ZINECDA

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Zimbabwe Network of Early Childhood Development Actors

ZIMECDVOICE
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ZIMBABWE ECD VOICE PUBLICATION

ZIMBABWE NETWORK FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT ACTORS

Providing contextually relevant Early Childhood Development (ECD) information and ensure that the Zimbabwean ECD Voice is heard.

www.zinecda.org

WELCOME BY PUBLISHER

Welcome to the first issue of the Zimbabwe Early Childhood Development Voice ("ZimVoice"). This new publication is the result of the need to provide some contextually relevant early childhood development (ECD) information and ensure that the Zimbabwean ECD Voice is heard. June 16, saw the African continent commemorating the Day of the African Child.

This inaugural issue provides an Afrocentric perspective to early childhood development in Africa. In January 2020, ZINECDA launched its new updated website (www.zinecda.org) in line with its mandate of providing relevant and context specific ECD information. Enhancing communications regarding ECD in Zimbabwe is one of the objectives of ZINECDA and it is central to one of our Program areas.

This new quarterly publication is an extended effort by ZINECDA to provide you with more information on the early childhood development sector in Zimbabwe. We hope you enjoy this inaugural issue, which is an e-format for easy reading, printing and distribution.

"Enhancing communications regarding ECD in Zimbabwe is one of the objectives of ZINECDA.

PATRICK MAKOKORO

Founder/Board ChairZINECDA

Twitter: @PatrickMakokoro

WELCOME BY EDITOR

Dear Reader

It is with great pleasure that this inaugural e-Newsletter presents the voices on behalf of early childhood children in Zimbabwe and the Africa Region. It aims to share new knowledge on early childhood development (ECD) as generated through research and gained through practice. It will pride on perspectives and voices from the African perspective. It will also promote reading, research and promoting new thoughts and perspectives on ECD. The e-newsletter fulfils ZINECDA's role in influencing conducive ECD policies, legislation and practice; promoting networking and building the capacity of network members.

We treasure all your contributions to improve the quality of the newsletter and hope you will share it with colleagues, friends and other networks.

Naison Bhunhu
National Coordinator

Twitter: @naisonbhunhu

ZINECDA's vision is a Zimbabwe where all young children from conception to 8 year old are treasured in such a way that their basic rights are met and their rights to survive and thrive are realized.

NEWS
Announcements

Events

- Day of the African Child 16 June

Theme for the Day of the African Child 2020

"Access to a Child-Friendly Justice System in Africa"

- Engagement Meeting with the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Primary and Secondary Education: Demanding Innovative Financing for the Progressive Realization of Education for All in the face of COVID-19.

ECOZI hosted a virtual meeting with Members of Parliament and various civil society organizations demanding the prioritization of education financing especially in light of COVID19 which has shone a bright light on the shortfalls of the education sector in the country. A key outcome of the engagement was the commissioning of the ECOZI Secretariat to formulate Education Financing Framework.

- ZTN Panel Discussion on Child Rights and COVID19.

The Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children (ZNCWC) hosted a show which was streamed on ZTN which centred on children`s rights and COVID19. Among those invited was ZINECDA, Plan International, SayWhat, Deaf Zimbabwe Trust and ZNCWC itself.

- Webinar: Children and Play during the Lockdown

A Chance to Play Southern Africa hosted a webinar on children and play during lockdown. The discussion drew from different players who were interrogating the Impact of the Lockdown on Children and their Right to Play and Discussing how Government can Safely Allow for Play throughout the different Stages of the Lockdown.

- ## ECDAN Webinar: COVID-19

Responding to the Crisis of Care and Learning:
Lessons from humanitarian contexts. With the aims of highlighting the key issues, innovative programming adaptations, and research considerations, the Inter-Agency Network on Education in Emergencies (INEE), the Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN) and the Moving Minds Alliance (MMA) jointly hosted a webinar focused on Early Childhood Development in Humanitarian Settings in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Key note speakers included the BRAC, i-ACT, IRC, UNICEF, Refugee Trauma Initiative, NYU Global Ties for Children, and Their World.

Follow the link to listen to the recording: https://www.ecdan.org/webinars.html

ZINECDA Reading Corner

Afrocentric perspectives on ECD

In celebration of the Day of the African Child (16 June) and the Parents Day (01 June) the reading corner sets to explore various papers produced by various African scholars on how ECD actors can harness indigenous knowledge on ECD to produce a hybrid with the Western approach.

Title: "Omoluwabi's Approach" to Educating the African Child

Author: Akinsola, Esther
Year: 2011
Availability: Akinsola (2011)

In this academic piece focuses on the importance linkages between understanding African culture, their lived experiences and how they transfer this knowledge to their children. The chapter makes a case for how rich African indigenous practices are rich in imparting knowledge to children and how there can be a complimentary relationship with the Western approach.

Title: 'Every Mother Dances Her Baby'

Contextually responsive narratives of Early Childhood Care and Education in Kenya and Uganda Author: Okwany, Auma

Year: 2016

Availability: http://dx.doi.org/10.4102/sajce.v6i2.464

Okwany (2016) decries the pervasive, homogenous, Western-derived normative narrative of childhood, which obscures and even erodes diverse ethnicities, contexts (both material and social), and complexities of caregiving and of childhoods in Africa. The title translates the Bukusu Tanzanian proverb to mean that all communities, families and households have distinct and valued indigenous ways of childcare, which have been passed down from one generation to another. The author reiterates the position of other afrocentric scholars that it is imperative to "move beyond the partiality of polarised narratives to the recognition of multi-centred in-between perspectives which converge or diverge beyond artificial global/local dichotomies".

Recommended reading books:

Who Moved My Cheese?

A quick read by Dr. Spencer Johnson about the different ways we respond to life's changes and how doing so skilfully can help us find more success and happiness in our lives. Johnson's cheese is a metaphor for what you want in life - a good job, a loving relationship, money, possessions, health or spiritual peace of mind. The maze is where you look for it, the organisation you work for, the family or community you live in. And the problem is that no source of cheese lasts forever. Life changes, whether we like it or not.

Rich Dad Poor Dad

Rich Dad Poor Dad is a book written by Robert Kiyosaki in which he shares lessons that he learnt growing up with his two dads - his real father (poor dad) and the father of his best friend (rich dad). It details the ways in which both men shaped his thoughts about money and investing. One of the key take away lesson is that, "a person can be highly educated, professionally successful, and financially illiterate."

Question and Answer

The Editor, Naison Bhunu (NB) had a discussion with the Publisher on the need to have a quarterly newsletter on ECD in Zimbabwe. Below is a short excerpt of an interview with the ZimECDVoice Publisher, Patrick Makokoro (PM);

NB: What is the idea behind the ZimECDVoice?

PM: Well, we live in a time where access to relevant information is very important. The ZimECDVoice will provide information to early childhood development stakeholders on matters related to the sector in Zimbabwe. It will also provide insights into upcoming ECD events in the country, provide some further reading guides and hopefully be a space for ECD stakeholders to learn, participate and contribute to the development of the sector.

NB: What has Zimbabwe done within the ECD sector?

PM: The country has made some significant progress in the sector. If we look at the history, the sector was housed under the Ministry of Women, Gender and Community Development back in the early eighties, with community based programs being a pillar or mode of delivery. The Nziramasanga Report in 1999 also brought to the attention of the powers that be, that an investment in ECD was very important and thus we began to see some Circulars from the Secretary of Education providing directives on mainstreaming ECD into the formal school system. Fast forward to present day, there is an ECD Policy that has been drafted and going through the stakeholders processes. That has been a lot of progress and not to mention the many, many contributions that have been made by civil society partners within the sector, from constructing ECD classrooms to directing innovative programs in Zimbabwe.

NB: What do you think is the future of the sector in Zimbabwe?

PM: I think with the current trajectory from policy level to implementation, the journey is still long. There has to be stronger governmental commitment first through ensuring the policy framework is in place and that funding, through significant allocations in the Blue Book, is available to support the sector. I have a long list but for now let us start there.

Chiedza Child Care Centre - Early Childhood Development (ECD)

Registrered with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, Chiedza Child Care Centre (Chiedza) provides early childhood education to 40 children from Mbare, Waterfalls and Retreat annually. The program targets orphans and vulnerable children between the ages of 3 and 5years.

Chiedza ECD centre uses an integrated approach where not only orphans and vulnerable children learn alone but also children from well to do families are part of the program. This is done to help boost self esteem for orphans and vulnerable children as well as reduce stigma and discrimination for the disdvanagted children.

The ECD centre is sustained by resources from the community, well wishers, donors and parents. Parents contribute a few grocery supplies to ensure continued functioning of the ECD centre. Below is one of the many impact stories realised from the communities served.

Follow their work on:
Chiedza Child Care Centre www.chiedza.org

Nhaka Foundation

Nhaka Foundation is a non-governmental organization which has developed and implemented a series of interventions designed to bridge the gap between the government's capabilities and policies mandating the requirement for early childhood development (ECD) programming in primary schools and its ability to fully realize the implementation of such programs.

Along with its partners, Nhaka Foundation provides access to education, basic health care and daily sustenance for the orphaned and vulnerable children in the communities it serves. It provides aid and support to ensure the creation of a physical environment conducive to learning, growth and the optimal development of all children. Currently, Nhaka Foundation ECD programming is reaching over 6000 children in Zimbabwe.

Follow their work on:
Nhaka Foundation @NhakaFoundation
@NhakaFoundation www.nhakafoundation.org

Further Reading

Inspired by the Day of the African Child (16 June) we picked a few journals that provide some Afrocentric Perspectives to ECD

- (Mis)understanding ECD in Africa: The force of local and global motives, Chapter 7 of the book **Africa's Future, Africa's Challenge Early Childhood Care and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa**. 2008. Source: https://elibrary.worldbank.org/doi/pdf/10.1596/978-0-8213-6886-22

- Locally relevant and quality ECCE programmes: Implications of Research on Indigenous African Child Development and Socialisation. 2014. Nsamenang, A. Bame & Serpell, Robert
  Source: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf00002265641

- What does Africa's young leadership mean for the continent's early childhood development future? And what stands in its way? 2019. Patrick Makokoro
  Source: http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2043610619857218

Note from Editor:

We want to hear from you and also highlight your ECD related events such as meetings, conferences and other opportunities.

If you also have your favourite Book or Journal article that you want to share with ZINECDA members and other stakeholders please feel free to contact us:

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