

Study done by CIVIC Bangalore

Poor status of anganwadis in Bangalore – 22.12.12

CIVIC conducted a survey of 50 anganwadis in Bangalore city during November and December 2012 in collaboration with the Right to Food Campaign-Karnataka and presented the findings at a public hearing on 22.12.12 at Jain College Auditorium. The survey found that most of them lacked basic infrastructure and facilities such as toilets and drinking water. Mothers' Committees attached to anganwadis were dysfunctional. Mr. N. Muni Reddy, Jt. Director (ICDS), who was the chief guest, said that a request had been sent to the government to increase the amount of Rs. 750 available for paying rent for anganwadis. Mr. Clifton D'Rozario, State Advisor to the SC Commissioners in the Right to Food case, pointed out that the health camps being conducted every month to identify malnourished children, as per the High Court directive, were reducing their coverage month by month. He asked that all departments had to work jointly if the problem of malnourishment was to be tackled effectively.

Participants: Mr. Y. Mariswamy, Samajika Parivartana Janandolana - Chairperson

Chief Guests: Mr. Muni Reddy, Joint Director (ICDS) of Women and Child Development Department, Bangalore

Mr. Ramesh Halabavi, Deputy Director (ICDS) of Women and Child Development Department, Bangalore

Mr. Clifton D'Rozario - State Advisor to Supreme Court Commissioners in the Right to Food Case

Special Invitees: All CDPOs of Bangalore

Survey methodology

Survey was conducted in 50 anganwadis in 5 CDPO zones of Bangalore with the support of anganwadi teachers and local communities.

Survey Findings:

Basic facilities

Own building	Municipal building	Community hall	School	Temple	Anganwadi helper's home
14	11	6	5	1	1

Power supply and fans:

Have power	No power	Have fans	No fans
19	31	9	41

No of rooms:

Single room	2 rooms	3 rooms
32	12	6

Status of floor:

Cement	Tiles	Mud
44	3	1

Space for kitchen and storage: 40 anganawadis do not have space for kitchen and storage and only 10 anganawadis have this space.

Have space for kitchen and storage	No space for kitchen and storage
40	10

Water and Toilet facility:

Have water facility	No water facility	Have toilet facility	No toilet facility
7	43	14	36

Playgrounds and play equipment

	Have	Do not have
Playground	2	48
Indoor play equipment	11	39
Outdoor play equipment	1	49

Nutrition and take home rations:

No. of children 0-3 enrolled	No. getting take-home ration	No. not getting take-home ration
1982	1451	531

Malnourishment grading of 0-3 children

Total	Normal	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
1982	1936	14	1	32

3-6 year-old children's attendance at anganawadi

Number enrolled	Number attending	Number getting food
1396	917	All

Malnourishment grading of 3-6 children

Total	Normal	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
1396	1324	53	8	11

Doctor's visits to Anganawadis in last 6 months:

Not visited	1 time	2 times	3-4 times

at all			
8	2	18	19

ANM's visits to Anganawadis in last 6 months:

Not visited at all	1 time	3 times	4 times	6 times	8 times	12 times
4	1	1	4	3	2	32

Other findings:

Qualification of anganawadi teachers: Most of the teachers' qualification is SSLC or PUC.

Balavikasa samithi and mother's meetings: In all anganawadis 3-4 mothers participated in the meetings. Some mothers said their signatures for having attended meetings were simply collected at their homes.

Experience sharing by NGOs at the public hearing

Experiences of APSA staff:

- Request letter had been submitted to department on need for 3 anganawadis in Devasandra ward, but there had been no response from the department.
- Very few children were attending the anganawadi because of lack of space, drinking water and toilet facility in the anganawadi centre.
- One centre was being run in a temple and had no playground.

Experiences of Stree Jagruti Samiti:

- No anganawadi was being sanctioned by the department and health check-up of the children had not been done.
- Anganawadi centre was not being run as the local corporator has asked it to be closed because the community did not vote for him.

Experience of CRY and CWC: They wanted to know which department was responsible for giving the place for establishing an anganawadi.

Experience of Daksha Samuha and Domestic Workers' Rights Union: Children are not going to the Anganawadi since the centre has been demolished as the rent has not been paid for 7 months to a private building.

Experience of CFAR: A request letter has been submitted to department for establishing an anganawadi. Anganawadi teacher is sending the children home at 1 pm instead of 4 pm.

Recommendations from participants

- Raise the rent of Rs 750/month to Rs 4000/-month in Bangalore.
- Plan for space for anganawadis in new layouts.
- Since migrants are coming in large numbers to Bangalore, one needs to plan anganawadis for them.
- Financial powers need to be given to Bala Vikasa Samithis.
- Give nutritionally balanced meals to children.
- Anganawadi teachers need to be trained better.

Response of Joint Director (ICDS)

- Instructions have been given to officials to identify by the end of the month the locations where anganwadis are required.
- Central government has agreed to give Rs.5000/month rent for a space of 600 sqm for setting up an anganwadi and the state government may approve this within 3 to 4 months.
- High court has given directions to BBMP to plan and budget for constructing new anganawadis and repair old anganawadis.
- The attitudes of officials and teachers need to change therefore directions give to monitor the functions.
- Health problems of children will be solved when N.U.H.M programme comes to Bangalore.
- Local community and NGOs' support is necessary to ensure the proper functioning of Balavikasa Samithis.
- Officials have been directed to give proper training to anganwadi teachers.

Mr. Clifton D'Rozario's suggestions/directions

- People's participation is important for the proper functioning of anganwadis.
- Health check-ups for malnourished children are not being done properly. It is necessary to take the support of NGOs in future for conducting the camps.
- Grievances need to be resolved at zonal level by conducting meetings once in 2 months at least in the presence of teachers, NGOs and local community.
- Mobile anganawadis are needed for the children of daily-wage labourers and construction workers.
- It is necessary to identify children needing nutrition supplements where no anganwadis are functioning.
- Directions have been issued already to KSDB to provide anganawadis wherever houses for the urban poor are being constructed.

Chairperson Mr. Mariswamy's recommendations

- BBMP, BDA and KSDB should provide space for construction of Anganawadis.
- Food supplements need to be provided regularly to pregnant and lactating women.
- Eggs and milk need to be given to all children.
- Free medicines need to be distributed to pregnant women and malnourished children.
- Balavikasa Samathis should be strengthened for sustained development of anganawadis.

Survey follow-up by CIVIC

Demand list was prepared and submitted on the number of anganawadis needed in the 4 wards where CIVIC is working.