

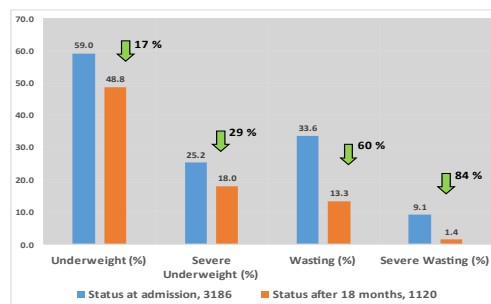
Creche is a community-based day care center at the village level where caregivers leave their children, giving them an opportunity to work and where children are provided with an enabling environment for their nutritional and holistic development. Creches primarily cater services to children between 6 months to 3 years of age. In the creche children (15-20 numbers) receive a safe, secure, clean and hygienic environment and care, nutritious food, growth anthropometry and tracking, timely referral, and a stimulating environment for overall development for eight hours a day by two trained creche workers.



Ekjut has been managing 60 crèches in villages near the mining areas of Harichandanpur, Joda and Banspal block of Keonjhar district, Odisha, with an objective to improve the nutrition and optimal development of children under three years of age since 3rd of March 2018, with support from District Mineral Foundation, Keonjhar through District Social Welfare Office (DSWO). After four years of intervention, in September 2022, the program has demonstrated significant gains in nutritional outcomes among 3194 children enrolled in the 60 crèches out

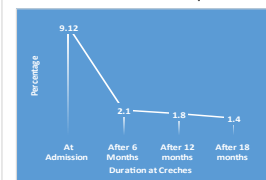
of which 1539 (48%) were boys and 1655 (52%) were girls. There has been improvement in nutritional indicators such as underweight (low weight for age) and wasting (low weight for height) among these children. There was a 84% reduction in children

Status of Children after 18 Months at Crèches, as of September 2022 (Keonjhar, Odisha)



Total Enrolled, N	3194
Boys, n (%)	1539 (48.2)
Girls, n (%)	1655 (51.8)
Total Graduated, n (%)	2098 (65.7)

SAM-status at subsequent interval



with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) from 9.1% to 1.4% after eighteen months of care compared to the status at admission.

In September 2022, DMF Keonjhar started 730 creches. Ekjut manages 233 out those in 2 blocks, Joda (168) and Champua (65).

Ekjut also manages 15 creches in Koida block of Sundargarh district of Odisha.