

## Needs for Social Services among Immigrated Asian Wives in Seoul

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### Introduction

Over 83,000 foreign wives are residing in Korea, among them about 25% (20,418 persons) are residing in Seoul(Immigration Office-Seoul, 2006). It is about 0.2% of total Seoul residents. Each year, more foreign women are entering, and result in a sharp increase of immigration in Seoul. But our social system doesn't seem very much receptive of this population. Thus, this study aimed to find out the needs for social services and policy implications among immigrated Asian wives residing in Seoul, Korea.

'Multi-Culture' family is the key issue in Korea, since women from Asian countries are entering through marriage. It is especially serious in the rural areas, Based on the national statistics (Korea National Statistical Office, 2005), out of total marriage 316,375 international marriage takes up 13.6% (43,121). And the feminization of international marriage seems apparent in the last 5-6 years, In 13.6%, 9.8% is a foreign woman marrying to a Korean man.

The women entering through the international marriage will experience a totally different situation. Different life style, different value system, different food, different custom, different people; yes, a very different culture was waiting for them, And this can be much more than they could have imagined when they were in their home country, although they tried to learn about Korea. This is a full-scale collision of two different cultures, and they experience the crash in their homes with family members.

These Asian wives are managing their life with some hopes and struggles. Most studies done in Korea, however, have focused on struggles they faced: hardships, difficulties, and problems. They have overlooked the hopes and efforts they made. They may have strengths to face and tackle the hardships; they may have a good quality of self-esteem to ease the difficulties. These traits of Asian wives have received less attention.

This kind of approach resulted in one-sided policy implications: providing subsidized services. But the needs of these Asian wives can vary depending on their hopes and struggles. Therefore, the researchers in this study tried to focus on their struggles and hopes as well in finding out their needs and delineating policy implications.

Thus, this study was conducted under the following purposes.

1. This study purposes to find out the characteristics of Asian wives. These characteristics include basic demographical background information, including age, education, etc.
2. This study purposes to find out the characteristics of family life in Asian wives. These characteristics include marriage satisfaction, difficulties in family life, hardships in family life, difficulties in child rearing, etc.
3. This study purposes to find out the characteristics of the self of Asian wives. The study especially focused on self-esteem, strengths, social support, and depressive moods.
4. This study purposes to find out the patterns of social services use among Asian wives.
5. This study purposes to find out the patterns of social services needs among Asian wives.
6. Finally, this study tries to find out any relationship of relevant factors to the social services needs.
7. Based on the research findings, this study suggests policy implications for the Asian women and their families, as well as for Koreans and Korean professionals.

## **Literature Review**

A multi-culture society is now a global trend in many countries, and it is no exception in Korea. Korea began to join in this trend as they officially accept the foreign laborers in 1992. In 2003 alone, over 388,000 laborers from 97 countries came in to work in Korea (Ministry of Justice, 2004), and the number was increasing each year (Ministry of Labor, 2006). Moreover, inter-ethnic marriage that has started in mid-90s added to this increase.

Korea has known as a 'single race and single ethnic' country. And this has been widely and strongly believed and accepted by the Koreans. A big wave of foreigners to their life seemed very confusing, especially with foreign wives. Differently from the foreign laborers, the foreign wives entered deeply to the Korean life. Because they lived everyday lives in the same environment, Koreans had to share many things that they haven't much expected. Not only they

had to share the physical space, but they had to share the values and social systems as well. This issue will not be pursued further, however, since discussing the cultural Pluralism or Multiculturalism is not the topic in this paper.

Previous studies on foreign wives are very limited. Most of studies are the governmental reports. When the NGOs noticed the human rights issues among foreign wives in the end of 1990s, the government only began to realize the issues. By the year 2005, the central governments started to publish the finding regarding the problems and tasks for the foreign wives (Ministry of Health & Welfare, 2005).

The governments identified the issues of the foreign wives as the social problems that the government had to solve. When the current status of the foreign wives was studied, the following issues appeared to exist. Those issues were social isolation, weak environment of child rearing, low income, a lack of access to health care, a high risk of maternity care, couple battle and family violence, and social prejudice. Based on the findings, many solutions were tossed.

The governments set the directions and implemented the tasks to improve the status of the foreign wives (Ministry of Health & Welfare, 2005; Presidential Committee on Social Inclusion, 2006). Those were to form a comprehensive support system to help the foreign wives' family; to build of to appoint "Foreign Wives Center" to assist the foreign wives; to facilitate existing social welfare infrastructure; to run a language and culture course to help them to adjust quickly; to adopt a multicultural perspective to the policies; and to control the matchmakers through a law making.

At the private sector, existing community social service centers, NGOs, and religious groups run the services and programs very actively (Kim et al., 2006).

## **Methods**

The original survey was conducted in Sept. 2006 - Jan. 2007. The subjects were the inter-ethnically married wives who have been residing for 6 months and more in Seoul, Korea. They were contacted through purposive sampling and snowball sampling methods. Total of 400 women were contacted and responded. For the analysis for this study, the data of 236 wives from China(67), Japan(43), Philippines(22), Vietnam(85), or Mongolia(19) are included.

A survey questionnaire was used for data collection. The measuring instruments used for this study are Service Needs Scale, Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support, CES-D, Self-Esteem Scale, Life satisfaction scale, marriage satisfaction scale, and language proficiency scale. (1) The Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support was originally developed by Zimet et al.(1988). The scale is a 5-point 4-item Likert scale with Cronbach's alpha .91 for both original study and this study. (2) The Self-Esteem Scale, developed by Rosenberg(1979), is a 4-point 10-item Likert scale with Cronbach's alpha .92(.65 for this study). (3) CES-D was used for depressive mood. It is a 20-item 4-point Likert Scale with Cronbach's alpha .91(.89 for this study).

## Results

### 1. General Background Information

In order to understand the social services needs of the wives from Asian countries, general background information will be helpful. Here are some basic information on demographics, motives to marriage, and Korean language proficiency.

#### 1) Demographics

##### (1) Age

Mean age of these wives was 30.4 years. Japanese wives were the oldest (38.1 years) and Vietnamese wives were the youngest (24.2 years). The wives from Philippines and Vietnam were young, especially about 1/5 of those from Vietnam were under 20 years.

	%				
Age	China (67)	Japan (43)	Philippines (22)	Vietnam (82)	Mongolia (19)
Under 20	-	-	4.5	19.5	-
21 - 30	40.3	11.6	59.1	73.2	28.6
31 - 40	40.3	62.8	31.8	7.3	42.9
41 - 50	19.4	18.6	4.5	-	28.6
51 and over	-	7.0	-	-	-
Average (years)	33.3	38.1	29.2	24.2	31.2
Total Average (years)	30.4				
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

##### (2) Education

The education background of the wives was relatively high. Those from Japan, Philippines, and

Mongolia were college graduates. The wives from Vietnam were less educated, and the possible explanation is their low age. They were too young to reach high school or college before they come to Korea.

%

<b>Education</b>	<b>China</b> (67)	<b>Japan</b> (43)	<b>Philippines</b> (21)	<b>Vietnam</b> (80)	<b>Mongolia</b> (19)
middle school or lower	16.4	-	-	51.3	-
High school	43.3	27.9	23.8	41.3	26.3
Junior college or higher	40.3	72.1	76.2	7.5	73.7
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

### (3) Religion

Religious affiliation varies depending on which country they come from. Those wives from Philippines were affiliated with Catholic (77.3%), where Vietnamese were affiliated with Buddhism (58.3%), and Japanese were affiliated with Tongilgyo (34.1%). On the other hand, majority of Chinese had no religion (60.3%) and Mongolians had other religion (36.8%).

%

<b>Religion</b>	<b>China</b> (63)	<b>Japan</b> (41)	<b>Philippines</b> (22)	<b>Vietnam</b> (84)	<b>Mongolia</b> (19)
Protestant	22.2	26.8	9.1	8.3	10.5
Catholic	3.2	-	77.3	10.7	-
Buddhism	7.9	4.9	-	58.3	26.3
Tongilgyo	3.2	34.1	-	1.2	-
None	60.3	34.1	13.6	21.4	26.3
Others	3.2	-	-	-	36.8
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

### (4) Occupation

Less than 30% held a job. Those wives from China were the highest job holding group (29.2%) and the Vietnam was the lowest (11.0%). The dominating type of occupation was a simple laboring work.

%

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>China</b> (65)	<b>Japan</b> (43)	<b>Philippines</b> (21)	<b>Vietnam</b> (82)	<b>Mongolia</b> (19)
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Yes	29.2	23.3	23.8	11.0	15.8
No	70.8	76.7	76.2	89.0	84.2
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

#### (5) Monthly Family Income

This figure brings up two issues. One, many wives have no information regarding the family total income. It seems serious for those from Vietnam (35.7%) and Philippines (31.8%). This phenomenon can be interpreted, as those wives were not yet involved in household finances. Two, some were under serious financial hardships. Especially those from Philippines (18.2%) and from Vietnam (17.9%) were under the category of 'less than \$1,000'. This means that the governmental social security programs should be more effective on this population.

%

Monthly Family Income	China (61)	Japan (43)	Philippines (22)	Vietnam (56)	Mongolia (19)
Less than \$1,000	6.6	4.7	18.2	17.9	5.3
\$1,000 ~ \$2,000	19.7	23.3	27.3	28.6	47.4
\$2,000 ~ \$3,000	34.4	20.9	18.2	7.1	21.1
\$3,000 or more	11.5	25.6	4.5	10.7	10.5
I Don't Know	27.9	25.6	31.8	35.7	15.8
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

#### (6) Family Type

Most wives seem to be in a nuclear family type with husband and their children. However, most of those from Vietnam (33.3%) and from Philippines (22.7%) were in three-generation household.

%

Family Type	China (67)	Japan (43)	Philippines (22)	Vietnam (84)	Mongolia (19)
Self, Husband	64.2	32.6	40.9	29.8	21.4
Self, Husband, Child(ren)	14.9	58.1	18.2	28.6	52.6
Self, Husband, Child(ren), Parent(s)-in-law	17.9	9.3	22.7	33.3	10.5
Others	3.0	-	18.2	8.3	15.8
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

## 2) Motives to Marriage

The motives to marry inter-ethnically with Korean men were obviously “happy marriage life” with husbands. It is different from what’s known to the public. Those wives from Vietnam or Philippines were known that they marry for either economic stability or taking a chance to live and work in Korea. However, 90.2% of the wives from Vietnam showed “happy marriage life”. This figure tells us that they marry because they want to have a happy married life but nothing else.

Motives to Marriage	%				
	China (67)	Japan (43)	Philippines (21)	Vietnam (82)	Mongolia (19)
Happy marriage life	88.0	88.3	85.6	90.2	84.2
Economic stability	7.5	-	4.8	3.7	10.5
Opportunity to work in Korea	-	2.3	4.8	4.9	-
Opportunity to live in Korea	4.5	4.7	-	1.2	-
Opportunity to get away from homeland	-	-	4.8	-	-
Others	-	4.7	-	-	5.3
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

## 3) Korean Language Proficiency

Korean language proficiency was measured not by the official scale but by the perception of the wives. This type of measuring may not be correct in terms of their true proficiency, but gives the information of their confidence in communicating with others. Most of the wives seem quite low in all four areas of language. Those from Mongolia showed the highest score in all four areas with higher than mean score of 3.0. In terms of areas of language, the scores of listening and reading seem higher than speaking and writing.

Korean Language Proficiency	Country	N	Mean(sd)	F	Scheffe' Test
Speaking	China <sup>a</sup>	67	2.40(.7796)	4.799 (p=.001)	e
	Japan <sup>b</sup>	39	2.33(1.0841)		e
	Philippines <sup>c</sup>	22	2.09(.7501)		e

	Vietnam <sup>d</sup>	79	2.51(1.0360)		e
	Mongolia <sup>e</sup>	19	3.26(.6533)		a, b, c, d
<b>Listening</b>	China <sup>a</sup>	67	2.55(.8217)	3.849 (p=.005)	e
	Japan <sup>b</sup>	39	2.69(1.0551)		e
	Philippines <sup>c</sup>	22	2.31(.8937)		e
	Vietnam <sup>d</sup>	74	2.55(1.0222)		e
	Mongolia <sup>e</sup>	18	3.38(.6978)		a, c, d
<b>Reading</b>	China <sup>a</sup>	67	2.58(.8005)	5.248 (p=.000)	d, e
	Japan <sup>b</sup>	39	2.23(.9586)		b
	Philippines <sup>c</sup>	22	2.90(.9714)		b
	Vietnam <sup>d</sup>	72	2.87(1.0738)		
	Mongolia <sup>e</sup>	19	3.26(.8056)		
<b>Writing</b>	China <sup>a</sup>	67	2.64(.9162)	4.220 (p=.003)	b
	Japan <sup>b</sup>	39	1.97(.8732)		a, d
	Philippines <sup>c</sup>	22	2.36(.9021)		
	Vietnam <sup>d</sup>	72	2.69(1.1338)		b
	Mongolia <sup>e</sup>	19	2.68(.6710)		

## 2. Family Life

Indicators of family life in this study included marriage happiness, possibility of divorce/separation, child rearing, hardship of family life. These indicators provide the information how those wives lead their lives in their family.

### 1) Marriage life

Happiness or satisfaction of marriage life was measured by the Marriage Happiness Scale. The figure showed that the wives seem happy in their marriage life, as the lowest 6.66 from Mongolia to the highest 8.02 from Vietnam. The wives from Vietnam and Japan (7.32) were leading happy marriage lives.

<b>Marriage Happiness</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Mean(sd)</b>	<b>F</b>
China	65	6.89(2.4945)	3.117 (p=.016)
Japan	43	7.32(2.3676)	

Philippines	21	6.71(2.6295)
Vietnam	78	8.02(2.0763)
Mongolia	18	6.66(1.9097)
<b>Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>7.33(2.3452)</b>

## 2) Divorce/separation

Although they seem to lead a happy marriage life, they also have considered either divorce or separation in their current marriage. About 1/4 have thought about the possibility, and the main reason for a possible divorce or separation turned out to be the gap between the couples.

<b>Divorce or Separation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Have thought about it	60	25.4
Never thought about it	169	71.6
No response	7	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Out of many reasons, five of them were highlighted in the table below. 27 wives pointed out the 'difference in characteristics', and 25 wives pointed out the 'difference in lifestyle and culture'. 'Indifference' was also included, and 'domestic violence' seemed apparent in some families.

<b>Reason for Possible Divorce or Separation</b>	<b>Yes (%)</b>
Difference in characteristics	27 (45.0)
Domestic violence	14 (23.3)
Spouse's economic incompetence	10 (16.7)
Difference in lifestyle and culture	25 (41.7)
Indifference	19 (31.7)
Others	6 (10)

## 3) Child Rearing

Child rearing is a difficult task even for the Korean mothers. Those Asian mothers showed a double difficulties experiencing everyday life. Since about a half of them were living with no kids,

only 88(37.3%) responded that they experienced child-rearing difficulties.

<b>Child Rearing difficulties</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	88	37.3
No	36	15.3
No response	112	47.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The most difficult problems the Asian wives experienced were related to language. 64.8% responded the difficulties in teaching Korean to their children, and 46.6% responded the difficulties in teaching related problem. They worried about their children's education.

<b>Difficulties in child rearing</b>	<b>N (%)</b>	<b>Difficulties in child rearing</b>	<b>N (%)</b>
I fell difficulties in teaching Korean to my children.	57(64.8)	Parents-in-law's interference bringing up my children	11(12.5)
Difficulties related to teaching	41(46.6)	Lack of appropriate child care centers	10(11.4)
I do not have proper knowledge about how to bring up and educate my children.	31(35.2)	There are differences in way of thinking and sense of value between us.	8 (9.1)
There is nobody to help me bring up and educate my children.	27(30.7)	Social prejudice and discrimination toward my children	6(6.8)
Differences in the way of bringing up children between my husband and me	21(23.9)	Children from my husband's previous marriage do not recognize me as their mother.	4(4.5)
I have difficulties in communicating with my children.	18(20.5)	My children do not respect me as mother.	4(4.5)
Difficulties related to guiding companionship and friendship	14(15.9)	Children from my husband's previous marriage hate and ignore me.	3(3.4)

#### 4) Hardship in Family Life

Asian wives seemed experiencing hardships in their family life but not too seriously (average score is 2.53). Those from China seemed experiencing the most hardship (2.77) where those from Vietnam seemed experiencing the least hardship (2.25). The Japanese seemed in the middle.

Hardship in Family Life	Frequency	Mean(sd)	F	Scheffe' Test
China <sup>a</sup>	67	2.77(.740)	5.104 (p=.000)	d
Japan <sup>b</sup>	43	2.58(.7916)		
Philippines <sup>c</sup>	22	2.66(.8420)		
Vietnam <sup>d</sup>	85	2.25(.7124)		
Mongolia <sup>e</sup>	19	2.65(.7272)		

The hardships they were experiencing was mainly due to language and different value system. The 'difficulties in communicating in Korean' scored the highest (3.11), 'difficulties in handling banking', 'difficulties due to different life style', and 'difficulties due to different values' resulted in similar scores of hardship.

Hardship in Family Life	Mean (Sd)
I have difficulties in communicating in Korean.	3.11 (1.1405)
I have difficulties in handling banking businesses and paying bills and taxes.	2.68 (1.3390)
I have difficulties because of different life style.	2.58 (1.1308)
I have difficulties because of different values among family members.	2.57 (1.1197)
I have difficulties in sharing housework because of differences in opinions between my husband and me.	2.36 (1.1392)
I have difficulties in getting used to Korean food.	2.19 (1.1043)
I have difficulties in doing housework in Korean style. (meal preparation, laundering, cleaning, etc.)	2.15 (1.1017)
Mean	2.53 (.5844)

### 3. Self

The Asian wives are the ones who decided to move abroad to start a new life by marrying to men from totally different culture. This kind of behavior needs to be considered positively. Unless the one has a self-confident attitude toward oneself, such decision cannot be made. Thus, this study focused on the strong aspects of the Asian wives, such self-esteem, strengths, depressive mood, social support, and life satisfaction,

#### 1) Self-esteem

The self-esteem for the Asian wives was high no matter where they have come from. The mean score was 2.82 out of 4.0 max. The range was from 2.78 to 2.88 with a even spread. Even the lowest score was way over the mean 2.5.

Self-esteem	Frequency	Mean(sd)	F
China	67	2.86(.3763)	.627 (p=.644)
Japan	43	2.82(.4120)	
Philippines	22	2.86(.3457)	
Vietnam	83	2.78(.3261)	
Mongolia	18	2.88(.3533)	
<b>Total</b>	233	2.82(.3605)	

#### 2) Strengths

The strongest aspect that the Asian wives pointed out was the knowledge about Korea, the country that they would live. 86% pointed out 'previous knowledge about the Korean Society'. They also pointed out 'positive attitude' (68.2%), 'positive way of thinking' (65.3%), 'diligence' (52.5%), and even 'confidence in own ability' (50.8%). They seemed to have strong belief in themselves in leading marriage live in a country far away from their home.

Strengths	N (%)
Previous knowledge about the Korean society	203 (86.0)

Expertise and skills	191 (80.9)
Faith/religious belief	170 (72.0)
Proactive attitude	161 (68.2)
Positive way of thinking	154 (65.3)
Steadfast goal for life	144 (61.0)
Diligence	124 (52.5)
Confidence in my ability	120 (50.8)

### 3) Depressive Mood

Since their positive attitude and high self-esteem magnified strengths, depressive mood showed low. The scores ranged from 1.60 to 1.96, with a significant difference between a high group (China and Philippines) and a low group (Japan, Vietnam, and Mongolia).

Depressive Mood	Frequency	Mean(sd)	F	Scheffe' Test
China <sup>a</sup>	67	1.94(.5312)	5.586 (p=.000)	b, d, e
Japan <sup>b</sup>	43	1.65(.3286)		a
Pilippines <sup>c</sup>	22	1.96(.4436)		
Vietnam <sup>d</sup>	83	1.69(.4316)		a
Mongolia <sup>e</sup>	18	1.60(.4001)		a

### 4) Social Support

The Asian wives responded that they receive social support from people around them. Those from Japan seemed receive the most support they need (4.11), when the Mongolians received the least (3.01). They received emotional support and companionship and they received such support from their husband, religious people, and friends (both Korean and those from their own country).

Social Support	Frequency	Mean(sd)	F	Scheffe' Test
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China <sup>a</sup>	66	3.84(1.2925)	4.216 (p=.003)	e
Japan <sup>b</sup>	43	4.11(.7306)		e
Philippines <sup>c</sup>	22	3.85(.9247)		
Vietnam <sup>d</sup>	83	3.56(1.0644)		
Mongolia <sup>e</sup>	19	3.01(1.1070)		a, b

#### 5) Life satisfaction

Their overall life satisfaction was not high but not low. Out of 10, their average score of life satisfaction was 6.72, a little over the mid-point. The most satisfied wives were those from Vietnam (7.28), when the least satisfied wives were from Japan (6.16). However, those differences were not statistically significant.

Life satisfaction	Frequency	Mean(sd)	F
China	64	6.46(2.6842)	1.971 (p=.100)
Japan	43	6.16(2.2246)	
Philippines	21	6.42(2.3994)	
Vietnam	80	7.28(2.3232)	
Mongolia	18	6.83(1.9174)	
<b>Total</b>	226	6.72(2.4138)	

#### 4. Social Services Use

The Asian wives didn't seem to use social services available for them. The Korean language course was the only service that over 50% of Asian wives used. Although they have experienced with child rearing, the services relating to child care were utilized at a very low percentage.

Service Use	Yes (%)
Korean language course	138 (58.5)

National Health insurance	75 (31.8)
Education on Korean culture (language, customs, food, etc.)	66 (28.0)
Medical care	58 (24.6)
Provision of assistance and information on acquiring Korean nationality	15 (6.4)
Provision of other necessary information and assistance (legal, medical, and job placement help, etc.)	13 (5.5)
National basic livelihood protection	12 (5.1)
Day care service for young children	11 (4.7)
Occupational training and job matching service	10 (4.2)
Family consulting program	8 (3.4)
Industrial disaster insurance	7 (3.0)
Employment insurance	6 (2.5)
Physical protection and shelter provision	6 (2.5)
Mental health consulting	6 (2.5)
Domestic violence consulting	4 (1.7)
Emergency assistance program	3 (1.3)
I have never used any of the services	27 (11.4)

The low usage of social services was explained by the difficulties in service use. The main difficulty was a language barrier. 30.5% responded that they had difficulty in communicating with the social service staff. They also experienced to find the service center (20.3%), and to find the 'right' service they need (13.1%), but the service center staff was not able to find the 'right' service for them (7.6%).

<b>Difficulties in Service Use</b>	<b>Yes (%)</b>
It is impossible to communicate with the social service staff in Korean.	72 (30.5)
It is hard to visit a service center	48 (20.3)

It is difficult to find the right service I need	31 (13.1)
The welfare staff do not know about the service for marriage-based immigrants or the service procedure	18 (7.6)
It is complicated and difficult to follow the procedure to use the service	12 (5.1)
My family opposes using a social service facility	10 (4.2)
The welfare staff discriminate marriage-based immigrants against Koreans	8 (3.4)
It makes me uncomfortable to think about getting a social welfare service	3 (1.3)

## 5. Social Services Needs

Although the Asian wives didn't use social services, they seem to have a great deal of service needs. The needs scores ranged from 3.32 to 3.84 with an average score of 3.59 and an even distribution. The highest needs came from the Mongolians and the lowest from Japanese.

Social Services Needs	Frequency	Mean(sd)	F	Scheffe' Test
Mongolia <sup>a</sup>	11	3.84(.4756)	3.479 (p=0.009)	e
Vietnam <sup>b</sup>	63	3.78(.7003)		
Philippines <sup>c</sup>	17	3.66(.5388)		
China <sup>d</sup>	51	3.48(.6947)		
Japan <sup>e</sup>	39	3.32(.7222)		
<b>Total Average</b>	181	3.59(.69804)		

The most needed social services were 'Korean language course' (4.28) and 'Korean food cooking course' (4.24). The next needed service was also the traditional culture related one. Childcare service and vocational training service was also needed at the level of 3.77 – 3.81. On the other hand, family counseling or couple counseling showed relatively low needs.

Social Services Needs	Mean(sd)
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Korean language course	4.28(.9016)
Korean food cooking course	4.24(.8527)
Korea's traditional culture and etiquette education	3.97(.9154)
Health insurance and medical aid	3.95(.9619)
Child educational support (tutoring service)	3.92(1.1540)
Child care service (day care center)	3.81(1.1902)
Vocational training and job matching service	3.77(1.1309)
Support to use amenities in my community (banks/markets/libraries, etc.)	3.69(1.0881)
Legal information provision service	3.68(1.1390)
Support for self-help group organization for married-based female immigrants	3.64(1.0441)
Implementation of campaigns to improve community perception of marriage-based immigrants	3.60(1.0495)
Korean mentor matching program	3.59(1.0677)
Support for acquiring Korean nationality	3.56(1.2778)
Housing support (long term leasing house, etc.)	3.55(1.2924)
Provision of opportunities to participate in leisure activities (watching movies, attending concerts, etc.)	3.53(1.0572)
Education on the parent's role	3.52(1.2405)
Personal and family consulting service	3.39(1.1467)
Elderly parent support and nursing services	3.36(1.3029)
Financial support (basic living expenses, etc.)	3.35(1.3003)
Support to use culture and sports facilities	3.35(1.0925)
Family relations improvement program	3.29(1.2174)
Married couple relations improvement program	3.27(1.2525)
Sharing my home country's culture with my family	3.20(1.0794)

Sharing my home country's culture with my community	3.18(1.0396)
Domestic violence consulting service	2.78(1.3883)

## 6. Correlated Factors to the Social Service Needs

### 1) Positive Self to the Social Service Needs

The Asian wives showed many strong positive points in terms of adjusting in a new life in Seoul, Korea. However, those positive aspects such as marriage happiness, life satisfaction, and self-esteem didn't show any significant relationship to social service needs. Although they were negatively related, the correlation coefficients were not statistically significant.

	Social Service Needs		
	Pearson's Correlation	Sig.	N
Marriage Happiness	-.099	.150	175
Life Satisfaction	-.108	.154	175
Self-Esteem	-.079	.292	181

### 2) Depressive Mood to the Social Service Needs

The Asian wives showed relatively low depressive mood. That is, they were mentally healthy. However, the depressive mood showed a statistically significant strong relationship to the social service needs.

	Social Service Needs		
	Pearson Correlation	Sig.	N
<b>Depressive Mood</b>	.237	.003	158

This relationship was different by their home country. Those wives from China and Philippines showed a significant correlation to the service needs. Those wives from these two countries scored the highest depressive mood.

	Social Service Needs		
	Pearson Correlation	Sig.	N
<b>China</b>	.424	.003	47
<b>Japan</b>	.169	.340	34
<b>Philippines</b>	.568	.027	15
<b>Vietnam</b>	.079	.581	51
<b>Mongolia</b>	-.010	.976	11

### 3) Social Support to the Social Service Needs

Social support that the wives received surround them functioned as a safety net. When the wives received the social support, then they showed lower social service needs. However, this correlation was not statistically significant.

	Social Service Needs		
	Pearson Correlation	Sig.	N
<b>Social Support</b>	-.069	.357	180

## Discussion

Based on the findings, several policy implications can be made both at the governmental level and at the private level.

### 1. Services for empowering Asian wives

This study found that those Asian wives had strong positive characteristics such as high self-esteem and many strengths, as well as low depressive moods. Thus, the available services and programs should be the ones empowering those wives.

#### (1) Education of Korean language and culture

In order to be empowered to live in Korean society, they have to be free in communicating in Korean. A systematic education of Korean language should be available with an easy access. Besides, teaching how to cook Korean food is another important element to empower those wives, along with the traditional custom and history.

#### (2) Vocational training and job creation

Those wives believed that they have an expertise and good skills. This can also be empowered by creating the jobs suit for them. Since they believed that their diligence and faith were strengths, vocational training can take a good role to empower those women.

#### (3) Increasing an access to services

Those wives pointed out that the gaining an access to social services was a great barrier. The service of hotline 1366 should provide more advertisement throughout the community. More active plan of advertising should be taken exclusively for this population by using their language or any methods familiar to this population.

#### (4) Liaison of a Korean mentor for Korean life

Mentoring service to those wives will be a good idea. With an older mentor, the Asian wives may take this mentor a 'mother' of home country. With a peer mentor, they may take this mentor a 'friend' of either home country or the country they have to live. The mentors can share many experiences in terms of customs, rituals, unwritten rules and regulations, and other basic knowledge to live in a new environment, Korea.

### **2. Services for the families of the Asian wives**

The social services should be available for the families of those Asian wives. It is because that the family members need to understand the newly arrived Asian wives and daughters-in-law.

#### (1) Developing program for understanding home country of the Asian wives

The family members need to understand that the Asian wives have had their own country that is very much different from Korea. They had the needs to share their own culture. Thus, the programs should be developed to learn about each culture, to learn about the differences in values and beliefs, and to learn about Asian wife's language and culture. The program designed for enhancement of couple's relationship or of family relationship will be useful.

#### (2) Support for child rearing

It is no doubt that child rearing is the most stressful thing to immigrated Asian mothers. Assistance to raise young children in a new culture is necessary. For the mothers of school age children, assistance to understand Korean schooling system and to read the written materials from the school is absolutely required.

### 3. Specialization of social services

The social services for the Asian wives need to be individually tailored and specialized.

#### (1) Building the “Multi-Language Counseling Centers”

This center shall be utilized to assist those wives’ other service use. The helpers or the interpreters in the center can make the arrangement for the service use.

#### (2) Developing personal (counseling) services by culture sensitive professionals

Even though those wives experienced the hardships and difficulties in everyday life, they seem reluctant to use the personal services or any type of counseling services. This is partly because they don’t trust the professionals whether they understand their special situation with a different cultural background. The personal service professionals should be trained to be sensitive to cultural differences, and to develop culture sensitive personal services.

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