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- 민속마을 내 가옥의 물사용공간을 중심으로

A Study on the Revision of the Regulation for Installing Basic Living Facilities
in National Folklore Cultural Heritage
- Focusing on the water-using space of houses in folklore villages

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National Folklore Cultural Heritage (NFCH) refers to traditional villages and historic houses that preserve Korea's indigenous way of life. These sites remain inhabited by residents, making them living heritage spaces. As such, their preservation and use present a complex challenge, requiring a balance between safeguarding their original form and accommodating residents' contemporary living needs. This study proposes revisions to the Regulation on Installing Basic Living Facilities in NFCH, focusing particularly on issues surrounding water-using spaces such as bathrooms and toilets.

Since the designation of Andong Hahoe Village in 1984, eight villages have been recognized as NFCH sites, with the entire village area designated as cultural heritage. These villages collectively contain around 900 traditional houses. Most of the homes follow a single-unit layout with floor areas of 30–60m², making it difficult to accommodate essential modern facilities like bathrooms or toilets due to spatial and structural limitations. Installing such facilities indoors often leads to deterioration of the wooden structure, safety hazards, and disruption of the traditional landscape. As a result, many residents have resorted to makeshift solutions, constructing water-using spaces as either attached extensions or detached auxiliary structures

without proper approval.

Although the current Regulation has been revised in stages since its enactment in 2011—now allowing some modern facilities like shower booths, windproof equipment, and windows—its core restriction remains: water-using facilities must be located inside the main structure or under the eaves. Due to these constraints, practical improvement of living conditions remains limited.

This study thus aims to establish appropriate standards for the prioritized installation of water-using spaces (bathrooms and toilets). The main proposals are as follows. First, while maintaining the principle of placing such facilities inside the main building, the Regulation should allow for installation in “extended areas” when necessary. In such cases, clear standards should be introduced to ensure visual distinction from the heritage structure (legibility), reversibility for future removal, and harmony with historical surroundings. Second, specific architectural guidelines should be provided to regulate outdoor installations and prevent uncontrolled and unsightly extensions.

Through analysis of domestic and international cases—such as policies in the UK and USA—the study highlights that flexible regulations enabling functional improvements can support both conservation and practical use. In addition, field surveys and simulations across the eight designated villages in Korea helped identify needs for structural extension and informed the direction of standard-setting.

In conclusion, to ensure the sustainable preservation of NFCH, the current “authenticity-focused” approach must evolve into one that prioritizes “residency sustainability.” Revising facility installation regulations is essential not only for livability but also to reinterpret cultural heritage as a living asset for future generations. This shift also addresses the growing challenges of aging populations and increasing vacancies in heritage villages. This study offers policy makers a concrete set of challenges and solutions and may serve as a foundational reference for future legislative reforms and support programs.

Keywords :

National Folklore Cultural Heritage, Folklore village, Basic Living Facilities, Water-using space