Lifelong Learning for the Third Age: South Korea’s Case

Dr. YoungSek Kim
Dong-Eui University, South Korea
youngsek@deu.ac.kr
The Fundamental
of Educa2on
Act

Early Childhood
Educa.on Act

Elementary &
Secondary
Educa.on Act

Higher
Educa.on Act

Lifelong
Educa.on
Act

Legislation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislation</th>
<th>Definition of ‘Lifelong education’</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lifelong Education Act (1999)</td>
<td>All types of systemic educational activities other than traditional school education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amended Lifelong Education Act (2007)</td>
<td>All types of systemic educational activities other than traditional school education, which include education for diploma achievement, basic adult literacy, vocational capacity-building, liberal arts, culture and arts, as well as education on civic participation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Government’s Lifelong Learning System

- **Administration Line**
  - Central Government Level
  - Metropolitan Government Level (City/County)
  - Primary Government Level (District)
  - Minister of Dep. Of Education
  - Mayor / Governor
  - Head of Primary Government

- **Consultation Line**
  - National Conference of Lifelong Education
  - Metropolitan Conference of Lifelong Education
  - Primary Conference of Lifelong Education

- **Practice Line**
  - National Institute for Lifelong Education (NILE)
  - Provincial Institutes for Lifelong Education
  - Lifelong Learning Centers
**Adults (Age 25-64)’ Lifelong Education Participation Rate**

- **Formal Education**: The hierarchically structured graded education system related to an academic degree
- **Non-Formal Education**: Any organized educational activities outside the established formal system
The Percentage of Population Age 65 and Over In South Korea

1995: 5.1%
2000: 7.2% (Aging Society)
2014: 12.7%
2017: 14.0% (Aged Society)
2026: 20.8% (Super Aged-Society)
### The Word’s Fastest Society of Becoming Old

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Term</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>=&gt;14%</td>
<td></td>
<td>=&gt;20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>1864</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>115 years</td>
<td>40 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1927</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>61 years</td>
<td>20 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The U. S.</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2030</td>
<td>72 years</td>
<td>16 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>24 years</td>
<td>12 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>18 years</td>
<td>8 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Change of Public Advertisement of Family Plan in South Korea

Birth Rate

Required maintain population
Older Adults (Age: 65+) ’ Lifelong Education Participation Rate (2011)

- Overall participation rate of non-formal education: 7%

- **Gender**
  - Male: 5.5%
  - Female: 7.6%

- **Places**
  - Senior Welfare Centers: 45.8%
  - Local Government's Offices: 17.9%
  - Religious Organizations: 15.7%

- **Programs**
  - Leisure Activities & Hobbies: 43.3%
  - Culture Activities: 20.6%
  - Health and Exercise: 20.1%
  - Computer: 12.8%
Introduction

✓ Any specific regulations related to older adults’ education do not exist in ‘Lifelong Education Act’ (Older adults are included in general population)

✓ Each regime (administration) developed some older adults’ educational policies, but these policies did not continue

✓ “Department (Dep.) of Education” and “Dep. Of Public Health and Welfare” execute most policies and programs of older adults’ lifelong learning

✓ Senior welfare centers, local government offices, universities, religious organizations, and non-profit organizations develop their own education programs for older adults
1. Golden Color Volunteers of Lifelong Education

✓ In 2002, the Dep. Of Education initiated the organization of ‘Golden Color Volunteer of Lifelong Education’

✓ Retirees (55 years and over) who have professional careers (such as professors, teachers, or public workers etc) can apply the organization

✓ The volunteers can develop their skills through volunteering, find meaningful volunteering opportunities, and help to prosper lifelong education in communities
# Lifelong Learning Policies for the Third Aged

## 1. Golden Color Volunteers of Lifelong Education

### Volunteering Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lifelong Education for Neglected People</th>
<th>Helping for Schooling</th>
<th>Community Activities</th>
<th>Etc</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Teaching for older adults, handicapped people, international workers, or children of families without parents etc</td>
<td>• Guiding extracurricular activities</td>
<td>• Tour guiding at historical sites and museums</td>
<td>• Legal consulting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Teaching basic reading and writing skills, English skills, computer skills etc</td>
<td>• Youth counseling</td>
<td>• Protecting natural environment</td>
<td>• Civic counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Storytelling for children</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
2. Training Professional Educators for Older Adults

Outline

✓ The Dep. Of Education operated the policy between 2000-2004

✓ For 5 years, 4,488 people completed the policy

✓ Each year about fifteen universities were appointed as designated institutions for the policy

✓ The Dep. Of Education and the appointed universities sponsored the policy and the students participated in the programs of the policy for free
## Total Hours of the Program: 90 hours

### Compulsory Courses (84 hours)
- Introduction for Gerontology (6 hours)
- Introduction for Educational Gerontology (6h)
- Development in Old Age and Learning (12h)
- Educational Methods for Older People (12h)
- Educational Program Development for Older People (18h)
- Counseling for Older People (9h)
- Educational Administration for Older People (9h)
- Volunteerism in Old Age (6h)
- Practicum (6h)

### Elective Courses (6 hours)
- Preparing for Retirement
- Health Management in Old Age
- Preparing death in Old Age
- Running Businesses for Older People
- Recreation for Older People
2. Training Professional Educators for Older Adults

Issues

- The appointed universities did not follow the government’s recommended coursework
- The appointed universities were not specialized for older adults’ education
- The professors who teach the courses were not qualified
- The graduates of the program had difficulties of finding jobs
3. Vitalizing Senior Citizen Center

Introduction: Senior Citizen Center

✓ The Apartment house over 100 household is obligate to have at least one senior citizen center

✓ The total number of senior citizen center all around the country is about **60,000**

✓ **Size:** ① 66-99 m² (45%), ② 33-65m² (20.2%), ③ 100-132m² (18.8%)

✓ **Number of Members:** ① 20-39 people (52.9%), ② 40-59 people: 24.5%, ③ over 60 people (11.8%)

✓ The central and local government provide small amount of money each year according to the number of memberships
Lifelong Learning Policies for the Third Aged

3. Vitalizing Senior Citizen Center
3. Vitalizing Senior Citizen Center

✓ 42% of senior citizen centers do not conduct any education or leisure programs

✓ Dep. of Public Health & Welfare operated the 'Vitalizing Senior Citizen Center' policy

✓ The Dep. sends senior citizen centers lifelong educators for conducting various educational programs

✓ In addition, welfare workers, nurses, and volunteering workers visit senior citizen centers to meet older adults’ needs
Role Playing for Psychological Therapy

Stretch Exercise

Creating Crafts
Lifelong Learning Programs for the Third Aged

1. Computer Education Programs

✓ “National Information Society Agency” and “Dep. Of Information and Communication” operate the program with the help of post-offices, universities, profit-making companies, and civilian organizations

✓ People (age 55 and over) come to classes or volunteering teachers visit their homes

✓ For 7 years (2000-2006), about 340,000 people used this program

✓ The government sponsored education fees and published three-levels (basic, intermediate, and job-skills levels) text-books
Lifelong Learning Programs for the Third Aged

1. Computer Education Programs
Lifelong Learning Programs for the Third Aged

2. Employment Programs

✓ Central Government established "Korea Labor Force Development Institute for the aged" in 2005 to develop suitable jobs for older people.

✓ “Dep. of Public Health & Welfare” offers educational activities for older adults to help them find new jobs.

✓ The Metropolitan city of Seoul and Busan established “Employment Agency Center for the Third Aged” to give systemic educational opportunities for employment.
Lifelong Learning Programs for the Third Aged

A Government’s Web Portal for Employment Information & Education for the Third Age
3. Preparation for Death Programs

• **Purpose**
  ✓ To know how to prepare my own death
  ✓ To know how to live meaningful life
  ✓ To prevent suicide

• **Curriculum**
  ✓ Philosophical foundation of death
  ✓ Life reviews
  ✓ Writing “a will” and “a form of intention of medical treatment”
  ✓ Designing my own funeral
  ✓ Visiting graveyards or cremation grounds
Lifelong Learning Programs for the Third Aged

3. Preparation for Death Programs
Lifelong Learning Programs for the Third Aged

4. Human Rights Protection Programs

• The challenges faced by older people
  ✓ Discrimination: Need for fighting against ageism
  ✓ Poverty
  ✓ Abuse and Violence
  ✓ Lack of specific measures and services

• Purpose of Education
  ✓ To perceive everyday discrimination
  ✓ To know how to deal with discrimination or abuse
  ✓ To help make or join organizations to protect older adults’ human rights
4. Human Rights Protection Programs
Future Directions

✓ More diverse education programs need for heterogeneous groups of older adults (especially for educational level, health conditions, and economic statuses)

✓ Older adults need to participate in their education programs as educators or volunteers

✓ National survey about older adults’ lifelong education should be conducted more often
“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.”

- C. S. Lewis
(1898-1963)