The Compressed Development and Demographic Transition in South Korea

by

Eui-Hang Shin, Keong Suk Park, and J Kim
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Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the participation of six distinguished demographers (Jae Mo Yang, Eun Tae Park, Gye Chun An, Tae-Hwan Kwon, Si-Baek Lee, and Sang Tae Park) in the interviews for this project. The group “Image Band” provided assistance in producing the video portions of this project. This project was supported by the National Organizing Committee of the 27th IUSSP conference.
Part I: Dynamic Linkages between Economic Development and Demographic Transition in Korea

- Independence from Japanese Colonial Rule, 1945
- Inauguration of the 1st President, Syngman Rhee
- Division of Korean peninsula, 1948
- Korean war, 1950-1953
- Poverty
- 4.19 Student Revolution, 1960
- Rhee’s resignation, 1960
- Military Coup, 5.16.1961/ General Park
• The National Family Planning Program, 1961-1995
• Rapid Industrialization
• Export-Driven Economic Development
• Struggle for Democratization
• Assassination of President Park, 1979
• Gwangju Democratic Revolt, 1980
• 6·29 Democratic Movement in 1987
• First civilian government in 1992
• Globalization
• Hallyu
• Korean Information Technology
# Real GDP per Capita, Korea, 1960-2011
(U.S. Dollars, Annual, Not Seasonally Adjusted)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observation date</th>
<th>GDP per capita</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960-01-01</td>
<td>1,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965-01-01</td>
<td>1,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970-01-01</td>
<td>2,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975-01-01</td>
<td>3,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-01-01</td>
<td>5,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985-01-01</td>
<td>7,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-01-01</td>
<td>11,985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-01-01</td>
<td>16,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-01-01</td>
<td>20,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-01-01</td>
<td>25,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-01-01</td>
<td>29,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-01-01</td>
<td>30,254</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FRED® Economic Data
Source: Bank of Korea
## Educational Enrollment rate, Korea, 1980-2012 (%)

![Graph showing educational enrollment rate](image)

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Middle school</strong></td>
<td>95.8</td>
<td>99.2</td>
<td>99.8</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>99.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High school</strong></td>
<td>84.5</td>
<td>90.7</td>
<td>95.7</td>
<td>98.5</td>
<td>99.6</td>
<td>99.7</td>
<td>99.7</td>
<td>99.7</td>
<td>99.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>College enrollment</strong></td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>72.5</td>
<td>71.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Statistics Korea*
## Total Merchandise Trade, Exports, Korea, 1970-2012
(US dollar at current prices, Millions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>836</td>
<td>4,945</td>
<td>17,512</td>
<td>30,282</td>
<td>65,016</td>
<td>125,058</td>
<td>172,267</td>
<td>284,419</td>
<td>547,870</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: WTO*
## Growth Rate (%) by Sector, Korea, 1954-2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Agriculture/Fishery</th>
<th>Mining/Manufacturing</th>
<th>Manufacturing</th>
<th>Gas, Water</th>
<th>Construction</th>
<th>Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>-2.1</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>-1.4</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>-19.4</td>
<td>-1.3</td>
<td>-1.2</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>-3.6</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>-6.5</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>-6.4</td>
<td>-8.0</td>
<td>-7.9</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td>-10.0</td>
<td>-3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>-3.4</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Bank of Korea
Demographic Transition in Korea
Rate of Natural Increase, Korea, 1970-2012

(Per 10,000)

Source: Statistics Korea
Age Structure, Korea, 1960-2005

Source: Social Trend of Korea 2008
The Changes in Age Structure, Korea, 1980-2070

Source: Social Trend of Korea 2008
## Year to Reach 7% and 14% of the Population 65+ for Selected Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year to reach 7% and 14% of population 65+</th>
<th>Time to reach from 7% to 14% (Year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>1867, 1980</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>1890, 1975</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>1945, 2010</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB</td>
<td>1930, 1970</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1930, 1975</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1970, 1994</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>2000, 2018</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Social Trend of Korea, 2008
Economic Development and Demographic Transition in South Korea

Social change

- Changes in Family, Work, and Values
- Anxiety for Development
- Subsequent Projects of Making Modernity
- Rapid Industrialization
- Social Movements for Political Democracy
- Blending of the Conflicting Elements of Social Organization

Common Trend and Historical/Cultural Process of Modernity
Part II: Family Planning Program Campaign in the 1960s – 1980s
Family Planning

• A National Project of Birth Control and Economic Development
• A model project of making modern
• Influential in launching and disciplining the idea and practice of development and modernity
• Modal characteristics of developmental society
Origins of the National Family Planning Program

- Poverty and population pressure
- Latent desires for fertility control
- Flexible attitude toward new concepts and technologies under the colonial rule, US military government, and Korean war
- International discourse on population control and economic development in the developing countries
- Financial and technical support from International organizations on population
Result of a Pilot Survey in a Rural Area, 1962

- 77 percent of respondents preferred birth control
- 56 percent of respondents didn’t know any methods of contraception
- Only 8 percent had used some types of contraception
Result of a Pilot Survey in a Rural Area, 1962

- Ideal number of children- 4.4
- Ideal number of sons – 2.6
- Ideal number of daughters – 1.8
- Reasons for son preference –
  security for old age (31.9% for male respondents, 62.2% for female respondents),
  family lineage (34.0% for male respondents, 28.2% for female respondents)
- Reasons for less preference of daughters – cost of living and education (74.0% for male, 74.7% for female respondents)
Launching the Family Planning Program

• The strong belief on population control for modernization and economic development
• The establishment of Korea Planned Parenthood Federation (대한가족계획협회), April. 1961 (president Dr. Yang)
• Inclusion in the first Five Year Plans of Economic Development, 1962-1966
• Collaboration among government, KPPF, social science researchers, and field service workers
• Effective mobilization of such grass root organizations as The Mother’s Club (어머니회)
• Financial and technical support from international organizations on population
# Development of Family Planning Program 1961-1980s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1960s</th>
<th>1970s</th>
<th>1980s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Object</strong></td>
<td>Birth control and economic development, Diffusion of Attitude, Knowledge, Method of birth control, Modernization of individual life</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Example of slogan</strong></td>
<td>Let’s have an adequate number of children and raise them well</td>
<td>Let’s not differential between son and daughter and raise well two children</td>
<td>Our country is full even in one child only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population growth rate</strong></td>
<td>2.6-3.0%</td>
<td>1.6-1.8%</td>
<td>1.0%+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TFR</strong></td>
<td>5.0-6.0</td>
<td>2.8-3.2</td>
<td>2.0-2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women using some form of contraception</strong></td>
<td>9.0% (1961) 20.2% (1967)</td>
<td>44-54%</td>
<td>70%+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Contraception Method (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vasectomy</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubal ligation</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>37.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IUD</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral contraceptive pills</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condom</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women experiencing Induced Abortion</td>
<td>16.0 (1968)</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>52.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposal to the Parliament made by Korea Institute of Health and Social Affairs about Family Planning Program
The institutionalization of P.P.F.K (The Planned Parenthood Federation of Korea) in 1961
Raising awareness about Family Planning Program through Campaign in the 1960s
A seminar on contraceptive methods in 1975 at Jeonbuk Province
Family Planning Program Campaign in 1977
Poster in the 1960s: “Let’s have an adequate number of children and raise them well”
by P.P.F.K. (The Planned Parenthood Federation of Korea) and KIHASA (Korea Institute of Health and Social Affairs)
Poster in the 1960s: “A happy family through Family Planning”

by P.P.F.K. (The Planned Parenthood Federation of Korea) and KIHASA (Korea Institute of Health and Social Affairs)
Poster in the 1970s: “Let’s have two children and raise them well”

by P.P.F.K. (The Planned Parenthood Federation of Korea) and KIHASA (Korea Institute of Health and Social Affairs)
Poster in the 1970s: “A way to a young and beautiful life is Family Planning”

by P.P.F.K. (The Planned Parenthood Federation of Korea) and KIHASA (Korea Institute of Health and Social Affairs)
Advertisement in the 1970s: “We will have one more child then stop.”
by P.P.F.K. (The Planned Parenthood Federation of Korea) and KIHASA (Korea Institute of Health and Social Affairs)
Advertisements in the 1970s: “Let’s not differentiate between boy and girl. Let’s have two children only and raise them well.”
Poster in the 1970s: “What method is good?”

by P.P.F.K. (The Planned Parenthood Federation of Korea) and KIHASA (Korea Institute of Health and Social Affairs)
Posters in the 1980s: “Let’s not differentiate between boy and girl. Let’s have two children and live prosperously.”

by P.P.F.K. (The Planned Parenthood Federation of Korea)
Posters in the 1980s:
“Our country is full even in one child only.”

by P.P.F.K. (The Planned Parenthood Federation of Korea) and KIHASA (Korea Institute of Health and Social Affairs)
Poster in the 1980s: “Two is too many”

by P.P.F.K.
(The Planned Parenthood Federation of Korea)
Posters in the 1970s-1990s reprimanding couples that keep having children until they have a boy due to the preference for boys in Korean culture by P.P.F.K. (The Planned Parenthood Federation of Korea)
Issues on the Family Planning Program (1)

• Influential in diffusing the value, knowledge, and method of birth control
• Top down Command Policy
• The Very Severe Practice of Birth Control
• Abuse of Induced Abortion and International Adoption
• Strict Fertility Control Policies in the 1980s
• Less Concern on the social and demographic consequences of the strictly targeted birth control and fertility decline
Sex Ratio at Birth, Korea, 1970-2011

Source: Statistics Korea
Issues on the Family Planning (2)

• Development, explicit goal of nation construction and happy family
• Learning and embodying the planning for development
• Development-centered Perspectives
• Anxiety for success, development, and social mobility
• Family Invest and Competition for Education
Issues on the Family Planning (3)

• Women, both target of family planning and active agents
• Diffusion of the Idea of Nuclear Family
• Effect on Enhancing Women’s Status within Family
• Enforcement of Women’s Identity as Housewife and Education Mother
Korea Women’s Economic Activity

Figure 2.5  Female labor force participation rates in Korea
Female Labor Force Participation Rate by Age Group, Korea, 1980-2012

Source: Statistics Korea
Female Labor Force Participation Rate by Level of Education, Korea, 1980-2010

Source: Population and Housing Census
### Table 4: Distribution of Life Patterns by Marriage Cohort

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family &amp; work together</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latent M</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>46.4%</td>
<td>68.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work after childrearing</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family role only</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Issues on the Family Planning (4)

• Medical Technology, Health and Reproductive Behavior
• Prohibition of contraception and induced abortion during the 1930s
• the first case of tubal ligation in 1945
• Extension of medical and health facilities since the Korean War (1950-1953)
• Full Scale Intervention of Medical Services in Reproduction through the Family Planning
Issues on the Family Planning (5)

- Family Centered Society, but the Intense Contest between the Extended Family and Nuclear Family
- Parents’ Anxiety for Children’s Education and Support
- Delayed Reliance of the Youth on Parents’ Resources
- Rapid Decline of Family Support for the Elderly
- Rigidity on the Other Family Types
Issues on the Family Planning Program (6)

- Pervasive Influence of Family Planning on Fertility Decline by
- Diffusing the values, knowledge, and method of birth control
- Promoting moral check of self reliance and parental responsibility
- Embodying the way in which people plan life—birth, education, work, marriage etc for their secular success and social mobility
- Weakening Social Responsibility and Solidarity
- Pervasive insecurity and risk
Part III:
Fertility Transition
TFR, Korea, 1970-2011

Source: Statistics Korea
Distribution of Births by Age of Mother, Korea, 1980-2009

Source: Statistics Korea
Age Specific Fertility Rate, Korea, 1997-2011

(Per 1,000 woman)

Source: Statistics Korea
TFR by Province, Korea, 2011

Source: Statistics Korea
Trend in TFR in Asia, 1950-2005

Source: UNESCAP
TFR and Ideal Number of Children, Korea, 1976-2010

Source: Social Trend of Korea, 2008, Statistics Korea
Decomposition of change in TFR of women aged 20-49, Korea, 1966-2010

Cause for decline in TFR: Delay of age at first Marriage

- Rate of women married in their 20’s:
  ’70: 65% → ’80: 60% → 2000: 35% → 2004: 31% → 2010: 20%
  ※Cost of private education, change in perspective, increase in women’s level of education and economic activity
- Rapid decline in number of births:
  ’70: 1020000 → 00: 640000→ 2005: 440000 → 2011: 471000
- Number of Elementary School Students:
  2005: 4020000 → 2015: 2780000 → 2030: 2300000

Source: Statistics Korea
Factors that contributed to extremely low fertility rate: Culture of Marriage, Reproductive behavior, and Child-rearing
Factors for the Very Low Fertility

• Cost of Child Rearing
• Cost of Marriage
• Cost of Extended Education
• Discrepancy between Ideals of Spouse and Realities
• Difficulty in Getting Jobs and Discrepancy between Jobs and Job Seekers
• High Rising Cost of Reproduction
• People all are forced to be first for family
The Concept of High Cost of Reproduction

• Individual translation of the structural pressure for birth and marriage control
• Population pressure for birth and marriage control was enforced in the highly developmental society
• People are forced to plan life too much so as to competitively invest for education, to consider too much the cost and benefit of marriage and birth, to impose burden on parental responsibility too much etc.
• These all, too many checks on life, unsettling our community
Too Many Checks on Population

- Close relation among Unsettling Demographic Phenomena
- Low Fertility, and Delayed Marriage
- Increasing Life Expectancy and High Rising Suicide Rate of the Elderly
- Instrumental and Family Confined Multi Culturalism
- Signal of Dissolution of Modern Construct? or its Alteration
Discussion

• Development, important to preserve better equilibrium between resource and population
• Diverse Views on the Origins and the Consequences of the National Family Planning Program in Korea
• Family Planning, national project of making modern and development
• Compressed Construction of Development and Family Centered Society
• Paradox of Development and Familism, imposing too many checks on life
Discussion

• The Park Geun-hye Administration’s Proposals on Child-care Support

• Some Concerns on the individualistic Framework of Rational Choice

• Also concerns on the adoption or benchmarking the western welfare state models

• Suggestion of the Structural and Historical Perspective on the Demographic Transition and Proper Practices