

Early Childhood Care And Foundation For Future.

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I. Introduction:

Investing in our children's development from the earliest stage, is the single most important contribution we can do so as to make our country strong and ready for facing new challenges emerging from time to time in the field of education

There is an increasing recognition that Early childhood Education (ECE) provides the crucial foundation for learning and helps to develop cognitive and non cognitive skills important for the future success and learning.



Neurobiological research also highlights the importance of a child's early years on brain and behavioural development, both occur mostly in the early stage of life in the children a phase where the development is influenced by the quality of experiences and interactions as development occurs at a more rapid pace than in later years. The national curriculum framework 2005 describes the first six years of life as critical since, the rate of development in these years is more rapid than at any other stage of development. The early childhood care and education (ECCE) makes a positive contribution to the children's long term development and learning by facilitating and enabling by stimulating environment in these foundational stages of life long learning. The national policy of 2020 also recognises the fact that over 85 % of child's cumulative brain development occurs prior to the age of six thereby indicating the critical importance of appropriate care and stimulation of the brain in the early years so that to ensure the healthy brain development and growth. As per the NEP 2020 universal provisioning quality early childhood development and care must thus be achieved as soon as possible.

A significant development in this regard has come up through new education policy 2020 which has put pre primary in particular focus and has strongly recommended for ensuring a quality early childhood experience for the child. The curriculum has been designed for 3 years of pre school before class first which includes three major goals to be achieved, highlighting the key concepts / skills, pedagogical processes and learning outcomes for pre-school 1st 2nd and 3rd catering to 3-4 years, 4-5 years and 5-6 years of age group respectively. The first 8 years of a child's life are truly critical and lay the foundation for lifelong wellbeing and overall growth and development across all dimensions viz physical, cognitive and socio-emotional.

The most current research also demonstrates that the children under the age of 8 tend not to follow linear age based education procedures. It is only at about the age of 8 the children begin to converge in their learning trajectories and it is effective to view the age of 8 on average as a transitional point from one stage of learning to

the another .In particular it is only about to adapt to more structured learning . Upto 3years of age the environment in which most children grow up is in the home with the families while some children go to the pre-school (Anganwadis) which have prioritize in NEP 2020 also . Appropriate ECC at home for children under the age of 3 includes not only health ,safety and nutrition but also crucially includes cognitive and emotional care with the stimulation of talking , playing, moving , listening to music , sounds and stimulation of other senses specifically the sense of sight and touch .Optimal developmental outcomes are attained in various developmental domains in institutional settings between the age group of 3-8years into 3-6years the Early childhood Educational programmes are carried in Anganwadis (pre -schools) , balvatikas while as in 6-8years early primary educational programmes are carried form grade 1st to grade 2nd . ECCE includes continued attention to health ,safety care and nutrition but also crucially self help skills ,motor skills , hygiene ,the handling of separation ,physical development through movement and exercise expressing and communicating thoughts and feelings to parents and others time to time and forming of all rounds and good habits. It must be play based education individually or in groups which is important during this age group to nurture and develop child's innate abilities and capacities with the curiosity of Creativity, critical thinking, cooperation, teamwork, empathy, Playfulness and awareness of the immediate environment. It has been found that during these years entails the development of literacy and numeracy Including learning about the alphabet , languages, numbers, counting, colours, shapes, drawing , painting indoor and outdoor activities which I personally carried forward in different institution viz : GMS Nanil, BMS krangsoo and presently at GHS hutumurah (zone Mattan)where I taught these children during the age range of six -eight years forming the bases of achievement of foundational literacy and Numeracy (FLN) which is fully emphasized in 2020.The period of early childhood lays the foundation for life long learning and development and is a key factor for the quality of adult life. learning delays can be greatly reduced with help of intervention and efforts to improve early child development as an investment and it helps the child to promote a long term economic growth of the nation while helping to target the development of health, cognitive skills, a nd character necessary for the future success of life.

So in conclusion all these ways and reasons help brain development, school preparedness, improved learning outcomes equality justice employability and prosperity of economic growth of the country and India must invest to improve the quality at ECCE for all children with proper oversite and regulation to ensure the development of all the children