Comparison of Familism and Caregiving Stress between Korean and Chinese Married Offspring

Hailan Jin, Yun-Jeong Kim

1 Dept. of Elderly Welfare, Hanseo University
46, Hanseo 1-ro, Haemi-myun, Seosan-si, Korea

Abstract This study aims to comparison of familism value and caregiving stress particularly for the married adult offspring in Korea and China. Main results were followed. First, Koreans regard families as a source of support more strongly than Chinese people do, while the latter has a stronger sense of responsibility as a family member. Second, Korean married offspring's sense of familism as a source of support is 3.886 times higher than that of the Chinese counterparts, with the former's sense of obligation as a family member being 5.076 times lower than that of the Chinese. Among caregiving stress variables, Koreans' sense of relational aggravation is 3.094 times higher than that of the Chinese.

Keywords: Familism values, caregiving stress, logistic regression

1 서론

What Korea and China have in common is that they are entering the stage of an aged society from an aging society at the fastest pace in the world. Against this backdrop, caregiving for elderly people depends mainly on their families in both Korea and China. According to a survey on what kind of opinion Koreans have on caregiving for old parents [1], 33.0% responded that family is responsible for taking care of old parents while 48.8% said that family and the government both are responsible. Korea and China have a very strong family-oriented culture. In modern times, however, Korea and China both underwent drastic social changes—industrialization and communism in respective countries. After going through such social changes, the difference in familial value between Korea and China has become more pronounced [2][3]. Such a difference in personal values leads to a difference in caregiver stress. Korean students have a higher level of caregiving consciousness for old parents than their Chinese counterparts [4][5]. In light of caregiving responsibility, Chinese students have a stronger sense of responsibility than their Korean counterparts [3].

At present, Korean society is in a transition phase towards a multi-cultural society. In Korea's multi-racial families, of which those married to Chinese female immigrants, including Korean-Chinese women, take the highest share. Their familial value will have a significant meaning in Korea’s social caregiving tendency in the future. Chances are high that their familial values cold be changed or transformed
during the process of adapting to Korean society. Accordingly, it merits attention to analyze the relationship between their familism values and caregiver stress not only for themselves but for others who will join Korean society in the future. To establish multicultural policies and caregiving policies for older people, it is meaningful to compare and analyze familism value and caregiver stress between Korea’s married adult offspring and their Chinese counterparts.

This study aims to comparison of familism value and caregiving stress between in Korean and Chinese married adult offspring.

2 Method

This study conducted a questionnaire survey with 304 Korean married adult offspring and 295 Chinese ones during the period from January 2014 to March 2014.

This study uses familism value instrument of Losadaet. al’s [6]. It is an 8-question criteria. The caregiver stress is measured by using the 22 question criteria of Zarit, Orr, and Zarit [7]. The reliability of the criteria ranges from Cronbach’s alpha .68 to .85.

Correlation and logistic regression analysis are conducted by using IBM SPSS 21.0.

3 Result

3.1 Comparison of Familism and Caregiving Stress between Korean and Chinese Married Offspring

As a result of the analysis of familism between Korean and Chinese married offspring, it was found that Koreans regard families as a source of support more strongly than Chinese people do, while the latter has a stronger sense of responsibility as a family member.

There was a meaningful difference in all of caregiving stress sub-factors such as the sense of entrapment, role overload, relational aggravation, and role confusion. Korea’s married offspring turned out to have a higher sense of entrapment, role overload, relational aggravation, and role confusion compared to their Chinese counterparts.

3.2 Comparison of Familism and Caregiving Stress between Korea and China Using Logistic Regression Analysis

To compare familism and caregiving stress between Korea and China, logistic regression was used. As a result, the model has a significant meaning with a high coefficient of determination of 56.2%.

If excluding the control variables, there were significant differences in two sub-variables of familism, and in one caregiving stress variable—relational aggravation.
Namely, Korean married offspring's sense of familism as a source of support is 3.886 times higher than that of the Chinese counterparts, with the former's sense of obligation as a family member being 5.076 times lower than that of the Chinese. Among caregiving stress variables, Koreans' sense of relational aggravation is 3.094 times higher than that of the Chinese. The most pronounced difference between Korean and Chinese married offspring is their sense of obligation as a family member.

4 Discussion

This study conducted a questionnaire survey with 304 Korean married adult offspring and 295 Chinese ones during the period from January 2014 to March 2014.

First, the analysis of the difference in familism value between Korean and Chinese married adult offspring (family as a source of support, obligation as a family member) shows that the Korean married adult offspring turn out to have a higher sense of “familism as a source of support,” while Chinese ones have a higher sense of “obligation as a family member.”

Second, Korean married offspring suffer from higher caregiving stress than their Chinese counterparts in all the variables, including the sense of entrapment, role overload, relational aggravation and role confusion. This is somewhat different from the results of the previous study [4][5], which showed that Korean university students have a higher level of caregiving consciousness compared to their Chinese and Japanese counterparts.

This can be explained through familism. Korea’s married offspring have a strong tendency of regarding family as an important source of help. Namely, they regard family as a source of support on which they can rely when faced with difficulties. However, in a situation where they have to give caregiving to parents, they should become a source of support. The gap between their familism values and the circumstance of having to supporting parents appears to have served as a cause of stress. Accordingly, the relational aggravation factor for Korean married offspring turned out to be 3.094 times higher than that of the Chinese counterparts. In contrast, Chinese married offspring have a stronger sense of obligation as a family member, thereby having less stress from caregiving.

References

