



# Follow-up on the Recommendations of the First National Conference on ECCE

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**Early Childhood Development Network Pakistan**

# Introduction

- Discuss key issues and gaps in ECD policy and practice
- Share conference recommendations on these issues and gaps
- Solutions that your province has come up to bridge these gaps
- Ideas and learning that can be shared at the national level

# Key Issue # 1: Defining ECD in Pakistan (prenatal to 8)

- Different definitions are used in Pakistan such as ECD, ECCE, ECE, etc.
- These are not just different terminologies, but slightly different approaches, with different policy implications and practical outcomes
- Conference recommendation is to debate pros and cons of different approaches among all the stakeholders in Pakistan, agree and follow a single concept/ definition/ approach throughout Pakistan that is most relevant to our conditions
- Where does this debate stand in the province of Sindh? What is the definition used in Sindh? Why?

## Issue #2: Formulate National Policy for ECD

- There is a policy gap: Currently NEP does not recognize pre-natal to 4 years as part of the Constitution
- Conference recommendation is to draft a dedicated policy & legislation for prenatal to 8
- How has your province addressed this policy gap?

## Issue #3: National Curriculum for ECD

- The National Curriculum on ECE does not cover the complete phase of ECD
- Conference recommendation is that provinces and regions need to initiate the process of curriculum planning and development for ECD from pre-natal to 8
- How has your province taken care of this gap ?
- What has been your experience?
- What do you think needs to be done in this area?

## Key issue #4: Sector Integration

- ECD requires a multi-sectoral approach, while related sectors, such as health, nutrition, child protection and education are vertically organized, with no horizontal mechanism to integrate them
- Conference recommendation is to come up with an effective institutional mechanism for integrated planning, financing and monitoring
- What has been the experience of Sindh in this area? How can integration be achieved and isolated efforts can be minimised?

## Issue #5: Financing of ECD

- Given the fragmented nature of ECD, budgeting and financing is a problem
- Conference recommendation is that ECD should be part of free and compulsory act in the provinces
- Ideally, there should be a one window financing facility, such as the Planning Commission of Pakistan at the center and P&DD in provinces
- What is the current thinking in your province?
- Do you agree that there should be a single payer for ECD services at the national/provincial levels?

# Issue #6: Teachers Education for ECD

- Currently there are no dedicated teachers for ECD and there is a big void for training teachers and caregivers in ECD. Also, there are gaps in the training programs for traditional health and nutrition workers
- Pre-service teacher education programs may begin with diploma, certificates and go beyond graduate and post graduate level
- In-service professional development programs may be implemented on regular basis
- How these in skill development systems in you province are addressed? What are your recommendations ?



## Issue #7: Upstream Research & Establishing Center of Excellences

- Recommendations call for establishing centers of excellence: Universities and research institutions may move forward towards developing centers of excellence
- Material development; teaching learning materials and in local languages, equipment and technological resources  
Assessment: Standards are to be determined at the first stage. Then annual programme evaluation may be maintained
- Research: knowledge generation and evidence based empirical research is to be conducted, research units and research journals to be launched at the universities

# Other Recommendations

- Inclusion and diversity: Not only limited to social and cultural diversity but also inclusive of differently abled children
- Awareness campaign
  - First and foremost task for all of us shall be to bring awareness regarding – Importance of ECD (Health, hygiene, nutrition, education), child protection, child right and gender equity
  - Effective use of social, electronic and print media
- Empowering Communities
  - From planning to implementation of ECD (Pre-natal-3) we need to involve parents, families, communities and civil society organizations and individuals
- Networking of all stakeholders
  - Last but not the least we need to hold hands and share the responsibility together
  - Provision of networking and sharing platforms at National Provincial District and Local Level
  - Building connections through web portal for sharing information beyond boundaries

Thank you for your Attention