

PREFERRED ELDERLY HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS OF MIDDLE AGED KOREANS. Lee Y.S., Park J.A., Byun H.R. Department of Housing and Interior Design, Yonsei University, Seoul 120-749, Lee S.Y.*. Department of Home Education, Dongguk University, Seoul 100-715, Korea.

Traditionally, the family support for their old parents has been the cultural norm in Korea. Due to the changed social environment such as value system and life styles, there has been growing elderly problems.

Most previous research on elderly housing has suggested the future direction for elderly housing development by assuming the entire aging period to be an ambiguous or homogeneous period. Aging has various stages according to elderly's physical, psychological and social conditions.

In this context, the purpose of this study was to identify the preferences concerning the elderly housing among middle-age Koreans in the future aging period according to aging situations.

The sample was 688 middle-aged people. The data were collected through a mail questionnaire and analyzed using the frequency, percentage and chi-square test with SAS-PC program. The housing characteristics used in this study were housing options, ownership, housemate, house size, distance from adult son/daughter and location. Chi-square test was used to find out the relationship between sociodemographic and preferred housing characteristics. Elderly stages were classified into four conditions based on single/couple and healthy/unhealthy situations.

Major results were as follows;

- 1) Even though the elderly wanted to enjoy their lifetime independently in the beginning stage, they tended to depend on adult sons in the poorer condition.
- 2) Higher social class respondents tended to prefer congregate housing, larger size, to live with spouse or relatives/friends.

According to this study, elderly housing development should be approached in diverse and flexible ways to accommodate the changing trend.