The Gaps Between Needs and Availability of Childcare Quality

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Abstract

Nowadays, childcare program is growing rapidly. It is triggered by the need for parents to leave their children while they work, especially the working mother. Data showed that in Salatiga, as a small town, has grown 20 childcare centers, which has had an operational permit. However, the author with some early childhood educators fined some childcare centers do not have the standards of education and care. Whereas, childcare is a program designed for the children care, development, education and social welfare of 0-6 years. Therefore, to address the gap between the needs of parents and the availability of childcare quality, expected that the role of government and related institutions to oversee the development of childcare. In addition, to overcome the shortage of qualified caregiver, the government can help them by providing additional personnel who have passed the selection and placed in a childcare centers.

Keywords: childcare, working mother, children development, childcare quality, caregiver

INTRODUCTION

Childcare program is not a new thing in education and child development area. However, this study becomes an important concern for governments, educators, practitioners and observers of children and especially for parents.

Childcare is a service program of early childhood education that focuses on non-formal care. Childcare has the purpose to provide services to children aged 0-6 years whose parents must work and fulfill the child rights to grow and develop, protect and give affection and right to participate in a social
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environment (ECD Directorate, 2011). In addition, Scarr & Eisenberg (1993) state there are three important purposes of childcare: substitute care for children during their parents work, educational programs to develop children's emotional and cognitive, and interventions to help children from poor families.

In the 18th century, the presence of childcare program developed in the Western and proliferated up to Indonesia in the mid-19th century. This creates a shift Indonesian culture on parenting, where they left the children to their family. Previously, parents were more likely to leave their children in the family or grandparents during their work. Susilo (2005) states that the childcare is actually less in appropriate with Indonesian culture where parents will feel safe if their child was handed over to a family member or caregiver or baby sitter at home. However, based on author interviews with some parents and observations, in recent years, parents prefer to leave their children in a childcare on the grounds that they do not have close family or caregiver at home.

In recent years, the childcare is not only develop in big cities, but also it develops in a small town, like Salatiga, Central Java. Based on the data obtained from the Salatiga Association of Early Childhood Educators, there are 20 childcare which has been established and have operating licenses. Based on preliminary study, the childcare develop by a request from the parents, especially from working mothers, who do not have a caregiver at home. Parents argue that it is better to entrust the child to a childcare instead of having to look for a nanny because of the amount of money issued to pay nanny much larger than pay the childcare. Moreover, they argue that the child will be more independent and have more friends than taken care of by a nanny at home.

"It is better, if I leave my child in the childcare. Because I have to work until the afternoon. I have not relatives here, then I cannot pay the nanny."
thousand a month " (interview with the mother X, dated May 29, 2014).
" I leave my child at school, which is near from my workplace. I led my child more independent. Because, there a lot of friends, and become a brave boy. Then, at he afternoon I take his go home " (interview with mother Y, dated May 1, 2014).

According to Conley (2010), childcare is not the only daycare. Childcare has a function as a place of care and education for young children. Childcare as well as a program for giving a stimulus to the children development, both in terms of motor, cognitive, emotional, social and moral through play. However, the question is, whether the childcare has perform its function as a place of care and provision the stimulus for children.

The existence of the childcare is still become a serious studies nowadays. Based on research conducted by Belsky 1986 found that babies who spend an average of 20 hours per week in a childcare in its first year, experiencing insecure attachment to the mother, and increase the aggressiveness, disobedience, and have a tendency to withdraw from social environment at preschool or in elementary school. However, this does not occur in children who deposited in the childcare at the age of 1 year and above. Moreover, Kagan (in Rini, 2002) found that children who deposited at the childcare has a capacity of intellectual, social and emotional which is not much different from a child who was raised by a parent or caregiver at home. Although the childcare has a ratio of 1 caregiver to handle 3 or 4 children.

In addition, several cases concerning childcare program found. Liputan 6 reported that there is a child who died trapped in a wooden play house in the childcare in Singapore because of the caregiver negligent and she has talking on the phone with her friend. In addition, Kompasiana reported on child abuse committed by a caregiver at the childcare in America toward baby, where she rocked the baby’s body, so
that baby suffered permanent brain injury. For Barbara Jones, childcare is a bad experience, because she felt her daughter treated badly in the childcare, so she decided to stop working and focus on caring for her daughter (Santrock, 2006).

Based on interviews conducted by the author, a mom felt sorry to leave her child in the daycare, because the child became sick often.

"I would not leave my child again in the childcare, because he became ill vulnerable" (interview with the mother Z, May 3, 2014).

Based on the findings in the field, some childcare in Salatiga not meet the standard criteria set by the government. Average of 1 caregiver to handle more than 6 children. So that supervision of children is lacking. It has an impact on parenting and learning undertaken by caregivers. For example, the caregiver provides a TV and let the kids watch TV more than 1 hour in order to make the child be quiet.

However, Ellen Smith, every weekday at 8 am, was dropping Tanya, her daughter, 1 year old, to childcare centers because she had to leave Tanya to work, and at 3 pm she will be picked up after work. This lasted until Tanya enters preschool. Ellen felt good benefits of childcare which has helped her to nurture Tanya, because her daughter dared and interact with peers and adults she met. (Santrock, 2006).

Therefore, this preliminary study is talk about the need of parents in the search for caregivers as long as they work and the quality of childcare which appropriate with the guidelines that has been formulated by the government.

**CHILDCARE**

Child care is a transformation in the world of early childhood education. Child care is the supervision of children while their parents work or are engaged in other activities. Day care is another term used to refer to familiar childcare. Childcare is designed to make the children are able to explore...
themseleves and socialize with peers. Scarr & Eisenberg (1993) stated, childcare has traditionally served three important purposes: substitute care for children while their parents work; educational opportunities to promote cognitive and emotional development; and interventions intended to help poor children and disadvantaged.

At first, childcare is the care center designed for children under 3 years of age, but often parents who leave their children until the age of 6 years. But Kagan (in Susilo, 2005) states that generally children aged 4 months to 29 months can be deposited into childcare, because at the age of 2.5 years to 3 years old generally has entered the preschool. However, in Salatiga, the average children who have entered the preschool program, they also attend the childcare in the same place. Because that agency has preschool and childcare program in the same service.

Patterns of care provided in childcare in children is very diverse. According to Santrock (2006), there are several childcare who choose to put a large group of children in a home with adequate facilities. There is also offering services commercially, but some are not set profit and usually managed by church, community groups, businesses, or even managed by mothers who want to have extra income.

Because of the diversity of parenting childcare, it causes the different quality and quantity of childcare. In quality, most caregivers do not have special skills in parenting, and the other have good parenting because they have received intensive training. In terms of quantity, there are several childcare that provides services starting at 8 am until 5 pm, but some are from 8 am to 3 pm each day. In addition, caregivers do not just care for one child, usually the caregivers are given the responsibility to care for and provide care to 3 or 4 children. If children are entrusted sizeable and caregivers bit, it is likely more responsible caretakers of 4 children. All depends on the facilities and programs offered by day care itself.
Based on that statement, it can be concluded that childcare care is a parenting center that offers facilities and specific programs for children under 6 years, so that children are able to develop their potential, explore and socialize with their peers under the care of a substitute caregiver (non maternal care).

GOVERNMENT STANDARD ON CHILDCARE ESTABLISHMENT

Legal Basis


3. Presidential Regulation no. 24 in 2010 about the status, duties and functions of echelon1, as amended by Presidential Decree no.67 in 2010.

4. Regulation of the Minister of National Education no.36 in 2010 about the Organization and Administration of the Ministry of National Education; and no.58 in 2009 on Early Childhood Education Standards.

Purpose

1. Provide services to children aged 0-6 years who leaved by parents for work or other obstacles.

2. Provide services related to the fulfillment of children's rights to grow and develop, protection and affection, as well as the right to participate in a social environment.

Principles and Philosophy of Education in Childcare

Early childhood education programs are implemented in a childcare based on the following principles:

1. Oriented to the needs of children
2. According to the child's development.
3. According to the uniqueness of each individual.
4. Children learn through play activities.
5. Children learn from the concrete to the abstract thing, from the simple to complex thing, from the verbal to the movement thing, and from the self to the social one.
6. Children as active learners.
7. Children learn through social interaction
8. Provide an environment that supports the learning process.
9. Stimulate the emergence of creativity and innovative.
10. Developing children life skills.
11. Uses a variety of sources and media to learn which available in the neighborhood.
12. Children learn appropriate with the socio-cultural conditions.
13. Involves the participation of parents in collaboration with educators in early childhood institutions.
14. Holistic education stimulation that covers all aspects of development.

Caregivers
1. High school graduate or equivalent
2. Understand the basic parenting
3. Skilled implement parenting
4. Being and behave in the psychological needs of children
5. Assist the teacher and teacher assistant as needed
6. Hygiene and taking care of the cleanliness of the facilities used child

Caregivers’ ratio with children
1. Age group of 0 - < 1 year (1 caregiver : 4 children)
2. Age groupof 1 - < 2 years (1 caregiver : 6 children)
3. Age groupof 2 - < 3 years (1 caregiver : 8 children)
4. Age group of 3 - < 4 years (1 caregiver : 10 children)
5. Age group of 4 - < 5 years (1 caregiver : 12 children)
6. Age group of 5 - 6 years ≤ (1 caregiver : 15 children)
In addition, The National Association for the Children Education (1986) has recommended a reference quality of childcare to pay attention to the following matters:

**Caregivers**
1. Enjoy and control of child development
2. Old enough to work in one group in the care of children's needs
3. The caregiver should not be more than 4 children
4. Caregivers should observe and record all the progress and development of children

**Activities and equipment program**
1. The environment must facilitate the growth and development of children so that they can play and work together.
2. Childcare provides safe and adequate equipment so it is always ready for use.
3. Children should be helped to improve language skills and broaden their understanding of the outside world around it.

**Relationships with family and staff**
1. Programs should pay attention to and support the needs of families. Parents are welcome remedy to observe, discuss policies, make a suggestion.
2. Staff should share information about opportunities for recreation and learning in the family environment.

**Facilities and programs**
1. The health of children, staff and parents should be protected and enhanced. Staff should be alert to the health of every child
2. Facilities must be safe for children and adults
3. The environment must be sufficient to accommodate a variety of activities and equipment.

**DISCUSSION**

Childcare service program is the focus of the study which debated by education practitioners, psychologists and early childhood teachers who have full concentration.
on the development of children. For example Jay Belsky, she conducted research on childcare since the 1980s. Belsky et al studied the impact of childcare program in child development and attachment to the parent.

In essence, childcare is a program or agency offered to help the parents in caring for their children during their work or being in the bustle that can not care for a child for a while. But a few of the researchers found that adverse effects caused by the childcare. Belsky (in Santrock, 2006) stated that she is not only assured of the quality childcare is bad, but she is also convinced that the childcare can produce negative development for children. In 2009 Belsky doing research again and concluded that the extensive experience of childcare during the first 12 months of life will be much associated with insecure attachment and increased aggression, disobedience, and the possibility of social withdrawal during the years preschool and early elementary school.

Belsky’s research was supported by Vandell & Corasaniti (in Santrock, 2006). Extensive childcare in the first year of life is associated to the development of long-term negative. Children who started childcare early with 30 hours per week turned out to be found less obedient to parents and teachers, and have poor relationships with their peers. In the academic value ever they got a low value and have poor work habits.

In 2003, Belsky also doing research back on childcare and the resulting impact on the development of over 1300 children with 10 different locations in the United State. Belsky conducting research in children aged 6, 15, 24, 36, and 54 months with the assessment of cognitive socioemotional development until they go to school early. This study is intended to answer the debate still exists as to whether or not the childcare and to decipher the actual condition of the childcare is capable of supporting or even damage a child's development.

Some study found some results, such as:
1. At the age of 15 months children showed unsecure attachment due to their mothers because experience > 10 hours per week in childcare in the first year of life, or because of the low quality of care. When the viscosity measured at month 36, the results obtained are the same.

2. Interactions between mothers and children aged 6-36 months look less harmonious, because the children do not care for the mother. As noted back in children aged 54 months, then the impact of disharmony seen until the child is in first grade.

3. Children will demonstrate an external problem when they spend time in childcare since the first 2 years to 4.5 years. They showed indifferece and behavioral problems since the age of 24 months, 54 months, in kindergarten and first grade. This impact is not so obvious, but when the children are in class 3 (about 8 years) will experience social problems and poor study habits competent, so they get a low score at school.

4. However, children with childcare experience with high quality of care that would indicate a high level also in cognitive function - linguistics at the age of 1, 3, 4 and 5 years.

On the other hand, Andersson et al (in Santrock, 2006) proved to have a different conclusion. They conduct research on childcare but did not find any adverse effects of day care. Determining factor of a child's development is not only from day care, but also from the parental care, particularly the mother (as the primary caregiver) as well. Mother who has responsive attitude to children forming good viscosity, compared to mothers who emotionally and less responsive.

Based on interviews conducted by the author with the chairman of the Association of EarlyChildhood Educators said that the childcare program or institutions that have been developed in Salatiga already have operating licenses and the establishment of appropriate standards and regulations. But after getting the licenses, there are some institutions that do not implement the
criteria of childcare standard parenting programs. For example, there are only 2 caregivers with 14 children. The implementation of learning program just giving toys to children that they are quiet and do not interfere with each other between friends. In addition, there are childcare which not meet health standards because the environment is very dirty and not fit for children, although the state-owned childcare. At first, the childcare can meet the applicable standards, but when doing so, they ignore the standards. For example, when going to get or extend the operating licenses, they clean up the place, but once it is back to being a dirty environment.

Despite the establishment of childcare based on many requests from parents, childcare must still have the appropriate operational standards. Remember that childcare is a place for children to grow and develop in accordance with his age.

CONCLUSION

It can be deduced that childcare is one of the emerging service programs to assist parents in caring for their children during work or activity so that the child must leave temporarily. Childcare program must appropriate with the standard criteria for the establishment childcare specified by the government. It will help parents and children in the growth and development.

Placing the children in the childcare outside the primary caregiver in the long term will have a higher risk of child development, especially on the relationship between mother and child behavior problems (in the first year of school), social competence and learning habits. However, these impacts are not only generated by the low-quality care, but due to family care factors also affect.

Childcare center should have applicable standards such as childcare establishment consisting of a pediatrician or doctor, a director as the manager, and the ratio of children – caregiver 3 to 1, with no forgetting
assistant caregiver. Caregivers must be certified, trained to smile, talk to the children, and can give children a safe and comfortable environment with educational toys that stimulate a child's development.

To prevent deviation from the standard of care, the government and related institution can conduct surveys on a regular basis in the short term, in addition to an extension of time will be operational childcare place the child. Also, to provide the lack of caregiver quality and quantity, the government can help them by adding the additional caregiver who has passed the selection.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


