Early Childhood Care and Education

Indian Context - Krishna Tirath, Minister, WCD, Govt of India
Context of ECCE in India

• 158.8 million children in the 0-6 years age group (2011), 13.1 % of the total population
  – 8,29,52,135 boys
  – 7,58,37,152 girls
• 28 States and Union Territories have over 1 million children in the age group 0-6 years;
• Large diversity in quality of preprimary programs,
• Multiple actors involved with Ministry of WCD as nodal ministry
ECCE Provisions in India

Public

Private

NGO

CSR

13.2 crore Anganwadis, 8 crore children, 3.5 crore for ECCE

71509 SSA Centres

22600 Crèches

Unregulated, gaps in data base, ranging from minimalist to profit oriented academically accelerated approach, untrained teachers, questionable pedagogical inputs. About 50% children outside public system

Kindergartens

Preschools

Balwadis

Child care
**ICDS: World’s Largest ICD Programme**

- An integrated early child development programme aimed at addressing health, nutrition & development needs of young children, P&L women
- Package of six services
- Started in 1975 with 33 CD blocks, today world’s largest early childhood development programme
- Reaching out to about 10 crore beneficiaries:
  - Children (6 months to 3 years): 4.35 crore
  - Children (3 to 6 years): 3.47 crore
  - P&L Women: 1.82 crore

**Achievement during Eleventh Five Year Plan**
- 32.88% increase in beneficiaries for SN [from 705.43 lakhs at the end of X Plan to 960 lakh during XI Plan]
- 18.96% increase in beneficiaries for PSE [from 300.81 lakh at the end of X Plan to 347 lakh (including 180 lakh girl child) during XI Plan]
Towards a Child Centric Environment

- A Child Centered Holistic Approach
- A Comprehensive Policy & Curriculum
- An Integrated Multi – Sectoral Convergent Service Delivery Mechanism
- Supportive Supervision
- Effective & Continuous Training
- Advocacy for Community and Parent Awareness

Creating Integrated systems of care and education practices with enabling, promotive and supportive policies, legislations and affirmative actions
The ECCE Policy

The cardinal principles:

• Universal access with equity and inclusion
• Quality in ECCE Programmes
  – National ECCE Curriculum Framework
  – Quality Standards for ECCE
  – ECCE programme evaluation
• Strengthening Institutional Capacity
• Community Mobilization for Implementation and Monitoring
Access with Equity

• Universalisation of ECCE for all children
• Decentralized and contextualised approach
• ICDS Anganwadi Centre (AWC) repositioned as a “vibrant child friendly ECD Centre”
• Conversion of AWCs into AWCs cum crèches with a planned early stimulation component
• Partnerships across public, private and voluntary sectors
• Convergence with related care schemes, SSA and other schemes
• Children with special needs, different abilities would also be reached.
Quality in ECCE

- Quality Standards and Specifications: Essential and Desirables
  Interaction (teacher/child, child/child); health, nutrition, personal care and routine; protective care and safety; infrastructure/physical environment; organisation and management; children experiences and learning opportunities; assessment and outcome measures

- National ECCE Curriculum Framework promoting play based, experiential and child friendly provision for early education and all round development

- Child friendly and developmentally appropriate play and learning materials

- A Regulatory Framework for ECCE to ensure basic quality inputs and outcomes, across all service providers
Curriculum Framework for ECCE

Addresses the following areas:

- Principles of Learning
- Curriculum Content
- Pedagogy: Methods
- Essential Play Material
- Assessment tools
- Role of Teacher/ ECCE Educator
- Role of Parent
- Supportive Essentials
Strengthening Institutional Capacity

- National and State ECCE Councils
- Child Development Resource Centres
- Consortiums, Networks, Collaborative Units, Voluntary Action Groups
- Strengthening existing training institutions through collaboration
- Possible legislation/ regulation
Institutional Reforms

- Options for flexibility and additional services
- ICDS Missions at National, State and District levels with structure and systems
- National Mission Steering Group (headed by Minister I/C WCD) and Empowered Committee
- Memorandums of Understanding between Central/ State governments, and APIPs
- Community owned ICDS accreditation system
- High Focus/ High Burden States / Districts will receive focused attention
- Public Accountability, Reviews and Evaluation
New ICDS Service Package

- Early Childhood Care Education & Development (ECCED)
  - Repositioning the AWC as a “vibrant ECD centre”
  - Focusing on the under-3s and early child care and learning environment
  - Care and Nutrition Counselling service for mothers of under threes
  - Monthly ECCE Day with local community participation, play material banks, activity corners, ECCE demonstration
  - Contextualized curriculum for preschool education for 3-6 year children including school readiness interventions for children 5+, and early stimulation package for under 3s
  - PSE kit: Local and culturally relevant, developmentally appropriate play and learning material
  - Monitoring & Promotion of Child Growth & Developmental Milestones, Child assessment
  - Early detection of delayed developmental milestones and early intervention for children with special needs
  - Additional Anganwadi Worker/ Link Worker: Trained HR support
THANK YOU!!!