Frequently Asked Questions

Q.1 What is ICDS?
Ans. Integrated Child Development Services popularly known as ICDS, is one of the largest programmes of Government of India. It takes care of all round developmental needs of children who are below six years of age, pregnant women, lactating mothers, in the age group of 15-45 years, through the Anganwadi Centres.

Q.2 What are the services being provided under ICDS?
Ans. A package of six services is provided under the ICDS. These are: supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, non-formal pre-school education, and nutrition and health education.

Q.3 Where are these services available?
Ans. These services are provided in the Anganwadi Centres.

Q.4 What is an Anganwadi?
Ans. An Anganwadi means a courtyard, that is, a play centre. It is located within a village or a slum. It is the focal point for delivery of all services provided under ICDS.

Q.5 Who provides these services in an Anganwadi Centre?
Ans. An Anganwadi Worker provides all these services in the Anganwadi Centre. She is an honorary worker selected from the village. She is assisted by a Helper in carrying out her day-to-day activities. The Helper also is selected by the villagers.

Q.6 Can we have an Anganwadi at our village also?
Ans. Yes, an Anganwadi Centre can be opened in your village. For this, you will have to approach the Collector or the District ICDS Programme Officer of your area.

Q.7 What are the timings of an Anganwadi Centre?
Ans. The Anganwadi Centre is open on all the six days in a week. It functions for four hours in a day in the morning. The timings may differ from State to State.
Q.8 What will my child get at an Anganwadi Centre?

Ans. If your child is below three years of age, s/he will get supplementary nutrition and proper infant and young child feeding advice. The growth of a child is also regularly monitored at the Anganwadi Centre. In addition, the Anganwadi Centre will take the responsibility of checking-up her/his health and also ensure that the child is immunized against six killer diseases like Tuberculosis (TB) Diptheria, Perhussis (whooping cough), Tetanus, Measles and Poliomyelitis by the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM).

In case, your child is between 3-6 years, apart from the above services, s/he will be imparted preschool education also.

Q.9 What preschool education implies under ICDS?

Ans. Preschool education implies holistic development of children that ensures their overall physical, cognitive, language, social and emotional development. It also provides stimulating play environment whereby they learn about their surroundings and day-to-day interaction with others.

Q.10 Are toys or any kind of play material provided in the Anganwadi Centre for young children?

Ans. Yes a variety of play material like puppets, dolls, balls, wooden blocks, wet clay, flash card for story telling, puzzles, etc. are available for children in the Anganwadi Centre. Besides, charts of various kinds to identify colour, numbers, animals, vegetables, fruits, transport, etc. are also displayed in the Centres.

Q.11 Is there any growth monitoring also at Anganwadis?

Ans. Yes, Anganwadi workers keeps a regular check on the growth of the child by taking her/his weight on regular basis and plotting the same on the growth chart which is maintained separately for each child as per their age. Accordingly, their mothers are counseled so that their children develop in a healthy and robust manner.

Q.12. How can one send their young children to an Anganwadi?

Ans. You can directly approach the Anganwadi Worker functioning in your area. The Anganwadi Worker of your area will also approach you for this purpose.
Q.13 Who will take my child to the Anganwadi Centre?
Ans. You have to take the child to the Anganwadi Centre as well as bring her/him back. In case of emergency, you may request the Anganwadi Worker to help you.

Q.14 What services a pregnant woman receives under ICDS?
Ans. A pregnant woman avails services like health check-up, immunization against Tetanus Toxoid (TT), nutrition and health education and supplementary nutrition.

Q.15 What benefits a nursing woman receives under ICDS?
Ans. A nursing woman can avail services like health check-up, nutrition and health education and supplementary nutrition.

Q.16 What are the services available for adolescent girls?
Ans. The Adolescent girls receives services like nutrition & health education, iron and folic acid supplementation, de-worming tablets, non-formal education, home based skill training and vocational training as well as supplementary nutrition.

Q.17 What about women who are between the age of 15 to 45 years?
Ans. All these women are entitled to nutrition and health education only so that they can motivate others to lead a better quality of life.

Q.18 Does the Anganwadi Centre also provide medicine to sick children?
Ans. Yes, the Anganwadi Worker provides a few medicines for treatment of minor ailments like fever, diarrhea, de-worming, etc.,

Q.19 Apart from attending to children and women at the Anganwadi Centre, what other role does an Anganwadi Worker perform?
Ans. An Anganwadi Worker performs a host of other functions like:
   ➢ Undertakes community survey
- Maintains records of births and deaths
- Assists the health staff in immunization & health check-ups of children, pregnant & nursing mothers.
- Provides Health and Nutrition Education to adolescent girls, women and the community at large.
- Undertakes home visits and organizes mothers meetings / community meetings.

Q.20 Are services provided under the ICDS only meant for women and children?

The ICDS scheme also facilitates men folk in understanding the developmental needs of their children and the day to day requirements of women folk during pregnancy, child birth and rearing of children.

Q.21 Whom should we contact in case of any problem?

Ans. The ICDS scheme has a provision for Supervisor as well as that of a Child Development Project Officer (CDPO). In case of any problem, you can approach them directly.

Q. 22 How much money is provided by the Centre to the States for ICDS?

Ans. During the current financial year i.e. 2008-09, the Central government has allocated Rs. 5984.95 crore for ICDS. During the year 2006-07 budget allocation for the programme was 4454.52 crore.

Q. 23 What is the number of beneficiaries at the moment under the scheme?

Ans. More than 1008400 Anganwadis are operational in the country and about 817 lakh children and lactating mothers are being provided supplementary nutrition under the scheme (as on 31st January, 2008).