

ICDS and State or UT Department of Social Welfare

Dr. P. Pravitha
Assistant Professor
Department of History
Sree Ayyappa College for Women
Chunkankadai - 639003

Abstract

The scheme of Integrated Child Development Services is based on the strategy of an intersectoral approach to the development of women and children. It is a centrally sponsored programme started in 1975. The State or UT Department of Social Welfare or the concerned department, which may have been designated by the State Government or UT Administration as a nodal Department for the implementation of the ICDS Scheme, will be directly responsible for the implementation of the scheme in a State and will take all such steps that are necessary to install the project and make the scheme successful.

Key notes:

ICDS- Integrated Child Development service - Anganwadi- School of small children below the age 5years - Anganwadi worker- Teaching staff - Mahila mandal- local voluntary organization

Introduction:

The scheme of Integrated Child Development Services is based on the strategy of an intersectoral approach to the development of women and children. It is a centrally sponsored programme started in 1975. In a welfare oriented society the role of social welfare policies are pertinent. Social welfare policy can be defined as the strategy of action indicating the means and methods adopted to implement the social welfare services. In India, coordination of the efforts of different Ministries and Departments at all levels of inter-related services crucial to the growth and development of young children and women. At the State level, the Ministry of Social Welfare, as a nodal Ministry is responsible for budgetary control and direction of the implementation of the scheme. At the district level, the district officer will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of the scheme.

The State or UT Department of Social Welfare or the concerned department, which may have been designated by the State Government or UT Administration as a nodal Department for the implementation of the ICDS Scheme, will be directly responsible for the

implementation of the scheme in a State and will take all such steps that are necessary to install the project and make the scheme successful.

Depending on the number of projects allotted to the State, the Department of Social Welfare or the implementing Department will identify and select block or slums or wards as per the selection criteria laid down by the Government of India and will forward the list of project areas to the Ministry of Social Welfare in order to facilitate the final selection of project areas. It will also communicate to the Ministry of Social Welfare the names, designations, address and telephones of officers who will be incharge of the ICDS scheme at the secretariat level and the departmental level in the State and officers concerned at the district level.

As the demographic and geographical features of different ICDS project areas and organizational and administrative set-ups of different States are likely to vary, the State Department will adapt the general model of ICDS scheme, as laid down in the central guidelines, to local situations and circumstances. The Department will undertake a detailed exercise in respect of each project area for the purpose of determining the number of beneficiaries, number of Anganwadis, Anganwadi Workers and other project personnel. If any project, the State wants any major deviation from the general schematic pattern, the State Department will send an appropriate proposal with justification to the Ministry of Social Welfare for consideration.

As ICDS is centrally sponsored scheme, all expenditure related to the scheme except the nutrition component is under MNP and will be reimbursed by the Government of India. The State Government will, therefore, make arrangements to complete the budgetary formalities for providing funds at the State level and releasing these funds to the concerned officials so that no delay is experienced in the implementation of ICDS on account of difficulties in the financial sanctions.

The State will make adequate budgetary provisions for meeting the cost of nutrition component in the ICDS scheme from the provision of SNP under the MNP in the State plan. It will also ensure regular flow of adequate food supplies to the project areas and timely release of funds to the field officers. The Department will also make suitable budgetary provision for drinking water supply under the MNP and will ensure expeditious completion for arrangements for clean drinking water supply in all the villages in the ICDS project areas.

The State will be responsible for sanction, appointment and training of all project personnel viz, CDPO, Supervisors, Anganwadi workers, Helpers, doctors, LHVs, ANMs and clerical staff.

The Department will also help in identifying and selecting appropriate training institutions for the training of Anganwadi workers and communicate the name of these institutions to the Ministry of Social Welfare. The Department will also take steps to fully strengthen and equip the training institutions in respect of staff, buildings, equipments, etc. Regular flow of adequate supplies, especially of critical items like food, medicine, vaccines, health and nutrition cards, etc. will be ensured by the Department in the project areas. For this purpose, the Department will maintain effective liaison with UNICEF and other agencies responsible for supplies of ICDS material and equipment. With regard to the supplies from Ministry of Social Welfare and UNICEF, the State will communicate the names and address of the consigners to the UNICEF and Ministry of Social Welfare. It will also keep the Ministry of Social Welfare informed about the latest supply position.

The Department will ensure that the selection of ICDS project areas is coordinated with the programme of the State Departments of Health , Rural Development, Education, Public Health etc. so that additional inputs in terms of personnel, services and facilities are available to ICDS programmes. It will distribute the copies of all relevant material, common instructions received from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of India to all the departments, officers and institutions concerned with the implementation of ICDS, and other allied schemes.

The Department will seek active involvement of local voluntary organizations like Mahila Mandals, Yuvak Mandals, Local bodies, Panchayati Raj Institutions, etc. will also be sought by the Department in the implementation of ICDS Scheme as per approved pattern laid down by the Ministry of Social Welfare. Efforts will be made to organize at least one Mahila Mandal in each village. The Department will also make efforts to establish effective linkage between Anganwadis and Mahila Mandals and Anganwadis and primary schools in the project area.

The Department will ensure proper identification and enlistment of pre-school children, pregnant women and nursing mothers for supplementary nutrition as per given criteria and commencement of Supplementary Nutrition Programme in all Anganwadis.

Greater emphasis would be laid on the delivery of health and nutrition service to the children below 3 years and nutritionally 'at risk' individuals in ICDS project area.

The Department will update monthly progress reports from the CDPOs of ICDS project; review these at State and will take appropriate remedial measures to expedite the installation or proper implementation of ICDS scheme. The Department will ensure a copy of review and measures taken at the State level to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of India. The Department will be responsible for setting up co ordination committees at the State, District, Block and Village levels for each ICDS project as these will be absolutely necessary for the effective implementation of the ICDS scheme. It will issue notifications concerning the constitution of various committees. The Department will also communicate to the Ministry of Social Welfare the information regarding constitution, composition, periodicity of meeting etc. of these committees. The Department will also set up a core working group of 3-4 officials of the State level who are intimately connected with the health, nutrition, pre-school education components of the ICDS scheme. This working group will meet more frequently to settle issues relating to co ordination at various levels.

In order to strengthen the co ordination process and facilitate expeditious settlement of outstanding in the Departmental issues, the State will ensure the co ordination committees at various levels to meet regularly and review the performance and progress of ICDS scheme. The Department will evolve appropriate mechanism for establishing effective co ordination and co operation among medical officers, BDOs and CDPOs at the project level, LHV and supervisors at the intermediate levels and ANMs and Anganwadi workers at the village for local level. The State Department will also extend all necessary help and co operation monitoring and evaluation of ICDS programmes, as and when required by Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of India, PEO of the Planning Commission and other Departments or agencies. The State Department will also undertake steps to constantly monitor and periodically evaluate the performance and progress of ICDS programmes and its own level. The Department may seek the help and guidance of Medical Colleges, Schools of Social Work and other expert bodies or institutions in this regard. The Department will organize workshops of Media experts for development of suitable material in local languages for pre-school education, and health and nutrition with necessary financial assistance from the Ministry of Social Welfare. The Department also will undertake the printing of material so

developed in local languages and will arrange for a proper distribution among all the Anganwadis.

Reference:

1. *ICDS IV project (IDA Assisted)- 2008-09 to 2012-13, a Hand Book*, Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi, 2007, p.4.
2. *Audit Report (Civil) for the Year Ended 31 March, 2007*, Department of Social Welfare, Government of Kerala, 2007, p.44.
3. Pasupulate Usha Rani, A. Laxmi Devi, *Integrated Child Development Services- A study of Job Performance of Supervisors*, Discovery Publishing House, New Delhi, 2004, p.5.
4. *Evaluation Report of State ICDS- 1998*, Department of Social Welfare, Thiruvananthapuram, 1998, p.12.
5. K. Sreenivasan, P.C. Saxeena, Tarakanitkar, *The Child in India- An Overview*, International Institute for Population Studies, Bombay, 1979, p.362.
6. S. L. Goel, *Population Policy and Family Welfare: Reproductive and Child Health Administration*, Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi, 2005, p.79.
7. *ICDS Broucher 2003*, Published by the Department of Social Welfare, Thiruvananthapuram, p.24.