Commission 2.6 - South and West Asia

Early Childhood Care and Education: Indian Perspective

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EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION: INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

World Conference on ECCE
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ABOUT PRESENTATION

- Objectives of ECCE
- National Commitments
- ECCE Initiatives
  - Programs
  - Present Coverage
  - Professionals Training
  - Recent Initiatives
- Challenges
- Way Forward
OBJECTIVES OF ECCE

- Promotes holistic development of child
- Prepares child for formal schooling
- Contributes in Universal Elementary Education
- Reduces wastage and stagnation at primary school
ECCE IN FIVE YEAR PLANS OF INDIA

- Varying degree of emphasis on ECCE: voluntary efforts to strengthening of ICDS from 1st to 10th plan.

- 11th Five Year Plan (2007-2012)
  - Development of Children is at Centre Stage of the Plan
  - Commitment to Pre Schooling with varying options
ECCE IN NATIONAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

- National Policy on Education 1986
  - ECCE as feeder and support programme to primary schooling & as first step in the education ladder
  - Emphasized need for play based and joyful ECCE
  - Warned against formal teaching of the 3R’s (reading, writing and arithmetic)
ECCE IN NATIONAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

- **Constitutional Commitments : Article 45**
  - *The State shall endeavor to provide ECCE for all Children until they complete the age of six years.*

- **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009**
  - **Age 6 to 14 years**
  - **Class 1 to 8**
  - **Section 11 : Pertains to ECCE**
    - ‘With a view to prepare children above the age of three years for elementary education and to provide ECCE for all children until they complete the age of six years, the appropriate government may take necessary arrangement for providing free pre primary education for such children’
PROVISIONS OF ECCE

- In Public Domain
  - Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)
    - 1.18 million AWCs
  - Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan: 73860 ECCE centers
    - 254179 schools have pre primary wing
PROVISIONS OF ECCE

- In Private Domain
  - Pre- primary class in private schools
  - Private play-schools
  - Voluntary organizations
  - ECCE centers under Corporate Social Responsibility of Corporate Houses
INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

- One of the world’s unique and largest outreach programme
- One of the eight flagship programmes of GOI
- Functions through community based Anganwadi Centers (AWCs)
- Largest public provider of ECCE in India:
  - 76 million children - 0-6 years
  - 16 million - pregnant & lactating women
BENEFICIARIES OF ICDS

- Supplementary Nutrition
- Pre-school Education


In Lakhs:
- 2001-02: 375, 167
- 2002-03: 388, 188
- 2003-04: 415, 204
- 2004-05: 484, 214
- 2005-06: 562, 245
- 2006-07: 581, 301
- 2007-08: 699, 331
- 2008-09: 721, 340
- 2009-10: 687, 346
ECCE ACTIVITIES AT ANGANWADI CENTERS

- Conducting activities for fostering all domains of development
- Preparation of PSE aids like clay toys, blocks, charts, hangings, musical toys from locally available material
ECCE ACTIVITIES AT ANGANWADI CENTERS

- Provision of Supplementary Nutrition
- Health check up by health functionaries
- Immunization
- Providing nutrition and health education
- Establishing links with primary schools
- Activities with children like
  - story telling
  - poem recitals, singing
  - color and shape recognition
  - group games
  - good habits like washing hands, sharing, etc
  - nature trails, etc
PRESCHOOL EDUCATION KIT

Pre-School kit of Rs 1000 for each AWC

- Items in the kit consist of
  - Flash cards for story telling
  - Building blocks
  - Stuff toys and dolls for role play
  - Matching and seriation cards,
  - Dominoes
  - Balls
  - Beads and thread
  - Wheel toys
  - Masks
  - Colours
  - Small drum, etc
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

- Requirements for ECCE
  - Curriculum
  - Pedagogy
  - Training of functionaries
  - Development of Teaching Learning Material
  - Monitoring and Evaluation
IMPACT OF ECCE ON ENROLMENT AND RETENTION

Source- Impact of ECE on Retention in Primary Grades (NCERT, 1993)

Source- National Evaluation of ICDS (NIPCCD, 1992)
ICDS EXPERIENCE REFLECTS

- Women and children are intimately linked during the period 0-6 years.

- The basic services of water, sanitation, and quality health care are integral to ECCE

- Concerted, cross-sectoral efforts have to be made to create an environment that protects, nurtures and ensures early learning
TRAINING INPUTS FOR ECCE

- Induction training for frontline workers in ICDS
- Integrated Training for Pre Primary and Primary Teachers
- Vocational Courses on Child Care and Education
- Diploma/Certificate Courses by Universities
- Training of Master Trainers to train grass root functionaries
RECENT INITIATIVES

- Universalization of ICDS: 14 million AWCs
- Pre School Kit for Rs. 1000 at every AWC
- Introduction of New WHO Child Growth Standards
- Introduction of Mother-Child Protection Card
- Involvement of NGOs and Corporate
- Revision of Teacher Training Curriculum
CHALLENGES

- Large numbers to be covered: Total child population below 6 years - 160 million
- To ensure access to quality care
- To address cultural and contextual diversity
- To deploy resources effectively
- To lay down minimum standards
WAY FORWARD

- Development of National Framework and Policy on ECE
- Development of Implementation Strategies and National Plan of Action on ECCE
- Establishing a National Resource Center
THANK YOU
ECCE – Contextualizing International Commitments

- World Conference on Education 1990 (Learning begins at birth) and
- World Summit on Children (1990)

Expanding ECCE through centre or community / home based interventions

- Dakar framework of Action (2000)
- Delhi Declaration and Framework of Action (EFA summit of nine high population countries)
- UN Special Session on Children (2002)
  - Trying out centre and Home based model, mobile services (Flexi, creches, flexi space, transitory-temporary, Mini AWCs etc
  - Setting up goals for the decade by evolving National Plan of Action 2005