An age-friendly baseline assessment of Sejong city

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1. Outline of Age-Friendliness Survey of Sejong City

☐ In order to promote an age-friendly environment in Sejong city in eight areas of Sejong city, all which are relevant to the deciding factors of Sejong's physical environment, socio-economic environment, health and social services, evaluation and recognition of age-friendliness of baby-boomers and elderly people of 65 years old or older are examined and the results are to be used as basic resources and also for issue-making and preparing action plans to make Sejong an age-friendly city.

☐ Age-friendliness was examined multi-dimensionally on the total population of 62,333 people of 55 years old or older (19.8% of the total population) as population and on the elder generation of 65~74 years old and 75 years old or older including baby-boomers (55~64 years old) as sample group, who were selected with their residential districts, ages and gender through 1~3 times and four FGIs (focus group interview) were conducted with social welfare center staffs, senior citizens association, head of village council and citizens' promotion committee.

☐ For the examination of age-friendliness of Sejong, appropriate questions were selected to reflect situations and urban environment in Sejong with reference to 8 global network areas of WHO's age-friendly city and various literatures.

☐ This survey employed frequency analysis, cross-tabulations, technical analysis and MANOVA with confidence level of 95% and sampling error of ±3.1%p.
2. Analysis Results of Age-Friendliness Examination

2.1 Examination analysis of Sejong's age-friendliness by 8 areas

2.1.1 External environment and facilities

☐ As the results of examining age-friendliness with the aged population living in Sejong city and residential districts in regard to external environment and facilities (10 questions), it was found that while residential districts, Eup (2.941)-Myeon (3.382) showed lower age-friendliness than overall average (3.412) of Sejong, age-friendliness was low in preliminary aged people (55~64 years old) (3.214) and there were statistically significant differences in residential districts (Eup-Myeon-Dong) and the aged people's age(p<.05).

2.1.2 Residential Environment Stability

☐ As the results of examining age-friendliness with the aged population living in Sejong city and residential districts in regard to 10 questions of residential environment stability, it was found that residential districts Eup(2.489)-Myeon(2.917) showed lower age-friendliness than overall average of Sejong city (2.982), age-friendliness was low in preliminary aged people (55~64 years old) (2.869) and there were statistically significant differences in residential districts (Eup-Myeon-Dong) and the aged people's age(p<.05).

2.1.3 Transportation Convenience

☐ As the results of examining age-friendliness with the aged population living in Sejong city and residential districts in regard to 8 questions of transportation convenience, residential district Eup(2.848) showed lower age-friendliness than overall average of Sejong city (3.115), age-friendliness was low in preliminary aged people (55~64 years old) (3.042) and the aged people of 74 years old or older (3.112), and there were statistically significant differences in residential districts (Eup-Myeon-Dong) and the aged people's age(p<.05).

2.1.4 Leisure and Social Activities

☐ As the results of examining age-friendliness with the aged population living in Sejong city and residential districts in regard to 8 questions of leisure and social activities, it
was found that residential districts Eup(2.571)-Myeon(2.836) showed lower age-friendliness than overall average of Sejong city (2.922), age-friendliness was low in preliminary aged people (55~64 years old) (2.754) and there were statistically significant differences in residential districts (Eup-Myeon-Dong) and the aged people's age (p<.05).

2.1.5 Social Participation and Jobs

□ As the results of examining age-friendliness with the aged population living in Sejong city and residential districts in regard to 10 questions of social participation and jobs, it was found that residential districts Eup(2.465)-Myeon(2.733) showed lower age-friendliness than overall average of Sejong city (2.690), age-friendliness was low in preliminary aged people (55~64 years old) (2.658) and there were statistically significant differences in residential districts (Eup-Myeon-Dong) and the aged people's age (p<.05).

2.1.6 Social Respect and Integration

□ As the results of examining age-friendliness with the aged population living in Sejong city and residential districts in regard to 8 questions of social respect and integration, it was found that residential districts Dong(2.853)-Eup(2.865) showed lower age-friendliness than overall average of Sejong city (2.894), age-friendliness was low in preliminary aged people (55~64 years old) (2.683) and there were statistically significant differences in residential districts (Eup-Myeon-Dong) and the aged people's age (p<.05).

2.1.7 Communication and Information

□ As the results of examining age-friendliness with the aged population living in Sejong city and residential districts in regard to 8 questions of communication and information, it was found that residential district Eup(2.897) showed lower age-friendliness than overall average of Sejong city (3.227), age-friendliness was low in preliminary aged people (55~64 years old) (3.107) and there were statistically significant differences in residential districts (Eup-Myeon-Dong) and the aged people's age (p<.05).
2.1.8 Health and Community Care

As the results of examining age-friendliness with the aged population living in Sejong city and residential districts in regard to 8 questions of health and community care, it was found that residential districts Eup(2.954)-Myeon(3.088) showed lower age-friendliness than overall average of Sejong city (3.199). Age-friendliness was low in preliminary aged people (55~64 years old) (3.055) and there were statistically significant differences in residential districts (Eup-Myeon-Dong) and the aged people's age (p<.05).

2.2 Analysis Results of Examining Sejong’s Age-friendliness by 8 Areas

External environment and facilities which are easily accessible by the aged with different physical abilities including park and walking trails near their houses, benches and public toilets, information office and service only for the aged, elevator, convenience facilities and wheelchairs are evaluated more favorably in residential district Dong and older age than in residential districts Eup and Myeon.

On the questions if their current houses are appropriate for their later years, safe from natural disasters like fire and earthquake, and located where uses of public transportation and other convenient facilities like public agencies or medical centers are convenient, residential district Dong and the aged people (65~74 years old) gave positive responses compared to residential districts Eup and Myeon.

On public transportation service interval (village bus, subway), route map, schedule size, visibility and seats only for the aged, residential district Myeon was higher than residential districts Eup and Myeon, and the aged group (65~74 years old) gave positive responses compared to the aged group (55~64 years old) and the aged group (74 years old or older).

On the regions which are equipped well with social activity space considering the senior citizens' interests and concerns, institutions providing systematic education and its related information, and simple procedure and easy access for social activities of the aged, residential district Dong and the aged group (64~74 years old) marked more positive responses than residential districts Eup and Myeon, and the aged group (55~64 years old) and the aged group (64~74 years old).
On volunteer services for the aged with mobility difficulties or economic weakness, variety of volunteer services and encouragement and support of volunteer services, residential districts Eup and Myeon were weaker than residential district Dong, and the aged group (55~64 years old) and the aged group (74 years old or older) were more negative than the aged group (65~74 years old).

On regions with high frequency of the aged related news reports on newspapers or broadcast, high respect and care of the aged and easy access to buy supplies for silver, residential district Dong and the aged group (65~74 years old) marked more positive responses than residential districts Eup and Myeon and the aged group (55~64 years old) and the aged group (65~74 years old).

Readability of public facilities information, use of standard language, conversation considering hearing and efforts to enhance understanding were higher in residential district Dong than in residential districts Eup and Myeon and more positive in the aged group (55~64 years old) < the aged group (74 years old or older) < the aged group (65~74 years old).

On health and local community care related to accessibility of medical and welfare facilities, convenience of procedures in using them, frequency of regular medical examination services and opportunity to provide public medical services, residential district Dong showed better recognition than residential districts Eup and Myeon, and the aged group (65~74 years old) marked more positive responses than the aged group (55~64 years old) and the aged group (74 years old or older).

### 2.2.1 Average Comparison of Age-friendliness Examination by Eup, Myeon and Dong in Sejong City

As the results of comparing the Sejong's average values of the 8 areas suggested by WHO's age-friendly city global network guidelines, the average value of 'external environment and facilities area' marked the highest with 3.412, followed by 'communication and information area (3.227)', 'health and local community care area (3.199)', 'transportation convenience (3.115)', which exceeded average value 3.055. The average value of 'housing environment and stability area' was 2.982, followed by 'leisure and social activities area (2.982)', 'social respect and integration (2.894)', 'social participation and jobs (2.690)'.

The average value of external environment and facilities area of the 8 areas was 3.412; Dongs(3.901)>Myeons(3.382)>Eups(2.941) by residential district and 65~74 years old(3.584)>74 years old or older(3.490)>55~64 years old(3.214) by age.

The average value of housing environment stability area was 2.982; Dongs(3.567)>Myeons(2.917) >Eups(2.489) by residential district and 65~74 years old(3.081)>74 years old or older(3.027)>55~64 years old(2.869) by age.

The average value of transportation convenience area was 3.114; Myeons(3.225)>Dongs(3.137)>Eups(2.848) by residential district and 65~74 years old(3.208)>74 years old or older(2.929)>55~64 years old(2.869) by age.

The average value of leisure and social activities area was 2.922; Dongs(3.418)>Myeons(2.836)>Eups(2.571) by residential district and 65~74 years old(3.122)>74 years old or older(2.929)>55~64 years old(2.754) by age.

The average value of social participation and jobs area was 2.690; Dongs(2.811)>Myeons(2.733)>Eups(2.465) by residential area and 65~74 years old(2.730)>74 years old or older(2.690)>55~64 years old(2.658) by age.

2.2.2 Strengths and Obstacles of Sejong’s Being Age-Friendly City

Strengths of Sejong’s carrying out an age-friendly city

According to the population growth rate of Eup, Myeon and Dong of Sejong city as the administrative capital of the Republic of Korea, while population of Eups and Myeons is on the decrease, that of Dongs is on the increase, so Sejong city has established the foundation of carrying out comprehensive age-friendly city related policies (woman and children friendly city).

Sejong Metropolitan Autonomous City has carried out total 125 age-friendly policies with a firm will to join the WHO global network of age-friendly cities since 2018.

Sejong city has developed 46 particular projects to accomplish the seven core strategies including 'securing thorough welfare services', 'building warm local community', 'expansion of public medical services', 'vivid education taught in local community', 'expansion of better jobs', 'making sustainable and livable community', and 'making a city of rich and leisurely culture' with a view to create 'citizens centered social security and make a happy Sejong for all' which were presented by the 4th Local Community Social Security Project.
Sejong city has supported the expansion of elderly’s social participations led by Sejong Senior Club, village based senior leisure and culture facilities and customized lifelong education.

I Obstacles in Sejong’s carrying out an age-friendly city

Sejong has such obstacles in carrying out an age-friendly city as lack of general awareness and preparation of aging society and insufficiency of consciousness and communication for recognition and consideration of the elderly in various areas including parks, public facilities, housing stability, transportation convenience, social participation and jobs and for solving generational conflicts.

There are problems of social integration like discrimination against and exclusion of the elderly, social isolation of the elderly, and weakening the elderly support by family.

Sejong has a deepening imbalance by Eup, Myeon and Dong in terms of all kinds of convenience facilities and SOC facilities and infrastructures for basic livelihood and weakening urban functions.

Sejong lacks the general recognition and preparation of aging due to rapid aging and inappropriate coping with it.

Sejong lacks welfare, culture and leisure facilities for the aged, community care system for the aged, and daycare centers for the aged.

Sejong has poor old age income security systems like public pension and lacks the jobs for the elderly and preventive and caring measures for the sick and weak elderly people.

Sejong has inconvenient public transportations, poor universal design plans, and inconvenience in using public and commercial facilities.

There are lack of information provision of the elderly and difficulty in acquiring and accessing to public information or guide signs due to poor adaptation to new media like computers and smart phones.
2.3 Basic Direction for Making Sejong City an Age-friendly City

As the results of examining Sejong’s age-friendliness in the 8 areas, demands and major policies of the elderly with reference to regions and ages should be considered, making a city that can guarantee the quality of life for socially disadvantaged class due to diseases or disabilities should be set as the basic direction and making Sejong city a convenient and livable city guaranteeing healthy and convenient old age for all citizens should be established as the ultimate policy direction.

To accomplish these policy directions, both top-down and bottom-up policy enforcement methods should be utilized to build a cooperative system of Sejong citizens and balanced age-friendly society should be developed through an analysis of infrastructure gaps relevant to age-friendliness level by eup, myeon, and dong.