

Supporting Korean Families in the Era of Inclusive Growth

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Introduction

- ‘Familialism’ is deeply rooted in Korean society, and families are considered to be the first sector that is responsible for providing care.
- Recently family formation is delayed due to the decline in marriage rate, the increase in late marriage, and the reluctance to have children after marriage.
→ Thus, resulting in an increase in single-person households and a decrease in households consisting of couples and unmarried children
- With the family size growing smaller and the participation of women in the labor market increasing, the problem of care deficit appeared and the spread of COVID19 has aggravated the situation.
- In fact, the COVID19 has been negatively affecting not only care issues but also other family issues such as domestic violence and economic hardship.

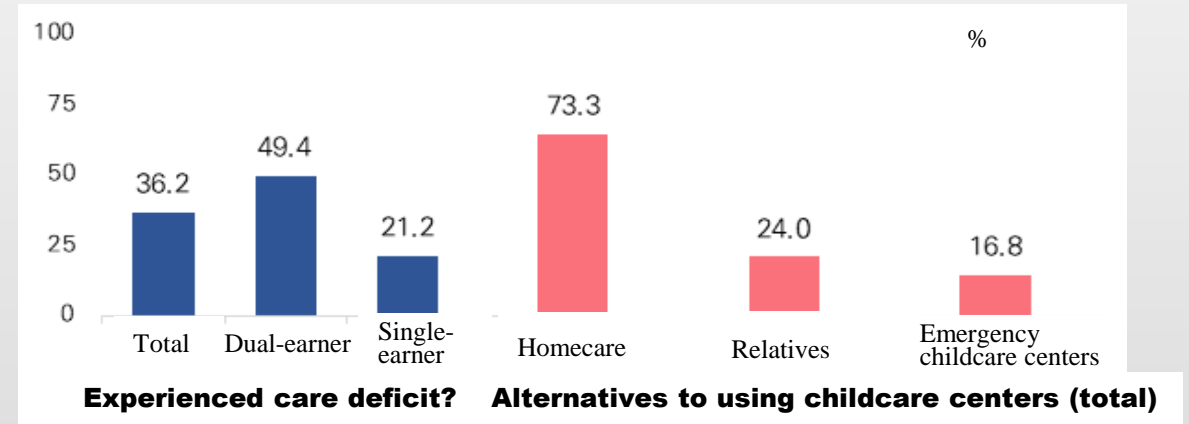
Introduction

- First of all, this paper examines the impacts of COVID19 on Korean families in three aspects, namely,
 - Childcare and women's burden of care
 - Domestic violence against children and women
 - The economic situation of the vulnerable groups
- Second, this paper introduces the Master Plan for Healthy Family, which is the basis of Korean family policies.
- Third, this paper reviews the 4th Master Plan for Healthy Family 2021~2025, which was newly announced in May this year.
 - The main issue here is the inclusion of diverse families, which has recently emerged as a new issue.
- The implications of this master plan to inclusive growth and community development will be discussed in the conclusion.

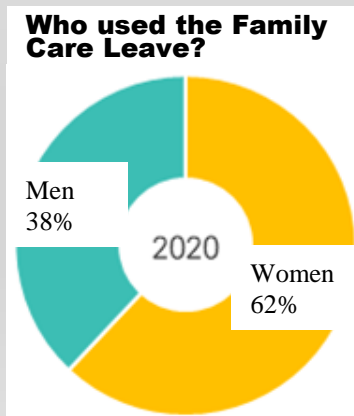
The COVID19 pandemic and its impacts on family

- Childcare crisis

- When childcare facilities such as childcare centers and kindergartens were shut down due to the COVID19, the burden of caring for children was put on families.
- Emergency care was implemented, but it was not enough to resolve the care deficit.
- Women mainly bear the burden of caring for their children.



Source: Korea Institute of Child Care and Education (2020)



Source: Ministry of Employment and Labor (2020)

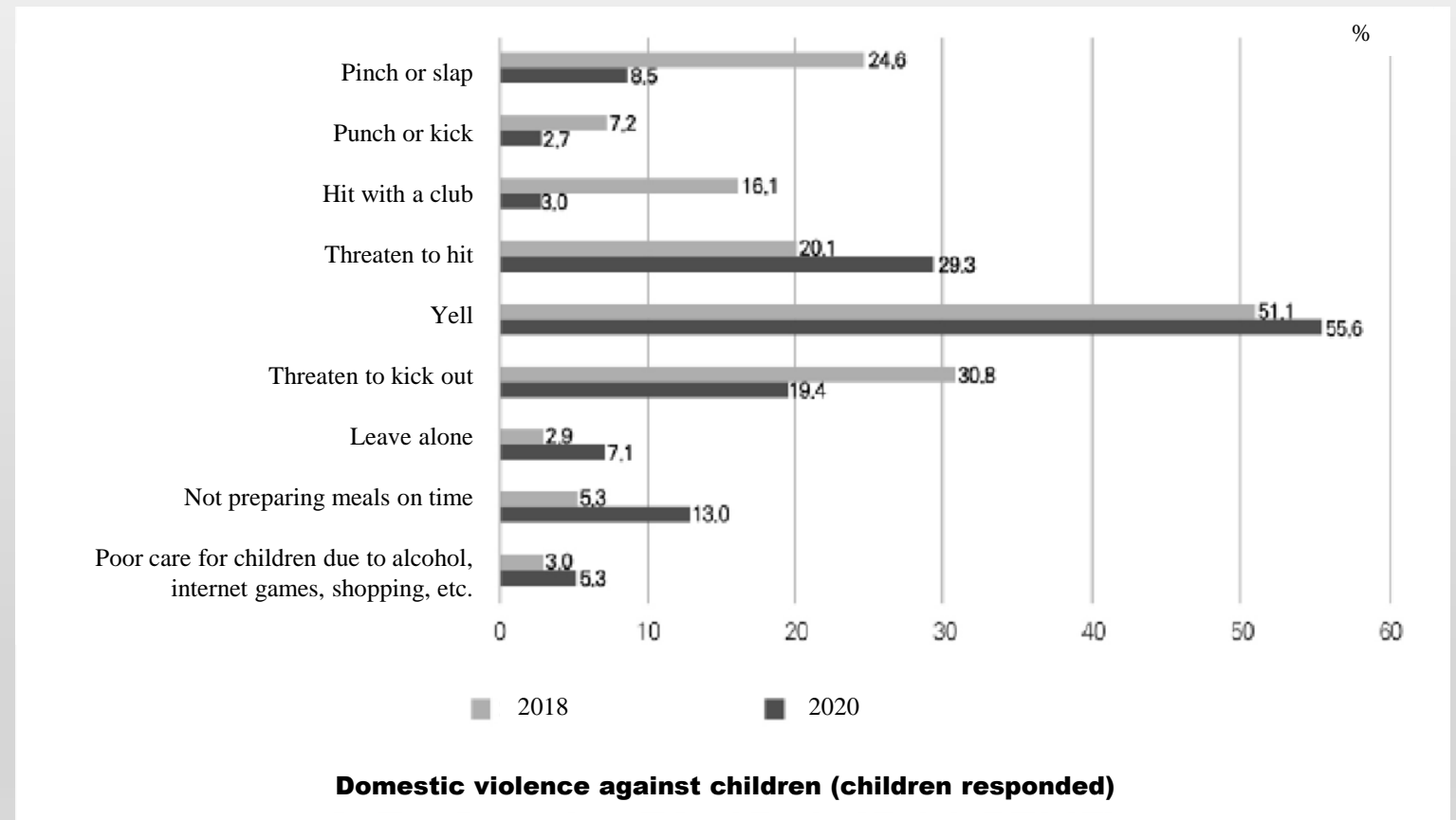
How much time use to take care of children?

	Respondent		Partner	
	Before COVID19	After COVID19	Before COVID19	After COVID19
Women in dual-earner family	5:03	6:47	3:02	3:50
Women not working	9:06	12:38	2:18	2:47
Men in dual-earner family	3:08	3:54	4:40	5:37
Men in single-earner family	3:01	3:30	9:37	12:27

Source: Korea Labor Institute (2020)

The COVID19 pandemic and its impacts on family

- Increase in domestic violence
 - As parents spend more time with their children at home, concerns about child abuse increase due to the stress and depression caused by the COVID19.
 - According to data from the Korea Women's Hot Line, the proportion of domestic violence in total counseling increased from 26% in January 2020 to 40% in February and March 2020. (Ministry of Gender Equality and Family & Korean Women's Development Institute, 2020)



Source: Good Neighbors (2020)

The COVID19 pandemic and its impacts on family

- Increased economic hardship for vulnerable families
 - In the event of a crisis, the income decline of the low-income vulnerable class is more pronounced than that of other income classes.
 - The COVID19 caused a decrease in the income of temporary and daily workers, while the 5th quintile income group and regular workers showed a relatively high rate of income growth.

	1998 IMF crisis	2003 Credit card crisis	2008 Global financial crisis	2020 1/4 COVID19 crisis (%)
Total	-12.9	1.0	3.5	3.7
The 1 st quintile	-25.3	-4.5	-0.7	0.2
The 5 th quintile	-5.9	-1.3	5.7	6.5
Regular workers	-7.5	9.4	4.7	3.7
Temporary workers	-20.2	-3.1	1.6	-3.4
Self-employed	-14.7	0.6	5.2	0.3
The elderly	-14.9	-8.5	-1.4	12.1

**Change in disposable income of households
(Rates of increase/decrease compared to the previous year
or the same period of the previous year)**

Source: Statistics Korea (2020)

Institutional framework for supporting families

- FRAMEWORK ACT ON HEALTHY FAMILIES

- The purpose of this Act is to promote a healthy family by specifying the rights and duties of citizens and the responsibilities of the State by strengthening the family supporting policies as well as working out appropriate resolution methods of family problems.
- According to the Act, the Minister of Gender Equality and Family shall formulate a master plan for healthy family every 5 years.

The 1st Mater Plan for Healthy Family
(2006~2010)

Vision Equal and happy society for all families

Goal Realization of harmony between generations and between men and women in family and society / Improving the quality of life for families and family members

The 2nd Mater Plan for Healthy Family
(2011~2015)

Vision Happy family together, healthy society that grows together

Goal Enhancement of satisfaction with the quality of life for individuals and families throughout life / Development of social capital for the family and through the family

The 3rd Mater Plan for Healthy Family
(2016~2020)

Vision Society where all families are happy together

Goal Society where diverse families can live without discrimination / Society in which both men and women can achieve work-family balance

The 4th Master Plan for Healthy Family(2021~2025)

- 1-1. Strengthening the social care system
 - Expanding a variety of community-based social services reflecting family changes
 - Expanding village-based child care infrastructure and services, and activating daily care centered on local communities to respond to diverse care needs
 - Expanding safe home care services and establishing an emergency care system to respond to the care deficit in case of disasters
 - Reinforcing publicity and enhancing the value of care work, such as increasing public childcare centers and improving the quality

The 4th Master Plan for Healthy Family(2021~2025)

- 1-2. Settlement of gender equality in caregiving and creating a care-friendly community
 - Creating a cultural and social environment where men and women work and care equally
 - Strengthening the work-life balance support system to ensure all working people's right in care, such as parents' leave and reduction of working hours during the period of childcare
 - Creating a workplace that guarantees the right to care by spreading family-friendly management of companies and role models of male care-workers

The 4th Master Plan for Healthy Family(2021~2025)

- 2. Strengthening responses to domestic violence
 - Reviewing the necessity of expanding the punishment coverage of the law even for crimes with intimate relationships, such as unmarried cohabitation that are not included in the current law
 - Revision of the disciplinary right under the Civil Act to prevent child abuse
 - Operation of a system for early detection of child abuse at a regional level and a system for pre-intervention for families with a high risk of child abuse
 - Strengthening measures to separate victims in cases of domestic violence and child abuse by expanding facility infrastructure and supporting independence so that victims can stay safe from violence
 - Strengthening the protection of human rights for married immigrants

The 4th Master Plan for Healthy Family(2021~2025)

- 3. Strengthening the economic foundation
 - Strengthening support for livelihoods and housing so that any family type can maintain basic life, and expanding economic support for households raising children
 - Expansion of customized parenting support for single-parent and multicultural family to prevent children and adolescents from being placed in a discriminatory rearing environment
 - Establishment of family support center in the local community, and provision of integrated family services such as education, counseling, and case management

The 4th Master Plan for Healthy Family(2021~2025)

- 3. Strengthening the economic foundation for families
 - Improvement of welfare benefits such as the National Basic Livelihood Security System reflecting changing family types
 - Expansion of the Emergency Aid and Support System
 - (* Emergency Aid and Support System supports cash benefits in case of a sudden crisis such as disaster)
 - Expansion of housing support for vulnerable families, and improvement in the quality of public rental housing

The 4th Master Plan for Healthy Family(2021~2025)

- 4. Establishing a system that embraces family diversity
 - Provision of legal grounds for the prohibition and prevention of discrimination according to family types.
 - Ensuring various family formation outside the marriage system, and preparing measures to protect life and property in an alternative relationship based on intimacy and care (non-marriage, old-age cohabitation, etc.)
 - Reviewing the necessity of revision of the term “Healthy Family” that has a nuance that a family with special needs is an unhealthy family

The 4th Master Plan for Healthy Family(2021~2025)

- 4. Establishing a system that embraces family diversity
 - Spreading awareness of family diversity and an equal family culture
 - Development and operation of family education programs focusing on mutual respect of family members
 - Operating programs to support communication between genders and generations
 - Activation of education and publicity to enhance social sensitivity to family diversity

Conclusion

- Expected impacts of the Plan on the inclusive growth
 - Building a social foundation that embraces all families
 - Guaranteed stable living conditions for all families
 - Reinforcement of social care system in response to family diversity
 - Creating a social environment where both parents work and care
- The important role of civil society and local community
 - The expansion of the role of the state should not lead to a patriarchal state, and various ecological systems surrounding the family should cooperate.
 - In particular, in order to embrace families with diverse and special needs and minimize the risk of blind spots, family support based on the community, where the family lives, must be strengthened.

A faint, grayscale world map is visible in the background, centered on the Atlantic Ocean. The continents are outlined in a light gray color against a white background.

Thank you