# Exploring Social Capital in Busan and Gimhae, Korea:
## Perspectives from Social Trust and Social Risk

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### 1 . Introduction

My field of research is Risk Management and Insurance at Senshu University. I have written some papers before about the relationship between business resiliency and social capital, as well as on the topic of social capital and the issues of disaster risk management[1]. I have come to find several important relationships between all of them.

Now, in accordance with today's program, I will show you a tentative conclusion of some of my research's findings, which compares the social capital in two areas in Korea; one area is the city of Busan, and the other area covers both the suburban and rural areas of Gimhae.

I currently refer to my findings as being a tentative conclusion. There are two reasons as to why I use the word "tentative." Firstly, the number of samples is limited between 200~247, and secondly, we have not carried out the statistical analysis yet. However, by comparing two areas of the analysis, I think we expect the following findings.

The outline for how the research was carried out is already indicated by Prof. Cho's paper in this journal, so, I will shorten the explanation to encompassing the special characteristics of the Busan City and Gimhae and their social trust and risk. Also, I will introduce the findings obtained from the results of our research on the relationship between social risk and social capital.

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## 2．Research design and outline of survey areas

Table 1—①, Table 1—② shows the research design and outline of survey areas, that is Busan city and Gimhae city. Table 2 shows sample size, sample method and other research design about two research areas.

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□Questionnaire items: social trust, maintaining and improving livehood, risk and social safety-net, social rituals

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●Busan City

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○Implementation term of survey: Sep. 2011- Dec. 2011

○This survey conducted by RISE (the Research Institute for Social Enterprise) (at Busan city)

○Case study of quantitative survey on urban (Busan city has second biggest population size in South Korea)

○Busan city has 16 districts.

○Total Population: 3,560,813(July 2011)

○Population density: 467 by km$^2$ (2010)

○Age distribution of respondents: 20's(50.4%), 30's(21%), 40's(10.5%), 50's(7.3%), 60's(8%)

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Table 1—①: Research design and outline of Busan City

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●Gimhae City

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○Implementation term of survey: Oct. 2012- Dec. 2012

○This survey conducted by RISE (at Busan city)

○Gimhae city is located in a suburb of west of Busan city, this suburbanization result in a population flow from other areas to Gimhae city (about 160,000 peoples inflow).

○Total population: 523,177(Feb. 2012, included foreign nationality)

○Research areas: 3 districts in Gimhae city; First layer(urban areas) , Second layer(urban improvement areas), Third layer(rural areas)

○Age distribution of respondents: 20's(21%), 30's(16%), 40's(26.5%), 50's(13%), 60's(8.5%)

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Table 1—②: Research design and outline of Gimhae City

| Category | Content |
|---|---|
| 1) Population studied | Residence living in the greater area of Busan City, Residences of Gimhae |
| 2) Sample size | 200 samples |
| 3) Sampling method | Selected a random |
| 4) Research method | Research through visits / interviews and research on the web |
| 5) Main research items | Social trust, the relationship between social safety and social capital |

Table 2: Sample size, sample method and other design in two areas.

## 3 . Special characteristics of the areas researched

Busan city has the second largest population in South Korea. In contrast to such Metropolitan city as Busan, areas of Gimhae city merged with Busan city, and afterwards, the surrounding areas of Gimhae city were reorganized into urban areas. The process of urbanization is still in progress, and presently, Gimhae city has taken a compounding form comprising of both urban and rural areas. The rural area is a major producer of rice crop (exporting to South Asia).

"Some important characteristics is shown by Professor Cho's paper in this journal like this;

Gimhae was divided into 4 districts, depending on their location and history; 'downtown or suburb', and 'old or new'. As you can see on this table, the 4 districts are, Jin-Young, Jang yoo, Nae-We Samgye, and Central Gimhae.

Fist, Jin young is a traditional agricultural region old as time. The second is Jang yoo, which is a newly established town in the suburb of Gimhae. So, Jang yoo has mixed character of city and suburb. The third district is Nae-We, Samgye. It has been newly developed as a residential district and has the largest population among the regions in Gimhae. The last one is Central Gimhae. It is the old section, which was the center of ancient country 'Gaya', and where the tomb of 'King Kimsuro' in Gaya Dynasty is located".

### 4 . Some differences in the results of research between Busan and Gimhae

**(1) Social Trust**
Table 3 shows social trust relationships between Busan and Gimhae after our research findings by four questionnaires.

| Questionnaires | Busan City(2011) | Gimhae City(2012) |
|---|---|---|
| **(1)** How often do you meet with your relatives? **(Answered "Regularly")** | 23.1 % | 39.5 % |
| **(2)** What kind of social relations do you have with the people in your neighborhood? Please choose one answer each for B, and circle the numbers beside those answers. <br><br> **[B]** The proportion of people you have relations within your neighborhood **(Answered "I only know and interact with people in my immediate neighborhood" and "I never interact with people in my neighborhood.")** | 65.1 % | 51.5 % |
| **(3)** Do you participate in community activities? **(Answered "Yes")** | 60.2 % | 16.5 % |
| **(4)** If a dispute happens between people in your community, do you think that people in the community could resolve the problem themselves? **(Answered "Probably not" and "Definitely not")** | 83.6 % | 41.0 % |

Table 3: Research findings about social trust relationships between Busan and Gimhae.

We could draw following tentative conclusion about social trust between two areas.
- This result implies that the frequency of interactions between relatives is higher in rural areas than in cities.
- There is more social intercourse between relatives in rural areas than in urban ones.
- The support for volunteer activities is high in Busan City, but they're not entirely voluntary. The government of Busan City provides support to voluntary activities within Busan city. These "voluntary associations" do not always act voluntarily.
- Intimate relationships in the city are weak. Those who answered that they participate in voluntary organizations for disabled people, the elderly, and orphanages as well as other caring activities entirely comprised of 19%.
- Depending on the environmental change from a conventional home to an apartment, the degree of acquaintances between neighbors weakened, and it should be perceived as a

serious social problem.

• Rural areas traditionally emphasize interacting with neighbors.

• Background: Rural residents attached a high value to traditional ties.

• Except in the case of community activities, urban residents have few social relationships in this survey.

**(2) Social Risk**

Table 4 shows social risk relationships between Busan and Gimhae after our research findings by some questionnaires.

| Questionnaire: | Busan City(2011) | Gimhae City(2012) |
|---|---|---|
| (1)/(2)/(3): How threatening do you think about the following items are to your life? Please mark the level of importance in the following chart for each by writing a number in the box that applies. | | |
| (1) Item: Unemployment, little income (answered "Very threatening" and "Threatening") | 61.10% | 75.00% |
| (2) Item: Poor means of transportation or road conditions, traffic accidents (answered "Very threatening" and "Threatening") | 30.10% | 56.00% |
| (3) Item: War (answered "Very Threatening") | 32.90% | 17.00% |
| (4) In the community where you live, if a major natural disaster or incident occurs, what kind of person or organization could you rely on? For the following items, please write a number in the box that applies. | The first majority rely on family (51.6%) | ・The first majority rely on local government (44.0%) ・The second majority rely on schools, hospitals and other government organizations (31.5%) |

Table 4: Research findings about social risk relationships between Busan and Gimhae.

We could draw following tentative conclusion about social risk between two areas.

Q1: This results reflects the economic vulnerability of income and unemployment risk in rural areas and these risks is higher than urban city.

Q2: Regarding the problems and social risk associated with such things as transportation methods, traffic accidents, and road conditions, the high threat to the suburbs and rural areas can be identified. Along with that, there is a presumption that we can predict a low morals for road safety.

Q3: Regarding the risk of war, 32.9% of those who live in Busan City felt that it is "Very threatening", with 17.0% felt the same way in Gimhae.

Q4: Urban residents tend to feel a high amount of scarcity than that of suburban and rural areas when natural disasters or incidents occur. Also, urban residents rely on self-help more than help from the public when natural disasters or incidents occur.

## 5 . Tentative conclusion

Table 5 shows comparison of social trust and social risk between Busan city (urban) and Gimhae city (suburban and rural areas) and also indicate tentative conclusions about those social capital of two research areas.

**Trend Analysis of quantity of Social Capital:**
**Comparison  Busan city(urban) and Gimhae(suburban and rural areas)**

| SC related items | Busan city (urban) | Gimhae city (suburban and rural areas) |
|---|---|---|
| **Social Trust** | | |
| 1) having relations within neighborhood | X | ○ |
| 2) participating in community activities | X | X |
| 3) social relationships | X | ○ |
| **Social Risk** | | |
| 1) economic risk(unemployment) | X | XX |
| 2) transportation or road conditions, traffic accidents | △ | XX |
| 3) depending organizations or individuals during a major natural disaster or incident happened | The family (self help) is the highest ratio in | The public help is the highest ratio in |
| 4) thread to war | XX | X |

note： tentative index from comparison between the two areas
(XX＝highly negative    X＝ negative  △＝undecided ○＝slightly positive)

Table 5: Comparison of social trust and social risk between Busan city (urban) and Gimhae city (suburban and rural areas)

• The degree of social trust has decreased among the youth in urban areas.

• Relying on self-help is huge risk for society against such a catastrophic risk as flood, war and others. Strong inward reliance in urban areas like Busan is not effective risk management against catastrophic risk.

• With these facts from research findings, there is a vulnerability not only to catastrophic disaster risk but also to crime risk in daily life.

• So, measures to build intangible assets among peoples (social capital) that deepen intimate relationships and further collective volunteering is vital for urban city in Korea and also in Japanese city.

• And finally I will also insist on the importance of risk education from preschool infant to adult person in Asian country. The reason why I insist on the importance of risk education from early stages is as follows; i) all of us face many variety of risks after our birth, so we at first need to understand the fundamental features of risk itself and next we need to know the way of effective treatment of risk, ii) People of Asian countries live in high risk areas perspectives from disaster risks in the world, so we should learn many ex perience and knowledge from past disaster and communicate those tangible and intangible assets through risk communication by risk education from early stages.