

Long-Term Impact of ICDS on Intellectual Development of Rural Children

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ABSTRACT

The Intellectual development of young children has always been a matter of concern, especially for the disadvantaged groups in India. The Government of India has initiated several programmes with a view to stimulate the intellectual development of these groups. ICDS Scheme, one of the largest child welfare programmes in the world also includes this aspect of development in its objectives. The focus of the present paper is on the study of long-term impact of the ICDS on intellectual development and scholastic achievement of erstwhile Beneficiaries and control school children 7 to 9 years of age in A.P. Eight abilities of BK IQ test namely Speed of Response, Memory, Perception of Form, Comprehension, Sensation, Similarities, Reasoning, and Judgment were investigated. The results indicated that the abilities such as memory, perception of form, sensation and similarities are significantly higher among the erstwhile ICDS beneficiaries compared to erstwhile Non-ICDS control children. The programme content seems to stimulate these abilities more than others. These abilities, especially memory may be significantly associated with school achievement.

Key words : ICDS, Intellectual development.