



From Early Child Development to Human Development

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Abstract: *A nation development depends upon its child development. From early years of childcare linked to successful growth of child as an adult. There are numerous steps are taken to early childhood development. The leading agencies, including WHO, UNICEF and World Bank have focused on the growth and development of child and also on human development. As they are closely correlated. The pathway that links ECD to HD are education, health, social behaviour, equality.*

Hence, providing children with better nutrition, education, social capital and equality leads to creating a better society with development human resource.

Key Words: Growth, Closely, Correlated, Society, HumanDevelopment, Early Child Development.

Introduction: A child's early years are critically important, for they provide the foundation for the rest of life, as an adolescent and as an adult. Children who are well nurtured can live well and create better societies for all.

Early child development (ECD) and human development (HD) are closely linked. Early child development refers to the combination of physical, mental, and social development in the early years of life, these dimensions that are commonly addressed by integrated programme of ECD. These programmes include intervention to improve the nutrition, health, emotional and intellectual development, and social interaction of children in the early years.

Human development refers to similar dimensions such as education, health, social development and growth at the scale of nation. The multidimensional framework for HD is one of the first proposal of the United Nations Development Programme in 1990.

Human development, broadly defined, is the overarching objective of most international and multinational development programmes. Because, HD is so closely linked to ECD, investing in ECD is the natural starting point for these programmes and for the public policy that frames these programmes. Four critical "pathways" link ECD to HD.

The first pathway runs through education. Interventions during the early years of a child have multiple benefits for subsequent investments in the child's education, ranging from on-time enrolment in elementary school to an increased probability of progressing to higher levels of education.

* The second pathway is through health. Like education, investments in health are an investment in human capital and have long-term benefits.

* The third pathway links the notion of improved social behaviour with the formation of social capital.

* In the fourth pathway, ECD is linked to HD by the potential of ECD programmes to address inequality in society. And, ultimately, education, health, social capital, and equality are linked to economic growth and, hence, to HD.

Early Child Development and Human Development through Education:

The first pathway, from ECD to HD, is through education. The importance of ECD for subsequent educational performance, and the role of education in economic and human development, are well known and supported by extensive scientific evidence accumulated from neurophysics, the medical sciences, child development, education, sociology, and economics. Ample evidence documents the importance of the early months and years in life for a child's physical, mental, and social development. The rapid development of the brain



during the early months and years is crucial, and newborns who receive proper care and stimulation will be readier to enter school on time and to learn.

Children participating in ECD programmes receive psycho-social stimulation, nutritional supplementation, and health care, and their parents receive training in effective childcare. Children who have participated in these programmes show higher intelligence quotients and improvements in practical reasoning, eye and hand coordination, hearing and speech, and reading readiness. Grade repetition and dropout rates are lower, performance at school is higher, and the probability that a child will progress to higher levels of education increases.

Over the long term, these children benefit from earlier schooling, better schooling, and more schooling, making them more productive and more successful as adults. The public benefits of education are also well known. For society, they include greater ability to adopt new technologies, better functioning of democratic processes, lower fertility rates, and lower crime rates. As firmly established in the economic literature on development, education is also important for economic growth.

The education pathway clearly demonstrates that the link between ECD and HD is straightforward, as abundantly documented by scientific evidence. Increased investments in ECD programmes can be fully justified, and usually are, based on this evidence alone. Good education is a goal in itself and fosters economic prosperity. Yet, three additional pathways deserve at least the same attention as education.

For many decades, the leading development agencies, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Bank, have emphasized the importance of providing good nutrition, immunization, and other basic health care services for young children. The health benefits of these services are immediately evident, and the cost-effectiveness of interventions to improve these

services is well established. Despite this knowledge, and shamefully, millions of children in developing countries still die before they have lived 1 year, and those who survive suffer from a myriad of easily preventable diseases.

ECD programmes can make a dramatic difference. They are associated with decreased morbidity and mortality among children, fewer cases of malnutrition and stunting, improved personal hygiene and health care, and fewer instances of child abuse. Less well known are the strong links between trauma in the early years of life and an individual's health as an adult. Recent studies show that the links between health and nutrition in the early years of life and one's health status as an adult are much more numerous and stronger than previously known. The range of adult health outcomes now known to be associated with growth in utero and early life development, or lack of, includes blood pressure, respiratory function, and schizophrenia. Childhood social and educational factors also are strongly associated with physical and mental health outcomes in adult life.

Scientific evidence of these links is also available in relation to the crucial period of brain development in utero and shortly after birth. Infant malnutrition has been associated with diabetes and reduced stature as an adult. Infection early in life has been related to the development of chronic bronchitis, asthma, Parkinson's disease, and multiple sclerosis in adulthood. And, low birthweight has been correlated with subsequent increased blood pressure, chronic pulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease, coronary heart disease, and stroke. Thus, although an investment in basic health and nutritional services for young children can be justified by immediate health and anthropometric outcomes for children, the linkage to their health status as adults heightens the importance of the interventions, which are standard components of integrated early child development programmes.

Conclusion: Early child development provides



children with good nutrition, reduce poverty, immunization, reduce malnutrition, and education.

The intervention of ECD programmes may bring drastic change in the lives of children in particular and nation in general. Because the early year is in threat to various diseases that can hamper mental, physical, social and economic development.

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