



# GOOD GOVERNANCE



## *A Step in the Right Direction*

# Decentralization of Supplementary Nutrition Programme of ICDS

The Government of Odisha took an in-principle decision to implement decentralized procurement of food stuffs with effect from April 2011 under Supplementary feeding programme. Some meaningful changes were made to the existing programme with regards to feeding norms, procurement procedure, financial procedure and monitoring. The important features included in this programme are :



- Emphasis is given on meeting protein and calorie norms within the ration cost.



- Daily recipe of morning snacks, Hot Cooked Meal ( Pre School Children) and Take Home Ration has been standardized all over State.
- Provision of eggs for Pre School Children has been introduced

The involvement of local communities and Self Help Group members is ensured through monthly monitoring by PRI members at GP level, Jaanch Committee formed at the village level, Persons with Disability included in the Jaanch Committee, Self Help Groups entrusted with responsibility of preparation and delivery of Take Home Ration.

The State Government is laying great stress on Transparency and accountability at all levels. Hence fund is released to the Joint account of AWW and Ward Member, prior verification of all beneficiaries have been done and photographs are attached to the enrolment register, Entitlement charts [quantity per meal + cost] have been displayed at all AWCs and photographs of Jaanch Committee members and Mothers Committee members are displayed at AWCs.

**ଅଙ୍ଗନବାସୀ ସେବକରେ ପଇସା ଉଠାଇ ଉଠାଏ**  
 ଶ.ଏସ୍.ସ୍. ୨-ଏସ୍. ଉପାଦାନ ବିଭାଗ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ୍ୱ ଚୈତ୍ୟ ୧.୪.୦୦

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ଉପର ଉପରେ ଉପର ଅଙ୍ଗନବାସୀ ସେବକରେ ପଇସା ଉଠାଇ ଉଠାଏ ଉପରେ ପଇସା ଉଠାଇ ଉଠାଏ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ ହେବ ଓ ଉପର ଉପରେ ପଇସା ଉଠାଇ ଉଠାଏ ।  
 ଶ.ଏସ୍.ସ୍. ୨-ଏସ୍. ଉପାଦାନ ବିଭାଗ

Various studies have also come up with some findings. The trend that is shown in the study is definitely encouraging. Some of the findings of the study done by VCRO are as follows.

- It is quite heartening to see that the system of decentralisation has started to be grounded in the AWCs. All the AWCs have opened their joint accounts either in local Gramya Bank or nearest Nationalised Bank.



- It is quite clear that the food stocks are not stored for more than one month in any of the surveyed AWCs, resulted in ensuring quality food in the AWCs.
- The first and visible impact one could witness in the hot cooked meal that is served in the Anganwadis. The different menu chart prescribed is being followed in most of the AWCs. Vegetables, soya chunk and egg that were once a dream for the children are now being served in all Anganwadis.
- The decentralised guidelines not only created a more participatory institution like “Jaanch Committee” through it, this has tried to make the ongoing monitoring of the ICDS well possible. The Panchayati Raj Institutions have been provided a larger space to make it more transparent and

accountable. The decentralised procurement of food stuffs has made fundamental changes in the functioning of the AWCs. Apart from procurement of food it also ensures larger participation and community monitoring of the scheme.

- There is marked improvement in the overall functioning of Anganwadis. Hot cooked meal is served almost every day in the Centres.
- It is also seen as a major tool to benefit the women Self Help Groups economically and engage them for gainful employment, which would be a step towards their empowerment.



Apart from this, Commissioners of Hon'ble Supreme Court through their letter to the Department of Women and Child Development, Govt. of Odisha have appreciated the effort undertaken related to Decentralised process of Supplementary Feeding Programme of ICDS.

However effort is being made by Department of Women and Child Development to enhance the capacity building of service providers as well as Mothers Group, Jaanch Committee members.