The Relationship among Financial Support for offspring, Caregiving to Parents, Preparation for Their Own Old Age, and Depression of Baby-boomers

Young-Jun Park¹, Yun-Jeong Kim²

¹Dept. of Elderly of Welfare, Hanseo University, Korea
mppp213@hanmail.net
²Dept. of Elderly of Welfare, Hanseo University, Korea
twoyun21@hanmail.net

Abstract. This study aims to categorize how baby-boomers born allocate their resources on financial support for their offspring, caregiving to their parents, and preparation for their old life, examine the characteristics of resource allocation, and find out differences in levels of depression among resource allocation types. First, Resource allocation among baby-boomers following types: fund portfolio design type; preparation for old life-focusing type; no-support no-preparation type; support for offspring-focusing type. Second, it was found that the level of depression among those belonging to the no-support no-preparation type was higher than those among those belonging to fund portfolio design type, old life-focusing type, and support for offspring-focusing type.

Keywords: Baby-boomer, financial support for offspring, caregiving, preparation for old age, resource allocation

1 Introduction

Korean baby-boomers were the main target of firing in the so-called re-structuring process in the financial crisis in 1997-8, they were not well-prepared for their old age [1], and the phenomenon in which a huge group of people called baby-boomers left the labor market in what was described as ‘ebb tide retirement’ triggered concern about shortage of skilled workers in the labor market [2]. In particular, considering the finding of Bang et. al [1] that, in the aspect of economic resources, baby-boomers are not better than the ‘liberation’ generation, and that of Lee [3] that suicide rate among baby-boomers has risen sharply because of uncertainty of their older future life, economic life in older age among baby-boomers is expected to be negative.

As causes of insufficient preparation for old ages among baby-boomers, we can think of caregiving of their parents and financial support for their sons and daughters. They can be in conflict between the task of having to provide support and care to their old parents and the task of having to devote to their sons and daughters and their jobs [4]. In addition, faced with overlapping situations of college-entering of their sons and daughters and marriage of them on the one hand, and their own imminent retirement...
and physical, social, and emotional changes on the other hand, baby-boomers feel that it is additional burden to support dependent older parents [5].

As described above, baby-boomers face triple dilemma of burdening caregiving of parents, financial support for offspring, and their own future older life. Such a overburden can lead to insufficient preparation for their own old age and depression. But, there can be differences in the ways of allocating their resources in those three things: caregiving of parents, financial support for offspring, and their own future older life. There may be three types of allocating resources: the type where they allocate all the resources to education of sons and daughters and financial support; the type where they allocate all of resources to their own future life; the type where they equally distribute resources to three things.

This research aims, first, to categorize the ways in which baby-boomers allocate resources among financial support for their offspring, caregiving to parents, and their own future life, second, to examine socio-demographic characteristics of each type, and, third, find out differences in depression among types.

2 Method

2.1 Research objects and Data-Collecting Procedure

The research objects of this study are baby-boomers born from 1955 to 1963. From July to October 2015, the survey was conducted to 1,000 of them in Seoul city and various provinces like Chungcheong, Jeolla, Gyeongsang, and Gangwon. 814 copies were used in the final analysis.

2.2 Measurement Tool

‘Financial support for offspring’ scale was made by I and advising professor. The scale consists of 9 questions: expenses on study, expenses on marriage, pocket money, living expenses, expenses on study of grand-children, expenses to buy houses, expenses to buy cars, insurance fees, and communications expenses. 5 point Likert scale was used. They were combined into two factors based on contents of questions and correlation analysis. The first factor consisted of expenses on study, pocket money, living expenses, insurance fees, and communications expenses. It was named as ‘support for daily life expenses’. Cronbach's alpha value was .876. The second factor consisted of expenses on marriage, expenses on study of grand-children, expenses to buy houses, and expenses to buy cars, which was named as ‘support for big money’. Cronbach's alpha value was .806.

‘Caregiving to parents’ was revised version of the scale used by Kim [6]. The scale of Yun-Jeong Kim (2008) was on social support. 9 Questions in total were categorized into 3 factors: emotional caregiving, service caregiving, and economic
caregiving. Each factor contained 3 questions. Cronbach’s alpha value of each factor was .813, .763, and .781 respectively.

The scale of ‘preparation for old age’ is revised version of the scale used by Kim [7]. It consisted of 28 questions. 5-point Likert. The questions were categorized into 5 factors: physical preparation, emotional preparation, economic preparation, social activity preparation, and volunteer activity preparation. Cronbach’s alpha values for 5 factors were .767, .620, .862, .780, and .928.

‘Depression’ scale was the translated version by Choi [8] of SCL-90 (Derogatis, 1973). It consisted of 10 questions. Cronbach’s alpha value was .916.

3 Results

3.1 Resource Allocation Patterns

Resource allocation among baby-boomers on economic support for their offspring, caregiving to their parents, and preparation for their own future life were categorized into following types: fund portfolio design type; preparation for old life-focusing type; no-support no-preparation type; support for offspring-focusing type (Table 1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>resource allocation patterns</th>
<th>Fund portfolio design type (n=188)</th>
<th>Preparation for old life-focusing type (n=249)</th>
<th>No-support no-preparation type (n=119)</th>
<th>Support for offspring-focusing type (n=258)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily life expenses</td>
<td>4.17</td>
<td>2.76</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>4.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big money</td>
<td>3.78</td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>3.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>3.51</td>
<td>2.49</td>
<td>3.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>3.66</td>
<td>3.31</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>3.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td>3.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>3.57</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>2.98</td>
<td>3.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional</td>
<td>3.72</td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>3.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>3.56</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>3.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social activity</td>
<td>3.39</td>
<td>2.88</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer activity</td>
<td>3.43</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td>1.93</td>
<td>1.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
‘Fund portfolio design type’ is the type where they equally distribute resources on economic support for their offspring, caregiving to their parents, and preparation for their own future life. 188 respondents, 23.1% of all, belonged to this type. ‘Preparation for old life-focusing type’ is the type where, while they provide lower level of support for their offspring, they are relatively well-prepared for care-giving to their parents and their own older life. ‘No-support no-preparation type’ is the type where they give lower support for their offspring, and are not well prepared for their parents and themselves. 119 respondents, 14.6% of all, belonged to this type. Finally, ‘support for offspring-focusing type’ is the type of baby-boomers who focus on support for their offspring on their daily expenses and on big moneys, while relatively neglecting caregiving to parents and preparation for their own future life. 258 respondents, 31.7% of all, belonged to this type.

3.2 Difference in depression depending on resource allocation types

To examine differences in depression depending on resource allocation types, one-way ANOVA was conducted. It was found that the level of depression among those belonging to the no-support no-preparation type was higher than those among those belonging to fund portfolio design type, old life-focusing type, and support for offspring-focusing type.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource allocation patterns</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>M(SD)</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Duncan’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fund portfolio design type</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>2.21(.78)</td>
<td></td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>preparation for old life-focusing type</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>2.30(.61)</td>
<td>7.7307*</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no-support no-preparation type</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>2.56(.76)</td>
<td></td>
<td>b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>support for offspring-focusing type</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>2.23(.67)</td>
<td></td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* p<.01

4 Characteristics of resource allocation types among Korean baby-boomers and some suggestions

This study aims to categorize how baby-boomers born from 1955 to 1963 allocate their resources. The survey was conducted in Seoul and provinces like Chungcheong, Jeolla, Gyeongsang, and Gangwon from July to October 2015. 814 copies of the questionnaire were used in the analysis.

In resource allocation patterns, the proportions of baby-boomers who focus on a specific area, whether on their own old life or on support for their offspring, were high. That is, 249 respondents, 30.6% of all, were old life-focusing type, and 258
respondents, 31.7% of all, were support for offspring-focusing type. In contrast, lower proportions of them were either the type where they equally distribute resources or the type where they neither support offspring or parents, nor prepare for their own old life. The fund portfolio type had 188 respondents, 23.1%, and no-support no-preparation type had 119 respondents, 14.6% of all.

And, it was found that the level of depression among those belonging to the no-support no-preparation type was higher than those among those belonging to fund portfolio design type, old life-focusing type, and support for offspring-focusing type.

References