

ECCE in National Education Policy (NEP: 2020): Addressing the Learning Continuum

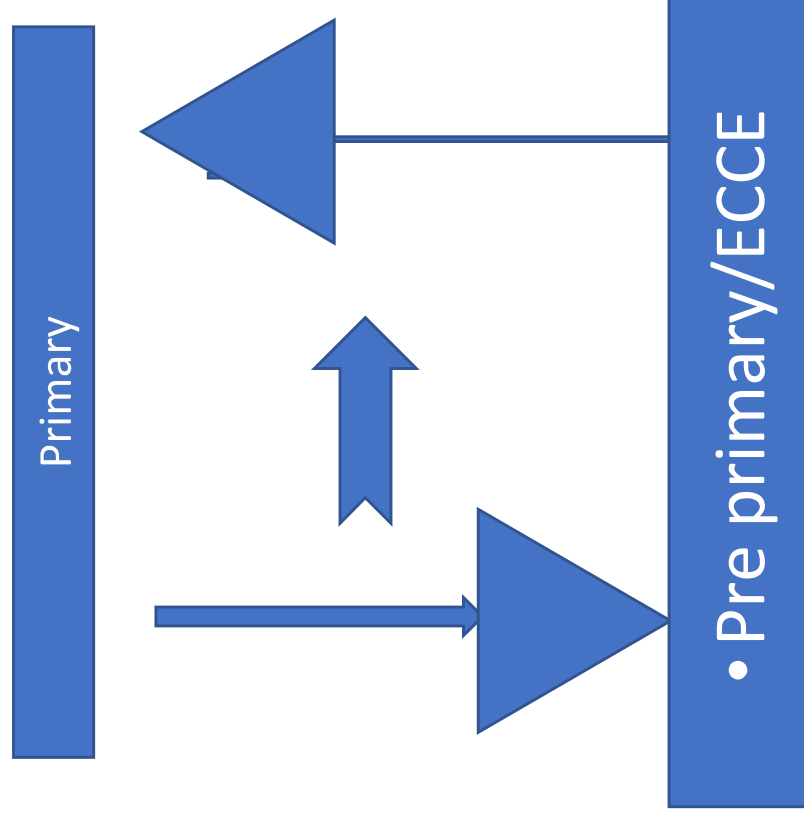
Venita Kaul



About the Presentation

- ❖ NEP recommendations for the Foundational stage & ECCE.
- ❖ Why NEP Recommendations for ECCE ?
- ❖ Priorities for policy implementation

What *shift* is required in content & pedagogy in preprimary and Grades 1 and



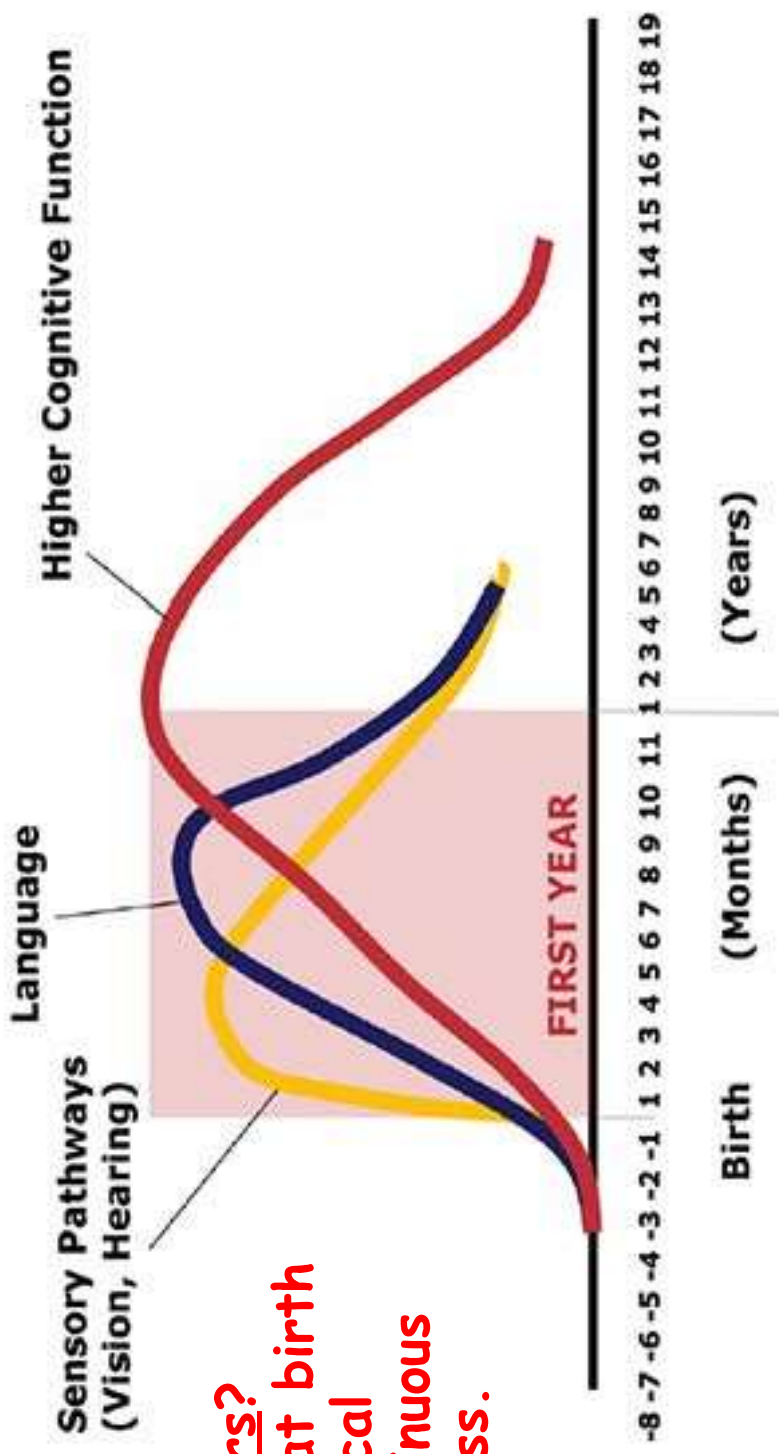
- *Revised school structure* with Foundational Stage.
- *Vision for ECCE* : Holistic & updated.
- *Medium of Instruction*: Home language
- *Curriculum*: upward extension; spiral; flexible for individual pace; developmentally appropriate
- *Pedagogy*: Play & activity based. No formal teaching of 3 R's

NEP recommendations for ECCE: The Context

- ❖ Sustainable Development Goals & India's Commitment
- ❖ Learning Crisis & Indian Research Evidence
- ❖ Global & Indian research & surveys

Human Brain Development

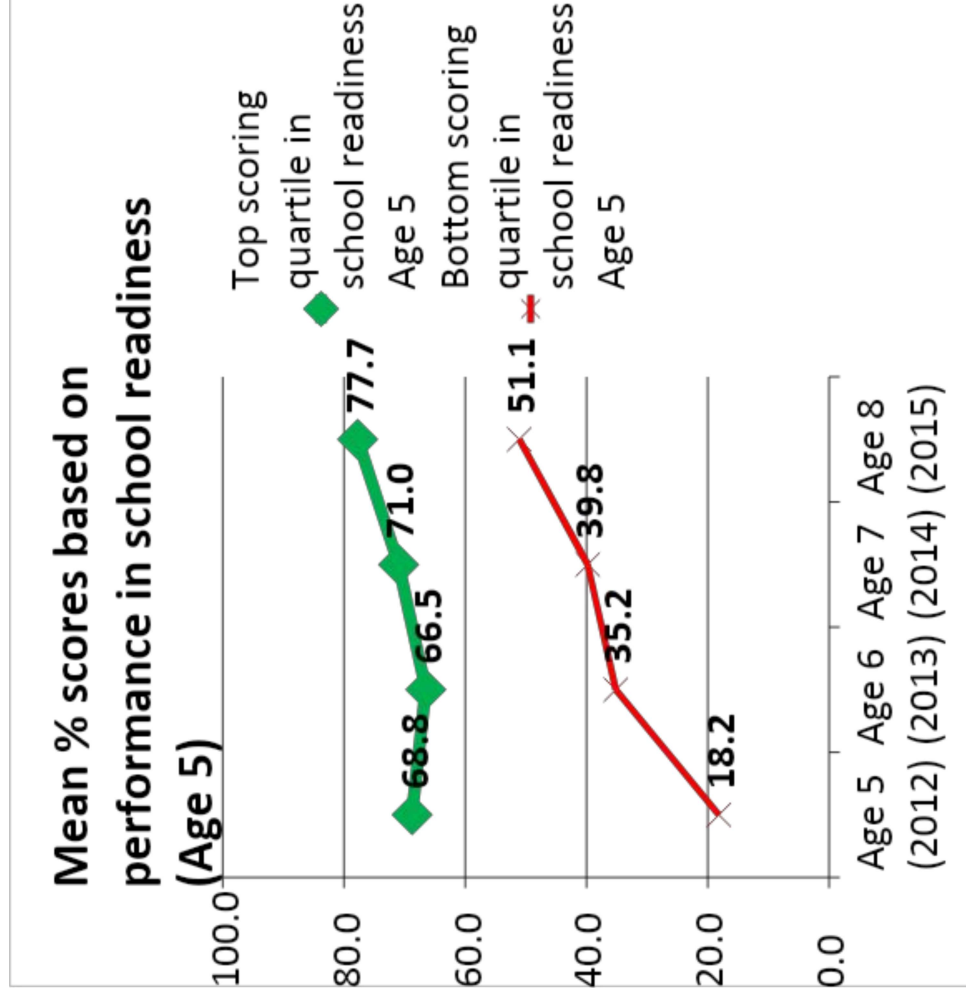
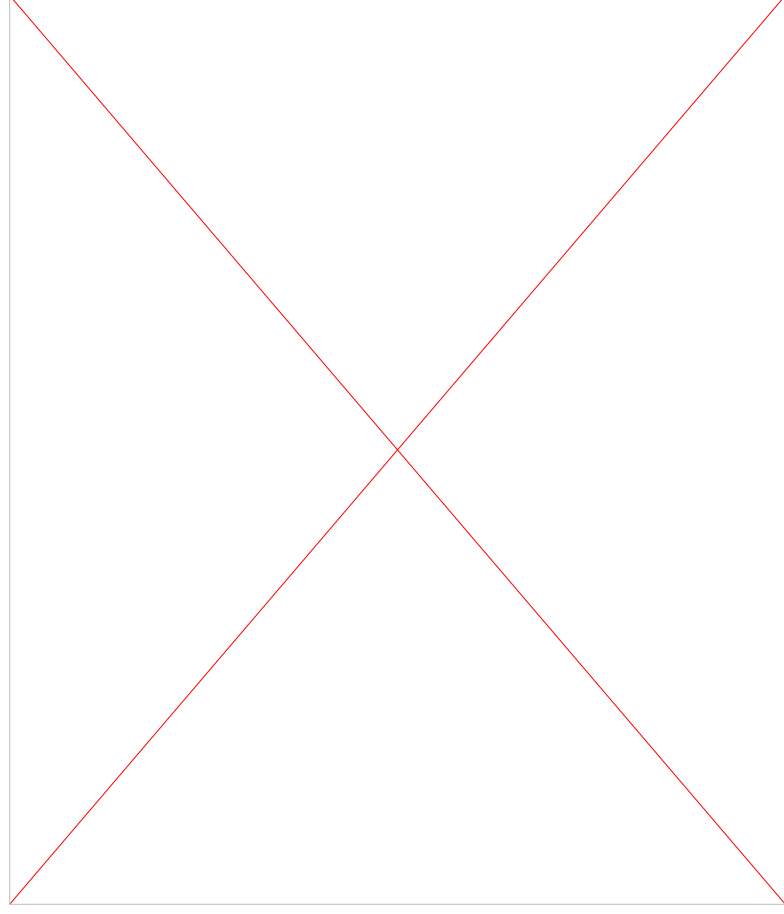
Neural Connections for Different Functions Develop Sequentially



Why birth - 8 years?

- a) learning begins at birth
- b) Early years critical
- c) Learning is continuous & cumulative process.

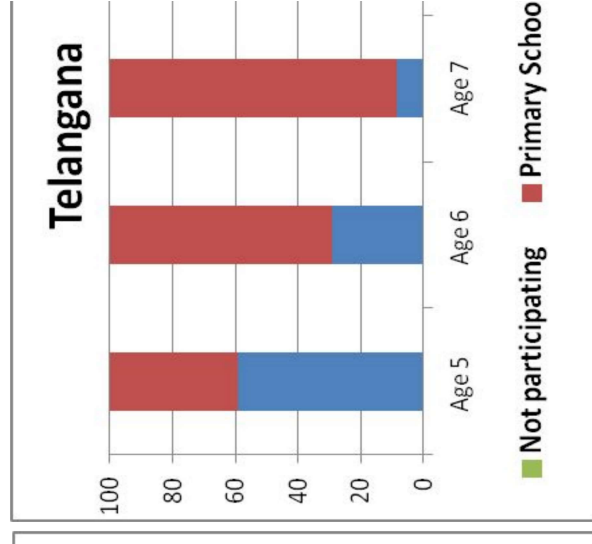
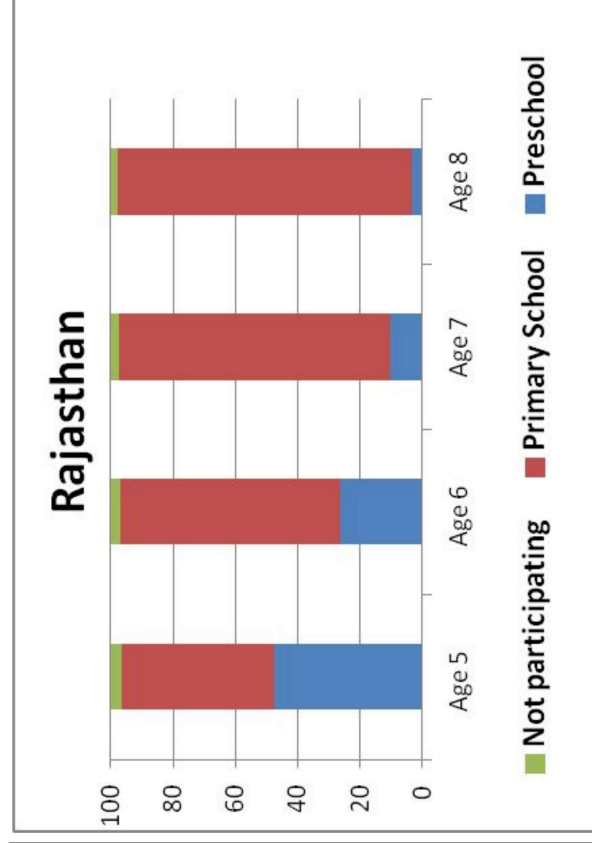
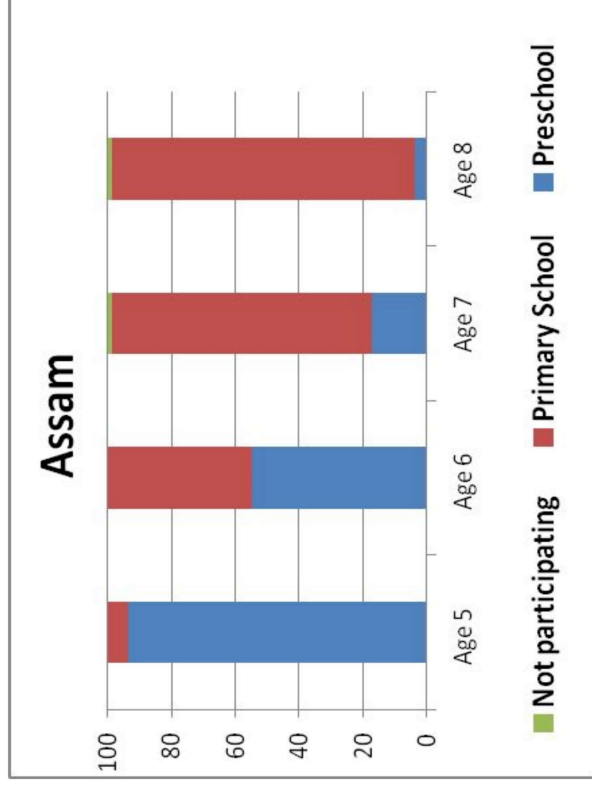
IECEI Study: Children with higher cognitive readiness scores at age 5 also did better in early grade assessments (controlling for family background)



Participation in & Curricular Quality of preschool education & Class 1 & 2 matters

- ❖ Preschool quality & curriculum have positive impact on cognitive & language readiness of 5 year olds.
- ❖ Preschool + Class 1 & 2 curricular content & pedagogy if consistent and seamless leads to higher scores in grade 3.
- ❖ Curriculum focused on experiential play/activity based learning, language development leads to better performance
- ❖ **Formal teaching of 3 R's in preschools negatively associated with cognitive readiness.**

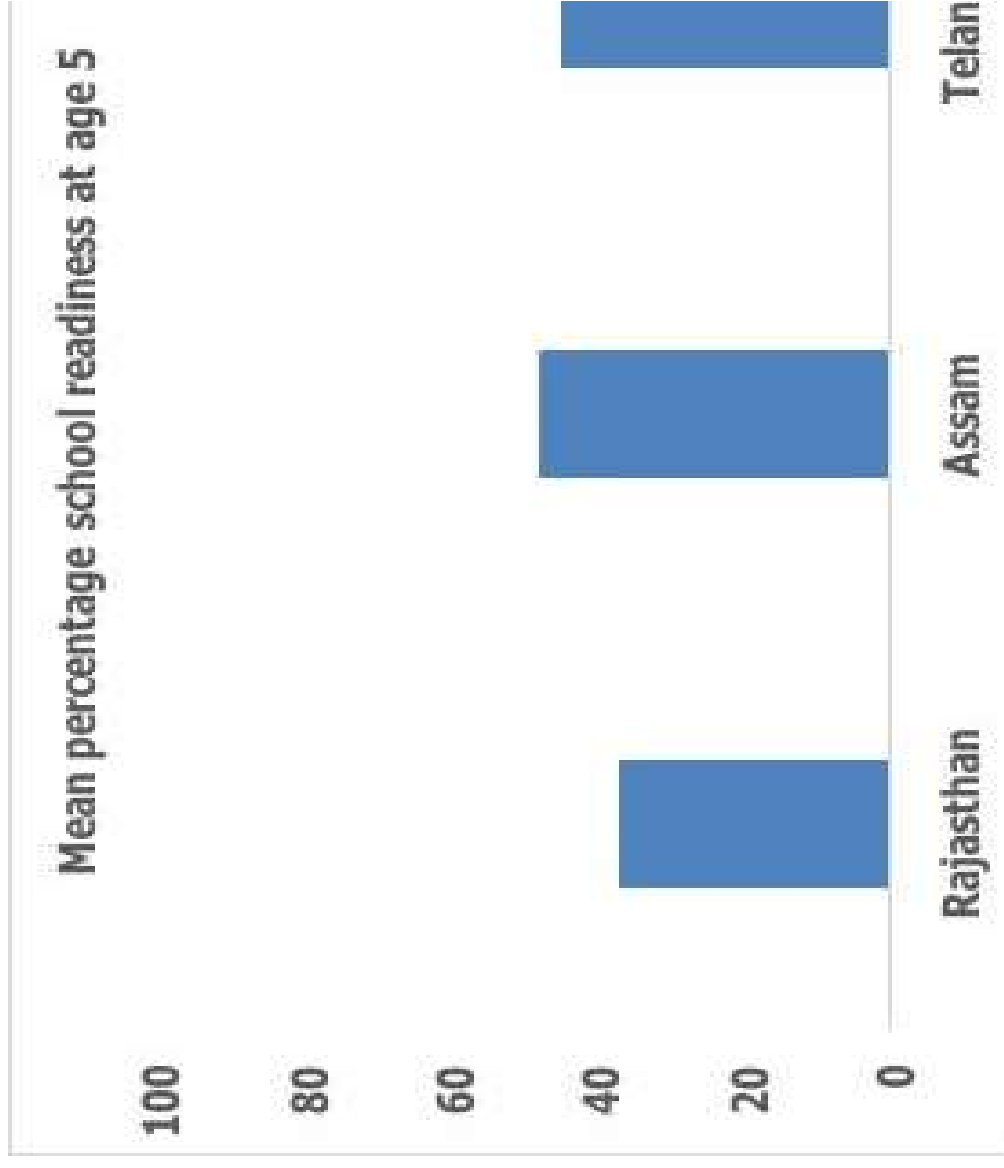
Diverse participation pathways between age 5 and 8



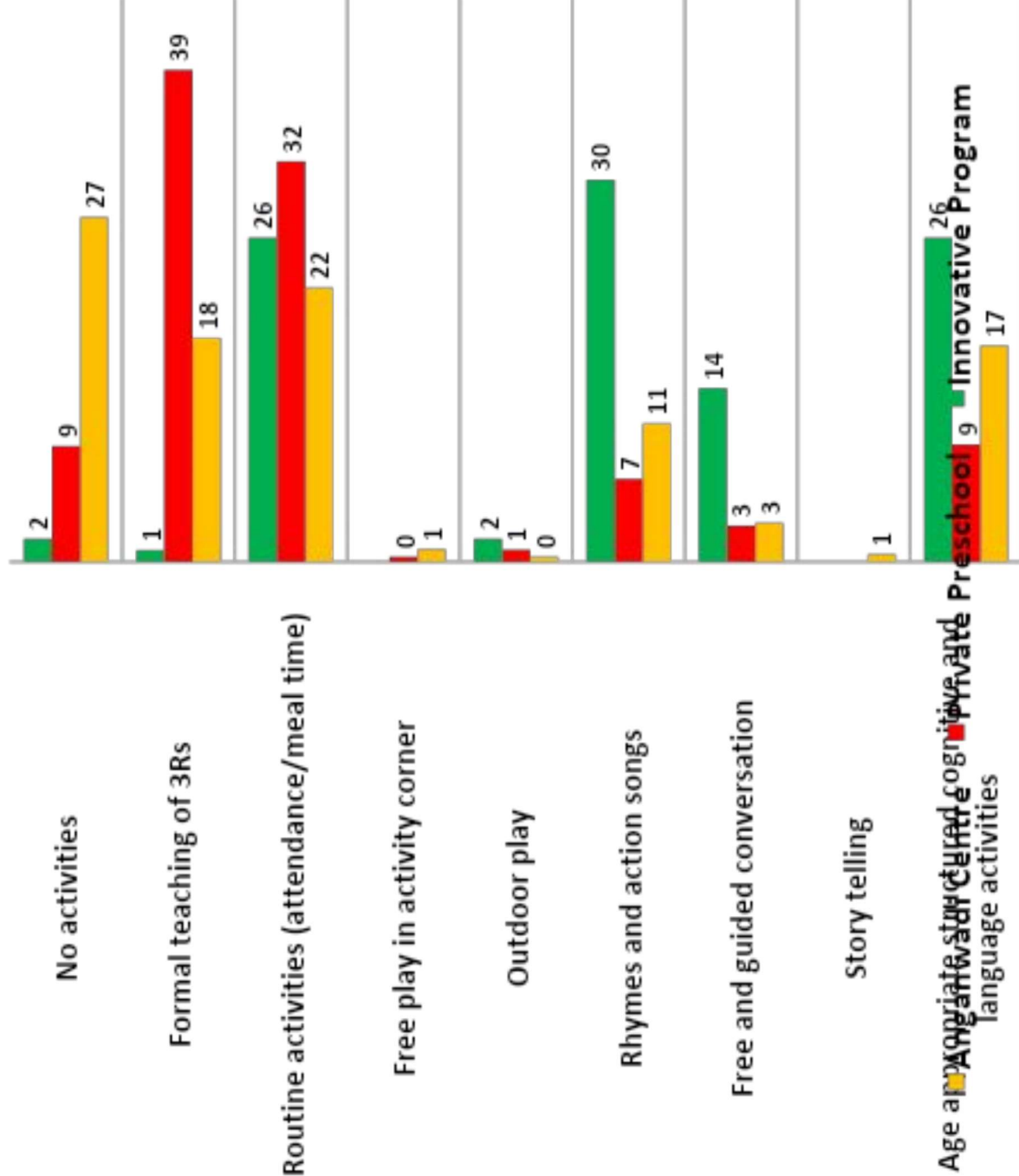
- Participation trends show multiple pathways for children between 4 to 8 years.
- *Age appropriate participation not necessary. Mixed ages.*
- State differences seen.
- Participation trend in primary school stabilises only by age 8.

Overall cognitive & early literacy levels are low

- State norms expect children to join school at age 5/ 5+, the school readiness tool was designed for children at age 5.
- Results State norms expect children to join school at age 5/ 5+, the school readiness tool was designed for children at age 5.
- that overall school readiness levels are low with some state variations



percentage of time spent in different activities in ECE & grades 1/2 programs



HOW DO 4 YEAR OLDS SPEAK IN PRESCHOOL?

Formal teaching dominate.

Developmentally appropriate practice & play limited:

Age appropriate language activities
 Innovative Program
 Preschool
 Private

Priorities for Action Plan for ECCE & Foundational Stage(FS)

Focal Areas

- ❖ *Upward* curricular continuity & learning outcomes from pre primary to primary.
- ❖ *Developmentally appropriate curriculum & No formal teaching* of the 3 R's
- ❖ *Reconceptualize Foundational Mission* for 'Early learning'; *not just for literacy & numeracy*.
- ❖ Holistic curriculum for primary education.
- ❖ Cadre of FS teachers (preschool & primary teaching) & expansion of training facilities.
- ❖ Quality standards; budget & regulatory system for FS.

Focal Areas

- ❖ *Trained & dedicated teacher* for preschool education in A/Ws.
- ❖ *Smooth convergence mechanisms* with MWCD to resolve issues of dual management.
- ❖ ECCE training for primary heads & teachers
- ❖ *Equitable quality* as per standards across all four models.
- ❖ Communication strategy to orient *parents* on good quality ECCE and importance of positive parenting.

Thank You

New Education Policy 2020: Foundational Stage

1. **Revised school structure** : In the new 5+3+3=4 structure a strong base of ECCE from age 3 is included to promote overall learning , development and well being” year 3 of ECCE would be Balvatika or preparatory class.
2. **Vision for ECCE**: “ECCE ideally consists of flexible, multifaceted, multilevel, play-based, activity-based, and inquiry based education”. *The overall aim of ECCE will be to attain optimal outcomes in domains of physical & motor development, cognitive development; socio-emotional & ethical development; cultural/artistic dev & dev of communication & early language, literacy and numeracy.*
3. **Foundational years** : The Foundational Stage will consist of five years (3-8 YEARS) of flexible, multilevel, play/activity based learning and the curriculum and pedagogy of ECCE.
4. **Medium of Instruction**: Wherever possible the MOI until at least Grade 5 but preferably till grade 8 & beyond will be home language /MT/RL. This will be followed by both public and private schools. *Exposure to many languages – multilingual environment.*
5. **Bilingual approaches**: Teachers will be encouraged to use bilingual approaches including bilingual teaching learning materials with those students whose home language may be different from MOI.