

# The Awareness and Attitudes Concerning Married Migrant Women: Focused On Students of Health-Related Majors

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## Abstract

**Objectives:** To finding the perceptions and attitudes for international marriage immigrant women of students in the department of Health. **Methods/Statistical Analysis:** For Social demographic factors, gender, grade and religion are included, and for experimental factor, experiences abroad, experiences of contacting international marriage women immigrants, and educational experiences related to multi-culture were investigated. And prejudice for international marriage women immigrants, preference, and concern degree, social distance was investigated. The collected data used the statistical method of descriptive statistic, T-test and ANOVA by using SPSS for Windows Ver. 21.0. **Findings:** For gender, 55.6% of respondents are women and 44, 4% were men. As for the grade, first grade was the most common grade as 30.2%, 3rd grade was 23.8% and 4th grade was 22.6%. The result of analyzing whether there is a difference in recognition and attitude toward International marriage women immigrants according to socio-demographic characteristics of respondents, it is appeared that they recognize International marriage women immigrants positively in cases of women, upper grades, and having religion. The result of the survey for perception and attitude toward international marriage women immigrants were measured by prejudice, preference, concern degree and social distance. It appeared that the recognition and attitude toward International marriage women immigrants is more positive in cases when one has an experienced abroad, when one is experienced in contacting the International marriage women immigrants and when one has educational experience, than when one doesn't have those experiences. **Improvements/Applications:** The negative perception factors or prejudice of Korean university students decreased with more interaction with and exposure to diverse culture-related education and people of different cultural backgrounds.

**Keywords:** Awareness, Attitudes, Married Migrant Women, Students of Health Related Major

## 1. Introduction

The number of men who can't get married is rapidly increasing, because of the imbalance gender ratio due to the preference for sons, avoidance of marriage of Korean women, strengthened differentiation for selecting spouses and economic weakening of men since IMF. And Korean women avoid the rural areas facing unfavor-

able economic environment especially. The international marriage increased In Korean society<sup>1</sup>. If we look at increasing female foreigners by nationality, China is the most common, and Vietnam, Japan, Philippines followed after. Divorces are also increasing as international marriages are increasing. If we look at nationality of divorced foreigners, China, Vietnam and Philippines were following in order for female foreigners, and Japan, China,

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American is following in order for male foreigners. There showed tendencies of having many divorces in countries which had many marriages.

However, marriages between Korean men and foreign women continued to decline since 2011, and it decreased by 11.8% comparing to the last year, and marriage between Korean women and foreign men decreased by 6.4%. Divorces with foreigners are 9,800 cases, and it decreased by 700 cases comparing to the last year and by 6.9%. And it is at the lowest level since 2008, and the ratio of it in total divorces is 8.4%, and it decreased 0.6% comparing to the last year. Various issues about international marriage are raised recently, as background to these statistics. And as for the causes, characteristics of purchasing marriage which is organized by profit oriented brokerages, unstable legal status of married immigrants, psychological and economic damage to Korean men due to fraud marriage with immigrant women, maladjustment of immigrants women due to patriarchal tendencies and violence's of Korean men, conflict between mother in law and daughter in law due to cultural differences, and parenting issues of children of multi-cultural families are being raised<sup>2</sup>.

A lot of international marriages are made like this, and a lot of problems are caused by these, but we have neglected problems related to the adaptation of female immigrants who got married in Korea<sup>3</sup>. On this, relevant academic world started to recognize and be concerned for the various problems related to international marriage women immigrants. This is because that we cannot see Korea as single-race nation, but it is converting into a multi-cultural society which various races and cultures coexist, due to international marriages between Korean men and foreign woman which rapidly increased in Korea which used to focused on a single race and single culture.

Awareness is a set of beliefs on one object of target and it is the exaggerated belief for one group of people, and it includes beliefs and expectation for the characteristic, feelings and behavior of one group. In general, we use recognition as a meaning for a set of beliefs that an individual has for one target, but it is rather used to refer to a set of beliefs that members of one group have for the other group typically<sup>4</sup>. The general recognition of the society naturally learns the culture existing in the society and the part that not experienced directly, going through the process of socialization<sup>1</sup>. Because of strong phenomena

of discrimination on women in the third world including Southeast Asian nations, the husband of the member of the international marriage family doesn't like immigrant woman being exposed to the outer world after international marriage, and brings the isolation from the outer world and makes difficult to adapt in the nation.

Incorrect prejudices for immigrants can be also recognized naturally through socialization. The main cause of the social conflict that international immigrants have is social prejudice<sup>5</sup>. And the prejudice against married migrants acts as an obstacle for immigrants to live as a member in Korean society, and brings maladaptation and stressful mental health problems in their marriage lives<sup>6</sup>.

Therefore, we should make a stable Korean society in future by investigating the social recognition for international marriage woman immigrants and guide it socially, if there is an incorrect recognition. To enter the era of globalization, we should discard these unsociable nationalism tendencies, and we need to be changed into open nationalism tendencies. The attention and affection of the society to accept immigrants as members of our society are needed through open thinking. And for this, the proper change of social recognition should be made and it is the time which needs redefining of nationalism<sup>7</sup>.

Based on these needs, it is a trend that researches to find out recognitions for international marriage and multi-cultural family are slowly made to reestablish the vision and recognition for international marriage and immigrants<sup>2</sup>. But in most cases, these were researches which illuminated the recognition and attitude focusing on one social phenomena of multifamily and international marriage, and there is almost no researches which deal with the recognition for immigrants who are existences derived as the social phenomena, and these also targeted grown up male and female. And researches which grasped the recognitions for immigrants targeting college students are insufficient overall. Especially, college students are groups which can sensitively response to the rapidly changing culture, and also they are group of people who are going to enter into marriable age in the near future. Also, college students entered into college after going through adolescence, and are living with many students from many areas. And as groups living social life independently from the study, they have increasing number of cases to contact immigrants of other cultural area

through activities of mentoring program targeting immigrants and their children during the semester or vacations in the industrial complex with many foreigners or areas with many international marriage immigrants<sup>8</sup>. These college students don't have highly positive stereotypes and positive feelings for marriage immigrants<sup>9</sup>, but they have open thoughts comparing to other age group and they can be expected to play an important role of transforming the social recognition. In other words, because how current protagonists perceive international marriage can be representations of Korea in future, their positive recognition for international marriage can be developed into proper attitudes of accepting multi society and it can be further helpful to establish the integrated strategy development expansively<sup>1</sup>.

On this, through this study, I would like to utilize the study as base materials to reestablish the recognition and attitude, by investigating recognitions for women immigrated through international marriage, targeting allied health college students who are going to meet immigrant's women as customers at a hospital in the near future.

## 2. Proposed Work

For Social demographic factors, gender, grade and religion are included, and for experimental factor, experiences abroad, experiences of contacting international marriage women immigrants, and educational experiences related to multi-culture were investigated. And prejudice for international marriage women immigrants, preference, and concern degree, social distance was investigated.

This study was conducted targeting students in the department of health of 4-year colleges in Seoul and Chungcheong provinces. The survey was conducted from 9th, November to 27th, November in 2015, and for the method of collecting data, direct survey was conducted. A total of 500 questionnaires were distributed, and 491 questionnaires went through statistics process except for 9 questionnaires which had insufficient materials. This study was investigated by dividing by 4 variable factors of prejudice, preference, concern degree and social distance as aspects of recognition and attitude for international marriage women immigrants<sup>10</sup>. Measurement tools for prejudice were composed of 11 questions such as humble, kind, dirty, competent, clever, lazy, rational, reasonable,

stubborn, gentle and offensive. It was supposed to be marked in Likert measurement, from 1 'unlikely' to 5 'very likely'. As for measurement tool for preference, there are fun, affectionate, deserves to be respected, good, kind, peaceful, ignorant, hygienic, has the higher position, poor, diligent and more. Among these, negative measurements such as ignorant and poor were inversely coded and used in the analysis. For the concept of preference, preference was supposed to be measured by measuring the nature and ability of international marriage women immigrants by using Likert 5 scale. The higher score means the higher preference. Questions for measurement tools of concern degree are as in the following. These are, interested in problems that International marriage women immigrants experience in Korean society, interested in the native culture, language and food of International marriage women immigrants, need for the education for understanding other culture, thinks that support for International marriage women immigrants are needed and more. There were supposed to be marked in Likert scale from 1 'not likely' to 'very likely', and the higher score means the higher interest for international marriage women immigrants. The social distance are composed of 6 questions saying I would not mind being acquainted with international marriage women immigrants, I would not mind that if international marriage women immigrants joins in my group, I would not mind to live with neighbors who are international marriage women immigrants, I would have not mind that working with international marriage women immigrants as colleagues in the place and I would not mind to be true friends with international marriage women immigrants. And these are composing of Likert measurement from 1, 'unlikely' to 5 'very likely'.

The collected data used the statistical method of descriptive statistic, T-test and ANOVA by using SPSS for Windows Ver. 21.0. The result of this study is as follows.

### 2.1 Demographic Characteristics

Demographic characteristics of subjects of this study are shown in Table 1. For gender, 55.6% of respondents are women and 44.4% were men. As for the grade, first grade was the most common grade as 30.2%, 3rd grade was 23.8% and 4th grade was 22.6%. As for religion, atheists were 46.4%, Christianity was 35.3%, Roman Catholic was

**Table 1.** Demographic characteristics

	Category	N	%
Gender	Male	218	44.4
	Female	273	55.6
Grade	First grade	148	30.2
	Second grade	115	23.4
	Third grade	117	23.8
	Fourth grade	111	22.6
Religion	Christianity	173	35.3
	Roman Catholic	50	10.3
	Buddhist	28	5.7
	Atheism	228	46.4
	others	12	2.3
Experiences of going abroad	Yes	104	21.2
	No	387	78.8
Experience of contacting international marriage women immigrants	Yes	185	37.7
	No	306	62.3
Educational experiences related to multi-culture	Yes	321	65.4
	No	170	34.6

10.3%, Buddhist was 5.7%, and others were 2.3%. As the result of measuring experiences of going abroad among questions about experiences, 78.8% of students answered that they didn't have experience abroad, and rest of them which is 21.2% said that they had experience abroad. For questions for experience of contacting international marriage women immigrants, 62.3% of respondents said that they don't have such experiences while 37.7% said that they had the experience. Lastly, as for educational experiences related to multi-culture, 65.4% said that they had one, while 34.6% said they didn't have the experience.

## 2.2 Awareness and Attitude toward Migrant Women

The result of the survey for awareness and attitude toward international marriage women immigrants were measured by prejudice, preference, concern degree and social distance, and as respective scores are high, it means that prejudice, preference, concern degree and social distance are positive. Respective average scores appeared as prejudice-3.21 points, preference-2.93 points, concern degree-3.23 points, and social distance-3.24 points are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Awareness and attitude toward migrant women

Characteristics	M	SD
Prejudice	3.21	0.43
Preference	2.93	0.43
Concern degree	3.23	0.64
Social distance	3.24	0.72
Awareness and Attitudes	3.13	0.51

### 2.3 Awareness and Attitudes According to Gender

Looking at the result of analyzing the verification of differences in perceptions and attitudes according to gender,

it is as following in Table 3. As the result of analyzing the verification of differences, the average value of women appeared to be significantly greater than the average value of men statistically, in every variable such as prejudice, preference, concern degree and social distance.

**Table 3.** Awareness and attitudes according to gender

Characteristics	Category	M(SD)	t
Prejudice	Male	2.87(0.42)	-2.482*
	Female	3.41(0.49)	
Preference	Male	2.58(0.41)	-4.294**
	Female	3.28(0.47)	
Concern degree	Male	3.02(0.59)	-3.092**
	Female	3.47(0.66)	
Social distance	Male	2.94(0.63)	-2.849*
	Female	3.31(0.69)	
Awareness and Attitudes	Male	2.87(0.52)	-2.984*
	Female	3.48(0.57)	
*p<.05, **p<.01			

## 2.4 Awareness and Attitude According to Grades

The result of verifying the difference of awareness and

attitude for international marriage women immigrants according to grades is as following in Table 4. It appeared that there are differences according to grades in all items,

**Table 4.** Awareness and attitude according to grades

Characteristics	Category	M(SD)	F
Prejudice	First grade	2.98(0.42)	3.572*
	Second grade	3.14(0.35)	
	Third grade	3.28(0.38)	
	Fourth grade	3.41(0.42)	
Preference	First grade	2.78(0.43)	2.254*
	Second grade	2.81(0.39)	
	Third grade	2.98(0.41)	
	Fourth grade	3.15(0.44)	
Concern degree	First grade	3.04(0.51)	2.492*
	Second grade	3.14(0.48)	
	Third grade	3.29(0.59)	
	Fourth grade	3.39(0.53)	
Social distance	First grade	3.01(0.49)	2.729*
	Second grade	3.15(0.69)	
	Third grade	3.28(0.79)	
	Fourth grade	3.33(0.71)	
Awareness and Attitudes	First grade	2.88(0.49)	3.724*
	Second grade	2.96(0.51)	
	Third grade	3.06(0.53)	
	Fourth grade	3.37(0.45)	
*p<.05			

and it was found that the higher graders have more positive perceptions and attitudes.

## 2.5 Awareness and Attitude According to Religion

The result of verifying the difference of awareness and attitude for international marriage women immigrants according to religions is as following in Table 5. As for the result of analyzing the verification of differences between two groups according to having religions, significant

average differences for both groups appeared to exist statistically. In other words, in the case of answering that they had religions, they appeared to have acceptive and positive attitudes toward international marriage women immigrants.

## 2.6 Awareness and Attitudes According to the Experiences Abroad

After verifying the difference of perceptions and attitudes toward international marriage women immigrants

**Table 5.** Awareness and attitude according to religion

Characteristics	Category	M(SD)	t
Prejudice	Yes	3.64(0.42)	3.471*
	No	3.01(0.49)	
Preference	Yes	3.27(0.41)	2.288*
	No	2.99(0.47)	
Concern degree	Yes	3.52(0.59)	3.022*
	No	3.17(0.66)	
Social distance	Yes	3.44(0.63)	3.129*
	No	2.91(0.69)	
Awareness and Attitudes	Yes	3.57(0.52)	2.954*
	No	3.08(0.57)	
*p<.05			

**Table 6.** Awareness and attitudes according to the experiences abroad

Characteristics	Category	M(SD)	t
Prejudice	Yes	3.54(0.51)	3.321*
	No	3.08(0.54)	
Preference	Yes	3.37(0.34)	2.638*
	No	3.01(0.36)	
Concern degree	Yes	3.65(0.53)	3.364*
	No	3.12(0.51)	
Social distance	Yes	3.54(0.52)	3.363*
	No	3.01(0.61)	
Awareness and Attitudes	Yes	3.47(0.55)	2.352*
	No	3.02(0.47)	
*p<.05			

according to the experience abroad is the same as Table 6. It was shown that there is a significant difference for all variables, and it appeared to have the significant differences for all variables and it was found to have more positive recognition and attitude toward international marriage women immigrants for cases of having experiences abroad than not having such experiences. It can be seen that encountering different cultures are possible by going abroad, and, through positive experiences for foreigner, or experiences of eliminating the negative prejudice in this process, the recognition for international marriage women immigrants could be changed.

## 2.7 Awareness and Attitude According to Experience of Contacting Married Immigrant Women

The result of verifying the difference of awareness and attitude toward international marriage women immigrants according to experiences of contacting international marriage women immigrants is shown in Table 7. There were significant differences for all variables, and it appeared that prejudice, preference, concern degree and the social distance found to be positive in cases of having experience of contacting international marriage women immigrants

**Table 7.** Awareness and attitude according to experience of contacting married immigrant women

Characteristics	Category	M(SD)	t
Prejudice	Yes	3.66(0.52)	3.243*
	No	3.12(0.41)	
Preference	Yes	3.33(0.45)	2.308*
	No	2.96(0.43)	
Concern degree	Yes	3.61(0.42)	3.122*
	No	3.16(0.45)	
Social distance	Yes	3.63(0.52)	3.239*
	No	3.01(0.57)	
Awareness and Attitudes	Yes	3.48(0.42)	2.274*
	No	3.11(0.45)	
*p<.05			

than not having such experience. It is because negative recognitions that they had vaguely are improved through actually contacting international marriage women immigrants.

## 2.8 Awareness and Attitude According to Educational Experience Related to Multi-Culture

The result of verifying the difference of awareness and atti-

tudes toward international marriage women immigrants according to the experience of getting the education related to multi-culture is shown in Table 8. In all variables, it was seen that there are statistically significant differences. That is, it is could be seen that there are effectiveness of enhancing the concern and interest for them and reducing the prejudice and social distance through training.

**Table 8.** Awareness and attitude according to educational experience related to multi-culture

Characteristics	Category	M(SD)	t
Prejudice	Yes	3.54(0.45)	3.471*
	No	3.11(0.41)	
Preference	Yes	3.37(0.38)	3.188*
	No	2.89(0.47)	
Concern degree	Yes	3.62(0.59)	3.022*
	No	3.05(0.66)	
Social distance	Yes	3.52(0.63)	3.129*
	No	2.90(0.69)	
Awareness and Attitudes	Yes	3.58(0.52)	2.954*
	No	3.12(0.57)	
*p<.05			

### 3. Conclusion

The youth in Korea does not have negative perceptions of or prejudices against international marriages as they used to. This will lead to Korea becoming more diverse in culture. That is the reality. The attitude towards foreign women who move to Korea as a result of international marriages have also changed towards the positive, with a more forward-looking awareness of the need to embrace them and move together into the future as members of the society. This is not to say, however, that nationalism and ethnic-centric views are completely gone. In some ways, it is impossible for Korean society to function without

such views as they are deeply entrenched. Therefore, just as the negative perception factors or prejudice of Korean university students decreased with more interaction with and exposure to diverse culture-related education and people of different cultural backgrounds, the Korean population in general, too, would have to proactively take part in improving their perceptions and attitudes through various social networks so that we can become closer with those who moved to Korea from international marriages or the children who have resulted from such marriages.

The policy suggestions to that end are as follows.

First, not only would we have to educate Korean culture, but we would have to promote understanding of

other cultures, as well. Education on equality across the general population and instilling a global mindset would also be needed. Mass media and regional festivals can be used to that end to raise awareness. Second, the sense that they are a Korean citizen should be promoted by providing legal protection to the foreign spouses and their children. This should be done through policies. Third, education on diverse cultures must be institutionalized within the curriculum so that people can embrace diversity from early on in their lives.

If perceptions towards international marriages are improved through such increased awareness and a promotion of diversity of culture within Korean society, it will provide an important turning point for Korea to become a major player on the international scene.

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