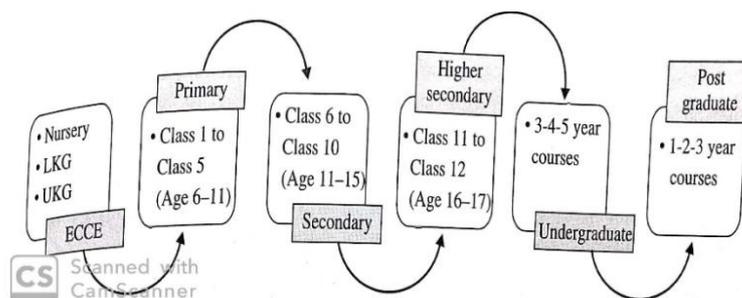


PRE PRIMARY EDUCATION IN INDIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

The Indian education system is structured as follows

1. **Pre-school**, which comprises Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) enrolls children in nursery (infants upto three years), lower kindergarten (LKG) (three to four years olds) and upper kindergarten (UKG) (four to five year olds). This caters to infants and children upto six years of age.
2. **Primary school**, where children between 6 and 11 are enrolled, that is from Class 1 to Class 5.
3. **Secondary school**, where students between 11 and 15 years olds are enrolled in Class 6 to Class 10.
4. **Higher secondary**, which refers to Class 11 and 12 where 16-17 year olds opt for suitable streams to focus on.
5. **Undergraduate** refers to the three-year degree course leading to a Bachelor's in Science/Arts/Commerce or a B. E. of four years. Other disciplines, like medicine, dentistry, nursing are longer in duration.
6. **Postgraduate** courses vary in length from a year to two or three, depending on the discipline.



The Figure : The Indian Education System in a nutshell

This study material deals with Pre Primary Education as well as Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) which forms a vital part of a child's early development. It refers to the first six years of a child's life. India has 158.7 million children in the age group of 0-6 years (Census, 2011). This program encompasses a number of activities providing for holistic growth of the child. Day Care Centres facilitate girls to attend school, as their siblings can be left in the centres.

Definition of Pre Primary Education

Pre Primary Education can be defined as “a set of knowledge along with skills and experience as well as behavioural rules which provides the essential for coping successfully in everyday life and at school.” This is acquired at a child care institution.

According to ISCED, Pre-primary education (ISCED 0) is defined as the initial stage of organised instruction, designed primarily to introduce very young children to a school-type environment, that is, to provide a bridge between home and a school-based atmosphere. ISCED level 0 programmes should be centre or school-based, be designed to meet the educational and developmental needs of children at least three years of age, and have staff that are adequately trained (i.e., qualified) to provide an educational programme for the children.

Pre Primary Education also can be defined as the initial stage of organized instruction. This includes the age group of 1 to 6 yrs are supposed to get growth and expansion in the field of school academics as pre-schoolers.

Features of Pre Primary Education -

- To afford the holistic development akin to cognitive, social, expressive and interacting skills or in general the development of the kids.
- To promote an intelligence of self-determination.
- To take care of acceptance and admiration intended for others.
- Putting children on a path of life long learning.
- Exposure to enhance communication skills.
- Social interaction is the most important feature of Pre school education.
- Both fine motor & gross motor development takes place by the various activities performed in Pre school education.
- Children get toilet trained.
- Phonological awareness.
- Pre writing skills developed by the use of colouring with crayons and writing on blackboard.

Objective of Pre Primary Education:

The children under the age group of 1 to 6 yrs are supposed to get growth and expansion in the field of school academics as pre-schoolers. To afford the holistic development akin to cognitive, social, expressive and interacting skills or in general the development of the kids counting with a variety of maturity and knowledge in a child like considerable, emotional, exciting, mental, ethical, fine motor, gross motor, verbal communication, education, admiring, response etc. with other individuality build up at this phase. To promote an intelligence of self-determination and an optimistic personal likeness in the general public also grow. To take care of acceptance and admiration intended for others in the course of the value for adults and love affection for the youngsters generate among the kids.

When children build up and becoming to be the adults, we desire them by including them to adopt the essential continued existence skills or intelligence such as language and Vocabulary skills with sight words. Independent encouragement, the aptitude to converse on one's individual's favour, is an imperative and commanding effect for offspring and grownups, particularly the individuals with ailments.

By gaining the culture in advance with competencies that encourage the independence as an immature child, we commence to concrete the approach for them to successfully utilize their accent or other resources to converse up and doing on their personal morals. At this stage whilst the brood encompasses the aptitude to interact merely in their mother tongue, they acquire the thought and inspiration of understanding or to communicate themselves in English and Hindi languages in the society, which they are conscious of.

The subjects which are taught at Pre Primary level of School Academics for holistic developments are:

English Language & Text: English Language children at this stage learn the phonic sounds which are related to accent of 2 to 3 letter words and gradually it goes on for 5 to 6 letters. Where as in text they start reading and learning the sentences from the prescribed text books.

Mathematics: In Mathematics children grasp the knowledge of Numerals from 1-100 in the form Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, Place Value, Greater & Smaller than, word Problems, Money etc.

EVS (Environmental Studies): Environmental Studies means to acquire the knowledge of nature where they study about plants, animals, fruits, flowers, physical features of the surrounding, Sun –who gives us light and energy, clouds, Rain, Water etc.

General Knowledge: About parts of the body, Digestive system, names of the fingers, tooth, Different system of body organs, Personal Hygiene our great freedom fighters, prayers, National Anthem, Patriotic songs, Pledge etc.

Art & Craft: How to draw the objects and color them with different concepts of coloring. Craft would be concerning with Origami (paper folding- Japanese Art).

Work Experience: It is associated with opposites like Hot x Cold, Tall x Short, collage (paper tearing & sticking).

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE EDUCATION (ECCE)

pre-primary education was not under the control of government agencies. In 1986, the recommendations of the National Education policy ordered the government to take care of early childhood education, and provide grants for running of such centres. It also demanded a constant monitoring of these centres. The role of government was to inspect them to see if they are child-oriented, and are focused around play and individual differences. The government was not directly running them, but local bodies were asked to get fully involved in these programmes. There are many compelling political, social and psychological reasons for paying attention to pre-primary or early childhood education. The Government of India has included ECCE as a constitutional provision through the amended Article 45 (The Constitution Act, 2002) which directs that "The State shall endeavour to provide ECCE for all children until they complete the age of six years". The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE) came into force on 1st April, 2010. The Act states that, "with a view to prepare children above the age of three years for elementary education and to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years, the appropriate Government may make necessary arrangements for providing free pre-school education for such children". (section 11)

Prepared for PG 2nd Semester,
Department of Education, Raiganj
University