

Contribution of Child Care Centers to Early Childhood Development

A case study from the Kathmandu Valley of Nepal

By

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A thesis submitted to Tribhuvan University, Faculty of Education, Dean's Office

In partial fulfilment of the requirements for

The Master of Philosophy in Education

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Contribution of Child Care Centers VIII

Acceptance and Recommendation

The undersigned certify that we have read, approved, and recommended to the Faculty of Education, Dean's Office, Tribhuvan University for acceptance, a thesis entitled **Contribution of Childcare Centres to Early Childhood Development: A Case Study from Kathmandu Valley of Nepal** by Raj Kumar Baral in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Philosophy in Education with specialization in Development Studies.

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Kathmandu, Nepal

April, 2011

Declaration

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Raj Kumar Baral

Abstract

This thesis explores the contribution of child care centers in Kathmandu valley to early childhood development. Relevant data was collected through questionnaires, interviews, observation, and discussion with over one hundred participants. A general review of pertinent literature is also included to gain perspective. A broad range of theoretical lenses were used to analyze and interpret the data including the perspectives of early childhood development, economic, cultural sociology, and psychology. Analysis of the data showed that commercial child care centers in Kathmandu are in crisis: they need to contribute more to mental and psychological development of the children. Due to economic constraints - they have inadequate materials, facilities, and number of teachers. To address these issues, the author suggests that a special authority be created immediately to monitor commercial childcare centers and create common standards for their operation. Additionally, a policy to include teachers and parents in the management of and decisions making procedures of CCCs should be implemented.

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Abbreviations

ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
AECD	Aboriginal Early Childhood Development
BPEP I	Basic and Primary Education Project I
CBECD	Community Based Early Childhood Development
CCC	Child Care Center
CERID	Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Development
DEO	District Education Office
DTP	Diphtheria Tetanus and Pertussis
DOE	Department of Education
ECE	Early Childhood Education
ECCE	Early Child Care Education
ECCRN	Early Child Care Research Network,
EFA	Education for All
EFA-NPA	Education for All-National Plan of Action

GUC	Grown Up Children
IDA	Iron Deficiency Anemia
I/NGOs	International/National Non-governmental Organizations
KG	Kindergarten
LDTA	Local Development Training Academy
M.A.	Master in Arts
MMR	Measles Mumps and Rubella
NICHD	National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
NPOA	National Plan of Action
SCN	Save the children Norway
SC-US	Save the Children United States
SES	Socio-economic Status
SK	Shishu Kaksha
S.L.C.	School Leaving Certificate
T.V.	Television
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

WDTC Women Development Training Center