

The Bangladesh ECD Newsletter

Secretariat, Bangladesh ECD Network at BU-IED

Professional Degree Programme on Early Childhood Development

A Collaborative Initiative of BU-IED and Open Society Institute



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The Workshop on ECD professional development course at BU-IED

BRAC University Institute of Educational Development (BU-IED) organised a 3-day workshop on professional course adaptation from 24 to 26 February, 2007. The workshop was facilitated by Cassie Landers, Assistant Professor, Columbia University and Sarah Klaus, Director,

Network Step by Step Programme, Open Society Foundation.

Professionals from University of Dhaka, UNICEF, Apollo Hospital, Plan Bangladesh, Institute of Public Health-BRAC University, Ad-din Hospital, ICDDR,B, Inner Force and Home Economics College participated in the workshop. BU-IED intends to offer Certificate, Advance Diploma & M. Sc. in Early Childhood Development. Offering their ideas and suggestions, participants emphasised on cultural adaptation of the materials in designing the courses. The participants noted the rise in awareness in and demand for ECD, both globally and in South Asia. Following the workshop, BU-IED arranged a sharing session on 28th February,



Sharing session following the ECD professional Development

2007 in which the conclusions of the workshop were presented to and discussed with the major stakeholders active in ECD in Bangladesh. Further development work on the professional development programme will be undertaken in collaboration with the Open Society Institute and various specialists. The course is expected to be initiated in late 2007 after obtaining approval from the University Grants Commission.

Regional Seminar on Child Rights

A 2-day regional seminar was held on 25-26 February 2007 at BIAM auditorium on the theme "Strengthening Child Rights as an Academic Discourse in South Asia". The University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh in collaboration with Save the Children Sweden-Denmark (Bangladesh Country Office), Save the children Canada

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Bangladesh ECD Network and ECDC of BRAC University will have their presence at the world Forum on Early Care and Education. Ms. Mahmuda Akhter, Secretary, BEN and Mohammad Kazi Foysal, staff member of ECDC have been invited by the organiser of the World Forum to participate. Ms. Akhter will make a presentation on professional development activities of BEN and ECDC.

The next World Forum will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 15-18, 2007. Over 800 attendees from 75 nations are expected to participate in this Forum. Major themes to be explored at the 2007 World Forum include poverty and children curriculum models, teacher education, nature education, men in early childhood, advocacy, staffing, funding, and indicators of quality. The mission of the World Forum Foundation is to promote an on-going global exchange of ideas on the delivery of quality services for young children in diverse settings. This mission is accomplished through convening gatherings of early childhood professionals around the world and by promoting the continuing exchange of ideas among participants. Every details regarding Word Forum 2007 can be accessed at www.wordforumfoundation.org.



Speakers at the seminar on child rights

(Asia Regional Office) and Department of Anthropology of Jahangirnagar University organised the seminar. The focus of the seminar was on incorporating child rights issues in higher education in the South Asian countries. Former Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf inaugurated the seminar. UGC Member Prof. M Mahbub Ullah,

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof S M A Faiz, Vice Chancellor of National University Prof. Wakil Ahmed and acting Country Representative of Save the Children Sweden-Denmark Kristine Zeuthen Jeppesen also spoke at the seminar.

Launching Ceremony of *Lancet* Series on Child Development

The launching ceremony of the *Lancet* series on child development was held at Saasakawa Auditorium, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka on March 01, 2007. *Lancet*, the UK medical journal, sponsored a series of five papers on early childhood



Launch of the Lancet series on child development

development which were published in the journal. The launch was organised to introduce the series to Bangladesh audience and to generate awareness about ECD issues. Prof. David A. Sack, Executive Director, ICDDR,B gave the welcome address and the papers were consecutively presented by Prof. Sally Grantham-McGregor, Institute of Child Health, University College London, Prof. Maureen Black, School of Medicine, University of Maryland and Prof. Patrice Engle, Cal Poly State University. The papers addressed development potential in the first 5 years for children in developing countries, child development risk factors causing adverse outcomes, and strategies to avoid the loss of development potential for more than 200 million children in the developing world. Dr. Jena Hamadani, Head, Child Development Unit, ICDDR,B and Ms. Mahmuda Akther, Head, ECD Resources Centre (ECDRC), BU-IED also made presentations on this occasion. Ms. Akther described the operation of the Bangladesh ECD Network and the activities of the ECDRC. Questions were asked and comments were made from the floor at the end of the presentations. Prof. Zobaida Gulshan Ara, Chairman, Bangladesh Shishu Academy spoke at the event as chief guest.

This issue is edited by an editorial panel of Bangladesh ECD Network. The panel members are: Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Dr. M. Quamrul Hassan, M. Habibur Rahman, Mohammad Mohsin, Tapan Kumar Das and Mahmuda Akhter. Reports and design by Md. Jaman Uddin Khan.

Exhibition on *It's My Book I Will Write It*



Save the children USA, Bangladesh Country Office organised an exhibition titled *It's My Book I Will Write It* from 22-26 February, 2007 at Drik Gallery, Dhaka. The exhibition celebrated the work of young writers and illustrators who contributed their creative talent to the development of 55 children's books, which represented their reflection on environment, family and community. The set of storybooks enhances the repertoire of children's books in Bangladesh and has been widely enjoyed by many across the country. The 4-day exhibition was a tribute to the writers and artists and all others who made the production of the reading materials for young children possible. Renowned Artist Mustafa Monwar was the chief guest in the inauguration seminar of the occasion.



The Bangladesh ECD newsletter is published and circulated on behalf of the Bangladesh ECD Network from its Secretariat at Early Childhood Development Resource Centre (ECDRC) under BRAC University Institute of Educational Development (BU-IED). BU-IED is located at House 113, Road 2, Block A, Niketon, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh. Tel: +880-2-882 4180 (8 lines) Ext. 2127, 2112. Fax: +880-2-882 9157, Email: bangladeshecdn@yahoo.com Web: www.ecd-bangladesh.net