

Early Childhood Education and Care Policy in Korea

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Childcare Policy in Korea

Moonhee Suh

Childcare Policy in Korea

This paper is designed to figure out the current system and overall status of the childcare policy of the Korean government and draw implications for the policy's improvement.

This paper will focus on the childcare budgetary issues which cover childcare subsidies, child-raising allowances and childcare finances in relation to the financing and subsidy; installation and utilization of childcare facilities concerning the infrastructure; extended hour childcare programs in terms of diversity of childcare services; and the evaluation certification system and childcare workers with regard to the quality of childcare services.

1. Childcare Subsidy

The childcare expense support, provision method and subsidy scales centering on the central government policy have been reviewed and suggested according to the policy measures.

A. Childcare Expense Support Program

The childcare expenses support programs include subsidies for childcare facilities and kindergarten expenses support, support for childcare, early childhood education and child-rearing expenses of children from rural and fishing villages, cash supports including child-raising allowance and tax credit support. Among them, the support for childcare facilities and kindergarten expenses account for the largest portions of the budget. Although the government's subsidies for childcare and early childhood education operation costs vary according to the types of establishment, they can be largely divided into the facility grants centering on labor costs and parent grants which are the support for parent's burden incurred from various childcare service expenses. The childcare financing consists of the labor cost support by facility, childcare service expenses support and facility management support. The facility management support is provided for the establishment of infrastructure such as installation and renovation. The labor cost support by facility and childcare service expenses support refers to support for childcare facility operations - that is the support for expenses needed for childcare. The Infant Care Act lays out the legal foundation to ensure the various subsidies. In fact, various financial support programs are implemented including the support by program and basic subsidy support. The following is the summarized explanation of the financial support programs.

1) Support by Facility

The support for childcare facilities can be classified into the support for labor costs centering on national, public and authorized facilities and the support by program.

〈Table 1-1〉 Summarized Standards for National Subsidy Support for Childcare Facilities

Classification		Contents
National, public and authorized facilities	Facilities with over 40 persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 80% of labor cost for a director, 30% of labor cost for a childcare teacher (infant class teacher – 80%) - Additional support: rural & fishing areas, coal mine areas and island & remote areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . 100% of labor cost for one childcare teacher and one dietitian . Vehicle operation support: monthly 200,000 KRW - 100% of labor cost for one dietitian in a facility which has passed accreditation process in the small city
	Facilities with less than 40 persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No labor cost for a director, 30 percent of labor cost for a childcare teacher (infant class teacher – 80%)
	Extended hours, 24-hours, holiday schedule, after-school childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 80% of labor cost for extended hour teachers (when separately hired) - 80% of labor cost for 24-hour teachers (separately hired) - 50,000 KRW for childcare of 3 children on a holiday for over 5 hours - 50% of labor cost for after-school care for 16~20 children . 100% of labor cost for after-school childcare for 3 children with disabilities
	Inclusive facilities for children with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 80% of labor cost for teachers who are responsible for children with disabilities - Monthly 100,000 KRW allowance for a special teacher
Infant care centers (Designation prior to 2004 and national subsidy support for new facility establishment)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 80% of labor cost for a director (over 18 children) and childcare teachers - Additional formation of an infant class: 30 % of labor cost for childcare teachers - 100% of labor cost for one dietitian - Vehicles operation support for a rural & fishing village facility: monthly 200,000 KRW per facility
Exclusive facilities for children with disabilities (Designation by mayor/governor)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 80% of labor cost for a director (more than 6 classes), childcare teachers or special teachers - 100% of labor cost for one therapist per 9 children - Monthly 100,000 KRW for a special teacher – 100% of labor cost for one dietitian - Vehicle operation: monthly 200,000 KRW
Private home childcare facilities	General childcare facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic subsidy depending on support criteria on classes for infants & children with disabilities - Educational materials: 0.5~1.2 million KRW per facility - Vehicle operation support for facilities in rural and fishing villages: monthly 200,000 KRW per facility
	Inclusive facilities for children with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly 1 million KRW for a teacher who is responsible for children with disabilities
	Extended-hour facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly 1 million KRW for a teacher providing extended-hour childcare services
	24-hour childcare facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly 1 million KRW for a childcare teacher
Workplace childcare facilities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 80% of labor cost or monthly 1 million KRW for a teacher providing extended-hour childcare services - Educational materials: 0.5~1.2 million KRW per facility

Source: Ministry of Health & Welfare (2010). *Childcare Program Guidelines*.

Labor cost support is provided for the construction of the national, public and authorized facilities for which the government has provided subsidies for their construction.

In general, the labor cost for childcare teachers is subsidized by 30 percent, while that of teachers responsible for infants is by 80 percent.¹ As for childcare facilities located in rural & fishing villages, abandoned mine areas and islands & remote areas, the labor costs for one childcare teacher and one dietitian are subsidized by 100 percent as an additional support. In addition, the financial support for vehicle operation is offered 200,000 KRW for a facility (including facilities subject to support for additional installations of religious facilities). Since 2009, the labor cost subsidies for dietitians have been provided to facilities authorized in small and mid-sized cities and large cities.

The supports by program consist of the childcare programs for infants, disabled children, extended-hours, 24-hours, holiday schedule and after-school childcare and the subsidy amounts vary depending on the type of establishment. Also, the subsidies for private childcare facilities are granted as the support for educational materials by 0.5~1.2 million KRW each year per facility. The support for educational materials has been provided to private facilities since 1998 and has been further expanded to workplace childcare facilities since 2006. In addition, vehicle operation subsidies are offered to the facilities located in agricultural and fishing areas by 200,000 KRW on a monthly basis (refer to Table 1-1).

Among the local governments, Seoul and Busan have introduced the labor cost subsidy programs for private childcare facilities. Seoul has been offering an authorization mark called 'Child Care Center of Seoul' to childcare facilities which meet the specific standards for childcare environment and services recommended by the city regardless of the type of establishment of the national, public and private facilities. When a private facility is authorized as a 'Child Care Center of Seoul' by the city, the city provides a support equivalent to a national or public childcare facility. Meanwhile, Busan has also adopted and implemented a support program designed to select private home childcare facilities and has provided labor costs equivalent to the national and public facilities since 2009. The detailed measures will be discussed in the Chapter 4.

2) Basic Subsidy Programs for Private Facilities

Currently, the government has provided a certain amount of grants by age as the basic subsidy support to all infants who attend a private childcare facility in addition to the differentiated support for childcare/education expenses.² The subsidy amounts have been gradually increased since 2006 and the amount for 2010 remains the same as the 2009

1 The subsidy amounts were 45 percent and 90 percent levels respectively prior to 2004; however, they were reduced in 2005.

2 The infant subsidy support program was originated in late 2002 when the government started to provide 400,000 KRW for each family childcare facility with over 10 infants. The support was expanded to include private childcare facilities in 2003 and further expanded to the subsidy program by class in 2004 and by children in 2005. In 2006, the title of the support was changed to the basic subsidy support and the support standards were raised. At the same time, the parents' burden for childcare fees was reduced to the national and public facility levels. In 2009, it was renamed as the basic childcare expenditure support.

level. On the other hand, a pilot program for young children was introduced in three regions in 2007, but it was not developed as a main project.

There has been a controversy surrounding the basic subsidy support for infant care. The reason is that the support is basically a subsidy for parents, but the grants are directly provided to facilities, rather than to the parents. Given that the subsidy is equivalent to the labor cost support for national and public facilities, it is often regarded as the subsidy support for facilities. Besides, this subsidy was not included in the voucher when the childcare service voucher system was first introduced.

3) Support for Childcare Expenditure Subsidies for Parents

A) Childcare Expenditures

Childcare fees can vary depending on areas since the mayor or governor determines the maximum amounts in consideration of the type of establishment and takes in account local situations. However, the childcare expenses for children aged zero to two attending facilities which receive no government support are set within the scope of the government subsidy per unit due to their characteristics of the basic subsidy support. Therefore, the maximum amounts of infant childcare fees are regulated by the government support units. The maximum amounts for infant childcare expenses are standardized by subsidy per unit. As seen in the <Table 1-3>, the maximum amount of childcare expenses vary according to region.

Childcare facilities receive additional expenses besides childcare fees such as entrance fees, field trip fees and talent and aptitude education fees, the <Table 1-2> indicates the actual conditions according to region. Among the 16 cities and provinces, Chungbuk allows facilities to autonomously determine the amounts and report, while Seoul entrusts gu to set the maximum amounts of fees except for entrance fees. Meanwhile, Gyeonggi-do entrusts its si and gun to set the maximum amounts of fees except for entrance fees. Other regions allow the local committee on childcare policy to determine the amounts.

In Seoul, the entrance fees for childcare facilities are uniform in Seoul, but the field trip fees and talent & aptitude education fees vary depending on gu by 150,000~250,000 KRW and 50,000~230,000 KRW on a monthly basis, respectively. As for the talent & aptitude education fees, Gangnam-gu is found to be the highest with a fee of 230,000 KRW, followed by the Gangdong-gu and Dongjak-gu with 180,000 KRW, Gangbuk-gu and Songpa-gu with 150,000 KRW, Gwangjin-gu with 140,000 KRW and Mapo-gu with 50,000 KRW. In terms of restrictions on the number of subjects for specialty & aptitude educations, Seodaemun-gu sets no more than three subjects, while Gangdong-gu regulates within five subjects.

In Gyeonggi-do, Bucheon-si sets the highest amount of other expenses at 110,000 KRW and other areas are found to be under 100,000 KRW. Suwon-si allows one subject with 30,000 KRW for specialty activity fees in addition to 92,000 KRW relating to other expenses.

〈Table 1-2〉 Maximum Amount of Other Childcare Fees by City and Province (2010)

Unit: KRW

Cities/ Provinces	Entrance fees	Field trip fees	Talent & aptitude education fees
Seoul	Less than 50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The local district head determines the maximum amount of fees through consultation with the local committee on childcare policy within the scope of actual expenses ○ Entrustment to childcare facilities or to the childcare facility operation committee is not permitted. 	
Busan	Annually 80,000	Annually 90,000	Monthly 70,000
Daegu	Annually 80,000	Annually 90,000	Monthly 80,000
Incheon	Facilities with national subsidy - 70,000 (Including workplace childcare facilities) Private childcare facilities - 100,000 (Including parents co-op) Family childcare facilities - 100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilities with national subsidy (Including workplace childcare facilities) Children aged zero to one: Monthly 40,000/Children aged two to five: Monthly 60,000 - Private childcare facilities (Including parents co-op) Children aged zero to one: Monthly 70,000/Children aged two to five: Monthly 90,000 - Home childcare facilities Children aged zero to one: Monthly 70,000/Children aged two to five: Monthly 90,000 <p>※ Childcare fees and entrance fees are excluded and accompanying parent's document on agreement is necessary when receiving payment</p>	
Gwangju	70,000 (1 time) (Readmitted child - 20,000 (1 time))	Annually 120,000	Event fees: Annually 50,000 Other expenses: Monthly 80,000
Daejeon	90,000	Per occasion: 12,000 (Annually 144,000)	Monthly 60,000
Ulsan	81,000 (Readmitted child - 22,000)	Actual expenses paid (Less than 18 times per year)	Monthly 70,000
Gyeonggi	100,000	Commissioned to <i>Si</i> or <i>Gun</i> level	Commissioned to <i>Si</i> or <i>Gun</i> level
Gangwon	70,000 (Readmitted child - 30,000)	Determined by actual expenses	70,000
Chungbuk	The fees are set within minimum levels in consideration of local conditions in consultation with the parents and the local childcare facility operation committee after reporting to a corresponding mayor or governor.		
Chungnam	<i>Si</i> - 90,000 <i>Gun</i> - 78,000	<i>Si</i> - 160,000 <i>Gun</i> - 143,000	<i>Si</i> - 100,000 <i>Gun</i> - 70,000
Jeonbuk	50,000 (Readmitted child - 20,000)	<i>Si</i> - Monthly 110,000 <i>Gun</i> - Monthly 80,000	<i>Si</i> - Monthly 90,000 <i>Gun</i> - Monthly 90,000
Jeonnam	Annually 80,000	Annually 120,000	Monthly 80,000
Gyeongbuk	Annually 80,000	1 Occasion - 20,000	Monthly 75,000
Gyeongnam	Annually 80,000	Annually 100,000	Monthly 70,000
Jeju	60,000 (Readmitted child - 50,000)	Annually 50,000	Monthly 70,000

B) Support for Childcare Expenses

The childcare expenses subsidy for parents consist of the income-based differentiated support, free education support and support for households with more than two children.

The government has implemented the childcare expense support for parents in order to secure childcare opportunities for children from low-income families. The childcare expense supports were provided to those households with an income under the minimum living cost and in the near poor bracket by 100 percent, the households in the third tier by 80 percent, the fourth tier by 60 percent and the fifth tier by 30 percent in 2008.³ Additionally, new income-level criteria for eligible households for childcare expense support were introduced in July 2009. The selection criteria for eligible households had been based on the 'monthly average income & expenditure of urban laborer household' until June, 2009; however, new standards based on the 'distribution of income decile' have been applied since July, 2009. In other words, the government provides 100 percent of the childcare fee subsidy per unit to infants and young children for those households in the lower 50 percentile, 60 percent to those households between the lower 50 percentile and 60 percentile, 30 percent to the households between the lower 60 percentile and 70 percentile. The maximum amounts of the standard monthly income for these households of four members are 2.58 million KRW, 3.39 million KRW and 4.36 million KRW, respectively (refer to the Table 1-3). In addition, the subsidy has been expanded to about 15,000 dual-income households in low-income brackets as the child tax credit has been extended to include more low-income households with two income couples since July 2007.

The free education for children aged five started to be implemented in late 1999 and the subsidy target and scope have been gradually increased. As a result, about 70 percent of five-year olds attending childcare facilities or four member families whose recognized amount of income is less than 4.36 million KRW are eligible for the free education. The free education for disabled children has been provided since 2003. Meanwhile, in the case that more than two children from the households, whose average monthly income amounts to 100 percent of the average monthly income of urban salary and wage earners' households, attend a childcare facility or a kindergarten, the second child and over were given 20 percent of tuition fees since 2005 and the amount was expanded to 50 percent in 2009. The selection criteria for childcare subsidy for more than two children were changed and expanded in 2010. In the past, the subsidy was provided to a second and over children when more than two children of a household attend childcare facilities, but all second and over children of households are eligible since 2010. In addition, rather than the income-based differentiated subsidy, infants and children from average monthly income amounts to 100 percent of the average monthly income of urban salary and wage earners' households,

³ The childcare expense subsidy had been provided to those households in the near poor class (households whose income level did not exceed 120 percent of the minimum living costs) between 1992 and 2003 since its inception in 1991. However, the target criteria and subsidy levels were raised in 2004. The government provided 100 percent of the government grants to households living under the poverty line and those in the near poor class in 2006. The criteria for eligible households were also expanded in 2008 to the households with income under minimum living cost and in the near poor bracket by 100 percent, the households in the third tier by 80 percent, the fourth tier by 60 percent and the fifth tier by 30 percent.

are offered a full-subsidy or 100 percent payment for childcare. The income-based subsidy and free education for five-year olds are identically applied to the early childhood education.

〈Table 1-3〉 Annual Subsidy Rate by Income Level

Unit: %

	Income Level (Average Income of city worker)	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008~ 2009.6	From 2009. 7.
1	Legal Low-Income Family	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
2	Other Low-Income Family	40	60	80	100	100	100	100
3	Below the Low 50% Average Income	-	40	60	70	80	80	100
4	Below the Low 60% Income	-	-	30	40	50	60	100(Low 50% of children)
	Below the Low 70% Average Income	-	-	-				60(Low 60% of children)
5	Below the Low 100% Average Income	-	-	-	-	20	30	30(Low 70% of children)
6	Below the Low 130% Average Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

In addition, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry provides child-rearing expenses to children from households with less than 5ha of arable land. If the children use a childcare facility or a kindergarten, they are provided with 70 percent of the government's child-rearing subsidy per unit and 35 percent if they don't use the facilities.⁴

Also, the local governments offer additional childcare subsidies by using their local budgets. For example, Seoul provides additional childcare fees to a third child and over and Busan to a second child and over.

B. Childcare Expense Support Performance

The number of child recipients of the childcare expense subsidies has reached 672,000 persons or 65.7 percent of the child population using childcare facilities as of the end of 2009. According to the percentage of child beneficiaries of graded childcare expenses support by age, the rate of children aged zero was relatively low until 2008 but the rates among the children aged zero to five were similar, except for those children aged five in 2009 (refer to the Table 1-4). This phenomenon can be interpreted that parents of children aged zero using childcare facilities have a relatively higher dual-income rate compared with other parent groups. Thus, they often exceed the income criteria needed to receive the government subsidy. However, a greater number of parents with children aged

⁴ In 2006, the support for female-experts in agricultural sector was introduced and the support was expanded to include children who do not use childcare facilities. Since 2008, the support for childcare expenses for households in agricultural areas and the support for female-experts in agricultural sector have been integrated and operated together.

zero have become eligible due to the change in the calculation of recognized amounts of income for dual-income households in July 2009.

〈Table 1-4〉 Children Eligible for Income-based Subsidy: 2007~2009

Unit: Person, %

Classification	Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5 or older	Total
2009							
No. of children(A)	107,525	198,831	268,038	227,966	193,934	26,375	1,022,669
No. of subsidy recipient(B)	72,730	138,265	175,710	148,448	129,914	14,836	672,087
ratio(B/A)	67.6	69.5	65.6	65.1	67.0	56.3	65.7
2008							
No. of children(A)	99,245	160,320	242,324	229,424	192,668	36,198	960,179
No. of subsidy recipient(B)	53,072	99,423	152,076	144,917	123,015	19,653	592,256
Ratio(B/A)	53.5	62.0	62.8	63.2	63.8	54.3	61.7
2007							
No. of children(A)	68,908	122,663	222,258	237,919	207,305	61,318	920,371
No. of subsidy recipient(B)	34,985	78,245	141,917	154,957	139,376	37,356	586,836
Ratio(B/A)	50.8	63.8	63.9	65.1	67.2	60.9	63.8

Note: Including after school

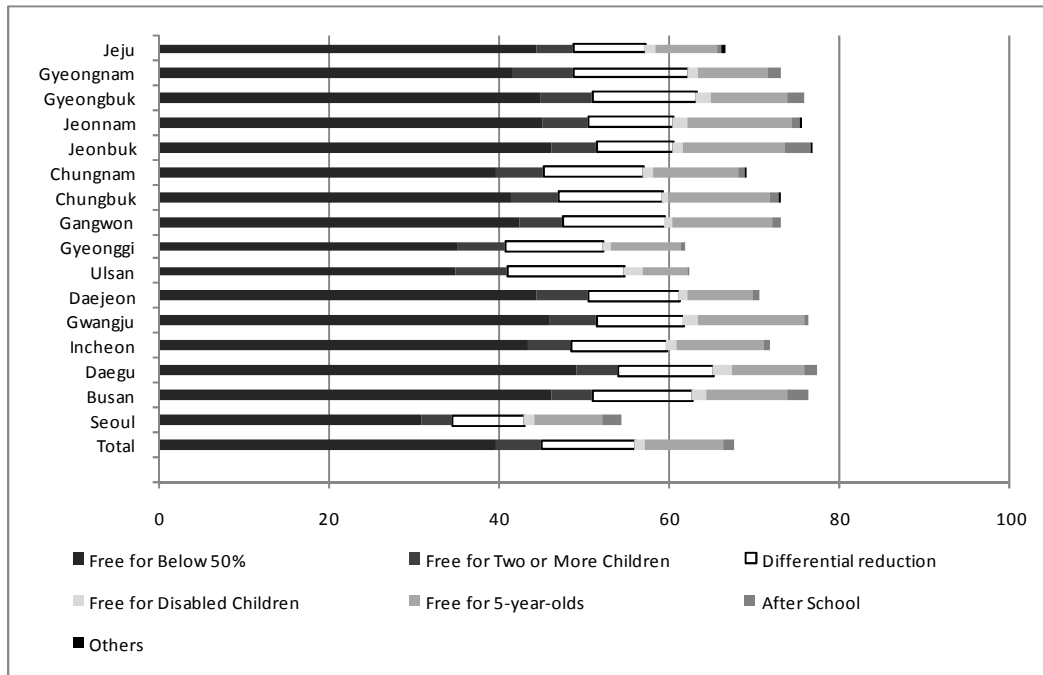
〈Table 1-5〉 Number of Support for Childcare Expenses: 2007~2009

Unit: Case, %

Classification	Age 0-4	Age 5	More than one child	Disabled Children	Total
2009					
No. of children in facilities(A)	1,022,669	152,380	-	-	1,175,049
No. of subsidy recipient(B)	672,087	107,951	(60,704)	15,083	795,121
Ratio(B/A)	65.7	70.6	-	-	67.7
2008					
No. of children in facilities(A)	920,371	175,323	-	-	1,135,502
No. of subsidy recipient(B)	592,256	122,858	(108,500)	15,644	730,758
Ratio(B/A)	61.7	70.1	-	-	64.3
2007					
No. of children in facilities(A)	920,371	179,562	-	-	1,099,933
No. of subsidy recipient(B)	586,836	145,303	(109,599)	17,615	749,754
Ratio(B/A)	63.8	80.9	-	-	68.2

Note: Excluding subsidy for agricultural/fishing workers.

To 2008, subsidy for family with more than one child was double counted.



[Figure 1-1] Percentage Distribution of Beneficiaries for Childcare Fee Support by Type of Beneficiary

Thanks to the consistent increase in the number of children to receive the support for childcare expenses, the number of child beneficiaries which stood at about 34,000 in 1992 drastically rose to 795,000 as of December 2009, which amounts to 67.7 percent as opposed to children using childcare facilities (refer to the Table 1-5). 70.0 percent of children aged five are eligible for the subsidy.

The number of beneficiaries for childcare fee support varies according to region. The ratios of beneficiaries for the subsidy in Jeonbuk, Jeonnam, Gyeongbuk, Daegu and Busan are 70 percent, Seoul 54 percent and Ulsan and Gyeonggi 62 percent.

C. Burden of Parents

Despite the expansion of childcare fee support, the burden of parents does not seem to be reduced. According to the survey results of 2009 childcare status, the average monthly childcare expenses of parents sending their child to a childcare facility regardless of age was 168,100 KRW, which is not much different from 164,700 KRW in 2004 results.

Based on the 2009 survey results, the net childcare fee was 114,300 KRW and the additional fee was 53,800 KRW. On the other hand, the net fee was 136,400 KRW and the additional fee was 28,300 KRW in 2004. Although the total costs of 2009 were similar compared with 2004, the net cost was reduced, while the additional cost was increased. This disparity can be regarded as the government's expansion for the support of childcare fees and early education tuition expenses.

However, the cost to income ratio was an average of 7.4 percent, which was reduced by 0.9 percent from 8.3 percent in 2004

By type of establishment, both the total fees and additional fees were higher in the workplace facilities and private facilities. The additional fees were the lowest in the home childcare facilities, except for the parent co-op. Based on the childcare expense exemption status, the average monthly childcare fee for an ordinary child was 308,600 KRW or 9.6 percent as opposed to the household income. Households with children subject to exemption and reduction of fees pay 44,300 KRW and 56,700 KRW respectively as an additional fee, except for childcare expenses. Households with children to be exempted from tuition fees pay an average of 55,000 KRW per month, which accounts for 4.6 percent as opposed to the household income (refer to the Table 1-6).

<Table 1-7> indicates the amount of parents' burden for childcare expenses, especially in terms of the total expenses and net tuition by type of establishment and age. The average values vary depending on the percentage of subsidized children out of the children using childcare facilities. In the case of private facilities with the largest percentage of beneficiaries, an average monthly amount of 200,000 KRW is paid by a parent of a child aged two to four.

<Table 1-6> Average Monthly Childcare Fees by Types of Establishment and Subsidy

Unit: Thousand KRW, Percent (Persons)

Classification	Total Cost (A)	Net Fee (B)	Additional Cost (A-B)	(Number)	Total Cost to Income Ratio
Total	168.1	114.3	53.8	(1,342)	7.4
Type of Establishment					
National/Public	126.6	86.7	39.8	(215)	6.1
Social welfare Corporation	110.9	69.5	41.5	(117)	5.4
Other Corporation	143.7	103.2	40.5	(53)	6.6
Private	188.4	124.5	63.9	(801)	8.1
Home	163.0	133.1	29.9	(126)	7.3
Workplace	229.2	164.3	64.9	(26)	5.4
Parent Co-op	99.5	96.9	2.6	(4)	6.1
F	13.8**	8.4**	18.6**		6.2**
Exemption Status					
Exemption	55.0	10.7	44.3	(470)	4.6
Reduction	165.2	108.5	56.7	(484)	7.8
General	308.6	246.8	61.8	(389)	9.6
F	1239.1**	1728.6**	16.0**		78.4**
2004 Survey	164.7	136.4	28.3	(818)	8.3

Note: ** means the statistical significance $p < .01$.

Source: Ministry for Health, Welfare and Family Affairs & KICCE (2009). *2009 Nationwide Survey on Childcare Status*

〈Table 1-7〉 Average Monthly Childcare Fees by Age and Type of Establishment

Unit: Thousand KRW(Person)

Classification	Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Total
Total							
Total cost	116.5	157.3	175.5	180.9	179.2	144.9	168.1
Net fee	101.9	132.6	129.3	120.5	110.3	75.0	114.3
(No. of children)	(45)	(178)	(329)	(317)	(256)	(217)	(1,342)
National/Public							
Total cost	106.0	206.3	128.3	136.7	117.0	97.1	126.6
Net fee	106.0	198.1	108.0	86.0	73.4	44.4	86.7
(No. of children)	(3)	(17)	(40)	(58)	(46)	(50)	(215)
Social welfare Corporation							
Total cost	289.1	156.5	114.2	104.5	112.5	83.4	110.9
Net fee	278.5	124.6	84.2	66.7	63.0	29.9	69.5
(No. of children)	(3)	(4)	(24)	(33)	(31)	(23)	(117)
Private							
Total cost	113.3	148.0	192.6	205.5	209.0	173.1	188.4
Net fee	96.8	122.7	137.1	134.5	127.8	91.2	124.5
(No. of children)	(15)	(106)	(200)	(187)	(163)	(130)	(801)
Home							
Total cost	98.4	163.1	194.6	158.5	214.3	188.0	163.0
Net fee	82.3	140.3	149.5	132.6	200.1	98.0	133.1
(No. of children)	(24)	(43)	(45)	(11)	(3)	(1)	(126)

Note: Other type of establishment are omitted.

Source: Ministry for Health, Welfare and Family Affairs & KICCE (2009). 2009 Nationwide Survey on Childcare Status

D. Achievements and Tasks

The government's childcare subsidy programs have produced numerous tangible results. First, the expansion of eligibility for the childcare subsidy and support scope has alleviated the burden of parents. The percentage of childcare expenses as opposed to the household income in 2009 was 7.4 percent, which was reduced by 0.9 percent from 8.3 percent in 2004. Second, the basis of the subsidy criteria has changed from the one based on average monthly income of urban wage earners to the one based on the scope of children using childcare facilities, thus allowing the government to set the goals centering on children. Third, the childcare support programs have raised the utilization of female work force by reducing 25 percent of a lower income of a dual-income household when calculating recognized amounts of income. Fourth, the support for households with multiple children based on the order of birth has greatly contributed to raising the birth rate.

However, the subsidy programs have many tasks to be done, especially concerning the subsidy support and the burden of parents.

First, the parents' burden on childcare expense is still substantial. Although the childcare survey results from 2004 and 2009 exhibit similar levels of total childcare fees, the net tuition fees of 2009 decreased, while the additional fees increased, compared with the levels from 2004. The reduction of net fees can be attributable to the government's increased support for childcare fees and early childhood education expenses. Nevertheless, with the total expenses remaining at a similar level, there seems to be a limitation to reduce the burden of parents from the current childcare supply structure centering on private facilities.

Second, the characteristics of the infant childcare subsidy are unclear in terms of specific resource type. Although the infant subsidy was excluded from the voucher when the childcare voucher system was introduced to strengthen the characteristics as a facility subsidy, many people still consider it as a subsidy aimed at parents.

Third, it is appropriate to remove the income cap for households with five-year olds. In reality, it seems not necessary for the government to provide subsidy support for children aged five given the high education fever of parents. However, if the free education or childcare for five-year olds is the basis of preparation of the elementary school education, it is reasonable to remove the restriction on income levels. Most cases of the advanced overseas countries have supported the validity of this point.

Fourth, there is a disparity between the standard childcare subsidy and the maximum amount of fees at private facilities set by the local governments or the amount paid by parents. Therefore, parents are often required to pay the balance even within the case of receiving 100 percent of the childcare subsidy, which leads to the reduction in the satisfaction of parents.

Fifth, the introduction of the system to reduce recognized amounts of income for working mothers is highly praised, but the beneficiaries are limited due to the restriction on the reduction in amount. A more aggressive policy is thus needed to increase the recipients.

Sixth, the higher amounts of other necessary expenses, besides childcare fees, are different from regions. In some regions, the amounts seem to be excessive. Given the problem lies in the system in which the local governments are responsible to set the amount and the central government doesn't suggest any guidelines for special activities but advises them to follow the standard childcare curriculum, there should be some measures to correct the loopholes.

2. Child-rearing Allowance for Children Not Using Childcare Facilities

A. System

In an effort to assist the healthy growth of children not attending childcare facilities or kindergartens and to remove the blind spot in the support, the government introduced the child-rearing allowance system in September 2009. The allowance is provided to parents, a person with parental rights or guardian who nurtures a child less than 24 months of age without using a childcare facility. Those eligible are people in the poor or near poor classes or else their monthly household incomes for the family of four people do not exceed 1.63

million KRW. The subsidy amount is 100,000 KRW on a monthly basis and deposited to the account of the child on the 25th of each month.

Among the children receiving a child-rearing grant in rural and fishing areas or receiving the basic livelihood security support, those attending a child-rearing center, a childcare facility or a kindergarten, or those staying abroad for more than 90 days as of the date of application for child-rearing allowance are not eligible for the allowance.

When compared with the full support for the graded childcare fees and the child-rearing allowance, the graded subsidies to the private facilities are 730,000 KRW for children less than one year old and 500,000 KRW for children aged one, while the payment per unit of the child-rearing allowance is just one seventh or one fifth of the graded subsidy.

<Table 2-1> Comparison between Child-rearing Allowance and Childcare Expenses Support

	Child-rearing Allowance	Childcare Expense Support	Note
Candidates	Children not using childcare facilities	Children attending childcare facilities	
Age	0~1	0~4	Children age 3-4 are excluded from eligibility
Income Level	Near poor class Less than 1.59 million KRW(A family of four)	Lower 70 percentile groups Less than 2.58 million KRW (A family of four)	Household income with 1.6 million KRW~2.57 million KRW are excluded from eligibility for the allowance
Subsidy per unit	100,000 KRW per month	Age 0: 733,000 KRW Age 1: 506,000 KRW (Based on private childcare facilities)	

Unlike the graded subsidy, children aged two to four are excluded from the allowance benefits and some income levels of children less than one year old and aged one are excluded from the recipients. Thus, among children aged zero to one, those attending childcare facilities are eligible for free education, while those not attending the facilities are not eligible despite the similarity in their income levels.

Also, given that the personal application is required for the allowance, a problem can occur because some children would not receive the benefit even if they are in the near poor class unless the children themselves have applied the allowance support.

B. Performance on Child-rearing Allowance Support

The budget for the child-rearing allowance system has more than doubled from 32.4 billion KRW in 2009 to 65.7 billion KRW in 2010. The reason behind this is that the system began to be applied in second half of 2009. There is no change in the support level. In 2009, 77,000 children aged zero to one from the poor and the near poor classes received the child-rearing allowance.

C. Achievements and Tasks

The child-rearing allowance support has brought about some positive results as it has resolved the fairness concern in the government's support and guaranteed the parents' right of choice.

However, this system also has some controversies.

The child-rearing support system is considered to have some problems in relation with its equity in terms of selecting beneficiaries and deciding support levels when compared to the childcare expense support. The allowance level for children not using childcare facilities amounts to just one seventh or one fifth of the per unit amount of the full subsidy of income-based childcare fee support. Also, the children aged two to four are excluded from the benefit unlike the graded childcare subsidy. Moreover, some households with children aged zero to one are excluded from the recipients. Thus, among children aged zero to one, those attending childcare facilities are eligible for free education, while those not attending the facilities are not eligible despite the same income levels. Therefore, the expansion of support recipients and adjustment of amounts will be the policy agendas for the government.

In addition, no measures have been put in place to verify that the allowance is being used for children, thus it is necessary to come up with methods to close the loopholes including issuance of vouchers by designating the usage point.

Some may argue that the child-rearing allowance system will ultimately impede the development of children by hampering the use of childcare facilities of children in need of childcare. Although there is no reliable data to support the argument since this system was introduced just six month ago, the argument is open to dispute. Therefore, it is not desirable to expand the support scope and beneficiaries at the moment.

Despite the arguments that the system hinders the participation of female work force, there is no data to verify the arguments due to the short period of implementation of the system. However, it is appropriate to take the possible negative influence on female employment into consideration when expanding the support levels. From the long-term perspective, it should be considered to change the system to the child benefit which is a universal cash payment method.

3. Childcare Financing

A. Status

As previously suggested, the childcare budget has been significantly increased due to the expansion of the childcare policy. <Table 3-1> indicates the central government's childcare budget by each item since 2005. The central & local governments' childcare budgets have drastically increased from 1,723.6 billion KRW in 2006 to 4,288.9 billion KRW in 2010.

Out of the 2010 childcare budget, 18.6 percent or 799.3 billion KRW was used for labor and other operation and 77.6 percent or 3,327.6 billion KRW was spent on childcare

fee support. In addition, the child-rearing allowance for children not attending childcare facilities was introduced in 2009 and childcare fees support for dual-income families was launched in 2010. The childcare budget has been increased in proportion with the expansion of the childcare expense support.

In addition to the central government's national budget support, the local governments have implemented their own special childcare programs and the local budgets have been also increased so far. In 2010, 483.5 billion KRW was allocated for projects at the Cities/Provinces levels, while 171.3 billion KRW was set for Si/Gun/Gu projects.

The amounts of these local budgets account for 15.3 percent, that is, 11.3 percent and 4.0 percent, respectively, of the national budget expenses. Although the special budget rates as opposed to the national budget expenses have been increased from 2008, but they are actually reduced when compared to the figures prior to 2008.⁵ This can be interpreted that the local governments' share of expenses has been raised in accordance with the expansion of the national budget projects.

〈Table 3-1〉 Central & Local Governments' National Budget for Childcare: 2005~2010

		Unit: Million KRW				
Contents		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Facility Operation Support (365 Support)	Labor	672,563	554,824	658,368	753,082	766,876
	Vehicle	8,100	8,210	8,429	9,893	9,863
	Teaching Materials	24,546	22,000	21,896	22,609	22,610
	Sub-total	705,209	585,034	688,693	785,584	799,349
Childcare Fee Support	Fees for Infants	590,840	897,452	1,254,762	2,109,618	1,856,036
	Free for 5-year-olds	274,490	280,901	262,783	281,906	248,963
	Free for Disabled	61,043	71,543	66,577	105,602	94,721
	Two or More Children	19,606	47,059	98,594	172,116	173,235
	Basic Subsidy	-	306,303	530,472	-	934,915
	Dual-income Family	-	-	-	-	19,700
	Sub-total	945,979	1,603,259	2,213,188	2,669,242	3,327,570
Expanding Childcare Facility Functions		67,189	83,263	65,197	41,978	17,902
Infrastructure and Other		5,237	15,100	24,615	8,205	7,362
Child-rearing Allowance for Children not Using Childcare Facilities		-	-	-	68,802	136,764
Total		1,723,614	2,286,656	2,991,693	3,573,811	4,288,947

Note: This is the support project provided by national budget and the special *Cities/Provinces & Si/Gun/Gu* project budgets have been excluded. Basic subsidy for the year 2009 has been included in the operation expenses

Source: Ministry of Gender Equality and Family & Ministry of Health and Welfare (Each Year).

⁵ The rates were higher than 20% in 2003 and 2004.

〈Table 3-2〉 Annual National Budget & Cities/Provinces Budget for Childcare: 2005~2010

Unit: Million KRW, percent

Year	National Program (A)	Cities/Provinces Program (B)	Si/Gun/Gu Program (C)	Total	Ratio (B/A)	Ratio (C/A)
2005	1,322,974	176,464	96,175	1,595,613	13.3	7.3
2006	1,723,613	224,842	89,647	2,038,102	13.0	5.2
2007	2,286,084	292,763	101,169	2,680,016	12.8	4.4
2008	2,944,883	255,883	108,074	3,308,840	8.7	3.7
2009	3,570,376	378,054	132,662	4,081,092	10.6	3.7
2010	4,288,978	483,527	171,298	4,943,803	11.3	4.0

Note: The national budget support expenses consist of the national and local budget for the national grant programs, special Cities/Provinces project expenses are provided by *Cities/Provinces* & *Si/Gun/Gu* budget of special *Cities/Provinces* projects and *Si/Gun/Gu* project expenses are supported by *Si/Gun/Gu* budget.

Source: Ministry of Gender Equality and Family & Ministry of Health and Welfare (Each Year). *Childcare Project Guidelines and Status of Local Governments' Special Projects*.

〈Table 3-3〉 Status of National & Local Childcare Budgets by Cities/Provinces: 2010

Unit: Million KRW, %

Cities/Provinces	National Program(A)	Cities/Provinces Program(B)	Si/Gun/Gu Program(C)	Total	Ratio(B/A)	Ratio (C/A)
Total	4288,978	483,527	171,298	4,943,804	11.3	4.0
Seoul	618,900	189,227	63,564	871,691	30.6	10.3
Busan	257,105	13,056	915	271,076	5.1	0.4
Daegu	228,293	9,112	1,798	239,203	4.0	0.8
Incheon	214,866	30,838	5,266	250,970	14.4	2.5
Gwangju	170,071	6,525	410	177,006	3.8	0.2
Daejeon	150,010	15,913	908	166,831	10.6	0.6
Ulsan	77,904	7,546	1,953	87,403	9.7	2.5
Gyeonggi	930,383	118,591	53,075	1,102,049	12.7	5.7
Gangwon	145,520	5,837	2,729	154,086	4.0	1.9
Chungbuk	153,169	6,212	10,722	170,103	4.1	7.0
Chungnam	187,594	17,849	3,839	209,282	9.5	2.0
Jeonbuk	244,534	16,351	2,632	263,517	6.7	1.1
Jeonnam	227,024	2,048	4,160	233,232	0.9	1.8
Gyeongbuk	254,408	18,642	9,530	282,580	7.3	3.7
Gyeongnam	333,227	16,623	9,799	359,649	5.0	2.9
Jeju	95,970	9,157	-	105,127	9.5	-

Note: The national budget support expenses consist of the national and local budget for the national grant programs, special Cities/Provinces project expenses are provided by *Cities/Provinces* & *Si/Gun/Gu* budget of special *Cities/Provinces* projects and *Si/Gun/Gu* project expenses are supported by *Si/Gun/Gu* budget.

Source: Ministry of Gender Equality and Family & Ministry of Health and Welfare (Each Year). *Childcare Project Guidelines and Status of Local Governments' Special Projects*.

<Table 3-3> shows the regional differences in the central and local budgets for childcare by Cities/Provinces. As for the national budget to Cities/Provinces budget ratio, Seoul recorded the highest with 30.6 percent, followed by Incheon, Gyeonggi and Daejeon with over 10 percent. On the other hand, Jeonnam was the lowest with less than 1 percent and Daegu and Gwangju posted about 4 percent, respectively. As for the special Si/Gun/Gu budget ratio, Seoul posted the highest with 10.3 percent, followed by Chungbuk with 7.0 percent and Gyeonggi with 5.7 percent. Busan, Daegu, Gwangju and Daejeon posted lower levels with less than 1 percent.

<Table 3-4> suggests the total 2010 budget for childcare by the central and local government resources. Out of the estimated total childcare budget of 4,094.4 billion KRW, the central government shouldered 41.8 percent and Cities/Provinces governments shared 27.4 percent and Si/Gun/Gu governments shared 30.8 percent.

<Table 3-5> is the sum of expenses spent on support for infants and young children including childcare, early childhood education and support for rural and fishing areas in 2010. The total childcare budget was 6.2 trillion KRW or 0.62 percent of the nation's GDP.

<Table 3-4> Status of the National and Local Childcare Budgets by Cities/Provinces: 2010

Unit: Million KRW(%)

Program	Budget			Total
	National	Cities/Provinces	Si/Gun/Gu	
National Program	2,066,483	1,111,248	1,111,247	4,288,978
Cities/Provinces Program	-	241,764	241,763	483,527
Si/Gun/Gu Program	-	-	171,298	171,298
Total	2,066,483	1,353,012	1,524,308	4,943,803
(Ratio)	(41.8)	(27.4)	(30.8)	(100.0)

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare (Each Year). *Childcare Project: Guidelines and Status of Local Governments' Special Projects.*

<Table 3-5> Budget for Childcare Early Childhood Education and Child-rearing Allowance for Rural Areas (2010)

Unit: Million KRW, %

Classification	National	Local	Total	Ratio to GDP
Child care	2,066,483	2,877,320	4,943,803	0.465
Education		1,529,272	1,529,272	0.144
Rural/fishing areas	40,686	40,686	81,372	0.008
Total			6,554,447	0.617

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare (Each Year). *Childcare Project: Guidelines and Status of Local Governments' Special Projects.*

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology(2010)

Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries(2010)

B. Achievements and Tasks

The expansion of the childcare budget, along with the increase in the early childhood education budget, is meaningful in that the early investment in infants and young children has been expanded. Since 2004, the budget has considerably increased each year and reached over 4 trillion KRW as of 2010.

However, the country's total childcare funding budget, relative to GDP per capita, stands at 0.617 percent, which is far below the OECD's recommendation of 1 percent.

Meanwhile, Korea's childcare funding budget has a significant regional gap. The national budget support is mostly provided to relieve parents' burden in meeting childcare expenses and therefore a greater amount of the budget is being offered to regions with poor financing status. However, the local government special project funding budget as an additional investment funding can lead to unwanted regional disparities. Thus, it is necessary to reduce the gap.

4. Installation and Use of Childcare Facilities

Next, we will examine the installations and use of the childcare facilities. First of all, the childcare facility supply and use will be analyzed at the national, Cities/Provinces and Si/Gun/Gu levels. Following that, the characteristics of children using childcare facilities will be examined.

A. Supply-related System

The second chapter of the Infant Care Act stipulates that childcare facilities are classified by six types of establishment. Moreover, the central and local governments are required to establish and implement childcare plans to meet the demand and supply of childcare services. Also, the national/public childcare facilities are required to be preferentially established in vulnerable Si/Gun/Gu areas.

The installation of the childcare facilities, except for the national and public facilities, is based on approval. Also, Si/Gun/Gu areas are required to control the supply of childcare facilities in accordance with the regional demand through the prior consultation system. A person who is given the responsibilities to install and operate a childcare facility should not have any reasons to be disqualified and meet the installation criteria set by the subordinate legislation.

B. Status of Installation and Use of National/Public Childcare Facilities

1) Installation of National/Public Childcare Facilities

Since 2005, the budget for the installation of national/public childcare facilities has been gradually decreased. The 2010 budget was about 2 billion KRW and it aimed to establish 10 additional facilities.

The national/public childcare facilities are required to be preferentially established in vulnerable and low-income areas. The objective is to give the children from vulnerable classes more opportunities to receive childcare services and thereby support the children and parents. In order to promote a smooth progress in the installation of the national/public childcare facilities, the government introduced a new clause in Jan. 2008 to ease the securement of land for childcare facilities when implementing development, maintenance and construction projects such as the land, housing site and the public rented housing programs. Despite such efforts, however, the installation rate of national/public childcare facilities still remains low.

The numbers of children on the waiting list for the national/public childcare facilities are inaccurate since most of the children attend private facilities. However, they can be used as indexes representing the preference for the national/public childcare facilities. As of March 2009, it was estimated that there were 118,478 children on the waiting lists at 1,831 national and public facilities nationwide, which means there were an average of 65 children waiting per facility (refer to Table 4-2).

The numbers of regions without childcare facilities across the country stood at 47 at the dong level and 453 at the eup/myeon level (refer to Table 4-3).

The government has intended to newly establish 10 national/public childcare facilities in 2010, but the measure has a limitation as an alternative to expand such facilities.

2) Childcare Facilities and Numbers of Children

As of December 2009, there are 1,175,000 children in 35,550 childcare facilities nationwide. In terms of infants and young children, 42.0 percent of infants and young children use the facilities out of the entire numbers of those children.

With regard to the childcare composition rate by type of establishment, the percentage of the national and public facilities is severely restricted with less than 10 percent. In contrast, the number of private facilities is 13,433 or 37.8 percent, while the family childcare facilities are 17,359 or 48.8 percent (refer to the Table 4-1).

Out of the total number of children using childcare facilities as of December 2009, the number of children using the national-public facilities stands at about 129,000 or 11.0 percent and the number of children attending at authorized and other childcare facilities is about 165,000 or 14.1 percent. On the other hand, the number of children using private facilities is about 860,000 or 73.2 percent - 623,000 coming from private child care centers and 237,000 from family childcare facilities.

Meanwhile, there are 8,373 kindergartens nationwide and about 537,000 children are using the institutes as of 2009. By type of establishment, the national and public kindergartens account for 53.6 percent and private ones for 46.3 percent. Although the number of the national and public kindergartens outstrips the number of private institutes, about 77.9 percent of children are catered to by private kindergartens since the sizes of the national and public kindergartens are rather small (refer to the Table 4-3). In rural and fishing areas, a significant portion of public kindergartens are installed annexed to elementary schools. This is because the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

has made efforts to give more educational opportunities to children from low-income families in rural and fishing areas.

〈Table 4-1〉 Number of Childcare Facilities by Establishment Type (2009)

Unit: Place(%)

Year	Total	National/public Social	Corporation	Other Corporation	Private	Home	Workplace	Parent Co-op
1995	9,085	1,029	928	22	3,175	3,844	87	-
2000	19,276	1,295	2,010	324	8,970	6,473	204	-
2005	28,367	1,473	1,495	979	12,769	11,346	263	42
2006	29,233	1,643	1,475	1,066	12,864	11,828	298	59
2007	30,856	1,748	1,460	1,002	13,081	13,184	320	61
2008	33,499	1,826	1,458	969	13,306	15,525	350	65
2009	35,550	1,917	1,470	935	13,433	17,359	370	66
(percentage)	(100.0)	(5.4)	(4.1)	(2.6)	(37.8)	(48.8)	(1.0)	(0.2)

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare (Each Year). *Childcare Project: Guidelines*.

〈Table 4-2〉 Number of Children by Establishment Type (2009)

Unit: Person(%)

Year	Total	National/ public	Social Corp.	Other Corp.	Private	Home	Work place	Parent Co-op
1995	293,747	78,831	77,187	591	92,634	42,116	2,388	-
2000	686,000	99,666	157,993	15,949	336,625	67,960	7,807	-
2005	989,390	111,911	125,820	56,374	552,360	129,007	12,985	933
2006	1,040,361	114,657	120,551	58,808	582,329	148,240	14,538	1,238
2007	1,099,933	119,141	118,211	55,906	612,484	177,623	15,124	1,444
2008	1,135,502	123,405	113,874	53,818	615,647	210,438	16,809	1,491
2009	1,175,049	129,656	112,338	52,718	622,996	236,892	18,794	1,655
(percentage)	(100.0)	(11.0)	(9.6)	(4.5)	(53.0)	(20.2)	(1.6)	(0.1)

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare (Each Year). *Childcare Project: Guidelines*.

〈Table 4-3〉 Kindergarten Installation and Number of Children Enrolled

Unit: Place, Class, Person

	2008			2009			2010		
	Pre-school	Class	Children	Pre-school	Class	Children	Pre-school	Class	Children
Total	8,344	24,567	537,822	8,373	24,908	537,361	8,388	25,670	538,587
Public	4,480	6,789	119,128	4,490	6,873	125,305	4,498	7,115	126,341
Private	3,861	17,778	418,694	3,880	18,021	411,825	3,887	18,541	412,010

Source: The Korean Educational Development Institute, Korea Institute of Child Care and Education(2010). 2009-2010 An primary school's Annual Report'

The rate of infants using childcare facilities and kindergartens is 41.6 percent of the total infant population of 1,381,000 while the rates of preschoolers using childcare facilities and kindergartens are 42.4 percent and 39.7 percent, respectively. Therefore, a total of 82.1 percent of children attend childcare facilities or kindergartens. When the number of infants is combined with the number of preschoolers, about 61.6 percent out of about 2.74 million children are enrolled in childcare and early childhood services. By age, the percentage of children aged two has recorded the highest with 54.4 percent or 268,038 (refer to the Table 4-4).

〈Table 4-4〉 Number of Infants and Preschoolers Using Childcare and Early Childhood Education Institutes (2009)

Unit: Person, %

Age	population (A)	Child care facilities (B)	Pre-school (C)	Total (B+C)	Ratio (B/A)	Ratio (B+C/A)	Employment rate of mothers
Age 0	424,529	107,525	-	-	25.3	-	24.7
Age 1	464,282	198,831	-	-	42.8	-	29.2
Age 2	492,482	268,038	-	-	54.4	-	39.2
Age 0~2	1,381,293	574,394	-	-	41.6	-	29.9
Age 3	447,432	227,966	111,482	339,448	50.9	75.9	44.4
Age 4	434,700	193,934	181,441	375,375	44.6	86.4	44.8
Age 5	473,112	152,380	244,654	397,034	32.2	83.9	46.0
Age 3~5	1,355,244	574,280	537,557	1,111,837	42.4	82.0	44.9
Age 0~5	2,736,537	1,148,674	537,557	1,686,231	42.0	61.6	35.8

Note: Children above 5 are omitted in Child care (2009. 4) and Education(2010.4) statistics.

Source: The Korean Educational Development Institute, Korea Institute of Child Care and Education(2010).

2009-2010 An primary school's Annual Report'

Ministry of Health and Welfare (2009). *Childcare Statistics*.

When compared with the maternal employment rate based on the age of the youngest child, the maternal employment rate was 35.8 percent, while the childcare facility utilization rate of infants and preschoolers was much higher with 61.6 percent. By the maternal employment rates based on the age of the youngest child, the employment rate was higher for mothers with preschoolers than those with infants. As for infants, the maternal employment rate for mothers with children aged two was the highest among different age groups, coupled with the highest rate of facility utilization of the children aged two. This indicates a close relationship between the two factors. However, the employment rate for mothers with preschoolers remains 44~46 percent regardless of the age of children. Given that the facility utilization rates rise in proportion with the age of children, it can be assumed that preschoolers use the childcare institutions regardless of their mothers' employment situations.

The utilization rate of childcare facility and early education organization recommended by OECD is 30 percent for children aged zero to two and 90 percent for children aged three to five. Korea's infant facility utilization is higher than the OECD

standard, but it is hard to compare with overseas data since the maternal employment rates and parental leave rates are substantially different from Korea's situation. Since a significant number of young children use similar institutions and childcare facilities including hagwons (refer to the chapter 4), their utilization of childcare facilities falls short of 90 percent. However, when considered it from the preparation of elementary school education, as suggested by OECD, the rate has reached the international standard.

3) Regional Disparity

A) Gap in Cities/Provinces

The installation and use of childcare facilities vary according to region. First, let's take a look at the childcare service supply and use at the Cities/Provinces level.

<Table 4-5> Rate of Childcare at the Cities/Provinces Level (2009)

Unit: Person, %

Cities/ Provinces	Population (A)	Places(B)	Children(C)	Ratio (B/A)	Ratio (C/A)	Ratio(C/B)
Total	2,736,537	1,482,416	1,175,049	54.2	42.9	79.3
Seoul	511,746	230,888	193,723	45.1	37.9	83.9
Busan	153,636	78,238	62,862	50.9	40.9	80.3
Daegu	124,359	73,312	57,501	59.0	46.2	78.4
Incheon	152,192	71,246	58,567	46.8	38.5	82.2
Gwangju	85,754	58,802	45,640	68.6	53.2	77.6
Daejeon	87,627	47,864	38,141	54.6	43.5	79.7
Ulsan	66,078	30,381	24,074	46.0	36.4	79.2
Gyeonggi	725,746	359,719	283,774	49.6	39.1	78.9
Gangwon	76,946	47,965	37,562	62.3	48.8	78.3
Chungbuk	84,846	56,254	42,557	66.3	50.2	75.7
Chungnam	117,882	66,557	52,282	56.5	44.4	78.6
Jeonbuk	96,787	72,755	55,619	75.2	57.5	76.4
Jeonnam	95,844	65,751	51,240	68.6	53.5	77.9
Gyeongbuk	134,724	85,131	63,724	63.2	47.3	74.9
Gyeongnam	187,727	109,494	84,186	58.3	44.8	76.9
Jeju	34,643	28,059	23,597	81.0	68.1	84.1

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare (2009). *Childcare Statistics*.

<Table 4-5> is the childcare service supply rates at the Cities/Provinces level calculated by comparing the registered population number with the childcare facility quota ratio using the statistical data in 2009.

The nationwide childcare service supply rate compared to the number of children is 54.2 percent, the utilization rate 42.9 percent and the quota fill rate 79.3 percent. By childcare service supply rate at the Cities/Provinces level, Seoul has posted the lowest with 45.1 percent, while Jeju is the highest with 81.0 percent. As for the childcare service use as

opposed to the number of children, Seoul and Incheon are the lowest with less than 40 percent, while Jeju has recorded the highest with 68.1 percent.⁶

The quota fill rate compared to facility quota shows no significant regional differences. Gyeongbuk has recorded the lowest level with 74.9 percent, while Jeju is the highest with 84.1 percent.

B) Gap in *Si/Gun/Gu*

The following table indicates the childcare service distribution status at the *Si/Gun/Gu* levels of each Cities/Provinces. The highest supply distribution rates suggested by <Table 4-6> are 41~50 percent and 51~60 percent ranges with 57 *Si/Gun/Gu* areas, followed by 61~70 percent with 54 *Si/Gun/Gu* areas.

<Table 4-6> Distribution of Average Childcare Facility Quota in *Si/Gun/Gu* of Cities/Provinces

Unit: *Si·Gun·Gu*

Cities/ Provinces	Below 30	31~40	41~50	51~60	61~70	71~80	81~90	91~100	Above 100	Total
Total	1	15	57	57	54	34	9	5	0	232
Seoul	0	6	11	4	3	1	0	0	0	25
Busan	0	2	3	5	4	2	0	0	0	16
Daegu	0	0	0	5	2	0	1	0	0	8
Incheon	0	1	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	10
Gwangju	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	5
Daejeon	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	5
Ulsan	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Gyeonggi	0	4	11	6	6	3	1	0	0	31
Gangwon	0	0	5	5	3	5	0	0	0	18
Chungbuk	0	0	1	3	4	3	1	0	0	12
Chungnam	0	0	3	7	2	2	1	1	0	16
Jeonbuk	0	1	1	2	4	2	2	2	0	14
Jeonnam	0	0	2	2	10	5	2	1	0	22
Gyeongbuk	1	0	3	7	9	3	0	0	0	23
Gyeongnam	0	1	4	6	3	5	1	0	0	20
Jeju	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare (2009). *Childcare Statistics*.

The region with less than 30 percent of supply rate is 1 *Si/Gun/Gu* area in Gyeongbuk. The number of regions with the supply rate of 31~40 percent are 15 *Si/Gun/Gu* areas. Seoul, Gyeonggi and Busan have recorded 6, 4 and 2 *Si/Gun/Gu* areas, respectively, and Incheon, Jeonbuk and Gyeonnam have 1 *Si/Gun/Gu* area each. In contrast, the regions with surplus supply are the areas whose facility quota as opposed to child population has reached 71~80 percent. There are 34 such areas nationwide and regions with more than 90 percent are 5 areas. The area with less than 30 percent of the supply is Ulleung-gun in Gyeongbuk with 24.6 percent. On the other hand, regions with

6 When calculating childcare service supply and utilization, the age groups of population of infants and preschoolers were 0-5 years old. However, given that childcare facilities include children aged 6, the figures appear to be a bit exaggerated.

more than 71 percent of quota to population ratio are Jeonnam, Jeonbuk, Gyeongnam and Gangwon. In particular, areas with 90 percent of the supply rates are Seocheon-gun in Chungnam, Jeongeup-si and Namwon-si in Jeonbuk, Hwasun-gun in Jeonnam and Seogwipo-si in Jeju.

<Table 4-7> indicates the percentage of childcare service use in Si/Gun/Gu areas of Cities/Provinces. The lowest utilization rate range is 41~50 percent with 85 Si/Gun/Gu areas, followed by 31~40 percent with 62 such areas and 51~60 percent with 61 such areas. The regions with less than 30 percent of utilization are 8 Si/Gun/Gu areas, that is, 3 areas in Seoul, 2 areas in Chungbuk, 1 area in Incheon, 1 area in Gyeonggi and 1 area in Gyeonnam. There are 5 Si/Gun/Gu areas with 71~80 percent of the current fill rate and no regions with more than 91 percent. The regions with the highest fill rate of 71 percent are distributed in Jeonnam, Jeonbuk, Daegu and Jeju.

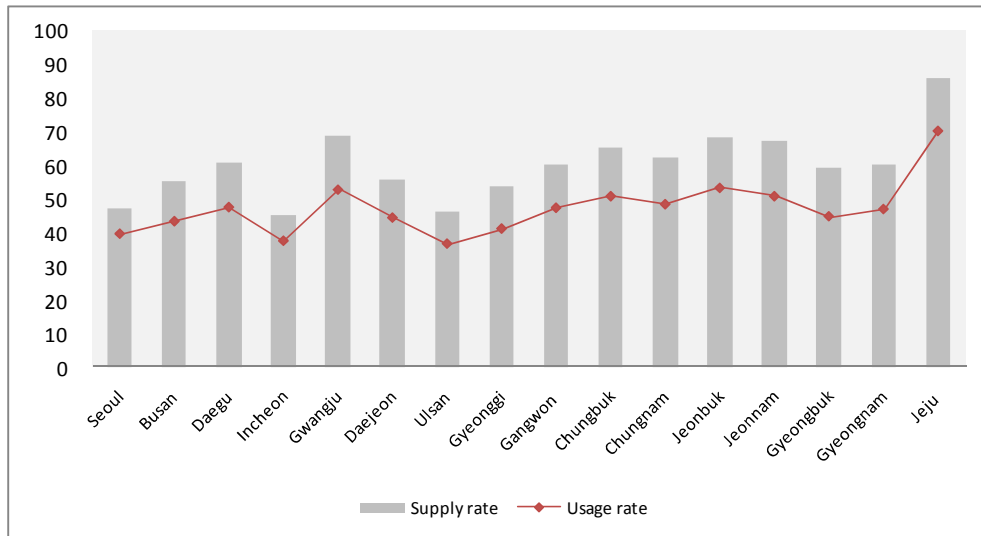
<Table 4-7> Distribution of Average Fit Rate of Childcare Facilities in Si/Gun/Gu of Cities/Provinces

Unit: Si·Gun·Gu

Cities/Provinces	Below 30	31~40	41~50	51~60	61~70	71~80	Total
Total	8	62	85	61	11	5	232
Seoul	3	11	7	4	0	0	25
Busan	0	5	8	3	0	0	16
Daegu	0	0	7	0	0	1	8
Incheon	1	7	2	0	0	0	10
Gwangju	0	0	1	4	0	0	5
Daejeon	0	1	3	1	0	0	5
Ulsan	0	4	1	0	0	0	5
Gyeonggi	1	15	9	5	1	0	31
Gangwon	0	4	8	5	1	0	18
Chungbuk	0	1	4	6	1	0	12
Chungnam	0	2	9	3	2	0	16
Jeonbuk	0	2	3	6	1	2	14
Jeonnam	0	3	6	9	3	1	22
Gyeongbuk	2	3	10	8	0	0	23
Gyeongnam	1	4	7	7	1	0	20
Jeju	0	0	0	0	1	1	2

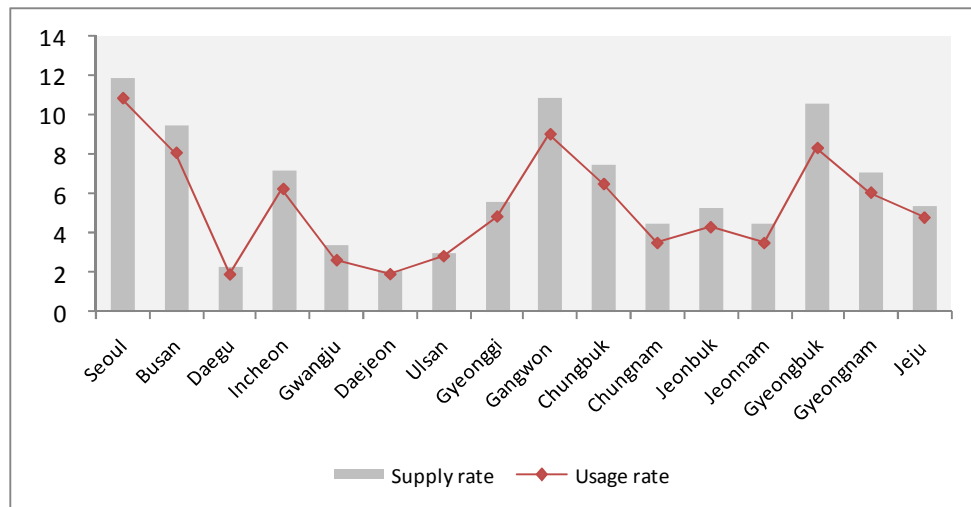
Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare (2009). *Childcare Statistics*.

[Figure 4-1] shows the average childcare service supply and utilization in Si/Gun/Gu areas of Cities/Provinces. The average supply rate in the basic unit of the local government is 58.5 percent while Jeju has posted the highest rate with 85.7 percent. Although the two local si areas of Jeju have exhibited some differences in the supply rates with 76.4 percent and 95.0 percent, both of them show surplus supply rates compared with the number of children (refer to the attached table). The regions with more than 60 percent of supply rate are Daegu, Gangwon, Gwangju, Chungbuk, Chungnam, Jeonbuk, Jeonnam and Gyeongnam with 60~68 percent of supply range. The regions with more than 60 percent of average supply rate exhibit a standard deviation of 8~16 percent. The regions which show more than 50 percent of gap between the maximum and minimum levels are Jeonbuk, Gyeongbuk and Gyeongnam.



Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare (2009). *Childcare Statistics*.

[Figure 4-1] Average Quota of Childcare Facilities in Si/Gun/Gu Areas of Cities/Provinces



Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare (2009). *Childcare Statistics*.

[Figure 4-2] Average Quota Rate of National and Public Childcare Facilities in Si/Gun/Gu Areas of Cities/Provinces

The average utilization by Si/Gun/Gu is 45.6 percent. Jeju has posted the highest Si/Gun/Gu rate of utilization and supply with 70.4 percent, followed Jeonbuk, Gwangju, Chungbuk and Jeonnam with 50 percent. The childcare service utilization also exhibits a regional gap by Si/Gun/Gu areas, even within the same city or province. In particular, Jeonbuk shows more than a 10 percent standard deviation.

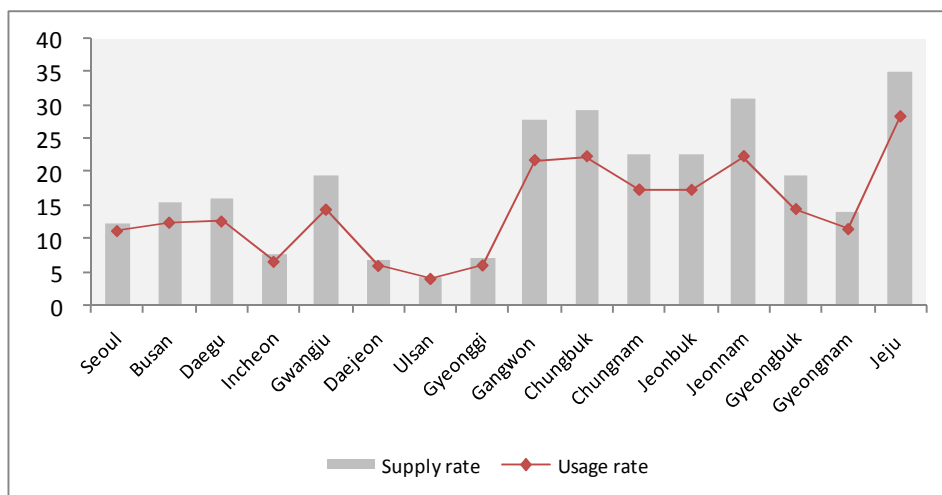
The nationwide quota fill rate is 79.3 percent. By region, Seoul, Incheon, Daegu and Jeju surpass 80 percent and other cities and provinces have posted 74~79 percent.

The following [Figure 4-2] indicate the average of supply and usage rates of the national and public childcare facilities in Si/Gun/Gu areas. The average supply rate is 7.3 percent. As seen in the figure, there is a wide regional gap. Among the basic units of the local governments, Seoul has recorded the highest supply rate for the nation and public facilities with 11.9 percent on an average rate of districts. Gangwon and Gyeongbuk also show more than 10 percent of supply rates. In contrast, the regions with the lowest supply rates are Daejeon, Daegu and Ulsan with 2.1 percent, 2.3 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively.

The average utilization rate of national and public childcare facilities in Si/Gun/Gu areas is 6.1 percent. It also has a considerable regional disparity as gu areas in Seoul exhibit an average utilization rate of 10 percent, followed by Gangwon with 9.0 percent and Busan and Gyeongbuk with 8 percent. In contrast, Daegu and Daejeon show relatively low rates of 2 percent on an average rate of gu areas.

The quota fill rate, which indicates the supply to use ratio of the national and public childcare facilities by Si/Gun/Gu, is 88.5 percent in nationwide. By region, Seoul, Daejeon, Ulsan, Gyeonggi and Jeju have posted more than 90 percent, while Daegu and Gwangju remain 77 percent.

The following [Figure 4-3] suggest the average supply and usage rates of the national/public and authorized childcare facilities in Si/Gun/Gu areas. The nationwide supply rate is 17.9 percent. Jeju has posted the highest rate with 35.2 percent, followed by Jeonnam, Chungbuk and Gangwon with 27~31 percent, while Ulsan has recorded the lowest rate with 4.5 percent. The regions with less than 10 percent are Ulsan, Incheon, Daejeon and Gyeonggi.



Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare (2009). *Childcare Statistics*.

[Figure 4-3] Average Quota of National/Public and Childcare Facilities in Si/Gun/Gu areas of Cities/Provinces

The usage rates of the national/public and authorized childcare facilities in Si/Gun/Gu areas is 14.1 percent in nationwide. Jeju, Chungbuk and Jeonnam show the highest levels with 28.4 percent, 22.5 percent and 22.4 percent, respectively. On the other hand, Incheon, Daejeon, Ulsan and Gyeonggi have exhibited relatively low rates with less than 10 percent. The fill rate is 83.2 percent in nationwide. By region, Seoul surpasses 90 percent, while Gwangju is relatively low with 74.9 percent.

C. Characteristics of Children in Care

1) Age Distribution

<Table 4-8> shows the percentage of age of children using childcare facilities by establishment type and by Cities/Provinces. As previously mentioned in this paper, the facility use is the highest among those children aged two, followed by children aged three. By type of establishment, the rate of infants using home childcare facilities is markedly high with 89.7 percent, while the utilization rate of preschoolers is just about 10 percent. Children aged five show relatively high levels of utilization of facilities subsidized by labor costs

By region, Gwangju, Gangwon, Chungnam, Chungbuk, Jeonnam and Jeonbuk show relatively high rate of children aged five and thus these regions also exhibit the highest usage rates of five-year olds in rural and fishing areas.

<Table 4-8> Age Distribution of Children in Care

Unit: %, (Person)

	Age 0	Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Primary School children	Total(No. of children)
Total	9.0	17.0	23.0	19.0	17.0	13.0	2.0	100.0 (1,175,049)
Cities/Provinces.								
Seoul	8.0	16.0	23.0	19.0	17.0	13.0	4.0	100.0 (193,723)
Busan	8.0	17.0	24.0	20.0	15.0	12.0	4.0	100.0 (62,862)
Daegu	7.0	16.0	24.0	23.0	16.0	11.0	3.0	100.0 (57,501)
Incheon	9.0	17.0	24.0	20.0	16.0	13.0	1.0	100.0 (58,567)
Gwangju	11.0	17.0	20.0	18.0	17.0	16.0	1.0	100.0 (45,640)
Daejeon	11.0	20.0	25.0	19.0	14.0	10.0	1.0	100.0 (38,141)
Ulsan	7.0	18.0	28.0	23.0	14.0	9.0	1.0	100.0 (24,074)
Gyeonggi	12.0	18.0	23.0	18.0	16.0	12.0	1.0	100.0 (283,774)
Gangwon	5.0	15.0	22.0	21.0	20.0	16.0	1.0	100.0 (37,562)
Chungbuk	7.0	15.0	21.0	20.0	19.0	17.0	1.0	100.0 (42,557)
Chungnam	7.0	15.0	22.0	21.0	19.0	15.0	1.0	100.0 (52,282)
Jeonbuk	10.0	16.0	20.0	17.0	17.0	16.0	4.0	100.0 (55,619)
Jeonnam	8.0	15.0	20.0	19.0	19.0	17.0	2.0	100.0 (51,240)
Gyeongbuk	8.0	16.0	24.0	21.0	16.0	12.0	3.0	100.0 (63,724)
Gyeongnam	10.0	19.0	25.0	19.0	14.0	11.0	2.0	100.0 (84,186)
Jeju	9.0	19.0	21.0	21.0	19.0	10.0	1.0	100.0 (23,597)

Type of Establishment									
National/public Social Corporation	2.0	11.0	20.0	23.0	23.0	19.0	2.0	100.0	(129,656)
Other Corporation	3.0	11.0	20.0	23.0	21.0	18.0	4.0	100.0	(112,338)
Private Workplace	2.0	10.0	19.0	22.0	22.0	18.0	7.0	100.0	(52,718)
Home	5.0	12.0	23.0	23.0	20.0	15.0	2.0	100.0	(623,045)
Parent Co-op	3.0	15.0	24.0	25.0	20.0	12.0	1.0	100.0	(18,794)
	31.0	37.0	26.0	4.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	100.0	(236,843)
	2.0	9.0	22.0	22.0	23.0	20.0	2.0	100.0	(1,655)

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare (2009). *Childcare Statistics*.

2) Children from Households of Married Immigrants

According to the childcare statistics as of December 2009, the number of infants and preschoolers using childcare facilities is 26,412, which amounts to 42.5 percent of 62,137 of children under age 6 using multi-cultural centers according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Public Administration and Security in 2010. Given that the total number of infants and young children to children in care to 40.1 percent, the multi-cultural center use rate of the children is not low.

According to type of establishment, the number of infants and preschoolers using private childcare facilities is 13 percent, while that of using national/public facilities is 11 percent out of the total 26,412 children.

As of April 2009,⁷ an average of 99 children from households of married immigrants are attending childcare facilities in Si/Gun/Gu area. Ansan-si in Gyeonggi has the largest number of those children with 415, while Ulleung-gun has the smallest with only one child.

By the percentage of children in care, the nationwide rate is 3.6 percent. By region, the average number of the children in Si/Gun areas is 6.9 percent in Jeonbuk, 5.9 percent in Jeonnam, 5.1 percent in Chungnam and 5.0 percent in Gyeongbuk. The largest percentage of the children is 13.2 percent. Chungnam, Chungbuk, Gyeongnam, Gyeongbuk, Jeonnam and Jeonbuk have posted more than 10 percent. There are 13 areas with over 10 percent and all of those areas are gun regions.

〈Table 4-9〉 Percentage and Number of Children from Multi-cultural Families out of Children in Care by Si/Gun/Gu

Cities/ Provinces	Rate of children				No. of Children					(Si·Gun· Gu)
	Average	SD	Min.	Max.	Average	SD	Min.	Max.	Total	
Total	3.6	2.9	0.6	13.2	99.4	71.8	1	415	23,058	(232)
Gangwon	3.7	2.0	0.8	7.6	51.2	40.2	14	153	921	(18)
Gyeonggi	1.8	0.7	0.3	4.1	136.4	102.2	6	415	4,229	(31)
Gyeongnam	4.6	3.3	0.9	11.3	95.9	64.9	30	275	1,918	(20)
Gyeongbuk	5.0	3.3	0.9	13.2	73.1	61.6	1	251	1,682	(23)
Gwangju	1.7	0.4	1.1	2.2	134.4	85.2	44	249	672	(5)

7 Among the children in care, the number of children from households of married immigrants is 23,058.

Daegu	1.7	0.7	1.0	2.8	116.5	95.8	12	325	932	(8)
Daejeon	1.7	0.5	1.1	2.3	115.0	20.1	81	134	575	(5)
Busan	1.8	0.7	0.9	3.1	63.6	38.3	14	148	1,017	(16)
Seoul	1.7	0.7	0.6	3.2	118.7	53.5	37	286	2,968	(25)
Ulsan	1.9	0.2	1.6	2.1	84.4	18.5	67	105	422	(5)
Incheon	2.2	1.1	1.2	4.1	97.0	74.2	9	196	970	(10)
Jeonnam	5.9	2.9	1.3	13.2	80.5	41.7	32	179	1,772	(22)
Jeonbuk	6.9	4.2	1.4	13.1	117.4	72.4	27	295	1,643	(14)
Jeju	1.4	0.3	1.2	1.6	145.0	70.7	95	195	290	(2)
Chungnam	5.1	2.6	1.9	12.5	124.9	90.0	24	362	1,998	(16)
Chungbuk	4.9	3.2	1.5	10.9	87.4	66.2	27	270	1,049	(12)

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare (2009). *Childcare Statistics*.

D. Achievements and Tasks

Korea's supply and use of childcare service for infants and preschoolers is considered as sufficient. Out of the total population of children attending either childcare facilities or kindergartens, 41 percent of infants of the total populations of infants and 82.0 percent of preschoolers are using those facilities. When the numbers are combined, 61.6 percent out of a total of 2.74 million infants and preschoolers are using either kindergartens or childcare facilities. The standard utilization rate of early childhood education institutes or childcare facilities recommended by OECD is 30 percent for children aged 0~2 and 90 percent for children aged 3~5. From this standard, In Korea, Infants' utilization rate for kindergartens and childcare facilities is relatively high and the rate falls behind the 90 percent level because a significant number of preschoolers go to hagwons or similar institutions. Nevertheless, it meets the international standards in terms of preparation for elementary school education.

However, as regards childcare service supply structure, Korea's regional disparity and lopsided type of childcare facilities pose a significant problem.

One of the most important tasks in the supply of childcare service is the expansion of national and public childcare facilities. The expansion of such facilities has attracted keen interest since the government began to deal with the issues of the quality of childcare and parents' burden in earnest. However, it has been caught in a structural deadlock as the result of the quantitative expansion policy in the 1990s. Given the current difficulties that the government is faced with in establishing national and public childcare facilities, it is urgent to come up with appropriate measures to resolve the fundamental problem.

Meanwhile, one of the important policy tasks is to remove the regional disparity in the supply and demand of the childcare services. The average supply rate of the basic unit of the local governments is 58.5 percent and 45.6 percent for Si/Gun/Gu areas. Jeju has posted the highest rate both in terms of utilization by Si/Gun/Gu area and supply rate with 70.4 percent, followed by Jeonbuk, Gwangju, Chungbuk and Jeonnam with 50 percent. The childcare service demand also shows a significant regional gap even within the same city or province. In particular, Jeonbuk has exhibited more than a 10 percent standard deviation according to region.

5. Extended-hour Childcare

A. System

In an attempt to create the customized childcare environment for customers by providing subsidies to childcare facilities implementing extended-hour childcare programs, the government has promoted to activate extended-hour programs, thus assisting in the participation of the female work force.

The extended-hour childcare is applied from 7:30 p.m. There are two types of such programs as of 2010. One is to provide for an additional childcare teacher. As for the facilities subsidized for labor costs, they are provided with 80 percent of labor costs. On the other hand, facilities receiving no labor cost support are offered a monthly amount of 1 million KRW for more than three children in extended-hour program. Another is a new pilot program introduced in 2010 and it is to provide "allowance for overtime work" for childcare teachers. According to this program, a childcare teachers working overtime (2 hours daily, 12,000 KRW allowance, for 1 extended-hour class) is offered monthly 300,000 KRW for the allowance. The minimum number of children in care has been reduced from three to two. It is estimated that about 4.5 billion KRW will be used for the programs this year for about 3,500 extended-hour classes. In addition, the childcare fees for the programs are set at 2,400 KRW per hour. Graded support for extended-hour programs is provided to parents in low-income groups. Those in the lower 50 percentile of the income ladder are offered full extended-hour program fees, 60 percent support for those in the lower 60 percentile and 30 percent support for those in the lower 70 percentile.

B. Status

Currently, there are 4,598 designated facilities providing extended-hour classes and 1,542 undesignated those facilities nationwide. The number of children using those facilities is 26,486 or about 2 percent of the total number of children in care. By region, Jeju has posted the highest rate with 5 percent, while Gangwon with 1 percent. No big difference in the figures as most regions showed levels of about 2 percent.

Meanwhile, about 13 percent of childcare facilities are participating in this system out of the entire childcare facilities. By region, Jeju has recorded the highest rate with 34 percent, while Gyeonggi with the lowest of 8 percent.

Compared with the utilization, parents demand for such facilities is high. In the 2010 childcare survey, 7 percent of parents said the system is necessary at all times. In particular, 10 percent of working mothers said the extended-hour program should be in operation in ordinary times.

Another problem related to the extended-hour program is the number of children in care. As the statistics suggested, the current system providing labor cost support for teachers for just over two children in care is very cost-inefficient.

The system to give teachers allowance for working overtime is a highly flexible policy in terms of improving teachers' working conditions.

〈Table 5-1〉 Status of Extended-hour Childcare Programs by Cities/Provinces (As of Nov. 2009)

Unit: Person(%)

Cities/Provinces	Total Children (A)	No. of Children for Extended-hour Childcare				Total Facilities (B)	No. of Childcare Facilities	
		Extended (Ratio to A)	Night	24 hours	Holiday		designated (Ratio to B)	Un-designated
Total	1,150,562	26,486 (2)	58	1,097	2,296	35,259	4,598 (13)	1,542
Seoul	186,216	4,399 (2)	32	325	353	5,685	774 (14)	262
Busan	60,654	1,263 (2)	2	106	96	1,653	235 (14)	69
Daegu	55,995	993 (2)	2	36	59	1,492	203 (14)	43
Incheon	57,858	1,189 (2)	-	53	60	1,760	195 (11)	81
Gwangju	44,897	735 (2)	1	23	95	1,149	76 (7)	58
Daejeon	37,861	1,324 (3)	-	19	54	1,393	235 (17)	76
Ulsan	23,878	391 (2)	3	24	41	654	84 (13)	13
Gyeonggi	280,767	5,277 (2)	10	272	421	10,372	862 (8)	405
Gangwon	37,358	530 (1)	5	8	82	910	136 (15)	27
Chungbuk	42,073	931 (2)	-	1	56	1,030	178 (17)	14
Chungnam	51,796	1,197 (2)	-	24	77	1,449	205 (14)	57
Jeonbuk	53,446	1,525 (3)	1	49	154	1,502	254 (17)	95
Jeonnam	50,393	1,529 (3)	-	21	31	1,103	321 (29)	34
Gyeongbuk	61,911	1,138 (2)	-	37	30	1,807	187 (10)	39
Gyeongnam	82,128	2,922 (3)	2	95	325	2,801	485 (17)	239
Jeju	23,331	1,143 (5)	-	4	362	499	164 (34)	30

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare (2009).

〈Table 5-2〉 Necessity of Night-time Childcare Service by Characteristics

Unit: %(Person)

	usually	1-2 times in a week	1-2 times in a month	1-2 times in a year	none	total(No)	X ² (df)
Total	7.1	9.3	14.4	4.1	65.1	100.0(3,303)	
Area							
Large cities	7.5	10.8	13.2	3.2	65.3	100.0(1,318)	29.9(8)**
Cities in Provinces	7.7	8.6	16.6	4.6	62.6	100.0(1,436)	
Rural area	4.7	7.4	11.6	5.1	71.1	100.0(551)	
Employment of mothers							
Employed	10.2	12.4	16.9	4.0	56.5	100.0(1,113)	72.3(8)**
Not Employed	5.3	7.6	13.2	4.1	69.7	100.0(2,114)	
Absent	10.5	9.2	10.5	6.6	63.2	100.0(76)	

Note: ** p < .01.

Source: 2009 Nation Survey

C. Achievements and Tasks

The extended-hour childcare system has introduced a new policy that provides a childcare teacher with the extended-hour program monthly allowance of 300,000 KRW for

working overtime (2 hours daily, 12,000 KRW allowance) starting from in 2010. This is a highly flexible policy which can be assessed as a major institutional achievement in 2010.

However, the demand for the extended-hour programs is much higher than the supply. The survey results show that there is a 7 percent of demand for the system, while the actual number of children using the facilities is just 2 percent of the total number children in care. Also, it is hard to predict the accurate constant demand.

The extended-hour program is very inefficient given that all the childcare facilities are open to apply for the program and 100 percent of the labor costs is provided to the teachers if there is only one child using the facility. In addition, graded support for those children using the facilities are provided to parents of children in low-income brackets. However, there are no measures to verify the operation and management of the system. Given this, it is desirable to designate the childcare facilities according to region and make them provide childcare for children in need of such programs.

6. Childcare Facility Accreditation

A. System

In an attempt to fulfill the social demand for quality childcare service, the government has introduced the evaluation accreditation system. After undertaking preparation for the system in 2003 by developing "Childcare Facility Evaluation Model," the government laid the legal foundation by revising the Infant Care Act in 2004 and established the "Childcare Facility Evaluation & Accreditation Office." The system has been put in place since 2006 after going through a pilot operation project in 2005.

Starting from in 2010, the system operation has entered a different phase. Under the newly changed system, childcare facilities with less than 1 year of operation after receiving a construction approval are allowed to participate in the evaluation. Besides, measures have been taken to integrate or streamline the items and indicators in order to supplement the appropriateness of the indicators. Also, additional measures have been introduced to verify the basic legal items (installation standard, employee distribution criteria, etc.) and the evaluation notification period has been shortened⁸, objectiveness and fairness of the evaluation have been strengthened and a consulting system has been put in place to maintain the quality of the accredited facilities. Currently, it takes about 6 months for a childcare facility to receive an evaluation and accreditation. The authorization is determined by four processes of evaluation and accreditation such as application, self-examination, on-site inspection and evaluation.

The evaluation consists of a self-report (10 percent), a basic items check-list (10 percent), an inspection report (55 percent) and the committee opinion (25 percent). The evaluation opinion comprises of features and advantages of the childcare facility, improvement efforts by each sector, the quality of childcare facility, good and bad cases and contrast error among the reports.

⁸ The evaluation authorization process took about 9~10 months in its inception in 2005; however, it has been gradually reduced to 6~7 months and finally settled to 6 months since 2011.

When an applicant achieves the threshold score of 2.25 out of 3.00 in its scores by total and sector, it is authorized.

The accredited childcare facilities should form a self-evaluation team and compile a self-report and annually submit the report to the website of the Evaluation Office at the Korea Childcare Promotion Institute. When the head of the facility is changed, the new director should receive an education program within 6 months of inauguration in order to maintain the quality of facility.

The evaluation results are utilized as the basis for provision of incentives by the local governments.

B. Status

Since its pilot operation in 2005, the first annual evaluation and authorization had been conducted between 2006 and 2009. A total of 29,084 facilities or 86.8 percent out of the total number of childcare facilities had applied and 20,255 or 60.5 percent had passed the evaluation.

<Table 6-1> Annual Participation and Accreditation Rate by Establishment Type (2010.3)

Unit: Place, %

Classification	Applied			Authorized		
	Total	Accumulation	Accumulation Rate	Total	Accumulation	Accumulation Rate
'05(Pilot)	1,089	-	-	650	-	-
'06(1~4 period)	4,420	5,509	16.4	2,804	3,454	10.3
'07(1~4 period)	6,359	11,868	35.4	4,181	7,635	22.8
'08(1~4 period)	7,776	19,644	58.6	5,464	13,099	39.1
'09(1~4 period)	9,440	29,084	86.8	7,156	20,255	60.5

Source: Office of Accreditation for Child Care Centers(2009).

<Table 6-2> Participation and Accreditation Rate by Establishment Type from 2005 to 2009 (March 2010)

Unit: Place, %

Classification	National/ Public	Social Welfare Corporation	Workplace	Home	Parent	Private	Total
Total(A)	1,826	1,458	350	15,525	65	14,275	33,499
Accredited(C)	1,669	1,384	202	8,685	22	8,293	20,255
Ratio(C/A)	91.4	94.9	57.7	55.9	33.8	58.1	60.5

Source: Office of Accreditation for Child Care Centers(2009).

<Table 6-2> indicates the numbers of applications and authorized facilities by establishment type. As of March 2010, 20,255 or 60.5 percent out of a total of 33,499 childcare facilities have achieved the accreditation. By establishment type, the

national/public facilities account for 90 percent, followed by home and private facilities 55~58 percent and parent co-op facilities 33.8 percent.

When examined the score distributions of facilities participated in the evaluations from 2006 to 2009, facilities received more than 95 scores is 11.8 percent, while 17.0 percent received less than 80 scores. In overall, 40 percent of facilities which passed authorization received more than 90 percent scores, while 4.8 percent of participants achieved less than 75 scores (refer to the Table 6-3).

As of March 2010, the percentage of authorization by region is the highest in Gwangju with 87.7 percent, followed by Busan, Gangwon, Chungbuk, Jeonbuk, Jeonnam and Jeju with over 70 percent and Gyeonggi is the lowest with 41.8 percent (refer to the Table 6-4).

〈Table 6-3〉 Distribution of Scores of Facilities Participated in Accreditation Process

Unit: %(Place)

	Accredited						Not Accredited	Total(N)
	95 or more	90~94.99	85~89.99	80~84.99	75~79.99	73.33~74.99	Below 73.32	
Total	11.8	26.2	24.7	18.5	12.2	4.8	1.7	100(20,567)
Accumulation	12.4	39.9	65.7	84.5	96.2	100.0	na	100(19,605)

Note: No. of Childcare facilities applied from 2006 to 2009.

Source: Office of Accreditation for Child Care Centers(2010).

〈Table 6-4〉 Distribution of Accredited Facilities by Region from 2005 to 2009(March 2010)

Unit: Place, %

Cities/Provinces	Total Facilities(A)	Accredited Facilities(B)	Ratio(B/A)
Total	33,499	20,255	60.5
Seoul	5,600	3,629	64.8
Busan	1,651	1,286	77.9
Daegu	1,426	848	59.5
Incheon	1,652	1,151	69.7
Gwangju	1,096	961	87.7
Daejeon	1,318	820	62.2
Ulsan	609	411	67.5
Gyeonggi	9,712	4,057	41.8
Gangwon	885	739	83.5
Chungbuk	950	671	70.6
Chungnam	1,344	743	55.3
Jeonbuk	1,479	1,146	77.5
Jeonnam	1,054	776	73.6
Gyeongbuk	1,708	1,179	69.0
Gyeongnam	2,539	1,494	58.8
Jeju	476	344	72.3

Source: Office of Accreditation for Child Care Centers(2009).

C. Achievements and Tasks

The year 2009 and 2010 were very important for the evaluation and authorization system. The year 2009 saw the rise in the number of childcare facilities obtained authorization more than 60 percent. As the second phase, the system was improved by streamlining the operation system and revising evaluation indexes in 2010. Given that the average scores of facilities during the 1st phase between 2006 and 2009 were over 87 scores, it is assumed that part of the objective of the system has been achieved.

The crucial policy tasks for the evaluation system are result utilization and connection of the result with financing support.

Currently, only the titles of facilities passed the authorization are disclosed. Parents awareness of this system is low and just a small number of people say they use the authorization when selecting a childcare facility. Therefore, some measures should be taken to promote the system by further disclosing the evaluation results so that parents can actively use the data.

In addition, there is a limit to use the system to raise the quality of facilities due to the lack of connection with financing support. From a short-term perspective, the system should be related with the operation support for small childcare facilities and gradually expand the connection to the basic childcare fees and graded subsidy in the long run.

7. Characteristics and Treatment of Childcare Providers

A. System

Childcare service providers are dispatched according to certain criteria including a facility scale, children to teacher ratio, etc. The director of a facility with less than 20 children is allowed to serve as a teacher simultaneously while a dietitian and a nurse are required to be dispatched to a facility with more than 100 children. Additionally, cooking personnel should be deployed to a facility with over 40 children. The director and teachers are required to receive education based on certain criteria.⁹

The following three budget projects are currently underway by the government in order to improve the professionalism and working conditions for childcare teachers.

First, the government provides childcare service providers with expenses for supplement education. In accordance with Article 51 of the Infant Care Act and Article 26 of the enforcement ordinance, a mayor or a governor should implement supplement education for childcare providers under its jurisdiction.

The government provides all the expenses. As for job competency education, 60,000 KRW is offered per person based on 40 hours training. In the case of promotion education, 120,000 KRW is provided per person based on 80-hours of education. The education programs are implemented as local government projects and are provided to childcare service providers through a commissioned organization.

⁹ The nourishment and qualification criteria of childcare service providers are not covered in this paper.

Second, a special duty allowance of 110,000 KRW is provided to childcare teachers each month. This includes special teachers and therapists working in childcare facilities in rural and fishing areas. Substitute teachers who are hired at childcare information centers can apply for this allowance if they work more than two weeks a month at childcare facilities including the ones in the rural and fishing areas. The head or director of a childcare facility who holds another position as a teacher cannot apply for the allowance. The payment will be directly deposited to bank accounts of teachers from Si/Gun/Gu offices when the head of the childcare facility applies for the allowance through the integrated childcare information system each month. Childcare vendors who have worked more than 15 days at a relative facility as of the date of the application can apply for the allowance.

Third, when a childcare teacher uses paid leave for five days for a week, a substitute teacher hired at the childcare information center can be dispatched. Each childcare facility shall have in principle one substitute teacher on the premises. Substitute teachers are paid each month by the childcare information center and should meet the requirements such as a childcare teacher license, no history of sexual crimes and no reasons for disqualifications. They are given a monthly salary of 1.3 million KRW based on the five-day workweek, along with additional monetary payments for transportation fee and retirement fee (100,000 KRW and 65,000 KRW, respectively), which will be separately provided. A childcare facility with less than five teachers is preferentially supported.

B. Status

As of December 2009, the number of childcare teachers is 150,477, special teachers 1,103, therapists 538, nurses (including assistant nurses) 763, dietitian 624 and kitchen personnel 11,806..

Directors or teachers of childcare facilities are often found to perform double duty, serving as nurses or assistant nurses

As of 2009, there are 174,905 people who have a childcare teaching license. Among them, the number of Grade-1 childcare teachers surpasses the majority, Grade-2 teachers 33.5 percent and Grade-3 teachers 9.8 percent.

〈Table 7-1〉 Number of Childcare Service Vendors

Unit: Person

Classification	Director	Childcare teacher	Special teacher	Therapist	Dietitian	Nurse	Clerk	Cook	Others
Total	35,424	150,477	1,103	538	624	763	802	11,806	5,375
National/public	1,913	13,418	378	110	77	123	134	2,363	881
Social Corp.	1,470	11,889	491	330	78	109	156	1,785	734
Other Corp.	932	5,279	61	29	41	57	101	903	585
Private	13,393	73,093	155	68	371	423	309	5,428	2,428
Home	17,283	43,935	12	1	1	6	46	900	679
Workplace	66	240	2	-	4	-	5	29	2
Parent Co-op	367	2,623	4	-	52	45	51	398	66

Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare (2010). *Childcare Statistics*.

〈Table 7-2〉 Qualification of Childcare Teachers and Level of Education

Unit: %(Person)

	Qualification grade				Education				
	1	2	3	Total(N)	High sch.	college	Univ.	Gradu.	Total(N)
Total	56.7	33.5	9.8	100.0(174,905)	13.5	67.6	17.6	1.3	100.0(131,835)
Type									
National/public	79.5	19.0	1.5	100.0(14,631)	5.9	67.3	25.0	1.8	100.0(14,410)
Social Corp.	73.7	23.6	2.7	100.0(12,629)	5.1	72.1	21.3	1.5	100.0(13,312)
Other Corp.	72.1	24.0	4.0	100.0(5,747)	8.9	67.2	21.8	2.1	100.0(5,824)
Private	52.2	36.9	10.9	100.0(79,558)	14.2	69.7	15.0	1.1	100.0(64,834)
Workplace	82.6	16.3	1.1	100.0(2,845)	2.7	56.8	37.7	2.8	100.0(2,711)
Home	50.8	36.4	12.8	100.0(59,204)	21.3	62.4	15.4	0.9	100.0(30,525)
Parent Co-op	63.6	30.6	5.8	100.0(291)	11.4	58.4	27.9	2.3	100.0(219)
Cities/Provinces									
Seoul	55.8	33.8	10.4	100.0(29,298)	14.5	64.1	19.6	1.8	100.0(22,908)
Busan	61.4	31.2	7.4	100.0(9,262)	9.5	70.7	18.4	1.4	100.0(7,537)
Daegu	57.9	30.7	11.4	100.0(8,474)	11.2	70.0	17.5	1.3	100.0(7,018)
Incheon	56.1	36.2	7.7	100.0(8,617)	19.3	64.0	15.7	1.0	100.0(5,968)
Gwangju	63.2	29.2	7.7	100.0(6,435)	10.8	66.8	21.2	1.2	100.0(5,123)
Daejeon	56.1	35.6	8.3	100.0(6,417)	12.4	65.9	20.1	1.6	100.0(4,587)
Ulsan	60.4	30.6	9.1	100.0(3,523)	12.4	69.6	17.4	0.6	100.0(2,805)
Gyeonggi	51.5	36.4	12.1	100.0(45,805)	18.6	63.3	17.1	1.2	100.0(29,277)
Gangwon	64.2	30.3	5.4	100.0(4,579)	8.8	77.4	13.2	0.8	100.0(4,053)
Chungbuk	58.5	34.3	7.2	100.0(5,520)	10.6	72.0	16.3	1.1	100.0(4,491)
Chungnam	60.3	32.7	7.0	100.0(6,988)	12.1	68.5	18.1	1.3	100.0(5,155)
Jeonbuk	60.2	30.3	9.5	100.0(7,827)	11.9	64.8	22.1	1.2	100.0(6,619)
Jeonnam	65.5	29.4	5.1	100.0(6,719)	8.6	74.7	15.6	1.1	100.0(6,058)
Gyeongbuk	59.4	31.3	9.3	100.0(9,226)	11.3	72.3	15.3	1.1	100.0(7,555)
Gyeongnam	54.6	33.8	11.6	100.0(13,290)	10.5	71.2	17.3	1.0	100.0(9,655)
Jeju	61.1	30.6	8.4	100.0(2,925)	10.9	78.8	9.8	0.5	100.0(3,026)

Source: Source: Ministry of Health and Welfare (2009, 2010). *Childcare Statistics*.

By type of childcare facility, 82.6 percent of workplace childcare facility teachers, 80 percent of the national/public facility teachers, 73.7 percent of authorized facility teachers and 72.1 percent of others facility teachers are Grade-1 teachers. In contrast, only a few teachers working at private childcare centers and home childcare facilities are Grade-3 teachers. In particular, 12.8 percent of home childcare centers are Grade-3 teachers. By region, Jeonnam has posted to have the largest number of Grade-1 childcare teachers with 65.5 percent and Busan, Ulsan, Gangwon, Chungnam, Jeonbuk and Jeju with more than 60 percent, respectively. On the other hand, Gyeonggi has the largest number of Grade-3 teachers with 12.1 percent, which is related with many home childcare centers across the province (refer to the Table 7-2).

By the education level of childcare teachers registered in the e-childcare system, 13.5 percent teachers are high school graduates, 67.6 percent college graduates, 17.6 percent university graduates. Therefore, college graduates account for two thirds. By type of establishment, facilities with the highest number of high school graduates are home childcare organizations with 21.3 percent, followed by 14.2 percent from private individual childcare centers. By region, Incheon and Gyeonggi have a relatively high number of high

school graduate childcare teachers, which is related with the high percentage rate of home childcare centers found in these regions (refer to the Table 7-2).

According to teacher-related program performances, 27,700 teachers have completed supplement education programs, 27,344 teachers from rural and fishing areas have received special duty allowances and 450 substitute teachers have been dispatched (refer to the Table 7-3)

〈Table 7-3〉 Monthly Salary of Childcare Teachers by Establishment Type (Average Monthly Pay and Average Yearly Allowance)

Unit: Million KRW(Person)

Classification	2009		2004	2009	
	Average	SD	Average	Annual allowance	SD
Total	126.1(13,076)	30.8	96	148.4(11,020)	104.0
National/public Social Corporation	155.0(1,844)	23.9	146	147.8(1,635)	88.4
Private/Other Corporation	150.2(1,922)	24.1	129	126.5(1,492)	100.2
Parent Co-op Home	113.8(5,329)	23.1	92	150.5(4,604)	106.0
	101.9(2,791)	14.3	78	148.8(2,348)	103.8
	154.0(1,190)	25.7	-	172.6(941)	118.3
F	3087.3***			30.1***	

Note: *** p < .001.

Meanwhile, according to the 2009 childcare service survey, the monthly salary of a childcare teacher is about 1.26 million KRW on average, a whopping increase by 300,000 KRW compared with 960,000 KRW in 2004. Salaries at the national, public, workplace and authorized childcare facilities are relatively high with more than 1.5 million KRW. The monthly salary of a childcare teacher is supposed to be at a similar level of a kindergarten teacher whose salary class is 6 (2.5 million KRW) (Kim Hyeon-suk, et al, 2007) or it can be compared with 1.53 million KRW for the average salary (Statistical Office, 2010) of female employees aged between 25 and 29 graduated from college (refer to the Table 7-3).

The average daily work hours for childcare teachers were 9.5 hours in 2009, which was reduced by about 49 minutes from 10.19 hours in 2005.

The reason for the long work hours is that most childcare facilities are required to be operated for 12 hours in principle but there are no regulations on childcare timing. Therefore, it is difficult to adjust for all types of childcare activities in accordance with the operating time.

C. Achievements and Tasks

The childcare teacher-related policy is meaningful in that it deals with the overall situations and current status of childcare teachers. However, most policy measures are at

the early stage of development and thus there are still numerous critical tasks left to be done.

First, the introduction of the special duty allowance system for childcare teachers, special teachers and therapists working in rural areas in 2010 can be evaluated as a great achievement in the childcare policy. However, the system's impact is still limited given that the amount of allowance and eligibility are severely restricted. In this regards, the allowance system should expand nationwide to remove all regional disparities arising from local government projects. Also, given that the allowance of kindergarten teacher amounts to 230,000 KRW a month, the amount should be gradually adjusted to somewhat similar to that amount.

Second, another significant policy achievement related to the improvement of childcare teachers' working conditions is the substitute teacher system which has been operated since late 2008. However, the system leaves much to be desired given that it restricts childcare teachers to use leave for five days in a row in a week and causes controversy over fairness in setting the salary and allowance. For example, substitute teachers work five days a week and receive 1.3 million KRW per month. Besides, 100,000 KRW for transportation fee and 65,000 KRW for retirement fee are separately provided per month. On the other hand, general childcare facility teachers work longer hours and bare more responsibility but receive average 1.26 million KRW per month. The substitute teacher program should be changed to the additional teacher deployment system.

Third, with regard to supplement education for childcare service providers, the allowance for duty training education is 60,000 KRW per head based on 40-hour training, while the allowance for promotion education is offered 120,000 KRW per head based on 80-hour education. These programs are supported by the local government budgets. Unfortunately, however, these amounts of support are not enough to provide quality supplement education for childcare service vendors.

Fourth, observance of the 8-hour work time system is highly required. From a long-term perspective, more reasonable measures should be implemented to secure the 8-hour work day and 40-hour work week system such as the 8-hour shift. Childcare teachers need some preparation time for childcare activities for the next day. The ratio between time teachers spend with children and time that is used for preparation should be 6:4. The childcare timing system should be dualized to provide for consumer-customized childcare activities in consideration of child age, parents' employment and improve teachers' working conditions.

8. Conclusion: Major Childcare Indexes

Based on the previous discussion in this paper, I would like to suggest some major childcare policy performance indexes. These indexes can be calculated by using childcare statistics and data from both the central and local governments. Since these indexes make it easy to trace and compare the annual figures, they will be helpful to figure out the policy trends and achievements.

The brief summaries on each sector are as follows:

First, the major indexes on childcare expenses support show the percentage of child beneficiaries receiving full subsidy of the children in care, the percentage of children receiving support for childcare fees and the percentage of childcare fees to income ratio. Since 2004, under the policy goal to alleviate the parents' burden on childcare fees, the government has strived to expand the eligible children for childcare expense support. As of 2009, the percentage of child beneficiaries receiving full subsidies for children in care is 45.0 percent and the percentage of children receiving support for childcare fees is 65.7 percent on a national level. Meanwhile, the percentage of childcare fees to income ratio which is calculated based on households survey stood at 7.4 percent in 2009.

〈Table 8-1〉 Main Indexes

Area	Detailed Title	National Statistics	Cycle	Minimum Calculation Unit	Source
Childcare Expenses	Percentage of children with full childcare expense subsidy	45.0%	1yr	Si/Gun/Gu	Childcare Statistics
	Percentage of children with childcare expense subsidy	65.7%	1yr	Si/Gun/Gu	Childcare Statistics
	Childcare fees to income	7.4%	5yrs	Government	National Survey
Child-rearing Allowance	Percentage of children with child-rearing allowance	8.7%	1yr	Government	M. of Health and Welfare
	Amount of child-rearing allowance	0.1M KRW	1yr	Government	M.of Health and Welfare
Childcare Finance	Childcare financing to GDP	0.465%	1yr	Government	M.of Health and Welfare
	Childcare budget per child	4.207M KRW	1yr	Si/Gun/Gu	M. of Health and Welfare
	Special childcare budget per child	0.151M KRW	1yr	Si/Gun/Gu	M.of Health and Welfare
Supply & Use	Percentage of supply of childcare facilities	54.2%	1yr	Si/Gun/Gu	Childcare Statistics
	Percentage of use of childcare facilities	42.9%	1yr	Si/Gun/Gu	Childcare Statistics
	Percentage of children using national/public childcare facilities	6.1%	1yr	Si/Gun/Gu	Childcare Statistics
Extended-hour	Percentage of children using extended-hour childcare programs	2%	1yr	Si/Gun/Gu	Childcare Statistics
Evaluation Authorization	Percentage of evaluation authorization facilities	60.5%	1yr	Si/Gun/Gu	Evaluation Authorization Office
	Percentage of excellent authorization facilities	-	-	Si/Gun/Gu	Evaluation Authorization Office
Teacher Working Conditions	Monthly allowance	0.11M KRW	1yr	Nationwide	M. of Health and Welfare
	Percentage of teachers with allowance	18.2%	1yr	Nationwide	M. of Health and Welfare
	Teachers to substitute teachers	2.9%	1yr	Nationwide	M. of Health and Welfare

As for the child-rearing allowance, the percentages of child beneficiaries of the allowance and the amounts of allowances have been set as the major indexes. This allowance system was introduced in 2009 and has created some controversy over the characteristics of the system and impacts. According to the statistics of 2009, 77,000 children aged zero to one or 8.7 percent out of the total of 888,811 children in the population of the age cohort have received the allowance of 100,000 KRW each.

As regards childcare financing, the percentage of childcare finance to GDP, childcare budget per child, the budget for special childcare policy per child have been selected as the indexes. The percentage of childcare financing as opposed to the GDP is 0.465 percent. If early childhood education expenses and support for infants and preschoolers in rural and fishing areas are included in this figure, it will be 0.617 percent. The childcare budget per child is about 4.2 million KRW, but the regional gap is quite wide. Since the budget increases in proportion to the number of beneficiaries, it is difficult to figure out the connection between the amount of budget and quality of childcare service. Meanwhile, it can be said that the special childcare policy budget indexes demonstrate the local government's will for ensuring childcare for all families. In 2009, the average budgetary amount per child was about 150,000 KRW.

When it comes to the childcare service supply and use, currently the nationwide childcare service supply outstrips the demand. However, the regional gap is significant, even within the same Cities/Provinces or by Si/Gun/Gu areas. In 2009, the percentage of the childcare service supply stood at 54.2 percent, the percentage of facility utilization as opposed to the number of children was 42.9 percent while the percentage of utilization of the national/public childcare facilities to number of children was 6.1 percent. The use rate of extended-hour childcare facilities was about 2 percent.

The percentage of facilities which have passed the evaluation and authorization is an index that reflects the quality of Korea's childcare service facilities. In 2009, the percentage rate was 60.5 percent based on the application numbers. Further, more detailed data can be calculated including the rate of excellent childcare facilities. Also, this index can be used to compare the figures according to region.

Concerning childcare teachers, the monthly salaries, the percentage of teachers receiving monthly allowances to the number of teachers and the percentage of teachers to substitute teachers are indicated in the indexes. The percentage of teachers receiving monthly allowance to the number of teachers is 18.2 percent, while the percentage of teachers to substitute teachers is 29 percent.

Early Childhood Education Policy in Korea

Eunseol Kim

Early Childhood Education Policy in Korea

This chapter will discuss the system and current status of early childhood education policies led by the central government and recommend various implications from the policy results. First of all, we will take a look at the characteristics and subsidies of early childhood education support policies; the current status of young children and kindergartens; and the early childhood education budget and projects by the municipal level.

The early childhood education subsidy of the Ministry of Education and Science and Technology has entirely been provided for by the local budget since 2008 under the revision of 「Local Education Subsidy Act」 ('06. 12). However, in an attempt to ensure stable financing of early childhood education, financial grants have been offered in accordance with the evaluation items of financial demand of "ordinary grants" and flexible budget operation is available depending on the financial situations of the given city or provincial educational offices based on the characteristics of the ordinary grants. Municipal and provincial education offices are recommended that they first implement standard grant programs as much as possible and make sure the early childhood education budget which is included in the provision breakdown is invested in early childhood education (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2009).

The early childhood education support program can be classified into four main areas: support for kindergarteners' tuition; assistance for kindergarten teachers' personnel expenses; support for educational capacity of kindergartens; and environmental improvement for kindergartens. The following is the manner of support and budget in each area.

1. Kindergarten Tuition Support

A. System

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has implemented the kindergarteners' tuition support in order to alleviate the burden of educational expenses for low-income and working-class families and multi-child households. This is designed to realize educational welfare through expanding opportunities of early childhood education for low-income and isolated families. Those who are eligible for the kindergarten tuition support are infants and young children enrolled in the national, public and private kindergartens (Article 5 of the Enforcement Decree of the Early Childhood Education Act). According to statistic from 2009, a total of 541,036 infants were enrolled in 8,546 public and private kindergartens and they are from low-income households in the lower 70 percentile. In other words, when the accredited monthly incomes of households with infants and young children are calculated and arranged in line according to the amount of money, they belong to households in the bottom 70 percent. The <Table 1-1> indicates the numbers of kindergartens and children enrolled in those schools. The number of young children

enrolled in kindergartens accounts for 39.7 percent of the total candidates of kindergarten education of 1,355,244. As for the manner of support, affiliated kindergartens of national universities are included in the national kindergartens and they exceptionally receive tuition support from the national budget.

〈Table 1-1〉 Number of Kindergartens and Kindergarteners (2009)

Unit: Place, person

	National	Public	Private	Commissioned Institutes	Total
No of Kindergartens	3	4,490	3,880	173	8,546
No of Kindergarteners	231	125,305	411,825	3,675	541,036

Source: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (2010). 2010 Infant and Young Children School Expenses Support Plan

The supports for the tuition of kindergarteners by the government are "free-education for five-year olds," "income-based subsidies for children aged three to four" and "subsidies for all-day care programs." The criteria of tuition subsidies are set by the Ministry of Strategy and Finance in consultation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in consideration of the specific household type, income level and property. In other words, to determine the income level, both parents' earned and business income and properties are calculated, coupled with assumed household income.

The government provides unified selection criteria for kindergarteners' tuition subsidies and standard income in respect of social equity. In an effort to reduce parents' burden for children's tuition expenses, the government has annually increased subsidies by reflecting inflation rates and provided support including entrance fees, tuition fees and school meals within the scope of subsidy units. Kindergarten tuition subsidies are provided to a guardian of a child through the 'voucher' scheme. In other words, if a parent applies for the subsidy at the Eup/Myeon office or Dong Community Service Center, the relevant Si/Gun/Gu office determines the qualification through investigation and the candidate household pays the balance due after subtracting the subsidy. At this time, a kindergarten can check the authorization status of the candidate and apply for the subsidy by using an electronic card.¹⁰ Following the application from the kindergarten, the local educational office goes through various procedures to deposit the aforementioned subsidy to the kindergarten.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has laid out the basic directions for the 2010 kindergarten tuition subsidy policy. First, priority will be put on finding a solution to Korea's declining birth rate which is one of the lowest on the planet and reduction of the burden of low-income and working class families for kindergarten expenses. Second, the subsidy scope and units will be expanded in accordance with the support

¹⁰ The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology plans to establish and operate young children's kindergarten tuition support system and promote the use of electronic cards in an effort to simplify verification and support procedures for candidates for school expenses subsidies. This measure is expected to minimize the inconvenience for parents and enhance the transparency for young children school expenses support.

expansion standard declared in July 2009. Since July 2009, kindergarten tuition subsidy candidates have been expanded to households in the lower 70 percentile. This trend is expected to continue in 2010. With this regard, the standard for accredited monthly incomes by household members will remain the same. That is, the accredited monthly income for a four-member household is set less than 4.36 million KRW. As for the subsidies for five-year-olds, the current standard subsidy has increased an average of 3.3 percent compared with 2008. Third, the support for dual-income families and having more than one child will be increased in order to improve the calculation method of taxable income for dual-income families and thus ease the requirement for supporting a second child. In a measure to encourage childbirth through these supports, a dual-income family is allowed to calculate the accredited monthly income by subtracting 25 percent from the lower income of the couple when calculating taxable income. In addition, the second or third child in about 70 percent of low-income households is exempted from kindergarten tuition. Under the previous criteria, the income-based tuition allowance was provided only when the first child attends either a kindergarten or a child care facility. However, the expansion of the subsidy candidates regardless of the first child's use of a kindergarten since 2010 is a remarkable change in government policy.

〈Table 1-2〉 2010 Reinforced Support for Kindergarten Tuition

	2009	2010
Dual-income Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Income calculation method Income {(Husband income + Wife income) × 100 percent} + Property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Income calculation method income {(Higher income) × 100 percent + (Lower income) × 75 percent} + Property
Second Child Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Available only when the first child attends a kindergarten or child care facility ○ Income-based differential subsidy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All households with more than two children ○ Entire amount of standard units

B. Status

1) Free-education for Five-year Olds

Free-education for five-year olds is based on Article 24 of the 「Early Childhood Education Act」 that stipulates that early childhood education shall be provided free of charge for one year right before the first enrollment into an elementary school and this subsidy has been gradually expanded. In other words, free education will be preferentially given to children of beneficiaries of the National Basic Living Security, including children who reside on islands and in remote areas and children who reside in the Eup and Myeon areas and other cases will be gradually expanded within the budget. Children who reach five years old as of January 1st 2010 and belong to households in the lower 70 percentile, they are eligible for the subsidy. Among 251,760 five-year-olds attending kindergartens, final recipients for free education are selected through the household income verification process. If a four-year-old child is enrolled to a class for children aged five, child care allowance for four year old children shall be provided rather than the free education.

However, if children of the immediately preceding year prior to their enrollment into elementary school postpone their enrollment, they are provided with free education for five-year olds.

〈Table 1-3〉 Status of Free Education for Five-year Olds (2009)

Unit: Person, 1000 KRW

		No of Recipients				Total Budget			
		National	Public	Private	Total	National	Public	Private	Total
Legal Low-Income Family	Rural		1,889	2,632	4,521		549,903	2,810,430	3,360,333
	Urban	14	8,180	21,449	29,643	5,567	1,857,901	17,380,826	19,244,294
	Subtotal	14	10,069	24,081	34,164	5,567	2,413,371	20,191,256	22,610,194
Other Low-Income Family	Rural		11,480	12,424	23,904		2,847,336	21,072,112	23,919,448
	Urban		14,300	61,848	76,148		8,436,690	142,944,410	151,381,100
	Subtotal	0	25,780	74,272	100,052	0	11,284,026	164,016,523	175,300,549
Total		14	35,849	98,353	134,216	5,567	13,697,398	184,207,779	197,910,744

2) Income-based Subsidies for Three to Four-year-olds from Low-income Families

Children who reach three or four years old as of January 1, 2010 and belong to households in the lower 70 percentile are eligible for this subsidy which will be differentially provided (30~100 percent) according to income levels. In addition, in the case of households which support more than two children and belong to income bracket in the lower 70 percent, the second child and more children are eligible for the subsidy regardless of the first child's attendance at a kindergarten or child care center.

〈Table 1-4〉 Number of Children Enrolled in Kindergartens by Age (2009)

Unit: Person, %

Age	Total No of Children(A)	No of Kindergarteners(B)	Rate of Enrollment (B/A)
Age 3	447,432	100,406	22.4
Age 4	434,700	185,195	42.6
Age 5	473,112	251,761	53.2
Total	1,355,244	537,362	39.7

Source: Educational Statistics 2009

According to the statistics as of the end of 2009, a total of 194,639,414 thousand KRW of income-based subsidy amount was provided for 153,505 three to four-year-olds (Refers to 1-5). By region, children in agricultural and fishery areas account for 20 percent of the entire recipients.

〈Table 1-5〉 Status of Income-based Subsidies for Three to Four-year-olds from Low-income Families (2009)

Unit: Person, 1000 KRW

		No of Recipients				Total Budget			
		National	Public	Private	Sum	National	Public	Private	Sum
Below the Low 50% of Income	Rural	5,354	12,694	18,048		1,645,863	18,574,946	20,220,809	
	Urban	9	5,493	66,998	72,500	2,403	2,804,420	112,568,919	115,375,742
	Subtotal	9	10,856	79,692	90,557	2,403	4,452,688	131,143,867	135,598,958
Below the Low 60% of Income	Rural	1,950	4,449	6,399		524,690	5,491,362	6,016,052	
	Urban	9	2,183	22,581	24,773	3,336	843,302	28,691,952	29,538,590
	Subtotal	9	4,142	27,030	31,181	3,336	1,371,330	34,180,983	35,555,649
Below the Low 70% of Income	Rural	1,681	4,753	6,434		281,192	3,130,799	3,411,991	
	Urban	9	2,467	23,148	25,624	1,825	508,957	15,720,372	16,231,154
	Subtotal	9	4,157	27,901	32,067	1,825	791,976	18,851,171	19,644,972
Total		27	19,155	134,323	153,505	7,564	6,667,576	187,964,274	194,639,414

In addition, among the candidates for Income-based subsidies for three to four-year-olds, a total of 9.2 billion KRW was provided to 13,585 children from households with more than two children. Tuition subsidies for households with more than two children are based on a system in which the government provides additional subsidies up to 100 percent when the income-based subsidy amount falls below the government support standards.

〈Table 1-6〉 Status for Education Expenses Support for Households with More than Two Children (2009)

Unit: Person, 1000 KRW

		No of Recipients				Total Budget			
		National	Public	Private	Sum	National	Public	Private	Sum
Age 4	Rural	259	676	935		45,076	349,995	395,071	
	Urban	2	331	2,945	3,278	1,026	80,387	2,111,531	2,192,944
	Subtotal	2	592	3,621	4,215	1,026	126,490	2,461,526	2,589,042
Age 3	Rural	378	1,572	1,950		76,144	930,354	1,006,498	
	Urban	1	375	7,043	7,419	148	101,085	5,536,903	5,638,136
	Subtotal	1	754	8,615	9,370	148	177,378	6,467,258	6,644,784
Total		3	1,346	12,236	13,585	1,174	303,868	8,928,784	9,233,826

3) Support for Full-day Child Care Expenses

Among the children candidates for infant's school expenses subsidy, children who attend all-day programs are eligible for this subsidy. The term "all-day system" means an educational system of not less than 8 hours a day in accordance with Article 2 of the 「Early Childhood Education Act」. In the case that a child subject to half-day programs applies for an all-day program and receives education less than eight hours a day, the child is not eligible for all-day school expenses subsidy. However, when the number of education days of a relevant month is less than 15 days, the subsidy shall be paid on a pro rata basis. The full-day expense subsidy can include meals and snack expenses for full-day care programs depending on the financial situation of municipal and provincial educational offices.

<Table 1-7> Status of Full-day Care Expenses Subsidy (2009)

Unit: Person, 1000 KRW

		No of Recipients				Total Budget			
		National	Public	Private	Sum	National	Public	Private	Sum
Age 5	Rural		4,435	8,302	12,737		714,982	3,325,985	4,040,967
	Urban	2	9,767	37,324	47,093	615	2,024,215	18,845,244	20,870,074
	Subtotal	2	14,204	45,626	59,832	615	2,739,812	22,171,230	24,911,657
Age 4	Rural		2,747	7,989	10,736		439,491	3,057,986	3,497,477
	Urban	6	4,685	34,339	39,030	1,799	1,070,836	16,871,910	17,944,545
	Subtotal	6	7,438	42,328	49,772	1,799	1,512,127	19,929,897	21,443,823
Age 3	Rural		1,330	5,255	6,585		228,727	2,014,930	2,243,657
	Urban		1,806	21,197	23,003		422,772	10,189,096	10,611,868
	Subtotal		3,136	26,452	29,588		651,499	12,204,026	12,855,525
Total		8	24,778	114,406	139,192	2,414	4,903,440	54,305,154	59,211,008

4) Overview of Kindergarteners' Tuition Subsidy

<Table 1-8> indicates the standard units of the young children tuition by age and assumed number of subsidy recipients for 2010. Based on standards for the national and public kindergartens, children aged five from household in the lower 70 percentile and children aged three to four in the lower 50 percentile receive full subsidies for school expenses (57,000 KRW), while children aged three and four from households in the lower 60 percentile and 70 percentile, receive 60 percent and 30 percent of tuition fee subsidies respectively (34,200 KRW and 17,100 KRW) However, in the case of private kindergarten, they has independent tuition standards and thus subsidy standards are also different.

According to the statistics as of end of 2009, young children tuition subsidies were provided to 56.4 percent for three-year olds, 52.3 percent for four-year olds and 53.5 percent for five-year olds, which amount to a 4.6 percent rise (24,674 children) compared with 2008. <Table 1-9> shows the tuition expense subsidy by age.

〈Table 1-8〉 Standard Units of Kindergarteners' Tuition Subsidies by Age and Assumed Number of Subsidy Recipients (2010)

Unit: KRW, Person, 100millionKRW

	Income Level	Subsidy Rate	Age	Monthly Unit Cost of Subsidy for		No of Recipients (Assumption)	Total Amount of Subsidies (Assumption)
				National / Public	Private		
Age 5 (Free-Education Expenses)	Below 70%	100%	Age 5	57,000	172,000	129,000	2,157
Age 3-4 (Income-based Subsidy Expenses)	Below 50%	100%	Age 3	57,000	191,000	137,000	2,313
			Age 4	57,000	172,000		
	Below 60%	60%	Age 3	34,200	141,600		
			Age 4	34,200	103,200		
	Below 70%	30%	Age 3	17,100	57,300		
			Age 4	17,100	51,600		
Full-day Child Care Expenses	Below 70%	100%	Age 3-5	30,000	50,000	126,000	682

〈Table 1-9〉 Children Tuition Expense Subsidy (2009)

Unit: KRW, Person, %

	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Total	Compared to 2008
Total Children Enrolled(A)	100,406	185,195	251,760	537,361	△461
No of Recipients(B)	56,604	96,901	134,216	287,721	24,674↑
Ratio(B/A x 100)	56.4	52.3	53.3	53.5	4.6↑

The total young children tuition subsidy for 2009 was reported at 463,078,724 thousand KRW (Refer to Table 1-10). Among them, the national budget provided to national kindergartens was just about 16,719 thousand KRW and the remaining 463,062,005 thousand KRW (almost 100 percent) was supported by the local budget of the local educational offices.

As for the number of recipients by kindergarten establishment type, 41 children came from national kindergartens, 55,004 children came from public and 232,676 children from private kindergartens. In other words, 17.7 percent of the total number of children at the national kindergartens of 231 children, 43.9 percent of 125,305 children from public kindergartens and 56.0 percent from private kindergartens (415,500 children, commissioned institutes included) received tuition subsidies.

〈Table 1-10〉 Total Amount of Execution of Tuition Subsidy and Number of Recipients by Establishment Type (2009)

Unit: 1000 KRW, Person

	Total Amount of Subsidy(X1000KRW)			No of Recipients			
	National Treasury	Local Government Budget	Sum	National	Public	Private	Sum
Age 5	5,567	197,905,177	197,910,744	14	35,849	98,353	134,216
Age 3-4	7,564	194,631,850	194,639,414	27	19,155	134,323	153,505
More than Two Children	1,174	9,232,652	9,233,826	3	1,346	12,236	13,585
Full-day Child Care Expenses	2,414	59,208,594	59,211,008	8	24,778	114,406	139,192
Municipal and Provincial Independent Programs		2,083,732	2,083,732		1,714	1,600	3,314
Total	16,719	463,062,005	463,078,724	41	55,004	232,676	287,721

5) Independent Infants Tuition Expense Support by Municipal and Provincial Offices of Education

Municipal and provincial educational offices in Busan, Incheon, Ulsan, Gangwon and Gyeongbuk provide 2.1 billion KRW of tuition expense subsidy to 3,314 children through six independent programs. Gyeongbuk and Incheon educational offices provide subsidies for households with more than three children, while the Busan educational office offers tuition subsidies to households with more than four children. Ulsan and Gangwon educational offices also provide infants with school expense support according to their own situation.

When the numbers of children recipients from local governments are compared, Ulsan city ranked first with 1,713 children through the support for school expenses of children residing in the eup and myeon areas and support for public kindergarten meals, followed by Incheon with 966 children through tuition support for households with more than three children.

〈Table 1-11〉 Status of Independent 3-5 year Olds' Tuition Expense Support by Municipal and Provincial Offices of Education(2009)

Unit: Person, 1000 KRW

Cities/ Provinces	Subsidies	No of Recipients			Total Budget		
		Public	Private	Sum	Public	Private	Sum
Busan	Tuition Subsidies for More Than Four Children	21	69	90	12,539	125,565	138,104
Subtotal		21	69	90	12,539	125,565	138,104
Incheon	Tuition Subsidies for More Than Three Children	185	781	966	58,848	987,727	1,046,575
Subtotal		185	781	966	58,848	987,727	1,046,575

Ulsan	Support for School Expenses of Children Residing in rural areas		495	495		155,577	155,577
	Support for Public Kindergarten Meals	1,223		1,223	323,965		323,965
Subtotal		1,223	495	1,718	323,965	155,577	479,542
Gangwon	Tuition Subsidies for Coal Area	262	119	381	111,964	228,567	340,531
Subtotal		262	119	381	111,964	228,567	340,531
Gyeonbuk	Tuition Subsidies for More Than Three Children	23	136	159	3,030	75,950	78,980
Subtotal		23	136	159	3,030	75,950	78,980
Total		1,714	1,600	3,314	510,346	1,573,386	2,083,732

C. Achievement and Tasks

The young children tuition subsidy has been performed through various policy projects. Currently, households in the lower 50 percentile to 70 percentile income bracket receive free education subsidies for five-year olds, income-based subsidies for kindergarten and child care center tuitions of three to four-year-olds from low-income families, full-day care program tuition and independent tuition subsidies by the local educational offices. In regards to the number of recipients, a total of 287,721 children - 134,216 5-year-olds and 153,501 from children aged three to four - receive full or partial government subsidized child care. This figure indicates that 53.5 percent of children of the total number of children enrolled in kindergartens receive tuition subsidies. In particular, it is a positive change in the young children tuition subsidy policy given this figure rose by a 4.6 percent year-on-year. In addition, an increasing number of children enrolled in kindergartens (increased by 461 children) and the number of subsidy recipients (increased by 23,674 children) also indicate a positive sign of social awareness on sending children to kindergartens.

However, there are several things to be considered from a policy perspective. First, we should determine which part of the young children school expenses support should be given priority. Of course, it is not a bad idea to focus on tuition support for low-income families in the lower 70 percentile and gradually increase the scope. However, according to the tuition subsidy rates by age, the rates of children recipients account for 53.3 percent for five-year olds, 52.3 percent for four-year olds and 56.4 percent for three-year olds, which shows a higher support rate for three-year olds than five-year olds. This figure may appear that the support for three-year olds are more cost-effective since the enrollment rate for the age cohort is significantly lower than that of five-year olds. However, it is a tuition subsidy system aimed at universalized education of the preceding year prior to enrollment into elementary school, unlike the free education for five-year-olds and income based subsidy for three to four year olds. If the policy objective is to provide opportunities for quality early childhood education to children regardless of income level, it is appropriate to preferentially

consider a full-fledged implementation of free education for children aged five than gradually expanding the support for children aged three to four.

Second, more attention needs to be paid to the independent tuition subsidy programs by local governments since there is a sharp difference in the tuition subsidy programs pursued by local offices of education. Some areas provide school expenses support for households with more than three or four children in line with the government's effort to increase the national birth rate whereas the Ulsan and Gangwon areas provide young children with a school expense subsidy in consideration of their regional characteristics such as eup and myeon areas and coal mining regions. Given that the infants and young children school expenses subsidy is distributed to all local educational authorities and that independent subsidy programs by local governments carry more weight, we need to develop a more efficient support policy in consideration of local characteristics.

Third, we need to expand the support for a full-day system. Unlike the kindergartens as an educational institute, the full-day facilities feature more child care functions than educational functions for employed mothers. Given this, full-day programs should serve as a service for dual-income families. The calculation of child care expenses is based on all-day programs. Therefore, it is necessary to come up with some support measures to relieve the financial burden of dual-income households for sending their children to full-day care programs.

2. Assistance for Kindergarten Teachers' Personnel Expenses

A. System

As part of support for personnel expenses of kindergarten teachers, subsidies for the improvement of working conditions of private kindergarten teachers is provided. This subsidy program is designed to enhance the self-esteem of private kindergarten teachers working in agricultural and fishing villages or rural-urban complex type cities and improve the overall educational capacity.

Eligible teachers must be responsible for a class in a private kindergarten located in a rural-urban complex type city with population less than 300,000 and are provided with 110,000 KRW each month for a teacher's allowance. However, the amount of allowance subsidy provided by local governments varies depending on local governments.

B. Status

As regards the subsidy for the improvement of working conditions of private kindergarten teachers, a total of about 25.3 billion KRW was injected as part of support for personnel expenses of kindergarten teachers and Gyeonggi, Seoul and Busan areas have relatively larger support scales than other areas.

〈Table 2-1〉 Status of Subsidy for the Improvement of Working Condition of Private Kindergartens by City and Province (As of the end of 2009)

Unit: million KRW

Cities/Provinces	Subsidy for the Improvement of Work Conditions of Private Kindergarten Teachers	Cities /Provinces	Subsidy for the Improvement of Work Conditions of Private Kindergarten Teachers
Seoul	5,550	Gangwon	476
Busan	2,097	Chungbuk	476
DaeGu	959	Chungnam	752
Incheon	1,440	Jeonbuk	1,188
Gwangju	732	Jeonnam	617
Daejeon	1,133	Gyeongbuk	1,246
Ulsan	683	Gyeongnam	1,816
Gyeonggi	6,008	Jeju	158
Total	25,331		

This is because most private kindergartens are distributed in city areas. Except for Jeju, the subsidy provided by the Gangwon and Chungbuk regions was found to be amongst the lowest levels. These figures represent the concentration of private kindergarten teachers in city areas even if the subsidy has been focused on rural and fishing villages. Seoul city independently provides about 300,000 KRW in allowance to private kindergarten teachers.

C. Achievement and Tasks

It is desirable to provide for a teacher's allowance to private kindergarten teachers, especially those who working in rural and fishing areas or small urban regions, which have poorer working conditions compared with large urban cities. This measure is expected to contribute to boosting their morale. In addition, implementing various measures in accordance with regional characteristics including direct deposit of such allowance to teachers' accounts will be helpful.

However, given that some private kindergartens are found to have committed irregularities to reduce monthly payments for teachers by considering the allowance as part of their regular payment, monitoring and supervision should be put in place.

3. Support for Educational Capacity of Kindergartens

A. System

Aimed at enhancing educational capacity of kindergartens, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and municipal and provincial educational offices have implemented a wide range of support programs. These include support for teaching materials of private kindergartens, support for kindergarten evaluation program, support for

assistant manpower for full-day programs, dispatched child care teachers, a pilot project to foster middle-aged and older people as professional child care providers, as well as a kindergarten welfare service program and support for private kindergarten substitute teachers.

1) Support for Teaching Materials of Private Kindergartens

Although most children (78.1 percent) enrolled in kindergartens attend private kindergartens, the educational environment of private kindergartens is poorer than that of public kindergartens. In this regard, this program is intended to establish a foundation for early childhood public education system by expanding financial support for private kindergartens to improve the overall educational environment.

All private kindergartens (3,812 kindergartens) across the country are eligible for the support. 3,731 thousand KRW is provided to each private kindergarten. The program is expected to require about 14.3 billion KRW in financing and each municipal and provincial educational office can set up and implement measures in accordance with its specific financial situations. Support for this program is provided through both equal amount support and differential support in consideration of the scale of corporation, number of classes, etc.

2) Support for Kindergarten Evaluation Program

This measure was introduced by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in 2007 to strengthen responsibility of kindergartens by providing plans for evaluation and improved operation of kindergartens and enhance the overall efficiency of kindergarten operation, thus increasing the quality of early childhood education. In 2009, based on the "1st Kindergarten Evaluation Plan" by municipal and provincial educational offices, financial support was provided to kindergartens subject to 2nd evaluation for kindergartens. All public and private kindergartens participating in the evaluation program are eligible for the support. Each kindergarten was given 500,000 KRW in support and the total amount of the financial support was supposed to be about 4.2 billion KRW.

3) Support for Assistant Manpower for Full-day Programs “Third Generation Harmony”

In an effort to relieve the financial burden of dual-income families for child care services, kindergartens are expanding their child care functions and programs. Also, there is a growing demand for human resources to support these child care programs. The support for assistant manpower for full-day programs was established to reduce the work burden for full-day program teachers and improve educational quality. The "third generation harmony" program is designed to utilize grandmothers as human resources to assist the full-day programs. Under the intention of expanding participation of woman manpower in diverse areas, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has provided financial support for volunteer activities through the full-day assistant programs.

56.6 percent of public and private full-day kindergartens are recipients for this assistant program and each institute receives 5.2 million KRW including a monthly amount

of 400,000 KRW for assigned manpower's activities and an annual amount of 400,000 KRW for insurance and other expenses. A total of 20.8 billion KRW was provided for the financing of the programs in 2009.

4) Support for Development of Basic Educational Capacity of Young Children “Hope ECE Teachers”

The support for development of basic educational capacity of young children is also referred to the support for the dispatched teachers. This project is designed to enhance self-esteem for children and create a better understanding by parents on early childhood education by selecting children who do not attend kindergartens and children who go to kindergartens but need special care and providing them with intensive support to narrow the development gap between children.

Eligible dispatched teachers responsible for development of basic educational capacity of young children should have a certificate as kindergarten teacher. They provide individual and group education by directly visiting kindergartens or households. Additionally, their educational support includes kindergarten curriculums, development support programs comprising of language, perception, social and emotional areas and cultural adaptation program.

This program is designed to intensify the educational service for children who are mentally disabled through systematic operation and management by the dispatched professionals and benefit such children by efficient communication system.

The main target for these programs are children who do not attend kindergartens or other institutes; however, if there are not enough children, educational support for other children whose development is slow even though they are enrolled at kindergartens is also possible. The teacher-child ratio for this program is 1:5, but it can vary depending on local governments. At least 10 dispatched teachers are supposed to be secured at both the municipal and provincial level. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology recommends to flexibly operate and expand the hiring terms and number of the personnel in accordance with the situations of the local educational offices.

The 2009 budget spent on the support for dispatched teachers was about 2,805 million KRW, which includes labor costs of 1,875 million KRW and work coordination expenses of 315 million KRW as well as training and business trip expenses of 615 million KRW.

5) Support for Sharing Wisdom between Generations (Pilot Project to Foster Middle-aged and Older People as All-day Child Care Providers)

The support for "sharing wisdom between generations" was originated from the effort to divert the parents' demand for specialty and aptitude education centering on professional subjects towards sound development of young children. In other words, the sharing wisdom project is intended to provide quality and customized education for each child by utilizing middle-aged and older people as all-day child care human resources. They serve as assistant teachers upon request from kindergartens and other institutes after completing prior consultation. After completing the training course, they are registered at the

professional pool for kindergarten personnel support program of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (<http://mest.veta.co.kr>).

This program aims at providing specialized education for young children centering on educational areas with high demand. Most of these programs concentrate on professional education fields that have a high consumer demand such as English, science, the arts and physical education.

About 12 percent of public and private kindergartens are eligible for this program. In order to obtain this support, they should prove that they have maintained stable operation of their kindergarten education curriculums for a long time. 2.4 million KRW is provided for each eligible kindergarten and the subsidy is used for financing activities of the personnel (50,000 KRW for each occasion ×4 times a month ×12 months). A total of 2.4 billion KRW was supposed to be used for the support in 2009.

6) Kindergarten Welfare Service Program

This support program is aimed at establishing a comprehensive welfare service network through coordinating human and material resources relevant to early childhood education between kindergartens and local communities. It is intended to establish kindergartens' function as a comprehensive welfare educational institute through the systematic and comprehensive provision of education, welfare and services for children and parents. Additionally, a pilot project is designed to guarantee equal starting points of early childhood centering on independent kindergartens in 2009.

Thus, 15 public independent kindergartens were selected by each city and province except for Jeju based on the locality in an area with high density of low-income families or the number of enrolled children in need of the comprehensive support such as healthcare, nutrition, security and family support.

According to this program, each eligible kindergarten was provided with 20 million KRW for financing the children and parents support programs including basic capacity and information ability intensification, provision of nutrition, healthcare and security services, confidence recovery, job training and family participation programs. A total of 300 million KRW was assigned to support these programs.

7) Support for Private Kindergarten Substitute Teachers

Currently, public kindergarten teachers can be replaced with part-time teachers in the event of maternity leave and family event-related leave. In contrast, there is no such system in the private kindergarten settings. In this regard, this program was introduced to improve the working conditions for private kindergarten teachers by securing leave for family events and maternity. Through this effort, it is expected to boost private kindergarten teachers' overall morale and contribute to improving their welfare in the workplace.

Eligible candidates are those who work as private kindergarten teachers and need to take a leave of absence. It is expected that about 5 percent or 1,075 private kindergarten teachers will use this kind of support. Each eligible teacher is provided with 4.5 million KRW in financial support for a three-month leave (50,000 won daily payment). A total of 4.9 billion KRW is supposed to be used for this program.

B. Status

<Table 3-1> suggests the status of the 2009 budget execution on detailed programs to enhance educational capacity by municipal and provincial level.

All in all, the project in which the largest share of finance support was injected is the support for assistant manpower for full-day programs “third generation harmony” with 25,016 million KRW followed by support for teaching materials of private kindergartens with 19,521 million KRW.

As for the program operation status by municipal and provincial level, no support for short-term substitute teachers was made in the Seoul and Jeonnam areas, while the kindergarten comprehensive welfare service programs were implemented in every city and province except for Seoul and Jeju. The rest of the cities and provinces are considered to have pursued programs relevant to the improvement of their own educational capacity.

<Table 3-1> Status of Support for Improvement of Educational Capacity of Kindergartens by City and Province (As of the end of 2009)

Unit: Million KRW

Cities/ Provinces	Support for Improvement of Educational Capacity of Kindergartens						
	Substitute Teachers	“Sharing Wisdom between Generations”	“Hope ECE Teachers”	Teaching Materials	Welfare Service Program	Kindergarten Evaluation	“Third Generation Harmony”
Seoul		255	194	2,193		189	2,256
Busan	57	221	205	1,882	20	78	915
Daegu	18	130	185	1,816	20	3	780
Incheon	31	96	187	690	20	109	801
Gwangju	17	72	167	459	20	43	243
Daejeon	15	67	186	1,042	20	72	547
Ulsan	20	108	210	430	2	183	485
Gyeonggi	588	737	150	2,008	420	899	4,909
Gangwon	13	140	19	968	20	99	653
Chungbuk	3	199	212	1,034	20	191	764
Chungnam	144	307	291	459	20	53	1,750
Jeonbuk	21	250	172	1,766	20	176	1,204
Jeonnam		180	207	565	20	155	3,718
Gyeongbuk	39	216	206	2,778	20	267	4,981
Gyeongnam	2	167	175	1,234	20	308	895
Jeju	19	77	125	197		70	115
Total	968	3,145	2,766	19,324	662	2,825	24,904

C. Achievements and Tasks

The recent program designed to improve educational capacity of kindergartens is the result of the government's endeavor to enhance quality of kindergarten education. Most support programs such as support for substitute teachers intended to improve teachers' working conditions and professionalism, third generation harmony programs as human resource development programs, etc. have received a warm response from the educational field. In addition, the support for dispatched teachers and the comprehensive welfare

service programs which are offered at an educational welfare level are expected to positively influence the public promotion of kindergartens' functions given that they have played an important role in expanding early childhood education's service areas in local communities.

However, the support for "sharing wisdom between generations" needs to be activated in connection with specialized education of full-day kindergarten programs and the authorization system for extracurricular activities¹¹ which are expected to be pursued by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. Moreover, the support for dispatched child care providers should be carefully considered to prevent duplication with welfare programs by other agencies. The support for dispatched teachers who are designed to provide intervention service by visiting households is reported to have had some difficulties in carrying out their functions. These services have focused on providing education for kindergarten children whose development is slow. Given that, it is necessary to come up with measures to revise or supplement the policy.

4. Environmental Improvement for Kindergartens

A. System

The support for the environmental improvement cost for kindergartens is a support mainly for public kindergartens. The support for the environmental improvement cost for kindergartens annexed primary schools, support for full-day kindergartens and support for expansion of the numbers of public kindergartens are included in this category.

1) Environmental Improvement Cost for Full-day Kindergartens

The objective of this program is to provide a comfortable educational environment for young children through the improvement of educational institutes in order to expand the full-day system. Its aim is also to improve the overall quality of early childhood education and child care services via enhancement of the educational environment suitable for the development of young children.

All public and private kindergartens providing full-day system are eligible for this support (7,319 kindergartens nationwide). The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is expected to improve the educational environment for full-day system and increase the utilization of the system by financing the installation costs for playrooms, sleeping rooms, meal distribution facilities and security facilities.

The standard unit per kindergarten was 2,733 thousand KRW in 2009 and the subsidy amount can vary depending on financial situation of local educational offices. It is estimated that about 20 billion KRW was spent on the environmental improvement for full-day kindergartens in 2009.

¹¹ The support for the 'authorization system for extracurricular activities' are expected to be launched as a pilot project in 2011 after going through a joint research by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Korea Institute of Child Care and Education in 2010.

2) Environmental Improvement Costs for Primary-school-annexed Public Kindergartens

The objective of this program is to expand the infrastructure of early childhood public education by newly establishing public kindergartens annexed to primary schools or increasing the number of kindergarten facilities by utilizing idle classes at elementary schools. In 2009, 4,394 public kindergartens were eligible for this program. Each kindergarten was provided with 4,690 thousand KRW and a total of 20.6 billion KRW was set for this support in 2009.

3) Support for Expansion of the Ratio of Public Kindergartens

The number of public kindergartens and that of private kindergartens are similar (50:50); however, in terms of the number of enrolled children, the ratio between public and private kindergartens is 22.2 percent: 77.8 percent. However, from the large picture of establishing public education foundation for early childhood education, the ratio of public kindergartens should be raised. The support for expansion of the number of public kindergartens has been pursued for this purpose.

However, it is not easy to secure the quality of public kindergartens given that 97.8 percent of public kindergartens are kindergartens annexed to elementary schools and 66.6 percent of such kindergartens are operated as a one-class facility. Faced with this sobering situation, the government has moved to gradually increase the number of independent kindergartens and assigned 35.2 billion KRW in budgetary expenses for establishing independent kindergartens in 2009. The municipal and provincial educational offices which intend to establish new independent kindergartens can apply for this subsidy. In 2009, 16 independent kindergartens were planned to be newly established and 2.2 billion KRW in financial support was provided per such kindergarten.

B. Status

The following <Table 4-1> shows the execution of 2009 budget for the kindergarten environmental improvement by 16 municipal and provincial educational offices.

In terms of support for the environmental improvement cost of kindergartens annexed to primary schools, Chungnam, Gyeongbuk and Gyeonggi provinces have provided the largest budgetary amounts, while Seoul has offered no support in this sector. In contrast, as for the support for environmental improvement of full-day kindergartens, Seoul and Gyeonggi were found to have provided the largest budgetary amount. The results show that Seoul has made more efforts to improve educational environment for full-day child care facilities rather than to newly establish kindergartens annexed to elementary schools. On the other hand, Gyeongbuk areas have provided no support for full-day facilities. Based on the performance results to expand public independent kindergartens, Gyeonggi province ranked first followed by Gwangju, Busan, Gangwon and Chungnam, while Daegu, Daejeon and Jeju were found to have offered no support in this sector.

〈Table 4-1〉 Status of Support for the Kindergarten Environment Improvement Cost by City and Province (2009)

Unit: Million KRW

Cities/Provinces	Environmental Improvement Costs for Public Kindergartens	Environmental Improvement Cost for Full-day Kindergartens	Support for Establishing Public Kindergartens
Seoul		3,005	203
Busan	200	1,030	4,504
Daegu	240	700	
Incheon	300	745	62
Gwangju	280	280	4,691
Daejeon	159	393	
Ulsan	320	450	2,824
Gyeonggi	2,157	4,148	13,499
Gangwon	1,119	817	4,353
Chungbuk	1,255	1,000	197
Chungnam	2,690	1,242	4,063
Jeonbuk	730	890	50
Jeonnam	320	1,050	54
Gyeongbuk	2,322		1,527
Gyeongnam	997	810	1,738
Jeju	225	330	
Total	13,314	16,890	37,765

C. Achievements and Tasks

At present, the operating rate of full-day kindergartens has reached almost 90 percent. In line with this trend, the support for the environmental improvement cost for full-day facilities has been gradually increasing, which contributes to settlement of the full-day system in Korea. With regard to the expansion of public kindergarten facilities, the policy has shifted towards integrating or abolishing small kindergartens annexed to primary schools in rural and fishing areas to improve them as middle-scale kindergartens or newly establish independent kindergartens. Ultimately, it is important to increase the utilization of public kindergartens and expand public kindergartens with quality facilities and programs. Simultaneously, it is also crucial for private kindergartens to enhance the working conditions for teachers and their labor costs in order to improve the credentials and quality of teachers as good as those in the public sector.

5. Installation and Use of Kindergartens

The following is the current status of early childhood education such as the number of kindergartens and children enrolled in the institutes in accordance with the 2009 statistics. This status analysis is crucial to understanding the regional characteristics that can influence policies.

The number of kindergartens has been classified by municipal-provincial level and establishment type, together with the number of classes that offers a grasp on kindergarten scale and distribution. As for the kindergarten utilization, the number of children enrolled in kindergartens has been suggested by area.

A. Number of Kindergartens

The number of kindergartens by municipal-provincial level and establishment type, along with the number of classes by area is provided as follows. Also, the trends by year will be examined.

1) Number of Kindergartens by City/Province and Establishment Type

The total number of kindergartens in Korea is 8,373, of which national and public institutes account for 4,493(53.7 percent), while private kindergartens account for 3,880 (46.3 percent). When compared by region, 22.8 percent of kindergartens are located in Gyeonggi province, followed by Seoul (10.4 percent), Gyeongbuk (8.3 percent) and Gyeongnam (8.2 percent). On the other hand, Jeju is found to have the lowest number of kindergartens with 1.3 percent.

〈Table 5-1〉 Number of Kindergartens by City/Province (2009)

Unit: Person

Cities/Provinces	No of Kindergartens			Total
	National	Public	private	
Seoul	0	138	735	873
Busan	0	64	315	379
Daegu	0	114	189	303
Incheon	0	130	240	370
Gwangju	0	111	135	246
Daejeon	0	82	155	237
Ulsan	0	75	107	182
Gyeonggi	0	976	936	1,912
Gangwon	1	302	101	404
Chungbuk	1	258	88	347
Chungnam	1	404	125	530
Jeonbuk	0	366	146	512
Jeonnam	0	466	116	582
Gyeongbuk	0	484	213	697
Gyeongnam	0	434	255	689
Jeju	0	86	24	110
Total	3	4,490	3,880	8,373

Source: The Korean Educational Development Institute - Education Statistics <http://std.kedi.re.kr/index.jsp>

By establishment type, the number of public kindergartens in provincial areas is markedly higher than that in city areas. Both the Jeonnam and Jeonbuk areas are found to have the highest rate of public kindergartens with 384.5 percent, followed by Jeju with 358

percent. In contrast, Seoul is found to have the lowest number of public kindergartens with 18.8 percent, followed by Busan with 20.3 percent. These figures indicate that the larger the city, the larger the number of private kindergartens. This fact may be attributable to the gap in the standard of living between rural and city areas. However, it is also the result of the government's efforts to preferentially establish kindergartens annexed to primary schools in rural and fishing areas. As for the Jeonnam region with the highest number of public kindergartens, 81 percent are public kindergartens (Refer to Table 5-1).

2) Number of Classes by City/Province and Establishment Type

In a measure to figure out the scale of kindergartens, mainly statistics on the number of classes are used. Currently there are three national kindergartens affiliated with the national universities and 14 classes are being operated. The number of public kindergartens is a total of 6,873, while the number of private ones is 18,021. Thus, the entire class number of kindergartens in Korea is 24,908. Although the number of public kindergartens is higher than that of private ones, the number of private kindergartens is much higher when the overall scale is considered. In addition, the number of classes and number of enrolled children at private kindergartens are far higher than those of public kindergartens.

〈Table 5-2〉 Number of Classes by City/Province (2009)

Unit: Class

Cities/Provinces	No of Classes			
	National	Public	Private	Total
Seoul	0	395	3,183	3,578
Busan	0	148	1,315	1,463
Daegu	0	169	914	1,083
Incheon	0	241	1,111	1,352
Gwangju	0	171	576	747
Daejeon	0	148	788	936
Ulsan	0	124	558	682
Gyeonggi	0	1,514	4,588	6,102
Gangwon	3	403	376	782
Chungbuk	5	427	369	801
Chungnam	6	547	576	1,129
Jeonbuk	0	516	667	1,183
Jeonnam	0	629	461	1,090
Gyeongbuk	0	639	1,017	1,656
Gyeongnam	0	686	1,402	2,088
Jeju	0	116	120	236
Total	14	6,873	18,021	24,908

Source: The Korean Educational Development Institute - Education Statistics <http://std.kedi.re.kr/index.jsp>

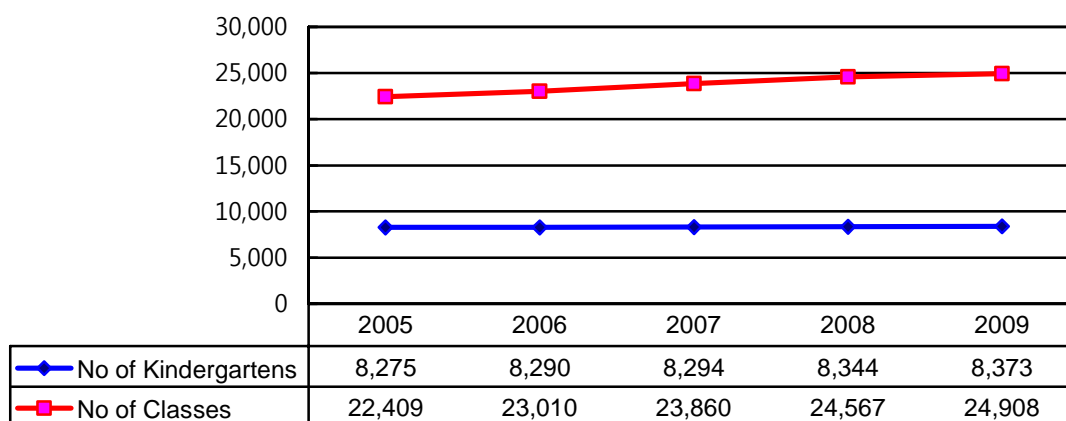
When compared by region, Gyeonggi province has the highest number of classes with 6,102 (24.5 percent), followed by Seoul with 3,578 (14.4 percent) and Gyeongnam with 2,088 (8.4 percent). As for the number of classes at public kindergartens, 22 percent are located in Gyeonggi province, followed by Gyeongbuk, Gyeongnam and Jeonnam provinces. On the other hand, according to the comparison of class number between public

and private kindergartens by region, Jeonnam, Gangwon and Chungbuk provinces are found to have a greater number of public classes than private classes.

3) Trends in Kindergarten Status

The number of kindergartens and the number of kindergarten classes for the last five years have shown an upward movement. The number of kindergartens has increased about 100 in 2009 compared with 2005, while the class number has risen by 500 for the same period. Although the rate of increase between 2005 and 2007 has been insignificant, the rate has relatively increased between 2008 and 2009. The government has made a concerted effort to expand public kindergarten facilities. In 2009, 16 public independent kindergartens were newly established, while 13 private kindergartens were founded.

Number of Kindergartens and Classes(2005-2009)



[Figure 5-1] Number of Kindergartens and Classes by Year

B. Status of Enrolled Children

1) Number of Children Enrolled in Kindergartens by City/Province and Establishment Type

The total number of children enrolled at the kindergartens across the country is 537,361, of which number of children attending national and public kindergartens accounts for 125,536, while that of private kindergartens is 411,825. In other words, 76.6 percent of enrolled children are in the private sector, while 25.6 percent are in the public schools. By region, Gyeonggi province is reported to have the largest number of children enrolled in kindergartens with 25.6 percent, followed by Seoul (14.8 percent), Gyeongnam (8.2 percent) and Busan (6.8 percent). By contrary, Jeju is found to have the lowest number of kindergarten children with 0.9 percent.

Based on the rate between the public and private kindergartens, municipal areas have a higher rate of private kindergartens than provincial areas. Among the cities, Busan (1084.2 percent) and Seoul (662.6 percent) have the higher levels of private kindergartens than public institutes. On the other hand, Chungbuk has the lowest rate of private kindergartens with 104 percent, followed by Jeonnam with 120.1 percent, which indicates that the provincial areas have a higher rate of children enrolled in public kindergartens. As for the number of children enrolled in the national kindergartens, Gangwon, Chungbuk and Chungnam provinces are found to have 0.5 percent, 0.5 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively, compared with the rate of public and private sectors.

〈Table 5-3〉 Number of Children Enrolled in Kindergartens by City/Province (2009)

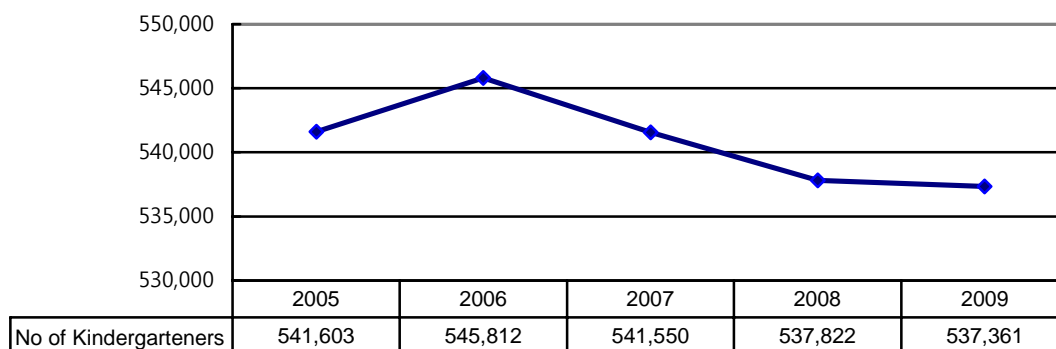
Unit: Person

Cities/Provinces	No of Kindergarteners			
	National	Public	Private	Total
Seoul	0	10,451	69,253	79,704
Busan	0	3,095	33,557	36,652
Daegu	0	4,043	23,527	27,570
Incheon	0	5,733	26,125	31,858
Gwangju	0	3,697	13,496	17,193
Daejeon	0	3,255	17,644	20,899
Ulsan	0	2,659	13,319	15,978
Gyeonggi	0	33,589	103,977	137,566
Gangwon	66	5,881	8,396	14,343
Chungbuk	80	7,442	7,741	15,263
Chungnam	85	8,516	13,497	22,098
Jeonbuk	0	6,244	12,886	19,130
Jeonnam	0	8,222	9,877	18,099
Gyeongbuk	0	9,013	22,734	31,747
Gyeongnam	0	11,341	32,932	44,273
Jeju	0	2,124	2,864	4,988
Total	231	125,305	411,825	537,361

Source: The Korean Educational Development Institute - Education Statistics <http://std.kedi.re.kr/index.jsp>

2) Trends in Number of Children Attending Kindergarten

The number of children enrolled in kindergartens over the last five years has shown a downward movement. Although the number of such children increased by 4,209 in 2006 from 2005, the number decreased by 4,262 in 2007 from 2006, with a gradual decrease by each year. Although the trend has continued with reduced number of 3,728 between 2007 and 2008 and 461 between 2008 and 2009, it is noticeable that the reduction trend has significantly slowed.



[Figure 5-2] Number of Children Enrolled in Kindergartens by Year

3) Enrollment in National/Public Kindergartens

The following is the percentage of children using the national and public kindergartens out of the total number of children enrolled in kindergartens (Refer to Table 2-4). This figure well demonstrates how much Korea's early childhood education is like public education. According to the statistics in 2009, 23.4 percent of children attend national or public kindergartens, which is a higher level compared with 2005 and 2007. However, when the number of institutes is taken into consideration, the public kindergartens are of little importance.

<Table 5-4> (Compared to the Number of Children Enrolled in Kindergartens) The Ratio of Enrollment in National and Public Kindergartens

Cities/Provinces	The Ratio of Enrollment in National and Public Kindergartens		
	2005	2007	2009
Seoul	10.0	11.5	13.1
Busan	8.3	7.8	8.4
Daegu	12.3	11.6	14.7
Incheon	17.5	16.1	18.0
Gwangju	19.5	20.3	21.5
Daejeon	14.7	15.4	15.6
Ulsan	12.7	13.8	16.6
Gyeonggi	24.0	23.3	24.4
Gangwon	41.0	39.8	41.5
Chungbuk	48.0	47.4	49.3
Chungnam	42.2	39.9	38.9
Jeonbuk	34.7	31.7	32.6
Jeonnam	47.2	44.0	45.4
Gyeongbuk	30.1	25.7	28.4
Gyeongnam	27.0	23.4	25.6
Jeju	40.3	39.1	42.6
Total	22.9	21.9	23.4

Unit:%

Source: The Korean Educational Development Institute - Education Statistics <http://std.kedi.re.kr/index.jsp>

By region, Chungbuk, Jeonnam, Jeju and Gangwon regions have higher utilization rates with more than 40 percent, while Busan (8.4 percent), Seoul (13.1 percent), Daegu (14.7 percent) are reported to have low utilization rates. However, Seoul and other metropolitan areas such as Daegu, Incheon and Ulsan areas have shown a gradual increase in the use of the national and public kindergartens over the past several years. In contrast, provincial areas have exhibited a steady decrease in the use of national and public kindergartens in 2009 compared with 2005, except for Jeju. The decrease in the number of children itself could be one of the reasons behind the underutilization of public and national kindergarten in small cities. However, we need to consider from various perspectives given that the utilization of such kindergartens in large cities have been steadily rising despite the low birth rate.

C. Achievements and Tasks

When it comes to utilization of kindergartens, two achievements can be mentioned. First is the increase in the rate of children who attend kindergartens. Although the overall number of children attending kindergartens has been decreasing year after year, the tendency may be attributed to a natural decrease in the number of children due to the overall shrinking child population. <Table 5-5> shows that the rate of children attending kindergartens compared with the overall number of children has gradually increased each year.

According to the <Table 5-5>, the rate of children aged five who were enrolled in kindergartens had decreased between 2006 and 2007, but it began to move upward since then. In addition, the enrollment rate for children aged three has shown a consistent increase and the rate for children aged four has been on the rise since 2007. In particular, the enrollment rate for five-year olds exceeded 50 percent, which can be attributable to various efforts including the expansion of full-day systems, increased tuition support, improvement of educational capacity and promotion activities.

<Table 5-5> Enrollment Rate of Children by Age

Unit: Person, %

		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Age 3	No of Kindergarteners	74,824	77,669	93,005	99,499	100,406
	Enrollment Rate of Children(%)	11.7	13.9	18.8	20.2	21.2
Age 4	No of Kindergarteners	176,963	170,652	170,726	184,178	185,195
	Enrollment Rate of Children(%)	28.5	26.7	30.5	37.2	37.6
Age 5	No of Kindergarteners	289,816	297,491	277,819	254,145	251,760
	Enrollment Rate of Children(%)	45.2	47.9	43.4	45.4	50.9

Source: The Korean Educational Development Institute, Korea Institute of Child Care and Education(2010). '2009-2010 An primary school's Annual Report'

Another achievement is the rise in the utilization of the national and public kindergartens. <Table 5-6> shows 23.4 percent of children enrolled in kindergartens are in the national and public kindergartens and the figures are annually rising. It is a desirable aspect in terms of realization of public education of kindergartens. According to the <Table 5-6>, the utilization rate had been at a standstill until 2007 but began to move upward in 2008 and significantly rose in 2009.

<Table 5-6> (Compared with Number of Child Population of the Relevant Age Cohort)
Rate of Enrollment in National and Public Kindergartens

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Enrollment Rate of National and Public Kindergartens(%)	7.8	7.8	8.1	8.8	9.9

However, the trend can take a different path in recent years given new policy measures have been discussed including compulsory education for five-year olds. Looking at the big picture of early childhood education, however, the rise in enrollment rate of children at kindergartens and increased utilization of the national and public sectors can be considered as a positive policy achievement.

6. Financing of Early Childhood Education

The financial support for early childhood education-related policy programs can be largely classified into four areas such as the support for personal expenses for teachers, the support for education activities, the support for infant and young children tuition expenses and the support for the improvement cost of operational and educational environment. These classifications are based on the report form of budget settlement for each educational office, which clearly shows the budget expenses on specific items. <Table 6-1> demonstrates the budget settlement items according to this classification. It is noticeable that within the item of teachers' labor costs, the support for teachers' working conditions, the support for short-term substitute teachers and support for enhancement of educational capacity are included in the support for private kindergartens.

<Table 6-1> Detailed Programs by Early Childhood Education Policy

Policy Program	Unit Program		Detailed Program
Support for Teachers' Personnel Expenses	Public	Teachers' labor cost	Full-time teachers' labor cost
			Other full-time personnel's labor cost
		Part-time teachers' labor cost	Part-time teachers' labor cost
			Other part-time personnel's labor cost
	Private	Teachers' labor cost	Support for teachers' personal expenses
			Support for short-term substitute teachers
Support for enhancement of educational capacity			

Support for Educational Activities	Development and operation of educational curriculum	Support for purchase of teaching materials
		Support for educational robot (R-Learning)
		Sharing wisdom between generation (Support for specialized education program for full-day program)
		Support for development and operation of other educational curricular
	Development of academic ability	Support for basic learning capacity development “Hope ECE Teachers”
		Other support for enhancement of academic ability
	Intensification of teachers capacity	Support for teacher evaluation operation
		Other support for improvement of teachers capacity
	Support for promotion of learning activities	Support for operation of coordination network of early childhood education
		Operation of a comprehensive kindergarten consulting team
		Comprehensive kindergarten welfare service
		Support for kindergarten evaluation
other support for promotion of learning activities		
Support for Tuition and Full-day Programs	Support for tuition fees	Free education for five-year olds
		Income-based support for children aged three to four
		Support for households with more than two children
		Support for full-day system for low income families
		Incidental expenses
		Other support for infants and young children tuition
	Support for meals	Support for meals for children from low income families
		Other support for young children's meal
	Promotion of early childhood education	Support for full-day manpower “Third Generation Harmony”
		Support for full-day kindergarten operation
		Operation of night child care center
		Other support for early childhood education promotion
	Support for Improvement of Environment	Support for school operation
Other support for public kindergarten operation		
Other support for private kindergarten financing		
Student accommodation facilities		Support for establishment of public kindergartens
		Development of proper scale kindergartens
		Support for children accommodation facilities
Facilities to improve educational environment		Support for environmental improvement of public kindergartens annexed to primary schools
		Support for environmental improvement for full-day systems
		Support for improvement for meal facilities for public kindergartens
		Support for early childhood education promotion center
		Other support for the environmental improvement of kindergartens

A. Status of Early Childhood Education Budget Execution

According to the data on the budget execution of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the total amount of settled account of 2009 was 1,235,853 million KRW. When divided into four main areas, the support for infants and young children tuition fees and full-day school expenses account for 544,296 million KRW or 44.0 percent, followed by the support for teachers; labor costs with 38.1 percent. On the other hand, the support for improvement of operational and educational environment (14.9 percent) and the support for educational activities (3 percent) have little importance in financing.

1) Early Childhood Education Financing by Municipal/Provincial Educational Office

By region, the budgetary amounts set by Seoul and Gyeonggi are the highest, followed by Gyeongbuk, Busan in Gyeongnam, Jeonnam and Chungnam regions. However, unlike the overall financing scale, the scale of support for detailed programs varies according to region. Except for Seoul and Gyeonggi, provincial educational offices have set aside more budgetary amounts to support teachers' personal expenses compared to their financial base. In addition, the support for infant school expenses and full-day programs are larger in cities. In other words, municipal areas have more children who are subject to the support, while provincial areas have a relatively higher number of schools regardless of the number of children, which results in relatively higher labor costs.

〈Table 6-2〉 Early Childhood Education Finance (2009)

Unit: Million KRW

Cities/Provinces	Support for Teachers' Personnel Expenses	Support for Educational Activities	Support for Tuition and Full-day Programs	Support for Improvement of Environment	Total
Seoul	30,070	4,575	57,128	26,167	117,940
Busan	11,103	2,756	49,928	8,871	72,658
Daegu	11,244	2,561	33,364	3,623	50,792
Incheon	16,523	1,469	34,570	7,808	60,370
Gwangju	10,631	1,072	18,285	8,118	38,106
Daejeon	11,859	1,398	24,046	3,496	40,799
Ulsan	7,716	1,120	16,730	5,178	30,744
Gyeonggi	85,422	5,499	113,062	41,240	245,223
Gangwon	30,564	2,006	15,572	14,453	62,595
Chungbuk	23,849	2,216	18,178	6,220	50,463
Chungnam	39,814	1,509	17,978	15,916	75,217
Jeonbuk	39,781	2,462	26,136	11,761	80,140
Jeonnam	45,143	1,835	22,417	8,795	78,190
Gyeongbuk	46,010	3,881	41,937	9,071	100,899
Gyeongnam	51,963	2,724	50,035	10,787	115,509
Jeju	8,609	603	4,930	2,066	16,208
Total	470,301	37,686	544,296	183,570	1,235,853

Since the support for "improvement of operational and educational environment" and the support for "educational activities" can have a tangible impact on the quality of education, it is necessary to examine the difference in the amount of subsidy by municipal and provincial level. As for the support for improvement for operational and educational environment, Gangwon province ranked first in the execution amount for early childhood education with 23.1 percent, followed by Seoul at 22.2 percent and Gyeonggi at 16.8 percent. On the other hand, Gyeongbuk which has a relatively large financial base spent just 9 percent on this area and Daegu spent a much lower 7 percent. However, in terms of the support for educational activities, Daegu spent a much higher 5 percent, while Seoul

and Busan with 3.8~3.9 percent. Gyeongnam province with the largest financial base set aside only 2.4 percent of its budget for educational activities.

As suggested above, the difference in budget execution by each city and province provides a glimpse on their emphasis in providing early childhood education policy.

2) Status of Budget Execution by the Type of Kindergarten

<Table 6-3> shows the status of budget execution of the 2009 early childhood education by city and province in accordance with the kindergarten establishment type. The amount of budget injected in the public kindergartens is 723,559 million KRW or about 58.8 percent out of the entire finance for early childhood education of 1,235,853 million KRW.

〈Table 6-3〉 Status of Budget Execution of Early Childhood Education by City and Province (2009)

Unit: Million KRW

Cities/ Provinces	Support for Teachers' Personnel Expenses		Support for Educational Activities		Support for Tuition and Full-day Programs		Support for Improvement of Environment		Total	
	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private
Seoul	24,520	5,550	4,018	557	5,068	52,060	21,718	4,449	55,324	62,616
Busan	8,949	2,154	718	2,038	2,466	47,462	8,191	680	20,324	52,334
Daegu	10,267	977	537	2,024	1,415	31,949	3,540	83	15,759	35,033
Incheon	15,053	1,470	547	922	3,529	31,041	7,673	135	26,802	33,568
Gwangju	9,883	748	764	308	1,296	16,989	7,826	292	19,769	18,337
Daejeon	10,711	1,148	651	747	1,994	22,052	3,363	133	16,719	24,080
Ulsan	7,013	703	363	757	2,798	13,932	4,978	200	15,152	15,592
Gyeonggi	78,826	6,596	2,428	3,071	15,147	97,915	39,222	2,018	135,623	109,600
Gangwon	30,075	489	1,388	618	4,107	11,465	14,309	144	49,879	12,716
Chungbuk	23,370	479	1,529	687	7,754	10,424	5,904	316	38,557	11,906
Chungnam	38,658	1,156	1,330	179	4,075	13,903	15,348	568	59,411	15,806
Jeonbuk	38,227	1,554	1,146	1,316	7,452	18,684	10,029	1,732	56,854	23,286
Jeonnam	44,526	617	1,492	343	8,248	14,169	8,795		63,061	15,129
Gyeongbuk	44,725	1,285	2,808	1,073	10,689	31,248	7,656	1,415	65,878	35,021
Gyeongnam	50,145	1,818	1,371	1,353	9,875	40,160	10,697	90	72,088	43,421
Jeju	8,432	177	365	238	1,526	3,404	2,036	30	12,359	3,849
Total	443,380	26,921	21,455	16,231	87,439	456,857	171,285	12,285	723,559	512,294

B. Status of Budget Execution by Detailed Programs

The following <Table 6-4>, <Table 6-5>, <Table 6-6>, <Table 6-7> indicates the status of budget execution by cities and provinces by dividing the budget into detailed programs such as support for infants and young children school expenses, support for teachers' labor cost, support for improvement of kindergarten environment and support for improvement of educational capacity.

1) Support for Infants and Young Children School Expenses by City and Province

As for the support for the infants and young children school expenses, the support for five-year olds and support for 3 to four-year olds account for the largest share (84.3 percent) of the support, but the support for full-day system is also significant with 12.5 percent. By region, Gyeonggi and Incheon have spent the largest amount of support on school expenses for households with more than two children. In addition, Incheon is also found to have spent the largest budget amount in the support for school tuition among local governments (Refer to Table 6-4).

〈Table 6-4〉 Amount of Budget Execution for Support for School Expenses for Young Children by City and Province (As of the end of 2009)

Unit: Million KRW

Cities/ Provinces	Age 5	Age 3-4	More than Two Children	Full-day Child Care Expenses	others	Total
Seoul	22,009	21,138	853	6,315		50,315
Busan	21,916	15,991	774	4,848	136	43,665
Daegu	15,761	12,021	393	3,463		31,638
Incheon	13,638	12,208	1,050	2,847	1,055	30,798
Gwangju	6,585	7,801	318	2,820		17,524
Daejeon	9,115	8,646	358	2,669	340	21,128
Ulsan	5,868	5,525	249	1,629	156	13,427
Gyeonggi	40,073	41,047	2,081	8,976	183	92,360
Gangwon	4,589	4,966	437	2,029	663	12,684
Chungbuk	4,639	5,112	233	1,560	558	12,102
Chungnam	5,724	6,440	371	2,045	352	14,932
Jeonbuk	6,597	8,357	356	3,715		19,025
Jeonnam	5,522	6,171	419	2,688		14,800
Gyeongbuk	13,794	12,710	609	4,453	79	31,645
Gyeongnam	17,403	18,126	845	5,898		42,272
Jeju	2,418	970	43	527	129	4,087
Total	195,651	187,229	9,389	56,482	3,651	452,402
%	43.2	41.1	2.1	12.5	0.8	100.0

By contrast, the amount of budget injected in the private kindergartens is about 512,294 million KRW or 41.5 percent, which shows only a 7 percent difference from the budget on public kindergartens. However, 82.9 percent of the budget provided to private kindergartens goes to support for children such as school expenses and full-day programs. Since the number of children attending private kindergartens is more than three times than that of public institutes, it is no wonder that the scale of support for the young children' school expenses for private kindergartens is much larger (Refer to Table 6-4).

2) Support for Kindergarten Teachers' Labor Cost by City and Province

The total amount of support for 2009 kindergarten teachers' labor cost was about 542.3 billion won, of which the support for public teachers' labor cost accounts for 75.6 percent and the support for public institute operation with 17.6 percent. In addition, the support for part-time public teachers' labor cost and other non-regular workers' labor cost are included in this support (Refer to Table 6-5).

〈Table 6-5〉 Status of the Support for the Kindergarten Teachers' Labor Cost (2009)

Unit: Million KRW

Cities/ Provinces	Public Teachers	Public Part- time Teachers	Other Part-time Personnel	Public Kindergarten Operation	Other Support for Operation	Total
Seoul	22,041	2,479		20,207	628	45,355
Busan	8,224	717	8	3,048		11,997
Daegu	8,285	1,982		2,600		12,867
Incheon	12,175	807	2,071	6,368	264	21,685
Gwangju	8,345	265	1,272	1,901		11,783
Daejeon	8,134	247	2,330	1,704		12,415
Ulsan	6,679	334		1,300		8,313
Gyeonggi	70,721	3,165	4,940	21,406		100,232
Gangwon	29,089	398	587	4,573		34,647
Chungbuk	22,936	435		3,711	27	27,109
Chungnam	36,627	2,031		4,768	1,253	44,679
Jeonbuk	37,408	819		6,492	0	44,719
Jeonnam	41,687	2,839		6,137	1,234	51,897
Gyeongbuk	42,767	1,903	55	3,548	110	48,383
Gyeongnam	48,488	917	740	6,898	0	57,043
Jeju	6,313	1,130	989	787	0	9,219
Total	409,919	20,468	12,992	95,448	3,516	542,343
%	75.6	3.8	2.4	17.6	0.6	100.0

By cities and provincial areas, Seoul and Incheon have set aside the largest budget amount for public teachers' labor costs, while Gyeonggi, Gyeongnam and Gyeongbuk have spent the largest budget among the provincial regions. Noteworthy is that Daegu's support for part-time teachers at public kindergartens is significantly high with 23.9 percent. In contrast, the support for part-time teachers at the public institutes by Gyeonggi province is a mere 4.5 percent (Refer to Table 6-5).

3) Support for Improvement of Kindergarten Environment by City and Province

The total amount of budget spent on the support for improvement of kindergarten environment in 2009 is 79,586 million KRW, of which 47.5 percent or 37,765 million KRW has been used for the support for establishment of public kindergartens. The budget spent for the support for the improvement of environment of full-day kindergartens and the

support for the improvement of the environment of kindergartens annexed to elementary schools was 21.2 percent and 16.7 percent, respectively. Gwangju, Ulsan, Gyeonggi, Gangwon and Chungnam are found to have spent 6,556 million KRW on the establishment of an early childhood education promotion institute. In addition, Gwangju and Jeonbuk have spent a total of 334 million KRW on the support for improvement of meal distribution environment. In particular, Jeonbuk has spent a relatively high amount of its budget (Refer to Table 6-6).

〈Table 6-6〉 Status of the Support for Improvement of Kindergarten Environment by City and Province (2009)

Unit: Million KRW

Cities/ Provinces	Improve ment of Meal	Environmental Improvement of Public Kindergartens	Establishm ent of ECE Promotion Center	Improve ment of Full-day Systems	Establish ment of Public Kindergar tens	Other Support for Establish ment	Other Support for Environ ment	Total
Seoul				3,005	203	75		3,283
Busan		200		1,030	4,504		89	5,823
Daegu		240		700			83	1,023
Incheon		300		745	62		70	1,177
Gwangju	10	280	789	280	4,691		155	6,205
Daejeon		159		393			1,239	1,791
Ulsan		320	245	450	2,824	40		3,879
Gyeonggi		2,157	30	4,148	13,499			19,834
Gangwon		1,119	3,592	817	4,353			9,881
Chungbuk		1,255		1,000	197	15		2,467
Chungnam		2,690	1,900	1,242	4,063			9,895
Jeonbuk	324	730		890	50		1,742	3,736
Jeonnam		320		1,050	54			1,424
Gyeongbuk		2,322			1,527	150		3,999
Gyeongnam		997		810	1,738	344		3,889
Jeju		225		330			725	1,280
Total	334	13,314	6,556	16,890	37,765	624	4,103	79,586
%	0.4	16.7	8.2	21.2	47.5	0.8	5.2	100.0

4) Support for Enhancement of Educational Capacity by City and Province

〈Table 6-7〉 suggests the amount of budget spent for improvement of educational capacity that can strengthen various regional characteristics except for the items included in the improvement of kindergartens' educational capacity (this paper, P. 110). The support for the education promotion and the support for young children meals account for the largest share of this program. Ulsan, Gyeonggi, Gangwon and Jeonbuk have spent the largest amount of support for their young children's meals.

Chungnam and Jeonbuk have spent budget on teachers' educational capacity. Only Gyeongbuk has provided the support for academic ability. Seoul has spent the largest

amount of budget on the support for the financing of private kindergartens. Jeonbuk and Gyeongbuk have also provided support for the private sector (Refer to Table 6-7).

〈Table 6-7〉 Status of Support for Educational Capacity of Kindergartens by City and Province (2009)

Cities/ Provinces	Educational Capacity	Net- work	Comprehe nsive Consulting	Support ing Meal Expens es	Financi ng of Private Kinder gartens	Educati on Promot ion	Supp ort for Meal Plans	Develop ment of Academi c Ability	Teach ers Capa city	Educati onal Curricu lum	Promot ion of Learnin g	Total
Seoul			69		2,049	3,008				989	686	6,801
Busan						2,497			243	72	35	2,847
Daegu						42			235		172	449
Incheon						2,687	19		130	150	87	3,073
Gwangju		8			12	154			144		160	478
Daejeon						1,366	20				10	1,396
Ulsan				324		225			122	57	7	735
Gyeonggi				8,998		960			859	341	84	11,242
Gangwon				990					370	384	6	1,750
Chungbuk					16	3,554	393			138	422	4,523
Chungnam	260					1,096			288		92	1,736
Jeonbuk	346			861	1,532					78		2,817
Jeonnam						83	503		389	319		1,294
Gyeongbuk			1		1,415	768		47	323	24		2,578
Gyeongnam		140				4,035	1,489		523	100	56	6,343
Jeju						47	94		87	29	19	276
Total	606	148	70	11,173	5,024	20,522	2,518	47	3,713	2,681	1,836	48,338

C. Achievements and Tasks

There are two key figures to indicate the performance results of the financing of early childhood education. First is the rate of the financing of early childhood education compared with the total educational financing of the local educational office. The national index is 2.7 percent. Gyeongbuk and Gyeonnam provinces are found to have the highest financing rate of early childhood education, followed by Jeonbuk with 3.4 percent. However, these regions have a large number of public and national teachers and thus expenses for teachers' labor costs account for a significant portion of their budget. Given this, it is needed to analyze areas with a large investment in early childhood education such as the improvement of educational capacity and environmental improvement cost.

Second is the finance amount of early childhood education per child which divides the budget execution of early childhood education by the number of children enrolled in kindergartens. Korea's finance amount of early childhood education per child is 2,258,122 KRW. Moreover, the provincial areas have larger amounts per child than municipal areas. Among city levels, Gwangju has the highest level of educational expenses per child, while Seoul has the lowest.

<Table 6-8> Rate of Finance of Early Childhood Education Compared with the Total Educational Finance and the Finance Amount of Early Childhood Education per Child

Cities/ Provinces	Total Educational Budget (X0.1 billion KRW) (A)	Total Budget of ECE (X0.1 billion KRW) (B)	B/A x 100 (%)	No of Children Enrolled in Kindergartens (C)	Budget of ECE per Child (KRW) (B/C)
Seoul	72,728	1,179	1.6	82,114	1,435,809
Busan	28,439	727	2.6	36,833	1,973,774
Daegu	21,063	508	2.4	27,329	1,858,831
Incheon	23,235	604	2.6	31,368	1,925,529
Gwangju	13,799	381	2.8	17,091	2,229,243
Daejeon	13,339	408	3.1	21,491	1,898,469
Ulsan	10,912	307	2.8	16,245	1,889,812
Gyeonggi	91,748	2,238	2.4	136,558	1,638,864
Gangwon	19,002	626	3.3	14,422	4,340,591
Chungbuk	17,818	505	2.8	15,359	3,287,974
Chungnam	23,703	752	3.2	21,498	3,497,999
Jeonbuk	23,273	801	3.4	18,834	4,252,947
Jeonnam	26,665	782	2.9	18,593	4,205,884
Gyeongbuk	29,204	1,009	3.5	31,883	3,164,696
Gyeongnam	33,023	1,155	3.5	43,158	2,676,213
Jeju	6,986	162	2.3	5,016	3,229,665
Total	454,937	12,144	2.7	537,792	2,258,122

Notes: It is the result of 2008 settlement of accounts. As of Today(May, 2010), Data of 2009 is not available yet.

If we can annually compare the finance amount of early childhood education per child and the rate of the financing of early childhood education compared with the total educational financing of the local educational office, we can exactly figure out the financing scale and trends.

7. Major Indexes on Performances of Early Childhood Education Policy

<Table 7-1> shows the main indexes of early childhood education policy performances. The relevant figures by major functions provide a glimpse of the overall early childhood education policy through the annual comparison.

The indexes are classified into support for school expenses of early childhood education, support for financing of early childhood education and kindergarten utilization. The support for the school expenses includes the percentage of five-year-old children as beneficiaries for free education and the percentage of children eligible for the tuition support. The rates are 53.3 percent and 53.5 percent respectively, which indicates more than a majority of children receive tuition support. In the financing sector, the budget of early childhood education per child is calculated to 2,258 thousand KRW and percentage of children attending kindergartens is 39.5 percent. The enrollment rate can vary depending on age group. However, the figures encompassing the entire target age range are adopted as typical values in these indexes.

〈Table 7-1〉 Indices of Early Childhood Education

	Index	National Statistics	Period	Source
Support for Tuition of Early Childhood Education	Children rate of free education for five-year olds	53.3 (%)	1 year	MEST*
	Children rate of tuition subsidies	53.5 (%)	1 year	MEST*
Finance for Infants and Young Children Education	Rate of early childhood education budget vs. total educational budget	2.7 (%)	1 year	MEST*
	Early childhood education budget per child	2,258 (x 1000 KRW)	1 year	MEST*
Kindergarten Use	Enrollment rate of children	39.5 (%)	1 year	Educational Statistics
	Enrollment rate at the national and public kindergartens	9.9 (%)	1 year	Educational Statistics
	Utilization rate for full-day programs	54.3 (%)	1 year	MEST*

*Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology

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