



Annual Progress Report

2018-2019

Centre for Rural Education and Development Action (CREDA)

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Move & Improve Project

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

Supported by Swiss Academy for Development, Switzerland

The ECCE Centres

Selection and Continuation

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Centres have been opened at the location, where the services of Government's Aanganwadi Centre are not available. 50 such centres were running with 35 children at each Centre upto the end of August 2018. But, out of such 50 centres, 20 centres closed from September 2018 and 30 centres are continuing. Out of 50 Centres, 30 best Centres were selected to continue on the following criteria:

- Teaching capacities of the facilitator
- Support by the community for the centre
- Functioning of the ECCE Management Committee
- Deprivation and vulnerability among the target group
- Enough number of children to be enrolled at ECCE centre is available

Enrollment of children at ECCE Centres

The seats which became vacant due to mainstreaming of children were filled with enrollment of new children who are disadvantaged e.g. first generation learners, malnourished children, orphans, children with a difficult economic family situation, children from single-headed households or children whose older siblings are out of school. Girls are given priority.

Teaching Methodology

The play-way method or learning through play is the methodology adopted in our centres for imparting education to the children. The playful approach facilitates holistic child development (physical, mental, emotional and social). We believe that learning through play is most suitable method for the pre-primary level children. We make learning easy and enjoyable. Each child is given equal opportunity for full participation. We provide more opportunities for each child to learn the way they feel easier.



Educational Aids

Educational aids are an integrated component in the classroom. We use different kind of educational aids which is prepared with the materials locally available in the village and is cheap to afford for the use of children in their daily learning process. All the handmade toys possess an educational value, appeal to the children, instigate exploration and are child-proof.



The Buildings and Facilities

The building used for ECCE centres varies from centre to centre. At the end of the year, out of 30 ECCE Centres, 21 centres were running in private buildings, 6 in *panchayat* buildings and 3 in CREDA's own school buildings. Out of the 30 buildings, 10 are made of mud/bricks with local tiles roof and 20 of bricks and cement/concrete roof. Out of 30 centres, playground is available in all of the 30 centres and toilet is available at 27 centres.

Educational materials, lunch boxes and water bottles for children

Each of the children enrolled at ECCE Centres are provided school bag, drawing book, pencils, and chalk. Other stationery needed for children such as sharper, eraser, wax colour, papers, etc. are also provided at each centre.



Lunch box and water bottle was distributed to all of the ECCE children even those who have been mainstreamed into primary schools in the month of July. To ensure the fulfillment of nutritional needs and to facilitate provision of meals for ECCE students, lunch box and water bottle was also provided to 277 newly admitted children in the month of December 2018. These items were distributed among the children in the presence of their parents during the parental education sessions.

Coverage

Till the end of the year, 3,420 children under the age group of 3 to 5 years have benefited from the ECCE Centres. The activities at ECCE Centres give the opportunity for most disadvantaged children to develop their full potential, to build necessary life skills and more positive attitudes towards learning, thereby increasing their chances of success in further education and in life. At the end of the year, 1,062 children were continuing at 30 Centres.

Mainstreaming

ECCE children who reach to the age of 5 years are mainstreamed into nearest primary school. During the year, 684 ECCE children were mainstreamed into education in nearest schools. 659 children were admitted in class 1, 12 in class 2, and one child in class 3, whereas one child in LKG and 11 children in UKG were admitted.

Progress monitoring and follow-up of ECCE graduated children

Progress of the children's knowledge was done at the ECCE Centres and student observation form was filled up. Regular follow up of the ECCE graduated children who have been mainstreamed in primary schools was done by the project staffs. The staffs interacted with the children and motivated them to continue their education. Also, coaching sessions were conducted for these children at 15 ECCE Centres upto August 2018 then at 10 Centres to improve their learning and maintain good performance in the school.

Community mobilisation to support ECCE centre

Activities conducted

- As many of the ECCE children were mainstreamed into primary schools upto the end of August 2018, therefore to fill the vacant seats and benefit additional number of children, the parents were mobilized to get their children enrolled at the ECCE Centre.
- Monthly meetings of mothers groups were organized. During the meeting, at some of the centres, the activities carried out by regular children were demonstrated to encourage the mothers to send their children to ECCE centre regularly with fresh lunch and safe drinking water. Also, example of educated persons was discussed in the meetings to show them the importance of education. The mothers who could not attend the meetings were contacted by the respective sub-coordinator of the block during home visits.
- Monthly meetings of ECCE Centre management committees were organized to make them aware about their roles and responsibilities and to get their support in running the ECCE centre smoothly.
- Home visits conducted to discuss with parents on holistic development of children. The parents were mobilized to be careful about the development, health and education of the children. They were advised to be precautious during the winter and provide warm cloths to the children and send the children regularly. The parents were also mobilized to provide their support in running of the ECCE centres. A special home visit campaign was conducted by the Facilitators personally during the winter vacation.
- The project staffs regularly contacted and mobilized the community to get their support in the project. The community was mobilized to support in the running of ECCE centre and also to provide support in repair and maintenance of the Centre. The community was also made aware on importance of education and to provide the facility of toilet and playground for the children.
- Liaison with block level officials and local service providers of health and ICDS departments was done to mobilize them to support the ECCE centres by providing the government services to the ECCE children as well as for the training of AWWs.
- *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. ASHAs and AWWs), school teachers, school management committees, and adolescent peer educators were contacted and discussions were held with them to mobilize their support.

Topics of the meetings

The focus of the meetings was given on development of children and need of younger children, mobilization of parents for mainstreaming of children, regular attendance of children in primary schools, fresh foods and drinking water for children, how to apply and get benefit of cooking gas under the government's *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna* (Prime Minister's Ujjwala Scheme), sending the children to the ECCE Centre timely and daily, taking proper care of children and their health, importance of child education, hygiene and cleanliness, seasonal diseases and prevention from them, how to be safe from heat in the summer, prevention from heatstroke and diarrhoea, cleanliness and hygienic practices to be adopted in the summer and rainy seasons, mainstreaming of children into schools, benefit of vitamin A, health check-up of children, and use of mosquito net to be safe from diseases, preparation of the children and dropping them to the ECCE Centre, enrolment of new children at ECCE Centre, vigilance and monitoring of ECCE centre, regularity of children at ECCE centre, sending children with lunch and safe drinking water, how to apply for getting AADHAAR card for those children who do not have, difference between measles and rubella, support in Measles-Rubella vaccination campaign and ensuring vaccination of children, prevention of children from cold and use of warm cloths, dose of vitamin 'A' to children and its natural sources, awareness on seasonal and locally available vegetables and fruits, improvements and changes taking place in ECCE children as they grow, use of mosquito net to be safe from diseases, safe disposal of drainage water, availability of drinking water at ECCE Centres during summer.

Outcomes of the meetings

Mothers mobilized to send the children regularly to the ECCE Centre, community could be encouraged for the vaccination of children and pregnant women, people became aware on the government's scheme on free cooking gas connection and many women applied to get the benefit, mothers have been mobilized and taking proper care of the children and sending them timely, understanding of community on nutrition and hygiene was developed, awareness of parents about the importance of education increased, some of the parents got their children mainstreamed by themselves, awareness of parents on vaccination has increased many of them brought their child for the vaccination and for the dose of vitamin A, the parents become aware about the harms of heatstroke and how to save children from it, at some centres, the community provided food grains to use in the playful activities, the community took proper care of the ECCE Centres during the summer vacation when the centres remained close, helped the children in getting the supplementary nutrition from the AWCs, and understanding of parents changed and they became more careful about the children, mothers could know the facts about measles and rubella and their misconception about it could be removed, mothers became aware about the importance of measles-rubella vaccination and they got their children vaccinated during the vaccination campaign.

Orientation of local officials and community leaders

The orientation programme was held in the month of February 2019. In total 583 persons participated in these sessions.

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. Understanding of participants on early childhood and need of younger children improved and they realised their responsibilities towards children.

ECCE Management Committees

One ECCE centre management committee has been formed at each ECCE Centre which consists of 10 members. The mothers of the ECCE children, members of the local SMC, and ECCE Centre staff form the management committees. Out of 10 members, 6 to 7 members are the mothers of ECCE children. The management committee work hand to hand with the facilitators. The management committee had a vigil on the working of the centre. They do regular monitoring that how the centre activities move on.

The descriptions of the ECCE Management Committee meetings are as below:

Topics discussed

Regular attendance of the children at ECCE Centre, regular monitoring of the centre, need of hygiene and cleanliness for children, child related diseases and prevention from them, mainstreaming of ECCE children in primary school, immunization of children, roles and responsibilities of the committee, support in mobilization of parents, liaison with government functionaries at block level, community awareness, government schemes and benefits, illness of children in the village, use of mosquito net and adopting hygienic practices, and use of boiled and filtered drinking water.



Activities conducted by the committees

Organized monthly meeting of the committee, conducted home visits, did monitoring of the Centre, encouraged parents to send the children to ECCE Centre regularly, encouraged women to participate in *panchayat* meetings, discussed with mothers on child related issues, supported in repair and maintenance of centres which were affected with storm during

summer season, supported in vaccination of children, contacted and mobilized the parents for welfare of their children, helped in gathering children for vaccination, getting nutritional supplement from AWWs and health check-up, suggested to consult the health centre to get the proper treatment of sick children, and supported in giving the oral polio vaccine to children. The committees also supported in celebration of the days of national importance i.e. Independence Day, Gandhi's Birthday, Children's Day, and Indian Republic Day.

Outcomes of the meetings

The committees are able in keeping watch on the activities carried out by children, monitoring of ECCE Centre, mobilisation of parents for regular attendance of children, management of the centre, explaining to other people the topics of the discussions held, support in the home visits, assisting the centre activities in absence of the facilitator or caretaker, the committee members are able to come out on a solution of any problem arise at ECCE centre by discussing and taking decision collectively, and maintaining a good attendance of children.

Benefits under Government Provisions

The project staffs mobilized the government officials, especially functionaries of health and ICDS departments, to benefit the ECCE children with government provisions. As a result of these efforts, following number of children benefited with the government services under different government schemes (aggregate numbers in the reporting year):

1. 876 children, who fall under the target age group, got vaccination.
2. 1,026 children immunized under the government's Measles and Rubella Vaccination Campaign
3. 4,498 ECCE children and 20 non-ECCE children took oral polio vaccine in four rounds of vaccination.
4. Health of 2,569 ECCE children checked up by government doctors. Out of these children, 170 children were referred for further treatment.
5. All of 2,459 ECCE children got de-worming (Albendazole) syrup.
6. All of 2,459 ECCE children got vitamin A dose. 25 non-ECCE children also got the dose of Vitamin A.
7. All of 2,459 ECCE children got iron syrup.
8. 345 pregnant women got vaccination.
9. 345 pregnant women got IFA tablet.
10. 5,259 children got nutritional supplement under ICDS.



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 in the month of August 2018 and December 2018. 4,530 people (2,793 in August and 1,737 in December) participated in these 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, feeding 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 intoxicants, deworming 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 Lectures and Discussions. As a result of the parental education, the participants have become aware about the role of parents in care and development of children, needs of children, important things related to child development, child protection, child health, safety of children, how to behave with their older children, provisions for children under different government schemes, and importance of education, become aware on the importance of nutritional foods for children, importance and benefit of birth registration.

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.

Involvement of Mothers' Groups

Mothers' groups have been formed for each of the 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 849 members in the mothers' groups formed at 30 ECCE centres.



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

One-day training was provided to ECCE Facilitators by the Project Manager and the respective sub-coordinator. The training was organized during May and June 2018 to introduce the playful activities adopted from U.P. curriculum (ICDS).

One-day refresher training was organized for ECCE Facilitators at CREDA Training cum Resource Centre, Sukhra, Halia block on 29th October 2018. The refresher training was imparted by the Project Manager. During the training, "Learning through play" toolkit was revised with special focus on playful activities.

M&E capacity building of staffs

During monthly review and planning meetings, the project staffs were 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, student observation form.

Capacity building of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs)

The capacity building of AWWs was done in such a way so that it should give its positive response. It was done through 2-day training on playful learning method, one-day exposure visit to the nearest model ECCE Centre and one-day on-the-job/supportive supervision at the AWC itself through our experts. This well organized schedule has strengthened the knowledge of AWWs.

2-day Training of AWWs

The In-charge District Programme Officer (DPO), ICDS in Mirzapur district was liaised. He was contacted and discussed about the Move & Improve Project activities. Discussion on the training of AWWs was made in detail and he was asked for his approval to organize the training of the AWWs and issue needed instructions to the CDPOs of the target blocks. After getting his permission, two-day training programme was organized in all three project blocks and one additional block.

The training was organized as under:

Project Blocks:

Date of Training	Block	Venue	No. of AWWs Participated	Other participants who observed the training
Jan 17-18, 2019	Halia	Primary School, Halia-I	31	One ICDS Supervisor and one AWC Assistant
Jan 22-23, 2019	Halia	CREDA Resource Centre, Sukhra	27	-
Jan 29, Feb 02, 2019	Halia	Upper Primary School, Tendui	33	One ICDS Supervisor
Feb 05-06, 2019	Lalganj	ICDS Office, Lalganj	34	2 ICDS Supervisors, one Head Clerk, and one Clerk
Feb 07-08, 2019	Lalganj	ICDS Office, Lalganj	34	2 ICDS Supervisors, and one Clerk
Feb 11-12, 2019	Madihan	Primary School, Kubari Patehara	30	One ICDS Supervisor
Feb 13-14, 2019	Madihan	Primary School, Kubari Patehara	23	One ICDS Supervisor
Feb 15-16, 2019	Madihan	Primary School, Rajauhan	26	One ICDS Supervisor
Total:			238	

Additional Block:

Date of Training	Block	Venue	No. of AWWs Participated	Other participants who observed the training
Mar 07-08, 2019	Rajgarh	Aanganwadi Centre, Dadara-II	28	CDPO In-charge, and 3 ICDS Supervisors
Mar 11-12, 2019	Rajgarh	Aanganwadi Centre, Dadara-II	32	One ICDS Supervisor
Mar 13-14, 2019	Rajgarh	Aanganwadi Centre, Dadara-II	30	One ICDS Supervisor
Mar 15-16, 2019	Rajgarh	Aanganwadi Centre, Dadara-II	29	CDPO In-charge, and one ICDS Supervisor
Total:			119	



CDPO in Halia block interacting with participants during the AWW training in Halia block



Playful activities with participants during AWW training in Lalganj block

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



AWWs seeing the activity by children during exposure visit at ECCE Centre, Basuhara

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.



Playful activity during the training of AWWs in Madihan block



Training of AWWs in Rajgarh block

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.



A bag and training materials were provided to each trainee AWWs

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.

One-day Exposure Visit of AWWs

The exposure visit to our on-going ECCE centres for 233 AWWs who participated in 2-day training has enhanced their knowledge and understanding about the playful teaching method which involves the children in a better situation and provides them good learning to play and gain knowledge and increase happiness in their life.

The time AWWs spent in our centres gave them a practical outlook of all the activities they learned in the training. They eagerly even tried to do it with our ECCE children so that they can clear their queries which can occur during practising their activities practically. AWWs even learned how to prepare those visual learning aids and toys used in our ECCE centres.

One-day On-the-Job Training / Supportive Supervision:

Designing of supportive supervision has reach out to various AWCs. Our coordinators provided needed support and guidance to AWWs for carrying out various social, physical and play-based activities at various centre of those AWWs who have participated in our two-days training programme. At the end of the reporting period, 42 AWWs were covered under on-job-training/supportive supervision.

Orientation of ICDS Supervisors

The ICDS Supervisors are the backbone of successful implementation of the ICDS schemes and supervising it to create better opportunity to children and mothers. To orient the ICDS supervisors in the project blocks and in the additional block, CDPO of the respected block was liaised and the date for the orientation was finalized with her/his approval. A module was developed and copied in required number and necessary stationery (pen and spiral notepad) and bag for the participants was procured.



The topics covered in the module were:

- Early life and brain development
- Role modelling with children
- Social inclusion and Differentiation
- Child Protection
- Introduction to body language

The orientation was organized in the following schedule:

Project Blocks:

Date of Orientation	Block	Venue	No. of Supervisors
Mar 06, 2019	Lalganj	Block ICDS Office, Lalganj	3
Mar 25, 2019	Madihan	Block ICDS Office, Madihan	3
Mar 25, 2019	Halia	Block ICDS Office, Halia	5
		Total:	11

Additional Blocks:

Date of Orientation	Block	Venue	No. of Supervisors
Mar 11, 2019	Rajgarh	Block ICDS Office, Rajgarh	6
		Total:	6

The approach of "Learning through play" is a very successful method of teaching which is also implanted in AWCs, so the supervisors were appreciative as they came across many more activities during the orientation.

The supervisors were very attentive with our direct intervention with them and they requested us to collaborate with them time to time in future also.

Knowledge transfer & dissemination

Knowledge-sharing with NIPCCD

Project experiences and knowledge gained under the project was shared with National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), Regional Centre, Lucknow. The Regional Director of NIPCCD at Lucknow was provided two copies of the following documents on 27th March 2019:

- PowerPoint Presentations developed for the training of ECCE Facilitators
- 'Learning through play' toolkit being used at ECCE centres
- A document containing project outlines and brief progress report of Move & Improve Project

The Regional Director said that he will go through the documents and whenever training of the CDPOs and AWWs will be organized by NIPCCD, they will certainly involve experts of CREDA.

Liaisoning and knowledge-sharing with District Programme Officer (DPO), ICDS

Liaison was made with the District Programme Officer (DPO), Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICDS), who is the in-charge head of ICDS at district level. He allotted us time on 21st January 2019 to discuss with us about the playful learning method used in our ECCE centres. We also focused on the training module and our strategies to work closely for strengthening ICDS services in selected blocks of the district. In our meet, we also told about all the benefits provided to the children of those villages through our project.

Following documents were shared with him:

- PowerPoint Presentations developed for the training of ECCE Facilitators
- 'Learning through play' toolkit being used at ECCE centres
- A document containing project outlines and brief progress report of Move & Improve Project

The DPO was very appreciative to the content and methodology of the training and provided us the opportunity to intervene with AWWs in the selected blocks. He holds a view that, if possible, we should provide such training in other blocks also. Further, he said he would like to involve CREDA in future as well for providing need-based training to the rural staffs.

Participation in 2-Day Exhibition entitled "Lok Kalyan Mela" (Public Welfare Exhibition) on 14 Apr 2018 (Madihan block) and 15 Apr 2018 (Halia and Lalganj blocks)

In all three project blocks, CREDA was invited to participate in the exhibition and was provided space to exhibit its child welfare programme, where the teaching aids and learning materials including toys made by staffs and children, pictorial charts, and toolkit were shown by the sub-coordinators. The topic of the demonstration was early childhood care and education through playful activities.

The exhibition was organized by Office of Block Development Officer (BDO) of the respective block. Almost all government departments participated in the exhibition. As an NGO, only CREDA was invited to participate in the exhibition. No other entity from private sector was invited.

Training of AWWs on playful activities and visual learning aids.

In the month of April 2018, CDPO of the respective project block invited the sub-coordinators to provide the training to AWWs. The sub-coordinator provided two-day training to the AWWs on following:

Playful activities, child protection, role modelling, school readiness, brain development, holistic child development, positive discipline, making learning aids and toys with locally available materials.

Support to children in the form of cloths and footwear

New cloths, especially warm cloths for winter season, were distributed among 162 ECCE children belonging to poor and economically weaker families. Old used cloths and footwear in good condition were also collected and distributed among the children belonging to poor families. This was very helpful in preventing the children from diseases like cold, flu, fever, etc. and protect them from cold weather.



Challenges encountered and its solution

- *Low attendance of children in the marriage season.*
By conducting home visits, the mothers were mobilized to send the children regularly.
- *Low attendance of mothers in the meeting due to marriage and paddy transplantation season.*
The time of meeting was adjusted with the availability of the mothers.
- *Suffering of children from seasonal fever.*
The parents were encouraged to be careful and consult a doctor in such condition.
- *Mother took the children with them when going to work at longer distance.*
The mothers were contacted and encouraged to leave the children at the ECCE centre for the time when they go for working but not let the children be absent from the centre.
- *The facilitators faced some difficulties in calling the children from home as she is the only staff at ECCE Centre.*
Active children having leadership quality were selected and given responsibilities to support in taking other children with them from their neighbouring areas.

- *Irregularity and low attendance of children due to engagement of mothers in household works and engaging children in taking care of younger siblings.*

Mothers were contacted during home visits. They were explained the importance of education and development of children and encouraged to send the children to the ECCE centre regularly.

- *Children's mothers who are wage earners were not able to attend the meeting.*
The time of the meetings were adjusted with their availability so that they can participate in the meetings.
- *During the winter, some children came in unhygienic condition.*
The mothers were motivated to adopt hygienic practices and send the children in clean condition.
- *As the temperature increases in the summer, the level of groundwater is going down. This is creating the problem of lack of drinking water at some ECCE Centres.*
To overcome this problem, the drinking water is being arranged even from distant areas with the support of community and management committee.

Lessons learnt and best practices

Project Management

- If the capacity of team members is built properly, they can represent the project at any platform.
- Good rapport and faith between management and field staffs contributes into favourable result for children e.g. activities at 30 ECCE Centres continued by the facilitators when the project period ended at the end of August 2018 and extension of the project period was not sure.

Sport and Play-Based Programming at ECCE centres

- The sport and playful activities of ECCE Centre are so effective that ICDS department in Lalganj and Madihan blocks invited our sub-coordinators to train selected AWWs in their respective block.
- Knowledge provided to us under the Move & Improve Project, especially on care and protection of children is very useful for us. We can discuss these topics with the teachers, health and ICDS officials.
- Playful activities of ECCE Centres are very effective in bringing change in children and their development.

Sustainability & Government Involvement

- Learnt many aspects of child health during the health check-up camp by government medical team.
- It was a learning for me that how we can liaison with government functionaries and how to mobilize them for a good collaboration with our project activities.
- Cooperation and involvement of ICDS Department from district level officer upto AWWs. This support enabled the project to involve in training and orientation in various blocks of the district and our children are getting benefit of various ICDS services at our centres.

Parental Education & Community Mobilisation

- As an impact of the parental education session, the community has been mobilized specially on the handwash with soap, importance of AADHAAR card, nutrition for children and their immunization.
- The mothers have become so careful for the children that they brought their children themselves for the vaccination and taken the children to the school for their mainstreaming.
- Mobilization activities were so effective that the mothers became aware about the development of their children and felt their responsibility. As a result of it, regularity of children could be maintained despite non-availability of the caretakers.
- Proper community mobilization gives good results. The mothers who did not wish to get their children vaccinated for measles and rubella even after mobilized by AWWs and ASHAs, changed their mind and brought the children for vaccination when mobilized by us.

ECCE Centre Management

- Mobilization and proper guidance have improved the capacity of ECCE centre management committee members and now they have become more careful about the activities of the ECCE Centre.

Others

- It is imperative that the problem of the children should be instantly identified and taken or referred to concerned experts for further remedy.
- By participating in the training organized by ICDS Department, got to know about various aspects of health and nutrition. And also, about how a woman can keep herself healthy during the pregnancy too.



Celebration of Indian Republic Day with ECCE Children at Sukhra in Halia block on 26th Jan 2019. Mr. Chaitanand Jheengun from Mauritius attended the ceremony as the Guest of Honour and distributed sweets among the children. His daughter also accompanied him in the event.

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