

# KWDI Issue Paper

Plan to Improve the Effectiveness of the Gender Impact Assessment System and to Promote a Cooperation System (III): Focus on Regional Development

Korean Women's Development Institute

## Improve the effectiveness of the gender impact assessment system and promote a cooperation system for gender equality-based regional development.

**Project Manager:**



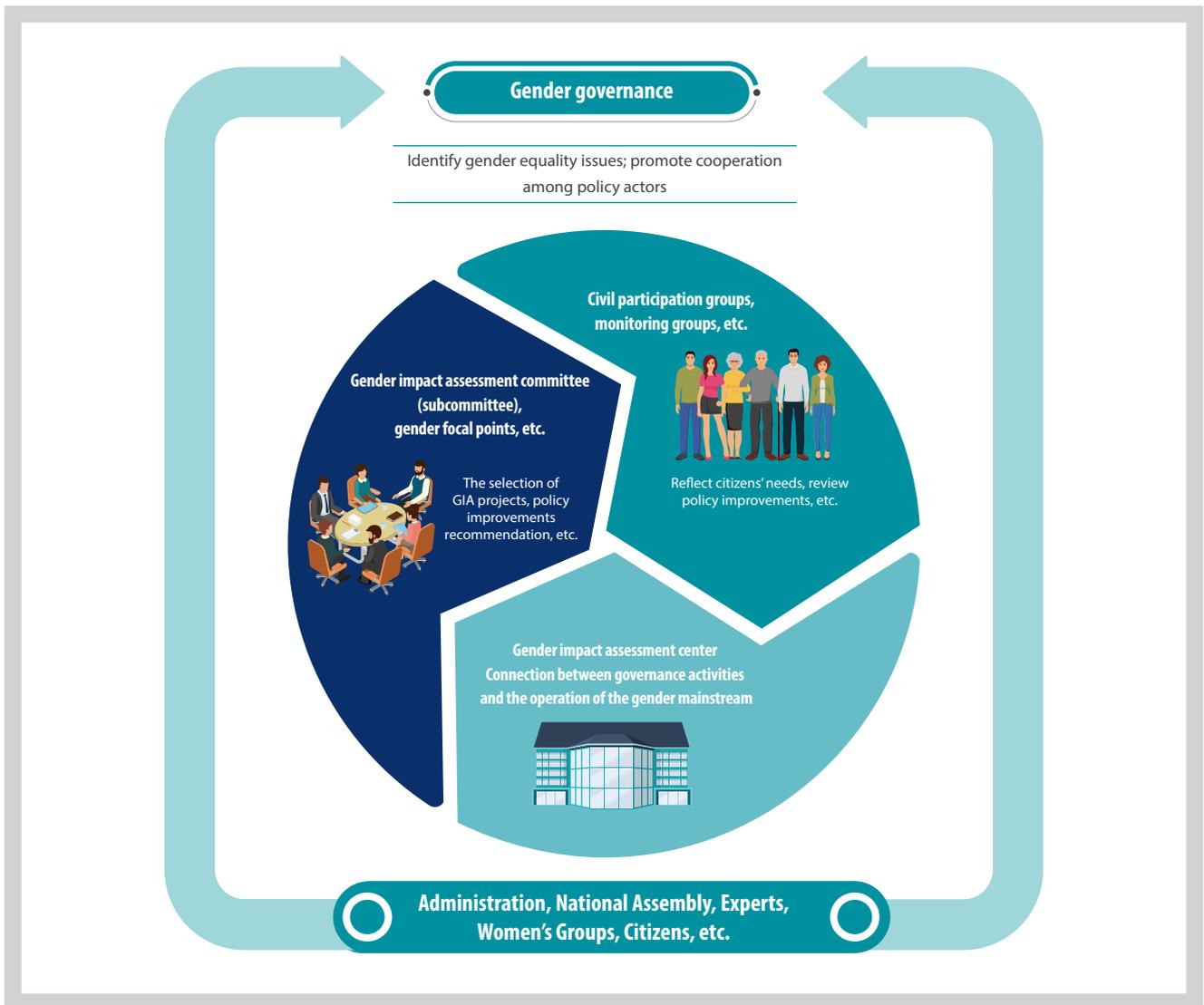
Senior Researcher, Kim Kyung-hee  
Tel: 02-3156-7187  
e-mail: h99kim@kwdimail.re.kr

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### Abstract

Ten years have passed since the gender impact assessment system was actively implemented. During this period of time, the number of related projects has soared, increasing public interest therein in our society. Despite that, many experts have voiced the opinion that a variety of policy actors should participate in the operation of the gender impact assessment system to enable it to be more actively managed and carried out as a strategy for the promotion of gender equality. In particular, in the field of regional development, satisfaction with policy improvements based on system results is expected to affect people's lives. Against this backdrop, this paper is designed to analyze gender issues based on the analysis of gender impact assessment reports in the context of regional development, identify the public's policy needs in terms of regional development, and thereby seek ways to enhance the effectiveness of the gender impact assessment system. Moreover, focusing on the current situation where some local governments actively monitor regional development, this study analyzes cases and presents ways to facilitate collaboration among policy actors for gender impact assessment in regional development.



# 1

## Background and issues

- ▶ The gender impact assessment system, which is a key tool for gender mainstreaming policies, has operated to promote gender equality in public policy. Since the Gender Impact Assessment Act was enacted in 2012, the number of related projects has skyrocketed, carrying out the system in various policy areas and increasing interest therein in our society. Against this backdrop, many experts have presented the opinion that diverse policy actors should take part in operating the gender impact assessment system in order to enable the scheme for gender mainstreaming to be more actively implemented as a strategy for the facilitation of gender equality.

- ▶ In particular, in terms of regional development, satisfaction with policy improvements is forecast to directly affect people's lives. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the effectiveness of the gender impact assessment system implemented in the area of regional development and to promote a collaboration system.
- ▶ The central government has delegated the operation of most gender impact assessment projects implemented in regional development to local governments, so that cooperation among government agencies is required to connect policy improvements to real policies. Furthermore, in connection with how to enforce projects, the governments should cooperate with civic groups to come up with improvement plans, monitoring the results.
- ▶ This paper aims to analyze gender impact assessment reports in regional development, identify gender issues based thereon, analyze the public's policy needs in regional development, and seek ways to improve the effectiveness of the gender impact assessment system. Moreover, focusing on some local governments that have actively monitored related activities in regional development, this study analyzes cases and comes up with plans to promote cooperation among policy actors for gender impact assessment in regional development.

## 2

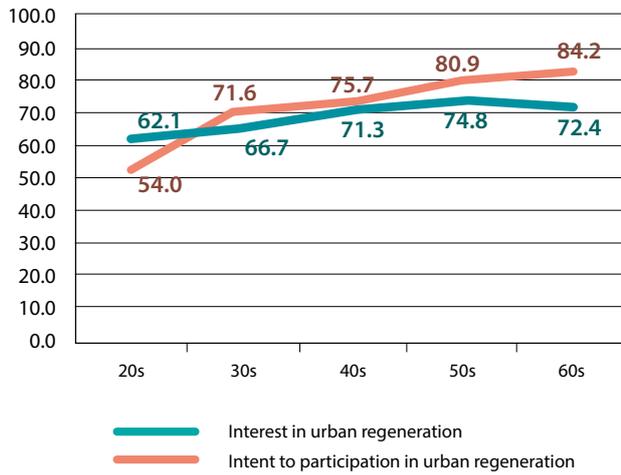
## Survey and results

### Gender issues that have been exposed through the survey of residents' needs

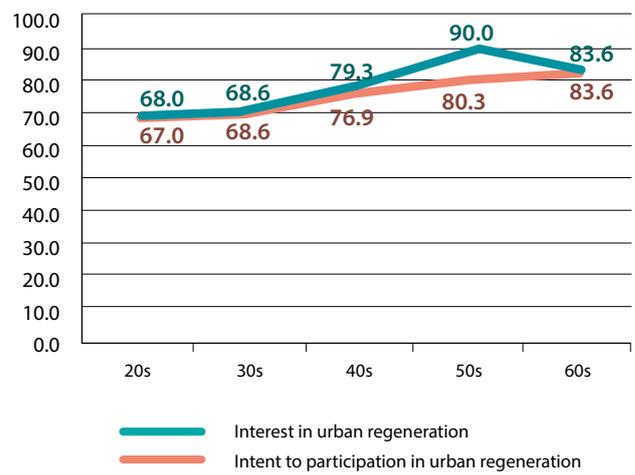
- ▶ The survey of 1,011 adult men and women in 17 cities and provinces who are 20 years old or older and younger than 70 (western age) was conducted to identify their opinions on how to improve their community living environment. The results are as follows:

### Implementation of urban regeneration projects suitable for communities based on women's participation

- ▶ Urban regeneration projects reflecting women's needs have yet to be fully carried out. Therefore, key gender-sensitive policy improvement plans have continuously shown that the share of women participating in the establishment and implementation of urban regeneration programs should rise, setting up governance where women's participation in regional decision-making processes is ensured.



**Interest and participation in urban regeneration projects (women)**

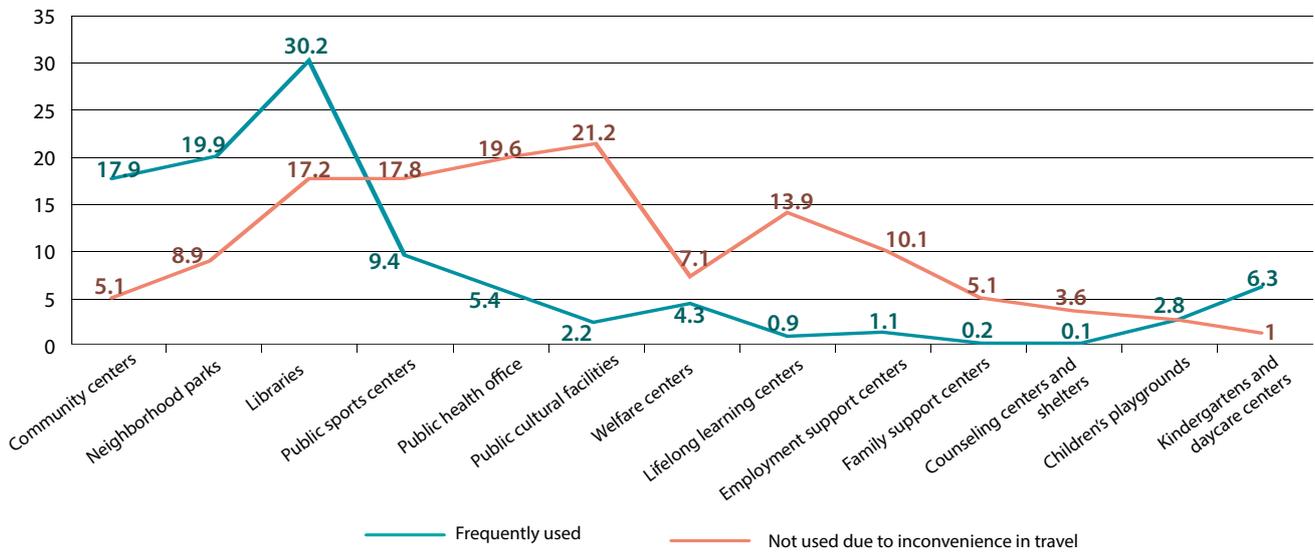


**Interest and participation in urban regeneration projects (men)**

- ▶ According to the survey results, an average of 75% (women: 73.5%; men: 77.9%) are interested in urban regeneration while 72.6% (women: 69.7%; men: 75.4%) intend to participate in resolving urban regeneration-related issues. In particular, those in their 50s ~ 60s show higher interest in taking part in the process than other groups. 83.9% of women and 87.2% of men replied that it is necessary to establish a system where women, the elderly, and the disabled, whose voices have yet to be effectively heard, are able to take part in resolving regional development-related issues.

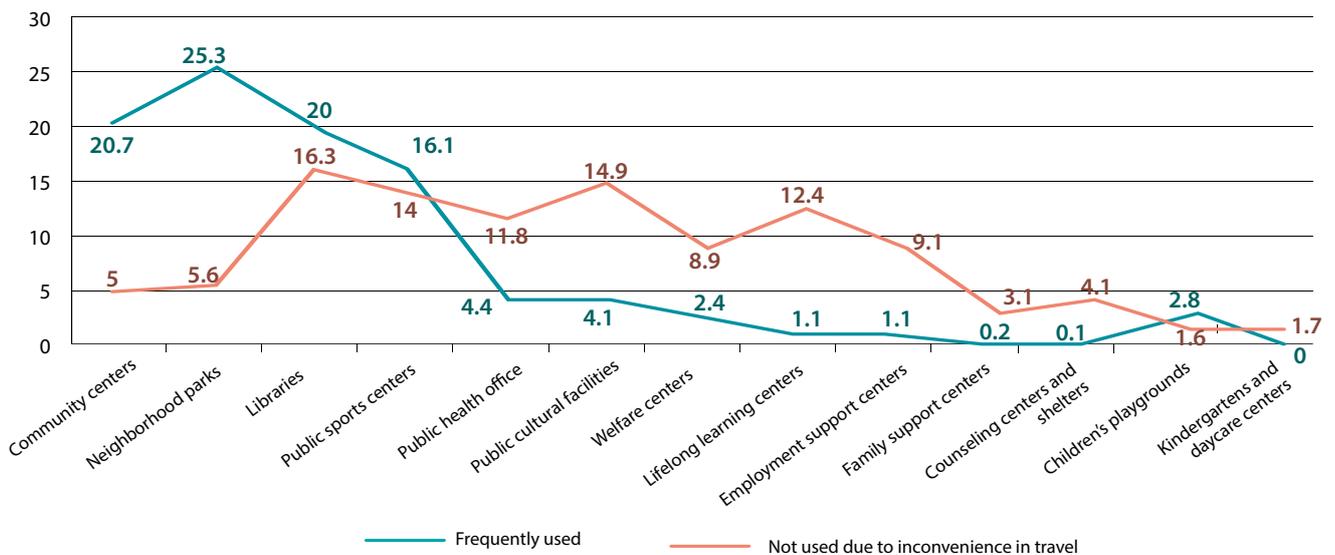
### Enhancing public facilities by considering how to travel and improving walking conditions by reflecting safety requirements

- ▶ Women frequently use libraries. However, 17.2% answered that they fail to use libraries due to inconveniences in traveling, showing that a relatively higher percentage of women demand improvements in using libraries. At present, less than 10% responded that they frequently use such facilities. However women who showed their wishes to use these facilities unless there are travel problems are in order of public cultural facilities (21.2%), public health office (19.6%), public sports centers (17.8%), lifelong learning centers (13.9%), and employment support centers (10.1%) respectively.



**Use of public facilities and improvements in travel convenience (women)**

- ▶ 20% of men frequently use libraries. However, 16.3% answered that they fail to use libraries due to inconveniences in traveling. Unless there are travel problems, men replied that they would like to use public cultural facilities (14.9%), lifelong learning centers (12.4%), and public health office (11.8%). At present, less than 10% responded that they frequently use such facilities.



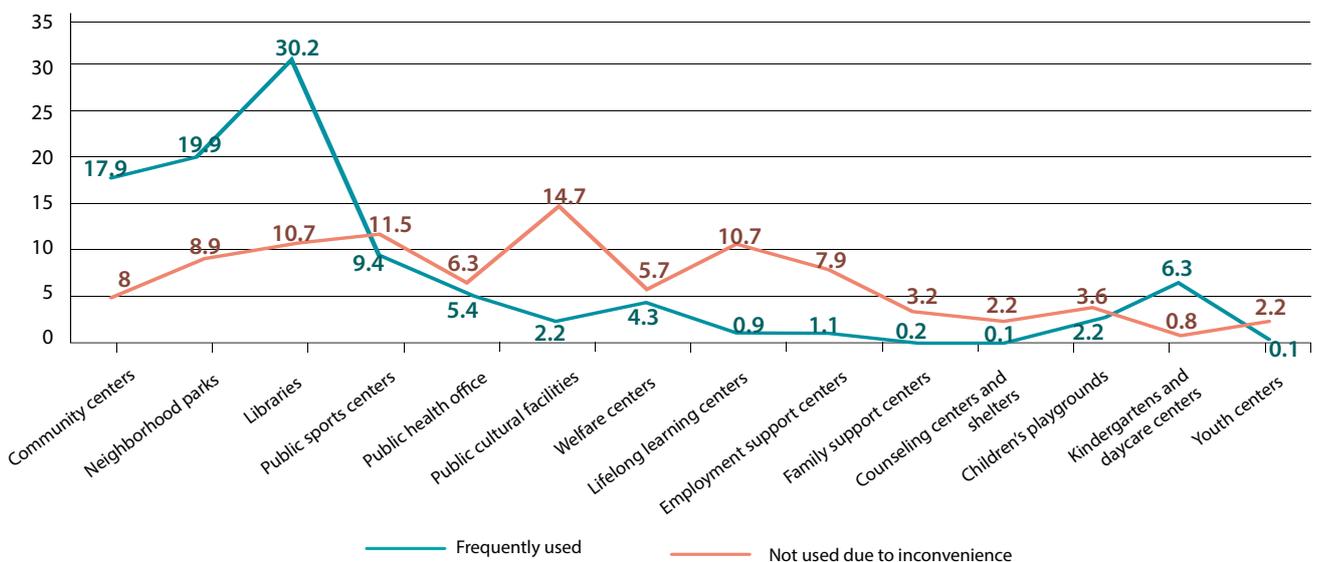
**Use of public facilities and improvements in travel convenience (men)**

- ▶ The results show that the location of libraries should be carefully selected, considering residents' needs in travel conditions. If travel conditions for public cultural facilities, health centers, and lifelong learning centers improve, the scope of beneficiary of the public services can further expand. Moreover, the spaces of public sports centers and employment support centers should be planned and operated, more carefully taking into account women's travel characteristics. Therefore, in terms of the gender-sensitive improvement of such public facilities, not only facility maintenance but also their connection to public transportation and their distance from residential districts should be considered to enable citizens to have easier access thereto.

- ▶ Residents' interest in safety and its effects on their quality of life is deemed to be very high. 38.0% replied that their community safety issues are very serious. Women's interest in safety issues is found to be 7.1%p higher than men's interest therein. The share of women who believe that safety issues affect their quality of life is 10.6%p higher than that of their male counterparts, exhibiting that women are more sensitive thereto than men.
- ▶ In terms of prioritizing safety projects, both women and men highly recognize the importance of CCTVs on streets and in public spaces, police patrol, and street lighting. Therefore, related improvement projects should be mutually connected and implemented. Given that the importance and priority of such projects differ by gender, age, and residential area, the needs of individual communities should be reflected therein.

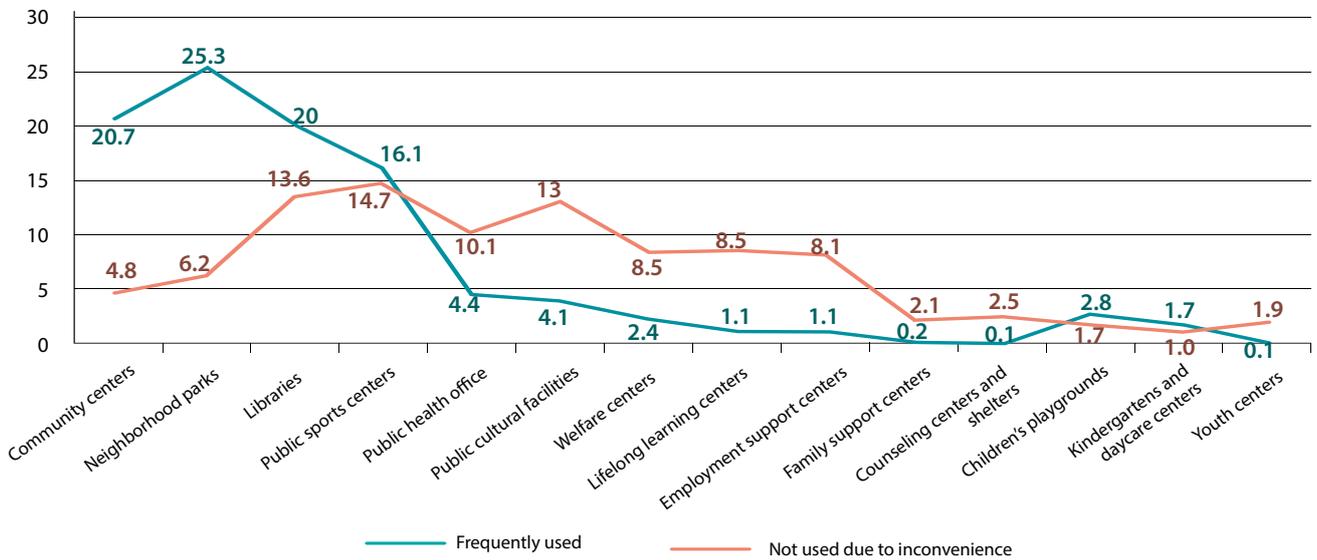
### Convenience and public facility improvement demanded by users accompanied by children

- ▶ The survey results show that lack of facilities for children, elderly, and infirm has become a big obstacle to both men and women.
- ▶ 14.7% and 10.7% of women replied that they would like to use public cultural facilities and lifelong learning centers, respectively, unless there are convenient facility-related problems. At present, less than 10% answered that they frequently use such facilities. Moreover, they more frequently use libraries than other facilities while a relatively higher percentage of women (10.7%) demand improvements in using libraries.



Use of public facilities and convenient facilities demanded by women

- ▶ 13.0% and 10.1% of men replied that they would like to use public cultural facilities and health centers, respectively, unless there are convenient facility-related problems. At present, less than 10% answered that they frequently use such facilities. Moreover, they more frequently use libraries than other facilities while a relatively higher percentage of men demand improvements in using libraries.

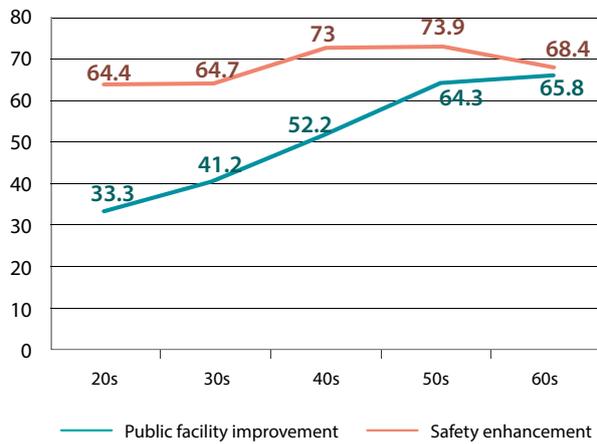


**Use of public facilities and convenient facilities demanded by men**

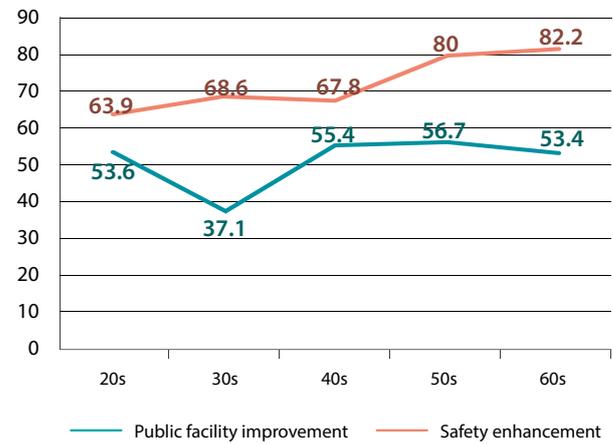
- ▶ In connection with spatial improvements, men point out the lack of facilities for children and the elderly and infirm. As a result, the improvement of libraries and public cultural facilities based on the needs of both men and women is projected to significantly enhance citizens' access thereto.
- ▶ The survey results also show that female users in mid-to-small-sized cities more significantly recognize difficulties in travelling inside such facilities. Therefore, for the seamless use of public facilities, internal facilities should improve in accordance with the Barrier-Free Certification System in order to enable the physically weak including women, the disabled and pregnant women to use them without any difficulty. Rest spaces and rooms should also be upgraded to make it possible for children and the elderly and infirm to easily use them.

### **Project designing and implementation based on community residents' participation**

- ▶ According to the survey results, more than half of citizens intend to participate in resolving issues relating to the use of public facilities and safety (public facilities: 51.4%; safety: 70.7%). In particular, they have more interest in safety projects than facility improvement-related activities.



Intent to participate (women)



Intent to participate (men)

- ▶ In other words, survey participants recognize that public services and safety via public facilities significantly affect their quality of life and that current community activities to improve public facilities and safety are less than expected. Therefore, the existing policy improvement system based on experts' participation in committees needs to expand based on citizens' participation.

### Cases of gender governance for gender impact assessment

- ▶ Seoul Metropolitan City and Gwangju Metropolitan City were chosen to analyze the cases of regions where the gender impact assessment system has actively operated, having interviews with policy actors for gender impact assessment.
- ▶ In Seoul, gender governance for gender impact assessment is set up through the organization and operation of the gender equality committee, the establishment of a new team for gender governance, and civic groups' active monitoring of gender impact assessment. Gender governance in Gwangju is characterized by councilors' active involvement in checking policy improvements based on gender impact assessment and their active networking with policy actors for gender impact assessment. 3
- ▶ When operating the gender impact assessment system, various issues were raised in the process of policy actors cooperating with one another. This process is found to have led up to the procedure of checking whether policy improvements are really made through monitoring by women's group members and citizens. 3
- ▶ The following opinions were also presented: 1) Considering that regional development projects are wide in scope and various in size, guidelines are required to select such projects; and 2) A manual for gender impact assessment in regional development is required to enable government employees to check project improvements and feedback.

- ▶ According to policy actors for gender impact assessment in regional development, it is difficult to create a consensus and promote cooperation among project teams and managers. Improvement plans have also been passively presented due to the possibility of budget change. The lack of gender impact assessment experts in regional development is also raised as an issue.
- ▶ In conclusion, for the effective implementation of the gender impact assessment system, government employees should prepare gender impact assessment reports, delivering specific policy improvement plans and linking them to feedback processes. At the same time, civic groups should be able to present gender issues and diverse improvement plans and to participate in feedback review processes, monitoring communities and residents. This paper implies that local council members' participation can affect the operation and proliferation of the gender impact assessment system.



Seoul's procedure for the monitoring and operation of the gender impact assessment system.

### 3

## Policy suggestions

### Gender-sensitive improvements of regional development-related laws

- ▶ Diverse policy improvement plans have been devised through gender impact assessment in regional development such as urban regeneration, community creation, and so forth. However, related laws need to be revised to link various policy improvement plans proposed via gender impact assessment to feedback processes, reflecting such plans into guidelines.

- ▶ The reasons for the implementation of projects subjected to gender impact assessment in regional development also need to be reviewed. Related laws stipulate that the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport is responsible for such projects. On the other hand, related committees are organized and operate pursuant to individual laws. Regional development-related committees review urban planning and key policies, offering advice in connection therewith and thereby playing a key role in decision-making processes. However, women's participation in committees belonging to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport is deemed to be far from satisfactory.
- ▶ The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport should work hard to revise regional development-related laws in a gender-equal way. Women's participation in decision-making processes should be promoted by increasing the share of women in regional development-related committees. Moreover, laws regarding regional development controlled by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport need to have provisions on the appointment of gender managers in order to ensure active gender impact assessment for regional development-related projects operated by the aforementioned Ministry.

#### **Promotion of specific gender impact assessment for regional development-related basic plans**

- ▶ In case gender impact assessment for regional development-related projects is made in advance, its effects on policy improvements and residents are deemed to be significant. If improvement measures from gender impact assessment for regional development-related basic plans link to feedback processes, gender equality in public policy can improve significantly.
- ▶ In many cases, basic plans are crafted and implemented via cooperation among various Ministries. Therefore, to substantially promote gender impact assessment, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family managing the system as a whole and Ministries and agencies preparing regional development-related basic plans need to establish a cooperative system and discuss related matters, which are deemed to be very important.
- ▶ In connection with mid-to-long-term basic plans for regional development based on laws, specific gender impact assessment where researchers conduct gender impact assessment in an in-depth manner should be facilitated, thereby identifying gender issues comprehensively. Not only regional development professionals but also gender experts should take part in specific gender impact assessment for regional development-related basic plans, thereby identifying gender issues in regional development and reflecting policy improvement plans into laws, guidelines, and gender-sensitive budget bills.

## Development of guidelines for gender impact assessment in regional development

- ▶ Diverse projects subjected to gender impact assessment in regional development have yet to be chosen. The goals and strategies of gender impact assessment for regional development-related projects are yet to be presented.
- ▶ Therefore, recognizing that the guidelines of gender impact assessment in regional development need to be developed, this study delivers the goals, strategies, and tasks of gender impact assessment in regional development. At the same time, this paper presents the checklist (plan) that can be used when selecting projects subjected to gender impact assessment in regional development, as well as checkpoint improvements (plan) that help prepare gender impact assessment reports.

## Systematic operation of gender governance

- ▶ Community residents' interest and participation are required to enable communities to be developed in a gender-equal way and to create public spaces via democratic procedures. In terms of urban development, it is important to recognize the needs of diverse classes of residents living in communities. Also, such spaces should support work-life balance, where men and women of all ages should be able to travel freely and enjoy their lives safely. Women's representation in decision-making processes is required for such gender-sensitive urban planning.
- ▶ In some regions, the government actively supports monitoring gender impact assessment or councilors have interest in system operation and contribute to the reinforcement of legal infrastructure, thereby enabling gender governance to be systematically set up. For the nationwide proliferation of such a system, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family should present ways to systematically operate gender governance through the 2018 gender impact assessment guidelines.
- ▶ The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family needs to include the following in the gender impact assessment guidelines: 1) the organization of a gender impact assessment committee or a subcommittee; 2) support for the gender impact assessment monitoring group; and 3) the appointment of gender managers for the promotion of gender governance. To this end, the system should improve to strengthen the provision regarding private-public collaboration support prescribed in 「the Gender Impact Assessment Act」.

- ▶ Identifying gender issues in regional development and analyzing the policy needs of citizens, we can contribute to improving the effectiveness of the gender impact assessment system.
- ▶ Promoting cooperation among policy actors for gender impact assessment, we can contribute to enhancing the community living environment in a gender-equal way.

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Responsible Ministry: Gender Impact Assessment Team, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family

Related Ministries: Women's Bureaus in Metropolitan and Basic Local Governments