

The Bangladesh ECD Newsletter

Secretariat, Bangladesh ECD Network at BU-IED

BAFED-UNESCO Education Researchers' Conference

Bangladesh Forum of Educational Development (BAFED) organized the Eighth Educational Researchers' Conference for Dissemination of Research Studies Findings in cooperation with UNESCO-Dhaka on 27 May 2006. Dr. M. Farashuddin, President, Board of Directors and Founder Vice-Chancellor of North South University, inaugurated the conference as chief guest. Dr. Wolfgang Vollmann, UNESCO Representative in Bangladesh was present in the opening session.



Six research findings were shared there with educational researchers of government and non-government organizations. One of the studies shared by Dr. Jena D. Hamadani was 'Preschool Stimulation and Effects on Early Childhood Development of Malnourished Rural Bangladeshi Children' conducted by ICDDR,B. The study found that psychosocial stimulation can reduce the development-deficits caused by malnutrition.

Sisimpur Outreach Materials Reached 3,500 Pre-school Centers

Tuktuki, Halum, Shiku and Ikri-Mikri are so popular among children that they would hardly wait to play with the cartoon characters. Some sat with story books, some with board games and some sat with flash cards. This was seen in a pre-primary school run by Nijera Shikhi after a set of Sisimpur Outreach materials was distributed to the school. The material set includes two story books, a set of six flash cards, a set of 20 matching game cards, a board game and a growth chart kept in a nice kit bag. Not only Nijera Shikhi but also another 46 organizations are using Sisimpur Outreach Materials around the country. Among them there are national organizations like BRAC and local organizations like Barnali.

Sesame Workshop, New York and Nayantara Communications, Dhaka is co-producing Sisimpur Project with financial support from USAID. The Sisimpur Series is basically produced for promoting Early Childhood Education (ECE) targeting 3-6 years old children in Bangladesh.



Apart from the series Sisimpur Outreach Department produces and distributes ECE materials to parents and ECE centers. As a part of the endeavor Sisimpur Outreach materials are distributed to 3,500 pre-primary centers. To realize this success Sisimpur Outreach Department arranged training for trainers of partner organizations. Later on the trained people arranged training for their teachers/caregivers and introduced materials. Though the contents of the Outreach Materials are based

on health, hygiene and nutrition, they are designed in such a way that children's overall development is enhanced. Sisimpur Outreach Materials are distributed among 10,162 parents who have children aged 3-6 years are enrolled in ECE centers through a series of training workshops.



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Professional Development

Mini Workshop at BU-IED

Development of talent and creativity in ECD is a priority of BU-IED and Bangladesh ECD Network. To improve the quality of service-providers and their professional capacities a Professional Development Workshop was arranged by Early Childhood Development Resource Centre (ECDRC). Frances Aboud, Professor of Psychology, McGill University, Canada was the main facilitator in the workshop. The workshop focused on pre-school curriculum, materials and instructions, teaching and learning, language and mathematics as well as research and evaluation.



The workshop was conducted from 16 to 20 April 2006 at BU-IED campus and 25 ECD professionals, academics and researchers attended the workshop from different organizations.

Child Language Development Workshop

Early Childhood Development Resource Center (ECDRC) arranged a three-day training workshop on Child Language Development in May 2006, jointly designed by ECDRC and Prof. M. Nazmul Huq. A group of renowned professionals from Dhaka University, NCTB and BU-IED facilitated the sessions. The workshop intended to help ECD professionals and workers increase their knowledge and skills on child language development with a motivation to use them in their own programs. 22 professionals from BRAC, BU-IED, CRP, DAM, ICDDR,B, JSKS, Nayantara Communication, Phulki, RIB, SC-USA participated in the workshop. The workshop discussed children's physical, cognitive and social development with a special focus on language development from conception and neurological aspects, theories of language development, effects of nutrition on development, language development of problematic children, rhymes for language development, and contents and articulation of ECD curriculum for helping child language develop-



ECD as a Part of Overall Strategy of CRP

Center for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) is working for persons with disability since 1979. Its mission is *to promote an environment where all disabled people can have equal access to health, rehabilitation, education, employment the built environment and information.* To fulfill this mission CRP operates different types of programs. Some programs are closely related to Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD).

CRP runs an inclusive school at Savar-Dhaka having classes from play group to grade VI. A development-friendly learning environment is ensured for children enrolled in play group, nursery, and kindergarten. The Special Education Needs Unit (SENU) of CRP is working for enhancement of physical and cognitive development of disabled children.



The Pediatric Unit of CRP works specially for disabled children and their mothers. CRP has special programs for mothers and caregivers who want to learn about physical exercise and therapies and management of children with special needs. CRP works for awareness building on disability, childcare and other social issues in 61 upazillas under 8 districts following a Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) approach. In its long experience CRP has learnt that early childhood stage is the most important and most crucial period of life for special children along with other children. With this belief, CRP works for enhancing development of children (able and differently able) as a part of its overall strategy.

This issue is edited by an editorial panel of Bangladesh ECD Network formed by Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Dr. M. Quamrul Hassan, M. Habibur Rahman, Mohammad Mohsin, Tapan Kumar Das and Mahmuda Akhter. Reports and design by Jadid Farmi Huda and Mohammad Kazi Foysal.

Updating the ECD Directory and the ECD Website



Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN) has been updating the ECD Directory (Directory of early Childhood Development partners in Bangladesh) and Website (www.ecd-bangladesh.net). The Secretariat requested existing members to update their profiles and invited requests for new membership advertising in the daily newspapers. The Secretariat devel-



oped a structured questionnaire with this purpose, hosted it in the website and posted the organizations as per requests. More than 300 organizations have applied newly for membership. The Executive Committee will check the applications and will decide about their requests. The secretariat intends to publish the updated version of the directory by September 2006 and accomplish updating the website by December 2006.

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) under BRAC University Institute of Educational Development (BU-IED). House 113, Road 2, Block A, Niketon, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh. Tel: +880-2-882 4180 (8 lines) Ext. 2127, 2112. Fax: +880-2-882 9157, Email: alfesani@bracuniversity.ac.bd Web: www.ecd-bangladesh.net