The Relationship between Social Adaptation, Suicidal Ideation, and Self Esteem among North Korean Refugees

Hee Jin Kim  
Myongji University

Yun Kyung Chung  
Yonsei University

The current study investigates the relationship between social adaptation and suicidal ideation, and the moderating effect of self esteem among North Korean refugees. We analyze the data of 405 North Korean refugees who reside in Seoul, Gyeonggi Province and Incheon and are aged between 20 and 69. Snowball sampling was utilized due to the characteristics of North Korean refugees. The major findings of the study are as follows: (1) the rate of suicidal ideation including thoughts about suicide, expression of suicide and suicide attempt for the previous year among North Korean refugees was 22.7%, which is three times higher than South Korean’s; (2) gender, economic, and health factors are associated with the patterns of suicidal ideation; (3) after controlling for socioeconomic variables, the respondents' self esteem is negatively associated with suicidal ideation, and (4) the interaction effect of social adaptation and self esteem is significant in predicting the level of suicidal ideation after controlling for socioeconomic variables. These findings, suggest that to reduce suicidal ideation special intervention efforts need to be directed at improving self-esteem among North Korean refugees suffering from difficulties in adapting to South Korean society.
Key words: suicidal ideation, social adaptation, self esteem, moderating effect
Structural Differentiation of Korean Communities

Wonjae Lee
KAIST

While the structural analysis of community has relatively less developed in Korean sociology, it is also true that quite a few Korean structuralists have called for analyses of small groups and communities. In this paper, I review the theoretical discussions in Korean sociology where theoretical and methodological interests in community analysis were pronounced. Through a statistical analysis of multiple network data of small groups, I suggest a research program of community and comment on the future direction of Korean sociology.

Key words: social structure, community, small group, network statistics, network analysis
Development of Ageism Indicators

Ju-Hyun Kim  Ahyoung Song
Seoul National University  Ewha Womans University

Ageism is discrimination and stereotype based on an individual’s age. Ageism is directly and indirectly associated with the quality of life of the elderly and furthermore, it may affect the overall quality of life of a society. Given this background, this study aims to develop indicators to evaluate ageism. For this, four main strategies were adapted; objective indicators, comparable indicators, indicators to reflect various characteristics of ageism, and finally indicators to compare age groups. We reviewed previous indicators studies on the issue of ageism or ageism related topics and extracted major dimensions and indicators. This study develops an evaluation frame to review those dimensions and indicators. The evaluation frame included authority, objectiveness, comparability, continuity, and feasibility. Through the evaluation process, we selected 6 dimensions and 32 indicators and prepared an advisory table with 7 experts on ageism and older adults. Finally, we developed ageism indicators with 5 dimensions and 30 indicators. The 5 dimensions are financial status, health status, employment status, life environments status, and social participation status. We discuss the implications of this study and suggestions for further studies.

Key words: discrimination, ageism, indicator development, ageism index
The Effects of Organizational Characteristics on Work-Life Balance of Korean Women Managers

Dong-Eun Shin
Korea University

More women advance to managerial and professional positions in Korea today than in the past. However, Korean women experience high levels of conflict between work and life since work takes priority over one’s personal and family life in Korea. The goal of this research is to analyze the effects of organizational characteristics on women managers’ work-life balance. Using data from a nationwide survey of 2,042 women managers, I find that organizational characteristics give a strong influence on women managers’ work-life balance. First, job autonomy plays an important role in women managers’ work-life balance. Women managers’ work-to-life conflict reduces and work-to-life facilitation increases when they have higher job autonomy. Second, supports from supervisors greatly influences women managers’ work-life balance. Women managers’ work-to-life conflict is reduced and work-to-life facilitation increases when they have greater support from their supervisors. Third, formalization of personnel practices enhances women’s work-to-life facilitation. Fourth, the three effects above show different degrees of results depending on the presence of long working hours. Finally, women managers experience more work-life conflict when working long hours, working in organizations with collective organizational culture and
facing gender discrimination.

Key words: women managers, work-life balance, organization, job autonomy, supports from supervisors