Socio-demographic Inequalities of Social Support in South Korea

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Many studies have identified the functional effects of social support, but the social patterning of this resource has rarely been the focus of research, especially in South Korea. Using data from a national probability sample of Korean adults (N = 1,957), the current study explores the pattern of perceived social support disparities in Korea, focusing mainly on age, employment status, and marital status. As the effect of each stratification factor on the individual’s social relationships may vary by gender, the interaction effects of socio-demographic status and gender were also considered. The major findings were as follows. Firstly, the perceived availability of non-kin support dropped sharply by age: the gap between the young and the old was substantially huge. On the other hand, the disparity between the young and the old in the regards to kin social support was only slight, and contrary to social concern, the elderly’s perception of their kin social support was predominantly positive. Secondly, the divorced and the widowed were far less optimistic than the currently-married, not only about kin social support but also about non-kin support. Gender differences were observed among the
divorced and the widowed: divorced men and widowed men reported significantly lower levels of perceived social support than their female counterparts. Lastly, precarious workers perceived less social support than regular workers. With regard to gender differences, unemployed men and self-employed men perceived significantly lower level of support than each of their counterparts.

Key words: social support, socio-demographic status, gender, inequality.
The Effects of Social Workers’ Work-Family Orientation and Social Support on Their Work-Family Reconciliation

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This study investigates the work-family reconciliation level of social workers in social welfare facilities and institutions. Specifically, we look at the effects of work-family orientation and social support on work-family reconciliation by conceptualizing work-family reconciliation into multiple dimensions (work-family positive spillover, work-family negative spillover, family-work positive spillover, and family-work negative spillover) and go on to examine whether these differences differ by gender.

Data were collected via mail survey sent to social workers in private social welfare facilities and institutions in City A from September 15 to 30, 2011. Of the 1,621 questionnaires distributed, 952 were returned and 930 were included in the final analysis.

The analysis results show that, first the work orientation of social workers affected family-work conflicts, work-family facilitation, and family-work facilitation while their family orientation influenced family-work conflicts and family-work facilitation. Second, family support turned out to affect all the sub-factors of work-family reconciliation. Third, supervisor support affected work-family conflicts
and work-family facilitation. Fourth, peer support turned out to affect none of the sub-factors of work-family reconciliation. Finally, there were gender differences in the effects of work orientation, family support, and supervisor support on some paths of work-family facilitation.

We discuss the implications for the work-family reconciliation of social workers.

Key words: work orientation, family orientation, family support, peer support, supervisor support, work-family reconciliation
Factors Affecting Social Integration of Adults with Developmental Disability: Focusing on the Moderating Effect of Social Support

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The present study suggests policy implications for the social integration of adults with developmental disability by identifying the current level of social integration (i.e., the participation of adults with developmental disability in the community) and by examining the factors that influence social integration. The data were collected from parents of adults with developmental disability, both registered and unregistered in facilities. A total of 279 questionnaires were recovered and 245 cases were analyzed after eliminating cases with too many missing variables. First, demographic characteristics led to meaningful differences in the levels of social integration, social support, and independency. Second, the levels of independency and social integration of adults with developmental disability were influenced by family’s socio-economic status. Third, social integration among adults with developmental disability was related with both physical and social independencies, which implies the importance of early
interventions and social adaptation training for people with developmental disability. Finally, social integration was affected by the co-occurrence of disability, the level of social independency, and institutional support. These findings imply that both medical remedies and social rehabilitation are important for the social integration of adults with developmental disability.

Key words: developmental disability, social integration, social support, moderating effect
The Effect of Academic Stress on Adolescent Depression and Aggression Mediated by Self-esteem and School Maladjustment

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Adolescent depression and aggression brought on by academic stress are the causes of youth suicide and school violence. But reducing academic stress in educational environments in Korea is not an easy matter. Therefore we must try to find ways to reduce adolescent depression and aggression by identifying the mediating effects that lead from academic stress to adolescent depression and aggression. Data were obtained from the third wave middle school panel of the Korea Youth Panel Survey(KYPS). The results show that academic stress has positive effects on adolescent depression, aggression and school maladjustment, and negative effects on self-esteem. Specifically, self-esteem as a mediating effect had negative effects on adolescent depression, and aggression and school maladjustment as a mediating effect had positive effects on adolescent depression, and aggression. Based on these results, social service programs for youth, and networks between school and community welfare organizations are proposed.

Key words: academic stress, adolescent depression, aggression, self-esteem, school maladjustment
Health status, Health Promotion Behavior, and Health Program Needs of First Year Nursing Students

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This is an descriptive study to assess the health status, health promotion behavior, and health program needs by gender and subjective health status among freshmen first year in nursing students. Subjects were 225 first year nursing students admitted in 2012 at 2 universities in the Chonnam Province, Korea. Data were collected from first year students who understood the purpose of the study and agreed to participate using a structured questionnaire. Health promotion practices were measured by the instrument used in the Korean National Health and Nutrition Survey(2009) and health program needs were measured using questions formulated by the researchers. Data were analyzed using $\chi^2$-test using the SPSS 20.0. Of 225 freshmen, 13.3% were categorized as overweight, 4.9% were smokers, 70.2% were drinkers, and 53.3% exercised regularly. There were differences in the health promotion behavior between male and female students and between subjective health status. Nursing students showed low health promotion practice but had high demand in health program needs. It is necessary to introduce health
programs so that the future nurses can begin health promotion practice in order to maintain and promote their health.

Key words: nursing student, freshmen, health promotion behavior, health program needs