A Study on the Residents' Sense of Community in Korea

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The objectives of this study were: (1) to measure the level of residents’ sense of community in Korea; (2) to determine the variables associated with sense of community; (3) to identify relationships and relative importance between the above variables and sense of community; and (4) to draw implications for promoting residents’ sense of community.
The dependent variables for this study were composed of 15 items of sense of community based on the related theories (McMillan & Chavis, 1986; Glynn, 1981; Davidson & Cotter, 1986; Nasar & Julian, 1995) and review of literatures. The data for this study were collected from 750 residents from three different regional categories (a large city, small and medium cities, and rural communities) using individual and group interviews. After data cleaning, 558 (74.4%) available respondents were identified for the data analysis for this study. Descriptive and the inference statistics such as t-test, analysis of variances, multiple regression analysis, and Scheffe’s test for a post-hoc interpretation were employed with an a priori alpha level .05.

The research showed that the sense of community was significantly related to regional characteristics (size), demographic characteristics (gender, age, level of education, income, marital status, number of (a) child(ren), and age of (a) child(ren)), residential characteristics (length of residence, home ownership, and housing type), the attitude associated with community (recognition of community, satisfaction of community facilities and services, and evaluation of residents), and community participation level (neighboring relations and community activities). Especially, Five determinants such as participation of community activities, participation of neighboring relations, evaluation of residents, degree of community satisfaction, and degree of community recognition explained 53.2% of the total sense of community variance.

I. 서 론

공동체의식을 조작적으로 정의하고 측정하려는 노력은 공동체의식의 개념을 지역사회의 실제 상황에 맞게 재구성하고 지역사회 구성원들의 의식과 형성 요인 등을 구명하여 결국 지역사회 구성원과 지역사회 및 조직과의 관계를 경험적으로 밝힐 수 있는 가능성을 의미한다.

그러나 그 동안 공동체의식에 관해서 일반적으로 인정된 정의가 없으며 측정할만한 행위가 없다는 등의 이유로 공동체의식의 개념을 조작적으로 정의하고 측정하려는 노력이 부족했다는데, 최근 공동체의식의 개념은 사람들과 공동체 사이의 강한 밀착을 의미하는, 공동체적 노력을 판단하는 포괄적인 기준으로 지역사회 심리학(community psychology) 분야에서 중심적