An age-friendly baseline assessment of Daejeon city

1) Outline of Age-friendly baseline assessment

❍ Survey on age-friendly baseline assessment in Daejeon is conducted based on the World Health Organization's guidelines, aiming to build foundational data for identifying issues related to age-friendly and establishing an age-friendly city implementation plan in Daejeon. The survey assesses the perceptions and evaluations of old people and pre-elderly across various aspects of social, economic, cultural, health, welfare, and physical environments in Daejeon, aligning with the eight domains outlined by the WHO.

❍ The survey was conducted on citizens aged 55 or older residing in Daejeon, including pre-seniors (55 to 60 years old) and baby boomers (61 to 69 years old), Proportionate stratified sampling was used based on the age group of 70 years or older, gender, and autonomous district. The individual visit survey was conducted for approximately four weeks from July 1, 2023, to July 30, 2023.

❍ The survey items were listed based on the WHO guidelines and survey items from five internal cities. In the first phase, the research team created 89 items, which were then narrowed down to 80 items through the second expert advisory meeting. After the third expert advisory meeting and research team discussions, a total of 74 items were selected across the 8 areas.

2) Analysis Results of Age-friendly baseline

❍ The average scores on a 5-point scale for each of the 8 areas, the transportation(3.37) received the most positive evaluation. The housing (3.34), communication and information(3.34), and community support and health services(3.34) domains had the same scores. Following this, respect and social inclusion(3.32), outdoor space and buildings(3.25), social participation(3.22), civic engagement and employment(3.13) were ranked in descending order.
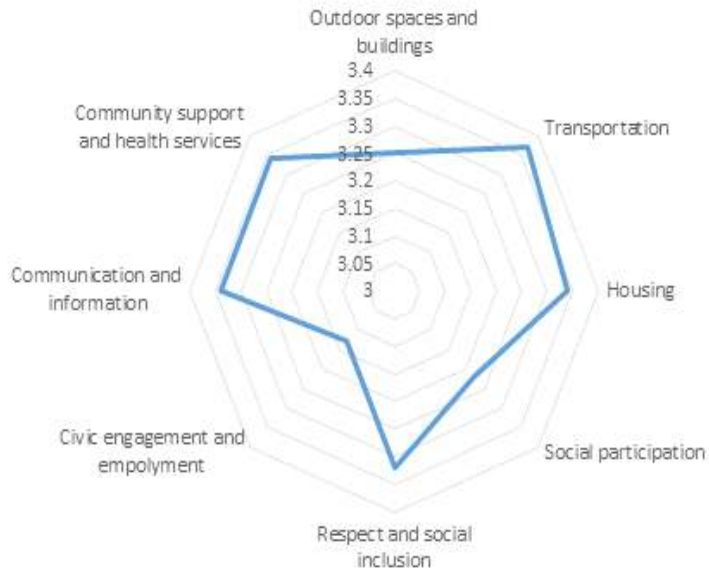
Figure 1. Age-friendly baseline assessment at 8 areas

(1) Outdoor spaces and buildings

○ The results for 13 items showed that comfortable parks and walking paths(3.73), patrols by police and security officers(3.46), relaxed crossing times at crosswalks(3.42), and cleanliness of public spaces (average 3.36 points) were the top-rated score.

○ Items with average scores below the average level are bicycle load(2.97) and comfortable sidewalks(2.94), indicating the need for support to improve sidewalks and bicycle users.
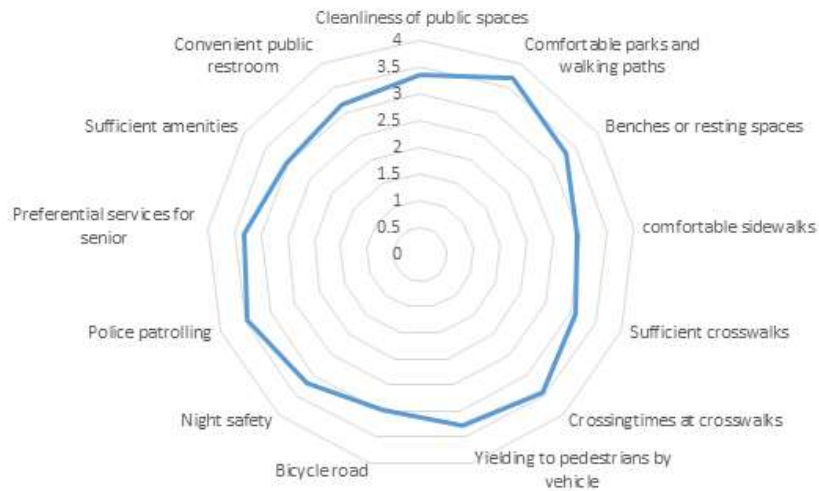
Figure 2. Outdoor spaces and buildings

(2) Transportation

○ The results for 12 items showed that mobility using public transportation(3.53), comfortable public transportation(3.49), public transportation on weekends and at night(3.47), Safe public transportation(3.41) so, conveniences related to public transportation were at a level above average.

○ Items with relatively lower scores include road management(3.30), Public transportation information(3.28), Safety education for elderly drivers(3.28), Comfortable transportation stops(3.22), It suggests that support may be needed in areas such as maintaining public transportation stops, providing information on public transportation usage, and enhancing traffic safety education.

(3) Housing

○ The results for 7 items showed that home repair service(3.53), Reasonable rent(3.41), comfortable housing(3.41), senior housing(3.33) community care service environment(3.29), home repair service(3.25), safe living environment(31.6). So, it is necessary to expand home
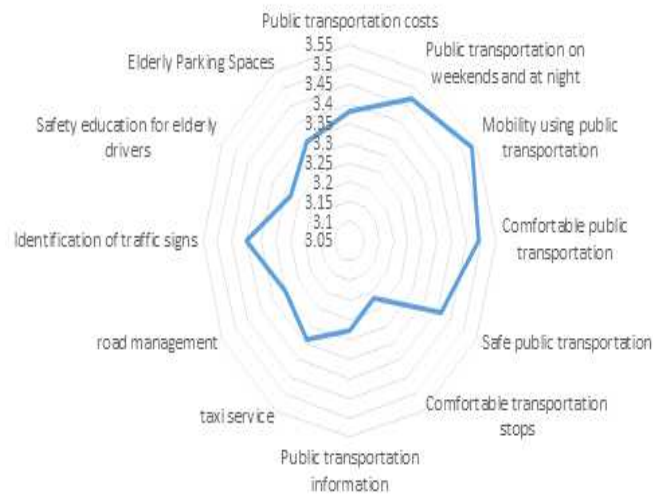
Figure 3. Transportation
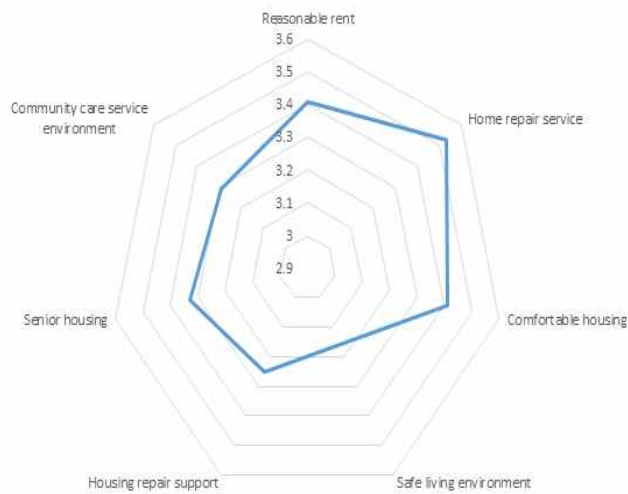repair support for the elderly for a safe life.

Figure 4. Housing

(4) Social participation

○ The results for 8 items showed that cost of participating in the event(3.37), various event spaces(3.33) events involving seniors(3.23) were at a higher level than the average.

❍ Participation in events and gatherings(3.16), various social activities (3.13), event information(3.12) received relatively lower scores. The need for policies to provide diverse social activities, and enhance access to event information has been identified.
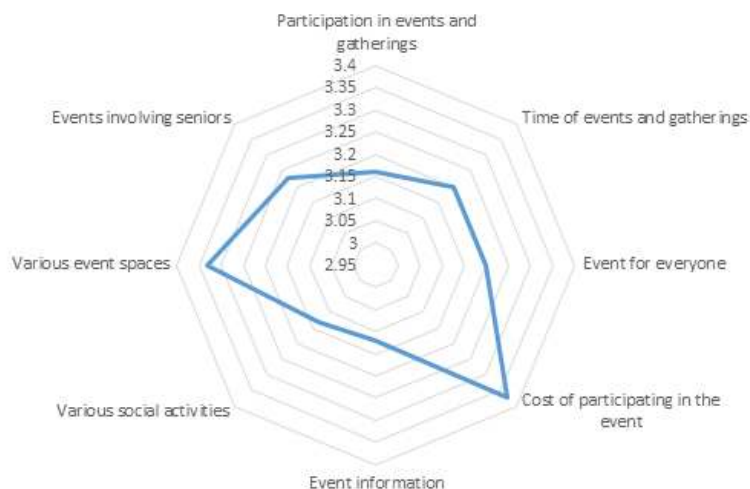

Figure 5. Social participation

(5) Respect and social inclusion

❍ The results for 8 items showed that Purchase goods and services(3.44), Learning opportunities(3.44), courteous service provider(3.38), support for the contributions of seniors(3.33), diverse services for vulnerable seniors(3.33) were at a higher level than the average.

❍ Policies that reflect the opinions of elderly(3.27), image of seniors in the media(3.22), family events with seniors(3.18) received relatively lower scores. A system to incorporate the opinions of the elderly into policies and programs to promote a positive image of the elderly are necessary.
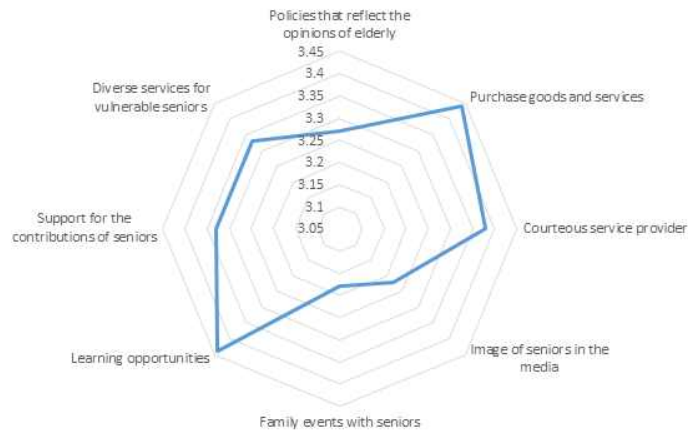
Figure 6. Respect and social inclusion

(6) Civic engagement and employment

○ The results for 8 items showed that discrimination in the labor market(3.34), Ederly participation in decision-making processes(3.28), suitable working environment(3.22), volunteer participation(3.20) were at a higher level than the average.

○ Entrepreneur information(2.95), suitable employment(2.86) received relatively lower scores. So, entrepreneur and job support programs need to be strengthened.
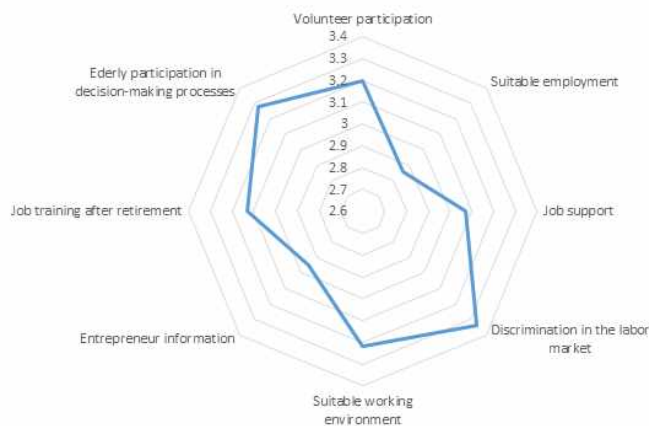

Figure 7. Civic engagement and employment

(7) Communication and information

〇 The results for 9 items showed that information from media(3.50), automated response services(3.45), information from public institutions (3.43), convenient unmanned devices(3.37) were at a higher level than the average.

〇 Kindness of public service(3.31), information acquisition(3.28), computer and internet costs(3.28), information through acquaintances(3.11) received relatively lower scores.
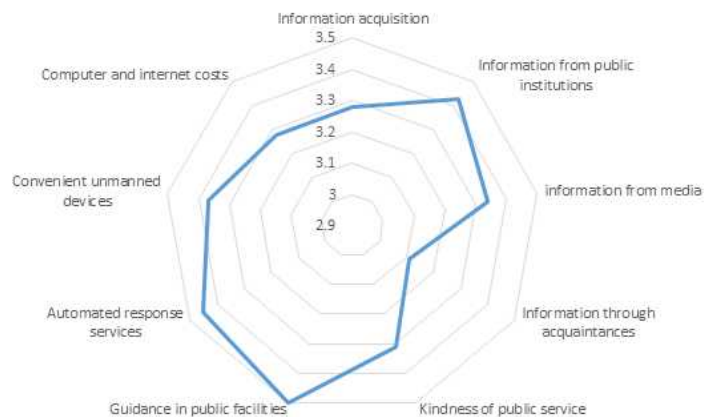

Figure 8. Communication and information

(8) Community support and health services

〇 The results for 9 items showed that social service costs(3.55), use of service(3.43), healthcare services costs(3.40), Service information(3.38), Simple service usage processes(3.35) were at a higher level than the average.

〇 Healthcare services(3.31), expertise of service providers(3.31), moving to social services institutions(3.20), moving to healthcare services institutions(3.14) received relatively lower scores. Therefore, programs are needed to support movement to social services and healthcare service institutions.
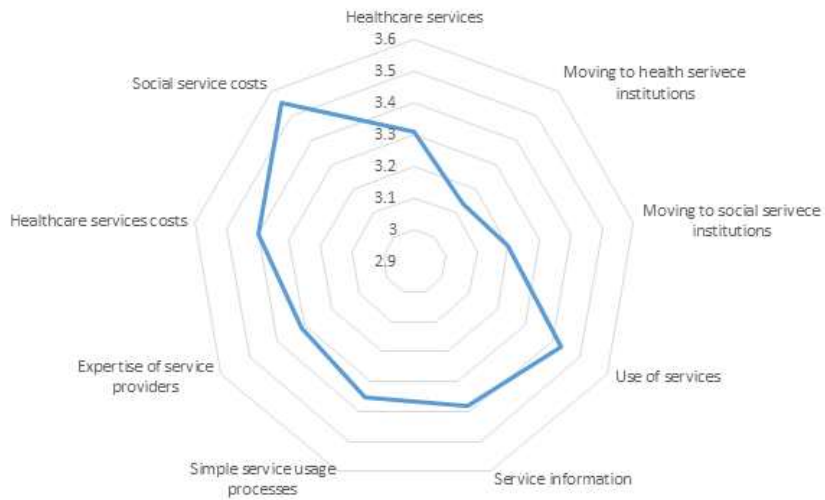
Figure 9. Community support and health services

(9) Summary of Focused Group Interview(FGI) results

○ FGI were aimed at conducting an in-depth diagnosis for the Age-Friendly City baseline in Daejeon. A brief summary of the results derived from the expert intensive group interview (FGI) conducted with 10 experts such as elderly welfare, elderly employment, and volunteering is as follows

① Outdoor spaces and buildings

- Overall, the facilities and parks are well-equipped; however, regional disparities exist, and there are external facilities(buildings, roads, etc.) that are inconvenient for the elderly to use.

- Programs are needed to inspect and improve external facilities to ensure that the elderly can use them more easily.

② Transportation

- There exists a disparity in public transportation between the outskirts and the central areas. Alternatives are needed for elderly drivers and pedestrians to address this discrepancy.

- Measures such as expanding designated seating for the elderly and

frail individuals are necessary to enhance public transportation convenience.

③ Housing
- Old public rental homes have a high risk of accidents.
- There is a need for efforts to expand housing tailored to the elderly and provide support for rental housing repairs and maintenance.

④ Social participation
- While events for the elderly exist, there is a lack of information and promotion, and events are sometimes held in locations that do not consider convenient transportation for seniors.
- There is a need for effort to make event information, promotion, and accessibility to address the current limitations.

⑤ Respect and social inclusion
- There is a shortage of administration and services that consider the needs of the elderly.
- Expanding intergenerational programs and efforts to improve the image and perception of the elderly generation are necessary.

⑥ Civic engagement and employment
- While there is job support, it is insufficient, and there exists a disparity in the quality of employment opportunities.
- Volunteer opportunities for the elderly are losing their significance and meaning.
- There is a need for a centralized platform to comprehensively disseminate information on support for the elderly, including volunteer opportunities and job assistance.

⑦ Communication and information
- Information regarding policies and support through official channels is inadequate. Elderly individuals find it challenging to acquire

information through digital devices.

- There is a need to develop educational programs to enhance information accessibility.

⑧ Community support and health services
- There is a regional disparity in the accessibility of health service facilities
- Measures to address regional disparities in healthcare services include establishing visitation support services and consistently expanding integrated care services.

3) Implications for Planning

❍ First, there is a need for infrastructure improvement, including external environments, transportation, and healthcare facilities, to address regional disparities.
- Programs for the continuous inspection and improvement of outdoor facilities such as parks and walking paths is necessary.
- Expansion of public transportation infrastructure and specialized transportation options for the elderly, with a focus on vulnerable areas, is necessary.
- Support for housing repairs, particularly in older residential areas and public housing, is needed to enhance safety features within homes.

❍ Second, there is a need to promote social engagement for the elderly, including employment opportunities.
- In-depth analysis of the desire for social engagement is needed, along with programs that offer diverse opportunities for participation in social activities.
- It is essential to identify job aspirations among the retired(aged 61-69) and the middle-aged to address their employment needs. Additionally, there is a need for social participation programs for those aged 70 and above who may have lower employment need.
- As part of social engagement, there is a need to closely assess the volunteer need of the elderly.

❍ Third, there is a need to expand local community support and

information systems.

- Improving accessibility is essential for increasing the utilization rate of community service facilities.
- In addition to digital information literacy education, there is a need for information dissemination programs through various channels.

○ Fourth, there is a need to expand community support in areas such as health and care.

- Efforts are needed to address the disparities in health and care service infrastructure between regions by expanding small-scale health service facilities and consistently increasing integrated care services.