

### OBJECTIVES

- To identify the socio-economic characteristics of Anganwadi workers and study the relationship of these characteristics with their performance.
- To assess the awareness among the Anganwadi Workers regarding the services provided under the ICDS programme in terms of Maternal & Child Health Services, Nutritional Services, Non formal Education, etc.
- To identify the problems faced by AWWs in implementing the ICDS programme.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was a cross sectional study and was carried out in a sample of Anganwadi Workers working at randomly selected Anganwadi centers under PimpriChinchwad Municipal Corporation.

Institution Ethics Committee Clearance was obtained before the start of the study. Permission from PCMC was also obtained for the study.

Informed consent of every participant was obtained before they were interviewed.

- Type of study:** Cross sectional observational study.
- Period of study:** September 2016 to August 2018
- Study Material:** All Anganwadis coming under PCMC and Anganwadi workers therein.
- Inclusion criteria:** All Anganwadis and AWWs under PCMC willing to participate in the study were eligible for the study.
- Place of study:** Anganwadi centres under PCMC.
- Sample size:** A total of 314 Anganwadi Centres were in operation in PCMC with one AWW each. Assuming a knowledge level of 65% and an error of up to 10% at a confidence level of 95%, a sample size of 88 Anganwadicentres was calculated using the statistical package Win Pepi. AWW of the selected centres were the participants. Considering the aspect of willingness to participate, it was proposed to study a minimum of 100 AWWs for the study.
- Method of data collection:** Through personal interview of the AWWs using a questionnaire and translated into local/national language for ease of administering the questionnaire on the AWWs.
- Analysis of Data:** The data was entered in Excel and analyzed using Win Pepi and/or Epi Info. Categorical data was summarized using proportions and percentages. Quantitative data was summarized using mean and SD.

### RESULTS WITH DISCUSSION:

**Table 1 : Socio-emographic characteristics of AWWs (n=100).**

Age Groups ( years)	Frequency	Percent (%)
25-35	20	20
36-45	40	40
46-55	29	29
56->	9	9
<b>Education</b>		
SSC	36	36
HSC	38	38
Graduate	20	20
Post graduate & above	6	6
<b>Religion</b>		
Hindu	77	77
Muslim	2	2
Christian	5	5
Buddhist	16	16

In the present study 100 Anganwadi Workers were interviewed. Out of 100 Anganwadi workers, 40% were in the age group 36-45years, 36 & 38% of them had studied up to secondary school & higher secondary school respectively. 92% AWWs were married. This conforms to the requirements to be fulfilled in selecting AWWs, however, One was unmarried, which is not in consonance with the requirements laid down for this job. 77% Anganwadi workers were hindus. Another study conducted by Datta, v, 2001 Showed that 47% Anganwadi workers were educated upto SSC, 22.5% upto HSC. Thus majority had done only school education. Study done in three urban blocks of Sundargarh district in Odisha state in 2012 showed that about 66.7% AWWs were hindus and 33.3% were Christians. 76.7% AWWs were married, 20% were unmarried and 3.3% were divorced. One more study conducted by Ramchandran V, in 2005 showed that 26.7% of the AWWs were 10th passed and 43.3% 12th passed.

**Table 2- Knowledge Of Anganwadi Workers Regarding Different Aspects Of Icds**

No	Type of questions.	No of questions asked.	No AWWs	Total questions.	Correct response.		Incorrect response.	
1	Immunization	10	100	1000	790	79%	210	21%
2	Supplementary nutrition.	5	100	500	332	66.4%	168	33.6%
3	Non formal & growth monitoring.	6	100	600	421	84.2%	79	15.8%
4	Prophylaxis against blindness.	3	100	300	287	95.6%	13	4.3%
5	Nutrition & health care.	3	100	300	216	72%	84	28%
Total		27	100	2700	2046	75.7%	654	24.2%

In present study correct responses by the AWWs to questions on immunization was 79%, 66.4% to those regarding supplementary nutrition and 84.2% to knowledge about non formal education & growth monitoring. Correct responses to questions on prophylaxis against nutritional blindness was 95% and 72% to those on nutrition & health care.

Study conducted by Baliga, SS., Walvekar, PR. et al suggested that 88% AWWs had adequate knowledge on immunization, 88.16% had knowledge on supplementary nutrition. 83% had knowledge on non-formal education and growth monitoring, 88% AWWs had knowledge of prophylaxis against blindness, 87% AWWs had knowledge of nutrition and health care. Only 45.39% AWWs had knowledge of referral services I.

In present study only 26% AWWs knew that 500 calories and 53% AWWs knew that 15 gram of protein is given to each child in supplementary nutrition. 65% AWWs had no Sam children in their AWC as no child was in that age category. 97% AWWs said that growth monitoring should start from birth. 83% AWWs had preschool education register in AWC. 100% AWWs had no record of over six year children in their AWC. Majority (99%) AWWs used color code for growth monitoring. 100% AWWs had knowledge about meaning of red color in mid arm circumference.

42% AWWs said that weight is declining when there was flattened line on growth chart. 98% AWWs had immunization register at AWCs and 68% AWWs had iron & folic acid register in their AWCs. Majority (98%) AWWs had vitamin A supplementation register in their AWCs. 91% AWWs said that there were 3 doses of DPT and 76% AWWs said that gap between two doses of DPT was 1 month. 79% AWWs had knowledge of when to start pentavalent doses and interval between two doses. Knowledge regarding pentavalent vaccine is likely to be deficient in the absence of refresher training.

100% AWWs told that measles vaccine given after nine month. 72% AWWs said that booster dose of DPT & OPV given after 18 months. only 29% AWWs knew that DT vaccine given at five years of age. 95% AWWs had knowledge of vaccine given to pregnant woman. 93% AWWs told that first dose of vitamin A given after nine months. 60% AWWs said that minimum 100 tablets of iron & folic acid given for pregnant woman. Also 96% AWWs identify children at risk.

**Table 3 : Problem Faced By Anganwadi Workers**

Sr No	Problem type	Yes		No	
		No	%	No	%
1	Insufficient Salary	88	88	12	12
2	Infrastructure Related	80	80	20	20
3	Logistic Supply Related	90	90	10	10
4	Work Overload	100	100	00	00

5	Lack Of Help Of Community	81	81	19	19
6	Inaccessibility Of supervisors	00	00	100	100%

In this study 88% AWWs complained of inadequate salary, 80% AWWs reported infrastructure related problems, 90% mentioned inadequate logistic supply and all 100 AWWs complained for excessive work. Also 81% felt that help from the community was lacking but felt that accessibility to supervisors was very satisfactory. In study by Thakare, MM, BM Kurli et al showed that 56.7% had compliant regarding inadequate salary while only 16.7% complained of less supply of logistics. 43% AWWs were not happy due to overload of work and 40% AWWs complained that they had to maintain excessive records 45. The study done by Chattopadhyay also revealed that 73.3% felt problems with infrastructure particularly regarding inadequate space. They felt that work load and maintenance of record was excessive. 53.33% AWWs complained of inadequate salary and 20% AWWs were not getting help from community and that supervisor was not accessible 6.

**CONCLUSION:**

Out of 100 Anganwadi workers, 40 (40%) were in the age group 36-45 years, 38 (38%) had studied up to higher secondary school and 77 (77%) Anganwadi workers were Hindus.

79% of Anganawadi workers had adequate knowledge on immunization, 66% had knowledge of supplementary nutrition, 84% had knowledge of growth monitoring, 95% had knowledge of prophylaxis against nutritional blindness and 72% Anganwadi workers had knowledge of nutrition and health care.

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The study showed that 75% AWWs had good knowledge about Integrated Child Development Services but 80% to 90% faced various problems in implementing the scheme.

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