

# Integrated Child Development Services

September 21, 2020

Launched on **2nd October, 1975**, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is one of the flagship programmes of the Government of India (The Ministry of Women and Child Development) and represents **one of the world's largest and unique programmes for early childhood care and development.**

## Features of ICDS Program

- The beneficiaries under the Scheme are **children in the age group of 0-6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers.**
- Objectives of the Scheme are:
  - . to improve the nutritional and health status of children in the age-group 0-6 years;
  - . to lay the foundation for proper psychological, physical and social development of the child;
  - . to reduce the incidence of mortality, morbidity, malnutrition and school dropout;
  - . to achieve effective coordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development;
  - . to enhance the capability of the mother to look after the normal health and nutritional needs of the child through proper nutrition and health education.

## Components of the ICDS Program

- **Supplementary nutrition**

Target group is children below 6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers.

- **Pre-school non-formal education**

Target group is children between 3-6 years old.

- **Nutrition & health education**

Target group is women between 15-45 years old.

- **Immunization**

Target group is children below 6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers.

- **Health check-up**

Target group is children below 6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers.

- **Referral services**

Target group is children below 6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers.

- **The last three services are related to health and are provided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through NRHM & health system.** The perception of providing a package of services is based primarily on the consideration that the overall impact will be much larger if the **different services develop in an integrated manner** as the efficacy of a particular service depends upon the support it receives from the related services.

### **Funding Pattern**

- Prior to 2005-06, providing supplementary nutrition was the responsibility of the States and administrative cost was provided by the Government of India as 100% central assistance. The nutrition costs were meagre and coverage

of the programme in all villages/ habitations was also limited and not universal.

- Since many States were not providing adequate supplementary nutrition in view of resource constraints, it was decided in 2005-06 to support the States/ UTs up to 50% of the financial norms or to support 50% of expenditure incurred by them on supplementary nutrition, whichever is less.
- Since 2009-10, the Government of India has modified the sharing pattern of the ICDS Scheme between the Centre and States. The sharing pattern of supplementary nutrition **in respect of North-Eastern States between Centre and States has been changed from 50:50 to 90:10 ratios. In respect of other States/ UTs, the existing sharing pattern in respect of supplementary nutrition is 50:50.**
- **The existing cost sharing ratio for other components is 90:10** except the new components approved under Strengthening & Restructuring for which it is 75:25 (90:10 for NER).