

New human traffic

“A virgin Vietnamese is always ok, whether first marriage or second marriage. Future payment, 100% refund.... There is no escape, never!!” This is not a slave trade advertisement, but just international marriage advertisement. When driving a country road, we can meet banners marked those words every where. An international marriage in Korea became much common, but the commercial propensity was also strong. In 1993, the international marriage rate just 1.6%, but the rate increased 13.6% in 2005. As 2005 research, the rate especially at the rural was 35.9%, and the rate is rising dramatically. As rapidly urbanization, many young persons have left farm village, and that have caused spreading trend of international marriage. However, the trend is being serious for supporting of local self-government. The support business is illegality and evasion of the law. Self-government would support money to rural men, but the big problem in this process is the money has been made by our tax. Anyway, those rural men go to abroad to meet women through the mediation business. While, surprisingly this commercial marriage mediation is illegality in few states. However, some self-government has given money as a piece rate directly to marriage mediation business continually. Moreover, some self-government has some clauses, “Redemption” when they divorce or leave residence and partner without notify. What an inhuman words! It is force using money that couples to maintain the marriage. All the more shock was an official document of ‘HEANAM’ city. “Vietnamese escort her partner like the god, and she is only angel having purity in the earth”, “Vietnamese is devoted and her body shape is cool.” Horrible!! It is not different from plainly mediation business advertisement, it seems ‘human traffic’.

Most women marrying through connections have come from development counties, the Philippines, China, Southeast Asia, Uzbekistan.... They would leave for money. Women get money for marriage condition, then

the money become to be a help her family. However, these days their sacrifice wouldn't be a big help. The intermediation companies in both country, Korea and her country, gather a commission. The commission has been bigger and bigger as the international marriage business is vitality. Moreover, brokers' intervention have made the marriage get 'human traffic' trait. Namely, those women have got to be 'mail-order brides'. The other problems start after women enter Korea. They have undergone many conflicts due to the difference of language and culture, and some of them are suffered from abuse and violence of Korean men.

A China compatriot woman knew her husband was alcoholism after marriage. Besides he did not have certain job and used violence to her. She tried to divorce, but she could not. That time, she was afraid of people's misunderstanding hers to phony marriage. Now she is separated since his violence was more serious, but he dose not accept divorce yet. Another Philippine woman was mistreated by her husband's suspicion as soon as giving birth. Moreover, her husband also used to do sexual abuse, but after all she could barely escape with a nun's helping. Although some men's brutality, when those women want to keep Korea living, foreigner women can not divorce freely. Once they can not go to work during 2 years because they have residence visa. Finally, if they divorce and are employed before becoming 2 years, those women would be degraded to illegal immigrants for charge of entrance fee and the rigor of life. Or they should leave Korea. While there are not many organizations which abused foreigner women ask to information and help them about divorce.

By those reasons, International Organization for Migration(IOM) announced a research that there is a 'human traffic' trait in a process when Cambodian women marry Korea men. After opened the research, last March, Cambodia government announced "we will stop the international marriage

business until new international marriage rules are made.” Even in Vietnam, now, the critical eyes about marriage with Korean man has rising. The factor is not a marriage concept like a trade, but the advertisement words. “There is not escape, never!” These inhumanly words have been used in the other countries under the name of Korea. The world has changed into multicultural and multi-ethnic society. Korea is also same situation. Actually, international marriage has generalized. In this circumstance, ‘human traffic’ has happened frequently in Korea, What a terrible that is!!

Then, why Korean men try to marry even though many problems have been happening? What kind of men want those marry? While in our society, what means “can’t marry”? These days, there is a new word, gold miss, telling thirties women having economic ability. In other hand, there is not a world meaning men, similar ‘gold miss.’ Our society treats men who didn’t marry until enough age to ‘son of gun’ or inability man. Actually, if Korean man decline to marry, that would seem foolish. Korean men have given a lot of good things through marriage. The good things mean recognition as an adult of society, free household chores labor, economic support in a case working together and so on. In other hand, to women, marriage means they have to offer those services to partner. According to Korean women can not help wise calculating. Finally, marriage has gotten means a big trade taking whole life job to women. In this society atmosphere, it might be natural that there are many high class matchmaking businesses. Members of the matchmaking company want to find a partner suiting their condition.

Return to the subject, who are they “buying Vietnam bride”?? They are neglected at the trade as marriage. Finally, the reason why fail to marriage is the men do not have any good condition. Most of them would live in a farm village or be not rich. Thus they have imported their brides from Vietnam, china, The Philippines, Russia... as a multinational corporation would use

cheap labor. Only difference is the men would marry after look plainly and inhumanly advertisement words and their brides are far younger than their husbands. But, the marriage trade condition is also money. In these situations, how they are treated fairly?? Furthermore, a few of women can live in a little better economic condition than their parents' home. Because most of them marry rural men, they have to do exacting labor. But, what is worse, if their husbands treat with cruelty, the women's Physical and mental pain can not stop. A China compatriot woman had lived hard since she married in 2000. Her husband had treated her like a slave using the Korean Nationality Act - foreigner can take acquiring citizenship exam pass 2 years after marry. She was also imposed to work for livelihood instead him. The mistreatment had kept until she got the Korea nationality and divorce.

Then, what was wrong in the marriage having a human traffic trait? Were the advertisement words written plainly about women who become family? Or were running away women without keeping promises? What is the really basic causes this trouble? The men who are fail to the competition or can not live alone without women and women's household labor?? I think if there is equal benefit for unmarried men, not humbling or vague sympathy and the men have been taught about living alone taking care oneself since they were young. After that, 'buying bride' would not happen. However, it does not mean that all Korean's thinking about marriage should be changed right now -to men, marriage would give many benefit services and only winner at the competition can get good marriage condition, in other hand, to women, cool marriage is similar to get a nice job. Furthermore, it also does not means the rural men's international marriage through particular agents has to stop a moment. We need our thinking and attitude change which living together with poor and been neglected people. Remain men and foreigner bride are maybe same situation. We should find some ways for second-class-citizen.

In our society, migrant labor and marriage immigrant women have increased more and more. The world changes to global society. Korea is no exception in this current. While several racial and cultural discriminations have still happened in Korea. A Pakistani man marrying Korea woman felt contempt at invisible wide discrimination of Korea society. He thought his nationality cause the distinction and disregard. So, he was naturalized, but those treatments did not change. After all, he awared the distinction did not come to his nationality but his racial and cultural. Besides, he knew he could not be a Korean, never! Thus our society has some trouble with this sudden increase tendency of international marriage. There are a lot of abused foreigners of developing countries and foreigner brides' maladjustment came to no communication and different custom. Furthermore, it is serious. People's unkind eyes and discrimination and prejudice to multicultural family and even their children. Those seem like stories of other area, but that have happened frequently around us. Shamefully, I did that. Whenever visiting my father's hometown, I have often met foreigner women and their child. Besides, I also can see migrant laborer easily anywhere. But I would still look curious them as stranger.

Actually, in a 2006 research, children of international marriage family was 7.998, and it was about 30% risen figure than 2005. Thus, multicultural family is getting more and more common. However, those children have still suffered from many things. First of all, there are a lot of young children who linguistic development is weak. And this phase has more appeared to the children who spend time mostly their mothers who are slow of speech in Korean. Second the children's grounding is also fragile, those factors cause neglect in classroom and move on society. Above all thing, it is important that most of international marriage families are poor. And their poverty has transmitted from generation to generation in unconcern of our society.

Because of these reasons, there is about a hundred the human right organization for them. However, they thought that we have to just help those foreigners at first. But, these days the helping is called as 'multicultural program'. Those programs are the Korea language and custom education for foreigner and a welfare system for multicultural family. Each small town has opened 'Hangeul' and traditional culture class for foreigner brides. Moreover, after school class and mentoring also have operated for international family children. Besides, some local self- government is promoting well-fare programs that professional upbringing teacher will be more placed for only international family. Moreover, there is an argument that now days culture diversity is power - "Although we should prepare systems for migrant labors and marriage immigrant women, in other hand they will become big resources in our society." I also agree they have made us and our society more fertilize. That means we can give help from them. However, those situations can not success by just we make a place trying a 'HAN BOK' on them and let eat 'HANGUA' whenever Korean festival days.

If we achieve this concept, we need to treat migrant labors and marriage immigrant women as active subject. In certain support center, each country foreigner teaches their language, culture, manner, religion to other country foreigner. Moreover, there is a band constituted migrant labors. The band would sing about their pain, hope and necessity of their union. Those songs have become a practice of 'democracy culture effort'. Migrant labors and marriage immigrant women can provide variety culture and let us understand coexistence and harmony as global mind. Thus, when we recognize them as an equally society member, there is not an international marriage like human traffic. Moreover, there are no dishonor as 'buying a bride society' and a thinking what people see the foreigner bride to a subject

of trade. That will make society stop to give them slave life and unfair state transmitting their children. We do not have any right treating them cruelly. Above all, the most important thing is our esteem thinking and attitude for second-class citizen.