

1. Importance of the Manuscript

Original reviewer comment:

The manuscript is important because it addresses the intersection of media discourse, child welfare, and social policy, and contributes to understanding how media narratives may reflect and shape public and policy responses to child maltreatment.

Assessment:

This point remains fully supported in the revised manuscript. The manuscript continues to focus on a timely and important topic: how South Korean media discourse on child maltreatment changed before and after the Inclusive-State Child Policy. The revised version strengthens this contribution by connecting media narratives to public accountability, child welfare reform, state responsibility, and social work policy implications.

Suggested follow-up statement:

The manuscript remains important for the scientific community. It addresses a timely issue at the intersection of media discourse, child maltreatment, social work, and welfare policy. The revised manuscript further strengthens its relevance by linking media narratives to public accountability, child protection reform, and policy implementation.

2. Suitability of the Title

Original reviewer comment:

The title was considered generally appropriate and reflective of the content and methodology. An alternative title was suggested: *Media Discourse and Child Maltreatment in Korea: A Semantic Network Analysis of Policy-Driven Narrative Shifts*.

Assessment:

This concern is addressed. The current title, *Shifting Media Narratives on child maltreatment in Korea: Policy implications from a semantic network analysis of the Inclusive-State Child Policy*, is suitable. It clearly identifies the topic, geographic context, policy focus, and methodology.

Suggested follow-up statement:

The title remains suitable and accurately reflects the manuscript's focus on media narratives, child maltreatment in Korea, semantic network analysis, and the Inclusive-State Child Policy. No further change is required, although the previously suggested alternative title could still be considered if the journal prefers a shorter formulation.

3. Abstract

Original reviewer comment:

The abstract was mostly comprehensive but could be improved by being more concise, clearly stating the pre-post research design, and highlighting key findings and implications more directly.

Assessment:

This concern has been adequately addressed. The revised abstract now clearly states that the study used a “pre-post media analysis” to examine changes in media portrayals following the implementation of the Inclusive-State Child Policy. It also identifies the dataset of 2,463 online news articles from 2017 to 2022, the use of semantic network analysis, and the major finding that media coverage shifted from incident-focused reporting toward broader discussions of government accountability and societal responsibility. The abstract also briefly notes the implication that media narratives play an important role in shaping public discourse on child maltreatment.

Suggested follow-up statement:

The abstract has been improved and now more clearly states the pre-post design, dataset, methodology, key findings, and implications. It is generally comprehensive. However, the authors may still consider minor tightening to improve conciseness and readability.

4. English Quality**Original reviewer comment:**

The English quality was generally acceptable, but the authors were asked to address minor grammatical errors and typos and reduce repetition, especially in the introduction and discussion.

Assessment:

This concern has been partially addressed. The manuscript is generally understandable and written in an appropriate scholarly tone. However, several language and proofreading issues remain. Examples include “intro introduced,” “journalistic overage,” “note” instead of “node,” “brins” instead of “brings,” and some punctuation errors. The introduction and discussion are stronger but still somewhat lengthy and repetitive in places, especially in relation to media framing, public accountability, and welfare-oriented discourse.

Suggested follow-up statement:

The English quality is generally acceptable for scholarly communication, but the manuscript still requires careful proofreading. Several grammatical errors, typographical mistakes, punctuation problems, and formatting inconsistencies remain. The introduction and discussion would also benefit from further tightening to reduce repetition.

Updated Reviewer Follow-Up Table

Reviewer's original comment	Author's revision/evidence	Reviewer's follow-up assessment
The manuscript is important for the scientific community because it addresses child maltreatment and links findings to media discourse, child welfare, and social policy.	The revised manuscript continues to focus on media narratives surrounding child maltreatment and child welfare policy and public accountability.	Addressed. The manuscript remains timely, relevant, and valuable for social work and welfare policy scholarship.
The title is generally suitable.	The title clearly identifies media narratives, child maltreatment in Korea, semantic network analysis, and the Inclusive-State Child Policy.	Addressed. The current title is appropriate.
The abstract should clearly state the post design, findings, and implications.	The abstract now states that the study used a pre-post media analysis of 2,463 online news articles from 2017 to 2022 and identifies key findings related to government accountability, societal responsibility, and child welfare discourse.	Mostly addressed. The abstract is improved, though minor tightening conciseness.
English quality is generally acceptable, but grammar, typos, and repetition should be addressed.	Some improvements are evident, but grammatical errors, typographical issues, punctuation problems, and repetition remain.	Partially addressed. Careful proofreading or professional language editing is still recommended.

Summary of Comments

The authors have addressed several of the additional reviewer comments. The manuscript remains important and relevant to the scientific community because it examines the intersection of media discourse, child maltreatment, social work, and welfare policy. The title is suitable and accurately reflects the study's content and methodology. The abstract has been improved, as it now clearly identifies the pre-post research design, dataset, semantic network analysis, key findings, and broader implications. However, the abstract could still be slightly more concise.

The English quality is generally acceptable, but this concern has only been partially addressed. The manuscript still contains grammatical errors, typographical mistakes, punctuation issues, and some repetition, particularly in the introduction and discussion. Therefore, I recommend careful proofreading or professional language editing before publication. Overall, these comments have been mostly addressed, with minor revisions still needed.