Quality of Life

During the early phases of post-war development in Korea, the focus was primarily upon rebuilding the nation's infrastructure and establishing a solid industrial base, a prioritization that helped the country rise from the devastation of colonialism and war but did little to address the underlying issues of quality of life beyond simply ensuring survival. Korea has come to be in such a short time it is finally entering an age in which the government is able to create programs dedicated to improving quality of life. The happiness of the Korean populace is now explicitly stated goal of Korean development policy. While happiness in economic terms, the term (or state) is individual vary widely, and the concomitant presents challenges to those charged with the task of measuring quality of life. The economic-based objective, indices oriented at evaluation of happiness has been replaced by an evaluation that includes social and subjective indices as well. Among those who define the index has been difficult. The latter, on the other hand, uses a flexible variety of measurements that can be interpreted differently according to different contexts. This difference does not simply mean that the criterion for the evaluation of happiness should be one single measurement or a mixture of multiple measurements, but rather it means that the interpretation of the level of happiness within a society should require multiple conceptual approaches that differ for philosophical and ideological differences. The concept (Quality of Life) itself is subject to variation as to what happiness levels are no longer defined solely through monetary indices, but through conceptual perspectives on what happiness means thereby facilitating more precise measurements of the wellbeing of both individuals and the society at large.

The Committee on Quality of Life Enhancement in the Prime Minister’s Office is an official organization that evaluates the quality of life in Korea on a year-to-year basis. Local governments also make efforts to evaluate the quality of life of their people, and from these evaluations they derive policy implications. Many private organizations also define their own quality of life index according to their own focus and criteria, but they also try to evaluate the quality of life of others with local communities and the society at large. The Better Life Index is an interactive web-based tool created to engage people in the debate on well-being, and through this process learns what matters the most to them. The tool includes various to compare prevailing attitudes across countries according to the importance you give to 11 topics: community, education, the environment, civic engagement, health, housing, income, jobs, work-life balance, safety, and satisfaction, and work-life balance. Korea was recently ranked 27th out of 36 countries including the 34 member countries of the OECD. Korea and Brazil ranked very high in education, but low in the work-lives balance and life satisfaction. This result primarily comes from the fact that Korean employees work long hours and have therefore been relatively little free for leisure. Moreover, the income gap is an issue that sparked a huge difference in income by 3.5 times between upper 45% and lower 15% on average.

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Social Support Networks represent the percentage of people who have friends or relatives to rely on in case of need. The frequency of contact with others and the quality of personal relationships are other important determinants of the quality of life. Consultations on rule-making in the level of government transparency during the drafting of regulations. Specifically, it reflects the extent to which formal consultations processes are built into the regulatory law-making process. Perception of government reliability is crucial to the social environment and general happiness. Voter turnout is defined as the percentage of the registered population that voted during an election. High voter turnout is indicative of a democracy because it increases the chances that the political system reflects the will of a large number of individuals, and that the government enjoys a high degree of legitimacy. Social participation may take different forms. The most representative of these is participation in social decision making primarily through voting in both elections at the national government level, parliamentary elections, as well as those occurring at the local level. Voter turnout has trended downward from the 1953 Election up to the present, which suggests that increasing social participation in the political process should be a high priority. Active participation in politics is an important way to improve the quality of life. Individual social support networks and access to social welfare facilities and cultural facilities are also important in the evaluation of the quality of life. Through social participation, citizens measure the current standards of quality of life of themselves and the overall quality of life of the society that they belong to. It also allows them to search for ways to improve their quality of life and to reverse their unfavorable. The tradition of active social participation of individuals and groups in a civil society is at the root of democracy and allows for a deeper sense of belonging and greater health and resilience.

Quality of Support Network

Social Welfare and Culture Facilities

Consultations on Rule-making

Voter Turnout

Public Participation

Voter Turnout in the 18th Presidential Election

Voter Turnout in the 18th General Election

Voter Turnout in the 18th Local Election

Quality of Life

Education

University Entrance Quota by St. Do

Number of Students of Primary, Middle and High Schools by St. Do

Expected Level of Education by S. Do

Percentage of People Who Completed High School or More by S. Do

Percentage of Adults Who Completed High School or More

Years in Education

Korean culture has been deeply influenced by Confucianism, which has resulted in a high level of emphasis on education. Since the liberation from Japanese imperial rule in 1945, Korean society has experienced social and economically difficult periods throughout which education has played an important role. First, education has helped to emphasize the role of the citizen in a democratic society. Second, education also provides the tools for enhancing both personal and national growth. The OECD emphasizes the great importance of education, in general, but it also promotes equity of educational opportunities because it recognizes the very clear correlation between the quality of life of individual and the country as a whole. Because Korea’s population is aging, there has been a decrease in the school-age population. In fact, the university admission rates are expected to cease becoming larger than the number of secondary school students, which suggests that a redefinition of universities may become necessary.

The number of years in education is the average duration of formal education in which a 24-year-old child can expect to spend during his/her lifetime until the age of 39. In a fast-changing, knowledge-based economy, education is about learning skills for life. Educational attainment is defined as the percentage of people aged 25 to 64 having at least an upper-secondary (high-school) degree. Students’ skills refer to the average performance of students aged 15, according to PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment). This reflects the extent to which students near the end of their compulsory education (usually around age 15) have acquired some of the knowledge and skills that are essential for full participation in modern society, particularly in reading, mathematics, and science.
Life Expectancy is the average number of years a person can expect to live. There have been remarkable gains in life expectancy, with the average number of years a person can expect to live in life expectancy is very high in the capital region and in Jeju. The reason for this may be that the capital region has the better medical infrastructure and Jeju has more green space and better services and amenities; through these there are significant differences between a large capital and other regions. The difference between life expectancy for men and women is higher in 2013 than in 2001. While the number of years of life expectancy is important, life itself is not to over-strive for life extension and focus on the quality of life. Statistics Korea has been conducting a nationwide life survey since 2001. Twenty-four hours a day to the index Leisure and Personal Care is the average number of minutes per day spent on leisure and personal care, including eating and sleeping. The index Employees Working Long Hours is in percentage of employees working more than 50 hours a week on average. Long work hours may impact physical, psychological, and economic stress.
A higher quality of life typically is associated with such amenities as green spaces and public parks, concentrations such as water and sewage provision, and services such as the reduced risk of noise and radon, especially as general risk management. The Qingyuan and Mediumland Administration of City contain an extraordinarily high percentage of public parks. Large local governments’ green tract ratios show that Qingyuan and Mediumland Administration of City, which are all located in mountainous areas, contain a larger share of green space. But there are significant variations in such ratios between cities and counties (city district); within larger local governments. The trend provides evidence that if cities and counties in cities are all high quality, especially in light of the fact that Korea is in the representative country of water shortages within the OECD. Noise pollution is a tremendous problem in large cities, particularly in those with heavy industry and airports in their vicinity.

Radiation is a worthless, invisible and tasteless gas that is generated as a result of the process of uranium’s radioactive decay. In reality, it is a natural radioactive process and is defined everywhere on earth. Radioactivity includes coal radiation from rocks, cosmic radiation from the sun, natural radiation from air and food, and artificial radiation from radioactive power plants. Soil and crops can suffer radiation therapy equipment. The problem on the radial distribution map clearly shows that the highest concentrations of nuclear energy are from urban areas and cities. While radiation can be a health hazard with prolonged exposure, it has become a norm to treat areas where the amount of radioactive surfaces is less and therefore less of this gas is trapped.