



Oxford Policy Management

# **Household survey on Early Childhood Development: An Impact Evaluation of an AWC-cum-crèche model in Madhya Pradesh**

Endline Pre-testing Report

Original

## Introduction

The project phase of instrument design, refinement of baseline study instruments and field testing of new and refined tools started in June 2017.

The following new tools were added to the study that were not present at baseline;

- Creche Worker Questionnaire – to obtain demographic information, details of service provision and indicators of early childhood development knowledge and practice by creche workers at AWC-cum-creches.
- The Caregiver Reported Early Childhood Development Instrument (CREDI) – to obtain caregiver-reported indicators of the development status of children in both treatment and control areas.

Some tools were retained from the baseline study for use at endline but were further refined and/or expanded based on feedback from baseline data collection and additional requirements from the endline instruments. These are:

- Primary Caregiver Questionnaire
- Anganwadi Worker Questionnaire

Both the new and modified tools were pre-tested during a three day visit to Dhar district between 9-11 November 2017. This report summarises the findings from the field visit and outlines the recommended modifications to the study tools.

## Data Collection Tools

The study instruments are listed below along with their pre-test status. All tools have been field-tested at least once.

Study Tool	Pre-test at baseline	Pre-test at endline
Primary Caregiver Questionnaire	✓	✓
The Caregiver Reported Early Childhood Development Instrument (CREDI)	NA	✓
Creche Worker Questionnaire	NA	✓
Anganwadi Worker Questionnaire	✓	Not pre-tested at endline

## Main Findings

### 1 - Primary Caregiver Questionnaire

Module	Findings and Recommended Modifications
<b>MODULE A:</b> Household Roster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes recommended</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE B:</b> Household Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes recommended</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE C:</b> Time Allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After baseline, crop listing for agricultural work was dropped because it increased the time spent on questioning significantly. However, pre-test findings indicate that recall is negatively affected if respondents are asked to describe the amount of work they did, without also asking about the crop they performed that work on. As</li> </ul>

	<p>a result, questions on agricultural labor now include a crop listing exercise (303, 307)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was proposed that a question on household work/domestic duties be expanded so that information on activities performed in 3-4 hour time slots during a typical day may be captured from respondents. Pre-test findings reveal that respondents struggle when asked to describe work done during specific time periods (e.g. 9am-12pm, 12pm-3pm etc.). Instead, we propose using mealtimes or qualitative indications of time to book-end time slots (e.g. "Tell us what you did between waking up and breakfast" and so on) It has additionally been proposed that responses be prompted because respondents may not consider some of their domestic duties to constitute work (313)</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE D:</b> Early Childhood Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some questions (405-414) which ask about early childhood behaviors that are indicative of early childhood development are repeated in the CREDI. However as per discussions, these will be retained for effective comparability between baseline and endline findings.</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE E:</b> Use of AWC Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes recommended. Note that questions regarding AWC-related services will also be asked to respondents with creche-going children.</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE F:</b> Index Child's Diet Intake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes recommended</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE G:</b> Child Illness, Health-seeking Behavior & Immunization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No changes recommended</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE H:</b> Essential Nutrition Actions: Awareness and Sources of Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Module has been removed per discussions in June-July 2017</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE I:</b> Depression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-test findings indicate that respondents have difficulty/discomfort answering questions based on the CES-D scale. However, to retain comparability across baseline and endline data collection, the module will be retained as/is with minor modifications to the translated items to aid comprehension. Additionally, interviewers will be instructed to further explain each item to respondents to improve clarity. This has been noted as an important item to address during training.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Note:</b></p> <p>Module E1: Use of Creche Services is a new addition to the primary caregiver questionnaire. It was not pre-tested because field visits were limited to non-sample villages where AWCs-cum-creche are not functional.</p> <p>Where relevant, question numbers related to findings and recommendations are mentioned in parentheses.</p>	

## 2 - Caregiver Reported Early Childhood Development Index (CREDI)

- The CREDI is to be administered in conjunction with the primary caregiver questionnaire. We considered the different sequencing options available to us for administering the tool, and have settled on doing so immediately after the primary caregiver questionnaire has been completed. A primary caregiver interview will be conducted by two enumerators; of the two, one will be responsible for administering the CREDI.
- Some translated items in the CREDI have been modified based on pre-test findings to accommodate local variations of Hindi.

- Adaptations have been limited to minor modifications to examples used to aid comprehension of items in the instrument, in line with the CREDI authors' wish to limit variations in local adaptations of the tool. The following adaptations have been made to the socio-emotional sub-scale of the long form version of the CREDI –
  - LS21 – “Neighbour” changed to Uncle/Aunty in example sentence to reflect local parlance.
  - LS24 – “Candy” changed to “chocolate” for improved comprehension.
  - LS25 – “Football” changed to “Cricket” in example sentence.
- Since the CREDI is a three-response instrument (Yes/No/Don't Know), we recommend that enumerators be trained to remind respondents of the response options available to them to mitigate against the possible onset of desirability bias in responses.

### 3 – Creche Worker Questionnaire

Module	Findings and Recommended Modifications
<b>MODULE A:</b> AWC Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as AWC observations in Anganwadi Worker questionnaire. No changes recommended.</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE B:</b> Demographic Information and AWC/Creche General Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some questions are duplicated across the creche worker and Anganwadi worker questionnaires. One set that we recommend removing from the creche worker questionnaire relate to the number of children of specific ages in the AWCs catchment area. The Anganwadi worker records this information, and so it is unnecessary to also obtain this information from the creche worker. (B13, B14)</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE C:</b> Workload	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A question on the responsibilities of the creche worker (C5) elicited responses on both specific activities (“feeding the children”) and domains of activities (“caring for the children”). Pre-test findings suggest that asking about specific activities works better for recall. Answer choices have been re-organized and modified to reflect this finding.</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE D:</b> Service Provision and Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No major changes recommended</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE E:</b> Child Feeding, Nutrition and Early Child Development Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field-testing indicates that dividing creche-aged children into three separate age-groups is confusing for respondents. Moreover, our findings indicate comprehension issues if questions are phrased based on the specific age of children (7-12 months, 1-2 years etc.). To counter this, we have made changes to the module so that 1) that age-specific questions are limited to 2 groups (previously 3) and 2) questions use ability-based descriptors (we propose using the ability to walk as a distinguisher) instead of specific age-groups to aid comprehension.</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE F:</b> Materials for Creche	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar module in the Anganwadi Worker questionnaire, no changes recommended</li> </ul>
<b>MODULE G:</b> Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We propose restricting this to the most recent training received to aid training specific recall.</li> </ul>
<b>Note:</b>	
Where relevant, question numbers related to findings and recommendations are mentioned in parentheses.	

### 4 – Anganwadi Worker Questionnaire

The Anganwadi worker questionnaire was not pre-tested because no major changes have been made to the baseline instrument.

## **5 – Informed Consent**

Informed consent will be obtained in writing from primary caregivers, creche workers and Anganwadi workers, respectively. While obtaining consent during pre-testing, we noted some translation issues which have been duly corrected in the final consent statements to be used along with the respective questionnaires.