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Title: People who are more lonely in a festive season: the Living alone aged

Korean family show many variation toward condition being able to deal with function supporting the elderly along with modern society's structural change. Even though, Lately, The incidents of joint suicides of, in regard to maintaining the elderly, married the old couple, eldest son and his mother, and so on are example which are exhibited the supporting the elder problem extremely, they confirm that the elder's desire needing long period protection have already been beyond the capacity of each family unit degree in Korea society.

Korea's average number of each family's constituents is on the tendency of decline when we compare the number between 5.0 in 1970, and 3.3 in 1995, and two-paycheck couples are consistently on the tendency of growth(The national statistics office 2000), so the given condition for affording to maintain the elder of family is walking the dark road. On the one hand, in taking a view around the present condition of joint and separate living with offsprings, it is surveyed that among the whole the old's family, families live with offsprings are 53.2%, the old's solitary families are 20.1%, the married old couples are 21.6%, and the others are 5.1%(Jung, kyunghee 1998), so it is exhibited that among one of two of the old over 65 are living with themselves or alone. Like this result display a drastic growth in comparing with the rate, one of the old among four of the old, organized in 1990 by census.

It is expected that the variation of tendency from extended family to independent type such as the old's solitary family unit are continued constantly. Then, the type of family's constitution such like this joint living is a important research object due to the fact that it have the character making people comprehend the dynamic relationship between generations, and having an distinctive effect on psychological happy feeling along eastern and western cultural area, so determining the quality of life of the old, and then, ultimately, being a variable which finalize the desire for the social welfare service type.

However, who on earth work out or deal with when the solitary living old suffer from the old's disease such as se

nile dementia?, or what's worse, in regard of almost the old married couple family units, the primary care giver is spouse. Then, since the spouse also suffer from aging, the spouse may care his or her ill spouse even in the state of disable at the same time with his or her ill spouse, and finally, who on earth fill up the blank of protection owing to the separation by death?

That is to say, what it means that the tendency of increase in the number of the late aged along with the growth in the number of the family unit of solitary living the elderly who do not live together with his or her offsprings is indicating the fact that the problem of their long period medical care protection raise its head as a serious social problem beyond family problem. It is natural that Protection for 21century's the aged who have already dawn near the old society is regarded as a normal life course among human's life cycle. Especially, now that the aged in solitary living family who don't live together with offsprings is a general phenomenon caused by result of modernization, Korea society is assumed that it arrive on a critical situation where the public or private system which can cope with long period protection should be prepared.

However, the measures for such like this serious the problem of protection for the aged are in the actual situation that they are just fragmental, and serve very much deficient protection as for quality, and quantity. Abusing the aged and family problem is growing worse and worse as time goes by since Korea's protection for the aged place its core on facility protection, the image with regard to nursing homes, or asylum for the aged is still negative, and what's worse, since the expensive subscription of houses, or hospitals for the aged, which lately increase in number, they are nothing but pie in the sky, now situation still cannot help needing responsibility of family members.

In western society, socialization of protection conducted by other experts, facilities, or place not by family constituents has already been being accomplished from the protection just by family members, and such like this public providing function is advancing to the direction which make up the private support. Growth in numbers of the aged, and the solitary living family need the measures called social preservation, and to actively cope with the problem of preservation for the aged in specific region which already drawing near the old society, it would be reasonable to absolutely need a request a long period preservation policy for th

e solitary living elderly in the national degree.

2. Besides elderly generation, the solitary living elderly problem

(1) Besides the elderly generation, the origination's background of the solitary living elderly problem.

In Korea, among whole living unit of the elderly, since solitary living unit of the old which is notion caused by combining living unit of the married elderly(the old generation) with the living unit of the single life old(solitary living unit of the old generation) is appeared that it has already been almost a majority, most the old are living alone or only with their spouses. According to survey with regard to Korea's south western region, in the year 2000, living unit of the old(74,660) involving the solitary living old(56,237)'s number among 261,303 the aged over 65 years old amount to 130,897, so the survey indicate that majority of the old were living the life of the single old, or of themselves.(Homepage of South eastern)

In Korea, the variation trend from extended family to independent type such like the old's solitary living unit is expected to keep on for some time, and like this family organization type have an effect on the old's life quality as a definite factor. These days, the old's desire is transforming toward the direction where they demand the expert's assistance in regard of care from the joint life with their offspring along carrying on the life near their neighbors, friends, private relationship, and so on.(Ahn, hyanglim 2000)

like this survey result demonstrate the old's values variation that they desire care source not from their family members but expert human power. In Korea, traditionally, joint living with parents is normative, and regarded positive matter, whereas, regarding west society, the joint living between parents and adult offspring is considered as phenomenon having negative influence. This illustrate cultural norm's mutation, that is to say, the most recent the Korean old's desire flow from conventional dependent type to the direction aiming for western independent type. Such change phase's origin can be figured out from the two aspect, 'filial piety' thought and the old's independent pursuit.

At the beginning, according to the case of the married old generation, as a family consisting of only the old, the family can have the merit point, namely, it can maintain stable family joint as for emotion through mutual support in the relationship they mutually are used to for now. Nonetheless

less, they have a possibility of alienation owing to few external stimulus, and they can suffer trouble in the case of needing high assistance as much as they must be protected for a long time or there is a sudden emergency to their spouse. Especially, there is too heavy burden to manage all about living affair since not only be themselves advanced age in the case the aged are main protector but also there is such case the protector also have illness, so the protector, spouse, illness can be worse. What's more, there are possibility of sudden troubles in the process of protection.

However, according to the most latest survey result as for the Korean middle aged women's attitude toward their old age life(Kim, kitae, 2000), the middle aged women who would like to separate living at old age still desire separate living at the same rate(50%) after separation with husband by death or unless they have physical disability, so we can expect that future society will be constituted with solitary living unit of the aged in many part.

No matter whether the reason is located in the aged's will or the environment factor, the growth in number of the aged in solo living life have possibility that the torture will be duplicated due to the loss of mutual dependent partner causing various troubles, and what's worse, suffering the general problems which the old experience simultaneously making them more fragile, solitude and so on.

In most cases, the solo living old are person who is left with illness owing to spouse's death. The loss of spouse is noted as incident arousing stress or extremely serious crisis among loss feeling which are experienced through whole life. With this, the aged fall into bewilderment state in addition to lonely feel or gloomy, and lead to income decline or social life separation with kind of friends or neighbor. The living alone aged have higher rate in regard of nutritional deficiency or catching a physical trouble than the married aged's living unit, and they are apt to be accommodated in related facility since they are proved to be frail regarding mental health with sort of frequent gloomy or loneliness.

Especially as for the female old, because they are more likely to have chronic ailment, and economic poverty, loss of emotionally dependable partner, moreover, difficulty of remarriage and what's worse, kind of loss of role as wife in family, they suffer more trouble than the male aged, and the female aged consist in the living alone aged as much as 80% because the female aged's average life span is longer as much as about 8 years of age as 78.1 years old than the male aged(the National Statistics Office, 1997), and the female old's ages mostly lower as much as about 3~4 years o

f age. As a result of that, it is very quite probable that the female old live alone for more than 10 years without spouse. Particularly, according to the rate of male and female over 75 years of age, rate of the female old consist in the entire rate of male and female at the rate more than 70%. therefore, problem of the female old occupy many part of the trouble of the old, and remain most delicate alienated social class in aging society.

(2) Besides the old generation, present situation of a measures with regard to the living alone old's desire

Decline the joint living with off-springs intention and in addition, increase the rate of agreement for protection from experts or facilities straightly illustrate the desire for social protection substituting for family. Besides, because the further being the latter term person of advanced age, the higher rate of catching dementia or paralysis, and the more increase duplicative functional obstacle or chronic ailment, etc, it is expected that the desire regarding their protection lead to a terrible degree.

Both Person of advanced age who are now served and family is in favor of protection type which the old can keep living in their own place. Like this the living alone aged's desire is aroused by the reason which there is no family members to live together or despite any obstructor, or by desire for separation living from off-springs and state with constant independent. Especially as for the living alone aged, because they must carry life on by oneself without life partner in contrast with the married old living unit, it is desirable to need the notion of more active empowerment to adapt toward independence and in addition to that, wash the dependent states out.

empowerment's basic value is not only the oneself which make the social weak in the state of dependent settle problem successively but aid them independence and self-decision to guarantee quality and satisfaction of life. To make come true like this value, it must be assumed extraordinary manner of empowerment. For instance, besides improvement toward not only a service for the old in low-salaried extreme poverty but also a service system being able to be used by the middle class old, information regarding like this service must be offered sufficiently to customer.

3. Conclusion

Finally, To operate expert protection policy for the people of advanced age who are living alone, increasing in number

with the result of modernization, various sort of facility and public service based on local community where people of advanced age are carrying on life must be extended and improved so that all kind of medical treatment and preservation of health will be offered in the system of long period protection.