

Anganawadi supervisors' contribution towards Anganwadi workers and rural women

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted during the year 2011-12 in four purposively selected districts namely Belgaum, Dharwad, Gadag and Haveri of Karnataka state. Ex post facto research design was employed on 60 Anganawadi supervisors of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). Out of these 30 were graduates of college of Rural Home Science, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka and other 30 were graduates of other non-agricultural universities. In addition 120 Anganawadi workers and 120 rural women of the study area were selected to know the contribution of Anganawadi supervisors to the beneficiaries. Cent per cent of the Anganawadi workers opined that supervisors visited Anganawadis unexpectedly, checked all the registers and provided all the supplementary feeding material. All the rural women respondents opined that supervisors gave necessary information, conducted trainings on entrepreneurship development programme and visited malnourished and graded children houses.

Keywords: Anganwadi workers; rural women; supervisors; ICDS; home science

INTRODUCTION

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme is India's primary response to the nutritional and developmental needs of the children below six years, pregnant women and nursing mothers. Implemented through a network of over one million village level Anganwadi centres and staffed by Anganwadi workers and Anganwadi helpers it currently reaches around 7.28 crore children and about 1.6 crore pregnant and nursing mothers (Anon 2012). Hence this programme has become the world's largest and unique early childhood development programme.

During the 11th Five Year Plan the government of India (GoI) has taken several measures to strengthen the implementation of ICDS. In order to increase accessibility of the ICDS services to all households in the country especially those belonging to disadvantaged and weaker sections in the community the GoI has embarked upon massive expansion of the programme since 2006-07 to reach out to about 14 lakh habitations

in the country. As per the order of the Supreme Court the GoI has already sanctioned 7073 projects and 13.56 lakh Anganawadi Centres (Shashidhar et al 2012) and the programme has been nearly universalized across the villages and habitations in the country. Provision has also been made for the sanction of Anganawadi centres on demand basis by the states.

Population norms for opening up of the Anganawadi centres in rural, urban and tribal areas have been revised. Financial norms of various interventions/activities under the scheme including that for training and capacity building of the ICDS functionaries have been revised upwardly with effect from 1 April 2009. Honorariums of Anganawadi workers and Anganawadi helpers are revised very often as per their demands considering their quantum of work. Nutritional norms for the supplementary food to the children below six years and pregnant and lactating mothers have also been revised. The challenge before the programme authorities is now to harmonize the geographical expansion along with an

improved implementation strategy in order to accelerate better and visible programme outcomes.

At present there is an Anganawadi for every thousand population in rural areas. Each Anganawadi centre is headed by an Anganawadi teacher appointed by the state government. A helper is provided to assist the work of Anganawadi worker. For both these staff honorarium is given and stay in the working village is compulsory. Each Anganawadi centre is supervised by the supervisor who must be a female and is appointed by the state government. Her educational qualification required for appointment is graduation in home science, social work or sociology. Each supervisor supervises the work of minimum twenty Anganawadi teachers and helpers. Supervisor provides guidance and leadership for the successful implementation objectives of the ICDS. Kular (2014) reported that the problems felt by Anganawadi workers were mainly lack of availability of infrastructure facilities (80%) and inadequate honorarium (73.33%). It is recommended that the existing trainings of Anganawadi workers need to be evaluated and their continuous education strengthened.

In ICDS administration supervision has an added responsibility where it has to act as a carefully planned technical service designed to improve the learning situation.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted during 2011-12 in four purposively selected districts of Karnataka state namely Belgaum, Dharwad, Gadag and Haveri. It was to investigate the contribution of Anganawadi supervisors towards the Anganawadi workers and rural women. The sample size comprised 120 Anganawadi workers and 120 rural women. A well-structured schedule was developed to collect the relevant information from respondents. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive analysis and appropriate tools.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

The data given in Table 1 show that majority (73.33%) of the home science supervisors conducted 4 to 6 trainings for Anganawadi workers at field level

Table 1. Number of trainings given to Anganawadi workers by the supervisors (n= 60)

Trainings conducted in 5 years	Home science supervisors (n ₁ = 30)	Non-home science supervisors (n, = 30)
1 to 3	6 (20.00)	9 (30.00)
4 to 6	22 (73.33)	19 (63.33)
7 to 9	2 (6.67)	1 (3.33)
10 to 12	-	1 (3.33)

Figures in the parentheses indicate per cent values

followed by 20 per cent who conducted 1 to 3 trainings. Majority of the non-home science supervisors (63.33%) organized 4 to 6 trainings followed by 30 per cent who conducted 1 to 3 trainings. This indicates that most of them were interested in conducting trainings for Anganawadi workers on new aspects, programmes, policies, health issues etc so that they could understand the matter clearly and teach the rural mothers for adoption.

Trainings and demonstrations conducted by the supervisors for the rural women

Data given in Table 2 reveal that in the trainings and demonstrations on awareness and knowledge about any new policies and programmes conducted by the supervisors, majority of the rural women (38.33%)

attended 1 to 4 trainings followed by 36.67 per cent who attended 5-8 trainings.

Table 2. Trainings and demonstrations conducted by the supervisors for the rural women in last 5 years (n= 120)

Trainings conducted	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percentage
1-4	46	38.33
5-8	44	36.67
9-12	22	18.33
>12	8	6.67

Records of the Anganawadi workers checked by the supervisors

From Table 3 it is evident that 100 per cent workers maintained 25 records given by the ICDS department related to survey of the village, children, pregnant and lactating mothers, adolescent girls, food, Bhagyalaxmi, house visits, medicines, dead stock etc. These 25 records were checked by the supervisors (100%) in time. Cent per cent of the supervisors checked all the 25 records of Anganawadis to know the improvement and day to day happenings in the particular Anganawadi centres so that they could give further suggestions for improvement and give compliments to the good Anganawadi workers.

The problems of Anganawadi workers solved by the supervisors

The problems of Anganawadi workers were solved by the supervisors as and when these occurred (Table 4). Majority of the respondents expressed need for construction of the building (54.17%) followed by 20.83 per cent who had the problem of supply of supplementary food and 14.67 per cent who had problems related to Bhagyalaxmi scheme.

Contribution of supervisors towards Anganawadi workers

Table 5 indicates that majority of the supervisors gave information (65.83 %) to the Anganawadi workers, 26.67 per cent guided them if they did any mistakes, 25.83 per cent encouraged to work, 22.50 per cent gave knowledge about any new topic, 20.83 per cent of the supervisors were having problem solving nature, 20 per cent of them understood workers' problems and 14.17 per cent of the supervisors gave directions for working. They also encouraged the workers to work by understanding the problems.

Frequency of meetings of supervisors with the Anganawadi workers and rural women

Results depicted in Table 6 indicate that majority of the home science supervisors (56.67%) conducted meetings with Anganawadi workers once in 15 days followed by 30 per cent who conducted meetings once in a week. Most of the non-home science supervisors (93.33%) conducted meetings once in fifteen days followed by 3.33 per cent each once in a week and once in a month. Supervisors

Table 3. Records of the Anganawadi workers checked monthly by the supervisors (n= 120)

Name of the record	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percentage
Survey record	120	100
Staff record	120	100
Children's attendance record	120	100
Pregnant women's register	120	100
Death register	120	100
Dinachari register	120	100
Mothers' meeting register	120	100
Poustika Shibira register	120	100
Lactating mothers' register	120	100
Birth register	120	100
Chuchumaddu register	120	100
Falanubavi Dakalati register	120	100
Adolescent girls' register	120	100
Adolescent girls' food register	120	100
Bhagyalaxmi register	120	100
Salaha Samitee register	120	100
Food register	120	100
Visitors' register	120	100
3-6 year old children's food register	120	100
0-3 year children's food register	120	100
Graded children's register	120	100
Growth chart register	120	100
House visit register	120	100
Medicines Register	120	100
Dead stock register	120	100

Table 4. The problems of Anganawadi workers solved by the supervisors (n= 120)

Kind of problem	Respondents	
	Frequency	Percentage
Food problem in Anganawadi	25	20.83
Child marriage	10	8.33
Problems of SHGs	15	12.50
Cleanliness and toilets	12	10.00
Cooperation	10	8.33
Building construction	65	54.17
Guiding mothers	05	4.17
Drinking water	07	5.83
Problem of helper	11	9.17
Problems of people	09	7.50
Medicines for graded children	06	5
Bhagyalaxmi Yojana	17	14.67
Chuchumaddu Yojana	04	3.33

Table 5. Contribution of supervisors towards Anganwadi workers (n= 120)

Contribution	Frequency	Percentage
Give information	79	65.83
Give knowledge about any new topic	27	22.50
Encourage to work	31	25.83
Work for children development	07	5.83
Teach if they did any mistakes	32	26.67
Give directions for working	17	14.17
Understand workers' problems	24	20.00
Solve problems	25	20.83
Participate in meetings	06	05.00
Caring	13	10.83

Table 6. Frequency of contact of supervisors with Anganawadi workers (n= 60) and rural women (n= 60)

Frequency	Supervisors	
	Home science (n= 30)	Non-home science (n= 30)
Anganawadi workers		
Once in week	09 (30.00)	1 (3.33)
Once in a fortnight	17 (56.67)	28 (93.33)
Once in a month	04 (13.33)	1 (3.33)
Rural women		
Once in week	22 (73.33)	25 (83.33)
Once in a fortnight	3 (10.00)	2 (6.67)
Once in a month	5 (16.67)	3 (10.00)

Figures in the parentheses indicate per cent values

Table 7. Demonstrations conducted by the supervisors for the Anganawadi workers and rural women (n= 60)

Category	Supervisors			
	Home science (n= 30)		Non-home science (n= 30)	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Anganawadi workers	30 (100.00)	-	30 (100.00)	-
Rural women	30 (100.00)	-	30 (100.00)	-

Figures in the parentheses indicate per cent values

Table 8. Measures taken by the supervisors for proper work enforcement by the subordinates (n= 60)

Measure	Supervisors	
	Home science (n= 30)	Non-home science (n= 30)
Scolding	10 (33.33)	9 (30.00)
Informing the higher authorities	17 (56.67)	15 (50.00)
Warning	27 (90.00)	25 (83.33)
Memo	19 (63.33)	16 (53.33)
Withholding salary	8 (26.67)	5 (16.67)

Figures in the parentheses indicate per cent values

conducts two meetings in a month. One meeting was held for salary purpose and second to know the health status of Anganawadi children. In these meetings they also discussed the problems and gave possible solutions.

On the other hand majority of the home science and non-home science supervisors (73.33 and 83.33% respectively) conducted meetings with the rural women once in a week, 10 and 6.67 per cent respectively once in a fortnight and 16.67 and 10 per cent respectively once in a month.

Demonstrations on various aspects conducted by the supervisors for the Anganawadi workers

Cent per cent of the home science and non-home science supervisors conducted demonstrations on some aspects for the Anganawadi workers and the rural women (Table 7). It was necessary to demonstrate the changes in the preparation of food items supplied by the department. The purpose was to make the food tasty, attractive and palatable to the beneficiaries. The stress was also made to increase the nutrient contents of the recipes by adding leafy vegetables, germinated seeds, jaggery, milk etc.

Measures taken by the supervisors for proper work enforcement by the Anganawadi workers

The observations in Table 8 show that most of the home science supervisors (90%) issued warnings followed by 63.33 per cent who issued memos and 56.67 per cent informed the higher authorities. About 83.33 per cent of the non-home science supervisors issued warnings followed by 53.33 per cent who issued memos and 50 per cent informed the higher authorities.

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