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A comparative study on physical growth of ICDS and non-ICDS children of Ganjam district

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ABSTRACT

Initially 10 Anganwadi centres were randomly selected from the rural and urban areas of Ganjam district for this study. This study was carried out in 8 villages. These ICDS centres were Berhampur, Aska, Kanishi, Rangeilunda, Purustampur, Jaganathpur, Bhanjanagar and Kukudakhandi. The Non-ICDS were also selected from same villages and nearby villages. The sample consisted of both boys and girls of ICDS centre and Non-ICDS children. The 300 children of the age group of 3-6 years from different anganwadi centres were selected including both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

INTRODUCTION

Since independence the government of India and other agencies are trying their best to tackle the problem of malnutrition among children but still it has not been possible to combat it in totality. Good health is a vital part of the great experience of living. The truth of this has been known from early times. Every age has made new discoveries about health thereby providing man with new weapons to fight disease. Today, steady progress is being made in the fields of education, medicine and surgery as well as public health. Attempts are being made to give everyone a fair chance to lead a healthier and fuller life.

Education is a basic human right, vital to personal and societal development and well-being. Education

enhances lives. It ends generation cycle of poverty and disease and provides the means for sustainable development. A quality basic education will better equip girls and boys with knowledge and skills needed to adopt healthy life style and to take an active role in social, economic and political decision-making as they transit to adolescence and adulthood.

Considering the importance of ICDS, the Government has given very high priority to the scheme. The ICDS scheme was launched in 2nd October 1975 in Subdega block of Sundergarh district with 85 AWCs. It is a centrally sponsored scheme with one of its core aim is to improve the nutritional and health status of children below the age of six years and pregnant and lactating mothers. The programme has gradually increased from 33 projects to 7073 projects in 2009, catering to about