



Education



ICF Early Education Services (EES), India

ICF's innovative solutions and client satisfaction have made it a leader in global consulting for over 30 years, customising and designing services to meet clients' unique goals and objectives. Since 2007, Early Education Services (EES) India has offered locally tailored services to help programmes meet mandated requirements and demonstrate accountability to funding sources. Our specialists support government, private, and non-profit organisations in achieving the highest possible quality programmes and services for children. EES India offers:

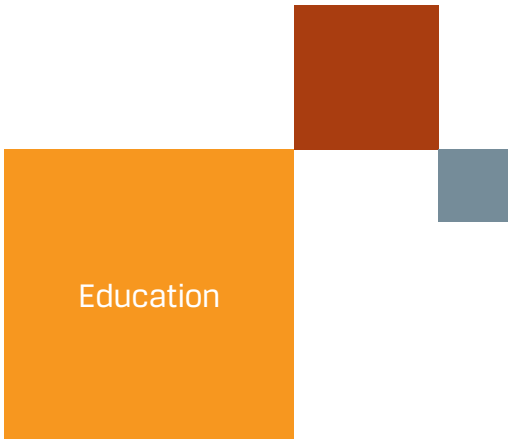
- Research and Evaluation
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Corporate Child Care

ICF helps clients achieve their goals in early education with services that are research-based, culturally relevant, and grounded in principles of adult learning theory. Our innovative solutions cover a continuum from advice and planning to implementation and improvement.

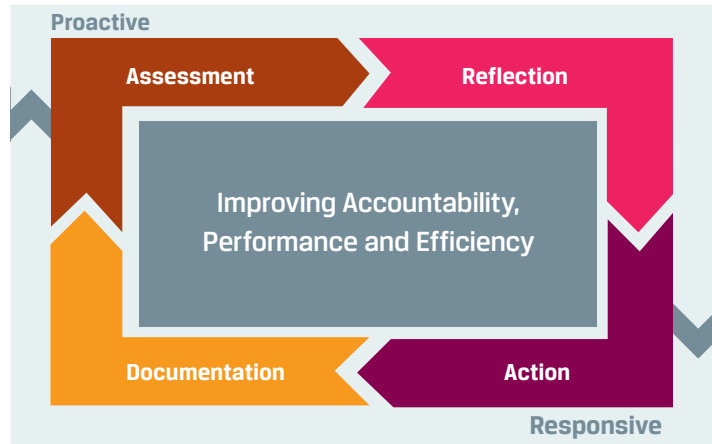
A Customised Approach for Action-Oriented Solutions

ICF's methodology is based on a continuous cycle of assessment, reflection, action, and documentation—the ARAD model. ARAD represents a paradigm shift in early childhood care and education training, away from generic services to a customised and individualised approach that delivers the most relevant services for specific populations. We integrate the ARAD model at the individual, programme, or system level to improve accountability, performance, and overall efficiency.

Our team of specialists is proficient in applying the ARAD approach along with best practices, lessons learned, and the most up-to-date research and guidance in the field. From the powerful combination of this theoretical expertise and our extensive real-world experience with children of all ages and within all early care settings, EES India's clients receive programme support that reflects the best of both worlds.



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ICF achieves desired results by guiding clients through projects and planning processes that are grounded in rigorous research, thorough evaluation, and current practice in the field of early child care and education. The hallmark of ICF's research and evaluation studies is our ingenuity in blending research rigor with practical applications. We understand the programmes being studied, the cultural contexts in which the research will be conducted, and how the results will be optimally used. We employ an array of research methods including quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis, and create effective research reports and briefs.

Featured Research and Evaluation Projects

Our research and evaluation clients achieve desired results through ICF 's understanding of the programmes being studied, their cultural contexts, and how results will be optimally used. Solutions are grounded in rigorous research, thorough evaluation, and current best practice in the field of early child care and education.

Project: Transitions for Young Tribal Children in Odisha (2011-2015)

Client: Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF)

Funded by Bernard van Leer Foundation, ICF examined the impact of a mother tongue-based multilingual education programme (MLE) implemented by People's Rural Education Movement (PREM) in Odisha. The longitudinal study spanned four years and tracked children from early childhood education (ECE) centers to Class 2 in primary schools. ICF utilized a quasi-experimental research design and mixed methods approach (quantitative and qualitative) to examine the impact of MLE interventions on tribal children of Odisha.

Project: Evaluation of In Defence of Child (2009, 2012) and Civil Registration of Children (CRC) (2010)

Client: Committee for Legal Aid to Poor (CLAP), Odisha

ICF conducted evaluations of three projects implemented by CLAP. The consultative participatory evaluation methodology comprised of desk review, onsite field visits and interactions with stake holders. The reports analysed the progress made, constraints in project implementation, and recommendations for both the implementing and funding organizations along with follow up strategic plans.

Project: Evaluation of In Defence of Child (2009, 2012) and Civil Registration of Children (CRC) (2010)

Client: Committee for Legal Aid to Poor (CLAP), Odisha

ICF conducted evaluations of three projects implemented by CLAP. Evaluation methodology was participatory and consultative, comprising desk review, onsite field visits and interactions with stake holders. Reports presented analysis of progress and constraints along with recommendations for implementing and funding organizations and follow-up strategic plans.





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ICF supports early education programmes through comprehensive customized training and technical assistance (T&TA) services that incorporate extensive experience and functional expertise with best practices and current research in the field. Our services help improve programme quality, ensure that children enter school ready to learn, and result in more positive educational outcomes for young children and their families. We provide training opportunities that incorporate adult learning theory and build on existing knowledge and competency of the participants to achieve quality programmes.

We provide professional development workshops to early education providers, programme managers, advisory boards, corporate representatives, and parents that align the adult learners needs with our talented early childhood experts.

Project: Training Curriculum and Methodology Assessment (2007-2008)

Client: Sesame Workshop India, Delhi

To understand the broad themes and principles that govern curriculum construction and transaction, ICF conducted a review of current training programmes for teachers and educators in Education and Early Child Development (ECCD). ICF reviewed the different training programmes on national standards to understand the innovative means through which the curriculum for teachers/ caregivers gets transacted. The study methodology included a comprehensive review of literature, primary and secondary data analysis, on-site visits, and focus group discussions.

Project: Preschool Content Mapping Study (2007-2008)

Client: Sesame Workshop India (SWI), Delhi

ICF conducted a research study to map existing preschool content and material available with the NGO sector in Delhi. ICF provided a detailed report of best practices in material development along with recommendations for material prepared by SWI. Findings from the research study, which included a comprehensive review of literature and on-site visits, were utilized in future development.

Project: Preparing Teachers for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) (2010 - 2011)

Client: Centre for Early Childhood Education and Development (CECED), Ambedkar University

Funded by the National Council of Teacher Education, the CECED conducted research to study the practice of teacher education in early childhood care and education in India. ICF was the technical partner for the project. The study reviewed the availability, coverage, and nature of pre-service training for teacher education and informed central and state policy-level reforms for teacher education in ECCE.

Featured Training and Technical Assistance Projects

Whether the goal is improved programme quality, ensuring that children enter school ready to learn, or more positive educational outcomes for young children and their families, early education programmes benefit from ICF's experience. Our comprehensive customized training and technical assistance (T&TA) services incorporate functional expertise with best practices and current research in the field. We provide training opportunities that incorporate adult learning theory and meet participants where they are in their learning. Professional development workshops for early education providers, programme managers, advisory boards, corporate representatives, and parents align the adult learners needs with our talented early childhood experts.

Project: Developing Recommendations for Preschools in India (2011)

Client: Galli Galli Sim Sim (Sesame Workshop India)

ICF reviewed Indian and international resources for existing guidelines, specifications, and models for preschools and used them to create guidelines for developing high quality preschools. In consultation with a team of early childhood education experts in India, ICF developed recommendations for all areas of

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ICF's work-life services in India are focused on facilitating companies to provide child care support to their employees. Employer supported child care programs are considered a strategic work-life initiative, especially in a highly competitive employment market and can be used as a successful recruitment and retention tool. At the same time it is effective in facilitating women leadership in the middle manager level.

preschool programming, including physical environment, curriculum, staffing, policies and procedures, assessments, partnerships with families, and linkages with communities

Project: A Primer on ECCD (2011)**Client: Forum for Crèche and Childcare Services (FORCES)**

ICF prepared an advocacy leaflet for Forum for Crèche and Childcare Services (FORCES), a national network supporting millions of women working in the unorganized sector and addressing child care issues. The advocacy leaflet on holistic ECCD was utilized by the NGO partners of FORCES in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand to spread awareness about the criticality of early years. ICF also provided recommendations on strategies for dissemination to different stakeholders.

Project: Working Together for Early Childhood - An Advocacy Booklet (2010)**Client: Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC)**

ICF developed the foundational content for six advocacy booklets highlighting key trends and issues in early childhood. Advocacy messages centered on five key themes: Early Years, ECCD Begins at Home, Quality Early Childhood Matters, Inclusive ECCD for All, and Integrated ECCD. The six advocacy booklets are available on the ARNEC website.

Project: Regional Resources on Mapping Exercise (2008-2009)**Client: Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC)**

ICF conducted an innovative mapping exercise to identify the status of policy and programmatic endeavours that favour early care and education in India. Information was identified and compiled by contacting pioneer institutions and individuals and reviewing documents, databanks, and relevant websites.

Project: Professional Development Workshops (2007, 2008, 2012)**Client: Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi**

ICF trainers organized and conducted a series of workshops for undergraduate students using innovative, pragmatic methods to encourage full participation of the trainees. Workshops topics included multiple intelligences and developmentally appropriate practices (DAP); developing personal portfolios for children; creating low-cost and developmentally appropriate materials; and developing curriculum for preschool children. Handouts and supporting documents were shared with the participants as reference material.

Featured Corporate Child Care Consulting Projects

Employer-supported child care programs are considered a strategic work-life initiative, especially in a highly competitive employment market, so EES India focuses on helping companies provide this benefit. Work-life services are more than a successful recruitment and retention tool, they also facilitate women leadership at the middle manager level.



About ICF

ICF (NASDAQ:ICFI) is a global consulting and technology services provider with more than 5,000 professionals focused on making big things possible for our clients. We are business analysts, policy specialists, technologists, researchers, digital strategists, social scientists, and creatives. Since 1969, government and commercial clients have worked with ICF to overcome their toughest challenges on issues that matter profoundly to their success. Come engage with us at icf.com.

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Project: Child Care Centre Needs Assessment and Vendor Selection (2008)

Client: DOW Chemical International Pvt. Ltd, Chennai

ICF conducted research to assess the potential demand for onsite child care and to guide vendor selection. Vendors were evaluated on capabilities, staffing, experience, programme philosophy, and goals, resulting the selection of four best vendors.

Project: Space Design Consultation (2007)

Client: DOW Chemical International Pvt. Ltd, Chennai

ICF helped DOW develop a high quality corporate child care environment by reviewing the blueprints for the space allocated and making design recommendations based on best practices and National Association for the Education of Young Children's (NAEYC) guidelines. The recommendations enabled development of a flexible and responsive child care space that could meet current and future employee child care needs.

Selected Publications

Rajesh, A. & Pai-Samant, S. (2017, March-April). Geeto, Nachcho, Gappo (Singing, Dancing, and Storytelling): A Route to Joyful Learning. Exchange, 39(2),79-82.

Gupta, Vini and Rajesh, Anubha. "Building Strong Mathematical Foundations." Navtika: Journal of Early Childhood Care and Education. (4), 12 – 21. Nov. – Jan. 2011

Gupta, Vini. "The ARAD Cycle: Setting Up a High Quality Employer Supported Child Care Program." ARNEC

Connections: Working Together for Early Childhood, Second Annual Publication, No.2, 20-21, 2009

Rajesh, Anubha. "Early Childhood Teacher Development Programmes: The ARAD Cycle Approach." Navtika: Journal of Early Childhood Care and Education. IX (3). 46 – 57. Sept. – Dec. 2009

Gupta, Vini. "Interplay of Nature and Nurture in Early Brain Development." Navtika: Journal of Early Childhood Care and Education. IX (1), 19-26. January – April. 2009

Stine, H., Aviles, J., McCreedy, B., Rajesh, A., Sethi, R. & Gupta, V. "Cross-Continent Training of Trainers: A Relationship-Based Approach." Journal of the National Association for the Education of Young Children 62(6): 33-35. 2007

Copies of selected reports and publications available at:

<http://www.icfi.com/markets/education/campaigns/international-early-childhood-education#tab-2-insights>



[facebook.com/ThisIsICF/](https://www.facebook.com/ThisIsICF/)

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