



Creches Opened Using DMF Funds

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Why in News

A report by **non-profit Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** has found that two key **mining districts, Keonjhar in Odisha and Anuppur in Madhya Pradesh (MP)**, have opened creches for the children of their inhabitants by using the **District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds**.

Key Points

- Keonjhar, the biggest producer of iron ore, has the **highest DMF accrual across the country**.
- Both the mining districts through the creches are attempting to target malnutrition among pre-**Anganwadi** children **through local engagement**.
- Creches are being **executed through an expert local non-profit** that looks at community participation, particularly recruiting local women as creche workers.
- The focus is on meeting the **dietary requirement of children between 0-3 years**.
- Both districts are also working on **monitoring the nutritional gains made by the children** in creches as evidence for the intervention.

District Mineral Foundation

- DMF is a trust set up as a non-profit body under the Ministry of Mines through **the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, (MMDRA) 2015**.
- The objective is to work for the **interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining related operations** in those districts affected by the mining works.
- Under the Act, mining lease holders are required to make contributions to DMF funds.

- **Utilisation of the fund:**
 - **60% of the fund** is utilised for **high priority areas** such as drinking water supply, health care, sanitation, education, skill development, women and child care, welfare of aged and disabled people and environment conservation.
 - **40% of the fund** is utilised for **physical infrastructure, irrigation, energy and watershed development.**
- The DMFs manner of operation comes under the **jurisdiction of the relevant State Government.**
- Further, using the funds generated by this contribution, **the DMFs are expected to implement the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY), launched on 17 September 2015 for the welfare of mining areas and affected population.**

Source : DTE