

Change in Family Structure and Its Demographic Implications in South Korea

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Socio-economic change such as industrialization, urbanization, economic development, etc. has played a crucial role in diversifying family in terms of not only its scale but also demographic and socio-economic structure. Indeed, many studies have made a consensus that changes in household and family affect the marriage and childbearing practices. Accordingly, analysis on the change in household and family is of great importance to understand and identify change in marriage rate and fertility rate. From this point of view, this study made attempts at restructuring the household by biological, socio-economic and geographical factors that may reflect the rapid change in society, and analyzing a variety of marriage and fertility dynamics.

The major findings are as follows; number of one person household with his/her child (ren) and/or spouse, household of childless couple, household for single parent and both parents cohabiting with unmarried child (ren) over 25 years old, etc. have increased in both absolute and relative terms; and such changes in family and household appeared to differentiate the fertility behaviors and thereby level.

Such linkage between structural change of family/household and fertility is expected to contribute to increasing the effectiveness of family policies through not only by the individual (specifically women) approach but also the family/household approach.