

The Abstract of
『Characteristics and Residential Status
of Newly Married Families Study』 *

* A cooperative research in 2000 between HANSSEM Co. Ltd., and Department of Consumer Studies of Seoul National University, in Seoul, Korea

The study was conducted in three stages to research the household features and housing lives of newly married households. At the first stage, we analyzed existing statistical data and at the second stage we carried out a quantitative analysis by means of questionnaire. At the last stage of the study, a depth research on the vertical and horizontal structures inside houses, couples' living hours in residence and furnishings of newly married households sampled from the quantitative analysis were performed.

The followings are summarized analysis results.

1. The Result of Data Analysis of '1995 Census and 1997 Panel Survey of Korean Household'

At the first stage of study, we analyzed two kinds of existing statistical data

1) The Result of Data Analysis of 1995 Census

We extracted 274,664 households that included a married woman under 29 who was living in Seoul from the data of '1995 Census of Population and Housing' carried out by Korea National Statistical Office and analyzed data on those households. By the analysis, we found out that according to the number of those households resident in, Kwanak-Ku came first and Songpa-Ku, Jungrang-Ku, Kangseo-Ku, Nowon-Ku and Youngdeungpo-Ku followed in sequence and seventy per cent of housewives of such households possessed attainment equal to or lower than those of high school graduates.

As the average age of the first marriages of Korean women in 1999 was 26.3 and subjects of

this study were limited to the residents of Seoul, of the data in the Census, we defined a household whose housewife's age was between 27 and 28 as a 'newly married household' and conducted analysis accordingly. The findings of analysis are as follows.

The newly married household whose housewife's age was between 27 and 28 resided mostly in Kwanak-Ku, Songpa-Ku, Nowon-Ku, Enpyong-Ku and Kangseo-Ku and 64% of housewives of them possessed attainment equal to or lower than those of high school graduates. Counting living room, kitchen and dining room as a room, the percentage of newly married households that were living in 3-room houses was the highest. When it came to the type of house and status of possession of them, the largest portion of newly married households were taking leases of detached houses on deposit bases and the second largest portion were taking leases of apartment houses on deposit bases.

Considering the types of houses along with the regions, the number of newly married Households with 1-room was the biggest in Keumchon-Ku, the number of those with 2-room was the biggest in Kwanak-Ku and Jungrang-Ku and so was the number of those with 3-room in Nowon-Ku and Songpa-ku.

2) The Result of Data Analysis of Panel Survey of Korean Household of 1997

From data collected by Daewoo Economic Research Institute through the 'Panel Survey of Korean Household of 1997', defining a household resident in Seoul which included a married woman under 30 as a 'newly married household', we sampled 91 of such households and analyzed their data. According to the analysis result, the largest part of the newly married households were living 2-Room houses and 70% lived in houses leased on a deposit basis and about 35% of housewives of newly married households had jobs. Analyzing the types and possession status of houses, we could see that houses leased by newly married households on a deposit basis were mostly detached and row ones, on the contrary, those possessed were mostly apartment houses.

Most of them were live in houses with about 33.058m² of space, when leased the deposits for the houses were between 25 million and 40 million Won and when possessed the prices of them were between 80 million and 100 million. Those lived in houses for rent were few and in such cases the biggest portion of them were paying 15 thousands Won as monthly rent, even the

deposits widely varied in amount.

When we analyzed the perceptions of newly married households in relation to the residence, we found out that they were not satisfied with the layout of furniture nor with current houses and their desires to possess homes were strong and preferred a bigger living room than a bigger bedroom. Additionally, they thought it as natural to share housework. The main reason of their dissatisfaction with the houses was that the rooms or living rooms were too small.

Through the analysis of the financial aspects of newly married households, we saw that the average of their monthly incomes was 2.35 million Won and they saved 0.75 million Won and spent 1.72 million Won a month. Since the financial status of a household was related to the type of its house, as the number of the household's rooms grew so did its financial scale.

2. The result of survey of newly married households in 2000

At the second stage of the study, defining a couple that has been married for a year without child and experiences a move as a newly married household, we conducted a questionnaire for over 500 housewives of such households - respectively 150 from those with 1-room, 2-room and 3-room and 50 from those with 4-room - to figure out the characteristics and status of residences. The followings are the findings.

General characteristics of target households were such that the height of husband was 174 Cm and that of wife was 161 Cm and consist of husband and wife only. The average monthly income was 2.37 million Won with the husband's income of 1.71 million Won and 0.65 million Won for the wife. The average monthly expense was 2.23 Million Won and the amount of financial asset, real estate and debt increased according to the number of rooms.

When we considered physical characteristics of the house where they were living, we could see that in most cases the living room's length was 3.3M and about 65% of the houses were not apartment houses, but detached houses and row houses. And the area of 1-room house was about 33m² and that of 2-room one was about 52.8m².

In the research on awareness of residence of housewives of the newly married households, we

encountered their desires to live in 2-room houses with the area between 49.5m² and 52.8m² and their concerns of storage in relation to interior were significant and also they revealed dissatisfactions with living rooms. Additionally, newly married households wanted to furnish their living room with bed and space for study to place computers and desks.

Regarding the furniture, it was shown that they had 3m wide clothes closets, chests of drawers and queen size beds and they thought the spaces for clothes and bed sheets furniture were not enough. In addition, they were favorable to transformable clothes closets and DIY furniture.

In lifestyle, most of them were still having rice for breakfast and 25% of them were using serving tables instead of dining tables. When we looked into their daily activities we found that they spent much of their time watching TV and the proportion of those sitting on sofa to those sitting on the floor when they were watching TV/Video of listening to music was 1:1. And the office-going hours and bed times of the wives of newly married households were the same with those of husbands', but the wives woke up in the morning and came home from work 1 hour earlier than the husband did. By this we could see that wives tended to stay at home longer than husbands to secure more time for housekeeping.

On researching the status of 'Informatization' of the newly married households, both husbands and wives are using computers for no less than an hour per day and more on weekends. Besides, they used home banking and short message service more frequently and had a strong desire to live in apartment houses equipped with high-speed communication lines.

3. The result of depth research of newly married households

At the third stage, a depth study was made on 20 newly married couples including two households living in studio houses (1K), one living in 1-room house (1LK), five living in 2-room apartment houses (1(L)K), four living in 2-room detached/row houses (2K), three living in apartment houses with 2 rooms and a living room (2LK) and three living in apartment houses with 3 rooms and a living room(3LDK).

1) The analysis result of ground plans and elevations of house

The result of the analysis of ground plans and elevations of houses of 21 households showed

that there was no agreed clear definition of a separated room even between the residents. So, on judging if it was a room or not, we considered its secured space regardless of the presence of its door. Accordingly we categorized houses of those households as follows.

a) One-Space Type;

The house structure of this type is 1K. Even with only one room, the houses were furnished with almost all the furniture necessary for living according to the function such as bed, desk, clothes closet and living room closet.

b) Two-Space Type;

The house structure of this type is 2K in general. According to this house type, the spaces were used in different ways. Thus for 5 households whose house type was a apartment house, the first space was a living room of Korean style and the second space was a bedroom, for 5 households whose house type was not a apartment house but a detached house or a row house, the first space was a living room of western style and the second space was a study.

c) Three-Space Type;

All of the 5 households classified as 2LDK were apartment houses and each of their three spaces was used as a living room, a inner room of western style and a study respectively, in addition, as the sufficient space for storage was provided, the interior of the house looked well organized and comfortable.

d) Four-Space Type;

All of the 3 households classified as 3LDK were apartment houses. Even this type of house had one more room than the Three-Space Type compared with Three-Space Type, its area was not so big and kitchen and the third room of this type were smaller than those of Three-Space Type. Thus the kitchen was too small and the third room was not properly used, so this type was not adequate for a newly married couple with small family.

2) The Analysis result of living hours of newly married household

By the analysis of 20 newly married couples' living hours in weekdays and weekends, we found out that husbands and wives were spending the biggest portion of time on sleeping at home.

Husbands were spending the second biggest portion of time on watching media and surfing the Internet and wives are spending the second biggest portion of time on housekeeping, watching media and surfing the Internet. Even if there were beds in their bedrooms, lots of the newly married couples were slept on the floors not on the bed, which may be due to the research being conducted in summer. Regards to the housework, preparing meals and dishwashing were done everyday, whereas, laundry was generally concentrated on weekends.

3) The Analysis result of furnishings of newly married households

For the survey of furnishings, 4 households were sampled in consideration of types and structures of the houses. The types and structures of those households were a 1K type of detached houses, a 1LK-type apartment house, a 1LDK-type of studios and a 2LDK type of apartment. The result of the survey showed that there were various kinds and quantities of the furnishings and patterns of storage but almost every household was in possession of clothes closets and personal computers and were suffering shortage of storage space.

Those, which had bigger houses, had more furnishings and those households near childbirth prepared furniture for babies. On their keeping clothes separately in the clothes closet, various standards for separation such as sex, season and length were used depending on households.