

Ensuring Maternal and Child Health through Intersectoral convergence between Health and Nutrition Programs

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ABSTRACT:

Overall Health” is a cumulative outcome of efforts by various inter-related sectors. The health policies and health sectors of various governments have realized this today. The results is the emergence of concepts and strategies like convergence, integration, coordination and many more. The inter-relationships between Health and Nutrition sectors is far more established.

In Indian Context, the two national programs namely, Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) and Integrated Child Health Services (ICDS), though aim towards the common goal of ensuring reasonable status of women and child health but are run by two different departments and separate line of operation. Today, in the wake of effective management and limited resources, both programs have identified the need for intersectoral convergence.

This paper thus analyzes the areas and mechanisms the two programs have identified and put into operation to bring better convergence between initiatives to reach to their common goals of ensuring health and nutrition to women and children. The paper highlights the promotion of the concept of convergence between health and nutrition at all levels including policy, planning, operation, training and education, monitoring and evaluation etc.

The paper is based on the secondary literature review mainly from the sources like policy and program documents, documents like minutes of the convergence meetings, published and unpublished government program reports etc.

The paper is a part of the long doctoral study under process on the same subject and area of interest. This paper would be of interest to all those health and nutritional sector professionals that include academicians, policy makers, program implementors, management experts, NGOs and other similar service providers, that aim to design efficient models for health and nutrition service delivery to attain sustainable and reasonable success in maternal and child health outcomes.