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Making Youth Space and Supporting Sustainable Settlement for Young People Who Migrated to Local Cities

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SUMMARY

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This study began with the recognition of the limitation of the supportive policies of the central and municipal governments to attract young people to small and medium—sized local cities with the risk of population decrease, wherein the fragmentary supports are not connected with the migration or sustainable settlement of young people.

The youth support policies so far focused on job creation to find solutions to the population outflow. However, the local migration of young people is a process of moving and settling, and it requires a comprehensive approach including the changes of the lifestyle for finding residence, job and human network, the culture of the young generation, and the migration conditions of the local area. In addition, since Korea's total population is decreasing and the population in the Greater Seoul Area is more than the population outside the Greater Seoul Area, the competitive population attraction policies among the municipal governments should be avoided. Rather, the youth policies should be promoted with the goals of resolving the shortage of human resources and preparing the actors for revitalizing local areas. In the medium and long term, positive considerations should be given to the policies for securing relational population that are likely to migrate to local areas.

This study proposes a method for forming youth spaces as the life and activity bases of local communities that can induce the youth migration to local small and medium—sized cities and their sustainable settlement in the areas. This study also proposes the directions of policy support and system improvement to realize the goals. The key points and results of this study are described below.

Division of Local Migration Stages and Definition of Youth Space

Chapter 2 of this study reviews the theories and divides the process of local migration into four stages of 'Search–Migration–Settlement–Sustainable Settlement.' The sustainable settlement was defined as the continuous residence in the local area by the youth who have migrated to the area and play the role in the local economy as members of local community. The youth space is one of the local community life bases for the migration, settlement and sustainable settlement, not a sufficient condition for the youth population inflow. The youth spaces are classified into residential spaces, work and start—up spaces, community spaces, and supporting spaces. This study also investigated the demand of the youths who are interested in local migration and who have the desire for enjoying local culture, and it showed the relational population may be created through the public supports to the search stage.

Policy Tasks and Implications for Supporting Local Migration and Making Youth Space

Chapter 3 reviews the relevant policies of the central and municipal governments as well as the policies and cases of civil activities in Japan. The analytical results highlight that the local settlement of youth requires policies that comprehensively consider not only the basis for economic activities but also stable settlement environment, the formation of community network, the acquisition of real estate information, and the securing of space. The implications of the analytical results included the extension of the policy scope for securing relational population, the preparation of continuous and follow—up systems beyond one—time support, and the active utilization of civilian vitality.

Factors to Sustainable Settlement of Youth, Demand of Local Migration in Each Stage, and Issues Related to Youth Space

Chapter 4 describes the factors to the local migration and settlement and the supporting policies and spatial demand in each stage of local migration. These were investigated through surveys conducted with the youths who have migrated, those who have left, and

those who are included in the relational population, and through the interviews conducted with various local entities, including the administration, the intermediate supporting organizations, and the relevant business operators. In addition, an analysis of four cases of youth space was performed to derive the issues regarding the directions of making youth spaces in local small and medium—sized cities. According to the roles played in the process of local migrations, the youth spaces may be classified into necessary, catalytic and mediating spaces. The demand of the youth spaces was different among the Search—Migration—Settlement—Sustainable Settlement stages. The key issues were drawn to make youth spaces in local small and medium—sized cities, such as the need for forming village—unit youth spaces within walking spheres, the need for discovering essential local actors who can play the role of relational guide or mediator, and the impact of the youth space by private sector in the local communities.

Process and Action Plan for Making Youth Space in Local Small and Medium-Sized Cities

Chapter 5 reviews an alternative for the formation of youth spaces in local small and medium—sized cities with the case of Junghak—dong, Gongju—si. The alternative was reviewed by analyzing the youth population and the trend of their local migration, the status of the youth spaces and their utilization, and the demand of youth space. In addition, an on—site empirical study was conducted together by conducting spatial workshops and operating a 'living lab' in order to gather the opinions from the local actors about the utilization of unused or public spaces for making the youth spaces. Based on the results, this study provides the directions and process for forming youth spaces in the village—unit living sphere throughout Junghak—dong. This study also proposes an action plan for making two youth spaces, one at a public—owned unused space and the other at a private—owned unused space.

Directions and Strategies for Making Youth Space in Pursuit of Sustainable Settlement of Youths Who Have Migrated to Local Cities

Based on the analytical results and the review of the alternative described above, Chapter 6 proposes the basic directions and promotion strategies for making youth spaces. As the strategies for supporting the youth spaces and programs in consideration of the characteristics of local migration in each stage, this study proposes the establishment of 'local migration support platform,' through which support is provided

in all the stages of local migration, and the provision of different residential spaces in the Search-Migration-Settlement stages. This study proposes the utilization of existing spaces first, considering the youth demand. For this, the youth space could be the multi-functional space and operated by the diversification of the operated programs for the individual timeslots. If the formation of new spaces are needed, it is necessary to consider the regeneration of unused spaces. As a strategy for forming the spaces according to the spatial range, this study proposes the formation of spaces within the village—unit life spheres and the formation of supporting spaces according to the needs in the units of village, basic municipal government and regional government.

For the youth spaces, a process is required to strategically present the functions needed in each local area and the time for forming the individual spaces, and to prepare a comprehensive plan for operating the spaces. Therefore, this study proposes the planning to make youth spaces and the operation and management systems that can help the municipal governments to prepare specific action plans.

Finally, This study provides support policy and improvement directions of legal system in three aspects. First, it is proposed that municipal ordinances should be prepared as an legislative basis for supporting the local settlement of young people and the formation of youth spaces, and that a 'local migration road map' should be prepared for the areas where the population is decreasing. Second, area—specific types of regeneration projects are proposed for the Urban Regeneration New Deal Program to implement the projects for making youth spaces. In addition, this study presents the plans for improving the legal systems to form temporary houses for the relational population in the population—decreasing areas, and the directions of amending the municipal ordinances to secure the flexibility and sustainability of the youth space operation and management. Third, to prepare sustainable activity bases for young people, it is proposed to introduce and utilize the system of urban generation enterprise, to amend the youth internship program of the Urban Regeneration New Deal Program, and to support the creation of local business and profit—making models to identify young activity entities and support their growth.

Keywords:

Youth Space, Local Migration, Sustainable Settlement, Young People, Relational Population, Urban Regeneration, Unused Space