

NEED ASSESSMENT OF CENTRALIZED FOODSERVICE INFORMATION SUPPORT FOR IMPROVING NUTRITION STATUS OF CHILDREN IN CHILD-CARE CENTERS. Kwak T.K., Lee H.S.¹⁾, Hong W.S. & Jang M.R.* Department of Food and Nutrition, Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea. ¹⁾Department of Food and Nutrition, Andong National University, Andongsi Kyungsangbuk-Do, Korea

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the foodservice management practices in child-care centers in order to provide basic information for the development of a model of a centralized foodservice information center. This approach was achieved using the importance-performance analysis(IPA) techniques. A self-completed questionnaire survey of 651 child-care centers in Korea was undertaken. Statistical data analysis was done using the SAS program for descriptive analysis, ANOVA, and Student-Newman-Keuls. Private sector was 46.4% of the total childcare centers followed by national/public (44.2%) and licenced home day-care programs (9.4%). Average mean score for importance was 4.07 out of 5 ('important') and mean score for performance was 3.06 out of 5('so-so'). There is no attribute in Quadrant A(Focus here). Quadrant C is labelled "Low priority" which indicates fair to poor performance of an attribute that is not particularly recognized as important. In this study, the attributes in Quadrant C were found to be with poor performance(1.80~2.68) and fair importance(3.54~3.94). The attributes in Quadrant C were: the safe food handling training for foodservice personnel by experts, providing breakfast for the very needy, providing dinner for the very needy, training for menu planning, professional operation of foodservice by dietitians, cooperative support from the Centralized Foodservice and Nutrition Information Center, nutrition education for children, development of nutrition education materials for children, provision of supplementary foods for infants, and variety of supplementary foods given to infants. These results suggest the urgent need to develop Centralized foodservice and Nutrition Information Center that can support the improvement of these foodservice attributes mentioned above.