



Awareness of Anganwadi Workers about the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

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Abstract : “Anganwadi”, a courtyard shelter, is an initiative of the Govt. of India to overcome the crucial condition of malnourishment, hunger and illiteracy. Despite spending millions on the services provided by the Anganwadi Centres, still the stipulated objective of ICDS could not be achieved. The present study investigates the awareness of Anganwadi Workers of the Integrated Child Development Services provided at the Anganwadi Centres by Anganwadi workers, and their profiles to develop an understanding of their age, qualification, experience etc. An Interview schedules have been prepared with both closed-ended and open ended questions to explore the requisite facts needed for the present study. The study is based on the 40 Anganwadi workers as a sample chosen from the two Blocks of Patna districts. The

study also gives an insight into the working of the Anganwadi Centres in combating the malnourishment through supplementary feeding and vaccination, both to the mother and the child at proper intervals, which not only protect from Polio, Chicken Pox and other deadly infections, but also provide proper supplementary nutrition. The knowledge assessment of Anganwadi workers reveals that they have adequate knowledge of vaccination, growth monitoring and supplementary nutrition of the malnourished child and pregnant women. The study also explores the problems of the Anganwadi workers at their work place.

Keywords: Integrated Child Development Services, Anganwadi worker, Awareness.

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Introduction :

India is home to a large population of malnourished and hunger-stricken people and of children, leading to high infant and maternal mortality. To combat this situation, the Government of India in 1975, initiated the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) scheme which operates to address the health issues of small children, all over the country. It is one of the largest child care programmes in the world aiming at child health, hunger, malnutrition and related issues. Under the ICDS scheme, one Anganwadi worker is allotted to a population of 1000 in urban and about 800 in rural and tribal areas to focus on the health and educational needs of the children aged 0-6 years.

The term Anganwadi, derived from the word “Angan”, which means courtyard (a central area in and