

# **2018 KICCE PROJECT REPORT ABSTRACTS**

**Korea Institute of  
Child Care and  
Education**

DIPLOMATIC CENTER, 3F, 4F, 2558, NAMBUSUNHWAN-RO, SEOCHO-GU, SEOUL 06750 KOREA  
TEL 82 2 398 7700 FAX 82 2 398 7798  
[WWW.KICCE.RE:KR/ENG](http://WWW.KICCE.RE:KR/ENG)



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**Child**

# Development

- Child Health Improvement Policy Plan(II): Focusing on Physical Health Measurement and International Comparison
- The Longitudinal Study on Growth and Development of Korean Children 2018

## General Research Project

### Child Health Improvement Policy Plan(II): Focusing on Physical Health Measurement and International Comparison

Donghoon Kim / Wonsoo Park / Min Kyung Lee / Yonggwon Jeon / Eun-Young Lee

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- The purposes of this study are to investigate the levels of physical health in early childhood in Korea and to develop policy measures to improve their physical health through international comparisons of physical health levels.

#### Research Methods

- Research methods include literature analysis, joint participation in the international physical activity research (SUNRISE project), analysis of Infant Medical Check-up Cohort DB, online parent questionnaire (2,000), workshop and consultation.

#### Results

- **International comparison of physical health and physical activity levels of infants and toddlers.**
  - The proportion of overweight or obese infants was relatively high in the international comparative study, and the development of gross motor and fine motor skills in infants was generally good.
  - As a result of the physical activity measuring device (ActivPal) analysis, the average number of steps was 7,589 a day, and the average walking time was 1 hour and 50 minutes per day.
  - The number of steps per day for 4-6 year-olds in Korea was somewhat lower than the recommended number of foreign countries (10,000-14,000 steps per day).
  - The average sleeping hours of toddlers was 10-11 hours, which was somewhat less than the recommended hours in foreign countries (10-13 hours).
  - The average frequency of sedentary behaviors over 30 minutes was more than twice a day, which was slightly more than foreign policy recommendations.

- **The results of on-line surveys of physical activities for infants and toddlers**

- Overweight and obesity were 6.3% and 11.9%, respectively, and the proportion of overweight increased with age.
- Physical activity increased with age. However, the time of sedentary behaviors (using smartphones, etc.) also increased.
- The average physical activity time for infants was 147 minutes (2 hours 27 minutes) per day, which was lower than the foreign guidelines.
- The average time spent to watch electronic video equipment while sitting or lying down was 134 minutes per day (2 hours 14 minutes).
- Children from dual-income households tended to have less overall physical activity time outdoor.
- The average rate of physical activity private tutor was 35.4%, and the rate of 5-year-olds increased slightly to 49.2%.

#### Policy Suggestions

- **Improvement of laws and systems to promote physical health of infants and toddlers**

- It is necessary to develop comprehensive and systematic guidelines for various kinds of behavior habits of 24 hours a day including physical activities of children, sedentary behaviors and sleep.
- When outdoor physical activity is difficult (fine dust, etc.), it is obligatory to install indoor play and physical activity space to replace it.
- Development of on-line and off-line promotional materials for physical health of infants, promotion and reinforcement of campaigns are required.

- **Proposal to activate infant physical health at home**

- Infants and parents need to reduce their media use (smartphones, etc.) themselves.
- Parental guidances and education on the importance of child physical activity is needed.
- It is necessary to secure the globally recommended sleeping hours (10-13 hours a day) and constant sleeping / waking time at home.

## General Research Project

### The Longitudinal Study on Growth and Development of Korean Children 2018

Namhee Do / Jeong-Won Lee / Ji Hyun Kim / Hye Joo Cho / Eunyoung Park / Hee Sue Kim

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- To open the Korean child panel data to public in order to follow the government's strategy to open public data and to expand the number of users.
- To investigate the relationship between child's home and school experience and the overall development of elementary school students and to contribute to the development of a policy-oriented direction.

#### Research Methods

- Review references and hold expert meetings.
- Perform a panel survey.
- Expand the questionnaire for children, and conduct a survey on parents and elementary school teachers.
- 10th year data collection and basic analysis.

#### Results

##### • Survey success rate and sample retention rate

- 1,434 of 2,150 panelists completed the survey, which was 96.6% compared to that of the previous year, 66.7%.

##### • Daily life of children

- The average sleeping hours of children was 9.29, and children tended to sleep a little more on weekends.
- The daily activity time of the child on weekdays was 5.80 hours for school activities, 1.87 hours for private education, 1.47 hours for basic life, and 0.89 hours for homework and study.
- It was shown that they watched TV for about 0.95 hours on average during weekdays and 2.24 hours on weekends.

##### • Physical and health characteristics of children

- The average body measurement was 33.17kg, height 135.33cm and waist circumference 64.77cm.
- 20.5% of subjects wore glasses and had 0.75 cavities.

##### • Children's cognitive and language development

- The executive function of children had no medium difficulty.

- As a result of the graphic creativity test, the level of the home openness was relatively low.

##### • Children's social emotional development

- The average self-esteem of children was 3.47 points, and the overall happiness was 3.32 points.

##### • Provide survey results for parents, households, community, childcare support services, community, and child care policy characteristics.

##### • Public data open project

- The DB for open public data by PSKC for 10.

#### Policy Suggestions

- Children's mental health-related efforts need to be made through the development of guidelines for prevention of media addiction.
- It is necessary to arrange counseling system to advise the caregivers.
- A social infrastructure for caring for children and strengthening care services should be established.
- A child-friendly environment for the community should be created so that more time could be available for parents.
- It is necessary to support the data management and database construction for the longitudinal research as well as the project support for the longitudinal research.

**Finance and**

# Childrearing Cost

- A Study of Governance for Financing Early Childhood Education and Care
- Child Care and Education Finance in the Local Governments
- A Study on the Spending and Childrearing Costs of Households with Young Children
- Demands for Child Care Services of Household with Infants/Children and Governmental Policy Support
- A Study of the KICCE Childrearing Price Index(CPI)

## Major Research Project

### A Study of Governance for Financing Early Childhood Education and Care

Keun Jin Kim / Mugyeong Moon / Hye Joo Cho

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- To review the status of and to improve governance for financing early childhood education and care and to suggest directions.
- Emphasis on financing Nuri Curriculum(for all children aged 3~5 in both kindergartens and child care centers), subsidizing child care fees(for children aged 0-2 in child care centers), child allowance(for children aged 0~5) and so on.
- To suggest policies to improve cooperation between central and local governments about the matching grants and local financial burden.

#### Research Methods

- Literature review of the financing early childhood education and care.
- Analysis of national statistics data based on finance and demographics.
- In-depth interviews for scholars and experts of finance, education, care and social welfare.
- Meetings with governmental officials related to education care.

#### Results

- **Analysis of financial structure for early childhood and care**
- Analysis of financing ECEC within the structure of central and local government, education and social welfare system.
- Analysis of financing ECEC based on related laws and statical data.
- Financial estimation of early childhood education and care policies.

- Financial estimation of Nuri curriculum, child care fee assistance, child home care allowance, child allowance, labor cost subsidies for private kindergartens and child care centers, and the extension of public kindergartens and child care centers.

- **Improvement proposals of governance for financing early childhood education and care**

- Analysis of the problems about financing ECEC including path dependence of policy decision, trilemma of ECEC policies, voucher and subsidy for ECEC policies, price control of early childhood education and child care services.
- Improvement proposals for financial sharing of ECEC policies between central and local governments, the extension of early childhood education support special account and of subsidies for ECEC based on financial decentralization policies.

#### Policy Suggestions

- Short-term policies including financial allocation of income reimbursement and service support, the extension of early childhood education support special account, the transition of voucher into subsidy for Nuri curriculum, and the extension of benefit principle.
- Mid-term policies including the enactment of subsidy rule for matching funds, and the operation of joint committee for the mitigation of the gap between kindergarten and child care centers.
- Long-term policies including the extension of cooperation between local governments and local education offices, the reallocation of administrative and financial responsibilities between central and local governments, and the reorganization of local fiscal coordination system and the extension of price function of local tax.



## Major Research Project

### Child Care and Education Finance in the Local Governments

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Nayoung Kim / Keun Jin Kim / Hee Sue Kim

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- The social interest and demands for child care and education such as universal welfare, enhancement of publicness, and subject of budget burden of NURI curriculum have been increasing.
- In response to these, the government has established and enforced various policies, so the amount of expenditures for the related policies of central and local governments have been increasing continuously.
- The comprehensive collection of financial data is required for the efficient operation of the policies. This study, therefore, intends to identify the whole size of child care and education finance by collecting the budget data from each Education Office and local governments.

#### Research Methods

- First, the study collects the revenue and expenditure data of each Education Office and the budget data of local governments.
- Based on these data, the study optionally collects the child care and education finance data. Most importantly, as the child care policies of local governments are very diverse and classified by different standards, they were re-classified and arranged by the researchers' criteria.
- Based on the collected and reorganized data, the study provides policy suggestions for collecting financial data of child care and education and the proposal of the child care and education financial index to access financial efficiency and robustness.

#### Results

- The results showed that the size of public expenditures for child education increased to KRW 5.9 trillion in 2018 from KRW 3.4 trillion in 2016, and as of 2018, the budget of education welfare support (NURI curriculum, meal service) takes 67.4% of it.

- In the budget for child care, the public expenditures also increased to KRW 10.7 trillion in 2018 from KRW 9.7 trillion in 2015. The increment index (2015=100) were 103.1 in 2016, 111.0 in 2017 and 109.8 in 2018.

#### Policy Suggestions

- For the next another decade, the considerable amount of public expenditures of central and local governments will be invested to child care and education directly or indirectly. The corresponding area needs to be set as the 'policy-interest sector.'
- While doing so, the budgeting and execution size for the related sectors of central and local governments will be identified. As a result, the efficiency and robustness of national finance will be secured.
- In addition, the continuous data collection and the comprehensive examination of financial data are needed. Due to the interest for the quality of child care and education and the low total fertility rate, many related policies are being established and operated on the level of local governments. So it is needed to systemize and categorize these diverse policies and their expenditures.

## General Research Project

### A Study on the Spending and Childrearing Costs of Households with Young Children

Hyomi Choi / Eun Jin Kang / Mi Ra Cho / Sook In Cho / Tae Woo Kim

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- Amid the persistence of low birthrates despite the increased support for households with young children, there is currently a need to identify the true nature of the economic difficulties faced by such households, as well as for a broader approaches to consider why the government support policies have failed to be effective.

#### Research Methods

- By consolidating the factual studies of three research projects with similar or overlapping (and thus mergeable) topics and questionnaire items, this study presents an experimental challenge in terms of research methodology.
- ‘KICCE Spending Survey’ (1st wave) : 1,648 households and 2,277 children.

#### Results

##### • Expenses of households with young children

- The average monthly living expenses of households with young children was 3,119,000 KRW, with ‘food expenses’ taking up the largest share at 811,000 KRW followed by ‘education / child care’ costs (410,000 KRW), ‘insurance contributions’ (363,000 KRW), ‘leisure / cultural activities’ (323,000 KRW), ‘transportation costs’ (264,000 KRW) and ‘housing costs’ (253,000 KRW).
- The total childrearing cost was 1,151,000 KRW, with the childrearing cost for young children of 919,000 KRW (660,000 KRW on a per-child basis).

##### • Burdensomeness in terms of childrearing costs

- The responses of households with young children regarding their current level of spending on childrearing were mostly evenly split into ‘sufficient’ (48.9%) and ‘insufficient’ (42.1%).
- Of the items that were most burdensome in terms of childrearing costs, the foremost factor by far was ‘education / childcare costs’ (44.6%), followed by ‘food expenses’ (17.7%).
- However, it is somewhat ironic that the households responded that they were most willing to increase spending on ‘education / childcare’ if more income were available to them.
- 91.1% of households responded that they saw increases in overall household spending following childbirth, with 52.7% responding that major adjustments had been made in the composition of spending items and 41.7% responding that there were minor adjustments.
- 91.1% of households responded that they saw increases in overall household spending following childbirth, with 52.7% responding that major adjustments had been made in the composition of spending items and 41.7% responding that there were minor adjustments.

#### Policy Suggestions

- Protect the child rights of at-risk young children, and close the gaps.
- Strengthen support for double-income households and multi-child households.
- Enhance the service quality of public education / child care services, and diversify support measures.
- Expand various housing support measures, and create child-friendly residential environments.
- Improve public rental services while strengthening government support and public / private cooperation for the upcycling of child care goods.
- Strengthen efforts to promote policies, and raise awareness.

## General Research Project

### **Demands for Child Care Services of Household with Infants/ Children and Governmental Policy Support**

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Jeong-Won Lee / Jeong-Rim Lee / Tae Woo Kim

#### **Backgrounds and Purpose of Study**

- Demands for child care services vary due to social and environmental changes.
- This study examines the current usage and plans of child care services and investigates the correlation between demands of the services and policy changes.

#### **Research Methods**

- Interviewed 1648 panels of active users of child care services.
- Conducted in-depth interviews with service providers such as directors of child care & educational institutions, managers of child care support center and of healthy family support center.

#### **Results**

##### **• The ideal child care service**

- Households with children aged between 0 and 1 preferred parental care at home to child care centers.
- Households with children aged between 2 and 4 preferred child care centers to kindergartens.
- Households with children aged between 5 and 6 preferred kindergartens to child care centers.

##### **• The reason why some users could not use their preferred services**

- The main reasons that the users could not use their preferred services included 'working parents', 'cost' and 'lack of accessibility.'

##### **• The time support policies for working parents to take care of their children themselves such as maternity/paternity leaves and flexible work systems**

- The policies and systems were well known but less utilized among working parents.
- Especially, single income households' satisfaction for these policies was lower than that of double-income households.

##### **• Difference in needs according to household type**

- Households with infants and single-income needed more monetary support from the government.

- Double-income households or households with children hoped that the government would provide more support for institutional child care and education services.

#### **Policy Suggestions**

##### **• Directions to support the child care service demands**

- More infrastructures for public child care services, greater satisfaction for service users and increased policy responsiveness to changes in demands are required.

##### **• 'Select and concentrate' strategy by childhood age**

- For households with infants aged between 0 and 1, the study suggests policies to expand service infrastructures and to improve accessibility of parenting time support in order to encourage parents to participate in child care on their own.
- For households with children aged between 2 and 6, the study suggests to provide more public child care and educational service infrastructures and to improve the service quality.

##### **• Improvement of parental rights to spend time with their children**

- Through increased maternity/paternity leave benefits, sufficient time could be ensured for parents to care for their children in single-income households, single parents and in double-income households.

## General Research Project

### A Study of the KICCE Childrearing Price Index(CPI)

Jinah Park / Sangshin Park

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- This study aims to analyze policy effects by continuous monitoring market price whether the expanded governmental support policies regarding childrearing and education have been applied to the childrearing items practically consumed in the households and to seek for solutions in terms of managing market price.

#### Research Methods

- This study calculated the KICCE Childrearing Price Index(CPI) by analyzing data provided by the Bank of Korea and the Statistics Korea and conducting childrearing market research.
- Data from the survey for parents with infants and children was analyzed in order to specify 2018 weight and reorganize items.

#### Results

- **The weight of the items in KICCE Childrearing Price Index**
- The weight changes of the items in KICCE Childrearing Price Index(CPI) showed that the proportion of spending on milk powder, diapers, strollers, pure educational costs in kindergarten-related costs and child care centers costs had decreased.
- The proportion of spending on clothing-footwear-related service, milk, weaning foods, toys, extra kindergarten-related costs, private English language institutes fees, extra child care center-related costs and postnatal care centers had increased in household expenditures compared to that of 2012.

- These changes are likely to be interpreted in two respects: changes in expenditures in households with infants and children and the purchase rate.

#### • Computation of KICCE Childrearing Price Index

- Although interpretations of the changes in comprehensive items of KICCE CPI(II, III-1, III-2) had limitations due to the weight based on the year of 2018 and reorganization of some items, changes in items indicated a similar pattern with the Consumer Price Index(CPI).
- According to the results of the subjective consumer price index computation, parents of infants and children showed a consistent tendency of low negative responses concerning the subjectively-perceived market price and the burden on household budgets in terms of consumer goods, durable goods and service goods.
- It is necessary to monitor the later changes of the subjectively-perceived childrearing price index reported by the newly-recruited panel in 2018 in-depth with the tendency of related research.

#### Policy Suggestions

- This study suggested supplementation of the policy design supporting kindergartens.
- Child care centers and the central-governmental support for the system of maximum child care center costs causing the regional gap should be considered.
- The management system of babysitters in the private-sector should be introduced.



**ECEC**

# Policies

- Issues and Tasks of Early Childhood Education and Care Policies in the Era of the 4th Industrial Revolution
- KICCE Poll for Establishing the Culture of Happy Child Care(II)
- 2018~2022 Analyses and Projects on Childrearing Policies(I)
- Effectiveness Analysis of Nuri Course: Focusing on Utilization of the 「KICCE Child Observation Index of Nuri Course」
- Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan for ECCE Policy Development Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region

## Major Research Project

### Issues and Tasks of Early Childhood Education and Care Policies in the Era of the 4th Industrial Revolution

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Changhyun Park / Nayoung Kim / Yujin Lee

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- The purpose of this study is to find related issues and challenges through big data analysis on childbirth and childrearing during the 4th Industrial Revolution period and to build a predictive model for low birth policy resolution in order to lead future child care policies and contribute to social awareness.

#### Research Methods

- Research methods include literature review, social big data analysis on child care policy during the 4th Industrial Revolution (2008-2017) (deriving predictive models, extracting key factors through machine running), expert survey, expert advisory council and meeting.

#### Results

- The study predicted and interpreted changes in birthrates by applying four categories of topics: housing, housing × education, employment and labor environment to the predictive model.
- Using the Poisson automatic regression model based on 'residential × education' and annual employment rate, it was estimated that premature birth rate will stagnate at a lower level in 2019-2020 after a slight rebound. This seems to be due to the recent slight improvement in employment rate.

#### Policy Suggestions

- Narrow the income and class gaps by securing publicity in housing-education.
- Improve the quality of life by resolving the crisis factors in terms of housing, education, job, labor and gender.
- Secure an accessible digital and technical network.
- Prepare for the 4th industrial revolution by fostering creative core human resources and innovating education for the future society.



## General Research Project

### KICCE Poll for Establishing the Culture of Happy Child Care(II)

Eun-Young Choi / Hyomi Choi / Hyemin Lee

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- It is necessary to identify the problems of Korean child care that can not be changed in a short period of time and to develop policies to improve them through continuous investigation of public perceptions and attitudes on the current Korean child care policies.

#### Research Methods

- Basic data were constructed and analyzed through analysis of literature and press articles about child care policies of the government departments(the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family), public surveys, in-depth interviews and expert councils.

#### Results

##### • Results of Regular Survey

- The policies that were considered to be highly important for the government's low birth control policies were employment policy and residential policy for youth, and work - family balance policy.
  - As a result of examining the families with infants, the items with the lowest sufficiency scores of the home or residential area were art museum(1.5 points on a five-point scale) and museum(1.6 points on a five-point scale).
  - Child care policy that respondents expected from the government the most was to increase the number of the national & public kindergartens and daycare centers(40.4%), and the policy that the government should give priority to was the extension of maternity leave and parental leave with the highest rate of 33.6.
- ##### • Results of Occasional Surveys
- 47.6 percent of the respondents said that it is necessary to have after-school English classes in kindergartens or extra-curricular English activities in daycare centers.

- As a result of investigating the cognitive pathway to the eligibility for child allowance, most responded that they learned through news reports.
- The average time a mother spent to play with her children was 3 hours and 24 minutes during weekdays, 5 hours and 29 minutes on weekends, while the average time a father spent to play with his children was 1 hour 33 minutes during weekdays and 4 hours 49 minutes on weekends.

#### Policy Suggestions

##### • The direction of child care policies

- Mid-term and long-term plans for the culture of happy child care should be established.
- The policy differentiation of the government's cost support needs to be considered.
- The priority of service support is to raise publicity and to improve the quality of kindergartens and daycare centers.
- It is needed to strengthen the policy to support work-family balance.
- The keynote and direction of the current policies need to be reviewed considering the levels of policy demands.

##### • The tasks of child care policies

- It is desirable to redesign the current child care policies through multi-faceted evaluations of the factors influencing the additional birth.
- Education and publicity to raise gender equality consciousness are to be strengthened.
- The safety management of kindergartens and daycare centers should be reinforced.
- It is recommended to examine the recipients of child allowance.
- There is a need to expand support for part-time child care support services.

## General Research Project

### 2018~2022 Analyses and Projects on Childrearing Policies(I)

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Yunjin Lee / Mi-Sun Yang / Moonjeong Kim

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- The current research is the first wave of a five-year project (2018~2022). The purpose of this study is to select policies for continuous and in-depth analyses on childrearing policies proposed by the current government as national affairs, to analyze the opinions of policy consumers and the current state of policy enforcement, and to suggest methods for analyzing and evaluating the selected policies.

#### Research Methods

- The main research methods include expert opinion polls and surveys. The expert opinion survey using AHP was conducted in order to select the major childrearing policies of the current government.
- A total of 1,500 people, including 1,000 parents of infants and elementary school children, 618 principals and teachers of child care centers/kindergartens, and 500 unmarried and married adults without children, participated in the survey.

#### Results

- The biggest problem that hindered the compatibility between work and family was 'child rearing' for families with children and the social structure that put more emphasis on women's responsibility for childrearing.
- There were differences in the perceptions of childrearing policies, low birth rate and marriage/childbirth depending on the respondents' own situations.

#### Policy Suggestions

- The future directions and strategies for childrearing policies include clarifying the goals of childrearing policies, grouping various childrearing policy users, readjusting the existing childrearing policies according to the grouping and establishing childrearing policies based on mid-to long-term research.
- It is suggested that the promotion plans for the selected 10 core childrearing policies need to provide differentiated policies depending on the needs of policy consumers such as adjusting working hours to offer enough time for ECEC, providing additional benefits for low-income households and supporting ECEC services for general households.
- In five major policies on child education and child care, the study proposed to expand public centers and strengthen publicity for kindergartens. For childcare centers, the study suggested to strengthen the professionalism of teachers and ensure proper treatment for them at the levels of teachers in kindergartens.

## General Research Project

### Effectiveness Analysis of Nuri Course: Focusing on Utilization of the 「KICCE Child Observation Index of Nuri Course」

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Jeong-Rim Lee / Ahreum Kim / Ji-Won Eom

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- Since 2012, the government has implemented Nuri Course in every kindergarten and child care facility for 3-5 year olds nationwide. Its intent is to provide an equal learning opportunity for 3-5 year old children regardless of their socioeconomic status.
- This study identified the effectiveness of the government's Nuri Course policy and how well it achieved a fair start for children, based on empirical data collected from children who are the direct beneficiaries of the policy.

#### Research Methods

- Each child was assessed twice in pre and post stages by his/her homeroom teacher, based on the child observation index of Nuri Course for 3-5 year olds, developed by Korea Institute of Child Care and Education.
- Pre-assessment was conducted through May and June and post-assessment in October. A total of 273 three-year-olds, 253 four-year-olds and 270 five-year-olds participated in both pre- and post-assessments.
- Among them were children of disadvantaged family backgrounds such as low-income and multicultural families.
- Analysis of the child observation index scores of Nuri Course for 3-5 year olds was multi-dimensional according to the general backgrounds of children's families, as well as teacher and institution-related factors.
- The scores of children from both disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged families were compared.

#### Results

- **Effectiveness Analysis of the Nuri Course in children of disadvantaged families**
- The child observation index scores of Nuri Course of children from disadvantaged families were generally lower than those of non-disadvantaged ones in four of five areas.

- More specifically their scores were lower in the areas of communication, social relationships, art experience and nature & discovery in both pre- and post-assessments.

- **Effectiveness Analysis of Nuri Course in 3-5 year olds**

- There were significant differences owing to child gender and family income in all age groups.
- Namely, the child observation index scores of girls and children from high-income families were higher than those of boys and children from low-income families.
- The scores of children from child care facilities in the workplace were also higher than those of children from other institutional types in all age groups.
- The shorter the teacher's experience and the higher the teaching efficacy and teacher-child interaction were, the higher the children's positive effectiveness scores were in specific age groups.

#### Policy Suggestions

- First, individual child care and education for children from disadvantaged families should be more supported and strengthened.
- Second, appropriate teacher education and support should be provided in order to achieve effectiveness of Nuri Course.
- Third, the long-term study to evaluate effectiveness of the Nuri course should be administered.
- It is also recommended that a website be constructed for easy access to the child observation index by kindergarten and daycare teachers according to the revised Nuri course in the following year.

## General Research Project

### Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan for ECCE Policy Development Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region

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Mugeyong Moon / Yunjin Lee / Mi Ra Cho / Sook In Cho / Sol Me Lee

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- The three-year project aims to support ECCE policy development cooperation in the selected countries (Uzbekistan, Vietnam, & Fiji) in the Asia-Pacific by developing policy consulting models, along with needs assessment (1st year), implementing action plans on priority policy tasks (2nd year), and monitoring the implementation processes and outcomes (3rd year).

#### Research Methods

- A consortium with UNESCO Bangkok and ARNEC (Asia Regional Network of Early Childhood) as well as country teams including officials of Ministry of Education.
- Interviews and site visits in the selected countries, surveys with experts in development cooperation in Korea, and a seminar to discuss and disseminate major findings.

#### Results

##### • Common needs of the selected countries

- Structural components: Increasing public expenditure on ECCE and improving overall standards and regulations for infrastructure
- Quality components: Monitoring system for service quality, teacher professional development, and national data collection and utilization

##### • Country-specific needs on development cooperation

- Uzbekistan: establishment of legal base on EC, expansion of kindergarten facilities, diversification of curriculum implementation, and development of quality monitoring indicators

- Vietnam: teacher training, collaborations among ECCE agencies, support for children with special needs, and quality monitoring system
- Fiji: investments in facilities, setting standards, and development of quality monitoring indicators

##### • Consulting model

- Content areas for consulting: five priority policy areas of SDG 4.2 indicated in Kathmandu action statement (Financing, Sector Planning, Equity, Quality and Monitoring SDG4.2)
- 5 Phases of consulting: 1) Diagnose and prioritize the current issues, 2) Conduct in-depth analysis and identify tasks, 3) Develop strategies and action plans, 4) Implement the strategies and action plans and monitor, 5) Evaluate the impact.

#### Policy Suggestions

- A need for in-depth understanding and data accumulation on specific countries through detailed needs assessment
- Clear communication with selected countries on expected outcomes of development cooperation
- Systemized governance of development cooperation
- Extensive networking with and eliciting participation of domestic and international experts



# ECEC Staff

# and Centers

- Roadmap Development Study to Reduce Disparities between Kindergartens and Child Care Centers (I) : regarding the Teachers
- Demand Analysis to Reform Child Care Support System
- OECD TALIS Starting Strong Survey: Processing Report on the Main Survey 2018
- Evaluation-based Consulting for Child Care Centers for Quality Improvement of Child Care Services(III)

## Major Research Project

### Roadmap Development Study to Reduce Disparities between Kindergartens and Child Care Centers (I) : regarding the Teachers

Eunyoung Kim / Changhyun Park / Hyejin Kim / Soo Jung Kim

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- Established in 2017, the Moon administration has focused on 'reducing disparities' to realize the national vision: "A Nation of the People, a Just Republic of Korea."
- Disparities between kindergarten and child care teachers are inevitable with the division of departments. However, violation of equality of starting conditions due to the quality disparity is a pressing issue.
- Accordingly, various methods were adopted to analyze the disparities and suggest policy directions and measures along with a 5-year road map for implementation.

#### Research Methods

- A 5-session public workshop for early childhood education and care providers(kindergarten and child care center teachers and staff), service recipients(parents), third party(non field-related citizens) and government officials.
- A survey for 912 principals, teachers and parents of kindergartens and child care centers.
- 3 delphi surveys of teacher training professors, kindergarten and child care center principals and teachers, government officials(1st: 13, 2nd: 108, 3rd: 96).
- Policy forum: co-hosted with the Presidential Council on Education.
- Advisory meeting and policy research execution conference.

#### Results

- **Disparities between Kindergarten and Child Care Center Teachers**
- Disparities existed not only between ece and ecc teachers but also according to the types of establishment, location and size of services.
- Child care teachers were less ensured with their legal rights than kindergarten teachers.

- **Awareness of Disparities between Kindergarten and Child Care Center Teachers**

- Principals were concerned with teacher professionalism, whereas, teachers were with treatment.
- When selecting a service, parents were foremost concerned with the type of services; they chose between a kindergarten and a child care center according to their purpose of using a service and situations.

- **Awareness of Measures to Reduce Disparities between Kindergarten and Child Care Center Teachers**

- Reducing disparities in wages, working conditions or welfare between ece and ecc teachers should be preceded by narrowing the gap of education, qualifications, responsibilities or duties, professionalism, etc.
- When developing and implementing policies, the government must be aware of reverse discrimination while understanding the current disparities between kindergarten and child care teachers.
- Integration of ece and ecc in some form is necessary to reduce disparities.

#### Policy Suggestions

- Propose annual road map for 2019-2023 in 6 domains: Qualification and initial training, employment and placement, status and status security, duty and responsibility, wage and working conditions, training and professionalism improvement.
- Institutional Aspect: Unify qualification and training systems; create a common employment system; integrate teacher placement criteria; legislate a special law for teacher status improvement; create a common guideline for scheduling and organizing daily activities; unify salary class provision of national grounds; unify in-service training criteria; provide grounds for national supervision.
- Financial Aspect: Convert Nuri Curriculum subsidy into teacher salary and assistant staff finances.
- Administrative Aspect: Unify departments and service delivery systems of ece and ecc.



## Major Research Project

### Demand Analysis to Reform Child Care Support System

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Mi-Sun Yang / Hanna Ye

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- To analyze the demands of child care hours and to estimate the supply size of dedicated staff to reform the child care support system that aims to reinforce long child care hours and to improve child care teachers' working environments.

#### Research Methods

- Collected and reviewed relevant precedent studies.
- Reanalyzed the results on the household survey and child care centers users' satisfaction survey from the National survey on child care held every 3 years by the Ministry of Health and Welfare.
- Analyzed classroom assignments on child care centers and the enrollment rate per class, and the status of staff's allocation.
- Conducted online survey targeting child care centers.
- Held discussions with child care centers' directors.

#### Results

- **The number of children enrolled in child care centers based on the medium variant household is expected to fall from 1,392,681 in 2018 to 1,356,543 in 2019, 1,327,388 in 2020, 1,313,369 in 2021, and 1,299,883 in 2022.**
- The number of children enrolled in child care centers based on the low variant household is expected to fall from 1,383,499 in 2018 to 1,332,762 in 2019, 1,279,340 in 2020, 1,238,224 in 2021, and 1,197,813 in 2022.
- **The number of infants and toddlers using full-day classes (after 17:00 p.m) was estimated based on the study result that surveyed the child care center usage hours (Yang Mi-Sun et al., 2016; Yang Mi-Sun et al., 2017).**
- The number of infants and toddlers enrolled in full-day classes based on the medium variant household was estimated at 700,421 in 2018, 685,235 in 2019, 670,231 in 2020, 663,503 in 2021, and 654,006 in 2022.
- The number of infants and toddlers enrolled in full-day classes based on the low variant household was estimated at 690,869 in 2018, 668,477 in 2019, 644,736 in 2020, 627,699 in 2021, and 606,081 in 2022.

- **The number of full-day class teachers was estimated by applying the number of children assigned to each class by each age group given the difficulty of estimating the number of dedicated child care teachers for full-day classes as the government hasn't currently presented a detailed implementation plan for the measures to reform the child care support system.**

- Based on the medium variant household, the number of teachers required was estimated at 104,177 in 2019, 102,899 in 2020, 102,339 in 2021, and 101,779 in 2022.
- Based on the low variant household, the number of teachers required was estimated at 99,164, 95,897, 93,476, and 91,158, respectively.

#### Policy Suggestions

- To establish a detailed implementation plan to reform (draft) the child care support system as soon as possible.
- To apply the full-day class assignment standard that matches the regular class assignment standard.
- To establish a standard to assign full-day class teachers.
- To develop and deploy separately a full-day class program to enhance the quality of full-day class child care service.

## Major Research Project

### OECD TALIS Starting Strong Survey: Processing Report on the Main Survey 2018

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Eunseol Kim / Jinah Park / Sol Me Lee

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- One of the most important factors which influence the quality of early childhood education and care(ECEC) is teachers or staff in ECEC centers.
- The quality of ECEC depends on the quality of teachers. The importance of teachers(or staff) in ECEC has been deeply perceived by OECD countries, and OECD initiated the TALIS Starting Strong Survey(TALIS 3S) in 2015. The first wave of TALIS 3S began 2015 and will end in 2019.
- Nine countries including Korea are participating in the survey.
- The present report shows the procedure of the 2018 main survey of OECD TALIS 3S in Korea.

#### Research Methods

- Cooperation with the OECD consortium for TALIS.
- Administration of the main survey of OECD TALIS Starting Strong Survey.
- Meeting with staff of Ministry of Education.
- Participation in international meetings: OECD ECEC Extended Network Meeting in Paris, France(10.4-5, 2018) & OECD TALIS 3S NPM Meeting in Seoul, Korea(10. 25-26, 2018).

#### Results

- **Complete the National Adaptation**
  - Submitted Korean NAF(National Adaptation Form) to ISC of the OECD consortium
  - Confirmed the NAF and submit it to ISC

- **Translation Verification**

- Translated the questions of the survey and discussed the items with ISC
- Confirmed the translations
- Received approval from the OECD consortium

- **Layout Verification**

- Confirmed the layout and discussed with ISC

- **Conduct the TALIS 3S main survey**

- Conducted the sampling work: 186 centers + 1,118 leaders and teachers
- Performed the main survey through the online questionnaires
- Followed the process led by OECD
- Sent the data collected in Korean ECEC centers
- Fulfilled the required participation rate: 76%

#### Policy Suggestions

- Policy suggestions will be provided in 2019 after the data from the main survey 2018 are analyzed.
- The research team is planning to analyze the data along with the guideline of OECD and produce the final report including 8 other countries' results in 2019.

## Major Research Project

### Evaluation-based Consulting for Child Care Centers for Quality Improvement of Child Care Services(III)

---

Mekyung Kwon / Meehwa Lee / Sook In Cho / Mi Ra Cho / Jiyeon Yun

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- The quality management of child care centers has been performed through accreditation. The third accreditation of child care centers and kindergartens based on the contents of the integrated evaluation index is being implemented.
- Thus a 5-year research beginning in 2016, 'Evaluation-based Consulting for Child Care Centers for quality Improvement of Child Care Services' has been planned.
- This research, coming into its third year, applied the CARE consultation to accredited child care centers with the results from the initial implementation, provides them with a consulting model and assistance in regard to periodical quality-maintenance.

#### Research Methods

- Literature review was conducted on the current process of child care center accreditation, foreign research studying ECEC as a means of evaluating quality management and the results from the third accreditation.
- The CARE consulting model, its implementation system and the consulting manual were revised. The process of building the system consisted of four stages: preparation, planning, implementation and evaluation of the consulting. The consulting process takes approximately four months from the point a child care center applies up to the point it receives the results after completion.
- KICCE and the Support Center for Child Care have established consortium to provide consultations. 89 accredited child care centers in the region of Seoul, Gyeonggi, north Gyeonggi and Incheon have received consultations.
- The pilot implementation of consultation and evaluation was carried out, and the satisfaction survey of the consultation was conducted and analyzed.

#### Results

- With the results of the demonstrative implementation of the CARE model in 2018, and the revisions of the model and its implementation system, the current study suggests a plan for an evaluation-based child care quality improvement and maintenance system.

#### Policy Suggestions

- Development of a consulting system as a counterplan to the starting of a mandatory evaluation system of child care centers is a prerequisite.
- Cooperation with the Support Center for Child Care is essential in order to eliminate overlapping contents with the existing consulting model and to provide information on the implementation of consultation.
- Incentive is required for child care centers with low evaluation results to encourage participation in consultation.
- Consultations should not burden child care centers financially.
- Consultations should not be considered as additional workload for teachers in terms of its implementation.
- Recruitment of competent consultants and maintenance of a pool need to be maintained.

# **Child Care Support for**

# Households and Communities

- Research of Constructing the System of Private-Public Cooperation in the Child Care Field
- Support System Establishment for Integration of Infant Care and Public Medical Care
- A Study on the Status of Using Private Babysitters and Plans for Their Management
- Strategies for Fostering Childbirth and Child Care Friendly Workplaces and Society: Solutions to Expand Social Coverage for Work Family Balance Policies
- A Study on How to Make Child-friendly Communities in Korea
- Customized Child-rearing Supporting Plans(IV): Current Status and Supporting Strategies for Unmarried Single-parent Families
- Shedding Light on the Blind Spot of Parent Education: Parent Education Projects for Working Parents and Fathers of Young Children

## Major Research Project

### Research of Constructing the System of Private-Public Cooperation in the Child Care Field

Haemi Yoo / Yoonjin Lee / Eunyong Park

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- This study suggests ways to construct a private-public cooperation system for regional-based caring in order to eliminate the gap of child caring and respond to various requirements of caring-support system.

#### Research Methods

- Related 107 public officers in the welfare governance and 218 managers in the institutions of related caring service participated in the survey about the current situation and requirements of private-public cooperation in regional-based caring field.
- The study examined the cases of community-based child care and found implications for each type of child service.

#### Results

- **Support target of regional community caring infra**
  - It includes double-income households with elementary school students and infants. Only half of the nation's areas run caring networks and consultative organizations.
- **Support from the central government**
  - Financial support(support for re-modeling budget, labor cost for caring-teacher, management fee, vehicle operating cost, etc) and cooperating system among related central organizations are requested.

#### • Support from the regional government

- The establishment of the ordinance concerning the support of care in the region center, the establishment of a comprehensive plan, and the placement of dedicated departments and personnel are requested.
- A legal and institutional foundation, departments and personnel should be exclusively laid out for local governments. Their operating entities and roles should be clarified.

#### Policy Suggestions

- The basic direction of establishing a public-private partnership in child care is the response to the various needs of child care.
- The principle of operation is that decision-making participation and network related to the supply and utilization of care services in the region are key elements, and interdependencies and independence are required among the objects involved in the network.
- As a means of establishing a public-private cooperation system in the child care sector, the public-private cooperation household must include local governments, education offices and elementary schools, specify its operating entities, and support the operating expenses.
- As a function of public administration, the central government should provide legal grounds for community care support and establish a cooperative system among central departments.
- Local governments should establish relevant ordinance, appoint and deploy personnels for the departments in charge of the relevant regulations, provide care services for the public sector, develop workforce placement and programs, find demanders and promote them.
- Private sector should provide care infrastructure, manage care services, discover and provide information to customers and participate in care network.

## Major Research Project

### Support System Establishment for Integration of Infant Care and Public Medical Care

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Eun Jin Kang / Yoonjin Lee / Min Kyung Lee / Yong Jin Kwon / Sang Gu Lee

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- This study examined the methods for supporting cooperation and integration of child rearing and healthcare services in order to create a healthy and happy atmosphere for pregnancy, childbirth and child rearing in South Korea.

#### Research Methods

- The research methods included statistical data of organizations in South Korea, policies, prior research, review of related literature (e.g. laws), a survey for 1,000 mothers of infants and young children, FGI for relevant persons in charge, case studies in other countries (Japan, the Netherlands, the UK, France), policy discussion, advisory councils, practice councils for policy research and other interdisciplinary collaborations.

#### Results

##### • Satisfaction and needs of maternal and medical care

- As a result of the survey for 1,000 parents of infants and young children which examined stress factors and support subjects in each life cycle, ‘economic burden of childbirth and child rearing’ was the biggest stressor during pregnancy, and ‘fear of child rearing’ was the biggest during the first childbirth. While rearing child, ‘economic burden of child rearing’ was the biggest stress factor. However, the main support subject was acquaintance, which means parents hardly received public support. In terms of public services for child rearing, the majority of parents answered that they did not know that such services existed due to insufficient promotion. In the form of collaboration between child rearing and medical services, ‘branch offices of the child-care health center for mothers and children (tentative name) where people can receive both child-care counseling and medical consultation’ had the highest response rates.

##### • Foreign cases (Japan, Netherlands, the UK, France) for maternal and child health

- Japan, which has a medical system similar to that of South Korea, focuses on cases that comprehensively adjust health services for mother and children and support services for child rearing. Netherlands supervise the quality of medical services through competitions among private companies although the government leads maternal and child health and healthcare for infants and young children. Moreover, continuity from childbirth to child rearing is secured. France and the United Kingdom are countries that have established national-led medical systems, not managing projects separately for maternal and child health but in terms of public health in existing healthcare systems.

#### Policy Suggestions

- “Continuity of care” should be considered so that services and human resources in each life cycle are linked to ensure a healthy start for infants and young children. First and foremost, the study proposes “cooperation among local organizations of delivery systems” and “consumer-centered and integrated support” in order to improve convenience for users.
- A project for “Center of Integrated Support for Child-rearing and Health” should be initiated, and the centers should be divided into three types to coordinate integrated support: child-rearing center, health center and medical center. It is applicable to install new centers and enhance the existing institutions. The study also proposes amendments of the Mother and Child Health Act and the Infant Care Act for functions of support centers, organization of human resources and basis of establishment.
- Expansion of the visiting nurse system for integrated health care, child-rearing support for mothers and newborns, the direction for revision of the Acts and the methods for placement of personnel in order to designate and operate healthcare kindergartens and daycare centers are suggested.

## Major Research Project

### A Study on the Status of Using Private Babysitters and Plans for Their Management

Ahreum Kim / Haemi Yoo / Jiyeon Yun

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- While the demand for private babysitters is greatly increasing recently, the Idolbom project of the government is not able to satisfy the actual demand due to reasons such as the provision of services focused on vulnerable social groups.
- In the case of Idolbomi, which is a public service, the provision of a certain level of service quality is guaranteed through the legalization of qualifications and management standards. However, with private babysitters, limitations are revealed in areas such as wages, qualifications and service due to lack of management and direction from the government.
- This study attempts to construct a management and direction system for private babysitters and to provide plans to establish a qualitative management system that secures the expertise of private babysitters.

#### Research Methods

- The concept, types and work contents of private babysitters were analyzed based on literature review, and prior studies on system and policy analyses regarding private babysitters in Korea and abroad were examined.
- Surveys and in-depth interviews were conducted for suppliers such as training content work conditions and users such as use and satisfaction in the private babysitter market of Korea. A worker meeting was held for human resource companies handling private babysitters. An advisory committee and a policy research administration committee were held with experts.

#### Results

- In the case of countries abroad, even private babysitters in the private sector go through minimal vetting processes through validation systems. Countries such as France, England, Australia, and America provide benefits such as

the application of the National Labor Relations Act, social security insurance admission, and tax support by forming direct employment relationships among parents and private babysitters.

- Research on the actual use of families of private babysitters shows that families want government tax support for the utilization fees of private babysitters the most and have a high level of demand for the training of private babysitters.
- When such matters are considered, the government must guarantee alternate services from a level of fairness to expand Idolbom support projects and provide hiring methods that can be trusted by parents, additional tax support following infant care cost burdens, reference guarantees for private babysitters and internal stability of the Idolbom project.

#### Policy Suggestions

- In the short term, the government should construct a private babysitter DB on a government level, provide an accurate identity guaranteeing system of private babysitters and consider government intervention needed from private babysitter certification from introduction stages.
- With regard to private babysitter qualification management, while it is unnecessary to demand special credentials as observed in cases abroad, the government should construct a system which prevents unqualified private babysitters according to minimal Idolbom support acts from working.
- Furthermore, a training program that can be trusted by the government should be developed to support the private babysitter training that is currently conducted mainly on private levels, and the quality of private babysitters should be improved through dispatched professional instructors and the support of lecture locations.
- In the long term, by constructing an employment relationship system among employers and private babysitters, private babysitters should have properly guaranteed status. From user aspects, institutional measures such as tax support for private babysitters utilization costs and insurance support should be provided.



## Major Research Project

### Strategies for Fostering Childbirth and Child Care Friendly Workplaces and Society: Solutions to Expand Social Coverage for Work Family Balance Policies

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Jaehye Lee / Namhee Do / Ji-Won Eom

#### Purpose of Study

- To examine social coverage for work-life balance policies and find solutions for expanding the coverage.

#### Research Methods

- Review of work-life balance policies of Korean government, OECD and EU.
- Analysis of out-group in work-life balance policies.
- A survey for married working women(1,005 people) to investigate their levels and systems of work-family balance in workspaces and home.
- In-depth interviews for employees of small and medium sized companies, self-employers, economically dependent workers and employers of small-sized companies.
- International symposium titled “Toward Childbirth and Child Care Friendly Workspaces and Societies to Investigate International Example for Work Family Policies.”

#### Results

- **The Korean government has been expanding the social coverage through various channels, such as ‘Durunuri’ program.**
  - Durunuri is a social insurance(including employment insurance) subsidy program in which the government provides partial funding for employment insurance and pension plans to low-income workers.
  - The government also provides partial funding for employment insurance to self-employers without employees.
- **The percentages of companies which implemented childcare leave, paternity leave and reduction of working hours for periods of child care among workplaces in Korea are 59.1%, 60.9% and 38.5%, respectively.**
  - The smaller workplaces were less likely to implement work-family balance systems.

- **A employment insurance registered rate of non-regular workers was lower than of regular workers.**
  - Also, non regular workers tended to be discriminated against for taking child care leaves.
- **Small sized company employees, self-employers and economically dependent workers suffered from low levels of work-family balance due to deficiency of work-family balance institution in Korea.**

#### Policy Suggestions

- The Equal Employment Opportunity and Work-Family Balance Assistance Act and Employment Act should be revised to cover all workers regardless of their employment status.
- Social coverage and financial support for non-regular workers who hardly join employment insurance should be expanded.
- Health insurance finance spending to expand coverage for maternity leave should be considered.
- Finance incentive to promote work family balance system in small and medium sized companies should be examined.
- Gender equality in child care is necessary to expand coverage of work family policies.

## Major Research Project

### A Study on How to Make Child-friendly Communities in Korea

Meehwa Lee / Yoonjin Lee / Sangshin Park

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- To introduce the notion of the CFC (child-friendly city) that stresses the implementation of children's rights and to make policy suggestions for constructing community-based CFCs in Korea by analyzing advanced cases from home and foreign countries and results of the related survey and interviews.

#### Research Methods

- Review of literature on CFC status, research and discussions on councils.
- CFC cases analysis (4 cities of CFC assurance, 6 cities of child-friendly budget in Korea, 1 city in Austria and 4 cities in German).
- Survey of 300 children and 900 parents on CFC awareness and requirement.
- In-depth interviews with CFC field officials (1~3 persons each from 11 cities).

#### Results

##### • Summary of the Survey

- Awareness and evaluation of child-friendly community: In every survey section, the evaluation scores of children and teenagers were higher than those of parents.
- Awareness and evaluation of children's rights: Higher proportion of parents (48.8%) recognized the UNCRC (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) than children (40.7%). But for the necessity to guarantee the rights, the points of children were generally higher than those of parents.
- For the significance of UNCRC, both showed low evaluation (4.3) saying more education or publicity were needed.
- CFC awareness similarity: 18.6% of children and 20.7% of parents were aware of CFC, and the necessity of CFC was

almost equally evaluated (4.2 vs. 4.1), showing that the CFC project was in the introducing stage.

##### • Outcomes of the In-depth Interview Analysis

- The CFC project itself showed awareness and educational effect. Additionally many local governments depended on the positive image of UNICEF.
- In the CFC assurance procedure, communication difficulties arose between the officials and related NGOs, and practical consulting services and financial assistances were said to be required.

##### • Findings from Case Analysis

- The CFC projects in Korea tend to focus more on the results of assurance in different environmental conditions among local governments.
- Stepwise introduction plans are required to assess and develop the community accommodating child-friendly environments.
- Child-friendly values need be created and spread first, and the main projects should be deployed after carefully evaluating the current trials according to the city-sizes and readiness of existing infrastructures.

#### Policy Suggestions

- The Child Care Law needs to be revised to help develop child-friendly environment legally and institutionally.
- The central government should prepare for the CFC-related budget to assist local governments and allocate the objective budgets for the CFC projects.
- Central government-centered Institution on CFC Consulting is needed to ensure sustainability of the CFC projects
- Guidelines for enacting CFC ordinances are suggested, and the common factors and the community-specific factors are to be differentiated
- It is most important to spread the people's child-centric awareness to public in order to construct community-based CFCs in Korea.
- A plan to establish the governance structure among the central government and the related institutions is addressed.

## General Research Project

### Customized Child-rearing Supporting Plans(IV): Current Status and Supporting Strategies for Unmarried Single-parent Families

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Ji Hyun Kim / Mekyung Kwon / Yoonkyung Choi

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- The purposes of this study were to investigate the current situations of the supporting system for unmarried single-parent families and their difficulties in rearing children and to provide policy suggestions to improve the child rearing environment for the unmarried single-parent families.
- This study focused on the unmarried single-parent families who do not live in the housing facilities for single parents and live on their own.

#### Research Methods

- First, literature review was conducted on supporting policies that are applicable to unmarried single-parents.
- Second, the online survey was administered with 300 unmarried single-mother families. The participants reported the current difficult situations of their child-rearing as unwed single-mothers including the issues about child-caring, work-life balance and absence of non-nurturing parent.
- Third, 24 unmarried single-mothers and 1 single-father were interviewed for this study to provide the specific experiences they had from the pregnancy to now, including specific difficulties in child rearing and needs for social supporting services.
- Lastly, a case study of the institution for the initial support for unmarried single parent families was conducted.

#### Results

- **The biggest difficulty in child-rearing was to be employed.**
- The biggest difficulties of the unmarried single-parent families were the financial burdens and child rearing regardless of the age of children and their employment status.
- Forty one percent of participants reported that they experienced leaving work due to the emergent care-giving situation.
- However, even the unmarried single mothers who do not work needed to place their children somewhere in order to prepare to be employed.
- **Many unmarried single-parent families had difficulties talking about non-custodial parents.**
- In addition, the parents of young children suffered when they were asked about their non-custodial parents.
- For mothers, the degree of stress from the situation was the highest for mothers of young children, while the degree of stress from the situation was the highest for the elementary schoolers for children.

#### Policy Suggestions

- First, the unmarried single mothers should be considered as priority for the selection of child care services based on the vulnerability of caring.
- Second, the role of the initial support institution for the unwed single parent families should be strengthened.
- In addition, the unmarried parents should be provided with the accurate information about that the supporting services.

## General Research Project

### Shedding Light on the Blind Spot of Parent Education: Parent Education Projects for Working Parents and Fathers of Young Children

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Wonsoo Park / Jaehye Lee / Hanna Ye

#### Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- The current parent education programs have been conducted mainly for mothers without regular jobs. Hence, it has not been easy for mothers and fathers with regular jobs to participate in parent education.
- Korea Institute of Child Care and Education(KICCE) is conducting a series of four pilot research projects for parents who wanted to participate in parent education but have not been able to do so. This year's pilot research project provided customized programs for fathers and parents from dual-income families.

#### Policy Suggestions

- The ideal number of parent education participants was 5~6 couples.
- Parent Education Manual developed by MOGEF and KICCE (2017) is recommended for future parent education projects.
- Parent education for fathers should focus more on fathers' stories of parenting.
- Parent education is recommended to be held at least more than five times.

#### Results

- In order to invite as many as different types of parents, parent education program was provided at camping sites, kindergartens, child care centers and churches during weekday evenings and the weekend daytime.

##### • Effectiveness of parent education pilot projects

- Dual-income parents and fathers with young children who participated in the pilot project showed positive effects on the fear of parenting and interest of parenting.
- The result of effectiveness of parenting did not improve after participating in the pilot project.

##### • Strong points of the pilot projects

- Parents' interaction in small groups(5~6 persons or couples) was better than that in large groups.
- Parent Education Manual developed by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family(MOGEF) and KICCE (2017) was found to be useful.
- Fathers enjoyed conversation about parenting.

##### • Weak points of the pilot projects

- All ten teams ran the program only 5 times. Hence the effectiveness was limited.



# **2018 KICCE PROJECT REPORT ABSTRACTS**

**Korea Institute of Child Care and Education**

Diplomatic Center, 3F, 4F, 2558, Nambusunhwan-ro,  
Seocho-gu, Seoul 06750 Korea

Tel 82 2 398 7700 Fax 82 2 398 7798

[www.kicce.re.kr/eng](http://www.kicce.re.kr/eng)

Sun-Hee Baek, President

Published 2019 in Korea KICCE

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Editorial Designed by yuwolae (82-2-859-2278)

