

INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

The establishment of Early Childhood Care and Education Centre at GCOE

Introduction :

The first six of life are critical years of human life since the rate of development in these years is more rapid than at any other stage of development. Global brain research also informs us about the significance of early years for brain development. Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) makes a positive contribution to children's long term development and learning by facilitating an enabling and stimulating environment in these foundation stages of lifelong learning. Govt.College of Education is the only Govt. institution that provides teacher training programmes and prepares students for teaching in different educational institutions. In order to cater the first stage of development i.e. infancy, this institution has the vision to initiate the proposed programme. Early Childhood Care and education aims to provide holistic development by providing a healthy and happy environment to the beginners. This programme aims to nurture the children for the mental and physical development and to prepare them for schooling with the right attitude and habits.

Objectives: The specific objectives of the certificate programme are to enable the learner:

- I. To understand the development of children from birth to six years of age;
- II. To plan play activities for fostering development;
- III. To appreciate the health and nutritional needs of young children and to be able to evaluate a diet as regards nutritional adequacy;
- IV. To be able to identify common childhood illnesses, take care of the sick child and take preventive measures;
- V. To interact with the community and impart simple health, nutrition and preschool education and early childhood care and education messages;
- VI. To identify children with special needs, to provide early stimulation and take preventive action;
- VII. To gain knowledge and develop skills and attitudes required for working with young children in crèches, preschools, nursery schools, kindergartens and day care centres.

Roadmap: This skill based programme was proposed by Higher Education Department, UT of J&K. It gives an add on approach to the current curriculum because it trains the teachers to deal with age group between 3 to six years. It will be a certificate course for six months and any student with 10+2 can avail this programme. Govt. College of Education will be the hub for this programme with six Spoke colleges that will work under the guidance of this prestigious institution.

Major milestones: To start this programme few milestones have been achieved like designing of Curriculum framework, required infrastructure and a proposal has been also sent to UGC for approval and financial assistance (Sanction is pending).

Future Vision: This programme has the future vision to strengthen the early childhood care workforce as it aims to meet the third sustainable development goal i.e. Health and wellbeing.

As it will be a skill based course, a creche and playway will be started with bidirectional aim:

- (a) to train students with practical work.
- (b) to provide a safe place to the children when parents are at work.

The above mentioned points makes this as a unique initiative of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and college projects this as an Institutional Distinctiveness.