

## Press Release

**Five in 10 women and one in 10 men in their 20s identify themselves as feminists,**  
**Seven in 10 men are interested in gender discrimination issues,**  
**Gender Issues have become in mainstream now**  
**45% of men in their 20s find verdict of Ahn Hee-jung is wrong,**  
**as 47.6% support the abolition of anti-abortion laws**

**Korean Women’s Development Institute published results of the survey on Gender Equality Awareness in the Korean society**

- Korean Women’s Development Institute (KWDI, President: Kwon Insook) published the results of the ‘Survey of the Gender Equality Awareness in the Korean Society’ in July and November of 2018, with a focus on the perception of gender equality issues by Korean people in their 20s as recognized by the Me Too movement, the HyeHwa Station demonstrations (protests against sexually biased investigation on illegal filming), and etc.

| Classification     | July   | November   |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Population         | Men and women aged 19-29 nationwide                        | Men and women aged 19-29 nationwide                        |
| Size of population | 1,004 persons (valid samples)                              | 1,015 persons (valid samples)                              |
| Survey area        | 17 cities/provinces  | 17 cities/provinces  |
| Stratification     | City/province, gender, age                                 | City/province, gender, age                                 |
| Sampling error     | 95% confidence level with a margin of error of $\pm 3.1\%$ | 95% confidence level with a margin of error of $\pm 3.1\%$ |
| Survey method      | Telephone survey using mobile RDD and CATI system          | Telephone survey using mobile RDD and CATI system          |
| Survey period      | July 5~6, 2018 (two days)                                  | Nov. 26~28, 2018 (three days)                              |

- Survey results show that five out of 10 women and one out of 10 men in their 20s identify themselves as feminists. Also, both men and women in their 20s appear to be highly interested in gender discrimination issues, support the abolition of anti-abortion laws, and stress the rights of victims more than the maintenance of family in responding to domestic violence.
- President Kwon Insook of KWDI said, “Through the survey carried out in July and November, it has been revealed that about 50% of women and 10% of men in their 20s saw themselves as feminists, and both men and women were highly interested in gender discrimination issues. This shows that **gender issues have become widespread and popularized as main issues in the Korean society.** It is true that there is a significant gap between men and women in their perception of various gender issues, with men’s support decreasing in the November survey compared to the survey taken in July; so, it is important to examine the reasons behind them. However, 30 to 40% of men still agree on the seriousness of gender discrimination concerning some issues and support gender equality agenda, suggesting that **we need to focus on women and men in their 20s as the key drivers to solve the gender inequality problems in our society.** We will strive to develop practical gender equality policies that actively respond to the awareness and policy demands in their 20s.”

## Survey overview and implications

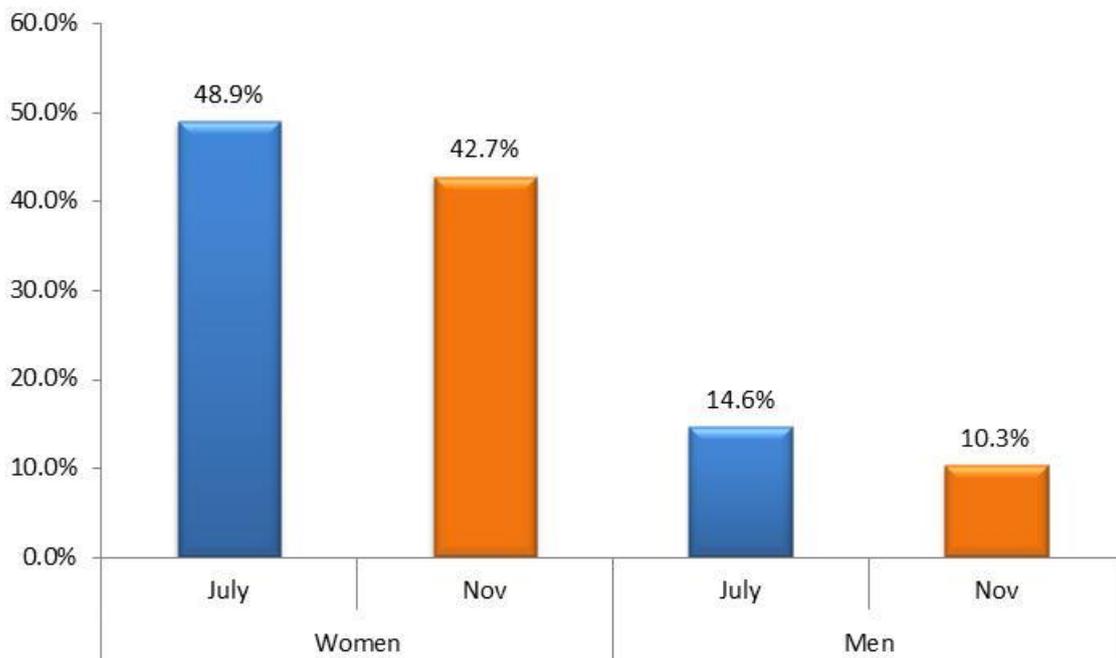
- **According to the results of the survey carried out in July and November, five out of 10 women and one out of 10 men in their 20s identify themselves as feminists.** Notably, the feminist identity was widespread and popular among women in their 20s.
- **The support rate for the Me Too movement fell among both women and men in their 20s.** Women's support rates were 88.8% in July and 80.2% in November, with eight out of 10 women expressing steady support. Men's support rates were 56.5% in July and 43.6% in November, indicating about five men out of 10 supported the Me Too movement.
- **Eight out of 10 women (79.4%) and seven out of 10 men (68.2%) in their 20s responded that they were interested in the gender discrimination issues.** In addition, seven out of 10 women and three out of 10 men recognized the severe gender stereotypes and discrimination against women and considered there was a serious level of misogyny. **Women in their 20s were highly sensitive to gender stereotypes, gender discrimination, misogyny, etc., in daily life, and a significant portion of men agreed on the seriousness of these phenomena. About 45% of men in the 20s opposed the first-trial verdict that found Ahn Hee-jung<sup>1</sup> not guilty, and supported the abolition of anti-abortion laws.** This means that many men in their 20s agreed on the severity of the gender discrimination issues in the Korean society. It is necessary to develop and implement practical gender equality policies that more actively respond to the awareness and policy demands in their 20s who will lead the Korean society in addressing the gender equality issues.

<sup>1</sup> The former governor of Chungcheongnam-do Province of South Korea

## Key results of the survey

### [Affiliating as a feminist] Five in 10 women and one in 10 men regard themselves as feminists

- Those who answered the question 'Do you think that you are a feminist?', 48.9% and 42.7% among women said yes and 14.6% and 10.3% among men said yes in July and November, respectively [Figure 1].
  - The results of the survey in July and November showed that four to five out of 10 women and one out of 10 men responded that they were feminists, although the number dropped slightly in November. This indicates that the recent feminist movements led by young women do not show a temporary trend but are being extended to form a stable identity. It has spread to a significant percentage of men, too, thereby becoming an important standard in examining the values, life plans and political needs of Koreans in their 20s.

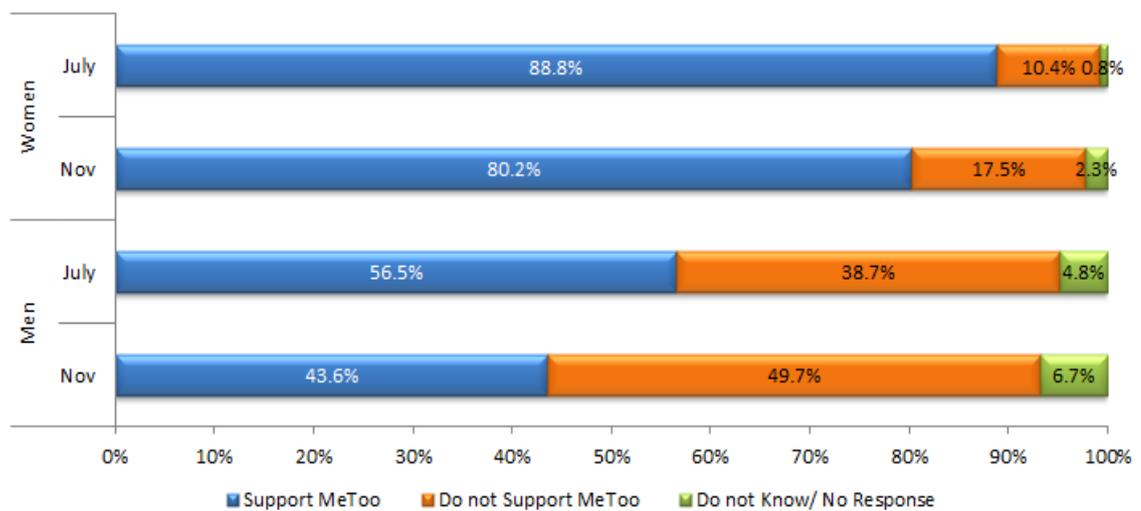


[Figure 1] Affiliating as a feminist among women and men (July vs. Nov.)

Note: The figure was made according to the survey answers that the respondents were feminists.

**[Support for the Me Too movement] Majority still support the Me Too movement although the rates have fallen among both women and men in their 20s**

- Support rate for the Me Too movement fell in November compared to July, but eight out of 10 women and five out of 10 men still support it.
  - Women in their 20s showed higher support for the Me Too movement than men, recognizing the sexual harassment and gender discrimination issues as problems of their own [Figure 2].
  - Women continued to show strong support, with only a minor decline in their support rate with the passage of time. Although men showed lower support rate and their support fell more significantly than in women’s case, about **half of the men in their 20s express support for the Me Too movement**, hinting that there is a broad social support base for the movement.

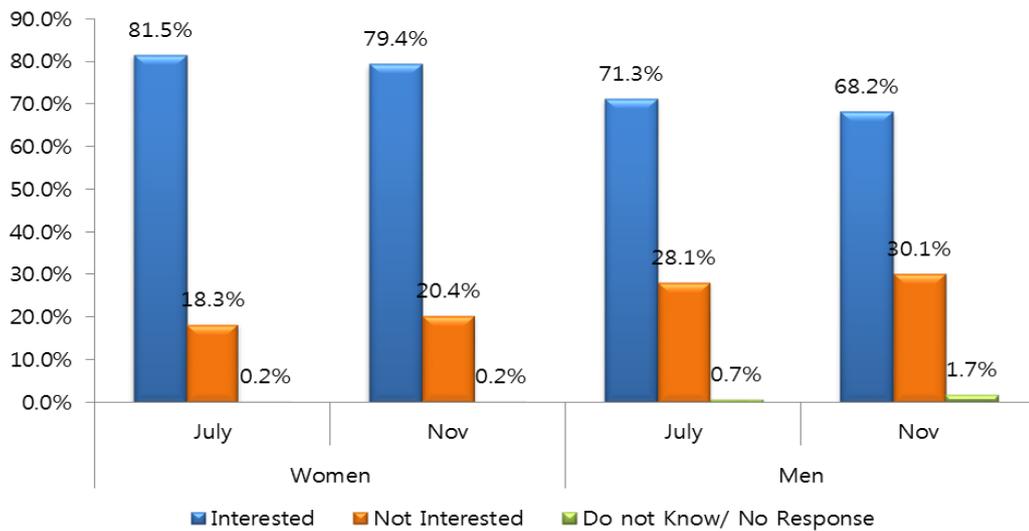


**[Figure 2] Support rate for the Me Too movement (July vs. Nov.)**

**[Interest in gender discrimination issues] Eight out of 10 women and seven out of 10 men in their 20s were interested in the gender discrimination issues in the Korean society. Seven in 10 women and three in 10 men recognized the seriousness of gender stereotypes and gender discrimination against women as well as misogyny in daily life.**

- Those who answered that they were interested in the gender discrimination issues in the Korean society were 81.5% and 79.4% among women and 71.3% and 68.2% among men in their 20s in July and November, respectively [Figure 3].

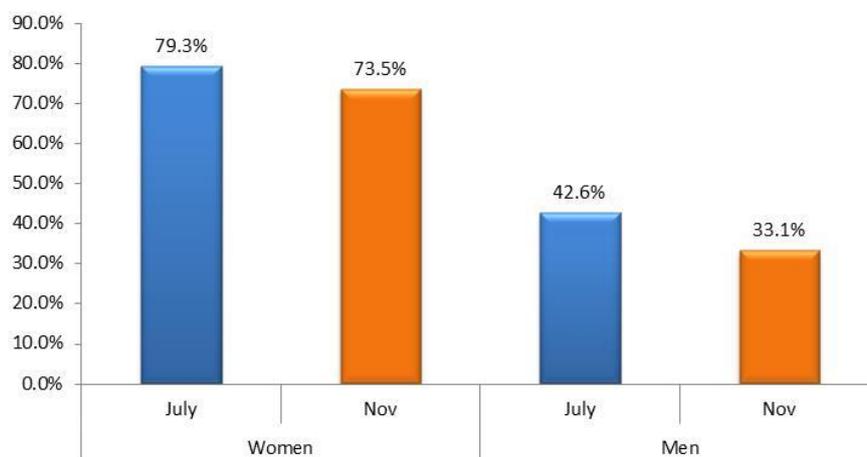
- The rates among women and men in their 20s fell by 2.1%p and 3.1%p, but the change is not significant, with seven to eight out of 10 respondents still interested in the gender discrimination issues in the Korean society.



[Figure 3] Interest in gender discrimination issues in the Korean society (July vs. Nov.)

- The rates for those who recognized the seriousness of gender stereotypes and discrimination against women in daily life (those who answered 'serious') were 79.3% and 73.5% among women in their 20s and 42.6% and 33.1% among men in July and November, respectively [Figure 4].

- The rates fell by 5.8%p among women and 9.5%p among men, showing a larger decline in men.

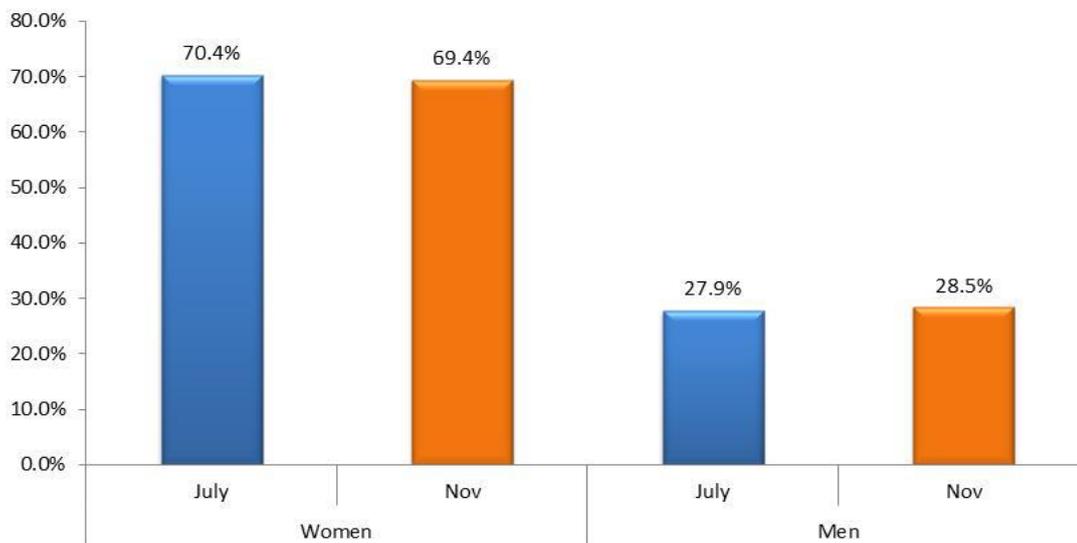


[Figure 4] Recognition of the seriousness of gender stereotypes and discrimination against women (July vs. Nov.)

Note: The figure was made based on the survey answers that the level of gender stereotypes and discrimination against women was serious.

□ Concerning the recognition that there was serious misogyny in the Korean society, **seven out of 10 women and three out of 10 men in their 20s considered that there was a serious level of misogyny in the Korean society** [Figure 5].

- There was no big difference between the survey results in July and November with regards to this issue, with only slight changes in both genders. There was a decline of 1%p from 70.4% to 69.4% in women and an increase of 0.6%p from 27.9% to 28.5% in men in the 20s between July and November.



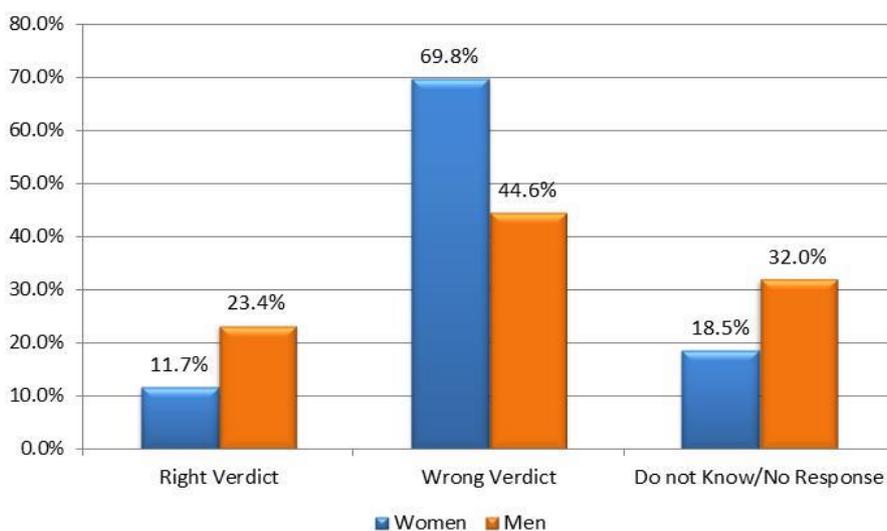
[Figure 5] Recognition of the seriousness of misogyny in the Korean society (July vs. Nov.)

Note: The figure was made according to the survey answers that there was a serious level of misogyny.

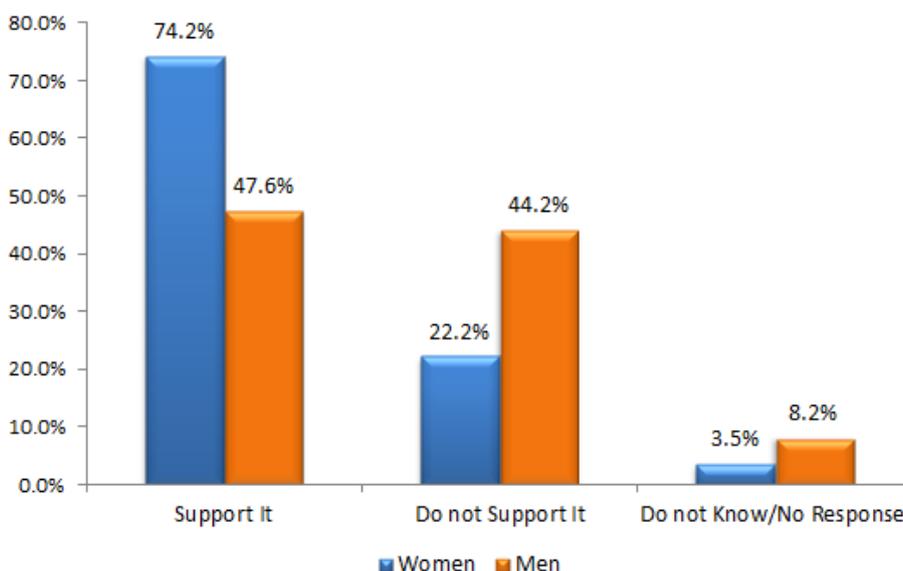
□ **Women and men in their 20s were both highly interested in the gender discrimination issues, with a majority of women and about 30% of men in this age group agreeing that the gender stereotypes, gender discrimination and misogyny were serious in the Korean society.** Men appeared to have relatively lower levels of sympathy or sensitivity, **but it has been proven that a significant number of men in their 20s agreed on and sympathized with the gender inequality and gender discrimination issues.** This suggests that there are different opinions among men, and raises expectation for the role of men in their 20s to provide an impetus for the realization of gender equality.

**[Recognition of key gender equality issues in 2018] Both women and men appeared to oppose the first-trial verdict that found former Governor Ahn Hee-jung not guilty, while supporting the abolition of anti-abortion laws and safety and rights of victims in domestic violence cases**

- Concerning the first-trial verdict that found Ahn Hee-jung, former Governor of Chuncheongnam-do Province, not guilty, **69.8% of women and 44.6% of men in their 20s** considered it a ‘wrong verdict’ [Figure 6]. With regards to the abolition of anti-abortion laws, **seven out of 10 women and five out of 10 men in their 20s supported the abolition** [Figure 7].

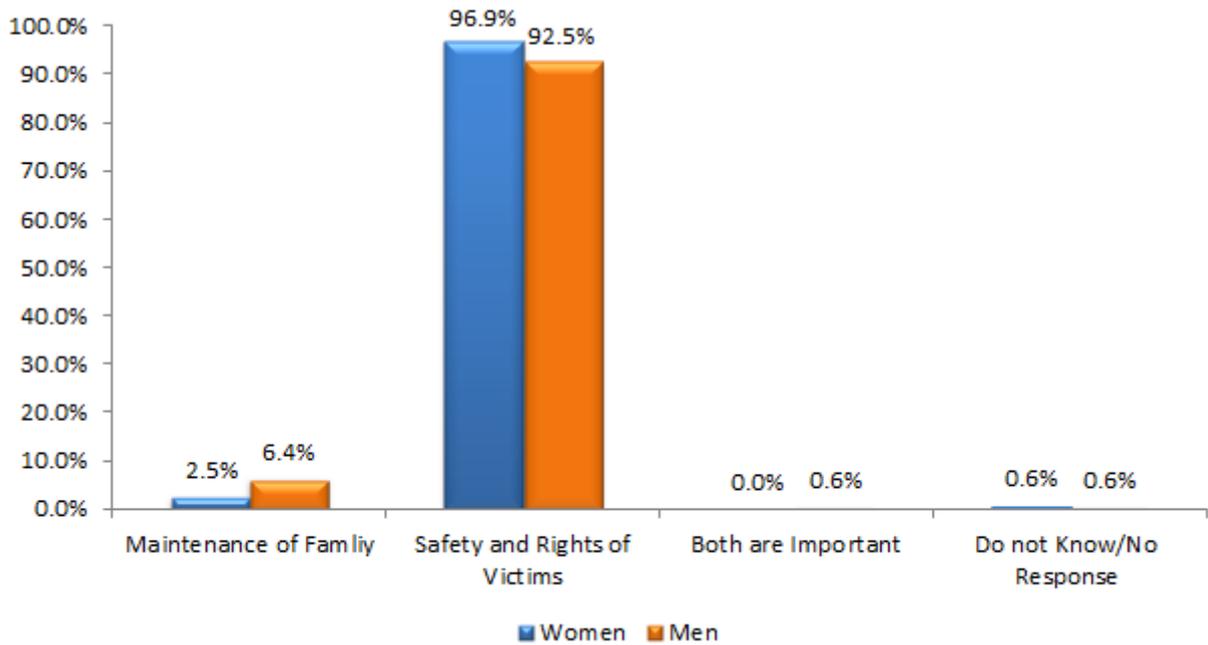


**[Figure 6] Sentiment on former governor Ahn’s first-trial verdict result as ‘not guilty’ (by gender, November)**



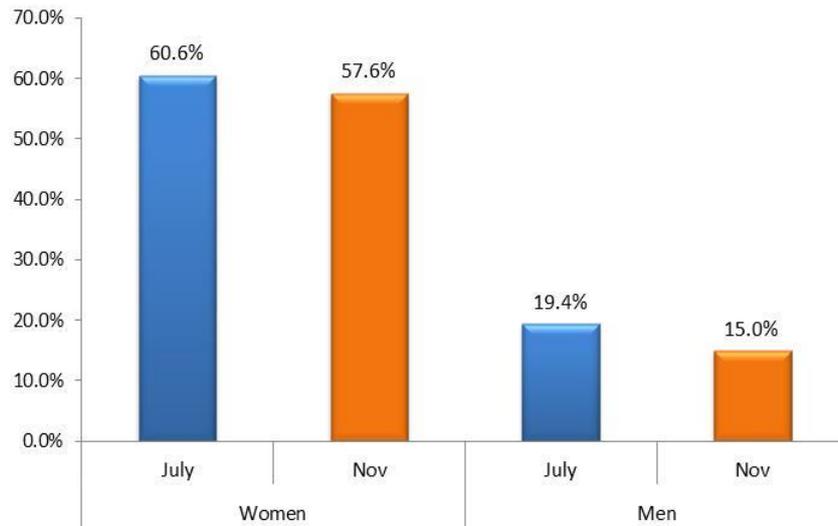
**[Figure 7] Support for the abolition of anti-abortion laws (by gender, November)**

- When asked about the priorities in responding to domestic violence cases, **over 90% of both women and men in their 20s chose 'safety and rights of the victims'** [Figure 8].

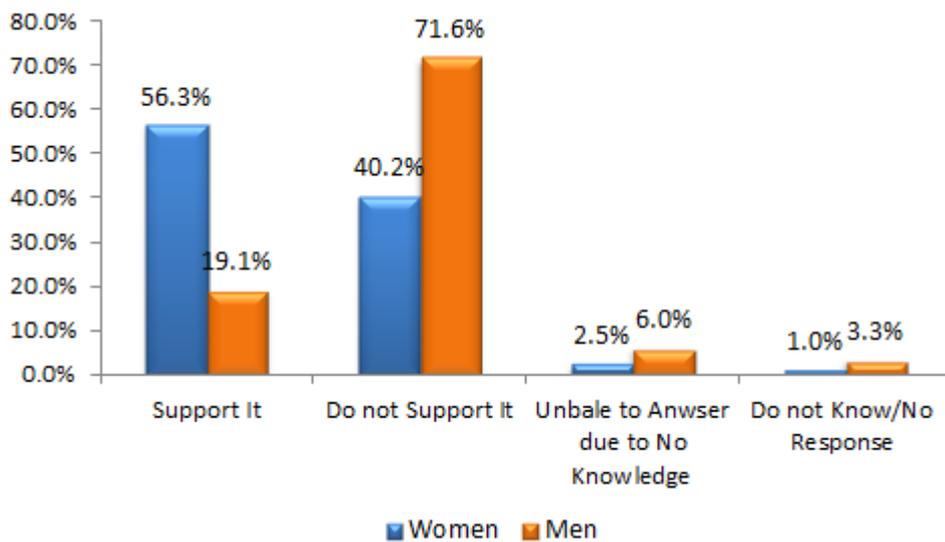


[Figure 8] List of priorities in responding to domestic violence (by gender)

- Regarding the protests against biased investigation into the Hongik University hidden-camera incident (Hyehwa Station demonstrations), **57.6% of women and 15.0% of men** appeared to support the protests [Figure 9]. Also, concerning the corset-free movement, which resists the stereotypes on femininity, **56.3% of women and 19.1% of men** were found to support it [Figure 10].
  - Concerning the protests against biased investigation into the Hongik University hidden-camera incident, the support rate dropped by about 4%p among both men and women in November. It appeared that the issue shows a significant gender gap rather than the changes according to time lapse.



[Figure 9] Support rate for Hyehwa Station demonstrations related to hidden-camera investigations (July vs. Nov.)



[Figure 10] Support rate for corset-free movement (by gender, November)