

## **Perceptions of Senior Cohousing amongst Korean 50s Living in Seoul Area**

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This study aimed to find out perceptions of senior cohousing amongst Korean 50s living in Seoul area. Senior cohousing is one of well-known elderly housing communities in Scandinavia, but quite new to Koreans as well as other countries in Asian region. 50s in Korea is the group that is expected to face aging society within 5~10 years. Their 60s will be much different from former aged generation. Thus, it would be valuable to find out perceptions of senior cohousing by 50s to make plans for aging society in Korea.

This study was fulfilled by social survey in Seoul and its' outskirt area where one fourth of Korean population are residing. Data were collected from 558 respondents and analyzed by SPSS program. Inquiries included awareness of senior cohousing, willingness to move to senior cohousing when they get older, merit and demerit of living in senior cohousing, preference of composition of age group in the community, one's circumstances to move to senior cohousing, common activities they would like to take part in, and common facilities to be facilitated.

The result indicated as followings; Respondents who have ever heard about senior cohousing were less than one fifth, which meant senior cohousing was scarcely known in Korea. Half of the respondents would like to move to senior cohousing when they get older and preferred residents group composed of 55+ only. Security and less loneliness were thought as merits, while as less privacy and heavy involvement of common activities as demerits of senior cohousing.

It was notable that the common spaces to promote mutual support amongst residents, as meeting room and common kitchen cum dining room were preferred as common facilities to be facilitated, even though most of Korean 50s are not accustomed to shared activities as much as Scandinavians. Health and hobby spaces, for instance, sports room, sauna, garden and terrace were less preferred. According to this result we can expect establishment of senior cohousing for Korean seniors within 5~10 years, since there are growing population of Korean 50s that seek for a new alternative elderly housing wanting not to be burden of children.