2019 KICCE PROJECT REPORT ABSTRACTS

Korea Institute of
Child Care and
Education

2019 KICCE PROJECT REPORT ABSTRACTS

CONTENTS

Outcomes

and Directions
of ECEC Policies

The Prediction of Population and Social Change and 2040 Childcare Support Policy

Yoon Jin Lee (B) / Hae Mi Yoo / Hye Joo Cho

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- This study predicted the demographic change in 2040 through the literature and predicted the state of childcare support policy in 2040.

Research Methods

- Scenario analysis, expert survey, and policy deliberation

Results

- In 2040, both experts and the general public expected low birth rate, aging population, various family types, decreased marriage rate, increased participation in women's economic activities, increased desire for family balance, increased income polarization, and the development of AI and robots.
- The general public expected that parental support policy of 2040 would increase the importance of parental leave for men due to the spread of gender-equall culture, and the parental leave system for women due to the increase in women's participation in economic activities.
- Experts predicted that parental support policies in 2040 would focus primarily on changes in economic conditions, such as decrease in the number of policy subjects, change in family structures, and increase in income polarization and unemployment.

- Diversification of needs and expansion of caring functions of robots should be considered.
- As a result of this study, important factors affecting childcare support policy in 2040 were 1) increased participation in women's economic activities, 2) reduced number of children, and 3) diversified family types.

Policy Suggestions

- Childcare support policies are needed to strengthen the role of local communities, build a safe parenting environment through the use of science and technology, diversify care forms by diversifying labor forms, and establish a childcare support environment for unification.

An Analysis of the Outcomes of Fiscal Spending in ECEC[1] Policies

Hyo Mi Choi / Eun Jung Park / Tae Woo Kim / Seok Jin Woo

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- In response to the changes in the policy environment, this study investigates the scale of fiscal spending allotted for support policies in the extant field of childcare in order to assess the policy effects of fiscal spending at the aggregate level.

Research Methods

- Literature reviews, analyses of administrative statistics and panel data, expert surveys (AHP), and surveys of the public

Results

- The total sum (3) of spending by regional governments including national expenditure, spending by regional education offices on kindergartens, and subsidies for parental leave stood at 17,727.4 billion KRW as of 2017.
- Contrary to expectations, a higher per-capita childcare budget was associated with higher education/care costs. This may reflect the fact that the higher probability of service use and the subsequent rise in the number of households spending resources on education/care led to a rise in the overall average costs.
- Per-capita childcare budget spending had no significant effect on the burden of education/care costs.
- Analysis of a multi-level model on female employment rates found that the per-capita childcare budget level had a positive, albeit not significant, effect. This indicates that the scale of regional childcare budgets had no substantial effect on the level of regional female employment itself.
- Dynamic panel data analysis based on the early childhood education budgets (2012-2017) of regional education offices showed that, although the policies of regional education offices had no significant effect on the initial marriage and initial childbirth ages of women, they did have a positive

effect on the total fertility rate. Thus, while policies for supporting early childhood education had a positive effect on fertility over the short term, there was some ambiguity in the results regarding their long term effects.
- A survey result: Regarding the areas of ECEC policy that needed more budgetary spending (multiple choice), the item with the highest response rate was 'childcare support measures' such as childcare facilities, childcare fees, and home care allowances. This was followed by 'support for work-life balance' such as parental leave and support for women affected by career interruption.
- Results of an expert survey (AHP): Experts opined that care spending should be expanded for single-parent households, multi-cultural households, and households affected by disabilities.

Policy Suggestions

- Suggestions outlined in the study: restructuring fiscal spending to address policy changes, reinforcing policies to work toward an inclusive welfare state, exploring support measures for boosting policy efficacy, establishing governance structures to ensure stable funding, closing inter-regional gaps in childcare support policies, establishing a credible system for compiling fiscal reports related to childcare policies, and improving the visibility of policies by boosting information availability

1) Early Childhood Education and Care

KICCE Poll for Establishing the Culture of Happy Childcare(Ⅲ)

Donghoon Kim / Moonjeong Kim

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- The purpose of this study is to continuously conduct the survey on the perceptions and attitudes of policy consumers regarding childcare culture and childcare policies and to monitor related policy demands.
- This study is the third wave of the KICCE Poll for Establishing the Culture of Happy childcare, which has been conducted for five years since 2017.

Research Methods

- Analysis of government basic plans for childcare Policy and issues
- The survey was conducted for 3,000 people between 15~74 years of age.
  ※ items: becoming a parent, child-rearing, marriage, the joy of parenting, early childhood education and childcare policy, policy satisfaction, and policies in response to low fertility

Results

- Difficulty in raising children was a significant part of the parallel work of child-rearing (37.8%) and the cost of raising the child (28.7%).
- There needs to be education on parenting before having children (3.53 points out of a 4-point average).
- In the government's priority on financial support for child-rearing, discriminatory support (50.1%) was slightly higher than free childcare support (40.0%).
- There were many demands such as strengthening punishment for child abuse, promoting education, and improving the working environment of teachers.

- The overall satisfaction level of the government's ECEC support policy was 3.01 out of 5, which was generally moderate.

Policy Suggestions

- Despite the various systems being implemented such as free childcare and education, support for childrearing costs, and support for work-family reconciliation, it is necessary to prepare for policy alternatives from the perspective of consumers.
- It is necessary to disseminate the values of parenting through education on parental responsibilities and roles. It is also required to provide education for consumers in blind spots, including parents of dual income- or vulnerable- families.
- It is necessary to enforce greater punishment for child abuse, and to strengthen and expand child abuse prevention education targeting both parents and teachers.
- Although the policy priority for free childcare support is still high from the perspective of families with infants and young children, it is necessary to review the differential childcare support of financial support design in order to allocate limited resources at the national level.

2018-2022 Childrearing Policy Analysis and Outcome Evaluation(Ⅱ) : Focusing on the Performance of 2018 Childrearing Policy

Yoon Kyung Choi / Nayoung Kim / Hyemin Lee

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- The purpose of this study is to analyze the outcomes of 2018-2019 Korean childrearing policies and its impacts on families and children, in terms of its policy performance annual goals and universal index about childrearing environment.
- The framework of childrearing policy analysis for this study was composed of two major parts, policy analysis and outcome/impact evaluation, considering the systemic process and elements of policy implementation.
- First of all, this study identified the scope of childrearing policy arena and classified it into the following areas: fertility policies, ECEC (Early Childhood Education and Care) policies, and inclusive policies for children.
- Second, the annual performance outcomes of the Moon administration's eight key national agenda of childrearing were analyzed.
- Third, the outcome analysis of the Moon administration's childrearing policy implementation was done by the professional stakeholders and parents of young children under 3rd grade (from zero to ten years of age), concerning 2018-2019 childrearing policies.

Research Methods

- Literature review of the policy evaluation, and the output analysis of 2018-2019 childrearing policies based on the recent statistics
- Nationwide online-survey for professionals and parents of young children
- Focus group interviews of four groups (parents and principals of kindergartens/childcare centers)
- Quantitative factor analysis identifying the influencers on the performance level of childrearing policies, using the online survey data

Results

- **Output analysis of Moon administration's eight key national agenda of childreaing**
- Most of the outcomes of annual childrearing policy goals were accomplished, except for the minimization of a gap between early childhood education and care. Also, the evaluation of building the all-day childcare system was partially accomplished, and the evaluation of assuring children's time for play and rest was pending, due to the limited time span and lack of data.

- **Outcome analysis of Moon administration's childreaing policies**
- According to the professionals' evaluation, the outcome of childrearing policies was rated as moderate on a 7-point scale, and the parents' score was lower than that of professionals. The evaluation of care policy was highest, the early education policy in the middle, and the fertility policy evaluation was lowest, among the overall childrearing policies. Especially the control function of fertility policy committee was lowest, and the accomplishment of wellbeing and the happiness of children and parents the second lowest. The issue of equity and the cash transfer policy were scored low in the outcome analysis.
- The overall evaluation of care policy and infrastructure, parental leave, and the medical and health support for young children and parents was highly scored by both professionals and parents.

Policy Suggestions

- Reinforcement and equitable beneficiary of the parental leave policy and flexible time arrangement for work-life balance, across all workplaces and time
- Revisiting and overcoming the policy design of case transfer for childrearing support and necessity of paradigm shift for next younger generation, from providing service and cash for childrearing into process- and value- oriented policy agenda and soft-power strategies

Demand for Childcare Services of Households with Young Children and Governmental Policy Support(Ⅱ)

Jeong Rim Lee / Ja Yeun Koo / Han Sol Kim

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- This study aims to identify the current needs and demands for childcare services of households with infants, young children, and children-entering elementary schools. Furthermore, it provides primary data for responsive long-term policies.
- This is the second year of a longitudinal study from 2018 to 2022.

Research Methods

- This study investigated the previous research on early childhood education, childcare, and care services and changes in national policies of childcare services.
- Based on the 2019 consumer survey data (collected from 1,902 households; 2,776 infants/young children/children entering elementary schools), the following were assessed: use and costs of childcare services by age groups, discrepancy between desired services and the actual application of the services, opinions and demands related to childcare service policies, and so on.
- Interviews were also conducted with parents whose children used childcare services in order to encompass information not covered in survey findings.
- Expert advisory meetings and childcare service providers' meetings were held.

Results

• **Use of childcare services by age-groups of children**
- 52.9 percent or more of the infants and young children used some form of childcare services.
- 26.5 percent used kindergartens, 1.6 percent used institutes for longer than a half-day, and 19.9 percent did not use any institutions for longer than a half-day.
- Among families with children entering elementary school who responded to have used multiple childcare services, 81.0 percent of them used Hagwon (private educational institutes), 74.4 percent of them were taken care of by their parents, and 62.7 percent used after-school programs.

• **Costs of childcare services**
- The lower the household income, and the larger the size of the residential areas were the more likely it was to pay additional childcare expenses other than government subsidies.
- There were more additional childcare expenses for young children than for infants.

• **Use of childcare services by households with children entering elementary schools**
- Households with children entering elementary schools tended to use various types of services such as after-school classes, private tutoring, and individual care services in order to fill the break-in care services.
- The primary caretaker's employment and burden of costs were the major reasons for the gap between desired services and the actual use of services.

Policy Suggestions

- First, policy-makers need to address the overlooked areas of care services for households with children entering elementary schools.
- Second, they need to expand public childcare institutions and programs.
- Third, customized childcare support services should be provided according to children's age, whether they are from dual-income or single-income households, and their household income.
- Fourth, children's right to play is to be guaranteed for their healthy growth and development.
- Fifth, substantial time-supporting policies are to be developed and maintained by strengthening social and national supports for parental leave of both women and men.
- Sixth, cash support policies should be enhanced by closely monitoring the current flow of cash support.
- Based on the aforementioned directions, more specific policy measures should be made in order to provide childcare services that meet the actual demands of families.

A Study on Development of Childcare-Friendly Community for Coping with Lowest-low Fertility Rate Social Phenomenon(Ⅰ)

MeKyung Kwon / Sunyoung Hwang / Hyemin Lee / Morita Akemi / Jiyoon Park / Korea Research Institute for Local Administration

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- The importance of community for raising children is compressively highlighted in an African proverb: 'It takes a whole village to raise a child.'
- This study mainly aims to specify 'what the whole village is' for developing childcare-friendly community in which consumers of childcare policies live daily life, and suggest ways to realize it in terms of institutional system.
- In that manner, the specific goal of this study is to suggest a step-by-step process of implementing childcare-friendly elements in community at local governmental level in order to create an environment suitable for childcare rather than present a single scale index for community development.

Research Methods

- (Qualitative Research Method) Literature review, case study on childcare- friendly development, in-depth interview with parents, residents participation workshops (held twice), expert policy seminar
- (Quantitative Research Method) Statistical analysis (basic statistical analysis, factor analysis, QGIS) and survey (415 respondents)

Results

• **The elements of childcare-friendly community perceived by policy consumers**
- (Philosophy and Values) Hospitality for children and their families, acceptance of the natural development process of children, thoughtful consideration for families with children, gender equality of childcare culture, expanded opportunities to share childcare-friendly values
- (Service Infrastructure and Physical Environment) Space for communication, establishment of a community space for childcare, work-family balance system, childcare-friendly physical environment
- (Supportive Human Network) Cooperative childcare through childcare community, personnel supporting co-child networking, base for cooperative childcare, on-line community

• **The KICCE childcare-friendly community indicators**
- The KICCE childcare-friendly community indicators including direct resource indicators and childcare infrastructure-related indicators are developed.

Policy Suggestions

• **The following model is suggested as the process for establishing KICCE childcare-friendly community.**
- (Step 1) The process of diagnosing the objective level of childcare-friendly community environment (direct and indirect infrastructure for childcare) using the KICCE childcare-friendly Community Indicators.
- (Step 2) The process of developing the customized checklist with community's characteristics was laid out by using the KICCE Child-Friendly Village Checklist Pool, which includes values, philosophy, service infrastructure, and human networks and so on.
- (Step 3) A demand survey for residents and policy consumers was conducted based on the checklist developed in Step 2.
- (Step 4) A development plan which reflects the needs of policy makers in the community was established.

• **The research implications of this study for establishing KICCE childcare-friendly Community is suggested as follows**
- Development of childcare-friendly community requires consistent efforts over time, instead of one trial of diagnosis and improvement in practice.
- When developing the childcare-friendly community, local governments should consider diversity and flexibility of childcare-friendliness.
- Above all, opportunities for making consensus of community members should be provided beforehand.
- Development of childcare-friendly community should be initiated by local governments, but gradually expanded to networks in community.

Management

and Staff of ECEC Centers

Roadmap Development Study to Reduce Disparities between Kindergartens and Childcare Centers(II): the Physical Environment

Eunyoung Kim / Eun Jin Kang / Hyejin Kim / Hyeyoung Choi

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- Policy Task 49: "strengthen educational services from early childhood to higher education" targets to relieve the gap between early childhood education and early childhood care.
- The current research targets to suggest a policy plan, a policy roadmap, and a policy discussion plan to reduce the disparities of the physical environments between kindergartens and childcare centers in the aspects of children's right to play and their quality of life, equal start in education, and teachers' autonomy and rights.

Research Methods

- Focus Group Interviews: 35 attendees, 6 sessions
- Case Study: Play behaviors of 96 children in 24 kindergartens and childcare centers were observed.
- Survey: A total of 746 responses from 372 kindergarten teachers and 374 childcare center teachers was analyzed.
- Delphi Survey: A total of 90 responses was analyzed.

Results

• Facilities and Equipment Regulations

- Due to a dualized administrative system of kindergartens and childcare centers, differences existed in size, locational conditions, construction standards of each room type, playground, safety-related standards, etc.

• Difference in Play Behavior in Different Physical Environments

- Overall, children in higher quality environment displayed more significant play behavior, and higher play participation, and less wandering and non-interaction with playmates. Outdoor play behavior was higher in larger and open spaces.

• Disparities of the Physical Environment between Kindergartens and Childcare Centers and Areas of Improvement

- Disparities based on the establishment type, location, size, year of establishment also exist.
- In both kindergartens and childcare centers, spaces were more suitable for assuring children's right to participate in play, while relatively less suitable for rest, and least suitable for assuring the rights of teachers.
- Priority areas for implementation of child-centered and play-centered Revised Nuri Curriculum included providing spaces for indoor gross motor activities, increasing minimal area for classrooms and care areas, and arranging outdoor play areas.

Policy Suggestions

- 5-year roadmap (2020-2024) in the following 5 areas: facility regulation improvement, related regulation improvement, support for individual improvement plans, utilization of community infrastructures, and teacher professionalism improvement
- Institutional aspect: Unify facilities criteria; include the physical environment education in teacher education; improve assessment criteria; establish a system for community infra utilization
- Administrative aspect: Operate consulting groups by cities and provinces; develope and distribute space organizing manuals and cases; establish community network and platform; educate and promote awareness; conduct researches on the physical environment and share results; support learning community; unify administrative system
- Financial aspect: Set budget necessary for policy execution

Job Supply and Demand Analysis and Expansion Plan for Childcare and Early Childhood Education

Mi-sun Yang / Yong-nam Cho / Yoonkyung Choi (B)

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- The study presents measures to improve the quality of and to expand the quantity of jobs in public and private sectors in childcare and early childhood education by identifying the size of jobs in childcare and early childhood education sector and analyzing factors such as the working environment and treatment.

Research Methods

- Collected and examined statistical data such as relevant previous researches, overseas reference cases, childcare and education statistics, the status of childcare and kindergarten qualifications, and the recruitment status of public kindergarten teachers
- Analyzed the status of childcare teachers' qualifications
- Reported data of appointment or termination of childcare teachers, cooperating with the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Korea Childcare Promotion Institute
- Conducted job analysis to determine the type of work, frequency and time of execution, workload and ease of work performed by childcare and kindergarten teachers
- Carried out a survey with directors and teachers of childcare centers and kindergartens to determine the working conditions and treatment of staffs
- Built scenarios to expand national and state public childcare centers and kindergartens(achieve 40% utilization rate by 2022), to reorganize the childcare support system, to adjust the teacher-child ratio and the standard of classroom placement, and to expand public and private jobs, and estimated the required size of jobs and financial needs

Policy Suggestions

- Amending the standard for installing childcare centers and kindergartens to mandate the establishment of teacher space
- Gradually raising raise the working environment improvement cost while diversifying the allowance for private and home childcare centers and increasing it to the similar level of the allowance provided to public childcare centers and kindergartens
- Gradually improving the teacher-child ratio and reinforce the classroom placement standard of kindergartens in consideration of hours used by children of childcare centers and kindergartens
- Assigning non-classroom teachers instead of assistant or substitute teachers in childcare centers with more than ten working staffs and add an additional non-classroom teacher when the number of childcare staffs increases
- Providing re-training programs to those who have been issued the certificates but have no employment experiences or have been on leave for long periods of time, thereby resolving resource supply problems
- Conducting the supply-demand analysis annually to adjust the size of hiring resources for public childcare centers and public kindergartens as the birth rate is expected to decrease sharply in the future
- Establishing a standard for mandatory assignment of clerks and janitors so that teachers can focus on childcare education activities

General Research Project

An Analysis of Effectiveness of Nuri Curriculum(Ⅱ) : Revision and Implementation of「KICCE Child Observation Index」according to 2019 Nuri Curriculum

Eun Jin Kang / Mee Hwa Lee / Hanna Ye

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study
- This study is the second year of a five consecutive year project designed to continuously monitor Nuri Curriculum, a national integrated curriculum for children between the ages of 3 and 5 in South Korea.
- This year's study aims to revise the「KICCE's Child Observation Index for 3-5 years」in accordance with the revised Nuri Curriculum in 2019 and carry out a pilot study on validity and reliability of the revised index.

Research Methods
- Literature review, expert advisory meetings, workshops for kindergarten and childcare center' staff, and statistical analysis
- [Research 1]: Investigation of changes, patterns, and difficulties in teacher observation by examining children enrolled in both pilot and general institutes
- [Research 2]: Trial based test of the「Newly Revised KICCE Child Observation Index」for teachers at the pilot institutes

Results
• **Revision of KICCE Child Observation Index**
- The Revised KICCE Child Observation Index was constructed in concordance with the 2019 Nuri Curriculum. For example, evaluation factors were selected without age classification, and the observation was on a 4-point scale.

• **[Result 1] Comparisons between Pre- and Post- Test Results**
- The average score of all areas rose from 2.3 to 2.5 for 3 year olds, and from 2.3 to 2.4 for 4-year-olds. And, both 3- and 4-year-old children, the scores of pre- and post-analysis of childcare centers were higher than those of kindergartens, showing a significant difference according to the type of establishment.

• **[Result 2] Validity of the Revised Child Observation Index**
- The correlation coefficient of each item was significant in all areas. Differences between the two groups (top 27% and bottom 27%) based on the total score of each item of the observation score were analyzed by t-test, which showed significant differences between items within the five areas. In all areas, high reliability coefficients were obtained between 0.89~0.94. It was found that all of the items reliably measured the same concept domain with higher internal consistency among the items in each of the five areas.

Policy Suggestions
- In terms of children's education and development, the index can be used as a method for monitoring the effectiveness of the revised Nuri Curriculum. The index is expected to be used as a framework for evaluating the effectiveness of Nuri Curriculum through examination of the early admission stage of 3 and the end of 5 and as a basis of smooth transition from pre-school to elementary school.
- In order to better apply and promote the index, a manual and a computerized system for the index should be devised.

General Research Project

Evaluation-based Consulting for Childcare Centers for Quality Improvement of Childcare Services(Ⅳ): Focusing on Comparison of CARE Consultation Effects

Meehwa Lee / Wonsoon Park / HyeKyung Yeom
/ Korea Childcare Promotion Institute / Gyeonggi Support Center for Childcare
/ Incheon Support Center for Childcare / Chungnam Support Center for Childcare

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study
- Since there was a need for continuous management systems to improve services of underqualified childcare centers, Korea Childcare Evaluation (KCE) was made mandatory in 2019.
- "Evaluation-based Consulting Program for Childcare Centers (ECPCC)" was developed by the Korea Institute of Child Care and Education (KICCE) in 2016 in order to enable self-monitoring and assure quality in childcare centers. KICCE has published the serial reports on this project annually since 2016.
- This year, ECPCC was modified according to the results from three-year experiences. Underqualified childcare centers were the main target of the consulting program.

Research Methods
- Literature review was conducted in order to analyze the consulting on childcare centers and the materials produced from this project since 2016.
- There were industry-academy cooperations among Korea Childcare Promotion Institute, three support centers for childcare, and KICCE.
- An advisory council was formed with childcare professionals, a research cooperation team, and senior consultants.
- 65 childcare centers with KCE grade C and D participated in the pilot consulting and were evaluated. Childcare centers were recruited from Gyeonggi, Incheon, and Chungnam provinces. A follow-up evaluation survey was conducted for 439 childcare center directors and teachers, and 17 consultants who had participated in the pilot program.

Results
- The number one consulting topic was Area #1: Childcare curriculum and interaction (43.1%). The second most popular consulting topic was Area #4: Teachers (35.4%) among four evaluation domains.
- Directors and teachers responded differently when asked about target behaviors that need to be changed. While

directors responded that the number one target behavior was "to motivate and give feedbacks" (66.7%) the empowerment domain, teachers responded it was "to provide resources and optimal environment" (66.7%) in the resources domain.
- Self-evaluations were administered before and after the ECPCC. Their performance has changed positively after consulting.
- In terms of satisfaction with consulting, directors' satisfaction level was higher than that of teachers, in general. Less qualified childcare centers and home childcare centers showed higher behavior changes and higher quality childcare centers reported high behavior changes too.

Policy Suggestions
• **To Manage Consultants**
- ECPCC is effective for both high- and low-quality childcare centers, but low-quality childcare centers showed more potential to improve.
- It is crucial to recruit qualified consultants, to provide pre-training, and to make a manual for them in order to keep the constant quality of the consulting program.

• **To Strengthen the Support Systems**
- Cooperation among local governments, Korea Childcare Promotion Institute, and Central Support Centers for Childcare is needed for successful consulting.
- Direct and indirect incentives are needed for the participating organizations.
- Measures to motivate and encourage childcare center directors and teachers to participate in the program are to be devised. If needed, the program should be made mandatory.
- Individual characteristics of participants should be considered.

Inclusive

Childrearing Support

Demand Analysis of Supports for Raising Infants and Plan for Comprehensive Response Policies

Nayoung Kim / Sunyoung Hwang / Jiwon Eom

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- To analyze demand for infant childcare support and establish the comprehensive response plan
- To fulfill individuality, diversity, and universality by examining the care demand
- To suggest the need to prioritize the current policies in order to use the childcare resource effectively

Research Methods

- Identifying history of domestic infant childcare and support policies
- Examining the infant childcare related data from the previous childcare support surveys, such the National Childcare Survey (2015, 2018)
- Investigating general demand through a survey for parents and infants on infant childcare by household characteristics, childcare service, and residential area, and performing in-depth interviews

Results

• National Childcare Survey (2015, 2018)
- The National Childcare Survey (NCS) shows that the person who provides most care during daytime for infants aged from 0 to 12 months was mother in 2015 and 2018, accounting for 81.8% and 76.8, respectively.
- The number of caregiving mothers decreased as children's age increased; for 1-year-olds, caregiving mother accounted for 47% and 40.8%, respectively, whereas for 2-year-olds, caregiving mother accounted for 35.7% and 37.5%, respectively.

• Parents Survey
- For infants aged 0, the rate of parents' direct care was found to be 58.7% of the survey.
- The rate of utilization of assistant rearing among those who selected parents' care as a primary rearing for their infant children, was found to account for about 61.9% of the surveyed.
- In the case of the service (program) support & time support policy exclusive of the expense support policy, utilization rate was found to be low. However, overall satisfaction for users of the aforementioned policy was confirmed to be high.

• Data analysis
- Implemented two analyses: 1) Used the Ordered Logit Model in order to examine factors that influence level of satisfaction; 2) used a logit analysis on whether reality coincides with preferred rearing form in order to investigate factors that influence whether the current rearing type coincides with the preferred form
- The first analysis showed that the average monthly income and additional tax payment status as well as the number of children were found to have a statistically positive significant influence on rearing type satisfaction.
- The second analysis showed that children's age and mother's level of education had a statistically positive significant influence on the rearing form coincidence status while mother's employment state and average monthly income had a statistically negative significant influence.

Policy Suggestions

- For infant under 1 year old, the use of parental leave should be enhanced.
- Father's use of parental leave for a certain period should be used in order to increase the childcare participation of fathers.

- In the case of parents' direct childcare, income preservation needs to be considered through 'special additional childcare allowance for direct childcare.' For single income households, various services to support home childcare should be reinforced.
- Regarding the demands for various childcare support in households with infants aged from 1 to 2, right to freely use different working hour policies (e.g., shortened working hours during childcare period, flexible working hour system) should be guaranteed.
- 'Urgent Early Leave,' policy for working parents to have 3~4 leaves a year for taking care of their child under emergency, should be enforced.

- For dual-income households who return to work after finishing the parental leave, and have a long-waiting period for childcare service institution, temporary childcare support service' needs to be utilized more actively.
- As part-time workers do not join the Employment Insurance, dual-income households with one part-time worker are on a blind spot for working hours policies. Therefore, such policies should accomplish the generalization by expanding its target.

A Study on the Policy to Reduce Care Deficit of the First Grade in Primary School through Demand Forecasting: Focusing on the Period of Transition from Preschool to the First Grade

Keun Jin Kim / Eun Jung Park / Hee Sue Kim

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- To review the status of care deficit of first grade in primary school through demand forecasting
- To suggest directions to reduce care deficit of first grade
- Focusing on the period of transition from preschool to the first grade

Research Methods

- Demand forecasting of the first grade in primary school based on Population Projections by the low variant in KOSIS (Korean Statistical Information Service) of Statistics Korea
- Survey for 900 mothers of the first grade in primary schools and 300 mothers of age 5 in kindergartens and daycare centers on demands for after-school care
- In-depth interview with parents of first graders and care providers of primary schools
- Institutional analysis to consider legal and institutional issues of after-school care of primary school

Results

• Demand forecasting of first grade

- In consequence of the decrease in child population due to the trend of the low fertility rate, the supply level of after-school care will be sufficient in 2030, but the supply level will be 82.8% of demand level in 2022 under the assumption that uses rate of after-school care is 40.2%. Therefore, the supply of after-school care is expected to be insufficient in 2022.
- In this regard, after-school care supply insufficiency is predicted in short-term, and the priority of after-school care should be allowed in first grade.

• Legal and institutional issues of primary school's after-school care

- Legal and institutional issues of after-school care of primary school are analyzed as the following categories: management authority, care provider status, private consignment, benefit principle, administrative and financial support, cooperation between regional government and education office, legislation of after-school care, the relationship between education and care, the objective of care, space securement, and target population of care.

• In-depth interview analysis of parents and care providers of first graders

- In-depth interview results are analyzed as categories of user demand and institutional issues.

• The survey analysis of parents of first graders

- Parents' decision not to use after-school care for their first graders is affected by the quality of service, time of care, and the preference of their child.
- The parents prefer experience program a care program, and the most important criteria when choosing care services are the quality and diversity of the care programs.

Policy Suggestions

- The study suggests to reduce care deficit of first grade in primary schools and improve primary school's after-school system.
- The policy proposals are made in the following 9 categories: operation hours, human resource management, space securement, legal basis, governance of after-school care, program of after-school care, extension of benefit principle, care during school vacation, and extension of primary school's regular curriculum hours a day.

Investigation on the Childcare and Support Policies for Migrant Families

Wonsoon Park / Ja Yeun Koo / Bomi Kim / Da Hee Lim

Backgrounds and Purpose of the study

- The number of migrants in Korea has increased greatly; currently, there are more than 2 million short term and long term residents. As their number grew, they have contributed to Korea's economy significantly. migrants' overall economic impact is estimated more than 53 trillion won, and they also pay more than 1.2 trillion won in income tax.
- However, not enough education and childcare policies have been developed to meet the needs of the growing number of migrant children. This study examines the current situation of childrearing of migrants with children in lower elementary or younger.

Research Methods

- In-depth interviews with 12 migrants and 3 migrant support workers were conducted by researchers, sometimes accompanied by relevant civil society workers and interpreters.
- Survey for 155 migrants from 27 countries was translated in English, Russian, Chinese, French, and Arabic and administered mostly on mobile phones and personal computers; paper questionnaires were also provided for those who were not familiar with online surveys.

Results

• Survey Results

- More than 25% of the migrants in the survey answered that they have no one to take care of their children in an emergency. Father's participation in parenting was significantly low for families who raise their children at home due to their long working hours. Most migrants who send their children to childcare centers or kindergartens were paying the average of 200,000 won per month themselves. On the other hand, foreigners were satisfied with the new health insurance mandatory system introduced in July 2019.

• In-depth interview Result

- In-depth interviews showed that migrant parents were no less concerned about their children's education than non-migrant parents. Migrants' birth declaration had negative aspects of state control and positive aspects of ensuring individual status. However, in many cases, their access to basic services in Korea was limited, which implies a need for a system to verify birth and prove them separately from citizenship. There was also a need for parental education. And the findings showed that more support for kindergartens and childcare centers was needed. Some migrants had no choice but to use unlicensed facilities. In this case, they were faced with numerous difficulties since the quality of those facilities are not guaranteed, and they are placed in blind spots of government support. Therefore, it is necessary to expand the service support for the unauthorized facilities through indirect support measures such as support of manpower to the sponsoring institutions. In addition, it is necessary to devise measures such as program support in order to guarantee the minimum quality level for the unlicensed facilities.

Policy Suggestions

- Active support under law is needed.
- Childcare and education support systems for young children of migrants should be reinforced.
- Indirect support from central and local governments for unregistered childcare facilities is required.
- Systematic parent education support for migrants is required.
- Control towers for policy coordination for migrants are needed.
- Local health insurance support for infants and young children is required.

Major Research Project

A Survey on the Parenting Status and Needs of Infants and Young Children with Disability

Changhyun Park / Keun Jin Kim / Eunhye Lee / Youl Mi Bae

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

• The purpose of this study is to identify the status of child rearing and support needs of disabled infants and young children, present policy suggestions for the disabled children and their families, and collect basic data for government policy making.

Research Methods

• Literature analysis
• Survey for 1,000 parents with disabled infants and young children nationwide, with 989 effective samples, from August 12 to October 4, 2019.
• In-depth interviews with individual and group members: Interviews with parents, directors, teachers in kindergartens and childcare centers, public officers in special education support centers, etc

Results

• The age of finding disability was 80.8% for infants and 19.2% for young children. In the case of disability detection age, 0-1 years accounted for 50% of participants. The most helpful people or institutions after the diagnosis were 'interactions and meetings with other parents with disabled children'(32.7%) and 'online groups'(19.1%).
• Most of the primary caregivers for disabled children were 'mothers'(90.3%), and the care time was usually 8 hours on weekdays (17.6 %) and 14 hours on weekends (21.0%). The cost of raising children with disabilities was 'less than

1 million won'(54.9%), followed by 'less than 1 million won and less than 2 million won'(28.4%). 41.8% of the respondents said they felt 'very burdened,' and 48.4 percent of the respondents said felt 'burdened.'
• 52.3 percent of all respondents used 'children's rehabilitation hospitals.' The areas of improvements in children's rehabilitation hospitals were in the order of 'quantitative expansion of public children's rehabilitation hospitals,' 'quality of services of the hospitals,' and 'integrated operation of treatment, education and care.'
• More than 4/5 respondents said that the infant health examination system needs to be improved, followed by 'the difficulty of identifying the exact disability with current screening tests'(26.6%), 'the failure of local medical facilities to accurately link development and treatment services' (23.7%).
• 62.1% of all respondents said they experienced inconvenience in local medical facilities, and the top inconvenience was 'lack of understanding of disability' (31.9%).
• 8.8% of children with disabilities did not attend childcare/education institutions. 31.9% of respondents responded that they chose institutions for disabled children because they wanted integrated education and childcare, and 60.1% said that they did not experience difficulties while using kindergartens, childcare centers, and special education schools (class). Main difficulties in using the education and care institutions included 'inconvenience'(31.3%) and 'perceived prejudice of parents of children with disabilities'(15.2%).
• 60.7% of parents of children with disabilities said they were satisfied with the current integrated education. On the other hand, the reasons why integrated education for disabled infants and children was not satisfactory were 'the lack of institutions that provided integrated education (childcare) services'(36.5%), 'separated system even in the integrated institutions'(19.5%), and 'dissatisfaction with individualized education programs and individualization education'(16.8%).
• 5.2% of the respondents experienced abuse of children

or suspected cases of child abuse, followed by 'neglect,' 'emotional abuse,' 'physical abuse,' 'wrong discipline,' and 'sexual abuse.' The top priority policy needed to prevent child abuse of disabled infants was to strengthen 'public disclosure of CCTV' (47.9%), 'administrative disposition and punishment'(33.3 %), and 'teacher education'(18.8%).
• 50.8% of all respondents said they had experience in social discrimination due to their children's disability. Discrimination was experienced most frequently 'when entering an institution'(36.6%) and 'when signing insurance contracts'(22.0%).
  - 64.6% of respondents said there was no institution to ask for help when they experienced discrimination. 56.2% said there was no change in social discrimination against the disabled.

Policy suggestions

• Establishment of a fully integrated system for mandatory education
• Expansion of fully integrated kindergartens and childcare centers suitable for the change of population in the region
• Strengthening national accountability for early diagnosis and discovery
• Expansion of support for care services for disabled children and their families
• Expanding public children's rehabilitation hospitals and supporting rehabilitation treatment regardless of income
• Need to study integrated statistics and services, time, and cost systems for disabled infants and young children

Individualized Care Support Plans for Vulnerable Children (V): Current Status of Children in Out-of-Home Care Services and Plans for Future Service Provision

Jeong Rim Lee / Jung Won Choi / Yoonkyung Choi (B)

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study
- The aim of the study is to explore the current status of children in out-of-home care services (temporary care facilities; institutions; group-homes; and foster care) and to provide policy recommendations on future service provision.
- The present study examines children's experiences and needs as basis of valuable recommendations for future service design and delivery in order to accommodate the specific needs of children in out-of-home care.

Research Methods
- First, national and international status of, and programs and policies for children in out-of-home care were reviewed to provide a critical overview of the topic.
- Second, a survey was conducted among care providers at childcare institutions, in which most of children in out-of-home care are placed in Korea. 263 care providers participated in the survey to give insights into the lives of children in the institutional care.
- Third, in order to gain a deeper understanding of current status of children in out-of-home care services, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 41 care providers across different types of out-of-home.
- Finally, MSSB (MacArthur Story Stem Battery) was conducted to assess socio-emotional development of 15 children in all four types of out-of-home care services.

Results
- **Current status of children in out-of-home care services**
- Child-to-carer ratio for infants exceeded the legal standard in many childcare institutions.
- Most participants of the study, regardless of the service type, identified abandonment (baby-box) as the primary reason for children's placement in out-of-home care services.

- Children's language, learning, and emotional development can be negatively influenced by being placed in out-of-home care services.
- Staff shortage and financial difficulties were identified as significant challenges that most services are faced with.

- **Providers' Opinions related to Out-of-Home care services**
- Participants argued that in order to reinforce foster care as intended, additional support is essential, and the legal processes should be improved as well.
- Needs for consistent life-long case management for the children, and systematic support for their families to achieve sustainable family reunification were also discussed.
- Difficulties regarding the process of placement, especially to foster care, was criticized by the participants of the study.

Policy Suggestions
- The fundamental basis for care provision should be providing family-like environment for children in need of out-of-home care.
- Priority needs to be given to supporting children and their families so that children could be cared for in their own homes.
- For those who cannot return to their own homes, they should be placed in the most family-like settings to meet their best interests. In order to do so, the current process of placement needs to be restructured so that children can be placed in safe hands without delay, and continuous supervision must take place.
- Children in out-of-home care must be supported with professionals, comprehensive therapy, and counseling to achieve healthy development.
- Last but not least, care providers in all out-of-home care services must be systematically supported so that they can provide sufficient care for the children in need.

Pilot Project for Resolving Blind Spots for Parent Education of Young Children (Ⅱ): Focusing on Single-parent Families and Remarried Families

Eun-Young Choi / Yunjin Lee (B) / Bomi Kim / Eun Mee Jang / Mi Ok Kim

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study
- This is the second study of a four-year pilot project for parents who are in the blind spot of parent education. This year, parent education was provided for parents of single-parent families and remarried families.

Research Methods
- After analyzing the specific characteristics and needs of single-parent families and remarried families, the parent education program was constructed using the Parent Education Manual developed by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family in 2017.

Results
- **The effects of the parent education program for single-parent families**
- The parent education program for single-parent families was held for a total of eight sessions, which consisted of practicing parenting techniques for participating single parents raising their infants and toddlers.
- Through the program, single parents were able to share their experiences, sympathize with each other, and find the true meaning of being parents.

- **The effects of the parent education program for remarried families**
- The parent education for remarried families was conducted in the form of workshops. And the case-sharing, education, and counseling was carried out during the workshops in regards to childrearing and marital relations.

- Through the program, psychological and social factors related to the adaptation of remarried families and difficulties faced by parents and children were found.

Policy Suggestions
- It is necessary for the community and related organizations to increase the participation of parents by strengthening the publicity about the effectiveness and importance of parental education.
- A separate childcare program should be provided during the program. Also, there is a need for a program in which both parents and children can participate together.
- It is necessary to develop specialized education contents suitable for the characteristics of the household type and provide parent education in an appropriate manner such as education, counseling, and home visits.
- It is necessary to create an environment in which parents can voluntarily run parent education themselves through linkages with self-help groups.

Support for Infants in Poverty Households to Narrow the Social Gap(I) : Analysis on Parenting Status of Poverty Households with Infants

Haemi Yoo / Eun Jung Park / Eun Hee Joung / Jiwon Eom

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- This research surveyed the rearing status of poor families with infants and toddlers, diagnosed the deficiency level of these children, and sought ways to strengthen parenting support to reduce the social gap.

Research Methods

- Surveyed the parenting status and needs of 1,606 cases of poor and non-poor households with infants
- Analyzed seven domestic and international cases of integrated support for poor households and their infants and young children

Results

• **Parenting environment**

- The average of satisfaction in parenting environment of non-poor and poor households was 3.2 points and 3.0 points, respectively. Poor households had lower satisfaction especially in 'residential environments indoor and outdoor' and 'playing experiences and cultural activities.'
- Poor households had higher parenting stress than non-poor households.

• **Difficulties in raising children for poor households**

- Among difficulties in raising children, the cost of raising children was the highest at 4.2 points (out of 5 points), followed by the absence of facility to take care of their child (3.9 points), and the absence of anyone who could look after their child in an emergency (3.8 points).
- The proportion of infants raised at home was also high; the parents were delaying the entry of childcare centers for benefits of domestic childcare.

• **Demands for childcare support**

- Among child rearing areas to invest in when economic conditions improve, leisure and cultural life sector was rated highest at 48.1 percent, followed by the house movement sector at 19.5 percent.
- Poor households had high dependency on and demand for childcare centers.

Policy Suggestions

- Ways to support poor households with infants include residential support, cultural support, and parenting environment support like family relations.
- In order to provide the aforementioned support, it is necessary to conduct a survey on childrearing status of poor households and establish detailed plans for child support.
- It is required to increase proportion of infants and children in the Dream Start project, provide differential support considering regional and child characteristics, link with local government projects in order to resolve blind spots and strengthen the service link among childcare centers.
- The age limit for integrated culture usage ticket should be lowered to three years old. The benefit of 80,000 won per person should also be raised.
- In terms of the care service sector, this research proposed making it mandatory to install time-extended state-run children's homes in rental housing complexes and increasing the accessibility of services for emergency care.

Development and

Rights of Children

Development and Utilization of Child Happiness Society Indicators according to UN Sustainable Development Goals

Nam Hee Do / Jaehee Lee / Hanna Ye

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- To develop child happiness society indicators that link sustainable development goals with children's happiness
- To contribute to making a happy society for children by suggesting ways to apply these indicators in policies

Research Methods

- Literature review and secondary data review, expert advisory meetings and seminars
- An expert survey (Delphi-survey) conducted in two stages

Results

- **Selecting of child happiness society indicators**
- The average of all indicators was rated 4.34 points for importance and 4.31 points for necessity.
- The average response rate by development stages was 52.8% for infants, 75.8% for toddlers, and 89.6% for lower grade elementary students.
- The main areas were material levels, health levels, safety behaviors and family relationships.

- **Regarding sustainable development goals,**
- The average of all indicators was rated 4.20 points for importance and 4.19 points for necessity.
- The average response rate by development stages was 70.1% for infants, 79.5% for toddlers, and 94.0% for lower grade elementary students.

- Key areas of concern were the following: poverty reduction and strengthening social safety nets, health and well-being, gender equality, clean water management, resolution of inequality, response to climate change, human rights, justice and peace.

- **Confirming**
- The domains of child happiness society indicators consisted of material level and environment, health, learning development, leisure activities, safety behaviors, relationships, and subjective well-being.

Policy Suggestions

- National statistics of child happiness society indicators are necessary.
- Concrete efforts for the construction of the infant indicator system need to be made.
- Indicator constructs should be specified.
- Efficient management indicators are much needed as well, and independent organizations for child policy should be established and operated.

Plan to Introduce Support Programs for Early Childhood Care and Education Institutions without Child Abuse

Mi-sun Yang / Eunyoung Kim / HyeKyung Yeom

Backgrounds and Purpose of Study

- The study examines the cause and the current status of child abuse within childcare centers and kindergartens, investigates the feasibility of applying pilot projects for childcare and educational institutions without child abuse to the field and making them into policies.
- The study also presents ways to prevent and eradicate child abuse in order to restore trust in community, to raise awareness of child rights and to increase sensitivity to child abuse.

Research Methods

- Collected and examined relevant laws and systems, precedent studies, case studies of the Supreme Court of child abuse in childcare centers and kindergartens, relevant systems and guidelines such as prevention, measures, case managements and follow-ups on child abuse, the operation and the participation of child abuse prevention education, and the contents of education conducted by the Central Support Center for Childcare and the Metropolitan and Provincial Offices of Education
- Extracted data and analyzed the trend of child abuse in childcare centers and kindergartens for the past five years from 2014 to 2018, which was accumulated and managed by the Central Child Protection Agency, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health Welfare
- Formed a council to promote a pilot project made to support childcare and educational institutions without child abuse
- Developed a program to operate a pilot project supporting childcare and educational institutions without child abuse from August to September 2019
- Conducted online surveys with teachers of childcare centers and kindergartens on child abuse and rights protection

Policy Suggestions

- Shifting perspective from child abuse prevention education that perceives childcare centers and kindergartens as potential child abusers to an education that raises sensitivity of human rights towards both children and teachers
- Promoting education in terms of child rights protection rather than child abuse since most of child abuse prevention education contents consist of a wide range covering from guaranteeing children's rights to child abuse handling process
- Raising parents' awareness of rights of children and childcare staff since 80% of child abuse cases occur at home, and cases where abusers are parents exceed over 90%
- Providing self-inspection checklists for child rights protection and abuse prevention and to systemize the self-inspection
- Strengthening the guidance on how to report child abuse and apply the guidelines and procedures regarding CCTV
- Restoring parents' trust in childcare centers by increasing the openness of the childcare centers and opportunities for parents to participate in the operation of childcare centers
- Expanding and operate nationwide pilot programs on childcare centers without child abuse, since the program developed in the study is a participatory program that can be distributed to childcare centers through the training of representative teachers
- Appointing the Central Support Center for Childcare to train human rights education specialists for children and dispatch them to parent educations at childcare centers
- Assigning additional specialists for childcare centers to childcare institutions or child and early childhood education specialists mandatorily to the Mediation Committee for child abuse incidents occurred at childcare centers and kindergartens

2019 Longitudinal Study on Growth and Development of Korean Children (Panel Study on Korean Children II)

Eunseol Kim / Jungwon Choi / Hyewon Jang / Hyejoo Jo / Hee Sue Kim

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- To provide longitudinal and cross-sectional data to scholars in the related fields in order to enrich their academical research and develop national policies for children through the studies
- To supply the annual research reports with PSKC data that has been collected since 2008 by analyzing the major variables on children's cognitive, linguistic, physical, and socio-emotional development and effects of the environment surrounding them.

Research Methods

- Literature review
- Survey was conducted with TAPI questionnaires for 1,412 panel children aged 11, their parents and teachers.
- An annual conference regarding longitudinal data was held with international guest speakers.

Results

• **Physical development and using IT and mass-media**
- Panel children's mean height and weight was 141.15㎝ (SD=6.45) and 37.63㎏ (SD=8.42), respectively.
- Percentage of children who own a cell phone was 80.5%, and time spent on cell phone per day was 1.55 hours (SD=1.01) for boys and 1.45 hours (SD=0.91) for girls.
- Average time spent on watching TV or video clips was 1.02 hours for weekdays and 2.34 hours for weekends.

• **Sleeping hours, musical instruments, and sports**
- Average sleep duration was 9.14 hours for weekdays and 9.49 hours for weekends.
- 64.5% of the panel children played musical instruments, and 75.3% enjoyed sports.
- Boys preferred soccer and Taekwondo, whereas girls preferred swimming.

• **Communication skills, self-esteem, and perception of happiness**
- Mean score of communication skills was rated 4.10(SD=0.50) on a 5 point scale, and girls' average score was higher than boys.'
- Average self-esteem score was 3.48(SD=0.46) on a 5 point scale.
- Mean score of perception of overall happiness was 3.30 (SD=0.47).

• **Bullying**
- Proportion of children who reported being bullied was 8.3~15.2%.

• **Views on getting married and having children in the future**
- 38.4% of children replied that they would like to get married in the future, and girls showed more negative views on marriage than boys.
- 12.5% replied that they would have a child in the future.

Policy Suggestions

- Special care is needed for children from low income families.
- Education programs against cyber bullying and internet addiction should be carefully designed and provided for children.

Childrearing

Cost

General Research Project

A Study on the Spending and Childrearing Costs of Households with Young Children(II)

Hyo Mi Choi / Hye Won Jang / Tae Woo Kim / Young Woo Koh

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- Amid the substantial expansion of support policies for childrearing households, such as the introduction of the child allowance, there has been a need to assess the actual effects of such policy changes on the spending and childcare costs of childrearing households.
- In-depth analysis will be needed to design policies targeting low-income households.

Research Methods

- Methods employed for this study include literature review, the 'KICCE Spending Study' of childrearing households, in-depth analysis utilizing the 1st wave data, expert consultation, and working-level policy meetings.

Results

- The average monthly gross expenditure on living expenses among households with young children in 2019 was 3,326,000 KRW, which was moderately increased from 3,119,000 KRW in the 1st wave.
- Compared to the 1st wave, average monthly gross childcare costs in the 2nd wave stood at 1,265,000 thousand KRW, while childcare costs for young children and infants stood at 926,000 KRW. The childcare cost per child was 660,000 KRW.
- Among the recipient households of the child allowance, most responded that they spent the allowance on food expenses (29.0%), followed by education/childcare (24.1%) and savings/finance (21.3%).

- Quantile regression analysis results indicate that elasticity with respect to household income was found to be positive (+) across all quantiles of total living expenses.
- As opposed to the results of total childcare costs, analysis of early childcare expenses showed that childcare expenses for young children and infants decreased as the number of children increased, while higher numbers of young children and infants were associated with higher childcare expenses.
- For the 2nd wave of the KICCE Spending Survey, 1,243 households from the original 1st wave sample were successfully tracked, 405 households replaced the cases of attrition, and 254 new entrant households were added. In all, the total number of households included in the 2nd wave of the study was 1,902.

Policy Suggestions

- A cautious approach is needed with regard to the expansion of universal support until the consistent efficacy of policy is better established.
- Upward revisions of the criteria for low-income childrearing households, as well as the expansion of support measures targeting low-income childrearing households are needed.
- The eligible ages for child allowance should expand gradually, and further support measures for primary school-age children that account for the current levels of childcare expenses is to be considered as well.
- Further improvements in the quality of public childrearing/education services are needed, in addition to restructuring the expense support system for childrearing households and strengthening the availability of information to boost policy visibility.

General Research Project

A Study of the KICCE Childrearing Price Index(II)

Jinah Park / Youngmin Kim / Jihye Choi

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- In order to continuously monitor price trends of costs associated with goods for childcare as well as childcare services, the child price index is calculated periodically on a regular basis.
- The purpose of this study is to monitor whether government-supported policies are reflected in the costs of infant childcare goods and to analyze the effects of the policies for collecting basic data for future policy making.

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 childreaing market research.
- 2019 was the second year of calculating the KICCE Childcare Price Index since the weight adjustments in 2018, and thus the 2019 index showed changes from the index in 2018.

Results

- **Computation of KICCE Childrearing Price Index**
- The KICCE's Childcare Price Index (I) decreased by 0.69% while the National Statistical Office's consumer price index increased by 0.69%.
- Compared to the index in 2018, the KICCE Childcare Price Index (II, III-1, III-2) increased from 2% to 9%.
- According to a 2019 nationwide survey on the prices perceived by consumers of childcare products for parents of infants and children, the perceived price/household burden of consumables and durable goods as well as household burden for service goods have increased.
- Support for cost of education and childcare services at kindergartens and daycare centers and satisfaction in the services both increased compared to 2018.

- **Qualitative analysis on consumption trends in childcare services and products.**
- According to the analysis, it was found that various product and service markets were formed through the development of childcare technology, and that networking between parents was strengthened.
- In addition, spaces and services for children and parents to enjoy together attracted parents of infants and young children. Based on these findings, the following three keywords were identified: 'Patchwork of Childcare,' 'Family-Centered Era,' and 'Alone and Together.'

Policy Suggestions

- Policies should be redesigned, and support services for various products should be expanded.
- Furthermore, through constant communications with parents with infants and children, they should be able to participate in different policy settings.

International

Cooperation and Comparisons

A Comparative Study of Low Birth Issues and Childcare Policy in East Asian Countries (Korea, China, Japan) (II)

Nam Hee Do / Jung Won Choi / Eun Young Park
/ Soma Naoko / Li Lianhua / Byung-Cheol Kim / Cai Zehao

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- To compare policies about pregnancy, childbirth, and childcare of the three countries (Korea, China, Japan) based on the analysis framework
- To discuss the policy implications of the three countries based on the findings

Research Methods

- Reviewed previous studies and collected data related to pregnancy, childbirth and parenting policy in Korea, China and Japan
- Joint meetings overseas
- Consultations and meetings to hear the opinions of experts and professionals
- Held two policy seminars

Results

• **Issues in Korea**
- The effect of various attempts is insignificant, which requires the public service and the quality of childcare.
- Childcare services should reflect the needs of families who are facing marriage or childbirth, considering their attitudes toward marriage and family values.

• **Issues in China**
- There have been structural changes in the system of Chinese parenting policy.
- The Chinese government began to acknowledge that there is some public responsibility for childcare, which used to be regarded mainly as family's duty (e.g., children from vulnerable families. preschool children).
- The supply model for childcare has not been distinguished between universal and selective forms.

• **Issues in Japan**
- There has been a shift from tax support to family allowance-based policies since 2010.
- The gap between men and women in usage of parental leave system still exists.
- There are demands for nationwide expansion of certified childcare centers, and support for children and childrearing in the region.

Policy Suggestions

- In Korea, measures should be devised to meet the needs of young generations to encourage marriage and childbirth, and sophisticated policy design should be developed to meet the needs of parents who have various demands.
- In China, insurance premium cuts will be added to the current growth and medical insurances in order to resolve regional differences. Furthermore, policies for vulnerable children is expected to be expanded to all children in the future. However, the absence of childcare and family policies at home should be considered.
- In Japan, cash aid is expected to increase gradually. Concrete action plans for free education and measures to expand childcare services due to privatization and marketization are needed.

An International Comparative Study of Parents' Happiness: An analysis on Parents' Quality of Life in Korea

Jaehee Lee / Nam Hee Do / Jiwon Eom

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- To investigate parents' happiness and quality of life in Korea through international comparison
- To suggest ways to improve family policies, which will build a better society for parenting

Research Methods

- Reviewed global indicators of quality of life and previous studies on parents' happiness, wellbeing, and stress
- Conducted a survey for 300 households with children under 12 years old to measure parents' quality of life in Korea
- Translated and utilized the European Quality of Life Survey Questionnaire in order to compare parents' quality of life in Korea and EU nations
- Conducted an international comparison of parents' quality of life between Korea and EU nations
- Conducted an in-depth interview for six married couples with children under 12 years old

Results

- Household income was the most influential factor for parents' quality of life in Korea.
  · Compared to high-income households, low income households had lower rating on the following variables related to parents' quality of life: subjective wellbeing, standard of living, satisfaction in housing, education, and work-life balance.
- Women had lower level of subjective wellbeing and mental health than men.
  · Less work family balance systems were implemented in smaller sized workplaces.
- Korea had longer working hours than any other European nation; Korea' ranking was 13th for GDP per capita, 31st for social spending rate, and 30th for fertility rate among Korea and 33 European nations.
  · Korea ranked near the bottom for subjective wellbeing, standard of living, health, housing, work-life balance, education, childcare, social trust, equality of household work among 34 nations.
  · Korea ranked above the median for accessibility to conveniences, health care, and public safety among 34 nations.
- According to additional analysis using social and economic indicators and sub-dimensions of quality of life for each nation, a correlation between social trust and fertility rate was only statistically significant.

Policy Suggestions

- The findings indicate that parents' quality of life in Korea should increase through improving family polices.
- Especially, the Korean government should find a way to promote social trust and to decrease working hours, which has a major impact on parents' quality of life.
- Welfare policies should be developed and improved for low-income families with children.
- The Korean government and companies should cooperate to strengthen employment security and to ensure work-life balance for employees with children.

OECD TALIS Starting Strong 2019
– Analysis of 2018 Main Survey Data

Eunseol Kim / Jinah Park / Sol Me Lee

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- Background of the OECD's TALIS Starting Strong project: The OECD has performed an international project called "TALIS (Teaching and Learning International Survey) Starting Strong" since 2015 in order to assess the process and structural quality of ECEC (early childhood education and care) in different countries and provide policy recommendations especially for ECEC staff.
- Korea's participation in the TALIS Starting Strong: Korea conducted the main survey of the TALIS Starting Strong in 2018 and analyzed the domestic and international data in 2019.

Research Methods

- Literature review
- Cooperation with the OECD TALIS Staring Strong Consortium
- Online survey: 188 kindergarten and childcare center leaders and 927 staffs who work with 3-5 year olds
- Data analysis: Korea's survey data was analyzed, and international comparisons with 8 other participating countries were made.
- International seminar: An international seminar was held in order to disseminate findings of the 1st cycle of the survey.

Results

- **Practices facilitating children's learning, development, and well-being**
- 65.9% of Korean staff spent more than 40 hours a week on interacting with children.

- 33.3% of Korean staff spent 11~30% of their working hours on preparing for class.
- 74.5% of Korean staff used hugging a means of emotional interaction with children, which was markedly high compared to other countries
- **ECEC center characteristics**
- 82% of Korean leaders agreed that their centers were located in a good environment.
- 70% of Korean leaders agreed that there was a shortage of staff who could work for children with special needs.
- 77% of centers were assessed from authorities once or above per year.

- **Workforce characteristics**
- Compared to 8 other countries, Korean staff reported lower average age, higher levels of education, and higher participation rate for in-service training.
- 52.5% of Korean staff reported that not enough substitute-teachers was a barrier to their participation in professional development.
- Overall job satisfaction of ECEC staff in Korea was relatively very low.

Policy Suggestions

- Stressing how to improve smooth transition to primary school from ECEC
- Enhancing working conditions of ECEC staff
- Expanding educational opportunities for ECEC staff to improve their skills on interacting with children's parents

---

Needs Assessment and Implementation Plan for ECCE Policy Development and Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region (II): Analysis on processes and outcomes of the consulting implementation

Mugyeong Moon / Ja Yeun Koo / Eun Hye Lee / Maki Hayashikawa / Kyung Ah Kristy Bang / Cliff Meyers / Evelyn Santiago

Backgrounds and Purpose of the Study

- The study as the second year of a three-year project aimed to understand the current status of monitoring systems of ECCE services and to provide consulting in order to establish and enhance monitoring systems in the selected countries (Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Fiji) in the Asia-Pacific.

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 in the selected countries
- Interviews and site visits in the selected countries
- Workshops and the 2nd KICCE seminar on ECCE policy development cooperation

Results

- **Current status and issues of monitoring of the quality of ECCE services**
- Uzbekistan: The government developed monitoring indicators (a total of 65 indicators in 4 areas) with support from UNICEF in 2019 and prepared for concrete plans for implementing indicators.
- Vietnam: Quality monitoring indicators (25 indicators in 5 areas) and systems are in place, but they are not functioning well at local and individual institutional levels.
- Fiji: Four different monitoring tools(teacher performance, updates of educational programs, monthly report on educational environment and curriculum outcomes, on-site visit evaluation) are currently used, but consolidated indicators for ECCE services and monitoring systems are still needed.

- **Country-specific needs and consulting on development cooperation**
- Uzbekistan: piloting of monitoring indicators and establishing a system

- Vietnam: strengthening the implementation power of monitoring system
- Fiji: consolidation of monitoring tools and establishing a monitoring system

Suggestions for 3rd year of the project

- Developing an analytic framework to evaluate and monitor outcomes of ECCE policy consulting
- Continuing to provide consulting to implement action plans of individual countries and to strengthen collaboration with UNESCO Bangkok and ARNEC
- Networking extensively with and eliciting participation of domestic and international experts

2019 KICCE
PROJECT REPORT
ABSTRACTS