

# The Bangladesh ECD Newsletter

Secretariat, Bangladesh ECD Network at IED, BRAC University



## Round Table Discussion on "The Role of Pre-primary Education to Achieve EFA Goal"

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The participants in the discussion

BRAC Education Program organized a round table discussion on the role of pre-primary education to achieve EFA (Education for All) goal, collaboration with The Daily Jugantor at Hotel Shundorban on 31 December, 2009. Md. Motahar Hossain, honorable State Minister of Primary and Mass Education, was the chief guest. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan, Acting Secretary, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and Shyamol Kanti Ghosh, Director General, Directorate of Primary Education were special guests in the round table discussion. Dr. Mahabub Hossain, Executive Director, BRAC presided over the discussion. Dr. Safiqul Islam, Director BRAC Education Program, gave the welcome speech and also made a presentation on BRAC's

contribution and experience in the preprimary education sector. The honorable State Minister assured that within the next two years GoB will start preprimary classes in every Government Primary School and will bring all the children to school within 2011. Abu Alam Md. Shahid Khan was said that GoB is very interested to develop the quality of primary education and they are trying to ensure a joyful learning environment for children. Already 1,500 villages were identified, where GoB would establish schools one by one. All participants agreed that to achieve the EFA goal for primary education, the collaboration of GO and NGOs are necessary. It was pointed out that preprimary education is essential to reduce the drop out rate and make primary education sustainable.

## ECD Training in BEN Khulna-Barishal Region in Jessore



A group work in the training

A 6 day-long residential ECD Management Training was held from 9 to 14 December 2009 at Jessore RRF Training Centre. The training was organized by BEN Regional Committee of Khulna-Barishal Region with financial and coordination support of CAMPE. Jagoroni Chakra Foundation, the Secretariat of BEN in Khulna-Barishal Region, provided the management support for the training. BEN Members of Khulna-Barishal region participated in the training. The context of the Training was Child rights and protection, importance of early childhood development, importance of nutrition for early childhood development, concept of pre-school activity, pre-school class room management, active teaching learning process, affectivity and relation of brain cell, development process of brain cell functioning, initiatives in ECD in Bangladesh.

## South Asia Regional Capacity Building Workshop



*Participants of the workshop*

A workshop titled "South Asia Regional Capacity Building Workshop on Advocacy for ECCE - Moving from Commitment to Action" was held from 26-29 October, 2009 at BRAC INN, Dhaka. UNESCO-Dhaka and IED, BRAC University jointly organized the workshop with the support of ARNEC, Plan International, UNICEF and Save the Children. Participants were invited from eight countries in the South Asia sub-region,

namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka,

representing ministries, NGOs and development agencies. The specific focus of these meetings was to familiarize participants with research and policy frameworks for advocacy. The participants from the 8 SAARC countries made commitments for action-identifying 3 key advocacy messages and strategies that they could use in advancing these messages.

## ECD Conference at Meherpur

Save the Children USA organized an ECD conference in Meherpur district town on 23 December to popularize ECD concept among the wider communities in the district including Govt. officials, civil society members, NGO representatives and to engage them in ECD activities.

Mr. Sidduqur Rahman, District Primary Education Officer was

present as a chief guest in the occasion. A total of four hundred participants gathered in the



*Speakers of the event*

ceremony including parents, SMC members, teachers, local leaders and Govt. officials.

## The Regional ECD Policy Review Seminar



*Some participants of the seminar*

The "Regional ECD Policy Review Seminar: Sustainable Policies for Early Childhood Development" was held in Amara hotel, Singapore, on 1-2 December 2009 to foster strong, comprehensive and sustainable ECD policies that will capture the holistic and broad scope of ECD. It was jointly sponsored by the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, and was organized by ARNEC and SEED Institute. The seminar brought together over 100 government officials, experts, national and international organization, representatives from multiple sectors concerned with early childhood both locally and from abroad. Fifteen country delegations from South Asia and the East Asia Pacific region participated in the seminar, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vanuatu, and Vietnam.

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