

2020 KICCE PROJECT REPORT ABSTRACTS

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Major Research Project

Research on Childcare Support Solutions for Balancing Work-Family Life in Dual-Earner Families

Sook In Cho / Nayoung Kim / Mina Jang / Eunyoung Park

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- To investigate the ways in which parents make use of work-family support related policies and benefits.
- To take a comprehensive qualitative look at the daily experiences of working parents.
- To offer policy recommendations that support dual-earner families with young children based on the findings.
- The present paper focuses on the experiences of working parents with young children aged between 0 and 9 years.

Research Methods

- First, we surveyed 1,050 mothers in dual-earner families around their use of work-family support policies and benefits, their level of reliance on childcare services, and perceived needs for the betterment of their work-life balance.
- Second, with 114 employed mothers and fathers (57 mother-father pairs), we used the Experience Sampling Method(ESM) to gain qualitative insight into the perceptual, emotional, and contextual daily experiences of these individuals.
- Third, we conducted in-depth interviews with 22 employed mothers and fathers (11 mother-father pairs) to gain their perspectives on the difficulties around maintaining a healthy work-life balance given their work responsibilities.

Results

- Employed mothers tended to take parental leave and reduce their working hours to care for their children more often than did employed fathers.
- Employed mothers tended to be more frequently engaged in caregiving activities, yet reported more negative and less positive emotions when they were with their children compared to employed fathers. Employed fathers tended to report more positive and less negative emotions when they were with their children compared to employed mothers. The younger the child, the negative emotions measured among the

mothers and the positive emotions of the fathers were more prominent.

- Dual-earner families depended mostly on the support from grandparents with childcare.
- Among dual-earner families, getting more paid time off and having flexible working hours were reported to be preferred over any other form of childcare support, such as employer-sponsored childcare facilities or financial support.

Policy Suggestions

- Governmental or organizational policy fostering a culture of flexibility in the workplace when it comes to childcare needs (e.g., options to work from home, flexible scheduling). The prioritization of all employees' welfare, well-being, and work-life balance is an area in which there is still room for improvements in contemporary Korean society.
- Co-parenting is a key concept and technique that can, and should, be engaged immediately by dual-earner parents to support a healthy work-life balance.
- Work-family policies for working parents should be designed age appropriately -considering the age of the children- in order to meet differential needs.

Major Research Project

A Study on the Situation of North Korean Early Childhood Education and Care to Cope with Unification

Changhyun Park / Nayoung Kim / Jisoo Kim / Minsoo Choi / Jeonghyun Kim

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- This study aims to understand and grasp the North Korean early childhood education and care status of the past 10 years through analysis of the North Korea-related literature.

Research Methods

- This study grasped the North Korean early childhood education and care situation by analyzing the available North Korea related domestic and foreign studies conducted between 2011 and 2020.
- This study made comparisons between the North Korean Child Care Act and South Korean laws concerning the legal system, and presented its implications.
- This study also carried out interviews with North Korean kindergarten teachers and daycare center teachers.
- Domestic and foreign press data related to North Korean early childhood education and care were analyzed.
- In-depth interviews were conducted to understand the change process of early childhood education and care institutions in East and West Germany after Germany's unification.
- A Delphi study was also conducted.

Results

- When looking at keyword networks on domestic literature data, the high-frequency keywords included: North Korean defectors, North Korean defector children, North Korean defector mothers, unification, education on unification, and South and North Korea.
- The tasks needing resolution related to South and North Korean early childhood legal systems in case of reunification included: the scope of free early childhood education and care, and integration of early childhood education and care.
- According to the word cloud drawn, "Kim Jong-un" and "political ideology education" were the two keywords related to kindergarten and were presented to be mutually linked. For the keywords related to daycare center, the node related

to "support" made up a large proportion, compared to "North Korea", "hospital", "world", "food", "fund", "malnutrition", "UNICEF", and "medical treatment". It was discovered that a slogan concept approach was made through projects and events using the words "event", "international", "milk powder", and "pregnant woman".

- After Germany's division into East and West Germany, daycare centers and kindergartens developed distinctively based on mutually exclusive policies. Nonetheless, similarities in East and West Germany were also partially evident. After unification, the East German teachers needed to adapt to the new environment and conditions in the process of integration. The East German teachers who were accustomed to the East German's unified early childhood care system were required training to adapt to the West German system pursuing diversity.

Policy Suggestions

- 1) There is a need to include peaceful unification education and democratic citizenship education in the Nuri Curriculum.
- 2) As the early childhood stage is excluded in the current Unification Education Support Act, revision is needed.
- 3) Peaceful unification political education linked with human rights, democratic citizen education, gender equality education, and policy engagement comprehending early childhood education and care through to life-long education is needed.
- 4) A South and North Korean early childhood council should be organized.
- 5) Unification-related future research is necessary, including a study of the South and North Korean early childhood education system based on estimated scenarios to manage unification, the continuous in-depth study of German case, and the need for diversification of research directions.
- 6) This study presents a three-step unification measures for South and North Korean early childhood education and care.

Major Research Project

Practical Plan of Education for Sustainable Development for Young Children

Eun-Young Choi / Nam Hee Do / Eun Jung Kim / Hye Jin Jang / Min Ju Kim / Sol Me Lee

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- Education for sustainable development(ESD) is education pursuing a society where all people can receive high-quality benefits and learn the values, behaviors, and lifestyles required for a sustainable future and society.
- UNESCO has emphasized the significance of implementing sustainable development goals(SDGs) and plays a crucial role in creating linkage between the SDGs adopted by the UN in 2015. Early childhood is a critical period for ESD and should be the starting point of education.
- Thus this study attempts to seek and provide concrete methods to invigorate ESD during early childhood and aims to present short-, mid-, and long-term support policies by 2030.

Research Methods

- This study analyzed international organizations' primary research results and the relevant statistics, the domestic and international SDGs and ESD data, the recently revised Standard Childcare Curriculum, and the ESD details presented in the revised 2019 Nuri Curriculum.
- This research performed a total of 8 sessions of in-depth interviews with teachers of kindergartens and daycare centers, and identified the needs of these teachers to support practice of the ESD targeting 480 kindergarten teachers and 800 daycare center teachers.
- Domestic and foreign cases were analyzed, and recommendations were obtained by the members of an expert advisory council.
- The research results were shared and disseminated through co-hosting a colloquium with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO.

Results

- First, as a result of analyzing the young children's education/childcare curriculum, the social, cultural and environmental perspectives were included in the Standard Childcare Curriculum for 0-2 years of age and in the revised 2019 Nuri Curriculum, but the economic perspective was not included. The ESD details were included in the general daily life, physical exercise/health, communication, and nature exploration zones by area.
- Second, according to the questionnaire survey, in regards to the relevant terms recognition, "sustainable development" was the highest at 80.7% and "SDGs" were the lowest at 54.8%. Regarding the reflection level of SDGs, high-quality education, health and wellbeing, human rights, justice, and peace were high in the Standardized Childcare Curriculum for 0-2 years of age and revised 2019 Nuri Curriculum. The subjects in this study recognized the need for all ESD details, except the world's/national responsibilities and natural resources. The lack of data available in the field was identified as the most significant difficulty in implementing ESD, although ESD is applied in everyday life in an integrated way.
- Third, it was confirmed that the ESD details are officially included in the national level curriculum for early childhood through foreign case analysis. Implications that the link between ESD, the curriculum, and the characteristics of ESD disciplines are essential sources for understanding and practicing ESD in early childhood were obtained. A domestic case practicing ESD in everyday life in relation to the revised young children/play-focused early childhood education/childcare curriculum was introduced. Through this example, the need to naturally integrate ESD during early childhood in the human life cycle (teachers and young children), not in the project form emphasizing specific factors, was confirmed.

Policy Suggestions

- Based on the above results, this study presented the measures to practice the short-, mid-, and long-term ESD in early childhood.
 - 1) The development and dissemination of sustainable development and ESD PR data, ESD series data, and ESD training program in early childhood need to be supported as the central government's short-term task. The linkage with the early childhood education/childcare curriculum at the national level needs to be consolidated, and ESD factors should be expanded during early childhood as the mid- and long-term tasks. During early childhood, the ESD portal should be developed, the establishment and development of a people-friendly PR strategies need to take place , and organizational power of execution and responsibility should be enhanced.
 - 2) Consultation support, development and dissemination of scholarly data, and mandatory ESDGs training should be carried out for the city/provincial and the municipal ministry of education's officials as the short-term tasks. For the mid- and long-term tasks, the teaching-learning community, teaching-learning ESD data, and ESD-leading institutions need to be supported.
 - 3) Everyday life and correlated activities between home and community should be consolidated for kindergartens and daycare centers as one of the short-term tasks. For the mid- and long-term tasks, ESD values must be shared, and education information for parents of young children in relations to ESD should be developed.

Major Research Project

Gender Analysis of Child Care Economy and its Gender-egalitarian Strategies for Child Care Workforce

Yoon Kyung Choi / Eun Jung Park / Bo Mi Kim / Seok Jin Woo

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- The purpose of this study is to analyze and explore the status quo of childcare arena in terms of gender-egalitarian perspective. As the role of care work was predominantly dependent on women and mothers, and thus the care work has been regarded as shadow work, of which values and wages were under-estimated. As the feminist economic approaches to care work and the value of care started to get public attention, those discussions were enforced to bring real changes with political and strategical implications – and are no longer mere public argument without definitive directions.
- This study approaches the key agenda of childcare economy via two main research questions: (1) sharing and division of child care work between mother and father at home environment; (2) socioeconomic values of childcare work in the work field or markets for care. The care arena is composed of multiple interactions among complex contexts and services, ranging from public to semi-public and private arrangements.

Research Methods

- National and international literature related to child care policies and care economy was reviewed from gender perspectives of childcare work including feminist economics and care ethics. Also child-centered approaches were applied to review the gender-egalitarian perspective of child care environment and its values.
- The current status of childcare and education workers- widely ranging from kindergarten, preschool, childcare centers and nannies and babysitters- including their education levels, working hours, wages and gender ratio, etc., were reviewed using national statistics and survey data of care workers.

Results

- The role division of parental care at home were not egalitarian at the time of data collection, however, most of parents agreed that enhanced role of fathers in childcare will provide better childrearing environment thus having positive impact on child development and higher quality of childcare context.
- The job satisfaction of childcare workers was favorable, however, the satisfaction of continuous professional development and wage enhancement were mostly unsatisfactory.
- The gender analysis of childcare inside and outside of home both revealed the significant importance of fathers' role-taking, participation, and the value awareness of care.

Policy Suggestions

- The study results proposed a number of key factors for policy improvement related to childcare and work conditions including wages, employment status, professional development, and in-service education and consulting system.
- For the domestic childcare roles, the supportive strategies enhancing fathers' care participation through parental leave and fosterment of sociocultural atmosphere in regards to the usage of family-friendly policy supports were found to be important.
- It is necessary to expand the care economy agenda and make efforts to implement real action plans and policies to attain high quality and well-organized childcare society, supporting gender equity and respecting the work of the care providers.

General Research Project

2018~2022 Childrearing Policy Analysis and Outcome Evaluation (III)

Keun Jin Kim / Changhyun Park / Heesue Kim

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- The purpose of this study is to analyze the outcome and impacts of 2019~2020 Korean childrearing policies on families and children, in regards to its policy performance goals and major indices about overall childrearing environment.
- The main focus of this study is to evaluate the Moon government's national policy agenda around childrearing. This study classified the main three areas of the policy as fertility policy, ECEC, and inclusive policy for children.

Research Methods

- The evaluation of the childrearing policy outcome is composed of 4 parts:
 - 1) The self-evaluation results of Ministry of Health and Welfare, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Gender Equality and Family for childrearing policies in 2019 were analyzed.
 - 2) The analysis of parents and professional stakeholders including ECEC experts, directors and teachers of kindergarten and childcare centers, were conducted based on their response to the online survey concerning 2019~2020 childrearing policies.
 - 3) Data collected through in-depth interviews with parents, directors and teachers of kindergarten and childcare centers, elementary school care providers were analyzed to show the pros, cons, needs for improvement and blind spots of the childrearing related policies.
 - 4) Panel data analysis evaluating the effects of fertility and care policies using KOSIS(Korean Statistical Information Service) and Korean Labor & Income Panel Study data were reported.

Results

- The results have shown that the overall evaluation of childrearing policy was on average positive, but insufficient and inadequate part and need to improve are suggested in particular process of policies.

Policy Suggestions

- gradual increase of amount and target age of child allowance
- the increase in the use of parental leave by the employees of smaller businesses via cost support and mandating the use of such support
- preparing legal basis of elementary school after-school care
- budget expansion for monetary support and time adjustment of extended care services provided by childcare centers
- teacher education to support the application of revised play-based Nuri curriculum
- the revision of teacher training course and qualification to reduce the gap between kindergarten and childcare centers
- child abuse prevention policy budgeting to be inclusive in the general account of Ministry of Health and Welfare

ECEC

curriculum

- Monitoring and Support Planning of 2019 Revised Nuri Curriculum (I)
- An Analysis of Effectiveness of the Nuri Curriculum (II): Development and Utilization of the Early Childhood Observation Application

General Research Project

Monitoring and Support Planning of 2019 Revised Nuri Curriculum (I)

Eunyoung Kim / Ja Yeun Koo / Hyejin Kim / Kijoo Cha

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- As 2020 marked the first year to implement the “2019 Revised Nuri Curriculum” -revised under the government’s measures to innovate early childhood education- it is timely to monitor whether the children’s play and rest at kindergartens and childcare centers, and the teachers’ professional development are in line with the “child-centered, play-centered, expansion of teacher autonomy” directivity.
- In this context, this study aims to identify various government and local governments’ support for the settlement of the ‘2019 Revised Nuri Curriculum’, monitor the perception of the service providers and users, application process, and difficulties experienced by kindergarten and childcare center teaching staffs (directors, assistant directors, and teachers).

Research Methods

- For the purpose of the present study, domestic and international literature review, case studies, and surveys were conducted. Case studies were performed twice in four kindergartens and four childcare centers (8 directors, 20 teachers, and 31 children).
- Questionnaire surveys were conducted among the officers accountable for the delivery system, field teaching staffs, and parents.
- The delivery system officers were 17 supervisors from 17 municipal education offices, and 18 directors from the Central and local Childcare Support Centers, which support the operation of the curriculum.
- A total of 2,000 directors/assistant directors and teachers from 1,000 institutions (500 each from kindergartens and childcare centers), and 1,000 parents (500 each from kindergartens and childcare centers) participated in the study.

Results

- Having different delivery systems, kindergartens received supports for implementing the curriculum from municipal education offices while childcare centers received supports from childcare support centers. According to the survey of governmental aid, the support projects for kindergartens varied widely across cities and provinces, while projects for childcare centers were relatively similar. Delivery system officers for both kindergartens and childcare centers suggested the need to enhance the professionalism of the consultants appointed to provide curriculum guidance as part of the 2020 support project, as well as strengthening teachers’ competence, improving the awareness of directors and parents, activate professional learning communities, and providing a forum for sharing experiences across regions.
- The result of the case study presented that the directors and teachers both perceived emphasizing the initiatives of the children is the key to establishing a child-centered and play-centered curriculum. The majority of the directors and teachers were positive about the child- and play-centered curriculum, but there were also opposing opinions depending on the characteristics of the region or target children. Teachers felt that the accountability and expertise required to carry out a child- and play-centered curriculum increased, and a cooperative learning community culture was being established for the operation of the curriculum. The teachers were also implementing change in play spaces, materials, and schedule to place “play” at the center of the curriculum. These attempts by the teachers resulted in the changes in the children’s play behavior, daily life, and activities. Compared to the past, children used play materials more creatively, asked teachers more often for necessary play materials, and more often expressed their thoughts and enjoyment freely. In order for the child- and play-centered curriculum to settle well in the field, diversification of teacher training, human resource support, reduced teacher-child ratio, and parental education were perceived to be required.
- Results of the survey showed that ‘the revised Nuri Curriculum’ was explained to 90% of the parents, and 88%

of the directors and 95% of the teachers completed a revised Nuri Curriculum-related training. Education and consultations related to the revised Nuri Curriculum were received by 23% of the directors and 26% of the teachers, kindergarten or child center-based supervision being the highest form of education at 47% that the teachers participated in. As for the changes experienced after the implementation of the new curriculum, the teachers experienced the most change in the lesson plan format (76%), and 54.0% of the parents perceived changes from the curriculum. 52% of the parents responded that their children showed positive changes. Of the changes ‘being happier’ was the highest at 64%. ‘Increase in taking initiative’ was reported to be the most prominent change children displayed, reported by 55% of the directors and 50% of the teachers. Meanwhile, 59% of the directors and 60% of the teachers responded that COVID-19 had a great influence on the implementation of the revised Nuri Curriculum. Both the directors and teachers ranked high child-teacher ratio as the greatest challenge when practicing the revised curriculum, 28% and 37%, respectively. Thus, the directors (33%) and the teachers (48%) were requesting changes in the legal child-teacher ratio foremost. Meanwhile, the parents’ highest request was around the development and dissemination of related materials (33%), followed by lowering child-teacher ratio (21%).

Policy Suggestions

- The policy directions set based on these research results and the direction pursued in the revised Nuri Curriculum are as follows:

- 1) The base level quality of the curriculum to narrow the educational quality gap, while encouraging diversity.
- 2) Guarantee the autonomy of teachers, improve their professionalism, and encourage their self-directed efforts for improvement.
- 3) Increase the participation of children in the implementation of the curriculum, and initiative in play.
- 4) Connect child care and education services with parents,

and prompt their cooperation through raising parents’ understanding of the play-oriented curriculum.

- 5) Arrange support systems for the implementation of the revised Nuri Curriculum during COVID-19 and other future social changes.

- In accordance to these policy directions, policy measures in terms of law and system, administration, and finance were suggested.

- 1) In terms of law and system, strengthening the authority of local governments and unit early childhood education institutions (both kindergartens and childcare centers); improving evaluation of services according to the direction of the revision of the curriculum; improving on-site conditions for implementing the revised Nuri curriculum; placement of labor force, enhancing teacher professionalism; and increase in teacher autonomy, and providing legal basis for distance learning were recommended.
- 2) In terms of administration, management and support of teacher learning communities; organization and operation of a pool of experts to support curriculum operation; improvement of training methods in curriculum practice; reinforcement of cooperation among local governments and sharing of developed materials; activation of platforms for sharing on-site practice cases (on and offline); incorporating kindergartens in elementary and secondary school environment improvement projects and including child care centers in Daily life-related social overhead capital (SOC) project; and development of distance education materials and related training were suggested.
- 3) In terms of finance, the cost estimations for the support needed for enhancing the professionalism of teachers; the development and sharing of practical examples of the revised Nuri Curriculum operation; the improvement of field conditions for implementing the revised Nuri curriculum; and the parent education and campaigns to improve public awareness were completed.

General Research Project

An Analysis of Effectiveness of the Nuri Curriculum (III): Development and Utilization of the Early Childhood Observation Application

Yun-Jin Bae / Eun Jin Kang / Jiwon Eom

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- 2020 was the third-year of a five-year project designed to continuously monitor the Nuri Curriculum, which is a national-level curriculum intended to guarantee equal educational opportunity for all children aged 3~5 years in South Korea.
- ‘The 2019 revised Nuri Curriculum’ was announced in July 2019, and the curriculum has been operating in kindergartens and childcare centers since March 2020. The revised Nuri curriculum places its main emphasis on the hands-on experience and play of children. Hence, the revised curriculum can be called a child-centered and play-centered curriculum. This study, therefore, attempts to examine changes initiated by the implementation of the revised Nuri Curriculum focusing on experiences and plays of the children.
- First, the purpose of this study is to understand the current operational situation of the revised Nuri Curriculum and to investigate various changes influenced by the revised curriculum that has been in the process of implementation for the first time this year.
- Second, it is to support teachers’ evaluation of children and Nuri Curriculum operation through the development and utilization of application for observing, recording and evaluating children. It is hoped that this study will contribute to improving the quality and to enhancing the effectiveness of the child-centered Nuri Curriculum.

Research Methods

- A number of research methods were used including literature review, survey, case study, workshops for kindergarten and childcare center teachers, and experts advisory meetings to collect data.
- In particular, 1) 233 teachers of 3 to 5-year-olds children in kindergartens and childcare centers were surveyed on the current operational condition of the curriculum, changes in the playfulness of both the teachers and children, and the developmental characteristics of children after implementation of the revised Nuri curriculum. 2) The usability of ‘The early childhood observation application’ was evaluated after the trial utilization of the application among the 10 teachers of kindergarten and childcare center. Additional observation cases, using the ‘KICCE Child Observation Index’, were also collected.

Results

- Survey Research: In regards to the difficulties in operating the revised Nuri curriculum, kindergarten teachers most often reported ‘high teacher-child ratio’, while daycare center teachers most often reported ‘lack of time to prepare’. Second, that the reported changes in children after the revised Nuri curriculum was implemented included ‘the degree of immersion in play (27.5%)’, ‘the interaction with the play environment (20.2%)’, and ‘the contents of play (19.3%)’. Third, while most of the teachers perceived their roles as ‘education/childcare planner and administrator (32.8%)’ before the revision of the Nuri curriculum; yet after the implementation of the revised Nuri curriculum, most of these teachers reported their role as ‘play and activity supporters (27.3%)’. Fourth, it was found that the girls and older children scored higher in the playfulness scale and the KICCE Child Observation Index compared to the boys and younger children.
- Development of the Early Childhood Observation Application: the application was developed based on

findings of the research through literature review, survey and teacher workshops. The application has various functions such as calendar, attendance, observation record, checklist, management of children and teacher, and settings. Linking the mobile application to PC, classifying and storing records of each child, and converting them into Excel files on PC are also the main functions of the application.

Policy Suggestions

- Based on the results of this study, the ways to enhance the effectiveness of the Nuri curriculum, the plans to use the early childhood observation application, and further research recommendations were proposed.

- 1) In order to increase the effectiveness of the Nuri curriculum, it is necessary to support teachers as well as operations considering the individual characteristics of children and to improve the system.
- 2) In order for teachers to use the application developed, it is necessary to come up with detailed distribution plans.
- 3) Studies on testing the effectiveness of the revised Nuri curriculum using a longitudinal research design, as well as research designed to validate playfulness scales are needed.

Parenting

friendly culture

- KICCE Poll on parenting policy for establishing happy child care culture (IV)
- A Study on Development of Child-Care-Friendly Community For Coping with Lowest-low Fertility Rate Social Phenomenon (II)
- A Study on a Paradigm Shift Towards a Culture that Respects Parenting and Raising Positive Awareness on Parenting Culture (II): Creating a culture of respect for parenting in the workplace

General Research Project

KICCE Poll on parenting policy for establishing happy child care culture (IV)

Wonsoon Park / Eunyong Kim / Eunyong Park

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- The Korea Institute of Child Care and Education(KICCE) has been conducting “KICCE Poll on parenting policy for establishing happy childcare culture” for 5 years from 2017 to 2021.

Research Methods

- The online public survey targets 3,000 citizens aged 15 to 75 years nationwide each year, and questions are composed of fixed questions based on individual characteristics.
- It identifies trends in perceptions and attitudes toward the happiness of parenting and childcare.
- In addition, this year, a pair of questionnaires were added to identify changes in childcare and education at home due to COVID-19 targeting 518 parents raising infants.

Results

- The burden on the cost of childcare had increased. Accordingly, it is possible to estimate the cause of the avoidance of marriage and childbirth as economic difficulties, which revealed that the problem of low birthrate was more fundamental and structural. Moreover, this year, the number of families experiencing economic difficulties due to COVID-19 had increased.
- There was a general perception indicating greater parental responsibility for childcare and that the government should support the families, yet the results of this year’s survey showed increased diversity in the public opinion around the issue.
- The policy on work-family balance should be the top priority among the government's parenting-related policies. Although the government has been pursuing a work-family balance policy for a long time, people do not think that is enough.

- Positive opinions about the government's parenting-related cash allowance policy had increased significantly this year compared to the previous years. It appeared to be correlated with the result of positive experiences of the government's child care allowance related to COVID-19.
- The degree of satisfaction with the government's overall parenting policy was reported to be steadily increasing.
- Due to COVID-19, the provision of services in kindergartens and childcare centers had become unstable, and the burden of parenting at home had increased.
- Due to COVID-19, the provision of services in kindergartens and childcare centers had become unstable, and the burden of parenting at home had increased.
- Although the prolonged COVID-19 increased the difficulty of raising children at home, it was found that the quality of parenting and education at home was well maintained at a certain level.
- However, the amount of learning activities at home was reported to be very low. Hence, diverse programs should be provided to support home learning activities.

Policy Suggestions

- Based on the results of this study as described above, policies aimed at improving childcare capacity among parents, cultivation of a culture encouraging gender equality, introduction of policies to strengthen family ties, and systematized child-rearing support policies according to the life cycle were recommended.
- In addition, it is necessary to overcome low birthrate through increased welfare programs, expanded childcare related allowances and childcare infrastructure.

General Research Project

A Study on Development of Child-Care-Friendly Community For Coping with Lowest-low Fertility Rate Social Phenomenon (II)

Eun Jin Kang / MeKyung Kwon / Bomi Kim / Myung Wha Hwang / Heekyo Kim

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- In the first year of present study, it defined a Child-Care-Friendly Community as a whole village that raises children together and specified the components of its assessment indicators as philosophy and values, service infrastructure and physical environment, and supportive human network. Although various policies have been implemented to overcome low birthrate and support child-rearing, it is necessary to carefully review these policies within the local community, which is the daily living environment of the primary policy target population impacted by these policies, in order to increase the policy perception cognizance of parents with diverse needs.
- In this second year of the study, the indicators for Child-Care-Friendly were classified into absolute indicators, relative indicators, physical accessibility indicators, and perception indicators, and the process of regional diagnosis was also systematized.

Research Methods

- Related projects of local governments were classified according to Child-Care-Friendly indicators, and surveys were conducted to investigate the child-rearing environment and policy demands of regional residents. A community workshop was also held in order to devise a consumer self-checklist for a Child-Care-Friendly environment that reflects the unique characteristics of each region.

Results

- Based on the findings, each region's Child-Care-Friendliness was assessed, and necessary policies recommendations were suggested.

Policy Suggestions

- For this study, pilot diagnoses were conducted in a newly developed area (Namyangju city), an urban regeneration

area (Gwangmyeong city), and an urban and rural complex area (Gongju city). For Namyangju city, a new project was established to build the philosophy and values as a new Child-Care-Friendly Community, and the rearrangement and functional integration of the child-rearing infrastructure was proposed.

- In Gwangmyeong city, it was proposed to provide a space or facility that is easily accessible to the child-rearing community of residents, as the gap in the supply level of childcare infrastructure needs to be alleviated immediately.
- Lastly, it was found that Gongju city, a region with a large regional gap, needed education and publicity for acknowledging gender equality and children's childlikeness.
- Furthermore, the study recommended improvements in the quality of care and education service, as well as the most basic infrastructure, and to provide human resources and facility to allow formation of human networks.
- Along with the aforementioned suggestions, it also proposed to discover model cases of Child-Care-Friendly Community using the networks created within the existing projects and to establish a system for creating Child-Care-Friendly Community.
- Further guidelines and inclusion of new indicators such as children's participation and administrative services were suggested for the pilot project that is planned to be implemented in the third year of the present study.

General Research Project

A Study on a Paradigm Shift Towards a Culture that Respects Parenting and Raising Positive Awareness on Parenting Culture (II): Creating a culture of respect for parenting in the workplace

MeKyung Kwon / Nayoung Kim / Ahreum Kim / Inhwa Choi / Youngmin Kim / Haeun Shin

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- This study, as a three-year collaborative research project, began with an insight that negative perceptions of 'parenting' is becoming prevalent.
- To lay the groundwork for positive awareness on parenting, the study aims to promote a paradigm shift toward a parenting culture that values the joy of parenting, equally shared parental responsibility, and work-family balance. In particular, the study intends to examine the parenting culture in the workplace, where parents spent majority of their time, and suggest social and institutional strategies to foster an organizational culture that respects parental and children's rights.

Research Methods

- As a collaborative study, participated by the Korea Institute of child care and education, Seoul Broadcasting Station(SBS), and Korean Women's Development Institute, the researcher employed both qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- Through literature review, policies and systems designed to support work-family balance, family-friendly support projects, workplace childcare support projects, and domestic and foreign cases were reviewed.
- Additionally, the exemplar practices of family-friendly certified companies were analyzed. A questionnaire survey was conducted among 2,031 workers, focusing on their perception of child-rearing, including their thoughts on the factors that may bring positive changes in the parenting culture.- Based

on the results of the survey, in-depth analysis on five factors (i.e. the level of child-rearing support experienced by workers at work; work-life satisfaction; family-life (work-life balance) satisfaction; expectations of changes in workplace child-rearing culture; and evaluation of current workplace child-raising systems and culture) was conducted. Finally, two participatory discussion sessions were held with the parenting -culture-creators.

Results

- The findings indicated that decreasing the working hours is essential for creating a positive parenting culture as the tendency to work long hours has a negative effect on fostering an organizational culture that respects parenting.
- The in-depth analysis of five factors revealed that the 'system utilization' variable appears to have a significant effect, suggesting that efforts to encourage the practical use of child-rearing support systems should be prioritized.
- The 'workplace industry' variable, except for 'family life satisfaction', showed meaningful results for all dependent variables, indicating that flexible approaches in characteristics of the workplace and the working conditions are necessary.
- In small and medium enterprises(SMEs) case, polices that reflect diverse workplace-related elements were perceived to be required as factors such as human resources composition and workplace location are distinct depending on the business type.

Policy Suggestions

- Based on the findings, the study proposes five policy suggestions.
 - 1) To encourage the use of a family support system, we suggest increasing the use of parental leave and support programs that help parents transition from home to work. The government's investment in building infrastructure and

expanding public smart-work centers can be considered to encourage work-from-home practice.

- 2) Various efforts need to be made to expand time-support, change organizational culture from working long hours, and encourage a flexible work system. In detail, we suggest establishing a legal basis for flexible work systems to cope with pandemic situations, explore exemplar practices of flexible work systems in operation, and maintain government incentives and cost support for participating companies.
- 3) Intensive support for SMEs can be made by running a 'child-rearing culture' forum for SMEs executives through working with the Ministry of SMEs and Startup.
- 4) To foster a company culture that supports childcare,

'work culture innovation team' can be launched at the organizational level. We expect that this team will promote communication regarding corporate culture innovation and reflect workers' needs, while the government provides support and consultations for 'work culture innovation team'. Additionally, the 'company parenting culture diagnosis tool' that assesses workplace culture can be developed and distributed.

- 5) A company-led cost support plan for their employees raising young children can be considered a way to support parenting at work.

Management and

Staff of ECEC Centers

- A Study on the Rationalization of Manpower Arrangements in Childcare Centers for Guaranteed Working Hours
- Evaluation-based Consulting for Child Care Centers for Quality Improvement of Child Care Services (V): Comprehensive Analysis of CARE Consultation Effects

Major Research Project

A Study on the Rationalization of Manpower Arrangements in Childcare Centers for Guaranteed Working Hours

Ahreum Kim / Eunseol Kim / Hyejoo Cho

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- The long working hours of childcare teachers may lead to child abuse, or may increase the risk of such abuse, hence interventions aimed at addressing the issues around child maltreatment must be put in place. While revision of the 「LABOR STANDARDS ACT」 in 2018 excluded childcare teachers from occupations that fall under the “Special Provision as to Work and Recess Hours” category, the daily working hours of the front-line childcare teachers still exceed the legal standards and the rights of these workers are not fully guaranteed, which includes their rights to uninterrupted lunch and rest breaks during their working hours.

Research Methods

- This study examined the legal systems, as well as the domestic and international cases related to the guaranteed working hours and workplace arrangements of childcare staff members. Further, the study explored the working hours and the workplace environment of the childcare teachers in Korea through surveys and in-depth interviews, and analyzed the experienced difficulties and the needs of these teachers.

Results

- The study presented newly discovered practical problems of the legal system and the human resource arrangement criteria, and provided a number of recommendations. In particular, the study examined whether the newly implemented childcare

support system was effective in ensuring the working hours of the childcare teachers, and presented policy recommendations for specific aspects requiring additional improvements.

Policy Suggestions

- Considering the distinctiveness of the work of childcare teachers, the necessity of including these workers in the “Special Provision as to Work and Recess Hours” category under 「The Labor Standards Act」 needs further discussion. Also, to allow separate space for these teachers from the children if possible during their breaks, it is necessary to state it clearly on 「The Infant and Child Care Act」.
- The presence of assistant teachers must be secured within daycare centers or the two-teacher system or three-shift system must be put in place.

General Research Project

Evaluation-based Consulting for Child Care Centers for Quality Improvement of Child Care Services (V): Comprehensive Analysis of CARE Consultation Effects

Yoon Kyung Choi / Wonsoon Park / Sook In Cho / Hyemin Lee, et. al.

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- The purpose of this study is to improve the service provision and quality of underqualified childcare centers, since the Korea Childcare Evaluation (KCE) has been mandatory from 2019 as the continuous child care quality management system.
- “Evaluation-based Consulting Program for Childcare Centers (ECPCC)” has been developed by Korea Institute of Child Care and Education (KICCE) in 2016 to enable self-monitoring and quality assurance of childcare centers.
- KICCE has published the serial reports on this project annually since the year 2016 for 5 years (2016-2020). This year is the last year which the KICCE CARE consulting model is applied in the field, which has been supporting childcare centers that were graded ‘C’ or ‘D’ in the compulsory child care evaluation.

Research Methods

- As the Korea Childcare Evaluation (KCE) has been introduced in 2019. Unlike the previous pilot application of the CARE consulting model during 2016-2019, the participation of the 2020 CARE consultation acknowledged the completion of the mandatory follow-up visit consultations by the KCPI(Korea Childcare Promotion Institute).
- The study was supported by field-industry-academy cooperation between Korea Childcare Promotion Institute, 2 Regional Support Centers for Childcare(Northern Kyunggi center, Southern Chungchung) covering 4 regions (Northern Kyunggi-do, Southern Chungchung-do, Northern Chungchung-do, Sejong city), and KICCE. Advisory council was consisted of childcare professionals, a research cooperation team, and senior consultants.
- 2020 CARE consultation and evaluation has been completed for 53 childcare centers with the KCE grade C & D, and a

total of 52 centers completed the consultation process. A follow-up evaluation survey was conducted with the childcare center directors, the teachers and their consultants who had participated in the consultation program.

Results

- Within the four evaluation domains, the primary consultation topic among the 52 childcare centers was the KCE Area 1: Childcare curriculum and interaction, followed by Area 4: Teachers.
- The target behaviors identified as needing changes were different between the directors and the teachers. While the principal target behavior identified by the directors was “to motivate and give feedbacks” in the empowerment domain, the teachers identified “to provide and prepare resources and environments” in resources domain as the main behavior that needs changes.
- Self-evaluations were administered before and after ECPCC. According to the evaluation, it was reported that their performance had changed positively after the CARE consultation. In terms of the satisfaction on the consultation, the directors’ satisfaction level was higher than that of the teachers in general. The D-rated childcare centers showed higher behavior changes than the C-rated childcare centers.
- Overall the 52 low-graded childcare centers have shown different characteristics of their own, limited management skills, and less open communications.

Policy Suggestions

- Wrapping up the 5-year study of CARE consulting, it was effective for both the high- and low-quality childcare centers, and the low-quality childcare centers showed a great potential for improvements.

General Research Project

Evaluation-based Consulting for Child Care Centers for Quality Improvement of Child Care Services (V): Comprehensive Analysis of CARE Consultation Effects

Yoon Kyung Choi / Wonsoon Park / Sook In Cho / Hyemin Lee, et. al.

- The key factors for the follow-up consultation are to recruit qualified consultants, to provide pre-training, and to make a detailed manual for them in order to maintain consistency within the quality of the consultation program.
- Also the leadership and the organization management skills of the childcare center leaders were crucial for the improvement of the directors' and teachers' motivation and cooperation.
- The participatory efforts of the childcare teachers were another crucial factors during the consultation process, and the mutual network in the community with the childcare centers were very beneficial for encouraging and maintaining the motivations for change and improvement.
- To strengthen the support systems, cooperation among local governments, Korea Childcare Promotion Institute and Central /Regional Support Centers for Childcare is needed.
- Direct and indirect incentives are necessary for the participating organizations.
- While the program is mandatory for low-graded centers, it is necessary to motivate and encourage the childcare center directors and teachers to voluntarily participate in the consultation program.
- Also individual characteristics of the centers, the participants and the regional contexts should be considered during the consultation process.

Inclusive

Childrearing Support

- Diagnosis and Countermeasures on Social Conflicts in the Field of Early Childhood Education and Childcare(ECEC)
- A Study on the Ways to Enhance Parenting Equity
- Support for Infants in Poverty Households to Narrow the Social Gap (II): Analysis of Parenting Needs for Infants Depending on Poverty Household Types

Major Research Project

Diagnosis and Countermeasures on Social Conflicts in the Field of Early Childhood Education and Childcare(ECEC)

Misun Yang / Eun-Young Choi / Gangmin Kim / Jaehee Han / Youngmin Kim / Haecun Shin

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- This study identifies various social conflicts occurring in the field of early childhood education and childcare(ECEC), and presents measures to manage and preemptively respond to such issues in the future.
- Specifically, this study examines theoretical concepts such as social conflict, conflict adjustment and management; compared the degree of social conflict in OECD member countries; derived implications by reviewing cases in overseas that coordinate and manage social conflicts in the field of ECEC or have experience in doing so; and reviews major issues in the field of ECEC that were exposed to the media for the past 15 years from 2004 to June 2020.
- Moreover, the study attempts to understand the level of perception and relevant opinions among stakeholders such as the government, suppliers, and consumers in regards to social conflict in the field of ECEC, and presents measures to manage and adjust social conflict in the field, and to proactively address the issue.

Research Methods

- To this end, this study collected and organized related precedent studies such as the concept of social conflict, the conflict mediation mechanism, and the public involvement. It also examined the degree of fairness of the ECEC services, the type and severity of social conflict, the role of the government, and countermeasures for experts including the academia (e.g. professors, researchers at government research institutes), field experts (directors of childcare comprehensive

support center, educational public service staffs at local education offices), daycare centers, and childcare centers and kindergarten association representatives.

- Furthermore, surveys were conducted on 1,000 parents of infants and toddlers- one of the key policy target groups, around the degree of awareness of social conflict, causes, issues, the role of the government, and solutions in the field of ECEC. In addition, a big data analysis was performed to analyze the issues in the field that have been exposed to the media for the past 15 years. Lastly, expert advisory meetings and plenary sessions were held to derive policy measures.

Results

- This study performed big data analysis.

Policy Suggestions

- First, as countermeasures to address social conflict in the field of ECEC, we recommend the government's promotion and expansion of information disclosure on ECEC policies, establishing institutional arrangements such as mediation mechanism for social conflict in the field of ECEC; legislating communication procedures and systems such as public hearings; and reestablishing related laws the Infant and Child Care Act and the Early Childhood Education Act.
- Lastly, as a plan to establish conflict management governance in the area of ECEC, we made recommendations to strengthen parental participation in the implementation of ECEC policies, to secure and strengthen the roles of stakeholders, and to reinforce the publicness of the ECEC institutions.

Major Research Project

A Study on the Ways to Enhance Parenting Equity

Dong Hoon Kim / Misun Yang / Moonjeong Kim

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- The purpose of this study is to propose measures to improve equity in the field of child-rearing through analysis of the level of equity, as well as various perceptions and the needs of families raising young children.

Research Methods

- Review of literature and previous studies related to the topic.
- Secondary data analysis: KICCE Spending Survey were used to analyze the effect of childcare expenditure equity and child allowance income redistribution.
- A survey of 39 experts including university professors and researchers.
- Survey of 3,000 parents of infants and young children.

Results

• Empirical analysis of the level of equity in parenting

- As the household income increased, the expenses related to child-rearing increased.
- The influence of education and childcare expenses was found to be significant on the child support expenses.
- The expenditure on child support, as well as the burden on child support was reportedly higher among infants living in large cities.
- The ratio of childcare expenses to the living expenses of infants and toddlers was 36.92%, but the contribution to the Gini coefficient was 45.99%, indicating a greater relative inequality in the childcare expenses.
- The expenditure on food was perceived as a luxury goods, while education and childcare expenses were perceived as essential goods.

- **Equity in the burden of child support expenditure was made up of the sum of the child support expenditure concentration index and the child support expenditure burden concentration index.**

- he higher the income level, the greater the amount of child support expenditure, and the lower the income level, the greater the burden of expenditure.
- **The payment of child allowance had the effect of income redistribution, alleviating the income inequality in infants and toddlers by increasing the household's disposable income.**
- Further analysis looking at the impact of household characteristics revealed that , single-income households had a greater effect of income redistribution than dual-income households, and the effect of income redistribution was greater in the order of towns and villages-small and medium-sized cities-large cities.
- The more children there were in the household, the greater the income redistribution effect as it expands the age of payment eligibility
- **Most experts participated in the present study (73.7%) reported that overall equity level reflected in the policies related to childcare was low, 10.5% responded that it is low in almost all aspects, and only 15.8% of respondents reported that the equity level was high in most of childcare related policies.**
- **According to the result of the survey on the needs of experts and parents, it is important to focus on strengthening childcare support services along with the expansion of cash support, to improve the quality of childcare support services for the vulnerable, and to expand public services.**

Major Research Project

A Study on the Ways to Enhance Parenting Equity

Dong Hoon Kim / Misun Yang / Moonjeong Kim

Policy Suggestions

- In terms of the cash support policy, it is necessary to consider expanding the age and amount of child allowance payment, provide additional support in consideration of regional characteristics or prices, and to hold discussions around additional taxation for high income earners.
- In regards to the service support policy, it is necessary to reinforce child-rearing support for rural households; expand the target of childcare service support; establish a real-time connection platform; expand early intervention and expert support for children with disabilities; and continue the

expansion of national and public daycare centers/kindergartens with a focus on strengthening support for the vulnerable,

- As for the time support policy, it is necessary to revitalize the practical use of the available policies and support among the vulnerable groups who have difficulties in utilizing such support system.
- It is necessary to examine the status of the vulnerable population, identify related blind spots, and to link related data.

General Research Project

Support for Infants in Poverty Households to Narrow the Social Gap (II): Analysis of Parenting Needs for Infants Depending on Poverty Household Types

Jeong Rim Lee / Ja Yeun Koo / Yoonkyung Choi / Jeong Ho Jeong

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- Recently, the Korean government has tried to reduce the social inequalities through universal welfare- aimed at supporting all families regardless of household income and family structure. Yet, a multidimensional complication among infants and young children in low-income families is still prevalent as compared with families that are not living in poverty. Hence, there is a need to resolve this problematic situation in order to achieve the goal of reducing the social inequalities. On this basis, the purpose of this study is to seek diverse strategies to support families with young children living in poverty through differentiating the types of families living in poverty.
- In the study, families living in poverty with infants and young children were divided into four types, 1) children living in poverty with both parents , 2) single-parent families living below the poverty line, 3) children of unwed parents living in poverty, and 4) children living in poverty under the care of their grandparents.

Research Methods

- A survey was conducted among 350 parents and 24 grandparents with infants and young children living below the poverty line. Specifically, 150 married families , 100 single-parent families, and 100 unwed-parent families participated in the survey. In addition, in order to gain a deeper understanding of the childcare needs in relation to the different family structures, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 15 parents across the four types of families identified above.

Results

- The child care environments of single-parent and unwed-parent families living in poverty were, in general, more deficient in multiple areas compared to families with both parents in the household. For example, the single-parent and unwed parent families were living in poorer economic situations, and they were found to have less support available in emergency situations. Single parents and unwed parents living below the

poverty line were found to experience more parenting stress and depression compared to families of married parents living in poverty. Children of single parents and unwed parents had fewer opportunities to experience and engage in cultural activities.

- Time spent on care provision was at the highest among grandparents group. Yet, the level of available social support for these grandparents living in poverty was at its lowest. Children under the care of their grandparents living in poverty also had fewer opportunities to experience and engage in cultural activities.

Policy Suggestions

- Government should strengthen early investment for infants and young children living in poverty, which is already known as the most effective time to invest.
- Customized support strategies for childcare should be provided according to household types.
- To increase the effectiveness of Dream Start, greater attention should be paid to infants and young children living in poverty by investing at an early stage of children's life.
- The Korean government should, in the near future, create an early Dream Start program to support pregnant mothers and infants.
- Individualized home-visiting programs targeting households living below the poverty line should be extended, especially for those infants and young children under the care of their grandparents living in poverty.

Childrearing

Cost

- A Study on Reorganization of Childcare Centers' Cost Support and Sharing System
- KICCE Spending Survey: A Study of Childrearing Costs and Demand for Childcare Services (III)
- A Study of the KICCE Childrearing Price Index (III)

Major Research Project

A Study on Reorganization of Childcare Centers' Cost Support and Sharing System

Jinah Park / Hyo Mi Choi / Yoonkyung Choi

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- As the restructuring of the childcare support system had been fully implemented in 2020, the purpose of this study is to analyze policies related to childcare support since 2012 – when the free childcare was introduced, and to suggest support strategies and reorganization of the distribution system.
- The study examines the ways to share the burden of additional cost among the government, society, and users by reviewing the childcare centers' cost support strategies, while taking the quality maintenance for optimal childcare activities into consideration.

Research Methods

- The central and local governments' childcare cost support policies were examined along with some of the major international cases of other countries.
- The study also analyzed changes in the behaviors of parents using childcare centers, the effect of cost support methods on hours of service used, and satisfaction with the childcare centers based on the data from the National Childcare Survey, which was conducted 5 times from 2004 to 2018.
- Furthermore, the study proposed a plan for reorganization of the childcare centers' cost support and distribution system, reflecting the opinions on changes in the cost support strategies of childcare centers among the parents who used services provided by childcare centers in 2020.

Results

- The results showed that the numbers of childcare centers and users both have increased since 2000 and have decreased after reaching the highest number in 2013, while the rate of using childcare centers has constantly increased.
- While childcare service hours became somewhat shorter after free childcare in 2012, dual income families have wanted longer service hours, which indicates the need to continually

monitor the outcome of the time extended childcare system that was implemented in response to this demand. The level of satisfaction with childcare centers has generally increased since 2004.

- While the cost burden has decreased significantly, parents' demand for improving the quality of childcare has increased recently.
- The survey results of the present study also showed similar levels of the current service hours and the desired service hours, and satisfaction with childcare centers were rated above 3 out of 4-point scale.
- While the parents rated high levels of satisfaction with the childcare centers, they chose diversification of childcare programs, competency enhancement of the department, and renovation of indoor and outdoor environments as areas for improvement.
- In addition, 61.2% of the participants responded that they were willing to pay additional cost up to ₩ 78,000 on average.

Policy Suggestions

- Incorporating the results of the survey and literature review, the study proposed a quality improvement model for childcare centers and estimated its cost.
- Based on the estimated cost, the restructuring of the childcare centers' cost support strategies and distribution system was recommended. For the cost support strategies, the study suggested to set the government-funded service hours solely based on the hours of use without any other qualification or conditions attached, and also to adopt an end-user payment method for additional hours.
- For the cost distribution system, the study suggested that some of the expenses should be covered by the parents.

General Research Project

KICCE Spending Survey: A Study of Childrearing Costs and Demand for Childcare Services (III)

Hyo Mi Choi / Jeong Won Lee / Eun Jung Park / Taewoo Kim

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- This study, conducted to reduce the childrearing cost burden among households with children and to address the need for support related to childcare services, marks the 3rd wave of a multi-year study designed to run over the period of 5 consecutive years.

Research Methods

- The current wave involved a considerable number of survey questions to measure the affect of societal shocks on households with children.
- The current wave also included an additional in-depth analysis of the data from the previous (1st and 2nd) waves. It examined the changes in the childrearing costs and the use of childcare services among children entering elementary school.

Results

- The total sample for the 3rd wave was 2,156 households. Of these participating households, 1,634 (75.8%) were successfully contacted from the previous waves; 268 households were replaced due to sample attrition; and 254 were new entrant households.
- In 2020, the average monthly childcare expenditure among the participating households was 1,165,000 KRW- decreased by 42,000 KRW from the previous year. The childrearing costs for young children decreased by 61,000 KRW to 822,000 KRW, representing a faster decrease compared to the gross childcare costs.
- In 2020, the average monthly childcare cost per young child was 582,000 KRW, decreased by 48,000 KRW from the previous year.
- 62.9% of respondents reported that their gross household expenditure did not change due to COVID-19, 18.6% responded that their expenditure had increased, while similar proportion of participants (18.4%) responded that their expenditure had decreased.
- The use of childcare services by households with infants revealed:
 - For children across all ages, there was an overall decrease in the use of half-day or longer childcare programs.
 - The respondents' awareness regarding the changes in the 'basic

care hours' was reportedly low - 82.8% responded that the amount of hour spent at the childcare facilities remained the same following the policy changes, while 10.2% reported a decrease and 6.9% reported an increase in the hours used.

- The costs of childcare services had decreased from the previous year: 41,000 KRW for newborns; 16,000 KRW for children aged 1; 40,000 KRW for children aged 2; and 54,000 KRW for children aged 3.
- The use of childcare services by households with elementary school-age children showed:
 - The most frequently used public facility-based service was elementary school care classes (11.9%), followed by after-school care (4.5%), and local / community / neighborhood childcare centers (2.6%)
 - Of the types of part-time private education services, the use of short-term study centers was most prevalent, albeit decreased significantly compared to the previous wave.
- In the event of future unforeseen need for emergency care due nationwide crisis (such as COVID-19), resulting closure or unavailability of ordinary provision of services , 90.8% of single-earner households opted for direct care by a parent.
- Entering 1st grade of elementary school was associated with a dramatic increase in the use of part-time private education services. 83.5% of the total sample responded that they were using some form of part-time private education services.

Policy Suggestions

- Strengthening support for business owners by introducing family care leave / days off.
- Implementing and expanding sustainable support systems for emergency care.
- Effective support put in place for parents, including the provision of play activity materials for in-home childcare.
- Expanding and establishing concrete policies for work-life balance.
- Ensuring a stable transition to the revised care support system, and strengthening the monitoring of extended care services.
- Enhancing elementary school care services to better meet the needs of the users.

General Research Project

A Study of the KICCE Childrearing Price Index (III)

Jinah Park / Dong Hoon Kim / Taewoo Kim

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- The study marks the 8th year of the KICCE Child Price Index study, and is the 3rd year of the study on the second research topic- 「A Study on the Spending and Childrearing Costs of Households with Young Children」. The study periodically calculates the childrearing index to continuously monitor the market price trend of childrearing products and services.
- The study aims to monitor whether the government support policies are reflected in the childrearing items purchased by families with infants and young children, and to collect basic data to support future policy-making through analyzing the effectiveness of the current policies.

Research Methods

- The 2020 KICCE Childrearing Price Index is the third calculation since 2018, and aims to demonstrate the trend of and changes in the index compared to 2018.
- A nationwide survey on perceived childrearing price among parents of infants and young children was conducted.
- The 2020 study collected and analyzed big data on the expenditure of families with infants and young children through financial big data platform built by BC Card. In particular, the study analyzed changes in the expenditure among families with infants and young children in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and identified the effect of policy support for families with infants and young children related to COVID-19.

Results

- The KICCE Childrearing Price Index (I) decreased by 1% while Statistics Korea's Consumer Price Index decreased by 0.4%. Furthermore, the KICCE Childrearing Price Index (II, III-1, III-2) calculation results showed different trends compared with the previous year; the KICCE Childrearing Price Index (II) and the KICCE Childrearing Price Index (III

-2) increased by 3.79% and 2.52%, respectively, while the KICCE Childrearing Price Index (III-1) decreased by 3.15% from the previous year.

- A nationwide survey on perceived childrearing price among parents of infants and young children in 2020 revealed that perceived levels of both price/household burden of consumer goods, durable goods, and household burden of service goods increased. Although the overall negative response rate was relatively high, it was lower compared to 2019.
- Analysis of the card expenditure data of families with infants and young children from January 2019 to August 2020 showed that education and distribution/shopping sectors accounted for the most spending, which made up more than 60% of the total payment.
- Comparing the expenditure of families with infants and young children before and after COVID-19 at the same points of time in 2019 and 2020, it was found that the expenditure based on card payment decreased in March and August by 8.6% and 0.9%, respectively, and increased in April and May by 23.0% and 16.2%, respectively. This implies that the spending which had been contracted by the pandemic heightened due to so-called "revenge spending", and that the expenditures among families were effected by childrearing coupons provided to the child allowance recipients in April to May.

Policy Suggestions

- Based on the results, the study suggested that the current policies, focused on policy redesign and service support policies, should be expanded to various products, considering the effectiveness of childcare support policies and its financial efficiency.
- In addition, for the sustainability of the calculation and survey of the KICCE Childrearing Price Index, the study also proposed that it needs to be incorporated as a sub-index of Statistics Korea's Consumer Price Index.

International

Cooperation and Comparisons

- A Comparative Study of Low Birth Issues and Childcare Policy in East Asian Countries(Korea, China, Japan) (III): Focusing on child-rearing environment of the workplace and society
- Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan for ECCE Policy Development and Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region (III): Outcome analysis and monitoring of the consulting

Major Research Project

A Comparative Study of Low Birth Issues and Childcare Policy in East Asian Countries (Korea, China, Japan) (III): Focusing on child-rearing environment of the workplace and society

Nam Hee Do / Jeong Won Lee / Ji Soo Kim / Myoung Jung Kim / Byung-Cheol Kim / Naoko Soma / Jiangping Yao

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- This study is a comparative study on the issue of low fertility and child-rearing policies over the period of 3 years.
- The first year of the study focused on the causes and countermeasures of the overall low fertility related problems and issues in Korea, China, and Japan. The second year of the study was conducted to analyze the policies concerning pregnancy, childbirth and parenting in the three countries participating.
- Finally, the 3rd year of the study attempts to place its focus on the child-rearing environment of the workplace and society of the three countries, and to make comparisons around the societal awareness of child-rearing environment and systems related to work-family balance.

Research Methods

- To carry out this study, we collect data and previous studies related to work-family balance policy in Korea, China and Japan.
- The researchers have had joint meetings overseas as well as virtual meetings to share the contents of policy backgrounds and the current status. Further, information was also collected through consultations with experts from Japan and China.
- We conducted surveys among experts who have previously conducted research in related areas, and field experts by e-mail. In addition, we visited companies and collected examples of available work-family balance supports.

Results

- In Korea, as ways to improve the nurturing environment of our society, childcare support facilities were perceived as the most significant physical environment that must be strengthened, and the expansion of public childcare was recognized as an important systemic support.
- In China, it was found that parents in China still do not have the legal rights for parental leave, and was identified as an area that needs urgent improvements to overcome issues related to the low birthrate.
- The roles between men and women in regards to child rearing has not yet been sufficiently achieved in Japan; hence needs to be resolved in the near future.

Policy Suggestions

- It is important to have safe and pleasant environment to build and to further develop the public childcare and education in Korea.
- It is necessary to increase the number of daycare centers and kindergartens, and also to establish workplace daycare centers in China
- In Japan, it is urgent to solve the problem related to long wait list for children in nurseries. It is also hoped that there will be increased use of flexible working hours in companies as a choice of working arrangement in the future.

General Research Project

Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan for ECCE Policy Development and Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region (III): Outcome analysis and monitoring of the consulting

Mugyeong Moon / Jaehee Lee / Eun Jung Park / Yuna Jung / Maki Hayashikawa / Kristy Bang / Cliff Meyers / Evelyn Santiago

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- The present study, in its last year of a three-year project, aims at providing consultations and analyzing the outcomes of the consultations on enhancing the quality monitoring system of the early childhood care and education (henceforth, ECCE) services in the selected Asia-Pacific countries (Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Fiji).

Research Methods

- Literature review on outcome analysis of development cooperation
- Adopted an outcome analysis framework based on the theory of change
- Held a webinar on ECCE policy development cooperation to disseminate major outcomes

Results

- Although three individual countries were at different stages of and had different issues related to the quality monitoring of ECCE services, some common needs for development cooperation were identified, including developing and elaborating quality indicators, piloting of monitoring indicators, training of evaluators, and developing manuals and guidelines for teachers.
- Major outcomes of the study through the consultations included the revision quality indicators; piloting of quality indicators and training of evaluators; and the acquisition of updated information on ECCE and recent policy development in Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Fiji.

Policy Suggestions

- For the future development cooperation on ECCE policy, the following aspects need to be considered: establishment of a robust data system in cooperating countries; rigorous and constant technical assistance toward achieving goals of development cooperation; close communication with the ministry officials in cooperating countries and mobilizing international organizations; and development of an analytic framework to monitor the processes and outcomes of ECCE policy consultation and more.

Development of

Children

- A study of support policy for maternal and newborn
- 2020 Longitudinal Study of Growth and Development of Korean Children:Panel Study on Korean Children (PSKC)

Major Research Project

A study of support policy for maternal and newborn

Jaehye Lee / Jeong Rim Lee / Jiwon Eom / Hee-sun Kim

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- The social demand on health support for mothers and newborns, as well as its significance are increasing.
- The purpose of this study is to comprehensively review the health support policies for mothers and newborns to find ways to improve service quality, and to discover future policy directions and aspects for improvement.

Research Methods

- Related studies, including domestic and international prenatal and postnatal care, and prior research on maternal and newborn health were reviewed.
- A survey was conducted on 462 mothers at 3 to 12 months postpartum.
- The health examination data of infants were analyzed to identify the developmental gap in accordance with household income and the weight of newborns at birth.

Results

• The postpartum care policy

- The overall quality of postpartum care providers has recently been on the decline due to the continuous expansion of the scope of support, as well as the supply of the health care support project for mothers and newborns.

• The current state of the postpartum care

- The average postpartum care period of the mothers was around 4.25 weeks, while the ideal postpartum care period was responded to be around 6.37 weeks on average.
- The use of postpartum care centers in the first week of childbirth was on average 53.0%, and 38.3% in the second week.

• Experts' opinion on the postpartum care policy

- According to the analysis on the primary postpartum care-

related policy area that needs improvements, the need for improvement in the health care support service for mothers and newborns was reportedly at the highest, followed by the Seoul Baby Health First Step Project, postpartum depression management, public postpartum care centers, and development of support and counseling system.

Policy Suggestions

- It is necessary to establish a comprehensive policy road-map for the period of pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum care.
- In order to strengthen the systematic national support for maternal and newborn health care, and to reinforce the linkage between various maternal, child health, and postpartum care policies, the registration system of pregnant women must be put in place first.
- We suggested a universal postpartum care voucher system for families.
- An evaluation and certification system was proposed for postpartum care centers as well as postpartum care worker referral agencies to enhance the quality of overall postpartum care, and also to enhance the justification and effectiveness of the introduction of postpartum care vouchers.
- We suggested regulations related to the establishment and operation of public postpartum care centers to be enacted.

General Research Project

2020 Longitudinal Study of Growth and Development of Korean Children: Panel Study on Korean Children (PSKC)

Eunseol Kim / Yun-Jin Bae / Keun Jin Kim / Hyejoo Cho / Hyejin Kim

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- The Panel Study on Korean Children(PSKC) provides longitudinal and cross-sectional data to scholars in the related fields in order to enrich their academic research and develop national policies for children based on studies using the available panel data.
- We have also offered the annual research reports with PSKC data since 2008 by analyzing the major variables on children's cognitive, linguistic, physical, and socio-emotional development and the effects of various environmental factors surrounding the panels.

Research Methods

- The 13th wave of PSKC in 2020 incorporated the production of the annual research report- providing the entire PSKC data on the "Public Open Data" web-site; and the nation-wide conference on research papers using PSKC data.
- The regular panel questionnaires and developmental inventories for children; parent interviews and questionnaires; and the web-based survey for school teachers of each child were conducted.
- There were 1,412 panel families participating in the 13th year of the survey, which demonstrated the retention rate of 65.7%.

Results

- 12 year old panel children's mean height was 148.38cm (SD=6.57) and these children on average weighted 43.45kg (SD=9.45). The percentage of possessing a cell-phone was 88.8% and the hours of use were reportedly around 1.98h per day(SD=0.13) for the boys, and 1.98h per day(SD=0.14) for the girls. The average hours spent watching TV or other video clips were 1.18 hour on weekdays and 2.44 hours on weekends.
- The average sleeping hours were 8.94 hours on weekdays and 9.47 hours on weekends. 57.0% of the panel children played musical instruments and enjoyed sports (74.4%)- the boys tended to prefer soccer and

Taekwondo, while the girls reportedly enjoyed swimming the most.

- The mean score of getting stressed regarding academic achievement was 2.13(SD=0.85) on the 5-point-scale, with the girls on average scoring higher than the boys. The average score of these children's resilience was 3.00(SD=0.43) on the 5-point-scale, and the overall perception of happiness was 3.25(SD=0.44) on the 4-point-scale, which reflected relatively high level of perceived happiness.
- The proportion of getting bullied at school ranged between 2.9~22.4% depending on the kinds of the bullying experienced. The rate of verbal bullying such as calling names and using abusive language was at 22.4%.
- 39.0% of the children responded positively to the question around their intention of getting married in the future- while the proportion of the girls appeared to be lower than that of the boys. 37.3% of the children said 'yes' to the question of whether they would have a child in their future.

Policy Suggestions

- According to the results of the survey, we suggested some implications including developing a system of special care for children living in low income families and providing well-designed and gender-balanced education related to bullying and school adjustment.

2020 KICCE PROJECT REPORT ABSTRACTS

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