

**National Seminar on ‘Understanding Child Malnutrition in India’
(Financially Supported by
Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi)**

**Venue & Date
Centre for Social Studies (CSS), Surat
November 4-5, 2019**

About the Seminar

Notwithstanding consequences of child malnutrition on their health, education and economic productivity, India contains a bulk of infant facing under nutrition. Nearly 39 per cent of India’s children aged 0-59 months are stunted (too short for their age), 29 per cent are underweight and 15 per cent are wasted (too thin for their height). In rural India, the figures are about 42 per cent, 32 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively (GoI 2014). Though incidence of child malnutrition has declined compared to the 3rd round of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2005-06, it continues to remain at a higher level. Moreover, the problem of child malnutrition is more prominent in rural than in urban areas and when it comes to tribal population, the situation is alarming. Persistence of child malnutrition in the face of India’s high rates of economic growth, substantial food grain production, active food policies and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) [a standing programme focused on breaking the inter-generational cycle of malnutrition and overall child development], thus seems to be extraordinary.

Against this backdrop, **the Centre for Social Studies, Surat (CSS) is organising a National level seminar on the Central theme of ‘Understanding Child Malnutrition in India’ on 4-5 November 2019. This seminar is financially supported by ICSSR.** The proposed seminar will make an attempt to understand the dynamics of persistent nutritional deprivation among children in general and across socio-economic groups in particular.

Sub-themes

The seminar shall look at the nutritional status of children, lactating and pregnant women and adolescent girls at macro and micro levels and identify factors contributing to their poor nutritional status. The event will also focus on the functioning of ICDS centres and impact of their nutritional intervention and other services on the targeted population. The sub-themes of the seminar also include access to PDS by the poor and deprived sections of population and their food and nutrition security to outline policy directions to accelerate performance of various stakeholders in lagging areas. The changing nature of dietary pattern and its implications on calorie intake and undernourishment will also be debated and discuss.

Major sub-themes of the Seminar include:

- (1) Child and Women’s malnutrition across social groups, regions and states in India
- (2) The Nomadic/ De-notified tribes, urban poor, slam dwellers and malnutrition
- (3) Functioning of ICDS, access to public health and malnutrition
- (4) Dietary practices, changes in food consumption, PDS and undernourishment
- (5) Budgetary allocation and expenditure on Supplementary Nutrition Programme

Instructions for Paper Submission

We invite papers from academics, researchers, scholars-students, development functionaries, activists and others working on the related issues. The length of the paper should be within 8000 words including an abstract of 150 to 200 words, tables, figures, end/foot notes and references. The abstract should reflect the entire paper including context, objectives, methodology adopted and main findings. A soft copy of the paper under MS-Word format with 1.5 line spacing, 12 font size (Times New Roman) may be submitted at info@css.ac.in or to the coordinator at gaganbs09@gmail.com. Selected papers from the seminar will be published in an edited volume.

Important Dates

Submission of full papers: 30th September 2019

Communication about the acceptance of papers: 5th October 2019

Accommodation & Travel

Modest accommodation with twin sharing will be provided to all outstation participants (paper presenters) during the seminar days at CSS's guest house and nearby institutions. Since we have limited funds, travelling cost equivalent to II-AC (ordinary express train with shortest distance) will be extended to only one author of each accepted paper on submission of tickets. CSS will arrange local hospitality for participants and invited delegates.

Visit us at <http://www.css.ac.in>

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