

## 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.