

## From the editor

This issue of Gender Studies and Policy Review attempts to shed light on Child Sexual Abuse by delving into its history, exploring the current situation and suggesting future directions for a range of efforts to prevent it. The first article, “Child Sexual Abuse -Discovery, Professionalization and Institutionalization: 40 Years of Struggle and Progress in the U.S.A.” is a medical doctor’s account of the coming to terms with the concept in the USA and her efforts to amend society in order to deal with it. Identifying child sexual abuse as a societal problem required a medical as well as a cultural awakening. Discovering effective means and resources for treating Child Sexual Abuse victims necessitated coordinated efforts on the part of diverse disciplines and parties.

According to the second article, “Recognition of and Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Hong Kong,” that territory was more reluctant to acknowledge the existence of child abuse due to a tradition of familism. Recognition of the vulnerability of Hong Kong society to Child Sexual Abuse arrived abruptly in 1978 through a shocking incidence of an abused child’s self-reporting to a local police station and the subsequent media attention. The author of the article, a pediatrician, illuminates the process of the mobilization on the part of civil society toward public awareness of Child Sexual Abuse, as well as governmental action for establishing a system for CSA prevention and child protection.

Even with a strong Confucian tradition of familism, Koreans have no qualms about accepting the existence of Child Sexual Abuse in their society. Instead, they are demanding prompt government action for the prevention of CSA and protection of victims. “Challenges and Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Korea” is one of many research projects being performed as part of the attempt to develop measures for eradicating CSA. It shows the outcome of a national investigation of children’s awareness of and experience of sexual abuse, along with attitudes of concerned parties, such as parents and teachers, toward the issue.

All of these articles are fascinating in terms of informing readers of different countries’ unique contexts in dealing with CSA, along with the similarities in their approaches toward resolving this troubling social issue.

The remaining articles pick up on unresolved issues of gender mainstreaming studies from where previous issues of GSPR left off. “Monitoring of the Process of Drafting 2011 Gender Budget

Statement” attempts to find ways to complement the gender budgeting system by interviewing public officials who participated in drafting the 2011 gender budget statements. The author identifies causes for the officials' merely lukewarm allegiance to the gender budgeting system and suggests measures to improve their attitudes. Another article on gender budgeting, “Estimation of Willingness-to-Pay for Budgetary Programs by Gender” contributes to the previous article by ascribing legitimacy to the gender budgeting system. The author makes use of an econometrics method known as CVM (Contingent Valuation Method) to provide proof of the degree to which the public wishes the government to adopt a gender-sensitive budget system.

Measuring gender equality in a country can be one means of raising public sensitivity toward gender equality. To that end, Korean Women's Development Institute formulated a South Korean Gender Equality Index. “Development of a Gender Equality Index and Measurement of Gender Equality in South Korea” elaborates on the development process and the status of gender equality in South Korea as measured by the index.

The minimal political representation of women in South Korea is one of the foremost variables which lower South Korea's ranking in the global echelon of gender equality. In the article “A Study on Ways to Continue and Advance the Political Career of Female Members of Local Councils,” the author uncovers means to assist in continuing and advancing the political career of female local council members.

Gender mainstreaming is a term that self-reveals the difficulty of mainstreaming gender. The more effort that is expended in placing the matter of gender and women at the center of the national agenda, the stronger the backlash that often must be faced. However, with each step taken, like those offered in this issue of GSPR, we may be drawing closer to doing away with the term entirely in the not too distant future.

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