

# **A Documental Study of Indigenous Childcare Policy in Southern Taiwan**

## **Abstract**

National policy is an important direction for stimulating a nation's development, and is highly influential to the actual execution of various policies within a nation. However, discrepancy often exists between policies and practices, thus limits the effects of policy execution. One of the major reasons lies in the fact that policies cannot respond to the realistic needs of the practitioners. Hence, it leads to the difficulties to realize the policies. A particular case is that the inabilities of national policies to cover the cultural differences of indigenous tribes actually caused the discrepancy between policy objectives and the real lives in indigenous tribes.

This study aims at analyzing policy of indigenous childcare in Southern Taiwan. Document analysis is the research method used. The documents for analyzing include national level and local level. The local level covers Chiayi, Kaoshiung and Pingtung areas of Southern Taiwan. It attempts to serve as a reference to our nation to re-modify policy and ratify related regulations and laws in order to help elevate quality childcare and suitable educational services that meet the indigenous tribe's needs and promote indigenous and national development.

Based on the purpose, the author contributes a five-section paper. First, the introduction describes the background and purposes of the paper. In second section, the author attempts to analyze the indigenous childcare policy of national level. In third section, the author explores and compares the indigenous childcare policy of local government level in Southern Taiwan. In the fourth section, the author tries to discuss the correlation and discrepancy between the national and local level of indigenous childcare policy. Finally, conclusions are reached and suggestions are provided to government modifications of relevant childcare regulations and policies.

According to the document analysis, the author found although the policies of indigenous childcare in national level have established but some of them practiced different and difficult in local level because of the ideal toward indigenous people and the financial problem. Most of the policies of indigenous childcare were cared out from top to down, but some local governments developed their own polices of indigenous childcare to offer better service and welfare to indigenous young child and their parents.

Key words: indigenous childcare policy, Southern Taiwan, discrepancy