

Center for Early Childhood Education and Development

Mission Statement

To contribute towards the national goals of social justice and equity by promoting developmentally and contextually appropriate ECED as every child's right to a sound foundation, and raising ECED to the forefront of policy formulation and effective and universal program implementation.

Broad Objective

To ensure all children below 8 years of age, particularly from diverse and disadvantaged social and economic settings, get an opportunity for a sound and equitable foundation and improve their chances for life.

Functional Domains and Objectives

Research, Documentation and Evaluation

Multi-disciplinary and multi-centric research focused on expanding the landscape of indigenous knowledge on child development/ early education, for evidence based policy analysis and advice.

Promotion of Quality with Equity

Creating momentum for quality with equity by designing and trialling developmentally and contextually appropriate standards/ guidelines for planning, implementation and management of ECED, in terms of curriculum, teacher development, parental awareness, supervision, monitoring and evaluation.

Advocacy and Networking

To link up with existing networks and create awareness among all stakeholders regarding developmentally appropriate ECED and serve as a clearing house for ECED through a 'single window' approach.

Proposed Structure and Business Model of the CECED

Structure

- A Centre within the organisational structure of AUD, with close links with AUD Schools for multi-disciplinary technical support
- A small core team to lead and coordinate its functions with new structures/ positions where necessary
- Quality assurance through Advisory/ Technical committees to provide overall guidance and review progress periodically
- Program to be implemented in multi-centric mode by engaging with existing resource persons/ institutions, to the extent possible, for sustainability and systemic impact.

Funding Mechanism

- Like all the other components of AUD, CECED will also figure in AUD's budget to cover core professional and administrative staff
- *Annual plan activities* proposed each year/ or for an extended period will be shared with interested development agencies/ GOI and other funding institutions for technical collaboration and funding support, including project staffing
- Over time a *corpus* is expected to be created from which CECED will be enabled to launch activities on its own, as well
- This model is expected to introduce implicitly significant elements of quality review/ assurance and accountability, in CECED's activities.