

# A Comparison between Dependent and Independent Attitude Groups Regarding Elderly Lives and Living Arrangements\*

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**Abstract :** The purpose of this research was to study opinions on elderly housing and attitudes toward the problems related to elderly lives, which were due to dependence or independence in later life. The survey was conducted among middle-aged people in their fifties, living in Seoul. The final sample included 498 respondents. Since the statistical analysis was focused only on independent and dependent groups, total cases for the analysis were 373. The results of this study were as follows. Firstly, the group that was more independent in later life tended to be healthier, lived with a husband or wife, had no children, and had more monthly income and assets. Secondly, the group that was more independent in later life believed that they had the sole responsibility of resolving later life issues. The group that was more dependent believed that their family, not themselves, must resolve their later life problems. The independent group wanted to continue their work or enjoy leisure. Thirdly, the group that was more independent about elderly housing stated that they were responsible for it, while the other group stated that their family was. There were no significant differences between the two groups in terms of general idea, and social interest. However, the independent group answered that more development and management of elderly housing were needed. The expected living arrangement in their later lives was similar. Also, there were no differences between the two groups in living with family or the demand for service from elderly housing.

**Key Words :** elderly lives, elderly housing, dependent group, independent group

## I. Introduction

As of 2002, the population of the elderly people over the age of 65 in Korea is estimated to be about 3.77 million, which is 7.9% of the total population and will be 14.4% by 2019. This figure suggests that Korea will step into an aged society.

The increasing speed of the elderly population is so fast that it is unprecedented in the history of the world. Thus, the elderly problem is very urgent to preparations need to be made to accommodate them. The Korean welfare policies for the aged currently include issues such as health, leisure, labor, and economy. Housing policies have

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focused on the production of housing for the population in general, rather than on housing especially designed for the elderly because of housing shortages in Korea.

Also, the Korean family structure has been changed representing a more nuclear family where a husband and a wife are the central figures. The authority of the elderly has been diminished, so that the elderly being supported by younger generations has been weakened. This same change has occurred in the consciousness of parent generations. Due to the vast increase in the elderly population and the changes in traditional filial duties, the importance of the elderly living arrangement is being greatly emphasized.

Elderly people can increase the quality of their lives through decreasing unwanted behavior and increasing social behavior, activity, and ratio of positive to negative feelings. It is still relevant to ask how closely do environmental opportunities have to match the characteristics of the user (Lawton, 2001). Therefore, it has been recommended in many researches that elderly housing be developed in accordance with elderly life styles for their later lives. There are problems with elderly housing that must be resolved, and it is very important to provide appropriate housing that satisfies the elderly, but there have been few studies done concerning preferred housing for senior citizens according to their inclination after retirement.

The purpose of this research is to study attitudes toward elderly life and elderly housing related to this viewpoint, which is due to the dependence or independence in their later lives. As such, the following subjects are studied in detail.

<Subject 1> What is the respondents' general characteristic between independent and dependent group?

<Subject 2> What is their attitudes toward elderly life between independent and dependent group?

<Subject 3> What is their attitudes toward elderly housing between independent and dependent group?

## II. Literature Review

### 1. Elderly Population and Consciousness of Support for the Aged Parents

As of 2002, population above the age of 65 constituted 7.9%, or 3.77 million, indicating that Korea has an aging society. This portion is expected to increase to 14.4% by 2019, making Korea one of the larger aged societies. By 2026, when Korea will enter the super-aged society, the index of social care for the aged, which is the ratio of the elderly people per total productive population, is expected to be 29.7% (National Statistical Office of Korea, 2002). That means 3 working people will support one senior citizen.

According to the statistics, 70.7% of respondents said that all senior citizens have to be supported by their children in 2002, which was decreased down 19.2% point from 89.9% in 1998 (National Statistical Office of Korea, 2003). This result showed that people's attitudes toward the responsibility for supporting the elderly is changing from the family alone to the government and family together.

&lt;Table 1&gt; The Increase of Senior Citizen Population

(Unit: a thousand, %)

Population	YYear	2002 (Ageing society)	2010	2019 (Aged society)	2026 (Super aged society)
Total population		47,640	49,594	50,619	50,610
Over 65		3,773	5,302	7,034	10,113
Ratio of over 65		7.9 %	10.7 %	14.4 %	20.0 %
Cost of Support for the Elderly		11.1	14.8	19.8	29.7

Source: National Statistical Office of Korea (2002). 2002 Population and Housing Statistical Research.

&lt;Table 2&gt; Consciousness of Support for the Aged Parents

(Unit: %)

Consciousness of Support for the Aged Parents	Self- responsibility	Family	Family & Government	Government & Society	Other	Total
Year						
1998	8.1	89.9	-	1.9	0.1	100.0
2002	9.6	70.7	18.2	1.3	0.2	100.0

Source: National Statistical Office of Korea (2003). 2003 Social Statistical Research.

## 2. Senior Citizens' Preference for Living Arrangement

The aged are called people who are placed in a complex situation experiencing their own changes in physiological, physical, emotional, psychological, environmental, and behavioral caused by the aging process of human beings, and they have been generally recognized as passive and dependent beings. The dependency of the aged can be divided into those of economic, physical, mental, social, and psychological (Blender, 1965). Among them, physical and economic dependencies, that is to say, weak health condition and poor economic situation are known as major causes of the aged' dependencies (Hong, 1995).

Their propensity to dependency should be considered as an important requirement in planning residential space for them. Even in

developed countries around the world which have advanced welfare systems for the elderly, for many years, environmental policies for their residential space have been mostly implemented under the viewpoint of age discrimination from which the aged and younger generations were differently understood. It was because the aged were considered as people whose physical conditions were dwindling and whose positions and roles of social and psychological importance were losing strength (Hong, 2002).

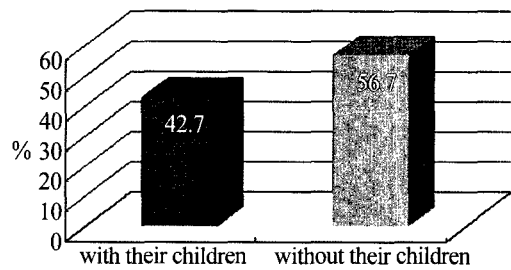
However, when parents become old, the relationships between aged parents and their grown-up children come to be re-established. The re-establishment is largely divided into two directions. The one thing is an independent group who are not dependent on their adult children. The other is a dependent group who rely on their adult children due to economic problems and declining health

conditions. Under these dispositions, life in old age comes to unfold differently from that of previous days (Hong, 1995). Namely, the independent group are ready for economic independence without being dependent on children and in order for the aged to satisfy their emotional desires, they are highly likely to reaffirm close relations with a spouse, reinforce relationships with neighbors, or actively participate in local social services. Also, propensities are shown among the aged in such a group that they tend to join various local programs to develop their abilities, garner more respect for themselves and increase their powers of control to hew out a new life for themselves. As the number of aged whose lives tend to be more independent increases, the point of view from our society is changing from passive and dependent existences to a more active senior citizenship who enjoy a new life after retirement (Hong, 2002).

It is yet to be discovered found out how the aged' inclinations of independent or dependent lifestyles have an influence on their residential patterns, but the residential tendency between the aged and their grown-up children can be identified based on some statistics. In a survey of family trends conducted in 1992 by the Korean Institute for Health and Social Welfare, most elderly people aged 60 or older thought it was ideal to live with their children. But in another survey conducted by National Statistical Office of Korea in 2002, only 53.0% of the elderly preferred to live with their children while 45.8% did not. Only ten years before, the majority of the elderly thought that the ideal living condition in later life was cohabitation with their children, but this consciousness has been changed. According to a survey conducted in

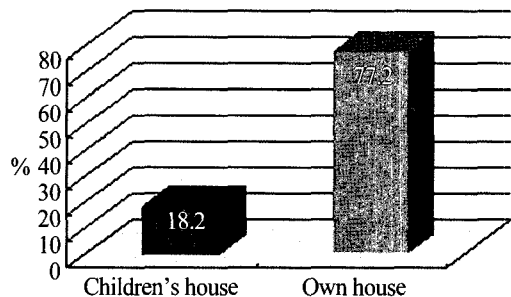
2002, 42.7% of all senior people lived with their children while 56.7% did not (Figure 1). Compared to a 1998 study, the former case decreased while the latter increased by 11.8% (National Statistical Office of Korea, 2002).

Asking where the elderly wanted to live, the responses of 'own house' was 77.2%, the response of 'children's house' was 18.2% (Figure 2).



<Figure 1> The Ratio of the Elder's Cohabitation with their Children

Source: National Statistical Office of Korea (2003). 2003 Social Statistical Survey.



<Figure 2> Thought of Ideal Living Style in Later Life in 2002 research

Source: National Statistical Office of Korea (2003). 2003 Social Statistical Research.

### III. Research Methods

#### 1. Research Procedures

A survey was done by questionnaire. The main items of the questionnaire asked respondents about their perceptions of the elderly lives and their living arrangements. The survey asked respondents to answer questions relating to demographic, socio-economic, and housing characteristics. It also included their view on elderly lives and their attitudes toward elderly housing (Table 3).

For this study, the questionnaire was distributed to 500 people in their fifties, who will face the issue of elderly housing problem in 2010. The data was sampled according to location, gender and housing type in Seoul, in detail, 3-Stage Stratified Systematic Random Sampling was used. Specific

sampling stages as follows;

- ① 1<sup>st</sup> Stage: The number of respondents on each district was decided in proportion to the population in the age of 50's.
- ② 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage: The ratio of men and women and housing types was distributed for each district.
  - The ratio of men and women was made 6.5:10 for sampling.
  - Each district sampled the ratio of housing types of the household heads in 50's.
- ③ 3<sup>rd</sup> Stage: Three dong (administrative units) were selected for each district at random.

The survey was conducted from November 3, 2003 to November 14, 2003. A total of 498 subjects were analyzed and a statistical analysis was performed using the SPSS-PC program.

<Table 3> The Contents of the Questionnaire

Variables		The Contents of the Questionnaire
Independent Variables	General characteristic	Demographic characteristic (gender, age, religion, spouse, children, health condition)
		Socio-economic characteristic (education, job, monthly income, assets) Housing characteristic (housing type, housing size, housing ownership, residence area)
Dependent Variables	Attitudes toward elderly life	Responsibility for the Elderly Suitability for the elderly living I plan to just stay home I plan to continue working I plan to enjoy my hobbies and leisure
	Attitudes toward elderly housing	Responsibility for solving elderly housing problems The concept of elderly housing Interest by this society for elderly housing (5-point scale) Need for developing elderly housing (4-point scale) Need for managing elderly housing (4-point scale) Preferred living arrangement as an elderly

**2. Measurements and Analysis Methods**

For an outlook on elderly lives, they were asked how they anticipated their independency toward decision making, living arrangement, preparation, doing themselves in their later lives. Four questions with a 4-point scale were used and these questions were turned to be reliable with the Cronbach's  $\alpha=.6548$ . The scores ranged from 4 to 16. Higher scores showed respondent tended to have more independent attitudes in their later lives (Table 4).

The average score was 13; the scores below 13 were classified as the dependent group, and the scores over 13 were classified as the independent group. Out of 498 total, the cases for the independent group were 203 (40.8%) while those for the dependent group were 170 (33.9%). The number of the average score was 125(25.3%). Since the statistical analysis was focused only on the independent and dependent groups, total cases for the analysis were 373 (Table 5).

SPSS 11.0 for Windows was used for the statistical analyses. Differences in elderly life and elderly housing according to attitudes toward their later lives were compared and analyzed with the  $\chi^2$ -test and t-test.

<Table 5> Classification into Groups according to the Attitudes in their Later Lives

Groups	f (%)
Upper (Independent Group)	203 ( 40.8)
Middle	125 ( 25.3)
Low (Dependent Group)	170 ( 33.9)
Total	498 (100.0)

**IV. Results and Discussion**

**1. General Characteristics of the Respondents between Dependent and Independent Groups**

Results shows that, compared to the dependent attitude group, the independent attitude group tends to be healthier, live with a spouse, and have no children. Furthermore, the independent group has more assets and monthly income (Table 6).

These survey results are the same with those of Hong's study(1995) which state that worsening health and poor economic conditions are major causes of dependency. Through the findings, not only the economic and physical conditions of the elderly are prerequisites for maintaining their independent life, but also family composition is important to independent life to those have no

<Table 4> Inquiries of Attitudes in their Later Lives

	Inquiries of attitudes for later life	Score range
1	I tend to decide myself or after consulting with a spouse rather than with children.	4-16
2	I have an intention of living separately with my children as much as I can because I don't want to be a burden on children.	
3	I think that the senior citizen should make a plan for and prepare for their life in old age.	
4	I plan to do everything for myself without relying on others as long as my health condition is good.	

&lt;Table 6&gt; General Characteristics of Respondents between Groups

(n=373)

General Characteristic		Group	Dependent	Independent	Total	Chi-square
			f(%)	f(%)	f(%)	
Health Condition	Good		85 ( 50.0)	119 ( 58.6)	204 ( 54.7)	$\chi^2=3.094^*$ df=2
	Intermediate		63 ( 37.1)	59 ( 29.1)	122 ( 32.7)	
	Frail		22 ( 12.9)	25 ( 12.3)	47 ( 12.6)	
	Total		170 (100.0)	203 (100.0)	373 (100.0)	
Spouse	Living with a spouse		133 ( 79.2)	177 ( 88.5)	310 ( 84.2)	$\chi^2=5.991^*$ df=1
	Without living a spouse		35 ( 20.8)	23 ( 11.5)	58 ( 15.8)	
	Total		168 (100.0)	200 (100.0)	368 (100.0)	
Children	Having children		10 ( 5.9)	3 ( 1.5)	13 ( 3.5)	$\chi^2=5.292^*$ df=1
	Not having children		160 ( 94.1)	199 ( 98.5)	359 ( 96.5)	
	Total		170 (100.0)	202 (100.0)	372 (100.0)	
Monthly income	Less than 3 million Won		140 ( 82.4)	139 ( 70.9)	279 ( 76.2)	$\chi^2=6.569^{**}$ df=1
	3 million Won or more		30 ( 17.6)	57 ( 29.1)	87 ( 23.8)	
	Total		170 (100.0)	196 (100.0)	366 (100.0)	
Asset	Less than 300 million Won		80 ( 47.1)	72 ( 36.5)	152 ( 41.4)	$\chi^2=4.155^*$ df=2
	300 million Won or more		90 ( 52.9)	125 ( 63.5)	215 ( 58.6)	
	Total		170 (100.0)	197 (100.0)	367 (100.0)	

\*p&lt;.05 \*\*p&lt;.01

supporting family member such as a spouse or children to rely on.

## 2. Attitudes toward Elderly Life between Dependent and Independent Groups

There are two attitudes toward elderly life between dependent and independent groups in this subject. One is the respondents' viewpoint about social structure and the other is their viewpoint about personal expectations for the elderly.

Firstly, The independent group tended to think that support for the elderly is a self-responsibility while the dependent group tended to believe it is the responsibility of the family. This tendency

showed a significant difference. For the question of whether this society was suitable for the elderly, both groups thought that it was not. The notion that this society is not appropriate for the elderly to live indicates that the soon-to-be elderly have high expectations for public support although it is currently very inadequate (Table 7).

Also, 81.5% of the independent group answered that they were preparing for their elderly lives while 75.9% of the dependent group said they were making no preparations. Both groups agreed on friends as the most needed element of their elderly lives (Table omitted).

Secondly, to find how the respondents expect to live as senior citizens, we asked, 1) "I plan to just stay home," 2) "I plan to continue working," and

<Table 7> Viewpoint about Social Structure for Later Life between Groups

(n=373)

Viewpoint about Social Structure for Later		Group	Dependent	Independent	Total	Chi-square
			f(%)	f(%)	f(%)	
Responsibility for the elderly	Self-responsibility		22 ( 12.9)	64 ( 31.7)	86 ( 23.1)	$\chi^2=23.459^{***}$ df=3
	Family		65 ( 38.1)	44 ( 21.8)	108 ( 29.0)	
	Government		15 ( 9.0)	15 ( 7.4)	30 ( 8.1)	
	Family + Government		68 ( 40.0)	79 ( 39.1)	147 ( 39.5)	
	Total		170 (100.0)	202 (100.0)	372 (100.0)	
Suitability for the elderly	Suitable		21 ( 12.4)	29 ( 14.3)	50 ( 13.4)	$\chi^2=.274$ df=1 n.s
	Unsuitable		148 ( 87.6)	174 ( 85.7)	322 ( 86.6)	
	Total		169 (100.0)	203 (100.0)	372 (100.0)	

\*\*\*p<.001/ n.s. : not significant

3) "I plan to enjoy my hobbies and leisure." Three questions with a 4-point scale were used. There was no statistically significant difference for the item 1) between two groups, but for items 2) (p<.05) and 3) (p<.001), the independent group wanted to continue their work or enjoy leisure (Table 8).

The result indicates that the ways to satisfy different desires of senior citizens must be considered. An agenda to provide opportunities for work and leisure for the independent group must be thoroughly prepared. In addition, both groups had higher expectations for leisure than work. Thus, various leisure programs need to be developed for them.

### 3. Attitudes toward Elderly Housing between Dependent and Independent Groups

#### 1) Responsibility for Solving Elderly Housing Problems

For elderly housing, the independent group tended to regard it as their "Self responsibility", while the dependent group felt it was the responsibility of the "Family". There was statistically significant difference (p<.05) between the groups (Table 9). This indicates that the independent group had higher intentions to solve their housing situation themselves than the dependent group. However, the highest answer

<Table 8> Personal Expectation for the Elderly Life between Groups

(Mean)

Personal Expectation of the Elderly Life	Group	Dependent	Independent	t-value
I plan to just stay home (4-point scale)		2.2882	2.2808	.080
I plan to continue working (4-point scale)		2.7118	2.9310	-2.520*
I plan to enjoy my hobby and leisure (4-point scale)		3.1059	3.3793	-3.842***

\*<p.05 \*\*\*p<.001



<Table 9> Responsibility for Solving Elderly Housing Problems between Groups

(n=373)

Responsibility for Solving Elderly Housing Problems	Group	Dependent	Independent	Total	Chi-square
		f(%)	f(%)	f(%)	
Self		20 ( 11.8)	48 ( 23.8)	67 ( 18.0)	$\chi^2=13.682^*$ df=3
Family		37 ( 21.8)	26 ( 12.9)	60 ( 16.1)	
Government		29 ( 17.1)	42 ( 20.8)	71 ( 19.1)	
Family + Government		84 ( 49.4)	85 ( 42.1)	169 ( 45.4)	
Total		169 (100.0)	202 (100.0)	372 (100.0)	

\*p<.05

from both groups was 'Family and Government'.

Although there is a clear statistical significant difference between the two groups as for the answers to 'Family' and 'Own', both groups thought it was the issue of both family and society rather than personal. This result shows that social support for the aged and the elderly housing should no longer be left solely to the family. The government should be actively involved and support the family in resolving these issues.

## 2) The Concept of Elderly Housing

With regard to the concept of elderly housing, the respondents answered silver town (32.0%), nursing home or public housing for senior citizens (28.8%),

a house exclusively built for senior citizens (19.4%), a house occupied by senior citizens (6.4%). There was no statistically significant difference between groups (Table 10).

The result shows that the concept of elderly housing by the future senior citizens is a separate facility (silver town and nursing home) rather than as mainstream housing. This indicates that the proper concept of elderly housing must firstly be established and promoted if it is to be supplied as a kind of mainstream housing not as a welfare facility.

## 3) Viewpoint about Policies for Elderly Housing

The score for interest by this society for elderly

<Table 10> The Concept of Elderly Housing between Groups

(n=373)

The Concept of Elderly Housing	Group	Dependent	Independent	Total	Chi-square
		f(%)	f(%)	f(%)	
Nursing home / public housing for senior citizens		54 ( 31.8)	53 ( 26.2)	107 ( 28.8)	$\chi^2=2.363$ df=4 n.s.
House occupied by senior citizens		25 ( 14.7)	25 ( 12.4)	50 ( 13.4)	
House exclusively built for senior citizens		31 ( 18.2)	41 ( 20.3)	72 ( 19.4)	
Silver town		50 ( 29.4)	69 ( 34.2)	119 ( 32.0)	
Etc.		10 ( 5.9)	14 ( 6.9)	24 ( 6.4)	
Total		170 (100.0)	202 (100.0)	372 (100.0)	

n.s : not significant

housing, which was measured using a 5-point scale, was 2.26, indicating little interest by the society in their opinion. On the other hand, the score for a need to develop elderly housing, measured using a 4-point scale, was 3.09 and that a need for managing elderly housing was 3.22, indicating they were important issues. Both groups thought, with no statistical difference, that society paid little attention to the elderly housing issue. For development and management of elderly housing, the independent group had a stronger agreement than the dependent group with a statistically significant difference between the groups. Management received a higher answer than development, indicating that management policy should get more attention than development for elderly housing (Table 11).

According to the survey on social concerns about housing problems for the elderly in our society, it reveals that both independent and dependent groups have negative opinions of the problems and no significant statistical difference between two groups is made. It is clear that this finding is coherent with the consistent opinion that living as an elder member of our society is difficult and disadvantageous as you can see in the previous researches.

However, in respect to the necessities of housing

development and management for the aged in our society, it reveals that both groups feel a necessity for them, but the independent group shows higher statistics for them than the dependent group. In respect of who should be responsible for residential problems for the aged in the previous survey, the result revealed that the independent group gave a higher response for itself solving the problem, we can find out that the two groups hold different views on how the housing problems for the aged are settled, and the independent group perceives the necessity of self-supporting and active settlement higher than the dependent one.

#### 4) Preferred Living Arrangement as an Elderly between Groups

For the type of housing for later life, 32.5% preferred to live with the family in an elderly housing. It followed general housing (28.2%), modified general housing (23.4%), exclusive elderly housing (11.8%) and no preference (4.0%). There was no statistical difference between groups. This can be interpreted as that there is little relationship between the preferred housing types regarding their viewpoint (Table 12).

In conclusion, analyzing the elderly' opinions on housing policy for them and which residential type they prefer, the findings can be summarized as

<Table 11> Viewpoint about Policies for Elderly Housing between Groups

(Mean)

Viewpoint about Policies for Elderly Housing	Group	Dependent	Independent	mean	t-value
Interest by this society for elderly housing (5-point scale)		2.24	2.27	2.26	-.540
Need for developing elderly housing (4-point scale)		3.02	3.15	3.09	-2.566*
Need for managing elderly housing (4-point scale)		3.14	3.29	3.22	-2.980**

\*p<.05 \*\*p<.01

<Table 12> Preferred Living Arrangement as an Elderly between Groups

(n=373)

Preferred Living Arrangement as an Elderly	Group	Dependent	Independent	Total	Chi-square
		f(%)	f(%)	f(%)	
General housing		47 ( 27.6)	58 ( 28.7)	105 ( 28.2)	$\chi^2=1.429$ df=4 n.s.
Modified general housing		39 ( 22.9)	48 ( 23.8)	87 ( 23.4)	
Elderly housing with their families		56 ( 32.9)	65 ( 32.2)	131 ( 32.5)	
Exclusive elderly housing		19 ( 11.2)	25 ( 12.4)	44 ( 11.8)	
No preference		9 ( 5.3)	6 ( 3.0)	15 ( 4.0)	
Total		170 (100.0)	202 (100.0)	372 (100.0)	

n.s : not significant

follows: First, there is no difference between the two groups about the overall opinions on the housing problems for the aged. Second, in the settlement plan for their housing problems, there is a clear statistical difference between two groups and the independent group assumes a more positive attitude on the settlement of the problem. Third, there is little difference between the two over the desired residential types for themselves in their old age. In short, although independent groups take a more positive stand on how the housing problems are solved, such as a person in charge of settling their residential problems in old age, the need of housing development for the aged, and the need of housing management for them, the results were revealed that there was no difference between the two groups about the living arrangements of them desiring in old age. This conclusion provides us with an important clue that the housing policy for the aged requires a connection with family systems in order to adjust to unique Korean circumstances on the longstanding family supporting value.

## V. Conclusion

This research studied how viewpoints of the elderly (independent-dependent) can change their attitudes toward elderly life and elderly housing. <Table 13> lists the differences between groups by summarizing the above results.

- 1) General characteristics of the two groups showed sharp differences. Most of the members in the independent group had good health, without a living spouse, and no children, relative to the other. Also they had a higher economic status than the dependent group.
- 2) In the general structure of guaranteeing the old age's life in our society, there was no difference between the two, while in respect of their own life in old age like jobs and leisure times; there were differences between the groups. The finding indicates that independent groups have positive wills for enjoying their life in old age.
- 3) For elderly housing, the independent group tended to regard it as their own responsibility, while the dependent group felt the responsibility lied with the family. With regard to the concept of elderly housing, there was no statistically

<Table 13> Results Summary of Differences between Groups

		Group	
		Dependent	Independent
General characteristic	Heath Condition	Intermediate	Good
	Spouse	Living with a spouse	Without living a spouse
	Children	Having children	Not having children
	Monthly income	Less than 3 million Won	3 million Won or more
	Assets	Less than 300 million Won	300 million Won or more
Attitudes toward elderly life	Responsibility for the Elderly	Family	Self
	Suitability for the elderly	Unsuitable	Unsuitable
	I plan to just stay home	Positive (2.2882)	Positive (2.2808)
	I plan to continue working	Positive (2.7118)	Positive (2.9310)
	I plan to enjoy my hobbies and leisure	Positive (3.1059)	Positive (3.3793)
Attitudes toward elderly housing	Responsibility for solving elderly housing problems	Family	Self
	The concept of elderly housing	Nursing home	Silver town
	Interest by this society for elderly housing (5-point scale)	2.2412	2.2759
	Need for developing elderly housing (4-point scale)	3.0238	3.1535
	Need for managing elderly housing (4-point scale)	3.1412	3.2985
	Preferred living arrangement as an elderly	Elderly housing with their families	Elderly housing with their families

The shadows are the items with statistically significant differences between groups.

significant difference between the groups. In the respect of the interest of elderly housing in our society, there was no difference between the two groups. However, the need for developing and managing of elderly housing, independent groups showed a more active attitude than the dependent group, meanwhile, for the residence-type of housing for themselves, there was no difference between the two.

These findings suggest that since there is a clear-cut difference on residences between the two groups

according to the aged' lifestyles and senses a more effective plan for the settlement of the aged' problems is required to cover not only a simple objective presence of supporting family members and economic powers but also their lifestyles and perceptions in order to create more comprehensive and intensive policies for a more fulfilled life in old age.

The findings imply that these survey results are greatly reflected by our old custom that residing with family members is an ideal form in Korean society, even if among the independent groups. Therefore, in

preparing alternative housing for the aged, it is important to thoroughly understand what the aged and supporting grown-up children think of living together rather than to focus on knowing right from wrong about whether living together with families is desirable or not. Here, we can discover a crucial clue that the preparation plan for various alternative housing of the aged including a third generation family and the house for the aged in the future should be developed to link to family systems.

This result presents an outline for the development of a housing system that is appropriate for Korea and continues to support the long tradition of family support system. This research is significant in that it presents the positive material for policy direction for senior citizens and their housing. Further detailed solutions for each issue and alternative housing schemes need to be studied in future researches.

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