

Provincial and District Early Childhood Education (ECE) Plan

The early years of a child's life are recognized as a vital stage in his/her physical, Vocale, cognitive and emotional development. It lays the foundation for the development of lifelong skills and all subsequent learning. International experience now suggests that interventions in the early childhood provide a unique opportunity to avoid future learning problems, including drop-outs, low learning outcomes and low completion rates at primary level, resulting in benefit the family and community.

Neurological studies have found that child's brain development has particularly high potential around age three, when appropriate stimulating learning environment can increase the functioning of brain itself. Significant and critical brain development occurs before age 7, especially the first three years of life, when important neuronal connections operate very strongly, therefore the educationists suggest that formal education of the child must start at this early stage of life.

The Government of Balochistan in pursuance of the DAKAR Forum declaration 2000 has been making endeavors, within its limited resources, to promote primary education in this illiteracy stricken province. However in spite of huge investment the dropout rate has been alarmingly high and completion rate very low at primary level of education. This situation has retarded the pace of promotion of education to frustrating level.

Early Childhood education is a new phenomenon in Pakistan parterticularely in balochistan. The National Education Policy 2009 stipulates that ECE will be universally introduced in the system and every child will be provided opportunity and access to ECE. Obviously implementation of this intervention needs deep thinking, assessment of physical needs, training of teachers and offcourse provisionof adequate financial resources. Taking a note of importance of ECE the Government of Balochistan decided to develop Provincial and District Plans. The Policy Planning & Implementation Unit (PPIU), Government of Balochistan and Society for Community Support for Primary Education Balochistan (SCSPEB); who has already tested the model of ECE in 100 schools of 7 districts of Balochistan that was further replicated by UNICEF & SC-UK in 405 government schools; were assigned to develop the plans as a joint venture. Both the organizations requested UNESCO to extend financial support for the development of provincial and district action plans.

The UNESCO acceded to the request and financed the development of Provincial and 7districts plans. The 7-Distircts include: Awaran, MusaKhail, Pishin, Chaghi, Zhob, Sherani and Jaffarabad.

Notification of Working Group and Focal Persons:

The Additional Secretary (Dev), a focal person for developmental planning, declared Provincial FP for ECE plan. A working group was notified which included Directorates of Education, Schools and BOC, Director PITE, Deputy Secretary (Dev), Education Department, PPIU, Representative UNICEF, NCHD, SCSPEB, IDO and SEHER. Similarely DFPs were nominated who works in close collaboration with the Dy Commissioner and the Stakeholders of the District

Nomination Resource Persons:

The Working group associated 4 Resource persons (RPs) from the Education department (PPIU, Directorate School, BOC and PITE) for Collection and analyzing of Secondary Data and Capacity Building of District ECE Working Groups; Mr. Zulfiqar Jatoy, Deputy Focal Person, PPIU, Mr. Irfan Mohammad Khan, Dpty: Director (Schools), Directorate of Education (S), Ms. Seemab Rafique, Senior Research Officer, BOC&E, Ms. Hassan Jan, Dpty Director, Planning, PITE, supported in development of plans at Provincial and disstrict level.

Data Collection:

The secondary data was collected, analysed and used for the plan development. The Provincial Working group hold verious meetings to discuss the modalities, to take decisions and finalize the draft plans. The district Focal Persons (FPs) in collaboration with resource persons organized advocacy seminars. These seminars were well



participates by all the stake holders at district level and discourse in these seminars helped in setting a road map for the district plans.

Pre Plan Finalization Meeting:

SCSPEB with the help of RPs developed the details/templates of development of ECE plan and developed the first draft of Provincial ECE plan, The district groups under the respective focal person hold meeting at district headquarter to finalize their plan.

After a round of series of meeting with the Provincial working group and the district teams, a 2 days plan finalization meeting organized at Quetta to discuss the district draft ECE plan and guidance to fine tune their plans. The draft was considered to be finalized.

Launching of ECE Plan

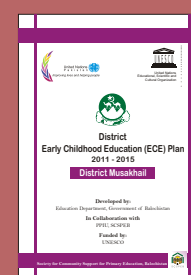
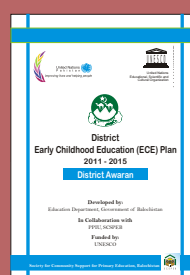
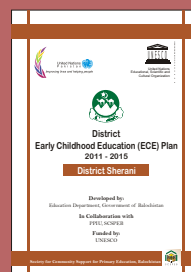
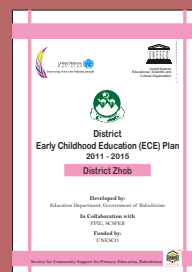
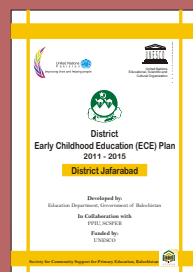
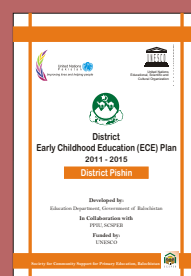
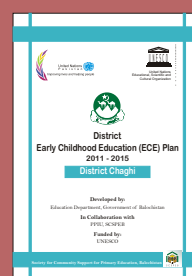
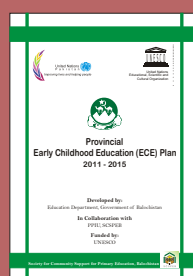
Finally a Provincial and 7 districts ECE plan launching ceremony was held at Boys Scouts Head Quarter on 17th May 2011. Mr. Tahir Mehmood Provincial Minister Education chaired the ceremony and Mr. Munir Badini Secretary Education was the chief guest of the event. Dr. Ruqiyah Hashmi President of SCSPEB and Minister for Provincial Coordinator, Mr. Rashid Razzaq Additional Secretary Education Mr. Qaisar Jamali Provincial Head UNESCO and Mr. Nizam Mengal Director Schools were the big pins of the Ceremony. All the district Education officers, Focal Persons from all the focused districts participated and presented their district plans.

Mr. Irfan Ahmed Awan MD-SCSPEB welcomed all the participants to the ceremony and expressed his gratitude for making possible the presence of all the stake holders in the meeting. He highlighted the importance of the ECE background of ECE campaign and the modalities adopted for the development of Provincial and District Plans. He appreciated the support provided by the Government and the hard work done by the authors of the plans. He said that the efforts were made to develop a futuristic yet a viable plan which may set a road map for the education department.

Mr. Javed Iqbal Nasir Senior Consultant PPIU presented the Provincial ECE plan and the District focal Persons make presentation of their respective district ECE plans in the seminar.

The plans highlighted the present situation in the province and the districts they contain information on short history, demography, existing resources and future plan for implementation of ECE. The plan also highlighted the possible resources which can be manipulated and utilized to achieve the objectives.

Mr. Irfan Ahmed Awan MD SCSPEB and Mr. Rashid Razzaq Additional Secretary Education (Dev), and the focal person presented sets of plans to the Minister Education Secretary Education and the Provincial Head UNESCO as a token of Gratitude and appreciation for their cooperation and support.



Address by the Honorable Chief Guests



Mr. Tahir Mehmood Khan Minister Education

Mr. Tahir Mehmood Khan highlighted the Importance of ECE and said that not only the Government of Balochistan is committed to carry out its promises made at international forums but the education is the highest priority of the regime. He requested all the stake holders to share their potential in making the Government plans a success. The honorable Minister appreciated the hard work done by PPIU & the SCSPEB in writing the plan and thanked that UNESCO for their financial support and expected similar cooperation in future.



Dr. Ruqyia Hashmi President SCSPEB and Minister for Provincial Coordination

Dr. Ruqyia Hashmi reiterated the Minister Education stating that the present Government was assigning highest priority to education because it sees the future of the Province in the promotion of education. She emphasized that one of the major reason of high drop out at initial stages of education is the sickness of the children.

She hoped that the SCSPEB will take an initiative as usual and utilize the BHU facilities for the Health of the children. She also promised that SCSPEB will support the Government in its efforts to introduce ECE universal.



Mr. Munir Badini, Secretary Education

Mr. Munir Badini appreciated the laborious work done and interest demonstrated by the district education officials in development of their district ECE plans. He said that he will do all his best to provide the resources for the implementation of plans and the Balochistan province will be a pioneer in the intervention and the other provinces will learn from us. He also appreciated the PPIU and the SCSPEB for putting their heads together for the development of plans. He expressed his gratitude to the UNESCO for their generous support in making the effort possible. He suggested that in future the PITE should be a hub of all the teacher Capacity Building efforts.



Mr. Rashid Razzaq Additional Secretary Education

Mr. Rashid Razzaq thought that the child should be the pivot of all the aspiration and endeavors of the nation. But unfortunately the child is vulnerable and badly ignored. He recapitulated all the efforts the working group on ECE had made to develop Provincial and district ECE plans. He hoped that the Government will provide the resources and the implementers will demonstrate their interest and skills in achieving the tangible outcomes. He appreciated the UNESCO for their financial and technical support and SCSPEB for supporting in all the logistics and their significant role in developing the plans.

Address by the Honorable Chief Guests



Mr. Qaisar Jamali, Provincial Head UNESCO

Mr. Qaisar Jamali appreciated the efforts of the PPIU and the SCSPEB in development of the Provincial and District ECE plans. He also appreciated the political support provided in this venture. Mr. Jamalli said that the UNESCO is always ready to support the Provincial Government in its endeavor to promote Quality Education in the Province. He was pleased to note that the Government of Balochistan and partners had utilized the resources provided by the UNESCO. He also hoped that the Government of Balochistan will take measures to implement the plan and provide access to the young children of the Province to quality Early Childhood Education.



Mr. Nizam Mengal Director Schools

The Director Education schools expressed his pleasure over the development of Provincial and District plans. He said that the successful exercise demonstrates the will of the Government to promote ECE in particular and education in general. He said that it is the first time that the province has assessed the needs and resources of the Province itself and has developed a plan based on the situation analysis. While development of the plan shows the capacity of the Provincial stake holders, it also exhibits the vision of the Government for a better future of our child.

SCSPEB News

- ECE Plan Finalization Meeting held for 2 days with Districts Education Officials / District Coordinators & District Focal Persons of 7 focused districts.
- Provincial & 7 districts ECE plan Launching Ceremony at 17th May, 2011; with Minister Education, Secretary Education, Additional Secretary Education, Provincial Head UNESCO & President SCSPEB as key participants.
- Celebration of the sacred event of Melad-un-Nabi on 27th May 2011 with great respect and reverence.
- SCSPEB Board meeting held on 26th April, 2011 to share organizational progress, challenges and planning for the upcoming year.
- Celebration of EFA Global Action week from 2nd to 8th May, 2011 in collaboration with Girl Guide & UNESCO.
- Mr. Jan Ali Changazi, Minister Quality Education visited SCSPEB office on 23rd June, 2011 to discuss the issues of Quality of Education and there resolution in coordination with SCSPEB and Education Department.
- Mr. Munir Ahmed Badini, Secretary Education along with Mr. Rashid Razzaq, Additional Secretary Education and Mr. Nizam Mengal, Director Schools, Javed Iqbal Nasir, Sr. Po PPIU visited SCSPEB office on 27th June, 2011 to discuss future Plan of Action.
- Dr. Aman, Dy Country Director, Mr. Shehzad Mithani, Director Education-Save the Children-International along with provincial team visited SCSPEB office on 28th June, 2011.



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