



**Rural Development and  
Panchayat Raj Department**

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# **Koosina Mane: Strengthening Rural Childcare for Working Women (A Gender-Responsive Public Service Model by Government of Karnataka)**

# India at the centre of global childcare landscape

- The **world's child population under the age of 6** is estimated at over **805 million**.
- **India alone accounts for more than 162 million** of these children — that's **20.12%** of the global under-6 population.
- This makes **India home to one in every five children under six worldwide**.
- The scale and success of India's childcare policies have **global implications** — not only for child development, but also for **gender equality, maternal employment, and social equity**.

World population (of children under 6)	805836000
Indian population of children (under the age of 6)	162105000
India as a % of world population	20.12%
<a href="#">Source: World population prospects, 2024</a>	

# *Koosina Mane*: A Local Solution to a Global Challenge

- In rural India, lack of access to structured childcare services limits the participation of women in paid work.
- The ***Koosina Mane*** program by the Government of Karnataka responds to this gap by offering **creche services for children of informal women workers**.
- With a gender-responsive, local government-anchored model, the program aims to:
  - Reduce the **unpaid care burden** on rural women
  - Improve **early childhood outcomes**
  - Enable **economic mobility for mothers**
  - To develop a new service sector of **care entrepreneurship**

# A Convergent Model for Childcare

Delivering childcare by pooling resources and responsibilities across departments



**GP: Set up of infrastructure, provision of food and overall operations**

**WCD: Child's Growth Monitoring, Immunisation and Monitoring the Creche workers**

**NREGA: Payment of wages to the caretakers**

## Why Convergence Matters

- **Holistic child care** – Infrastructure + Nutrition + Health + Trained caregivers
- **Efficient use of public funds** – Departments share the load
- **Better service delivery** – Combines local presence, health systems, and wage security
- **Empowers local governments** – Panchayats play a central role in implementation



## Modality of Operations

1

Target Group: Children in the age group of 6 months to 3 years

2

Timings: Flexible - depends on the work schedule of the mothers.

3

Duration: Minimum 6.5 hours (Extendable at the discretion of GPs)

4

Caretakers: 10 women having NREGA job card work on a rotation basis

5

Food Provision: Served 3 times a day, with 1 hot cooked meal

6

Monitoring: Committees at Creche, District and state Level are set up

# Information on Crèches' operations, enrolment, and training (as on 08.07.2025)

## Operational crèches

**3889** centers out of 4000 are currently functional.

## Caretakers' information

- **29935** care takers have received training in First and second batches.
- **7576** care takers are currently working in the creches

## Enrolment Status

- **54316** children have been enrolled (**26994** Boys and **27322** Girls)
- **30280** children are attending regularly (**14957** Boys and **15323** Girls)











