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포용도시 조성을 위한 공공건축의 현황과 과제
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Delivering more accessible Public Buildings for Inclusive Cities and Neighborhoods
: Welfare Centers for the Disabled

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Summary

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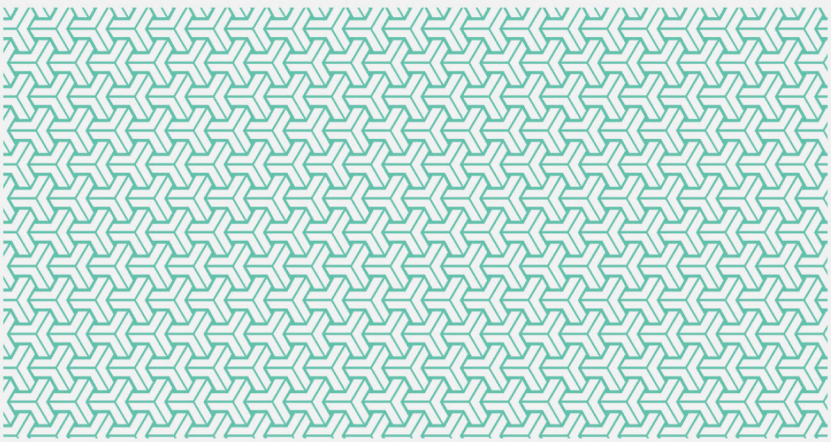

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As the argument that social discrimination and exclusion must be overcome to encourage more 'urban inclusivity' is now widely accepted around the world, conversations on the topic of 'inclusive cities' are becoming more vigorous. This issue has made its way to be embraced by both the new Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) announced at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in October 2016, emphasizing the need for progressing into 'cities for all.' With the social exclusion of vulnerable groups – such as underprivileged people, women, foreigners, and people with disabilities – emerging as a serious problem on urban and national levels, these discussions on urban inclusivity will help resolve such social problems and provide a solid foundation from which the society can advance into a more stable, mature one.

Where, then, can we start actualizing inclusivity within the urban and spatial environment? This study presumes that this actualization of urban inclusivity in terms of public buildings and facilities as public services must begin with minimizing exclusion in accessing the programs and facilities designed for socially vulnerable people. Recently, the central and local governments have been striving to improve the level of social welfare through projects such as the '10 Minute Neighborhoods,' the goal of which is to enable anyone to reach most essential public services within a 10-minute walk. In Korea, welfare centers for people with disabilities (DWCs) are built and operated according to the policies of the Ministry of Health and Welfare and local governments. If so, are the DWCs, whose users tend to be more socially vulnerable, being accessed on a comparable level? This question serves as the starting point of this study. Therefore, this research investigated the goals and objectives of public facilities as social services and analyzed, in comparison, current policies and their implementation level of the public facilities for socially vulnerable groups, to derive future policy directions.

This study analyzed spatial accessibility of the DWCs in Seoul Metropolitan City and in Gwangju-South Jeolla (Jeollanam-do) region. Two regions are selected for a more comprehensive assessment of gaps in accessibility of the DWCs. The two regions have varied conditions regarding their populations of disabled people and supply levels of the DWCs, the details of which are as follows.

Seoul and Gwangju are both Metropolitan Cities while Jeollanam-do is mostly rural, so the gap between accessibility of the DWCs affected by the differences in the regional conditions are verified. While Seoul's population consists of the

lowest proportion of disabled people, the city's supply level of the DWCs is not outstanding. Gwangju has a relatively low proportion of disabled people in its population and displays an adequate supply level of the DWCs. Jeollanam-do's population shows the highest proportion of disabled people, and the supply level of the DWCs is at a Korean average.

A strong focus was placed on studying the spatial distributional characteristics of disabled people and the level of accessibility of the DWCs. This investigation is expected to elicit valuable implications in various aspects that are appropriate for today's Korean cities with an urgent need to embrace more inclusivity. The results of analysis are as follows.

First, the population of disabled people tend to cluster in certain areas. The number of disabled people standardized by the number of total population is more concentrated in rural areas than in urban areas. While the clustering tendency appears similarly across regions regardless of disability type or degree of severity, the most number of disabled people was found in rural areas such as the Honam region (North and South Jeolla provinces) and the North Gyeongsang province. On the other hand, Seoul and other Metropolitan Cities, as well as some major provincial cities, had relatively smaller numbers of disabled people. In terms of inclusive cities, it can be assumed that relatively more importance is placed on inclusivity in a city with a bigger population of disabled people. The analysis results thus illustrate that where the demand for urban inclusivity is higher, based on the number of disabled people, are the typical underdeveloped areas in rural regions. These areas have a low degree of fiscal autonomy and have been deteriorating over time due to population decrease and declining industries, calling for more urban inclusivity.

Secondly, the supply level of DWCs varied depending on facility types, and areas with outstanding supply levels are found across the country. In terms of facility capacity and quantity of qualified staffs, the supply levels do not tend to cluster, unlike the distribution of disabled people. As discrepancy among regions is also apparent in the supply levels of the DWCs, however, primary attention and consideration, with respect to inclusive cities, must be given to those areas with lower supply levels.

Thirdly, it was possible to confirm gaps in spatial accessibility of the DWCs among regions. The ratio of disabled people covered within a 20-minute walk radius of local disability rehabilitation centers amounted to 91.9 percent in Gwangju, and Seoul also had a high percentage of 83.6. Considering the

geographical features of rural areas, the access radius for analysis in Jeollanam-do was adjusted to a 30-munite walk, which yielded 77.2 percent of disabled people as being serviced.

The accessibility is lower in Jeollanam-do than in Seoul and Gwangju because its absolute supply level is lower compared to the two Metropolitan Cities. Also, in each selected region, accessibility of local disability rehabilitation facilities showed a large gap among subareas. In Seoul, the areas with lower accessibility clustered around five districts including Gangseo and Yangcheon. In Gwangju and Jeollanam-do, Gokseong and insular areas such as Shinan and Wando displayed relatively lower accessibility.

In relation to inclusive cities, areas with relatively lower accessibility translate to higher ranks in the attention and consideration of public policy, and the results of this study are expected to provide preliminary data for the building of inclusive cities.

Keywords

Public Buildings, Accessibility, Inclusive Cities, Welfare Center for the Disabled