

PREFACE

The sustainable human department is a newly coined concept which has assumed considerable importance in ensuring the economic development of the modern economies in general and developing economies in particular. It start with women and early childhood (0 – 6) years which is the most crucial period when foundation for the physical and mental development are laid. Proper care and right kind of development opportunities for this valuable and vast section of child population are critical since these have a direct bearing upon the future human resource development for a nation. Their needs must be met. In the same context, equally important are policies and programmes for the girl child, adolescent girls and empower of women in a developing country like India.

In the absence of timely and adequate measures by the government there is a likely to be another fall out of a different kind in the text century.

To meet the needs of the children the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is one such programme that aims to address these gaps by providing comprehensive services like health, nutrition and developmental needs of children under six. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) works through a network of Anganwadi Centers (AWC) that are run by Anganwadi Workers (ANW) and Helpers (AWH) who, among others things are supposed to provide supplementary nutrition, nutrition and health education and pre-school education. This present study deals with the applied and practical side of women and child development by providing a detailed insight of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) run by the NGO in the different slums of North Kolkata. Almost every important

aspect of the Integrated Child Development Programme has been dealt within a comprehensive manner.

Apart from some lessons for the Child Development functionaries, it is hope that the study will go a long way in providing a fresh insight and a new perspective to the challenge of women and Child Development. The focus provided would enable the policy makers, planners, decision makers to take action timely to achieve sustainable human development.

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