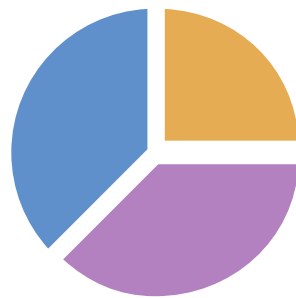



How Can We Close the Gender Digital Gap in Our Society?



Digital transformation and gender gap

Digital transformation is expected to bring about many changes to diverse areas of our society. In particular, concerns over gender digital gap have raised the demands for a gender equality policy that responds to such changes.



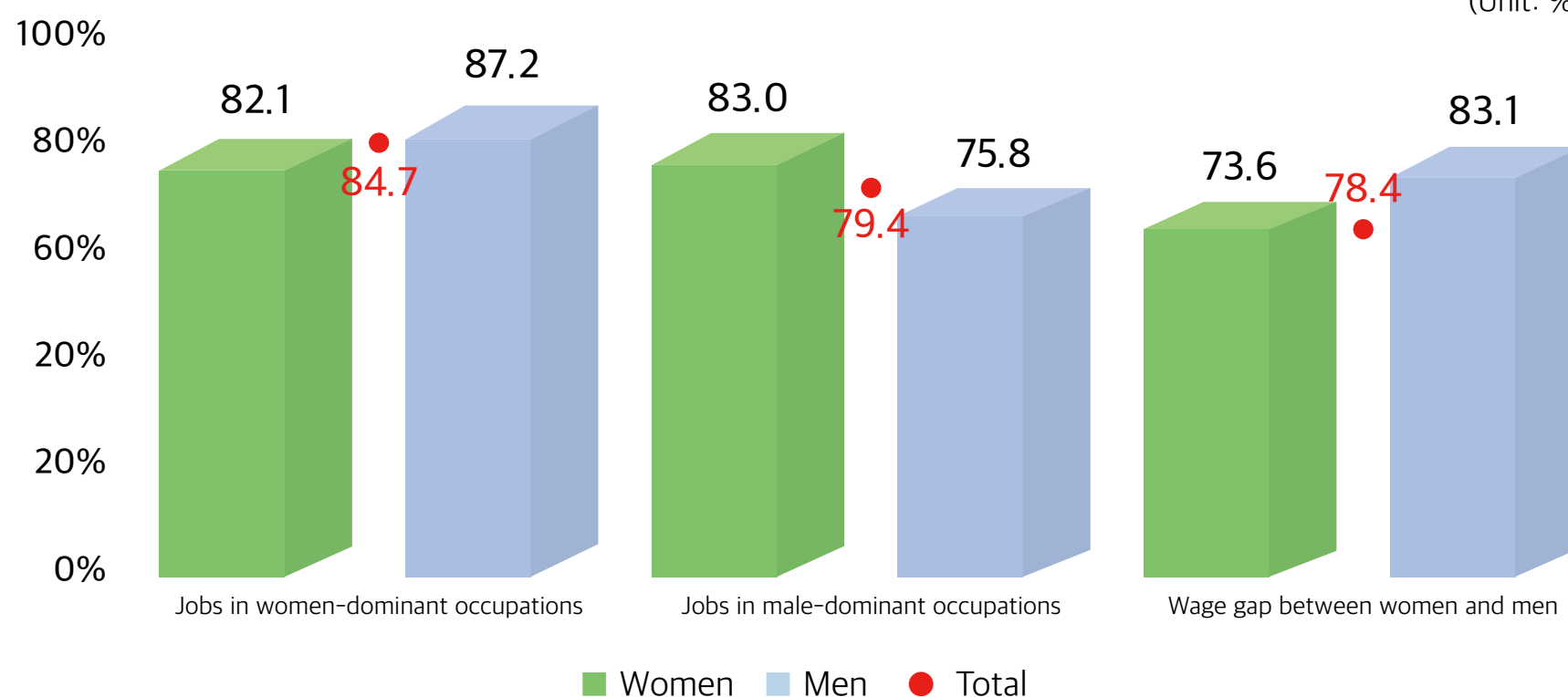
Korean Women's Development Institute conducted a survey on 5,000 Korean men and women aged from 18 to 69 to understand the gender gap in digital accessibility and utilization and to figure out how they perceive and predict the social changes caused by digital transformation.

Perception on digital transformation

Most of the public predicted that digitalization will not have a significantly negative influence on the labor market. However, more women than men gave an optimistic outlook for male-dominant jobs, and more men than women were optimistic about women-dominant jobs. Meanwhile, more men than women were optimistic about gender gap in wage. This confirms that there is a gender gap in the perception of digital transformation.

<Figure 1> Outlook for social changes brought by digitalization (n=5,000)*

(Unit: %)



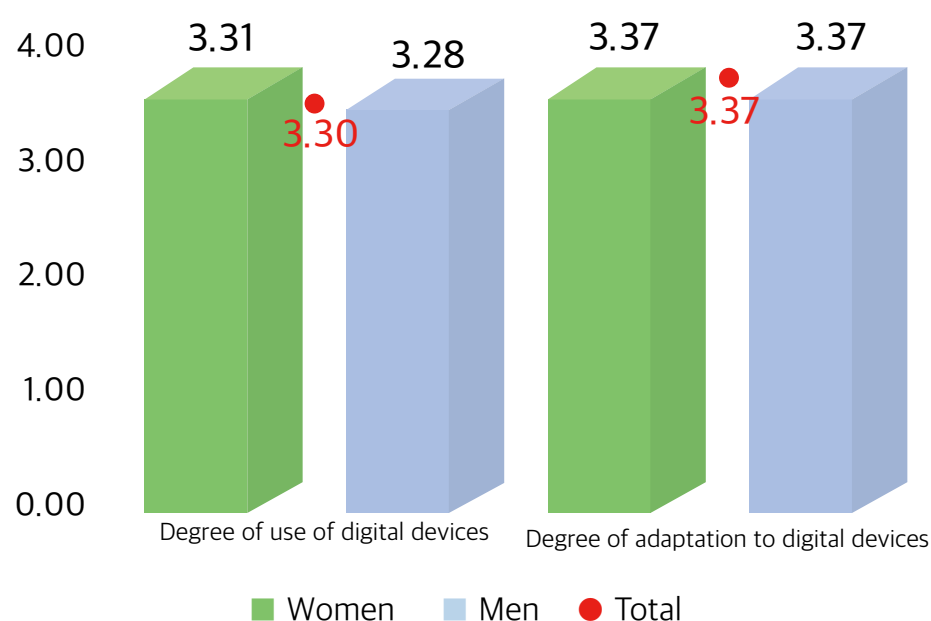
* Graph shows the sum of respondents who chose 'Similar to the current situation', 'Slightly increase', and 'Significantly increase' when asked about the outlook of jobs in women-dominant occupations and the jobs in male-dominant occupations. As for the wage gap between women and men, we combined the responses of 'Similar to the current situation', 'Slightly decrease', and 'Significantly decrease.'

Digital accessibility

The gender gap in the use and adaptation to digital devices was not significant. However, slightly more men(93.7%) than women(87.6%) had their own personal computer

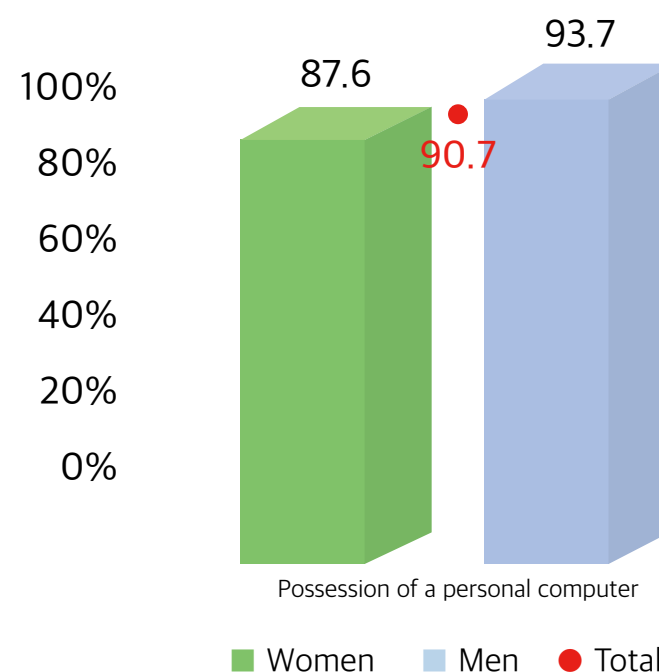
<Figure 2> Degree of use (n=3,732) and adaptation (n=3,047)
* to digital devices

(Unit: point)



<Figure 3> Proportion of respondents who have their own personal computer (n=5,000)

(Unit: %)

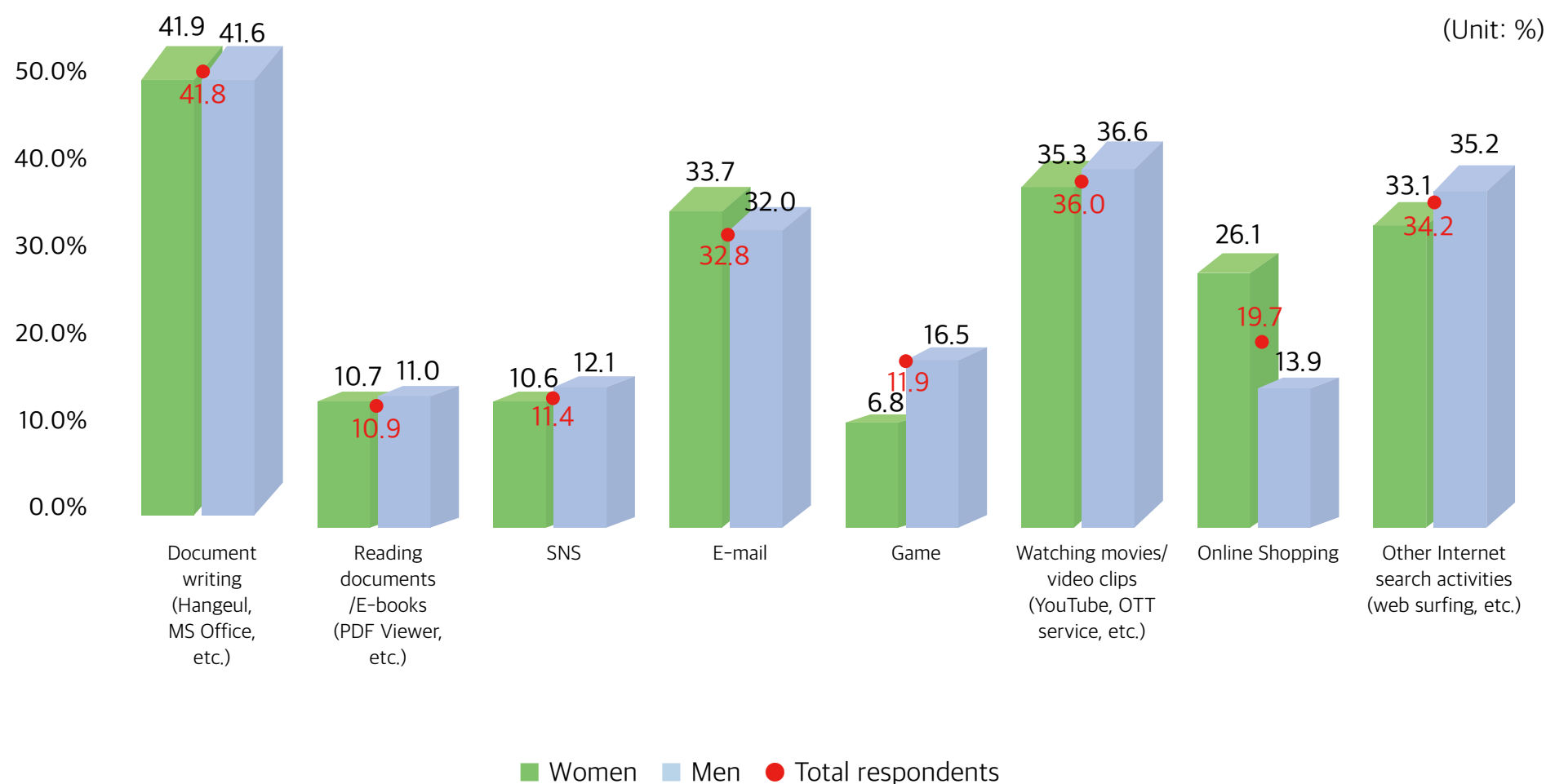


* Based on a four-point scale (degree of adaptation to digital devices: 1 point: not adapted to digital devices at all ~ 4 points: very well adapted to digital devices).

Digital utilization

In our survey, both women and men chose ‘document writing’ the most as the purpose of using a personal computer. Women chose ‘game’ the least, and men chose ‘reading documents/e-books’ the least.

<Figure 4> The purpose of using a personal computer (n=4,536)*



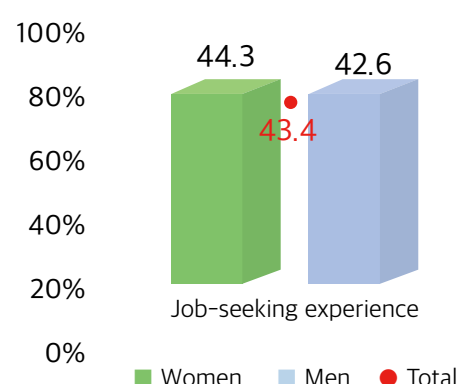
* The sum of ‘first choice’ or ‘second choice’ answers

Job-seeking experience through online platforms

In our survey, more women(44.3%) than men(42.6%) have sought jobs through online platforms. The gap(12.1%p) between women(51.9%) and men(39.8%) was the widest in the group of non-wage workers including the self-employed, employers, and non-wage family workers. Meanwhile, 45.7% of those with a personal computer have used online platforms to seek a job, and 21.8% of those without a personal computer have used online platforms to seek a job. This indicates that the gap in the use of online platforms for seeking jobs widens depending on whether they have a personal computer or not.

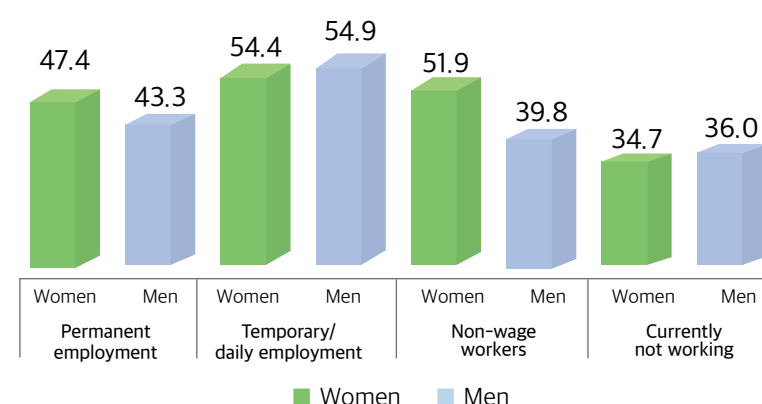
<Figure 5> Job-seeking experience through online platforms (n=5,000)

(Unit: %)



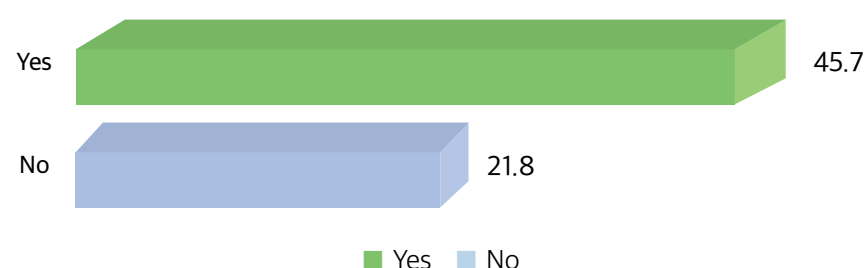
<Figure 6> Job-seeking experience through online platforms by employment status

(Unit: %)



<Figure 7> Possession of a personal computer

(Unit: %)



Policy tasks



The survey confirmed that women have sufficient capabilities to adapt to digital transformation. **However,** more men than women had a personal computer, which is one of the basic elements to ensure digital accessibility. **Meanwhile,** there was a gender gap in the use of digital devices and job-seeking experience via online platforms.

Therefore, a gender-sensitive approach is needed to implement policies to enhance digital accessibility. As we expect to see an increase in the number of people who utilize online platforms to seek for job information and opportunities, we should make efforts to reduce the gender gap in digital accessibility.



Please refer to Korea Women's Development Website's - Publications & Issues - KWDI Brief for more details.

