

SUMMARY

Children are the future of our country. They are the responsibility of all the stakeholders viz. family, community, school and the government. The Government of India has initiated and implemented many policies, schemes and programmes to cater to the welfare of all children. These initiatives serve as pathways for creating a conducive environment and facilitating children during their early stages of development and learning. You learnt in this lesson about some of policies, schemes and programmes that have been implemented so far for the holistic development and wellbeing of children.

NEEDS FOR GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR ECCE

Build Your Understanding

All children must have access to opportunities of healthy development and learning in a safe and conducive environment.

Not only in India but the world over, people have realized the significance of early years in the rapid development of children in all domains.

Hence, to ensure survival, health, nutrition, care and education of young children in the early years, various interventions are done at the national, state and district levels from time to time.

The National Policy on Education (NPE) 1986

- To promote education for the welfare of all its citizens
- It stresses on promoting a child-centred and play-based ecce programme and rejects introduction of the 3rs at an early stage
- Involvement of the local community in the ecce programmes.

National Nutrition Policy, 1993

- Adequate and healthy nutrition is vital for holistic development of children.
- to tackle the problem of under-nutrition and malnutrition in the country, thereby aiming to improve the nutritional status across society.

- It implies that mothers be given proper support and information on effective nutrition for the growth of their children.

The National Policy for Children NPC 2013

- First National Policy for Children (NPC) in 1974 as one of the major initiatives for the wellbeing of children
- The NPC, 1974 was revised in 2013, reaffirming commitment to healthy development and protection of all children.
- NPC, 2013 identifies survival, health, nutrition, development, education, protection and participation as the undeniable right of every child and the key priority.

National Early Childhood Care and Education Policy, 2013

- The Policy commits to universal access to quality early childhood education to all children under six years of age.
- Vision – to achieve holistic development and active learning capacity of all children below six years of age by promoting free, universal, inclusive, equitable, joyful and contextualised opportunities for laying foundation and attaining full potential.

The National Health Mission NHM, 2013

- The NHM envisages achievement of universal access to equitable, affordable and quality health care services that are accountable and responsive to people's needs.

ECCE in the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17)

- Emphasizes the need to address areas of systemic reform in ECCE across all channels of services in the public, private and voluntary sectors.
- Aim - to redefine ICDS non-formal preschool education to ECCD, with additional and trained human resources.
- Introduced of a developmentally appropriate curriculum framework with joyful early learning for children between three and six years of age.

India New-born Action Plan INAP 2014

- To reduce preventable new-born deaths and stillbirths in the country with strategic interventions
- Six pillars of interventions:
 - Pre-conception and antenatal care;
 - Care during labour and childbirth;
 - Immediate new-born care;

- Care of healthy new-born;
- Care of small and sick new-born;
- Care beyond new-born survival

Sustainable Development Goals SDGs 2030

- Adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.
- There are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries

National Plan of Action for Children NPAC, 2016

- Succeeds the Plan of Action adopted in 2005.
- Focuses to reach and serve the 'Last Child First'.
- Targets to ensure all children their right to survival, dignity, health, nutrition, education, development, protection and participation.

National Health Policy NHP, 2017

- The National Health Policy (NHP) was formulated in 1983, 2002 and in 2017.
- Aim - is to shape health systems in this area such as investments in health, organization of healthcare services, prevention of diseases and promotion of good health.
- The attainment of the highest possible level of health and wellbeing for all at all ages

National Nutrition Mission, POSHAN Abhiyan, 2018

- Launched in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan in March 2018 with a vision to ensure India is free of malnutrition by 2022.
- To reduce the level of under-nutrition by ensuring convergence of various nutrition related schemes.
- Prevent stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth rate.
- To ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children.

PROGRAMMES AND SCHEMES

Build Your Understanding

The concern for the health and general well-being of the mother and the child has motivated the government to launch programmes and schemes from time to time to address this need

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, 1975

- One of the world's largest programs for early childhood care and development comprising all children in the age group of 0-6 years.
- It also caters to the needs of pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- The scheme covers six services –
 - Supplementary nutrition;
 - Pre-school non-formal education;
 - Nutrition and health education;
 - Immunization;
 - Health check-up;
 - Referral services.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), 1995

- to improve the nutritional status of children studying in primary classes all over the country
- Aim – to enhance enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children.
- In October 2007, the Scheme was extended to cover children of upper primary classes i.e. class VI to VIII as well.

Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)

- Launched on 12 April 2005
- Aim - to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality by promoting institutional delivery among poor pregnant women.

Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)

- Launched in 2011
- to provide completely free and cashless services to pregnant women and sick new-borns in government health institutions in both rural and urban areas.

Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)

- Envisages Child Health Screening and Early Intervention Services, which is a systemic approach of early identification and link to care, support and treatment.
- Includes early detection and management of a set of 30 health conditions prevalent in children less than 18 years of age.

- Improving the quality of life and enabling all persons to achieve their full potential.

Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS), 2009

- Targeted at building a protective environment for children in difficult circumstances, as well as other vulnerable children.

Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), 2018

- Launched in 2018 for school education extending from pre-school to class 12.
- Aim - to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education from preschool to senior secondary stage.
- Emphasises safe and secure infrastructure including sanitation facilities in preschools
- Stresses on developmentally appropriate curriculum, learning activities, pedagogical practices and assessment
- Professional development of teachers
- Community participation and engagement.

Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat Scheme

- Was launched by Government of India in 2014
- To improve and promote the foundational learning of early language and literacy and early numeracy in early grades of primary school particularly classes I and II.

Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers

- Was launched by the Government of India to establish crèches and provide quality day-care facilities for children of working mothers among all socio-economic groups in both in the organized and unorganised sectors.
- It offers care and education services for children below six years of age

National Minimum Guidelines for Setting up and Running Crèches under Maternity Benefit Act 2017

- Under the Act, the crèche facility is mandatory for every establishment employing 50 or more employees.
- It provides guidelines for setting up and running crèches for children between six months to six years and to standardize the quality of these crèches.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORKS

Build Your Understanding

- ✚ Curriculum framework can be described as comprehensive and organised guidelines or a set of standards guiding all the learning experiences to be given to children at a particular stage to attain the desired learning outcomes.
- ✚ Provides guidelines about what and how to be taught to children including assessment procedures.

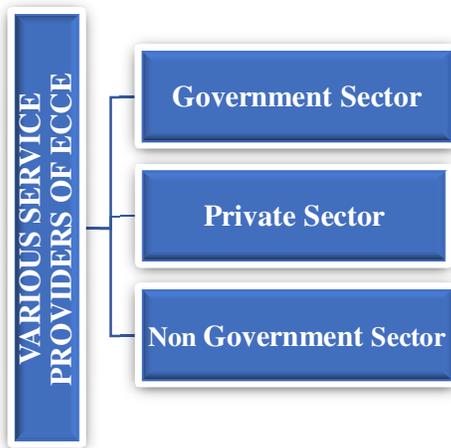
National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005

- Provides the framework for curriculum development and teaching practices for school education programmes in India.

- In the context of ECCE, the framework advocates those young children be provided care, opportunities and experiences for their holistic development including physical, cognitive, social and emotional.

National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Curriculum Framework, 2013

- A significant and comprehensive guiding document with aim to promote quality and excellence in early childhood care and education throughout the country.
- Emphasizes children’s holistic development and learning.
- Aims at creating an enabling environment and providing need-based inputs as per children’s developmental and contextual needs.
- The Framework also acknowledges the importance of involvement of parents, family and community in ensuring quality ECCE



EVALUATE YOURSELF

- Q1.** Describe Article 39 of the Constitution of India.
- Q2.** Critically analyze National Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Curriculum Framework, 2013

PRACTICE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Write a report on the various service providers of ‘Early Childhood Care and Education’ including Government initiatives and their objectives