

Research on the development of integration indicators for marriage immigrants

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1. Introduction

Globalization and expansion in the global exchange of human resources mean that Korea has seen an influx of foreign men and women seeking marriage to Korean nationals and the number is on the rise.

With the increase in the number of immigrants seeking marriage to Korean nationals, multiple policies have been drawn up, which are geared towards supporting immigrant parents and their children, and their eventual integration into Korean society. For example, in 2008, article 5 of the “Act on the Treatment of Foreign Nationals Residing in the Republic of Korea” led to the design of the first policy framework for foreign nationals (2008-2012). The current government, led by President Lee Myung-bak has also been pursuing a national agenda to “create an open society embracing foreign nationals” as part of the aim to become a mature-minded global nation. At the same time, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family is helping interethnic families to integrate into society by facilitating social adaptation and promoting capacity- building and social and economic self-reliance. The Prime Minister’s Office is also engaged in efforts to create a harmonious multicultural society as part of the strategy to strengthen national power.

While a range of marriage immigrant policies have been put in place, comprehensive and systematic statistical information is scarce. It was not

until 2009 that a nationwide survey on interracial households was carried out to collect rudimentary information on male and female marriage immigrants and their households. Current statistics tend to provide limited information on marriage immigrants and their children only, based on administrative data on immigration and marriage obtained by the Ministry of Public Administration and Security, and Statistics Korea. Similarly, previous researches on developing integration indicators have been focused more on the general context of building a multicultural society and have therefore failed to fully utilize immigrants' objective living conditions in Korea as a measure of integration.

This raises the need to develop specific indicators to gauge the social integration of immigrant spouses and collect data for these indicators. This paper presents indicators to measure the integration of immigrant spouses into Korean society, and explores ways to better analyze existing statistical data and how to collect new categories of data, as well as ways to streamline the legal and institutional framework.

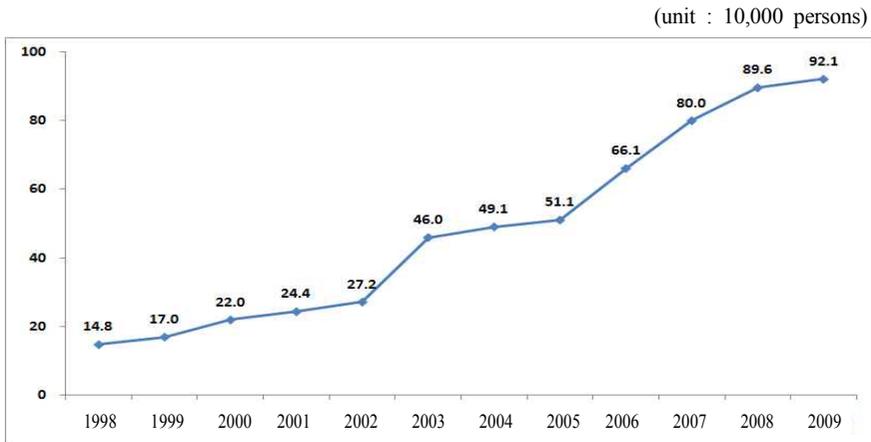
2. Integration of male and female marriage immigrants

a) General trends among immigrants and marriage immigrants

The number of immigrants to Korea has soared in recent years to over 920,000 in 2009, and there has also been a large increase in the number of immigrant spouses. The number of Korean men married to non-Korean spouses has grown from 6,945 in 2000 to 30,719 in 2005

and 26,274 in 2010, a three-fold increase. In 2010, there were 34,235 interethnic marriages, which are 900 more cases than the previous year. Interethnic marriages as a proportion of the total marriages have also followed an upward trend from 3.5% in 2000 to 13.5% in 2005 and 10.5% in 2010. The number of male Koreans choosing non-Korean spouses increased by 1,132 between 2009 and 2010, which reveals year-on-year growth of 4.5%. Meanwhile, 8,000 female Koreans married people of other ethnicities during the same period, up 2.4% from the previous year. Of the total interethnic marriages in 2010, 76.7% of them were Korean men with non-Korean wives.

Korean men married to non-Korean spouses made up 2.1% of the total number of marriages in 2000, 9.8% in 2005 and 8.1% in 2010, a four-fold increase in a decade. Female non-Korean spouses tend to be of different nationalities than male non-Korean spouses; while 74.1% of non-Korean husbands come from China, Japan and the US, 73.2% of non-Korean wives come from China (36.6%), and Vietnam (36.6%), followed by the Philippines (7.3%).



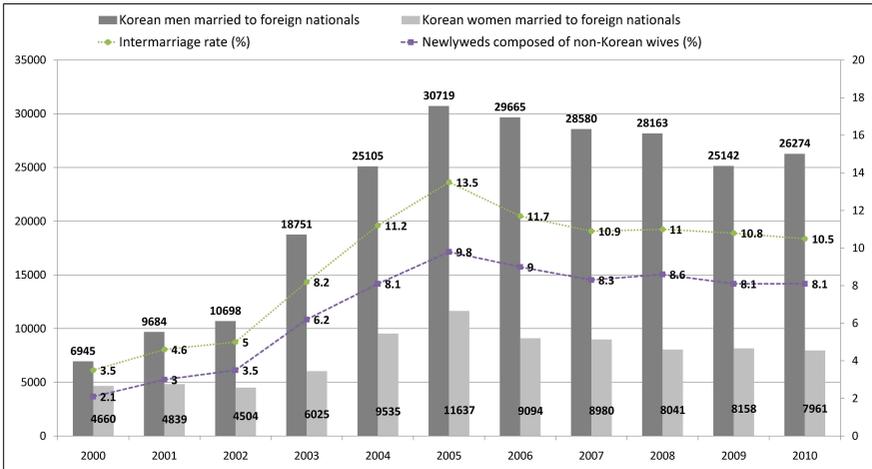
Note : The Ministry of Justice compiles annual statistics on the numbers of long and short-term foreign residents including undocumented workers. Data on long-term foreign residents is collected separately for analysis of the immigrant population.

Source : Korea Immigration Service (KIS) Statistics 1998-2009, published by the Ministry of Justice

[Figure 1] Long-term foreign residents in Korea

The recent steep rise in the immigration of non-Korean spouses is related to Korean demographic trends, and in particular the gender imbalance, as there are more men of marriageable age than women among the younger population. This trend has become particularly pronounced as most Korean men choose to tie the knot with brides who are three years younger.

(unit : No., %)



Note : Intermarriage rate = (number of intermarriages/total marriages) x 100
 Percentage of newlyweds composed of non-Korean wives
 = (Korean men married to foreign nationals/total marriages) x 100

Source : Statistics Korea

[Figure 2] Number of intermarriages

<Table 1> Number of intermarriages by nationality

(unit : No.)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Total intermarriages	15,202	24,776	34,640	42,356	38,759	37,560	36,204	33,300	34,235	29,762
Foreign wives married to Korean men	10,698	18,751	25,105	30,719	29,665	28,580	28,163	25,142	26,274	22,265
- China	7,023	13,347	18,489	20,582	14,566	14,484	13,203	11,364	9,623	7,549
- Vietnam	474	1,402	2,461	5,822	10,128	6,610	8,282	7,249	9,623	7,636
- Philippines	838	928	947	980	1,117	1,497	1,857	1,643	1,906	2,072
- Japan	690	844	809	883	1,045	1,206	1,162	1,140	1,193	1,124
- Cambodia	2	19	72	157	394	1,804	659	851	1,205	961
- Thailand	327	345	324	266	271	524	633	496	438	354
- US	267	322	341	285	331	376	344	416	428	507
- Mongolia	194	320	504	561	594	745	521	386	326	266
- Others	883	1,224	1,158	1,183	1,219	1,334	1,502	1,597	1,532	1,796

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Foreign husbands married to Korean women	4,504	6,025	9,535	11,637	9,094	8,980	8,041	8,158	7,961	7,497
- Japan	2,032	2,250	3,118	3,423	3,412	3,349	2,743	2,422	2,090	1,709
- China	263	1,190	3,618	5,037	2,589	2,486	2,101	2,617	2,293	1,869
- US	1,204	1,222	1,332	1,392	1,443	1,334	1,347	1,312	1,516	1,632
- Canada	172	219	227	283	307	374	371	332	403	448
- Australia	90	109	132	101	137	158	164	159	194	216
- UK	86	88	120	104	136	125	144	166	178	195
- Germany	81	94	109	85	126	98	115	110	135	114
- Pakistan	126	130	100	219	150	134	117	104	102	126
- Others	450	723	779	993	794	922	939	936	1,050	1,188

Source: Annual report on marriage and divorce statistics published by Statistics Korea

b) Integration of marriage immigrants: what is the current situation?

The rapid increase in the number of marriage-based immigrants has contributed to the previously homogeneous Korean society beginning to prepare for the challenges of multicultural society and social integration. In an ideal society, diversity would be recognized, cultures respected and equal opportunities provided. However it is true to say that this is far from current reality. In fact, it is hard to measure how close Korean society is towards integration, how receptive it is to immigrants and whether equal job and educational opportunities are available. Given the general paucity of available statistical data, observing social issues and tensions surrounding marriage-based immigrants seems to be the only possible option to gauge the extent of social integration in Korea.

Foreign nationals coming to Korea as marriage immigrants are believed to face many challenges which arise from intermarriage. Mostly in their early twenties, they find it difficult to adapt to not only an unfamiliar

environment but also a newly formed family. Meanwhile, Korean men who choose foreign wives tend to be from rural areas, low socio-economic classes and older than their partners or have married before, which is likely to create tensions in interethnic marriages.¹⁾ This is compared to median couples in Korea.

High divorce rates highlight the tensions present in many interracial marriages. During the period 2000–2009, the general trend was upward though there was a slight downward fluctuation in the following year. In 2010, as many as 11,245 inter-racial marriages ended in divorce, accounting for 9.6% of total divorce cases nationwide. However, there were 500 less inter-racial divorce cases when compared to 2009. During 2010, a total of 7,904 Korean men divorced their foreign wives, a fall of 4.8% year-on-year. Comparing inter-racial divorce cases with divorce between Korean couples is complicated however, as there are no accurate statistics available. Also, current statistics use two different populations in the calculation of marriage and divorce rates. It means that while data on the number of intermarriages is available, and we know that they made up 10.5% of the total marriages in Korea in 2010, there are limitations when comparing intermarriage rates with divorce rates directly.

Collecting separate data on Korean couples and mixed couples may help to deal with this problem, but unfortunately this is not a realistic option. Instead, government statistical data on demographics can be utilized. For example, Statistics Korea provides nationwide data on multicultural households. Households with one or more foreign spouse or

1) Sang-lim Lee (2011), "Statistical analysis and policy implications of marriage-based immigrants," paper presented at a conference on the topic of marriage immigrants.

naturalized citizen, including single-headed families, are classified as multicultural households. According to the data, out of 17 million households nationwide, multicultural households comprise approximately 2% at 386,977 and members of these households account for about 2% of the total population at 940,000.

Based on the assumption that multicultural couples comprise 2% of total married couples and given that the ratio for both multicultural households and members of multicultural households is 2%, the interracial divorce rate of 9.6% for 2010 seems significantly higher than that of Korean couples.

Moreover, Korean men lived with their foreign wives for an average of 3.2 years before filing for divorce, while Korean women lived with their foreign spouses for an average of 6 years. This is much shorter than the average of 14 years for Korean couples.

(Table 2) Number of intermarriages ending in divorce

(unit : No., %)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total divorces	119,455	134,608	144,910	166,617	138,932	128,035	124,524	124,072	116,535	123,999	116,858
Intermarriages ending in divorce	1,498	1,694	1,744	2,012	3,300	4,171	6,136	8,671	11,255	11,692	11,245
Ratio (%)	(1.3)	(1.3)	(1.2)	(1.2)	(2.4)	(3.3)	(4.9)	(7.0)	(9.7)	(9.4)	(9.6)
Fluctuation	96	196	50	268	1,288	871	1,965	2,535	2,584	437	-447
Ratio (%)	6.8	13.1	3.0	15.4	64.0	26.4	47.1	41.3	29.8	3.9	-3.8
Foreign wives married to Korean men	247	387	380	547	1,567	2,382	3,933	5,707	7,962	8,300	7,904
Fluctuation (%)	24.7	56.7	-1.8	43.9	186.5	52	65.1	45.1	39.5	4.2	-4.8
Foreign husbands married to Korean women	1,251	1,307	1,364	1,465	1,733	1,789	2,203	2,964	3,293	3,392	3,341
Fluctuation (%)	3.9	4.5	4.4	7.4	18.3	3.2	23.1	34.5	11.1	3.0	-1.5

Source: Statistics on marriages and divorces 2010 by Statistics Korea

A rising number of divorced foreign wives can also be found using hotline services. According to the Emergency Support Center for Migrant Women, an advocacy organization for female immigrants established by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, out of 54,194 requests for support in 2010, as many as 23.68% were related to couple conflicts²⁾ and a total of 12.9% were domestic violence related. A high incidence of domestic violence often leads to divorce, as shown in the number of call requests. Meanwhile, data for 2010 from the Ministry of Public Administration and Security indicates that 125,087 requests for support were from marriage immigrants who had not yet acquired Korean nationality while 56,584 were from immigrants who have naturalized through marriage.³⁾ Considering these figures, more than 50,000 requests is a disproportionately high figure which demonstrates the extent of marriage related problems experienced by immigrants.

Along with issues like domestic violence, there is a lack of policies to support divorced immigrants, and this prevents them from integrating into society. The current law does not allow female divorced immigrants to benefit from the Multicultural Family Support Act, even though they require help with job and business opportunities to lead an independent life after divorce.

Another major hurdle to integration often pointed out is the schooling of mixed couples' children. Compared to those of Korean couples, children from intermarriages are believed to have low enrollment rates

2) Emergency Support Center for Migrant Women (2011), "Hotline statistics for 2010," p.5 & p.11, call requests have been counted 1.1 times to account for the fact that more than one request may be made in each call.

3) The Ministry of Public Administration and Security (2008), "Report on foreign residents at the local level," p.12

when the time comes to transition between different stages of education.⁴⁾

While issues of family life, job seeking, and education of children are obstacles for the adaptation of marriage immigrants to society, there are also cultural barriers in the form of mainstream society's acceptance and receptivity to foreign nationals, an issue which society as a whole needs to address. Korean mainstream society is regarded as having low levels of tolerance to diversity.⁵⁾ The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) expressed concern about the emphasis on ethnic homogeneity in Korea.⁶⁾ Also, according to the Global Competitiveness Report for 2009, prepared by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), Korea ranks almost at the bottom, 56 out of 57 economies sampled from all over the world in terms of societal openness towards different cultures, a result which falls far short of global standards.

The CERD also points out several issues in Korea related to asylum seekers, families including a foreign spouse and children of mixed parentage, enactment of laws against racial discrimination, the vulnerable situation of immigrants with irregular employment status who live and work in the country, and the lack of aid available to foreign residents.

In short, despite a sharp rise in the number of marriage-based immigrants in the last decade, Korea has a long way to go towards

4) Deok-gyeong Yun, Yi-seon Kim and Bok-soon Park (2009), "Research on policy change for safeguarding the human rights of female marriage-based immigrants" published by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, pp. 14-15

5) Mu-sook Min et al, (2010), "Research on developing a tool to examine multicultural receptivity," Committee on Social Cohesion, pp. 3-4

6) Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination, CERD (2010), "Considers report of Republic of Korea"

social integration. One of the barriers preventing integration into society is the narrow focus of support policies which emphasize stable family life,⁷⁾ but fail to facilitate social inclusion. Newly arrived foreign nationals become not only a member of a household but also of society, and policies have failed to recognize this. Currently, the law has no provisions to protect foreign nationals' rights and opportunities to employment and education, community and electoral participation, and freedom from discrimination. It is unclear how marriage immigrants cope with these difficulties and therefore supporting family life alone is not enough to help them to complete the integration process.

Given the above circumstances, research has been carried out in two stages to identify and select indicators, with the goal of assessing the integration levels of marriage immigrants. The first stage involved identifying basic indicators to explain immigrants' integration to society, while in the second stage, specific indicators were selected for marriage-based immigrants.

3. Development of integration indicators of marriage immigrants (proposed)

a) Development of integration indicators framework

1) Learn from international experiences of social integration

7) Multicultural Family Support Act, Article 1 (Purpose) "This act aims to provide members of interracial marriages with a stable family life and contribute to improving their quality of life and social integration."

General trends of the immigrant populations found in preliminary studies based on international experience are included in the framework as they help explain the Korean model of immigration. Countries with long immigration histories such as the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand received large numbers of foreign nationals for the very specific purpose of addressing labor shortages. In the case of the European Union (EU), immigration trends underscore member countries' efforts towards inclusion of immigrants within the member states as well as moves towards an unified Europe. EU policies encourage the free flow of migrants in and out of member countries and emphasize that foreign residents in particular member countries should be integrated into mainstream society.

The EU immigrant social indicators for 2011 (test edition) use four categories of indicators including employment, education, social inclusion and voluntary citizenship. However, the Swedish government uses demographic characteristics to categorize indicators into the six areas of education, labor market, income, housing, social and political participation, and health.

<p>1) Learn from international experiences of social integration -European Union - employment, education, social inclusion, voluntary citizenship -Sweden - demographic characteristics, education, labor market, income, housing, social and political participation, health</p> <p>3) Consider policy links to improve applications Multicultural Family Basic Support Plan</p> <p>5) Incorporate gender-responsive perspective -Comparison by gender -Gender-specific issues</p>	<p>2) Reflect unique characteristics of marriage immigrants to Korea -Korean men marrying foreign women -Foreign workers</p> <p>4) Classify indicators into groups for group-specific comparison -Marriage-based immigrants -Children born to immigrant parents -Spouses -Parents and families of Korean spouses -Local residents with no immigration background</p>	
<p>Core domains and key areas of integration</p>		
<p>Education -Training to help immigrants settle down -Vocational training for immigrants -Educational support for children of immigrants -Guidance for interracial families and Korean spouses</p>	<p>Economy -Economic activities -Income/working conditions -Job seeking assistance</p>	<p>Social participation and connections -Engage in political activity and government jobs -Social contacts and links -Emotional inclusion</p>
<p>Safety and stability -Crimes targeted at immigrants and their effects -Social security to protect immigrants -Health of immigrants -Protect immigrants against discrimination</p>	<p>Family life -Family relationships and violence -Child rearing by married immigrants -Income of married immigrant households</p>	<p>Basis to facilitate integration -Collect immigration data -Support services on entry and stay -Promote understanding of different cultures -Improve receptivity to different cultures and diversity</p>
<p>The status of immigration Local residents</p>		<p>Marriage-based immigrants Immigrants</p>

[Figure 3] Development of integration indicators framework

There are several reasons behind efforts at social and cultural integration of immigrant populations. First, crossing borders to settle in another country is commonplace and social exclusion of the newly

arrived violates their human rights. Second, forced assimilation to a host country's culture, without respect for immigrants' cultures is highly likely to lead to cultural conflicts. Third, social exclusion of immigrants could bring social and political tensions centered on questions of race. All of these make integration issues a critical challenge to overcome in the age of an ever-increasing number of immigrants.

2) Reflect unique characteristics of marriage immigrants to Korea

Immigration to Korea is characterized by a major influx of foreign nationals looking for a spouse, in particular female immigrants hoping to marry a Korean man. According to statistics, female foreign nationals who tied the knot with a Korean groom made up 36.5% of the total female immigrants in 2007, followed by 33.6% in 2008, 31.9% in 2009, 32.9% in 2010 and 35.2% in 2011 respectively. Due to this wave, a range of policies have been put in place to support female immigrants and their interracial families.

For foreign wives, their Korean spouse and children could act as a bridge to connect immigrant women to Korean society. Foreign wives and their Korean partners and children are active agents as well as subjects in the process of integration and should not be on the receiving end of discrimination due to their racial identities.

In contrast, foreign workers have been the largest group of immigrants, making up 38.3% of total immigrants in 2007, 52.5% in 2008, 57.6% in 2009, 54.9% in 2010 and 49.6% in 2011. Despite this, there are no particular laws to protect foreign workers, as they are viewed as

temporary visitors, here to fill labor shortages. They are not seen to be looking for permanent residency in Korea. This perspective sets policies on foreign workers in Korea apart from those of other countries, where foreign workers are encouraged to settle down in their host countries.

3) Consider policy links to improve applications

Indicators can be developed to consider relevant policies and to improve future policy applications.

Based on the Multicultural Family Support Act, the Multicultural Family Policy Basic Plans (2010-2012) has been widely implemented throughout government agencies. In 2011, the law was revised to expand the categories of the population which are covered. As such, the Multicultural Family Policy Basic Plans now protects not only marriage immigrants but also their Korean spouses and families, as well as children born to interracial couples. Under the law, Multicultural Family Support Centers, of which there is nationwide coverage, offer a variety of programs to help newly arrived foreign husbands and wives to adapt to society and to help their Korean spouses and families to better understand different cultures.

Developing indicators in order to link diverse government-led programs which support multicultural families, as well as to understand the impact of programs on the integration of marriage immigrants is a practical way to facilitate policy goals.

4) Classify indicators for group-specific comparisons

Various methods can be applied to measure marriage immigrants' level

of integration into society. Tracking down time-series data from particular indicators can be an option and comparing statistics for marriage immigrants with local residents or non-marriage based immigrants can facilitate evaluation of the levels of inclusion for different groups.

The present study classifies indicators into five groups of marriage-based immigrants, children born to immigrant parents, spouses, parents and families of Korean spouses, and local residents with no immigration background. Additionally, group-specific comparison can help to identify marriage immigrants' integration level compared to other groups, and simultaneously unveil any unique characteristics of marriage immigrants.

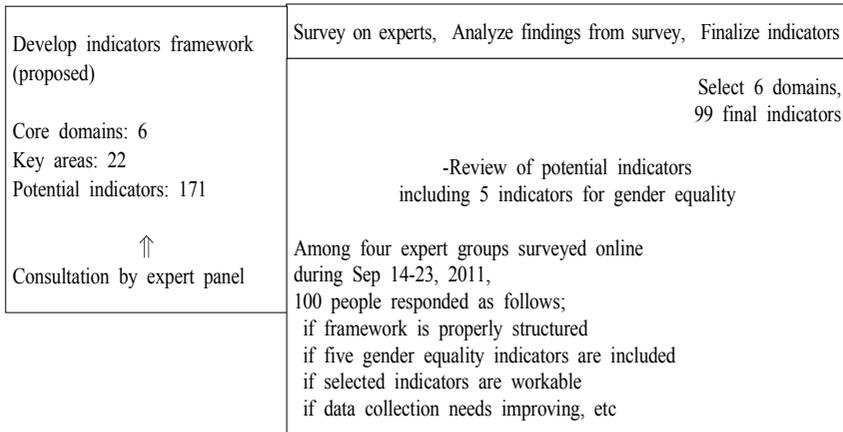
5) Incorporate a gender-responsive perspective by including gender-specific issues and comparison by gender

In the process of selecting indicators, this study has ensured that each indicator allows for comparison by gender. This involves comparison between female and male marriage immigrants, local residents of each gender, and non-marriage immigrants of each gender. Comparison by gender helps to analyze the experiences of marriage immigrants and monitor the progress of integration using multidimensional approaches.

In addition, gender-specific issues that foreign wives may experience such as domestic violence are taken into account in the selection of indicators so that a gender-responsive perspective can be incorporated into the measurement of integration.

b) How were the integration indicators for marriage immigrants selected?

As figure 4 shows, the process started with the development and proposal of a framework of potential indicators which consisted of six core domains, 22 key areas and 171 integration indicators. When choosing indicators, a variety of research sources were compiled, and a number of parties participated in the process and gave expert advice. Taking into account previous research on international indicators, immigration statistical collections, and policy evaluations, an expert panel including researchers and academicians specialized in marriage immigration discussed the list of indicators and gave professional assistance. Then, expert groups come up with the final list of indicators as displayed in tables 3 and 4.



[Figure 4] Steps to select integration indicators of marriage immigrants

〈Table 3〉 Overview of indicators for marriage immigrants

Core domains	Key areas	Potential indicators	Finalized indicators
6	22	171	99
Education	Training to help immigrants settle down	9	5
	Vocational training for immigrants	4	2
	Educational support for children of immigrants	15	9
	Guidance for interracial families and Korean spouses	1	1
Economy	Economic activities	18	11
	Income/working conditions	9	5
	Job seeking assistance	3	2
Social participation and connections	Engage in political activity and government jobs	5	3
	Social contacts and links	9	5
	Emotional inclusion	9	5
Safety and stability	Crimes targeted at immigrants and their effects	7	4
	Social security to protect immigrants	4	2
	Health of immigrants	7	4
	Protect immigrants against discrimination	8	5
Family life	Family relationships and violence	10	6
	Child rearing by marriage immigrants	9	5
	Income of married immigrant households	3	2
Basis to facilitate integration	Collect immigration data	24	14
	Support services	4	2
	Assistance on entry and stay	5	3
	Promote understanding of different cultures	4	2
	Improve receptivity to different cultures	4	2

〈Table 4〉 Final lists of indicators for marriage immigrants

Core domains	Key areas	Integration indicators	Types of indicators
Education	Training to help immigrants settle down	① Proportion of immigrants enrolled in Korean language classes	Comparison by gender for marriage and non-marriage immigrants
		② Benefits from training for social inclusion	
		③ Needs of training for social inclusion	
		④ Benefits from Korean language classes	
		⑤ Needs of Korean language input	
	Vocational training	⑥ Needs of vocational training	Comparison by gender based on immigration status
		⑦ Fields of vocational training and participation rate	
	Educational support for children of	⑧ Percentage of children enrolled in primary/middle/high school	Comparison by gender based on immigration status
		⑨ University admission rate	

Core domains	Key areas	Integration indicators	Types of indicators
	immigrants	⑩ Drop-out rate in middle/high school ⑪ Academic achievement at primary/middle/high school ⑫ Size of youth NEET *NEET = Not in Education, Employment or Training ⑬ Class participation rate ⑭ Children's satisfaction with, and experience of school ⑮ Children's achievement expectations and why ⑯ Parents' expectations for their children's achievement and why	Comparison by gender for marriage and non-marriage immigrants
	Guidance for interracial families and Korean spouses	⑰ Participation rate in multicultural orientation programs by marriage immigrants, and Korean spouses and families	
Economy	Economic activities	① Employment rate, economically active population rate, jobless rate, economically inactive population rate by age and the status of immigrants ② Employment rate, economically active population rate, jobless rate, economically inactive population rate by educational attainment and the status of immigrants ③ Employment rate, economically active population rate, jobless rate, economically inactive population rate by country of birth and the status of immigrants ④ Rate of economically active population with/without pre-school children ⑤ Status of economically inactive population ⑥ Occupational distribution of employed immigrants ⑦ Industrial distribution of employed immigrants ⑧ Distribution of employed immigrants by occupational status ⑨ Distribution by type of employment ⑩ Employment rate, economically active population rate, jobless rate, economically inactive population rate by age of children ⑪ Employment rate, economically active population rate, jobless rate, economically inactive population rate by educational attainment of children	Comparison by gender based on immigration status

Core domains	Key areas	Integration indicators	Types of indicators
	Income/ working conditions	⑫ Earnings/income of employed workers by age	
		⑬ Earnings/income of employed workers by educational attainment	
		⑭ Earnings/income of employed workers by country of birth	
		⑮ Working hours of employed workers by educational attainment	
		⑯ Working hours of employed workers by country of birth	
	Job seeking assistance	⑰ Number of participants of projects offering jobs and financial support per 100,000 population	Comparison by gender for marriage immigrants
		⑱ Number of users of vocational training funding and job search assistance services	
	Social participation and connections	Engage in political activity and government jobs	① Proportion of foreign nationals and naturalized citizens among civil servants
② Number of constituents by naturalized and non-naturalized citizens and by country of birth			Comparison by gender for naturalized/non-naturalized immigrants
③ Voter turnout rate for parliamentary/municipal elections by country of birth			Comparison by gender based on immigration status
Social contacts and links		④ Experience of immigrants mixing with people with immigrant backgrounds	Comparison by gender for marriage and non-marriage immigrants
		⑤ Experience of Korean spouses mixing with people who married foreign nationals	
		⑥ Number of registered non-governmental agencies	
		⑦ Extent of friendship networks and number of contacts	
Emotional inclusion		⑧ Participation rate of clubs and community organizations	Comparison by gender based on immigration status
		⑨ Subjective feelings about their wellbeing and satisfaction with life	
		⑩ Rate of satisfaction with income	
		⑪ Class identity	
		⑫ Sense of belonging to Korean society	
		⑬ Receptivity to Korean culture	

Core domains	Key areas	Integration indicators	Types of indicators	
Safety and stability	Crimes targeted at immigrants and their effects	① The fear of crime or being a victim of potential crimes	Comparison by gender for marriage and non-marriage immigrants	
		② The fear of being a victim of sexual harassment and assault		
		③ Number of victims of crime targeted at immigrants per 10,000 immigrants		
		④ Number of victims of violent crime per 10,000 immigrants		
	Social security to protect immigrants	⑤ Number of social security beneficiaries per 10,000 immigrants	Comparison by gender based on immigration status	
		⑥ Distribution of reasons for those not covered by social security		
	Health of immigrants	⑦ Prevalence rate		
		⑧ Subjective feelings about their own health		
		⑨ Proportion of people who have struggled with depression (including immigrant wives or husbands, their spouses and family)		
		⑩ Proportion of people who have suffered from stress (including immigrant wives or husbands, their spouses and family)		
	Protect immigrants against discrimination	⑪ Proportion of immigrants who have experienced discrimination in using services including employment, education, banking, and local services and amenities		Comparison by gender for marriage immigrants
		⑫ Awareness about discrimination against immigrants while using services including employment, education, banking, and local services and amenities		
		⑬ Proportion of married immigrants who have experienced discrimination while using services including employment, education, banking, and local services and amenities		Comparison by gender for family of Korean spouses
		⑭ Proportion of Korean spouses and his/her family (children, parents and siblings) who have experienced discrimination while using services including employment, education, banking, and local services and amenities		

Core domains	Key areas	Integration indicators	Types of indicators
		⑮ Cases of human rights violations reported and observed	Comparison by gender for marriage and non-marriage immigrants
Family life	Family relationships and violence	① Relationship satisfaction with Korean spouses	Comparison by gender for marriage immigrants
		② Relationship satisfaction with Korean parents-in-law	
		③ Relationship satisfaction with brothers and sisters-in-law	
		④ Relationship satisfaction with own children	
		⑤ Relationship satisfaction with Korean spouses' children from his/her former marriage	
		⑥ Proportion of victims by type of spousal violence during the past year	
	Child rearing by marriage immigrants	⑦ Extent of support for pregnancy and childbirth	By immigration status
		⑧ Distribution by childcare of preschool-age children	Comparison by gender for marriage immigrants
		⑨ Distribution by basic learning ability of children of immigrants	Comparison by gender based on immigration status
		⑩ Extent of support for child rearing and education	By immigration status
		⑪ Extent of needs for child rearing and education	
Income of married immigrant households	⑫ Average monthly (annual) income for immigrant households	Comparison by gender based on immigration status	
	⑬ Household distribution by minimum living standard guarantee scheme recipients		
Basis to facilitate integration	Collect immigration data	① Distribution of immigrants by country of birth	Comparison by gender for marriage and non-marriage immigrants
		② Distribution of immigrants by age	
		③ Distribution of immigrants by educational attainment	
		④ Distribution of immigrants by type of stay	
		⑤ Distribution of immigrants by residence	
		⑥ Immigrant population as a proportion of the total population	Comparison by gender based on immigration status
		⑦ Distribution by marriage type (first, second, etc)	
		⑧ Distribution of mixed couples by age group	
		⑨ Distribution of mixed couples by educational attainment	
		⑩ Occupational distribution of mixed couples	
		⑪ Inter-marriages by nationality	
		⑫ Cases of divorce by length of marriage	

Core domains	Key areas	Integration indicators	Types of indicators
		⑬ Number of children born to multicultural families	Comparison by gender for marriage immigrants
		⑭ Number of immigrant children of multicultural families	
	Support services	⑮ Number of users of Support Centers for Foreign Nationals (Seoul Global Center) per 10,000 immigrants	Comparison by gender for marriage and non-marriage immigrants
		⑯ Number of users of Multicultural Family Support Centers	
	Assistance on entry and stay	⑰ Number of applicants for permanent residence and naturalization per 10,000 foreign residents in Korea	
		⑱ Participants in Korean language programs per 10,000 immigrants	
		⑲ Proportion of married immigrants and Korean spouses who participated in intermarriages and multicultural orientation	Comparison by gender for marriage immigrants
	Promote understanding of different cultures	⑳ Number of people enrolled in multi-cultural orientation per 10,000 people	Comparison by gender
		㉑ Number of people enrolled in multi-cultural orientation per 10,000 primary/middle/high school teachers	
	Improve receptivity to different cultures	㉒ Public attitudes towards cultural diversity	
㉓ Public attitudes towards immigrants			

c) Selected examples of indicators in practice

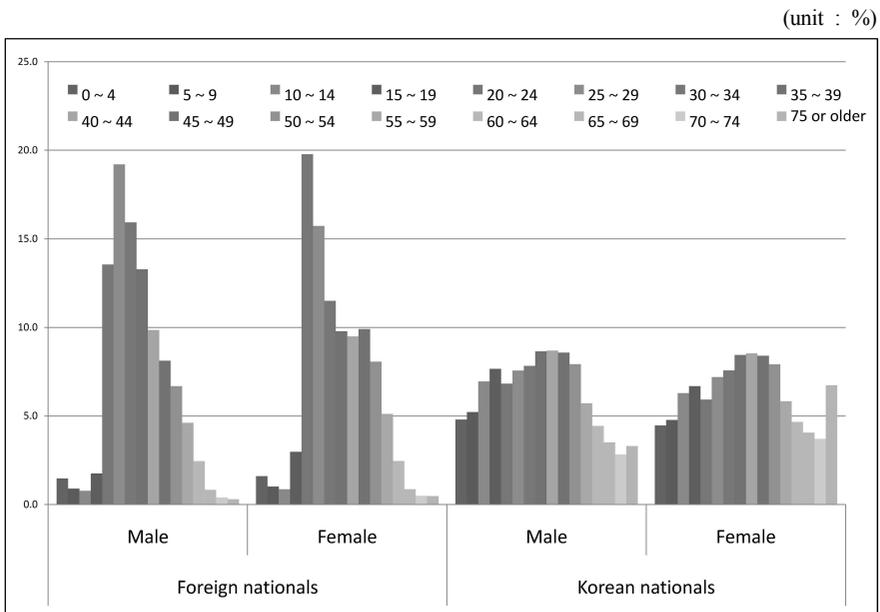
1) Distribution of domestic and foreign spouses by age

According to Census findings for 2010, a total of 589,532 foreign nationals were residing in the country. Of the total foreign nationals, men accounted for 326,202 while 263,330 or 44.7% were women. Meanwhile, there were 47,990,761 Korean nationals, of which 50.3% or 24,149,865 of those were women.

In terms of the distribution of women by age group, 57.8% of foreign nationals aged 15-19 were women, the highest percentage, whereas the

lowest percentage was for those aged 30-34, which stood at 36.8%, the lowest percentage. For Korean nationals, in contrast, the highest percentage of females was those aged 75 or older at 67.4%, which is compared to the lowest age group, between 20 and 24 years of age, in which women make up 46.8%.

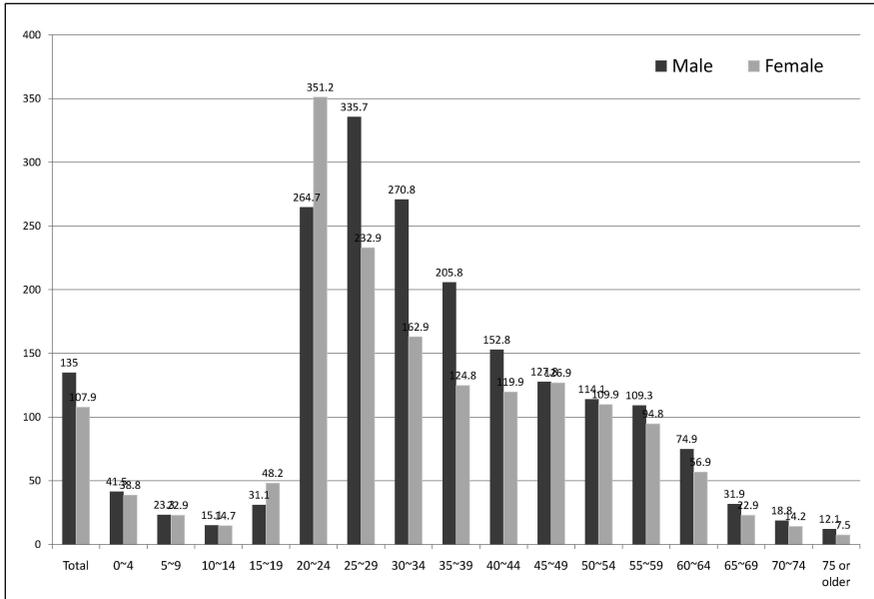
On the other hand, 61.9% of male foreign nationals were aged between 20 and 39, slightly higher than the proportion of female foreign nationals of the same age (56.8%). This means that almost two out of three male foreign nationals belonged to this age group. This can be explained by the influx of male foreign workers hoping to work and live in Korea.



Source : Statistics Korea

[Figure 5] Distribution of foreign and Korean nationals by gender and age group, 2010

(unit : person)



Source : Statistics Korea

[Figure 6] Number of foreign nationals per 10,000 population by gender and age group, 2010

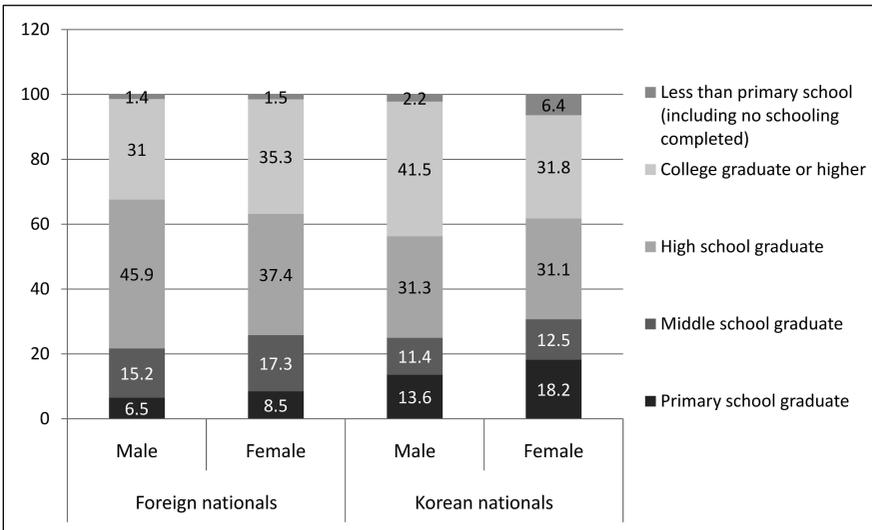
Figure 6 shows the number of foreign nationals per 10,000 population by gender and age group for 2010. It reveals that there were 135.0 male and 107.9 female foreign residents per 10,000 people of each gender. In terms of the male age group, the number for those aged 25-29 was 335.7, a relatively higher proportion than other age groups, and in particular those aged 75 or older, of which there were only 12.1 persons per 10,000 male population.

In comparison, the number of female foreign nationals per 10,000 population between the age of 20 and 24 was 351.2, which is comparatively more than the older age groups and especially those aged

75 or older, for which there was a mere 7.5 people. For both the female and male foreign population, the age group 75 or older represented the lowest proportion of foreign nationals compared to Koreans.

2) Distribution of domestic and foreign spouses by level of educational attainment

(unit : %)



Source : Statistics Korea

[Figure 7] Distribution of foreign and Korean nationals aged 6 or older by educational attainment, 2010

As the chart shows, male foreign nationals aged six or older have varying degrees of education. In 2010, the majority had either a college degree (31.0%) or high school diploma (45.9%) while 15.2% and 6.5% were middle school and primary school graduates respectively.

Meanwhile, 35.3% of female foreign nationals were college degree holders or higher, a higher percentage than that of male foreign and female Korean nationals. This can be compared to the percentage of male foreign nationals that were college graduates or higher (31.0%), which is the lowest among the four groups. High school graduation was the highest level of education for 37.4% of female foreign nationals, lower than the figures for male foreign nationals but higher than both male and female Korean nationals. The comparatively higher levels of education of foreign females may be explained by the fact that Korean women tend to be older than their foreign counterparts.

4. Policy implications and recommendations

This study makes the following suggestions in order to collect more accurate statistics, make more useful policies, and to produce indicators which measure and contribute to the increased level of social inclusion.

a) Add immigration status to statistics which are currently collected

Currently, there are only a few government-approved statistics available to assess the level of integration for marriage-based immigrants. While existing data allows comparison of immigrants by gender, it cannot facilitate comparison between female immigrants and Korean females with no immigration background or between male immigrants and Korean males with no immigration background. Similarly, although current statistical information can demonstrate that there is a gender gap

and discrimination on the grounds of gender among immigrant groups, it cannot compare the gap and level of discrimination between female immigrants and Korean females with no immigration background or between male immigrants and Korean males with no immigration background.

Therefore, statistics collected at the national level need to include immigration status as a variable so that figures for the four groups, immigrant groups and locals with non-immigrant-backgrounds by each gender, can be analyzed as a cross-section. This makes more sense, as due to the expected rise both in the number of immigrants and their descendants, there will be an increased need for data for cross-sectional studies.

b) Include immigration status in key government-approved statistics

It is also advisable that immigration status be included in key government-approved statistics, such as economic participation rates and socio-economic data. This will help identify the level of married immigrants' labor market participation and their socio-economic positions in relation to others.

1) Include immigration status in economic participation rates

The survey on economic participation rates is a critical resource to analyze the status of economic activity for both Korean and non-Korean nationals (age 15+) living in the country. However, the immigration

status of respondents is not currently one of the survey variables. Without immigration status data, it is not possible to compare the status of economic activity by gender between Korean nationals and non-Korean nationals including married immigrants.

Meanwhile, current figures for the status of immigrants' economic activity, while introduced in a timely manner, have limitations in comparison with the figures for Korean nationals. In fact, data on the status of immigrants' economic activity could be compiled by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family based on the nationwide multicultural family survey, however the variables differ from those in the survey for the wider population's (age 15+, foreign and Korean) economic participation. On top of this, the data is collected only every three years, which means that it is frequently neither up-to-date nor suitable for data analysis.

All of these limitations support the idea that immigration status should be included as a variable when collecting data on economic participation rates. In addition, timely data needs to be produced. This will make cross-group comparisons of economic participation practicable; Korean nationals vs. married immigrants and/or Korean nationals vs. non-marriage based immigrants.

In fact, international experiences demonstrate this already. For example, the European Union, with a long history of migration, currently employs a system to produce separate economic participation data for both locals and immigrants. In Korea, the reality is that separate data collection and comparisons according to immigration status are not yet available, unlike in other OECD member countries (OECD, 2011).

To address this issue, major labor force research including that on

economic participation rates, should include immigration status as a variable in the production of labor force data by gender.

2) Include immigration status in socio-economic data.

Currently, the Census collects data on the immigrant population, and the nationwide survey on multicultural families provides information about the status of social engagement for married immigrants as well as their views towards Korean society. However, no data sources facilitate the comparison of married immigrants' views on society with those of Korean nationals.

This calls for a new variable of immigration status to be included in socio-economic data collected by Statistics Korea, which would enable paired comparison analysis of both Korean and married foreign nationals in terms of social values.

In addition, the nationwide multicultural family survey needs to be carried out on a yearly or bi-yearly basis, rather than every three years as is the current situation, in order to provide the latest possible information for accurate analysis.

c) Improve variables regarding relationships between family members

As current Census information identifies household member relationships through a focus on heads of households, a new tool, in the form of a matrix approach could prove useful. It would enable exploration of relationships between any members of the household. Also, this tool would aid recognition of an interracial couple living with

one or more other couples in one household, and therefore allow for the analysis of multiple couple relationships in a single household.

In addition, there is a need to adopt variables aimed at finding marital history. These can be applied to particular groups of people with intermarriage experiences such as single-headed households (single foreign nationals who previously had a Korean spouse or single Korean nationals who previously had a foreign spouse), and married immigrants who do not live together with their spouses.

In addition, acquiring data on the alien registration status of immigrants should be helpful in estimating the span of policy implementation as well as identifying vulnerable groups of immigrants.

d) Include the general Korean public in the nationwide multicultural family survey for 2012

Since the present nationwide survey on multicultural families deals with the immigrant population, including those seeking interracial marriages, the findings fail to allow for comparison between foreign residents and the general Korean public. This highlights the need to include the wider public (i.e. Korean nationals) in data collection, so as to enable cross-group comparisons between marriage-based immigrants, non-marriage based immigrants and Korean nationals. Additionally, more variables are required to produce indicators such as children's level of satisfaction with school according to immigration status, proportion of immigrants, and family experiences of discrimination.

e) Conduct panel research on interracial families including marriage immigrants

Current immigration data collection is mostly based on latitudinal research, which is effective in identifying the status of immigrants at a particular point. Still, this research is insufficient in that it fails to examine and assess what interracial families, including marriage immigrants and their children, experience during the course of integration into society. In this respect, longitudinal research focusing on female foreign wives and their children in particular should be an option in order to identify their struggles and difficulties in integrating and, consequently, to contribute to the design of custom-made policies.

f) Streamline the policy, legal and institutional frameworks

As legislative revision can facilitate the production of indicators, a range of changes should take place in terms of data gathering. Firstly, it should be a legal requirement for government-approved statistics to include immigration status. As mentioned earlier, this would allow for comparison between marriage or non-marriage immigrants and Korean nationals across a number of categories.

Moreover, the legal basis should be established for connecting and assessing administrative data compiled by multiple agencies including the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Administration and Security. As immigrant data tends to contain personal information, the infiltration of personal information is a potential risk, if not protected by law.

g) Build and accumulate a database to produce marriage immigrant indicators

While a variety of integration indicators and statistics are available in other countries, as discussed above, Korea falls far short of meeting the standard necessary to produce comprehensive records and indicators. Introducing the indicators for marriage immigrants recommended by this report and applying the core indicators to policy-making would go a long way in addressing this issue.

Along with this, the Gender Statistics Information System (GSIS), administered by the Korean Women's Development Institute, needs to develop integration indicators and monitor them.

The development of integration indicators for marriage immigrants brings a number of benefits. It helps to build more meaningful statistical data and to promote more effective policies for interracial families and non-marriage based immigrants. Also, it enables the identification of socio-economic status, which will be factored in to eventually speed up social integration and minimize the costs and risks involved in the transition to a multicultural society.