

# A STUDY OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN SCHOOL COMPETITION, ECE PROGRAM QUALITY AND ORGANIZATIONAL INNOVATION

## Abstract

Educational reform has been a trend in western countries. School competition is one of the concept in market-oriented reforms. Yet, evidence on the actual benefits of market-oriented reforms is at best mixed.

The purpose of the article is to integrative school competition and the relationship between ECE program quality and organizational innovation in kindergarten. A questionnaires survey are adopted for the study and were distributed to 153 kindergartens in Wenshan district and Wanhua district of Taipei City. The number of valid return rate was 54.2%. The data were analyzed with descriptive statistics, Person correlation, t-test, and ANOVA.

The results were as follow:

1. This study investigated the concept of school competition, and linked up school competition with ECE program quality and organizational innovation.
2. This study revealed that the degree of competition between kindergartens was not equal.
3. This study showed that the competition in Wenshan district was higher than in Wanhua district.
4. This study indicated that ECE program quality was good in Wenshan district and Wanhua district.
5. This study showed that knowledge activity quality of kindergarten needed to strengthen in Wenshan and Wanhua district.
6. This study indicated that organizational innovation of kindergarten was good in Wenshan district and Wanhua district.
7. This study demonstrated a positive relationship between school competition and service quality.
8. This study showed a positive relationship between instruction innovation and administration innovation.

9. This study revealed that administration innovations in public school were adopted more than in private school.

Overall, findings from this study pointed to several relevant implications for the early childhood education practice and follow-up research.

Key words: market-oriented, school competition, kindergarten, ECE program quality, organizational innovation

