

## National News

### Delhi Govt. continues big investments in education

Delhi government's priority on education continued allocating Rs 11,300 crores for the 2017-18 financial year as against Rs10,690 crores in the current financial year. Government to set up five schools of excellence and a teachers' training centre under the aegis of Ambedkar University. Ten early childhood centres to come up as a pilot project and for that Rs 4 crore has been set aside for Ambedkar University.

Read more <https://goo.gl/J4nGKl>

### Child malnutrition is soaring but funding for India's child development scheme remains anaemic

India is home to 472 million children. Forty percent of India's population consists of minors. The country is home to one-third of the world's population of women who become mothers even before they have reached adulthood. Yet the budget allocated for their health is only 4% of India's already meagre health spending.

Read more <https://goo.gl/PVRSsIM>

### Play schools under vigil: No screening, donations

For the first time, the Telangana government will constitute a state-level Council for Early Childhood Education (CECE), which will be the competent authority to monitor private play schools and institutes run for children below six years. This is in line with the guidelines in the National Early Childhood Care and Education Policy that was circulated by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in 2013

Read more <https://goo.gl/UwM13P>

## International Watch

### A Bright Year for Early Childhood Education

Research also brought good news about early childhood in 2016. Research showed that Head Start quality has improved significantly in the past decade. Other studies provided further evidence of the efficacy of home visiting programs and identified impacts of high-quality preschool that persist through at least middle school. And new research from economist James Heckman suggests that the returns to early childhood investments might be even larger than we previously understood.

Read more <https://goo.gl/jxhNs7>

### Let's build safe play spaces into our communities

Children spend most of their lives at home, so the design of residential neighbourhoods is particularly crucial. Our research into how residents use external spaces near their homes reveals that where children play out for longer, independently, there is more social use by the rest of the community.

Read more <https://goo.gl/V5EV3W>

## CECED Events

### CECED Organizes Training on Early Stimulation

CECED has been involved as a technical partner in a two year research project on early stimulation titled "Effects of Early Stimulation and Nutrition: A study in Odisha" involving approximately 2167 children in 192 villages. This is a collaborative endeavor between Yale University (USA), The Institute for Fiscal Studies (UK), University College London (UK), University of Pennsylvania (USA), the Centre for Early Childhood Education and Development (India), Pratham Education Foundation- ASER Centre (India) and the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab SA (India) and Morsel (India). The study is a randomized controlled trial (RCT) involving three treatment arms on: nutrition education, stimulation via individual home visits with nutrition education, and stimulation via groups for mothers and their babies with nutrition education.

Both the individual and the group curriculum is an adaptation of the Jamaican Curriculum developed by Professor Sally Grantham McGregor at the University of West Indies which has demonstrated impressive long term impacts such as educational attainment. The home visiting curriculum has been adapted for different countries such as Colombia and Bangladesh but was adapted for a state in India for the first time. The aim of the intervention is to improve developmental outcomes of children through improving the quality of interactions between mothers and their babies, using play and other developmentally appropriate activities. Pratham is responsible for the implementation of both the curriculums and the nutrition education.

The Group Stimulation (GS) curriculum was developed for the first time in India by CECE and takes advantage of the group dynamics which involves, interactions with other caregivers, observation of other caregivers, sharing of knowledge, and experiences of child rearing. Whether group delivery of early stimulation can be effective is an unexplored area and needs to be examined as it can bring down the cost of service delivery and may create a much needed support group for mothers. A week long intense training was organized in Delhi from 23rd Jan to 1st Feb, 2017 on the group curriculum focusing on stimulation of children between the ages of 24 months to 43 months. The lead mentors from Pratham Odisha attended the training. This will be followed by a joint training by CECE and Pratham Odisha for mentors from the districts of Cuttack, Bolangir and Balasore in May 2017. A copy of the baseline report for the study can be obtained at <http://bit.ly/2ovcFJD>



### 8th CECE Advisory Committee Meeting held on 23rd March, 2017



The 8th CECE Advisory Committee Meeting was held on 23rd March 2017 at the Ambedkar University Delhi, Kashmere Gate campus. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Venita Kaul (Executive Chair) in presence of the members of the committee comprising of Dr. Sunita Singh, Dr. Monimalika Day, Professor Honey Oberoi Vahali, Professor Anup Kumar Dhar, Prof. Rajan Krishnan, Shri Surajit Sarkar, Professor Veena Mistry, Dr. Zakiya Kurrien, and Dr. Neerja Sharma. The broad agenda of the meeting was to review the progress made by CECE with regard to its research, quality promotion and advocacy initiatives in 2016 – and advise on proposed activities for the year 2017-18. Prof. Shyam Menon, Vice Chancellor, Ambedkar University Delhi also graced the occasion with his presence at the meeting and shared his guidance and views on the importance of collaborative research across different Centers of the university particularly on the theme of Children and Childhoods. The Advisory Committee also discussed challenges of the proposed Delhi ECE project and ways to address the challenges.

## Coming Up Soon

### International Conferences

- EDULEARN17 (9th annual International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies), Spain, July 3-5, 2017 [View Event Detail](#)
- International Academic Conference on Global Education, Teaching and Learning, Vienna, Austria, Nov 24-25, 2017 [View Event Detail](#)

### CECED's Capacity Building Initiative

- Training of one batch of State Level Master Trainers (SLMTs) for Mother Tongue Based Multi-Lingual Early Learning & Parent+ (MTELP) is being organized by Centurion University, module developed and training by CECE, implemented by Mother Tongue Based Early Learning and Parent Plus Programme (MTELP+) and Supported by Bernard Van Leer Foundation (BvLF) in April, 2017. The SLMTs trained by CECE will further provide training to 7202 Anganwadi Workers(AWWs), and 220 lady supervisors.

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