

# KICCE Policy *Brief*

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*Issue 1*

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In-home Childcare Support Service

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# In-home Childcare Support Service, The New Bridge between Work and Family Life

## I . The Increasing Demand for In-home Childcare Support Service

- 'In-home childcare support service' is defined as childcare service provided in the home by someone other than parents, such as relatives or non-relatives like babysitters and nannies.
- Demand for in-home childcare support services continues to be reported along with a steady increase in the usage of center based childcare and education services, which attributed to recent expansion of services and increase in subsidies for children (from birth to age 5).
- The government offers service policies such as 'i-Dolbom' (i.e., a kind of in-home childcare system), as part of their response to the need for various kinds of childcare service and in an attempt to fill the gaps where center based services have failed to meet particular demands.
- Such public in-home childcare support services are currently in short supply, despite the high demand. Therefore users have no choice but to make do with other sources of childcare, mainly relatives or those service providers that are available from the private sector.
- As the private sector, with its various shortcomings, has proved to be unsatisfactory to meet the childcare needs of its users, a service supply system that encompasses both the public and private sectors is now called for.
- Such a service supply system must be developed based on a comprehensive analysis of its users, their reasons for using it, and an understanding of current insufficiencies.

## II . Working Parents with Infants are the Major Users.

- 39.5% of households with infants (ages 0 to 2) and 33.2% of those with young children (ages 3 to 5) make use of in-home childcare support services, according to 'The 2012 National Childcare Survey: A Household Census' conducted by KICCE.
- The survey reveals that the 18.9% of households with infants and the 0.3% of those with young children use in-home childcare support services without using center based childcare.
- These indicate that the usage of in-home childcare support service only is more frequent when children are in infancy.

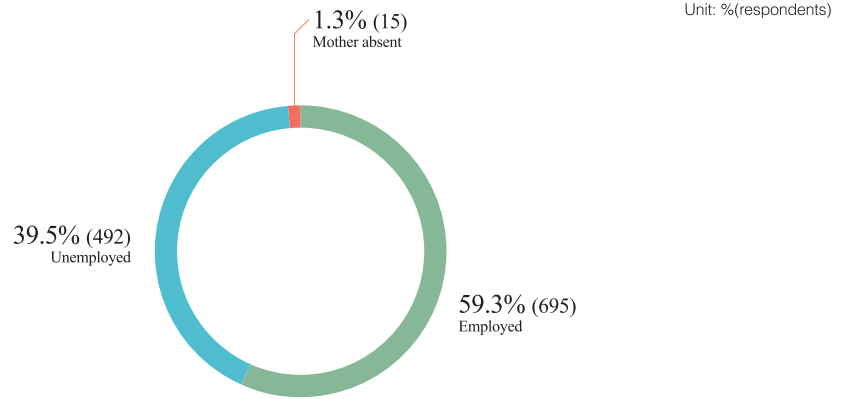
[Table 1] Childcare Service Usage by Ages of Children

Unit: %(respondents)

Condition	Young children		Child age (year)						Total
	Infants <sub>1</sub>	Young children <sub>2</sub>	0 year <sub>1</sub>	1 years <sub>1</sub>	2 years <sub>1</sub>	3 years <sub>1</sub>	4 years <sub>1</sub>	5 years <sub>1</sub>	
Centers	35.6	65.7	14.1	45.7	58.8	59.7	66.9	68.7	50.5
Centers + In-home service (A)	20.6	32.9	7.3	30.7	31.7	37.9	32.1	30.4	26.9
In-home service only (B)	18.9	0.3	33.5	9.7	5.2	0.6	0.4	-	9.6
A + B	39.5	33.2	40.8	40.4	36.9	38.5	32.5	30.4	36.5
Not using	24.9	1.1	45.1	13.9	4.3	1.8	0.6	0.9	13.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
(Number of tokens)	(1,802)	(1,541)	(802)	(538)	(462)	(503)	(556)	(482)	(3,343)

\* Table constructed using data from Moon-hee Suh et al., (2012). *The 2012 National Childcare Survey: A Household Census* <table V-1-3> p. 130.

- Among the respondents using the service, 59.3% of the mothers are employed; implying that double income households with infants utilize this service more.

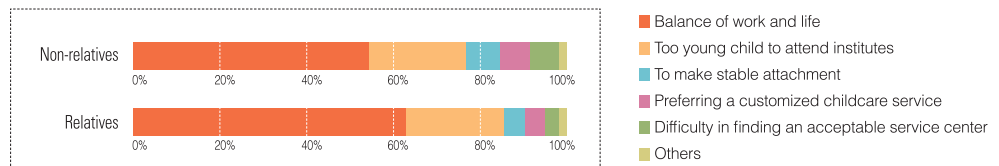


※ Figure constructed by reanalyzing data from Moon-hee Suh *et al.*, (2012). *The 2012 National Childcare Survey: A Household Census.* <table-IX-1-4> p.415.

[Figure 1] Distribution of the Usage of In-home Childcare Support Service by Mother's Employment Status

### III. In-home Childcare Support Service, Emerging as a New Bridge between Work and Family Life.

- When queried about their primary reason for using in-home childcare support services, the majority of users responded that it aids in the 'balance of work and family life'.
- According to the research conducted by KICCE at 2012, 63.0% of respondents employing relatives as service providers and 54.2% of those employing non-relatives answered that it reduced their concerns about being away from their children while at work.

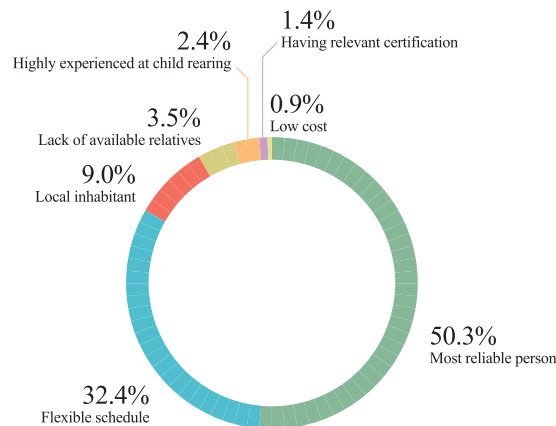


※ Figure constructed using data from Jeong-won Lee *et al.*, (2012). *In-home care for infants and suggested support measures.* p. 139, 154.

[Figure 2] Reasons of Using the In-home Childcare Support Service

#### IV. Service Providers: Reliability is the Most Important.

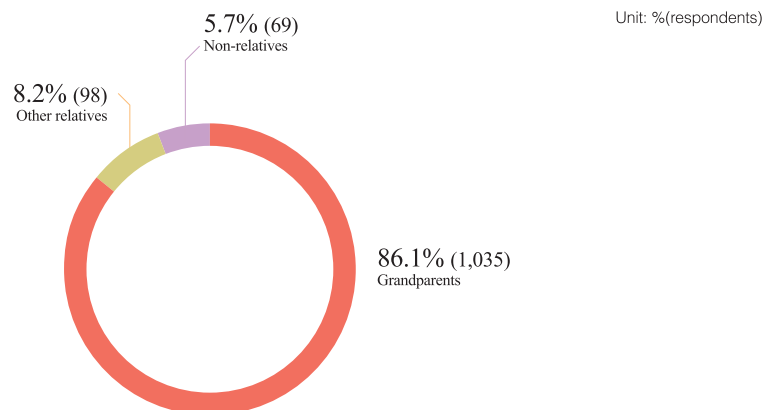
- More than 50% respondents answered that they chose their service provider 'because he/she is the most reliable' indicating that 'reliability' is the most crucial factor.



※ Figure constructed using data from Jeong-won Lee et al., (2012). *In-home care for infants and suggested support measures*. p. 135, 150.

[Figure 3] Criteria for the Selection of In-home Childcare Support Service Providers

- 'Grandparents' are the main service provider as proved by the research that they account for 1,035 tokens out of the total 1,202 service providers of in-home childcare support service included in the survey.

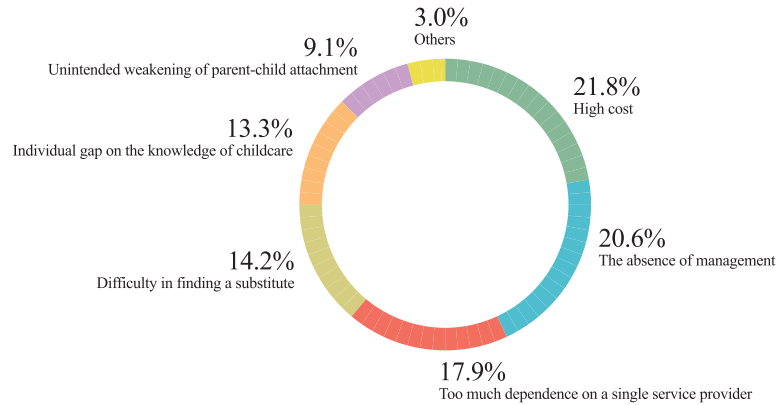


※ Figure constructed by reanalyzing data from Moon-hee Suh et al., (2012). *he 2012 National Childcare Survey: A Household Census*. <table-IX-1-4> p.415.

[Figure 4] Criteria for the Selection of In-home Childcare Support Service Providers

- As seen the figure above, the majority of service providers are grandparents and most of them are in their 50's and 60's. Note that their relatively higher susceptibility to physical strain and health worsening can be exacerbated, if it is compounded by a lack of time to get medical care or of chance to relax stress due to caring for their grandchildren.

V. High Cost and Difficulty in Finding Reliable Service Providers are the Difficulties at Hand.



\* Figure constructed using data from Jeong-won Lee et al., (2012). *In-home care for infants and suggested support measures*. p. 140, 155.

[Figure 5] The Difficulties of Using In-home Childcare Support Service

- On average, users pay 472,000 won for relatives, 709,000 won for non-relatives for a month on a condition of 8.5 hours and 8.3 hours of working a day, according to the research conducted by KICCE (Jeong-won Lee et al., 2012). 59.8% and 88.4% of the parents reported a financial burden respectively.
  - ▶ ‘Home care allowance’ for households not using center-based service went into effect as of 2013, therefore the financial burden is expected to be reduced.
- The lack of management has been pointed out as another difficulty for users.
  - ▶ In-home service is of considerable helpful to working parents as a type of substitute childcare service; users, however, suffer from insufficient supervision. In other words, this service is not yet equipped with the means to guarantee the quality of the service.
  - ▶ Therefore, ‘the current preference of the relatives as a service provider’ results.
- Additionally, an uneven quality of service has a negative impact on in-home childcare support service, because the service quality is directly influenced by a sole provider and the current coverage of the system to secure reliable and qualified service providers is rather limited to those that provide care for disadvantaged children.
- If unreliable and unqualified sources are entrusted with providing in-home childcare support service, a negative impact on work-family balance for working parents may result.

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## VI. Policy Recommendations

- As to the political demands being made in regard to the service providers, it has been reported that parents see the necessity of ‘medical care service’ for relatives, and a ‘quality management system’ for non-relatives.
  - ▶ The medical care is called for the majority of current service providers, who are mostly the grandparents of children and over their 50’s.
    - At-home medical care, which offers services by visiting homes and local communities on tour, will be helpful for the service providers to obtain medical care service such as stress management, medical counseling, and health screening for geriatric diseases
    - Expansion of the ‘in-home childcare support service by non-relatives’ is also needed to reduce the dependence on grandparents in preparation for the steady rise in the average age of the overall population caused by recent social trends such as delayed marriage and childbearing.
  - ▶ Governmental management system for the quality control of the service providers is called for to guarantee quality of service, by setting the standards for qualification and by structuring registration system
    - National curriculums must be required to be taken by the private service providers as well. Completion of courses such as safety management, first aid and general educational curriculum for child care should be compulsory.
    - Providers need to be registered in the national information network and provide information about their identification and the courses they have taken.
    - Compensation and treatment for childcare accidents need to be arranged by the introduction of a mandatory requirement of an accident insurance and a safety credit system for the registered service providers.

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1) Jeongwon Lee, Namhee Do, Sehyun Kim, and Jihye Na (2012). *Recommendation for policy proposals for improving fertility rate and reconciling work and family life(II): A focus on In-home care for infants and suggested support measures*. Korean Institute of Child Care and Education.

2) Moonhee Suh, Misun Yang, Eunseol Kim, Yoon Kyung Choi, Haemi Yoo, Changgyun Son, Hyemin Lee (2012). *The 2012 National Childcare Survey: A Household Census*. The ministry of Health and Welfare & Korean Institute of Child Care and Education.

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