

Perception Of Anganwadi Workers And Parents In Educational Zone Sopore District Baramullah (Kashmir): A Case Study

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Abstract: The present study was under taken to find the perception of anganwadi workers towards pre-schooling of children in age group of 3-6 years, and to study the perception of parents towards the effectiveness of anganwadi scheme. The data for the present study has been collected with the help of interview schedule and on the basis of survey; the data was statistically analyzed on the basis of percentage. The study revealed that 59.64% anganwadi workers were in favor that the attendance in anganwadi centers helps in the motivation of children for formal schooling and development, 33.57% anganwadi workers were uncertain about this and 6.78% were opposite to this view. The study further revealed that 38.88% parents were in favor of effectiveness of this scheme, while 25.55% parents were uncertain and 34.44% parents were opposite to this.

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Key Words; Anganwadi center, Anganwadi workers, Parents.

Introduction

Educators and psychologists are agreed that more learning takes place during the first five years than at any period of life. It is during these formative years that character and personality are developed and basic attitude is formed. The progress and prosperity of a nation is intimately related to the optimum growth and development of its children. The educational significance of this stage is increasingly being realized. Modern research has shown that early years of life are of great importance. It is a well known fact that the age 3-6 years is the most impressionable years. There is a great feeling that the prevailing educational backwardness of large section of our children is due to lack of proper educational environment in most homes and especially in villages that this can met by providing nursery education.

Benjamin bloom, an eminent psychologist and educationist observes that environment from the first six to seven years of life is very significant for cognitive development. Therefore, all kinds of facilities should be provide to the child to explore, to enquire, to play and to interact with his peers for optimum educational development. According, to Piaget "sensory motor ability is the basis of intelligence." The scope of mental development is quite extensive. It included not only cognitive aspect but that of social, emotional, and aesthetic ones. According to E.Hurlock "the Childs physical development has a marked influence on the quality and quantity of his behavior". The early childhood education should therefore, be according to the physiological and psychological needs and conditions

of the child. It should be free, flexible and comprehensive in finding the best ways of getting families and schools to work together.

In pursuance of the national policy for child (1974) and recognizing that it is in early childhood that the foundation physical, psychological and social development are laid and that provisions of early childhood services especially to the weaker and more vulnerable sections of the community will help to prevent or minimize the wastage arising from infant mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and stagnation in schools. The govt. of India started the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme in (1975) in 33 plot projects and expanded into 1300 (ICDS) projects after ten years in the country. At present there are more than 5614 ICDS projects in the country, benefiting more than 21.3 million children and more than 3.2 million mothers. The ICDS programme aims to deliver an integrated package of basic services to children less than six years of age, to pregnant women and to nursing mothers right in their own village or locations. The national policy of education (1986) has given a great deal of importance to early childhood care and education (ECCE). It views ECCE as an important input in the strategy of human resource department, as a feeder and support program for primary education and as a support service for working women of the disadvantaged section of society. Realizing the crucial importance of rapid physical and mental growth during early childhood, it stresses that every child should be assured access to the fulfillment of all basic needs.

Need and Importance

The development of a nation cannot be conceived without the full development of its human potential. It is in this very spirit that the govt. of India has clearly committed itself to investment in young children as potential human resource. It has conceived and formulated plans and policies for the provision of basic services, inclusive of education, to young children. In place of a rather generic and global recognition of the worth of children, the govt. has acknowledged the need to make special policies and plans of action in favor of children. This recognition has led to the establishment of the department of women and child development within the ministry of Human Resource Development. India is one of the few nations that have a national policy for children. Keeping in the view the present scenario of early childhood education and status of the field as a whole, one needs to take a realistic and pragmatic view about the future directions in which early childhood education program and researches must move. Review of the literature indicates that the need for pre-school education is widely recognized but the status of pre-school education needs to be steadily raised and improved in qualitative terms. The ICDS program is a dynamic program. The ICDS scheme envisages it is a flexible program, one which can be suitably modified whenever necessary. Even the organizational structure of the program, its goals and objectives, may also undergo far reaching changes.

In the state of J&K, the first ICDS project was started in Kangan block in Srinagar district in 1975 on the experimental basis and now according to the latest data available, all the blocks of J&K state have been covered under the said scheme. Provision of services like ICDS are desirable in such rural areas

and their practicability is equally essential. In order to find out the basic ailments one should go deep at the grass root level. This study is a modest effort to identify the functioning of Anganwadi centers, in educational zone Sopore, district Baramullah through an in-depth study of these centers. It is hopefully expected that this study will help to find out the various areas which need to be improved and thereby enabling the investigator to suggest various measures and changes to be brought about in the program for better performance of Anganwadi centers.

Objectives of the problem:-

1. To study the perception of Anganwadi workers towards pre-schooling of children in the age group of 3-6 years.
2. To study the perception of parents towards the effectiveness of Anganwadi scheme.

Methodology and Procedure

It is an established fact that scientific or empirical research is accomplished through a rigorous and systematic methodology. Research methodology involves the systematic and sequential procedures by which the researcher starts initially with the identification of the problem to its final conclusions. The purpose of the methodology is to carry on the research work in a scientific, valid, objective and logical manner. The method of research determines the tools and techniques by which the research problems are analyzed and understood.

Sample

The total number of existing centres in the Sopore block, total no. of Anganwadi workers, and concerned parents in these centres- district Baramulla Kashmir has been taken as sample for present investigation.

S.no	Name of the ICDS project	No. of Anganwadi centres	No. of Anganwadi workers	Concerned parents
1	Sopore	208	100	100

The investigator personally visited all the Anganwadi centers and the responses of workers and parents were taken as per the interview schedule.

Tools

The data for the present investigation has been collected with the help of interview schedule.

Procedure

The main focus of the present study was to evaluate the functioning of Anganwadi workers at Sopore block in district Baramullah. The initial step of the present study was to find out the number of Anganwadi centers in Sopore block district Baramullah. The functioning of Anganwadi centers were identified through inter-related criteria through

information of CDPO's. General information of Anganwadi workers and parents was made available by using the Interview schedule I- prepared to study the perceptions of Anganwadi workers towards pre-schooling of children of the age group 3-6 years and administered on 100 Anganwadi workers from Sopore block of district Baramullah. Interview schedule-II constructed to study the perceptions of parents towards the effectiveness of Anganwadi scheme and administered on 100 parents from Sopore block district Baramullah.

Statistical treatment

The data collected has been analyzed by employing percentage statistics.

Analysis, Interpretation and Discussion

Analysis, interpretation and discussion of data mean to make the raw data meaningful or to draw some results from the data after the proper treatment. However valid, reliable and adequate the data may be, they do not serve any worthwhile purpose unless

they are carefully edited, systematically classified and tabulated, scientifically analyzed, intelligently interpreted and rationally concluded. Keeping in view the objectives of the present study, the data collection was analyzed by employing "percentage statistics"

Table 1.0 shows the responses of Anganwadi workers (in percentage) to various questions of Interview Schedule I (ISI), for the purpose of analysis- these responses have been classified into two broad categories.

i) Schooling

ii) Development

Item no.	Nature of item exposed to respondents	Responses in percentage		
		Yes	Uncertain	No
1	Do you consider that attendance in an Anganwadi help to motivate the children for schooling.	90	10	0
2	Are you of the opinion that Anganwadi children become regular and punctual during their stay in the Anganwadi.	65	25	10
3	Do you agree that Anganwadi children developmental readiness and reasoning ability during their stay in the Anganwadi.	30	55	15
4	Are you sure that anganwadi children will join the school after leaving the school.	60	40	0
5	Do you believe that stay in an Anganwadi lessens the fear and frustration of the children?	80	20	0
6	Do you believe that a healthy interaction grows among Anganwadi children during their presence in the Anganwad.	45	45	10
7	Do you believe that attendance of children in the Anganwadi helps to develop confidence in their self?	40	60	0
8	Do you believe that Anganwadi children develop interests to stay outside their home during their presence in Anganwadi.	80	20	0
9	Do you consider that Angawadi children learn good habits and manners during their stay in the Angawad.	90	10	0
10	Do you agree that Angawadi children learn group norms during the conduct of various activities in the Anganwad.	30	65	5
11	Do you believe that Anganwadi children become cooperative and helpful during their stay in the Anganwadi.	40	30	30
12	Are you of the opinion that attendance in the Anganwadi helps to develop desirable attitudes and behavior patterns among the Anganwadi children.	60	30	10
13	Are you of the opinion that Anganwadi children gain physical vigour and strength by taking supplementary nutrition at centre?	45	40	15
14	Do you consider that attendance in an Anganwadi develops the vocabulary of the children?	80	20	0
	Total percentage	59.64%	33.57%	6.78%

Schooling

90% of the anganwadi workers who participated in the present study were of the opinion that attendance in the Anganwadi centre helps to motivate children for formal schooling while as 10% were uncertain in this regard. 65% of the respondents perceived that Anganwadi children became regular and punctual during their stay in the centre while as 25% were uncertain and 10% expressed denial. Only 30% of the anganwadi workers agreed that anganwadi children developmental readiness and reasoning ability, 55% were uncertain and 15% disagreed any such development. Only 60% of the anganwadi workers were sure that all the Angawadi children will join formal schooling while as 40% were not confident about this. 80% of the respondent believed that stay in an anganwadi lessens the fear and frustration of the children while as 20% were

uncertain .45% of the respondents believed that a healthy interaction grows among the anganwadi children during their presence in the centre, while as 45% were unclear about such growth and 15% were not in favour of any such growth. 40% of the anganwadi workers who participated in the study indicated that attendance of children in the anganwadi helps to develop confidence in their self, 60% indicated uncertainty. 80% of the respondents were agreed that children develop interest to stay outside their homes while staying in the anganwadi, 20% were neutral. 90% of the anganwadi worker were of the opinion that Angawadi children learn good habits manners during their stay in the anganwadi center, while as 10% were not able to give their opinion clearly. 30% of the anganwadi workers believed that Angawadi children learn group norms during the conduct of various activities in the

anganwadi centers.65% showed uncertainty and 5% believed against this.40% of the respondents of the present study interviewed for this particular purpose indicated that anganwadi children become cooperative and helpful during their stay in the anganwadi centers.while as 30% were not able to indicate and 30% indicated against this. 60%of anganwadi workers believed that anganwadi children develop desirable attitude and behavior, 30% were uncertain and 10% were on opposite belief.

Development

While assessing the opinion whether Anganwadi children gain physical vigour and strength by taking supplementary nutrition at anganwadi centers , 45% considered that gain in physical vigour and strength takes place in Anganwadi children by taking supplementary nutrition but 40% were uncertain and 15% did not consider that. 80% of the anganwadi workers expressed that attendance in an Anganwadi develops the vocabulary of the children, 20% were doubtful.

Table 2.0 shows the responses of parents (in percentage) to 18 questions of the Interview Schedule_II (ISII). For the purpose of analysis these responses have been classified into 5 categories.

- i) ICDS scheme
- ii) Supplementary nutrition
- iii) Immunization
- iv) Health checkup , nutrition and Health education
- v) Non formal, pre-primary Education.

Item no.	Nature of item exposed to respondents	Responses in percentage		
		Yes	Uncertain	No
1	Are you aware about integrated child development services scheme?	80	0	20
2	Do you consider the ICDS scheme useful for the public?	40	30	30
3	Do you believe that supplementary nutrition program of ICDS scheme helps to nourish children and women?	30	30	40
4	Do you consider the nutritional program of the scheme effective and of a good standard?	30	44	26
5	Do you consider that supplementary nutrition program has helped to reduce the incidence of malnutrition among poor children?	32	26	42
6	Do you believe that the benefit of the scheme reaches to the deserving masses?	25	15	60
7	Do you consider that the Anganwadi worker helps the people to get motivated for full immunization of their children and women?	35	15	50
8	Do you believe that awareness about immunization has enhanced through the implementation of ICDS scheme?	40	10	40
9	Do you agree that the immunization program has helped to reduce the incidence of motility (death rate) and morbidity (un healthiness)	95	5	0
10	Do you consider that the Anganwadi workers help people to get their medical checkup?	20	44	36
11	Do you consider that the Anganwadi workers help the sufferers (patients) to get referred to referral institutions?	21	34	45
12	Do you believe that the anganwadi workers help the people to utilize various useful schemes regarding child care?	31	28	41
13	Do you consider that the Anganwadi workers give health and nutrition education to pregnant women and nursing mothers?	31	42	27
14	Do you consider that the pregnant women and nursing mothers develop the capacity to look after the normal health of the children after successful implementation of ICDS program ?	23	42	35
15	Do you believe that children get motivated for learning by attending Anganwadis?	40	35	25
16	Do you consider that the Anganwadi workers help to develop desirable attitudes and behavior patterns among the Anganwadi children's?	27	25	48
17	Do you agree that Anganwadi children learn good manners and good habits during their stay in the centers?	60	20	20
18	Do you believe that the Anganwadi scheme helps to reduce the incidence of school drop out?	40	15	35
	Total percentage	38.88%	25.55%	34.44%

ICD Scheme

80% of the parents who participated in the present study were aware about the ICDS scheme, while as 20% of the respondents were not aware about the scheme. 40% of the population were of the opinion that ICDS scheme is useful or the public, 30% were uncertain and 20% were not with this.

Supplementary nutrition

30% of the respondents believed that supplementary nutrition programme of ICDS scheme helps to nourish children and women, 30% were uncertain and 40% believed that it does not help to nourish children and women.30% perceived that it is effective and of good standard, while as 44% were not able to perceive 26% perceived that it is not effective and of a good standard.32% of parents who

participated in the present study expressed that supplementary nutrition programme has helped to reduce the incidence of malnutrition among poor children, while as 26% were not able to express and 42% expressed against this, only 25% indicated that the benefit of the scheme reaches to the deserving masses, 15% were unsure and 60% indicated that the benefit of the scheme does not reach to the deserving masses.

Immunization

While assessing the role of anganwadi workers in motivating the people for full immunization only 35% of the parents, consider that Anganwadi workers help in motivating the people for full immunization, but 15% were uncertain and 50% considered against this and disagreed any such role. 40% of the respondents believed that awareness about immunization has enhanced through the implementation of ICDS scheme, while as 10% were unclear and 40% did not believe that, 95% of the respondents agreed that immunization program has helped to reduce the incidence of mortality (death rate) and morbidity (unhealthiness), while as 5% were neutral in this regard.

Health check up, Nutrition and health education

20% were of the opinion that Anganwadi workers help the people to get their medical checkup. 44% were unsure and 36% of the people were of the opinion that Anganwadi workers do not help the people to get their medical checkup. 21% respondents believed that Anganwadi workers help the suffers to get referred to referral institutions. 34% were uncertain in this regard and 45% denied any such help from Anganwadi workers, 31% of the population were of the opinion that Anganwadi workers help the people to utilize various scheme regarding health and child care. 28% were unable to express their opinion, while as 41% were of the opinion that Anganwadi workers do not help on this regard. Only 31% perceived that Anganwadi workers give health and nutrition education to pregnant and nursing mothers, while as 42% were unsure and 27% perceived against. 23% of the parents were of the opinion that pregnant women and nursing mothers develop the capacity to look after the normal health of the children through ICDS scheme, while as 35% were against this view and 42% were uncertain, in this regard.

Non formal, pre primary education

40% of the population believed that children get motivated for learning by attending anganwadi workers. 35% were not able to respond and 25% believed against this. 27% of the parents, expressed

that Anganwadi workers help to develop desirable attitudes and behavior patterns among the Anganwadi children, 48% expressed that Anganwadi workers do not help in such development and 25% remained neutral. 60% of the people were agreed that anganwadi children learn good habits and manners during their stay in the centre, but 20% disagreed any such learning, and 20% were uncertain, only 40% were agreed that Anganwadi scheme helps to reduce the incidence of school drop outs, while as 15% were uncertain about this, and 35% expressed deny any such help through Anganwadi scheme.

Summary, Conclusions and Suggestions

Present study was designed to find out the anganwadi centers actually functioning in sopore block of district Baramulla. The perception of one hundred Anganwadi workers drawn from sopore block of the district towards non formal, pre primary education, and related development in the age group 3-6 years. The Anganwadi workers were interviewed with the help of the Interview schedule – I (ISI) constructed for the purpose. In addition to this, the perceptions of one hundred parents from sopore block of the district, towards effectiveness of the anganwadi scheme as a whole were also recorded with help of the Interview schedule –II (ISII) constructed for the purpose. These perceptions were then analyzed and studied thoroughly. The data collected was quantified and analyzed statistically by employing percentage statistics.

On the basis of analysis, interpretation and discussion of the results, the following conclusions were drawn.

1. 90% Anganwadi workers believed that Anganwadi scheme helps the children to get motivated for formal schooling and only 30% agreed that Anganwadi workers children are higher on mental readiness and reasoning ability.
2. Only 60% Anganwadi workers were of the opinion that all the Anganwadi children after their completion of stay in Anganwadi center will join schooling.
3. It was found that 45% of Anganwadi workers consider that Anganwadi children gain physical vigour and strength by taking supplementary nutrition.
4. 80% Anganwadi workers perceived that Anganwadi centers help vocabulary development in Anganwadi children.
5. 60% Anganwadi workers and 27% parents were of the opinion that development of desirable attitudes and behavior patterns takes place among Anganwadi children.

6. 80% of parents were aware about ICDS scheme and only 40% of the parents considered it useful for the general public.
7. The study revealed that 25% of the parents believed that the benefit of the scheme reaches to the deserving masses.
8. 35% of the respondents considered that Anganwadi workers motivate the people for full immunization.
9. Only 20% of the respondents were of the opinion that Anganwadi workers help the people to get their medical checkup done.
10. 31% parents perceived that Anganwadi workers give health and nutrition education to pregnant and nursing mothers.
11. 40% of parents believed that children get motivated for learning by attending Anganwadi centers.
12. 40% of parents think that Anganwadi scheme helps to reduce school dropout.

Suggestions for the improvement of the scheme:

Following suggestions are proposed by the present investigator for the improvement of ICDS scheme:

1. For strengthening the coordination between parents and ICDS official's periodical meetings should be arranged.
2. Awareness about Anganwadi scheme should be ensured for the general public. For this seminar, film shows and public meetings should be organized.
3. Playway methods of teaching should be adopted on priority.
4. Anganwadi workers should undergo a rigorous training course, before they are appointed as in charge of ICDS centre.

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