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early scope

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Creches served more children in 2015-16, but achieved limited outcome



IMAGE: Business Standard

More children in India than a decade ago received one or more services under the Integrated Children Development Services (ICDS), the world's largest integrated early childhood programme to reduce child mortality by giving supplementary nutrition, especially to malnourished children, and improve early learning outcomes.

However, the programme failed to achieve desired outcomes like changing feeding behavior of a family and improving the quality of preschool education, according to this December 2017 evaluation paper of the programme by **Nirmala Rao**, professor at **Hong Kong University** and **V Kaul** of **Centre For Early Childhood Education and Development** at the **Ambedkar University Delhi**. [Click here](#) to read more.

News Source: BUSINESS STANDARD



UNION BUDGET 2018

Allocations for child welfare going down

Children under the age of 18 accounts for more than 40 percent of India's population. Even while India is moving on a high growth trajectory, and we are hopeful of a demographic dividend, what stops us from investing enough in children today? Why are budget trends over the years not very child-friendly? We possibly first need to introspect on what impresses us when we elect our representatives and governments.

[Click here](#) to read more.

News Source: FIRSTPOST

BOOK RELEASE

CHILDHOODS IN INDIA
Traditions, Trends, and Transformations

Edited by T. S. Saraswathi,
Shailaja Menon and Ankur Madan



Childhoods in India, Traditions Trends and Transformations; ISBN: 9781138106369

Author: T. S. Saraswathi, Shailaja Menon, Ankur Madan

This book highlights the significance of an interdisciplinary approach to understanding children and childhoods in the Indian context. While it is recognised that multiple kinds of childhoods exist in India, policy and practice approaches to working with children are still based on a singular model of the ideal child rooted in certain Western traditions. The book challenges readers to go beyond the acknowledgement of differences to evolving alternate models to this conception of children and childhoods.

Bringing together well-known scholars from history, politics, sociology, child development, paediatrics and education, the volume represents four major themes: the history and politics of childhoods; deconstructing childhoods by analysing their representations in art, mythology and culture in India; selected facets of childhoods as constructed through education and schooling; and understanding issues related to law, policy and practice, as they pertain to children and childhoods. This important book will be useful to scholars and researchers of education, especially those working in the domains of child development, sociology of education, educational psychology, public policy and South Asian studies.

The book is available for purchase on Hardcover editions in all leading online book stores.

About the Authors

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IN PHOTOS



A child seen wearing a ripped off football on his head at Narela, Delhi

**Shrinking
Playgrounds
and the
Children of
India**

Photos and Story by Rinku Bora

He is not a young Prof. X from Marvel's X-Men series who got some super powers to save the world. His is the face of the most helpless, voiceless but an important demographic of this country. The youngest citizens, the children of India.

The shrinking playground space is snatched away continuously from the children by the ever expanding real estate business. An old, ripped off football which could be played, no more exists. He is trying to wear it on his head instead and act like Prof. X, a character he has possibly seen somewhere in a comic book.

A quick look at the union budget 2018 makes it clear that children and education continue to remain unregistered as national priorities for this government. Children represents more than 40% of the country's population, but still continue to be neglected in terms of the budgetary allocated to them.



Children seen playing outside a warehouse in Narela, Delhi

Whether it is the monstrously growing city of Delhi or any other urban space, the story remains the same for children. They are constantly losing their playground as urbanization has left no stone unturned in creating concrete jungles. We have our priorities towards making smart cities, but limited or no scope for creating playgrounds for children.

We all are responsible when it comes to protecting children's right to play and we must remember that.

NATIONAL WATCH

72% of children not getting vaccinated on time: Survey

According to the recently published National Family Health Survey (NFHS) IV, as many as 72.5% of children surveyed in the age group of 12 to 23 months, considered a crucial period in a child's development and immunity-building, were not getting immunised on time.

The report indicates that the situation is the worst in Manipur, where 96.5% children in this age group were not immunised on time. This was followed by Arunachal Pradesh at 90%. Almost all the major states in the country have fared poorly in terms of age appropriate vaccination, the survey reported.



IMAGE: HINDUSTAN TIMES

HIGHLIGHTS

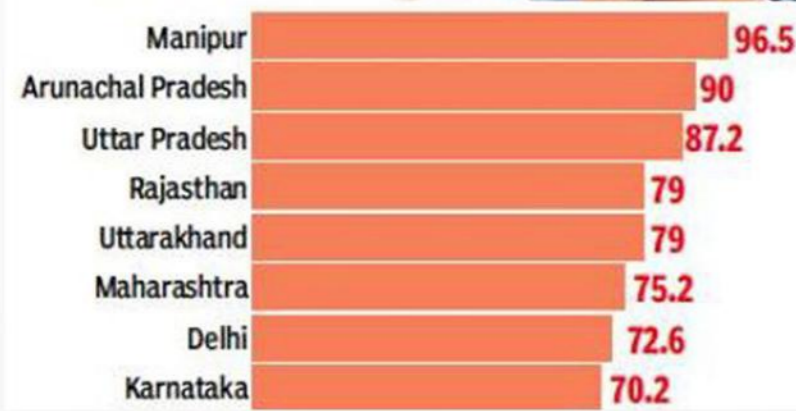
- > According to the recent National Family Health Survey, as many as 72.5% of children in the age group of 12 to 23 months were not getting immunised on time.
- > The report indicates that the situation is the worst in Manipur, where 96.5% children in this age group were not immunised on time.

While UP has 87.2% children in this category, Maharashtra has 75.2%, Delhi 72.6%, Rajasthan 79% and Karnataka 70.2%. Uttarakhand, too, has fared poorly with 79% children not getting age-appropriate immunisation.

The timing of the vaccination, say health experts, is crucial in order to ensure that the child develops immunity for a given disease at the correct age. Therefore, realising the need to monitor the administration of age-appropriate vaccination, a separate section was included in NFHSIV for the first time.

LOST TIME

Percentage of kids in age group of 12 to 23 months not vaccinated on time



"Non-adherence to vaccination schedule is one of the reasons for high infant mortality rate in our country. In fact, the recent NFHS data also shows that the infant mortality rate in India is currently at a high 41 deaths per 1,000 live births," said Dr DS Rawat, senior paediatrician and former director general (health) of Uttarakhand.



NCERT syllabus to be halved: MHRD sets ball rolling on cutting down school curriculum from classes 1 to 12

On February 2018, Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Prakash Javadekar had announced that the government is going to reduce the syllabus of NCERT textbooks from the 2019 academic session.

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has sketched a detailed plan for cutting down the school syllabus so that students can have thinner books and lighter bags. With the objective of all round development of students, NCERT has invited suggestions from teachers, parents, students and other stakeholders for rationalising the curriculum or the syllabus for the students from classes 1 to 12. Meanwhile, he council has identified the overlapping material across subjects and has also checked the content while assessing the comprehensibility of the language.

"In order to balance the curriculum for cognitive and analytical areas with the curriculum in other life skills including creativity and sports, specific suggestions are invited from teachers, academics, students, parents and other stakeholders associated with school education. The objective is to make the content more balanced in various subjects offered from class I to class XII as prescribed by NCERT/CBSE," the notification on NCERT website read. The last day to make suggestions has been set for 6th April. The council has also made it clear that the personal details of the person will remain confidential.

Last month, HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar had announced that the government is going to reduce the syllabus of NCERT textbooks from the 2019 academic session. Keeping student's all-round development into mind, the minister said that the school syllabus was more than that of BA and B.Com courses which were needed to be reduced by half so that students get time for other activities.



Photos: Rinku Bora/CECED/AUD/2018



Situational analysis completed under NCTE Delhi Govt. funded implementation project

- Abhidha Seth, Project Coordinator, CECED, AUD

CECED, AUD team is extensively working on various project activities, but the most important in the current phase are Situational Analysis and Curriculum Development.

To establish the developmentally and contextually appropriate pilot centers, it is essential to understand the, socio economic and physical context of the communities, mapping the existing preschool services, understanding parental aspiration and willingness of community to support and take ownership of the centers. Thus, a situational analysis on the communities was conducted. Wherein, 21 Early Childhood Care and Education practitioners were interviewed to understand the services provided in the communities for children (birth to 8 years) and challenges faced by them. Also, 296 parental interviews and a total of 36 Focus Group Discussions were conducted in the communities to

understand parental aspiration and willingness of community to support and take ownership of the centers. The project team is working on the analysis of the collected data.

Curriculum development is an on-going process. It directly enables the learners to become autonomous and active learners. The pilot centers will be catering to children between 3-6 years of age; the curriculum guidelines, daily schedule format, thematic web, weekly and daily plans are being developed under the project.

JOBS @ CECED

The Centre for Early Childhood Education and Development (CECED), Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) is inviting applications for project positions on purely contractual basis. Last date to apply **16.3.18**

Visit this link for more details:

<https://goo.gl/RgbM6K>

INTERNATIONAL DESK

Early childhood care and education as a cradle for social cohesion

News Source: en.unesco.org

Quality early childhood care and education (ECCE) has the power to transform children's lives. It can contribute to greater efficiency in education and health systems and a better skilled workforce. Attention to early childhood can also help build more



equal and inclusive societies by providing excluded and disadvantaged children with a strong foundation in lifelong learning, and throughout their lives.

The right time is now

Early childhood is the time when promoting gender equality and a culture of peace makes a true difference, as the pace of brain development is at its peak.

When children are exposed to values and attitudes that support gender equality and peace at an early age, they are likely to hold them in later stages in life.

Social cohesion

UNESCO has partnered with the French National Commission for UNESCO to organise the International Symposium "Early Childhood Care and Education: Cradle for Social Cohesion" being held on 5 to 6 March 2018 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The Symposium reflects UNESCO's commitment to expand and improve ECCE globally.