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## Social Support Analysis on Economic Activity Intention for Korean Chinese in Korea

Jong-Jin Kim\*

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### Abstract

**Purpose** - This study aims to analyze the effects of the social support on the economic activities from the Korean Chinese residing in Korea. Particularly, this paper focuses on the consequence of the economic activity intention according to the three kinds of social support.

**Research design, data, and methodology** - For the statistics process of data collected by this survey, SPSS 19 statistics package program was used through data-coding and data-cleaning processes to analyze the data in this study.

**Results** - This hypothesis was selected partially. As a result of investigating hypotheses in detail, Hypothesis 1-2 was significant as shown in the significance level 0.1, and when the emotional support was regarded important, the will of economic activities was also higher. Hypothesis 1-2 was found to be meaningful with the significance level of 0.05, and when the social support was regarded important, the will of economic activities was also higher. Lastly, Hypothesis 1-3 was found to not be statistically significant.

**Conclusions** - The results of this study are expected to be used as basic data for vitalization of the Korean Chinese' economic activities and governmental support for it, and to be a guideline in preparing successful strategies for expansion of the Korean Chinese' economic activities in the future by applying these results.

**Keywords:** Social Support, Chinese Compatriots, Degree of Economic Activity, Social Contribution.

**JEL Classifications:** D60, M14, P46. Z13.

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### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1. Background

In Korean society there are more than 1.2 million foreigners residing or staying in Korea, as of 2013. As the attention of policies for the inflow of foreigners was higher due to this phenomenon, concerns for social positions and stability of immigrants are growing.

Advancing into the multicultural society can raise expectation that it can expand diversity and creativity of social members and can be used as an alternative of the decrease in population. However, as the increase in the

burden of public expenditure and the social unrest due to the conflicts between different norms appear at the same time, the government needs to carefully choose strategies.

As the Korean society transfers rapidly to the multicultural society, the necessity of multicultural society integration between natives and new social members(children from multicultural, immigrated and foreign families) increases. Multicultural education for recognition of differences among community members and sublation of discrimination and exclusion are more urgent than ever(Ucbasaran, 2004). An alternative of the multicultural cross-curricula education should also be prepared soon, to form learners' identity, understand and respect social diversity, realize equal and just society, develop citizenship and create new culture.

For the Korean Chinese to settle down in Korea, the attention for economic activities or foundation is growing. The economic activity includes foundation and employment.

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\* First Author, PhD. researcher at the Department of Social Welfare, Graduate School of Theology of Hansei University, Korea.  
Tel: +82-70-7655-0425, E-mail: 2001j2k@hanmail.net

Of the two, foundation is very important, for it is an opportunity in addition to employment and it provides the broad range in the job choice. Therefore the economic value of the Korean Chinese will contribute to the economic development of Korea.

## 1.2. Purpose of the Study

This study is significant as it analyzes effects of social support among factors that have influence on the economic activity intention of the Korean Chinese.

This study aims to analyze the effects of social support on the economic activities of the Korean Chinese residing in Korea. Particularly, this aims to analyze the effects on the economic activity intention according to three kinds of social support.

## 2. Theoretical Background

### 2.1. Increase of Foreigners Staying in Korea

Foreigners staying in Korea, as of 2013, were 1,219,192 in number, which was increased by less than about 10%, compared to 98,593 in 2012. Major causes of the increase in the foreigners staying in Korea are expansion of qualified objects of the Korean Chinese(F-4) and expansion of qualification to apply for permanent residency of Koreans who have foreign nationalities(F-5)(Kim, 2014).

It is called a general residence, long stay or immigration that foreigners leave their own country and stay long over a certain period in a foreign land. According to the staying period, stays in Korea of foreigners can be divided into the short stay(a stay less than 90 days), long stay(over 91 days) and permanent stay(without limit)(Kim, 2016).

The long stay and permanent residence need the alien registration or report of their domestic address(The Article 31 of the Immigration Control Act and the Article 6 of the Act on Entry and Exit and Legal Status of Overseas Koreans(Ko & Ha, 2014).

### 2.2. Appearing Backgrounds of Korean Chinese

The time when Korean people moved their living foundation into China from Korean peninsula was around the 17th century, when tens of thousand of Koreans were forced to move from the western part of Joseon to Liaotung, exiling themselves to avoid party strifes or historical calamities, or as of the First and the Second Manchu Invasions of Korea in 1627 and in 1636(Kim, 2014). Since then, due to the natural disasters continued for years in 1860s farmers moved to Manchuria to make a living and cultivated the land to do farming. In 1885 the death penalty on Koreans when their immigration were caught was abolished, and

more Koreans moved there(Ko & Ha, 2014). In those days the number of Koreans in the places called three provinces of Northeast Manchuria reached 220 thousand. The period when the most Koreans emigrated was between 1910 and 1931, and in 1932 Koreans who emigrated into Manchuria due to the Japanese emigration policy increased rapidly. There is a document that in this period Koreans who had various kinds of jobs moved not only to Kando but also to Manchuria and the number of Koreans residing in Manchukuo reached 3 million(Ko & Ha, 2014). In 1945 many Koreans returned to Joseon after the ruin of Manchukuo and independence of Joseon, but about 1 million Koreans remained there and later they became the origin of the ethnic Koreans living in China.

### 2.3. Concept of Social Support

Social support means positive resources provided through the relationship with others and of help to individuals. This positive resource can be divided into the objective aspect such as the social organization or group where individuals belong and the subjective aspect such as the perceived social support(Kim, 2014). The perceived social support means expectation that they can be helped by others in case of necessity and the subjective feeling that they are accepted, respected and loved by others; it also says social support is the information that individuals care for, information of giving values and of being respected, belonging to communication and mutual obligation network (Chang & Yoon, 2014). The origin of social support can be found historically in the ecological study, which tried to explain relations between social environment and health (Chang & Yoon, 2014). It developed the social readjustment scale and gave weighting according to the readjustment demand level of incidents to attempt systematic study of correlation between environment and health. Since then, it has been developed by Carter(2003) to the concept that social support had positive influence on health, and through this it played first the role of reminding the concept of social support and necessity of intervention(Kim, 2014).

The concept of social support is defined variously according to scholars. social support is that meaningful others help individuals use their own psychological resources to overcome troubles, which is to help individuals with a simple task to reduce their tension, and to assist individuals to overcome the troubles better by giving them surplus resources(Hwang & Shin, 2012). Like this, the concepts of social support found out in domestic and foreign studies are defined variously according to the range and focus; social support is used in various terms such as social support network, relation network and supporting system, and slightly differently defined according to scholars. social support is the positive resource that individuals can get through interaction, and means attention, assistance, recognition and encouragement(Ko & Ha, 2014). It also means receiving

material and mental supports from members of the organization to which they belong or assistance provided when they need that support actually(Hwang & Shin, 2012).

#### 2.4. Classification of Social Support

In the definition of social support, the emotional support means feeling trust, love and intimacy from others, and social support means being evaluated positively in respect or their value of existence in the social composition. And the public support is to be given from public institutions advice or information needed when there are public institution support or troubles(Kim & Bae, 2005).

#### 2.5. Emotional Support(Assistance)

Most of the immigrants have few persons whom they could open their heart to. Of the objectives they open their heart to, their spouse accounted for the majority, and in addition, neighbors, friends and family members living in Korea(Kim & Cho, 2013). Therefore, if they could form the relationship with new people besides their spouse and receive much emotional support in the life in Korea, their reliability they perceive of the people around them, who are willing to listen to them, accept them, and express love, interest and attention, will be increased. They can also have the ability that can handle difficulties due to the discrimination from others in the social relations, maladjustment to the life in a foreign country and phenomena neglected from their neighbors. Those things will give direct assistance to improve satisfaction of the life(Kim & Cho, 2013).

#### 2.6. Social Support

It is said social support is defined base of support — people — that complements capabilities of handling crises in the general life, exchanging helps in various ways to resolve emotional, material and physical needs through a variety of social relations surrounding objects(Shin, 2012). The social support in the precedent studies is said to increase family adjustment by reducing stress among family members of the Korean Chinese and to be the important social environment factor that reduces negative emotions, major factor of the stress when they try to adjust themselves to the life in Korea; it is the important factor that helps individuals and families adjust psychologically and complements and strengthens the ability of resolving problems(Shin, 2012).

Particularly, social support can be an important tool that provides various supporting factors for the Korean Chinese preliminary businessmen or businessmen who do economic activities. Immigrants such as the Korean Chinese want to have positive relations with others or with various social networks, and try to be accepted to other individuals or networks(Kim & Kim, 2016).

Besides, the social support is very important, because the Korean Chinese as a social being satisfy their social desires and needs in the interaction with other individuals(Yoon, 2008). Immigrants invest a lot of resources and time in establishing network through contact with related people to overcome difficulties that take place in economic activities or in foundation activities and make their economic activities successful. They believe the level of the social support will increase performance of economic activities(Yoon, 2008).

#### 2.7. Public Support in Korean Society

When the Korean Chinese do economic activities or social activities, the assistance from the supporting powers that have public confidence is recognized as being important, though the emotional and social support are important. The role of the public support from a country that has strong confidence among various supporting powers is important; it gives experts' advice, counseling and access to resources, including technical assistance(Kim, 2016).

Support for the technology and experts' intensive training in the government's economic activity education is very helpful in overcoming difficulties in advancing into a new field. This public support provides the Korean Chinese with technology and know-how needed for economic activities, and helps them have differentiated strategies through the support for improvement and development of the related technologies(Kim, 2016). Comprehensive policies and systematic support implemented by the government for the Korean Chinese to expand economic activities give assistance to those who have the economic activity intention in Korea in terms of the actual adjustment to the life in Korea(Kim, 2016).

#### 2.8. Concept of Korean Chinese

The Korean Chinese emigrated to China in the mid-19th century for economic or political reasons, but returned to Korea again(return-migration) with establishment of diplomatic ties between Korea and China in 1992. Not only were immigrant workers into Korea with the purpose of employment for a certain period due to the Korean government's policy that tries to supply the labor force lacking in the domestic production sector and income disparity caused by development gap between two countries but also immigrants with various purposes such as international marriage, studying overseas and visit to the relatives immigrate to Korea(Kim, 2104).

The reason that the ethnic Korean living in China could come to Korea might be the change in the Chinese society structure. As China carried forward the reform and open market policy under the Teng Hsiaoping system in 1978, it started gradually to expand exchange with Korea. As Korean economy rapidly has grown since 1970s, the lack in the labor force appeared in the Korean society at large in the

1980s, and in the same year Korea actively accepted the open door policy with China to secure foreign and global markets in accordance with globalization(Kim, 2104). As a symbolic procedure of the open door, Korea and China gave the elderly aged over 60 an opportunity to visit their hometown; however, immigrant workers to Korea who became rich after the visit to Korea made efforts to narrow the gap between rich and poor, and as the visit to Korea began to be recognized as an alternative to overcome destitution of the rural life, many Korean Chinese wanted to migrate to Korea for employment. The ethnic Koreans living in China who account for the very large proportion of foreigners who migrated to Korea are also a part of those who migrated to Korea to find an opportunity for a new life(Kim, 2014).

### 3. Methodologies

As for methodologies, this study analyzes effects of social support of the Korean Chinese that account for the largest proportion of the multicultural families in the Korean society on economic activities. As for the data survey method, targets that expect economic activities among the Korean Chinese living in Korea were selected to analyze social support, and a questionnaire survey was carried out. 102 copies of the total 130 were used as samples of the questionnaire.

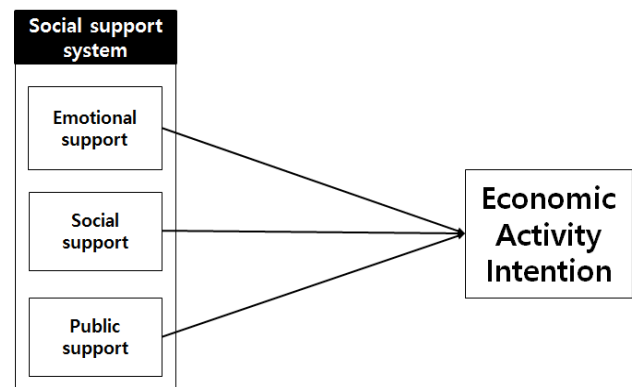
#### 3.1. Demographic Characteristics of Samples

<Table 1> The contents are as follows. As for the general characteristics of the targets surveyed, women accounted for 65.7%, while men 34.3%; in age, targets in their 30s accounted for the largest proportion with 33.3%; in the educational background, targets that graduated from university accounted for the largest proportion with 30%, followed by targets from high school with 29%, targets over graduate school with 25%, and targets from technical college with 16%; in marital status, the single accounted for 35.3%, while the married 64.7%; in social experience, targets with social experience accounted for 94.1%, while targets without social experience 5.9%, and among persons with social experience, those with social experience of 4~7 years accounted for the largest proportion with 31.9%; in nationalities, China accounted for 76.5%, while Korea 23.5%.

<Table 1> Demographic characteristics

| Classification                          | Korean Chinese                     |            |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
|                                         | Frequency                          | Percentage |
| Gender                                  | Women                              | 67 65.7    |
|                                         | Men                                | 35 34.3    |
| Age                                     | 20s                                | 26 25.5    |
|                                         | 30s                                | 34 33.3    |
|                                         | 40s                                | 31 30.4    |
|                                         | 50s or older                       | 11 10.8    |
| Educational background                  | High school graduate               | 29 29.0    |
|                                         | 2-years college graduate           | 16 16.0    |
|                                         | 4-years college graduate           | 30 30.0    |
|                                         | Graduate school graduate or higher | 25 25.0    |
| Marriage                                | Single                             | 36 35.3    |
|                                         | Married                            | 66 64.7    |
| Experience at small business foundation | Have                               | 49 49.0    |
|                                         | Have not                           | 51 51.0    |

#### 3.2. Research model



<Figure 1> Research model

#### 3.3. Setting up Hypotheses

The hypothesis is as shown in <Table 2>.

<Table 2> Hypotheses

|              |                                                                                                   |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hypothesis   | social support will have positive(+) influence on the Korean Chinese will of economic activities. |
| Hypothesis 1 | Emotional support will have influence on the Korean Chinese will of economic activities.          |
| Hypothesis 2 | The social support will have influence on the Korean Chinese will of economic activities.         |
| Hypothesis 3 | The public support will have influence on the Korean Chinese will of economic activities.         |

<Table 3> Questions of Social Support

| Classification    |                                                                                             | Mean | standard deviation |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------|
| Emotional support | I will receive the support of my friends in economic activities.                            | 2.77 | 1.04               |
|                   | I will receive the support of my family in economic activities.                             | 3.19 | 1.11               |
|                   | All                                                                                         | 2.97 | 0.91               |
| Social support    | Successful businessmen gain social recognition.                                             | 4.26 | 0.73               |
|                   | The society thinks main agents of the economic activity positively                          | 3.99 | 0.72               |
|                   | The society tends to respect main agents of the economic activity.                          | 3.79 | 0.80               |
|                   | Our society supports immigrants' economic activities.                                       | 3.35 | 0.84               |
|                   | All                                                                                         | 3.86 | 0.57               |
| Public support    | I think I can receive the support of the governmental foundation fund.                      | 2.81 | 1.07               |
|                   | I think I have a lot of opportunities for the promising economic activities.                | 3.74 | 0.75               |
|                   | I will receive the assistance of economic activity programs.                                | 3.95 | 0.71               |
|                   | I think I can be fully provided with consultation service from business incubation centers. | 3.72 | 0.90               |
|                   | All                                                                                         | 3.58 | 0.59               |

<Table 4> Factorization of Social Support

| Variable          |                                                                                             | Ingredient     |                |                   |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
|                   |                                                                                             | Social support | Public support | Emotional support |
| Social support    | The society thinks main agents of the economic activity positively                          | .885           | .082           | .049              |
|                   | The society tends to respect main agents of the economic activity.                          | .829           | .298           | -.072             |
|                   | Successful businessmen gain social recognition.                                             | .758           | .049           | .071              |
| Public support    | I think I can receive the support of the governmental foundation fund.                      | .010           | .851           | -.079             |
|                   | Our society supports immigrants' economic activities.                                       | .206           | .786           | .182              |
|                   | I think I can be fully provided with consultation service from business incubation centers. | .436           | .556           | .279              |
| Emotional support | I will receive the support of my friends in economic activities.                            | .139           | .039           | .840              |
|                   | I will receive the support of my family in economic activities.                             | -.077          | .101           | .802              |

### 3.3. Variables

Variables selected in this study fulfilled operational definition as follows according to the purpose of this study based on the variables used for the precedent studies: Let's look at <Table 3>.

### 3.4. Analytical Methods

For the statistics process of data collected by this survey, SPSS 19 statistics package program was used through data-coding and data-cleaning processes to analyze by the following methods.

## 4. Findings

### 4.1. Analysis of Factors

Factors of social support in this study were classified into

three kinds, as a result of classifying them through the factor analysis. Factorization was classified evenly at large; the social support was classified best, followed by the public and emotional support, in order.

The contents of <Table 4> are as follows. This study used the principal component analysis to classify social support, and varimax was used as the option that rotates the initial factor pattern matrix. As a result of analyzing factors to draw factors of social support, it was classified into three kinds: the social, public and emotional support. The explanation power of these classified factors was 64.3%.

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin(KMO) in the factor analysis is the value showing the extent explained by the different variable in correlation between variables. It is usually used to explain goodness of fit in classifying factors.

That the value of KMO measure was 0.643 means that it is proper, though not good.

<Table 5> Reliability Analysis of Factors

| Variable          |                                                                                             | Ingredient            |              |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
|                   |                                                                                             | alpha if item deleted | Cronbach's α |
| Social support    | The society thinks main agents of the economic activity positively                          | .84                   | .76          |
|                   | The society tends to respect main agents of the economic activity.                          | .58                   |              |
|                   | Successful businessmen gain social recognition.                                             | .55                   |              |
| Public support    | I think I can receive the support of the governmental foundation fund.                      | .51                   | .70          |
|                   | Our society supports immigrants' economic activities.                                       | .66                   |              |
|                   | I think I can be fully provided with consultation service from business incubation centers. | .64                   |              |
| Emotional support | I will receive the support of my friends in economic activities.                            | .43                   | .60          |
|                   | I will receive the support of my family in economic activities.                             | .43                   |              |

<Table 6> Effect Analysis of Social Support on Economic Activities

| Model | Non-standardization factor |                | Standardization factor | t    | Probability of significance | Collinearity statistic |      |
|-------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------|
|       | B                          | Standard error | beta                   |      |                             | tolerance              | VIF  |
| 1     | (A constant)               | 2.107          | .417                   |      | 5.053                       | .000                   |      |
|       | Emotional support          | .123           | .065                   | .190 | 1.906                       | .060                   | .951 |
|       | Social support             | .377           | .101                   | .398 | 3.739                       | .000                   | .829 |
|       | Public support             | .021           | .086                   | .027 | .245                        | .807                   | .795 |

a. A dependent variable: the Korean Chinese' will of economic activities

<Table 7> Hypothesis Verification

| Hypothesis   |                                                                                                   | Adoption         |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Hypothesis   | social support will have positive(+) influence on the Korean Chinese will of economic activities. | Partial adoption |
| Hypothesis 1 | Emotional support will have influence on the Korean Chinese will of economic activities.          | Selection        |
| Hypothesis 2 | The social support will have influence on the Korean Chinese will of economic activities.         | Selection        |
| Hypothesis 3 | The public support will have influence on the Korean Chinese will of economic activities.         | Dismissal        |

4.2. Analysis of Reliability

<Table 5> The contents are as follows. As a result of analyzing reliability of factors classified by the factor analysis, the Cronbach's α Coefficient of the items of the social support was very high with 0.76; of the public support 0.70; and of the emotional support 0.60. Usually, it is said to be reliable when the coefficient is over 0.6, so these factors are regarded reliable.

4.3. Analysis of Effects

As a result, the emotional support was found significant in 0.1 according to the effect analysis of social support that has influence on the economic activities, and the social support significant in 0.05, but the public support not significant. Please refer to <Table 6>.

4.4. Verification of Hypotheses

These hypotheses are the results of the hypothesis verification about whether social support for the immigrants(the Korean Chinese)(the emotional, social and public support) has influence on their will of economic activities. Please refer to <Table 7>.

As a result of the hypothesis verification, the emotional and social support of social support that had influence on the economic activities had significant influence. This hypothesis was selected partially. As a result of investigating hypotheses in detail, <Hypothesis 1>-<Hypothesis 2> were significant in the significant level 0.1, and when the emotional support was regarded important, the will of economic activities was also higher.

<Hypothesis 1>-<Hypothesis 2> were found significant in the significant level 0.05, and when the social support was regarded important, the will of economic activities was also higher. Lastly, <Hypothesis 1>-<Hypothesis 3> were found not significant.

## 5. Summary

### 5.1. Conclusions

In the globalization age the expansion of human and material exchanges is inevitable, and consequently the rate of immigrants including foreigners flowing in Korea is growing rapidly. However, the social concern for their economic activities for them to adjust themselves to the Korean society is not enough. Immigrants' participation in the economic activities was recognized as an important factor not only by Korean businessmen but also by the immigrant Korean Chinese for their life stability, in the point that balanced development of the society as well as domestic economic growth is regarded important.

This study analyzed influence on the will of economic activities targeting potential economic activists of the Korean Chinese, who are increasing rapidly nowadays, among foreigners. The variable that has influence on the will of domestic economic activities is social support. This study carried out analyses in detail to find out whether the emotional, social and public support had positive influences.

The results of this study show that detailed types of social support, the emotional and social support, had influence on the will of economic activities, and the public support did not. The social support particularly was found to raise the Korean Chinese will of economic activities. Therefore, to stabilize the life of the Korean Chinese and encourage their economic activities, efforts should be made to increase not only the emotional support but also the social support of Korea. Particularly, vitalization through the programs such as the Korean Chinese network is necessary. On the other hand, the reason that the will of economic activities was not found in the public support, which was regarded most importantly, is that the Korean Chinese' distrust in the government programs is high, as shown in

the individual interviews, and they have strong conscious that it will have negative influence on their economic activities. Therefore, to vitalize the Korean Chinese' adjustment to Korea for their economic activities, policies should be established considering these points.

### 5.2. Implications

As social support for the Korean Chinese means forming social relations that help an individual who belongs to a group do a certain behavior, constructing social network will help the Korean Chinese increase the will of economic activities. Social support was found to increase the will of economic activities. Therefore we have to make an effort to form positive atmosphere for the Korean Chinese to have the will to do economic activities in Korea and vitalize it. Through various immigration policies including giving an advantage to persons who have ideas and capital for economic activities, we have to make an effort to remind them the importance and value of the Korean Chinese' economic activities in Korea and raise positive social awareness. It is thought that forming positive social atmosphere of the Korean Chinese' economic activities will also contribute to vitalizing, and this change in the environment will have influence on the Korean Chinese overseas.

The results of this study are expected to be used as the basic data for Korean Chinese' economic activity vitalization and governmental support, and to be a guideline in preparing successful strategies for expansion of the Korean Chinese' economic activities in the future by applying these results.

Social support should be considered in case of the Korean Chinese, and development of education and training to strengthen the will of economic activities through interaction is necessary.

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