



"For the children we work because they are the ones who know how to love, because they are the world's hope."

Contents

- **Documentation of ECD efforts in Nepal**
- **Organization of dialogue sessions**
- **Organization of workshop**
- **Book Review**
- **Higher education research grants**

Introduction

Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Development (CERID) organises various activities in the field of Early Childhood Development. It develops common understanding and gives platform for advocating, coordinating and sharing information on ECD. It aims to advocate the needs of ECD and creates organizational linkages for supporting ECD initiatives in Nepal. The center undertakes various activities such as "share the vision" on ECD, organization of dialogue sessions, publication of newsletter and journal, ECD center development, dissemination and display of materials, documentation

of ECD efforts in Nepal, and action research mini grants and Higher Education Research Grants to M.Ed and M.Phil Students.

Documentation of ECD Efforts in Nepal

The ECD Resource Centre has identified the organizations engaged in ECD activities and visited them for collecting documents of ECD activities in Nepal. The main objectives of the program are: to document all ECD partners and their activities in Nepal, to facilitate their access to CERID home page, and to disseminate ECD information through a newsletter. The information collected from the organizations is available in the ECD Resource Center.

Information collected from I/NGOs working in the field of ECD are: document programs; ECD-related publications; ECD materials; reports of trainings, workshops, seminars, and research; and brochures and catalogues.

The organizations so far documented are:

- (1) GLOBAL ACTION NEPAL (GAN)
- (2) SAVE THE CHILDREN/NORWAY
- (3) ETC/NEPAL

- (4) SETO GURANS NATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
- (5) SUBHA EDUCATION RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE
- (6) CWIN/NEPAL
- (7) SAVE THE CHILDREN/US
- (8) UNITED MISSION TO NEPAL
- (9) PLAN NEPAL

ECD activities in Solukhumbu

District Education office, Solukhumbu runs some ECD centers in partnership with Global Action Nepal (GAN) and Young Star Club. The Club has initiated various programs for youth, children and others. The child-related program is an important part. The ECD centers are being run in government schools. The Young



Star Club is undertaking various child-related programs such as early childhood education, emancipation of child workers, and sponsorship for children in schools. The Club volunteers facilitate the ECD centers. GAN is providing financial support for remuneration to the ECD facilitators of five centers. The ECD centers get stationery and other material supports provided by Himalayan Trust. Children benefit from the learning materials and classroom facilities supplied by

GAN. Regular monitoring by the Young Star Club members is an important effort for the successful operation of the ECD centers. Facilitators receive support in the development of learning materials and teaching-learning activities.

The major achievements of the program are:

- 1) Children enjoy being in the ECD centers.
- 2) Dropout in grade 1 has slid down.

- (3) Parents are aware of the education of their children and visit the schools regularly.
- (4) Children have changed their behavior in terms of personal hygiene, sanitation and discipline.
- (5) Children teach some words learned in the ECD center to their parents.
- (6) Parents have got time and opportunities to engage in income generating activities.

Organization of Dialogue Sessions



A dialogue session was organized on 4th September 2006 at CERID Meeting Hall. The topic was “A Comparative Study of the Effectiveness of School-based and Community-based ECD Program and the Role of NGOs/INGOS in the Implementation of ECD

Program”. The speaker was Prof. Komal Badan Malla. The session was based on the findings of a study made under the Formative Research this year. A total of 37 persons, which included teachers, T.U students, NGO /INGO officials and ECD facilitators, actively took part in the program.

The main objective of the program was to share ideas, experiences and innovative approaches with various organizations and individuals working in the field of Early Childhood Development.

Another dialogue session was organized on 22nd December 2006 at CERID Meeting Hall. The topic was “Trends and Options of Reintegrating/ Rebuilding the Lives of Children and Families as Post-Conflict Initiatives.” The speaker of the session was Ms. Lisa Ruth Shulman, Joint Director of International Child Resource Institute (ICRI), USA. I/NGO representatives, teachers, DEO officers and ECD facilitators (altogether 31) participated in the program.

Organization of Workshop

A workshop on “Partnership in Learning: Working with Young Children Using Learning Centers in the Nepali classroom” was organized on 13th November 2006.



The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Diana Suskind, Associate Professor, Early Childhood and Elementary Education, Fitchburg State College, Massachusetts. A total of 35 participants, which included trainers, teachers, NGO/INGO officials, and ECD facilitators, actively took part.

The workshop had four different sessions:

Session 1: The presentation focused on the importance of learning centers in the

classroom. The video clips of the learning center activities at Fitchburg State College McKay Campus School and South Street Elementary



School were shown by Dr. Diana to give the participants a glimpse of classroom activities and explain the presentation.

Session 2: The presentation themed on learning center activities. It discussed the activities of teachers and students in the learning centers and explained how to use the teaching- learning materials effectively.

Session 3: The presentation centered on the striking features and success stories of the learning

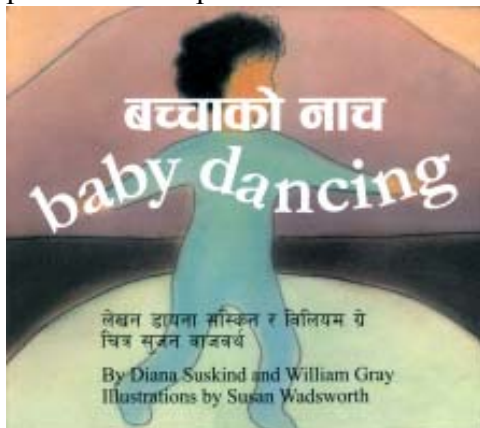


centers presented by the teachers and children from Hems School in Kathmandu.

Session 4: The participants reflected on ECD. They shared ideas and exchanged opinions based on their work experience in their respective fields. The participants were urged to put into practice what they learnt from the workshop.

Book Review

“Baby Dancing” (English/Nepali) is believed to be the first toddler book published in Nepal. It was launched



in the concluding ceremony of the Early Childhood Conference organized at Hyatt Regency by Seto Gurans National Child Development Services on October 13th, 2006.

Higher Education Research Grants

The ECD Resource Center in CERID, under financial assistance of UNICEF, has been providing grants to students of T.U doing M.Ed /M.Phil on ECD-related topics. Five proposals were approved by CERID on a competitive selection process. The abstracts of the proposals approved are as follows:

1. A Study on Emotional Behaviour of Early Childhood Children

- Yam Bahadur Karki, M.Phil student

This study intends to explore and understand how the normal emotional development of children proceeds in the early childhood. The role of emotional behavior in the early childhood is the main focus of this study. The study has three objectives:

- To identify the emotional behavior (Anger, Fear, Jealousy, Joy, Happiness and Love/ Affection) of children in the early childhood
- To find out the arousal factors of emotional behaviors
- To generalize the effects of emotion on children’s behavior and personality development

The research design is purported to be empirical, descriptive and qualitative. Primary data will be collected from early childhood children, parents, teachers and neighbors of Lalitoli VDC-9 of Surkhet by using research tools such as questionnaires, interview

This is Dr Diana Suskind’s first child book coauthored by William Gray and illustrated by Susan Wadsworth. It shows the infant’s natural motor development.

schedules, observations and informal discussions. Data analysis and interpretation will be done by referring to related theories and secondary data.

2. Contribution of Childcare Centers to Early Childhood Development

A case study from Kathmandu Valley

- Raj Kumar Baral, M.Phil student

The aim of this study is to examine if the childcare centers running in Katmandu Valley are actually contributing to the attainment of the goal of holistic development of the growing children or not . The study will also analyze the quality of services being provided by these centers as well as parents’ expectations. The study has the following objectives:

- To study the contribution of childcare centers of Katmandu Valley particularly to the physical and psychological development of the children
- To identify the expectations of the parents from childcare centers
- To assess the materials used and their impact on early childhood development.

Primary data will be collected from sample childcare centers in Lalitpur, Bhaktapur and Kathmandu districts. Research tools such as questionnaires, interview schedules, and observation checklists will be used. Similarly, discussion/interaction



sessions will be held with the proprietors of the centers, children, parents, teachers/ service providers and grown-up children.

3. Perceptions and Expectations of Parents from the ECD Program in Kavre District

- Tirtha Raj Sapkota, M.Ed student

The study intends to explore the perceptions and expectations of parents of the children enrolled in the ECD program. The main objectives of the study are:

- To analyze perceptions and expectations of parents from the ECD program
- To identify the benefits of the ECD program as perceived by parents for themselves and for their children
- To identify problems/issues related to the ECD program
- To recommend solutions to the problems

Primary data will be collected from the sample ECD centers in the Kirtipur Municipality, south of Kathmandu. The ECD centers will be both community-based and school-based. Research tools like focus group discussion guidelines, interview schedules, questionnaires and observation forms will be used. HTs, MC Chairpersons, NGO representatives, ECD facilitators, DEO supervisors, and RPs will be included in the study.

4. ECD in Nepal: A Study on the Pedagogical Perspective for the ECD Centers of Surkhet District.

- Kamal Gautam, M.Phil student

The study intends to explore children's learning environment at home and at the ECD center. The objectives are:

- To collect the profiles of the facilitators of ECD centers and review the facilitator training curriculum provisions and inputs
- To explore the commonalities and differences between traditional and training-based methods.

5. Early Childhood Mathematics Teaching- Learning Strategies in Montessori School: A Multi Case Study in Nepal.

- Ram Chandra Subedi, M.Ed student

The study aims at exploring the Montessori strategies of and approaches to mathematics teaching- learning with respect to early childhood children.

The objectives are:

- To identify the mathematics education strategies of Montessori for early childhood development in Nepal
- To explore the use of the Montessori principles in early childhood mathematics education
- To compare the early childhood mathematics teaching-learning strategies in the Montessori

- To identify the perceptions of teachers, children and parents on the roles of the ECD center

Six out of 16 ECD centers of Birendranagar Municipality of Surkhet will be selected for the study. Facilitators, parents and children of the ECD centers will be included in the study. Observation, interview, FGD and other methods will be used in the field.

schools of Nepal with the actual Montessori principles.

Four schools of different categories – two Montessori schools having early childhood education, one Montessori-based school having early childhood education but not named Montessori, and one government school with early childhood education – will be selected from Katmandu and Kaski districts. Research tools such as observation forms and interview schedules will be used.



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