

**Office of the
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Press Invite/Release

JMI to organize International Conference on Early Childhood Development and Emergencies

Centre for Early Childhood Development and Research (CECDR),JMI is organizing two day International Conference on a very important topic “Early Childhood Development and Emergencies: Way Forward” on 14th & 15th November 2018. This is fourth edition of the International Conference which endeavors to bring together national and international ECD professionals and practitioners from UNICEF, NDMA, NIDM, Save the Children, NUEPA, Ambedkar University, Delhi and others who would reflect on some key themes related to ECD in Emergencies. This time there will be more focus to spark conversations around the critical issues in Emergency Context, having key themes like:

- Emergencies and ECCD in India: Overview, Status, Impact and Challenges
- Climate Change, Urbanization, Increased Epidemics: Emerging Risks (international speakers) Beginning Early: Promoting Social Cohesion
- Ensuring Survival, Growth, and Development in Emergency Contexts
- Working with Families and Communities
- Issues of Child Protection and Violence in Emergencies

This theme originates from the current scenario in India that highlights that even though we have the national policies and systems in place, the actual response to any emergency is diverse. India is not only experiencing natural calamities or disasters but endemic strife and violence that has happened in the past in the areas of North East, Jammu and Kashmir and in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) has affected childhood and children in many ways. The recent floods in Kerala are an example which left children under the danger of vulnerability and abuse. Protecting children in humanitarian and natural crisis should be the priority, facilitating smooth recovery of young children at the time of emergency. Evidence also informs that robust child protection systems are an important component of emergency preparedness.

Since the last one decade CECDR,JMI is dedicated to address the challenges of early childhood development in a holistic manner. Thus, this time the conference plans to focus

on understanding early childhood development and emergencies. 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. A tangible outcome of the conference will be a draft policy brief highlighting the key issues and recommendations. The aim of this brief will be to advocate the primacy of children, particularly early childhood development in times of emergencies.

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