White Paper

Promoting Holistic Development of Young Children
An Imperative for the Advancement of Nations in Asia-Pacific

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Positioning Early Childhood Development for Post-2015 Era

Compelling evidence of the positive and long lasting impact of ECD on the individual and national advancement

Should nations wish to achieve equitable socio-economic progress and sustainable development, ECD cannot afford to be omitted or neglected.
Holistic ECD builds the health and wealth of nations and advances social justice by:

1) Improving child health and nutrition
2) Educating the future generation and promoting nation building
3) Bringing about high economic returns for nations
4) Alleviating inequity and promoting national harmony
Gaps!

- Inadequate and Fragmented Provision
  - Non-Holistic - health, nutrition, care, education, child protection and social protection for ALL young children throughout the early childhood years
Gaps!

- **Compromised Service quality**
  - High quality services are either non-existent or accessible only to a small group of children (e.g. families in underserved communities, rural areas, low socio-economic and educational backgrounds, in disaster and conflict situations etc.)
  - Caregiver/teacher quality (e.g. interactions, contextual and content relevance, language etc.)
Gaps!

- Insufficient stakeholder coordination and collaboration
  - Children’s Development and Learning Goals not shared
  - Lack of holistically-designed ECD policies and poor implementation
A call for Action!!!

- Expand access to holistic ECD programmes and promote equity
- Ensure good quality early childhood interventions
- Build an enabling policy environment for holistic ECD
- Strengthen capacities of parents, families, and communities
- Create a movement to support holistic development and learning of young children