



CHETNA

For Women Young people Children

Advocating for Early Childhood Care, Education and Development (ECCED) in Gujarat State, India

Presented by

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CHETNA

For Women Young people Children

Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness

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Introduction

- India is home to the largest number of children in the world; 41% of the country's population
- Article 45 of the Indian Constitution; The State shall endeavour to provide ECCE for all children until they complete the age of six years
- CHETNA as a support Organisation has been :
 - ✦ Advocating for a comprehensive ECCED policy.
 - ✦ Building perspective and enhancing capacities of the GO/NGO functionaries
 - ✦ Coordinating and facilitating networking for ECCED
 - ✦ Developing and disseminating need based, gender sensitive, field tested learning resource materials



Goal and Objectives of the project



Goal:

Eliciting State commitment towards ensuring optimum health and development of children through child policies in place

Objectives:

- Advocating for ECCED policy and State Plan of Action (SPAC) in Gujarat state, India
- Sensitizing GO/NGOs for working towards Child Rights, particularly ECCED
- Dissemination of learnings of advocacy efforts

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Efforts Towards ECCED In India



- The Parliament of India passed a landmark law which makes education a fundamental right for children of age group 6-14 years which has come into effect from April 1, 10
- Launched a flagship programme named Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA-Education for All) to provide eight years education to all children with universal retention by the year 2010.
- Incorporated ECCE as one of the service delivery components of ICDS as non-formal pre-school education for 3-6 years aged children.
- Considered ECCE as a central concept for educational planning and development in 11th Five Year Plan.

Efforts Towards ECCED In India



- Launched Rajiv Gandhi National crèche scheme for children of working mothers.
- Voluntary and NGOs provide day-care, mobile crèche and pre-school services to serve rural, disadvantaged communities
- Private initiatives serve children of better socio-economic families through nurseries, kindergarten and pre-primary private schools

Advocating for Holistic Child Policies- CHETNA's efforts (Nov. 2009-Aug. 2010)



Gujarat state level

- ❖ Held seven meetings with the Secretary, Women and Child Development (WCD) and other concerned officials; facilitated for organising State Core Group meeting for finalising ECCED policy
- ❖ At a meeting on Feb. 15, 2010 it was decided to involve Children's University and Gujarat Council for Educational Research and training (GCERT)
- ❖ Meeting organised on Feb. 26, 2010 by GCERT, was cancelled as the officers were busy in Gujarat Assembly session

Gujarat state level

- ❖ Facilitated collective action for advocating through Forum for Crèches and Child Care Services (FORCES) and Child Rights Collective, Gujarat (CRCG) at the State level and through India Alliance for Child Rights at the national level
- ❖ Shared the findings of the review progress for children in the context of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC) in the State of Gujarat

At National Level

- Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) initiated a process of developing a National Policy on ECCE, I was invited as a national Core Committee Member
- At a meeting in April 2010, the drafting committee from among the Core was identified, the draft was to be reviewed and finalised through nation-wide consultative process; five regional consultations
- As a continuous follow up; four meetings with the Secretary, Joint Secretary, MoWCD, Govt. of India, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), Gol and responsible for drafting the ECCED policy), other Core Committee Members.

Advocating for Holistic Child Policies- CHETNA's efforts (Nov. 2009-Aug. 2010)



At National Level

- The draft is being reviewed by the MoWCD (not yet received by Core Committee members)
- CHETNA also contributed as a national Core group member in planning and facilitating the review and renewal of the National Policy for Children (1974) through consultative process involving civil society (March-July 2010); integrated ECCED issues in the National Policy for Children (NPC)

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Achievement



- ECCED gained importance at the national level; an ECCE Cell is created at the MoWCD by the GoI
- Process initiated for developing the national ECCED policy
- CHETNA's recognition as resource organisation for Child rights, especially ECCED has enhanced at the national and state level; its view on holistic -ECCED rather than ECCE is accepted and integrated in the policy formulation
- Civil society efforts for promoting ECCED as a Right of children under six (As per Article 45 of the Indian Constitution) as well as importance of Parenting and Parents' Education have initiated-CHETNA is active in facilitating and supporting these initiatives

Challenges faced



- ECCE-Whose responsibility?? After the Right to Education Bill by the Gol, debate over the ownership of role and responsibility for Early Childhood Education between Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD), Ministry of Human Development -Department of Education
- Since Education has become a fundamental right, States seek /wait for guidance and directive from the Central government for ECCED Policy and implementation
- Reluctance to announce policies having financial implications
- Fragmented responsibilities and lack of coordination and convergence among various ministries and departments
- Lack of institutional recognition of Anganwadi (crèche and pre-school centre) Centre as pre-school unit to formal primary education
- Paucity of funds for the network activities

Current Status – ECCED policy



- State level-Draft of ECCED Policy awaiting national directive, review and approval from Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) Gujarat and the Parliament/Cabinet
- Govt. of Gujarat has included the child health and development issues in its 50 Golden Targets, which include ECCED related issues, initiative; as a part of golden jubilee celebration
- Review of the draft National Policy on ECCED is going on and will be finalised after five Regional consultations

Future plan



State Level:

- Eliciting the draft of National policy for reference for finalising state ECCED policy
- Continue follow up with the State Core Group for finalising the policy
- Organise a state level Consultation on Child Nutrition and Health -integrate ECCED issues in proposed Golden targets of GoG (Golden Jubilee of Gujarat state)
-October 2010

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Future plan



National Level

- Follow up for speeding up the national policy
- Facilitate/contribute in organising regional consultation/s in collaboration with ECCED Cell, GoI for generating recommendations for national ECCED policy
- Organise a National workshop to disseminate learning's in advocating for Child Policies -Nov. 2010
- Advocating for political will for child rights-esp. ECCED