

Bharat Ratna Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Amrut Ahar Yojana

Demand and Supply System of AAY Fund -

Government Monitoring System -

Public Awareness of the Scheme -

Status of Implementation of the Scheme -

Social Audit



Brief Introduction

Amrut Ahar Yojana (AAY) is an ambitious nutrition scheme initiated by the Tribal Development Department (TDD) since 2015 with the implementation support from Women and Child Development (WCD) department which is an important positive step taken by the department. and the main objective of AAY is on providing one freshly cooked full meal to pregnant and lactating women for five days a week and supplements to children aged 7 months to 6 years with the provision of eggs or bananas 4 days a week, which is a special feature/uniqueness of the AAY scheme. In order to monitor the implementation of scheme, the government has also set up various monitoring mechanisms and structures at various levels from village to district. As in the effective

implementation of this scheme, 3 major departments i.e. TDD, WCD and Public Health Department (PHD) where TDD is mainly providing funds; WCD is implementing the scheme through Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and health services are being provided by PHD. Hence, in order to understand this complex collaboration of these department for effective functioning of AAY scheme especially in the context of exploring linkages between Public Finance Management system impacting on service delivery of AAY. The planned and focused intervention was conducted through two different methods/process i.e. documentation and social audit. The processes and findings are emerged from these processes are presented in this policy brief.

Key recommendations and findings emerged from study and social audit process

- » Gadchiroli district's effective and new mechanism of disbursement of funds is a concrete solution to make the AAY's funds demand-supply system more flexible and less time-consuming. If this method is generalized and implemented in all the districts of Maharashtra, it will help in reducing the levels and obstacles in the disbursement of AAY funds.
- » The honorarium of the Anganwadi workers and helpers who implements the scheme should be paid every month regularly.
- » Vacant post of Anganwadi Workers (AWs), Supervisors, Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), Project Officers (PO), Tribal Development Department should be filled immediately.
- » Anganwadi workers and helpers are having additional responsibility of preparing AAY food due to which they are unable to do their other regular activities. According to the government circular, the village council i.e. Gram Sabha's should appoint women cooks or the responsibility of cooking should be given to women's self-help groups in order to reduce their workload.
- » The amount i.e., Rs. 35/ per person allocated under AAY, is very less to provide a full meal; it should be increased to at least to Rs.50 per person.
- » At the beginning of the financial year, if 100 percent funds are disbursed from the state level to the district level, then the delay in disbursement of funds and difficulties in the implementation of the scheme will be reduced.
- » It is essential to provide regular training to AWs for proper maintenance accounts and implementation of the scheme,
- » At the village level, the AAS should not monitor the scheme; if it is monitored through the Village Health Nutrition and Sanitation Committee (VHNSC), then it will help for more

effective implementation of the scheme. This mechanism will help in rectifying all the difficulties and hurdles that arise in the implementation of the scheme through Gram Sabha.

- » At the block level, it is necessary to conduct regular meetings between the Women and Child Development (WCD) department and the

Tribal Development Department (TDD) for better coordination, along with this combined field visits need to take place for which special efforts need to be made.

- » There is a need to establish the policy and system for regular and continuous social audit of Amrut Ahar Yojana.

Reasons to start the scheme

- » There is a high prevalence of low birth weight babies in the tribal community due to low calorie and protein deficiencies.
- » Low weight gain in the last trimester of pregnancy in tribal women results in low birth weight babies.
- » The mother's health and nutrition need to be maintained for the first six months after childbirth, which is important for the overall growth of the child.
- » There is a lack of awareness in the tribal community about inadequate diet and proper care for pregnancy.
- » Inadequate calories and protein deficiencies in the food adversely affects the growth of children in tribal areas. It leads to anemia, stunting (Low Height-for-age), wasting (Low Weight-for-Height), underweight (Low Weight-for-age), which are the indicators of the malnourishment among the children.

Hence state government has launched the AAY scheme to address the above-mentioned aspects.

What is given to beneficiaries under this scheme?

Providing one freshly cooked full meal for five days a week to pregnant and lactating women up to six months, and providing eggs or bananas to children aged seven months to six years for four days a week.

Where and how is it implemented?

Since December 1, 2015, the scheme is being implemented in 16 tribal districts of Maharashtra through a total of 85 Integrated Child Development Projects. Although the scheme belongs to the Tribal Development Department, it is being implemented through Anganwadi under the Integrated Child Development Scheme in the Department of Women and Child Development.

Against this background, the scheme which has been started only in Maharashtra, an attempt was made to understand the various aspects / issues / challenges of the implementation of this ambitious scheme and to suggest possible solutions for its effective implementation.



Processes conducted for understanding present status of various aspects of AAY

- » Tracking of demand and supply of AAY funds system for implementation of the scheme
- » Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for proper implementation of the scheme
- » Present status and difficulties faced at village level while implementing the scheme
- » Measures for improving the implementation of the scheme suggested by various stakeholders

The following processes were implemented to understand the present status of the above mentioned aspects-

A) Documentation of demand and supply system

of AAY funds at all levels, i.e., from state to Anganwadi center

B) Social audit process to understand the present status of the scheme is being implemented at the village level.

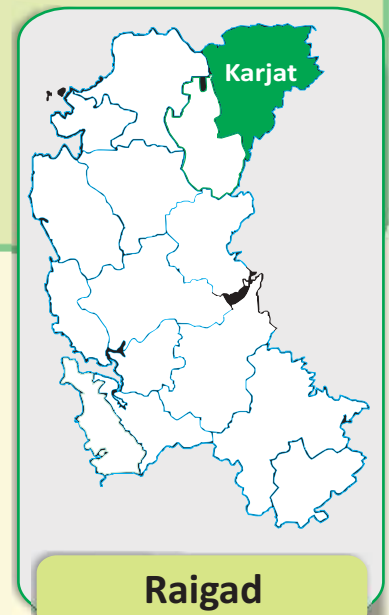
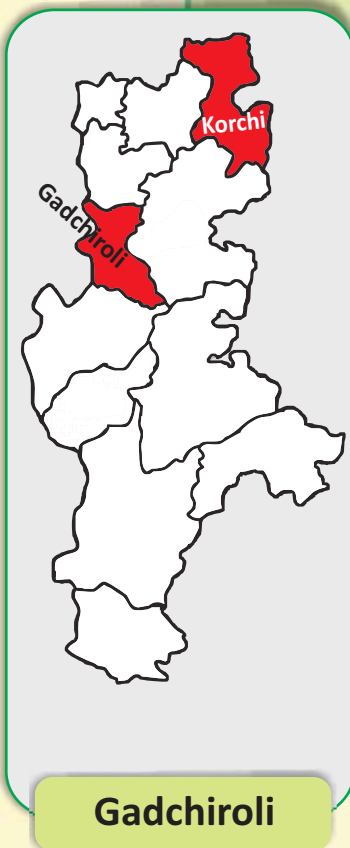
The main objective was to analyze the issues and suggestions that emerged from these two processes and to do advocacy with the implementing and decision making government official bodies at various levels from village to state.

'SATHI' organization is working on the right to health care and nutritional issues in the state of Maharashtra had initiated this process in collaboration with local grassroot level organizations from selected intervention areas.

Geographical area

Taluka	Population	Total No. of Anganwadis	No. of Mini Anganwadis	Total No. of Anganwadis
Korchi, Gadchiroli	42,000	150	50	200
Murbad, Thane	67,340	366	40	406
Karjat, Raigad	2,00,000	278	58	336

(According to ICDS-MIS data for May 2019)



Nutritional and Health Statistics Korchi block, Murbad block, Karjat block

Total number	Korchi block	Murbad block	Karjat block
▪ Total number of children in the period 6 to 35 months	1906	6276	5712
▪ Total number of children in the period of 37 to 71 months	2050	9127	4856
▪ Number of Pregnant women	367	1164	1096
▪ Number of lactating mothers	386	1146	1194
Nutrition statistics			
▪ Total number of children weighed	3788	14215	14495
▪ Number of children in the normal category	2728	12811	13116
▪ Number of children minor underweight	798	1201	1120
▪ Number of children major underweight	262	203	259

(as per ICDS-MIS of May 2019)

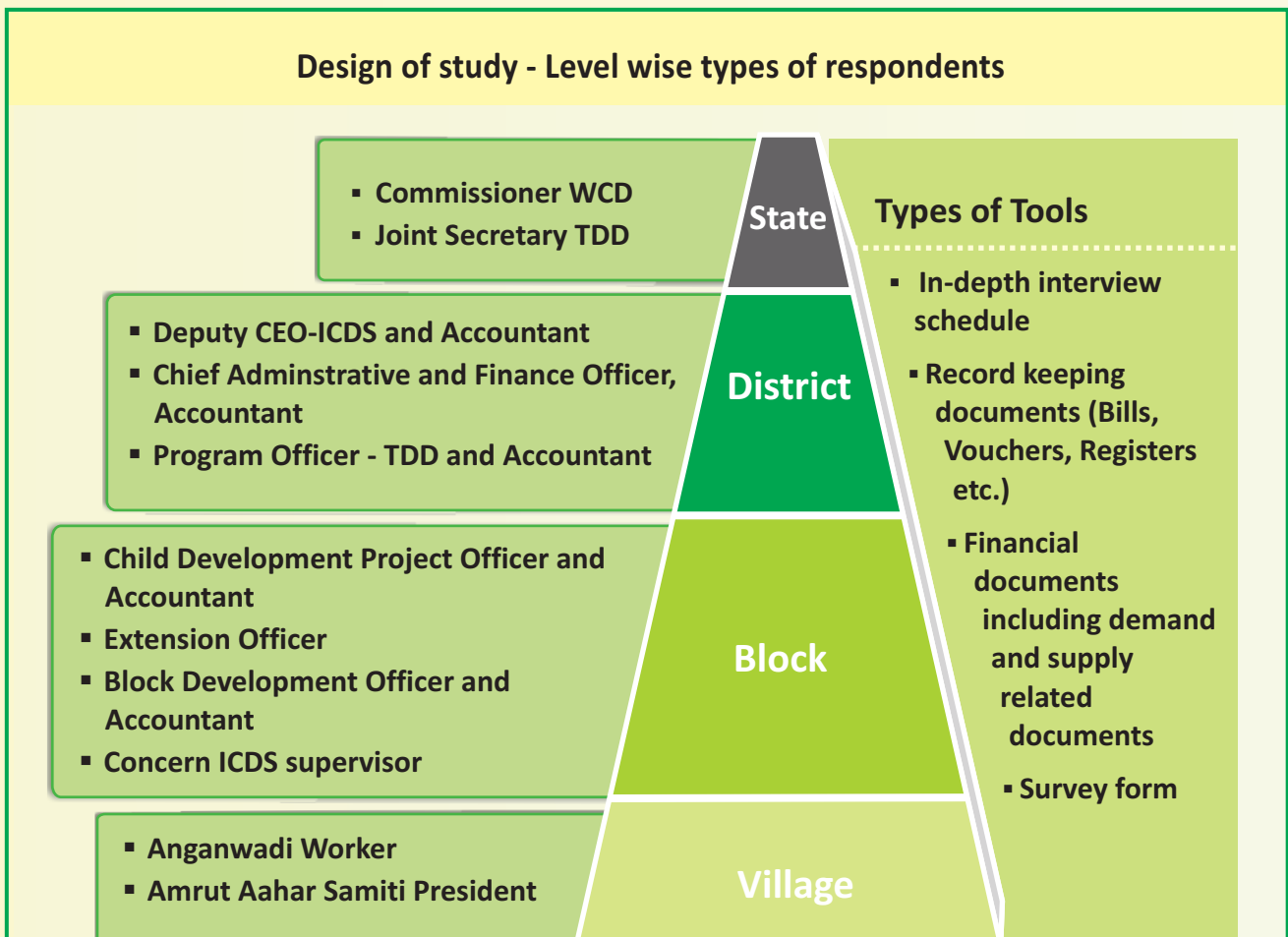
This process was carried out in collaboration and with the support of three NGOs working in these three districts and talukas for the last many years - Van-Niketan in Murbad, Thane district; 'Aamhi Amachya Arogyasathi' in Korchi, Gadchiroli district; 'Disha Kendra' in Karjat, Raigad district.



A) Documenting the Demand and Supply of AAY Funds

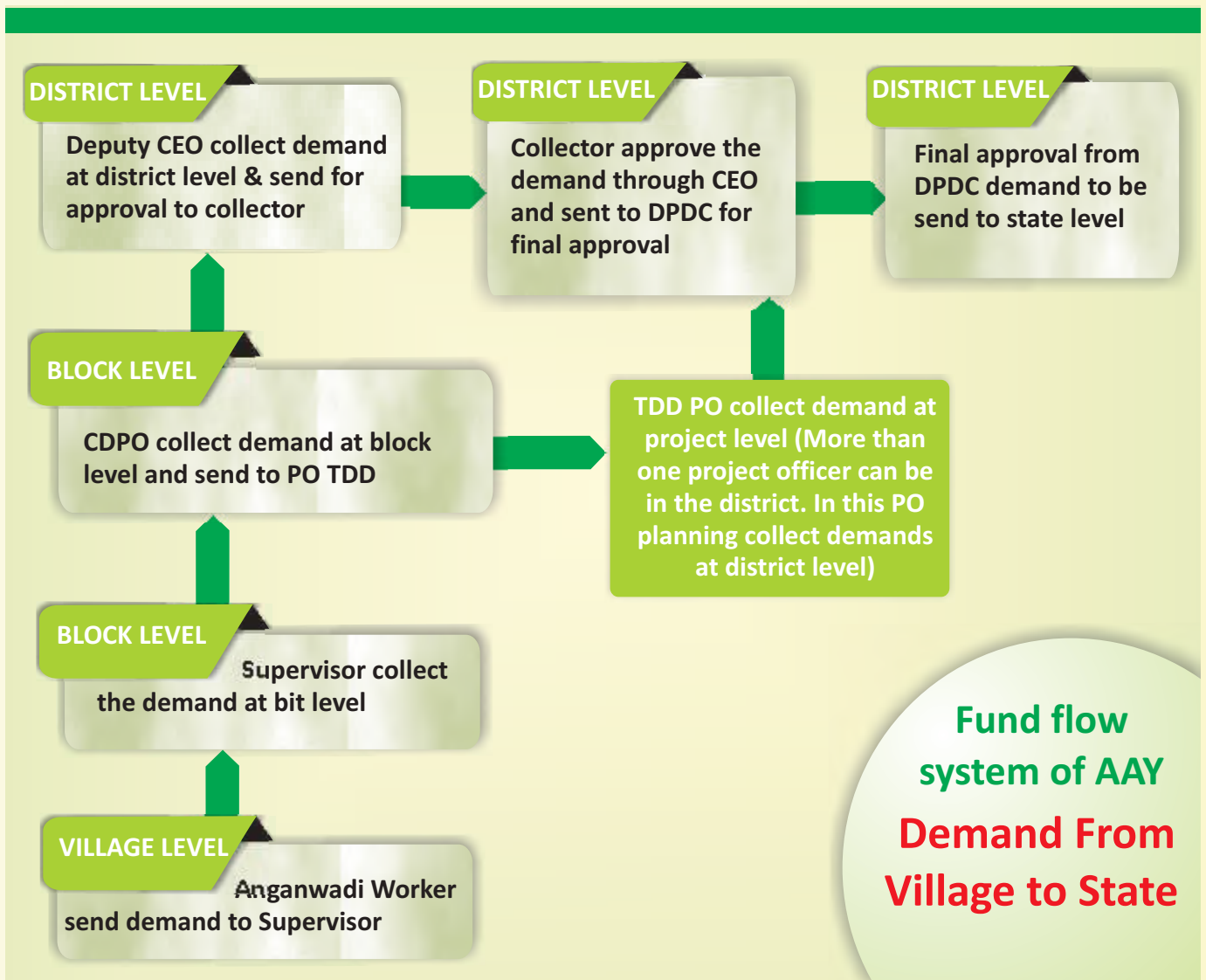
What are the arrangements in place for the demand and supply system of AAY funds from the state to the village/Anganwadi level? How does the monitoring and implementation of this scheme take place? What are the practical difficulties being faced by Anganwadi Workers (AW) while implementing the scheme? what are the concrete specific suggestions of anganwadi workers, concerned officials and staff from local to

the state level to improve implementation of AAY? In this view, a study was planned about AAY to prepare a document and to provide a set of policy recommendations to the state-level officials. With this purpose, on an experimental basis, 'Bharat Ratna Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Amrut Ahar Yojana' was studied in three districts of Maharashtra, namely Raigad, Thane and Gadchiroli.



Information regarding the demand and supply of AAY funds and implementation of the scheme was sought from above mentioned various stakeholders, based on which findings were drawn.

1. Understanding present demand-supply System of AAY funds



At present, in Maharashtra, this is a system in place to demand funds for Amrut Ahar Yojana.

Following issues emerged while understanding the mechanism of demand for funds

In order to make a demand for funds, it is a necessary to maintain a proper record of the total number of beneficiaries and the cost incurred on it. However, in all three districts, it was observed that AWs had not given any training about

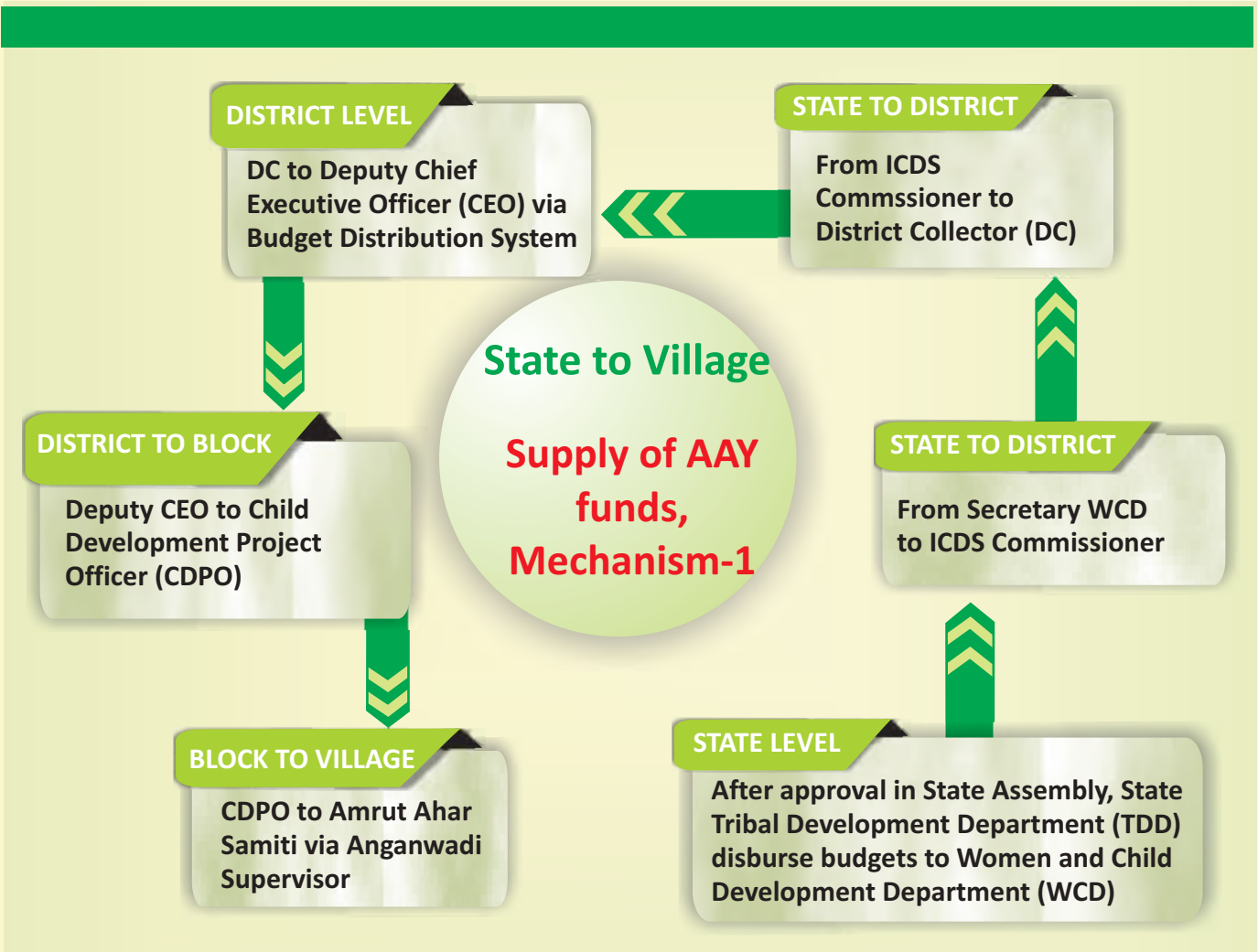
keeping proper maintenance of funds records. Anganwadi workers have expressed that it is necessary to do it regularly.

The format of the demand form has been given from the district level, and the AWs are expected to demand funds for every month. However, except for Korchi block, in the other two blocks,

the demand forms are not filled every month. When asked the reason behind this, the AWs and the supervisor said that every time the cost of xeroxing the demand form has to be borne by the anganwadi worker or helpers. Moreover, even if regular demand is made, the funds do not receive on time, so there is no use in just handing

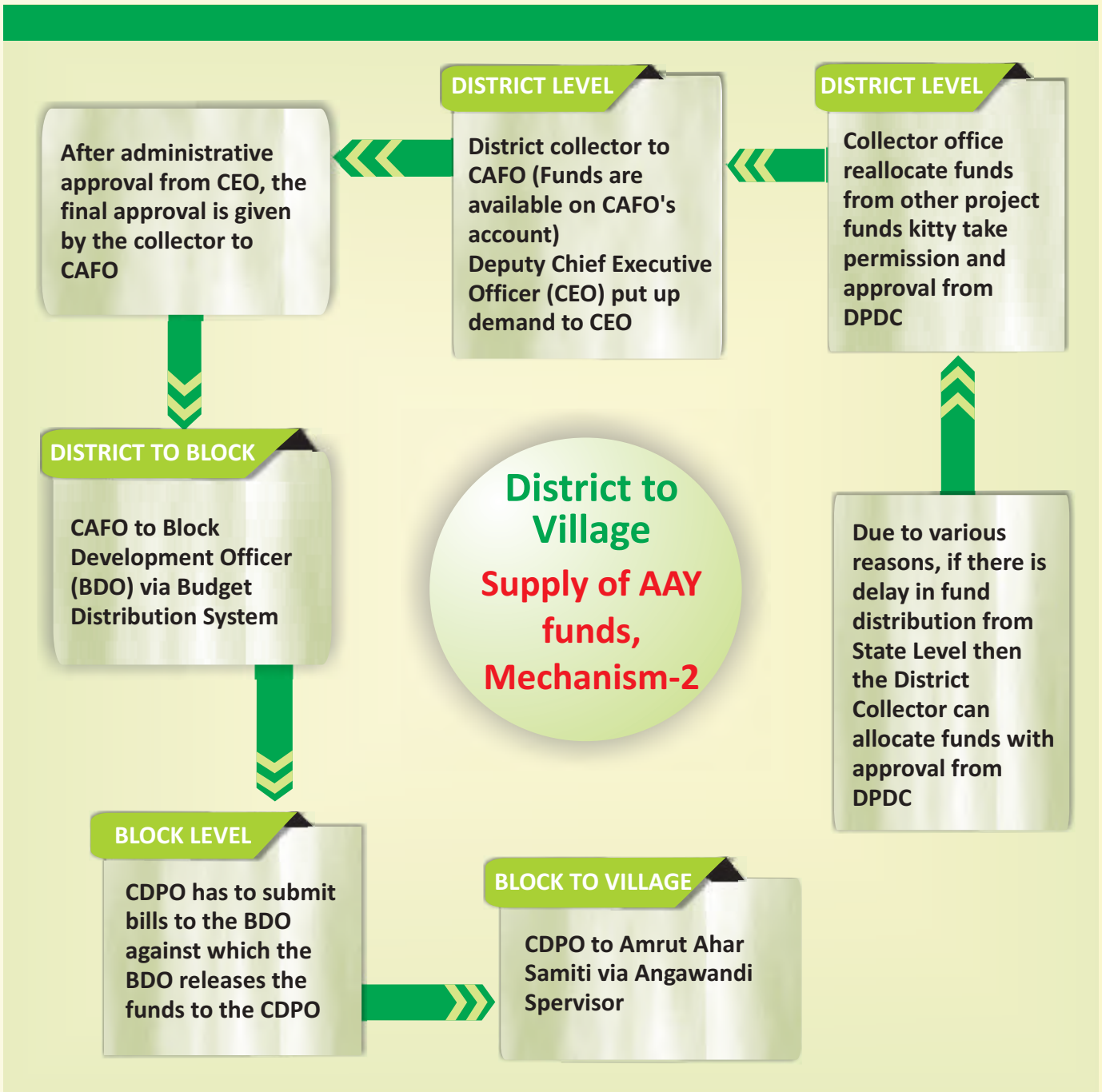
over the demand form to supervisor or block level officer.

Along with this, an attempt was made to understand the mechanism of disbursement of funds at various levels, i.e., from state to village. While understanding this, we noticed that two systems are in operation in the supply of funds.



The supply system mentioned above is functioning in Maharashtra as a regular and universal system. While running this system, the officials mentioned the need for the demand for funds on time and as reliable as possible; if that happens, then under this system, there will not be any delay in disbursement of funds.





As mentioned above, if the funds of AAY fall short or delayed distribution from the state, then the District Collector (chief officer of district) can allocate funds at his/her level for smooth implementation of the scheme. However, in this system, there are multiple stages and levels for the distribution of funds. Under this system, the bills have to be submitted first and then the funds would be disbursed. Moreover, there is no mechanism of advance payment under this

system. Therefore, in this type of arrangement, there is always a delay in the disbursement of funds, officials said.

Considering both these mechanisms, we can certainly reduce some of the levels and stages of distribution of funds and to do so, a successful attempt has been made in the Gadchiroli district.



Gadchiroli District is implementing effective and smooth the Demand and Supply System of AAY Fund! This system needs to be generalized in Maharashtra!

For effective implementation of the scheme getting funds on a timely and regular basis is one of the key aspects and the crucial prerequisite. Considering it as an important factor, some efforts were made in the Gadchiroli district, in which the District Collector has played a major role by taking the initiative in changing and modifying regular existing mechanism of AAY funds disbursement at the district level and made it more flexible. The following positive majors were taken by the District Collector-

- In the financial year 2019-20, funds were transferred by the District Planning and Development committee (DPDC) to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the ICDS Department. In 2019-20, the funds were directly transferred from district to the village level Amrut Aahar Samitee¹. Hence, by reducing the levels and stages, there were no irregularities found and the funds were disbursed on time. All the officers and employees from the village level to district level mentioned that this mechanism of disbursing funds from the district level to AAS is an appropriate system .

¹ Amrut Aahar Samitee

- At the block level, the review of this scheme and the demand letter is taken in the regular monthly meetings of Anganwadi workers. It was observed that at the district level, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer conducts regular review meetings of Amrut Ahar Yojana with the CDPO. In this meeting, it reviews the expenditure incurred, further planning, and makes continuous efforts to resolve the difficulties which arise while implementing the scheme. As the District Collector himself is involved in the reviewing process, certainly the block level and district level concerned officers and staff are becoming attentive and working promptly.

Based on the experience of Gadchiroli district, we would like to suggest to the government that if this new mechanism of distribution of funds in Gadchiroli is implemented in all other districts of Maharashtra, it will help in reducing the levels and obstacles in the disbursement of Amrut Ahar Yojana funds. It will also facilitate the smooth implementation of the scheme at the village level.

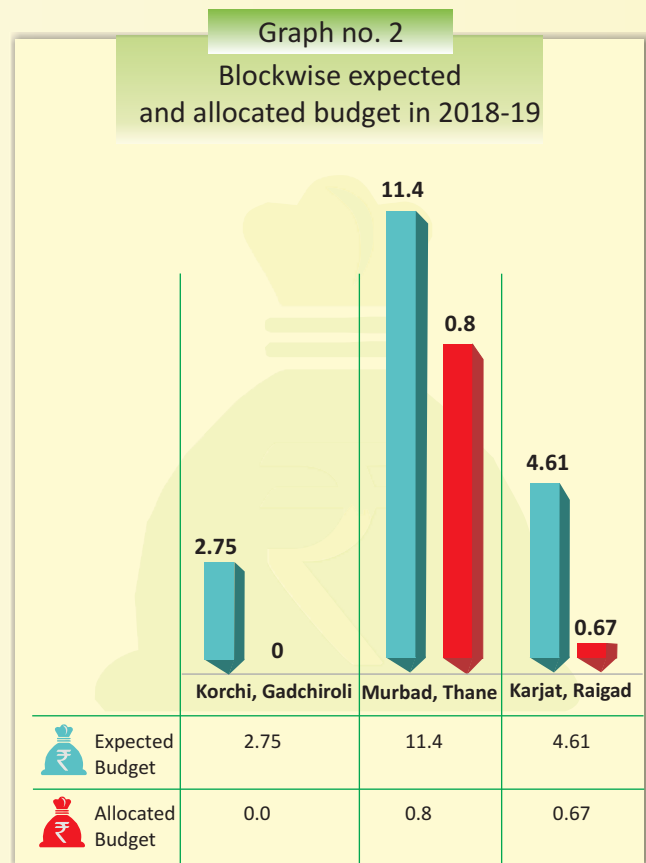
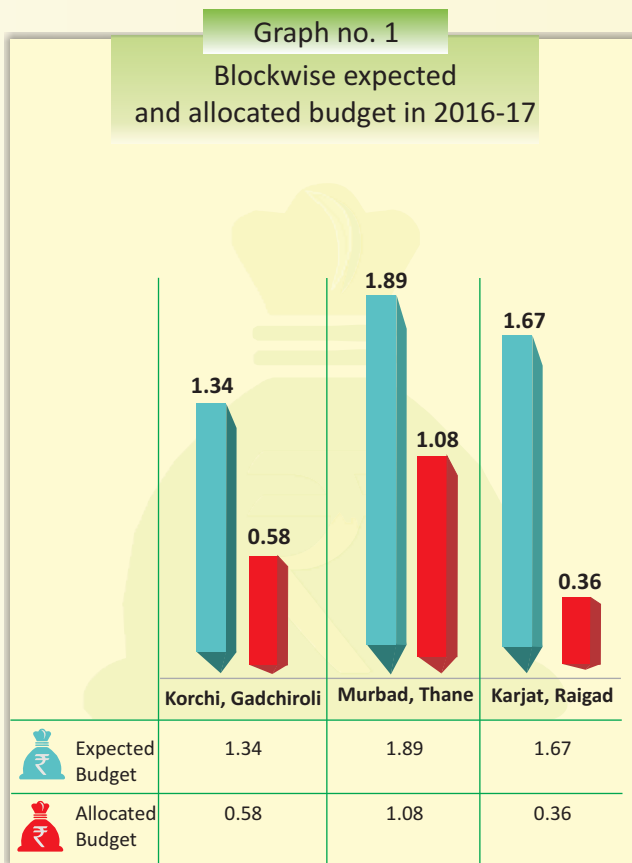


2. Understanding Delay in demand and supply system of AAY funds

In order to understand the difficulties in the demand-supply system in the AAY scheme, it was necessary to look at how much and when the funds were disbursed at different levels so far. To understand this, information was collected for the three financial years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 on a demand-supply system of AAY funds from the state to the village. This information was gathered from various respective levels. After analysis, the following points came to light.

1) Inadequate demand for Funds

As per the above information, in the financial years 2016-17 and 2017-18, the demand and supply of funds were expected to be in line with the total number of beneficiaries of Amrut Ahar Yojana in the three blocks of Korchi, Murbad and Karjat. However, this does not seem to have happened in any of the blocks.



It is found that in 2016-17, Karjat block have the lowest budget allocation than expected. Considering the total number of pregnant, lactating mothers and all children from 6 months to 3 years falling under AAY scheme, Rs. 1.67 crore was expected to be provided, but in reality, only Rs. 36 lakh was allocated. A similar trend was observed in 2017-18. **It means that funds can be disbursed only if sufficient funds are demanded.** Inadequate demand and allocation provision of

funds will impact the disbursement of funds, which will result in a lack of availability of funds for the actual implementation of the scheme. Therefore, Anganwadi workers often have to incur out of pocket expenditure to implement the scheme. It came into light that sometimes they have to borrow and have to mortgage their jewelry. From Karjat block, Anganwadi workers had to spend around Rs. 30,000 to 90,000/- which is borrowed money.



2) Diversion of allocated Amrut Ahar Yojana funds

For the year 2017-18, information regarding the funding of the AAY scheme was gathered from the website of the state government, i.e., from BEAMS (Budget Estimation, Allocation Management System). Analyzing this information, it was found that for the financial year 2017-18, the Tribal Development Department (TDD) demanded a total of Rs. 120 crore and the entire demand were approved by the state and the funds were made available for expenditure. However, unfortunately, according to the BEAMS website, Rs 87.79 lakhs have been diverted from the state

government. Out of the remaining Rs 32.20 crore, the TDD was able to distribute only Rs 15 crore to the districts and by the end of the year, a total of Rs 13.59 crore was actual spent.

3) Major delay in disbursement of funds at every level from State to Anganwadi

Along with the fund figures, information on when the funds of the scheme were disbursed at each level was collected from all the three districts, blocks and villages. After analyzing the information, the highest delay was found in Raigad district. Following are the details about it-

No.	Year	State and District Level	District to Block Level	Village / Anganwadi / Amrut Ahar Samiti Level
1	2016-17 	1 st Installment : November	1 st Installment : November	1 st Installment : April
		2 nd Installment : March	2 nd Installment : March	2 nd Installment : December
2	2017-18 	1 st Installment : June	1 st Installment : December	1 st Installment : April
		2 nd Installment : November	2 nd Installment : March	2 nd Installment : May
				3 rd Installment : January
				4 th Installment : March
3	2018-19 	1 st Installment : August	1 st Installment : August	1 st Installment : May
		2 nd Installment : October	2 nd Installment : October	2 nd Installment : October
		3 rd Installment : March	3 rd Installment : November	3 rd Installment : March
			4 th Installment : March	



Analysis

1. In the whole financial year of 2016-17, the funds have been disbursed in two installments from each level, i.e., state, district and block to the Amrut Aahar Samiti (AAS). However, there is a seven-month delay in the disbursement of funds in both installments to the AAS.
2. In the financial year 2017-2018, the funds disbursed at the block level in June and November from State and district level. However, the funds received at village level in April, May, January and March. In the process of disbursement of funds, it appears that no funds were disbursed between June and December.
3. In the financial year 2018-19, the first installment was made from the district level in August. In the same month, funds were sent to the block level. Funds sent to the village level were disbursed in three installments with an average delay of four months. It was observed that the last installment was made in March 2019.
4. As per the Government Resolution (GR) about AAY, no advance fund has been given to the Amrut Aahar Samiti in any of the above mentioned three years.

A similar trend was found in the delay of funds disbursement in Thane and Gadchiroli districts in the three years from 2016-17 to 2018-19. However, in the Gadchiroli district, in 2019-20, delays in funds disbursement have been reduced due to simplification and streamlining the distribution system in an innovative method implemented by District Collector.



The difficulties encountered throughout the process and the suggestions for proper implementation of the scheme-

Providing regular and continuous training to anganwadi workers

It is essential to provide regular training to AWWs for accounting funds and keeping financial records proper implementation of the scheme, To prepare daily food is becoming stressful for AWWs and

helpers due to which they are unable to do their other regular activities like, To reduce this workload, GR mentioned that village council (Gram Sabha's) should appoint a women cooks or the responsibility of cooking should be given to women's self-help groups.



❏ Filling of Vacant Post

The post of Anganwadi worker should be filled on an urgent basis. Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) is in charge of two blocks, i.e., Kurkheda and Korchi; hence, they are not able to conduct a field visit to monitor the scheme. There are only four Anganwadi supervisors in Korchi block, which covers 130 villages for anganwadi supervision. So, the CDPO and anganwadi supervisors' posts should be filled immediately.

❏ Need for functional and effective monitoring and inter-departmental coordination mechanism

- Increased coordination between the ICDS Department and the TDD will help in reducing the problems and making the scheme more successful.
 - If the Deputy CEO disburse AAY funds on quarterly basis to the AAS, then it will help in the smooth running of the scheme at the village level.
 - It is necessary for the anganwadi supervisor to monitor and review the scheme by conducting actual anganwadi visits rather than just monitoring the implementation of scheme at the block level.
 - At the village level, the AAS should not monitor the scheme; for more effective implementation of the scheme, it should be monitored through the Village Health Nutrition and Sanitation Committee (VHNSC). This mechanism will help in rectifying all the difficulties and hurdles that arise in the implementation of the scheme through village council i.e. Gram Sabha.
 - At the district level, regular meetings should be held with CDPO and anganwadi supervisors to review the scheme and to eliminate difficulties in the implementation of the scheme.
 - At the block level, it is important to conduct regular meetings for better coordination between the ICDS Department and the TDD, as well as combined field visits that need to take place. Special efforts should be made for this.
- AAY should not be reviewed only in the meetings of Gabhasamiti i.e. state level monitoring committee constituted as directed by supreme court for addressing malnutrition and Nav Sanjeevani Samiti i.e. block level monitoring committee to address the implementation level issues related to nutrition services but should be reviewed in the District Monitoring and Implementation Committee by conducting regular and special meetings. Special efforts should be made to increase the involvement of Gram Sabhas for the better success of this scheme.

❏ Emphasis should be given on proper demand and distribution of funds along with effective planning

- The amount i.e., Rs. 35/ per person allocated under AAY, is very less to provide a full meal; it should be increased to at least to Rs.50 per person.
- At the beginning of the financial year, if 100 percent funds are disbursed from the state level to the district level, then the delay in disbursement of funds and difficulties in the implementation of the scheme will be reduced,
- The honorarium of the anganwadi worker and helper who implements the scheme should be paid every month regularly.
- Disbursement of funds through Chief Administrative and Financial Officer (CAFO) should be discontinued and funds should be transferred directly from the Deputy Chief Executive Officer to the account of the AAS in order to avoid delay in disbursement of funds.
- If sufficient funds are available at the level of CDPO, then the funds can be disbursed immediately to those AAS who need it most so that at the village level, the implementation of the scheme will continue regularly.

From the points mentioned above, it is coming out clearly that there are various difficulties in the disbursement of funds for Amrut Ahar Yojana, which is affecting the effective implementation of the scheme by the Anganwadi workers. This conclusion is drawn from the social audit process conducted at the village level.

B) Social Audit process to understand the present status of the scheme being implemented at village level.

It is mentioned in GR and instructed accordingly that while implementing the AAY scheme, it should also conduct a social audit of this scheme through village council i.e. Gram Sabha and decentralization methods. Based on this directive, it was planned to understand the present status of this scheme at the village level, whether the beneficiary gets a full meal?, Do the funds gets in time?, What are the difficulties faced by anganwadi workers while implementing the scheme?, How does the actual beneficiary get the

benefit of this scheme?, in order to find out this, a social audit was carried out in 3 villages of each of the three blocks, i.e., Karjat, Murbad and Korchi in the three districts of Raigad, Thane and Gadchiroli, respectively. In this process, three grassroot level organizations namely Disha Kendra from Raigad, Van Niketan Sanstha from Thane and Amhi Amchya Arogyasathi from Gadchiroli, were involved and contributed in the actual conduct of Social Audit process at the village level.

Who did the social audit of Amrut Ahar Yojana?

Korchi

- In Korchi block, out of 130 villages, 90 villages are members of this Mahagram Sabha. Out of these villages, Mahagram Sabha selected Padiyaljog, Badona and Zendevar villages to conduct a social audit of AAY.

Capacity building for groups to conduct Social Audit (SA) process

A two-day combined training workshop was organized for social audit groups, formed in each village from intervention area on the objective of this workshop was how to do a social audit of AAY and why it is necessary. The training was focused on the following aspects -

- What exactly is the AAY Scheme, what is its purpose, who are the beneficiaries of this scheme, what are the provisions included in the scheme, what is the mechanism responsible for implementing the scheme.
- How to collect government information regarding the scheme and from whom to collect? How to create awareness of the scheme?
- Understanding the nature of the information that the village-group would take from the government officials and employees and understanding its format.

- Verifying the information received, who will do it and how to verify it? What is the purpose of physical verification?
- How to organize public dialogue to resolve issues which emerged after verification as well as how to do follow up for it.
- Planning to conduct an actual social audit in selected villages.

Most importantly, as part of the training, the group members were trained through conducting actual visits to the Anganwadi.

Through following ways information collected and created public awareness about AAY

- Awareness was created among the people through posters and conducting village meetings in all the three villages as all the three blocks are tribal. The main motive behind this was the tribal people should be informed about the AAY scheme in their

language and a simple manner and based on that information; they should participate in the social audit process. Awareness was created among the people through holding meetings of activists and people from the group, village meetings, interactions with women beneficiaries, etc.

Gondi is a tribal dialect spoken in Korchi block. Hence posters were made in Gondi language and awareness was created in all the three villages by conducting village meetings through Gram Sabhas.

- A format was prepared and given to the village-groups for collecting detailed information on the AAY scheme. Information was collected in a stipulated format from Anganwadi workers at the village level. Not only AW gave the information but were receptive in correcting the errors pointed out to them which were noticed while collecting information.
- Xerox of each record and document was collected, i.e., beneficiary register, records of the deposit and expenditure, bank passbook, demand order letter, beneficiary attendance

sheet, minutes of the AAS meeting, food register and list of beneficiaries.

- Xerox of a list of pregnant and lactating women who have availed the benefit of AAY scheme for the three months of May, October and December 2019 as well as a list of registers of children in the age group of 7 months to 6 years was taken. It was signed and stamped by the AW for the authenticity of the information.
- Xerox was taken of the report of the meeting of Amrut Ahar Samiti conducted in anganwadi from April to December 2019. To verify the information xerox was also taken of the records mentioned in the AAS inspection register.
- First information collected was understood by the Mahagrama Sabha members, village-groups and the activists of the organization, then the issues that emerged from it were recorded and after that, a village-meeting was planned for verification.

भारतरत्न डॉ. ए.पी.जे. अब्दुल कलाम अमृत आहार योजना

अमृत आहार योजनाबाबत सूचना

आदिवासी भाषातिका-

- आसन्न-नीमाळ नवतू पंचमीन प्रमात्र जमीनिका
- पारंपारिक कृषिा किाण नोका पारंपार अमाणा ताकाय चरेंड विधाना
- पूरतानु अमाणा पात चरेंड मयानसाळी मयत विधाना
- दुपूक अतो पिरशोनाळ कानानुच पीतशान
- आदिवासी भाषातिका ० से ६ वर्षीनार बच्चानिका कुपोषणता प्रभाव जमी विधाना

योजनाबाबत सामान्य प्रश्नांची?

आदिवासी भाषातिका-

- पारंपारिक आणवडी अंगणवाडी/विनी अंगणवाडी अंगणवाडी केंद्रात नोवमी गावातिका मयत गरीब अरक्षण अदायें मरतानुअु अमाहरकुन
- पूरतें मयतान अउ अंगणवाडी शेंवाता गाता परोवर आण अदायें मरतानु अमाण
- परोवर आणवडी आणवडीत मयतान अउ मयत अलाय मयत मरतानु अमाण गाता मयतानो उंची नोका आहार मयत अमीकरुन विधाना

प्रयोगीनाळ तार उपायें अउ उपायें:

- आणवडीतिका मयतान अमाणा मयतान मयतान मयतान मयतान मयतान

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Physical verification is done in the following ways:

- The next and most important step in the social audit process is to do physical verification of the information collected. According to the list of beneficiaries, the village group verified the information provided by the Anganwadi worker by conducting actual home visits to the pregnant and lactating mothers (beneficiaries).

Discussion with Beneficiaries

- **The following information was verified by talking to pregnant and lactating women:** What is the quality of the food? As per government circular, is the full meal provided regularly? (Green vegetables, roti/jawar roti, dal-rice, eggs or bananas, peanut laddu, lemon slice). Are there any complaints about the food? What are the difficulties AW has while providing food? Whether these difficulties or funds related issues get discussed in the village or the Gram Sabha? Are the meetings of the AAY held regularly by the AAS members in the Anganwadi?
- Along with this, information was also verified on how many days a week, eggs/banana are given to the **children in the age group of 7 months to 6 years by holding a parent meeting?**
- **Discussion with anganwadi workers and AAS members-** Does inadequate of funds or non-receipt of funds on time have any effect on providing services? For collecting information on this, AWW and members of AAS were also interviewed during the verification.
- **Direct inspection by visits to anganwadi-** Verified the place of cooking food, the place for keeping rations and the method of preparing food by doing actual visits to Anganwadi.

To conduct this verification impartially, mahagrama Sabha members, village-groups and the activists of the organization were involved in the process. In the first place, information collected was understood by these various members, then the issues that emerged from it were recorded and after that, a village-meeting was planned for verification. At the end of the verification, the government information of the AAY received from the AW, the variances/differences found in the verification, the problems reported by the beneficiaries, the problems raised by the AW and the new issues emerged and all this was recorded by village-group members.

Superficially, the AAY scheme looks like well going but going into depth many problems came out very promptly specifically through the verification process

Village Public Hearing

- After meeting the actual beneficiaries of the AAY, a public dialogue was organized through Gram Sabha in all the three villages to resolve the issues that came up after the verification.
- Efforts were made towards making the presence of concerned government officials in the public dialogue by continuous follow-up. Compilation of information and reports were prepared to be presented during the actual public hearing.
- An information board was put up at the public dialogue venue to show the problems and demands of the village.
- The issues that emerged after verification of the AAY scheme were discussed in the public dialogue. Important decisions were taken on the issues that were possible to resolve at the village level. For policy-level decisions, a meeting was held with the concerned officials at block and district level.



Changes and important decisions made in the Social Audit process in Gadchiroli District

Positive changes observed during the social audit process

- » In all the three villages, the quality of food is good and the food is provided in adequate quantity regularly as per mentioned in the government circular. However, the demand was raised in the village those women and children who do not eat eggs, should be provided bananas.
- » In all the three villages, pregnant and lactating women get eggs for 25 days in a month and children in the age group of 7 months to 6 years get eggs for 16 days regularly.
- » In Bodena village, if the children have not eaten eggs in the Anganwadi, the eggs are given in their tiffin boxes to eat at home. Also, few pregnant and lactating women do not come to Anganwadi, to eat their meal. Hence meal is provided at their home.

Decisions were made in the village public dialogue on the issues raised from the verification

- » To organize Gram Sabha in all the three villages to constitute Amrut Ahar Samiti, to hold regular meetings of the AAS.
- » In all the three villages, maintain the AAS register and taste register in all anganwadi. AAS members decided to monitor the quality and taste of the food from time to time.
- » In Padiyaljob village, Gramsabha decided to give an application to ICDS and TDD department for construction of a separate new building for Anganwadi, a resolution passed in Gramsabha.
- » In Bodena village, a decision is to be taken in the village meeting that beneficiaries, specifically all pregnant and lactating mothers, will come to the Anganwadi to eat their meal. If all these women come together, then it is possible to provide guidance and counseling regarding pregnancy care, baby care, breastfeeding, the importance of full meal, nutritious value etc.
- » The village-group members of Bodena, Korchi block, observed that to finish the stock of Energy Dense Nutritious Food (EDNF) packets, AW distributing it to the general category children, whereas this is supposed to be only for malnourished children. When the matter brought into the notice of the CDPO who then instructed the Anganwadi workers not to distribute the packets.





Thane district- Issues emerged from both the processes and decision taken during public hearing

Issues emerged during physical verification at the village level

- » The resolution that the AAS has been constituted is not available, the register of the AAS, food inspection register and taste register are not available. AAS meetings do not take place as the AAS is not active. There is no proper maintenance of records about Amrut Ahar.
 - » Mostly rice, pulses and vegetables are provided in the meal; Chapati/Roti is not provided regularly; only one Chapati /Roti is given.
 - » Women and children are given eggs and bananas twice a week. (It is expected to provide eggs/bananas to women for six days).
- It was observed that AAY was not being implemented in some hamlets of the villages.
- » As there is less awareness about AAS in all the three villages; hence there has never been any discussion about this in the village. The accounts of the AAS have not been examined.
 - » The signature of beneficiaries is not taken as there is no food register maintained. Some pregnant and lactating mothers do not come to Anganwadi regularly to eat their meals

Decisions are taken in the Public Hearing

- » It was decided that the beneficiaries will be provided a full meal with the inclusion of rice, dal, vegetables, two chapatis, eggs/bananas, peanut laddu and lemon zest.
- Organize Gramsabha for the constitution of AAS. Holding regular meetings of the AAS.
- » Maintain the AAS register and taste register in Anganwadi. AAS members decided to check the quality and taste of the food from time to time
 - » It was decided to discuss the matter in the village meeting that all pregnant and lactating mothers should come to the Anganwadi to eat their meal. If all these women come together, then it is possible to provide guidance and counseling regarding pregnancy care, baby care, breastfeeding, the importance of full meal, nutritious value etc





Karjat Block- Positive changes observed due to conduction of study and Social Audit (SA) process

1

For three years, anganwadi at Ramachiwadi was closed down; as a result, AAY was not getting implemented in this village. During the Social Audit process, detailed information about the AAY scheme was given to the committee members; as a result, people demanded the Board Officer (Revenue Department) to restart the anganwadi. Along with this, village groups and organizations appealed to all the concerned officers at the taluka level. Since then, in February, anganwadi has been started and now AAY is getting implemented in this village.

2

In Raigad district, the District Collector has approved Rs. 86.90 lakhs for implementation of AAY.

3

Based on the information provided by the villages-group members and the local organizations, a written demand was given to the concerned district and taluka administration regarding an issue of vacant posts of anganwadi workers. As a result, in February, the recruitment process of anganwadi workers was initiated and priority was given to the villages where the social audit process was conducted.



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