Observations on
Role of policy makers & ECCE providers in governance, financing, partnerships and coordination

Manzoor Ahmed
Chair, Bangladesh ECD Network
Professor Emeritus, BRAC University
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ECD POLICY FRAMEWORK
(Adapted from Vegas & Santibanez, 2010)
Gap – Knowledge and Practice

1. Inherent in a social change enterprise
   ✓ ECD Intervention effectiveness – evidence aplenty
   ✓ Definitive scientific evidence on vital importance of life’s first 1000 days
   ✓ Value of exclusive early breastfeeding well-known
   ✓ Many early opportunities lost are irreversible

Yet not enough done on these in developing or even developed countries

2. Political economy barriers
   ✓ “Falling between stools syndrome” in organisational structures arising from multi-disciplinary and intersectoral nature of ECD
   ✓ Resources are always more scarce than it should be
   ✓ Toxic combination of corruption, incompetence, mismanagement

ECD, therefore, has been less than a due priority on national agenda
Bangladesh Policy and Coordination Initiatives

Illustrative of what some countries have done – adoption of a comprehensive Early childhood Care and Development (ECCD) policy in 2013 for children form birth to 8 years in Bangladesh

- It has evolved from other related policy and strategy formulation, including—
  - National Children Policy 2011
  - National Education Policy 2010
  - National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010
  - National Women’s Development Policy 2011
- Objectives and strategies for stages of development specified
  - Pregnancy and period of birth
  - 3 to 6 years
  - 6 to 8 years – transition into and early schooling
- Other actions
  - Early Learning Development Standards developed and being validated
  - ECCD Policy Implementation Operational Strategy adopted in 2016
Coordination Mechanisms

Coordination mechanisms established or envisaged under Bangladesh ECCD Policy assigns the focal point role to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. The Policy identifies roles and responsibilities of 14 other Ministries/Agencies and of NGO’s, International Organisations and the Private Sector.

Structures provided for Policy Guidance and Implementation
- National Council for Women and Child Development headed by the Prime Minister
- National ECCD Coordination Committee headed by the Minister/State Minister of MoWCA
- ECCD National Technical Committee comprising qualified professionals
- A Directorate of Children Affairs proposed
- Coordination of Action among Govt., NGOs and Development Partners
- Research, Monitoring and Assessment to be promoted

Enhancing adequacy of financing for children – Coordination role given to MoWCA

**A Child Budget Statement** is required to be prepared by all concerned Ministries as part of annual budget-making of Ministries.
Challenges

- Need to renew and reinforce commitments continually – from both the rights & national development perspectives; irreversibility of lost opportunities.
- Strengthening the capacity of all key actors – government, NGOs, academics, researchers, civil society actors, communications media
- Ensuring adequacy of resources – looking at all sources, public sector child budget monitoring as a tool
- Monitoring, accountability, participation, transparency – strengthening the mechanisms and practices, fighting corruption and incompetency

SDG 4.2 creates unprecedented possibilities at national and international level; it must be leveraged fully.
Thank You