

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

2017-2018



Centre for Rural Education and Development Action (CREDA)

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Annual Progress Report, 2017-18

Move & Improve Project

Supported by Swiss Academy for Development, Switzerland

Holistic, Sport and Play-Based Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)
for Marginalized Children in India

Selection of target villages and establishment of new centres

- In Lalganj block, Rampur Madwa centre was shifted to Bami village because the children were enrolled in Mini Aanganwadi. The Mini Aanganwadi was existed in the village but was not active when the ECCE centre was opened. Later it was made active with the efforts of the Sub-Coordinator.
- In Madihan block, Sugapankh Khurd centre shifted to Mahmadpur village because a new AWC was opened with the efforts of the Sub-Coordinator. When she lobbied with gram pradhan for taking over the ECCE centre, the gram pradhan arranged a suitable space and constructed a new AWC. Banwaripur (Naudihwa) centre shifted to Marcha village. The reason was unavailability of suitable building/space.

Before opening the new centres, potential target villages and communities were identified and assessment of villages and vulnerabilities done in the newly selected villages. The criteria for selection of location was: non availability of AWC in the community, enough number of children to be enrolled at ECCE centre is available, the community belong to SC/ST/backward/Muslims, community can provide building/space for running the ECCE centre, illiteracy is very strong in the community, mothers were specially enthusiastic to support the establishment of the ECCE centre. Elected village council president provided support and cooperation in establishment of the new centres.



Community mobilisation to support ECCE centre

Activities conducted

- Meetings organized with the members of mothers' groups and discussions were held with mothers on the health and education of children, to send their children to ECCE centre timely and regularly, to support in running of the ECCE centre, provide fresh lunch in the lunch box.
- Centre management committees were mobilized through its monthly meetings, making them aware about their roles and responsibilities for ECCE centre and they were encouraged to support and cooperate in smooth running of ECCE centre.
- Home visits conducted to discuss with parents on holistic development of children. The parents were also advised for taking precaution during summer and keep the children safe from heat and sunlight. The parents were also mobilized to support in running the centre.
- Contacted the community for mobilizing them to get their support in the project. The community was mobilized to support in the establishment and running of ECCE centre, to provide support in the form of building/space, materials, etc. The community was also made aware on importance of education and encouraged to support in the admission of ECCE children into school and to provide the facility of toilet and playground for the children and for keeping the ECCE Centres clean.
- Liaison with block officials, government health centres, and ICDS department and their mobilization to support the ECCE centres was done. ASHA and Aanganwadi Workers were mobilized for vaccination of children and pregnant women.
- *Gram Pradhans* (village council heads) and *panchayat* members were mobilized to get their support in the ECCE centre.
- Child Protection Committees, local elected representatives, front line workers (i.e. ASHA and AWWs), school teachers, school management committees, adolescent peer educators were contacted and discussions were held with them to mobilize their support.

Topics of the meetings

Admission of ECCE graduated children in class 1 in primary school, survey of new children and their enrolment in ECCE centre, follow up of the children enrolled in the primary or private schools, importance of education, hygiene and cleanliness, prevention from various seasonal diseases during the summer and rain, prevention of children from heat and sunlight, importance of child education, child health, taking special care on the feeding of children, discussion on importance and use of toilet, facility of toilet at the ECCE Centres, new rule for admission of children in primary school i.e. requirement of AADHAAR Card at the time of admission, importance of Vitamin A and iron dose, use of fresh and safe drinking water, use of mosquito net, cleanliness in ECCE centre as well as around handpump and well, repair and maintenance of centre, vaccination of children, keeping children clean, growth of children, and sanitation.

Outcomes of the meetings

The outcomes of the meetings were very positive. As a result of the community mobilization, the mothers took the children timely to the primary school and the enrolment of children at the school was done, the mothers became aware about the use and importance of toilet and sanitation, community supported in admission of ECCE children into primary school, the children come at the centre in clean condition, ECCE centre got good support of mothers' groups and management committees, the mothers are taking care of the children very well, they keep the children with cleanliness, the community supported in repair and maintenance of ECCE Centre, provided facility of toilet for ECCE children, admission of left over children was done, awareness level of parents and community on education has increased, the

parents started sending their children timely and regularly, the hesitation of parents on giving the dose of Vitamin A and iron syrup to their children removed, the parents took the children to health centre for treatment and the children got cured, the community took those children to the health centre whose parents were not able to take their child to the health centres.

Recruitment process of ECCE children

To establish three centres at new location, survey of children through a structured survey format was done to enroll the required number of children at these new centres. The criteria for selection of the children was age of the child (3-5 years), non-school going children, belonging to dalit/backward/ Muslim community, and priority to girl children.



Orientation of local officials and community leaders

The orientation programme of local officials was held in the month of March 2018. In total 853 persons participated in the sessions organized at 50 ECCE Centres.

The topics discussed were: Early childhood, phases of development, need of younger children, risks during early childhood, what is early childhood care and education, importance and benefits of ECCE, introduction of Move & Improve Project, activities carried out and facilities at ECCE centres, impact of ECCE programme, benefits of ECCE services, roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders.

In these sessions, we focused on importance of care and education for the child in his/her early period of life, how the society can play a vital and helpful role in the development of a child holistically. In the development of a child the local government authorities, gram pradhan and other village level officials have to be very supportive and caring so that all children get the opportunities to receive education, nutrition and medication.



ECCE centre not only provide education to the children but also help them and their family to get their amount of benefit from the government schemes also. The participation of the attendees was very useful in terms of their commitment to support the ECCE and they also said that they will always cooperate for the requirement which is available with them.

ECCE management committees meetings

At each of the 50 ECCE Centres, an ECCE management committee has been formed to manage the centre and provide its support in running the centre. To form the committee at newly opened centres, community was mobilized and encouraged about the importance of management committee then the guardians of the children came forward in forming the management committee. The mothers of the ECCE children, members of the local School Management Committee (SMC), facilitator, and caretaker form the management committees. The descriptions of the meetings are as below:

Topics discussed



Management and monitoring of ECCE Centre, keeping vigilance on the centre, immunization and getting AADHAAR card issued, enrolment of children in ECCE centre, admission of ECCE graduated children into primary school, follow up of the children admitted in primary school, getting birth certificate of children issued, liaison with government officials on the ECCE centres and children as well as for toilet, repair and maintenance of ECCE Centre, handwash, benefits of use of toilet, regular attendance of children,

progress of children enrolled at ECCE Centre, timely running of the centre, encouraging the mothers to be careful for better health of the children, health education, safe drinking water for children, vaccination of children and support in giving Vitamin A and iron dose to them, precaution and care during the epidemic of chickenpox, responsibility of parents towards their children, cleanliness around handpump and well, mobilizing community to get their support, support in celebration of special events.

Activities conducted by the committees

During the year, the management committees supported in the immunization of children and their admission in primary school, monitored the ECCE centres regularly, Encouraged the parents to send the children to ECCE centre daily and timely in clean condition, Made the community aware on importance of toilet, demanded for the toilet at ECCE centre from the village council head (gram pradhan), kept vigilance on the centre, encouraged parents to send the children regularly, encouraged women to participate in panchayat meetings, supported in immunization and health check up of children, explained the importance of Vitamin A and iron dose to the mothers, looked after the children for their safety, liaison with AWWs, ASHA, ANM and village pradhan, and advised the community to use mosquito net to be safe from the diseases spread through mosquitoes, contacted AWWs for distribution of nutritional supplement to ECCE children, supported in celebration of Indian Republic Day and Children's Day, and supported in ECCE activities by children and preparation of learning materials. Some of the committees cleaned the surrounding areas of handpump.

Outcomes of the meetings

The ECCE management committees have shown their ability to support in the functioning of ECCE centres. They are able to monitor the functioning of the centres, keep watch on the attendance of the children, management and taking care of the centre, providing support to ECCE centre as and when required, giving suggestion for the improvement of the centre, mobilizing and encouraging the mothers to send the children to the ECCE centre regularly, admission of children in primary school, vaccination of children, etc. They demanded for the toilet facility at ECCE centres, supported in development of action plan, contacted those parents whose children were not regular and encouraged them to send the children to the centre daily, supported in getting the health and ICDS services to the children.

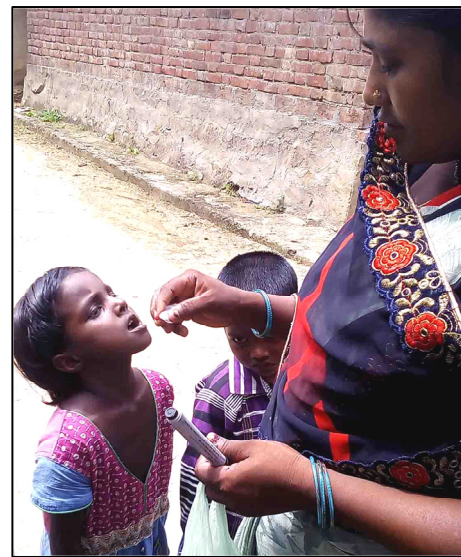
Benefit under government provisions

The government officials with the efforts of the project staffs, especially functionaries of departments of health and ICDS were mobilized to support the children enrolled at ECCE Centres. As a result of these efforts, following number of children and mothers benefited with the government services under different government schemes (aggregate numbers in one year):

1. 662 ECCE children got vaccination at 50 running centres and 13 children at 2 old centres. 682 non-ECCE children also got vaccinated. The number of benefited children from ECCE was low because they do not fall under the target age group.
2. 6,834 children took oral polio vaccine at running centres and 206 children at 2 old centre. 20 non-ECCE children also took oral polio vaccine.
3. Health of 2,303 children checked up by government doctor at running centres and 70 children at 2 old centres. Out of 2,303 children, 192 children were referred for further treatment.
4. 3,267 children got de-worming (Albendazole) tablets/syrup at running centres and 103 children at 3 old centres.
5. 3,456 children at running centres and 103 children at 3 old centres got vitamin A dose. 300 non-ECCE children also got dose of Vitamin A.
6. 3,491 children at running centres and 103 children at 3 old centres got iron syrup. 385 non-ECCE children also got iron syrup.
7. 312 pregnant women got vaccination at 43 running centres and 14 women at 2 old centres.
8. 2,269 children got nutritional supplement under ICDS. The government has stopped the supply of the nutritional supplement to the ICDS hence the number of beneficiary children is low.



9. 312 pregnant women got IFA tablet at running centres and 14 women at 2 old centres.
10. All of the ECCE children have been issued AADHAAR card except those who have been enrolled recently. Their application has been submitted.
11. 19 ECCE children and 12 non-ECCE children benefited with the well-equipped mobile hospital established in a train Lifeline Express. This is a new facility launched by Government of India and the train was staying at Mirzapur railway station for 21 days from 29th August 2017 to 18th September 2017. All of the children benefited are from our project villages. The project staffs made aware the community about this facility and encouraged them to get benefit from this opportunity. Some of the project staffs escorted the beneficiaries to come to Mirzapur and helped them in getting registered for the treatment and further procedures.



The health check includes observing the condition of anemia, measurement of height and weight, malnutrition, providing medicine and referral service if required.

Parental education

Parental education sessions were organized at each of the ECCE Centres twice in the reporting year. In total, 5,840 people participated in the two sessions. Through these sessions, the participants were oriented on benefits and importance of birth registration,



vaccination of children, giving dose of Vitamin A to the children between the age of 9 months to 5 years, harms of Vitamin A deficiency, oral polio vaccination, fooding for children (balanced and fresh foods), sanitation and cleanliness, personal hygiene, benefits and importance of hand wash with soap, promotion of safety of children, how to behave with children, prevention from substances (e.g. chewing tobacco available in sachet at local shop), de-worming medicine (albendazole) to children, taking nutritional supplement for children under ICDS, health check up of children on VHND,

protection of environment, prevention from infectious diseases, importance of AADHAAR card, importance of education and ensuring the education of the children, making aware and encouraging the parents of other children on the above topics and social mobilization in favour of welfare of children and developing a healthy and child friendly environment.

The above topics were covered under following 4 sessions: 1. Child Development, Birth Registration, 2. Vaccination, Dose of Vitamin A, 3. Nutrition for Children, and 4. Sanitation and Hygiene. The sessions were conducted through Lecture, Discussions and Games. The games 'Go Find Your Answer', 'Spread the Word', 'Aim at the Right Bottle', and 'Hygiene Charades' were used. Both of the games were very effective. These games were played to educate and sensitize the participants on the health of children, the communicable diseases, hygiene routine and nutritional feeding of children.



As a result of the parental education, the participants have become aware about the needs of children, important things related to child development, child protection, child health, safety of children, provisions for children under different government schemes, and importance of education.

Progress monitoring (follow-up of ECCE graduated children)

The project staffs followed up regularly the ECCE children mainstreamed in the education. They encouraged the children to continue their education and attend the school regularly. Coaching sessions were conducted at 18 ECCE centres for ECCE graduated children to improve their learning.

Capacity building of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)

To build the capacity of Anganwadi Workers, two-day training programme was organized in each project block. The details of the training organized are as under:

Date of Training	Block	Venue	No. of AWWs Participated	Other participants who observed the training
Feb 12-13, 2018	Lalganj	Community Centre, Patar Kalan	11	-
Feb 16-17, 2018	Halia	CREDA Resource Centre, Sukhra	20	2 ICDS Supervisors
Feb 21-22, 2018	Madihan	Anganwadi Centre, Shardapurwa	21	CDPO, Head Clerk, and 2 ICDS Supervisors

During the training of AWWs, following topics were covered:

- Introduction of Move & Improve Project
- Early life and brain development
- Child development through play
- Development milestones and school readiness
- Role modelling with children
- Positive discipline
- Cognitive development activities - emerging numeracy
- Language skills - emerging literacy
- Sport and playful activities / physical development
- Introduction to body language

In the opinion of Anganwadi Workers, it was a special and useful training as they said that in past they were not exposed to such training. The training, as they said, has provided better understanding to keep the children of Anganwadi Centre engaged through various types of activities, all activities we have particularly done during the two-day training programme. It is also the feeling of almost all the AWWs that AWC must have proper records and information in poster on walls as of ECCE Centres so that the visitors can have better understanding of the target group and the activities at a glance through the data and drawing elaborations.



AWWs felt that the training module as such will be adopted by them and no any change is needed. Suitability of training itself is a milestone which will change the behavioural pattern and understanding of the children.



AWWs also voice that training module adopted by CREDA is very informative and thought provoking as far as our involvement with children in Anganwadi Centre is concerned. They also thank CREDA for providing the learning module which will be a source guide with them.

Lunch boxes and water bottles for children

The lunch boxes and drinking water bottles was provided to all of the children enrolled at 50 ECCE centres. The purpose was to facilitate provision of meals for ECCE students. The mothers provided fresh and nutritious food in the lunch box and fresh drinking water in the bottle so that the nutritious need of the children can be fulfilled.



Buildings used for ECCE centres

The building used for ECCE centres varies from centre to centre. At the end of the year 36 centres were running in private buildings, 10 in *panchayat* buildings and 4 in CREDA's own school buildings. Out of the 50 buildings, 16 are made of mud/bricks with local tiles roof and 34 of bricks and cement/concrete roof. Out of 50 centres, playground is available in 49 centres and toilet is available at 44 centres.



Involvement of Mothers' Groups

Mothers' groups have been formed for each of the 50 ECCE centre. They were oriented on the objectives of the project and the mothers' groups, activities of the ECCE centre, roles and responsibilities of mothers' group to support the ECCE centre, how to prepare and send the children to the ECCE centre and take care of them. At the end of the year, there were 1,381 members in the mothers' groups formed at 50 ECCE centres.

Training of project staffs on the sport and play-based approach

Training was organized for ECCE Facilitators by SAD and CREDA staffs in the month of December 2017. The training was provided on Challenges, Non-violent behaviour management, Playful activities (teaching letters and numbers), and Effective communication.

Also, whenever a new facilitator is appointed, she is provided two 2 days on-the-job orientation by the sub-coordinators at an ECCE centre where she gets practical knowledge on using the toolkit "Learning through Play" and sport-based activities. Also, in each monthly review meeting, the playful activities are recapitulated by the sub-coordinators.

M&E capacity building of staffs

The project staffs were trained on use of developmental milestones assessment form during the last year. But, before start of the assessment in the month of May 2017, the sub-coordinators were again explained deeply on the module including the changes made by SAD. They were also regularly oriented on Classroom Observation form, ECCE centre assessment form, monitoring form to observe the mothers' group, monitoring form to assess the ECCE Management Committee, form for student observation report during each monthly review meeting.

Challenges encountered and its solution

- *Due to engagement of mothers in agriculture work, some of the children faced problem in preparing themselves and getting lunch box and breakfast, which caused low attendance.*

The parents were persuaded for their own benefit and the benefit of the children. The fathers were encouraged to support in preparing the children and taking them to the centre with lunch box and water bottle. Caretakers also support in preparing the children by giving them bath and bringing the lunch box and water bottle from the children's home.

- *Low attendance due to illness of children such as chicken pox, diarrhoea, viral fever, etc. during summer season.*

The parents were made aware about the harms of the infectious disease and mobilized to take proper care of children to prevent them from such diseases. Health check up of the children was also done.

- *The government health department was not conducting health check up of ECCE children.*

Regular contact, strong liaisoning and discussion with the officials and doctors helped in starting the health check.

- *Low attendance of mothers in mothers' group meeting due to their engagement in paddy harvesting.*

The mothers were contacted and the time of meeting was planned according to their availability.

- *The parents of the children referred for further treatment during health check up were afraid whether the child will get cured or not at the hospital.*

The parents were contacted many times and explained about the harms of the diseases. They were also encouraged to take the children to the hospital and think positive about the successful treatment.

- *Getting toilet at the ECCE centre was a challenge.*

The house owners were explained about the benefits of using toilet and its need for children and encouraged to construct the toilet.

- *The children as well as the facilitator and caretaker were infected with chicken pox at Patehara Kalan centre in Madihan block.*

The sub-coordinator informed the health department about the situation and then PHC sent a medical team under RBSK who distributed the medicine door-to-door and told the people to adopt hygienic practices.

Lessons learnt and best practices

Project Management

- Inter-personal relation with project functionaries gives impetus for smooth functioning of the project. This also creates ownership of the project among them.
- Proper motivation of ECCE staffs encourages them to be always committed for the cause of children.

Sport and Play-Based Programming at ECCE centres

- Inclusion of new play-based activities is more effective to increase the interest of children at the ECCE Centres.
- Newly included playful activities have increased the interest of children in ECCE centres.
- The training held in December 2017 provided us an opportunity to learn many new things and activities.
- Newly introduced card games have been proved to be more interesting for the children and they learnt enthusiastically with these games.

Sustainability & Government Involvement

- We got the opportunity to orient the AWWs and ICDS Supervisors during their meeting with CDPO in Madihan block.
- Some health related problems of the children revealed during the health check up. It was not known earlier. Therefore health check up is helpful in identifying health related problems faced by children.
- Proper liaison with government departments can be fruitful in getting their support to the ECCE children such as health check up and vaccination
- During the training of Anganwadi Workers, we learnt how to organize the training for government functionaries.

Parental Education & Community Mobilisation

- Regular contact with parents and AWW, ASHA, ANM and school head master helps get their support in the successful implementation of the project.
- If the time of mothers' meeting is adjusted with the availability of mothers, their participation and support will be assured.
- The dose of iron syrup issued to AWWs was not given to the children but with the intervention of project staffs, now they are giving it to the children.
- The process of mobilization of community by project staff is more effective than the frontline workers i.e. AWWs, ASHAs and ANMs.
- If proper liaison is done, the panchayat can be mobilized to provide the facility of toilet.
- Good work on children's development through ECCE Centre is appreciated by the community.

ECCE Centre Management

- Community participation is an important aspect for better management of the ECCE Centres.
- Among the ECCE Centre Management Committees, the concern for the education of the children is apparent and the women are also aware of their rights and entitlements in government programmes at local level and this further minimize the level of exploitation.

Mirtiya Memorial Village Mobile Library Project Supported by Chaitanand (Rishi) Jheengun, Mauritius

Bicycle-borne mobile library programme was started for adolescent girls and women of disadvantaged community and to those as well who would not have been able to purchase the book for their reading. The purpose of this initiative was to provide social, moral and general knowledge books to the adolescent and younger girls in far off villages. Groups of the adolescent girls were formed in each village as adolescent reading club. Each reader was given at least 5 days time to read the books very well. After reaching new books in the clubs, the books which were read were transferred to other villages under the supervision of a women library facilitator.

The programme was implemented in the selected villages of Halia block in Mirzapur district and was very helpful to make accessible the good literature and information for the rural community in remote villages. Following is number of girls benefited with the mobile library programme:

S.No.	Village Name	No. of beneficiaries	Total No. of Transactions
1	Chuck Kotar	43	149
2	Sendurah	26	119
3	Veerpur	36	124
4	Purva Ausan Singh	47	183
5	Rajpur	35	162
Total:		187	737



Before the launch of programme, a village level campaign was organized to make the people aware about the facilities to be provided and types of books available under the mobile library programme. The target beneficiaries were encouraged to come forward and take the benefit of the books available. It was very helpful in increasing the interest of the adolescent girls and they started borrowing the books of their interest and use.