

FORMAL EDUCATION PROPOSED FROM AGE OF 3

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Education and related issues

Additional costs will come in the form of teacher recruitment and training, infrastructure and learning materials, as well as nutritional aspects (including the proposal to provide breakfast to young children), said Ministry officials. The Ministry does not yet have accurate data on what percentage of children are neither in pre-schools nor the anganwadi system. Given that the WCD Ministry has been in charge of this for over 40 years, it's not clear if they would be willing to give it up, said one official.

The draft Policy praises the contribution of anganwadis to improving health and nutrition, but notes that their record in education is not so strong. "Anganwadis are currently quite deficient in supplies and infrastructure for education; as a result, they tend to contain more children in the 2-4 year age range and fewer in the educationally critical 4-6 year age range; they also have few teachers trained in or specially dedicated to early childhood education," says the draft Policy.

It adds that private pre-schools often consist of formal teaching and rote memorisation with limited play-based learning. A 2017 study by the Ambedkar University showed that "a significant proportion of children in India who completed pre-primary education, public or private, did not have the needed school readiness competencies when they joined primary school, says the draft Policy.

Three languages

The draft Policy suggests a new integrated curricular framework for 3 to 8-year olds with a flexible system based on play, activity and discovery, and beginning exposure to three languages from age 3 onwards. This framework would be implemented by training and strengthening anganwadi capabilities and linking them to a local primary school, co-locating anganwadis and pre-schools with primary schools, or building stand-alone pre-schools also linked to a local primary school.

All aspects of early childhood education must come under HRD Ministry, says the draft Policy, just as health services in anganwadis lie with the Health Ministry. A joint task force from Health, HRD and WCD will draft "a detailed plan outlining the operational and financial implications of the integration of early childhood education with the school education system".

Join our online subscriber community

Experience an advertisement-free site with article recommendations tailored for you

Already a user? [Sign In](#)

To know more about Ad free news reading experience and subscription [Click Here](#)

or Please whitelist our website on your Adblocker

END

Downloaded from [crackIAS.com](#)

© **Zuccess App** by crackIAS.com