

# The Bangladesh ECD Newsletter

Secretariat, Bangladesh ECD Network at IED, BRAC University



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## Postgraduate Diploma Course in ECD

Institute of Educational Development, BRAC University commenced postgraduate diploma course in ECD in January, 2009. The candidates, who have successfully completed the Postgraduate Certificate Course, have been enrolled in the Postgraduate Diploma. The first course of the diploma "Contemporary Issues in ECD" (ECD526) was facilitated by Dr. Faith Lamb-Parker, Associate Professor, Columbia University. Two weeks of intensive classroom instruction for the first course was held on 4-15 January and individual assignments were conducted on 18-26 February, 2009. Ms. Sakila Yesmin, Education Specialist, IED, BRACU and Chowdhury SB Jalal, Senior Research Fellow, RED, BRAC were the co-facilitator of the course. The second course

"Individualized Teaching and Learning" (ECD527) was guided by Dr. Steffen Saifer, Adjunct Professor, Portland State University. Two weeks of intensive classroom instruction of the course was held on 15-26 March and individual assignments were conducted from 29 March to 23 April, 2009. The second course was co-facilitated by Dr. Fahmida Tofail, Assistant Scientist, ICDDR, B. A total of thirteen



Dr. Steffen Saifer facilitating a session

candidates are participating in this Diploma Course.

required in each country. The uniqueness of this approach is that while being rooted in the science of child development, they are fully responsive to, and reflective of, each country's unique values and culture.

Bangladesh ELDS Committee has been formed including Child Development Experts, Psychologists, Academician, Pediatrics, and Government, UNICEF and NGO representatives. The Committee has worked in the context of Bangladesh and identified four domains for children in age group 0 - 8 years. The major domains are Physical and Motor Development, Social and Emotional Development, Language and Communication and Cognitive Development. Within the 4 domains 12 sub-domains and 37 Specific aspects have been identified. The committee is working towards developing indicators for each of the specific aspect. The committee met several times during the quarter to share ideas and take necessary decisions.

## Early Learning Development Standards in Bangladesh

Early Learning Development Standards (ELDS) are statements of expectations that specify what young children should know and be

able to do. ELDS articulate expectations for children growth, development and well-being in multiple domains as

(See column 3)

## Workshop on Exploring the science of ECD

IED, BRAC U organised a 3-day workshop on exploring the science of ECD. The workshop held on 9 and on 11-12 March 2009 and was supported by ECD Support



*Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed delivering a welcome speech*

Programme Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) of AKFC. The workshop began with introductions and a welcome speech by Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor, BRAC University. Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Chairperson of BEN and Senior Advisor of IED, BRAC U highlighted objectives of the workshop in the

opening session. The workshop was facilitated by Janet Jamieson, Chair, Community Services, Red River College, Canada. In the first day of the workshop there were four sessions: i) Overview of the science of ECD project, ii) What does science tell us about ECD, iii) Making the case for investing in ECD and iv) Where from here. About fifty education specialists, ECD programme implementers, researchers and professionals contributing to the development of young children as well as

representatives from GO, NGOs and international agencies were present in the first day of the workshop. The first day was organized at BRAC Inn and the rest continued at IED, BRAC U. There were in-depth discussions on different aspects of the science of the ECD in the last two days.

## ARNEC Steering Committee Meeting

Fourteen members of the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC) Steering Committee, the Secretariat and other key supporters met during the Third



*Participants of the meeting*

ARNEC Steering Committee meeting at the Four Wings Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand from 12 to 13 March 2009. The Steering Committee guides the overall direction of ARNEC. The meeting focused on reviewing ARNEC accomplishments and challenges in 2008, refining the 2009 work plan, discussing proposals for the new ARNEC Secretariat house base, and revising the ARNEC bylaws, and reinforcing and expanding communication within ARNEC core members.

## Government Initiative about Mosque-based Education Project

The government of Bangladesh has approved a project of 'Mosque-based Child and Mass Education Programme'. About sixty five hundred crore Tk. will be spent in this project over a period of five years to provide pre-primary education to three million and ninety thousand

children using the mosques as the venue. It is expected that at least 80 percent students will get opportunity to be admitted into primary school after completion of this course. The programme will be managed by the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

*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. Bangla Translation by Shahidullah Sharif*

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