

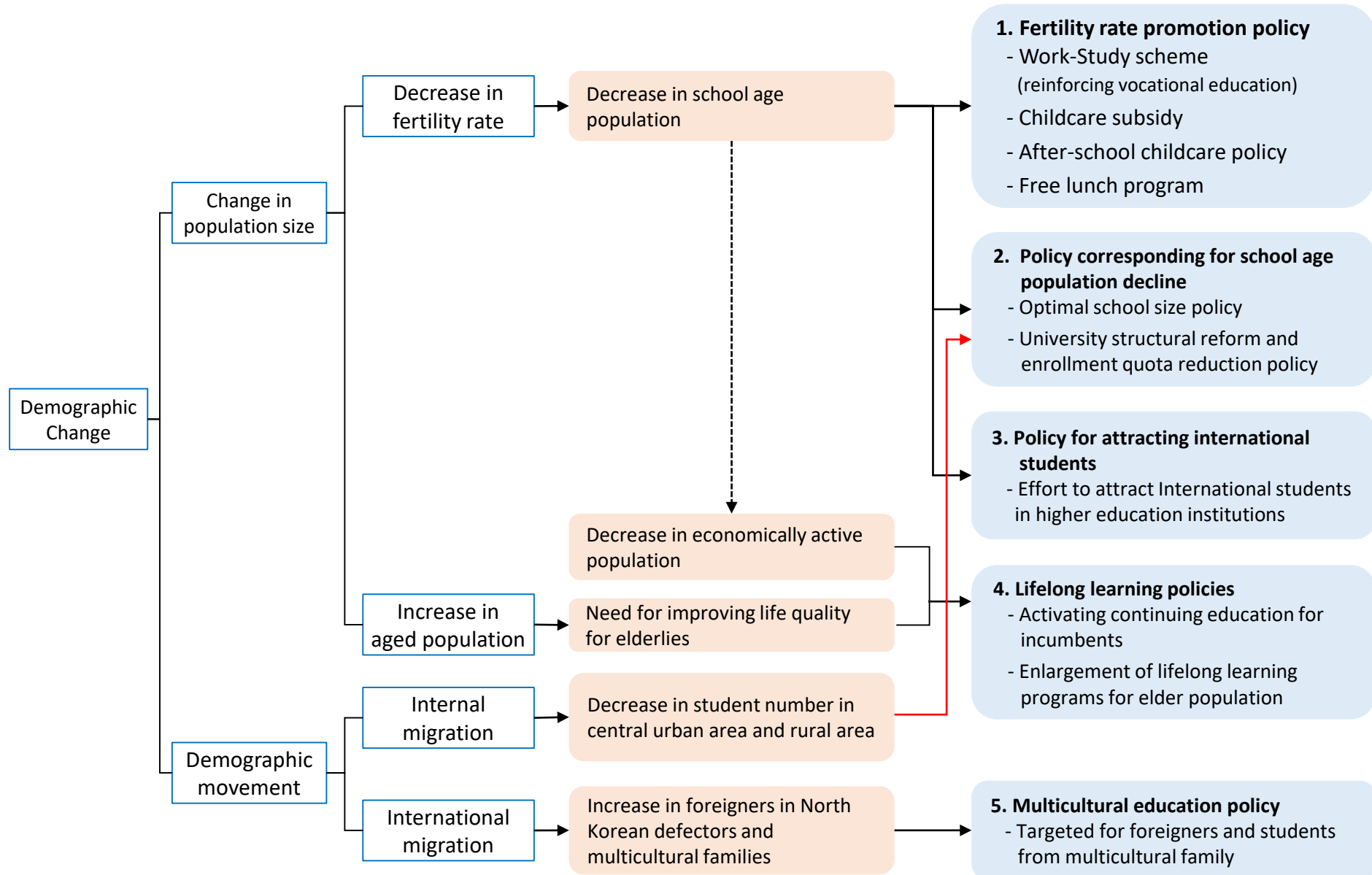
Education Policies for Demographic Changes in Korea

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I. Overview

I. Overview of Policy Efforts



II. Policy Efforts For Demographic Changes in Korea

**1. Education policy
aiming to increase fertility rate**

II. Education Policies for Demographic Changes

1) Work-Study scheme (reinforcing vocational education)

- The youth unemployment and unstable work environment are considered as major factors for low fertility rate.
- 'Work-study scheme' aims to effectively increase linkage between education and workplace.
- The Korean government benchmarked 'apprentice system' of Switzerland and Germany and aims to encourage more students to enter job market at earlier age.
- This policy is targeted for students in high school, community college, and 4-year college.
 - School-industry integral apprentice schools (vocational high school): 2 years of learning experience from school and industry (e.g. chemistry, IT, service, mechanics etc.).
 - Uni-Tech curriculum (2-year colleges) : 5 years of intensive training
 - 'Industry Professional Practice (IPP) (4-year colleges) : 4-6 work experience can be acquired as academic credit

II. Education Policies for Demographic Changes

2) Childcare subsidy (0-5 years old)

- The childcare subsidy is composed of two major structure- 'direct subsidy' and 'institution subsidy'.
- Existing subsidy scheme only targeted for low income family but now has become universal.
- For those parents who send their child to childcare services, the maximum amount of monthly support they are entitled to benefit are 430 USD for 0 year old, 378 USD for 1 year old, 313 USD for 2 year old, and 220 USD for 3-5 years old. But if the parents wish to send their child to institutions that exceeds above price, the additional cost needs to be paid by parent.
- For those who raise their child at home, direct homecare subsidy is provided instead ranging from USD 200 for those under 12 months, USD 150 for 1 year old, and USD 100 for child between 2-6 years old.
- The childcare support scheme for 3-5 years old is included in 'Nuri Curriculum' which is a major standardized education policy which was introduced in 2012.

II. Education Policies for Demographic Changes

3) After-school Daycare Program for primary school students

- 'After-school daycare program' is provided for primary school student.
 - The Korean government has introduced this policy for lower grade primary school students who have working parents, single parents and low-income parents since 2006.
- The program is composed with 'afternoon classes' which operates until 5pm and 'evening classes' which operates until 10pm.
 - Through this program, schools function as both educational and childcare institutions.

II. Education Policies for Demographic Changes

4) Free lunch program

- First introduced in 1981 in primary schools when the 'School Meals Act' was established.
 - However, it took some time to be institutionalized in school levels (primary schools (1998) and secondary schools (2003)).
- Originally, parents were responsible for paying the cost for school meals, and free meals were only applicable for students from low-income family.
- The free school meal became a major policy agenda in 2010 local elections.
 - In 2016, 95.6% of primary schools, 78.3% of middle schools and 14.3% of high schools are offering free lunch.
- However, since free lunch programs are not financed by central government, related costs are covered by local government and educational offices which creates conflict in budget priority among other major welfare issues (e.g. pension, childcare support etc.).

2. Education policy preparing for student population decline

II. Education Policies for Demographic Changes (student population decline)

1) Optimal school size management policy

- Achieving optimal school size through school merger and abolition

II. Education Policies for Demographic Changes (student population decline)

2) University structure reform and enrolment quota reduction policy

- Since 2004, Korean government is currently undertaking intensive university restructuring policy in order to effectively correspond toward population decline crisis.
- The government expected to improve educational condition of university through inducing institutional or departmental merger and closure as well as to reduce student enrolment quota.
- As a result, until 2008, 32 college and universities were merged to 16 institutions and total 24,160 enrolments were reduced consequently through strict evaluation. Moreover, 14 private universities were merged to 7 which resulted in reduction of 9,453 enrolments.
- Usage of 'financial subsidy' as a strong tool for evaluation
- Also, the government is inducing voluntary effort to improve university management through setting various financial disadvantages (e.g. limiting financial support-national scholarship and student loan) to students that newly enroll to universities with poor quality.

3. Lifelong learning policy corresponding for aging society

II. Education Policies for Demographic Changes (lifelong learning)

■ Lifelong learning policy for aged population

- It is from 1995 when the lifelong learning policy was properly established and introduced in Korea.
- The Korean government has consistently attempted to establish lifelong learning system through utilization of Ministry of Education, National Institute for Lifelong Education, local governments, primary and secondary schools and higher education institutions during past 20 years.
- As of 2016, the number of lifelong learning institutions have increased to 5,177 from 3,161 in 2007 and the participation rate of adult learners(25-64 years old) increased from 29.8% in 2007 to 35.7% in 2016.
- However, it is found that the participation rate is still low compared to other advanced countries (OECD average 40.4%) which is pointed as one of the major limitations of the policy.

4. Recruitment and support policy for international students

II. Education Policies for Demographic Changes (international student)

■ Attracting international students

- The Korean government and universities had very little interest in attracting international students until 1990's when the issue of decline in fertility rate and student population started to emerge critically. Attracting high quality of international students is now very important for both securing enrolment as well as potential labor force.
- The actual policy effort to attract international students began in 2004 when the Korean government announced 'Study Korea Project'. The government aims to attract 200,000 international students until 2020. Currently, there are over 116,000 international students studying in Korea as of 2016.
- Specific policy programs include 'Global Korea Scholarship (government)', 'English-exclusive lecture', 'dormitories exclusively built for international students'.
- Further effort to improve 'quality' of international student support through introducing 'International Education Quality Assurance System (IEQAS)' since 2012.
- However, most of students are from Asia especially dependent on students from China (over 60%). Such concentration on specific country and region may put a risk in sustaining future of internationalization, due to consistent political conflicts rising between China and Korea.
- Moreover, the proportion of international students who remain for employment after graduation is still very small and there are many barriers for international students to enter labor market in Korea.

5. Multicultural education policy for students from international marriage family

II. Education Policies for Demographic Changes (international student)

■ Attracting international students

- Many students from multicultural family are experiencing disadvantage in learning due to poor proficiency in Korean language largely because of their mother's limited knowledge in Korean. Such differences led to low academic achievement and social maladjustment at school.
- Also, many students from foreign worker family had low social economic status and had weaker level on parental education which resulted in lower academic achievement compared to other peers.
- Negative perception toward multicultural family in Korean society
- To resolve these problems, the government suggested on distributing campaign materials that can help change negative perception of multicultural family and foreign workers as well as establishing after-school programs specially designed for students from multicultural family that can prevent learning deficiency.
- The multi-culture policy in Korea has evolved consistently since its introduction in 2006. The total budget invested on the multi-culture policy was as little as USD 4 million when it was first started in 2006, but it has increased rapidly to USD 19.1 million in 2017.

Thank you!

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