

국가 균형성장을 위한 읍·면지역 공간구조의 컴팩트-네트워크 개편 모델 연구

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Summary

A Compact–Network Spatial Restructuring Model for Eup–Myeon Areas to Promote National Balanced Growth

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Introduction

This study aims to develop a spatial restructuring model for eup–myeon areas as the core units of daily-life territories in regions experiencing population decline and functional transition.

The research highlights that eup–myeon areas, despite serving as essential service and settlement hubs, have been marginalized within national spatial policies, including the Urban–County Master Plan under the National Land Planning Act and the Rural Spatial Master Plan under the Rural Spatial Restructuring Act. The study also reviews recent national policies such as population-decline response programs and compact-city initiatives, which emphasize life–territory-based service provision but lack spatial structure models tailored to eup–myeon areas.

The purpose of the research is to redefine the role and significance of eup–myeon spaces and to establish a Compact–Network model that can be applied across multiple planning and policy frameworks. The scope includes institutional reviews, spatial structural analyses, and model development for eup–myeon-level planning and policy application.

Analytical Framework for Developing the Compact–Network Model

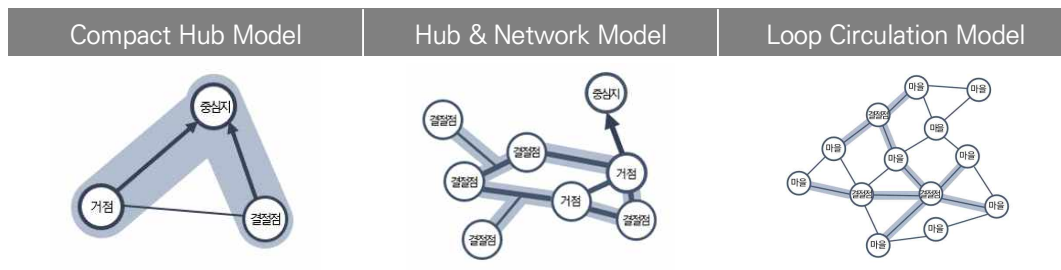
The analytical process integrates the examination of settlement and industrial functions as well as life–territory characteristics. Spatial structure analysis focuses on identifying the hierarchy of local centers, life–service accessibility, and inter-myeon linkages. Industrial structure analysis includes the distribution and connectivity of

industrial, processing, and tourism hubs. Based on this dual assessment, an integrated spatial analysis framework was constructed to categorize eup–myeon centers, functional clusters, and inter-myeon networks.

A spatial simulation process was then applied to explore potential restructuring scenarios, including functional consolidation, reallocation of key services, and reorganization of life–territory boundaries. These analytical steps establish the basis for identifying spatial patterns suitable for compact development, network-based structures, and circulation-oriented configurations.

Compact–Network Spatial Restructuring Model for Eup–Myeon Areas for the response of Population Decline

The Compact–Network model proposed in this study consists of three sub-models: Compact Hub, Networked Nodes, and the Circulation Loop. The Compact Hub model consolidates key settlement, service, and mobility functions within one or several central eup–myeon hubs and strengthens accessibility for surrounding areas. The Networked Nodes model establishes a multi-nodal structure in which multiple eup–myeon centers share and complement functions across a broader life–territory. The Circulation Loop model forms interconnected loops among settlement, tourism, and industrial points, supporting continuous movement and diversified local economic activities. These models can be applied individually or in combination according to local demographic, economic, and spatial characteristics, offering flexible structural options for long-term spatial reorganization. Each model provides a structural basis for addressing declining center functions, fragmented service provision, and weakened territorial linkages.



Role of Eup–Myeon Areas and Application Directions of the Restructuring Model to Promote National Balanced Growth

The study redefines eup–myeon areas as pivotal nodes linking urban and rural regions and as platforms where settlement, services, and economic functions converge. Based on this perspective, the Compact–Network model presents fundamental directions for application within statutory plans and policy programs. For Urban–County Master Plans, the model suggests incorporating eup–myeon centers and life–territory structures into spatial hierarchy and network settings.

For Rural Spatial Master Plans, it provides directions for function allocation, service structure adjustments, and alignment with rural revitalization zones. Furthermore, the model can inform regional development programs such as compact-city initiatives, population-decline response projects, rural agreements, and life-territory-based investment plans. Through these applications, the model offers a consistent structural framework to guide functional transitions, life-territory restructuring, and inter-myeon coordination in response to demographic decline.

Conclusion

The study presents a Compact–Network restructuring model for eup–myeon areas that addresses the limitations of existing urban- and facility-centered planning approaches. Analytical results indicate that eup–myeon centers face functional decline, reduced service accessibility, and weakened inter-territorial linkages, which hinder the effective implementation of national balanced development policies. The proposed model provides a foundational tool for reorganizing eup–myeon spatial structures based on local demographic, industrial, and territorial characteristics. It can support the development of long-term restructuring strategies and strengthen coherence between planning, investment, and implementation systems.

Future efforts should focus on refining legal and institutional frameworks to improve alignment between planning systems and policy initiatives and on establishing detailed life–territory strategies and center management approaches tailored to eup–myeon areas.

Keywords :

National Balanced Growth, Population Decline, Eup–Myeon Areas, Spatial Structure, Compact–Network Model, Local Hubs