

Social Security Council Special Committee for Measures against Declining Birthrate Initial report
 -Toward design of a new institutional system for next generation training supports- (on February 24, 2009) [overview]

- Committee began examination in last March and put together “basic ideas” in May so as to design a new institutional system for next generation support
- This committee’s purpose is to conduct interim arrangement of discussion in which matters of childcare is mainly toward detail design of a new institutional system in the future

1 The way of childcare system in the future

- Changes in a recent social environment surrounding childcare
 - A remarkable increase of demand for childcare, changing needs deeper and diversification of needs (diversification of working styles and need of supports for parents and that of supports for all families with child raising)
 - Maintenance of regional childcare functions in regions with declining birthrate
 - To deepen roles attendant on rapid dwindling birthrate and an aging population (roles pertaining to urgent and national matters that are to secure possibilities of maintenance of a whole social economic and a whole social insurance system through realization of the society in which women can realize “marriage, birth and child raising” without giving “work” up) etc

◆ Subjects of the current childcare system

○ Drastic expansion of speedy services is difficult

i) Weakness of use security
 In the current system, it is the system to impose “obligation to implement childcare” on municipalities and day-care centers are made use of by custodians through municipalities’ fulfillment of obligation.
 However, there are exceptions to “obligation to implement childcare” and if the number of day-care centers are not enough, “other appropriate protection” is another choice (mediation of centers outside approval).

ii) Control of new participation by discretion of approval
 Municipalities that are approval holder of day-care centers have wide discretion.
 Fulfilling objective criterion in the municipalities with wait listed children doesn’t mean to be approved for sure.

iii) Judgment of need for childcare and having the demand attendant on integral implementation of ruling of day-care centers which can accept covered up (covered up at windows).

○ Correspondence to deepened and diversified needs is difficult

i) The way of evaluation criteria of need for childcare
 Evaluation criteria of whether “childcare wants” or not is entrusted to ordinances and if day-care centers are lacking, standards are getting stricter according to finances.

ii) Contents of evaluation criteria of need for childcare
 Hard to be approved if people are night-time workers, short-time workers and job applicants, and not to be approved if they live together with their parents, etc.

○ Improvement of approved day-care centers’ quality
 Disposition of stuffs and training, inductions and treatment for nurses

○ Improvement of non-approved day-care centers’ quality
 About 230.000 children make use of them. 60% of the users compared them with approved day-care centers and make use of them for the reasons that there is no room in approved day-care centers.
 Need for security for environments supporting health growth of all children.

○ Maintenance and improvement of childcare functions in regions with declining birthrate
 In the current system, 20 and more is necessary capacity in even “small sized day-care centers.” On the other hand, it is necessary to indemnify growth in a group of regional children.

◆ Systems of new childcare ※To realize it, securing budget is indispensable.

① Approval of need and quantity of childcare, and that of whether securing priority use (fatherless families and child abuse, etc) are needed or not by municipalities.
 ※ Independently implementation from decision of day-care centers into which they enter their children (defining demands).
 To conduct promulgation of approval certification, register management of authorized people and information disclosure of wait listed children.
 ※ Establishment of range of targeted childcare and basic matters of securing priority use by the government.
 ※ Approval of need for day-care centers in case they are part-time workers, early morning and night-time workers, job applicants and those who live together with their parents. Security for temporary keeping for specific time in housewives’ families.

② Unexceptional childcare security: Investment of status in which children take public childcare to authorized children

③ Manifestation of implementation obligation of municipalities (security obligation for unexceptional public childcare, securing obligation of service systems whose quantity is secured, obligation of use support and payment obligation of childcare costs)

④ Conclusion of public childcare contract by users and day-care centers
 ※ To day-care centers: obligation of assent (they shall not refuse without legitimate reasons) and obligation of priority acceptance (to decide priority acceptance for fatherless families and child abuse, etc)

⑤ Participation shall be objectively judged according to the minimum standard. It is considered on the basis of assignment systems.

⑥ Official prices so as to secure childcare with definite quality regardless of income. Establishment of monthly unit prices according to quantity of need is a basis.

○ Improvement of quality of approved day-care centers: detail examination into them with securing resources
 • For childcare according to guidelines for childcare, disposition of stuffs, treatment for nurses, securing specialty, systematic security for training of facilities’ chiefs and nurses, and systems of step up, etc

○ Improvement of quality of unapproved day-care centers
 • Progressively financial aid for a specific period to facilities whose standards are above the definite standard toward achievement of the minimum standard
 • Creation of types of small-sized services

○ Maintenance and improvement of regional childcare functions
 • Creation of types of small-sized services
 • Multi type supports, etc