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BUDGET BRIEFS

Integrated Child Development Services, GOI 2011-12

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme was launched in 1975 in 33 blocks of the country. The scheme was universalised in 2005 following a Supreme Court order.

Using government data, this brief reports on ICDS performance along the following parameters:

- Trends in budgetary allocations, and
- Trends in physical coverage and human resource capacity.

Cost Share: Until FY 2005-06, Government of India (GOI) provided 100% financial assistance for inputs other than supplementary nutrition which was funded entirely through state budgets. In FY 2009-10, GOI modified the ICDS funding pattern. Supplementary nutrition is now funded through a 50:50 ratio except for north-eastern states which have a 90:10 ratio. For all other components GOI contributes 90% of the finances (100% central assistance before FY 2009-10).

Complete data on state share for ICDS is not publicly available through GOI sources.

Highlights

1	GOI allocation for Women and Child Development in FY 2011-12 (in crores)	₹12,733
2	Allocations for ICDS FY 2011-12 (in crores)	₹9,294

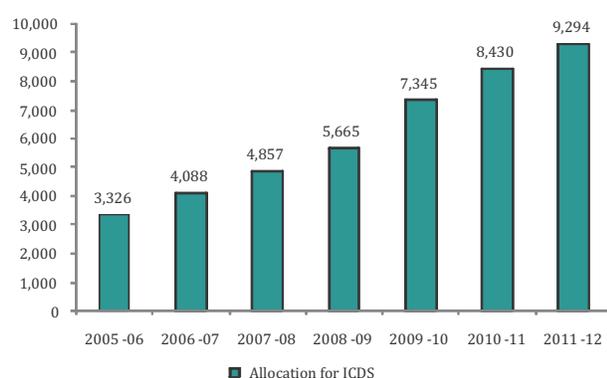
Summary and Analysis

- Since the ICDS was universalised in 2005, GOI budgetary allocations have increased from ₹3,326 crores in FY 2005-06 to ₹9,294 crores in FY 2011-12.
- According to ICDS data, 84% of the required Anganwadi centres (AWCs) and mini AWCs were operational across India by March 2010 but only 78% of sanctioned Anganwadi workers (AWWs) were in-position.
- According to District Level Household and Facility Survey data collected in 2007-08, 92% of villages in India had AWWs.
- There are significant inter-state variations. Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh have 45% and 53% AWWs in position. Jharkhand meets its AWCs requirement and has staffed over 90% of them.
- There are wide variations in the number of children enrolled per AWW across states. Himachal Pradesh has 9 children per AWW while Uttar Pradesh has 65 children per AWW.
- Administrative staff for ICDS are in short supply. In December 2009, across India, only 57% of sanctioned ICDS supervisor posts had been filled. Further, only 64% of ICDS projects had Child Development Project Officers - the key implementers at the block level.
- Despite 35 years of ICDS and 6 years of universal ICDS, child malnutrition is extremely high. According to ICDS reporting, child malnutrition stands at an all India average of 46%.

Trends in Central Government Allocations and Expenditures

- The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme was launched in 1975, targeted at children from below poverty line households. In 2005, following a Supreme Court order, the programme was extended to the entire country. Since then, allocations have seen a significant increase from ₹3,326 crores in FY 2005-06 to ₹9,294 crores in FY 2011-12.
- ICDS is the largest programme run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development accounting for 73 percent of its allocated budget.

₹9,294 crore allocated to ICDS in FY 2011-12



Source: Calculated from Expenditure Budget- FY 2005-06 to FY 2011-12 incorporating notes on demand for grants, Ministry of Women and Child Development. Note: All figures are in crores of rupees and do not include the north-east component. Estimates pertain to revised estimates except for FY 2011-12.

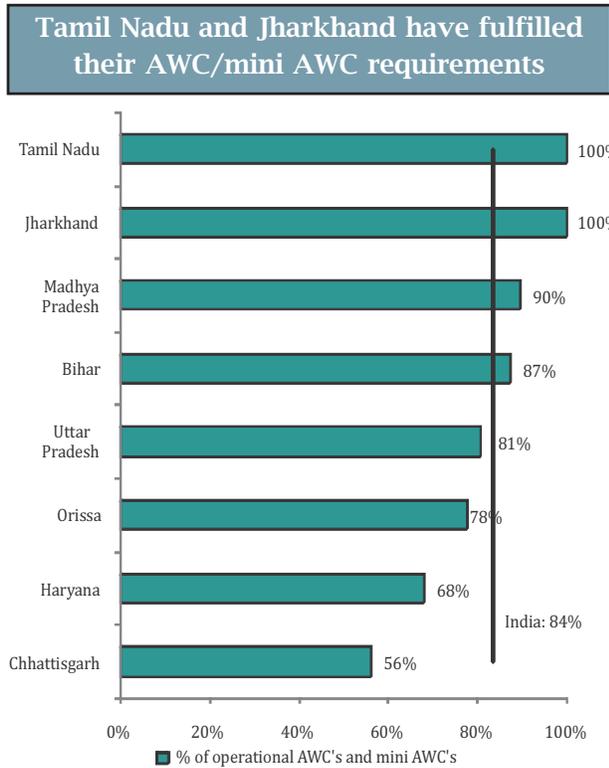
- ICDS is designed to provide basic education and health services to children below 6 years of age as well as pregnant and lactating mothers. These objectives are sought to be achieved through a package of services comprising: a) provision of pre-school non-formal

education, b) nutrition and health education, and c) supplementary nutrition. Other services like immunisation, health check-ups and referral services come under the purview of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

- Pre-school education, nutrition and health education are provided through the ICDS (general), while Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) is a separate component of ICDS.
- The funding pattern for both components is different. GOI provides 90 percent funds for ICDS (general) and 50 percent for SNP. However, for north-eastern states, GOI provides 90 percent funds even for SNP.
- Data on individual state contributions to ICDS and SNP is not publicly available through GOI sources and hence could not be analysed in this report.

Coverage

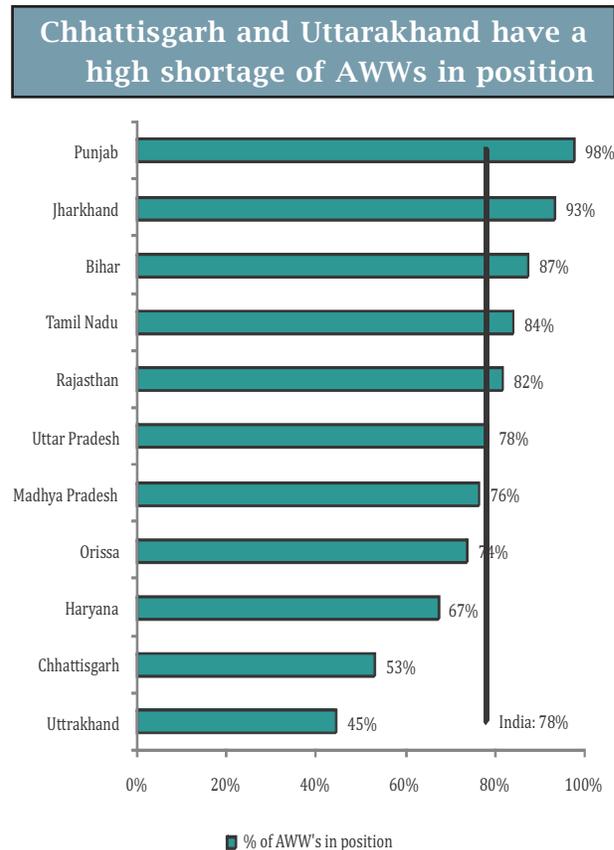
- **Anganwadi Centre:** The Anganwadi Centre (AWC) is the main unit of service delivery under the ICDS scheme. According to the norms, there should be 1 AWC for every 800 people, with a minimum requirement of 400.
- Since FY 2005-06, there has been a 53 percent increase in the number of AWCs/mini AWCs operating in India. As of March 2010, there were 11.42 lakh AWCs/mini AWCs operational in India, which is 84 percent of the sanctioned number.
- However, there are wide inter-state variations in the number of operational AWCs/mini AWCs vis-à-vis project targets or sanctioned AWCs, suggesting delays in construction of centres in some states.



Source: RTI filed by Accountability Initiative. Scanned copy available at: www.accountabilityindia.in Note: Figures are as on 31st March 2010.

- Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand report completing their AWC/mini AWC requirement as of March 2010. Chhattisgarh and Haryana are at the lower end of the spectrum with 56 and 68 percent respectively.
- **Anganwadi Workers:** The ICDS team comprises of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs), Supervisors, Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) and District Programme Officers (DPOs).
- AWWs are women volunteers selected from the local community. Their roles and responsibilities include organising supplementary nutrition feeding for children and nursing mothers, non-formal pre-school activities and mobilising community participation in issues related to education and nutrition of women and children.

- As of March 2010, 78 percent of AWWs were in position. Here too, there are many inter-state differences. Jharkhand, which has built the required AWCs also has 93 percent AWWs in-position. Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh lagged behind with only 45 percent and 53 percent AWWs respectively.

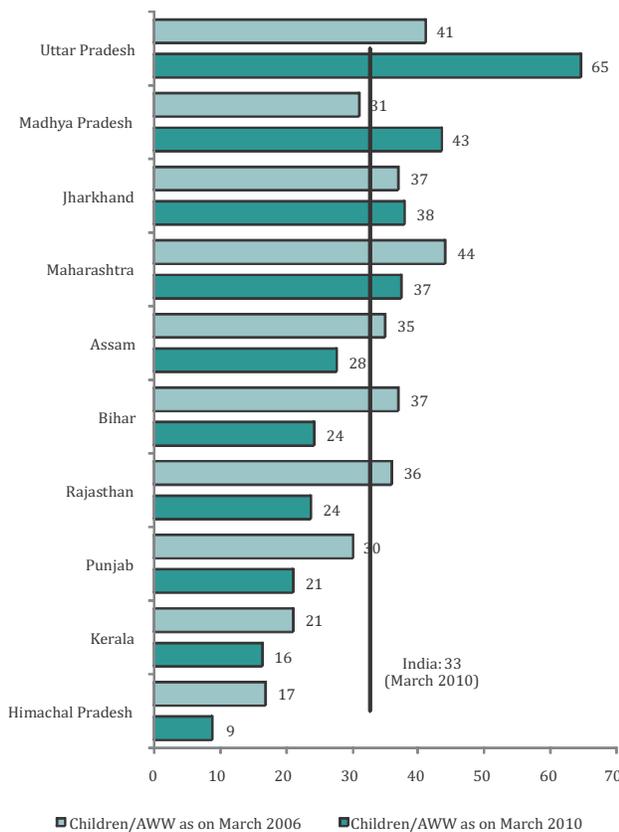


Source: RTI filed by Accountability Initiative. Scanned copy available at: www.accountabilityindia.in Note: Figures are as on 31st March 2010.

- Interestingly, the third round of the District Level Health Survey (DLHS 3) paints a positive picture in terms of villages with AWW presence. At the all India level, 92 percent of villages in India had AWWs. Moreover, DLHS 3 reports that 84, 95 and 98 percent villages in Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Haryana had AWWs.
- One indicator on which requirement of AWWs across states can be gauged is the number of children per AWW.

- Based on available data, the all India average is 33 children per AWW. This is calculated on the basis of enrolled children. In practice, AWW's handle fewer children as attendance is generally low. However, in most cases AWWs are loaded with non ICDS duties which tend to have adverse impacts on desired outcomes.

There are 65 children per AWW in Uttar Pradesh



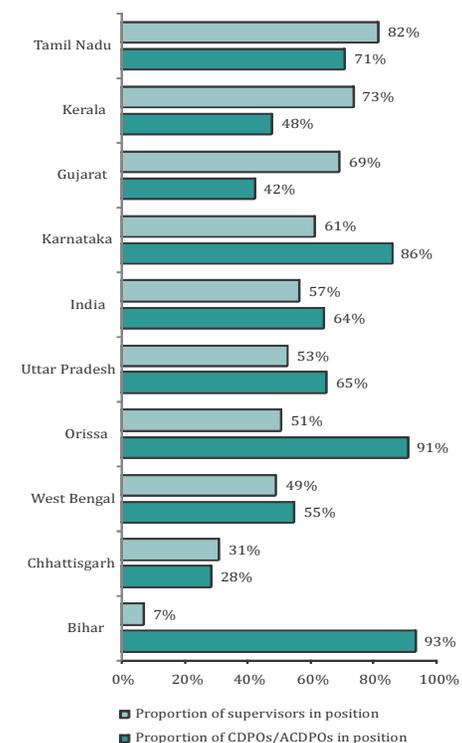
Source: Calculated from RTI filed by Accountability Initiative. Scanned copy available at: www.accountabilityindia.in Note: Figures are as on 31st March 2010.

- States such as Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Punjab perform well, with low ratios of children per AWW since 2006. As of March 2010, these states had 9, 16 and 21 children per AWW respectively. These states also have 96, 97 and 100 percent of the required AWCs/mini AWCs in place respectively.
- Uttar Pradesh which meets 81 percent of its AWC requirements has a very high

density of children per AWW at 65, up from 41 at the end of FY 2005-06. Madhya Pradesh which met 90 percent of its AWC requirement comes second at 43 children per AWW (up from 31).

- Administrative Staff :** Administrative staff are also in short supply. At the block level, the CDPO is in-charge of running the ICDS Project. In addition, there are supervisors to monitor AWC functioning. By design, there ought to be 1 supervisor in place for every 25 AWCs.
- However, most states fall short of the required number of supervisors and CDPOs.
- As of December 2009, Bihar had only 7 percent supervisors in position. This compares unfavourably with Tamil Nadu and Karnataka which had 82 and 86 percent respectively.

Bihar had 93% of CDPOs in position but only 7% supervisors



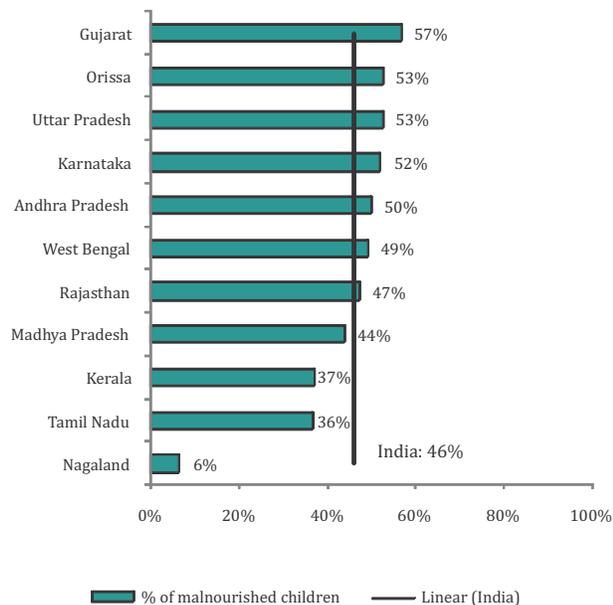
Source: Number of posts of CDPOs/ACDPOs, Supervisors, AWWs and Helpers sanctioned and in-position as on 31.12.2009. Available at: <http://wcd.nic.in/icdsimg/sanpospost311209.pdf>

- However in terms of CDPOs and ACDPOs Bihar did better, topping the list with over **90** percent of CDPOs and ACDPOs in position. Chhattisgarh on the other hand, was at the lower rung of both supervisors and CDPOs with **31** percent and **28** percent respectively.

Performance

- Despite 35 years of ICDS, malnourishment rates in India are extremely high. According to ICDS reported data, as of December 2009, on average **46** percent of children under the ICDS programme suffered from various degrees of malnutrition ranging from mild to severe. This is comparable with data from NFHS III, which reported that **45** percent of children below the age of 3 were stunted, while **40** percent were underweight.

46% of India's children are malnourished



Source: State wise details of Classification of Nutritional Status of children under ICDS scheme as on 31st December 2009. Available online at: <http://wcd.nic.in/icdsimg/nutstatus311209.pdf> Note: this includes different grades of malnutrition from moderate to severe.

- While Nagaland and Tamil Nadu report **6** and **36** percent of children under the ICDS programme as malnourished by various degrees, in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Gujarat over **50** percent of the children were classified as malnourished.
- ICDS results are based on the Gomez Classification using weight-for-age as an indicator of malnourishment. A comparison of the prevalence of malnutrition among children under the ICDS programme with NFHS III figures for underweight children reveals some startling results.
- For instance, Uttarakhand reports **96** percent of its child population under ICDS as malnourished. However, according to NFHS III, **32** percent of children under the age of 3 were underweight and **40** percent were stunted in the state. Similarly the proportion of underweight children in Nagaland and Tamil Nadu was **24** and **26** percent respectively.
- On the other hand, while ICDS reports that **57** and **53** percent of children in Gujarat and Orissa were malnourished, NFHS III places the figures of underweight children at **41** and **40** percent respectively.

This section offers some practical leads to accessing detailed information on the union government's nutrition budget. However, reader patience and persistence is advised as a lot of this information tends to be dense and hidden amongst reams of data.

Data Sources	Useful Tips
Union Budget, Expenditure Vol. 2 www.indiabudget.nic.in	This volume provides total ministry-wise and department-wise allocations as well as disaggregated data according to sectors and schemes from 1998-99. The data has both revised and budget estimates and should be calculated according to the Major-Head and Sub Major-Head. For Integrated Child Development Services, the head is 2235.
Ministry of Women and Child Development, Integrated Child Development Services http://wcd.nic.in/icdsdatatables.htm <i>Accessed on 21st February 2011.</i>	Has physical, human and financial data from 2005-06 till 2009-10. However, data has not been updated for all the components. For financial information, data does not include state share for allocation and release.
State wise details of Classification of Nutritional Status of children under ICDS scheme http://wcd.nic.in/icdsimg/nutstatus311209.pdf <i>Accessed on 27st January 2011.</i>	Data is available up to December 2009.
National Family Health Survey III (2005-06) http://www.nfhsindia.org/factsheet.html <i>Accessed on 31st January 2011.</i>	Data is available on different health and nutrition indicators.
Ministry of Women and Child Development, Integrated Child Development Services, Number of posts of CDPOs/ACDPOs, Supervisors, AWWs and Helpers sanctioned and in-position. http://wcd.nic.in/icdsimg/sanpospost311209.pdf <i>Accessed on 5th February 2011.</i>	Data on human resources sanctioned and in-position under ICDS scheme. Data is available up to 31.12.2009.
RTI filed by Accountability Initiative. Available at: www.accountabilityindia.in	Has data on Anganwadi workers, Anganwadi centres, number of beneficiaries under supplementary nutrition and children receiving pre-school education, state-wise position of funds released by GOI and expenditure incurred (including state share) under ICDS general and supplementary nutrition from 2005-06 till 2009-10.

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