

Early Childhood Care and Development: Are we doing enough?

Experience from Bangladesh

Background

- So far, in Bangladesh, only 13% of the children below 6 years of age have access to any kind of ECCD services
- Currently there is no approved policy for ECCD
- NGOs still responsible for delivery of services and developing appropriate models as it applies to ECCD
- Both public and private investments are grossly inadequate
- Lack of awareness on ECCD in the country

The intended goals

- To bring the issue of having a National ECCD Policy to public discussion
- To create a common platform for academicians, politicians, government, NGOs, journalists, practitioners, researchers, and educationists, to discuss policy matters.
- Having agreed recommendations for adoption in National ECCD Policy
- Create awareness on ECCD issues
- Dragging media sector into the debate to pursue them to play desired role in public awareness raising.

Organizing the event

- Bringing Plan Bangladesh on board for organizing a national roundtable meeting involving all policy actors
- Convincing leading print and electronic media for partnership
- Ensuring participation from the Government, politicians, academicians, NGO representatives, BEN, Convincing the for the event
- Having the key note paper developed
- Having the Roundtable Meeting conducted
- Ensuring Media coverage of the event
- Publication of a policy document comprising the key issues from the Roundtable

Outcome of the National Roundtable Meeting?

- Consensus could be built
- Increased public interest on ECCD
- Commitment from the media sector for their active role in popularizing ECCD
- Direction for developing a National ECCD Policy could be found
- Commitment from the government for a NEP soon.
- The draft for NEP being developed

Lessons learned

- Need for “demystifying” ECCD
- Lack of ECCD related data was highlighted as a major concern
- From government’s perspective its not clear “who owns ECCD”
- Politicians, who is ultimately responsible for making a policy, need to be more informed on ECCD
- Rethinking NGO’s current roles in ECCD
- Need for investing adequately in research
- Popularizing the concept of ECCD

The event in pictures



Roundtable on ECCD Policy

