

Major research agenda of KWDI in 2013 and future plans

Gi-tack Jeon

Research Fellow, Korean Women's Development Institute

KWDI has determined four principle policy targets for research for 2013 as follows: the actualization of practical gender mainstreaming in the financial and legal aspects of the government's endeavors; support for the diverse forms of families emerging due to accelerated social evolution; support for the employment and competency development of underprivileged women; and the promotion of social cohesion by further securing women's human rights and heightening awareness of gender equality issues.

As to the actualization of practical gender mainstreaming in the government's financial and legal efforts, related research will include the strengthening of gender impact assessment as a means to develop and expand gender-sensitive policies; the stable implementation and continued development of gender-sensitive budgeting; the production and use of gender-sensitive statistics aiming for gender mainstreaming; and the enhancement of gender mainstreaming in the legal sector and promotion of legislation related to women's and family issues.

Regarding support for the diverse types of families emerging as a result of rapid social change, research subjects include the development of family policies in response to future changes in the family such as a simplifying family structure, diversifying family forms, and multiculturalization, as well as measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of existing policies.

Research subjects related to support for the employment and competency development of underprivileged women feature the expansion of training and employment welfare, as well as to measures to reduce the polarization of jobs for women through quality-quantity balance in employment.

Finally, research regarding the promotion of social cohesion by further securing women's human rights and raising awareness of gender equality is to include the elimination of sexual violence-

prone blind spots within the protective structures, promotion of women's human rights and safety, spread of gender-sensitive culture aiming to enhance the effectiveness of gender equality programs, and establishment of a gender-sensitive welfare regime.

In accordance with this framework, a total of 30 research projects, including basic and general projects and approximately 15 short-term irregular projects responding to current policy issues in 2013 will be pursued. In addition, KWDI is expected to undertake somewhere around 60 projects commissioned by government ministries and institutions including the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family. Among these, eight core projects have been selected as follows:

- Analysis and evaluation of gender budgeting in central and local governments (III)
- Gender-sensitive analysis of women- and family-related legal precedents and enactment agenda (II): family-related precedents
- Housing status of female-headed households and related policy measures, with a focus on unmarried one-person households and low-income single-parent households in urban areas
- The future of the family and projections for women and family policies (III)
- Policy agenda for productive lives by elderly women in an era of centenarians: integration of learning, work, and leisure
- Measures to increase the proportion of female employees at small- and mid-sized companies and support utilization of female resources by such companies
- Creation of a safe community environment for female children and adults (V): review of policies related to the safety of female children and adults and future agenda
- Research on proactive measures for the actualization of equality in South Korea

The following table presents KWDI's future research plans organized by respective centers.

Center name	Research plans
Center for Gender Impact Assessment and Gender Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a foundation for the settlement of the gender impact assessment system - Development and diffusion of national policies related to gender mainstreaming - Continued compilation of sector-based gender-sensitive statistics - Compilation of gender-sensitive statistical information related to gender-sensitive policies
Gender Budget Research Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive mid- to long-term research for the settlement and continued advancement of gender-sensitive budgeting

Center name	Research plans
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a foundation to promote gender-sensitive budgeting policy - Enhancement of the accomplishments of gender-sensitive financial operations
Center for Family Policy and Multicultural Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a paradigm for future-oriented family and multiculturalism policy as well as development of policy agenda - Improvement of the effectiveness of the family and multiculturalism policy promotion system (e.g. Healthy Family Support Centers and Multicultural Family Support Centers) - Creation of a family-friendly social environment through work-family balance and engagement by the state, businesses, and communities - Identification of measures to reduce the family-care burden and encourage men's participation in family care - Establishment of support and infrastructure for families at risk (single-parent families, multicultural families, senior-only families, rural families, and families of North Korean defectors) - Expansion of policy agenda for a multicultural society and qualitative enhancement of policies in response to the progression of the multiculturalization of society - Redesign of the Basic Livelihood Security System based on a gender perspective - Development of a gender-sensitive policy agenda for major welfare areas
Center for Human Rights Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion and enhancement of gender mainstreaming in the legal sector through gender-sensitive monitoring of the full process ranging from the designing of bills through the impact of their application (evaluation of the laws and analysis of legal precedents) - Development and promotion of short- to mid-term enactment/revision agenda in the women and family field - Establishment of infrastructure for the prevention of victimization and protection of victims of sexual violence, especially in regards to vulnerable groups including female children and adults with disabilities - Establishment of a system for the efficient operation of relevant facilities to promote the effective support of victims of violence against women - Review of laws on the protection of the human rights of women and children and improvement of policy effectiveness
Center for Gender Equality Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analysis of the use by gender of new information, culture, and content and improvement measures - Achievement of gender equality in a range of settings including workplaces, homes, and schools

Center name	Research plans
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancement of women's political representation - Identification of policy measures to promote women's health rights and to achieve health equality between men and women
Center for Human Resources Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevention of career disruption among unemployed young women and facilitation of their entry into the labor market - Enhancing vocational training and (re)employment support for underprivileged women, migrant women, women with career interruptions, female North Korean defectors, and unemployed women - Improvement of working conditions to allow work-family balance - Enhancing education for the integration of underprivileged women - Development of policy measures through an analysis of the differences between employment rates among young women and those among middle-aged to senior women - Identification of the causes behind the quantitative increase in the employment of middle-aged to senior women and measures to improve their work conditions
International Development and Cooperation Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of women's policy needs as well as the status of policy operation and structure in recipient countries with an aim toward the further advancement of gender equality policies in developing countries - Development of a general model applicable to the Asia Pacific region through the creation of policies customized to each country - Identification of local needs in partner countries; strengthening the competence of local personnel in charge of policy implementation; creation of a policy needs network encompassing GOs and NGOs; and establishment of institutional infrastructure in partner countries