Innovation Economics and Management Research (IEMR), Volume 11, Issue 2, 2026. ISSN: 2949-1304
Proceedings of The 7th International Conference on Management, Economy and Law (ICMEL 2026)

Social Construction Mechanism and Practice Path of Early Childhood Development Support System

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ABSTRACT
This article aims to reveal how the early infant development support system is institutionalized and effectively implemented in a specific social structure. The research adopts theoretical deduction and institutional analysis methods to systematically sort out the role orientation and interactive logic of the state, family, market and social organizations in the support system, and explains the institutional legitimacy foundation and value presupposition behind it. Based on this, the social construction mechanism and practical transformation path of multi-subject cooperation are further analyzed. The research shows that the formation of this system is not the superposition of technical policies, but the result of the interweaving of three institutional logics: rights protection, human capital investment and gender equality. Its effective operation depends on the closed-loop practice path composed of demand identification, resource integration, service delivery and feedback optimization, and the collaborative governance network centered on children's development. Only by legislating to clarify national responsibility, establishing result-oriented service standards, strengthening the function of community integration, and promoting the transformation of governance model to data-driven and pluralistic governance can we realize the institutional transition from fragmented supply to systematic empowerment.

Keywords: *Early infant development, Support system, Social construction, Institutional logic, Multiple synergy*

1. INTRODUCTION

The early development of infants is not only related to the foundation of individual quality of life, but also deeply embedded in the underlying logic of national human capital accumulation and social justice structure [1]. In the past two decades, the global attention to the development intervention of children aged 0-3 has increased significantly, and the early support system has been regarded as a key lever in the international agendas such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the World Bank's "Human Capital Project" [2]. Uneven distribution of family care resources, fragmented coverage of public services, and weak supply capacity of professional services have presented differentiated dilemmas under different socio-economic backgrounds [3]. With the adjustment of birth policy, the acceleration of urbanization and the miniaturization of family structure, the traditional family-based parenting model is unsustainable, and the public support system has not yet formed a systematic response mechanism [4]. This structural lag urges the academic circles to re-examine the logic of the construction of early childhood development support system. It should not only be understood as an extension of welfare supply, but also as a social project shaped by institutional arrangement, value consensus and action network [5].

The existing research focuses on the development law of neuroscience or educational psychology, or analyzes the effectiveness of specific projects from the perspective of policy evaluation, but rarely discusses in depth why the support system is constructed in a specific social structure [6]. In other words, which institutional elements support the legitimacy of the system? How to define the responsibility boundary at different governance levels? How do social and cultural norms affect the priority of policy design? These problems point to a more fundamental theoretical proposition: early childhood

development support is not a natural public product, but a social fact gradually established through institutional choice, power allocation and discourse negotiation. This article attempts to jump out of the discussion framework of technical improvement and return to the perspective of institutional analysis to reveal the reconstruction process of the relationship between state, market and family behind the support system. On this basis, it further analyzes the cooperative mechanism of multi-subject participation and its transformation path in practice.

2. INSTITUTIONAL LOGIC OF EARLY INFANT DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT SYSTEM

The establishment of early childhood development support system is not a purely technical arrangement, but deeply depends on the institutional definition of children's rights, family responsibilities and state obligations in a specific society. Modern welfare countries generally bring the 0-3 years old stage into the category of public intervention, and its institutional logic is rooted in the value presupposition of children as social common assets [7]. Under this framework, the state no longer only plays the role of the bottom, but actively intervenes in the early development process through institutional design to correct the inequality of opportunities brought about by market failure and family ability differences. This intervention is embodied in the interweaving of triple institutional logic. The first is the logic of rights protection, that is, recognizing that infants have the basic right to appropriate care and development support, and this right does not vary with the family's economic situation. The second is the logic of human capital investment, which regards early intervention as a long-term strategy to improve the quality of future labor force and reduce the cost of social redistribution. Finally, the logic of gender equality, through public care and family support services to reduce the burden of female parenting, and promote their labor participation and social integration.

The above logic presents a differentiated combination in different institutional environments. Nordic countries tend to be strongly state-led, and public services are highly inclusive and standardized; the liberal welfare system relies more on the complementarity between the market and the family, and the government mainly focuses on the remedy of vulnerable groups [8]. China's current system construction is in a transitional period, which not only inherits the traditional ethics of family-oriented and state-assisted, but also faces the realistic pressure of weakening family functions in the process of modernization. This gives birth to mixed system logic: emphasizing the public responsibility of educating young children at the value level and adopting gradual system supply at the operation level, but the specific implementation still depends on the participation of local financial capacity and social forces.

3. SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION MECHANISM OF MULTI-SUBJECT COOPERATION

The landing of early childhood development support system is not a natural extension of a single institutional text, but a dynamic process jointly constructed by multiple subjects through continuous interaction, consultation and resource integration in a complex social field [9]. This process goes beyond the traditional dual framework of government and family, and brings market institutions, social organizations, professional groups and even community networks into the collaborative governance structure, forming a multi-level and nonlinear social construction mechanism. The state plays the role of system supplier and rule maker, and establishes the basic framework through legislation, financial investment and standard setting. On the other hand, local governments carry out policy adaptation and service landing according to regional resource endowments, and undertake the functions of implementation and coordination. As the core beneficiary and participant, family's demand expression and feedback directly affect the appropriateness of service design. Third-party forces, such as nursery institutions, early education centers and non-profit organizations, play an irreplaceable role in professional service supply, innovation model exploration and social capital activation. This multi-agent co-governance pattern is not natural and harmonious, and its effectiveness depends on whether the actors can establish a stable trust relationship, clear boundaries of powers and responsibilities and efficient communication channels.

The essence of social construction lies in the co-production of meaning. In the field of early infant development, different subjects have cognitive differences on what is quality support, who should bear the responsibility and what kind of

intervention is effective [10]. If these differences are not effectively integrated, it will easily lead to policy suspension or service mismatch. Therefore, the key of collaborative mechanism is to build an institutionalized platform that can accommodate multiple values and promote knowledge sharing and action alignment. The platform should not only have the functions of information gathering and demand identification, but also support cross-departmental decision-making, resource integration and conflict mediation. In this process, the unity of discourse system is particularly important-by establishing a professional language based on the scientific consensus of children's development, the obstacles to cooperation caused by vague concepts or divergent positions can be reduced.

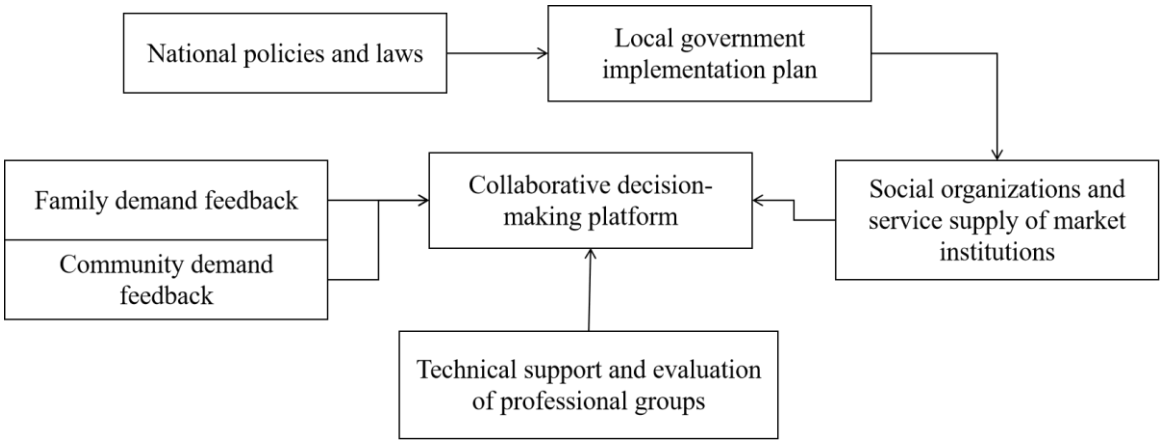


Figure 1 Collaborative construction of multiple subjects in early childhood development support system.

The system in "Figure 1" combs the whole process from system input to service output. National policies and legal norms constitute the initial driving force, which is transformed into regional implementation plans through local governments. At the same time, the demand signals of families and communities are fed back upward through surveys, councils or digital platforms, forming a two-way adjustment mechanism; Social organizations and market institutions provide professional services and participate in standard co-construction under the guidance of policies and demand. Professional groups run through the whole process, providing technical support and quality evaluation. Through regular joint meetings, data sharing mechanism and joint supervision, all links realize dynamic coupling, and finally form a supporting ecology centered on children's development and embedded with multi-agents.

4. PROBE INTO THE PRACTICAL PATH OF SUPPORTING SYSTEM LANDING

From system conception to practical operation, the early infant development support system needs to cross the last mile gap between policy design and grass-roots implementation. This transformation process must rely on a set of practical paths with clear structure, feasible operation and adaptability. The core of this path lies in transforming the abstract institutional logic into a concrete action plan that can be embedded in the local governance structure, and responding to the matching relationship between the real needs of families and the service supply capacity in dynamic adjustment. Problems such as fragmentation, inefficiency and uneven coverage commonly existing in current practice often stem from the lack of systematic integration of path design, which leads to scattered resources, different standards and disjointed subjects. Therefore, it is the key for the effective implementation of the support system to build a practical framework with requirements identification-resource integration-service delivery-feedback optimization as the closed loop.

First of all, accurate requirement identification is the premise of path initiation. There are significant differences in care ability, service preference and development expectation among families in different regions and different socio-economic backgrounds. If services are only implemented according to uniform standards, it will easily lead to resource mismatch or low utilization rate. Therefore, local governments need to establish a normalized demand assessment mechanism, and dynamically grasp the structural characteristics, risk factors and service demands of children's families aged 0-3 years through community household surveys, digital platform data collection or linkage

with maternal and child health care systems. Secondly, resource integration is not simply the superposition of financial funds or the addition of institutions, but the effective coupling of cross-departmental collaboration and diversified capital. Education, health care, civil affairs, women's federations and other departments need to break down functional barriers and form institutionalized cooperation in field sharing, personnel training and information exchange. At the same time, through mechanisms such as government purchasing services, public construction and private operation, and tax incentives, social organizations and compliance market entities will be guided to participate in service supply, forming a pattern in which public security is basic and society promotes diversity.

Service delivery links need to take into account professionalism and accessibility. On the one hand, relevant departments should formulate a service standard system covering the dimensions of care quality, safety norms and development evaluation, so as to ensure that the intervention measures conform to the scientific laws of infant development. On the other hand, relevant departments need to innovate service forms, such as developing community embedded nursery points, family support groups, online guidance platforms, etc., to lower the threshold for family access. The whole practice path must be embedded with continuous feedback and iterative optimization mechanism. The service effect should not only be measured by superficial indicators such as coverage or satisfaction, but also by tracking the deep influence of children's development results, family rearing ability improvement and social equity improvement, and adjusting resource allocation and service strategies accordingly.

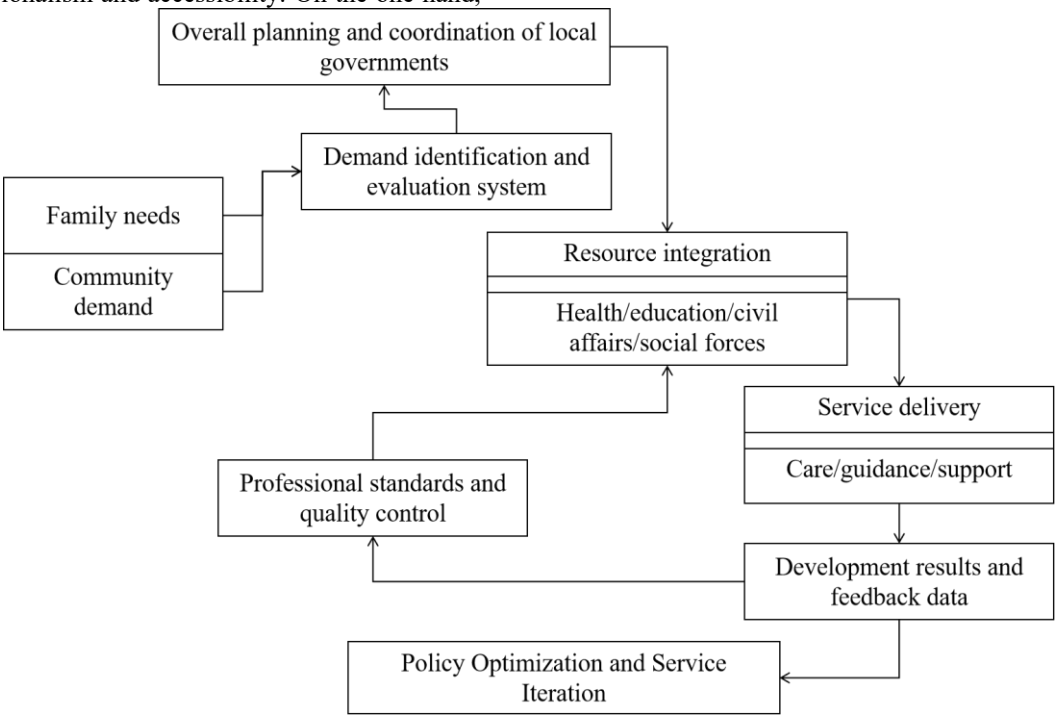


Figure 2 Practice path of early infant development support system.

To present the above logic for the system, "Figure 2" outlines a complete closed loop from the demand side to the optimization side. The whole path emphasizes two-way flow and dynamic calibration to avoid falling into supply-oriented inertial thinking.

5. SYSTEM OPTIMIZATION AND FUTURE GOVERNANCE DIRECTION

The sustainable operation of the early childhood development support system ultimately depends on the systematic optimization of the institutional environment and the forward-looking adjustment of the governance paradigm. At present, there are still structural shortcomings in the system design, such

as vague rights and responsibilities, lack of standards and insufficient incentives. It is urgent to clarify the boundaries of state responsibility at the age of 0-3 through legislation, include inclusive childcare services in the list of basic public services, and establish a statutory coordination mechanism for cross-departmental collaboration. Future governance needs to go beyond the traditional administrative-led model and turn to a new governance form characterized by data-driven, pluralistic co-governance and resilient response. Digital technology can enable accurate identification of demand and dynamic allocation of resources, and community, as the end of governance, should be given greater integration function and become a key node connecting families, professional forces and public policies.

6. CONCLUSION

This article systematically discusses the system logic, social construction mechanism and practical path of the early infant development support system, and reveals that the system is essentially a social project shaped by value consensus, institutional arrangement and action network. It is found that the core of supporting system legitimacy lies in the integration of triple institutional logic. The logic of rights protection that regards infants as social common assets, the logic of investment that focuses on long-term human capital accumulation, and the logic of social reproduction that relieves the burden of family care and promotes gender equality. These three factors together constitute the value anchor point of policy design, but their different weights in different governance contexts also lead to the imbalance of institutional supply. At present, China is in a critical stage of transition from family responsibility to national coordination, which needs to be bridged by top-level design.

Multi-subject cooperation is not a natural state, but depends on institutionalized consultation platform and shared discourse system. Government, family, professional organizations and social organizations each carry different knowledge systems and action goals. Without an effective meaning integration mechanism, it is easy to fall into the fragmentation dilemma of fragmentation. The collaborative construction process proposed in this article shows that the support system can truly respond to the real family situation only when the demand signal can reach the decision-making level, professional standards run through the whole service process and resource allocation is flexible across departments. On this basis, the practice path must abandon the inertia thinking of emphasizing supply and neglecting feedback, and turn to a dynamic closed loop oriented to development results.

Future system optimization should focus on three directions. First, clarify the basic responsibilities of the state at the age of 0-3 through special legislation, and bring them into the statutory scope of basic public services. The second is to reconstruct the service quality evaluation system, from site compliance to the improvement of children's development effectiveness and family ability. The third is to activate the integration function of community as the end of governance, making it a key hub connecting policy, specialty and family.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors acknowledge the Self-funded Project of Shandong Provincial Education Science "14th Five-Year Plan" 2023: Research on the Training Mechanism of Childcare Talents in Shandong Higher Vocational Colleges under the Background of "CPPCC-Enterprise-Hospital" Multi-party Integration (Project No. 2023ZC607)

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