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Project number:

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Title:

Scaling up Quality Early Childhood Development Services(0 – 4 years), Presentation made to ECD Indaba, 04th June 2009

Authors:

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Suggested keywords:

ECD (Early Childhood Development); NIP (National Integrated Plan); social grants;

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HSRC RESEARCH OUTPUTS

6148

**Scaling up Quality
Early Childhood Development
Services(0 – 4 years)
Presentation to ECD INDABA
4th June 2009**

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HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council



Who is HSRC?

- It is a body set up by parliament to guide government on how to develop better policies and programmes to improve the lives of South Africans
- It does this by doing research which gives evidence of whether something is working or not.
- The unit I work for focuses on Poverty and Unemployment

Why we have a project on Scaling Up ECD?

- For a long time ECD was not considered very important work by government. They thought ECD was just work that mothers and community ladies did? But now they are understanding that if children get good ECD services they can have a better chance in life
- From 2004 Government has begun to realize the importance of ECD for young children: President Mbeki (2008) and President Zuma (2009)
- They were worried because of what is happening to our children – especially the young child 0-4 years.
 - 57 of 1000 children die before they are 5 years.
 - 1 in 4 children in SA of 1-3 years is stunted.
- They asked HSRC to help them plan for how to increase the number of children who were benefiting from ECD and the number of people who can get jobs working in ECD





Job creation and ECD

- Government has been trying since 2004 to create jobs in SA
- Big problem: SA has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world with over 5 million people unemployed.
- Government saw that ECD work could provide jobs for large number of people.
- What was good about ECD jobs is that it provided jobs for women, many of whom have had little chance for training and education

What do we mean by Early Childhood Development (ECD) Services?

- It goes beyond creches, day care centres and preschools.
- It includes all services for children 0-4 years including health care, nutrition, access social grants, mental development, social development – programmes such as child minding, home visiting, parent education, play projects, cognitive development, health programmes etc.

What do we mean to Scale Up ECD?

- ✓ Increase the numbers of children who are benefiting from ECD
- ✓ Increase the different types of services children 0-4 can get.
- ✓ Improve the quality and sustainability of ECD services

What we did?

- We started in 2007 with lots of research on all aspects of ECD.
- In 2008 the research was completed
- We found out – what is happening to young children
- We found out what is happening to those who are working in ECD
- We found out what government is doing or not doing.

Research Work

1. Early Childhood Development policy and child profile (0-4 year olds) in South Africa; a summary of policies and services.
2. Review of current Early Childhood Development service delivery in South Africa
 - 2.1 Government indicators and monitoring systems review
 - 2.2 Review of education and training
 - 2.3 Review of on the ground delivery models (local case studies)
 - 2.4 Government budget allocations, processes and systems
3. Innovations to inform Improved Early Childhood Development outcomes, scaling and job creation
 - 3.1 Specification of child and caregiver outcomes and measures
 - 3.2 Identification of inputs likely to lead to agreed levels of quality of ECD
 - 3.3 Review of existing and proposed job hierarchies
 - 3.4 Review of alternative on the ground delivery and supervisory models
 - 3.5 International case studies
4. Defining approach to innovating in the field
5. Integrated finding of background studies

+ ECD centre costing case studies



What we found from our Research?

Results that can help us to change for
the better

Laws and Policies

- SA has good laws and policies about ECD
- But we face many challenges in implementing these and so children are not benefiting
- We have the NIP: National Integrated Plan for ECD made in 2006. It says that children need a package of services – nutrition, grants, immunization, birth registration, stimulation, play, learning etc.
- They should get this through the home, in the community and in the centres (creches, preschools etc)
- What is wrong is that the government departments are not linking their work together properly to benefit children. One example is the Grants. If you get a grant schools expect you to use this money to pay school fees. But this grant is not for school fees.

Meet our Targets

- There are 5.2 million children aged 0-4 years in SA

- National Integrated Plan (NIP) for Early Childhood Development in SA 2005 – 2010 aims to reach 2.6 million poor and vulnerable children by 2010:

- > 20 % children reached through formal sites (e.g. creches, ECD centres etc)
- > 30 % children reached through community based programmes (e.g. IMCI, Grants, PMTCT, playgroups etc)
- > 50 % children reached through services directly targeting the household (e.g. birth registration, protection, hygiene, psychosocial care and support etc)



Targets vs capacity

- We are only reaching 600 000 children through centre based care at present – 0-4 year child population is 5.2 million.
- This means only a fraction of poor & vulnerable children reached, limiting impact on future participation.
- If we want to reach more children we have to increase our capacity at all levels



Funding

- Funding to run ECD services comes from a variety of sources:
 - ECD (0-4) subsidy from Dept. of Social Development
 - Fees paid by parents
 - Range from R 50 or less in poor communities to R90 – R120 per child in urban areas;
 - Fundraising – community, donors, in-kind contributions
- Our study of ECD Centres in the WC showed that the subsidy from government does not cover the cost of running the centre
- Many parents cannot afford to send children to preschools
- We found poor communities struggle to do fundraising in the community – people are too poor.

Funding, cont.

- Money available from government for ECD does not cover **start up costs** or **infrastructure costs**, but you need this to register for a subsidy.
- Not all the money that is given to ECD from Pretoria is used for ECD by Provincial Government
- Money for ECD is mainly for Centre based work.
- Not enough money being spent by government on ECD – this means that only a small number of poor children are benefiting.
- No clarity on who should be providing money for buildings etc.



Limited reach of government funding for ECD centers

Province	Children subsidised (N)	% poor children subsidised
EC	59 940	3
FS	28 558	13
G	21 117	6
KZN	59 000	8
L	56 223	10
MPA	35 095	13
NC	12 600	23
NW	15 165	5
WC	44 655	24
RSA	332 353	10



Children to Practitioner Ratios

Child Age	Assistant Carers
0 to 18 months	One assistant per practitioner
18 months to 3 Years	
3 to 4	
4 to 5	
Grade R	

Practitioner to Child Ratios	One assistant per practitioner
Latest N&S	
1:6	
1:12	
1:20	
1:20	
1:20	
1:30	



Education and Training for ECD

- We don't have enough trained ECD workers
- Most of the training of ECD workers is from the EPWP Programme – no fee is paid.
- It needs to be expanded so more people can benefit.
- When you go for EPWP training you get a stipend from government. From R 1000 to R 3000. But the earnings at the centres is much lower.
- So after training is finished people don't want to come back and work for the centres – many become Grade R teachers because you can get better paid.
- Problem is that children 0-4 years also need good trained workers.
- ECD centres need training in how to look after children, safety issues, how to stimulate children and how to look after money.
- Our research found that centres that don't have good financial management skills also can't get donations easily or the government subsidy.



Work conditions in ECD

- Poor working conditions for ECD workers
- Low pay, no benefits.
- Money from government does not always come regularly.
- Salary depends on money received for the month

Improving Quality of ECD Services

- Goal of ECD 0-4 programme = child development
- Possible to spend billions without having this impact

POOR Quality ECD Centres can Cause Damage



Lessons on Quality ECD

• Key Learnings from evaluated programmes globally suggest that quality interventions require :-

➤ **Begin early** even in pregnancy – starting with 3 and 4 year olds is too late

➤ **Integration** of health, nutrition, education, social and economic development and care in ECD programmes

➤ **Collaboration** between government and civil society organisations

➤ Lower child to care giver ratios and smaller group sizes for younger children.

➤ Staff who are appropriately trained, receive ongoing in-service training and supportive and continuous supervision.

➤ Involvement of parents as partners with ECD practitioners

➤ Combines a package of multiple interventions (birth registration, supplementary food, social grants, parent education etc.) and simultaneous delivery channels (home visiting, clinics, mass media, ECD centres etc)

• Substantial investment of resources required both for training and for payment of salaries for ECD practitioners.



What is HSRC doing now?

- We are helping DoSD to look at increasing money for non centre based services e.g. money for playgroups, home visitors etc.
- We are working with EPWP to increase job opportunities in ECD
- We are working with DOE to look at how to increase training for ECD – through learnerships and through FET colleges
- We are working with Local Government – Tshwane to help them improve their services to ECD

What needs to be done?

- We need to demand the following from government

- Increase in subsidy per child
- Increase money for ECD programmes
- Increase number of people who get training

- Get government to allocate funding for infrastructure through the Municipal infrastructure grant (MiG)

- Training on managing money

- Training to supervise ECD programmes

What can ECD centres do?

- Integrate your programmes to include other aspects of a child's development
- Supervise the workers to ensure that they provide quality care
- Monitor what you do? We can learn from our mistakes
- Use your centres to focus on the 0-4 years who are not in the centres
- Make sure that ECD is a top priority in the Municipal IDP