

Model Anganwadi Centers



In India, government has a provision for free pre-school education for children in the age group of 3 to 6 years. However, many children are not able to attend any form of preschool. This is mainly because either there are no centers available within their reach, or the centers which are available fail to attract children due to poor infrastructure, space and joyful learning environment, and in case of private centers -the fees are unfordable.



Aim:



Provide children, in the age group of 3-6 years, access to high quality and stimulating home based and center based Early Childhood Development services which in turn will ensure they achieve their developmental milestones for school readiness in all the five critical domains.

Vision and Approach



All young children have skills, dispositions promoted in early childhood settings to become successful learners in collaboration with families and community.

This program offers a combination of both home and center based approach. Home-based intervention includes home-visits by trained community mobilizers who demonstrate and educate parents of 3 to 6 years of age children on the activities that support in early child stimulation through positive childcare practices and positive parenting strategies, and help the parents in understanding the progress their children are making. And, Center-based intervention includes transforming Anganwadi centers in to model and modern centers to provide state-of-the-art Early Childhood Development facilities and services to children for their optimum development.



Target Area:

11 districts from Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan



Beneficiaries:

3-6 year-old children in 500 Anganwadis, with special focus on girls



Project Period:

3-5 years



Highlights



- Making Anganwadi Centers modern and demonstrable - ChildFund has constructed and equipped Anganwadi Centers as per Government of India's parameters, which have facilities like solar panels, LCD projector and digital material.
- Access and attendance- This involves advocacy initiatives and networking with government towards opening Anganwadi centers in areas where there are no centers available and improving the quality of existing centers.
- Capacity building of the facilitators on teaching practices which includes a mix of theme based and play based child centered approaches, catering to all the five important domains of child development through joyful learning.
- Enhancing parenting skills of the community members by building their capacity on responsive care, stimulation and positive parenting as it is important to actively engage with especially fathers and grandparents to ensure high quality early childhood care, education, stimulation and protective environment for a child's holistic development.
- Maintaining minimum standards of high quality Early Childhood Development activities based on all the five crucial domains of child development, including activities for school readiness - facilitating smooth transition to early grades.



Impact



- We are working with 500 Anganwadi centers, out of which since 2016, 200 Anganwadi/Balwadi (pre-school) centers across our program areas have been transformed into vibrant model Early Childhood Care and Education Centre (ECCE) centers impacting thousands of children. 40 such centers have been handed over to ICDS department by one of our partners.
- Home visits and interpersonal counselling to the families by the Anganwadi and Balwadi workers resulted in 95% of children attending pre-school center regularly, earlier the rate of attendance was just 45%.
- In some of the places where Anganwadi centers are not present, with the support of advocacy activities processes have been initiated to open centers.
- Nearly 2000 pre-school children and families were provided with soaps and towels, so that they practice healthy and hygienic lifestyle.

