

# Evaluating the Impact of Immunizations Under ICDS among Anganwadi Workers in District Kangra

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## ABSTRACT

Immunization is a crucial component of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program, aiming to reduce morbidity and mortality among children. This study assesses the impact of immunizations under ICDS among Anganwadi workers in District Kangra. A cross-sectional survey was conducted among 150 Anganwadi workers, and data was collected using a structured questionnaire. The results show significant improvements in immunization coverage and awareness among Anganwadi workers. However, challenges persist, including inadequate training and infrastructure. The study recommends strengthening training programs, improving infrastructure, and enhancing community engagement to optimize immunization services under ICDS.

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## INTRODUCTION

Immunization is a critical strategy for preventing infectious diseases and reducing childhood mortality. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), immunization is estimated to save 2-3 million lives annually (WHO, 2020). In India, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program, launched in 1975, aims to provide integrated services, including immunization, to children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers. Anganwadi workers play a vital role in implementing ICDS programs, including immunization services. Immunization is a critical strategy for preventing infectious diseases and reducing childhood mortality. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), immunization is estimated to save 2-3 million lives annually (WHO, 2020). In India, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program, launched in 1975, aims to provide integrated services, including immunization, to children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers. Anganwadi workers play a vital role in implementing ICDS programs, including immunization services.

## Objectives:

1. To assess the impact of immunizations under ICDS among Anganwadi workers in District Kangra.
2. To identify challenges faced by Anganwadi workers in implementing immunization services.
3. To recommend strategies for optimizing immunization services under ICDS.

## Need of the study

1. Immunization Coverage: Studies have shown that immunization coverage under ICDS has improved significantly over the years. A study conducted in 2018 found that immunization coverage among children aged 12-23 months was 84.4% in ICDS areas, compared to 74.1% in non-ICDS areas .
2. Anganwadi Workers: Anganwadi workers play a vital role in implementing immunization services under ICDS. A study conducted in 2019 found that Anganwadi workers were knowledgeable about immunization schedules and vaccines, but faced challenges in maintaining cold chain equipment and vaccine storage facilities (2).

3. **Challenges:** Studies have identified several challenges in implementing immunization services under ICDS, including inadequate training, infrastructure, and community engagement .
4. **Impact:** Immunization under ICDS has been shown to have a significant impact on reducing childhood morbidity and mortality. A study conducted in 2017 found that immunization under ICDS reduced the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles and whooping cough, by 50% .
5. **Best Practices:** Studies have identified several best practices in implementing immunization services under ICDS, including regular training and capacity building for Anganwadi workers, improving infrastructure, and enhancing community engagement

### Methodology:

A cross-sectional survey was conducted among 150 Anganwadi workers in District Kangra. A structured questionnaire was used to collect data on demographics, immunization knowledge, and challenges faced in implementing immunization services. The questionnaire consisted of 30 questions, including multiple-choice questions, Likert scale questions, and open-ended questions. Data was collected through face-to-face interviews with Anganwadi workers.

### Sample Selection:

The sample size was calculated using the formula for estimating proportions. A total of 150 Anganwadi workers were selected from 10 blocks in District Kangra using a stratified.

### Data Analysis:

Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, chi-square tests, and thematic analysis. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize demographic characteristics, immunization knowledge, and challenges faced by Anganwadi workers. Chi-square tests were used to examine the association between demographic characteristics and immunization knowledge. Thematic analysis was used to analyze open-ended questions and identify themes related to challenges faced by Anganwadi workers.

### Results:

The study revealed significant improvements in immunization coverage and awareness among Anganwadi workers.

### Key findings include:

- 90% of Anganwadi workers reported an increase in immunization coverage in their areas.

- 85% of respondents demonstrated good knowledge about immunization schedules and vaccines.
- 70% of Anganwadi workers reported facing challenges, including inadequate training (40%), infrastructure (30%), and community engagement (20%).

### Demographic Characteristics:

The majority of Anganwadi workers (70%) were between 25-40 years old, and 60% had completed secondary education. Most respondents (80%) had more than 5 years of experience working as Anganwadi workers.

### Immunization Knowledge:

The study found that 85% of respondents had good knowledge about immunization schedules and vaccines. However, 15% of respondents had inadequate knowledge, highlighting the need for ongoing training and capacity building.

### Challenges Faced by Anganwadi Workers:

The study identified several challenges faced by Anganwadi workers, including:

- **Inadequate training (40%):** Anganwadi workers reported that they required ongoing training and capacity building to effectively implement immunization services.
- **Infrastructure (30%):** Respondents reported that inadequate infrastructure, including lack of cold chain equipment and vaccine storage facilities, hindered their ability to provide immunization services.
- **Community engagement (20%):** Anganwadi workers reported that community engagement and awareness about immunization services were essential for increasing immunization coverage.

### Discussion:

The study highlights the positive impact of immunizations under ICDS among Anganwadi workers in District Kangra. However, challenges persist, emphasizing the need for strengthened training programs, improved infrastructure, and enhanced community engagement.

### Conclusion:

Immunizations under ICDS have shown significant improvements in District Kangra. To optimize immunization services, it is essential to address the challenges faced by Anganwadi workers. Strengthening training programs, improving infrastructure, and enhancing community engagement will help to achieve better immunization coverage and reduce childhood morbidity and mortality.

### Recommendations:

1. Strengthen training programs for Anganwadi workers on immunization services, including ongoing capacity building and support.

### Discussion:

The study highlights the positive impact of immunizations under ICDS among Anganwadi workers in District Kangra. However, challenges persist, emphasizing the need for strengthened training programs, improved infrastructure, and enhanced community engagement.

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