



Lack of Anganwadis in Urban Areas

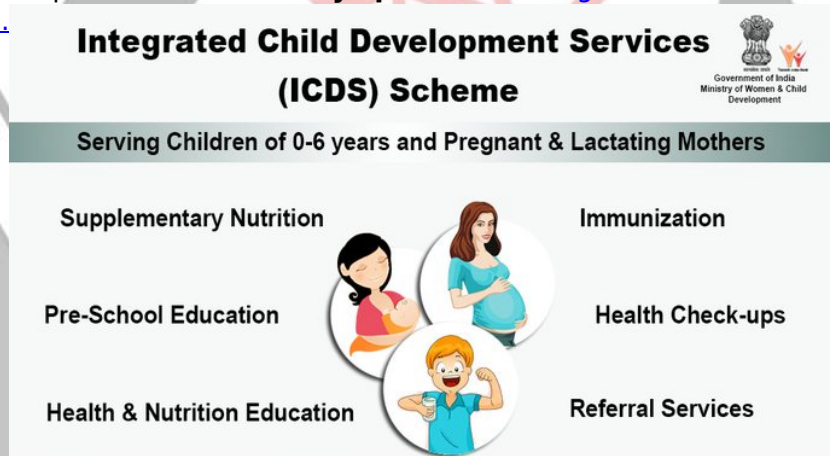
Why in News

Recently, the government's response to a [Right to Information \(RTI\)](#) query has revealed that for **every 100 anganwadi beneficiaries** in the country, **only 7 are in urban areas**.

- The minuscule presence of beneficiaries is due to **lack of Anganwadi centres in urban areas**.
- This shows **poor coverage by the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)** in urban areas.

Anganwadi Centres

- Anganwadis or day-care centres are set up under the **centrally sponsored [Integrated Child Development Services \(ICDS\) scheme](#)**.

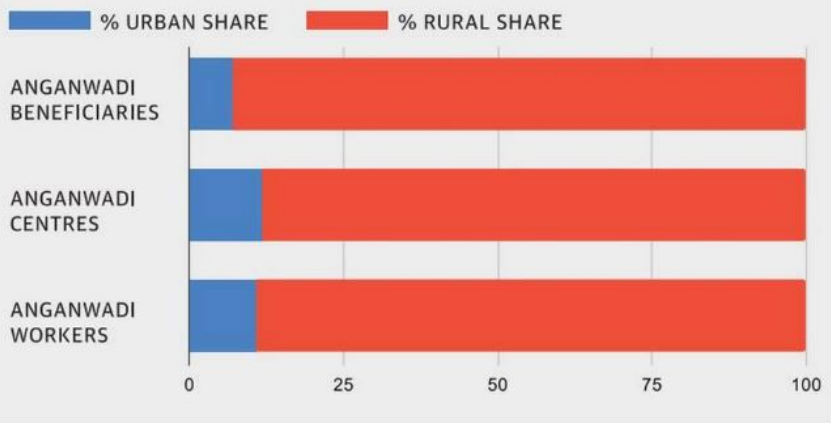


- The scheme is being implemented by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- Anganwadi centres provide a package of **six services**: supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, immunisation, nutrition and health education, as well as referral services.
- **Aim**: To reduce infant mortality and child malnutrition.
- **Beneficiaries**: Children in the age group of zero to six years, and pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Current Scenario

Urban-rural disparity

Urban areas have very few beneficiaries of anganwadi services (7.02%) as compared to rural areas (92.8%)



▪ Number of beneficiaries

- Out of **7.95 crore beneficiaries** of the Anganwadi scheme in the country as on September 30, 2019, **only 55 lakh** were registered at **urban anganwadis**.

▪ Less number of anganwadi centres in urban areas

- There are **13.79 lakh anganwadis operational across the country**, out of which **9.31 lakh** centres are linked to the government's web-enabled data entry system called **Rapid Reporting System**.
- Of that linked anganwadis, **1.09 lakh centres are in urban areas** and the remaining **8.22 lakh are in rural areas** of the country.

▪ Scope for coverage by the scheme

- National Nutrition Survey 2016-18 found that 35% of children under five were stunted and 17% were wasted.
 - It also found that 22% of children in the age group of 5-9 years were stunted and 23% were thin for their age.
- **Urban areas specific:** Children in urban areas showed two to three times **higher prevalence of obesity** as compared to their peers in rural areas.

▪ Latest Step Taken

- The **NITI Aayog** has been working on a draft paper to strengthen the ICDS programme in urban areas, keeping in mind challenges such as migration, population density and the long commute involved for workers and beneficiaries.

[Source:TH](#)