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REFURBISHMENT OF ANGANWADIS
A MULTI STATE EXPERIENCE

December 2018
The India Nutrition Initiative (TINI) was registered as a Trust on 28th May 2015. TINI has been created under the aegis of the Tata Trusts and is envisioned to carry forward the work of the Trusts to address the problem of malnutrition in India by identifying, undertaking and supporting relevant initiatives in the said thematic area.

In the last 3 years, TINI has implemented a diverse portfolio of projects which include staple food fortification, nutritious foods for children, pregnant and lactating women and enabling activities such as advocacy, monitoring, learning and research.

TINI’s programs have strong linkages with the Government of India’s and respective State Government’s ongoing nutrition/health programs. Our programs are designed such that they complement and add value to the government’s programs – piloting sustainable approaches within respective local/regional contexts.

The current portfolio is diverse and the projects, while meeting the needs of the communities, through focused learning and research, also inform and enable the Government to take appropriate policy decisions on future investments for scale up and sustainability.
A TATA Trusts Initiative to revitalize the ICDS

Services of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), and during the Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND), are ideal to promote nutrition and prevent maternal and child undernutrition.

The need is to refurbish the Anganwadi Centres to

- Create a motivating work environment for the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers;
- Create a safe environment for mothers and children; and
- Provide adequate and appropriate equipment for the Anganwadi Worker to do her job effectively.

Stringent selection criteria were applied to select the Anganwadis.

Refurbishment consisted of
- Painting the Building
- Provision of essential equipment

Contribution of Panchayats
- Repairs to the buildings
- Construction of Toilets
- Provision of Drinking Water
### Numbers of Refurbished *Anganwadis* (December 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Completed</th>
<th>Inaugurated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>100 (Phase 1)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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Rajasthan
Karauli  
RAJASTHAN  

AWC- Gadhi  

April 2018

September 2018
Tonk
RAJASTHAN

AWC- Jhilai V

April 2018

September 2018
Andhra Pradesh
Guntur
Andhra Pradesh

AWC- Penumaka

March 2018

April 2018
Maharashtra
Snapshots from the Refurbished Centers
The refurbishment of Anganwadi Centres has had the following impact:

• **Given a boost to the AWWs**
  It has given a boost to the image of Anganwadi Workers since only those Anganwadi Centres were selected which had active involvement of the Anganwadi Workers and the Lady Supervisors. The transformation of dull centres into vibrant space for women and children have motivated the workers to be present on each day, thus, regularising the opening of centres.

• **Increase in community awareness**
  It has helped the community to become aware about Anganwadi centres and the services they provide. The wall paintings and messages attract people to inquire about the services being provided in the centre.

• **Increase in enrolment and attendance**
  The colourful interiors attract children to come to join and attend preschool regularly. The desks and attractive charts have positively impacted parents to send their toddlers to the centre.

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**Observed Impact- Rajasthan**

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**Stories from the field**

Mr. Bhanwar Lal is the Sarpanch of Jhillai, Tonk District. He was unaware of how malnutrition impacted the children of his village. This changed when Tata Trusts approached him to discuss implementing their programme in one of the AWCs in his panchayat. He realized the prevalence of malnutrition in the village and decided to contribute in addressing the issue. He was motivated to make his village and panchayat malnutrition free, for which he initiated repair work, provided drinking water facility, toilets and garden for 4 AWCs in his panchayat using the panchayat funds and aims to convert all these into model AWCs. He also initiated a drive to address malnutrition by visiting the homes of malnourished children identified by the Anganwadi Workers and encouraged the parents to send the children to the Anganwadi Centres. He was felicitated with a National Award for his active contribution to make Poshan Abhiyan a success.
Observed Impact – Andhra Pradesh

• Increase in beneficiary enrolment
The Times of India on August 19th, 2018 published that the number of beneficiaries/children enrolled in refurbished Anganwadi centre at Penumaka in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh has seen an increase from 40 to 60 within just 4 months. Refurbishment of the centre is stated to be the cause behind it.

• Department for Women Development and Child Welfare is seeking our technical expertise to refurbish 4000 Anganwadi Centers
Due to our innovative approaches in the refurbishment process, Women Development and Child Welfare Department(WDCW) of Andhra Pradesh has started refurbishing 4000 Anganwadi centers in backward areas across the state by using our technical expertise to create them as model Anganwadi centres.

• Motivating officials and community members
Local community members, Panchayati Raj Institutions’ members and officials from the ICDS department have taken a lead to monitor the work progress. They got motivated and decided to contribute towards the Anganwadi refurbishment in their respective villages. For example, Local Mandal Panchayat President of Vijayawada rural mandal has declared to contribute for construction of boundary wall for some AWCs. Likewise, individual stories of contribution from each village have been coming up frequently.
Observed Impact-Maharashtra

- Anganwadi workers feel more empowered with the material supplied and the attention given to them.
- Anganwadi workers observed a definite increase in the beneficiaries availing their services.
- Children in the age group of 3-5 years spend more time in the centre since the provision of toys and age appropriate IEC material.
- Accurate measurements of anthropometry data during VHNDs has been made easier since ASHA does not have to run to Sub-Centre to carry infantometers if she has one in accurate working condition.
- Counselling during CBEs and VHNDs has been greatly supported with IEC posters and Nutrition Booklets provided.
- In few of the cases, Sarpanch have redirected their funds towards upgrading their Anganwadi Centre’s with all the IEC paintings to spread awareness.
- Government has decided to provide electricity to all Anganwadi Centers in Palghar.

Stories from the field

Witnessing the benefit of our refurbishment activities and realizing its importance in the community, a woman sarpanch from Mokhada block diverted her Gram Panchayat funds towards refurbishment on similar criteria as ours and painted them with IEC material. She refurbished 2 AWCs with the help of anganwadi workers and community members.

Her aim was to make it look attractive to community and highlight the importance of AWCs in the community. For her exceptional efforts, Sarpanch and the two Anganwadi workers were recognized and felicitated by Sabapati, Department of Women and Child Development on 27th Sep, 2018. She was recognized by her community and her supervisors for the exceptional thought and implementation of activities.
Press Coverage
Next Steps

• **Expansion of work in Rajasthan**
  After observing the impact and receiving positive feedback from the grassroot stakeholders, phase 2 of the activity is being planned to cover 100 more AWCs in the existing districts where the impact on the community can be maximized.

• **Expansion of geographical scope in Maharashtra**
  The refurbishment activity is being planned to extend to 2 other backward districts in Maharashtra – Gadchiroli and Chandrapur- for the betterment of their resident’s nutritional status.

• **Replicating our model in 3 more states**
  After witnessing the success of our existing model, planning is being done to replicate this model in 3 more states- Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Gujarat. A background study is being conducted to select the districts where our work can have the most impact.

• **Engagement with State Governments**
  Engagement with other State Governments is also in the pipeline, to advocate replication of our existing model their respective states and scale up of this model across the states.
Rajasthan State/District Team Engaged

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