

## Analysis of Students' Psycho-emotional Status and Plan for Establishment of an Educational Safety Net

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### The purpose of the study

- The purpose of this study is to analyze the factors that affect the students' psycho-emotional status, living in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic and to propose policy measures to build an educational safety net to provide students with psycho-emotional support based on the findings of the empirical analysis.

### Major research contents and research methods

- The contents of the study are 1) to explore the concept of students' psycho-emotional status, its components, and influencing factors, 2) to understand the current psycho-emotional status of students in the era of COVID-19, 3) to identify the current status and tasks of an educational safety net in the era of COVID-19, and 4) to create an educational safety net to provide students with psycho-emotional support.
- Literature review, surveys, Focus Group Interviews(FGI), and case study were used as research methods. Moreover, expert opinions were collected through expert seminars and forums, council meetings, reviews, and open discussions.

### Research findings

#### The current psycho-emotional status of students in the era of COVID-19

- Overall, students exhibited negative emotions.
- Psycho-emotional problems experienced by students were complex as they were interconnected.
- Anxiety, depression, helplessness, and lack of experiences in social interaction and conflict resolution emerged as difficulties in peer relationships for elementary school students and as sociability problems for middle school students.
- Teachers responded that helplessness was the most difficult problem to address. It was difficult to treat helplessness with short-term interventions and a multifaceted approach was needed as helplessness affected other areas such as learning difficulties, developmental delay and social maladjustment.

#### Plans for the establishment of an educational safety net for psycho-emotional support for students

- The educational safety net to provide students psycho-emotional support are based on the following four basic directions: 1) student-centered approach, 2) relationship-centered approach, 3) comprehensive approach, and 4) ecological system-based approach. The educational safety net has three phases: 1) the 1<sup>st</sup> phase: for all students, for prevention 2) the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase: for(potential) risk group, for monitoring and integrated support, 3) the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase: for high risk group, emergency support and recovery support.
- As measures to promote the educational safety net for psycho-emotional support for students, 1) strengthening the connection between the phases of the educational safety net, 2) enacting related laws, and 3) improving policies and systems for customized support are proposed.