

**4th International Conference**  
**On**  
***‘Early Childhood Development and Emergencies: Way Forward’***  
***14th and 15th November, 2018***

**Emergencies in India:**

India, because of its unique geographical location and other circumstances is said to be the third worst affected country by natural disasters since 1995. Unfortunately the impact of these disasters is manifold and often heightened because of poverty, poor preparedness and mitigation efforts, and indifferent systems as weak enforcement of standards.

Apart from natural disasters, select areas in India are experiencing endemic strife and violence these include areas in North East, Jammu and Kashmir and in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts in select states. The nature of the civil strife, its antecedents, duration and intensity differs in the three areas, but it is true that the people, particularly children in these regions remain highly vulnerable and affected.

The present conference **Early Childhood Development and Emergencies: Way Forward** endeavors to bring together national and international ECD professionals and practitioners to reflect on some key themes related to ECD in Emergencies. It is increasingly evident that the rights and needs of the children in the age group 0 to 8 years during emergencies need more focused and nuanced attention to strengthen the existing policies, practices and evidence building in early childhood development.

**Objectives:-**

1. Generate awareness on the vulnerability of young children and their families during emergencies and the need for improved ECD emergency response and preparedness.
2. Provide platform for collective discussions and reflections on the critical issues around ECD in Emergency Context.
3. Build Knowledge by sharing emerging perspectives, good practices and lessons learned in the area of ECD and Emergencies.

4. Generate recommendations for practitioners, researchers and policy makers in the field of ECD for strengthening programmes, systems and policies to ensure the rights and well-being of young children in context of emergencies.

## **OUTCOMES:-**

The proposed conference is one of its kinds and attempts to generate a shared understanding on the issues and challenges related to ECD in emergency context. It will provide a common information-sharing platform across practitioners, researchers and policy makers to learn from global and national experiences. A tangible outcome of the conference will be the Conference Report highlighting the key issues and recommendations.

The report will be shared with relevant Government Departments like, Women and Child Development (WCD), Human Resource Development, and Institutions like National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, NIPCCD, as well as with NGOs at national and international level.