

Changing Family Structure and Aging Issues

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I. Introduction

As industrialization has progressed, migration to cities and the ensuing urban concentration have broken down the traditional family system of agricultural society and expanded the nuclear family system.

This explains why the home, which had traditionally taken care of the aged, is now losing the function.

Since the early 1960s in Korea, economic development plans promoted have led to industrialization and urbanization, and expanded the trend of nuclear family. This with the influx of western culture undermined the traditional respect for the aged and family care for the elderly. Particularly psychological factors such as dissipation of traditional values and generation gap affected on family relation with the aged.

Even though the aged have been taken care of by family membership at home, they have already been deprived of decision-making role in home affairs and lost their patriarchal status. This isolation from family and society resulted in greater number of old people living alone, which is increasing social problems. A significant number of the aged who do live with family members are practically left alone.

However there is no integral and systematic welfare programs for the aged left alone or psychologically dismissed from family, compared with the developed countries. A few free

* Temporary Researcher, Korea Institute for Population and Health.

institutions and scanty service programs for the isolated aged are diporastic, and law and financial source to support institutional equipment are highly insufficient.

The problems which the aged generation are now facing in family relation are roughly as follow :

1. Nuclear family trend causing the family dissolution
2. Decrease in family care for the aged on account of expansion of nuclear family
3. Isolation and psychological problems of the aged in family relationship

Whether the universal pattern of family unit is nuclear or extended, family relation of the aged is based on family unit. Thus it is important to grasp the theoretic basis for the family relation of the aged and understand the real state the family transition and its impact on the aged.

In this context, here will be provided with the background of the aged problems followed by the decreasing family care, changing family structure, ultimately so as to suggest perspectives of integral service programs for the aged.

II. Aging Trend and Implications

1. Perceptual Implications

Concept of 'old-age' can be approached from a physiological, socio-economic and psychological point of view. It is very difficult to define clearly the concept of old-age in a scientific word on account of individual characteristics.

'Aging' means the biological transition toward death in dynamic respect. 'Aged' generally has the stational meaning, applied to those who are now going through the old-age.

By Kim in 1976, 'old-age' is generally seen to start at 65 ± 5 years.¹⁾ In Korea, 60 years of age is normally considered to be old-age and is traditionally celebrated. Welfare Law of the Aged, on the other hand, applies to those 65 years or older.²⁾

Generally old-age is regarded as retarding from home as well as society. In fact the elderly over 60 years are seen to maintain normally daily life and social activities.

1) Sang-Gyu Kim, *Noinbokjiei Chegyejeok Yeongu* (Systematic Research on Welfare of the Aged), Daegu : University of Kyongbuk Press, 1976, pp. 26~27.

2) Welfare Law of the Aged, Article 7.

Though the elderly show the retarding in memory, perception and logical thinking compared with the young, the perceptual ability of the aged ratherly improves with moderate training and necessary stimulus. Verbal and numerical ability of the aged show the same ability as that of the young.³⁾

According to Rhee in 1975, perception toward old-age shows a little difference between the older generation and younger generation. Younger generation tends to see that old-age starts in 60-64 years. Old generation rather regards old-age as 65 over or almost 70 years over. (Table.1)

The problem is that perceptual difference toward old-age between the elderly themselves and younger generation makes the early retired elderly feel more isolated.⁴⁾

Regional difference in old-age perception derives the contrast results.

Old-age in urban areas is supposed to be 65 years over, on the other hand, in rural areas to be 60 years or below. As the elderly can continue the agricultural job in rural areas, they

Table 1. Perception toward Old-age

| Classifi- cation | Age | | Area | | Total(No) |
|----------------------|------|------|-------|-------|------------|
| | 60+ | 59- | Urban | Rural | % |
| Old-age starts at | | | | | |
| 50+ | 5.7 | 4.8 | 5.6 | 5.0 | 5.3(39) |
| 55+ | 4.3 | 6.1 | 3.7 | 6.9 | 5.1(37) |
| 60+ | 32.0 | 44.3 | 31.0 | 46.0 | 37.6(274) |
| 65+ | 38.5 | 28.5 | 42.9 | 22.5 | 34.0(248) |
| 70+ | 14.5 | 13.9 | 12.4 | 16.6 | 14.2(104) |
| Others | 5.0 | 2.4 | 4.4 | 3.1 | 3.8(28) |
| | | | | | 100.0(730) |

Source : Young-Ha Rhee, Hanguksahoieh iteoseo Noinmunjehwa Haegyuleul Wihan Bangahn (Problems of the Aged in Korea and Perspectives for the Solution), Gongju College of Education, *Academic Journal*, 1975, p. 205.

3) Ahsan Social Welfare Foundation, *The Handbook of Welfare Services for the Aged*, 1985, pp. 69-70.

4) Gyu-Sam Kim, *Noinbokjiron* (An Introduction to Welfare of the Aged), Seoul: Hakmoon Company, 1982, pp. 226.

are not totally retired. The elderly in rural areas are more respected than those in urban areas owing to the remaining traditional value and custom.

Thus the elderly in rural areas, even though regarded as the elderly before 60 years, does not find more isolation than those in urban areas due to continuous labor and traditional respect.

Another important factor is perceptual difference between the elderly with job and those without job. The elderly with job feel, and be regarded, less older than the elderly without job.⁵⁾ The old people who are forced to retire along with the institutional retirement system without moderate service program or welfare institutions, are apt to have more psychological depression.

Conclusively, perception toward old-age is strongly related to socio-cultural environment in Korea. The old-age line is drawned low or high according to the perceptive point of view. This perception toward old-age acts on the aged relation in family and on the psychological aspects of the aged.

2. Demographic Implications

As shown in Table 2, the aged population will continue to expand in the actual number and in the rate composition in total population. Age structure is moving towards pottype structure of developed countries. Particularly, considering the retiring age at 55 years in general, the

Table 2. Population and Composition : 1980 ~ 2020

(Unit : 1,000)

| Year | Population | Aged Population | Composition | | |
|------|------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|-----|
| | | | -14 | 15-64 | 65+ |
| 1980 | 13,124 | 1,456 | 34 | 62 | 4 |
| 1990 | 44,261 | 2,013 | 29 | 67 | 5 |
| 2000 | 50,066 | 2,993 | 26 | 68 | 6 |
| 2010 | 64,634 | 4,308 | 23 | 69 | 8 |
| 2020 | 58,415 | 5,704 | 22 | 68 | 10 |

Source : Economic Planning Board, *Each Year Census Data*, 1981.

5) Doo-Il Hyun, Hanguk Noinei Sanghwalchegyeeh Gwanhan Sahoi hakjeok Yeongu (Sociological Study on Life System of the Aged in Korea), Seoul : *Keonkuk Academic Journal*, Vol. 20, 1976, p. 481.

aged population will reach about 6.7 million persons (11.5% of total) in 2020.⁶⁾

The change in age structure has demographic implications regarding the aged population. Rapid increase in the aged population requires social policy, which society should carry on.

Investment in health and education for the young is a positive one since it can be regained when young population grow to join the work force. On the other hand, investment in economic security for the aged population is negative one, which cannot be regained because of consumptive characteristics of the aged.⁷⁾

Thus, the growth of the aged population makes greater the burden of economically active population.

Among the demographic indexes, life span of the aged implies the significant impact on the elderly life. Life expectancy is projected to reach 69.3 years for males and 76.2 years for females in 2000, predicted to be more prolonged with the years.⁸⁾ Accordingly between 1990 and 2000, we can expect an average life span to be 70 or over for all aged population.

Increased life expectancy, owing to partly adequate nutrition, health care as well as advanced medical technology, offer rather longer idle life after retirement.

An average male whose life span is 70 years or over and who is to be retired at 55 years would spend at least 15 years without a job. During the time the elderly spend idle life if they cannot find out moderate role play in home or in society. This would be even longer for an averaged female whose life span is by five years longer than that of male.

III. Family Transition and Problems of the Aged

1. Socio-Demographic Variables of the Aged Generation in Family Relationship

1) Educational level

6) *2000nyunel Hyanghan Jangibaljeon Gusang* (National Long-Term Development Plan toward 2000), Korea Institute for Population and Health, 1986.

7) Jong-Joo Yun, Noininguei Sahoi. Inguhakjeok Gochal, *Haekgajokhwawa Noinbokji*, (Nuclear Family and Welfare for the Aged), Korea Institute for Population and Health, 1982, p.60

8) Jong-Joo Yun, Hankukei Noinmunjeheh Gwanhan Inguhakjeok Gochal, *Hyundaesahoiwa Noinbokji* (Modern Society and Welfare of the Aged), Ahsan Social Welfare Foundation, 1983, p.69 and p. 71.

Low educational level of the elderly group is attributable to periodic gaps in educational opportunities and in part to areal disparity in education. Accordingly the older in age and the more living in rural areas, the higher the rate of the uneducated.

Low educational level of the aged is a source of psychological conflict in family relations because of different value system of the highly educated children.

The educated children tend to appreciate the nuclear family system with various reasons, whereas the undereducated elderly do favor of living-together with children, anticipating the family care. Here happens the psychological conflict between family memberships.

Continuous inflow of information make the undereducated elderly lose adaptability to the current social environment.

2) Regional distribution

Aged population has generally preferred living in rural areas because of low educational and economic status in addition to cultural background.

In rural areas, the ratio of the aged population is very high, increasing the actual number currently. This can be explained to be the occupational and educational migration to cities and increasing family separation. Thus it brings about the phenomenon of the single-household aged left in the rural areas.

The reason is that aged people have lived in rural areas through their lives and have been showing strong preference for staying in their native land.

Another reason is that the aged at present do not have the necessary skills or knowledge for getting professional jobs because of low educational level, while they can easily find work in rural areas even after retirement.

The pattern of the problem of the aged in rural areas is characterized by high rate of family separation and a great deal of single-households without supporters, while urban aged problem is characterized by economic insecurity after early retirement and isolation. In both areas, the elderly suffer from psychological conflict due to generation gap.

3) Sex ratio and marital status

Marital status of the aged population is characterized by a high proportion of single females. This is mainly due to longer life expectancy of female aged and greater number of remarried male aged.(Table 3)

Expansion of female aged population could cause a drastic enlargement of the poor class

Table 3. Marital Status of the Aged 65 Years over (1980)

| Status | Male | | Female | |
|---------|---------|------------|---------|------------|
| | Count | Percentage | Count | Percentage |
| Married | 431,132 | 79.9 | 220,236 | 24.3 |
| Alone | 106,394 | 19.7 | 683,939 | 75.4 |
| Others | 1,955 | 1.4 | 2,460 | 0.3 |
| Total | 539,481 | 100.0 % | 906,633 | 100.0 % |

Source : Ahsan Social Welfare Foundation, *The Handbook of Welfare Services for the Aged*, Seoul 1985, p.47.

without family supporter or social security because this group has even less opportunities for economic activity.

Another crucial problem is that relationship between mother and daughter-in-law in a family has become a major cause for psychological troubles and emotional separation, which leads to decreasing family care for the aged.

The female elderly are mostly welcomed in home rather than the male elderly, because these are more helpful to home affairs than those.

With the increase of working women, female aged usually live with married sons, but this does not mean that female aged are served with enough affectional care by sons and daughters —in—law.

Particularly, the poor elderly who rely on the married children economically feel not a little depression, when they cannot serve the home affairs due to physical condition or when they are not respected as the elderly.

Approaching the problems of the aged ultimately means dealing with female aged population and its problematic characteristics.

The problematic aspects of the aged affecting on the family relationship are as follow.

1. low education and psychological gap
2. high rate of female aged population
3. family separation and increasing the single household aged remaining in rural areas

2. Family Transition

1) Nuclear family trend

Rapid industrialization had deepened occupational and regional migration which had been accompanied by family dissolution.

With the family separation, the normal family pattern consistent with the progress of industrialization has become nuclear family or conjugal family. It is assumed that modern industrial system is usually more compatible with the conjugal family which is centered on the married couple rather than on large kinship.¹¹⁾

As an industrialized society characterized by in a word competition and constant changes, nuclear family system with the reduced family size has mobility and adaptability to constant changes.

Migration from rural to urban areas has broken down the extended family system of traditional society, and obliged to move to nuclear family system.

2) Function of nuclear family

Characteristics of nuclear family system are summarized as such. Nuclear family makes married couple to lead sex life freely, shows fewer orientation toward children, has adverse effects such as ultraindividualism and isolation, and is beneficial for social mobility and adaptability to present socio-economic system.¹²⁾

Contrary to those functions of nuclear family, the role of the aged in nuclear family becomes

1. unabled body in terms of economic activity
2. a burden to sex life of married couple
3. only secondary role in child-bearing
4. psychologically pushed away due to isolation

As nuclear family is based on the principle of equality, patrichial dignity weakens notably. Conclusively, the nuclear family system is clarified to have fatal defects for solving the aged

11) William J. Goode, World Revolution and Family Patterns, *Family in Transition*, Edited in Berkeley : University of California, 1980, pp. 45~51.

12) Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, *Inguwa Gajokgyehoik* (Population and Family Planning), 1977, p.73.

problems.

As society becomes industrialized and urbanized, the aged has lost social status and dignity. The aged group, who lack in educational background, is unable to get flexibility to change and the adaptability to social environment.

This change lowered dignity for the aged, pushed the aged generation away from the competent society, decreased their roles and lowered traditional respect for the aged.¹³⁾

Unequal social distribution to the aged group will be observed in structural characteristics of industrial society itself. Thus, aged generation are pushed away institutionally from support or investment, more so than young generation.

Now Korea is beginning strong trend of nuclear family system. The ratio of nuclear family to the total number of families was 82.8 percent in 1980 according to Table 4.

A majority of married couples now prefer having fewer children, focusing more on their education. At the same time, aged generation is isolated at home as well as in the industrial society with economic burden.

3) Care for the aged : the present situation

Care for the aged means the aged supplied with economic and emotional necessities from family or from institution, when family function does not work well.

Care problem in Korea is especially related to a matter of residence ; living-together or separation. From the fact that an aged lives in a family derives all patterns of care. At present it does not always mean that the aged are given satisfactory care.

Table 4. Composition Rate of Household by Type

| Year | One- Generation | Two- Generation | Three- Generation | More than Four Generation |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1966 | 5.7 | 67.7 | 24.0 | 2.6 |
| 1970 | 6.8 | 70.0 | 22.1 | 1.1 |
| 1975 | 10.9 | 68.9 | 19.2 | 0.9 |
| 1980 | 13.3 | 69.5 | 16.7 | 0.5 |

Source : Economic Planning Board, *Social Indicators in Korea*, 1985.

13) Sun-Nam Choi, *Hyundaesahoiwa Noimbokji* (Modern Society and Welfare of the Aged), Seoul: Hongikjeh, 1984, pp. 141~144.

Emotional care is affectional interaction meeting the aged emotional needs and solving isolation and unrest. The essential family function is the affectional function, which cannot be supplemented by institutions. A number of studies on institutional care show psychological and emotional side-effects of the institutional aged.

The degree of satisfaction for emotional care was the highest in the aged-single-household and the lowest in the aged who live together with the eldest son in three generational families.¹⁴⁾

Another source shows that major difficulties in family services are related to emotional care such as differing personalities and interference in private life.

The aged in Korea have been given all types of care, but traditional care is now fading as the nation industrializes and urbanizes.

In an agricultural society, the aged could provide social services without specialized organization to deliver cultural information. As acquisition right to productive means was held by the aged generation, products were returned to the head of a family. In this society the aged were naturally respected and supported by family.

Additionally, there was specific equipment to support aged population in society.

Change of care for the aged implies both the change of care pattern as well as the change of perception and attitude toward care for the aged, by themselves and by children. Change of perception has naturally been influenced by structural change of family system.

Traditional care for the aged by family has been collapsing with the process of industrialization and growing nuclear family. Although family care is weakening, greater emphasis is being placed on social support and social security.

According to Table 5, attitude toward dependence upon children has considerably changed to self-support or social welfare dependence. Nevertheless those aged 60 or over still showed strong reliance upon children.

The majority proportion of the aged are still expecting the traditional care while children are increasingly avoiding support for the aged. The aged are used to their past preferences and existing order while new generation wants greater independence.

Still the aged expect the same amount of invested care given to children because the present

14) Tae-Hyun Kim, Haekgajokgwa Noinbuyang, *Haekgajokhwawa Noinbokji* (Nuclear Family and Aged Welfare), Korea Institute for Population and Health, 1982, p.11.

Table 5. Attitude toward Chief Supporter of the Aged(1983)

(%)

| Age Group | First Son | All Sons | Daughter | Son and Daughter | Self-Support | Social Welfare |
|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 20-29 | 16.2 | 20.1 | 0.6 | 24.6 | 30.0 | 8.5 |
| 30-39 | 19.0 | 20.6 | 0.6 | 25.4 | 26.0 | 8.4 |
| 40-49 | 26.4 | 22.4 | 0.6 | 18.0 | 24.9 | 7.7 |
| 50-59 | 30.1 | 26.1 | 0.7 | 13.7 | 23.0 | 6.4 |
| 60+ | 36.9 | 27.4 | 0.9 | 8.5 | 20.7 | 5.6 |

Source : Economic Planning Board, *Social Indicators in Korea*, 1985.

aged generation have not prepared specific provisions for the aged life and invested almost all to child education.

It is obvious that today's aged with low education level and low income in modernization process since 1960s and 1970s have not prepared provision for old-age. It is reasonable to assume that the more aged without provision there are, the weaker children's economic base for parent is.¹⁵⁾

Thus to recognize the problems of the aged means not to understand the existing problems but to grasp the real state of the aged generation. Problems bring about when young generation in family are going to avoid the care for the aged purposely or unpurposedly.

Respect for the aged by young generation is now fading due to increasing individualism and equalism, which make children consider care for the aged a burden.

In conclusion, care problems of the aged occurs in a society where the aged are isolated due to social structural change from a macroscopic view point. From an individual view point, care problem occurs in the process of family structural change. That is, when the aged are not given expected sufficient benefits invested to children in earlier life, care problems occur.

4) Increase of single-household aged

With industrialization it is inevitable to change to nuclear family system on account of spread of individualism and independent perception of the young.

The aged are separated from family due to children's occupational mobility as well as increased

15) Hak - Jung Choo, Noinbokjiwa Hyungpyungei Jeungjin, *Hangukei Sodeukbunbaewa Gyuljeongyoin* (Income Distribution and Causal Factors in Korea), Korea Development Institute, Series No.49, 1982, p.205.

independent perception of the young.

The attitudinal gap between the young and the aged toward aged life brings about and psychological conflict.

Family separation is increasing due to psychological and emotional problem on the part of the aged, financial burden, different mentality and job transfer on the part of the children.

According to Kim in 1981,¹⁶⁾ the single aged cover 19.0percent in urban area and 20.5percent in rural area respectively.

A recent survey in 1985 shows that the number of elderly people living alone reached about 23 percent of the total surveyed.(Table 6)

The more highly educated, the younger in age, the higher in economic capacity, the younger generation were apt to separate from family.¹⁷⁾

However single-household aged are in the increasing trend.

Table 6. Family Pattern of the Aged (1985)

| | | | | | (%) |
|--------|-----------|------|----------------|--------|---------|
| Aged | With | With | With Unmarried | Others | Total |
| Single | First Son | Sons | Children | | (No) |
| 22.6 | 38.4 | 12.4 | 23.0 | 3.6 | 100.0 |
| | | | | | (3,704) |

Source : Jong-Gwon Im and Associates, *Hanguknoinei Sanghwal Siltae* (A Study on Aged Population in Korea), Korea Institute for Population and Health, 1985, P.82 .

IV. Perspectives of Welfare Programmes for the Aged

Social change and specialized economic structure has increased family dissolution or family separation visibly and invisibly. Care problem for the aged who suffer from economic difficulties without supporters, and who are separated from family due to psychological conflict or occupational transfer of children, should be the responsibility of the society.

As the aged problem will arise in the context of family transition rather than in individual

16) Tae-Hyun Kim, Hangukei iteoseo Noinbuyangeh Gwanhan Yeongu, Ph. D. Dissertation, Seoul : Korea University, 1981, p.43

17) Ahsan Social Welfare Foundation, *Handbook of Welfare Services for the Aged*, 1985, pp. 707~708.

level, welfare programmes for the aged should be prepared in an integral divided into two directions; family level approach and social institutional approach.

1. Family Level Approach

In Korea the aged life itself had not appealed as social problem owing to traditional respect for the aged because of back-up by long Confucian culture. But recent studies on the aged problem show the Korean society has symptoms similar to those occurred in Western society.

Problem of the aged stems mainly from decreasing care and economic insecurity. Figure 1 explains that aged problem arises while gap between economic demand and economic supply becomes larger. The aged are existing in the period when the demand is increasing for housing, health and food while the supply is decreasing for jobs.

Therefore welfare programmes for the aged from a family level as well as from a social level should take into account the characteristics of current aged problem and examine the causes related to mental and physical problems of the aged at first.

Family relationship of the aged has always been based on family unit, whether it is nuclear family or extended one. But it is true that this inter-family relation has shrunk by specialization of work, accelerated regional mobility and social complexity.

The aged in Korea are increasing who live apart from family due to occupational transfer of children as well as emotional trouble.

According to recent survey on perceptions of today's generation,¹⁸⁾ they cite the living only with spouse independently when getting old.

Family was the primary care system which had given all sorts of cares for the aged. This family function has been waning with process of nuclear family expansion. The critical element of family function which society cannot replace is affectional function. The aged in Korea are accustomed to existing family structure and tend not to leave their native community.

The aged are normally provided with affectional care and emotional exchange when living together with family. But the aged are isolated and separated from family because of social

18) Gyu-Sam Kim, *Noimbokjiron* (An Introduction to Welfare of the Aged), Seoul, Hakmoon Company, 1982, p.43.

reasons such as noted above.

The aged are suffering heavily from emotional trouble in family due to generation gap. This emotional aspect of aged problem can never be solved by mere numerical expansion of public establishments. Approaching the aged problem only through the establishment of paid or free institutions for the aged do not permit effective solution.

Family function should be managed in such a way as to meet emotional needs of the aged.

In order to continue family support for the aged, various incentives are necessary. For example, there are tax exemptions for families supporting the aged, and priority to housing allotment. Aged care allowance related to National Pension can also be considered.

This may leave side effects related to economic benefits. Therefore it needs to foster the environment for filial duty for parents as well as general conditions to support family relation with the aged such as economic support, housing allocation, moral basis for respecting the elderly. Society should provide necessary incentives to establish the collapsed family relation.

2. Welfare Programmes for the Aged

Industrialization has brought about the dissolution of the extended family system and the advent of nuclear family. Nuclear families have greatly decreased care for the aged and increased family separation.

In this context, we need various social welfare programmes to meet specific aged problems.

Contrary to the basic livelihood of other countries supported by Old Pension or National Pension, social security in Korea depended on traditional family support. There was no service programmes to meet the aged needs. When family support function for the aged does not work well, aged problem exceeds the family boundary, reaching the context of social service system.

Even though the forthcoming welfare policy for the aged is not expected to be a drastic improvement owing to governmental strategy of 'Family First, Society Next', expansion and quality improvement of institutions as well as geriatric hospitals are indispensable in view of the changes in traditional care for the aged without supporters or the disabled aged is crucial. Institutional care for the aged who are forcibly separated from their family is indispensable.

Table 7. Relief for the Livelihood (1980)

(Unit : 1,000)

| | Relief for Livelihood | | Total |
|---------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------|
| | Housing Relief | Institutional Relief | |
| Target Number | 282 | 47 | 329 |
| 65 years over | 94 | 3 | 97 |

Source : Sung-Sun Kim, *Noinbokjiron* (Welfare Study of the Aged), Seoul, Ihwoo Publisher, 1984, p. 184.

Even though the inrating ratio of the aged in free institutional facilities does not exceed 1 percent of total aged population, this is only because of the lack of inrating condition.

A great number of the aged apparently desire institutional inrating, which implies that aged care cannot entirely rely upon family support.

In 1983, 55 free institutions have provided care for only 4,905 needy aged people. This is only 1 percent of the aged targeted by Relief for the Livelihood according to Table 7.

Total number of the aged supported by Relief for the Livelihood in 1980 was 97,040. There is a considerable number of poor aged suffering from economic difficulties who are not given family support should be supported through other types of care such as institutional facilities.

Institutional facilities are classified into as follows based on Welfare Law of the Aged.¹⁹⁾

1. free institution
2. geriatric hospitals
3. paid institution

In Korea, other than a few free institutions, there are no geriatric hospitals or medical centers which deal professionally with the aged, despite increasing need for inrating of the aged within mental and physical disorder.

Nuclear family has increased the interests of the aged in self paid institution. A survey on attitudes toward installment of paid institution shows that two thirds or more of the total respondents agree to the necessity of paid institution. (Table 8)

With increase in national income and improvement of economic life, establishment of paid institution is inevitable.

19) Welfare Law of the Aged, Article 13.

Table 8. Attitude toward Establishment of Paid Institution

| (%) | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Attitude | Agree(72.7) | Disagree(27.3) |
| Reason | Nuclear family(65.0) | Prematurity(26.7) |
| | Service necessary(10.0) | Commercialization(26.0) |
| | Solving isolation(15.0) | Family dissolution(13.0) |
| | Supply of necessary service(10.0) | Others(40.0) |

Source : Jong-Gwon Im and Associates, *Hanguk Siseolbuyangnoin Siltaejosa* (A Study on the Institutional Care for the Aged in Korea), Korea Institute for Population and Health, 1983, p.267.

Governmental authorities plans to establish self paid institution for the aged separated from family among the middle to high income class without any supporter and relatives, or for the age who want to enter into institution for psychological reasons.²⁰⁾

However there are no legal standards for facilities or various subsidiary facilities, and leaves problematic points.

In other countries, various service programs are provided for the aged and the disabled. Home help, telephone help, day care center, nursing home, meals on wheels are such examples.²¹⁾

Service programmes should be studied and developed which are adaptable to Korean environment. The most effective and adoptable programme for Korea's cultural environment seems to be the trust program for the aged, under which a group of people visit and support the aged needing care in rotation.

This indoor programme emphasize family care. If there is an incentive or funding, it will be very effective in terms of family care and service care at the same time.

Geriatric hospitals which specialize in aged health and disease are urgently needed. Home helper, likewise visiting housekeeper should also be made available for supporting the aged-single-household.

20) Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, *Establishment Plan of Paid Institution*, 1983, pp.3~4.

21) Gyu-Sam Kim, *Noinbokjiron* (An Introduction to Welfare of the Aged), Seoul, Hakmoon Company, 1982, pp. 104~107.

V. Conclusion

1. Old-age is defined to be 65 ± 5 years from the integral point of view. But there leaves a room for debating on drawing age line in relation to perceptual difference. As care or support appears through relation between productive generation and non-productive generation in life cycle. Thus family dissolution makes aged problems socialized.

2. Care for the aged means the aged are supplied with economic and emotional needs from family or from any other system, when family function does not work well. The aged in Korea have been given all types of care, living together with children while the traditional care is now fading with industrialization and nuclear family trend.

3. Socio-demographic characteristics of the aged population in Korea are low educational level, high rate of female aged, rural concentration and low income.

4. As a society becomes industrialized and urbanized, aged generation loses adaptability to social environment and be isolated in home as well as in technological society. Industrial society has expanded nuclear family system and raised family dissolution. This is clarified to have fatal defects for solving the aged problems. Attitudinal difference between the young and the aged brings about care problem and psychological conflict. Family separation is increasing due to conflict in family members. There are the aged who are not given enough emotional care because of partly economic reason, occupational transfer of children, housing problem and women employment.

5. Social welfare programmes for the aged should examine the causal factors in relation to current problems of the aged. Then it should suggest integral and systemic programme considering the current life condition of the aged. Firstly emotional problem of the aged can never be solved by merely numerical expansion of public institutional facilities. Despite public support system, family care should be emphasized at first. Various incentives will be necessary for family support for the aged. Secondly it is necessary of expansion and quality improvement of free institutions according to nuclear family trend. Thirdly the aged who are not taken care by family without specific provisions should depend on social beneficiaries. Under the decreasing family care, lack in various social welfare service programs should be secured sooner or later.

Reference

Domestic

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가족구조의 변천과 노인문제에 관한 고찰

배 화 옥*

산업화와 더불어 가족구조 및 기능의 변화와 도시집중현상은 전통적인 대가족형태에서 핵가족화 경향을 나타내게 하였다. 이와 더불어 전통적인 노인의 가족부양형태도 변화될 수 밖에 없었다. 1960년대 이후 추진되었던 경제개발계획은 핵가족화를 발전시켰는데 핵가족화와 함께 자녀들의 독립의식과 가족간의 심리적 갈등 및 직장이동으로 인한 가족분가현상은 노인에 대한 가족부양기능을 감퇴시켰다.

또한 서구문명의 영향때문에 세대간의 의식차와 가족간의 시대적 갈등은 곧 노인세대의 소외를 가져왔다. 보통 65세 전후의 나이를 일반적으로 노령의 시작으로 보는 관점이 지배적이지만, 조기정년퇴직으로 인하여 사회에서의 역할상실과 가정에서 경제적 주도권의 상실은 노인생활에서의 문제를 더욱 장기화, 심화시키는 경향을 보인다.

노령에 대한 세대간의 인식격차도 결국 노인세대에 있어서 심리적인 퇴행성을 안겨줄 뿐이다.

노인세대의 문제점은 낮은 교육수준과 경제적 빈곤, 성별사망력차이로 인한 여성노인의 높은 구성, 산업화로 노인의 농촌잔유현상과 노인단독세대의 증가등으로 특징질 수 있다.

그러나 이러한 노인세대의 요구 및 노인문제를 해결할 수 있는 다양하고 효율적인 노인복지 시설이나 노인병원과 같은 노인복지서비스 프로그램이 우리나라에서는 거의 전무한 실정이며 극히 소수의 복지기관이 일부 여유있는 노인들만을 위한 편중된 혜택을 부여하고 있다. 또한 노인복지 대책을 체계적으로 운영할 통일된 기관 및 법제적 조치가 없고 산발적이다.

더우기 경제적으로 또는 가족관계에서 심리적으로 곤란을 겪고 있으면서도 가족이나 사회로부터 보호를 받지 못하고 있는 문제노인들을 구체적으로 조사한 연구도 미진할 뿐더러 문제노인들의 실태수조차 명확히 파악되지 않고 있다. 지금의 과도기적인 노인인구를 국민연금이 실

* 韓國人口保健研究院 臨時研究員.

시되는 1988년을 기점으로 현재의 노인인구와 미래의 노인인구로 구분하여 이에 대한 각각의 복지방안이 구상될 필요가 있다고 본다.

여기서 증가되고 있는 노인문제와 가족분리현상에 따른 병립식 사회서비스 프로그램에 대해 고찰하여 보았다.