

It takes a village to raise a child. The village made of parents, family, teachers, community, policy makers and the government. Without adequate policies and laws to define care and quality, early childhood care and education will not have the due impact and reach that is required for every child. Research has proven that it is more profitable to invest in early care and preschools as it saves the government from making later investments in juvenile care, prisons and remedial programs. Children may be 25% of our present but they are 100% our future, then why do we have different and varied laws and policies in every state of our country, for early childhood care and education?

Isn't it time to think about a common policy and curriculum framework in early childhood care and education, to care for and nurture the children of our country? Why does every state reinvent the wheel with different policies when the goal is the same? Why are some children forced to write at the age of two and made to read at age 3 and some denied the nurturing, security and nutrition they require in the early years? These children grow up in a stressed environment and will grow up needing emotional and social remedial care or may grow up to be a burden and stress on society as fractured youth. After all it is easier to bring up strong children than to rebuild broken men.

We appeal to the ministry of women and child development to make curriculum and assessment a non negotiable for all states to follow so that our future grows up with developmentally appropriate practice and curriculum.