

The Bangladesh ECD Newsletter

Secretariat, Bangladesh ECD Network at IED, BRAC University



Third National ECD Conference 2008

Early Childhood Development
First Steps Last Forever

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Inauguration the conference by the chief guest

Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN) organized its third National ECD Conference on 17-18 November 2008 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 national event was sponsored by Save the Children USA & Institute of Educational Development, BRAC University, Early Learning for Child Development Project of Bangladesh Shishu Academy and Plan Bangladesh. The theme of the conference was "ECD: First Step Last Forever". Ms. Rokeya Sultana, Secretary of Women and Children Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was present as the chief guest and Mr. Quazi Akhter Hossain, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Primary and Mass

Education were present as special guests in the Opening Ceremony. Country representatives from Plan Bangladesh, Save the Children USA and UNICEF, Dhaka also gave spoke in the ceremony. The Opening Ceremony was chaired by Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Chairperson, BEN and Senior

Adviser, Institute of Educational Development. The objectives of this conference were to share information and experiences among ECD stakeholders in Bangladesh to increase cooperation among each other, to perceive the present status of ECD in Bangladesh and to find out the ways for further improvement, to share and learn from neighbour country ECD programme experience, to share recent research findings to the participants, to sort out the role of



Speakers of the opening ceremony

media and advocacy for the betterment of ECD and to seek for commitment from the government. The two-day-long programme included five plenary sessions and nine concurrent sessions.

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ECD Exhibition



A view of 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 Bangladesh Shishu Academy, BRAC, Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh, Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Early Childhood Development Support Programme - Bangladesh, ECDRC, IED, BRAC University, Friends in Village Development Bangladesh, Gonoshasthaya Kendra, Heed Bangladesh, ICDDR,B, Ichchey Media Group, IED, BRAC University, Inner Force, Integrated Community Development Project, Nayantara Communications, Phulki, Plan Bangladesh, Research Initiatives Bangladesh, Save the Children USA 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 participants actively engaged by sharing views and raising questions. The sessions were facilitated by the ECD specialists, stakeholders and



Certificate awarding ceremony

government representatives. Certificate Awarding Ceremony of first post-graduate course on ECD in Bangladesh was held in second day of the conference. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University was taken the honour of awarding the certificates to the candidates who has successfully accomplished the course. Prof. Choudhury congratulated the recipients of the first post-graduate course and praised ECD Resource Centre of the Institute of Educational Development for this pioneering initiative. Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Chairperson, BEN concluded the conference with closing comments at the end of the conference. He praised the organizers and participants for the success of the conference. 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 special guests and the participants.

ECD Regional Seminar in Bogra



Participants of the seminar

members of Rajshahi Division were present in this seminar. According to the plan, BEN initiated to organize four regional seminars across the country dividing the country into four regions. Accordingly three regional seminars were organized in Comilla, Jessore and Dhaka respectively. The secretariat of BEN at ECDRC, IED, BRAC U dedicated its workforce for the successful organization of the seminars. The aim of the seminar was the same as the previous three and it was to bring the network members together and to provide an opportunity to share their ideas and views to make the discussion about network activities. Dr. Quamrul Hassan and Hasena Afroj, members of BEN Executive Committee and Shahin Islam from Save the Children USA facilitated the seminar. Jadid Farmi Huda, Md. Jaman Uddin Khan and Md. Mehedi Hasan accomplished the responsibilities of organizing the seminar from ECDRC, IED, BRAC U.

BEN organized its fourth and final regional seminar of the year on 27 October 2008 at BRAC TARC, Bogra. Network

Aga Khan Foundation Launches New ECD Project



Launching ceremony

The Early Childhood Development Support Program-Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) project launching ceremony was held on October 7, 2008 at the project office at Gulshan, Dhaka. The ceremony was open for all the representatives from governmental, non-governmental, international agencies who are engaged in Early Childhood Development. ECDSP-B is a five-year program designed to strengthen Bangladeshi capacity in early childhood development programming. The program initiated with the view to contribute to the improved quality and delivery of services in ECD appropriate to the needs of the poor, particularly women and children and to their increased access to these services by involving a number of large and small civil society organizations to expand the scope of their current ECD programs and to innovate quality improvements in these programs. The project will work with support of partner organizations including DAM, FIVDB and Phulki during the period of five years. ECDSP-B has also partnered with IED, BRAC U for work in advocacy, research and professional development in ECD.

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 Shahidullah Sharif

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