

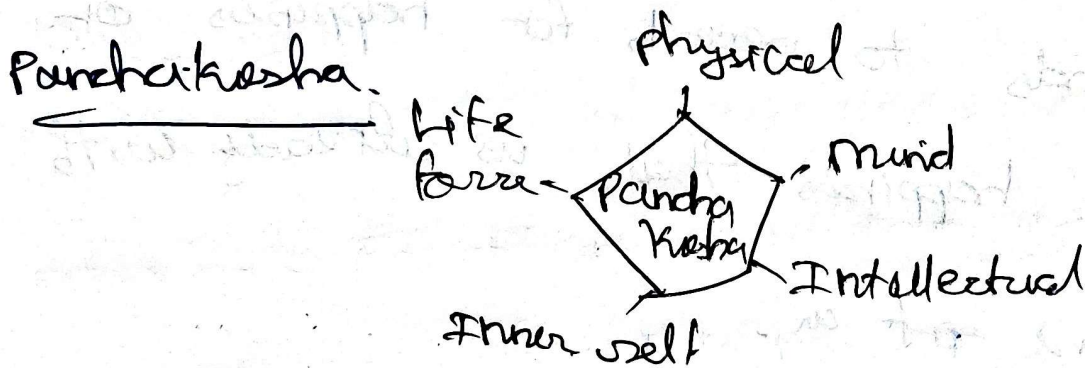
The early childhood care and education (ECCE) is crucial for our demographic dividend and addressing knowledge gaps.

ECCE - It is the care and education of children from 0 to 8 years old.

② It was envisioned by National ECCE Policy 2013 and National Education Policy (NEP, 2020).

Significance of ECCE

① Holistic development of development of children through the concept of Panchakosha.



② Brain development as 85% of brain

is developed by age six, ECCE is
suited to children.

③ Future proofing as the early education
gives edge when they grow older
economically.

④ Reduces drop out rates and promotes
greater enrolment rates.

⑤ Imports behaviour and character to
the children from tender age to make
them responsible citizens.

⑥ Inclusive as it undertakes divergence
children and promotes gender equality.

India ECCE ecosystem

① Aadharshila addresses the ECCE for

3 to 6 years. The ASER report, 2024

highlights that 45% of class-1 students can only read class 2 books

② The learning outcomes of children though unimpaired is yet below the accepted average.

③ No parents' role - The ECCE Frameworks must include parents under its ambit.

④ Overburdened organizational centres and no BCE teachers in many of them.

Prospects

merge services of ECCE under one ministry - Education or Women and child development. Higher funding can reap the benefits to attain SDG-4 - quality education.