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A comparative study on nutritional status of ICDS and non-ICDS children of Ganjam district

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ABSTRACT

The rich experience of ICDS has brought about a welcome transition from welfare orientation to a new challenging perspective of social change. The evaluation of nutritional and immunisation services was undertaken in the rural and urban ICDS centres of Ganjam district. The socio-economic development of the country depends on the health status of it's children. So the opportunities for early childhood development determine the present and future of the country. The present research is an attempt to study the nutritional status of ICDS and Non-ICDS children (3-6 yrs) in urban and rural areas of Ganjam district. A sample of 300 children was selected. The tool consisted of an anthropometric measurement (Weight, Height, Arm-circumferences and Head circumference). Data were analysed of 300 children with the help of WHO anthropometric Software. Z Scores of malnutrition were calculated by this software. The Z-score data of children obtained were systematically tabulated and coded according to exhaustive categories. Analysis of the data was done qualitatively and quantitatively using simple numbers and percentage and Chi- square with the help of statistical software SPSS. The study indicated towards the nutritional status of children.

NTRODUCTION

ICDS Projects is the landmark in the history of utrition in India. It is the mother to all the food, nutrition nd all insurance policies. The children between the age roup 0-6 years are one of the most nutritionally ulnerable segments of the population. Nutrition during ne first 5 years has an impact not only on growth and norbidity during childhood, but also acts as a determinant f nutritional status in adolescent and adulthood life. lobally, more than one third of child deaths are ttributable to under nutrition (According to UNICEF, 009). The child population (0-6 yrs) was 15.9 per cent f the total population (According to the Indian census n 2001). The prevalence of under weight children in India is among the highest in the world, and it is nearly double that of sub-Saharan Africa. 45 per cent of less than 3 year old children were malnourished (National Family Health Survey-3, 2005-2006). If it will continue, India would be raising a generation which is debilitated and unable to contribute effectively to the productivity of the country. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme is a globally recognised community based early child care programme, which aim is the basic integrated needs of young children, expectant and nursing mother and adolescent girls across the life cycle in a holistic manner. ICDS in India is a response to the challenge of breaking a vicious cycle of malnutrition, impaired development, mortality and morbidity in young children. The ICDS is perhaps one of the better concerned