# An Application of Fuzzy Theory to Merger and Operating Small-scale Schools

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#### **ABSTRACT**

While facing the rapid shift in the 21th century, the trend of urbanization happens in Taiwan and other developing countries. At the same time, the size of small or non-children family changes the structure of population pyramid. The Control Yuan suggests close and merge some small- scale schools, coping with the financial deficit of governments. We all understand that education is the cornerstone of a country and the quality of education is related to country's competition. Because of the shortage of finance in local government, the investment of education expenditure should be used in best utilization. But the obstacles of closing and merging small-scale schools are so big, it is very important to evaluate the necessity carefully. The approach is by means of fuzzy theory to set up evaluation criteria into the merger and operation of small-scale schools. The approach is based on the four dimensions of the merger and operation: the school's operating cost and efficiency; the correlation among family-school's geography, transportation and residents change; the community's social and educational activities by school; school expenditure and cost efficiency, and at second level, totaled 16 evaluation criteria to interview with scholars and expert questionnaire. By Analytic Hierarchy process (AHP) to data analysis, weighting calculation and consistency testing, it could construct the evaluation criteria of small-scale school's merge and operation. The data analysis shows: the school's characteristics (geographic environment, family's social-economic situation, transportation and residents change) weights 38% ranked highest. The school's current operating cost and efficiency weights 29% ranked second. Community social and educational activities by school weights 22% ranked third. And the school's expenditure and cost efficiency weights 11% ranked fourth. Comprehensive survey on the second level evaluation criteria weights, the priority rank are the ratio of inferior family, disadvantage of geographical environment, student learning efficiency. How to promote student learning efficiency and to maintain the children's education entitlement in remote area and inferior groups are the most important factors to the educational authority to plan and promulgate educational policy.

Keywords: Fuzzy Theory, Small-scale School, Analytic Hierarchy Process

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