AGING AND HUMANWARE: A PERSPECTIVE FROM KOREA

OKwan S. Lee (Hongik University), Young S. Lee (Jeonnam University)

1. Introduction

The aging population is increasing in the world and Korea. It is necessary to improve the facilities for aging population. In this paper it is intended to discuss the necessary facility improvement for the aging population to show the current status of Korean facilities for the aging population.

2. Method

To find the necessary facility improvement area, the survey results, conducted previously were used. Therefore, the survey results of 94 persons who were older than 60 years old were reported in this paper.

3. Results

It was found that hospitals are place where the facility improvement is needed most. Supermarkets are the next followed by the religious places. This may not indicate that these places are the least equipped areas for the aging population. These three places might be the places where elderly use frequently. Stairways followed by toilets and bathrooms have almost no improvement. It was found that most interivwees thought that almost no improvement were performed on the most of the housing facilities. Less than 25% of them thought that elevators and main entrance accesses were improved.

4. Other equipment

Most elderly with any type of hearing loss requested the door light installation (64.7%) which can substitute the door bells. They also requested gas warning lights (72%), and amplified phone system (67%). However, it was found that more than 82% feel that these equipments were not installed.

5. Conclusions

Although Korean law either requires or recommends the facility improvement for aging population, it was found that improvement were scarcely performed.