

고령1인가구의 주거복지 지원을 위한 노인복지주택 개선방안

Improvement of Senior Welfare House for Single Elderly Households

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SUMMARY

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Chapter 1. Introduction

Korea has entered the category of “aging society” since 2017 due to its rapidly aging population. It is worth noting that although the phenomenon of population aging is occurring globally, it is proceeding at a very fast pace in the case of Korea. In particular, not only from the demographic point of view with the declining productive population and increasing elderly population, but also in terms of household characteristics where it is predicted that the number of household members will decrease and single person households will increase. This study focuses on the aging population and the increasing number of single elderly households, and aims to improve the housing welfare of the elderlies. Housing has an important place in the community in terms of maintaining or improving the quality of life through the welfare of the elderly. This is because the lives and livelihoods of the elderly are based on housing. Housing for the elderly cannot be solved only by facilities and housing supply. Instead, a diverse approach is required to enable the elderly to live a healthy and independent life.

The purpose of this study is to provide a plan for the improvement of existing facilities

and respond to the limitations of the elderly welfare housing currently in operation based on the characteristics of single elderly households such as living conditions, economy and health. The living conditions of the elderly are divided into physical, economic and social changes for observation. As regards housing welfare, housing functions and the operation method of facility support will be explored. The purpose of this study is as follows.

First, it seeks to determine the demand for future facilities by analyzing the characteristics of single elderly households and the future demand of the elderly population. Second, it suggests improvements in housing conditions, housing composition and elderly welfare housing that can support the lives of single elderly households. Third, it presents recommendations for improvement in the relevant government policies and systems.

Chapter 2. Current Status of Single Elderly Households and the Need for Housing Support

Single elderly households were found to be lacking in housing, economy and health compared to couple households and households with children. According to the results of a survey on elderly people, single households had low income, a higher ratio of receiving basic living allowances and despite a desire to work, the ratio of those who are currently working is low. In the health sector, visits to clinics were similar to those of other households, but the number of chronic ailments and prescribed medications were higher (Health and society research institute, 2017).

The present elderly population is primarily composed of persons born before 1947. However, after 2025, as aging increases rapidly, it will be composed of persons born before 1961, effectively replacing the population with the baby boomers who were in their youth after the country's liberation. The replacing of the generation that composes elderly households means that the present characteristics of elderly households will not pass on to the future and that the values and lifestyle sought by the society will change.

The domestic welfare facilities for the elderly are limited to the support of low-income elderlies or elderly welfare residents designed to support high-income people having

limitations in facility objective and performing its function. The lack of housing and facility alternatives in the middle income class shows the need to utilize existing housing inventory and to activate the functions of housing welfare facilities. Recently, in the United States and Japan, the number of middle class elderlies declaring bankruptcy due to extended life has been increasing. This is because of being excluded from the support of the state and local governments, and gradually becoming economically difficult due to increased living expenses and medical expenses while receiving limited income from pensions and other sources.

Chapter 3. Analysis of housing support policy and case studies of overseas elderly households

The concept of aging in a settlement basis has strengthened in overseas countries early on, where the housing environment of elderly people has been improving and the transition to welfare facilities and services have been provided. Since the enactment of the related law in the 1960s, Japan has promoted housing and expansion of facilities for the elderly, but in the wake of the rapid aging of the country, it has been pursuing a policy of linking housing and welfare policies and supporting residential environments. Early on, many policies and projects were implemented for the aging society and residential support, and recently, the results of these existing policies and pilot projects are being checked. If previously focus was made on securing housing for the elderly and related facilities and housing supply following rapid elderly population, currently they are pursuing to establish policies for the stabilization of housing for the elderly and to improve the existing elderly housing welfare facilities and elderly housing.

Since the 1980s, Sweden has shifted its policy direction from facility-based to residential-based, and various elderly housing welfare facilities have been operating. The concept of sustainable living in the community has been emphasized for a long time. For 20 years, the residents of the elderly sought to operate a small-scale facility similar in size to their home rather than large-scale. In particular, community housing was positively evaluated in terms of preventing the social isolation of the elderly and inducing them to participate in joint activities while maintaining a stable retirement life.

Chapter 4. Demand for housing assistance for pre-elderly people and interviews with facility residents

The purpose of the pre-elderly demand survey is to prepare for elderly living support by analyzing the demand for the welfare facilities and services in the future. Demand surveys were conducted for Seoul and metropolitan residents aged 50 to 64. Survey contents include housing situation and satisfaction, elderly living and residential planning, demand for services and facilities for housing support, and awareness of welfare facilities for the elderly. The total number of respondents was 700, with an average age of 56. The pre-elderly are expected to enter the elderly age from 70 which is 15–20 years from now and the expectation of elderly living standards is high for hobbies and leisure life, but the preparation of elderly housing is insufficient. The preferred residence was the metropolitan area, favoring their current residence or neighborhood, and the living conditions and health benefits were important. The elderly welfare facilities located in the present area were not well known. The intention to use the facilities was high in leisure welfare facilities and domiciliary welfare facilities, but living facilities like the residential welfare facilities and medical welfare facilities were lower. Living services showed high preference for health, life and care services, while economic consultation and social exchange support programs were low. In the health sector, simple health check and life and in the care sector, hobby and leisure program were the highest.

The purpose of interviewing residents of welfare homes for the elderly is to grasp the living conditions of the elderly and to draw out the limitations of the programs operated by the facilities. The interview was conducted on a 1: 1 basis for the elderly residents currently living in the facilities. The contents of the survey were health, economic, social conditions and program participation status. The total number of respondents was 25, with an average age of 78. The results of the interview showed that health status was good enough to go out and cook by themselves allowing for daily living and they were making efforts to maintain it. Housing expenses, rent and similar expenses were mostly managed by their children. Most of the interviewees were in the low-income bracket and hoped for economic activities like participating in small-scale work. There was much communication among family members but very little between residents. The programs operated by the facility were high in frequency of participation but they could

not provide opinions on the preference of programs or programs they wanted to participate in. The programs were operated as group programs so there was limited small group operation and active participation by the elderly.

Chapter 5. Housing welfare support and elderly welfare housing improvement plan for single elderly households

In this study, the elderly population generation is expected to change as the population gets older and with it the living values creating changes in elderly living. Changes can also be confirmed as regards the demand in facilities and services of the housing sector. Future elderly housing, facilities, and welfare services need to be integrated. In this study, the improvement plan of the elderly welfare house aims at the improvement of single elderly household housing welfare. The basic directions for improvement are ① to realize a sustainable residence in the community, ② to secure healthy and stable housing for single elderly households. The prerequisite is to maintain a community-based perspective and to approach the healthy single elderly households from a preventive perspective and maintain the continuous care for the elderly.

This study suggests ways to utilize or extend the supply of elderly welfare housing using existing resources in the local community. Subjects and scope are similar to current standards however, resident candidates are single elderly households (elderly households) who can live independently. The criterion that independent living is possible is the same as the criterion for the elderly welfare housing. That is, it is possible to live a life where one can do its own cooking, take care of health, tend to emergencies and other preventive centered services. The spatial extent is the living area within the community and the physical composition range of the facilities is the residential area and living support service area. The scope of operation includes not only the facility unit but also life management tools such as living support by linking with local health care services, living services and management of residents, establishing emergency contacts and other life management tools.

The scale is set to a medium-small size of 10 or more people. Currently there are many elderly welfare housing in common facilities because they make it mandatory, and because the ratio is low there are many large-scale cases. However, in such cases, it is

often disconnected from the community due to its self-contained structure. It is also possible to utilize existing facilities located in the area as a single building that is not separated spatially within the community. In addition to the elderly welfare housing and public rental housing, remodeling existing facilities (houses) is also possible.

Currently, the elderly welfare housing has an independent private living space, which should be kept as a basic principle in the future. In particular, personal space, shared living space, and management space should be clearly distinguished. Facilities are generally composed of facility management such as management room, office, program room (multipurpose room) and resident common facilities on the lower floor, and middle and upper floor are composed of resident space (living room). The physical conditions are similar, but differ in that they can be combined with other uses.

Community linkages are designed to help elderly people live independently through social welfare facilities, medical facilities, jobs, and public facilities in the area. Domestically, we refer to Japan's comprehensive care system, but Japan is different from domestic circumstances because they are equipped with facility infrastructures, service support systems, and professional manpower training through policies implemented many years ago. In recent years, Japan has been providing a system to strengthen guaranteed medical and nursing care services to support early resumption of life residing in the community after being discharged from hospitals. It is suggested that such residence movement and returning to community for the elderly people will be discussed in the future.

The living services sector provides preventive focused services such as elderly health care, daily living support, and emergency responses. The elderly welfare housing is related to elderly (resident), living service provider, medical service linked agencies, home and facility owner (business operator), and local government departments.

Chapter 6. Conclusion

The government has introduced community care policies to address the needs of the elderly as well as those in need of care and the vulnerable within the community. If, in the past the focus was on welfare support for the elderly as a policy to tackle low fertility

and the aging society, the recently announced community care policy is a comprehensive approach to 'embrace' the welfare candidates within the scope of local communities without reference to age classification.

The aging population is rapidly progressing currently, and the proportionate increase in elderly people and the mounting social burden to support the elderly is becoming very evident. This study suggests providing welfare housing support and improving elderly welfare housing for single elderly household to resolve one of the basic problems, which is the housing problem for elders, and by providing social stability and maintaining the health of elderlies, we can expect social cost savings.

As yet, there is a lack of awareness for elderly housing. If one's health deteriorates while living in their current home, it is inevitable to move to a silver town, paid elderly welfare housing or other facilities and if not, one has to receive medical care at their place of residence. As the possibility living function decreases with age, the need to secure housing that provides services has been raised since a long time ago. This study suggests an improvement plan to overcome the current limitations of the elderly housing welfare facilities currently in operation based on the living conditions, economy, health, characteristics of households and demand of pre-elderlies. The results of this study are expected to contribute to the policy of securing housing and stabilization in the local community in order to improve the housing welfare of elderly households.

Keywords :

Single Elderly Households, Housing Welfare, Senior Welfare House, Living Service, Housing Policy