



Newsletter of ECD
Resource Centre

KOPILA

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"For the children we work because they are the ones who know how to love, because they are the world's hope."

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Upcoming International Event on ECD



The ECD resource centre established in 1997 at the Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Development (CERID) with support from UNICEF/Nepal has been serving as a meeting point for ECD personnel for sharing knowledge, ideas, materials and experiences. It has been conducting dialogue sessions, and publishing ECD journals and newsletters. Documentation and dissemination of ECD-related materials, organization of various workshops and trainings for ECD professionals, and provision of regular support to researchers and students are its other major activities. The main aim of the resource centre is to advocate the need for ECD and organizationally link early childhood initiatives in Nepal.

On-going Activities

Some of the on-going activities of this centre include:

Organization of Dialogue Sessions

Two dialogue sessions had been organized by CERID with support from UNICEF/ Nepal in 2008. The first session was held on 18 August 2008 in the CERID meeting hall. The topic was "Thinking Outside the Box: Creating Learning Environments for Nepalese Young Children in School Setting". The dialogue session was facilitated by Dr. Diana L. Suskind, Associate Professor, Department of Education, Fitchburg State College, Fitchburg, Massachusetts, USA and representatives



from Hems School. In the program, 68 persons from various organizations e.g. INGOs, NGOs, social organizations and schools working on Early Childhood Development took part. The second dialogue session was held on 26 November 2008 in the same hall. The session was led by Ms. Ila Verma, UNICEF Consultant. The topic was " School Readiness: Sharing the Evaluation of Work in Cambodia. The program had 35 participants.



Action Research Mini-Grants



Action Research Mini-grants were awarded to eight organizations working in the field of ECD. The grant recipients belonged to the NGOs and CBOs working in UNICEF's DACAW districts. The participating organizations were from Rupandehi, Bara, Sarlahi, Dadeldhura, Humla, Rukum and Sunsari districts.



Organization of Training on Action Research Methods for the Mini-grant Recipients

A 5-day long training workshop on 'Action Research Methods' was organized from 9 to 15 November 2008 by CERID as part of Early Childhood Resource Centre's regular activities with the financial support from UNICEF for the grants recipients. Eight participants from different districts such as Rupandehi, Bara, Sarlahi, Dadeldhura, Humla, Rukum and Sunsari attended the program. Basically, all the participants were from UNICEF's DACAW districts. The participants were selected on the criteria structured by the Centre. The major contents delivered in the program were Basic Concept of Action Research, Importance of Action Research, Techniques of Data Collection, and Analysis and Interpretation of Research Data and Information. In addition the participants also gained knowledge and skills in writing research proposal and research report.

The grant recipients have submitted their proposals for Action Research in the field of Early Childhood Development. They have now started to undertake Action Research, which they hope to complete within a period of six months.

The researchers from ECD Resource Centre are providing continued professional support to the grant recipients by paying personal visits and through electronic contacts.

Up-Coming Activities

The publication of Volume IV of the Journal 'Early Childhood Development' is in the offing. Eight articles on various aspects of early childhood development have been received from different countries. The articles received are being edited. The journal will be brought out by the end of March 2009.

Organization of the Third National Conference on ECD



The Early Childhood Resource Centre at CERID has collaborated with the Department of Education, Ministry of Education, UNICEF Nepal, Save the Children Alliance, Plan Nepal, UNESCO Kathmandu and other partner organizations to organize the Third National Conference on Early Childhood Development on 26 and 27 February 2009 in Kathmandu. The principal aim of the conference is to enhance the quality of the delivery of early childhood development services by bringing together early childhood professionals, stakeholders and organizations. The Conference will provide an opportunity to organizations and individuals to disseminate their experiences and views, and learn from each other. The first and the second national conferences on early childhood development were organized in 2002 and 2005 respectively.

The conference is expected to be participated in by over 1000 persons representing government officials, I/NGOs, early childhood professionals, researchers, teachers, parents and children.

1. Increasing the Number of Children in ECD Centres in Malangwa Municipality

- Rastriya Rojgar Prawardhan Kendra, Sarlahi.

Low enrolment of children in the ECD centres is the most common problem. This study traces out ways to increase the number of children in ECD centres in Malangwa. The main objectives of this study are:

- To identify the causes of low enrolment of children in the ECD centres
- To find out ways to increase the number of children in the ECD centres
- To promote community participation for increasing number of children in the ECD centres.

This study will be conducted in Shree Primary ECD Centre at Malangwa Municipality in Sarlahi. Interview, focus group discussion,

observation, etc. will be used as research tools.

2. Increasing the Number of Children in ECD Centres in Bagahi VDC, Bara

- Jan Jagaran Youth Club, Bara

The aim of this study is to increase the number of children in the ECD centres of Bara district. The ECD centres should provide child-friendly environment where children can learn better than in a conventional school. The main objectives of this study are:

- To identify the causes of low enrolment of children in the ECD centres
- To find out ways to increase the number of children in the ECD centres
- To promote community participation for increasing the number of children in the ECD centres

The study will take 2 ECD centers of Bagahi and Jamuniya communities of Bagahi VDC in Bara. Focus group discussion, interview, observation etc. will be used as research tools.

3. Increasing Playing Materials in ECD Centres

- Seto Gurans Child Development Centre, Rauthat.

Most ECD centres do not have enough educational playing materials. One of the basic principles of an ECD centre is to teach children by involving them in play. This will help children to learn quickly. So this study tries to explore ways to increase the stock of educational playing materials in the ECD centres in Jetharahiya VDC at Rauthat district. The main objectives of this study are:

- To raise the awareness level of the facilitators on the importance of educational materials
- To organize training programs for ECD facilitators to develop children's learning materials and their use
- To explain the importance of educational materials to the ECD management committees and parents.

This study includes four ECD centres in Jetharahiya VDC at Rauthat. Observation of playing materials, focus group discussion, and interview with parents and ECD centre management committee members will be used as research tools. Workshops will be organized in course of undertaking the action research.

4. Increasing Daily Lesson Plan in ECD Centres

- Seto Gurans Child Development Centre, Dadeldhura.

The common concern of ECD centres is the place where children get an appropriate

environment for their holistic development. Proper management and child-friendly environment are most desired in the annual plan and the daily lesson plan. Hence, this study will examine the daily lesson plans in the ECD centres of Amargadhi Municipality in Dadeldhura district. The objectives of this study are:

- To capacitate the ECD facilitators to prepare lesson plans
- To promote the use of lesson plans in the ECD centres
- To provide the facilitators additional skills of interacting with children
- To increase and strengthen coordination among the stakeholders

This study takes 8 ECD centres in Amargadhi VDC run by the community or the school-based ECD centre. Observation, questionnaire, focus group discussion, interview with parents and the ECD management committee etc. will be used as research tools.

5. Proper Management of Learning Corner in ECD Centres

- Seto Gurans Child Development Centre, Humla

ECD creates foundation for the holistic development of a child. Proper management of the learning corner is highly desirable in ECD. Thus, this study explores the management of the learning corners in the ECD centres of Simikot VDC in Humla district. The main objectives of this study are:

- To examine the condition of the learning corners
- To identify proper materials for the learning corners
- To promote local stakeholders' involvement in ECD centres for increasing the number of materials for the learning corners

This study includes three ECD centres of Simikot VDC in Humla district. Observation, focus group discussion, questionnaire and interview will be the research tools.

6. Identification and Mobilization of Basic Resources Required for Development of ECD Centres in Wards 4 and 6 of Inaruwa, Sunsari

- Samudayik Bikas Kendra, Sunsari

An ECD centre does not achieve its objectives unless it is economically footed for sustainability of its program. Most of the ECD centres run program as long as they get help from donors. Many ECD centres have turned off for want of financial resources. So this study examines and identifies the resources necessary for the implementation and management of ECD. The main objectives of this study are:

- To identify used and unused resources of

the ECD centres

- To identify, tap and mobilize resources required for sustainability of the program
- To develop and implement a one-year work plan for mobilizing basic resources

The study includes two ECD centres of Inaruwa Municipality, Wards 4 and 6. Focus group discussion, interview with stakeholders, discussion, observation etc. will be used as research tools.

7. Increasing Children's Enrolment in ECD Centre

- Seto Gurans Child Development Centre, Rukum

Early childhood education lays the foundation for future. ECD centres help in the holistic development of children. But most of the people are not interested to invest in ECD. As a result, only a few children are enrolled. Unfortunately even enrolled children tend to drop out. Therefore, this study tries to explore the ways to increasing the number of children in the ECD centres in Wards 4 and 6 of Khalanga VDC, Rukum. The main objectives of this study are:

- To examine the total number of children in the ECD centres
- To find out the reasons for the low enrolment of children in ECD centres
- To increase the number of children in ECD centres

This study has taken two ECD centres of Khalanga VDC-6 in Rukum district. Observation, questionnaire, and discussion will be used as research tools.

8. Identification of Basic Resources and Resource Implementation in ECD Centres

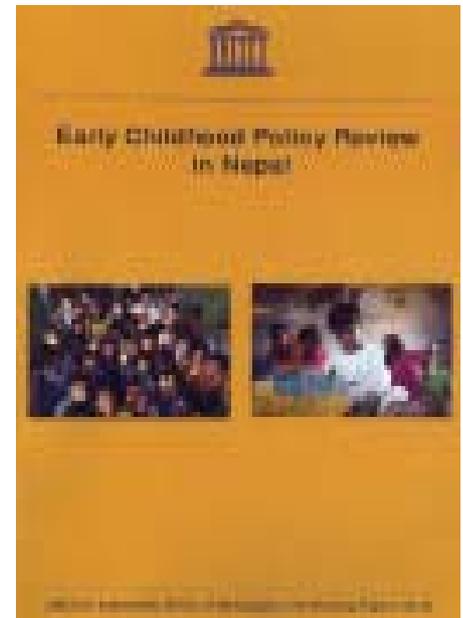
- Mahila Tatha Balbalika Jagriti Kendra, Sunsari

Economic stability is very important for running programs in the ECD centres. Without it the holistic development of children will not be possible. For want of economic resources many ECD centres have closed down and some are in a very critical condition. This study intends to explore economic resources for the ECD centres in Sunsari district. The main objectives of this study are:

- To identify used and unused resources of the ECD centres
- To promote awareness level of the stakeholders in identifying and mobilizing resources
- To prepare and implement a one-year work plan by identifying the internal and external resources of ECD centres

This study includes two ECD centres of Dharan Municipality-17 of Sunsari district. Focus group discussion, interview, discussion, questionnaire, observation etc. will be used as research tools.

Early Childhood Policy Review in Nepal is a research report published by UNESCO. It has altogether six chapters. This book is expected



to be useful and timely in obtaining, documenting and sharing good practices and in identifying constraints and challenges in early childhood policy development and implementation in Nepal. Though early childhood development is comparatively a new concept in our country, its progress has been reasonably rapid. This study has reviewed plans, programs and policies as they were found in the relevant documents and as they were available with various ministries and national and international non-government organizations. In addition, this review has created a basis for plans, policies and practices especially for quality early childhood services to the children living in disadvantaged situations and marginalized communities.

The objectives of this review were:

- To identify the ECD policy stipulated in national laws, regulations and development plans.
- To examine the relevance of the policy to programs and practices in line with the Mid-Decade Assessment of EFA.
- To identify policy gaps in mainstreaming, inter-sectoral co-ordination and sustainability of ECD programs
- To suggest strategic measures for the development of ECD policy framework.

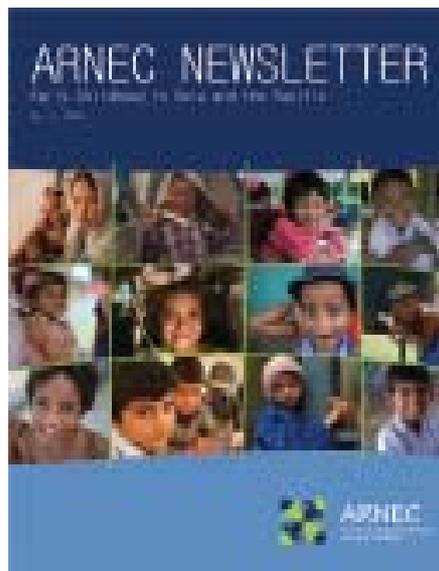
Based on the foregoing objectives, reviews of relevant literature, consultations with high-level officials at the central level, and case studies conducted in Tanahu, Morang and Sunsari provided ample information about the ECD policy and revealed the strengths and weaknesses in the existing policy documents. The findings of the review are as follows:

- It was accepted that ECD should be

considered a child right and the responsibility of the state.

- Existing EMIS and SIP have not included ECD programs and not addressed ECD-related issues .
- There is no functional coordination between local-level organizations involved in child care, education and development programs.
- Monitoring of ECD was found more effective in the centres run by NGOs/INGOs than in those run by DOE.
- It is found that school-based centres are more likely to sustain because of the availability of school classrooms for ECD, children's regularity in the centres, and 'no monthly tuition fees'.

In short, this book will be highly useful for those who are interested and involved in care,

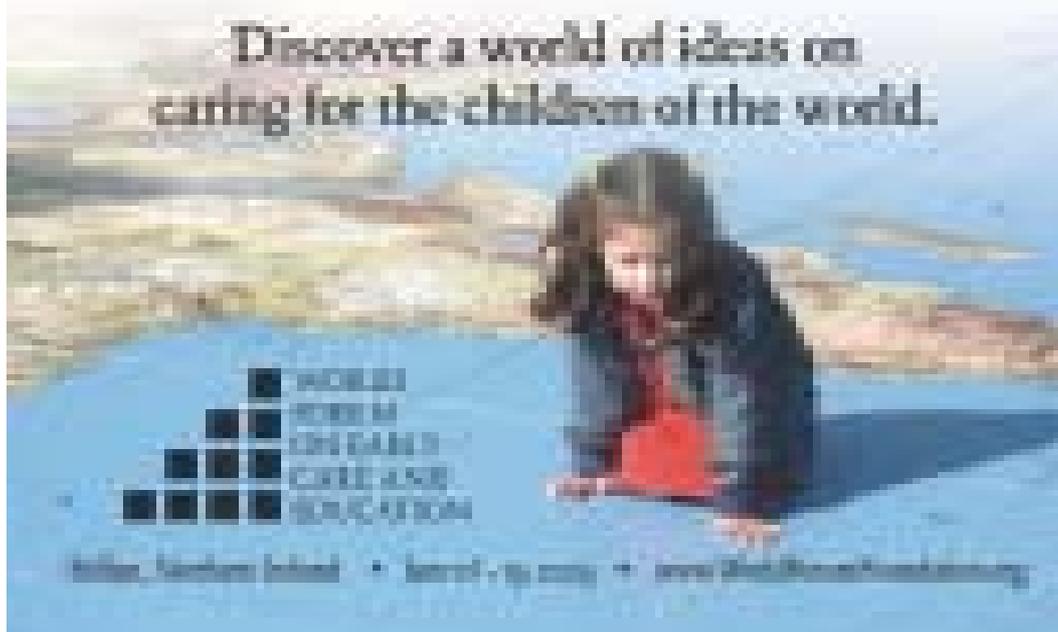


education and development of young children in Nepal.

The Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC) is the first annual newsletter published in the year 2008. ARNEC was officially launched in February 2008. It aims to strengthen advocacy, policy review and development, and also research and innovative practices in early childhood at national and regional levels in the light of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This Newsletter contains six sections: Introduction, ECD Programs, Research, ECD Policies, Institutional Highlights and the Conference conducted by ARNEC in 2008. It contains selective pieces from early childhood champions in the Asia Pacific Region and includes the updates of policies, programs, research and up-coming events in early childhood. The readers are encouraged to visit: www2.unescobkk.org/ARNEC/ for full text of the newsletter.

The next World Forum on Early Care and Education is being organized in Belfast, Northern Ireland from 16 to 19 June 2009. The main aim of the World Forum is to promote the improved delivery of quality services to young children in diverse settings by bringing together early childhood professionals from six continents to share ideas and perspectives and to develop relationships that continue into the future. The readers are invited to visit: www.WorldForumFoundation.org for more information. 🌸



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