

Relationship between Participation in the Elderly Job Project and Quality of Life: focused on the Social Capital Mediating Effect

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Abstract

This study investigates income support, labor opportunities, and social capital by the demographic characteristics of the elderly who participate in the elderly job project, and especially the relationship between social and quality of life. We want to provide empirical data on how the elderly vocational business ultimately affects the lives of the elderly through the intervention of social capital. The intervention effect of social capital is as follows. Satisfaction with the elderly job project has a great impact on the quality of life, trust, network, and social participation. In particular, trust in the quality of life of the elderly had a great influence on the quality of life and was indirectly effective. In addition, the intervention of social participation between social capital was known, and the elderly job project increased social participation to improve the quality of life of the elderly. Therefore, it can be evaluated that the elderly job project has an important positive effect on the quality of life of the elderly, and the social capital formed through the elderly job project plays a role in directly or indirectly improving the quality of life of the elderly.

Keywords: Elderly Job Project, Social Capital, Trust, Network, Social Participation, Quality of Life

1. INTRODUCTION

Globally, the aging trend is accelerating. As of 2021, Korea is an aging society, with the population aged 65 and over accounting for 16.5% of the total population. In 2015, the elderly population is expected to account for 43.9% of the total population [1]. It is expected to enter a super-aged society for the first time in seven years after entering the aged society in 2018.

If the low birth rate continues along with an increase in the elderly population due to an aging population, the baby boom generation is expected to enter the aged population, extending life expectancy. It is expected that a serious situation of having to support the elderly will occur [2]. The increase of the elderly population who is not ready for old age is putting a great burden on Korean society, which does not have a proper old-age security system, and participation in economic activities is essential for old-age life. However, most of the elderly have no place to work, and even if there are jobs, it is an urgent task to provide high-quality jobs to the elderly in most temporary/daily jobs, simple jobs, and low-wage jobs. Rather than using experience even if you have a job [3]. As the social burden gradually increases due to the economic crisis and the feeling of belonging of the elderly, the ultimate goal is to improve the welfare of the elderly, reduce the social burden,

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and strengthen national competitiveness. In order to expand social and social participation, the elderly job project(EJP) has been implemented since 2014 [4].

The EJP, a national policy that provides jobs to the elderly with working ability, can be said to be a representative welfare project for the elderly that invests the most budget after long-term care insurance. The government's 2021 employment budget is 30.6 trillion won, a 20.0% increase from 25.5 trillion won last year, and the budget for supporting the EJP is about 1.3 trillion won, and the budget is continuously increasing [5]. In a situation where the government is investing huge amounts of money in the EJP, and the number of senior citizens and project operators participating in the project is increasing every year, it is necessary to continuously check and evaluate the achievement of the goals of the senior citizen job project.

Therefore, in this study, we tried to investigate the relationship between job satisfaction for the elderly and social capital and quality of life. This contributes to the direction of the employment policy for the elderly and the substantialization of the program, and the purpose of this is to microscopically evaluate the effectiveness of the employment policy for the elderly through the employment project for the elderly by looking in detail through the relationship with social capital.

2. RESEARCH CONTENT

2.1 Elderly and jobs

As productive aging has emerged as a new paradigm for the welfare of the elderly in the West, the United Nations recognizes the social, cultural, economic, and political contributions and contributions of the elderly to adopt the 'Madrid International Action Plan for Aging Aging' to promote social participation and employment of the elderly. reached [6]. Although the number of highly educated and highly skilled elderly people in Korea is increasing, the social and economic infrastructure that can utilize them in productive fields is extremely weak.

Even for productive activities, it can be seen that having an appropriate job in old age has an essential influence on the quality of life. The EJP can include the concept of productive activities and activities that contribute to society in the form of informal help or unpaid volunteer work. Because, if the productive activity is defined in a narrow sense in the economic aspect, the elderly who have retired from the formal labor market may become an existence that only increases the burden of support without contributing to society. However, various social-related activities such as volunteering, social participation, care, and support can be defined as productive, and they can still serve as productive beings contributing to society [7].

2.2 Quality of life

Many scholars are presenting a framework for research on the quality of life. The objective measurement uses social indicators such as economics, and subjective measurement measures how an individual feels and perceives his or her life. However, many studies prefer to measure welfare by subjective experience because objective indicators cannot accurately reflect individual welfare experiences. It is widely agreed that quality of life is multifaceted and encompasses physical, psychological, and social domains including personal experiences [8].

As the age increases, the health of the elderly deteriorates, they suffer from chronic diseases, or their psychological function deteriorates. The decline in function also lowers their self-esteem, loses their role in society, and is complicated by problems with social support. will experience In addition, residential environmental factors can influence in any form.

2.3 Social capital

Social capital implies the meaning of social plus capital. According to Coleman and Putnam, the most common criterion is that social capital is the aspect of a social structure or social relationship that enables an individual to engage in specific behavior [9, 10]. Trust, norms, and networks that can promote structured behavior and increase social efficiency are defined as social structural characteristics [11]. On the other hand, types of social capital can be divided into bonding, bridging, and linking. It provides a clue to measuring social capital [12]. Social capital is viewed as capital because it enables new activities that were not possible without it and enable new goals to be achieved [13]. A group in which members trust each other can achieve more than opposing groups, and the quality of life of its members will be higher. In other words, social capital plays a role as capital because norms, values, reciprocity, trust, and networks shared in interactions between people work positively in society.

Among important indicators, trust is divided into two factors: the degree of trustworthiness and the degree of observance of duties. The degree of credibility refers to the degree of trust in the social environment that duties must be performed [14]. The existence of a network cannot necessarily be regarded as naturally occurring from a natural or social point of view. Rather, it can be said that it is established through the first act of institutionalization, and the network of relationships is the product of unremitting efforts at the institutional level and also the product of institutional rituals. The reason why we are interested in the relationship network is that the nature of social capital changes according to the structural characteristics of the relationship network to which trust and mutual aid belong. These structural characteristics include the size and scope of social networks and the density and diversity of social connections [15]. The discussion of social participation can be explained along with citizenship. Tocqueville formally argued that face-to-face interaction within an organization was essential for creating democratic norms among citizens. Through the organization, citizens are educated on civic virtues such as trust, moderation, consensus, and reciprocity, and are trained in democratic debate and organizational management skills. This phenomenon can be called an internal effect [16, 17].

3. RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 Subject and model

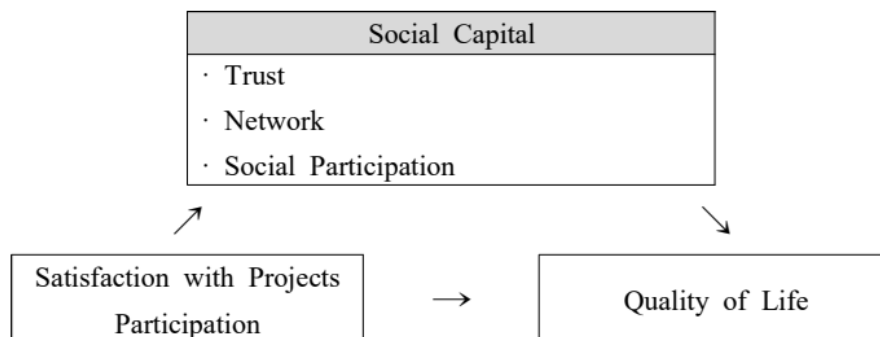


Figure 1. Research model

In this study, 500 people were surveyed by direct entry method and interviewed by researchers using a structured questionnaire targeting elderly people 65 years of age or older who participated in the employment

projections for the elderly centered in city 'C' in South Gyeongsang Province. The subjects were the elderly aged 65 and over who were participating in the EJP in one senior club, a general social welfare center, and three elderly welfare centers located in city 'C'. As shown in Figure 1, the relationship between independent variables, outcome variables, and mediating variables is shown. The independent variable consisted of participation in EJP, and the outcome variable consisted of quality of life. Social capital as a mediating variable was set as trust, network, and social participation.

3.2 Data analysis

SPSS 25.0 and Amos 25.0 were used to identify the characteristics of the EJP, social capital, and quality of life. For social capital and quality of life variables, the fit of the model was confirmed through confirmatory factor analysis, and for social capital index, common conceptual characteristics between variables were calculated through exploratory factor analysis, and then the fit of the model was confirmed through confirmatory factor analysis. and checked its validity. The mediating effect of social capital was verified with the structural equation path model on the relationship between participation in the EJP, social capital, and overall quality of life, and direct and indirect effects were also analyzed.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Frequency analysis of Elderly jobs project

Looking at the degree of satisfaction with participation in the EJP, 8.4% of the cases were almost dissatisfied, 16.4% of cases were relatively dissatisfied, 58.4% of cases relatively satisfied, and 16.8% of cases of very satisfied. Regarding the degree of work opportunities, 8.4% did not contribute at all, 16.4% did not contribute at all, 58.2% contributed relatively, and 17.0% contributed very much.

4.2 Factor analysis of quality of life variables

All items of the quality of life scale were found to be appropriate as models, and the recognition level of 'fun' and 'worthiness' was found to be relatively high.

4.3 Factor analysis of Social capital

As a result of exploratory factor analysis of 'trust' variables, three factors were extracted: trust in people, trust in institutions, and trust in public officials, and 8 items were found to explain 66.985% of the total variance. As a result of confirmatory factor analysis, trust in political leaders was excluded, and trust in people and trust in institutions were extracted as factors.

As a result of the exploratory factor analysis of relational 'network' variables, four factors were extracted: the relationship related to the meeting, the relationship related to helping, the relationship related to contact, and the relationship related to the exchange. As a result of confirmatory factor analysis, the number of records of phone numbers was excluded among the questions related to exchange.

As a result of exploratory factor analysis of 'participation' variables, three factors were extracted: active social participation, opinion sharing social participation, and expressive social participation. As a result, only active social participation and opinion-sharing social participation were included except for expressive social participation.

4.4 Mediating effect analysis of Social capital

4.4.1 Mediating effect analysis of trust

As shown in Table 1, satisfaction with participation in the EJP was found to have a significant positive improvement effect on the level of trust (path coefficient=.176, $p<0.001$) and a positive improvement effect on the quality of life (path coefficient=. 247, $p<0.05$). Also, it can be seen that the degree of trust has a very positive improvement effect on the improvement of the quality of life (path coefficient=1.677, $p<0.001$).

Table 1. Results of mediating effects of trust variables

Path	Ext.	S.E.	Beta	C.R.	P
Project satisfaction→Trust	0.176	0.043	0.261	4.112***	0.000
Project satisfaction→Quality of Life	0.247	0.121	0.104	2.043*	0.041
Trust→Quality of Life	1.677	0.322	0.477	5.203***	0.000

As shown in Table 2, it was found that the level of job satisfaction for the elderly has a strong direct effect on the quality of life and the level of trust, and in particular, it has an indirect effect on the quality of life as trust has a very large effect on the quality of life of the elderly.

Table 2. Results of mediating effects of trust variables

Variables	Effect	Project satisfaction	Trust
Trust	Total effect	0.176	none
	Direct effect	0.176	none
	Indirect effect	none	none
Quality of Life	Total effect	0.542	1.677
	Direct effect	0.247	1.677
	Indirect effect	0.295	none

4.4.2 Mediating effect analysis of network

As shown in Table 3, satisfaction with participation in the EJP was found to have a significant positive improvement effect on the degree of relationship network (path coefficient=.509, $p<0.01$) and a positive improvement effect on the quality of life (path coefficient=.380, $p<0.001$). Also, it can be seen that the degree of the relationship network has a very positive improvement effect on the improvement of the quality of life (path coefficient=.317, $p<0.001$).

Table 3. Results of mediating effects of network variables

Path	Ext.	S.E.	Beta	C.R.	P
Project satisfaction→Network	0.509	0.190	0.165	2.684**	0.007
Project satisfaction→Quality of Life	0.380	0.110	0.155	3.463***	0.000
Network→Quality of Life	0.317	0.069	0.399	4.617***	0.000

As shown in Table 4, it was found that the degree of job satisfaction for the elderly had a strong direct effect on the quality of life and the degree of relationship network, and in particular, had an indirect effect on the quality of life.

Table 4. Results of mediating effects of network variables

Variables	Effect	Project satisfaction	Trust
Network	Total effect	0.509	none
	Direct effect	0.509	none
	Indirect effect	none	none
Quality of Life	Total effect	0.541	0.317
	Direct effect	0.380	0.317
	Indirect effect	0.162	none

4.4.3 Mediating effect analysis of social participation

As shown in Table 5, satisfaction with participation in the EJP gave a significant positive improvement effect on social participation (path coefficient=.264, $p<0.01$), and it was found that it did not have a significant effect on the quality of life at the statistical significance level of 5%. Also, it can be seen that the degree of social participation has a very positive improvement effect on the improvement of the quality of life (path coefficient=.998, $p<0.01$).

Table 5. Results of mediating effects of social participation variables

Path	Ext.	S.E.	Beta	C.R.	P
Project satisfaction→Social participation	0.264	0.090	0.261	2.951**	0.003
Project satisfaction→Quality of Life	0.270	0.140	0.104	1.932	0.053
Social participation→Quality of Life	0.998	0.308	0.477	3.244**	0.001

As shown in Table 6, it was found that the level of job satisfaction for the elderly had a direct effect on the quality of life and social participation, and especially had an indirect effect on the quality of life. In other words, the mediating effect of social participation among social capital was clearly shown.

Table 6. Results of mediating effects of social participation variables

Variables	Effect	Project satisfaction	Trust
Trust	Total effect	0.264	none
	Direct effect	0.264	none
	Indirect effect	none	none
Quality of Life	Total effect	0.534	0.998
	Direct effect	0.270	0.998
	Indirect effect	0.264	none

5. CONCLUSION

This study investigates income support, labor opportunities, and social capital by the demographic characteristics of the elderly who participate in the EJP, and especially the relationship between social and quality of life. The EJP did not make an appreciable contribution to securing income through employment and recovering the subjective economic condition. However, it is effective because it provides employment opportunities for the elderly and positively changes the quality of life later through social capital accumulation. In particular, the level of job satisfaction for the elderly had a strong direct effect on the quality of life and social capital. We was found that the satisfaction of the EJP had a very important effect on the formation of relationships among the elderly. In addition, we was found that the EJP improves the quality of life of the

elderly by increasing social participation. Therefore, it can be evaluated that the EJP has an important positive effect on the quality of life of the elderly, and the social capital formed through the EJP plays a role in directly or indirectly improving the quality of life of the elderly as a whole.

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