

The Bangladesh ECD Newsletter

Secretariat, Bangladesh ECD Network at BU-IED



Second National ECD Conference 2007

"Our Children Our Future"

Issue 10

January 2008



Ms. Geeteera Safiya Choudhury launching the Picture Dictionary

Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN) organized the Second National ECD Conference on 10-11 December 2007 at Bangladesh Shishu Academy (BSA) premises. About five hundred Early Childhood Development

programme implementers, facilitators, teachers and professionals contributing to the development of young children from all parts of the country and abroad including representatives from governmental, non-governmental, international agencies participated in the two-day-long conference. The theme of the conference was "Our Children Our Future". Ms. Geeteera Safiya Choudhury, Honourable Advisor of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was present as the chief guest and Mr. M. Musharaf Hossain Bhuiyan, Secretary of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and Ms. Rokeya Sultana, Secretary of Women and Children Affairs were present as special guests in the Opening Ceremony. Country representatives from Plan Bangladesh, Save the Children USA and UNICEF, Dhaka also spoke in the ceremony. The Opening Ceremony was chaired by Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Chairperson, BEN and Director, BU-IED. The ECD Network Theme Song composed and produced for this occasion, was played at the beginning of the opening ceremony. The chief guest launched the pictorial dictionary titled "Chobite Chobite Shishur Obhidhan" (Children's Picture Dictionary) by unveiling a large-size replica of the dictionary cover.

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Ms. Sara Zaker speaking at concurrent session on "Role of Media for ECD Advocacy"

Conference Exhibition



Chief Guest inspecting ECD materials at the exhibition

A special exhibition was organized as a part of the conference on the premises of the BSA. The exhibition presented ECD related books, materials, posters, toys etc by twenty organizations. These included BSA, BRAC, BU-IED, Centre for Injury Prevention & Research, Bangladesh, Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed, Channel I, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Friends in Village Development Bangladesh, Gonoshasthaya Kendra, Heed Bangladesh, ICDDR,B, Ichchey Media Group, Inner Force, Integrated Community Development Project, Islamic Foundation Bangladesh, Nayantara Communications, Save the Children USA, Phulki, Plan Bangladesh and Research Initiatives Bangladesh who set up stalls in the exhibition. The exhibition was a good opportunity to widely publicize the ECD materials, manual and activities to the participants. The main characters of the award winning Sisimpur Show Halum and Tuktuki were also presented at the exhibition.

The objectives of this conference were to share and exchange information and innovations in the field, increase awareness of the importance of early childhood development and consider future directions of the Network. The two-day-long programme included four plenary sessions and fourteen concurrent sessions. The participants actively engaged by sharing views and raising questions. The sessions were facilitated by the ECD specialists, stakeholders and government representatives.



Dr. Manzoor Ahmed delivering closing remarks

The conference was concluded with closing comments given by Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Chairperson, BEN at the end of the conference. He praised the organizers and participants for the success of the conference and expressed the hope that the conference will be a regular annual event of the network. He also urged all to continue their effort in raising public awareness and expanding and improving early childhood development activities.

There was a wonderful dance performance of children of BSA at the end of the 1st day which was greatly enjoyed by the participants after the day-long sessions. Another children performance

was held by the Ichchey Media Group at the beginning of 2nd day of the conference.

Both performances were very pleasant interludes in the conference.



Children performance

Happy New Year

This issue is edited by an editorial panel of Bangladesh ECD Network. The panel members are: Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Dr. M. Quamrul Hassan, M. Habibur Rahman, Mohammad Mohsin, Tapan Kumar Das and Mahmuda Akhter. Reports and design by Md. Jaman Uddin Khan.

Training /Orientation on Early Childhood Care and Development Program Management

A training/ orientation course on ECCD Program Management was organized by Campaign for Popular



Participant of the course having discussion

Education (CAMPE) on 21-26 November, 2007 at CAMPE Training Center. Twenty-five representatives from 14 grassroots NGOs participated in the course. The major areas covered in the course were rights of young children, areas of early childhood development, characteristics and behaviour of children, parenting for child development and steps in conducting ECCD program. The representatives from Plan Bangladesh, Save the Children-USA, Nayantara Communications, Bangladesh Shishu Academy and CAMPE facilitated the sessions. Md. Nuruzzaman, Project Director, Early Childhood Education Project of Bangladesh Shishu Academy was present as a guest speaker in the closing session and distributed certificates to the participants. He explained in details the ECD activities of BSA and offered assistance to participants in their own activities. A special session titled "Story Telling and Preparation for Child" was conducted by Tapon Kumar Das, Program Manager, CAMPE to develop capacity of participants in this area. CAMPE organizes such training/orientation course a regular basis. The next course will be organised on 24-29 January, 2008. Any organisation having ECCD or Pre-primary Education program can apply to participate in the course.

The Bangladesh ECD newsletter is published and circulated on behalf of the Bangladesh ECD Network from its Secretariat at Early Childhood Development Resource Centre (ECDRC) under BRAC University Institute of Educational Development (BU-IED). BU-IED is located at House 113, Road 2, Block A, Niketon, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh. Tel: +880-2-882 4180 (8 lines) Ext. 2127, 2112, 2137. Fax: +880-2-882 9157, Email: info@ecd-bangladesh.net Web: www.ecd-bangladesh.net