

The Argus

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Since 1954

You Only Live Once!

Cover Story

YOLO, the Lifestyle People Desire

Feature

Korean Society with Social Risks

In-depth on Campus

On-campus Sex Crimes Unsevered

People

Grown-up: A Lifelong Journey for My Sister



HANKUK UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN STUDIES

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- *President and Publisher* Prof. Kim In-chul
- *Executive Editor* Prof. Choi Yo-sop
- *Editor-in-Chief* Lee Sei-yon (ELG-2)
- *Editorial Consultants* Lee Jae-won (H-3)
Byun Hee-jin (DIS-3)
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Jeon Nu-ri (G-1)
- *Copy Readers*
Prof. Merrilee Brinegar
Prof. Michael Heinz
Prof. Todd Jobbitt

107, Imun-ro, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul, Korea
(Postal Code 02450)

Tel: (02) 2173-2508 Fax: 2173-2509

81, Oedae-ro, Mohyeon-myon, Cheoin-gu Yongin, Gyeonggi
Province, Korea

(Postal Code 17035) Tel: (031) 330-4113

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Editorial

A Responsible Runaway

The average employee in South Korea works overtime two and a half days per week according to a survey conducted by the employment-related portal JobKorea. A more disheartening fact is that such statistics no longer surprise us. Rather, they come across as another ordinary ordeal for workers and an obvious ordeal-to-come for workers-to-be. All of us are aware of the bleak future ahead: a future where the price to pay to go to work is comprised not only of labor but also life. Yet, we put all our efforts into attaining this employee status even at the expense of losing our life outside of work.

This October, The Argus covers the movement known as 'YOLO' which is an acronym for You Only Live Once. The catchphrase implies the prevalence of subjugated lives in our society. It challenges people to rethink their self-sacrificing decisions and encourages them to make decisions worthy of their one-and-only lives. As a result, we can witness people claiming ownership of their lives by living in a satisfactory way today rather than tomorrow.

We often overlook the fact that everyone is equally entitled to one chance at life. It is truly mature of us to put aside pleasure in the present for an uncertain future.

However, the problem is that our career paths may define, but do not determine our post-graduation lives. The right way to prepare for the future does not lie in following such destined paths. Rather, it is highly likely that it lies in a number of other paths that have not been walked. Nevertheless, we are afraid of walking astray because it feels as though it is equivalent to running away from reality. The truth is that running away itself should not be condemned as irresponsible if a plan precedes it. With a map and some direction, we can rightfully and responsibly run forward or backward to find for ourselves what is at the end of the road. After all, you have a right to run because you only live once, not twice. ☹

이세연

Lee Sei-yon
Editor-in-Chief



CONTENTS



Cover Story

>> Recently, YOLO fever has taken over Korea. It is a concept that encourages people to live for their own present happiness. Many relevant contents such as books and television programs are loved by the public. People themselves are trying hard to pursue a YOLO lifestyle. In light of these phenomena, it is apparent that many people think positively of YOLO and want to follow it. The Argus looked into the reasons people desire this new lifestyle and what is preventing the public from pursuing it.

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© Lee Seiyon/The Argus

▲ Around 80 students remained in Obama Hall at the Seoul Campus for the General Assembly after an hour into the meeting.

General Assembly Called Off due to Low Student Participation

On Sept. 18, HUF5 51st Emergency Planning Committee (EPC) of Seoul Campus failed to open the biannual student meeting due to a lack of student attendees.


According to school regulations, more than a tenth of the total students should be present to satisfy the quorum should the meeting take place. However, 435 out of 8,129 students showed up at Obama Hall, Minerva Complex, thwarting discussion on some important agendas. One of the topics that EPC planned to talk about was the upcoming school presidential election in November.

Conventionally, the council of HUF5 professors has the sole right to elect the head of the school excluding students and faculty members as voters. To challenge the current system, the student council met with school officials on Sept. 11, and reported the details of the meeting through the paper packet distributed to the General Assembly attendees.

“A new election system could come forth next time, if there should be a unanimous consensus to promote among the board of directors, council of professors and student body,” said the Dean of Administration Support in the report.

Dean of Student Affairs agreed that it is late to change the system, saying “Careful consideration should precede any systematic changes.”

As the incumbent president Kim In-chul runs for the election of the 12th HUF5 president, he will be suspended from performing his duties on Sept. 15. From that point on, the vice president will take over his position until the election comes to an end.

Previously, EPC posted a paper statement which demanded that students and faculty be allowed to cast votes for their leader. Currently, the committee plans on holding a public hearing on Sept. 19 at International Building on Seoul Campus. 


Menstrual Leave Now an Approved Absence

Menstruation will be regarded as a legitimate excuse for absence from this fall semester, relieving female students from the pressure to fight their menstrual pain to take attendance.

According to the online announcement made at HUF5 official website on Aug. 30, only two absences due to a period will be forgiven. Students must download the form from the website and submit it directly to the professor within seven days of their period. Additionally, menstrual leave is permitted separately with the standard absence range of ‘within 1/4 of a semester.’

The school arrived at the decision in response to requests for women rights protection from student councils and the Human Rights Commission.

HUF5’ decision found favorable responses from the students as absences from having a period was made official regardless of their department. Previously, only two departments, Business Administration Division and Dept. of Arabic, approved menstrual absences. It is also positive that not only a policy now encompasses all female students, but also the entire period duration without the submission of a doctor’s prescription.

However, some raise concerns that the policy has some room for improvement. According to the Emergency Planning Committee, the number of admissions for two semesters is insufficient compared to the number of menstrual periods the female students will experience on average during one semester. More importantly, menstrual absence may be rejected because the policy acknowledges teachers’ discretion. 

Festivity Falls On Campus



©Moon Chae-in/The Argus

▲ Club festival is held under a set of canopies on Seoul Campus.

HUFS students organized a Fall Festival from Sept. 13 to 15 on Seoul Campus, brightening the school spirit.

To start off, students highlighted their singing skills at a singing contest. A string of fun activities, such as a mini-biking and photo zones with food booths on standby throughout the festival, attracted much interest.

On the last day, Busking Mac-stage took roll at Green Square as students enjoyed a variety of student-led musical performances with a can of beer.

All student representatives from HUFS Colleges and the 51st Emergency Planning Committee collaborated to make the biannual event possible. 📸

HUFS Shares 60 Years of HUFStory

Starting this fall semester, HUFS will be running an exhibition at the HUFS Historical Archives to share the 60-year-old footsteps of the university.

Located on the third floor of the building, the room exhibits a wide range of historical records including photographs and historical data compiled by 130,000 HUFS alumni since 1954.

Also, the school provides a 20-minute tour program of the exhibition for those interested.

The exhibition welcomes all who are interested in tracking the footprints of HUFS. 📸

HUFS Welcomes Students Worldwide

On Aug. 25, The HUFS Organization of International Student Association held a one-day orientation for international students newly enrolled for fall semester in Seoul Campus.

Composed of two parts, the first took place at BRICS Hall, Graduate School of Education, specifically for regular students. Approximately 150 students attended and received necessary information in Korean and Chinese.

The second part of the orientation was held in the Cyber Building to accommodate around 350 attendees from over 50 countries. The newcomers were informed of the registration process, insurance and dormitory information in English.

The Argus also delivered a five-minute presentation to encourage participation from prospective student readers. 📸

College of Oriental Languages Renamed

College of Oriental Languages starts anew as College of Asian Languages and Culture this semester.

After 37 years since its separation from the College of Occidental Languages, the college decided to change its name to promote an integrated education that transcends studies on specific regions of Asia.

HUFS College of Asian Languages and Culture is the only university in South Korea that educates students on not only Asian languages but also relevant regional studies. It consists of eight departments: Malay-Indonesian, Arabic, Thai, Vietnamese, Hindi, Turkish and Azerbaijani, Persian and Mongolian. 📸

The Untraveled Road Worth Walking



By Park Ji-yong
Reporter of Campus Section

In August Chinese state-run media released a list of “Foreigners who are most loved by Chinese people.” There is one single South Korean national who is a proud alumna of HUFs among those names in the list: Ryu Ji-won. As one of the most loved foreigners by Chinese viewers and as a proud alumna who seized success in both business and life goals, The Argus interviewed this exceptional person.

The Argus: Please briefly introduce yourself.

Ryu Ji-won (Ryu): My name is Ryu Ji-won, and I began my university life in the Chinese Studies Division in year 2011. I chose my double major in Journalism and Media Studies.

Lately, I am committing myself to a one-man online broadcast for both Chinese and Korean viewers. Chinese viewers call me “Hanguo dongdong.” The last two syllables

“dongdong” is a kind of title to show close friendship. It indicates that my viewers see me as a close friend, so I am gladly using the nickname “Hanguo dongdong.”

The Argus: What are main contents of your broadcast?

Ryu: Mainly, my topics for broadcast are contents that can show “Modern China” without stage-managing, to improve the unfavorable impression of the country that foreigners commonly have.

For instance, I deal with Chinese dramas, celebrities who are getting a lot of spotlight time in China, fashion and cosmetics in the country for Korean viewers. In reverse, I introduce unpopular details of China even to Chinese people, latest culture codes in Korea to viewers in China. Sometimes I even walk out of my studio and talk to random people to illustrate both countries realistically.



©Hanguo dongdong

▲ A panda is drawn in the logo of Hanguo dongdong which is a symbolic animal of China.

The Argus: What was your motivation to start the Chinese-based business?

Ryu: I spent five years in China since my father had to move to the country for his business. That was during my childhood, so I did not feel that it was very different from the place I called home. China carries a special meaning to me. It has become a place I call home too, with countless precious memories.

However, I was often frustrated after I returned to Korea, from the negative impression of China that Koreans often have. “Was it safe enough to live there?” or “Was your house clean enough to live in?” were the first things my Korean friends asked me. I was so sad that the place where I grew up was being considered an undeveloped country. It later made me make up my mind that I do want to bridge the gap between these two countries to make misunderstandings right.

Even though mainstream cultural media gives a rough silhouette of both countries to one another, not everything gets featured in mainstream media. Especially, considering broadcast censorship in China, there are too many things excluded and untold. These untold stories are not only often a catalyst for misunderstandings but also a solution to get rid of them at the same time. Since I have no relation to censorship or authorities, I can deliver messages freely, without any interference during the process. I am making the most of the chances I have, to give a real and clear picture to both countries.

The Argus: How did you prepare the one-man online broadcast business?

Ryu: There was a mentoring program hosted by the Korean Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning. I met my mentor who had unparalleled experience and expertise in Public Relations. I spent six months of preparation. While working in the marketing department of a Korean mobile video service company, I could learn a lot about Chinese social networks and their services. Then I had an in-depth analysis about what broadcasting and what contents I could



©Hanguo dongdong

▲ The channel deals with up-to-date cultural trends in both countries.

deal with the best, and what would my future viewers would like the most.

My first broadcast was in Sept. 9 last year in Chinese online video site called “Billy Billy.” The site has a lot of teen users and viewers in their twenties, so I thought Korean celebrities and cosmetics would fit well. The very first item I introduced in the episode was “TFBOYS,” a Chinese boy group. Nothing much else in the episode but the exchange of conversation about the group was included. When I checked the hits next morning, the numbers said 300. Being amazed, I kept my broadcast with updates, which led me to have 3 million subscribers in the next four months.

The Argus: You are the only Korean on the list. What do you think is the biggest factor to be nominated as the most loved Korean in China?

Ryu: Maybe the passion to illustrate and elaborate on both countries with veracity played the biggest part. Lately, I receive a lot of messages from one-man online contents creators saying that they want to collaborate with me. Most of them tell me that they want to make a lot of money with the contents.

Of course businesses are run by profit, but my business has something beyond money. The value I want to earn from the broadcast is the eradication of misunderstandings. I hope I could function as a bridge between two countries, even if it will not be economically promising. Chinese viewers really like my uploads and leave a lot of favorable comments below the video especially when I deliver the under-illustrated and understated.

The Argus: What were your difficulties in this broadcast?

Ryu: I still think there is solid negative impression in the

Visiting

minds of Koreans deep down. Whenever I read news articles related to China, the comments below are just horrible. A recent earthquake in the country which claimed so many innocent lives, for instance, had comments such as “It should have killed more.” Not only the comments for this article, but nearly all the comments of any other articles are translated in Chinese and they read everything. It hurts me badly when I see a solid enmity between the two countries and questions like “Can I really reconcile the misunderstandings between 1.3 billion Chinese and 50 million Korean people with this single business?” The ultimate goal of my business is to bridge gap between the two but these self-asked questions make the goal itself beyond reach, no matter how hard I try.

However, I always find a silver lining from other kinds of comments. “I have a good impression of Korea simply thanks to you, no one else.” Receiving these encouraging messages, I also realize that there is no one else who can do this and this is not the problem I can give up. I get psychological energy from these and start planning for the next upload.

The Argus: What are your future plans?

Ryu: I would like to focus on the broadcast for a while, participating wherever there is cultural exchange between the countries. They share a lot of things in common. History says they shared culture from the very beginning and even had shared the same interests.

However, lately, there has been too much enmity and confrontation because of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defens (THAAD) crisis in which the two countries expressed extreme hostility online. Obviously these countries have always been close to one another not only ethnically, but also in terms of culture and history. I aspire to deliver the message that we can be closer with hospitality instead of hostility through my broadcast, so I have been lately expanding my business to collaborate with other Korean broadcasters who are engaging in Chinese contents.

The Argus: Is there anything you want to share with the readers?



▲ Ryu Ji-won invites viewers and celebrities on her channel.



▲ Ryu says that she really enjoys her job.

Ryu: I want them to live freely and happily. By “freely and happily,” I do not mean daytime drinking or clubbing but to keep wondering and wandering to find what you love. I used to work for a company, in which I had to handle too much stress and a large workload at the same time. It was one of the hardest times I have ever walked through. I decided to quit the biggest source of pain and submitted my letter of resignation to my boss. His last words were quite unforgettable. “I know the company gives you a lot of stress but outside is hell.”

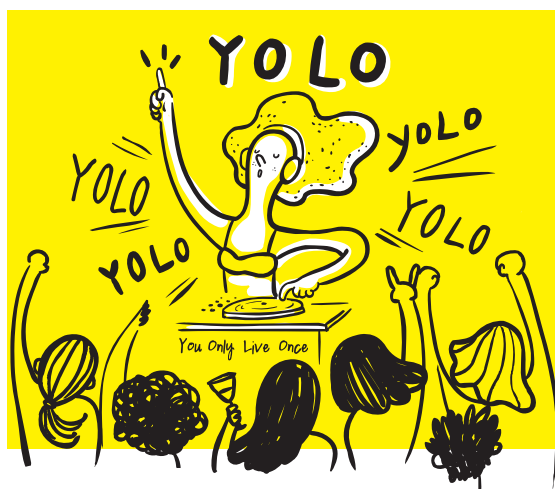
Of course it was unclear if I could be successful in a whole new business, especially the roads untraveled like mine. Looking back, however, it was the best choice I made in my life since I simply find this fun and it makes me happy. I want HUFSSans to know that there are so many unreachd and untraveled choices and career paths other than being hired in a tedious office.

Most college students, including HUFSSans, live everyday simply to get hired, under severe stress and unlimited competition. Ryu did not lose control of her purpose, made her own choices, and now she lives every single day accomplishing her goals anew. HUFSSans should know that there are so many underestimated chances that can lead them to find their own path. 📖

sandspectre7@hufs.ac.kr



THE LIFESTYLE PEOPLE DESIRE

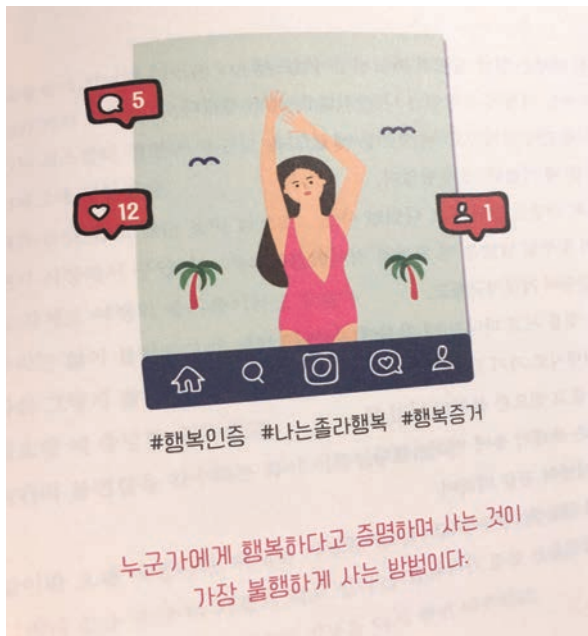


By Jeon Nu-ri

Reporter of Culture Section

In early 2015, a two-minute comic video promoting health care reform known as “Obama Care” became a hot issue. The video clip ends with former U.S. President Barack Obama saying “YOLO, man!” Since then, YOLO, the short form of “You Only Live Once,” became popular throughout the America, and it was newly coined in the Oxford English Dictionary last year.

This YOLO fever has recently taken over South Korea. It is a way of life that challenges people to pursue happiness in the present moment. Lately, Korean people often participate in YOLO-related activities that satisfy their desires to do what they want without any regret. The Argus looked into the reasons why people enjoy YOLO and what casts shadows on it.



©Kim Su-hyun

▲ Kim Su-hyun encourages readers to express their true selves with witty illustrations and humorous words.

Phenomena reflecting YOLO

Books

Books that really encourage readers to live for their own happiness are gaining popularity. People are fed up with self-improvement books that give a rather dull lecture about things which are often kept too superficial to be put into practice. Books suggesting YOLO are drawing the public's attention, and some publishers are even launching a literature brand targeting the spirit.

The essay by Kim Su-hyun, "I Decided to Live as Myself" is a YOLO bestseller. Eleven months have passed since its publication, yet it is still loved by many people. This book tells the readers not to feel comparatively deprived by unnecessarily comparing themselves to people on social media pages. It also encourages readers to take time to look back on their lives and it teaches them what is needed to live as their true selves.

"I did not know until now, but after reading this book, I realized that I should always put myself first," said Moon Chae-un, a student at HUFs from the Department of Russian.

Not only do individual books reflect the trend, but also a literature brand appeared focusing on YOLO. In July of 2016, a publishing company named "Sakyejul," launched a brand called "YOLO YOLO." Those who want to make their one and only life truly meaningful,

they should first understand themselves thoroughly. In this regard, the brand believes that literature has the power to help them. Therefore, it set the concept of its books as "Books for people who want to live every day fully devoted to their true selves." It publishes books for people pursuing the YOLO spirit.

TV Programs

In the past, comedy programs were mainly about competition among the guests, and many television shows just made people laugh with exaggerated gestures. However, programs that show people enjoying YOLO life are becoming more popular these days. By watching the cast members doing things solely for their happiness, viewers can gain vicarious satisfaction and serene smiles.

In March, a program named "Youn's Kitchen" caused a sensation here. It was a story about four celebrities running a Korean restaurant on an island near Bali, Indonesia. In particular, one of the cast members, actress Jung Yu-mi exemplified a day lived to its fullest. She arrived at the restaurant earlier, prepared for the day's business and helped other people cook. At times, she enjoyed her free time feeding dogs with milk.

Public culture critic Jung Deok-hyun wrote in his column that Jung Yu-mi epitomized the spirit in that she performed her job responsibly and cherished the things around her.

"I have been busy doing lots of things since my early 20s. After watching Youn's Kitchen, I decided to do things that make me happy from now on," one viewer wrote on its viewers' online bulletin board.

"Hyo-ri's Guesthouse," which aired in June, is another program showing a YOLO life. It is the story of singer Lee Hyo-ri running her house on Jeju Island as a guesthouse for travelers. Putting aside her career for a moment, she



▲ "Youn's Kitchen" (L) and "Hyo-ri's Guesthouse" are programs which represent the YOLO spirit well.

enjoys the small pleasures of life such as yoga and going for a drive.

Despite “Hyo-ri’s Guesthouse” being a cable television program, it scored the highest viewer ratings among the programs that aired concurrently. After its first episode, the number of applicants for lodging there went up to over 20,000, hinting at its explosive popularity.

An increasing number of YOLO-related contents and their popularity reflects the level of desire invested in both the producers and consumers to live for the present for once.

Individuals

People themselves put YOLO into practice as well. It is not just a mere chant asking for a daring lifestyle – it can often be found in practice around us.

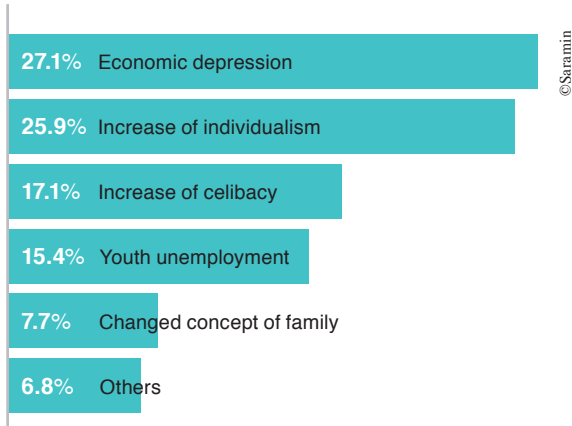
One of such examples is a group called “Single Quotation Marks,” which is composed of young people who aim to create a world where youths can have a better chance of finding their genuine selves.

“Even if we do what we want to do in our daily lives, some regulations and restrictions are not improving and continue to act as a sticking point,” said the group leader Jang Seo-yeong. Thus, she decided to create her own place and her own world where she could do things joyfully with like-minded peers.

The group held a special schooling program to pinpoint the youth’s current aspect of being overly centralized in academic sectarianism. They conveyed the message that everyone has their own unique abilities that can be put to good use. Its members proceeded with the projects in the hope that everyone will live their own lives happily. They have a firm belief that if these lives gather and pile up, ultimately the positive energy will permeate into our society.

In October, 2015, The School of Life was founded in Seoul in the hope of pursuing true happiness. It asks some intriguing questions like “How can I deal with the problems related to love and human relations?” and “What

Why YOLO spread in Korea?



is a better life?” At school, students of all ages can take practical lectures such as how to spend time alone and how to avoid being trapped at work.

“The world doesn’t really teach us how to live a happy life,” said Alain de Botton, the founder of the school.

Causes of the phenomena

According to a survey by portal site Saramin, 84.1 percent of the respondents answered positively to YOLO. Ironically, its rise stems from people’s exhausting lifestyles. These days, people have often gotten weary of their work and monotonous routine. In this process, their craving for present happiness naturally went up resulting to the current popularity of YOLO.

People tired of living

In Korea, there are so-called good universities and good workplaces that are generally well recognized by people. Competition has become inevitable and fierce with increased demand for such positions.

Trying hard to survive in this ultra-competitive society, people have become exhausted by life and have started to feel skeptical about the existence of true happiness in life. In this moment, YOLO acts like a stimulant for those who are sick of their humdrum lives to pursue their innate values.

“In the past, I only focused on entering a university and studied hard to survive amidst such harsh competition. Then one day, suddenly a question struck me: ‘What do I live for?’” said Byun Hee-jin from the Division of International Studies.

As a junior, the pressure to prepare for employment sat



▲ Single Quotation Marks runs a project called “Jakdda School,” to provide people with education which they really need.

heavily in her heart. She kept wondering whether it would make her happier to just follow the norms set by society.

“I finally chose to make my own happiness the first priority by doing things I had always dreamed of, such as joining a dance club and learning how to figure skate.”

The future looks bleak

Even if a person diligently plans something and makes an effort for the future, one cannot be certain that the initiative goes along as nicely as planned. There is also no guarantee that one will be properly compensated for the efforts he or she has made. Uncertainty about the future has been increasing and this has made society focus more on the present than the future.

According to the 2017 Deloitte Millennials Survey Report, the index of domestic economic optimism for the Korean millennial generation (people born between 1980s and early 2000s) was minus 1 percent, ranking 20 out of 28 countries.

Moreover, most of the people chose economic depression as the cause for the spread of the trend, according to the survey by Saramin.

In last November, Seoul National University’s Consumption Trend Analysis Center reported that YOLO is an inevitable result of this era of low-growth, low-prices and low-interest. In this situation, the possibility of earning profits is very low even if people try hard to save and invest. Thus, people feel a sense of futility about investing for the future.

It is not easy to imagine a bright future due to the bleak situation people are now facing. Therefore, YOLO is highly seductive for those who have had to ceaselessly work hard for a better tomorrow in exchange for a worse today.

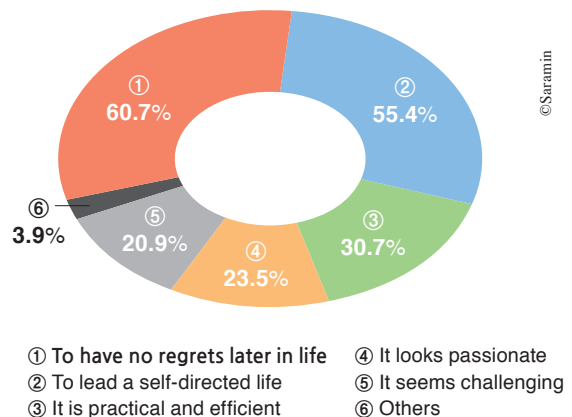
The spread of single households

An increased number of single-person households has allowed those who live alone to have more time and money to spare. As a result, they have shown a greater tendency to expend more than those with families, starting the ball rolling for the YOLO trend.

According to a research by the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs announced in 2016, single-person households took up the largest proportion of the total, taking 34.97 percent. As the number of single households grows larger, many products and services targeting individuals enter into the market, contributing to YOLO settling down.

According to the survey done by Daehaknaeil 20s lab,

Why do you consider YOLO positive?



43.5 percent of the research subjects answered that they consider “personal taste” the most when they buy things. People who form a single household can focus entirely on themselves, and this has allowed YOLO to spread naturally.

“The increase of YOLO people is derived from the change in housing patterns, along with the dismantling of traditional family units,” said Lee Byeong-hun, a professor of Sociology at Chung-ang University.

He explained that unlike when society was trapped within forms of group and family, the number of people living alone has grown. They can now live a YOLO life by concentrating on themselves more than ever before.

Barriers to YOLO

Gap between the ideals of YOLO and reality

For those who yearn for YOLO but cannot pursue it due to their circumstances, watching people leading YOLO lives through the media leads people to view their current status more negatively. Not only do they feel pity for themselves, but also they feel helpless and a sense of despair from the gap between their ideal and reality.

As television programs targeting the concept of YOLO increase, some of them just portray it as only being available to the fortunate. A program called “To the Forest on the Weekends” was aired in April, with the slogan, “YOLO, live your dream.” It is a story about guests being tired of their city lives embarking on a journey to nature and spending leisure time there, doing what they want to do. One man rode a scooter along the coastal roads and a

woman enjoyed a nap in a hammock.

Just like the people appearing in this program, many citizens are sick of their complicated city lives. Maybe all people wish multiple times a day that they could take up a YOLO lifestyle, fulfilling their desires. However, ordinary people have their own responsibilities that cannot be ignored, so they feel depressed and experience a relative sense of deprivation in comparison to the celebrities they see on television.

“In reality, it is hard for people to practice YOLO the way it is shown on television programs,” a public culture critic Kim Heon-sik said. “Viewers can get vicarious satisfaction in a sense, but in reality, it only makes them feel the difference between the people in the programs and themselves.”

“Watching TV programs, I sometimes feel the gap between my ideals and reality and fall into a state of low spirits,” said Lee Seung-mi, a college undergraduate at HUFs.

Rejection of YOLO due to miscommunication of its meaning

It can be said that YOLO means the courage to choose the way that someone really wants to go regardless of a uniformly defined meaning of social success. However, in the course of the concept spreading throughout Korean society, its original meaning has altered in such a way that some people feel hostility towards it.

The tendency of some programs to represent YOLO incorrectly is playing a role in this situation. The television program “One Day Suddenly One Million Won” is a representative example. Observing how the guests spend money for themselves is the main point of the program. Programs like these make people see the trend only from the monetary side, such as overseas trips and shopping for momentary happiness. This kind of abnormal consumption behavior that the media displays is far from its true intention – to make people keep asking about their life and identity, ultimately leading them to lifelong happiness.

The television program “Infinite Challenge” once featured a special episode on YOLO in which they displayed the concept in a sarcastic manner. The producer gave members a credit card with a certain limit. With it, the members spent a lot of money eating and shopping by taking turns. Then, when a member tried to pay with the card, it exceeded the limit. He made all the payments and said, “If you pursue YOLO excessively, you kick the bucket!”



▲ Infinite Challenge discourages viewers' desire for YOLO by showing the guests enjoying a poor representation of YOLO.

However, such a portrayal originates from the wrong premise that YOLO is about spending money without thinking about the future. By showing a distorted version of YOLO and focusing only on consumption and pleasure, which is far from its true sense, the media creates the idea that YOLO is not a desirable thing to seek, consequently discouraging people from practicing it.

“Because the media depicted YOLO negatively, I started to have a poor impression on it. I even thought I should avoid it,” said a college student Jung Ji-su.

“The broadcasters tend to only emphasize the pecuniary sides of YOLO and I think it is a huge problem,” explained culture critic Kim.

He added that some misleading programs can rouse the public's antipathy toward YOLO.

There is a popular saying in Korea that goes “Pain is a blessing to the youth.” However, how can the youth have hope in a world where this kind of ridiculous and hollow consolation from adults prevails? In a sense, it was inevitable that the lifestyle of YOLO would become popular among people who are barely surviving in this endlessly competitive society. It feels more reasonable to invest in the pleasure of the moment instead of investing in an uncertain future.

YOLO does not incite people to run away from this uncontrollable reality and chase after an unrealistic dream. Rather, it suggests a new way of pursuing authentic happiness in life. HUFsians, seize the day, be true to your desires as if tomorrow does not exist because “You Only Live Once!”

wjssnfl10@hufs.ac.kr

Karim Rashid, Who Designs the World

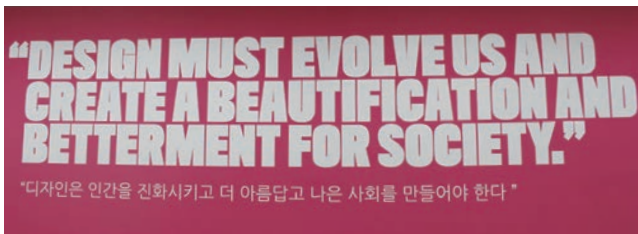
By Jeon Nu-ri
Reporter of Culture Section

There is a designer who sold more than 4 million trash cans named “Garbo.” The designer is Karim Rashid. He strives to make things that we use every day more implicitly artistic and at the same time functional. His exhibition was held at Seoul Arts Center from the end of June to early October. He is making a ceaseless effort to change the world by designing. Through the exhibition “Design Your Self,” he shows us his philosophy that the way we live can be more diverse and colorful by adding design to the items we use daily. He is getting close to the age of 60, but he is still working hard with the aim of “popularizing design in everyday life,” saying “Design not only material things but also our living.” The Argus followed the trace of his 30 years of design.

Who is Karim Rashid?

Karim Rashid is one of the most active designers, and he is truly loyal to the very fundamental reason why design exists at all. Born in Cairo, Egypt, in 1960, he has designed more than 3,000 products, from small lamps to furniture, cars and hotels. Karim has won over 300 design awards and gives lectures at a host of universities. He calls himself a pluralist, cultural shaper and global citizen who is above any nation’s borders. For the longest time, design only existed for the elite and small insular cultures. He has worked hard for the last 20 years trying to make design a public subject. With his lush use of colors, curvy shapes, and most of all great ideas for the users, he hopes to enlighten this era and the world.

◀ Karim Rashid is a designer who loves vivid colors and curves.



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▲ A phrase representing the philosophy of Karim Rashid is written on a pink wall outside of the exhibition hall.

Trip to visit Karim Rashid

One day in September, as an autumn breeze blew gently, The Argus arrived at the Seoul Arts Center's Hangaram Art Museum. While the reporter was waiting in line to purchase a ticket, some words caught the reporter's attention. The sentence, "Design must evolve us and create beautification and betterment for society," was written in white on a rich pink wall. Due to the strong color and the meaning of the phrase, it felt like seeing the trailer of a movie.

After about 10 minutes of waiting, the reporter came into the hall. The exhibition was comprised of seven themes according to the types of items displayed. The article introduces the five themes that were most impressive.

Beautification of life

Entering the hall, an egg-shaped thing colored in purple and pink stood out conspicuously. It was a chair designed by Karim. The Argus reporter sat for a moment and relaxed. On the surface, the chair looked comfortable just because the material itself was soft and the shape was round.

However, it turned out that the motif of the chair was a woman's womb. Based on the idea that babies stay very peaceful and secure in the uterus before they come out into the world, he intended to make a chair that can relax people. His warm consideration for users and his hope for the world to become more beautiful were well represented in this section.

In his manifesto, Karim said, "Now design is not about solving problems, but about a rigorous beautification of our built environments." We live in a world where we are surrounded by all different kinds of objects that often have no relationship to our daily life, both in a sense of their functions and aesthetics. To Karim, design is about a criticism of the condition of time and the spaces we inhabit now, instead of bygone eras and trends. He showed his philosophy by displaying things that are closely connected to our daily life, like lamps and furniture.



▶ The shape of the chair designed by Karim has its roots in women's wombs.

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The hall of Globallove

Leaving all the furniture behind, The Argus saw a huge wooden structure in the shape of a man's head located in the middle of the hall. The giant wooden object, which the reporter thought was a mere sculpture, was actually a chair named "Globallove." It is a wooden piece that embodies the message of love, peace and integration.

A woman sat inside Globallove and then music came out of the inner speakers. When her friend outside of it asked how it felt, she answered, "It feels like music is winding me down along the grain!" It seemed that the visitor received Karim's message: love and embrace each other as human beings.

Karim said, "We all started from one and will soon be one again." Rather than merely keeping his resolution and belief in his heart, he enthusiastically tries to realize his conviction through design, which is a field he has been working in passionately for years.



©Jeon Nu-ri/The Argus

▲ A wooden chair in the shape of a man's head stands at the center of the Hall of Globallove.

Into the scape

Behind the Globallove, lots of kids were running around and playing in a pink space. It was called "Pleasurescape." This was a place where people can enjoy the seamless shape and splendid color of Karim's design. Anyone could take off their shoes, lie down on the installation and rest. At first, it feels uncomfortable because the material is stiff and firm. However, people can feel comfortable once they relax and adjust their bodies to the curved line of the Pleasurescape.

Karim encourages visitors not only to appreciate things as mere artwork, but to actively experience the displayed items. Since the late 90s, Karim started working on the landscape structures, like the Pleasurescape. Taking notice of the majestic scenery of Canada, including high mountains and winding rivers, Karim designed an assembly of chairs that are all different in terms of height, irregularly protruding from the floor. When most people see mountains and valleys, they simply pass by, or some just make exclamations like "Cool! Pretty!" However, Karim came up with a structure in which



▲ Children are playing in the Pleasurescape.

©Jeon Nu-ri/The Argus



▲ Karim Rashid's Digipop artworks show unique patterns and intense colors.

©Jeon Nu-ri/The Argus

people can enjoy and rest. Perhaps this was possible because he has passion for bringing positive change to people's lives through good design.

↳ Era of mass production

Passing the Pleasurescape, numerous plastic trash cans, chairs and water bottles splashed with patches of bright colors grabbed the reporter's attention. Visitors looked at them one by one enjoying the designs applied to the items. Some were astonished by the fact that Karim has designed items that we use frequently here in Korea. By exhibiting everyday products, Karim makes us newly realize that design is more entrenched in our lives than we thought.

"Good design should be close to the public and not expensive nor limited. Good design reaches out to many ordinary people," said Karim Rashid.

He insists on "Designocracy." He adds his own unique philosophical design to daily items that are generally mass-produced. Through this, he cries for the necessity of producing well designed things that are humane and convenient for the users.

↳ Digipop

Unidentifiable geometric patterns with strong colors were all over the walls of the Digipop section. Some patterned chairs and carpets were on the floor. Many people took pictures in front of Digipop works, as the overall colors were bright and clear.

Digipop is a new kind of art he shows in this digital age. He says that the material world we live in must catch up with the fast-growing digital world. Karim believes that bold and strong patterns, graphics and icons can serve as a bridge connecting the two worlds.

He combines the intense patterns created by Digipop with the surface design of wallpapers and carpets. As a result, he lets people see the designs reflecting the technological developments of modern society in their everyday routine. Ultimately, he runs towards the goal of realizing the "popularization of design."

"In the 21st century, everybody has become an artist thanks to the development of digital technology. This era is more energetic than ever," said Karim. "We need a design that captures the spirit of the times. My role is not to provide design services but to create a culture."



▲ Chairs of various designs are displayed in a row, and Karim Rashid's original sketches are drawn on the wall.

©Jeon Nu-ri/The Argus

About the reason the trash can called Garbo could become a bestseller, Karim said that it was because the Garbo was not only cheap, light and convenient to use, but also it had a good design. He also said that he likes collaborating with luxury brands, but designing trash cans, water bottles and T-shirts is far more meaningful to him.

We all live in a world covered with design. People look, touch and use hundreds of designed things in one day. Consequently, he has faith that design can change the world and that he can make steady progress toward his own objective, the popularization of design. Like Karim Rashid, The Argus hope HUFsans have passion in their areas of interest and slog their way towards their own goals. 📷

wjsnfl10@hufs.ac.kr

Korean Society with Social Risks

By You Seo-yeon
Reporter of National Section



As world-renowned sociologist Ulrich Beck wrote in 1986, modern society can be defined as a Risk Society in the sense that the development of technology and industrialization resulted both material affluence and newly manufactured risk. Even after more than 30 years, South Korean society is still exposed to continuous “social risks” as a consequence of industrialization. Let us consider what risks Korean society is recently facing and why they have arisen.

What is “Risk Society”?

According to the theory of risk society, social risks mean catastrophic accidents accompanied by economic affluence, which have unpredictable and uncontrollable features. Modern Korean society is faced with various social risks caused by rapid industrialization and underdeveloped political systems.

What risks does Korean society face?

Harmful chemical substances from food and daily necessities

From egg scandals to sanitary pads issues, fears and discontent of consumers are spreading throughout the country.

A total of 52 eggs which accounted for about 4 percent of all farms were found through a complete investigation released on Aug. 21. Among the detected pesticides, fipronil, which is

prohibited to be used for hens, was found. Other substances were also known for causing cancer or disabilities on liver or thyroid. Symptoms are mild and temporary, but in the long term, it is still unclear how harmful the substances will be to the human body since any epidemiological survey that can prove a correlation has not been undertaken.

Controversy over the safety of the sanitary pads is also skyrocketing since the results of risk assessments had been unveiled. According to a research conducted by the Korea Women’s Environmental Network, women have experienced menstrual irregularity and even cervical diseases due to sanitary pad contamination.

Massive hacking attacks like ransomware

Symantec, a global security company, released a report on Aug. 30, stating that ransomware attacks aimed at corporations and agencies are expected to increase continuously.

Ransomware is a malicious software that blocks the PC owners’ access and requires them to pay money to the hackers to retain those rights. It can be quickly spread through an integrated organization network. With the advent of virtual money such as bitcoin, it has become more widespread.

For now, most universities are determined to get Information Security Management System (ISMS) applications. However, the universities are doubtful about its effectiveness and suitability.

“The group of universities are opposed to getting ISMS,” said the manager of Information Systems Team.

Instability of nuclear power plant

Concerns have been growing as a series of management failures at nuclear power plants were revealed lately.

The fact that Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co. (KHNP) recalled all the floor plates of the Shinhanul nuclear power plant No. 1 and No. 2 was revealed on Aug. 24. Due to the fact that the KHNP checked only the assessment results and then recalled building sources late, this affair has something in common with the component supply scandal that happened in 2013.

Representatives of the progressive Justice Party investigated the poor construction of Hanbit nuclear power plant No. 4 because a metal foreign substance was found in the hanger after the poor construction of iron plates and concrete was discovered on July 26.

What has caused those social risks?

In modern society, we are not just in more dangerous situations, but are faced with newly upcoming risks that former societies could not experience. We cannot easily predict and control recent social risks; if risk occurs beyond time or space thresholds, these may not be able to be completely solved by any individual or by country on its own.

Blind spots caused by excessive specialization

Risk of exposure to harmful chemical substances happens when there are too many varied organizations without integrated management systems. In other words, the related government ministries shift responsibility to each other and fail to rapidly recognize the possibility of risk occurrence. Consequently, the responses to solve problems progress irregularly.

To utilize chemical substances as safely as possible, scientific risk assessment, management and communication towards the public should be operated systematically. "However, in the case of Korea, the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, Ministry of Environment, and Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy are separately in charge of managing chemical substances and their related products," said Kwon Ho-jang, professor at Dankook University who has studied the risk assessment of hazardous substances residue in foods.

*"We are living in a world
that is beyond controllability."*

Disappearance of temporal and spatial limitations

According to Beck's theory of a risk society, the cause and effect of social risks is ubiquitous.

This recent society is a knowledge-based society in which knowledge and information are accumulated with the form of a "bit," which is free from physical limitations. Integrated information is a valid method in the process of decision making, and people recognizing the value of data are actively utilizing information resources in their daily lives.

The reason hacking organizations is increasing is that data known as big data and personal information possess high economic value. If they flow outward, privacy and property could be threatened. The actual revenue accrued by black hackers is estimated to be at over 2.5 billion dollars according to the Google's research from 2016.

New forms of 'risk' occurred

Manufactured risk triggered from human beings or their behaviors is different from the traditional danger affected by external variables such as earthquakes, storms, droughts or epidemics in that it always existed without any typical cause.

Half of the total nuclear power plants are located in south-east terrains that are susceptible to earthquakes, so we are not perfectly safe from some fatal earthquakes. Even though Korea has leading technologies in the field of building nuclear power plants, scandals and human faults do happen over and over again.

Recently accidents and social conflicts prove that we are always exposed to risks directly or indirectly. These cannot be prevented or solved by one's effort. Therefore, an active attitude towards improving current problems is required at the national level as well as individual level. ☒

ruiyan0412@hufs.ac.kr



▲ Ulrich Beck focuses on questions of uncontrollability and uncertainty in modern society.



On-campus Sex Crimes Unsevered

By Park Ji-yong
Reporter of Campus Section

This past spring, a victim of sexual assault posted a hand-written poster at the Autonomous Library in Humanities Building in Seoul Campus. The victim allegedly wanted incident to be made public, along with a series of sexual harassment chats uncovered in a group chat room shortly thereafter. However, the alleged assailant of sexual assault finished his last semester without any in-school punishment while the victim grew tired of waiting for disciplinary action to take place and found off-school facilities to seek alternative help. Feeling a grave sense of responsibility, The Argus sought to take positive steps for the betterment of its school and people.

➤ Problems that HUFSSans face

Heavy workload and the delay of the OGSi

The Office of Gender & Sexuality Issues (OGSI) is a school-based counseling facility for HUFSSans. However, it is not an independent consulting office but a subordinate facility of the Student Counseling Center. The office has to function in both fields under a heavy workload as a gender consulting office and as a branch of the center at the same time.

Hence, the OGSi has to take up consulting activities for not only regular HUFSS personnel, but also graduates, part-time instructors and even professors. Moreover, the additional workload from the center, like campus violence prevention for freshmen, sex education, and basic safety drills has been pushed upon the office.

Officers and consultants of the OGSi have to manage responsibilities from two fields, suffering from a heavy workload, when an on-campus sexual assault occurs. This produces an unacceptable delay in sexual assault management procedures. While it absolutely is a top priority for the OGSi to deal with investigations, these delays cause both the victim and potential disciplinary actions to be subjugated to an uncertain fate.

According to a report from Hankook Ilbo, a local newspaper which covered the sexual assault case, consultants of the OGSi had to participate in a “Sex Crime Probe Committee” as an assistant administrator. Hence, the consultant did not have sufficient time to take care of the victim, which ultimately led the victim to seek alternative help off-campus.

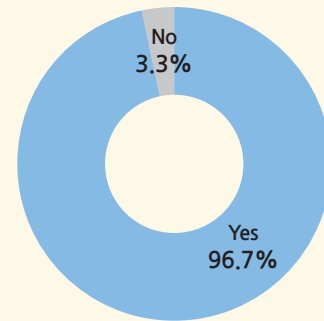
Repeated on-campus sex crimes

Sexual assault is a chronic disease for universities. Nevertheless, it is also true that sexual assaults are not rooted out at the same time.

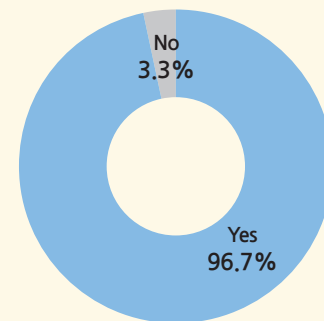
During the last presidency, the Ministry of Education published “Sex Crimes in Universities from 2009 to 2013,” in which the index indicates that sex crimes are chronically increasing in researched universities.

Although members of universities may wear their attention away from sexual assaults, the passage of time makes things even worse, and the amount of attention about whether the assailant-nominee was punished or graduated without disciplinary actions decreases.

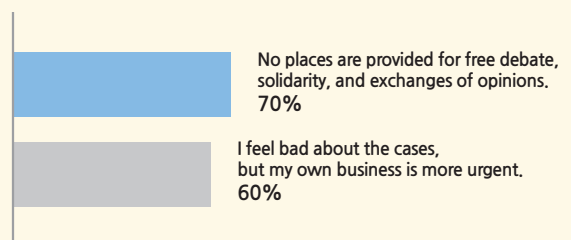
Do you think HUFSS' response system for on-campus sex crimes has problems?



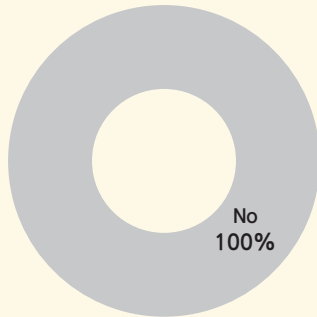
Like the hand-written poster about sex assault last semester, do you think the attention that sex crimes draw fizzles over time?



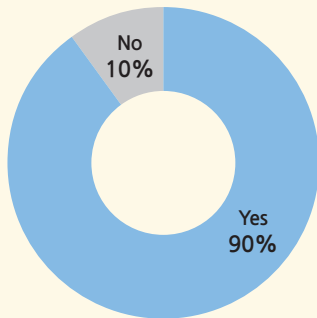
What do you think are reasons for attention dissipating? (Multiple choices available)



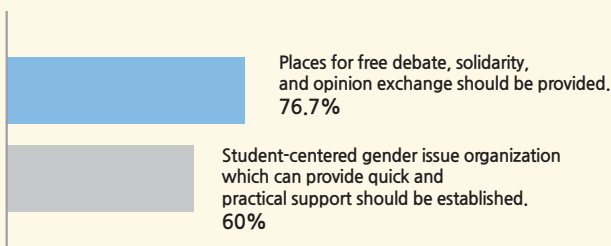
HUFS has a "Female Students Committee."
Did you know its presence and their activities?



Secondary Harm means re-victimization of the primary victim who is already suffering from physical/mental damage.
Do you think HUFS should inflict additional punishment upon an assailant if Secondary Harm is confirmed?



What do you think we need to maintain constant attention and vigilance upon on-campus sex crimes?
(Multiple choices available)



For instance, the hand-written poster which was uploaded in the Autonomous Library of HUFS Facebook account got roughly 1,400 likes and reactions in a single day, a significant number by any measure; however their attention began to fizzle out over time.

According to self-led survey of The Argus, 29 responders out of 30 said, "The attention of HUFS members, including regular HUFSans, wear off with the passage of time."

"I wish we had an independent, student-led field of debate like the ancient Greek Agora, in which we can unite and make our voices heard because diminishing attention results from the non-existence of such places," said Goh Eun-yul, Business Administration '16.

Possibility of Secondary Harm

In most on-campus sexual assaults, there is a very high possibility that the victim and assailant are acquaintances, or even closer.

Secondary Harm means re-victimization of the primary victim who is already suffering from physical/mental damage and having trouble in daily life, academic activities, business, and interpersonal relationships. Most Secondary Harm comes from the spreading of rumors.

Luckily, there is no confirmed Secondary Harm this year on campus. However, if the harm took place at HUFS, as was the case at other universities, the primary victims are exposed to the harm without any protection.

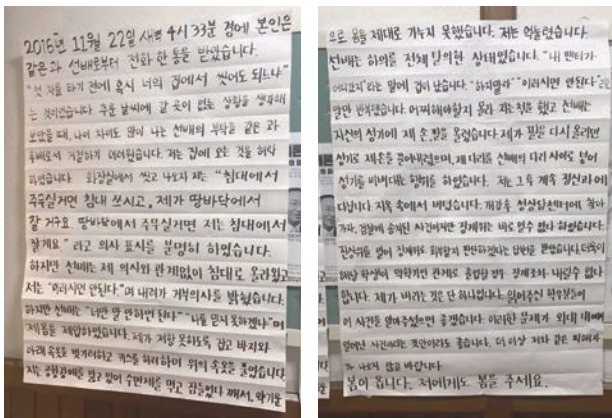
For instance, there was a re-victimization case confirmed at Sogang University in April, 2016. Constant and deliberate retaliation toward the victim was found; thus, the assailant's profile was made public partially to protect the victim. If an identical incident took place in HUFS, there is a horrible possibility that the victim would not receive any pre-emptive protection.

Causes of problems

Shortage of Consultants

Each campus has four staffs in their Student Counseling Center. Among these employees, only one of them is a gender consultant.

It is a common trait of universities, including HUFS, that they do not have enough gender consultants, taking the number of overall student enrollment into account.



▲ A hand-written poster was posted on the bulletin board in front of the Autonomous Library in Humanities Building on Seoul Campus.

The Gyeonggi Family and Women Research Institute released a report “Research on Universities’ Sex Crime Prevention and Responses,” in which details indicate that out of 52 universities in Gyeonggi Province, only eight of them have gender-expertise consultants.

The other 44 universities have regular consultants, include sex and gender issues in their roles, and sometimes even administrative employees are responsible for gender consultation.

No organizations specializing in sexual assaults

HUFS does not have student-led gender and sexuality institutions. It is for certain that the idea of “Agora,” to exchange free discussions and opinions, could be an essential measure to both engage and keep members’ eyes on these issues.

According to HUFS Regulations for On-campus Sex Crime Prevention and Procedure, the Sex Crime Probe Committee gets convened when a sex crime is confirmed. However, only two out of the 11 committee members are affiliated with HUFS: the president of General Student Council (GSC) and a female representative of women.

The Autonomous Library under GSC or an online anonymous message deliverer “HUFS Bamboo” could function as the aforementioned Agora solution at present. However, the library does not have campaigns covering the full-scale unity of all HUFS students. Moreover, HUFS Bamboo has its own innate drawbacks, like administrator censorship, since it is a website with anonymity which can lead to irresponsible expressions and public discontent.

A student-centered, sex crime-expertise institution would tremendously help to maintain constant vigilance on

understated or forgotten issues.

For instance, the Autonomous Library played a key role in making the sex assault incident come to light on campus at first. However, the hand-written poster does not get as much attention nowadays as it used to, even though it was posted in one of the most frequented hallways at HUFS.

Twenty-one respondents out of 30 agreed that “Attention diminishes over time because there is no pivotal figure to make HUFS members constantly vigilant on issues in the past.”

“I absolutely think we need a student-majority institution which can serve HUFS members by functioning as a central institution especially when it comes to on-campus sex crimes,” said Chae Seung-hee, Department of Malay-Indonesian ‘16.

Solutions that HUFSans need

Procure more gender consultants and an independent counseling center

HUFS consultants fail to match the student population at a proper ratio and further have to take up additional work hours from the Student Counseling Center concurrently. It is therefore necessary for the school to hire more gender consultants.

Most of the universities in Seoul have gender-expertise facilities independent from general consultation offices, with a larger workforce pairing allocated.

For example, Seoul National University has its Sexual Harassment and Violence Counseling Department independent from the general Human Rights Counseling Department. The gender counseling department has the same status as the general counseling department, having four consultants.

Also, Sogang University, with a student population similar to that of HUFS, has its Counseling Center for Gender Equality independent from general counseling services with three consultants in it.

“Since the separation of gender counseling and general counseling signifies the importance of gender issue experts, there are possible benefits when it comes to budgeting and workload separation,” said an assistant who required anonymity at Counseling Center for Gender Equality of Sogang University.

Gender issue consultants at HUFS are heavily outnumbered when compared to other universities; hence additional procurement of gender consultants is crucial.

Student-majority, gender expertise institution

HUFS desperately needs larger infrastructure in which student-led institutions could help the victim of sexual assault, systematically and psychologically at the same time.

A student-centered figure which is capable of providing an Agora-like opinion exchange and students' unity is required, like Yonsei University's Female Council.

The council was initially formed to protect female students' rights. It now engages in the prevention of sexual assault and the protection of sexual assault victims, by issuing its own Response Manuals for Student Representatives and systematic, psychological support for victims.

School institutions are always under certain regulations and protocols, which can delay the entire procedure. Hence, student-centered, gender expertise facilities are expected to provide effective and efficient support without red tape.

"I hope a Female Students' Committee rises again. It was an organization that worked to counsel victims of sexual assault and to make a university where both genders are equal," said Lee Sang-hyun, a member of HUFS feminist club "Judi" in the previous interview with The Argus.

Like other student councils of universities in Korea, HUFS also had the Female Students' Committee under the GSC in the past. She, however, said that it was not managed well and disappeared around the year 2010.

"There is no organization that helps and supports to eradicate sexual violence as a student council as of now. I strongly support its revival," she added.

After-settlement support for victims and assailant handling

Universities share a fair amount of responsibility for actions taking place within them; thus additional support for victims and assailant handling after settlement need to be reinforced.

Hanyang University's "Regulations for the Prevention and Handling Procedures of Sex Crimes" says in its Article 9 that, "The provision of prevention policies and victim protection is a duty for a relevant conciliation committee."

However, the HUFS regulation defines the responsibilities of the OGS as follows: Receive reports and provide counseling services, protection of victims of primary harm, report to relevant institutions if necessary, investigation of assailant-nominees, public relations for sex education campaigns and research sex crime cases. The HUFS regulation does not specify "After-settlement support for victims" as its role.

"Systematic infrastructure which is capable of providing physical, psychological support has to be available on campus," the Korean Women's Development Institute wrote in its research report "Research for the Betterment of Systems for Universities' Sex Crimes."


"It is important not to consider everything as being settled with punishment. Minimum punishment has to be set, while giving the assailant-nominee a chance to reduce or lighten his or her disciplinary actions," it added. Hence, both the rehabilitation of victims and correction of assailants has to be established.

The report also stressed that, assailant handling after the primary settlement has to be reinforced.

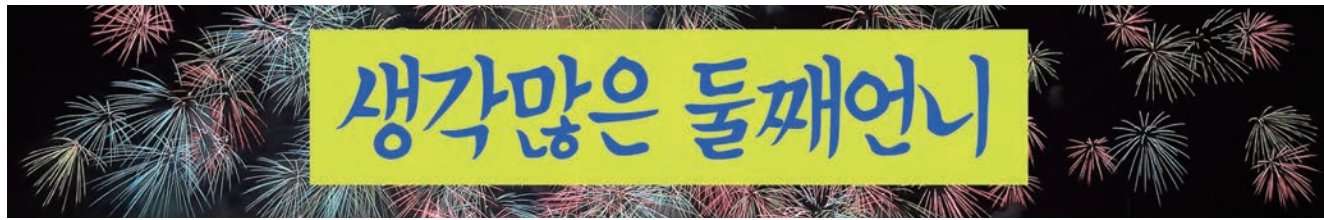
Yonsei University has its own regulations which enables the university to take pre-emptive action in order to protect victims from secondary harm. "Detailed Regulations for the Prevention and Handling Procedures of Sex Crimes" says in its Article 13 Section 4, "Student Welfare Center can make a sex crime incident open to the public with the assailant-nominee in anonymity, to raise awareness of sex crimes to its members if necessary."

"Considering the multiple conviction rate of sex crimes, assailant-nominees' after-settlement management criteria has to be reinforced, and I also want HUFS regulations to follow the aforementioned research report," said Chae.

Universities are often called an "ivory tower of knowledge" in Korean society. "Ivory" means that parents have to pay a great amount of money for this higher education and exposure to higher thinking, by selling their priceless livestock. After seeing what has and is still happening on campus, values and moral codes that a university diploma carries are losing their meaning.

Of course, sexual assault has never been rooted out in any part of the globe, and a university can never be exempt from it. However, the ivory tower of knowledge which grows the future of a country has a heavy moral responsibility to at least make the utmost effort to sever itself from chronic diseases. In order to not be trapped in vice, every member of HUFS, including staff and administrators, has to take part in making the collegiate environment better for all. 

sandspectre7@hufs.ac.kr



©Jang Hye-yeong/Tumblrbug



Grown-up: A Lifelong Journey for My Sister

By Moon Chae-un
Reporter of National Section



On Aug. 16, Jang Hye-yeong, who runs the YouTube channel “Serious Sister,” successfully initiated the project “Grown-up” by gathering 54,166,564 Korean won (US\$47,913.81) from 1,249 donators. People know Jang as one of the pioneers seeking rights for social minorities, but in her first project about her disabled sister, she played two roles: a heartwarming older sister who supports her sibling to find the courage to stand up for herself, and passionate revolutionary worker who continually encourages others to do the same for other people with special needs. With her ability to switch between stark and tender, personal and social, sweeping and detailed, her project has attracted a larger audience. The Argus spoke with Jang Hye-yeong about her ongoing project, and what it is like to do such important work.



©Moon Chae-un/The Argus



▲ Jang Hye-yeong smiles for the camera.

way because if you bottle things up, it is just not good for anyone or for society.

But the thing was, the issues were so broad that I experienced difficulty at the thought of starting to explain them. I am the type of person who strongly believes in the importance of looking deeply into the crevices of thoughts and beliefs being made. In order to understand society, I thought I should let people know where their thoughts come from. Having been doing it just shy of a year, this pretty much sums up the reason I am running a YouTube channel.

The Argus: Please tell us a little bit about the project “Grown-up.”

Jang: This project is about getting stability in my 28-year-old sister’s life who has been isolated from society for 18 years in a long-term care facility, since I was 13, at a fairly young age for both of us. So I brought her to my home in Seoul from a residential institution for the disabled, and we are going to blend in, mingle with society and share the process on YouTube for six months. It is called a “deinstitutionalizing” project with my sister representing the disabled.

The Argus: How did you come up with the name “Grown-up”?

Jang: People treat someone as an adult when he or she gets to about 20 years of age. However, when it comes to a person with a psychiatric disorder, people do not treat him or her as an adult but as an ill person. Although my sister is already an adult, she still says things like, “Once I become an adult...” out of habit because she has been told repeatedly, “These are things only adults can do. You can do them when you grow up.”

However, I believe that no matter how old they are, all people deserve a certain amount of respect. My sister should receive care that does not base its discrimination on age or illness. But most importantly, I want to prove that the people who do not think my sister can grow up are wrong. That is why I named the project “Grown-up.”

The Argus: Would you please introduce yourself?

Jang Hye-yeong (Jang): My name is Jang Hye-yeong and I am currently working as a freelance video maker. I also run a YouTube channel called “Serious Sister,” which tackles the problems of today’s society relevant to me. The videos I have been making are about the issues that are probably not acceptable to a lot of conservative ears, but I find it important to be aware of what is really going on in the world.

The Argus: What was the motivation that made you jump onto YouTube?

Jang: Social minority issues have always been a part of my life because I grew up in a poor family and have a younger sister who was born with a pervasive developmental disorder. Also, I have been discriminated against as a woman. These conditions influenced me to shape my own identity and contemplate the human rights and blind spots in society, which I felt the great urge to talk about. I had to get these things out of me in some

The Argus: What drew you to work on this project?

Jang: I have been thinking about discharging my sister from the hospital for a long time. But the ultimate reason that made me decide to take her home was an internal whistle-blowing that came into action three years ago. It uncovered the reality of what was happening in the hospital where my sister was housed. The hospital did not



▲ It is an iconic photo of Jang's project "Grown-up"



▲ Each thumbnail image indicates a preview of Jang's project uploaded on YouTube.

treat the people who were struggling with developmental disorders fairly. What was worse, it was too easy for social workers to assume that people with disorders were not capable of doing anything without their help. What was missing was understanding and compassion for individuals who have developmental disorders, and recognition of the competencies each person demonstrates.

After finding out the truth, I had to fight against the hospital, but it was unsuccessful as there were so many parents who did not want the hospital shut down. I learned over the years of fighting that the service offered by the hospital is like care in disguise. And it took me three years to process everything so that I could live together with my sister.

The Argus: Can you give us more details about the process of creating the project?

Jang: It has not only been a month since the project started. The project is a combination of three things. First of all, we are going to create our daily routine that works for both of us because spending 24/7 with my sister is a challenge in and of itself. I think it has a significant meaning as I am officially reuniting with my sister after 18 years.

Second, we will be looking for as many things as possible that we have not done before, and I believe that this process would be a great help in finding a job for my sister in the future. There are these moments of clearly signaled structural violence throughout Korean society that make it impossible for people with developmental disabilities to have opportunities. That is why we added it into our plan.

Last but not least, we are planning to meet people who

share the vision with us. It could be a person who is also in the same situation as my sister, or a member of a family just like me, or activists and pundits who work for the rights of those with special needs. Anyone who can influence me to stand up for what I believe in, and supports issues other people face is welcome to meet with us.

The Argus: What makes you keep moving forward?

Jang: To me, one of the big issues was the idea of being independent. I considered the meaning of "being independent" for a while, and I think I got the answer. Being independent does not necessarily mean that you can do everything without any help from other people. It means that you hit the road to find who you actually are with the care and guidance of people.

I want my sister to stand up for herself, and whatever it is, whatever she wants to do or be, I will support it, as long as she has her character, integrity, and self-respect intact. All the ways my sister tries to stand up for herself will reinforce this idea.

The Argus: What has been the hardest thing about dealing with the project?

Jang: I find it difficult to figure out the supporting policies and welfare services provided for adults with developmental disabilities. There are not any platforms where the government gives citizens better access to information about what is being offered.

As my sister and I are now living together in Seoul, I need to leave my sister at a daycare center for the people with developmental disabilities in order to keep focused on my work. But my sister does not meet the requirements

since she has not lived in Seoul for more than six months. That is why I could not help but take a leave of absence from work for six months. Having been given the opportunity, I will push ahead with the plan and share our experience with more people out there.

The Argus: What is something that you would like to share with Korean society?

Jang: There are two kinds of stories which have existed so far: the great stories about triumphing over adversity such as Hellen Keller and the miserable stories about the disabled struggling to eke out a living. These stories are somehow playing the role of projecting a “special” image onto people with disabilities, which I think is not good. And little is known about the real lives of the disabled in Korean society, especially when it comes to people with developmental disabilities. I do not want to dramatize the project about my sister, because I know for a fact that she did nothing to deserve to be born disadvantaged. She just happened to be born with developmental problems.

So I want to start in a very succinct form, just ploughing through all these narratives, and develop the frontal lobe of a story about an individual, not just a person who has an illness. I will make in such a way that considerable time will pass between each chapter. Then, you will get to see how, in the time between the two stories, or between the three stories—between one and two, and two and three—how time has shaped the person. Since it is mirroring what we experience every day, I hope my project will open up the possibilities to resonate with people and will help them to realize there is no big difference between the way we live and the way they live.

The Argus: What is next for you?

Jang: My project, which is about my life, is meaningful in that it encourages society to question stereotypes



▲ Whenever a good idea flashes across Jang’s mind, she writes it down immediately.



▲ The Jang sisters look so happy together.

people have toward the disabled. I definitely want to keep speaking up for issues that I care about because it is something I find to be part of who I am. As a valuable, thinking member of society, I have to live my life with my eyes open and stand up for those who are being abused, and who do not have a voice. If there are more people who think in this way, then my vision that “society is sustained with love and good” will become a reality.

“I want to tell the normal story of my sister and inspire people with different viewpoints,” said Jang. It might be a great challenge for the Jang sisters who aim for the status of “being self-reliant” in a society where it is common for people to send their developmentally challenged family members to a hospital, and think they did what is best for everyone in that situation. However, what she wants is not a radical change in their politics, nor improvement of their social conditions from the beginning. She will be satisfied if people accept her sister as one of the neighbors passing by on the streets. She takes action on behalf of the rights of those with special needs. Jang longs for her project to be ended when her sister grows up to become a part of our society. 🇺🇸

dalnimo@hufs.ac.kr

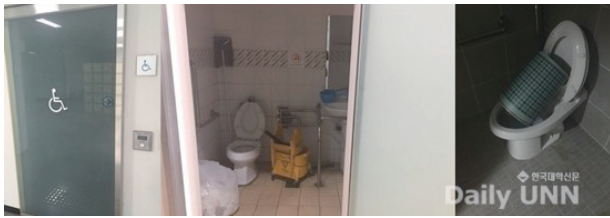


Universities Where No One Is Left Behind

By Moon Chae-un

Reporter of National Section

Currently, parents of children with disabilities and residents in Gangseo-gu, Seoul, are sparring over the construction of a special needs school in their neighborhood. The construction of this school designed to take care of students with special needs is good news for parents who struggle to provide the proper education for their children. However, local residents refuse to have such a school in their neighborhood, where they think a traditional Korean medicine hospital is a must to be built instead. While the mounting conflict about the disabled has entered the public spotlight, The Argus looked into possible violations of human rights among physically and mentally disabled students. The Argus set out to uncover what university students with special needs in Korea go through, and identified the causes and solutions.



▲ The door of the bathroom for the disabled stays wide open, unmanaged.



▲ It is hard for students with disabilities to enter places with stairs.



Hardships students with disabilities face

inconvenient facilities

There are a lot of buildings that the disabled students find hard to use, not to mention some of the convenient facilities are poorly maintained. It is a great challenge for students with physical disabilities to move from building to building.

Generally, the majority of universities have ramps installed next to the stairs to ease access for the disabled students, and the elevators are usually equipped in newly-built buildings. However, when it comes to the buildings constructed a fair amount of time ago, no ramps exist. Without any help from others, students in wheelchairs cannot even enter the building. Likewise, the inconvenience made at the entrance of the building means students with disabilities are deprived of the opportunity that students without disabilities get. Classrooms can be switched if there is an additional request. Nevertheless, the fact that some of the places are off limits for disabled students remains unchanged, and they cannot navigate many places where student activities occur, as all of them are already set.

In the case of Dongguk University, if the classroom is located in a place that students with disabilities do not find easy to access, they can ask the Support Center for Disabled Students of Dongguk University for a change of classroom or reach out for help to students who do volunteer work at

the support center. However, it is impossible for them to take part in club activities because the five-story building where student activities take place has no elevators. To make matters worse, buildings with no lifts are too old to mount some facilities because of deterioration of those buildings.

Not only does Dongguk University have this problem, but also HUFSS has the same problem. Disabled students can get help from the HUFSS Support Center for Disabled Students for overall university life, and students with wheelchairs can easily access every building since HUFSS was built on a flat space. Nonetheless, there are neither elevators nor ramps in the Social Science Building and the Institute of Teaching & Learning Development or any of the other buildings on campus except for the Cyber Building, which was built in 2013. There exists one ramp out of the three entrances to the Humanities Building, but it is useless for people with physical disabilities because it does not have a lift installed on it. Some buildings cannot be accessed by disabled students at all.

“After I fell down the stairs, I needed to splint my broken leg, and walked on crutches for a month. I felt overwhelmed even at the thought of going up the stairs in the Humanities Building, Social Science Building and Institute of Teaching & Learning Development, where there are no elevators equipped. It was comparatively easy to get to the Main Building and Cyber Building, which have elevators or GlobeeDorm. for my club activities. I had trouble when I have consecutive classes in different buildings, and I felt bad when people were ill at ease about being with me in a rush hour-before class and after class. From that experience, I realized the pain students who have physical disabilities go through,” said Bok Jung-hun, Department of Russian ‘14.

School facilities are not reasonably managed by the university. Some of the braille guiding blocks have cracks in them and have not been repaired although it has been a while since they broke. Moreover, there are toilets for the disabled, but some of the doors are wide open and some have been broken for a while. Peering into the bathroom, there is a toilet stuffed with some unknown things, full with disorganized cleaning tools and a bin liner here and there, which is nearly impossible to utilize. This goes against the guidelines for the convenience of the disabled, the elderly, and pregnant women as there is not enough space for wheelchairs to pass through.

In learning

Limitations are still there in education. Many classes lack consideration for disabled students and much of the



▲ There exist few substitute materials for disabled students in most of the university libraries.

educational materials are not well arranged.

There are eight disabled students attending Dongguk University, and this is obviously small amount considering the total number of students. One of the students who has an auditory disorder said, “Professors often have no idea that a student who can barely hear is taking his/her class. Once, a professor did not put the important things on the white board, but did so on e-class, the school website, without giving me any notice.” According to HUFS Support Center for Disabled Students, there are three such students who attend HUFS, two students at the Seoul Campus and one student at the Global Campus. Information on students with disabilities is given to professors beforehand, so it is slightly easier for those students to follow the class since the professors are informed of the situation in advance.

However, there are always possibilities that professors might be unconscious of the fact that they have students who need more attention.

Kim Su-yeon, who majors in Liberal Studies at Seoul National University, is completely blind. She said, “I need some help from professors. I do not really find it tough to walk around the campus with the help of the Support Center for Disabled Students in my college, but when it comes to taking classes, there are some barriers that have not been removed yet. Some professors I met were using vague expressions like ‘this’ or ‘that,’ and it makes it hard for me to grasp the whole context of the lecture. And I get annoyed when professors hand out materials that have pictures on them. I usually take the class materials to the Support Center to get them scanned by an Optical Character Reader, but it often cannot recognize the picture, so it is quite complicated to process everything.”

Similarly, it is hard to get education materials. The number of students with disabilities who attend university

has already surpassed 7,000, but among nine universities in Seoul, less than a quarter of those universities provide substitute materials for the disabled, according to Daily UNN. Substitute materials are designed to help the disabled students have no limits on their studying by providing additional resources. The reality is, only Seoul National University and Ewha Woman’s University respectively have 143 and 183 braille books for their blind students, while Sogang University offers 150 large printed books.

It is problematic that schools do not have many substitute materials, but that is not the only issue. Students with disabilities also find it hard to search for where those materials come from, as they are not made by the university itself. Students can get them only from the National Library for the Disabled.

“I have not experienced any difficulties yet, but I think it can be very hard for students who cannot see or hear, to keep up classes. It is really important not to make them feel they are excluded, but I feel like not only HUFS, but also universities in Korea do not provide a suitable education for the disabled students yet,” said Kim Min-ju, Chinese Language and Literature ‘17.



Causes of the problems

Nonexistence of an official watchdog

The reason this happened lies behind a government ignorant of disabled students, especially for those who have been left to care facilities on their own. In short, a lack of government supervision of universities treatment of disabled students leaves this matter unsettled.

The truth is, however, according to the amendment of the law that supports the disabled, the elderly, and pregnant women, facilities that are designated to be Barrier Free by presidential executive order have to follow the rules in construction.

Barrier Free is a measurement that both the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport unveiled in hopes of all people including the disabled, the elderly, pregnant women, or someone in need of some social protection to have no inconvenience in utilizing facilities. Under the implementation of this scheme, the majority of universities became a barrier-free zone for disabled students.

Toilets for the disabled and ramps next to the stairs, which are parts of carrying out the measure, are not a rare sight anymore. However, it has come under criticism for its poor maintenance.

This is because the university itself does not have enough money to invest in making facilities better as students with disabilities are comparative minorities, which are few in number. The university sees the necessity of things being fixed, but since there is no endeavor made by the government, it has been postponed over and over.

Indifference of school communities

There is no doubt that students with disabilities have a lot of concerns from A to Z. When applying for the university with special admissions for students with disabilities, they need to check every detail since it is different from school to school. To add to that matter, any possibility that they might face in college life requires their concern. Students with disabilities who feel helpless with this can get help from the Support Center for Disabled Students.

The Support Center for Disabled Students is a center that promotes and builds a better environment for the disabled where they can do things independently with state support in school. It provides all-round service for students with disabilities and offers them job arrangement services by connecting some companies which create more quality jobs for people with disabilities. It holds educational activities to raise public awareness on the need to improve social environments for the disabled as well.

However, it is not as complete as it might seem like. No firm policies for educational support exist. The persons concerned rapped out a complaint that it is hard to satisfy all the requisites for students with disabilities within a limited budget. According to the National Library for the Disabled, it requires 800,000 Korean won (US\$708.97) to make one book for someone who is visually impaired, which makes universities hesitant to purchase such materials.

The thing is, most of the universities do not allocate enough of their budget for substitute materials for the disabled students. They do not try to leave money on developing the materials as long as there exists this prevailing idea that it is pointless to expand substitute materials due their infrequent usage. The university backs up student requests for needed materials, but this is limited to certain materials for lectures.

“HUFS does not compile a budget for substitute materials. We do not feel there is a desperate need as there are only three disabled students who are at our school,” said a person concerned working at the HUFS Support Center for Disabled Students.

However, prejudices against the disabled will hardly be prevented without a fundamental change in perceptions. In order to fundamentally address the issue of the disabled, there needs to be an understanding of the distorted

perceptions that exist about them which give rise to separation between the disabled and non-disabled people.



Paths to improvement

Need for supervision by government

The Government should strive to ensure a sense of equality for the disabled. Kim, a student attending Seoul National University, talked about the importance of the role of the government. Government should include stricter monitoring of facilities at universities.

State support for disability care services is far below average in terms of the volume of its budget. In an aim to make college a better place for disabled students, focusing on the fact that university is not the answer itself is a must.

Active support from school communities

Regarding the lack of effort to correct perceptions, School communities need to put more weight on measures to boost education and campaigns to correct perceptions.

School communities also need to take steps against ignorance regarding disabled students. It is important for people to develop proper and decent perceptions on disabilities, and this can only be achieved by putting related subjects in the regular school curriculum. Currently, education on disabled issues is conducted sparsely on the sidelines of the regular curriculum.

Violence against the disabled does not suddenly occur out of nowhere. Prejudices against the disabled continue, so the university needs a lot of preparation to house the students with disabilities.

Support for disabled students has improved compared to that of the past, even if there is a slight difference between universities. However, equality is still a long way off. Just like the saying goes, “For some, it is Mt. Everest.” It is a must to be aware of the fact that something mundane can be something hard for someone. In order for the disabled students to be able to study without any limits and minimize the inconvenience they face every day, it is urgently needed to thoroughly see the structure of the matter, not just glimpse at it. 🙏

dalnimo@hufs.ac.kr



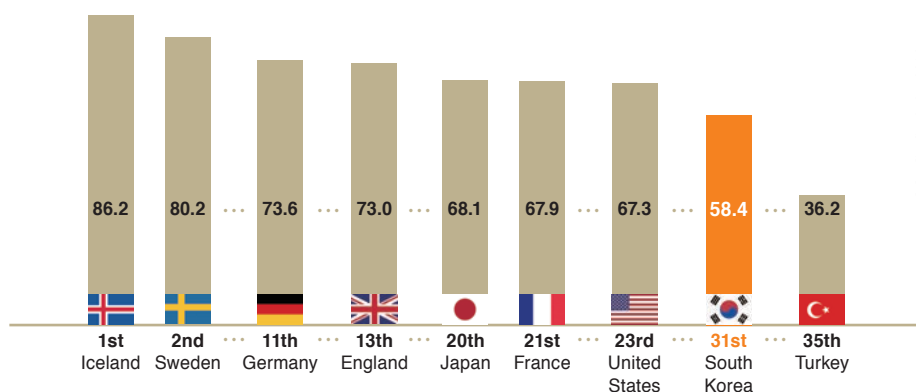
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Gender Discrepancies in Corporations

By Cho Jae-won
Reporter of National Section

Ever since South Korean President Moon Jae-in took office at the Blue House, the ratio of female cabinet members has increased to 30 percent from 11.7 percent. In comparison to the past, women's social status in the political sector is showing progress. In the private sector, however, such changes are not so clearly seen. Women in Korea still suffer employment, income, and promotion disparities that are rooted in their almost assured career break and Korean society's view towards women's traditional roles. Although the government has passed a parental leave policy in hopes of the betterment of women's status in the workplace, its effectiveness is still viewed skeptically. Amidst the time when Korean female workers endure unfair treatment, The Argus has looked into the underlying factors that has allowed discrepancies to happen.

Female labor force participation (%)



▲ South Korea's female labor force participation rate is ranked 31st among 35 nations.



Problems that come from gender discrepancies

Inequality in employment

Women's efforts to make strides in the workplace are initially hindered by the employment process. According to the Korean Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, in 2016, female employment was at 56.2 percent whereas male employment was at 75.8 percent.

This gap is not just a one-time phenomenon. Based on data from the National Statistical office, this gender employment rate gap has persisted since 2000. Considering that women have caught up with men in education, and at times even surpassed men in educational achievement, it is surprising that the difference in employment has remained so large. Such polarity in employment implies that there may have been gender discrimination involved.

Additionally, as stated in data announced by the Ministry of Employment in March, there were 27 companies that have not made improvements in female employment procedures despite the government's strong suggestions. Among them, 12 were major firms with more than 1,000 employees.

Twenty-seven companies were revealed then, but according to the Ministry of Employment, there are many more that have failed to meet female employment standards. There were 734 corporations that have not met with the standards for three consecutive years, and 241 of those were targeted as "urgent need for improvement." Even glimpsing the statistics, it can be seen that women are not at the same starting line with men.

Wage difference

You may have heard that females earn less than what males would earn in their lifetimes. This is true, and in Korea's case, this gap widens as age increases. Although this discrepancy is hardly a problem unique to Korea, the country has been marked as the number one country for 14 years that has the worst gender wage disparity, according to the OECD data in 2016.

In most of the cases, the gap started to widen during people's 30s, the age in which marriage and child care often occurs. During this time, according to the same data provided by the Ministry of Employment, women often used their parental leave and this implied some correlation with women's downfall in wages compared to men.

It is difficult to gather specific data due to parental leave or other gender issues, as corporations blur the data. However, there has been some testimony as evidenced by interviews done by Saramin, a wants columns website, which suggests that employees were often pressured by their higher ups against using parental leave, or were persuaded to resign voluntarily.

Another cause for the wage gap is that lots of companies employ female workers in temporary positions. Workers in temporary positions receive lower wages than those in a permanent position. Even worse, these part-timers are not well protected by labor laws, and are often discharged after several years. This has made it unlikely for female workers to climb up the ladder and contributed to making the payment gap stagnant. As reported by the Ministry of Statistics in June 2016, among 842,300 female workers, 40 percent of them were temporary workers whereas the ratio was only 25.9 percent for male workers.

“The wage gap between men and women is largely due to lopsided temporary worker ratios,” said the Minister of Gender Equality and Family Jeong Hyun-baek, adding strength to the argument.

Glass ceiling

“Glass ceiling” is a metaphor for the hard-to-see informal barrier that keeps women from getting promotions and other benefits within a company that men often times easily could.

According to the Economist, in 2016, Korean female managers were only three percent of the number of total managers. Considering that the OECD average is 20 percent, Korea is far from being fair to female employees.

The causation for this varies and is often times “unseen” as it is not just always about data.

Park Ki-nam, professor of Social Science at Hallym University, underscored the “unseen” aspect of the problem, claiming that there are some indications of job separation based on gender in corporations.

Females are often assigned to marketing and secretary positions whereas men are often assigned to accounting and managerial control. The point here is that the departments that women are often assigned to did not produce many managers. This indicates that even from the start, women are meant to face a glass ceiling that makes it difficult for them to ascend to a manager position.

“Female workers often strongly feel the presence of a glass ceiling during the process of promotion from section chief to a head of a department,” said Son Ju-young, a professor at Kwangwoon University.

The low manager rate of females did not just happen by chance.



Causes of gender discrepancies

Low male participation in parental leave

Ironically, male participation in parental leave is crucial in making female disparities diminish. As of now, parental leave is thought of that preferential to women.

The data from the Ministry of Employment in 2016 shows that male participation was only at 4.5 percent. It is from this perception that women have to struggle juggling both childcare and work. Eventually not being able to handle both, a lot of women choose childcare over work and quit their jobs.

In order to change the perception that infant care is



▲ A cartoon satirizing maternity leave is shown above.

©Pinterest

the work of women and to lessen their burden, male employees' increased participation is needed. By achieving this, the environment of workplace would become friendlier to those signing up for parental leave.

Corporates are displeased with parental leave

One of the factors that causes females to be evaluated lower than males in the workplace is their high likelihood of leaving their jobs. Women are often bound to temporarily leave their workplaces to take of their children.

As a part of this process, corporations have to guarantee their employment and payment equivalent to 40 percent of their monthly income. It is a burden for corporations to provide money without labor, but finding a replacement for their position is also a burden, which is why corporations often do not treat female employees like their male counterparts.

As a result, this hinders workers both male and female from freely asking for parental leave. According to the employment website Career, 61 percent of 217 office workers said parental leave is not freely used.

Male-oriented society

It cannot be said that the gender discrepancy women endure in their workplaces is entirely rooted in factors that the parental leave policy has failed to cover. A lot of it has also to do with how our society views women.

Right now, lots of remnants of the former patriarchal society still remain. What is unfortunate is that a lot of that is still reflected strongly in workplaces; this may be why women are often assigned to supporting roles

working under male managers. What is more, according to professor Son, stereotypes of gender roles still exist in corporations. This has led higher ups to unnecessarily point out female employees' attitudes more often than those of male employees.' Stereotypes pervade in lots of work areas, and this makes women workers go through difficult times.



Solutions to gender discrepancy issues

Expanding financial support for the applicants

In order to increase male participation rate under parental leave, there should be an increase in their payment.

Currently, 40 percent of their monthly payment is provided during parental leave. For the applicants who have to take care of their families, this is often not enough. Therefore, for males, they have no choice but to stick to working.

According to A.J. Smith's paper on parental leave "Supporting Male Parenting," a higher amount of compensation had a direct correlation with increased male participation. To make this happen in Korea, the compensation needs to be increased to 60 percent of one's regular income. To accomplish this, the Ministry of Employment should increase their budget to support corporations in paying their parental leave applicants.

Appeasing to corporates' loss

Corporations should be provided with incentives to accept parental leave applications without strains. Providing parental leave inevitably causes loss for corporates. It is important to minimize this loss and provide corporations with motivation.

One possible way to do this is by adopting what Japan already has: male parental leave promotion money. By evaluating how many male workers have signed up for parental leave, the Japanese government provides corporations with monetary support.


In terms of adopting it, the incentive can be anything from tax reduction to financial assistance. What is important is that there be an encouragement for giving paternity leaves. On the same note, there should also be increased support for replacement aid as well. Currently companies are provided 300,000 Korean won (US\$266.16) monthly for employees who are on their parental leaves. In order to find a qualified replacement, the aid should be

increased, and the government should set an inspection to ascertain the money was used for finding a fitting replacement.

Reshaping our mindset

Changes in policies are important. However, perception toward females should be improved as well. In order to achieve this, there should be an education program in companies that helps managers and workers to have a socially acceptable view toward all workers. Although it is difficult to expect immediate change from education, as perception is an accumulation of one's experience, there should still be efforts from workers and companies to break down this ongoing discrepancy.

As for us, it is necessary that we foster the habit of looking at everyone equally regardless of their gender or other backgrounds. After all, only we can help women to have better working conditions in the near future.

At a glance, it seems that women are under the law and system's protection, and their discrimination is, to a certain extent, rationalized. However, the inside fact is that women still suffer inequality from the blind spots of the system, in this case: parental leave. Even worse, people hardly find this discrepancy a problem but view it as a social norm, making it harder for work environments to improve. It is essential that the government make sure the loopholes of the system get covered in consideration of corporations and their beneficiaries. Most importantly however, the real equality can only start when people truly realize the gravity of ongoing gender discrepancy. 

aurastorm97@hufs.ac.kr



Not Just a Container, But a Platform for Culture!

By Lee Jae-won
Editorial Consultant



The fact that Oct. 21 is Culture Day does not interest many people. For some people, enjoying culture, which is the main reason Culture Day was created, costs them an arm and a leg. Is it impossible for them to appreciate diverse cultures if they have very little money?

It is possible if you come to where these blue containers are set up. The combination of the containers called “Platform Changdong 61” is a big-sized complex cultural facility in Changdong, made by the Seoul Metropolitan City. Various art and photo exhibitions and lively music performances are open to everyone. Why don’t you encounter new cultures at this platform on this coming Culture Day?

gh10117@hufs.ac.kr



▲ Stage performances are played in the "Platform Changdong 61."



©Cho Jae-won/The Argus

Bringing Public Broadcast Back to the Public

By Cho Jae-won

Reporter of National Section

On July 8, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said, “In the past decade, public broadcasting in particular has collapsed miserably. Restoring freedom of speech and public freedom of broadcasting is one of the most important tasks.” During prior administrations, the public broadcasting company MBC had failed to keep their independence; they served the government, not the people. As a result, they have lost the trust of the people. Yet, there are those who persist in trying to bring MBC back to the people – this time it is 92 percent of all the MBC workers. To prevent any administration from taking its independence away again, MBC has risen again to fight for their freedom. The Argus visited the scene of a strike that embodied MBC workers’ anger over containment and demand for change.



▲ The picture shows MBC's yellow banner installed in the MBC lobby.



▲ The picture shows members of the strike gathered in the lobby.



▲ The group "Love for Music" sings and dances to "MBC Freedom."

© Cho Jae-won/The Argus

The strike started out in anger over the previous government's intent to seize the broadcasting company. MBC workers are demanding the resignation of President Kim Jang-gyum, who has been actively involved in taking over the broadcasting giant alongside past administrations, and ordered unfair treatment for those who fought against him.

The latest revelation of blacklisting greatly kindled anger towards Kim Jang-gyum. A "blacklist" refers to journalists who fell short of the criteria that Kim set up. Usually, these journalists were the ones opposed to government control of MBC. Most of the classified journalists categorized as 'x' were placed outside the reporting bureau in 2012 or were placed in a low-staffed department in the reporting office of MBC. Also, they were excluded from promotion.

9:00 a.m. Arrival at MBC

Upon arrival, there were not any signs of a strike in front of MBC. It was quieter than expected. The lobby wall showed banners of yellow paper organized by the members of the strike, which read "MBC – on its way back to the citizens." At the same time, there were several reporters and photographers who were silently checking their computers and cameras. At the rear of the lobby, members of the strike were busy working and checking the speakers.

Thirty minutes later, the flow of people increased. First floor elevators were busy going up and down carrying MBC members down to lobby. Members of the union sat down with disposable cushions that were placed underneath them. Cameramen settled in place and reporters gathered around the projector located at the center.

10:00 a.m. Illuminating the sins of Kim Jang-gyum

The moderator of the event signaled the start of the strike. All the members stood up for the song 'March of the Beloved' with the grand sound echoing throughout the entire lobby. It transformed the initially chaotic tone into a serious one.

Following introductions, the director of the Public Relations Bureau and an attorney announced the alleged crimes of Chairman Kim Jang-gyum. The Public Relations director started off by saying Kim's arrest warrant had been issued on Friday, adding, "I am angered about Kim Jang-gyum's cowardice and victimization of himself." As he spoke, his voice rose, and the assembled members agreed quietly.

Lawyer Shin Yun-soo came to say why Kim Jang-gyum's conviction should occur. He went on to say that the blacklist penalties imposed by Kim were definite proof of Kim's guilt. After the talk, the MC reaffirmed the union that the strike is a legal strike and a final fight.

At 10:30 a.m., members of the union shared the unfair treatment they received along with words of positive energy to other members of the union. "Let's strike merrily, rebuild MBC merrily. This fight is meant to be won," they chanted loudly, after the talk.

On the same day, a documentary created by one of the Producers was also shown. It was the footage of how the public broadcasting company MBC had collapsed up until now. It sent out a message that the fighting spirit for independence has always been there, even from the most senior employees. After the documentary, everyone chanted again, "Kick out Kim Jang-gyum, make MBC a fair show!"

11:00 a.m. "Love for Music" sings and dances

It was now clear that the union members were more optimistic and less reserved and serious. With the advent of MBC's "Love for Music" the mood brightened up, and laughter burst out from the crowd.

They sang, "MBC Freedom" a parody of "Itaewon Freedom," along with cute dance routines. Although the song was not sung well, the group's leader asked for understanding telling us to please listen with the love of brotherhood. His line made the mood even brighter. When the attendees followed the dance, there were more smiles seen than before. Later, senior members of MBC went out and danced along with the group. After the singing and dancing, senior managers who now dismissed for



▲ MBC strike flags wave in front of MBC headquarters.



▲ The picture shows all the strike members from different regions gathered at MBC plaza for the evening strike.



▲ The head of SBS headquarters shares his thoughts on the strike.



▲ The group "Love for Music" performs "Jang-gyum" for the evening strike.



▲ One of the videos urges chairman Kim to leave.



▲ Strike members stand up for the end of the evening strike.

©Cho Jae-won/The Argus

leading the strike in 2012 came to share their firm beliefs on winning a fair and clean MBC for the citizens this year.

The MC wrapped up the morning strike saying that protest not only performs as a fight against Kim, but hopefully also be served as a place for union members to meet a variety of people and talk about a positive outlook for MBC.

1:30 p.m. Evening strike

Many people began to gather at the MBC Plaza, including those from other broadcasting companies and MBC union members from all regions. Red flags brought by the union members waved gently. Banners telling Kim to leave were also visible in the crowd. The afternoon event progressed in a similar manner to that in the morning.

2:00 p.m. Speeches

A total of 2,000 members from all over the country gathered. As more people gathered in the wake of the final fight, the union was poised to strengthen its confidence and gain their final victory. Perhaps it was from their confidence that the scene was erupted mainly in laughter rather than suspense.

The head of the SBS headquarters and the head of the Kyunghyang papers presented strong words of encouragement for the fight. They shared their complaints over the past government's effort to control the press and said they would extend their efforts to help the strike.

"This fight is a battle to live like humans again," the head of the SBS headquarters raised his voice to the strike.

After their speech, the group "Love for Music" reappeared and sang a parody of DdangBeol, Jang-gyum, singing, "I am tired of Jang-gyum, Jang-gyum!" which drew much laughter from the crowd.

3:00 p.m. Ending the strike

MBC branch chiefs from all around the region shared their opinions about the strike, with one chief from the Jeonju region, proclaiming "We have never been defeated because we have never given up."

Two reporters, who had been forced to leave unfairly, visited the union and cheered for the union members. One reporter said, "I dreamt of wearing a suit and coming back to MBC. So I asked to my juniors whether I should buy suits. They assured me I should get ready to come back this autumn with a nice suit."

After the speech, a final parody film of "Accomplices" and "Strikers" was shown where one PD mimicked the reporter in the film. At the strike's end, a final chant echoed throughout the MBC plaza: "Kim Jang-gyum step back! Step back"

This strike, an extension of the 2012 strike, highlights MBC's struggle to return to the public's arms. Reporters, news anchors and PDs are direly asking Kim to step down. How long will the fight to regain MBC's fairness and independence take? How long will it take for MBC to come back to television? Will 2017 be the last strike? 📺

aurastorm97@hufs.ac.kr



The Bloody Society of the Unbloodied

By Lee Jae-won
Editorial Consultant


When my family left the theater a few days ago, my sister was in a rush so that she could be on time for her part-time job. I asked her whether or not it mattered if she arrived a little late. “The restaurant manager said that he was going to fire some of the unreliable part-timers since the restaurant has recently experienced a decrease in sales,” she explained. “So I might be fired if I am late today.” The following day, I read a short story that was called “Fired,” which I had read about a year ago. The story felt different this time, however, because of what my sister had said to me.

I had previously understood it to be about the conflict between a part-time worker and a middle manager, and I had just focused on the plot which I will now briefly describe. The new boss of a company orders a manager named Eun-young to dismiss an underperforming part-timer named Hye-mi. After Eun-young says goodbye to Hye-mi after having informed her that a decision had been made to fire her, she puts in an appeal against her manager, stating the relevant regulations of discharge. As a result, Eun-young provides her junior staff with rights that are guaranteed by the regulations and offers Hye-mi a retirement fund. Later on Eun-young even pays the redundant worker a settlement based on insurance issues with her own money. When they meet for the last time, Eun-young asks Hye-mi, “Was everything (you did) planned from the beginning?” However, Hye-mi just says good-bye to her and the story ends.

When I read it for the second time, I did not just feel sorry for Hye-mi. Rather, I decided to put myself in her position, imagining that my sister could find herself in a similar situation. As a result, I saw Hye-mi’s actions in a completely different light. Her demand for rights as a part-time worker and statement about the regulations were “just.” In fact, the company should have given her those rights before she made her appeal. Why then did I accept the story as simply being a dispute between two people, missing this point first time round? More to the point, why did I see Hye-mi’s demands for her rights as being the primary cause of the conflict?

The ostensible reason is that there is a gap between the story’s content and format. The main content relates to Hye-mi’s removal from her job but it is seen from Eun-young’s point of view, and we can therefore only be aware of her state of mind. Those readers who would naturally see things from the perspective of the middle manager would not be sympathetic towards Hye-mi, as they would tend to see her conduct as having been “planned.” However, this approach does not provide us with a sufficient explanation of the situation. Perhaps, the reason why I was uncomfortable with Hye-mi’s actions was due to the perception of part-time workers in South Korean society that is inherent in all of us. The perception is that you may “easily fire part-timers” and how dare they ask for “workers’ rights.”

Part-timers are not alone in being treated in this way. In our society, the weak need to look after themselves, just like Hye-mi, if they are to be granted their fundamental rights. A few weeks ago, the parents of disabled children had to fight for their rights. On Sept. 5, residents in Seoul’s Gangseo district gathered to discuss the future of a public real estate project. The parents asked for the establishment of a school for the disabled. However, some residents fiercely opposed their request, as they were worried about declining real estate values as a result of the new school. Despite making a reasonable request, the parents eventually knelt in front of their opponents, begging for their understanding. The right to receive basic education is a fundamental human right secured by the constitution. Nonetheless, for disabled children to enjoy their basic rights in this country, their parents have to kneel.

The sociologist Zygmunt Bauman stated that “Unbloody people’s indifference to others makes a bloody society possible.” Many ordinary people, who are not cruel, including myself, have allowed society’s cruelty to flourish. We all live our normal lives while ignoring the pain of other people and their reasonable demands. Only if we listen to their voices can this brutal aspect of our nation become a thing of the past. If we do not, it could be members of our own families who become the next victims. 

gh10117@hufs.ac.kr

Director Kim, Who Earned My Respect

It was nice that the previous The Argus article “If There Is a Will, There Is a Way” focused on how director Kim Hye-jin focused on her dream, and not just her major. As a freshman of this school, I thought about what I exactly wanted to do in my life. I even used to think that I should choose a career that is right for my major and unconsciously limited myself. Reading this article made me realize that it is not the major that defines you. With director Kim in the lead I will look for something.

In addition, Director Kim’s movie itself intrigued me. Her movie’s story was about the sexual minorities and how they experience hardships in our society and I especially loved the fact that she used real terms that were used Internet to bring about real awareness, rather than just making fake dialogue. I think that people are numb; we do not become alert unless we really see things. Movies are a fantastic way to bring attention to social problems. I would love to see more of her work.

Kim Min-jee

Dept. of English International Conferences and Communication '17

Reverse Our Thoughts

Korean society is always full of competition. From the moment when we are born until we grow old and die, we compete against each other, whether we like it or not. Life is like a race without a finish line. People do not know where they are heading, but they have no choice but to go, because being left behind makes us feel uneasy. To live mentally and physically healthy in this quite tough society, people should have their own way to fight back against all the stress and pressure that society puts on them.

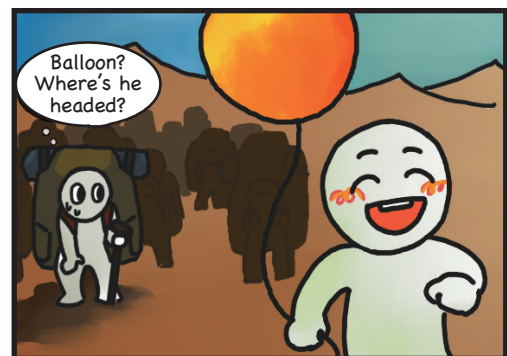
I was deeply impressed by the idea of the founders of Sixty One. Nineteen is a number that usually reminds people of inappropriate sexual contents. However, if we just turn 19 upside down, then it becomes nothing but just the number 61. Like this, I decided to change the way I think. Something could feel too heavy to be handled and you might want to give up. Nevertheless, we do not have to lose hold of our dreams if we simply reverse the way we think, just like 19 turned to 61. The world can be seen in a more positive manner with a mere twist of our thoughts.

Lee Jae-yeon

Dept. of German '17

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Where Am I Going?



By Kim Yu-min

Dept. of Vietnamese '14



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