

Anchal

alternate centre for integrated child survival and development



Why Anchal?

Drowning is one of the major causes of death among children in both high, low and middle income countries. WHO counts actually over 320,000 drowning deaths worldwide while BHIS-2016 revealed around 10,000 drowning deaths among under 5 children in Bangladesh. CIPRB has developed drowning prevention strategy for children aged 5 years and below for institutional care and supervision through an Anchal – an Integrated Child Survival and Development Centre during designated day time. An Anchal provides 80% protection from drowning of children under 5.

What is Anchal?

Anchal is an alternate form of child care, which provides appropriate supervision for young children in a safe environment outside their normal homes comparable to day care centers in developed countries where children can be dropped at the start of a work day, and retrieved later when the parents are done with their work schedule. Anchal is designed and adapted to function in the realities of rural Bangladesh, not in an office or industrial complex.

Anchal ensures the supervision of the younger children in a safe environment as well as providing support for early childhood development, which also addresses safety, development, hygiene, nutrition and other health issues of children.

Management of Anchal

CIPRB has formed a community based committee named Village Injury Prevention Committee (VIPC) comprises of local elected representative, religious leader, school teacher, member of adolescent club, Anchal Maa, who manage Anchal voluntarily.

VIPC members help in planning and implementation of Anchal and motivates parents to send their children to Anchal, recruit Anchal Maas, supervises Anchal activities etc. Additionally, every year, one parents of the children attending Anchal serve as the parent's representative in VIPC. This parent representative liaison among parents and the VIPC, thereby, ensure voice of parents and concerns about Anchal.

Selection of child friendly space for Anchal

An Anchal is established in a catchment area of around 80-100 households suggested by community members where the children can reach by 10-15 minutes. Size of a standard Anchal is 12 ft X 16 ft (192sqft) with two windows provisioned to open outside the room, which must be a damp free space having proper ventilation and lighting. Having protection for children going outside, Anchal is designed as injury risk free center with electricity

Commi



facilities (where available). Properly decorated *Anchal* also requires a court yard as open space free from all obvious physical hazards.

Caregivers of Anchal - the 'Anchal Maa' & 'Anchal Assistant'

Two women are recruited from the same village where the *Anchal* are being established one is called 'Anchal Maa' and the other is called 'Anchal Assistant'. The ratio of caregiver-to-child is about 1:12. Each 'Anchal Maa' remains responsible for looking after 20-25 children in an *Anchal* from 9 am to 1 pm. These two caregivers are trained on the entire management of *Anchal*, which includes but not limited to early childhood development activities through playing, singing, dancing and storytelling. During the *Anchal* hours the 'Anchal Maa' takes highest measures to ensure safety of the children.



Hours of Operation

Anchal activity operates six days a week, except Fridays; from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Food & Nutrition

Parents provide snacks from home to the *Anchal*, which are distributed around 11 a.m. The 'Anchal Maa' and 'Anchal Assistant' help children to wash hands before taking food.

Enrolling children as participants

One *Anchal* accommodates about 20 – 25 under 5 children residing in the rural communities. But the model can be replicated in urban setting as well.

Parents do apply following a given registration form to *Anchal* for enrollment of their children, which are scrutinized by 'Anchal Maa' and 'Anchal Assistant' considering certain criteria.

During enrollment equal proportion of boys and girls are recruited and no discrimination is made with respect to gender ethnicity and cast.

During selection issues of gender, religion and culture are considered were emphasized to ensure that 50% of children are girls. In terms of equity for religion, ethnicity and culture all children in the catchment area of an *Anchal* are treated equally for enrollment. Moreover, any child with disability obtain inclusive services.

Anchal regular activities

Anchal activities are undertaken following a daily schedule and routine mentioned below:

- Perform activities related to safety and improve early childhood development through play and learning activities with safe toys to stimulate physical, cognitive, language, socio-emotional development.
- Children are exposed to other health and hygiene issues like hand washing and personal cleanliness.
- *Anchal Maa* tell stories and rhymes; sing songs with the children; listen to children's stories and rhymes
- *Anchal Maa* will facilitate the children in recognizing alphabets and different colors, textures, shapes and sizes of different objects
- Children will involve themselves in independent and group activities. They will learn to sit, listen, socialise and participate in a group activities. They will listen to stories, work with picture books, participate in singing songs and physical movement activities, and in drawing pictures.

