

# The Bangladesh ECD Newsletter

Secretariat, Bangladesh ECD Network at IED, BRAC University



Issue 12, June 2008

## Government and National Initiatives for ECD

### Comprehensive ECCD Policy

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MWCA) has initiated to develop a comprehensive Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) policy in Bangladesh. With this view a working group has been formed by MWCA with representatives from different ministries, UN organizations, INGOs, NGOs, professional organisations and research and academic institutes to facilitate the development process and to endorse the final draft of comprehensive ECCD Policy.

The responsibilities of the working group are to form a technical core group and to provide support to them for developing the Comprehensive ECCD Policy. The technical core group will formulate a draft policy paper and incorporate feedback from different stakeholders. Then the working group will finalise and present the comprehensive ECCD policy paper to the concern ministry for approval.

### Publication Ceremony of PPRC Policy Paper

A publication ceremony of PPRC policy paper titled "*Tober Gachke Uthone Roponer Uddhog*" involving the local government in ECD programme was held at Dhaka Ahsania Mission auditorium on 21 June, 2008. The programme was jointly organised by Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), Plan Bangladesh and Unnayan Shamannay. The programme was chaired by Dr. Atiur Rahman, Economist and Chairman of Unnayan Shamannay. The chief guest of the ceremony was the honourable adviser of LGRD & Co-operatives Ministries, Mr. Md. Anwarul Iqbal and the special guest was the honourable adviser of Education and Commerce Ministries, Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman.



The honourable guests showing the Policy Paper towards participants

### New Initiative on ECD

Aga Khan Foundation has started ECD Support Programme - Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) with financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) with a view to create increased equitable access to quality basic education through increased enrolment and improved retention of students, and reduced gender gaps between boys and girls. The project will run during 2008-2013 in partnership with 12 Bangladeshi civil society organisations and Early Childhood Development Resource Centre (ECDRC), IED, BRAC University.

## Bangladesh ECD Network Initiatives for ECD

### ECD Regional Seminar in Jessore

Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN) organised its second ECD regional seminar on 17 June 2008 at Hotel Hasan International in Jessore. BEN members from Khulna and Barisal divisions, and a part of Dhaka division along with representatives from Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Jessore participated in the seminar. One of the main objectives of the seminar was to collect the BEN Members' opinions on the following areas: i) BEN expansion strategy, ii) Formation of executive committee and roles of network members and iii) Need analysis and future directions of BEN. BEN representatives also met the press after the occasion. Journalists from local and national newspapers attended the conference and they committed to participate in the ECD advocacy and write for creating awareness among mass people. BEN plans to organise two more seminars in Bogra and Dhaka regions in this year.



One of the groups sharing their ideas among them

## International Initiatives for ECD

### ECD Research Conference in USA



One of the ECDRC staffs explaining the research finding to a participant at the conference

The Head Start Early Childhood Programme, USA organised its ninth national research conference, entitled "Creating Connection: Linking, Policy, Practice and

Research across Early Childhood Development, Care and Education". The conference was held on 23-25 June, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, USA. The goals of this conference were to identify and disseminate research relevant to young children (inception to eight years) and their families and to foster partnerships among researchers, practitioners, and policy makers. The central theme of the conference highlighted the links among early childhood development, care, and education, and how these fields, in turn, inform policy and practice. In the conference the latest research and evidence-based practices, including questions regarding environments, population, and cultures were presented. Two staff members of ECDRC, IED, BRAC University participated and presented three research papers in the conference which included; i) A literacy intervention for preschool children in Bangladesh: the benefits of dialogic reading, ii) Effectiveness of a community-based child stimulation program in rural Bangladesh and iii) Effectiveness of a mathematics program for preschoolers in rural Bangladesh.

The conference was conducted by Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, USA with support from The Head Start Early Childhood Programme, USA.

### South Asia ECCE Policy Advocacy Review Workshop



Some participants of the workshop

In order to meet the global priorities in early childhood care and education UNICEF, UNESCO and Save the Children Alliance jointly organized a South Asia Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) policy advocacy review workshop and Early Learning Development Standard (ELDS) meetings which were held back-to-back in Bangkok from 28 April to 2 May 2008. The purpose of the policy advocacy meeting was to review issues such as policy, equity, quality, cost and finance, transition and readiness, advocacy and networking, as well monitoring and evaluating. The main focus of these initiatives was making a strong case for investing in ECCE particularly in the countries where progress in this area has been slow. Nine Countries including Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Mongolia, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Singapore and Laos PDR participated in the workshop. Experts from Columbia and Yale University facilitated the workshop using participatory methods throughout the workshop for introducing Early Learning and Development Standards. Ms. Quarratul Ayen Safdar, Senior Chief Assistant, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MPME) presented the operational framework for pre-primary education on behalf of the Bangladesh team.

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: Md. Jaman Uddin Khan and Md. Mehedi Hasan.

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) at IED, BRAC University. 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, 2130. Fax: +880-2-882 9157, Email: [info@ecd-bangladesh.net](mailto:info@ecd-bangladesh.net), Web: [www.ecd-bangladesh.net](http://www.ecd-bangladesh.net)