

# Investing in Quality Child Day Care Centre for all the Youngest Children : A Smart Initiative with Big Returns

## Concept Note

Establishment of 20 Child Day Care Center project has been implemented by the Department of Women Affairs under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. This project integrates the Science of Human Brain Development, the Nurturing Care Framework of UNICEF and UNESCO's definition of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) learning environment.

Numerous scientific research provide evidence that if the number of populations with human qualities decreases in a society, then the nation will be benefited from investing in early years program because childhood makes us human. With the evidence of human brain development, internal evaluation of 20 child day care center project conducted by the Project Director, survey of working parents who have 0-6 years children in the project areas and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics data on the number of families having 0-6 years children, labour force participation of women, employed and unemployed labour force, we examined the rational of investing in universal early childhood care and education system of Bangladesh's children aged 0-6 years. The reason for doing this is that inequality takes root in the first five years and if we don't act now, we will

perpetuate cycles of inequality and poverty. The following information of human brain development highlights urgent needs for the inclusion of a comprehensive early childhood development plan:

<b>At Birth</b>	<b>A child's brain is immature.</b>
<b>0-5 Yrs</b>	<b>90% of child brain development occur up to age 5.</b>
<b>0-6 Yrs</b>	<b>Responsive care and appropriate stimulation are required for child cognitive, social, language, behaviour and emotional skills. Otherwise, these skills that are vital for a child's future academic achievement and well-being, will not develop naturally.</b>
<b>0-6 Yrs</b>	<b>Children may experience more than 6 types of specific mental health problems or disorders. If overlooked, more expensive interventions are required later in a child's life</b>
<b>Wake up warning</b>	<b>Unlike other cells in the body, the brain cannot regenerate if damaged.</b>

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Despite this evidence, there are significant numbers of children are excluded from the opportunity of regulated pre-primary and child day care services.

Even access to early childhood care and education remains highly unequal in terms of service provisions.

Supportive initiatives for children aged 0-6 years should begin as early as possible from the time of mother's conception.

Therefore, children from all socio-economic levels can benefit from universal nature of quality early child day care and education programs.

## Aim

This workshop is intended to support policy makers to deepen their understanding of the science supporting early childhood development and realize the importance of investing in young children and families through their policies and budgets.

Report to relevant policymakers and stakeholders about the successful outcome of the "Establishment of 20 Child Day Care Center Project" that highlights the financial benefits to investing in quality child day care center and rational of investing in early childhood care and education of all the youngest children.

Bring policymakers and stakeholders together to foster successful collaboration and partnerships maximize the use of existing infrastructure and funds through integrated interventions, make decisions on prioritising early years of all children and take transformative action on child care initiatives now.

## Theme

How a greater focus on early childhood would support child development, a more productive and sustainable workforce and generate financial benefits for the national economy each year.

At the end of the workshop, policymakers and other participants are expected to come up with the ideas of sectoral plans for advancing nurturing care of the youngest children of our country. A policy brief will be prepared based on participant's opinions and submitted to the Central Management Committee on Social Protection at the Cabinet Division.



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