

CARE WORK AND THE ECONOMY

Advancing policy solutions with gender-aware macroeconomic models

POLICY BRIEF | 21 – 01

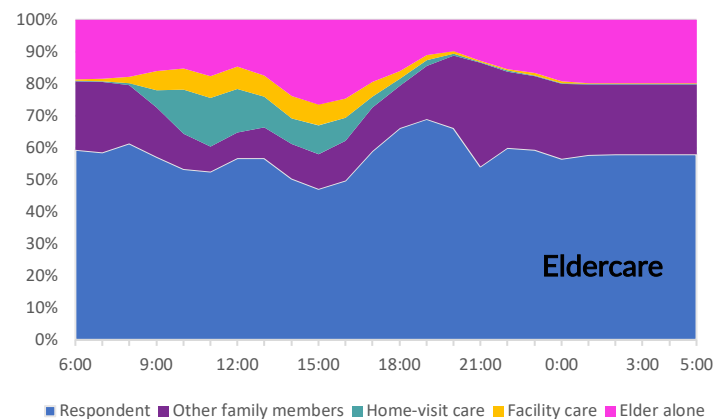
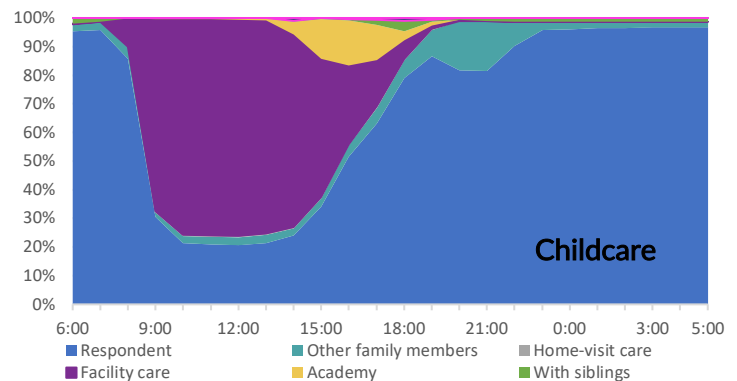
CARE ARRANGEMENT AND ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH KOREA: AN ANALYSIS OF THE 2018 CARE WORK FAMILY SURVEY ON CHILDCARE AND ELDERCARE

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CWE-GAM Working Paper Series: [21-02](#)

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- Majority of children are enrolled in facility-based care during the day, but this proportion starts to fall drastically after 3 pm and with a replacement of care by mothers.
- Likewise, eldercare is concentrated on a primary caregiver in a family. There is a need for public efforts to enhance equitable share of care works among family members.
- Limited hours and scheduling options for care services show the limitations that current social care has on reducing family burdens and encouraging active labor market participations.
- External eldercare services are not preferred by many families in Korea. Eldercare services need to be developed and provided to satisfy various eldercare needs.
- It is important to construct close institutional cooperation between care and labor market.

Time Allotment of Daily Provision of Care



Key Findings

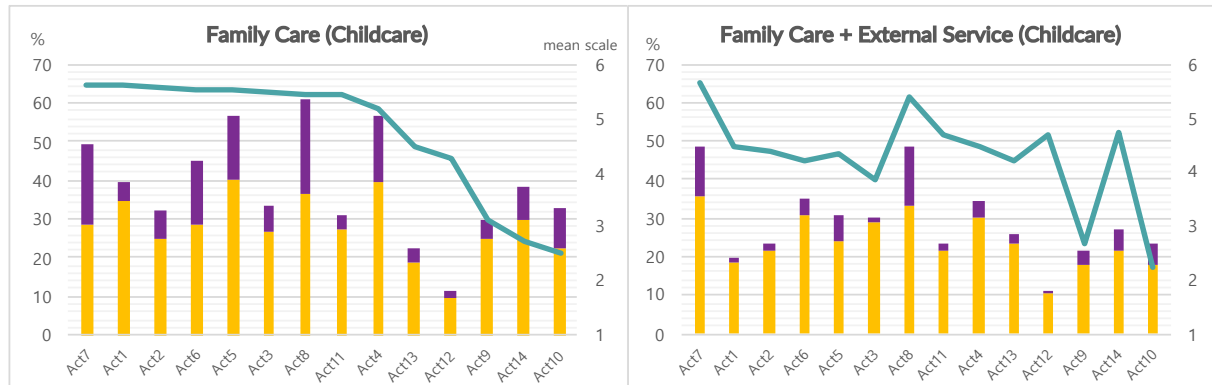
- Only 33% of the respondents reported using external care services for elders (Long-Term Care (LTC) Insurance for most cases), in contrast to the 78% who reported using external services for their children.
- The main reason for not using a childcare service is because they believed mothers should take care of their own children. This answer is most frequent in the youngest (0-2) age group.
- The most frequent answers for not using an elderly care service were that the recipients did not want to receive the service (34.6%) and the respondents believed elderly care should be kept within the family (20.3%). External care services for elderly are not shown as preferable options in Korean society.
- Daughters-in-law were the primary caregiver in 36.7% of the cases, followed by daughters (35%). Daughters did not actively engage in taking care of their elderly parents in the past, but the trend is changing lately.
- There is a significant gap in time spent in caregiving between the primary caregivers and their spouses. The primary caregivers in average spent 7.3 hours daily, while their spouses spent 1.2 hours on average. Similarly, the average mother spent 8.1 hours a day in contrast to fathers who spent 1.8 hours on average.
- Performing housework tasks are the most frequent works in eldercare as well as in childcare. In childcare, housework was the most frequent and the most difficult job to perform, and toilet usage and bath were the most difficult tasks in eldercare. Both difficulty and frequency of childcare decrease with the use of external care services, however, both increase for eldercare. That is, families with greater burdens of eldercare choose to use external care services.

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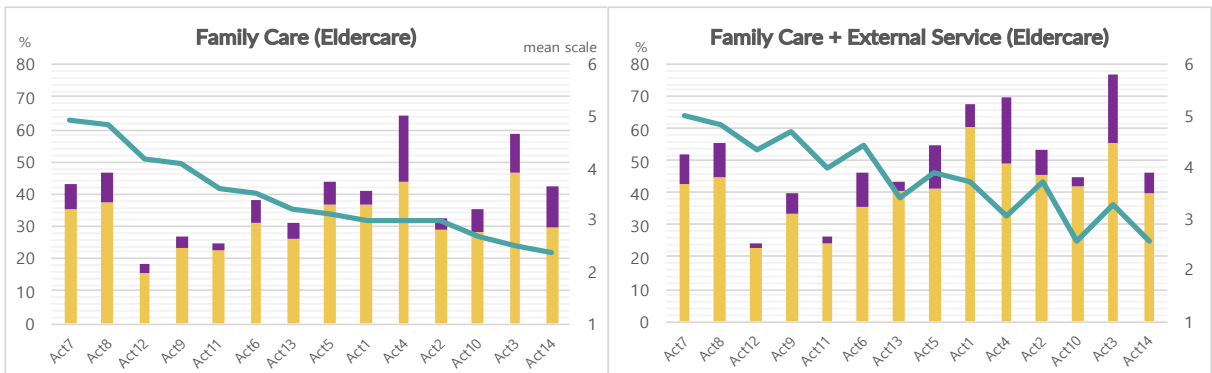
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Frequency and Level of Difficulty of the Caregiving Activities by the Use of Service



Act1	Dressing/undressing	Act2	Washing	Act3	Toilet use/changing diapers
Act4	Bathing	Act5	Cuddling/help moving	Act6	Feeding/help eating
Act7	Food prep/clean-up	Act8	Housework	Act9	Taking medication
Act10	Hospital check-up	Act11	Talk/play indoors	Act12	TV/media
Act13	Taking a walk/playground	Act14	Help use transportation/pick-up and drop-off		



* The bars indicate the proportion of level of difficulty performing each activity (Yellow: Somewhat difficult, Violet: Very difficult).

* The lines indicate the frequency of performing each activity (1: Not performed, 2: 1-2 times a month, 3: 1-2 times a week, 4: 3+ times a week, 5: Once a day, 6: Many times a day).

The findings are based on data collected from the Care Work Family Surveys conducted in 2018 in Korea as part of the Care Work Economy and Gender-Aware Macroeconomic Modelling for Policy Analysis (CWE-GAM) Project. Mothers with at most three children under age 10 were selected for the samples of the childcare survey (N=500). The samples of the eldercare survey are restricted to the primary caregivers who are currently caring an elder (N=501). See the full reports for detailed data description: [CWE-GAM Working Paper Series: 21-02: Kang et al \(2021\). Care Arrangement and Activities in South Korea: An Analysis of the 2018 Care Work Family Survey on Childcare and Eldercare](#)