

## The Multi-Cultural Empathy as a Cultural Phenomenon

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**Abstract:** This study has been prepared in order to understand the multi-cultural society. “Multi-cultural empathy”, it will look at the cultural phenomenon. Empathy makes a connection between people. The study was developed literature data research and visiting various sites on the internet. By analyzing and interpreting the records made in the future to help the research. Through many literary works and films, television dramas can see the appearance of these people. Social changes begins, so. So that, different cultures are obtained by forming the name of the new culture. As everyone knows, one of the important characteristics of the structural changes in the society of the 21st century is the shift from the single-cultural society to the multicultural one. With the rapidly developing traffic and communication, intercultural contacts and exchanges are increasing and a new era in which heterogeneous cultures exist in a mixed way is becoming a reality in the global society. Against this backdrop, discussions over the multicultural society is being actively done around the world; sometimes, the negative aspect of multicultural society is highlighted and other times, its positive functions are emphasized. But in many cases, it is viewed as an advanced aspect of changes in the society. Sometimes the need for changes in the artificial islands and also called for changes in its slippery nature awareness. Now, multiculturalism has become a cultural phenomenon. Sympathizing with multiculturalism is also an aspect of a culture. It is about time to actually put it into practice.

**Key word:** Culture, multi-culture, multicultural society, empathy, changes of awareness, social development

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### INTRODUCTION

There was an study on an advertisement featuring a multicultural family in Korea in the August 8th, 2016 edition of the Indonesian newspaper “Media Indonesia”. Although, it was an study which introduced a commercial advertisement, it has many implications to us. Currently, many countries are suffering from big or small troubles caused by prejudices and misunderstanding of other cultures. This is also an important issue in the 2016 US Presidential Election and the terrorist attack on July 14th, 2016 in Nice in France which hurt 202 people and killed 84, urged people around the world to have a broad understanding of multiculturalism.

Discussions on multiculturalism and multi-cultural society have already been deployed in a variety of areas (George, 2013). Sometimes, also it highlighted the negative issues and there are very large accumulation of research, while also highlighting the good side.

Even though the discussion of this situation is still being actively made (Ali, 2011). It is because living well with people that make up the society because in order to be so in the hope of everyone is needed even more deep understanding of the multicultural society. It is necessary for this right is the spirit of

empathy. Of course, it should be a sufficient understanding of the multicultural premise for this such as empathy. For example, it is necessary to be sure, even within the scope of cultural policy and more specifically the direction of finding practical problem solving.

### CHANGE IN SOCIETY AND SYMPATHY OF THE MEMBERS IN THE SOCIETY

**Understanding of multi-cultural society:** In a broad sense, migration has become a global phenomenon, being regarded as one of the hottest issues facing the world in this century and Korea is no exception.

Modern Korean society is going through a rapid process of shifting to the multicultural society. The number of Foreigners who are residing in Korea is over 2 million as of July 2016. And among them, around one million are workers who have a job in Korea. Against this backdrop, the status of the Foreigners in Korea is getting much better compared to the past; we have the first member of the National Assembly from the immigrant population and the Foreigners who appear on various media including TV do not look like poor immigrants any more. Despite the positive phenomena caused by these changes, conflicts caused by the sense of difference

between different cultures are bound to appear as a serious social issue. Even if the problems encountered are inevitably derived from the process of multicultural socialization it will have to recognize and promote this solution.

The word “culture” is based on the “identity and originality” by the medium of a specific place where each culture is situated. Nevertheless, the future in front of us will become a multicultural society where everything is connected through globalization without boundaries between countries whether we want it or not. The important thing is the communication and understanding of the multiculturalism which entered into the category (Murphy, 2012). Without learning and understanding multiculturalism, we cannot communicate and get together with people who have lived in different cultures.

As you can see, it is not one of the important features of the 21st century, social structure changes may include the transition to a multicultural society in a single cultural community as an example. Due to the rapid development of cross-cultural contact and exchange such as transportation and communication which is increasing, it has become a new era is now a reality of the society is heterogeneous mixed cultures. Of course, this is not our own situation. It is also the phenomenon of migration is widely seen all around the world so far to say one of the biggest challenges the world has faced issues of the century.

Social deal for this phenomenon such nonetheless, many countries must show does not show only the positive sense. We will be in the skin that can be easily seen around other Foreigners including conflicts arising from differences of religion reflects this reality. To become a society to be composed in a good direction are fully considered these issues in the process of socialization. Therefore, these phenomena arises the need to attract another point of view not only look at the framework of the cultural escape. That’s just the spirit of empathy.

**Multi-cultural society and human rights:** We believe that everyone, both Korean and Foreigners has a right as a human being which cannot be intruded or infringed at any time. This belief is so taken for granted that nobody would question it. But in reality, this belief is realized in a totally different way, facing a number of challenges. Sometimes, we create a stereotype about members of various ethnic groups without realizing it and paradoxically, it can be a power that drives the development of multi-cultural human

rights. The development of information and communication media greatly contributes to the globalization of today’s human rights movement. Now the thought on the human rights is encountered by the flow of the times in which it is more than a problem of securing the basic rights that are stipulated by law. It also has a task of encircling the world within a border as well as preparing the normative frame at an international level.

The discussion over the multicultural civil rights in which immigrants and minority ethnic groups becomes the subjects and which is needed for social integration is based the strengthening of social integration through extended common culture, common identity, common sense and style by providing the opportunity of participating in education, politics, culture and society for the minority groups which have been excluded from society. Sharing identity and integration through it will contribute to the shift to a healthy society interconnected with other systems in diversity.

Today, the term multiculturalism refers to the multicultural phenomena in various areas such as immigration, labor market, education, mass media policy and art along with the “the melting-pot” and at the same time, it reflects the subtle political ideologies which indicates the expansion of ideological systems. Human rights are the basis of this expansion and the ideological foundation of it.

The year 2018 to come will be another turning point for multiculturalism in our society. The UN State of the Future mentioned the necessity that Korean society needs to prepare for multiculturally integrated society, expecting that by 2018, multiculturalism will be developing in earnest in Korea as the immigration population will take up 10% of the total population and the members of the current multicultural families will get married and have children by that time.

Figure 1 shows that the study of “Media Indonesia” mentioned in the introduction. The contents of the advertising which emphasized that communication between the family members is most needed for the members of the multicultural families and the contents of the study which introduced this, show the magnanimity of the human rights in which we all become part of the group of us. Now is the time when social establishment that secures human rights of the Foreigners regardless of skin color, nationality and language is greatly needed.



Fig. 1: Multi-cultural family (www.mediaindonesia.com/, 2016)

## THE PHENOMENA IN THE MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR SYMPATHY

**Diaspora and welfare system:** What is empathy? The positive concept of multiculturalism puts its basis on the respect for culture, language, social customs of the mainstream society in the area of life as well as recognizing the existence of ethnic groups by allowing cultural diversity for social integration.

This is not simply limited to the ban on the discrimination against other cultures and ethnic groups, it also includes the cases of encouraging the equality of the result through aggressive financial and legal support for social participation of the minority groups admitting their competitive disadvantages. It is defined as communal multiculturalism. In this case, financial and legal aids are provided for the minority groups and the equality of the process through policies is sought on the basis of the minority group quota system in job seeking and

education. We need to pay attention to the concept of Diaspora. As typically, the word ‘diaspora’ to be interpreted in such a discrete national or ethnic origin is widely distributed have their origin in Greek. “Diaspora” is but the original Greek meaning ‘discrete’, today there are more cases to use the “diaspora” to refer to “the discrete nation” with a little more common (Kevin, 2013).

Since, the 1990’s, research began in earnest on this diaspora has been used as a broad concept that includes the experience of a particular nation as well as international migration, asylum, refugees, migrant workers, ethnic communities, cultural differences such as the identity of other people. However, the search for conditions that do what has to be the reason why the concept of diaspora is used very widely is needed. As one example, William *et al.* (2009) is said to be called “move around in a foreign place from specific originators” such as diaspora must meet all six conditions for holding them.

Such conditions may be based on looking at the social it will be helpful to the understanding of the multicultural society. Now, it should accept these diaspora in society.

Also, to understand the phenomena of multicultural society and accept it clearly, we need to examine the understanding of the welfare-system of a society.

The welfare system is like reliable money in the pouch that can help the shift from one society to another. This does not mean that it should be like air or water (of course in some society, air and water are more important than money but here, we did not use them as goods which are scarce and precious).

In order to progress in a multicultural society should be at a substantial realization of the social welfare system. Communicate with various people over the welfare of a well-lived makes the least possible social integration with the aim of a reality. But welfare is indeed difficult to balance even as the requirements of social development. Yet, tinged with values that depend on each other is the duality that may conflict with each other. Welfare is the fruit of a long history of machine or embellish to achieve human society.

The emergence of the modern state was the premise that it is possible to guarantee the civil liberties and property and even personal well-being is just above the base of equality ideology. Multicultural society can be called a symbol of this country.

As it is today, welfare nation is one of the most dynamic achievements of 20th century. Now would be the welfare of their own well-being not just as a matter of the survival of the individual in society as equal presence

Table 1: World value survey (2010-2014) and 2015 research on the acceptance of multiculturalism by Korean people

Division	Korea (S)	US	Germany	Sweden	Australia
I will hire domestic workers first when there are not many job openings	60.4	50.5	41.5	14.5	51.0
I will not accept Foreign workers as my neighbors	31.8	13.7	21.5	3.5	10.6
I think of myself as a global citizen (generally, yes)	55.3	69.1	62.3	82.0	79.5

must look into the culture and living conditions to improve the quality of life (David, 2016). That way we can all be together.

**Awareness, changes and practice:** Many researches on the multicultural society shows that acceptance of multiculturalism differs depending on the age, occupation and experience in multicultural education, activities, contact and exchange in Korean society and that it is needed to perform education and promotion of the multiculturalism that suit the situation and eye level of the targets to spread the positive awareness on multiculturalism.

Also, “anti-sentiment” of the society members toward Foreigners is also growing with the rapid increase in crimes committed by Foreigners. With the ongoing cruel crimes being committed by Foreigners, a new term “xenophobia (hatred for Foreigners) which is the combination of “xeno (stranger)” and “phobia (hate, evade)”, showed up.

The “xenophobia” phenomenon, hatred for Foreigners is already prevalent on the internet and whenever crimes committed by Foreigners happen, people get critical of them. The bigger problem is that unless negative awareness about the foreign immigrants disappear, the vicious circle of “discrimination” and “crime” will be repeated. Therefore, perception of the Korean people toward Foreigners needs to change first to break this circle. We cannot overlook that behind the crimes of the Foreigners lies the reality of them leading the difficult life as strangers in Korea. We need to analyze the reasons why they committed crimes and focus on solving the problems.

As everyone knows, what triggered the Brexit decision, the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union was the problem of immigrants in most part. This has big implications for Korea which enters the era of 2 million foreign residents. In the era of 8.2 billion multicultural families and 2 million Foreigners, the shift to the multicultural society looks, so, natural.

The “2015 research on the acceptance of multiculturalism by Korean people” conducted by Gallup Korea which was done as the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Commissioned the Korean Women’s Development Institute for the research shows that acceptance of multiculturalism of the Korean society is still at a low level ([www.mogef.go.kr/](http://www.mogef.go.kr/),

2016). The result of comparing the major research items targeting at adults (average people) with the international index items shows that multiculturalism acceptance of the Korean society is still low compared to that of the major advanced countries. For example, the ratios of “I will hire domestic workers first when there are not many job openings” and “I will not accept foreign workers as my neighbors” were relatively high while the ratio of “I think of myself as a global citizen” was relatively low as shown in Table 1.

Also, as for the age, teenagers (middle and high school students) were 67.63 point, people in 20’s, 57.50 point, people in 30’s, 56.75 point, people in 40’s 54.42 point, people in 50’s, 51.47 point, people in 60’s and older 48.77 point, showing that, younger people were more likely to accept multiculturalism.

This research also shows that activities, exchange and the experience of education on understanding multiculturalism have a big effect on the multiculturalism acceptance. In this respect, we need to continuously expand the education on understanding multiculturalism and keep increasing the exchange and communication with multicultural families in all social groups including various ages and jobs.

In our global village, there are 242 countries and numerous ethnic groups. Multiculturalism can raise the culture of human community. About 7.4 billion people in the global village should think about the development of our community. The most important thing is the attitude of living together. The touching moments of 2016 Rio Olympics where all the people around the world were together (The American fencer wearing hijab and the African-American and white people holding and encouraging each other) ([www.rio2016.com/](http://www.rio2016.com/), 2016), showed that the world is one now ([www.olympic.org/](http://www.olympic.org/), 2016). Multiculturalism does not recognize the superiority of a particular race or superiority of a particular cultures, it can be established on the basis of respect for human dignity and universal values, relative values of the culture that they’ve achieved.

The world is rapidly changing into a place where various ethnic groups live together. And Korea should follow the suit with the rest of the world.

## CONCLUSION

Multiculturalism has recently came to meet the new challenges. Deepening of social absurdity due to poverty

and economic inequality, large and small such as the war should be thinking about multiculturalism again. The Syrian refugee crisis may be triggered by one of those examples ([www.unhcr.org/](http://www.unhcr.org/), 2016).

However, the same problem is not the work of one country only. The problem is also happening in many countries. In the US became a multicultural country such problems emerged in the presidential election process, the UK and Spain also suffer from nationalism and this happens.

Different skin colors, languages and cultural customs cannot be the targets of discrimination and this is the basis of multiculturalism. The effort to help and cooperate with the discriminated people and eliminate the discrimination is noble itself. And thinking of it natural needs the attitude of sympathizing with it. Korea had a lot of aids from many countries in the 1950 and 60's in the era of poverty. Now, Korea is ranked 10th in the world and became an economic power, helping many poor countries around the world. It is providing food and medical support for countries in Africa which suffer from hunger and diseases and making great effort for the world peace in earnest. Along with this external efforts, Korea needs to pay attention to its internal appearance.

The various ethnic groups living in the country and it will belong to individuals healthy and desirable dream of

the society while preserving the cultural identity of their own. The migrants of various nationalities have pride in their culture is helpful also for the community.

We are one humanity. Although, living in the border of the state but now is the time to have a brotherhood than ever.

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