Indicator 4.2.2

Indicator Name, Target and Goal

Indicator 4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex

Target 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Definition and Rationale

○ Definition

This indicator is defined as the percentage of children aged one year younger than the theoretical entry age to primary education who take part in organized learning programmes. In Japan, it is defined as the percentage of 5-year-old children enrolled in Kindergartens (including Schools for special needs education, kindergarten department), Day care centres and Integrated centres for early childhood education and care.

○ Concepts

①An *organized learning programme* is one which consists of a coherent set or sequence of educational activities designed with the intention of achieving pre-determined learning outcomes or the accomplishment of a specific set of educational tasks. Under the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED), pre-primary education (ISCED02) is defined as "Programmes designed for children from 3 years old to the age at entering primary education, that offer intended educational opportunities (activities) which meet the minimum intensity/duration in institutional (regulated) settings such as school-based or organized groups of children." In Japan organized learning programmes are those offered at Kindergartens, Day care centres, and Integrated centres for early childhood education and care, and are registered as ISCED02.

②The School Education Act 17(1) stipulates that "Guardians shall be obligated to have their children enrolled in elementary school or elementary department of school for special needs education, from the beginning of the first grade after the date following the day on which the children reach the age of 6[(*)]".

Therefore, in Japan, children who are one year younger than the age for

theoretically beginning primary education are five years old.

(*) The translation is a provisional one.

○　Rationale and Interpretation

The indicator measures enrolment rate in organized learning activities in the year prior to the start of primary school as a representation of access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education.

A high value of this indicator shows a high degree of participation in organized learning programmes immediately before the official entry age to primary education.

Data Sources and Collection Method

① 　 School Basic Survey

Based on the Statistics Act, this is the fundamental statistical school survey in Japan. Targeting all schools in Japan, it surveys the numbers of children enrolled in Kindergartens and Integrated centres for early childhood education and care.

② 　 Survey of Social Welfare Institutions

Based on the Statistics Act, this a general statistical survey. Targeting social welfare institutions in Japan, it surveys the numbers of children enrolled in Day care centres.

③ 　 Population Estimates

This is a fundamental statistics based on the Statistics Act. Japan's population is grasped in detail through the Population Census every five years, Current Population Estimates are published in order to grasp population of every month and year for the intercensal period.

Method of Computation and Other Methodological Considerations

○　Computation Method

This indicator can be calculated by dividing the sum total of a) the number of children enrolled in Kindergartens at the age of five, b) the number of children enrolled in Day care centres, and c) the number of children enrolled in Integrated centres for early childhood education and care, by d) the total population of children in the same age cohort, and multiplying the result by 100.

$$e = \frac{a+b+c}{d} \times 100$$

○　Comments and limitations

　　　The survey periods for each of the surveys serving as a data base are different. While the survey time each year of the School Basic Survey is May 1 (age at April 1), the survey time each year for the Survey of Social Welfare Institutions is October 1 (age at September 30). It should be noted that these survey results are totaled and divided by the survey results of the population estimates (October 1 each year [age at October 1]).

　　　Since the collection rates of the Survey of Social Welfare Institutions is not 100%, it should be noted that the number of children enrolled in Day care centres in the data does not represent total number in the whole country. In addition, the data is not tabulated by gender, the enrollment rate by gender cannot be calculated.

Data Disaggregation

N/A (There is no data by sex.)

References

School Basic Survey
http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/toukei/chousa01/kihon/1267995.htm
Survey of Social Welfare Institutions
https://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/list/23-22.html
Population Estimates
https://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/index.html

Custodian Ministries of Data

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Custodian Ministries of Related Policies

Children and Families Agency
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

International Organizations

UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UNESCO-UIS)