

# Impact Assessment of Early Childhood Education Project at Vasind: An initiative of JSW Steel

## Key Findings

Given JSW company's CSR activities in different sectors, a study was deemed necessary to evaluate Early Childhood Education Program, with a view to assess the contribution of the program in the overall child development in the study areas. Accordingly, the Company approached Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) to carry out the study.

Both quantitative and qualitative approaches were used in the study. Survey of anganwadi workers and parents of children in the selected villages of the project area was carried out, as part of the study in the project location during November-December, 2017. The survey covered 265 Anganwadi workers and 142 parents of children going to Anganwadi centre.

### Views of the Anganwadi Workers

- The education status of respondents revealed that nearly one third of them (32.0%) have completed SSC, while a similar percentage of respondents (30.9%) have studied till less than 10<sup>th</sup> standard.
- The data regarding place of residence and mode of transport to Anganwadi showed that more than two third of the respondents (69.9%) stay close to the Anganwadi centre, which also reflects in the mode of transport being walking for majority of the respondents (85.3%).
- The information regarding years of service highlights that nearly one third of the respondents(29.3%) stated that they have completed service of 6-10 years at the Anganwadi centre, followed by more than one fourth of them (27.8%) who stated that they completed more than 20 years of service.
- Number of children attending Anganwadi vary from village to village. More than one tenth (15.4%) of respondents stated that more than 60 children attend the Anganwadi every day, while more than one fourth of the respondents (26.3%) stated that 41-60 children attend the Anganwadi centre managed by them.
- The data regarding type of Anganwadi reveals that more than three fourth those (76.3%) were managing a main Anganwadi.

- An enquiry was made into benefit of the ECE training, which brought forward that almost all of the respondents (97.7%) found the early childhood education programme to be beneficial to a great extent.
- On an average, majority of the respondents (85%) stated that the training programme helped them in developing various skills like using new activation methods, using educational aids/tools, stimulating creative, environment, and basic knowledge of concepts and the workings of the environment along with improvement in confidence, time management, communication skill and involving parents.
- About the ways in which the training programme helped the respondents, majority of the respondents (85%) also stated that the training helped them gain knowledge regarding aspects like Understanding the child development & capabilities, Maintaining quality of education, Approach towards preprimary education, Linking themes (health, environment, social issues) for child development and their role as a stakeholder.
- Overall, all of the respondents (99.6%) felt that the training has contributed positively to their work of improvement of children. Almost all of them (96.9%) also stated that they received education kit of the Pre-School Education Programme and majority of them were fully satisfied about various aspects of the training.
- Regarding revisions in training programme, a large section of respondents (38.4%) felt that financial support should be provided to attend the training, while more than one fourth of the respondents felt that moral support (26.0%) and increased and monitoring and evaluation (29.8%) post training is required.
- Almost all of the respondents (99.6%) felt that Pre-school Education Program is contributing to the capacity building of the anganwadi workers, while an equal proportion of respondents (99.2%) also felt that training program adequately motivates them to reach out to the parents for getting their children (0-5years) enrolled at the center.
- While comparing own Anganwadi centre with other Anganwadis in the area, nearly two third of the respondents (62.8%) stated that post training their Anganwadi centre is much better compared to other pre primary schools existing in the area.
- Regarding the training, almost all the respondents (98.8%) stated that the resource person adequately interacted with them. Majority of them felt that repetition of the content in training (86.4%) is required by increasing the frequency of training (50.8%). More than half of the respondents also suggested that travelling allowance (55.4%) and basic refreshment (53.5%) may be provided during the training.

- The respondents attributed scores to the training programme, an importance score towards importance of training prior to attending the same and performance score towards performance of training programme. The Anganwadi workers gave the training an important score of 9.4, while the performance score was 9.5. This reflects that the quality of training is exceeding their expectation.

### **Views of Parents of Children attending Anganwadi**

- The parents of Anganwadi centre also put forward their views towards the training. All of the respondents (100%) stated that they have observed changes in the functioning of Anganwadi centre and in the working style of Anganwadi worker post training. Majority of the respondents (90.0%) stated that the Anganwadi workers consultation skills, knowledge, care, efficiency and confidence has shown a very positive change post training.
- The data regarding attendance of children at Anganwadi, nearly two third of the respondents (63.4%) stated that they send children to Anganwadi on weekdays, while more than one fourth of them (28.2%) stated that they send children to the Anganwadi on all the days. All of the respondents (100%) also felt that the training has contributed positively towards their work for improvement of children.
- The question of change brought by the training revealed that majority of the respondents (87.3%) felt that the training has brought positive changes in the relationship between teacher and children, pointing out to aspects like children like to attend Anganwadi (47.2%) and have progressed in studies (19.0%).
- The parents also attributed importance and performance score to the training. The importance score attributed by parents to training is 8.1, while the performance score attributed is 9.2.
- The data regarding implementing agency and its position in the community revealed that a majority of the respondents (60.6%) were aware about JSW being the implementing agency for the training, while more than one third of them (36.6%) stated that they are unaware about the implementing agency. Majority of the respondents (84.5%) mentioned that the company has a respected position as an implementing agency.
- An enquiry into factors motivating parents to enroll their child in Anganwadi revealed that this change in Anganwadi centre has motivated majority of the respondents (89.4%) to a great extent to enroll their children (0-5 years) in the Anganwadi. Also majority of them (92.3%) felt that, compared to other pre-primary schools existing in the area, the Anganwadi centre supported by JSW are better.

- Some of the suggestions provided by parents include: introduction of new activities on regular basis, teaching of English language and infrastructural development of the centre.

## **Recommendations**

- It is strongly suggested that the implementation of the program needs to be continued in the study areas, especially for the marginalized communities in Vasind region, as it addresses the issue of affordable quality education for pre-school children and motivates parents to educate the children.
- Strengthening of infrastructure facilities like beautification of Anganwadis, construction of kitchen, provision of educational kit, shelves, and cupboards are important contributions of the company in maintaining the quality of Model Anganwadi centres and may be expanded to other Anganwadi centres.
- The Anganwadi workers are positive towards their participation in the monthly training program, but they expect some allowance to meet the local travel and food expenses which they incur for attending such meetings.
- Parents suggested that additional training on improving the communication skills and proficiency in languages, including English could be provided to the centre staff and children.