

CONVOYS OF SOCIAL SUPPORT IN CHILDHOOD: ITS STRUCTURE ANALYZED BY RELATIONSHIP CATEGORIES. Hyun, O. K., Lee, W.J. & Jang Y.S. Department of Consumer, Child, and Family Studies, Inha University, Incheon 402-751, Korea.

Children receive various supports from their parents, siblings, relatives, friends, teachers, or even their neighbors. And these social supports are convoyed during childhood and adolescence. This research is based on 'the social convoy model' which had been conceptualized by Kahn and Antonucci (1980). The purpose of this study was (1) to explore how social supports are convoyed as children grow older and (2) to examine the structure of social support depending on children's gender, fathers' education, job and parents' marital status. The data were collected by questionnaires from 656 children of the second, fifth, and eighth graders in rural and urban areas. The subjects were asked to fill persons' name from whom they received social support in the inner, middle, and outer circles which designated the psychological distance. All persons written in every circle were categorized by their relationship with the subject, such as parent, sibling, relative, friend, and neighbor. The size of social support was calculated by the number of people in each circle. The major findings were as follows:

1. Children were likely to put parents in the inner circle, siblings and extended kin in the middle circle, and friends in the outer circle. The size of social support in each circle increased with age. Girls put more friends in the middle circle, while boys put more neighbors in the outer circle, as they grew older.
2. The more fathers were educated, the less support children pursued from their sibling, while the more fathers were educated, the more support children pursued to get from their extended kin. The size of neighbors in the outer circle was bigger when fathers received at least college education than fathers received at most high school education.
3. When fathers worked in rural area, children pursued to get support from their sibling and neighbor more than their counterparts did. When fathers worked in urban area, children pursued to get support from their kin more than their counterparts did.
4. When parents were divorced, convoy sizes of their children were significantly decreased in all circles.