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About the Presenter:

Title of Paper: **Professional Concerns and Challenges of Day Care Teachers**

Abstract:

“Child care workers”, commonly known as “childcare teachers” nurture, teach and care for children who are infants, toddlers, preschoolers and also supervise older children before and after school. These teachers play an important role in children's development by caring for them when their parents are away. In addition to attending to children's health, safety and nutrition, child care workers organize, implement curricula, help children explore individual interests, develop talents and independence, build self-esteem, learn how to get along with others and prepare for more formal schooling. This is perhaps the earliest career development input the child receives.

Child care workers generally are classified into three different groups based on where they work: a) private household workers; b) family child care providers and c) child care workers, which include Head Start, Early Head Start, full-day and part-day preschool, and other early childhood programs. Child care workers play a vital role in preparing children to build skills and provide opportunities to learn, maintain contact with parents to discuss child's progress and needs, maintain records etc.

Day care centres are mushrooming in the corners of metropolitan city in India, which is a great concern for parents. With the growing incidences of child abuse, parents are all the more keen to know who will take care of their child at the day care, care-taker's qualification and training. It is palpable as these are basic foundation years of their children and they want to provide the best to their children.



There are few day care training programmes available for the teachers, prior to joining day care centers, solely responsible for training them. This paper will present the findings of a study that aimed at knowing from day care teachers a) the reason for choosing this profession; b) advantages of being in this profession; c) difficulties faced while they are in this profession; d) suggestions to improve this profession as a career and e) the prerequisites for the course in child care to be included.

The sample comprised 10 day care teachers presently working in day care centers in Mumbai. Data was collected through a face-to-face questionnaire (close-ended and open-ended), tapping the above mentioned objectives. The data was analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively.