

# **A Study on the Body Types of the Koreans Resident in China and Russia -with the Focus on the Women in Their 40'S-**

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## **I . Introduction**

Koreans resident in China and Russia, though belonging geographically to their respective cultural societies, have kept their own traditional manners and customs and exhibited the characteristics different from those of the Chinese and Russian ethnic groups. But Koreans resident in overseas, despite their same national origin, may show different physical characteristics among them depending on the differences in socio-cultural environment, living conditions, or economic levels.

This study aims at the analysis of the body types of the Korean women in their 40's living in Yanbian and Harbin, China and those in Ussrsk, Russia, who account for the largest number among those Koreans resident in overseas.

## **II . Review of Literature**

The studies on the body types of Koreans resident in overseas are limited to Chosunjok, Koreans living in China. Of the preceding studies, Nam, Eun-Woo, Bae, Sung-Kwon & Park Ki-Man(1996) compared the physical features found among Korean children in Korea and ethnic Korean children of Yanbian area in China, and showed that the physical conditions of the former were better than those of the latter in weight, bust circumference, and height. The research of Im, Soon et al.(1999) on the college women's body types found among Koreans in Korea and Chosunjok in China showed that the Chosunjok college women were generally shorter in height and smaller in size than their Korean counterparts, and its analysis also resulted in the group of extremely short in height and small in size, rarely found among the college women in Korea. In addition, the study by Seok, Hye-Jung & Im, Soon (2004), which compared the male subjects in their 20's of Korea and Chosunjok in China found the Chosunjok males had the body types

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of shorter height with smaller size than Korean males, and the classification of the body types resulted in those of the very short height with small size and of the ordinary height and fat appearance.

The findings of existing studies, in summary, showed that Koreans resident in China revealed the characteristics of body types different from those found in Korea because of the long separation under different environment, despite their unitary ethnic origins.

### **III. Method**

The issues of the study are as follows:

1. To present the physical measurements of the Korean women in their 40's living in Yanbian and Harbin, China and those in Ussurisk, Russia.
2. To compare the physical measurements of the Korean women in their 40's living in Yanbian and Harbin, China and those in Ussurisk, Russia.
3. To understand the factors affecting the features in the body types by analyzing the factors of the physical measurements of the Korean women in their 40's living in Yanbian and Harbin, China and those in Ussurisk, Russia.

The subjects of the measurement were 114 Korean women in their 40's living in Yanbian and Harbin in China and 97 Koreans women of the same age group living in Ussurisk, Russia, and the measurements were made over their whole body. The periods of the measurement were February 12~22, 2004 for those in China and February 13~25, 2005 for those in Russia. The number of items measured was 81 in total: 20 in height, 12 in width, 13 in depth, 14 in circumference, 20 in length, and 2 in others. The data analysis was conducted for the descriptive statistics, factor analysis, and t-test by using SPSS win program.

### **IV. Results and Conclusion**

1. The items in height and circumference, among 81 items of physical measurements, showed big individual differences for the subjects both in China and in Russia. In particular, those in Russia, in comparison with those in China, showed large margins of differences in all items of circumference and thus revealed big individual differences in obesity.

2. The comparison of physical measurements of the subjects showed differences in 65 items other than stature, under bust height, waist height, waist height(omphalion), abdominal height, knee height, mesosternal height, gluteal fold height, neck breadth, bideltoid breadth, the bust point - bust point, elbow depth, knee circumference, wrist circumference, interscye front and shoulder length.

3. The factors constituting the body types of those in China were found in the obesity, vertical size, front upper-half length, leg size, back upper-half length, arm sizes, shoulder length, neck size, chest shape and shoulder angle. The total accountability was 78.55 %. On the other hand,

the factors constituting the body types of those in Russia were evident in the obesity, vertical size, shoulder length, front upper-half length, leg sizes, back upper-half length, ankle height, arm size, scye depth, crotch length and shoulder angle. The total accountability was 82.29 %.

The above study showed the different characteristics of body types between Koreans living in China and Russia. The changes in physical development could be detected in the same ethnic group living apart over 70 years, originating from the differences in socio-cultural aspects, dietary habits, or economic levels.

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