

early scope

CECED'S NEWSLETTER

National News

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ States/UTs directed by WCD Ministry to undertake immediate head count of beneficiaries under Umbrella ICDS Scheme Page 2
- ▶ In Photos: CECED organizes two days national conference Page 3
- ▶ In Photos: Prof. Hirokazu Yoshikawa delivers a public lecture at CECED, AUD Delhi Page 3
- ▶ Column: Want Preschoolers to Become Successful? Allow Them to Play More Page 4

Native Tongue Should Be Included In Early Schooling: Academics

NEW DELHI: A child's native tongue should not be given a short shrift during his or her pre-primary years as local language is the most important tool for understanding basic concepts in that period, an academic said on Thursday. Sunita Singh, Director of Childhood Education Centre at the Ambedkar University, made the point on the first day of a two-day national conference on 'early language and literacy', organised by the Centre for Early Childhood Education and Development (CECED) in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences. [Read more](#)



Eldest son preference is main cause of Child Stunting in India

INDIA HOME TO 40 MILLION STUNTED CHILDREN

Over 17 million wasted children under 5 years of age

48% women of child bearing age

Over 75 children under 5 yrs of age

Source: India Health Report 2015

▶ 8 states have under 5 stunting levels higher than national avg: UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya, Gujarat, MP, Assam

▶ 9 states in stunting and wasting levels between 2006-2014

▶ 13 states have 'wasting' levels higher than national average: West Bengal, Goa, Kerala, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh

▶ Adult overweight and obesity is 20% but increasing

▶ Wasting or thinness indicates in most cases a recent and severe process of weight loss, which is often associated with acute starvation and/or severe disease, as per WHO

Child stunting in India – where over 30 percent of worlds stunted children live – exceeds that in poorer regions like Sub-Saharan Africa, according to a report published by American Economic Association. The disturbing findings of the report suggest that the reason behind child stunting in Indian isn't due to malnutrition but favoritism.

Stunting is the weekend growth and development that children experience from poor nutrition, repeated infection, and insufficient psychosocial stimulation. Children are defined as stunted if their height, given their age, is at least two standard deviations below the WHO Child Growth Standards median. [Read more](#)

Assessment unit to reform school education

NEW DELHI: Delhi government has formed an assessment unit under the examination branch of Directorate of Education, with the aim of driving assessment and pedagogical reform in government schools. Its first meeting was chaired by deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia on 14 December 2017. Sisodia said the assessment unit is envisioned as the research and development team of the education department, and is expected to "develop as a centre of academic reform for the country".

The meeting on Thursday was attended by director (education), director (SCERT), additional director (school and exam), OSD (assessment unit) and assessment unit members.



Officials said the unit will be responsible for creating high-quality assessment tools, analysing answersheets to understand their learning gaps and make recommendations to their educators. "The unit will also engage with assessment agencies and education experts to build high and technical capacity in tool development, data analysis and reporting," an official said. [Read more](#)

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CECED'S NEWSLETTER

National News

States/UTs directed by WCD Ministry to undertake immediate head count of beneficiaries under Umbrella ICDS Scheme



Anganwadi Services under the Umbrella ICDS Scheme is a flagship programme of Government of India. It provides six services to the beneficiaries i.e. children below six years of age and Pregnant Women & Lactating Mothers. These services are provided at the Anganwadi Centres which are child friendly centres manned by Anganwadi Workers/ Anganwadi Helpers. AWCs are equipped with adequate infrastructure, facilities (kitchen, safe drinking water & child-friendly toilets), wall painting, play space and joyful learning environment. They are essential for care and development of children in the age group of 0-6 years as well as pregnant women and lactating mothers. [Read more](#)

States/UTs directed by WCD Ministry to undertake immediate head count of beneficiaries under Umbrella ICDS Scheme

The 'AP Janmabhoomi', the flagship social initiative of the government to connect and engage the NRIs, particularly the Telugus, in giving something back to their native village, is all set to scale up and provide digital classrooms to 5,000 government schools by end of 2018. "It has a positive impact on the students with their learning abilities going up exponentially while helping the schools in improving the quality of education. In fact, the attendance in schools having digital classrooms is much better, 17% more than the normal schools. The enrolment too has gone up," Jayaram Komati, Special Representative of the A.P. government for North America told The Hindu. [Read more](#)



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CECED EVENTS

Two days national conference on 'Early Language and Literacy' held in New Delhi

The Center for Early Childhood Education and Development (CECED), Ambedkar University Delhi, in collaboration with the Early Literacy Initiative (ELI, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad) with support from Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) organized a two days national conference on 14-15 Dec 2017 at the Conference Centre, University of Delhi, Chhatra Marg, Delhi. The theme of the conference was 'Early Language and Literacy', and has a distinct (though not exclusive) focus on the presentation and discussion of research in Indian contexts. The two days conference event was marked with the participation of invited speakers, presenters, ECCE practitioners, teachers and students. Here are few photographs from the event.



In Photos: Prof. Hirokazu Yoshikawa delivers a public lecture at CECED, Ambedkar University Delhi, Kashmere Gate Campus

CECED organized a public lecture by Prof. Hirokazu Yoshikawa on 'Early Childhood Development for Sustainable Development: Addressing the Challenge of Quality at Large Scale'. The public lecture was also preceded by an interactive session with the CECED AUD team members at the faculty lounge, Ambedkar University Delhi, Kashmere Gate Campus. The lecture was preceded by an interactive session in the morning between Prof. Hirokazu Yoshikawa, his students from NYUAD and CECED team members. The morning session was a good platform for interaction with the NYUAD students on the IECEI study and its interface with policy. Prof. Hirokazu also shared some details on his research methods in early childhood research that he is currently pursuing.



CECED Organizes Special Lecture by Prof. Kathy Sylva on Teaching Parents of Preschool Children to Support Learning at Home

To converse about the appropriate approaches and policies regarding Early Childhood Education, Centre for Early Childhood Education and Development CECED AUD organized a special lecture by Prof Kathy Sylva at Indian International Centre Annexe, New Delhi, India. The lecture titled 'Teaching Parents of Preschool Children to Support Learning at Home' aimed to highlight the involvement and contributions of parents in the early years of their children. Along with Professor Sylva from the Department of Education, Oxford University, CECED AUD members and several invited experts shared some deep-seated thoughts on Early Childhood Education and Development. Sharing some moments from the special lecture event.



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CECED'S NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL WATCH

Finland: enhancing national language skills

Languages should be learned at the earliest educational stage and language studies in Finland must be guaranteed for all. That's according to education union Opetusalan Ammattjärjestö in response to the publication of a report on the state and future needs of Finland's language skills. The report, covering the entire Finnish education system, was prepared by Professor Riitta Pyykkö, Vice-Rector at the University of Turku and submitted to the Minister of Education, Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, on 13 December. [Read more](#)

Column: Want Preschoolers to Become Successful? Allow Them to Play More

-Kim Nassoio, UCF Forum columnist

I work in a field where play reigns supreme. I'm an early childhood educator. I have studied the research and know how children learn best. Yet I watch curricula and policies being written that stifle the learning of our youngest citizens in preschool. They are being asked to learn things beyond their capabilities. Teachers are being asked to teach things that are not developmentally appropriate. There seems to be no stopping the sometimes misguided "machine" that seeks to theoretically turn children into the best and the brightest. Many would ask, "Why is this a problem?" [Read more](#)

Blog : Can Kindness Be Taught?

By: RICHARD SCHIFFMAN

Thanks to a challenge from the Dalai Lama, a number of preschools are trying to teach something that has not always been considered an academic subject: kindness. "Can you look inside yourself and tell me what you're feeling?" Danielle Mahoney-Kertes asked a class of prekindergarten students at P.S. 212 in Queens recently.

"Happy," one girl offered. "Sick," said another. A boy in a blue T-shirt gave a shy thumbs down. "That happens too," Ms. Mahoney-Kertes, a literacy coach, reassured him.

The exercise was part of the Kindness Curriculum, developed by the Center for Healthy Minds at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in which preschoolers are introduced to a potpourri of sensory games, songs and stories that are designed to help them pay closer attention to their emotions.

"Our world is kind of a scary place," Ms. Mahoney-Kertes said. "We can't always control what is happening outside us. But what we're teaching them is that they can control how they respond."

Since the curriculum was introduced in August, more than 15,000 educators, parents and others from around the world have signed up for it. [Read more](#)

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