

## **Global Leader Presenting in South Asia Regional ECD Conference**

The Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN) and the Asia Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC) hosted the first ever South Asia Regional Conference on Early Childhood Development (Learning, Networking and Early Childhood Development) Program in Dhaka, Bangladesh from December 7-9, 2010. Besides seven plenary Sessions, a total of 24 papers were presented under the theme of (i) ECD Policy, Advocacy and Networking, (ii) Program Transition, Quality, Content, Model, Innovation (iii) Inclusion, Equity and Resources (iv) Capacity Building and Professional Development including ECD Programs presented by posters (Ref: programs, abstracts presenters). Additional two Global Leaders namely, Mr. Probak Karim and Ms. Manjusree Mitra were also present in the conference on behalf of the host country the host country.

The Global Leader (2007-2008), Mr. Dharendra Lamsal, the National Program Director of International Child Resource Institute-Nepal (ICRI-Nepal) and the National Representative of World Forum Foundation presented a paper entitled *“An Insight of Innovative Early Care and Education Program Implemented in Public/Private ECD Centers in Nepal”* under the theme of Program Transition, Quality, Content, Model and Innovation. Mr. Lamsal in his presentation illuminated the effectiveness of an early care and educational services delivered by International Child Resource Institute-Nepal in 19 public and private ECD Centers in Nepal. He provided an insight for transformation of dull, un-stimulating, un-interactive, rudimentary teaching practices into stimulating, joyful, meaningful and creative learning environment for the young children. Mr. Lamsal undrlined on how ECD-pedagogy could transformed into daily care and education of young children with concurrent focus on how holistic development of a young child is possible in a resource poor setting. Also, he expained about community driven methods (self diagnosed and medication) to respond to the program implementation level challenges during the presentation. Likewise, he discussed the process of taking care of young children at homes and their further education in school (ECD) set-up by highlighting major gaps to be bridged by the parents at homes and the ECD facilitators at the school environment. The before and after scenario the ECD program intervention was illustrated with successful case study of a few children served by ICRI-Nepal. Key lessons and learnings documented during this intervention with reflection on major outcomes/outputs and programmatic experiences were broadly shared during this occassion. Furthermore, the overall program goals, objectives, strategies, and activities as well as involvement of community for up scaling the program areas, beneficiaries, stakeholders and key tools to spread successful strategies for replication of this program in other parts of the country was presented.

Finally, he summed up his presentation sharing a range of positive findings such as decreased drop-out rates in the ECD centers, increased understanding of the community about ECD program, and developed sense of ownership, roles and responsibilities of the community including School Management Committee in the areas of ECD.