A Study on Changes in Social Acceptance According to Individual Acceptance of Family Diversity

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Abstract: The purpose of this study was to explore the relationship between individual acceptance and social acceptance for various family types. This study was conducted on the general public between the ages of 19 and 79, residing in 17 cities and towns across the country from August 21st to 27th (7 days), 2019, using the CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system. A total of 1,499 valid copies were used as research data, and hierarchical multiple regression analysis using SPSS 21.0 was performed to derive the results. As a research method, it is a secondary data analysis study using data from a public opinion poll on family diversity conducted by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family. According to the findings, the higher an individual's acceptance of children from remarried families, children from single mothers (parents), children from cohabiting families, and children from multicultural families, which are sub-variables for family diversity, the higher the individual's acceptance of divorce/remarriage, living together without marriage, childbirth without marriage, and married couples. Social acceptance was also high in areas such as compulsory children, international marriage, and modest childbirth behavior, indicating that it had a positive effect. However, considering the influence relationship between the children of single-parent families and the adopted children is not significant, it is recognized that in order to respond to the rapidly changing society, one must follow the individual values of the family, which is becoming more diverse, but concerns about the lack of single-parent families and the traditional family values, which emphasize blood ties, collide with modern values and are mixed. When looking at demographic variables, women accepted various family types more than men, and all age groups except those in their 60s and older, with lower educational background and a higher economic level, supporting existing studies but showing differences. Based on the above research results, policy recommendations on family diversity are as follows. First, it is necessary to break away from the 'normal family' syndrome, an example of the traditional view of the family, and transform it into a social awareness that embraces diverse families. Second, legal support for children of families living together should be gradually supported with the goal of reaching the same level as children of married families.

Keywords: Family Diversity, Individual Acceptance, Social Acceptance, Children of Remarried Families

1. Introduction

As Korean society, which has traditionally pursued a family system centered on blood ties through marriage, has changed its demographic structure and function due to industrialization, a change in the perception of the traditional family has been required. Since the 1990s, there has been a rapid change in

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family life and an increase in the number of families in various forms, which has been criticized for discriminating against and denormalizing other types of families by privileged nuclear families. These changes can be seen as the decline of the modern normal family[1].

Recently, a broadcaster who gave birth to a son after receiving sperm donation as a single mother became an issue, and the debate over her appearance on the show is raging. This is due to concerns that the birth of unwed mothers may be glorified through the performer, implying that family boundaries are flexible depending on the living environment, and citizens' awareness of the 'denormal family' is changing. These changes are not only quantitatively expanded, but also contain qualitative aspects that challenge the norms and orders of the existing society. Starting with single mothers, childbirth, increase in international marriages, divorce and remarriage, increase in cohabitation and common-law marriage, childbirth through common-law marriage, voluntary non-birth of married couples, and the emergence of homosexual families all clash with changing values and threaten the 'normal family model.'

In fact, unlike in the West, familialism in Korea has reinforced the family-centered group identity. Because the family has as much influence as individual decision-making, it leads to a display of family love as well as a display of material and success, allowing one's possessions to be shared with the family. It has been shown that there is a strong family-centered tendency that leads to a tendency which leads to a tendency to brag to others about the family's success[2]. In such a social background, in order to achieve wealth and maximize profits amid rapid industrialization, one had to depend on the family[3]. This is because the influence of Confucianism[4], which emphasizes relationships and community, especially the family, has long been entrenched in the collective unconscious of Koreans.

However, as the number of countries recognizing same-sex family types as a law[5] beyond non-married relationships increases, it can be seen that people's awareness of family diversity is gradually becoming more accepted.

The reason for our sincere interest in diverse families is that, according to Article 36 of the Constitution, "marriage and family life must be established and maintained on the basis of individual dignity and gender equality, and the state guarantees this." In order to make it practical, the individual has been excluded, stigmatized, and marginalized in Korean society, and is also the object of integration and solidarity, the ultimate goal of social welfare.

Our society's family structure and lifestyle are rapidly diversifying, and as a result, the definition of the family must be expanded to include various families[6]. In the face of these changes, there is also a discussion on the necessity of responding to the current family-related legal system based on the concept of family-centered on legal marriage and blood ties[7]. Of course, the academic community is still divided on whether this family change should be viewed as a family crisis or as a diverse family[8], but the emergence of a concept such as the direction of family research is seen as an atmosphere[9].

As a result, it is critical to understand citizens' attitudes and values toward their families, as well as the family diversity acceptance criteria based on this[10]. In other words, depending on the level of awareness of the family, it can affect various family-related problems[11], and the method of solving family problems can also be different.

Accordingly, this study examines individual acceptance as 'adopted children', 'children of single-parent families', 'children of multicultural families', 'children of remarried families', 'single mothers (fatner)family's children' and 'children of unmarried families' were defined as the degree of acceptance, and social acceptance was defined as 'marrying a foreigner', 'divorce or remarriage', 'adult alone without agreement 'Living', 'a married couple not having children', 'a man and a woman living together without getting married', 'having a child without marriage', and 'a minor having and raising children'.

Looking at previous studies on family diversity, the factors affecting the degree of acceptance of family diversity were the older age, higher education, more women than men, and higher income. It was found that the more people have, the less they accept[10]. In addition, in order to properly understand various family types without prejudice, it is necessary to accept an open definition of the family[12].

In the case of international marriage, which can be seen as an example of family diversity, family support was found to be an important moderating variable[13][14]. In a study of multicultural acceptance of multicultural family support center workers beyond the family unit, it was found that the higher the level of acceptance of multiculturalism, the more positive the attitude toward multiculturalism[15]. As the form and function of the family change rapidly, studies on various family types are gradually being conducted [10][13][14], focusing on the recognition of family forms such as the view of marriage, children, and husband and wife[16-18]. However, there are few studies on the relationship between changes in individual perceptions of family diversity and social acceptance[8][14]. Although cognition is the main mechanism that determines human behavior, it is very important to examine the actual influence relationship because cognition and behavior move separately and inconsistently in reality[12].

The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between individual perception and acceptance of various family types and social acceptance.

Research Questions 1. What is the relationship between individual perception and acceptance of family diversity on social acceptance?

Research Question 2. Is there a difference between personal acceptance and social acceptance according to the general characteristics of the study subjects?

2. Research Methods

2.1 Research Subjects and Data Collection

This study was conducted on the general public between the ages of 19 and 79, residing in 17 cities and towns across the country from August 21st to 27th (7 days), 2019, using the CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system. As a research method, it is a secondary data analysis study using data from a public opinion poll on family diversity conducted by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family. Variables influencing social acceptance of individual perceptions and acceptance of family diversity were chosen for this study, and the relationship with these indicators was primarily addressed, with 1,499 valid questionnaires out of a total of 1,500 questionnaires used as research data.

2.2 Research Tools

This study used a structured questionnaire and consisted of 17 items measuring general characteristics, social acceptance, and personal acceptance. Exploratory factor analysis was performed to check the conceptual validity of the variables used in the study. As a result of factor analysis, three sub-factors were extracted, and the sample fit (MSA) was 0.872, which can be considered suitable for factor analysis. In addition, the results of Bartlett's sphericity test = 7989.222, p = 0.000, indicating that the correlation between variables was recognized based on the significance level of 0.05 so that overall factor analysis is possible.

Furthermore, Cronbach's values ranged from 846 to 865 as a result of a reliability test to determine whether the variables used in the study explained specific concepts in the same way, indicating that the variables used in this study have internal consistency among items.

2.2.1 General Characteristics

Variables such as the subject's sex, educational background, age, and economic level were used to identify general characteristics. To understand the characteristics of each age group, the educational background was divided into junior high school graduation or less, high school graduation, college

graduation, and graduate school graduation, and age was subdivided from under 30 to under 80. The economic level was a subjectively recognized variable and was reclassified as high, medium-high, medium, medium-low, and low.

2.2.2 Social Acceptance

Social acceptance was measured as the extent to which one can accept the appearance of various families. A total of 7 items (divorce or remarriage, living together without marriage, having a child without marriage, an adult living alone without marriage, a married couple not having children, marrying a foreigner, and giving birth to and raising children) were measured on a 4-point Likert scale ranging from completely unacceptable (1 point) to completely acceptable (4 points).

2.2.3 Personal Acceptance

Personal acceptability is based on 6 questions (children of single-parent families, children of remarried families, children of unmarried (mother) families, children of unmarried cohabiting families, children of multicultural families, adopted children Children) was measured on a 4-point Likert scale ranging from strongly disagree (1 point) to strongly agree (4 points) in the question of what would you do if you were a child of a family belonging to the family.

2.3 Data Processing

For the statistical analysis of this paper, SPSS WINDOW 21.0. was used. Frequency analysis was performed to analyze the demographic distribution of the sample, factor analysis for concept validity analysis, and Cronbach alpha test for concept reliability test was applied. Descriptive analysis was used to analyze the mean and standard deviation of research concepts, and correlation analysis and multiple hierarchical regression analysis were used to analyze the correlation and influence of research concepts. To test the statistical significance level of the collected data, the significance level was set to $\alpha = .05$.

3. Study Results

3.1 Respondent Characteristics

Among the study subjects, 50.6% were male and 49.4% were female. Age was 30-40 years old 35.1%, 50-60 years old 41%, and 70-80 years old 23.9%. The economic level was the highest with 3.7%, middle-high-middle-middle class with 84.4%, and lower class with 11.9%.

7	^v ariable	Frequency	Percentage(%)		
C 1	Male	759	50.6		
Gender	Female	740	50.6 49.4 10.5 26.4 54.4 8.7 17.9		
Education	Under Middle school	158	10.5		
	High school	395	26.4		
	University	815	54.4		
	Graduate school	131	8.7		
	Under 30	269	17.9		
Age	Under 40	258	17.2		

[Table 1] General Characteristics of Respondents

	Under 50	304	20.3
	Under 60	310	20.7
	Under 70	223	14.9
	Under 80	135	9.0
	Highest	56	3.7
	Middle-High	256	17.2
Economic level	Middle	688	45.9
	Middle-Lower	320	21.3
	Lower	179	11.9
Su	ım	1,499	100.

3.2 Research Concept Descriptive Statistics

Looking at the average distribution of research concepts through descriptive statistics, social acceptance was 2.82±0.61 and personal acceptance was 2.84±0.72. When looking at the average level of the research subjects related to the research concept, there was no significant difference, but personal acceptance of family diversity was higher, followed by higher social acceptance.

Variable	N	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Standard Deviation	
Social Acceptance	1,499	1.00	4.00	2.82	0.61	
Personal Acceptance	1,499	1.00	4.00	2.84	0.72	

[Table 2] Research Concept Technical Statistics

3.3 Correlation between Research Concepts

The correlation structure of the study variables is as follows. Divorce/remarriage, single-parent cohabitation, single birth, single single, childless, international marriage, underage childbirth, children of single-parent families, children of remarried families, children of single mothers (fathers), children of cohabiting families, children of multicultural families, In order to understand the relative influence between children of adoptive families, Pearson's correlation analysis was conducted to find out the correlation between the two variables. As a result, the correlation between children of multicultural families and children of adopted families was r=0.673 and p=0.000, indicating the highest positive correlation among the correlations. Conversely, divorce/remarriage and childbirth underage showed the lowest positive correlation with r=0.142 and p=0.000.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

A 1

B 0.425*** 1

[Table 3] Research Concept Correlation Analysis

С	0.243***	0.505***	1										
D	0.300***	0.391***	0.152***	1									
Е	0.332***	0.451***	0.219***	0.639***	1								
F	0.300***	0.289***	0.210***	0.325***	0.332***	1							
G	0.142***	0.271***	0.346***	0.155***	0.206***	0.214***	1						
Н	0.243***	0.269***	0.234***	0.147***	0.171***	0.255***	0.200***	1					
I	0.330***	0.365***	0.248***	0.203***	0.239***	0.284***	0.221***	0.663***	1				
J	0.295***	0.425***	0.354***	0.250***	0.282***	0.290***	0.326***	0.558***	0.662***	1			
K	0.267***	0.411***	0.459***	0.207***	0.249***	0.256***	0.345***	0.448***	0.539***	0.666***	1		
L	0.241***	0.303***	0.234***	0.225***	0.229***	0.463***	0.244***	0.452***	0.519***	0.551***	0.473***	1	
	0.219***			0.230***	0.238***	0.325***	0.236***	0.480***	0.566***	0.560***	0.472***	0.673***	1

^{*}p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

{Social Acceptance (A: Divorced/Remarried, B: Single Cohabitation, C: Single Birth, D: Single Single, E: Married Couple Without Children, F: International Marriage, G: Childbirth), Personal Acceptance }

3.4 Research Hypothesis Verification Results

After controlling for exogenous variables, hierarchical regression analysis was performed using gender, educational background, age, and economic level among general characteristics as control variables to determine whether individual acceptance of family diversity affects social acceptance. In [Model 1], gender, educational background, age, and economic level were input as control variables to determine the effect on social acceptability, and in [Model 2], individual acceptability was additionally added as an independent variable, even after controlling for exogenous variables. It was investigated whether the influence of social acceptability as a result of the analysis, [Model 1] F = 39.530 (p<.001), [Model 2] F = 68.245 (p<.001), so it can be said that this regression model is suitable. [Model 1] =0.257 and [Prosthesis 2] =0.467, the amount of change in R squared increased by 0.21. It can be said that the independent variable is statistically significant in explaining the dependent variable after the control variable is input with the significance probability p=0.000 according to the amount of change in R-squared F (F=508.973). [Model 1] and [Model 2] both had a tolerance (TOL) of 0.1 or more and a VIF of less than 10, confirming that there was no problem of multicollinearity between variables.

As shown in [Table 3], in Model 1, gender, educational background (middle school graduate or younger), age (under 60 years old), and economic level (higher) were found to have a significant effect on social acceptance, and the explanatory power was 25%. The explanatory power of Model 2, in which the personal acceptability sub-factor was added, was found to be 46%. Children of cohabiting families

^{*} Alphabet for each variable is as follows.

 $(\beta=.250, p<.000)$ and children of multicultural families ($\beta=.130, p<.000$) were positively (+) significant in social acceptance. In other words, it was evaluated that the higher the individual perception and acceptance of children of remarried families, children of single parents, children of cohabiting families and children of multicultural families, the higher the social acceptance.

[Table 4] Impact of Personal Acceptance and Social Acceptance

		Mo	del1		Model2				
Variable	В	SE	β	t(p)	В	SE	β	t(p)	VIF
(A constant)	16,646	0.555		29.981***	9.994	0.607		16.460**	
Gender	0.795	0.191	0.094	4.166***	1.083	0.163	0.128	6.654***	1.022
Under middle School	-1.080	0.487	-0.078	-2.218*	-1.094	0.416	-0.079	-2.633*	2.516
High School	-0.668	0.383	-0.069	-1.742	-0.619	0.326	-0.064	-1.899	3.190
University	0.076	0.353	0.009	0.216	0.064	0.300	0.008	0.213	3.444
19~29 years	5.173	0.445	0.468	11.616***	3.630	0.388	0.329	9.359***	3.421
30~39 years	4.494	0.441	0.400	10.188***	3.512	0.379	0.313	9.254***	3.169
40~49 years	3.443	0.428	0.327	8.045***	2.867	0.366	0.272	7.836***	3.343
50~59 years	1.507	0.413	0.144	3.647***	1.486	0.352	0.142	4.226***	3.132
60~69 years	0.540	0.414	0.045	1.305	0.635	0.351	0.053	1.806	2.414
Highest	1.471	0.576	0.066	2.555*	1.896	0.489	0.085	3.875***	1.329
Middle-High	0.326	0.378	0.029	0.862	0.608	0.322	0.054	1.889	2.265
Middle	0.102	0.322	0.012	0.318	0.474	0.274	0.056	1.726	2.888
Middle-Lower	0.164	0.351	0.016	0.466	0.358	0.298	0.035	1.200	2.301
Singel parent children					0.219	0.133	0.043	1.644	1.936
Remarried family children					0.294	0.146	0.061	2.014*	2.510
Single mother & children					0.542	0.133	0.126	4.081***	2.642
Children living together					1.045	0.109	0.250	9.556***	1.904
Multicultural children					0.630	0.131	0.130	4.795***	2.055
Adopted children					-0.160	0.144	-0.031	-1.114	2.182
F(p)		39.5	30***		68.245***				
R^2		0.	257		0.467				
$adj.R^2$		0.	251			0.4	160		

^{*}p<.05, **p<.01, ***p<.001

Reference group: Gender*male, last educational background*graduate school or higher, age*70~79 years old, economic level*lower

4. Conclusion

This study was conducted to explore the relationship between the individual's perceived acceptance of family diversity and social acceptance by using data from a public opinion survey on family diversity conducted by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family. The content that can be discussed based on the main research results is as follows.

First, the individual perception and acceptance of children of remarried families were significant in terms of social acceptance. According to the results of this study, in the analysis of the acceptance of family diversity perceived by college students, many college students (99.3 percent) perceived 'married couples and their children' as family, while more than half of respondents recognized remarried families as family (85.7 percent). These findings if turther supported by previous research[8][12]. As the divorce rate and remarriage rate rise together, the values of marriage have changed[19], and the perception and attitude towards remarriage and children of remarried families have also become more flexible than in the past[10]. Looking at this phenomenon, it appears that the importance of forming a family through marriage and divorce through remarriage remains high in Korean society, despite rising non-marriageism.

Second, the higher the individual's perceived acceptance of the children of single mothers (fathers), the higher the social acceptance. With the abolition of the Australian system, there is a movement to expand the scope of the family from the paternal-centered family, and a family form that deviated from the existing normative patterns such as single mothers (fathers), single-parent families, homosexual couples, and cohabiting couples has occurred [10].

Third, it was found that the higher the individual perception and acceptance of children of cohabiting families, the higher the social acceptance. When the subject's sexuality was open and cohabitation was perceived as a test dimension of a marriage relationship, they showed a positive attitude toward cohabitation, whereas those who had economic convenience, religion, or valued chastity showed a negative attitude[20]. In fact, adult men and women living together in Korean society tend to choose their lives as an alternative to marriage or as a trial stage for marriage without being bound by existing forms, and they live together for other economic reasons. Given the growing number of couples living together, it is expected that those who have lived together or have a positive attitude toward living together will be positive role models for their children.

Fourth, it was found that the higher the individual perception and acceptance of children of multicultural families, the higher the social acceptance. The results of this study are consistent with the study[15] that the higher the level of acceptance of multiculturalism, the more positive the attitude toward multiculturalism. The importance of family support, the positive acceptance of each family member, was emphasized[13].

However, in this study, the relationship between personal and social acceptance of children of single-parent families and adopted children was not significant. This is in the order of nuclear family (99.0%), adoption (91.9%), remarriage (91.4%), and the single parent (87.6%) in the results of a study on college students. It is different from the expression of perception[12]. Although this phenomenon recognizes that it is necessary to follow the diversifying individual values of the family in order to respond to the rapidly changing society, concerns about the lack of single-parent parenting and the traditional family values valuing blood ties collide with modern values, causing delays. This can be inferred from the fact that the proportion of family types that fit the concept of a blood-related nuclear family is only 10% in the United States, but an overwhelming proportion in Korea[10].

In terms of demographic variables, it was found that the number of females is greater—than males, and all age groups except those in their 60s or older, accepted a variety of family types as they had lower educational attainment and higher economic levels. High acceptance by women means that women accept it faster than men's family view, which is lagging behind in social change.

On the other hand, the negative phenomenon, in which the lower the educational level, the higher the social acceptance, is different from previous studies[10]. It can be inferred as the expression of personal will to pursue practical happiness rather than external stability. although people in their 60s and older still place importance on the traditional view of the family, the high acceptance of diverse families in most age groups suggests that individual needs take precedence regardless of generation.

Based on the above research results, policy recommendations on family diversity are as follows. First, it is necessary to break away from the 'normal family' syndrome, an example of the traditional view of the family, and transform it into a social awareness that embraces diverse families. In other words, when a child of a remarried family wants to receive a family relationship certificate for work submission, they still have to go through several steps to prove themselves. Second, Similarly to how France overcame its low fertility rate by providing legal support to more than 60% of children living together without marriage in the same way as married children, Korea, with a total fertility rate of 0.81 in 2021, will no longer accept the traditional family view and will face the reality of a population cliff. In this respect, multicultural families having three or more children contribute positively to Korean society, and the rights of their children should be respected.

In 2022, it will be necessary to confront the current Korean society. For a long time, marriage has been a choice rather than a necessity, and in order to reduce the negative consequences of divorce, people are choosing to live together, to legally allow homosexual families, and to have a non-married child by donating sperm, and individual acceptance is growing. This reflects the current trend in which the realization of individual needs is prioritized over the collective interests of the family, and this phenomenon is expected to gradually expand. Views on various families are being gathered from the theory of family crisis to the theory of family change, and furthermore, to the discourse wishing for the evolution of the family[21]. It can be diagnosed that the changes in the Korean family have not made significant progress in the direction of change pursued so far amid the expansion of diversity. This is because society will continue to change amid rapid technological change and globalization, and it is not yet clear in which direction the new generation constituting the family will change[22].

Since this study was conducted with only limited variables, it may be difficult to generalize and analyze the result. Qualitative research through in-depth interviews needs to be conducted for analysis of individual needs, including homosexual families, which were not addressed in subsequent studies. Acceptance of family diversity in accordance with the flow of social change is directed toward 'denormalized families', but this is because there may be extremely sensitive parts that cannot be fully included in the structured questionnaire.

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