

## **A STUDY ON THE MEDIATING EFFECTS OF SOCIAL PARTICIPATION ON ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF THE ELDERLY IN SOUTH KOREA**

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This study examines the mediating effects of social participation on the relationship between economic activity and social integration of the elderly in South Korea. The proportion of people aged 65 and over increased from only 2.9% in 1960 to 10.7% in 2009(Korea National Statistic Office, 2010). With the rapid aging society, it is very urgent issue to establish social integration among generations in South Korea. This study, through stratified multi-state random sampling, recruited 632 elders over 60 living in Gangnam-Gu, Seoul City. And this study employed a self-administered survey method during from July to August, 2009. Dependent variable was social integration, independent variable was economic activity and mediating variable was social participation. Control variables were sex, age, education level, monthly income, religion, living arrangements and chronic disease numbers. SPSS 12.0 Package was used to analyze data and multi-regression analysis was employed. First, the level of social integration differences according to education level, chronic disease number, living arrangements, economic activity. Second, social participation is associated with education level, sex, religion, monthly income, age, and economic activity. Third, in terms of verification of mediation effect, participating in social activities shows full mediation effect economic activity and social integration, the affecting factors are education level, chronic disease number, social participation. From the results, economic activity is other significant factor predicting social integration among elders. Also, the results suggest that social participation is very significant factor influencing to prevent or decrease social exclusion among elders.