

CHAPTER: 13

ASSESSMENT OF QUALITY OF DATA COLLECTED UNDER ICDS AT ANGANWADI CENTERS

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INTRODUCTION

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme currently stands as the world's largest program with the goal of enhancing the health, nutrition, and learning opportunities for infants, young children (0-6 years), and their mothers. To achieve the objectives of ICDS and ensure accurate, timely, and regular information systems, there is a strong emphasis on data capture at each level, from facilities to blocks and districts, further collated at the state and national levels [1].

In pursuit of this, a continuous flow of high-quality information on inputs, outputs, and outcome indicators is crucial, along with a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system. Such a system is essential for tracking program performance and designing new interventions. At the core of the M&E system is the Management Information System (MIS), which focuses on enhancing the collection and utilization of data related to core programs [2].

Therefore, MIS has been introduced as a tool to effectively manage the program using data, defined as a tool that aids in gathering, aggregating, analyzing, and then utilizing the information generated to take actions for improving the performance of health systems [3].

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To evaluate the various registers at Anganwadi Centers for the completeness, timeliness, and consistency of data.
2. To identify the reasons behind the incompleteness, inconsistency, and untimeliness of data reported by AWCs.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A cross-sectional descriptive approach, examined five blocks—Navsari, Gandevi1, Jalalpure 1, Chikhli 1, and Vansda 1—in Navsari district. The sample size consisted of 20 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) selected from each block, totalling 100 AWCs. The study respondents included Anganwadi Workers, Supervisors, Child Development Program Officers (CDPO/ACDPO), and District Program Officers

(DPO). Key variables assessed encompassed the completeness of data, timeliness of report submission, consistency in data filling, and the maintenance of various registers at the AWC. A semi-structured questionnaire, employing face-to-face interviews with the respondents to gather insights into the functioning and efficiency of the Anganwadi Centres in the specified blocks of Navsari district.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Twenty AWCs were selected through random sampling in each of 5 blocks and a total of 100 Anganwadi centers have been visited over a period of 3 months. The registers were individually examined to ensure completeness and consistency. Face-to-face interviews were conducted with Anganwadi workers and supervisors, utilizing a semi-structured questionnaire. Due to the incomplete implementation of the revised MIS, the old registers were still in use, and the quantity of registers varied from one center to another. On average, each worker was found to maintain approximately 22 registers. Most of the registers are being repeated which produces duplicate data and also consumed more time. In addition to these AWW were seen to be maintaining additional notebooks for recording data. They were more concerned about just filling in the registers timely ignoring the importance of the correct data and at the same time their main job of taking care of the children in the AWC. Four registers (Immunization, Growth card, Maternal Registers, Survey Register) were found to be maintained in all the AWCs under survey while Medicine Distribution register was only found in only 20 AWCs. Referral registers, village health registers and daily diaries were also not found in all AWCs.

Out of 100 AWCs visited it was found that only 92.6% of registers were completely filled, 3.8% partially complete and the remaining being incomplete due to the large number of registers to be filled daily as they consume more time and also unawareness of worker in some AWCs. The data is being submitted to the higher level timely. The reason being continuous reminders by the supervisors.

CONCLUSION

Based on the survey conducted across 100 Anganwadi Centers in five blocks - Navsari, Jalapore 1, Gandevi 1, Vansda 1, Chikhli 2 of Navsari district, it was observed that although some crucial registers were maintained adequately at the Anganwadi Centers, a closer examination revealed flaws in data inputs, inconsistencies in the registers, and a lack of commitment on the part of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) to input accurate standard data. This may be attributed to a lack of capacity or a general lack of enthusiasm. All these aspects point to the lower priority given to nutritional statistics in these Anganwadi Centers, thereby limiting the effectiveness of the Management Information System (MIS) originally implemented under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). The absence of registers implied either a shortage of resources on the government's part or neglect on the part of workers requiring attention. To enhance the situation and enhance the efficiency of the Management Information System (MIS), robust management and supervision were imperative at the Anganwadi Centers for both data management and workforce. There was a necessity to shift from merely reporting undernutrition to proactively preventing undernutrition by utilizing the MIS System effectively.

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