



State Level Consultation

Sharing findings of Rapid Survey of childcare services in Bihar



Date: 07/07/2023

Participants: 50

Venue: A.N.Sinha Institute, Patna

Bihar FORCES Secretariat

Room No. 304, 3rd Floor, Maurya Tower, Maurya Lok Complex, Patna- 800001

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Acknowledgement

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the individuals and organizations who contributed to the success of the Bihar FORCES Meeting on July 7, 2023. This significant gathering at the A.N Sinha Institute of Social Studies brought together 50 participants from 22 NGO partners of Bihar FORCES, as well as esteemed guests and delegates, to discuss the findings of the rapid survey on childcare services in Bihar.

We would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the following individuals for their invaluable contributions and unwavering support for the successfully organizing the consultation:

- First and foremost, we express our sincere thanks to Mrs. Sunanda Pandey, a member of SCPCR (State Commission for Protection of Child Rights) for gracing the occasion as the chief guest. Her presence and valuable insights added immense significance to the meeting.
- We would also like to extend our gratefulness to Chirashree Ghosh, the Coordinator of National FORCES, for her time and guidance in organizing the necessary state-level consultation.
- Mr. Mukhtarul Huk, a distinguished Member of Bihar FORCES, whose dedication and expertise have greatly enriched our discussion.
- Mrs. Meenakshi Shukla, UNICEF Consultant, whose insights and guidance have been instrumental in shaping our initiatives.
- Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Project Lead at Plan India, whose participation, and commitment have been pivotal in driving our projects forward.
- We acknowledge the dedication and commitment of all the participants, whose diverse expertise and perspectives enriched the deliberations and outcomes of the meeting. The active engagement and exchange of ideas among attendees created a conducive environment for generating well-informed recommendations and strategies to improve childcare services in Bihar.
- We express our heartfelt thanks to all community members who shared their testimony before the stakeholders and demanded childcare services from the member of commission.
- Furthermore, we acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the team that conducted the rapid survey on childcare services in Bihar. Their findings formed the basis for the discussions and recommendations that emerged during the meeting.
- The success of the meeting would not have been possible without the collective efforts of Bihar FORCES, and the representatives from various NGOs who actively supported the organization and execution of the consultation.
- We are also thankful for the media friends who covered the consultation in their respective media houses.
- Lastly, we extend our appreciation to the A.N Sinha Institute of Social Studies for providing a venue that fostered meaningful discussions and collaborations among the participants.

Summary of the report

On July 7, 2023, Bihar FORCES in association with National FORCES, organized a state level consultation at the A.N Sinha Institute of Social Studies. The objective of the meeting was to present and discuss the findings of a rapid survey conducted on childcare services in Bihar by FORCES partner NGOs, propose recommendations to the government based on the findings, and develop strategies to address the identified issues. The meeting brought together 50 participants including Mrs. Sunanda Pandey, member of State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR), Mrs. Meenakshi Shukla, UNICEF Consultant, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Project Lead-Plan India, Chirashree Ghosh Coordinator of National FORCES, and 22 NGOs of Bihar FORCES, community members, stakeholders, and media representatives.

After the introduction, welcome ceremony, and context setting representative of Bihar FORCES convener organization presented following key findings and recommendations of the rapid survey-

Key Findings-

- Poor nutrition and unhygienic environment is the primary reason for their children falling sick.
- Birth certificate of 42% children in the age group of 0 to 6 years has not been made.
- Only 31% children have been completely vaccinated, while 32% have not been vaccinated.
- The level of awareness about hepatitis-B & polio vaccination of children in the age group of 0 to 3 years was high, while Typhoid & Measles vaccination awareness was low.
- 30% children never visited Aanganwadi centres while only 41 % children visiting regularly or occasionally.
- Major reason for children not going to AWC is the location of centres at a far distance from their homes.
- Out of the total children who visit AWCs, only 75% get nutrition and 82 % are regularly weighed.
- 42% women said that they are not aware about monthly meeting by Aanganwadi worker with community women,
- 43% women said that there is no creches facility and 43% women are not aware about creches.
- 310 women's left their children at unsafe place while they go for work.
- Mostly working women left their children with their grandparents and siblings.
- 21% women said that there are no toys in AWC while 36% of the women are not even aware of the availability.
- 43% women were not aware about pre-school facility in Aanganwadi centres.
- 40% were not aware about Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHSND).
- 57% women expressed complete lack of awareness regarding ECCE day.
- 227 women were unaware about Pradhanmantri Matra Vandna Yojna (PMMVY)

Recommendations-

- Implement Palna (National Creche Scheme) in Bihar.
- Ensure quality childcare service through Anaganwadi centres.
- Increase community participation in Aanganwadi centers.

- Establish convergence between line departments.
- Awareness about child-related schemes and programs such as Integrated Child Development Scheme, Pradhanmantri Matra Vandna Yojna, National Education Policy etc.

Following of the presentation around rapid survey findings, 04 community members shared their testimony and demanded quality childcare services. Subsequently, member of State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) promised to take forward these recommendations with government and invited members of Bihar FORCES to meet with detailed report with two pagers note of the study. During open discussion participants shared other relevant findings and suggested actions to enhance childcare services in Bihar. Lastly partner NGO of Bihar FORCES prepared an action plan for 2023-24.

Detailed minutes of the consultation

The meeting commenced with lighting the lamp and an introduction of the attendees, followed by an overview of the consultation shared by Mr. Deepak. He also invited all the delegates on the stage and welcome them one by one. The meeting was honoured by the presence of Mrs. Sunanda Pandey, an esteemed member of SCPCR, Mrs. Meenakshi Shukla (UNICEF Consultant), Mr. Sanjeev Kumar (Project Lead-Plan India), Chirashree Ghosh (Member of National Force), Member of Bihar FORCES, community members, and media. Following of the introduction and welcome, Mr. Bhupendra shared the following objective of the consultation-

- To discuss the key findings of the rapid survey on childcare services in Bihar,
- To propose recommendations based on the survey findings,
- To plan future actions for Bihar FORCES to address the identified issues in childcare services.



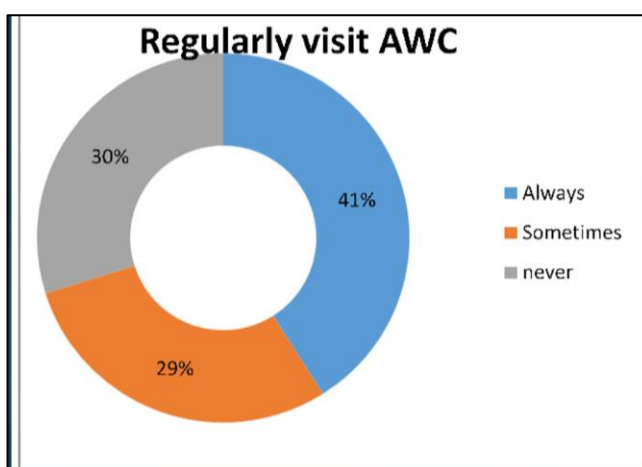
Mr. Deepak Welcoming participants & guests

Subsequently, Ms. Chirashree Ghosh, the coordinator of National FORCES, shared information about the National FORCES initiative. She stated, 'FORCES is an informal network of CSOs, trade unions, academia, and individual experts formed in 1989 in response to the Shram Shakti Report by the Centre for Women's and Child Development Studies (CWDS), Mobile Creches (MC), and Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA).' Ms. Ghosh mentioned that FORCES focuses on issues concerning the overlapping rights of children from birth to six years of age and their mothers or primary caregivers. She also highlighted that FORCES operates in 09 states: Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Delhi. Additionally, she shared FORCES' vision of advocating for the universal right to maternity entitlements, childcare, and early childhood development (ECD) services."

Later, Mr. Raushan Kumar Chaudhary, a representative of the convener organization of Bihar FORCES, presented the key findings and recommendations of the study. He began by outlining the study's objective, which was to understand the status of childcare services in Bihar for children of women working in the informal sector and to identify possible solutions. Following that, he shared the target audience of the study, which comprised 673 women from 28 blocks across 28 panchayats in 22 districts of Bihar. He also mentioned that this study was conducted in collaboration with 20 NGO partners of Bihar FORCES. Subsequently he presented following key findings of the rapid survey-

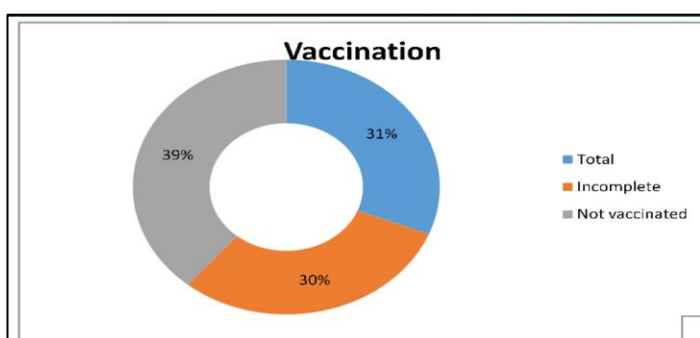
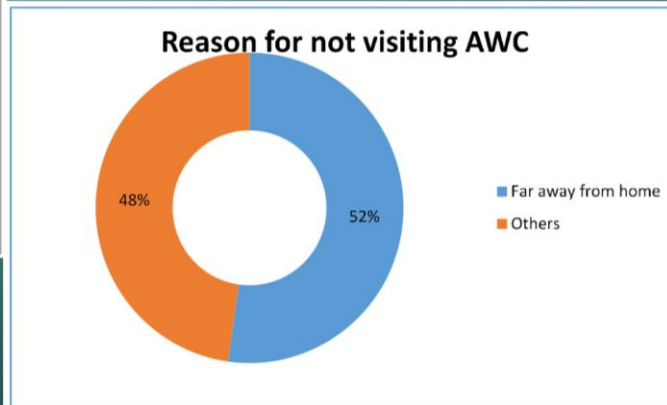


Mr. Chaudhary presenting key findings of the rapid survey of childcare services in Bihar.



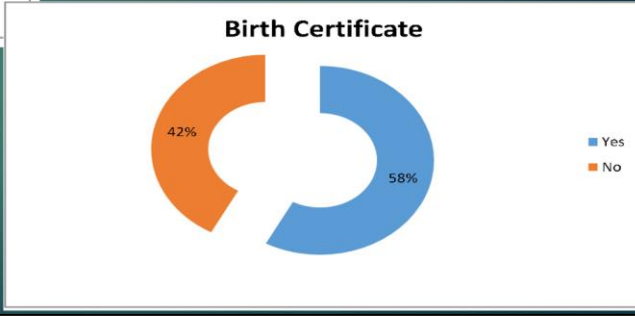
Around 30% women said that their children never visited AWC, 29% said that their children visited sometime AWC.

52% women cited long distance of the Centre from their homes as reason.

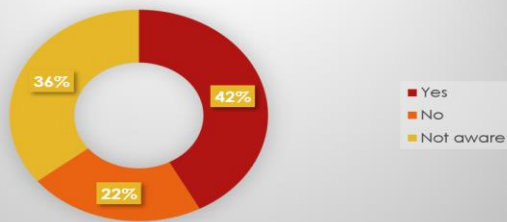


Only 31% children fully vaccinated.

Birth certificates of 42% of children in the age group of 0-6 years have not been made

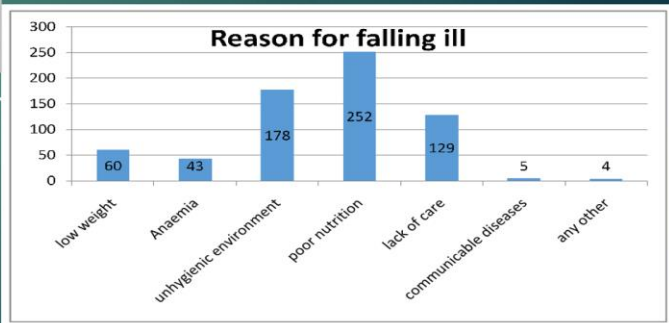


Last 1 year children below 6 years falling ill Frequently

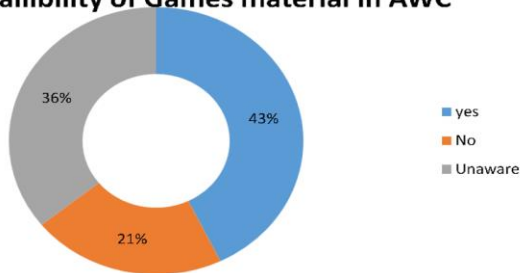


Due to inadequate nutrition and unhygienic living condition, and lack of care are majority reason of children falling ill.

42% women said that their children felled ill in last 01 year



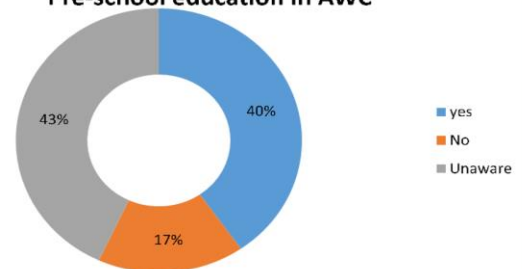
Availability of Games material in AWC



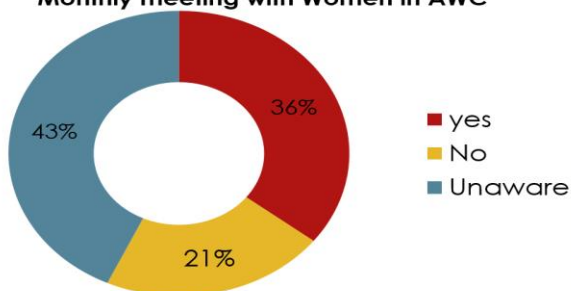
43% women are not aware regarding preschool sessions at AWCs .

21% women said that there are no toys in AWC while 36% of the women are not even aware of the availability

Pre-school education in AWC



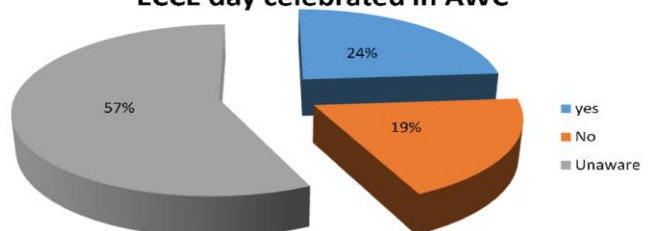
Monthly meeting with Women in AWC



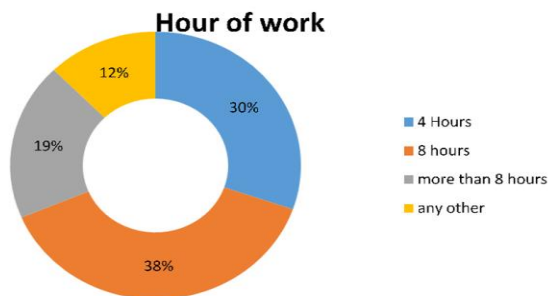
57% women expressed complete lack of awareness regarding ECCE day

43% women are not aware about monthly meeting with AWCs

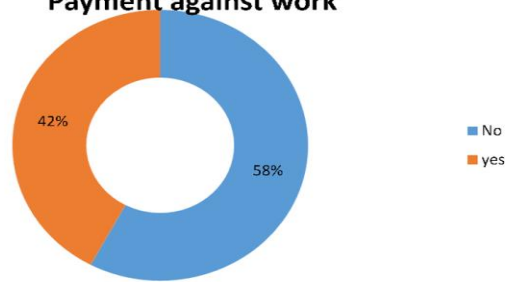
ECCE day celebrated in AWC



38 % of women worked for 8 hrs per day , 19 % more than 8 hrs per day

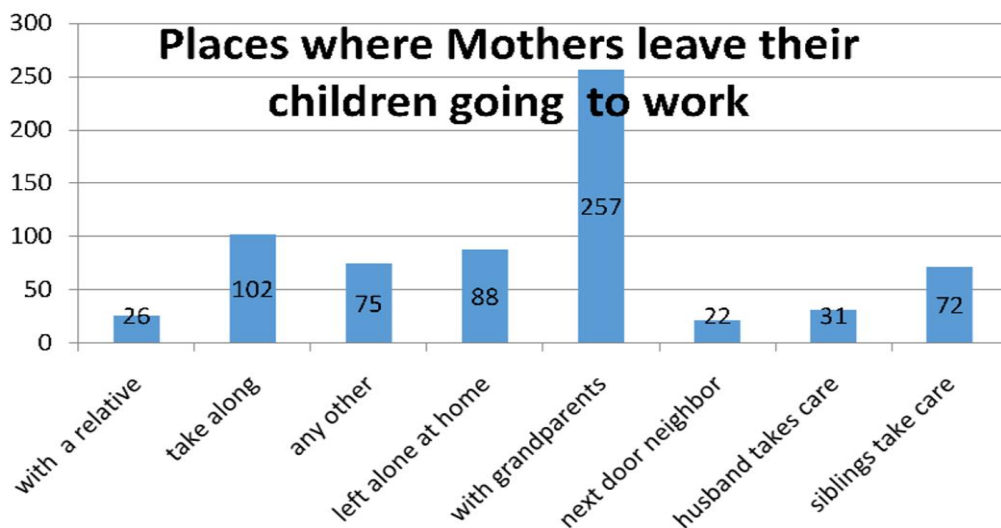
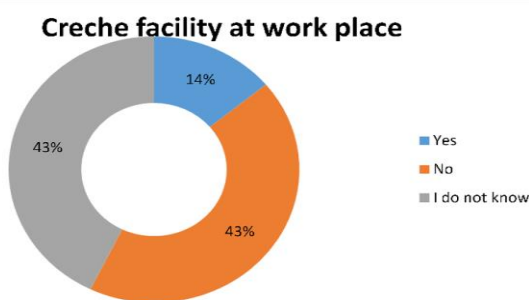


Payment against work



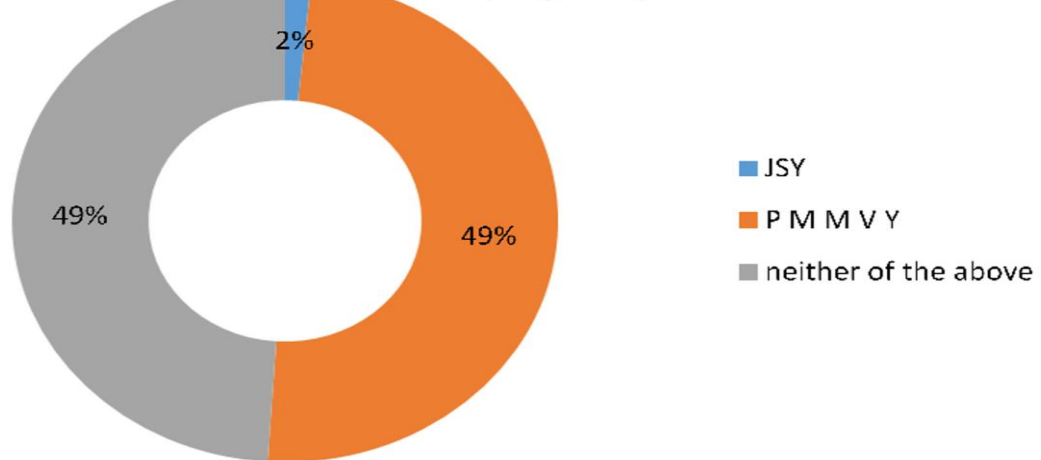
58% women said that they did not receive money for their work

43% women said that there is no creches facility, 43% women are not aware about creches



310 women's statement clearly indicate that children are not safe when they work

Awareness about following maternity benefit schemes during last pregnancy



Half of the women surveyed are not aware about maternity benefit schemes

Finally, he presented the key recommendations that emerged from the rapid survey:

1. Implement the Palna program (National Creche Scheme) in Bihar.
2. Ensure the provision of quality childcare services through Anganwadi Centres (AWCs).
3. Enhance community participation.
4. Establish convergence between different line departments.
5. Raise awareness about maternity benefits.

Subsequently, the facilitator requested the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour to share their reactions to the study's findings and provide insights to guide Bihar FORCES in implementing these recommendations.

Mrs. Sunanda Pandey, a Member of the Bihar State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR), expressed her appreciation for the efforts of Bihar FORCES. She highlighted several key points:

- ✓ **Proper Availability of Creches:** Mrs. Pandey emphasized and accepted the importance of having adequate creche facilities for children aged 0-6 years.
- ✓ **Safe and Protective Environment:** She stressed the need to create a safe and protective environment within childcare service centers.
- ✓ **Active Community Participation:** Mrs. Pandey recommended the promotion of active community participation to support and enhance childcare services.

- ✓ **Encouraging Mothers:** She suggested encouraging mothers to send their children to Anganwadi Centers.
- ✓ **Consistent Attendance:** Ensuring consistent attendance of children at Anganwadi centers was another aspect she emphasized.
- ✓ **Clean and Hygienic Facilities:** Mrs. Pandey pointed out the importance of providing clean drinking water and maintaining hygienic spaces in Anganwadi centers.
- ✓ **Community Responsibility:** She also stressed that the community should take responsibility for the development and improvement of Anganwadi centers.



Mrs. Pandey reacting on the findings of rapid survey

Mrs. Pandey extended an invitation to Bihar FORCES to provide the Commission with a concise two-page summary of the study's findings, along with a detailed report. She pledged her commitment to champion the recommendations with the government and assured her utmost effort in ensuring the provision of quality childcare services in Bihar.

Continuing the discussion, Mrs. Chirashree Ghosh added her insights:

- ✓ **Strengthening CDPOs:** She emphasized the importance of reinforcing Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) through training, empowerment, technology integration, and evaluation. This approach would ensure effective oversight of Anganwadi centers.



Mrs. Ghosh sharing her insights to ensure quality childcare services

- ✓ **Extended Operating Hours:** Mrs. Ghosh highlighted the need to extend the operating hours of Anganwadi centers from 4 to 8 hours, enabling a more comprehensive coverage of childcare services.
- ✓ **Preschool Education Focus:** She suggested a focus on preschool education and establishing connections with the education department to provide a holistic learning experience.
- ✓ **Awareness among Local Women:** Mrs. Ghosh stressed the necessity of raising awareness among local women about available childcare services.
- ✓ **Mini Anganwadi Centers:** Coordinating with the Rural Development Minister was proposed to establish Mini Anganwadi centers to enhance accessibility.
- ✓ **CSR Fund Sponsorship:** Seeking sponsorship for Anganwadi centers from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds was recommended.

- ✓ **Childcare in Elections:** She advocated for highlighting childcare concerns during upcoming elections and assemblies, and integrating Early Childhood Development (ECD) in election manifestos.
- ✓ **Regular Bihar FORCES Meetings:** To foster collaboration and information sharing, Mrs. Ghosh proposed holding regular meetings of Bihar FORCES.

Mrs. Ghosh's insights offer a comprehensive approach to enhancing childcare services and promoting child development, reflecting a well-rounded strategy for the betterment of childcare in Bihar.

The facilitator then invited Mr. Muqtarul Haq to lead an open discussion on the findings and recommendations of the study. During this discussion, participants shared their valuable insights, as outlined below:

- Ensuring proper availability of creche facilities for children up to 6 years of age was emphasized.
- The idea of starting a one-window system for streamlined functioning of childcare services was proposed.
- Providing adequate space and suitable infrastructure in Anganwadi centers for effective learning was mentioned.
- Creating an attractive environment in Anganwadi centers through colorful walls and engaging teaching-learning materials was recommended.
- Allocating funds from the MGNREGA budget for the establishment of creches was discussed.
- Conducting performance reviews of Asha workers based on timely vaccinations was mentioned.
- Seeking sponsorship for Anganwadi centers from CSR funds was highlighted.
- Participants suggested having an additional Anganwadi worker to ensure smooth operations when the main worker is on leave.
- Ensuring consistent attendance of children at Anganwadi centers was emphasized.
- Entrusting Sevikas & Sahayika with the responsibility of approving birth certificates for children was discussed.
- Ensuring clean drinking water and hygienic spaces in Anganwadi centers was stressed.
- Addressing challenges in flood-prone areas through strategic location, emergency plans, and collaboration with local authorities was brought up.
- The importance of strengthening CDPOs through training, empowerment, and evaluation for effective oversight of Anganwadi centers was highlighted.
- Partnering with civil society organizations to support women in industries like brick kilns and ensuring access to resources for balancing work and childcare was mentioned.
- Locating Anganwadi centers closer to beneficiaries' homes for improved accessibility was discussed.



Figure 1 Mr. Haq is facilitating the open discussion

- Considering successful models of childcare services implemented by other states, such as Karnataka, was suggested.



Participation of attendees during open discussion

- Determining creche availability based on village population was mentioned.
- Adopting a convergence approach to improve education and health outcomes for children was discussed.
- Strengthening the school readiness Mela was suggested.
- Developing and sharing comprehensive case studies based on

successful experiences for knowledge sharing among Anganwadi centers was proposed.

These insightful contributions reflect a collaborative effort to address various aspects of childcare services and child development, showcasing a comprehensive approach towards improving the overall situation in Bihar.

After the open discussion, all participants collectively engaged in outlining an action plan for Bihar FORCES for the year 2023-24. The action plan encompasses the following initiatives:

- ❖ Undertaking follow-up activities based on the rapid survey, including engagements with Baal Aayog and initiatives for birth registration.
- ❖ Elevating childcare concerns during upcoming elections and assemblies and incorporating Early Childhood Development (ECD) aspects into election manifestos.
- ❖ Developing a comprehensive childcare services model based on best practices to serve as a guiding framework.
- ❖ Organizing capacity-building programs on Early Childhood Development (ECD) for various stakeholders involved.
- ❖ Holding regular meetings of Bihar FORCES to foster collaboration, share information, and strategize.
- ❖ Establishing an official email ID for Bihar FORCES to streamline communication and coordination among members.
- ❖ Building a robust network for Bihar FORCES through active engagement and strategic partnerships with relevant organizations.
- ❖ Conducting meetings of the executive committee to facilitate decision-making and monitor the progress of initiatives.

The consultation concluded by felicitating the guests with potted plants and a vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Deepak, acknowledging the valuable insights shared and the collaborative spirit demonstrated during the session. This action plan sets the course for Bihar FORCES to drive positive change in childcare services and child development within the region.

बिहार फोर्सेस और नेशनल फोर्सेस की संयुक्त बैठक पटना में आयोजित



पटना (चौथी वाणी) पटना बिहार फोर्सेस और नेशनल फोर्सेस के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में पटना के अनुग्रह नारायण सिंह शोध संस्थान में राज्य स्तरीय कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया। जिसका उद्घाटन सदस्य बाल संरक्षण आयोग सुनंदा पांडे, मीनाक्षी षल्की से, मो. मुक्तारुल हक बिहार फोर्सेस और चिराश्री घोष नेशनल फोर्सेस के द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से किया गया क

इस कार्यक्रम का मुख्य उद्देश्य था की बिहार फोर्सेस के द्वारा 22 जिले के 28 प्रखंड के 28 ब्लॉक में आंगनवारी सेंटर की सेवाओं पर रैपिड सर्वे

किया गया उसके जो मुख्य बिंदु निकल कर आए है उसपर चर्चा कर सरकार को एक सुझाव दिया जाए इस कार्यक्रम में 4 लाभांशों को भी सुना गया जिनके द्वारा मुख्य रूप से यह कहा गया की मेरे बच्चे को यदि 8 घंटे की रहने की वयवस्था हो तो हम ज्यादा देर तक कम कर सकते है जिससे हमारी आमदनी बढ़ेगी और हम अपने बच्चे को अच्छे परिवारिश दे सकते है . कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए बाल संरक्षण आयोग के सदस्य श्री मति सुनंदा पांडे के द्वारा कहा गया की सरकार के द्वारा कई कार्यक्रम चलाए जा रहे है जिससे कई बदलाव आ रहे है और भी

बहुत कुछ करना है जिसमें क्रेच की सुविधा बहुत जरूरी है साथ सुरक्षित वातावरण हो बच्चों के लिए हो यह सबसे ज्यादा जरूरी है साथ ही उन्होंने कहा की इस मीटिंग से जो भी सुझाव आएंगे उस पर आयोग विचार कर सरकार को अपने तरफ से सुझाव देगी क कार्यक्रम से मुख्य 5 मांगे निकलकर आई जो निम्न है. भारत सरकार की पलना योजना के तहत 124 क्रेच खोले जाए. गुणवत्तापूर्ण बाल देख

रेख सेवा को सुनिश्चित किया जाए समुदाय की भागीदारी बढ़ाई जाए बाल देखरेख सेवाओं से जुरे बिभागों में आपसी तालमेल बढ़ाई जाए सामुदायिक जागरूकता कार्यक्रम चलाई जाए कार्यक्रम का संचालन निदान से श्याम शंकर दीपक ने किया ' कार्यक्रम में बिहार फोर्सेस के सदस्य संगठन प्लान इंडिया से सजीव कुमार, प्रथम से राजेश कुमार,मीनाक्षी , अनिल जी,रमेश जी,कोर्भेद्र जी,असिता जी इत्यादि 22 सदस्य संगठनों के प्रतिनिधि ने अपने विचार रखे क जिसमें मानव सेवा भारती के सचिव रूपेश कुमार सिंह सहित बिहार के अन्य जिलों से आए सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता उपस्थित थे '

योजनाओं के प्रति समाज को जागरूक करने की आवश्यकता है : हक

कार्यशाला में 124 क्रेच खोलने की उठी मांग

पटना. बिहार फोर्सेस व नेशनल फोर्सेस के सहयोग में अनुग्रह नारायण सिंह शोध संस्थान में राज्य स्तरीय कार्यशाला हुई. इसका उद्घाटन बाल संरक्षण आयोग की सदस्य सुनंदा पांडे, यूनिसेफ की मीनाक्षी, बिहार फोर्सेस के मो मुक्तारुल हक और नेशनल फोर्सेस के चिराश्री घोष ने किया. कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य बिहार फोर्सेस द्वारा 22 जिलों के 28 प्रखंडों के 28 ब्लॉक में आंगनवाड़ी सेंटर की सेवाओं पर रैपिड सर्वे में सुझाव देना था. बाल संरक्षण आयोग के सदस्य सुनंदा पांडे ने कहा कि सरकार कई कार्यक्रम चला रही है, जिनसे कई बदलाव आ रहे है और भी बहुत कुछ करना है, जिसमें क्रेच की सुविधा बहुत जरूरी है. कार्यशाला में पांच मुख्य मांगे निकलकर आयीं, जिनमें केंद्र सरकार की पालना योजना के तहत 124 क्रेच खोले जाएं. गुणवत्तापूर्ण बाल देख रेख सेवा को सुनिश्चित किया जाये, समुदाय की भागीदारी बढ़े, बाल देखरेख सेवाओं से जुड़े विभागों में तालमेल बढ़े व सामुदायिक कार्यक्रम चलाया जाये शामिल हैं.



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