

# SEMINAR FOR ANGANWADI TEACHER ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Each Anganwadi center is unique in its nature with regard to local context, socio-political scenario, linkage with the community and the individual who is running the center in spite of the objectives, inputs and operational plans being the same for every Anganwadi center. A reflective Anganwadi Teacher is able to compensate the negative effect of, lack of enough space, infrastructure and resources availability to run a quality preschool program. The presenters in this seminar highlight these possibilities.

A collaborative  
learning platform.

**Venue** : Mahila Samakhya Bhavanam, Sangareddy  
**Date** : 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2017; 10:00 AM – 05:00 PM  
**Participants** : ICDS Functionaries (CDPO's/ACDPO's/Supervisors), Anganwadi Teachers

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## Introduction

Seminar for Anganwadi Teachers on Early Childhood Education was organized by Azim Premji Foundation, Sangareddy Early Childhood Education Initiative in collaboration with ICDS department of Sangareddy district for providing a collaborative learning platform to share good practices and generate discussion in the field of Early Childhood education. Foundation has been working in Sangareddy district for the last four years for improving quality of Early Childhood program through capacity building of the Anganwadi Teachers and ICDS personal.

## Context

Each Anganwadi center is unique in its nature with regard to local context, socio-political scenario, linkage with the community and the individual who is running the center in spite of the objectives, inputs and operational plans being the same for every Anganwadi center. A reflective Anganwadi Teacher would be able to compensate the negative effect of, lack of enough space, infrastructure and resources availability to run a quality preschool program.

There are several examples in the field, set by the Anganwadi Teachers, who are consistently doing well with in their limited resources, understanding and support from the stakeholders. It is worthwhile to throw a light on such good practices and disseminate those practices among their peer group, which would motivate and inform few methods and strategies that were adopted and followed by the fellow-Anganwadi Teachers.

## Objectives

In accordance with this purpose a Seminar would provide a platform to meet the below objectives:

- Create a platform for discourses on noteworthy practices of ICDS services
- Provide better insights about Anganwadi center organization, community management etc.
- To create an opportunity for increased visibility of the Anganwadi Teachers work.
- Motivate the participants to be better Early Childhood Education practitioners.



## THEMES

The seminar is planned in a Theme based approach. The Themes chosen for this Seminar are:

1. **Effective plan of a typical day in Anganwadi:** The Anganwadi Teacher is engaged with multiple activities during a typical day and do face many a challenges to fulfill their responsibilities. There are different ways in which these activities can be effectively planned.
2. **Ensuring supportive physical learning environment:** Optimizing available physical space and building up a conducive learning environment through introducing Running Black Board, Play corner, Space demarcation and developing regular practices in children. Reflections of the Anganwadi Teachers from their implementation and observation of changes.
3. **Noteworthy practices in curricular activities:** Various practices and approaches as part of the curricular activities which include Bilingual approach, Emergent literacy and Pre-numeracy activities, Nature walk, Concept activities etc. Anganwadi Teachers initiations in terms of material preparation and usage, challenges, solutions and changes observed in children.
4. **Community connect:** Practices which enhanced in creating positive connections with community.

## Participants

Anganwadi Teachers from all five projects of Sangareddy along with respective CDPOs and Supervisors. These Anganwadi Teachers were identified by ICDS department and also include 40 Anganwadi Teachers with whom the Foundation is working with.



## Presenters

Anganwadi Teachers were invited to volunteer themselves with the choice of Theme that they are interested in presenting. Few nominations were received from the department. The Anganwadi Teachers were provided guidance for coming up with a write up. These were reviewed by four teams and results consolidated to come up with the ranking. First 14 Anganwadi Teachers from this list were finalized as presenters out of received 28 write-ups. Support was given to the selected Teachers for preparing their presentations in form of reviewing and giving feedback.

## Key Highlights

- Early Childhood Education edition of Learning Curve magazine which was translated in to Telugu was released by the Joint Collector.
- 14 Anganwadi Teachers presented best practices to an audience of 130 CDPO's, Supervisors, Anganwadi Teachers and Foundation Member.
- Anganwadi Teachers presented their work with confidence.
- Interactive Question Answer session followed each presentation.
- Certificate of appreciation for the 14 presenters were handed over by District Welfare Officer. She congratulated the presenters and highlighted the learnings that she got from the presentation and how the other Anganwadi Teachers could also easily adapt and make their Anganwadi Centers as Model Anganwadi Centers.



Listing below are the Key Highlights from the Teachers presentation in Seminar:

### Theme: Ensuring supportive Physical Learning Environment

- Kavitha exclaimed "If each AWW adopt their Anganwadi Center, every Anganwadi center will be good Anganwadi center"
- Vajramala shared her success of innovatively linking **Running Black Board** with the conversation and story-telling to reinforce the learnings of the children.
- Manjula explained how she is using the **available space effectively** by Space demarcation, Material display, Children grouping and Seating arrangement techniques.
- Kavitha told how she appreciated and encouraged children in whatever they drew on the Running Black Board and how it helps children to improve fine motor skills, self-confidence, social development, and eye – hand co-ordination.
- Yesumani made few Co-Anganwadi Teachers to demonstrate during her presentation on how she uses **pretend play** to improve children imaginative skills.

### Theme: A typical day in AWC - Effective planning

- Varalakshmi gave a vivid portrayal of the **multi-tasking work** that Anganwadi Teacher performs with children, beneficiaries, Supervisor, Sarpanch, Health workers etc. and how her relationship with all of the stakeholders makes it possible to smoothly traverse her day in Anganwadi.
- Maruthamma shared her experience on how she is using the community (mothers/beneficiaries/kishora baalika) support to **overcome her challenge of not having a Helper** in the Anganwadi center. DWO appreciated Maruthamma's commitment and dedication on work, good planning and systematic implementation and also said that she is a good role model.

### Theme: Community connect

- Sakkubai spoke about how she **built good relations with community** using ECCE days and on how she got their support for fulfilling the needs of center. She also told how she regularly attend Gramasabha and Village Officer meetings and ask them solutions for center problems. She has explained how she got help from village head in getting the center painted, how she is working with Sarpanch to get mud from lake in summer for the garden in the center premises to grow plants. She has also got two mothers to commit to construct compound wall for center.
- Radhamma shared the summary of on how she is using ECCE day as a platform for connecting with the Community for letting them know what activities as happening in Anganwadi. She also shared the kind of challenges she faced when running center and how she has **built rapport with parents** she asked for help like requesting for light, fan and painting the center which were fulfilled by parents & community through donations. She ended giving an analogy of

how the relation between Teacher and community should be like Sand and cement and water is the communication Teacher makes with community, when mixed in right proportion it strengthens the system.

- Eshwaramma listed the **attributes an Anganwadi Teacher** needs to have when they interact with community.

**Theme: Noteworthy practices of PSE activities**

- Manjula explained how she introduced English as **second language** to children.
- Sailaja shared her experience in **piloting the assessment** of young children by observation and the usefulness of creating and maintaining a profile and portfolio for each child.
- Manga showed the **Rules chart** that she had developed and how she is using it in Anganwadi center for better managing the classroom.
- Sashirekha demonstrated how she **introduced Telugu to Thanda children** using bilingual approach. She also showed a story book that she had prepared to help her teach. She told that bilingual approach helped her and the children in learning but also reiterated the importance of mother tongue in language learning.

**Press Coverage**

EENADU News Paper, district edition 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017



The Hindu.com, 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017

[Focus on pre-primary education, says JC](#)

Telangana Today, 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017

<http://telanganatoday.news/anganwadi-workers-told-update-teaching-skills>



ICDS - Integrated Child Development Services

CDPO - Child Development Project Officer

ECCE – Early Childhood Care and Education