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Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Early Childhood Care and Education: A Training Programme for Anganwadi Workers of Odisha

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Introduction

Anganwadi's rural child care centers were started in 1975 by the Indian Government under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme to fight hunger and malnutrition of children. It is an effort of the public health system of India, and Anganwadi workers (AWW) are responsible for contraceptive supply and counselling, providing knowledge on nutrition and supplementation, and non-formal pre-school activities. State Governments subsequently were responsible for the implementation of the programme.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, published guidelines regarding the roles of Anganwadi workers, who are the front line workers. The guidelines included community participation in the execution of this programme; conducting regular surveys and providing education for health and nutrition of all family members, especially pregnant women; within their jurisdiction; providing education to parents about growth and development of their children; organizing pre-school activities; motivating families to adopt family planning; imparting education to teenage girls and parents through various social awareness