

Childcare Policies and ECCE in Developing Countries

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Global Trends & Childcare Policies

- Increased need and demand for childcare policies*
 - Rapid urbanization
 - Aging and shrinking population
 - Rising levels of women's education

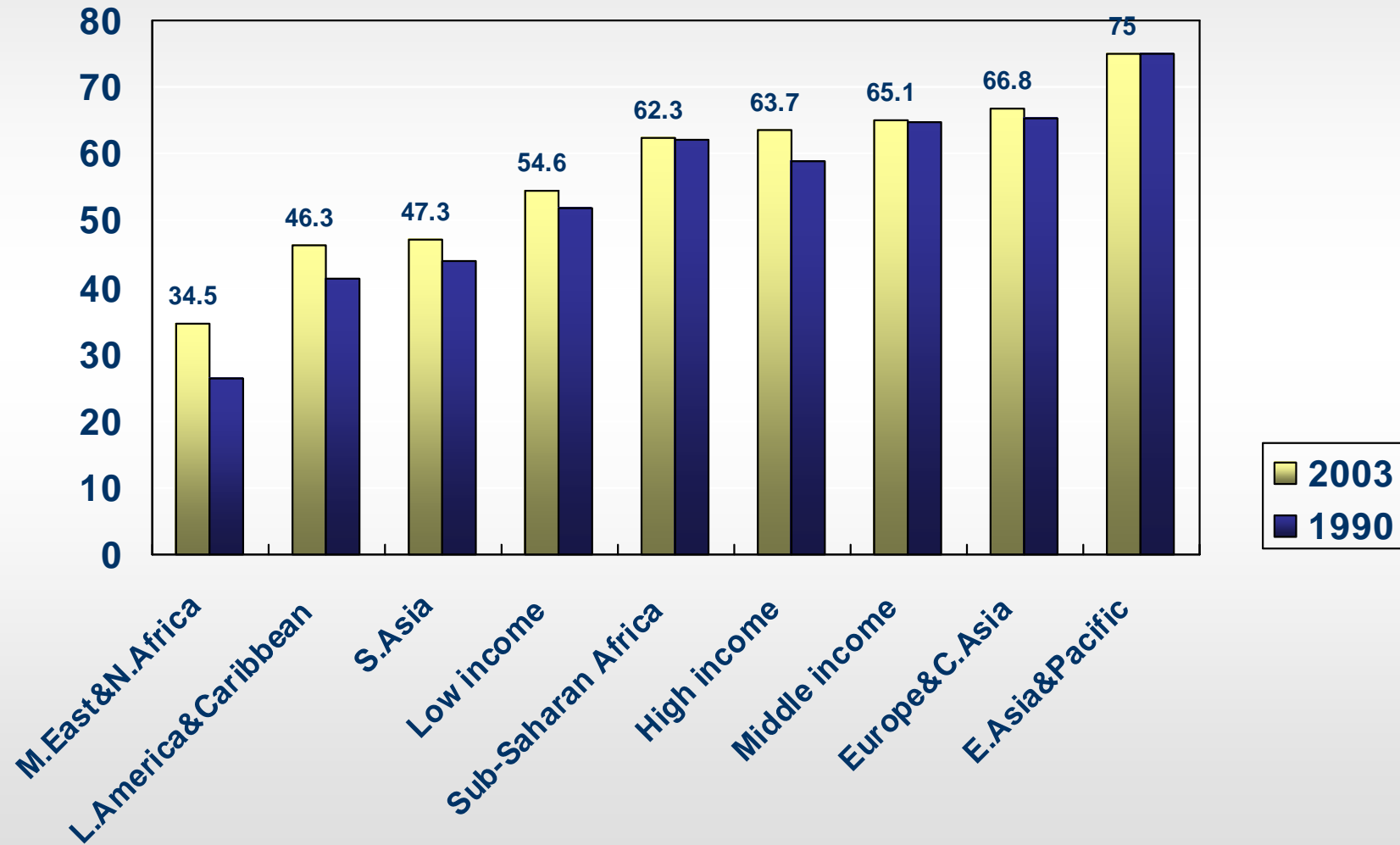
* Leave policies, family benefits, ECCE services etc.

Female Labor Force Participation

In developed countries:

- Childcare policies developed in response to increased female participation in labor market
- Policies to reconcile work and family critical to economic and social strategies

**Figure 1: Female labour force participation rate (%), 2003
(World Development Indicators, 2005, World Bank)**



Female Participation in Labor

Employment status of working mothers in developing countries

- Most female workers are unpaid family workers (Table 1)
- Most work in informal sector e.g. agriculture sector (Table 2)

**Table 1: Unpaid family workers, female % of female employment, 2000-03
(World Development Indicators, 2005, World Bank)**

Bangladesh	73.2
Cambodia	53.3
Pakistan	50.1
Thailand	39.8
Egypt	26.0
Mexico	12.5
Italy	6.0
Spain	3.3
Portugal	3.2
Germany	2.1
Netherlands	1.1
Hungary	1.0
Norway	0.5
UK	0.5
Finland	0.4
Sweden	0.4
US	0.1

Table 2: Female employment by economic activity, % of female employment (World Development Indicators, 2005, World Bank)

	Agriculture		Industry		Services	
	1990-92	2000-02	1990-92	2000-02	1990-92	2000-02
Bangladesh	85	77	9	9	2	12
Pakistan	69	73	15	9	16	18
Thailand	62	48	13	17	25	35
Egypt	52	39	10	7	37	54
Namibia	67	29	12	7	21	63
Philippines	32	25	14	12	55	63
Brazil	25	16	10	10	65	74
Malaysia	20	14	32	29	48	57
Spain	8	5	16	15	76	81
Finland	6	4	15	14	78	82
Germany	4	2	24	18	72	80
Norway	3	2	10	9	86	88
Sweden	2	1	12	11	86	88
France	1	1	17	13	83	86
US	1	1	14	12	85	87
UK	1	1	15	11	75	88

Female Participation in Labor

In developing countries:

- Relationship btw women in labor force and childcare policies less pronounced
- Weak perception of need and demand for childcare policies
- Cultural attitudes and traditions
- Resource constraints
- Childcare policies still a luxury

ECCE provision for 0-3 yrs

- Formal ECCE services out of reach in developing countries
- Public provision focused more on pre-primary education
- 0-3 yrs marginalized (Table 3)
- Care for children 0-3 yrs left to family with little support

Table 3: Latin American Countries with compulsory PPE policy

	Age(s) at which PPE is compulsory	Entry age into PE
Argentina	5	6
Colombia	5	6
Costa Rica	5	6
Dominican Republic	5	6
El Salvador	4,5,6	7
Mexico	3,4,5	6
Panama	4,5	6
Peru	5	6
Uruguay	5	6
Venezuela	5	6

Integrated ECCE

- Trend in developed countries and recently in Latin America
- Transferring the administrative auspices for ECCE to education sector
 - Day cares/crèches integrated as educational institutions
 - Education sector responsible for pedagogy
- Cost-efficient way of providing ECCE
- Quality of ECCE services best ensured by the education sector

Advantages:

- Support for parental work
- Holistic child development
- Context of lifelong learning

Challenges:

- Conceptual integration of 0-3 yrs into education sector, but administrative and funding integration remains incomplete
- Low public investment and high per-child cost
- Low quality

Alternative Options

- Parent education
- Community-based, family-based daycare
- Funds from social sector used for development of childcare policies

UNESCO & ECCE

Upstream policy work

- UNESCO/OECD Early Childhood Policy Review Project
- Policy Briefs on Early Childhood
- Early Childhood and Family Policy Series