

Abstract

The purposes of this study include: analyzing the economic conditions of unemployed/working families in Taiwan as well as examining related policies of Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Germany, the UK and the US. According to the analyses, unemployed families face most severe economic impact in recent years. This group can be seen as the major group of new poverty in Taiwan.

As for the policy experiences of the above six countries, there are three types of policy options including: (1) social assistance and welfare to work program---Hong Kong and Germany, (2) wage supplement and occupational training ---Singapore, (3) social assistance, welfare to work and tax credits---Korea, the UK and the US.

Based on the secondary data analyses and the interviews of six focus groups, we proposed the following policy recommendations. We proposed to balance individual rights and responsibilities and design more positive incentives for encouraging people to go back to the labor market. Current policies such as unemployment benefits, social assistance, social benefits of middle-income families, tax expenditures, employment services and trainings all need to be reexamined and amended in order to protect people from new economic disturbance.

Keywords : new poverty, unemployment, tax credits, social assistance, welfare to work