



ASIAN
EVALUATION
WEEK 2023

CASE STUDY: Partnership between Research Organization and NGO

Evaluation Study on the Effectiveness of
KFHI's Child Development Program

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Center for International
Development Evaluation (CIDE) /
Seoul National University

Platform of SNU-CIDE for Partnership with NGOs

① Annual Evaluation Capacity Building Program for NGOs

- One-day intensive training session
- A regular activity that has been conducted every year since 2014 and has been attended by many NGOs working in Korea, including KFHI
- The training program is funded by SNU-CIDE's own budget and is free for participants.

② Joint Research Project

- Jointly identify research topics and decide on research questions in close consultation with each other
- Besides KFHI, joint research with Save the Children Korea, World Vision Korea, and Good Neighbors
- Most projects are initiated through meetings with NGO people participating in the Evaluation Capacity Building Program.
- In most cases, the research fund is co-funded by both organizations' budget.



Shared Goals, Mutual Benefit, On-going long-term partnership

Case Background: Organizations

Seoul National University – Center for International Development Evaluation

- Research center specializing in international development and policy evaluation, to contribute to improving the program by assessing aid effectiveness with rigorous evaluation methods with international standards
- Conducts evaluation research projects, capacity building programs, and international networking activities

Korea Food for the Hungry International

- Christian NGO dedicated at supporting vulnerable communities suffering from hunger and poverty, working in collaboration with churches and the local community
- Aids through International Relief and Development (R&D) program, Domestic Welfare program, North Korea support program, and Self-reliance program



Signing MOU, 3-year Joint Research Project

Case Presentation of a Joint Research Project

Evaluation Study on the Effectiveness of
KFHI's Child Development Program

Study Background

Children Vulnerable to Poverty

20% of children in the world are under extreme poverty, 37% of children in the world are under multidimensional poverty. Children under poverty acquires unfair opportunities in various aspects of life, which are passed down through generation

KFHI's CDP(Child Development Program)

Recognizing the vulnerability of children under poverty, KFHI has been working on better life for them by carrying out Child Development Program (CDP) for 10 years by 2017, helping 94,291 children aged 5-18 years, via 210 local centers around the world

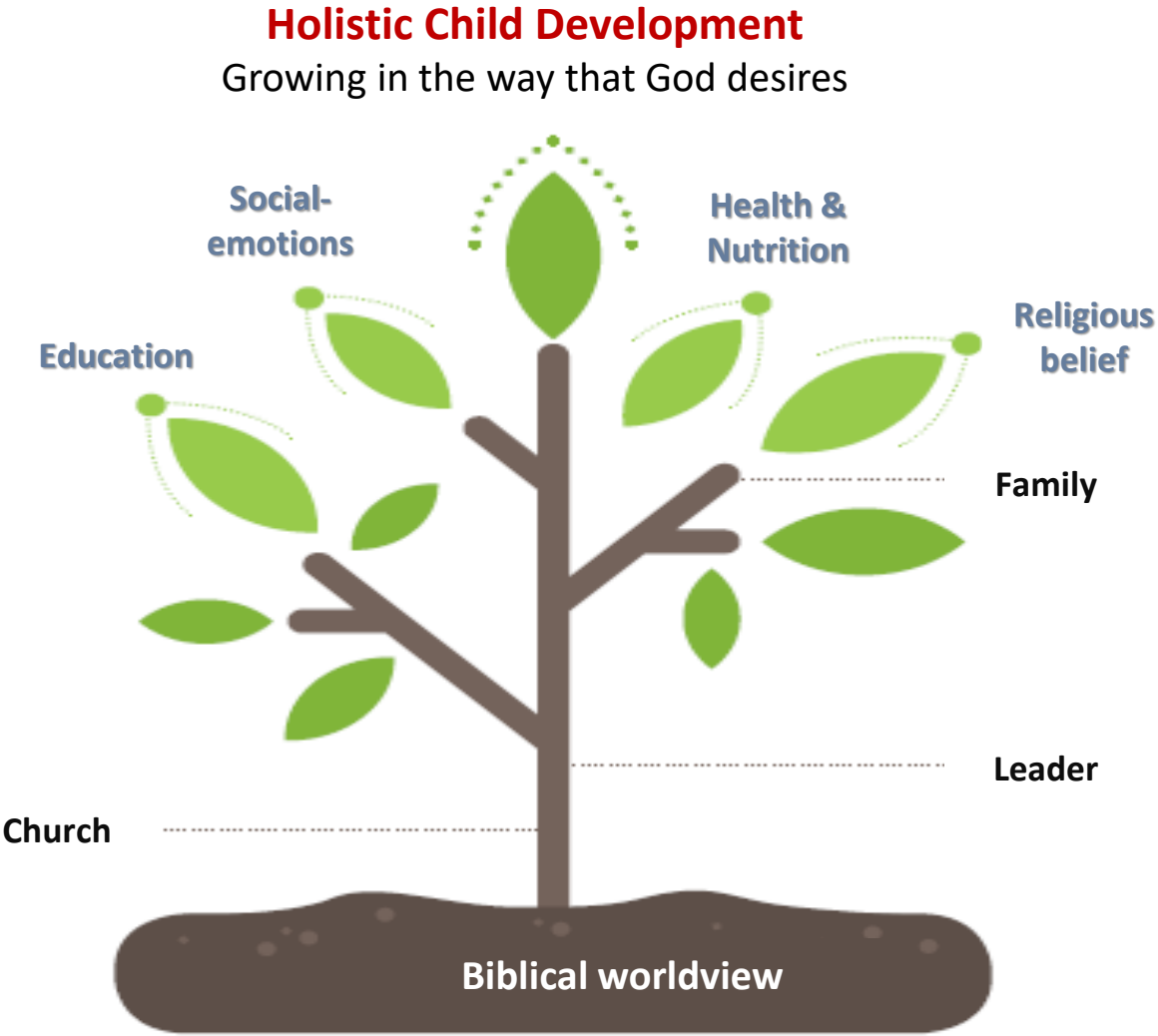
Necessity for reexamining CDP

Evaluation on the program and additional supplements on evaluation is needed for future program development of KFHI



Evaluation research project for CDP program commissioned to CIDE

Program objective



Specific activities in each sector



Education

After-school program, School uniform&supplies assistance, Library, Playground, Vocational education, Tuition support, etc.



Health·Nutrition

Health examination, Health education, School lunch program, Nutritional supplement distribution, vaccination, sex education, etc.



Social-emotions

Home visit, Child group activities, special activities, Sports competition, Field trip, picnic, camp, etc.



Religious belief

Sunday School, Summer Bible School, small Group Bible Study, Christmas celebration, etc.



Community development

Parents & Leadership education, Income generation activities, Water pump construction, School renovation, etc.



Data used for analysis

| Data type | Subject | Data collected |
|---------------|---|--|
| Child Data | Children under CDP sponsorship (June 2017) | School completion rate, dropout rate, BMI, demographic statistics |
| Child Survey | Children under CDP program for 3 years+, aged 14-15 (June 2017) | Output and outcome indicators across all sectors |
| Parent Survey | Parents/caregivers of the surveyed CDP children | Change in child rearing, household economy, etc. |
| Center Survey | Local centers under operation for 3years+ (June 2017) | Center activity, CLF collaboration efforts, organization information, etc. |
| Staff Survey | Staff at the surveyed centers | Organizational/job satisfaction, personal competence, perceived CDP effect, etc. |

Findings: Effects of Religious Factor on Educational Outcomes

- ✓ Increase the children's participation in education program activities carried out at school at a statistically significant level (5% significance level).
- ✓ Participation in and commitment to religious activities and the religious composition of adolescents' social networks have a significant and positive impact on academic achievement, attachment to school, and educational aspirations (Regnerus, 2000).
- ✓ A composite indicator reflecting the concept of "hope and striving for the future (future orientation)" has a statistically significant positive effect on educational attainment and participation in composite indicators and education-related supplementary activities → **Students' optimism and hope are positively associated with academic achievement** (Marques, Lopez & Pais-Ribeiro, 2011).
- ✓ Composite indicator weighted toward the items "I feel I have a lot to be proud of" and "Some people in my community can make people sick through things like curses or the 'evil eye'" → Negative impact on total educational attainment and participation in extracurricular activities, positive impact on participation in activities that pay in cash or goods.

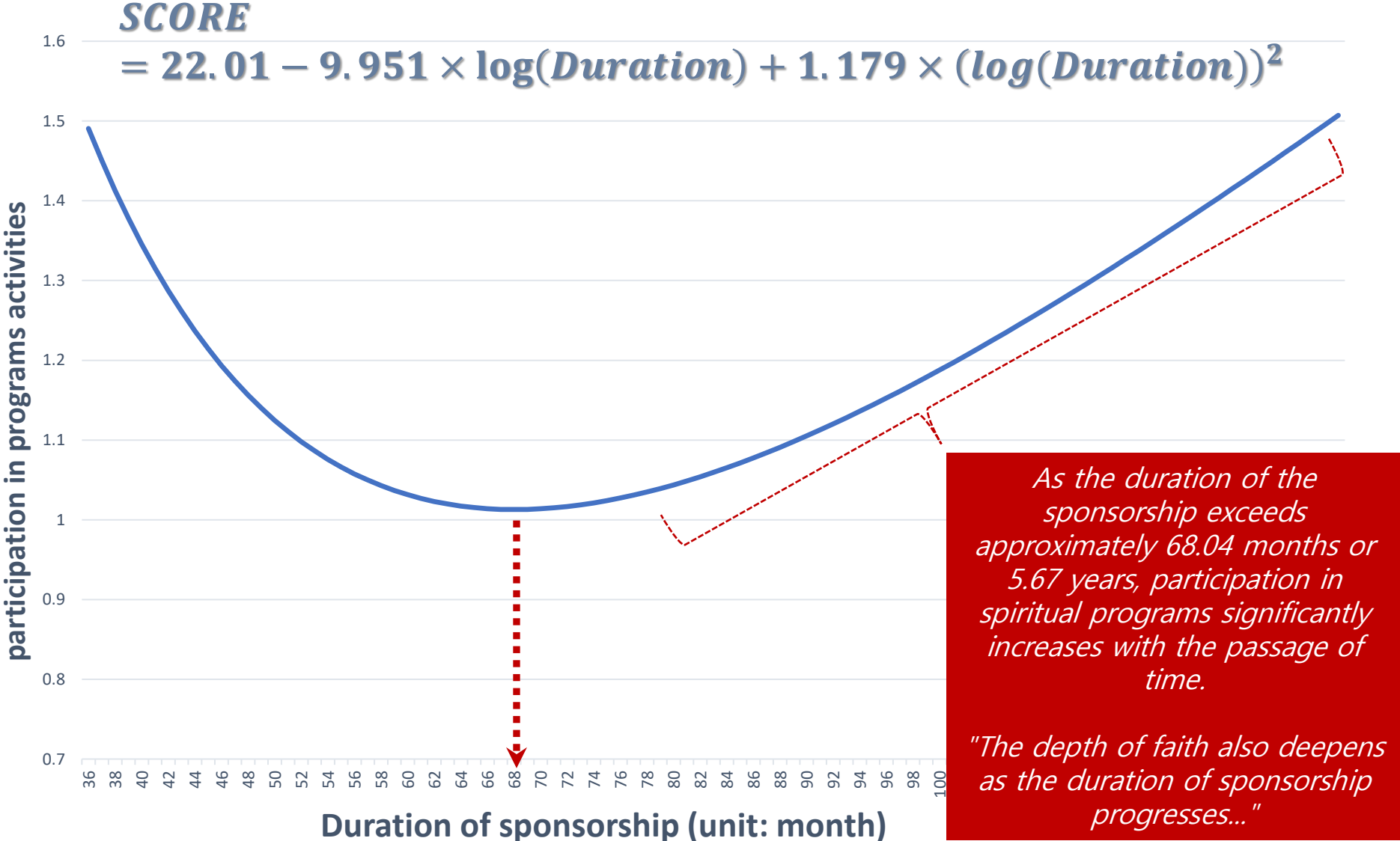
Findings: Effects of Religious Factor on Health Outcomes

- ✓ The spirituality composite score has a significant impact on health outcomes and the health behavior change composite index score, which reflects "perceived importance of physical care."
- ✓ The socioemotional composite index score, which reflects future orientation, has an impact on all composites in the health sector.
- ✓ These findings suggest that spirituality does not directly influence children's health outcomes and behaviors, but rather through an indirect pathway that allows them to recognize and act on the importance of taking care of themselves through socio-emotional effects that strengthen their hope and faith in the future.

Findings: Effects of Religious Factor on **Socioemotional** Outcomes

- ✓ Children's spirituality has **a direct and significant impact on children's social-emotional development.**
- ✓ The children's spirituality has a statistically significant impact on the composite indicator reflecting children's social-emotional performance and children's future-oriented social-emotional performance.
- ✓ In particular, the **future-orientation** was analyzed for a statistically significant impact at the 1% level of significance, which means that the performance of the spirituality domain is mostly focused on future-orientation.
- ✓ In the education and health sectors, future-orientation was found to be a significant and logically consistent determinant of almost all outcome and output indicators, with spirituality activities and levels being one of its determinants.
- ✓ **Religious belief** and **Social-emotions** (especially **future orientation**) not only influence one another but also has **definite and extensive influence on almost all outcome variables** → The strategy to **foster future orientation of children through spirituality activities** is an essential tactic to strengthen **program effectiveness across all sectors** → An important distinguished value that KFHI holds, also in aspects of meeting the expectations of donors through effective management of donation.

Duration of sponsorship and children's participation in spirituality-related activities



Findings: Sustainability of Spirituality

- ✓ The minimum point of the concave curve corresponds to approximately 68.04 months or 5.67 years of sponsorship.
- ✓ The fact that children's participation in spiritual activities continues to decline until approximately five years after the onset of the sponsorship suggests that children who enter into sponsorship at an average age of five to seven years old may lose interest in participating in spirituality-related activities if they do not form religious beliefs until they are approximately 10 to 13 years old.
- ✓ However, after 5.67 years, there is a statistically significant increase in participation in spiritual activities over time.
- ✓ These findings suggest that **if children do not lose interest in participating in spiritual activities and remain engaged until they reach a certain age at which religious beliefs are formed, then a strong faith-based spirituality may be sustainable.**

Gains from Partnership

SNU-CIDE

- Opportunity to conduct new research on under-explored topics in development cooperation
- Opportunity to translate the results of collaborative research into academic outputs
- Generation of new knowledge that can be shared within the NGO community → Capacity Building Program training materials

KFHI

- Understand the effectiveness of an on-going program
- Develop ideas to improve the program's effectiveness
- Material to communicate the organization's distinctive strengths to donors
- Inspire a sense of pride in organization's members and empathy for the direction organization is going → Inspire KFHI's members to be engaged in their work

Takeaways

- ① The effectiveness of the partnership was maximized **joint decision-making by close communication** between the two organizations throughout the entire research process, starting from the stage of deciding on the research themes.
- ② **Understanding the background, purpose, motivation, and mission of the partner organization**, as well as the individual research topic, can enhance the effectiveness of the partnership.
- ③ Multiple rounds of **mutual feedback** helped to improve the results of the research.
- ④ For the partnership to be sustainable, the relationship must be set up so that both organizations have **common goals and mutual benefits**.
- ⑤ Ensuring that the **contact person** at both organizations is clearly designated and not changed after being designated is essential for ongoing communication and partnership.
- ⑥ **Disseminating the results of the partnership** can create new opportunities for productive partnerships with more organizations. → Partnership activities continue even after the research project ends.



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Thank You

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