

Child Care Subsidy Policies: Contributions and Challenges, In the United States and China

Xiang Gao

University of Washington, United States

Abstract

This paper discusses the strengths and weaknesses of child care subsidy policies in an anti-poverty agenda. Child care subsidy policies are designed to provide work-support and benefit child development among low income families in the United States. However, low coverage rate, fragmentary funding and administrative structures, deficiencies in quality improvement, and unequal child care supports across states limit the contribution of child care subsidy policies. This paper also discusses the contributions and limitations of current Chinese child care subsidy policies. Child care subsidy policy unequally benefits employees working for government agencies and state owned enterprises. An integrative administrative and finance structure, more supervision in quality improvement, as well as a universal benefit program will benefit women and children's development in China. Discussion on the United States' child care focuses on subsidy to school aged (5 to 18 years old) children. Discussion on the China's child care includes children 18 years old and younger.

Keywords: Child Care Subsidy, United States, China