
Abstract

If we are committed to the health and development of children, we need to recognize that the vast majority of the world's women are working women. In Africa, 80% of the women are actively engaged in economic activities outside the home. The "economic miracle" in Southeast Asia was made possible by the nimble fingers of thousands of women working in textile and electronics factories. There is need for pre-day-care advocacy for infants, through promotion of breast feeding and maternity leave. When the mother returns to work, the standard of the International Labor Organization should be applied, namely" ...the care of children while the parents are working cannot be ignored because it forms a focal point on which three main concerns of development policy—work, health, and education—converge." Several principles emerged from the presentations in the international panel: 1. Child-care programs must be community based, using the resources of the families and the community organizations themselves. 2. Programs require the active involvement of the communities, women's groups, and other partners. 3. Programs are modified by innovations created by community organizations, universities, and other groups. 4. Programs require the mobilization of trained young men and women into the field of early childhood education and development. This international panel provided an overall unifying theme that throughout the world the hope for the survival and better life for children unites parents of every country and every creed. This is one of the most powerful and strongest motivational resources in the world. (ABSTRACT TRUNCATED AT 250 WORDS)