

Healthy City Project in Korea: Policy Development for the Korean Healthy Cities

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■ Background and Objectives

We shall classify types of Korean Healthy Cities and develop developmental strategy for Healthy City Projects by types in order to support program in a city where a Healthy City would be promoted. The purpose of this paper as follows: to analyze the types of a Healthy Cities and establish developmental strategy by types in Korean Healthy Cities.

■ Methods

As of 2009, we analyzed the Healthy City Projects which Korea's Healthy Cities are promoting to classify types of them and analyzed the plans which each Si, Gun and Gu have. Targeted 38 cities which have full membership in Korea Healthy Cities Partnership, collected the plans of 30 cities among 34 cities excluding four cities which don't have the plans (collection rate: 88.2%) to classify the types of Healthy Cities by their projects name. 30 cities have established and promoted projects of 903 in total.

■ Results

1. Types of Healthy Cities

Healthy life practice type corresponding to the first type was 161, ranked the top and setting approach type corresponding to the second type was 58, ranked the second, sanitation and environment improvement type corresponding to the third type was 120, the fourth type corresponding to healthy transportation

projects was 48, the fifth type corresponding to improvement of health equity was 78 and the sixth corresponding to health industry innovation was 29. It shows that there are lots of health promoting type Healthy City projects in Korea.

2. Characteristic of Healthy Cities by Types

The characteristic of Healthy Cities by types is as follow: Cities of healthy life practice type put emphasis on the projects of no-smoking, moderate drinking, sports, and nutrition. Setting approach type cities work on the projects in physical places and living sites, such as towns, schools, working places, hospitals, restaurants, and markets. Sanitation and environment improvement type cities put emphasis on the improvement of sanitation and environment, such as air control, water quality control, waste control, formation of parks/greens/tree-lined streets, afforestation of watersides, and correspondence with climate changes. Healthy transportation type cities put emphasis on the projects of welfare traffic, safe traffic, healthy traffic, green traffic, and convenient public traffic system. Health equity improvement type cities work on improvement of equity for vulnerable groups, and support and speciality for welfare, residence, and living water for handicapped, the low-income elderly, children, adolescents, women, and the aged. Health industry innovation type cities put emphasis on the regional specialization projects related with health tourism and health.

■ Discussion

Participation in the new public health fields through conducting Healthy City projects can, in this regard, be a new kind of public health movement in Korea.

The effect of the project needs to be analyzed based on the classified types. The project developments can affect the Healthy Cities indicators for evaluation. Awarding system can be considered by establishing types of Healthy Cities and specialized Healthy Cities projects by types can be also developed.

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