

DAY CARE CENTRES IN CONSTRUCTION SITES

The children of migrant construction workers always tend to become most disadvantaged as they miss out of the basic services relating to health, nutrition and early child hood education, otherwise available in their native villages. In order to address this ever growing problem Bhavishya Alliance instigated ICDS to cater to this segment. As a result Commissioner of ICDS took a bold decision to approve flexible temporary Anganwadi Centres across Mumbai. To make the first move to bring out the nitty-gritties of running such centres Bhavishya Alliance piloted three models with an experienced partner Mumbai Mobile Crèches who have been involved in running crèches fo children in construction sites.

The Day Care - cum - Anganwadi centres have been operationalized in the construction sites of Mumbai to address the under-nutrition among those children of construction site workers. Mumbai Based NGOs – Mumbai Mobile Crèches (MMC) & Nirman, Government (ICDS) and BG Shirke Builders and ICDS jointly initiated this program.



ICDS started these new temporary Anganwadi Centres at Construction Sites by providing all the services like any other normal Anganwadi Centre as per their norms; and approved the pilot Anganwadi Centres to operate beyond normal hours to serve as day-care centre. MMC is providing necessary expertise and training to staff for managing Day Care Centres, and carry out day-to-day monitoring of the activities of the DCC. Builder is providing space, electricity, drinking water and toilet facility along with some monetary contribution. Nirman is organising the community to utilise the services and manage day-to-day operations.

By making available the Anganwadi services and providing quality day care to the children at construction sites is showing a great impact on their health and nutrition. Construction sites being irregular, non-recognized settlements, children do not benefit from the ICDS, nor do the pregnant and lactating women get any care. *The initiative is thus helping strengthening the ICDS system of the Government* by increasing their reach to the non-recognized sites for the first time. Soon the learning and results shall be replicated across many more sites.

Key Achievements:

- ICDS services reached the non recognized migrant construction workers for the first time.
- 3 Anganwadi Centres functioned as Day care Centres beyond normal Anganwadi hours of working.
- SHGs formed by the mothers of the children in the AWDCs to ensure their involvement in providing nutrition supplementation to the children for them to sustain and learning for the future sustenance of their children.

- 1,459 children were supported by these centres during the span of 1 year of which 1,006 children were below 6 years of age. Most stayed for 3 months before their parents were transferred to another site.
- At any given point of time on an average 162 children under the age of 6 were benefited from the AWDCC daily.
- 530 children were immunized with BCG, DPT, Booster 1, Booster 2, Measles, MMR and TT during a span of one year during health camps conducted by the Primary Health Centre (PHC) or Private Practitioners in these three centres
- In Two of three sites, Ganesh Nagar And Pratiksha Nagar, **88.5% of children were** mildly / moderately malnourished in Grade I & II, **9.5%** were in Grade III and **2%** were in Grade IV in the beginning . Whereas by the completion period **32%** children became Normal and only **2.5%** remained in Grade III, and **1 %** remained in grade IV.
- Thus during this intervention period in both the DCCs the percentage of severely malnourished children was brought down from 11.5% to 3.5 %

