

## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION AIC 2016: #45

**1. Title:**

Implementation Matters: Building Capability of a National Child Development Program

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**3. Keywords:**

Quasi-experimental, preschool children, mild developmental delays, program evaluation

**4. Abstract text:**

**a. Background & aims**

This paper traces the development of the DSP with an overview of the Therapy Outreach Program (TOP) and Mission: I'm Possible (MIP) programs, prototypes of program prior to its scale-up. In attempting to address the problem of high default follow-up rates in hospital therapy, the initial programs targeted children from low socio-economic backgrounds where families have more reasons to default. The logic behind the program model was to move therapy to where these children are by default sited – community pre-schools.

**b. Methods**

The evaluation study undertaken by an independent team utilised both quantitative and qualitative data collected with children in the literacy aspect of the MIP program and on the parents highlighted various issues surfaced in both formative and summative evaluations.

**c. Conclusion**

The evaluation highlighted the many challenges faced in re-shaping and refining the program model as it learns to meet the needs of these children through different perspectives of the stakeholders (parents, teachers and pre-schools) when it sought their respective collaborations in supporting the child. The paper discusses these challenges faced in attempting to bridge both the theory-practice and cultural gaps in implementation.