



International Journal of Innovative Research in Science Engineering and Technology (IJIRSET)

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)



Impact Factor: 8.699

Volume 14, Issue 3, March 2025

A Study on Impact, Usage and Maintenance of Selected Assets Created under Integrated Child Development Schemes in South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat of Meghalaya

Kresphulin Wahlang

Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong, India

ABSTRACT: The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme is a flagship program of the Government of India aimed at improving the health, nutrition and education of children and pregnant and lactating women. As part of the ICDS scheme, various assets such as Anganwadi centers, toilets and drinking water facilities are created in rural areas. This study examines the impact, usage and maintenance of selected assets created under ICDS in South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat.

The study used a mixed methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative methods. Data was collected from 100 Anganwadi centers and 500 beneficiaries in the District. The study found that the assets created under ICDS have had a positive impact on the health, nutrition and education of children and pregnant and lactating women in the district. However, the study also found that there are challenges related to the usage and maintenance of these assets including lack of awareness, inadequate, infrastructure and insufficient funding.

The study recommends that the government and other stakeholders take steps to address these challenges, including increasing awareness and education among beneficiaries, improving infrastructure and facilities and providing adequate funding and support for the maintenance of assets. The study also highlighted the need for greater community involvement and participation in the management and maintenance of ICDS assets.

KEYWORDS: ICDS, Anganwadi centers, asset creation, impact, usage, maintenance, South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Integrated Child development Services (ICDS) scheme is one of the programs in India aimed at improving the health, nutrition and overall development of children under the age of six, along with pregnant and lactating mothers. To support the effective implementation of ICDS, various assets such as Anganwadi centers, storage facilities, kitchen sheds, drinking water sources and sanitation units have been created across different regions, including the South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat. These assets play a crucial role in delivering essential services related to early childhood care, nutrition and maternal health.

The impact of these assets depends significantly on their usage and maintenance, which influence the overall effectiveness of the ICDS program. Proper utilization ensures that children receive adequate nutrition, healthcare and pre-school education, while poor maintenance can lead to deterioration of infrastructure, inefficiencies in service delivery and underperformance of the scheme. Given the remote and hilly terrain of the South West Khasi Hills District, challenges such as accessibility, infrastructure sustainability and resource allocation further affect the performance of ICDS assets.

This study aims to assess the impact, usage patterns and maintenance practices of selected ICDS assets in the district. It seeks to examine whether these assets effectively serve their intended purpose, identify gaps in their utilization and upkeep and provide recommendations for improving their long-term sustainability. By evaluating the current condition and efficiency of these facilities, the study will contribute to policy improvements and better implementation strategies for ICDS in rural Meghalaya.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme is one of the programs of the government of India aimed at improving the health, nutrition and education of children and pregnant and lactating women. As part of the ICDS scheme, various assets such as Anganwadi centers, toilets and drinking water facilities are created in rural areas to provide essential services to beneficiaries.

However, despite the importance of these assets, there are concerns about their impact, usage and maintenance. Specifically:

1. **Limited impact:** There is limited evidence on the impact of assets created under ICDS on the health, nutrition and education of children and pregnant and lactating women.
2. **Underutilization:** Assets created under ICDS are often underutilized due to lack of awareness, inadequate infrastructure and insufficient funding.
3. **Poor maintenance:** Assets created under ICDS are often poorly maintained due to lack of funds, inadequate technical support and insufficient community involvement.

The study aims to investigate the impact, usage and maintenance of assets created under ICDS in South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat, Meghalaya and to identify strategies for improving their impact, usage and maintenance.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the impact of assets created under ICDS on the health, nutrition and education of children and pregnant and lactating women in South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat, Meghalaya.
2. To investigate the usage and maintenance of assets created under ICDS in South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat, Meghalaya.
3. To identify the challenges and limitations associated with the usage and maintenance of assets created under ICDS in South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat, Meghalaya.
4. To recommend strategies for improving the impact, usage and maintenance of assets created under ICDS in South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat, Meghalaya

Research Questions

1. What is the impact of assets created under ICDS on the health, nutrition and education of children and pregnant and lactating women in South West Khasi Hills District, Mawkyrwat, Meghalaya.
2. How are the assets created under ICDS being used and what are the challenges and limitations associated with their usage?
3. What are the challenges and limitations associated with the maintenance of assets created under ICDS and how can these challenges be addressed?

IV. METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study employed a mixed- methods approach, combining both quantitative and qualitative methods to collect and analyze data. The study used a descriptive research design to examine the impact, usage and maintenance of assets created under ICDS in South West Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya.

Study Area

The study was conducted in South West Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya. The district was selected as it is one of the most backward districts in Meghalaya, with a high percentage of population living below poverty line.

Sample size and sampling Technique

The study used a sample size of 100 Anganwadi centers and 500 beneficiaries. The sample was selected using a stratified random sampling technique. The Anganwadi centers were stratified based on their location and the number of beneficiaries they served.

Tools and techniques

In the present study Questionnaire was used as a tool in data collection. The Questionnaire is to find out the impact, usage and maintenance of assets created under ICDS. The Questionnaire was also prepared in such a way that focuses on the maintenance and management of assets under ICDS. The dimensions of the Questionnaire included education, immunization, nutrition counseling, awareness, drinking water facilities workers staff, toilet facilities, Anganwadi centers etc.

Procedure of the data collection

In the data collection for the study the investigator went into 100 Anganwadi center and 500 beneficiaries under ICDS. Then when everything is ready the questions were asked one by one and from door-to-door visit. When investigation was completed, the investigator thanked the host and hopped into the other centers and beneficiaries.

When data collection was completed, the scores thus obtained were subjected to tabulation and calculation was done by percentages. The same was followed by interpretation is subjected followed by tabulation and interpretation.

V. LITERATURE REVIEW

Several studies have examined the impact of ICDS on the health, nutrition and education of children and pregnant and lactating women. Kumar et al. (2013) found that ICDS had a positive impact on the nutritional status of children in rural areas. Sigh et al. (2015) found that ICDS had improved the educational outcomes of children in urban areas. Gupta et al. (2017) found that ICDS services were often inaccessible to marginalized communities, particularly in rural areas. Sharma et al. (2019) found that ICDS services were often of poor quality, particularly in terms of infrastructure and human resources.

In terms of asset creation under ICDS, several studies have examined the impact of Anganwadi centers on the health, nutrition and education of children and pregnant and lactating women. Chakraborty et al. (2016) found that Anganwadi centers had improved the nutritional status of children in rural areas. Das et al. (2018) found that Anganwadi centers had improved the educational outcomes of children in urban areas. Mukherjee et al. (2020) found that Anganwadi centers often lacked basic infrastructure and human resources, particularly in rural areas. Saha et al. (2020) found that Anganwadi centers often had poor maintenance and upkeep, particularly in terms of sanitation and hygiene.

VI. MAJOR FINDINGS

1. The assets created under ICDS, such as Anganwadi centers, toilets and drinking water facilities have positively impacted the health, nutrition and education of children and pregnant and lactating women.
2. The majority of beneficiaries (80%) reported an improvement in their health and nutrition status since the creation of these assets.
3. The Anganwadi centers have been effective in providing education and awareness on health and nutrition to children and pregnant and lactating women.
4. The assets created under ICDS are being used regularly by beneficiaries, with an average of 50% beneficiaries per day.
5. However, the maintenance of these assets is a major concern, with 60% of respondents reported that the assets were not properly maintained.
6. The lack of funding and insufficient staff is the major reasons cited for the poor maintenance of these assets.
7. The majority of respondents (90%) suggested that community involvement and participation in the maintenance of assets created under ICDS.
8. Around 80% of the beneficiaries reported that they face challenges such as lack of funding, insufficient staff and limited infrastructure.

VII. SUGGESTIONS

1. Respondents suggested that community involvement and participation in the maintenance of these assets would be beneficial
2. The provision of training and capacity-building programs for Anganwadi workers and other stakeholders was also suggested as a strategy for improving the impact and usage of assets created under ICDS.
3. To provide sufficient funding to create and maintain assets under ICDS.

4. To conduct regular inspections of assets to ensure they are properly maintained.
5. It is essential to increase staffing at Anganwadi centers to improve service provision.
6. To create community awareness about the services provided by Anganwadi centers.
7. Establish a feedback mechanism to ensure that beneficiaries concerns are addressed.
8. To conduct regular monitoring of Anganwadi centers to ensure they are functioning properly.
9. Develop an evaluation framework to assess the impact of ICDS o beneficiaries.
10. Improving data collection and management to ensure accurate and reliable data.
11. Establish a reporting mechanism to ensure that findings and recommendations are shared with stakeholders.
12. Encourage community engagement and participation in ICDS programs.
13. Supporting community-based initiatives that promote health, nutrition and education.
14. Partnership with NGOs and other stakeholders to support ICDS programs.

REFERENCES

1. Chakraborty, S., et al. (2016). Impact of Anganwadi centers on nutritional status of children in rural areas. *Journal of Nutrition and Health*, 10(2), 123-130.
2. Das, S., et al. (2018). Impact of Anganwadi centers on educational outcomes of children in urban areas. *Journal of Educational Research*, 21(1), 1-10.
3. Gupta, A., et al. (2-17). Access to ICDS services in rural areas: A study of marginalized communities. *Journal of Rural Development*, 36(1), 1-5.
4. Kumar, A., et al. (2023). Impact of ICDS on nutritional status of children in rural areas. *Journal of Nutrition and Health*, 7(1), 1-10.
5. Mukherjee, S., et al. (2020). Infrastructure and human resources in Anganwadi centers: A study of rural areas. *Journal of Rural Development*, 39(1).1-5.
6. Saha, S., et al. (2020). Maintenance and upkeep of Anganwadi centers: A study of rural areas. *Journal of Rural Development*.39 (2), 1-15.
7. Sharma, A., et al. (2015). Quality of ICDS services in urban areas: A study of slum communities. *Journal of Urban Health*, 96(3), 1=10.
8. Singh, A., et al. (2015). Impact of ICDS on educational outcomes of children in urban areas. *Journal of Educational Research*, 18(1), 1-10.



INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

IN SCIENCE | ENGINEERING | TECHNOLOGY

 9940 572 462  6381 907 438  ijirset@gmail.com



www.ijirset.com

Scan to save the contact details