

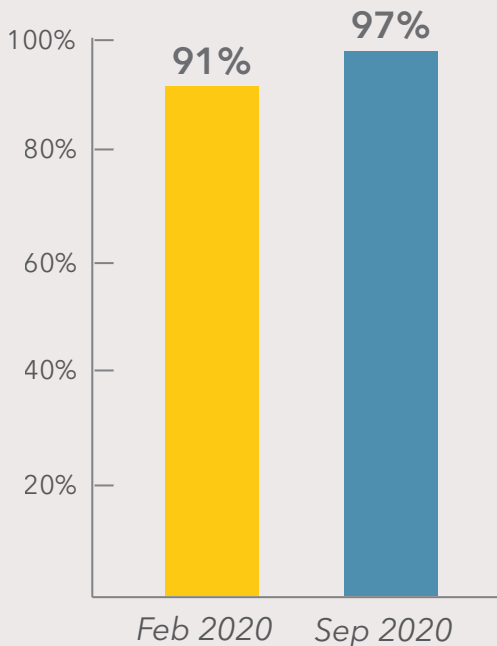
4 Facts on Anemia in Rural Raipur, Chhattisgarh



Since September 2019, we surveyed over 10,600* women in Raipur district as part of the 'Mor Awaaz' service. In surveys focused on anemia and iron supplementation, we asked about experiences of pregnant women and children, target populations for government supplementation programs. Anemia-relevant insights from our surveys in 2020 are presented here.

FACT 1

The IFA program for pregnant women worked well through the lockdown



Both before and after the lockdown, a vast majority of pregnant women and new mothers surveyed reported taking iron pills regularly during their pregnancy

49% women reported receiving iron pills from their Mitakin

77 women with children aged 2 or below were surveyed prior to lockdown. After the lockdown, we spoke to 101 women who were pregnant during the lockdown or gave birth during it

FACT 2

Anemia related information gaps exist, even for common-place issues

34%

of women surveyed did not know that sickle cell disease can pass from parent to child

Based on 2583 Responses



45%

did not know that hookworm infections can lead to iron deficiency anemia

Based on 1925 Respondents



*Sample sizes are smaller than 10,000 for survey questions because they were asked to subsets of relevant respondents

FACT 3

The School based WIFS program is the primary source of iron supplements for children, but some report inconsistencies

80%

women surveyed reported their school-going children received iron pills at school

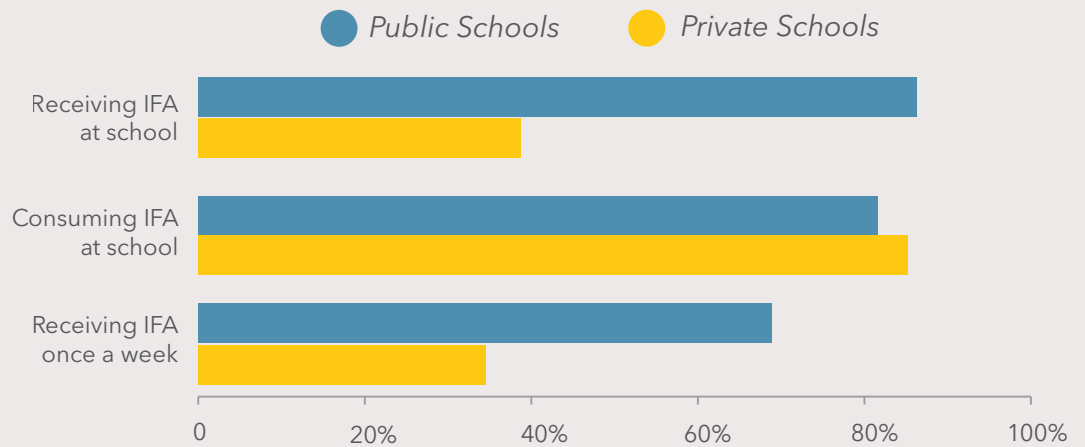
55%

children who don't take the pill at school don't take it at all This suggests that the WIFS program is likely the primary source of iron supplementation for many children.

33%

reported their children received the pill less frequently than the mandated frequency of once a week.

Supplementation is generally worse at private schools. They are less likely to distribute iron pills and also distribute them less frequently. However, children are just as likely to consume the pill at school itself.



Based on 1184 Responses

FACT 4

Iron Supplementation Programs miss out-of-school children, who may be particularly vulnerable

13% of women reported that their children who dropped out of school take iron pills. They mostly collected them from the Mitadin.
112 Responses

38% of women whose children dropped out of school did not know that the Mitadin has iron pills
79 Responses



As teenage girls drop out of school, and may do so at a higher rate because of the coronavirus pandemic, their anemia levels might worsen as they lose access to supplements

Mor Awaaz is a phone-based service for women, developed by a team of researchers from Yale University, Harvard University, University of Warwick, University of Southern California and Duke University, as well as EPoD India at



Its mission is to empower women as changemakers in their homes and communities by creating a dynamic information-sharing loop between women and the state government. To learn more, please contact morawaaz@gmail.com.