Expand quality ECCD with equity: Competences of ECCD teachers and caregivers

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Children are our collective responsibility

• **Population:** 733,004 people. Children and youth make up 42%
• **Governance:** Successfully transitioned to democracy in 2008. Second democratic ally elected government in power.
• **Unique & Holistic Development Path:** Gross National Happiness - Realizing that happiness is the ultimate purpose of human progress and development, the government of Bhutan dedicated itself to creating conditions that will enable individuals to achieve happiness.
In 2000 Bhutan ratified Education for ALL (EFA) and identified ECCD as its first goal.

ECCD programme was instituted in 2009 as a separate educational entity.

ECCD do not have formally designated teachers as yet.

At present, NFE Instructors are employed as part time ECCD facilitators with just two weeks basic training and a five days refresher course at the end of one year.
The National Goal
- to provide quality ECCD services to every child from birth to eight years old

The National plan
- to recruit minimum of class 12 pass graduates as fulltime facilitators with basic certificate training in ECCD followed by Diploma, Degree and Masters in ECCD
### Overview of ECCD Situation in Bhutan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Government owned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Private Owned</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Non-government</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Corporate Owned</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>165</td>
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Total Number of Facilitators (12M, 318F) = 330
Key Policies, Guidelines and Strategies in Place

The National Education Policy ensures every child’s right including children with special needs to survival, development and reduce equity gaps.

Age 0-2 - Parenting Education and Early Stimulation through ECCD center, Health, NFE, Home visits and Media.

Age 3-5 - ECCD center based programme through Public, Private, NGOs and Corporate initiatives

Age 6-8 Smooth transition to primary school and to prepare the readiness of schools for children by building the capacity of teachers.
Concrete Examples of Policy Implementation

• Class XII graduates attend two weeks basic course and one week refresher course
• NFE Instructors trained to deliver the parenting education
• Health staff of seven districts trained on Parenting and Early Stimulation
• Health centers create children’s corner and play area to make it more child friendly
• Parents receive three day orientation programme on ECCD
Parent engagement in developing play materials
Good Practices

- Minimum qualification fixed at class XII graduates to be ECCD teachers
- 13 day Basic training for ECCD facilitators followed by refresher’s training
- National ELDS developed for children age 3-5 years old
- Collaboration with Royal University of Bhutan to develop Certificate/Diploma Course
- Step by Step approach to ECCD transition to primary school introduced
- Programme Managers and Facilitators are exposed to good practices through study tours and exchange of best practices in the region
Significant Lessons Learnt

1. It's important to have National Policy Guidelines for ECCD
   • The National Education Policy provided direction for appointment of full fledge ECCD facilitators

2. Minimum academic qualification requirement and high quality training programme
   • This resulted in a plan to introduce a mixed-mode certificate /diploma course in ECCD in collaboration with RUB and continuous in-service professional development
Challenges

1. Limited Institutional Capacity & Expertise
   • RUB to start Certificate/Diploma in ECCD and increase frequency of short courses

2. Limited Awareness on importance of ECCD
   • Nation-wide awareness and advocacy being carried out
Potential Areas for International Cooperation

• Develop institutional linkages within and beyond the region for developing institutional and local capacity

• Exchange programme with different agencies in the region will be explored to share the best practices and improve competency and efficiency of the ECCD facilitators.

• International Consultation with experts are required to improve the existing the services
“Investing in the early years...

...is the best strategy that Bhutan can make to reduce social inequities and raising productivity of the society as a whole.”

- Education Without Compromise (2008)
ECCD programme is instituted to help our children build a strong foundation for adult life. Let's join hands to support so that they win the race to become somebody in future.
THANK YOU

TASHI DELEK