

The Bangladesh ECD Newsletter

Secretariat, Bangladesh ECD Network at BU-IED

National ECD Conference 2006

Building Partnerships for ECD



Issue 6

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Ms Yasmeen Murshed addressed the National ECD Conference

Bangladesh ECD Network organised its first national ECD conference on 10th December, 2006 at Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan-1, Dhaka. About three hundred participants from government organisations, NGO's and international organisations active in ECD took part in the conference. Mrs. Yasmeen Murshed, Honourable Advisor of the Govern-

ment of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh addressed the conference as the Chief Guest. Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Md. Abdul Haque was the Special Guest. The theme of the conference was "Building Partnerships for ECD." The conference also included an exhibition of ECD resource materials produced by-organisations which attracted many visitors.



Ms Caroline Arnold delivered the Key Note address at the National ECD Conference

The conference was divided into three sessions. The main attraction of the first session was the Key Note presentation by Caroline Arnold, Co-Director, Education Programmes, Aga Khan Foundation, Geneva. Another attraction of this session was the inauguration of Bangladesh ECD Network updated website by the Chief Guest Ms Yasmeen Murshed. In this session Secretary of MOWCA, Mr. Abdul Haque, Country Representative of UNICEF, Bangladesh,

Country Director, Plan Bangladesh, Country Representative of Save the Children- USA, Bangladesh also spoke. All of them praised highly the Network's initiatives to organise the conference. They emphasised the importance of working together for ECD. There was a children performance by a street children performing troupe called *Icchey Media Group*.

SWISS FESTIVAL



BRAC University Stall

The Swiss Agency for Development and Corporation organised an exhibition on Co-operation, Trade and Culture. The exhibition was held on the occasion of 35 years of friendship between Bangladesh and Switzerland, 8 to 10 November, 2006 in Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Dhaka. Several organisations including trading, cultural, educational institutions, organisations and NGO's participated in the exhibition. BRAC University Institute of Educational Development (BU-IED) also set up an exhibition both to present activities of ECD Resource Centre and other programmes of BU-IED. There were cultural shows, material display and knowledge sharing in the festival.

In the second session of the conference two Pre-school teachers Ferdousi from Plan Bangladesh and Bashona Chakma from ICDP spoke about their experience. Ms. Mahmuda Akhter, Member Secretary of BEN also addressed the session. The main part of this session was a Panel Discussion. The Panellists were Prof. Dr. M. Q. K. Talukder, Dr. Shafiqul Islam, Director of BRAC Education Programme, Dr. M. Quamrul Hassan former Director of Institute of Child and Mother Health, and Caroline Arnold. The Chair of this session Dr. Manzoor Ahmed invited questions and comments from the audience and summed up the discussion.



Audience at the National ECD Conference

Session three began after the lunch break. In this session new ECD learning materials and story books were released and introduced. Ms. Mahmuda Akhter, Head of ECDRC briefed on *Block Die Mojar Khela* (Math Practice Book), *Khelay Khelay Shishur Bikas* (Play Activity Book) and *Mojar Golpo Set*. After the briefing Ms. Farida Akhter, Child Psychologist and Prof. Dr.

Anisuzzaman and Mr. Saleh Chowdhury commented on the books. The Chair of this session Selina Hossain, a noted novelist spoke about the value and potential impact of the new ECD materials. Vote of thanks was given by the Representative of Bangladesh Shishu Academy at the end of the conference.

Inner Force “Toys and Teaching Aids”



Some of Inner Force ECD materials

Inner Force is producing a variety of development friendly toys and teaching aids for young children and school going children. Inner force has designed the toys and teaching aids considering the special needs of early childhood intervention in Bangladesh. The toys are attractive, colorful, safe and low cost. These toys are suitable for using in early learning center, pre-school, grade I and II, day care centres and at home. These are available for purchase from Inner Force at Road # 7/5 (ground & 1st floor), Block # B, Lalmatia,

Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh.

Conference Exhibition



Chief Guest along with others are looking at the exhibition

One of the main attraction of the conference was the exhibition of ECD related books, materials, posters etc by ten organisations. Early Childhood Development Resource Centre at BU-IED, Campaign for Popular Education, Plan Bangladesh, Inner Force, Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Integrated Community Development Programme (ICDP), BRAC Education Programme, Nayantara Communications, Save the Children- USA, Bangladesh and Research Initiatives Bangladesh took part in the exhibition. The ECD implementer organisations and visitors learned from the exhibition about the range and variety of ECD materials available from different organisations and saw display of these materials.

Our Commitment

We shall work together for

Holistic Development and better

Future for children

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