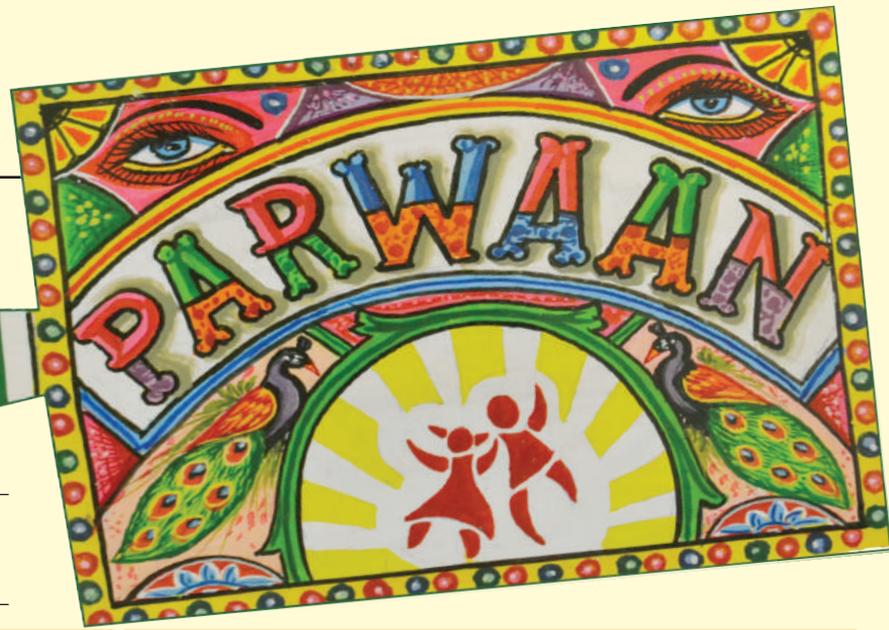


Newsletter

Issue March/April 2016



Parwaan holds Education Caucus Meetings

■ QUETTA

Parwaan National Center of Excellence on Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED) organized an orientation session with parliamentarians, civil society organizations and media persons to raise awareness on the significance of ECED. The session was held on 30th March 2016 at Serena Hotel, Quetta, Balochistan and was chaired by Ms. Samina Khan, Chairperson Standing Committee on Education, Provincial Assembly Balochistan.



Parliamentarians and civil society representatives participate in the caucus meeting organized by Parwaan to raise awareness about ECED in Balochistan.

The session discussed issues, challenges and progress on ECED in context of Balochistan. Participants proactively participated in the discussions, raised questions and gave productive remarks. Some participants called for research to highlight the reason for children drop out and called for Education Emergency in the province. While others emphasized the need for improved classroom environment, standardized curriculum and specialized teachers recruited on open merit. Civil society representatives raised concern on the government's priority for construction initiatives rather than quality education.

Parliamentarian, Mr. Nasrullah Khan Zayrai remarked that the situation in Balochistan is improving as the government is taking practical steps to improve the status of education. While highlighting the positive trends, he said that the teachers are now selected through NTS and the primer for the katchi class has been developed in local language. While concluding the session, Ms. Samina expressed that Balochistan has failed to introduce any holistic ECED policy and needs to fully focus on early years education and development needs.

■ PESHAWAR

Parwaan recently held a sensitization session on ECED for the members of Standing Committee on Education, Provincial Assembly of KPK. The purpose of this session was to sensitize Parliamentarians about the significance of First 1000 days and facilitate their support for ECED interventions in their respective constituencies. The session was held at the premises of Provincial Assembly of KPK, Peshawar and was chaired by Muhammad Arif, Chairperson Standing Committee on Education KPK/MPA Charsadda.

The session discussed issues, challenges and progress on ECED in context of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Particular emphasis was laid upon the disquieting health and education statistics in KPK and stressed on the need for intertwined interventions involving Health and Education sector.

Parliamentarians actively participated in the discussion and showed commitment to improve human development indicators by investing in ECED programs. MPA Bunair, Sardar Hussain Babak said, "The concept of First 1000 days is novel to me and I am sure many amongst us are equally unaware of how Health and Nutrition of pregnant mothers and children needs to be carefully monitored". Parliamentarians welcomed Parwaan representatives to hold similar sensitization sessions in Union Councils and ensured full support to initiate interventions at community level.



Members of Standing Committee on Education, Provincial Assembly, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with Parwaan team on the occasion of ECED awareness session organized by Parwaan.



Message from Professor Venita Kaul

Director, Centre for Early Childhood Education and Development (CECED) Ambedkar University Delhi

The first 8 years of life, known as the early childhood stage of a child's life, last a lifetime. These years are globally acknowledged to be most critical for life-long development. It is during these early formative years of life that critical periods are located for development of several cognitive, physical, social and psychomotor competencies, which significantly contribute to success in later life. It should therefore be our conscious and collective endeavour to ensure that all children below 8 years get an optimal foundation for their life long learning and development, which is their fundamental right.

India has been consistently giving due priority to development of young children's development. It has recently launched its National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC)-2016, drafted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. Some of the unfulfilled goals carry forwarded from the last action plan includes reducing infant mortality rate to 30 per 1000 live births and maternal mortality rate to 100 per 100,000 live births, universalization of early childhood care and education services, elementary education, complete abolition of child labor and child marriage. These will be the focal points of the new action plan.

While we continue to work at our respective locations in the context of the challenges in ECED at the national and regional levels, I look forward alongside to a fruitful and professionally fulfilling partnership between CECED, Ambedkar University Delhi and Parwaan. This partnership will we hope enable us to share our respective research and programmatic experiences and plan for collective evidence based advocacy for ECED in the South Asian region.

I advance my best wishes to Parwaan and its team and look forward to regular interactions.

ECED in India-Anganwadi Centers

There are an estimated 1.053 million Anganwadi centers in India which employ 1.8 million mostly-female workers and helpers across the country. They provide outreach services to poor families in need of immunization, healthy food, clean water, clean toilets and a learning environment for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, expectant and nursing mothers. According to government figures, Anganwadis reach about 58.1 million children and 10.23 million pregnant or lactating women. Anganwadis are India's primary tool against the scourges of child malnourishment, infant mortality and curbing preventable diseases. Supplementary Nutrition programme is also provided in Anganwadi Centres to the eligible children below 6 years of age, pregnant women and nursing mothers and 2 adolescent girls per centre in the age group of 11-18 years. This supplementary feeding is in addition to what they get at home with an intention to fill the gap between what is required in terms of calories, proteins, vitamins, minerals, fats etc., and what is available through their regular intake of food at home.



Pre-school activities going on in Anganwadi Centers to promote holistic development of children.

Opportunity for Students

Call for Proposals- Patrice L. Engle Dissertation Grant for Global Early Child Development

The Patrice L. Engle Dissertation Grant provides support for students interested in a career in global early child development who are from or doing research in low- or middle-income countries. The Grant includes US \$5,000 to support dissertation research and a 2-year student membership to SRCD. For details and application procedures, please see <http://www.srkd.org/advancing-field/srkd-awards-research-grants/patrice-l-engle-grant>

The 2016 Deadline for the Application is April 30th, 2016. Applications must be sent via email to Patrice.Engle.Grant@SRCD.ORG. Applicants will be notified of decisions by June 30, 2016.

Questions can be directed to Patrice.Engle.Grant@SRCD.ORG

Parwaan
National E9-ECED Centre of Excellence
Academy of Education Planning and Management
(AEPAM) Taleemi Chowk, G-8/1, Islamabad

Tell : 9251-8730590
Email: Parwaan.eced@gmail.com
Web : [facebook.com/parwaaneced](https://www.facebook.com/parwaaneced)
Follow us on Twitter: [@Parwaan_CGN](https://twitter.com/Parwaan_CGN)
Contact: Saima Qadeer Lead Coordinator
saimaqadeer1@gmail.com