

## Korean Journal of Child Studies: Moving Towards Internationalization and Improvement in Quality

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Worldwide trend of globalization is effecting numerous changes in domestic academia. This trend is not an exception in the field of child and adolescent studies, and many voluntary and involuntary changes have been made to join the international community. The Korean Journal of Child Studies (KJCS) has published papers on various topics including development and psychological changes, education and care, counseling and intervention, parents and family, policy, and health. Recently, fusion research between child studies, ICT, and medical science is increasing, but categorizing the KJCS into one of the science journals seems inappropriate, just like wearing a cloth that does not fit. However, at this point I will not discuss the identity or characteristics of the journal.

Over the past few months, I attended a seminar hosted by the Korean Federation of Science and Technology Societies (KOFST), which is responsible for evaluation of science journals. I had the opportunity to meet professional editors and a manuscript editor in science and technology during meetings and discussions. These people are from different disciplines and I was of the view that we do not have common academic perspectives. However, I heard objective assessments of the KJCS and recommendations for internationalization and digitization during these meetings. Since this journal is a constituent of the KOFST, we may face problems that other journals

have not experienced. However, I believe that ironically it is because of these challenges that we could enhance the quality of this journal.

I was proud to hear from scholars from other disciplines that this journal is good as compared to international standards. It may be difficult for them to assess the significance of research topics, but we obtained a fair evaluation of the objectivity of research methods and systematic construct of an article. However, it may not be necessary for us to apply the AMA citation style and English only policy for the KJCS. We also acknowledge that our journal has a few weaknesses with regard to internationalization. The language used in this journal, whether English or Korean, is not of importance in our vision of internationalization. More importantly, we must have times to consider the convenience of readers, academic exchanges between domestic scholars, communication with the public, social contribution, and feasibility of policy.

Nevertheless, compared to top-level international journals, we may need to contemplate on some of their suggestions that many of us may agree to. At the same time, we may be able to improve many weaknesses with less effort. I would like to share only two of these that we can fully consider at this point.

First, we received unsatisfactory ratings for citation of

latest literature from almost all the experts. Probably, we could have quoted articles older than 10 years or even published in the 1960s for review of previous literature. However, journal article is not a sheet that tracks the search process of all literature. It is not necessary to describe the whole process of citing previous research that also cites prior research. Rather, it is more important to make a note of new findings in latest articles. Studying a phenomenon that is taking place in contemporary society based on research findings made a few decades ago does not sound valid and reliable. If we consider the ecological validity of a scale, it would be appropriate to use the latest version of the scale.

Second, it was pointed out that references in the journal have an overall high proportion of master's theses and doctoral dissertations. There is controversy in other countries on this issue. In particular, science journals tend to avoid quoting theses. In general, at least three reviewers for masters and five reviewers for doctoral theses are required within the context of education in Korea, and some theses are excellent. Nonetheless, in the US where Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is required for all researches involving human subjects, a query regarding research ethics or plagiarism is often raised. Well-known academic journals are being publicly verified on novelty of the research project, accuracy of citation, duplicate publication, and plagiarism through DOI/CrossRef/CrossMark. Thus, scholars barely trust theses and dissertations that are still going through these public checks. Citing a thesis is certainly possible if the quality is superior. However, I would likely to recommend foremost consideration of more quality proven literature published in top academic journals.

Moreover, I pointed out certain shortcomings related to these two issues generally and less meticulously while teaching students or reviewing manuscripts. For this reason, I completely agree with the opinions of scholars from other disciplines. I believe that being "Faithful to the Basic Principles" is always true across the world, regardless of the major. For sure, it is essential to properly validate the research process, and respect research ethics.

Requirements that need to be met for obtaining IRB approval for studies involving human subjects have increased. We need to make additional efforts to establish ethical standards for better research.

Many people have invested their time and effort for this issue of the KJCS, and several changes have been introduced beginning this issue. International recognition and improvement in quality of the KJCS may not be accomplished in a short time period. The KJCS has been developed by efforts of many editors-in-chief, editorial committee, and staffs as it stands today; and I believe that people will continue to take it forward in the future. I would like to thank the president and vice presidents for having supported the journal revision wholly, the advisory committee, and editorial committee. Professor Huh, who is the author of an invited paper in this issue, has served as the Committee Chair of Korean Association of Medical Journal Editors and Korean Council of Science Editors, and Chair of Education Training Committee of the Council of Asian Science Editors. I am really grateful for his sincere evaluation of the journal, and suggestions for internationalization. In addition, I thank Hyemin Cho who was willing to assist in journal design, layout, and editing styles, and dedicated editorial assistants who have worked from morning until night for this issue.

Hana Song, Editor-in-Chief  
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## Conflict of Interest

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this editorial was reported.

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