



# Supporting Early Child Care

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**Submitted To**

**Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation  
Limited – Gramya Vikas Trust (GMDC-GVT)**



**Submitted By**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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The successful completion of the "Supporting Early Child Care" project in Jakhau village, Kutch, is a testament to many individuals and organizations' collaborative efforts and dedication. We extend our deepest gratitude to all those whose support made this initiative impactful and transformative.

First and foremost, we are profoundly thankful to the GMDC-GVT for their unwavering commitment to improving early childhood care and education through visionary CSR initiatives. Their efforts have played a vital role in enhancing the infrastructure and creating opportunities for holistic child development in underserved communities.

We are incredibly thankful for the leadership and vision of Shri. Roopwant Singh, IAS, Managing Director of GMDC and Chairman of GVT, Smt. Veena Padia, Chief Executive Officer of GMDC-GVT, Smt. Shaila Trivedi, Program Manager and Smt. Shruti Shukla, Consultant, whose unwavering encouragement and strategic guidance have driven this initiative forward. Their dedication to uplifting rural education and community well-being has been a source of inspiration throughout this project.

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We are immensely grateful to the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Department and the local governing bodies in Jakhau, whose collaboration and steadfast support were critical in constructing the Anganwadi Center. Their involvement ensured the Center aligned with the community's needs and aspirations.

The enthusiasm and active participation of the Jakhau village community deserve special recognition. Their collective efforts have been central to shaping this project into a resource that reflects their hopes and addresses the developmental needs of their children.

We thank the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) for their academic insights and technical expertise. Their guidance in framing and analyzing this project's impact has been invaluable in ensuring a comprehensive understanding of its outcomes.

A special mention goes to the Anganwadi workers, caregivers, and parents, who remain the backbone of the Center's day-to-day operations. Their dedication and compassion exemplify the importance of community-driven approaches in nurturing and educating the youngest members of society.

Lastly, we thank everyone who contributed, directly or indirectly, to the success of this initiative. Your collective commitment and effort have created a brighter future for Jakhau's children and set an inspiring benchmark for similar projects aimed at sustainable community development.

Ruchi Mishra  
(Project Co-ordinator)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The "Supporting Early Child Care" initiative, led by GMDC in collaboration with the GVT, addresses the urgent need for improved early childhood education and care facilities in rural Gujarat. Focused on constructing a dedicated Anganwadi Center in Jakhau village, Kutch, this project reflects GMDC's commitment to enhancing child development through infrastructural support, health care, and community involvement under its CSR framework.

This initiative replaces temporary and inadequate facilities with a purpose-built center to support the holistic development of children aged 0–6. The project emphasizes child-friendly infrastructure, nutritional support, and educational resources, ensuring that children in underserved areas can access foundational services that enhance their cognitive, social, and physical development.

### **Critical Observations of Anganwadi:**

*Infrastructure Gaps Pre-Construction:* The Jakhau Anganwadi Center faced severe challenges, operating in rented spaces or dilapidated community halls. It has created an unsafe and unproductive environment, limiting attendance and engagement among children.

*Post-Construction Outcomes:* The newly constructed Center provides modern facilities, including dedicated play areas, educational spaces, and healthcare provisions. This transformation has led to higher attendance and increased trust among the community in early education programs.

*Collaborative Impact:* The initiative is successful because of the effective coordination between GMDC-GVT, local authorities, and the community. The phased funding model and active participation of stakeholders ensured efficient project execution, with a budget of Rs. 8.5 lakh.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1. Enhancing Community Involvement:* Strengthen the engagement of local stakeholders to ensure continued support for Anganwadi programs, fostering ownership and sustainability.

2. *Expanding Similar Initiatives:* Leverage the Jakhau model to replicate and scale similar projects in other rural and underserved areas, addressing broader infrastructural gaps in early childhood care.
3. *Capacity Building:* Invest in training Anganwadi workers to improve teaching methodologies, health practices, and community engagement, ensuring long-term impact.
4. *Monitoring and Evaluation:* Establish robust systems for assessing the Center's performance and its impact on child development to ensure ongoing improvement and adaptation.

The "Supporting Early Child Care" project in Jakhau exemplifies the transformative power of targeted rural childcare and education interventions. By addressing infrastructure and service gaps, this initiative has laid a strong foundation for the holistic development of children and strengthened community trust. It is a replicable model for improving early childhood care, aligning with broader developmental goals, and advancing India's commitment to inclusive growth and sustainable development.

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# **1. INTRODUCTION**

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## **1.1 Background**

The GMDC, in collaboration with the GVT, has taken significant strides to uplift rural communities in Gujarat through targeted CSR initiatives. Established in 1963, GMDC is a leading state-owned mining and mineral processing company, playing a pivotal role in Gujarat's industrial and economic development. Alongside its industrial pursuits, GMDC is firmly committed to sustainable development and community welfare, mainly focusing on areas where it operates.

The GMDC-GVT CSR Project is designed to address critical social needs in rural and underdeveloped regions, focusing on education, healthcare, livelihood support, and environmental sustainability. By partnering with the Gram Vikas Trust, a well-regarded non-profit organization dedicated to rural development, GMDC aims to create impactful, long-lasting changes that benefit individuals and communities.

One of the flagship initiatives under this CSR program is Supporting Early Child Care through Anganwadi Centers. Recognizing the foundational importance of early childhood development, GMDC-GVT has focused on enhancing access to quality early childhood care, nutrition, and education in rural communities. Through this initiative, GMDC-GVT is working together to construct well-equipped Anganwadi Centers that serve as critical support hubs for young children and their families. These Centers provide essential services such as health check-ups, nutrition programs, early education, and parental support, all of which contribute to the holistic development of children.

In Jakhau Village, Kutch District, the GMDC-GVT CSR project aims to construct a permanent Anganwadi Center that will support early childhood care in a sustainable and impactful manner. This project addresses immediate needs and aligns with long-term developmental goals, promoting healthier, educated, and more empowered communities. GMDC-GVT is laying a solid foundation for future generations, helping bridge rural healthcare and education gaps, and contributing to achieving India's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by investing in early childhood infrastructure.



### ***Supporting Early Child Care***

Anganwadi Centers are much more than classrooms—they represent safe havens where young children can learn, play, and grow under trained supervision. These Centers also play a vital role in disseminating essential health and nutritional information to parents, thus benefiting families and the broader community. In Jakhau, constructing a permanent Anganwadi facility will replace temporary structures, providing a structured environment for early childhood needs.

#### ***Key Features of the Anganwadi Center:***

1. *Child-Friendly Infrastructure:* Safe and hygienic play areas, classrooms with child-sized furniture, and visual learning aids.
2. *Healthcare and Nutrition Services:* The areas set aside for immunizations, growth monitoring, and supplemental feeding programs help to support children's physical well-being.
3. *Educational Resources:* Access to age-appropriate learning materials, toys, and books that support cognitive and language development.
4. *Parenting Workshops:* Regular sessions for parents to teach them about early childhood care, nutrition, and preventive health practices.

This well-rounded approach ensures that children receive early education and holistic care that addresses their physical, mental, and social well-being.

## **1.2 Objective of the Study**

### ***1. Enhance Early Childhood Education***

The project aims to provide a nurturing and safe environment where children can explore, learn, and socialize. By fostering cognitive, language, and motor skills, the Anganwadi Center will support children's readiness for primary school, enhancing their ability to succeed in the formal education system.

### ***2. Promote Health And Nutrition***

The Center will facilitate regular health check-ups, immunizations, and nutrition programs, ensuring children can access essential health services. Nutritional support

includes supplementary feeding, designed to meet children's caloric and nutritional needs, which is particularly important in under-resourced areas.

*3. Strengthen the Community Support System*

Anganwadi Centers serve as community hubs, engaging parents and caregivers in the child's development process. Through organized activities and workshops, the Center will empower families with knowledge, helping them to support their children's growth and address health and developmental concerns.

*4. Encourage Inclusive and Sustainable Development*

The project aims to foster inclusive growth by ensuring that the benefits reach all children in the community, including girls, children from marginalized backgrounds, and children with disabilities. A sustainable development model is followed by integrating local materials in construction and collaborating with community members for maintenance and monitoring.

### **1.3 Implementation Strategy**

To ensure successful implementation, GMDC adopts a multi-faceted approach that involves collaboration with local stakeholders, robust monitoring, and community engagement:

*1. Community Involvement:*

Local Panchayats and community leaders had involved at every stage, from planning and construction to operations. This inclusion ensures that the Center reflects the community's needs, fosters ownership, and enhances local accountability.

*2. Training and Capacity Building:*

Staff training is critical for delivering high-quality early childhood care. The project includes comprehensive training programs for Anganwadi workers, covering child-centered teaching methodologies, health management, and nutrition. This investment in human resources ensures that the Center operates at a high standard.

*3. Infrastructure and Resources:*

The Center's design prioritizes a safe, inclusive, and stimulating environment. Construction materials are locally sourced, emphasizing environmental

sustainability. Furthermore, learning materials, toys, and nutritional supplies are procured to ensure long-term functionality.

#### 4. *Monitoring and Evaluation:*

Ongoing assessment is integral to the project's success. Community members and Panchayat representatives are empowered to monitor the quality and progress of the project, ensuring transparency and continuous improvement in service delivery.

### 1.4 Project Overview

The Supporting Early Child Care initiative under the Education thrust area focuses on building infrastructure that promotes the holistic development of children aged 0–6. The construction of the Anganwadi Center at Jakhau Village, Kutch, aims to provide a safe and conducive environment for early childhood education, health, and nutrition. This project is aligned with the broader GMDC-GVT objectives of enhancing quality education and fostering inclusive growth in rural areas near GMDC project sites.

**Table 1.1: Thrust Areas and Project Details**

Thrust Area	Project	Details	Location	Beneficiaries (Annual)
Education	Supporting Early Child Care	Construction of Anganwadi	Jakhau village, Kutch District	65

*(Source: Project Details, GMDC-GVT)*

Education is a critical focus of GMDC's CSR strategy, emphasizing early childhood development. The aim is to improve access to foundational services such as health, nutrition, and pre-primary education in rural communities. The facility is expected to benefit 65 children annually while indirectly supporting the village's mothers, adolescent girls, and other community members. The project is implemented with the GVT, leveraging their expertise in community-based development and GMDC's resources to ensure high-quality execution.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology outlines the systematic approach used to evaluate the construction of the Anganwadi Center in Jakhau Village under the GMDC-GVT CSR initiative. This study employs a qualitative desk-review method, focusing on secondary data to assess the project's implementation, progress, and anticipated impact on early childhood care, health, and education. By leveraging thematic analysis and progress evaluation, the study aims to provide insights into the project's alignment with its objectives while acknowledging the inherent limitations of relying on available documentation for ongoing intervention. The methodology will be structured as follows:

### 2.1 Study Region

The study region focuses on Jakhau Village, located in the Kutch District of Gujarat. The village, identified as a rural and remote area, falls under the operational vicinity of GMDC's mining and industrial projects. Kutch is known for its arid terrain and sparse population. Jakhau Village is one of the settlements near the Arabian Sea, characterized by a lack of well-established infrastructure for early childhood education. The absence of permanent Anganwadi facilities in Jakhau necessitated the intervention, making it an ideal location for GMDC-GVT's CSR initiative to improve early childhood care.



(Source: Revenue Department District Map)

Fig 3.1 Map of the Kutch District



(Source: Village Map of India)

Fig 3.2 Jakhau Village of Kutch

## 2.2 Data Collection

The data collection process forms the foundation of this desk-review study, focusing on gathering relevant secondary data to evaluate the construction of the Anganwadi Center in Jakhau Village. By utilizing diverse and credible sources, this study ensures a comprehensive understanding of the project's implementation and impact.

### *Sources of Data:*

1. *GMDC-GVT Reports:* Progress reports, project documents, and official updates related to the construction of Anganwadi Centers.
2. *Government Data:* Guidelines for Anganwadi construction, child development policies, and rural health statistics.
3. *Community Engagement Records:* Data on consultations and participatory approaches adopted during the planning phase.

### *Data Points Collected:*

1. Project budget allocation and expenditure breakdown.
2. Construction milestones achieved.

3. Community feedback and involvement in the project.
4. Expected versus actual beneficiaries.

## **2.3 Data Analysis Process**

The data analysis process was structured to derive meaningful insights from secondary data sources, enabling an in-depth evaluation of the project's progress and expected impact. This systematic approach ensured the collected data was organized, interpreted, and aligned with the study's objectives. Key themes include:

### ***Steps in Data Analysis***

#### ***1. Data Categorization:***

The collected data was classified into the following themes for targeted analysis:

- i. *Project Progress:* Tracking construction milestones and budget utilization to assess the project's adherence to timelines and resource allocation.
- ii. *Beneficiary Impact:* Evaluating the benefits to children, mothers, and the broader community.
- iii. *Sustainability:* Analyzing the long-term benefits, including community involvement and the Center's operational resilience.

#### ***2. Thematic analysis:***

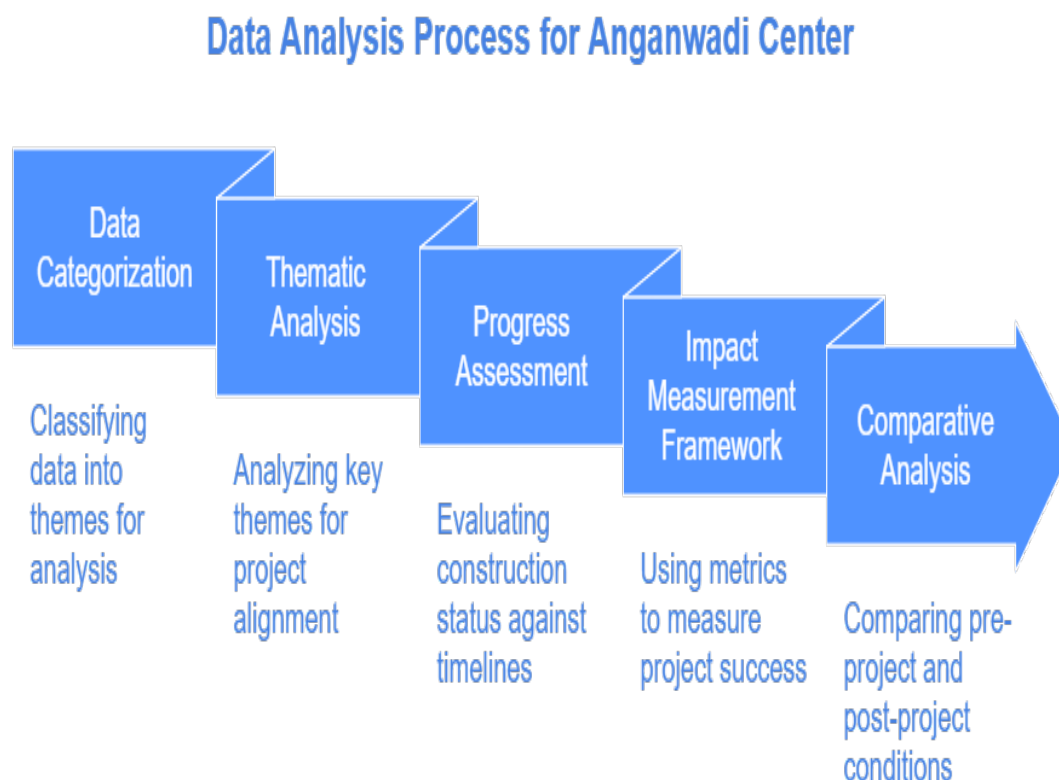
Essential education, health, nutrition, and community development were analyzed to understand the project's alignment with its overarching goals. This approach allowed for a multidimensional evaluation of the Anganwadi Center's impact on early childhood care and the community.

#### ***3. Impact measurement framework:***

Quantifiable metrics such as child enrolment rates, utilization of health services, and nutrition program participation were used to estimate the project's success and immediate outcomes.

#### 4. *Comparative analysis:*

Pre-project conditions in Jakhau Village were evaluated against anticipated improvements, highlighting the potential transformative impact of the Anganwadi Center on the community's quality of life.



*Fig 3.3 Data Analysis Process*

## 2.4 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is defined by the following:

1. *Geographical Scope:* The project is specific to Jakhau Village, Kutch, within the operational areas of GMDC.
2. *Beneficiaries:* The direct beneficiaries are 65 children aged 0–6 years, and indirect benefits for their families and the wider community.
3. *Thematic Areas:* The study focuses on early childhood education, health, nutrition, and community development.

## 2.5 Limitations of the Desk Review-based Study

The study acknowledges several limitations inherent to the chosen methodology:

1. *Reliance on Secondary Data:* The lack of primary data collection restricts the breadth of conclusions because visible evidence and direct community contacts were not included.
2. *Project in Progress:* Since the ongoing Anganwadi construction, long-term impacts (*e.g.*, sustained community engagement and future health outcomes) cannot yet be assessed.
3. *Geographic and Contextual Constraints:* The study focuses solely on Jakhau Village and may not fully represent the broader challenges and opportunities for similar interventions in other rural areas.
4. *Data Availability:* The quality and completeness of secondary data from various sources may affect the accuracy of findings.



### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

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The "Results and Discussion" chapter comprehensively analyzes the findings related to the construction and operational challenges faced by the Jakhau Anganwadi Center - 2. This chapter draws upon the field visit reports conducted before and after the construction of the Anganwadi Center, offering insights into the facility improvement, the coordination between various stakeholders, and the operational challenges faced. By comparing the status of the Center before and after its construction, this section aims to highlight the significance of proper infrastructural support in early childhood care and development programs. The discussion focuses on the effectiveness of governmental initiatives, the role of local authorities, and the impact of timely interventions in providing better facilities for children.

#### **3.1 GMDC's Role in Supporting Early Childhood Care**

##### **3.1.1 Broader CSR Impact on Anganwadi Infrastructure:**

The GMDC has firmly committed to enhancing early childhood care and education by creating 51 Smart Anganwadis across its project areas. With a CSR spend of Rs. 3.04 crore, this initiative underscores GMDC's emphasis on creating child-friendly and modernized learning environments.

##### **3.1.2 Significance of Smart Anganwadis:**

The introduction of Smart Anganwadis reflects GMDC's innovative approach to early education. These centers have upgraded facilities, ensuring safety, hygiene, and an engaging atmosphere for children. Such infrastructure supports physical and cognitive development and encourages higher attendance and community trust in early education programs.

##### **3.1.3 Contribution to Jakhau Anganwadi Project:**

The construction of the Anganwadi Center-2 in Jakhau aligns with GMDC's broader CSR mission. Although not explicitly labeled as a "Smart Anganwadi," the project benefits from the organization's commitment to quality infrastructure, as evidenced by its approval and funding for a well-planned and cost-efficient building.

### **3.2 Pre-Construction Status of Jakhau Anganwadi Center – 2**

#### **Challenges in Operational Infrastructure**

##### *1. Inadequate Space and Facility*

- i. The Jakhau Anganwadi Center - 2 had been operating from a rented space and later moved to a government-owned community hall unsuitable for early childhood care.
- ii. The community hall deteriorated, limiting its capacity to accommodate the required activities, such as educational sessions, health check-ups, and playtime.
- iii. The Center operated from a single room, which severely restricted the scope of activities that could be conducted for children's development.

##### *2. Lack of Proper Renovation*

- i. Although the Center had been approved twice for renovation by the government, the renovation had delayed due to logistical issues, including the community hall's continued use by the local community.
- ii. The community hall's existing occupancy prevented the renovation, leaving the Anganwadi Center without a proper facility for an extended period.

##### *3. Operational Challenges*

- i. The Center faced challenges in maintaining regular attendance due to the poor infrastructure. While 78 children were enrolled, only 40-45 attended regularly due to the unsuitable environment.
- ii. There was a pressing need for a functional and safe environment to ensure children could participate in educational and health programs in a conducive space.

##### *4. Delays in Tender and Construction Approvals*

Despite two attempts at initiating a renovation tender, the project did not progress due to a lack of proper action by relevant authorities, which further exacerbated the operational inefficiencies of the Center.

##### *5. Requests for Urgent Relocation*

The caretaker, Mrs. Dimpalben Thakkar, voiced concerns over the dire conditions and formally requested urgent relocation to a better facility to

provide children with a safe and conducive environment for learning and play.

*A Visual Journey of Anganwadi Center-2 Project*

1. Current Anganwadi Center-2 is being run in a primary school classroom.



2. Photo of Jakhau Anganwadi Center - 2 running in this dilapidated Gram Panchayat hall at the time of application



3. Photo of the land allotted to Jakhau Anganwadi Center - 2 by Jakhau Gram Panchayat



(Source: Project Co-ordinator, GMDC-GVT, Kutch)

The image provides a visual narrative of the Anganwadi Center-2 project in Jakhau village. It showcases the current state of the Center, the old building, and the progress made in securing land and initiating construction for a new facility.

**Key Observations:**

1. *Current Conditions:* The image highlights the inadequate conditions of the current Anganwadi Center, operated in a primary school classroom. It was suggested that there is a lack of dedicated space and resources for early childhood care and development.
2. *Need for a New Facility:* The image of the old Anganwadi Center emphasizes the urgent need for a new building. The old structure appears dilapidated and unsuitable for providing young children with a safe and conducive learning environment.
3. *Land Acquisition:* The image of the newly allotted land indicates a significant step forward in the project. The availability of land is crucial for the construction of a new, modern Anganwadi Center.
4. *Construction Progress:* The image of the construction site suggests that the project is actively underway. It is a positive development, as it signifies the commitment to improving early childhood care and education in the community.

Overall, the image provides a compelling visual representation of the challenges faced by the existing Anganwadi Center and the ongoing efforts to address these challenges by constructing a new facility. The project was expected to significantly enhance the quality of early childhood care and development in Jakhau village.

### **3.3 Post-Construction Improvements in the Anganwadi Center**

#### ***Enhancements in Infrastructure and Facilities***

##### *1. Introduction of a New Building*

- i. The construction of a new building for the Jakhau Anganwadi Center - 2 was approved by GMDC-GVT and the R&B Division, Bhuj-Kachchh, marking a significant improvement over the previous location.
- ii. The new building was designed to meet the required standards of the ICDS and offers sufficient space for educational activities, healthcare, and recreational play.

##### *2. Functional and Child-Friendly Infrastructure*

- i. The new Anganwadi Center now provides a well-structured environment with adequate rooms and facilities for early childhood education.
- ii. Critical facilities include designated play areas, proper sanitation, and the necessary space for children to engage in learning activities, fostering cognitive, social, and physical development.

##### *3. Electrification and Basic Amenities*

- i. The new building also includes electrification, ensuring children and staff a safe and comfortable environment.
- ii. Providing necessary amenities, such as lighting and ventilation, further enhances the quality of the environment, ensuring a better experience for children and caregivers.

##### *4. Enhanced Attendance and Engagement*

The new infrastructure has seen a noticeable improvement in children's attendance. The environment has become more inviting and conducive to learning, with more children regularly attending the Center.

##### *5. Supportive Stakeholder Involvement*

- i. The successful construction of the Anganwadi Center was made possible through the collaborative efforts of GMDC-GVT, the Panchayat R&B Division, and local authorities.
- ii. The stakeholders worked together to secure approvals, allocate funds, and manage the construction, ensuring the project was completed efficiently and on time.

The total administrative approval for the abovementioned work is Rs. 8,50,000/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Fifty Thousand Only). The cost break-up submitted by R&B Division, Kachchh, for the work, is as follows:

**Table 3.1: Payment Schedule for the Construction of Anganwadi Center-2 Building at Jakhau Village**

Sr. No.	Sub Estimate	Amount
1	Main Building	8,15,977.69
2	Electrification	13,175.40
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,29,153.09</b>
	Add. 2% Provision for Quality Control & Contingency	16,583.06
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,45,740.00</b>
	<b>SAY</b>	<b>8,50,000.00</b>

(Source: Construction of Anganwadi Report (2023) From GMDC-GVT, Kutch, Appendix)

The provided payment schedule outlines a phased disbursement of funds based on the completion of specific construction milestones. This approach ensures that payments are tied to project progress, incentivizing timely completion and quality artistry.

**Table 3.2: Cost Break-Up for Construction of Anganwadi Center-2 Building at Jakhau Village**

Sr. No.	Particular	Grant Percentage	Amount (Rs.)
1	For Plinth Level Work	20%	1,70,000/-
2	For Lintel Level Work	25%	2,12,500/-
3	For Slab Level Work	30%	2,55,000/-
4	After Completion of Work	25%	2,12,500/-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8,50,000/-</b>

(Source: Construction of Anganwadi Report (2023) From GMDC-GVT, Kutch, Appendix)

### ***Project Details and Administrative Approval***

The project involves the construction of an Anganwadi Center-2 Building at Jakhau village. The total budget allocated for the project is Rs. 8,50,000, with a provision of 2% for quality control and contingency measures. The project has received administrative approval from

GMDC-GVT, and the Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat R&B Department, Bhuj-Kachchh, is responsible for its execution. The completed building will be branded with the logos of GMDC and GMDC-GVT.

This comprehensive approach, coupled with the phased payment schedule, aims to ensure the timely and quality completion of the Anganwadi Center, ultimately benefiting the local community.

***Foundation Work in Progress for the New Anganwadi Center***

*(Source: Construction of Anganwadi, From GMDC-GVT, Kutch)*

This image provides a glimpse into the ongoing construction of the new Anganwadi Center in Jakhau village. We can observe the following key points:

- i. *Foundation Lying:* The image clearly shows the progress of the foundation work. The reinforced concrete columns and beams are visible, indicating the initial building construction phase.
- ii. *Water Supply:* A water hose suggests that water is being used for various construction activities, such as mixing concrete and cleaning tools.
- iii. *Rural Setting:* The surrounding environment, with houses and open spaces, highlights the rural context of the project. It emphasizes providing quality early childhood care and education in such areas.

### **3.4 Challenges Faced During the Implementation Process**

Bureaucratic delays and operational difficulties;

#### *1. Bureaucratic Delays in Approvals*

- i. Although the renovation and construction process were approved multiple times, bureaucratic delays were a significant issue. It included delays in getting the necessary clearances from local authorities and securing a space for the new building.
- ii. Despite a clear plan, the project faced several administrative hurdles that delayed its progress.

#### *2. Space Utilization Issues*

- i. Initially identified as a temporary solution, the community hall continued to be a barrier due to its occupation by other community members. This further delayed the relocation of the Anganwadi center to a more suitable facility.
- ii. The delay in vacating the hall and securing a proper location for the new Center hindered the timely execution of the construction plans.

#### *3. Coordination and Communication Gaps*

- i. Communication gaps existed between the stakeholders, especially GMDC-GVT, the Panchayat, and the R&B Division. It caused delays in project execution and affected the timely completion of the construction.
- ii. A lack of clarity in roles and responsibilities also contributed to the delay in addressing the tender and construction approvals.

### **3.5 Impact of Infrastructure on Early Childhood Care**

#### *1. Direct Impact on Attendance and Learning Outcomes*

- i. The improvement in the physical infrastructure directly contributed to higher attendance rates. A safe and inviting space promotes regular attendance and enhances children's engagement in early education activities.



- ii. The new building supports a child-centered learning environment, allowing for more interactive and creative learning experiences crucial for early childhood development.
- 2. *Promotion of Health and Well-Being*
  - i. The proper sanitation and safe space in the new building significantly enhance the health and well-being of the children. It reduces the risk of accidents and ensures that the children are hygienic, essential for their growth and development.
- 3. *Psychosocial Benefits*
  - i. A properly designed and secure building promotes children's sense of security and belonging. The positive environment has psychosocial benefits, helping children develop confidence and social skills.
- 4. *Key Role of Government and Local Authorities*
  - i. The successful construction highlights the critical role of government bodies, local authorities, and non-governmental organizations in addressing infrastructural challenges and ensuring that essential services like Anganwadi centers are adequately supported.

### **3.6 Recommendations for Strengthening Infrastructure**

1. *Streamlining Approvals and Clearances:* Securing approvals and clearances for such projects should be streamlined to avoid delays. Ensuring timely clearances will help prevent project stagnation and improve efficiency.
2. *Use of Alternative Temporary Spaces:* In situations where construction cannot be completed immediately, local authorities should identify alternative spaces for temporary use to ensure continuity in services and minimize disruption to children's care.
3. *Better Coordination between Stakeholders:* Improved coordination between governmental agencies, local authorities, and non-governmental organizations is necessary to ensure that construction and renovation projects progress smoothly and are completed on time.
4. *Focus on Child-Specific Needs in Design:* Future Anganwadi centers should prioritize child-friendly design, which includes not just space but also safety features, hygiene, and access to necessary learning tools and materials.

5. *Regular Monitoring and Maintenance:* Once the infrastructure is built, it is essential to ensure regular monitoring and maintenance to keep the facilities in optimal condition for continued use.

## 4. CONCLUSION

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The "Supporting Early Child Care" initiative in Jakhau Village, Kutch, Gujarat, exemplifies how a focused and collaborative approach can address critical gaps in rural early childhood care and education. Through the combined efforts of GMDC-GVT, significant strides had made in constructing a dedicated Anganwadi center. This chapter concludes the study by summarizing the outcomes, highlighting the importance of infrastructural development, and outlining the implications for similar projects in rural India.

### 4.1 Summary of Findings

#### 1. *Challenges Before Construction*

- i. The pre-construction phase revealed significant infrastructural inadequacies, including rented spaces and dilapidated community halls unsuitable for childcare.
- ii. Administrative delays and logistical challenges, such as tender approvals and space utilization issues, exacerbated the problems.
- iii. These infrastructural shortcomings adversely impacted the attendance and engagement of children.

#### 2. *Impact of Construction*

- i. The newly constructed Anganwadi Center has provided a safe, child-friendly environment with essential education, nutrition, and healthcare facilities.
- ii. Improved infrastructure has positively influenced early childhood programs' attendance rates, child engagement, and community trust.

#### 3. *Role of Stakeholders*

- i. Effective collaboration between GMDC, GVT, and local authorities was critical in addressing challenges and driving project execution.
- ii. Community involvement, primarily through gram panchayats and local leaders, ensured that the project met the specific needs of Jakhau village.

### 4.2 Implications of the Project

#### 1. *For Early Childhood Development*

- i. Adequate infrastructure is pivotal in fostering a conducive learning and care environment, directly impacting children's cognitive, social, and physical development.

- ii. Access to health and nutrition services within the Anganwadi Center ensures holistic child development, contributing to long-term educational and health outcomes.

## *2. For Rural Development*

- i. The project highlights the importance of CSR in bridging infrastructural gaps in underserved areas.
- ii. Investments in childcare facilities contribute to the overall socio-economic upliftment of rural communities, empowering families and building a foundation for sustainable development.

## *3. For Policy and Implementation*

- i. The challenges faced during implementation underscore the need for streamlined bureaucratic processes and more robust coordination mechanisms between stakeholders.
- ii. The phased funding and regular monitoring adopted in this project can serve as a model for similar initiatives.

# **4.3 Recommendations**

## *1. Enhancing Stakeholder Collaboration*

Strengthen partnerships between governmental agencies, local authorities, and non-governmental organizations to ensure smoother project implementation and timely completion.

## *2. Capacity Building*

Invest in training Anganwadi workers to enhance their early childhood education, health management, and community engagement skills.

## *3. Replication of the Model*

Expand the scope of similar projects to other rural areas, using the Jakhau Anganwadi project as a replicable model for addressing early childhood care gaps.

## *4. Continuous Monitoring*

Implement regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the long-term impact of the infrastructure on child development outcomes.

### *5. Incorporating Sustainable Practices*

Use eco-friendly materials and sustainable designs for construction to minimize environmental impact and reduce costs.

The "Supporting Early Child Care" initiative demonstrates the transformative potential of targeted interventions in rural education and health care. By addressing infrastructural gaps and fostering community participation, the project has enhanced the quality of early childhood care and strengthened the socio-economic fabric of Jakhau village. The success of this initiative reaffirms the importance of collaborative efforts and serves as a guiding framework for future projects aimed at empowering rural communities through education and care.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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*Field Visit Report*, GMDC – GVT, Kutch.

*Construction of Anganwadi Report (2023)*. Lignite Project Panandhro, GMDC – GVT, Kutch.

## APPENDIX: CONSTRUCTION REPORT



GMDC/GVT/ 104/2023-24

Date: 29/09/2023

To  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Panchayat R&B Division  
Room No. 118  
Bhuj – Kachchh  
Pin Code: 370001

Sub: Regarding Construction of Anganwadi Center-2 Building at Jakhau village through R&B Division, Bhuj-Kachchh.

Ref: Estimates, Layout and Letter of Consent received from R&B Department, Bhuj - Kachchh via email dated 22/09/2023

Dear Sir,

With reference to the above subject, GMDC-GVT accords its approval for Construction of Anganwadi Center-2 Building at Jakhau village as deposit work to be undertaken by Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayat R & B Department, Bhuj-Kachchh.

The total amount of administrative approval for the aforesaid work is Rs. 8,50,000/- (Rupees Eight lakh Fifty Thousand Only). The cost break- submitted by R&B Division, Kachchh for the work is as follows:

S. No.	Sub Estimate	Amount
1	Main Building	8,15,977.69
2	Electrification	13,175.40
	Total	8,29,153.09
	Add: 2% Provision for Quality Cont. & Contingency	16,583.06
	Total	8,45,740.00
	SAY	8,50,000.00

**GMDC - Gramya Vikas Trust**  
**Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.**  
(A Government of Gujarat Enterprise)

Khanij Bhavan, 132 Feet Ring Road, Near University Ground, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad - 380 052

csr@gmdcltd.com | (079) 27912443 | www.gmdcltd.com/csr/

The Payment Schedule for the work, as per the conditions, shall be as follows:

Sr. No.	Particular	Grant Percentage	Amount (Rs.)
1	For Plinth Level Work	20 %	1,70,000/-
2	For Lintel Level Work	25 %	2,12,500/-
3	For Slab Level Work	30 %	2,55,000/-
4	After Completion of Work	25 %	2,12,500/-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8,50,000/-</b>

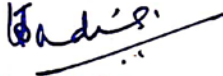
The payment installment for each stage will be released by GMDC-GVT after receiving the Inspection Report and Photographs of the construction work from Lignite Project, Panandhro.

Upon completion of the civil work for each stage, Panchayat R & B Department, Bhuj-Kachchh shall also furnish the Fund Utilization Certificate for the amount utilized for the construction work in that stage. Panchayat R&B Department, Bhuj-Kachchh will also ensure the proper branding of GMDC & GMDC-GVT on Anganwadi Building.

You are requested to acknowledge the receipt of this letter and kindly share the project execution plan at the earliest convenience.

Thanking You.

For GMDC GVT



[Veena Padia]  
CEO, GMDC-GVT

Cc:

1. General Manager I/c, Lignite Project-Panandhro
2. General Manager (CSR)
3. Zonal Project Coordinator (Kutch Zone), GMDC-GVT