

Global Hunger Index ranked India 94th out of 107 countries, which is worst than all other neighbouring countries. Thus capacity building of Anganwadi centres (AWC) can help to achieve hunger free India.

Anganwadi centres has been provided under Integrated child development service to ensure

- a) supplementary nutrition.
- b) pre school non formal education
- c) Nutrition & health education
- d) Immunisation
- e) health checkup
- f) referral services.

And according to reports there are around 13.66 lakh Anganwadi centres around the country.

But despite several efforts like POSHAN Abhiyan or SAKSHAM scheme

the pandemic and administrative negligence has created a crisis in AWC system.

(i) Infrastructure - many AWC do not have their own buildings and workers provide service from their home.

around 33% AWC do not have toilets and most of them have no clean water reported NITI Aayog.

(ii) manpower - lack of training and skills of worker, such as digital literacy.

(iii) Disparity - while southern states have performed well, northern state remain vulnerable

Gujarat, AP, Telangana, Kerala have digitised their service delivery through AWC



(iv) salary - AWW, ANM, ASHA etc have very low payment and avenues to keep them motivated.

(v) vacancy - there are vacant posts in supervisor, subordinate, cleaning workers in AWC.

way forward

- (i) NEP 2020 has emphasised upon early childhood education, government ~~the~~ should link them with mainstream education.
- (ii) Private participation should be encouraged and their Innovation & best practices should be implemented in Govt. AWCs.
- (iii) Impact Investment should be linked with AWC to enhance funding.
- (iv) Accreditation by periodic visit of supervisors to check hygiene, absence etc.
- (v) Infrastructure should be strengthened such as creche facilities, security (CCTV), toilets, water etc.
- (vi) Implementing saksham scheme which as a target to upgrade 2.5 lakh such centres across country.