

A Cross Sectional Study on Challenges and Needs among Anganwadi Workers Under Rural Health Training Centre-Hiresavalagi, Kalaburagi

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Abstract

Introduction: Integrated child development scheme (ICDS) was introduced in 1975 with a main motive to prevent malnutrition among under 6 years children with Anganwadi workers (AWW) being its main functionaries. To maintain proper functioning of ICDS, the anganwadi workers faced various challenges at different stages. Hence this study was taken to look into different challenges and needs among anganwadi workers under rural health training centre-Hiresavalagi, Kalaburagi.

Objectives:

1. To find the socio-demographic profile of anganwadi workers working under rural health training centre
2. To determine the challenges and needs among anganwadi workers (AWW) working under rural health training centre

Methodology: A community based cross sectional study was conducted among all Anganwadi workers (AWW) working under rural health training centre Hiresavalagi, Kalaburagi for period of 3 months by using census sampling method. The data was collected based on face-to-face interview after obtaining verbal consent from participants. A predesigned and pretested questionnaire containing two sections: sociodemographic profile and questions related to challenges and needs. The data was entered into Microsoft Excel sheet and will be analysed using software SPSS version 16.0.

Results and Conclusion: Anganwadi workers were facing challenges like insufficient supply of drugs (100%), unavailability of transport facilities (80.9%) and major need of regular incentive (100%) whereas minor need of technical training (14.9%) respectively. According to standard guidelines of ICDS each anganwadi centre should satisfy basic requirements and also provide regular incentive & adequate technical training for Anganwadi workers.

Key words: Challenges & needs, AWW, ICDS

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Introduction

Integrated child development scheme (ICDS) was introduced in 1975 by central government with a main motive to prevent malnutrition among under 6 years children with Anganwadi workers (AWW) being its main functionaries¹. Anganwadi workers (AWWs) have the responsibility to provide different services which include nutrition and health education, non-formal pre-school education, supplementary nutrition, growth monitoring and promotion and family welfare services. They also coordinate in arranging immunization and health checkup camps². Their functions also include community survey and enlisting beneficiaries, primary health care, first aid and referral services to the severely malnourished, sick and at-risk children. To maintain proper functioning of ICDS, the Anganwadi workers face various challenges at different stages. Hence this study was taken to look into different challenges, needs and socio-demographic profile of anganwadi workers under rural health training centre-Hiresavalagi, Kalaburagi.

Objectives:

1. To determine the challenges and needs among anganwadi workers working under rural health training centre.
2. To find out socio-demographic profile of anganwadi workers working under rural health training centre.

Materials and Methods

Study setting: All (47) Anganwadi centres which comes under Rural health training centre, Hiresavalagi, Kalaburagi

Study population: All Anganwadi workers working under rural health training centre.

Study duration: 1-October to 31-December 2022 (3 Months)

Study design: A community based cross-sectional study

Sampling method: A census sampling method

Sample size:

All 47 Anganwadi workers (AWW) working under rural health training centre Hiresavalagi.

Data Collection Tool and Method:

Using a predesigned and pretested questionnaire which contains two sections: sociodemographic profile, questions related to challenges and needs for Anganwadi workers. After obtaining verbal consent from participants, the data was collected by face-to-face interview.

Inclusion Criteria:

1. All study participants willing to take part in the study.

Exclusion Criteria:

1. All study participants not willing to take part in the study.

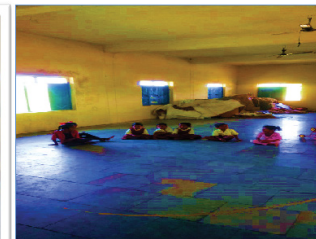
Statistical Analysis:

The data was entered into Microsoft Excel sheet and analysed using software SPSS version 16.0. Results were represented in the form of frequency and percentage by using tables and bar charts.

Ethical Consideration:

Ethical clearance was obtained from the respective Institutional Ethical Committee.

Field Work:



Results

Table 1: Sociodemographic profile:

Variables	Frequency (n=47, %)
Age	
30-40	13(27.6)
41-50	21(44.8)
51-60	13(27.6)
Gender	
Female	47(100)
Education	
SSLC	23(48.9)
PUC	13(27.7)
UG Degree	11(23.4)
Work experience in years	
5-15	24(51.1)
16-25	16(34)
26-35	7(14.9)
Total no. of working hours	
6	6 (12.8)
7	40(85.1)
8	1 (2.1)

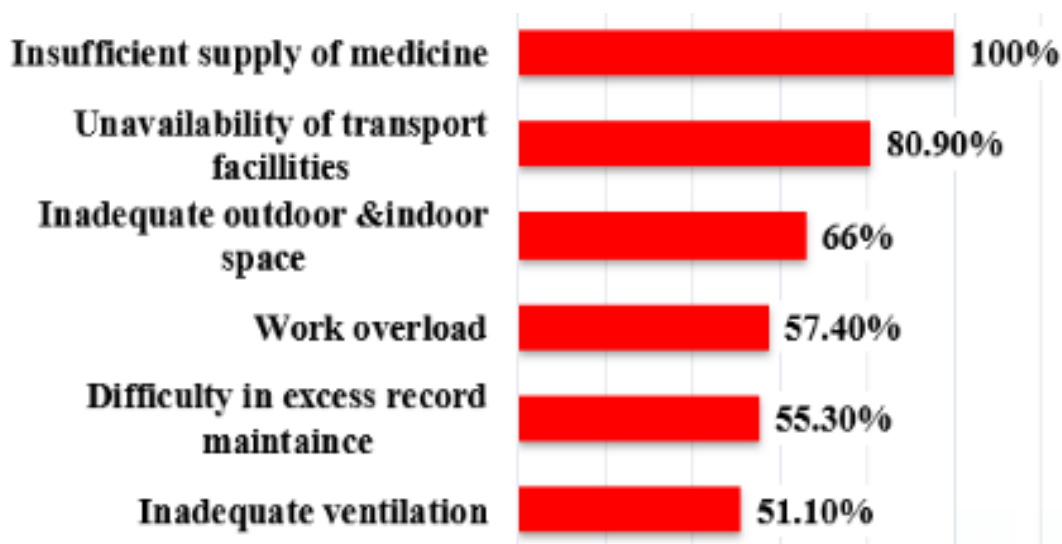


Figure 1: Challenges faced by AWW

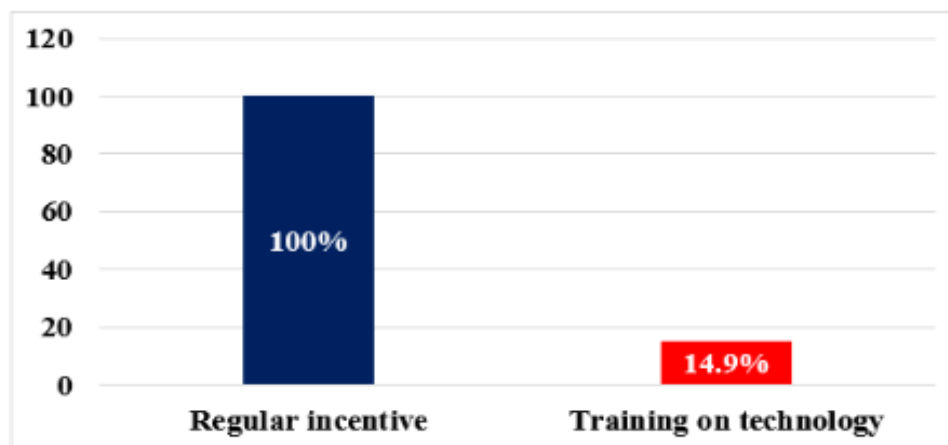


Figure 2: Needs for AWW

Results Interpretation

Out of all AWW most of were belongs to 41-50 age groups 21(44.8%), all were female gender 47(100%), completed education of SSLC 23(48.9%) and had work experience of 5-15 interval 24(51.1%). Most of Anganwadi centres works 7 hours per day which about 40(85.1%) respectively (Table-1).

AWW faced various challenges for functioning Anganwadi centre Insufficient supply of medicine (100%), unavailability of transport system facilities (80.90%), inadequate outdoor and indoor space(66%) major challenges whereas workload(57.40%), difficulty in excess record maintenance(55.30%), inadequate ventilation(51.10%) were minor challenges(Figure-1). These challenges due to various changes made in working conditions and rule, regulations brought during Covid-19 pandemic.

A Major need for AWW are regular incentive (100%) whereas training on technology (14.9%) minor need (Figure-2). Our study positively shows that 100% met in other needs like regular call for meeting, problems discussed and changes made, help & support from community also from superior officers, presence of safety and security at workplace.

Discussion

The ICDS was launched with the chief objective of breaking the vicious cycle of malnutrition, impaired development, morbidity, and mortality in young children. Anganwadi workers were the backbone of the ICDS, the success of the program depends on the extent to which they can deliver their services.

In our study found that majority of AWW belongs to 41-50 age groups, female gender, completed education of SSLC and they had work experience 5-15 years. Similar study was conducted by Tripathy M et.al at Mangalore, Karnataka state in 2010 their study also similar findings like majority of AWW belongs to 31-50 age groups, female gender, completed education of SSLC, PUC, Graduates and also majority were had work experience of more 10 years respectively⁴.

Our study had main focus on what are challenges (problems) faced by AWW and their needs to proper function of Anganwadi centres. Our study found that most challenges faced by AWW like insufficient supply of drugs, unavailability of transport facilities, inadequate outdoor& indoor space, work overload, difficulty in excess record maintenance same study was conducted by Shukla M et al at Kudur block, Virpapura Village, Karnataka state in 2018 their study also shows different findings like good infrastructure like adequate light and ventilation, adequate outdoor and indoor space, presence of playground around Anganwadi centre³.

Patil SB also conducted similar study at Aurangabad district, Maharashtra state in 2013 year they also found that similar findings, like majority were belongs to same age group, female gender, had education of SSLC and also most had work experience 5-10 years respectively. Most of the AWW faced by problems like in adequate honorarium, inadequate infrastructure (light and ventilation, outdoor and indoor space, absence of

playground around Anganwadi centre), insufficient logistic supply related, Work overload, Excessive record maintenance, Lack of help from community, Inadequate supervision But In our study we found that good help from community and senior officers, regular meetings most of problems were solved at same time also regular supervision made by senior officer of ICDS program respectively⁶.

Limitations:

Our study was conducted at smaller setting due to insufficient time and less manpower, hence author has recommended that same study should be conducted in a multicentre like state and nationwide so that findings can be more generalized to large population.

Conclusion

According to standard guidelines of ICDS each Anganwadi centre should satisfy basic requirements, and needs encouragement and support from higher officers, authority which creates healthy and peaceful working environment. To also provide regular incentive & adequate technical training for Anganwadi workers.

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Conflicts of interest: There were no conflicts of interest for this study.

Ethical Clearance: IEC, GIMS -Kalaburagi, Reference number -GIMS/KLB/PHARMA/IEC/220/2024-2025

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