

Parental Perception Towards Preschool Education Imparted at Early Childhood Education Centers

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KEYWORDS Preschool Education. ICDS Centers. Preschool Centers. Parental Perception

ABSTRACT The present research was conducted to assess parental perception towards preschool education imparted at early childhood education centres. The sample comprised of 200 parents (100 mothers and 100 fathers) with at least one child in the age group of 3 to 6 years. Half of the selected parents were those who had enrolled their children at anganwadi centers and other half was those who sent their children to other preschool centers. The results revealed that the parents irrespective of whether they sent their children to anganwadi or preschools held similar views about the meaning of preschool education, skills acquired at ECD centers, teaching methodology, and role of ICDS centers in preschool education. Most parents (81%) thought of preschool education as a combination of concepts which included an age bound format related to preparation for primary schooling and provision of learning in an interactive manner. Most parents (25%) felt that children who attend early childhood development centers (ECD) cultivate good health and hygiene habits, develop preliteracy skills (19%) and communication skills (16%). Majority of parents perceive that play way approach as a best method for imparting early childhood education. Significant differences were found among the awareness of parents regarding ICDS scheme. Most parents were aware about the nutrition facility only and did not consider these centers are adequately equipped to provide preschool education. Parents sending their children to regular preschool centers were found to be less aware about ICDS scheme and its role in preschool education.