

G25-1

As the world's largest provider of early childhood services, there is need to revamp anganwadi centres

Elaborate.

The Integrated child development services is the largest social security provider covering more than 5 crore children of 0-6 years.

Role of Anganwadis

The anganwadis are the first point of contact in providing childcare, health advice, supplementary nutrition, education and immunisation.

The National Creche services provides childcare services to the working mothers which aids them to bring under formalisation.

PM Matsru Kurkara Yojana provides 25000 cash assistance to mothers on meeting criteria.

Need to ramp up anganwadis

Many were closed during the pandemic that caused upward shift of women to 30%.

So, converging anganwadis with primary schools can reduce the drop-out rates, sustain the cognitive abilities of the children.

- Home based newborn care and childcare can decrease the burden of working mothers and improve child's nutrition.

- Recruiting additional staffs have resulted in positively in social outcomes. Also infrastructural gaps have to be reduced.

Health is state subject, but a coordinated effort from central and state governments can improve the health outcomes of next generation.