

The Bangladesh ECD Newsletter

Secretariat, Bangladesh ECD Network at IED, BRAC University



Guideline of Assessing Safe Child Friendly Learning Environment

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One of the groups assessing a task for developing the guideline

A workshop was held on development of guideline including indicators and system for the assessment of Safe Child Friendly Learning Environment Status in fixed facilities and homes on 12 March 2008 at the Institute of Child and Mother Health (ICMH). Twenty one participants from government organizations, NGO's and international organizations active in ECD including child psychologists, paediatrics, educationists attended the workshop.

Participants were divided into three groups and each group was instructed to work on a separate task for developing the guideline. The task of each group was to formulate indicators in the following areas: a) physical environment in fixed facilities and home, b) caregivers knowledge in fixed facilities, and c) caregivers knowledge at

home. After the completion of group works, a representative from each group presented their group findings. Finally it was decided that the guideline including indicator and system will be finalised in subsequent meetings. The workshop was concluded through a vote of thanks by Prof. Shahnawaz Bin Tabib, Focal Person, ELCD Project ICMH.

ECD Regional Seminar



Ms. Mahmuda Akther, Member Secretary of BEN facilitating a session in the seminar

Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN) organised its first ECD Regional Seminar on 25th March 2008 at BARD in Comilla. BEN members from Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and a part of Dhaka division participated in the seminar. The purpose of the seminar was to bring the members closer and to make them more interactive in the field of ECD. The participants were divided into three groups to work on the following areas:

i) BEN expansion strategy, ii) formation of the Executive Committee and roles of network members and iii) need analysis and future direction of BEN. The participants deliberately shared their ideas in the seminar and sorted out many findings. BEN will also organise three similar seminars in the other regions across the country for the rest of the members. Gradually the members will be informed before the seminars of the particular region.

Postgraduate Certificate Program on Early Childhood Development

The Postgraduate Certificate Program on ECD at IED, BU has commenced on January 06, 2008. The programme started with an inaugural session in the presence of Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-vice Chancellor, BRAC University, Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Director, BU-IED, all the facilitators and course participants and ECDRC team members. The first course "Foundations of Early Childhood Development" was facilitated by Dr. Faith Lamb Parker, Associate Professor, Columbia University, Ms. Farida Akhter, Dr. Quamrul Hassan, Dr. Mahmudur Rahman and Dr. Jena Hamadani. The second course "A framework for Designing Early Childhood Program" started on 2nd March 2008.

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Dr. Manzoor Ahmed delivering his speech on the occasion

course. A total of 24 participants from various ECD backgrounds including school teachers, ECD professionals, medical professionals, psychologists, IT professionals are participating in the course.

Early Childhood Care and Development Workshop



Plan Bangladesh organised a workshop on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) from 16-20 March 2008.

The main purpose of the workshop was to contribute the development of Plan's global ECCD programme framework and to advise on a way forward. Regional programme support managers; learning, education and health advisors; ECCD professional; programme unit managers; and partners, international headquarter (IH) representatives, and ECD resource persons from about thirty countries across the Plan world participated in the five day-long workshop. Only the members of the steering group including one person from

each region and a representative from IH participated on the concluding day of the workshop. The objectives of the workshop were: i) consolidate knowledge regarding good practice and identify challenges in ECCD within Plan and elsewhere, ii) enhance learning around ECCD for Plan at country, regional and global levels and iii) define a terms of reference and action plan to develop Plan's framework, policies, and guidelines for the design, implementation and evaluation of ECCD programme. The five day-long programmes included a poster session in which Plan region highlights their ECCD work, ECCD stocktaking, presentation, updates about current in ECCD, field visits to ECCD sites and discussions on Plan global ECCD programme framework.

Prof. Dr. Jessica Ball of Victoria University, Canada was the principal facilitator of the course. The other facilitators were Dr. M Golam Mostafa, Prof. M. Nazmul Haq, Ms. Farida Akhtar, Dr. M Quamrul Hassan for the second

Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC)

A network has been initiated for Early Childhood



Development in Asia Pacific region which is shortly called ARNEC. The purpose of the network is to build the capacity of ECD organizations and individuals through developing a shared vision, mutual cooperation, sharing of knowledge and experiences and initiating joint efforts in the region. Ms. Mahmuda Akhter, Member Secretary, BEN, has been nominated as a member of ARNEC steering committee from 2008 to 2009. She was also present at the first ARNEC Steering Committee Meeting which was held on 5th February, 2008 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Final Regional Seminar on Early Childhood Policy Review was held from 6-8 February, 2008 in Thailand. There were some discussion and dissemination of the final policy review studies carried out in eight countries (Pakistan, Nepal, Mongolia, China, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Laos PDR) in Asia during the seminar. This final seminar also worked for the development of strategies to articulate and strengthen a link between research and policy in Early Childhood, and a discussion of further actions to build upon this regional experience in the coming years. ARNEC is offering free membership to any individual concerned with young children of the Asia-Pacific region. In return of membership, members will receive regular news and updates, and will be kept informed of events being organized in the region. Every details regarding ARNEC can be accessed at www2.unescobkk.org/arneec.

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 and Md. Mehedi Hasan.

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