



Crèches: Reaching to unreached

In Jharkhand since 2008, Udyogini has been a pioneer organization working for the enhancement of economic status of 20000 odd women through its intervention in Enterprise and Value Chain Development.

Rationale

Udyogini has witnessed in its work with women through enterprise based approach that they have the zeal to contribute in the family income. The rural women spend 8-10 hours per day for their work either in agricultural activities, Lac cultivation and/or collecting forest produce. Due to taxing work hours the women expressed the need of a caretaker of children during their absence. In many cases the elder girl child takes care of their younger siblings while her mother goes for work. This has increased the dropout rate amongst girl children. At Jharkhand most villages are situated in remote areas, it is difficult for kids to reach *Anganwadi* centres (ICDS). They are also deprived of several services like provision of day care facility, supplementary nutrition, improving child health conditions, early childhood education, health check-ups and immunization. With the breaking up of joint family system in rural areas and increased phenomenon of nuclear families like the urban counterpart, rural women need support in terms of quality, substitute, and care for their young child/children while they are at work.



Intervention Model

Creches or *Palna Ghar* initiated by social security wing of Udyogini meets the need of not only these women but also of children. It helps the rural woman to take care of the children by providing day care facility. On the other hand children are provided with early childhood education and nutritious food from the trained caretakers and helpers. It provides supplementary nutrition helping to improve the health condition of children which is periodically monitored by basic health check-up. It provides early childhood education as a preparatory ground for schooling in the later years. It acts as the center for timely and relevant immunization of children against common diseases.



Impact

At present almost above 5000 children (in the age group of 0-6 years) are directly served by 206 crèches in three districts (Ranchi, Khunti and Gumla) of Jharkhand. PLEASE ADD IN THIS SECTION USING SOPHIA's DATA. (or the data from Strategy Evaluation Workshop which was shared with Ranchi Team Google Group also on drive).

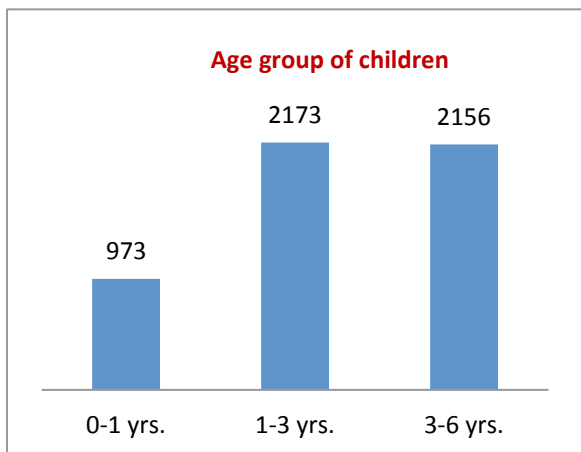
Activities undertaken in Crèches

- Provides day care facility for 4-5 hours to the children by ensuring one time day meal to the children to support their nutritional supplement
- Provides health education or childcare counselling to the mothers
- Special care for malnourished child
- Organizing monthly mothers' meeting to counsel them on health, hygiene and nutritional aspects
- Community orientation and sensitization.
- Made linkage between Auxiliary Nurses Midwives (ANM), *Sahiya* and PHCs for immunization and health check-up of the children
- Supports parents to engage their enterprise and livelihood activities
- Helps the parents to enrol their child at nearest school (Referral Services)
- Helps in developing child's overall knowledge through use of educational toys, interactive games, songs, arts & craft etc

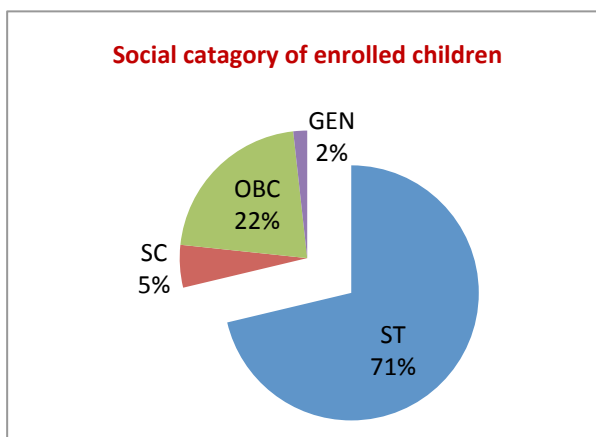
How a Crèche is maintained

- Everyday a Crèche starts at 9 a.m. to 2 p.m
- Functioning for at least 6-7 hours
- Maximum 25 children (from 0-6 yrs) attend a Creche
- Teacher (*Sikshika*) and her Helper (*Sahayika*) supervise the Creches
- Per day one-time supplementary nutritional food is provided
- Learning and playing materials are properly kept
- In each centre, two types of attendance registers are maintained; Children's Attendance Register and Mothers' Meeting Attendance Register
- It is mandatory to conduct at least one Mothers' Meeting in a month
- To ensure the regularity of children in Crèche, both teacher & helper make family/home visit

Age group of children



Social category of enrolled children



Objectives:

- To improve the nutritional and health status of children (0-6) years
- To ensure early childhood care in term of health check-up and immunization
- To ensure the overall cognitive and physical development of children
- To provide counselling for mothers and family members
- To ensure full day engagement of child with Crèche, this leads not to hamper in family income and create independent ecosystem for working women