A Study on Prevention of Elder Abuse in Ageing Society and Policy Alternatives
고령사회의 노인 학대 예방과 정책적 대안방안에 관한 연구

Cho, Woo Hong*

Received: December 20, 2017, Revised: December 25, 2017, Accepted: December 28, 2017

Abstract(요약): This study proposes strategies for elder abuse prevention and policy alternatives. To achieve the purposes, this study set up a cause and effect model through bibliographical review and interviewed 290 elderly people at the ages of over 65 who were attending a senior citizens center of G city with the use of a questionnaire. Policy alternatives based on the results of the study are presented as follows: First, as elder abuse happens at home, social awareness to prevent it should be changed. Second, for emergent relief of the elderly who were abused and prevention of further elder abuse, senior citizen protection institutes’s activities should be facilitated. Third, society should be responsible for decrease in stress from elderly care. Fourth, social activities of the elderly should be actively encouraged. Fifth, through a substantial elderly pension system, alternatives to remove dark corners in income support for the elderly should be developed. Sixth, protection measures for low-class elderly people should be also searched for.

Key Words(핵심어): Ageing Society(고령사회), Social Responsibility(사회적 책임), Awareness Change(인식개선), Income Guaranty(소득보장), Vulnerable People(취약계층)

* Dept. of Social Welfare, Seowon University(Email: csdcj@hanmail.net)
I. Preface

Ageing population is increasing faster in Korea in comparison with change speeds of representative western ageing countries. Also, our country has faced up with diverse problems of ageing including the lowest-level birth rate in the world. Aged countries in the western world have relatively longer periods of change into ultra-ageing society followed by ageing society compared with our country. Therefore, we have had enough time to be prepared for being aged society and deal with demographical change. It took 115 years for France to enter into an aged society from an ageing society, but as it is predicted that it will take no more than 20 years for our country to be an aged society, the ageing speed is unprecedentedly fast (Jo, Hyon-Sang, 2014).

Today, due to abundant supply of clothes, food and housing, and development of medical technology, human life span has been extended very fast. Human life span is not extended only by physical survival. People want to be respected and considered valuable as persons to enjoy quality life. Like this, economic growth due to development of modern industry has been achieved by development of medicine and it has led to an aged society.

As society has developed rapidly, the elderly have become ultra-aged without proper preparation. Therefore, they are compelled to depend on a social support system and children in finance and materials. So far, women have usually cared the elderly at home, but as the society has become industrialized and more women have become working members of society, the present family system has been changing fast into a nuclear family system.

In particular, elder abuse is getting serious as the elderly have become ultra-aged, and abuse has become a social problem due to lack of ability and financial difficulty. Our society is more closed and have more elderly people with poor conditions than westerns societies, and social services for the elderly are insufficient, and prejudice and negative differentiation toward the elderly are serious.

The purposes of this study are to specifically identify the risk level of elder