



FROM FREGILE SHELTERS TO SAFE SPACES

IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT OF CONSTRUCTION OF
ANGANWADI CENTERS – A CSR INITIATIVE OF KNRCL

DEEKSHA
Centre for Learning and Action



KNR Constructions Ltd.

**IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF ANGANWADI CENTRES: KNRCL'S
CSR INITIATIVE TO STRENGTHEN EARLY CHILDHOOD
DEVELOPMENT**

WAYANAD, KERALA

2026

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INTRODUCTION

The early years of life are fundamental to a child's physical, cognitive and socio-emotional development, with nearly 90 percent of brain development occurring before the age of five. Ensuring adequate nutrition, healthcare, responsive caregiving and early learning during this period is critical for building human capital and improving lifelong outcomes.

Globally, child malnutrition remains a major public health challenge. According to the latest UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimate (2025), an estimated 148 million children under five are stunted and 42.8 million suffer from wasting, with undernutrition contributing to nearly half of all under-five deaths. In India, despite significant progress through flagship programmes, around one in every three children under five is stunted, underscoring the continued need for integrated interventions that address nutrition, health and early childhood development.

Anganwadi Centres, established under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), form the backbone of India's early childhood development system. By delivering a comprehensive package of nutrition, health, maternal care and preschool education services, they play a pivotal role in improving the well-being of pregnant women, lactating mothers and young children, while laying a strong foundation for children's lifelong learning, health and development.

CONTEXT

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) remains India's flagship programme for delivering integrated nutrition, health and early childhood care services through Anganwadi Centres (AWCs). Over the years, AWCs have evolved into community institutions that nurture the holistic development of children under six years of age while providing essential services to pregnant women, lactating mothers and caregivers.

Kerala has consistently ranked among India's leading states in human development, with commendable achievements in literacy, maternal and child health, and social development. However, sustaining these gains requires continued investment in quality early childhood care, particularly during the formative years when children's physical, cognitive and socio-emotional development is most rapid.

The effectiveness of Anganwadi Centres depends not only on the services they deliver but also on the quality of their physical infrastructure. Safe, well-designed, and child-friendly buildings provide an enabling environment for learning, playing, nutrition, and health services. Adequate indoor and outdoor spaces, age-appropriate learning environments, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, proper ventilation, accessibility for children with disabilities, and resilience to local climatic conditions are essential for improving attendance, enhancing learning experiences, ensuring safety, and fostering community confidence in the programme.

Against this backdrop, strengthening Anganwadi infrastructure has emerged as a critical priority. Replacing ageing and dilapidated buildings with purpose-built facilities enhances service delivery and creates nurturing spaces that support children's holistic development. It is within this context that the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of KNR Constructions Limited assumes significance, demonstrating how strategic corporate partnerships can complement public efforts to strengthen early childhood development and improve the well-being of women and children.

KNRCL'S CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

KNR Constructions Limited (KNRCL) is one of India's leading infrastructure development companies, with extensive expertise in the construction of highways, roads, bridges and other public infrastructure. Beyond its core business operations, the company is committed to contributing to sustainable social development through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, with a focus on creating lasting benefits for communities.

As part of this commitment, KNRCL supported the construction of ten new Anganwadi Centre buildings in Wayanad district, Kerala, replacing dilapidated structures that were no longer suitable for delivering essential services. By investing in safe, resilient and child-friendly infrastructure, the company has contributed to strengthening the ecosystem for early childhood care and education while complementing the Government's efforts to promote equitable access to quality services at the grassroots level. The initiative reflects KNRCL's belief that strengthening community infrastructure plays a vital role in improving developmental outcomes and fostering inclusive growth.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY

As part of its commitment to responsible CSR governance and in compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act governing Corporate Social Responsibility, KNRCL commissioned an independent impact assessment of its CSR initiative for the construction of Anganwadi Centres. The assessment was entrusted to Deeksha – Centre for Learning and Action, a non-profit organisation working in the areas of Child Rights, Adolescence issues, Health, Livelihoods and Gender equality.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The impact assessment covers the ten Anganwadi Centre buildings constructed under KNRCL's CSR initiative in Wayanad district, Kerala. Detailed assessment was undertaken in a representative sample of six centres through physical verification and stakeholder consultations. The study examined the quality, functionality, and utilisation of the infrastructure, as well as its contribution to creating safe and child-friendly spaces for the delivery of nutrition, health and preschool education services. It also captured stakeholders' perceptions of the intervention and its overall effectiveness.

METHODOLOGY

The assessment was based on field visits, direct observation, and stakeholder consultations with Anganwadi Workers, Helpers, Anganwadi Level Monitoring Committee members,

Panchayat representatives, beneficiaries, and community members. It also included interactions with the concerned district and block level officials.

FINANCIAL OUTLAY

KNRCL has provided a total of ₹.3,09,75,000 towards the construction of ten Anganwadi Centres in Wayanad district.

MAJOR OBSERVATIONS

The field assessment included detailed physical verification of a representative sample of six out of ten Anganwadi centres constructed under the project. It generated valuable insights into the planning, construction, functionality, utilization, and management of the facilities, as well as the experiences and perceptions of key stakeholders. The major observations emerging from the assessment are presented below.

1. Local Context and Community Profile

- ✓ Wayanad shares borders with Karnataka and Tamilnadu states. The district is characterized by extensive forest cover, hilly terrain, and a significant Scheduled Tribe populated.
- ✓ The district receives heavy rainfall for most of the year, influencing local livelihoods, settlement patterns, and infrastructure design.
- ✓ KNRCL supported the construction of ten new Anganwadi Centre buildings across all four blocks of the district, replacing older buildings that were functioning from dilapidated, rented, or inadequate buildings.
- ✓ Agriculture and allied activities constitute the primary livelihood of the local communities. Main crops cultivated include paddy, turmeric, vegetables, coconut, betelnut / arecanut, coffee, and spices.
- ✓ These Anganwadi centres are located in remote and socially vulnerable villages with a predominantly ST and Muslim population, thereby improving access to quality early childhood services in underserved habitations.

- ✓ The newly constructed centres are covered under “Achchara Michcha” (broadly translates to Learning Excellence) initiative of the Department of Women and Child Development through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme, which aims to strengthen early childhood care and preschool education through model, child-friendly Anganwadi centres.
- ✓ The table below presents an overview of the six Anganwadi centres selected as the representative sample for the field assessment

Anganwadi Name	Grama Panchayath	House Holds	Population	Children receiving Nutri-mix	Pre-school children	Pregnant Women	New Mothers	Adolescent Girls
Pachadi	Noolpuzha	420	712	11	16	5	3	30
Kolloor	Noolpuzha	102	451	6	9	3	3	15
Cherukunnu	Poothadi	518	2100	12	11	2	2	20
Mathur	Kaniyambetta	253	1009	8	22	11	7	23
Pariyaram	Muttil	320	1300	15	8	2	4	19
Mailadi	Kottathara	222	948	10	5	5	3	15

2. High Quality Construction and Functional Infrastructure

- ✓ The overall quality of construction across the visited centres was found to be consistently high. Buildings exhibited good structural stability, quality workmanship, and neat finishing, reflecting effective technical supervision during implementation.
- ✓ Construction materials have been appropriately selected considering local climatic conditions. The use of locally available red mud-stone bricks for external walls combines traditional construction practices with structural durability and environmental suitability.
- ✓ Interior spaces have been finished with high-quality flooring and ceramic wall tiles in kitchens and sanitation areas, enhancing hygiene, ease of maintenance, and long-term durability.
- ✓ Doors, windows, roofing systems, electrical fittings, and sanitary installations were found to be of good quality and functioning satisfactorily across almost all the centres.

- ✓ Secure entrance doors with multiple locking systems, strong compound walls, and durable gates enhance the safety and security of children, staff, equipment and other assets within the premises.
- ✓ Despite minor variations in roofing design arising from site-specific conditions, the overall quality of construction remained uniformly good across all centres visited.

3. Contextually Appropriate Infrastructure Design

- ✓ The buildings were constructed following standard plans provided by the Panchayati Raj Engineering wing through the Zilla Parishad, with minor modifications to accommodate variations in land availability, and site orientation, and topography.
- ✓ The architectural design has been thoughtfully adapted to Wayanad's unique climatic conditions. Sloping roofs, extended eaves, and integrated rainwater drainage channels efficiently manage the region's heavy rainfall, thereby enhancing the durability and longevity of the structures.
- ✓ Spacious verandas, cross ventilation, and adequate natural lighting create comfortable indoor environments throughout the year, reducing dependence on artificial lighting while improving thermal comfort for children.
- ✓ The internal layout provides a logical functional flow between activity hall, kitchen, storage room, sanitation facilities, and outdoor spaces, enabling smooth conduct of preschool education, nutrition, and health-related services.
- ✓ Although a common master plan was adopted, construction was sensitively adapted to local site conditions without compromising functionality, accessibility, or user convenience.
- ✓ The provision of ramps alongside staircases reflects adherence to the principles of universal accessibility, enabling easier access for children, caregivers, elderly beneficiaries, and persons with mobility challenges.

4. Child-Centred Learning Environment

- ✓ The newly constructed centres have transformed conventional Anganwadi centres into vibrant early childhood learning environments. Colourful educational murals

depicting alphabets, numbers, animals, birds, and motivational illustrations have been thoughtfully integrated into both the interiors and exteriors walls.

- ✓ The visual environment itself functions as an educational resource, stimulating curiosity and promoting informal learning beyond structured classroom sessions.
- ✓ Age-appropriate furniture, colourful tables and chairs, organized storage systems, and well-arranged learning materials have significantly enhanced the quality of preschool education.
- ✓ Anganwadi workers demonstrated effective utilisation of the available infrastructure by conducting songs, rhymes, storytelling, dance, role play, and activity-based learning using different spaces within the building.
- ✓ Children appeared comfortable, engaged, and enthusiastic throughout classroom observations. The spacious halls allowed unrestricted movement, making it easier to conduct interactive and play-based learning sessions.
- ✓ Parents reported that children were eager to attend the centres and often preferred spending more time there because of the attractive surroundings, engaging learning activities, and supportive atmosphere.
- ✓ Mothers perceived improvements in their children's communication skills, confidence, curiosity, discipline, and readiness for primary schooling.
- ✓ Teachers unanimously reported that the improved physical environment has enhanced children's participation, concentration, attendance, and overall learning experience.

5. Safe, Secure and Child-Friendly Environment

- ✓ Compared to the previous facilities, the newly constructed buildings provide children with a significantly safer, more secure, and child-friendly environment.
- ✓ Strong compound walls, gated premises, child-friendly sanitation facilities, and secure entrances minimize safety risks and provide parents with greater confidence in leaving their children at the centre.

- ✓ Outdoor play spaces equipped with swings, slides, and merry-go-rounds encourage physical activity, motor skill development, and social interaction among children.
- ✓ Except for one centre constrained by limited land availability, all the centres possess adequate outdoor space for children's recreation and outdoor learning activities.
- ✓ The colourful physical environment, combined with safe infrastructure and well-planned indoor and outdoor spaces, has created an atmosphere where children appear comfortable, confident, and emotionally secure.
- ✓ Mothers consistently expressed satisfaction with the safety, cleanliness, hygiene, and overall ambience of the facilities, indicating a high level of confidence in the environment provided for their children.

6. Improved Nutrition, Health and Child Well-being

- ✓ Every Anganwadi has established a functional nutri-garden within the available land, demonstrating the effective integration of nutrition education with supplementation nutrition.
- ✓ Centres with limited land have adopted innovative practices by cultivating vegetables, leafy greens, and fruit-bearing plants in pots and containers, ensuring that nutri-gardens remain functional irrespective of space constraints.
- ✓ Nutri-gardens include vegetables, leafy greens, papaya, guava, moringa, tomatoes, chillies, and other locally suitable crops, which are utilized to supplement children's meals whenever possible while promoting healthy dietary practices.
- ✓ The kitchens are spacious, hygienic, and well designed, with adequate storage facilities, work platforms, shelving, and cooking arrangements that facilitate safe and efficient food preparation.
- ✓ Separate storage rooms enable the systematic storage of food grains, vegetables, cooking materials, and educational supplies, thereby reducing contamination risks and improving inventory management.

- ✓ Clean sanitation facilities, dedicated handwashing areas, adequate ventilation, and hygienic food preparation practices collectively contribute to improved health, nutrition, and overall well-being of children attending the centre.

7. Positive Behavioural and Developmental Changes Among Children

- ✓ Parents consistently reported increased enthusiasm among children to attend the Anganwadi after shifting to the new building, indicating improved acceptance and utilization of preschool services.
- ✓ Mothers observed noticeable improvements in children's communication abilities, confidence, curiosity, discipline, and social interaction, attributing these positive changes to the stimulating learning environment and the active engagement of Anganwadi Teacher and Helper.
- ✓ Several parents highlighted improvements in children's readiness for formal schooling. One mother shared that her elder daughter, who recently transitioned to primary school, is performing exceptionally well both academically and socially, which she attributes to the quality preschool education received at the Anganwadi.
- ✓ Another parent explained that her previously hyperactive child has developed better concentration, observation skills, and inquisitiveness after regularly attending the centre, reflecting the positive influence of the learning environment.
- ✓ Teachers also reported that the spacious infrastructure has enabled greater freedom for play-based learning and group activities, resulting in improved participation, interaction, and behavioural outcomes among children.
- ✓ The assessment indicates that improvements in physical infrastructure have enhanced the overall quality of service delivery, which is beginning to translate into positive developmental outcomes for children.

8. Inclusive Social Reach and Equitable Access

- ✓ The location of the facility reflects a conscious effort to prioritise socially vulnerable populations. Seven of the ten Anganwadi centres are situated in predominantly

Scheduled Tribe (ST) habitations, while three are in predominantly Muslim settlements, ensuring improved access for historically underserved communities.

- ✓ Although each centres primarily serves its respective habitations, beneficiary coverage was found to be socially inclusive. Children belonging to Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Muslim Communities, and Other Backward Classes accessed services together wherever these communities coexist.
- ✓ During field visits, the assessment team did not observe any evidence of exclusion or discrimination in enrolment or utilization of services. Access to preschool education, nutrition, health services, and play facilities was found to be equitable across different social groups.
- ✓ Interactions with stakeholders indicated that the centres have evolved into common community spaces where families from diverse social backgrounds interact regularly, thereby strengthening social cohesion and community integration.
- ✓ The assessment team observed harmonious relationships among different communities, with local residents collectively participating in the maintenance and functioning of the centres irrespective of caste or religious identity.
- ✓ By locating quality public infrastructure within remote tribal and minority habitations, the CSR initiative has substantially reduced geographical barriers to accessing Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

9. Strong Community Ownership and Participatory Governance

- ✓ A distinctive feature of the intervention is the exceptionally high level of community ownership demonstrated even before construction commenced. The land for all ten Anganwadi Centres was contributed by the community. In eight locations, individual families donated land, while in two villages, residents collectively mobilized resources to procure and donate land, reflecting the value attached by communities to early childhood development.

- ✓ Community participation continued throughout the construction phase. Local residents closely monitored progress, extended logistical support whenever required, and regarded the centres as community assets rather than merely government buildings, fostering a strong sense of collective responsibility towards their upkeep.
- ✓ The Anganwadi level Monitoring Committee (ALMCs) played an active role in supervising both the quality of construction and the ongoing functioning of the centres. In most villages, Ward Members served as Chairpersons of these committees, ensuring regular oversight, transparency, and accountability.
- ✓ The composition of ALMCs reflects broad-based community participation, with representation from ward members, retired teachers, retired government employees, ASHA workers, Self-Help Group members, mothers, and other active community representatives. The committees meet every month to review the functioning of the centre, discuss emerging needs and resource requirements, and monitor the progress of beneficiaries, including children and women. This reflects an inclusive, and participatory governance mechanism.
- ✓ Panchayat representatives demonstrated visible ownership over the project by actively coordinating with the Panchayati Raj Engineering wing, contractors, Anganwadi workers, and community members throughout implementation. Their engagement significantly strengthened local monitoring mechanisms and ensured quality execution of the project.
- ✓ Active participation of Panchayat representatives, ALMC members, and community volunteers throughout the construction process contributed to transparency, accountability, and timely completion of the facilities.
- ✓ The assessment team observed a high degree of cooperation among local elected representatives, government officials, frontline workers, and community members. Such institutional convergence created favourable conditions for the successful implementation and long-term sustainability of the intervention.

- ✓ The project reflects a model where CSR investments can successfully leverage local governance institutions and community participation to strengthen ownership, accountability, and sustainability well beyond the construction phase.

10. Anganwadi Centres Emerging as Community Assets

- ✓ Beyond their primary role in delivering early childhood care, nutrition and preschool education, the newly constructed Anganwadi centres have emerged as important community assets in several villages.
- ✓ In remote habitations with limited public infrastructure, the Anganwadi centre has become one of the few common spaces available for community interactions, social gatherings, and developmental activities.
- ✓ The centres are regularly utilized for Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs), immunization sessions, health camps, nutrition counseling, mothers' meetings, Kudumbashree Self-Help Group meetings, awareness programmes, yoga sessions, adolescent group activities, and other community events, thereby extending their utility beyond preschool education.
- ✓ Community members perceived the facilities not merely as Anganwadi centres but as village institutions that support the wellbeing of women, children, adolescents, and families through a range of health, nutrition, education, and community welfare activities.
- ✓ Teachers and community representatives reported that the improved infrastructure has enhanced community participation in Anganwadi programmes, including parents' meetings, nutrition-related events, and health related activities.
- ✓ The multipurpose utilization of the facilities has significantly enhanced the social return on KNRCL's CSR investment by benefitting a much larger section of the community than the enrolled children alone.

- ✓ The assessment indicates that the CSR initiative has created durable community assets whose contribution extends well beyond early childhood care services, strengthening the overall social infrastructure of the villages.

11. Community Perceptions and Stakeholder Feedback

- ✓ The assessment recorded an overwhelmingly positive response from parents, community members, ALMC representatives, Panchayat members, and local leaders regarding the quality, usefulness, and overall impact of the newly constructed centres.
- ✓ Community members consistently appreciated the quality of construction, spacious classrooms, sanitation facilities, colourful interiors, child-friendly design, and overall ambience, with several remarking that such facilities were superior to those available in their own homes.
- ✓ Across the villages visited, stakeholders repeatedly contrasted the new facilities with the earlier rented, temporary, or dilapidated Anganwadi buildings. The transition to permanent, purpose-built centres was widely perceived as a significant improvement in the quality, dignity, and effectiveness of service delivery.
- ✓ Teachers reported that the larger classrooms and improved facilities have enabled them to conduct play-based learning, group activities, songs, dance, storytelling, and other pre-school activities more effectively than in the previous centres.
- ✓ Stakeholders appreciated the provision of dedicated kitchen, storage space, child-friendly toilets, outdoor play equipment, and enhanced safety measures, all of which have strengthened the overall quality of service delivery.
- ✓ Community members expressed immense pride in having such high-quality public infrastructure in remote tribal and underserved villages and acknowledged KNRCL's CSR initiative as a significant contribution to the development of their communities.
- ✓ Many respondents appreciated the collaborative implementation approach adopted for the project, recognizing the collective contribution of KNRCL's CSR initiative, the

Panchayats, ICDS, ALMCs, and local communities in successfully establishing and operationalizing the centres.

- ✓ The assessment found a strong sense of collective ownership among community members, who expressed their willingness to actively support the maintenance, upkeep, and long-term sustainability of the facilities.

12. Effective Institutional Convergence and Resource Optimisation

- ✓ The project demonstrates an effective convergence model of institutional convergence between KNRC's CSR initiative and the Department of Women and Child Development through the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).
- ✓ Construction of the Anganwadi centres was implemented through close coordination between KNRCL, the Panchayati Raj Engineering Wing, the Zilla Parishad, Gram Panchayats, ICDS, and local communities, enabling timely and effective project execution.
- ✓ While KNRCL financed the construction of the buildings and related infrastructure, ICDS complemented the investment by providing furniture, preschool education materials, equipment, and other operational requirements, ensuring that the centre became functional immediately after completion.
- ✓ Technical planning and execution by the Panchayati Raj Engineering wing ensured adherence to approved engineering standards, quality specifications, and government norms.
- ✓ Zilla Parishad played a key role in contractor selection, financial disbursement, and implementation processes, facilitating efficient project execution.
- ✓ The convergence of CSR resources with government service delivery mechanisms has maximised the development value of the investment while avoiding duplication of resources and responsibilities.
- ✓ This collaboration implementation approach offers a strong and replicable model for future CSR investments in social infrastructure and public service delivery.

13. Institutional Perspectives and Implementation Insights

- ✓ District and block Officials from the department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) unanimously acknowledged that all ten Anganwadi centres were constructed in villages where new buildings were most needed. They viewed the CSR support as a significant contribution to strengthening early childhood infrastructure in remote and underserved habitations.
- ✓ The District Programme Officer expressed her gratitude to KNRCL for its timely CSR support in constructing Anganwadi centres in the most deserving villages. She observed that the intervention had substantially strengthened the department's efforts to provide safe, functional, and child-friendly infrastructure for early childhood services.
- ✓ The department appreciated the active participation of ALMC members, Panchayat representatives, Mother's Committees, and community members throughout the construction process. Their involvement strengthened local monitoring, ensured transparency, and contributed to the timely completion of the works.
- ✓ CDPOs and Supervisors regularly visited the construction sites to monitor progress and quality. Their continuous field supervision helped ensure adherence to approved specifications without compromising construction standards.
- ✓ Officials observed a noticeable increase in the attendance of preschool children after the new buildings became operational. They also reported improved utilization of Anganwadi services due to the availability of safe, spacious, and child-friendly infrastructure.
- ✓ The additional space has enabled regular organization of preschool activities, adolescent girls' programmes, Village Health and Nutrition Days, Mothers' Committee meetings, and other community-based events that were difficult to conduct in the earlier facilities due to smaller space.

- ✓ The District Programme Officer highlighted that several Anganwadi centres across the district continue to function from dilapidated or weather-damaged buildings. She observed that CSR support for constructing new buildings would significantly complement government efforts to address this infrastructure gap.
- ✓ Department officials informed that all the newly constructed Anganwadi centres were virtually inaugurated together by the then Member of Parliament, Mr. Rahul Gandhi, after completion of the construction works.
- ✓ An important observation emerging from the assessment was that most departmental staff and community members believed the buildings had been constructed using MP funds. This perception appears to have arisen because the centres were inaugurated by the MP and the construction was implemented by Zilla Parishad.
- ✓ During the assessment, stakeholders were informed that the buildings had been constructed through KNRCL's CSR initiative. On learning this, both departmental staff at the block level and community representatives expressed their appreciation to KNRCL for supporting high-quality infrastructure in some of the district's most underserved villages.

14. Community Aspirations for Further Strengthening

- ✓ Communities largely viewed their suggestions as opportunities to further strengthen an already well-functioning intervention rather than shortcomings in the project, reflecting their strong sense of ownership and commitment towards the sustainability of the facilities.
- ✓ In buildings with UPVC sheet roofing, stakeholders suggested providing a false ceiling beneath the roof to prevent the entry of monkeys, rats, bats, and birds through roof gaps and minimize rainwater seepage during heavy rainfall.
- ✓ In a few centres, stakeholders requested the installation of overhead water tanks and dedicated borewells to ensure an adequate and uninterrupted water supply throughout the year.

- ✓ Community members in some villages highlighted the need for child-sized wash basins and toilets to further improve convenience, accessibility, and safety for young children.
- ✓ One Anganwadi centre constructed on a plot of approximately 3.5 cents has smaller indoor spaces and could not accommodate outdoor play equipment because of severe land constraints. During the assessment, the ALMC members expressed their willingness to explore the possibility of mobilizing the adjoining vacant land to expand the outdoor play area.
- ✓ In centres that have evolved into important community spaces, stakeholders expressed a preference for reinforced concrete slab roofing in future projects to facilitate vertical expansion for community welfare activities such as awareness activities, trainings programmes, elderly care services, and community meetings.
- ✓ Completion of pending plumbing works and installation of additional child-friendly fixtures were suggested in some locations to further enhance the functionality and user-friendliness of the facilities.
- ✓ While the standard building design has performed well across locations, future projects may consider greater flexibility in adapting the design to highly constrained sites without compromising children's indoor or outdoor activity space.
- ✓ Community members emphasized the importance of continued maintenance support, particularly for playground equipment, educational walls paintings, nutrition gardens, and other infrastructure to preserve the quality and functionality of the centres over time.
- ✓ The interactions also highlighted the potential for strengthening rainwater harvesting systems and ensuring uninterrupted water availability to further improve the resilience and sustainability of the infrastructure.
- ✓ The assessment team observed that these suggestions are location-specific and represent opportunities for further strengthening the intervention. They do not, in any way, diminish the overall quality, functionality, or positive impact of the intervention.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Beyond the assessment findings, the voices of community members and stakeholders provide first-hand insights into how the new Anganwadi centres have transformed the lives of children, families, and the wider community.

A Dream Beyond Four Walls

Our old Anganwadi, a tiled-roof structure, collapsed in 2018. Since then, the centre functioned from a rented building until this new one was constructed. A ST family from our village generously donated five cents of land to make this possible. Today, we have a beautiful, spacious, well-equipped, and child-friendly centre that our village is proud of.

However, if the building had been constructed with a concrete slab, it could have been expanded with additional floor in the future. This is the only community space in our village, and we use it for meetings, awareness programmes, and other community activities. Involving the community during the planning stage would have helped incorporate such suggestions.

- Khan Abdullah, ALMC Member, Mailadi Village

Now We Can Go to Work Without Worry

“The new Anganwadi has changed our daily lives. Our children are eager to come here every morning and happily spend their time learning, playing, and exploring new things. Earlier, we always worried about leaving them behind when we went to work. Today, we go to our fields with confidence, knowing they are safe, and in caring hands. That peace of mind is invaluable to us.

The Teacher and Helper treat every child with patience, affection, and genuine care. We know our children are not just being looked after – they are learning good habits, becoming more confident, and growing in a stimulating environment. That is the greatest reassurance any parent can have.”

- Sadhana, Mother, Kolloor village

Every Time We Walk In, We Feel Proud

“We never imagined that our village would one day have such a beautiful Anganwadi. It has become a place that every parent is proud of. We meet here regularly to discuss our children’s progress, the activities of the centre, and how we can support it functioning. It has brought us together as a community while giving our children a safe, joyful, and nurturing place to learn and grow. We are truly happy and grateful to everyone whose support made this possible.”

- Hamsa, Mother & AKMC member, Cherukunnu village

This is More Than a Building for Our Village

“Our old Anganwadi building had become so dilapidated that we were always afraid it might collapse, especially during the rainy season. When the ICDS Programme Officer informed us that a new building would be constructed, it brought great relief to everyone. Until it was ready, we willingly shifted the centre to a villager’s house so that the children could continue receiving services without interruption.

The new building was completed within six months. Throughout the construction, the community actively supported the work by supervising the progress, assisting the workers whenever needed, and ensuring the quality of materials and construction. Today, this Anganwadi stands proudly at the heart of our village, and we all feel a strong sense of ownership and pride. We are deeply grateful to those who supported its construction and helped create a safe and dignified place for our children.”

- Nishida, Ward Member, Poodadi Village

Every Child Deserves a Place Like This

“When we see our children learning and playing happily here, we wish every village could have an Anganwadi like ours...”

- Mani, SHG Leader, Kudumbashree, Cherakunnu village

CONCLUSION

The impact assessment demonstrates that KNRCL's CSR investment in constructing Anganwadi Centres in Wayanad has created much more than physical infrastructure. The intervention has established safe, inclusive, and child-friendly, and context-responsive spaces that have substantially strengthened the delivery of early childhood care, nutrition, health, and preschool education services. The high quality of construction, thoughtful adaptation to local conditions, strong community ownership, effective institutional convergence, and active engagement of Anganwadi workers have together transformed these centres into vibrant learning spaces and valued community assets. The assessment also indicate early evidences of positive behaviour and developmental changes among children, increased community participation, and enhanced confidence of parents in the services provided.

The project demonstrates how a strategically designed CSR investment, implemented in partnership with government institutions and local communities, can create sustainable public infrastructure with long-term developmental value. While a few location-specific improvements – such as false ceilings beneath UPVC roofing, strengthened water supply system, and enhanced play spaces in land-constrained location – would further enhance functionality, these are opportunities for optimization rather than shortcomings of the interventions. Overall, the assessment concludes that KNRCL has created durable community assets that are strengthening the quality, accessibility, and dignity of Anganwadi services in underserved habitations. More importantly, the intervention has strengthened the foundation for healthier, safer, and more equitable early childhood development by creating community-owned institutions that will continue to benefit generations of children and families in Wayanad.

PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



Pic 1 – Newly constructed Anganwadi centre with a secure iron fence and gate.



Pic 2 – Angular view of the newly constructed centre with spacious outdoor surroundings.



Pic 3 – Overview of the newly constructed Anganwadi centre.



Pic 4 – Newly constructed Anganwadi centre showing the inclusive design with a ramp and steps, spacious outside area, and space for nutrition garden.



Pic 5 – Interior view of the AWC showing thematic wall paintings during field Interaction.



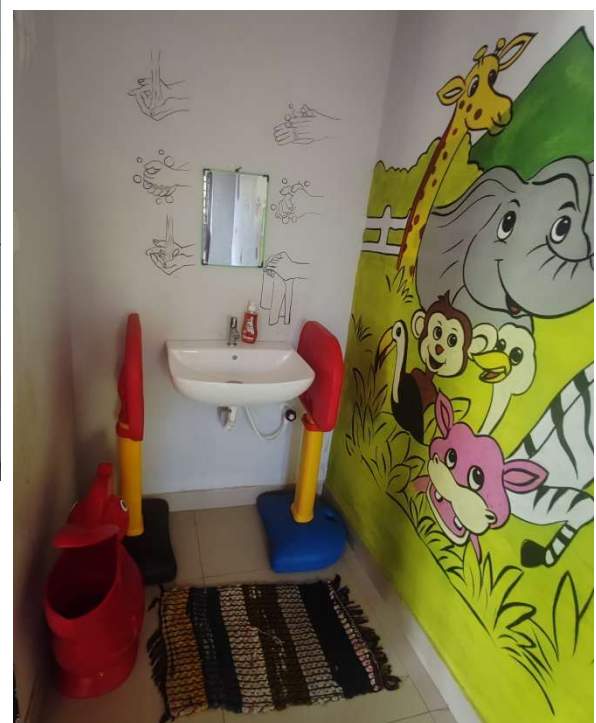
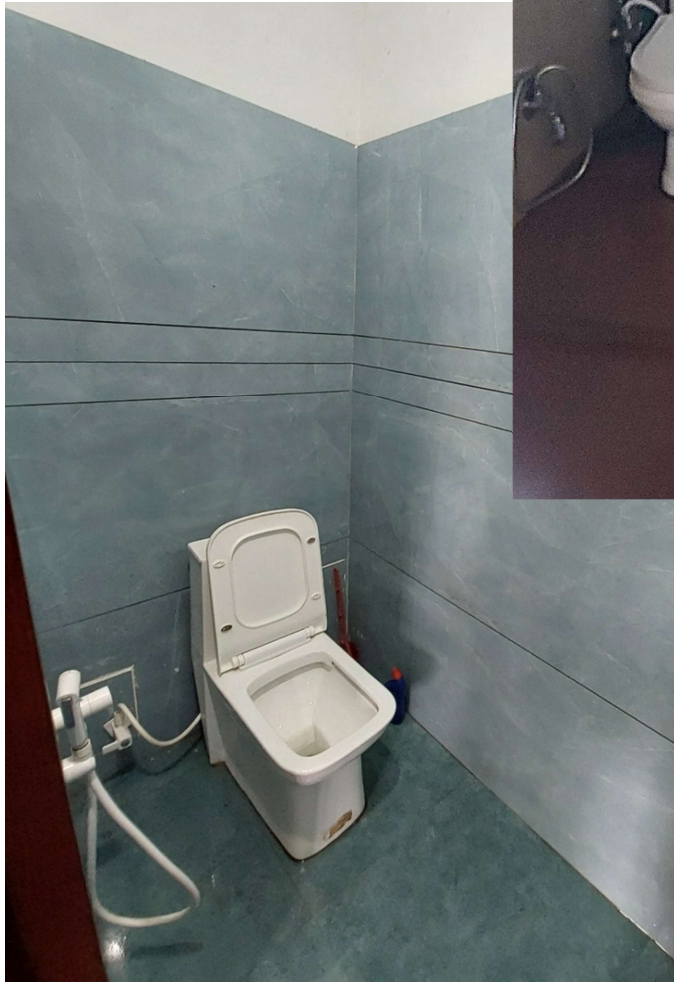
Pic 6 - Interior view of the Anganwadi centre highlighting the roof structure, thematic wall paintings, and stakeholder interaction.



Pics 7 & 8 – Well-equipped kitchens with essential facilities for safe food preparation.



Pics 9 & 10 – Clean and hygienically maintained washrooms with child-friendly toilet fittings.



Pic 11 – Child-friendly washbasin



Pic 12 – Lateral view of the Anganwadi centre showing the side pathway and wide windows for natural ventilation.



Pic 13 – Corner view of the Anganwadi centre with ample open space for children's outdoor activities.



Pic 14 & 15 – Nutrition gardens developed within the Anganwadi centres premises.



Pic 16 – Assessment team with Anganwadi children, ALMC members, and community representatives.

Pic 17 – Craftwork prepared by children, reflecting creativity and joyful learning environment.



Pic 18 – A girl enjoying the slide in the Anganwadi Centre play area.



Pics 19 & 20 – children confidently demonstrating their learning through interactive activities.



Pic 21 – Interior view of the Anganwadi centre highlighting the false ceiling and spacious activity hall during the interaction with the Anganwadi Teacher



Pic 22 – Assessment team with children, Anganwadi workers, parents, ALMC members, and Ward Members during the field visit to the Anganwadi Centre



Pic 23 – Frontal view of the Anganwadi centre with the overhead water tank and iron fencing



Pic 24 – View of the tastefully designed and decorated Anganwadi centre.

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