

*A gender perspective on the 2005 Census of Korea (R.O.K)
Focusing on “Economic Activity, and Living Expense of the Aged.”*

Prepared by

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I. Introduction

According to the UN' definition, "Gender statistics are statistics that adequately reflect differences and inequalities in the situation of women and men in all areas of life." To produce gender statistics, one can disaggregate individual data by sex and other characteristics to reveal those differences or inequalities, and can collect data on specific issues that affect one sex more than the other. Therefore, gender statistics allow for a systematic evaluation of gender issues and of inequalities between women and men.

The Population Census in Korea is the primary source of information on the size and composition of the Population, household and housing, and was first conducted in 1925. Korea has taken a Population Census every 5 years since 1925. The latest census of Korea was the 2005 Population and Housing Census. The census in Korea has always identified the sex of Koreans, and disaggregated individual data such as data of birth, marriage, divorce and economic activity.

Even though the Population Census of Korea (ROK) had provided data by gender since 1925, a gender perspective on the statistics has not appeared as an important issue until 2000. After that, the Ministry of Gender Equity of Korea made the second 5 year (2003~2007) plan to create gender statistics to include many areas of life and thus to improve women's welfare, using these data. Last year, The KNSO amended statistics law to make all the statistics produce the data on a gender perspective. From now on, I would like to present a gender perspective on "Economic Activity, and Living Expense of the Aged" according to the 2005 Population and Housing Census of Korea.

II. Statistic Law and the Population and Housing Census of Korea.

1. Statistic Law of Korea

The Statistics Law is a fundamental mechanism to encourage the production of gender statistics. Two years ago, The KNSO revised the statistics law to promote the production of gender statistics. According to article 18, clause 1 of the law, "all the agencies or persons that want to make statistics should get an approval of commissioner of Korean National Statistical Office, and the statistics on demand should aggregate the data on specific issues that affect one sex more than the other.

2. Population and Housing Census of Korea

The purpose of the Population and Housing Census in Korea is to clarify the size, structure, distribution, and characteristics of the population, households, and housing within the scope of the administrative jurisdiction of the Republic of Korea. The 2005 census was the 17th census for Korea, and there were two types of forms for census; a short form and long form. The short form consisted of 21 items and the data was collected from 90% of the population for it. The long form consisted of 41 items and the data was collected from 10% of the population.

The census enumeration period was from November 1 to November 15. The KNSO released the results of the short form in July 2006, and those of the long form in December 2006.

The items of 2005 census in Korea are as follows:

	Short forms (21 items)	Long forms (41 items)
Population	Name, Sex, Age, Relationship with the head of household, Education, Religion, Dispersed families between North and South Korea, Marital status. (8 items)	Name, Sex, Age, Relationship with the head of household, Education, Religion, Dispersed families between North and South Korea, Child care, Residence 5 years ago, Mental or physical impairment, Commuting status, Place of work/school, Main means of commuting, Time spent commuting, Economic activity, Employment status, Industry, Occupation, Workplace, Marital status, Date of marriage, Children ever born, Number of children planned to have, The source of living expense of the aged. (24 items)
Household	Type of household, Rooms in use, Household facilities, Type of residence, Type of occupancy and ownership of other houses, Heating facility, Floor which the household is on. (7 items)	Type of household, Rooms in use, Household facilities, Duration of residence, Floor which the household is on, Number of automobiles, Parking place, Heating facility, Type of residence, Rent, Type of occupancy and ownership of other houses. (11 items)
Housing	Type of housing and total floors of the building, Total floor space, Total area of housing site (only for detached house), Number of rooms, Year of construction, Number of housing facilities. (6 items)	Type of housing and total floors of the building, Total floor space, Total area of housing site (only for detached house), Number of rooms, Year of construction, Number of housing facilities. (6 items)
* Each province added 3 items to the long form and collected the data within its own territory.		

Even though the census has items that distinguish women from men and provide the results which can show the status of the women, this does not mean that we have fully considered a gender perspective on the Population and Housing Census. Following the plan for gender statistics by the Ministry of Gender Equity, all of the agencies of Korea have started to give importance to gender statistics.

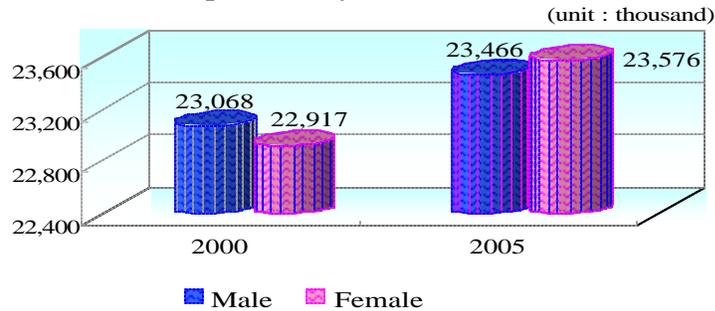
In this paper, I would like to show a gender perspective on the 2005 census of Korea, especially focusing on the Economic Activity and Living Expense of the Aged and explaining why these items were adopted, what the results of the items are, and how these results were used to improve the economic conditions of women and the welfare of the elderly women.

III. A gender perspective on Economic Activity of 2005 Population Census

1. Background of selecting the item, Economic Activity

There has been a change in the population of Korea. The total population has slightly increased from 45,985,289 in 2000 to 47,041,434 in 2005, and the number of women exceeded that of men in 2005.

The Population by Gender



As to the number of persons who participated in the economic activity, the total number has increased from 18,456,147 in 2000 to 19,277,370 in 2005, and the number of women participating in economic activity has also increased from 6,916,229 (37.5%) in 2000 to 7,375,387 (38.5%) in 2005.

The economically active population (over 15 Years old)

(unit : person)

Year	Total	Male	Female
2000	18,456,147	11,539,918	6,916,229
2005	19,277,370	11,901,983	7,375,387

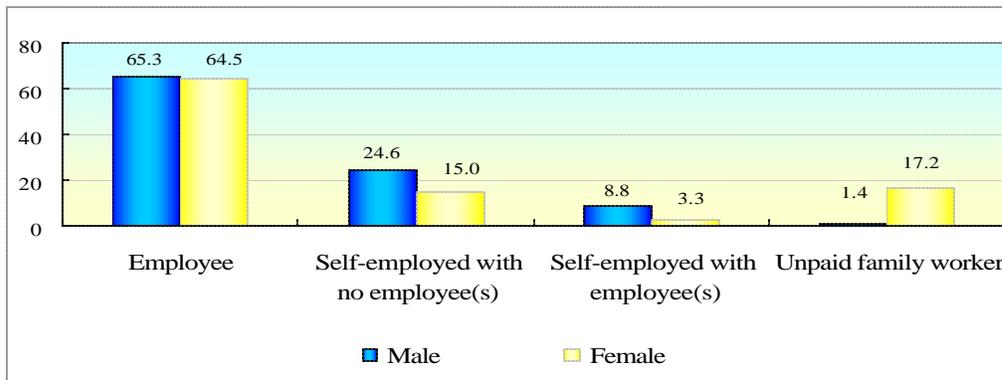
According to the above results, female labor power was important to Korea's economic growth. To find a status of women's economic activity and to encourage the participation of women in the labor market, we continue to adopt the item, Economic Activity, in the 2005 Population Census.

2. The data of Economic Activity

According to the results of economic activity of the workers by gender and industry, over 60% of all workers were classified as 'employees'. The rate of unpaid family worker was higher among female workers than among male workers.

< Status of employment (over 15 Years old) by Gender >

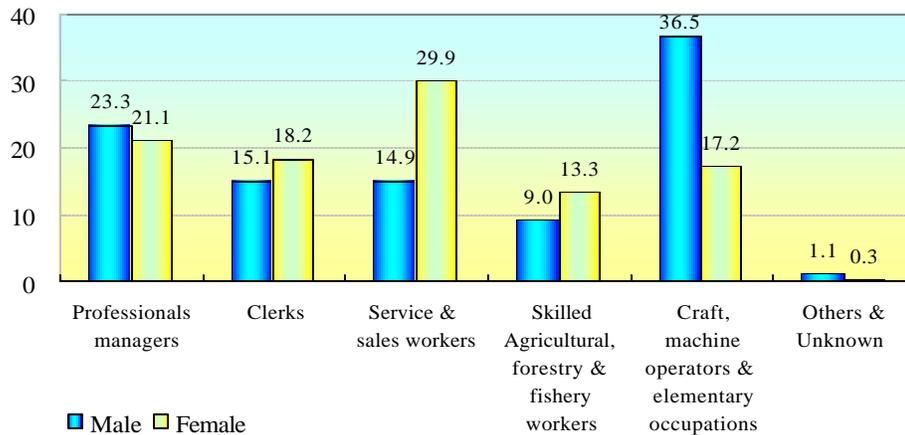
(unit : %)



When we classify these results by types of jobs, there was no significant difference in professional managers between men and women. However, more women worked in the areas of service & sales workers while more men in craft, machine operators & elementary occupations.

< Types of jobs by Gender (over 15 Years old) >

(unit : %)



When we analyze the se results by ‘married or unmarried’, there were differences between men and women. Before marriage, men’ employment ratio was the same as that of female. However, after marriage, men participated actively in the labor market, while women appeared to withdraw from the labor market.

< Ratio of employment by gender and a status of marriage (over 15 Years old) >

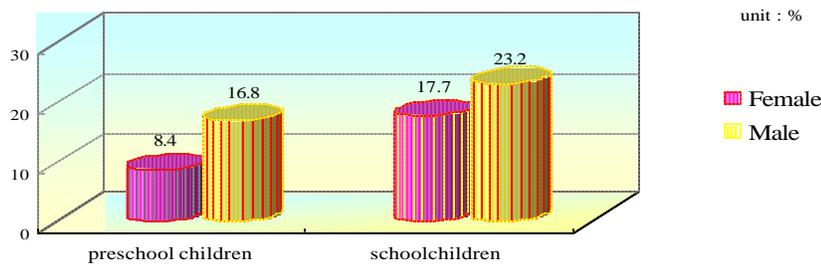
(unit : person, %)

	Women		Men	
	Unmarried	Married	Unmarried	Married
Total Number	4,669,490	11,294,042	5,648,756	11,207,125
Employed (Ratio)	1,968,777 (42.2%)	4,452,523 (39.4%)	2,381,938 (42.2%)	9,049,118 (80.7%)

The item, Child Care, could explain why such a difference took place. Child Care was first introduced in the 2000 Population Census for the purpose of producing gender statistics to make an upbringing policy for working women and to encourage married women to take part in the labor market. The correlation between ‘Economic Activity’ and ‘Child Care’ shows that economic activities of women were more influenced by children than those of men. It seemed that the presence of children played an important role in the economic activity for married women.

To review economic activities in detail, we can make a correlation analysis between women with preschool children (under 6 years old) and women with schoolchildren (6~12 years old). The presence of children clearly influenced economic activities of women, with preschool children inhibiting the participation of women in the economic activity greater than schoolchildren Among the female workers, only 8.4 % of women with preschool children had jobs, while 17.7 % of women with schoolchildren had jobs.

< Ratio of employment by gender and their children age(over 15 Years old) >



This shows that children who are in need of care could play an important role in the labor market, especially to the women. This type of gender statistics clearly showed what inhibited gender equity in Korea.

3. The use of the results

The data of economic activity and child care collected in the 2005 Population Census were used for making a policy to improve the welfare of female workers and to encourage more participation of women in the labor market.

IV. A gender perspective on Living Expense of the aged

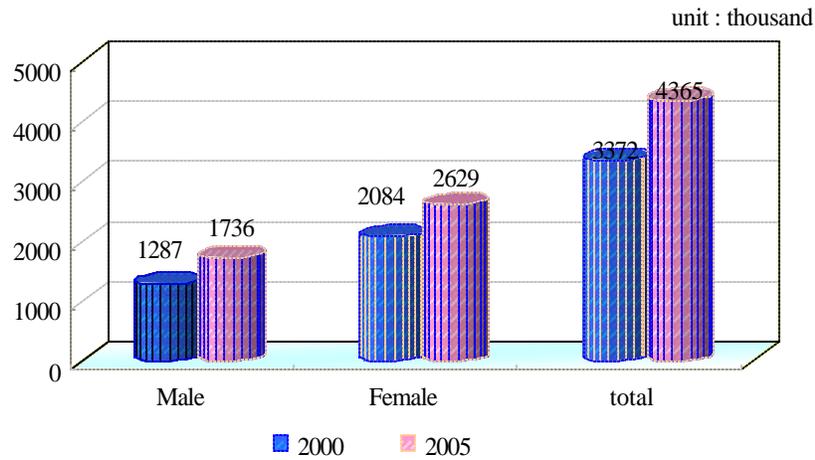
1. Background of selecting the item, Living Expense of the aged

The number of elderly persons over 65 years sharply increased from 3,371,806(7.3%) in 2000 to 4,365,218(9.3%) in 2005. When we classify the society by the proportion of elderly people, our society is in the aging society in which the elderly is over 7% of the whole population. Thus, we should prepare for the welfare of the elderly. Who is happy in the evening of life? To find the situations of the elderly and make a policy for improving the life of old persons, we selected at 2005 Census the item, living expense of the aged.

2. The data of Living Expense

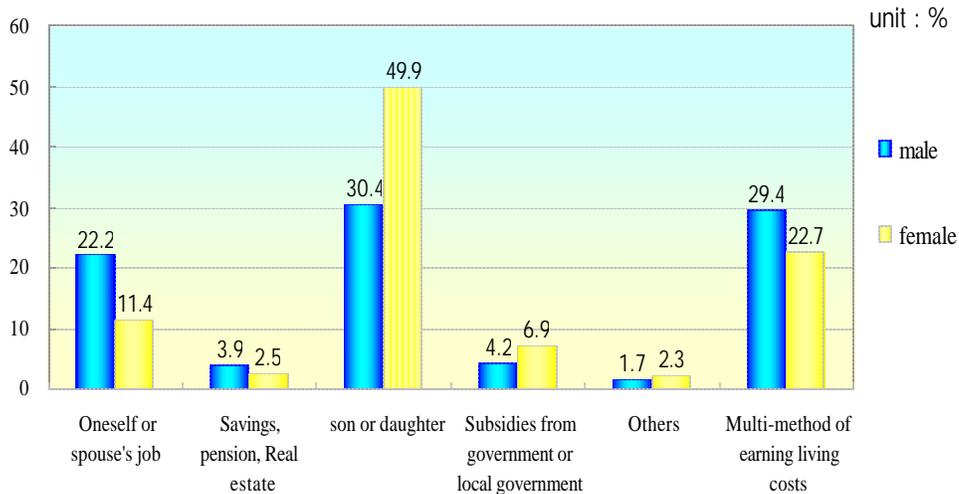
According to the results of 2005 Population Census, the number of persons over 65 has increased from 3,371,806(7.3%) in 2000 to 4,365,218 (9.3%) in 2005, and the number of the elderly women has also increased from 2,084,409 in 2000 to 2,628,872 in 2005. When reviewing the proportion of the elderly, women were 60.2% in 2000 while men were 39.8%.

< The aged (over 65 years old) by gender >



When analyzing the results of Living Expense in 2005 Population Census, women were more dependent upon her children and government subsidies than men. About 22.2% of men over 65 had their own jobs, but only 11.4% of women had jobs.

< The Aged by sex and source of living expenses (over 65 years old) >



3. The use of the results

The data of Living Expense collected in 2005 Population Census were used for making policies to improve the welfare of the elderly women and to give job opportunities and vocational education to the elderly women, and to encourage the elderly women to participate in the labor market.

V. Conclusion - preparing for 2010 population Census

To achieve gender equity, gender statistics are important and systematic approaches such as laws, plans which guarantee and encourage the production of gender statistics, are needed. Therefore the KNSO will continue to put emphasis on a gender perspective of the Population Census, and [supplement](#) the gender statistics census items.