

Open Governance for inclusive lifelong learning policies - *Seodaemun's Experience*

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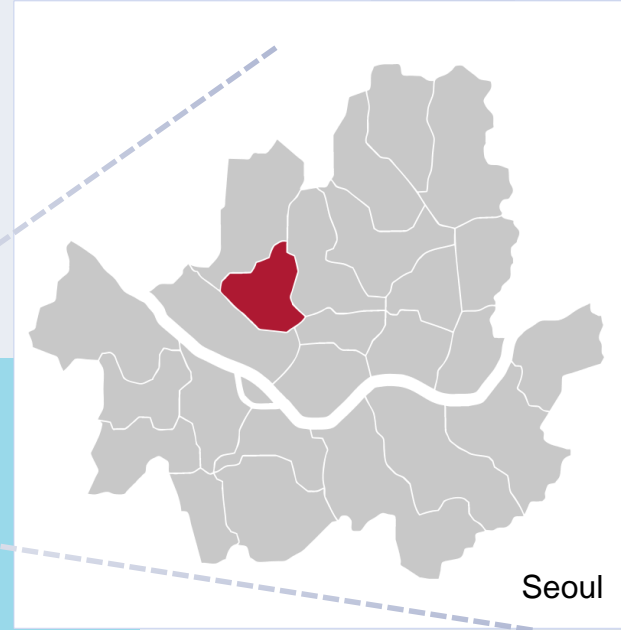


Seodaemun's today



SEODAEMUN-GU

- One of the 25 districts in Seoul, Republic of Korea
- “Great West Gate”(서대문/西大門) of old Seoul Fortress Wall
- Population: 324,304 (2019) | Area: 17.6 km²
- Rate of Senior Population: 15.8% (2015)
- Rate of College Graduates: 58.5% (2015)
- The first local government in Seoul that enacted an ordinance for literacy education program



Korea's today: Lifelong learning

- **Institutional framework**

- Lifelong Education Act

“... The State and local governments shall establish and promote the lifelong education promotion policy to provide **all people ...**” (Article 5)

“A national lifelong study city council may be established ...” (Article 15)

- Related legislation (e.g. Continuing Education Promotion Act)

- **Organizational framework**

- National Institute for Lifelong Education (NILE)



- 17 Metropolitan Institutes for Lifelong Education

- 169 Learning Cities with the Korean Association of Lifelong Learning Cities

- **Local governments play a key role in implementation of lifelong learning policies.**



Multi-level governance in Korea

- **Example: Continuing Education Voucher Support**



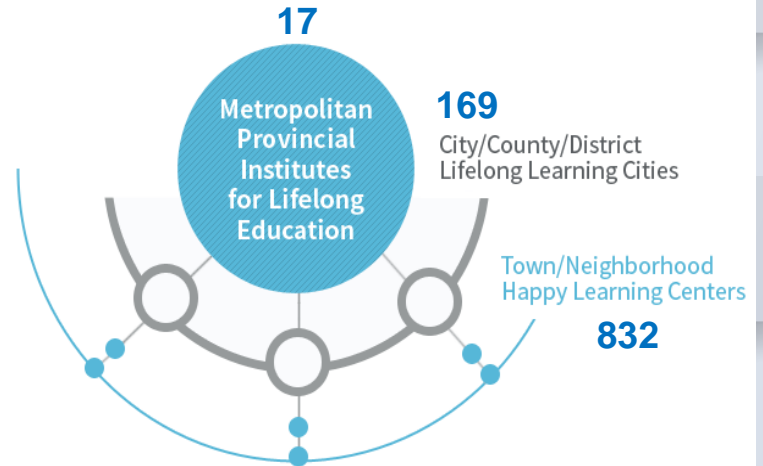
State-level: Ministry of Education

National Institute of Lifelong learning

Local Learning Centers

<http://www.nile.or.kr/eng>

- **Example: Learning cities**



<http://www.nile.or.kr/eng>

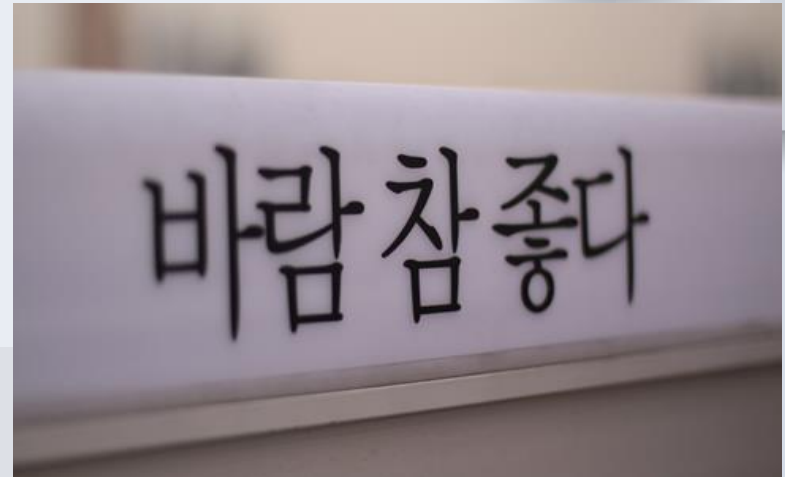
Example of Multi-level Governance

- **Literacy education programs**

- Learning cities have collaborated with MOE and NILE in order to provide more literacy programs in the communities.
- 50 % of the budget : a local government / 50 % : the central government.
- The Annual survey on lifelong learning, including literacy rate

- **Expansion of Literary Education to New Types of Literacy Skills**

- Adoption of “Life literacy”: digital literacy, media literacy, financial literacy, etc.
- The Seoul Metropolitan Government adopted life literacy education programs from the municipal governments.



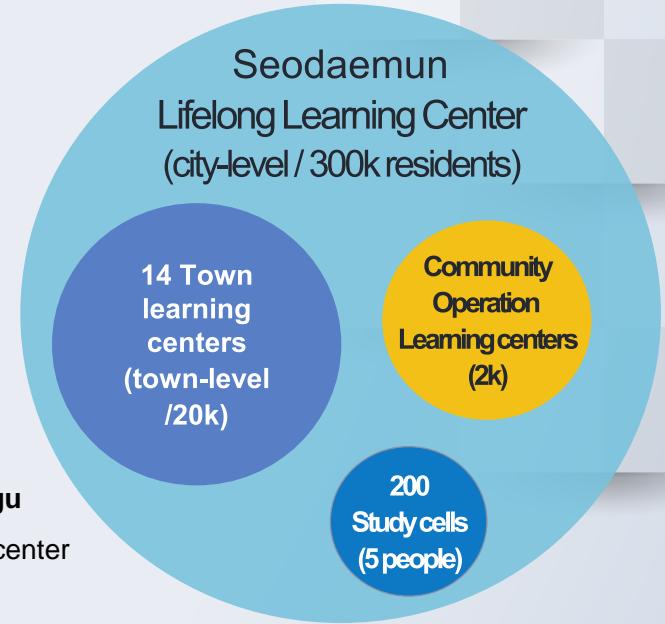
Seodaemun's Support System

- **Lifelong learning support system of Seodaemun-gu**
 - Lifelong learning support is provided at every level of communities like a “learning schema” with learning neurons.
 - City provides customized service.
 - A study cell can be created with 5 residents.



Learning schema in Seodaemun-gu

- 1 : Seodaemun-gu lifelong learning center
- 2 : Town learning center centers
- 3 : Community operation learning centers
- 4 : Study cell-Small learning communities



Seodaemun's Learning environment

- **Seodaemun-gu is a cluster of nine prestigious universities in Korea**
 - Such as Yonsei Univ. / Ewha Woman's Univ. / Sogang Univ, etc.
 - Each university provides various adult learning programs for local residents.
- **Seodaemun Prison History Hall as a history and democracy education facility**
 - A former-prison for independence activists (during the Japanese colonial period, 1910-1945), as well as for pro-democracy activists (until 1987)
 - Now it functions as a memorial and museum where visitors can learn about history.

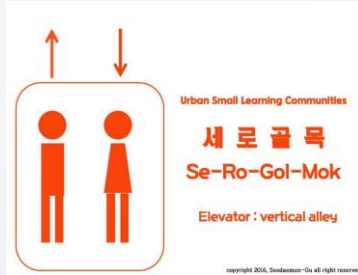


Community Outreach for Learning

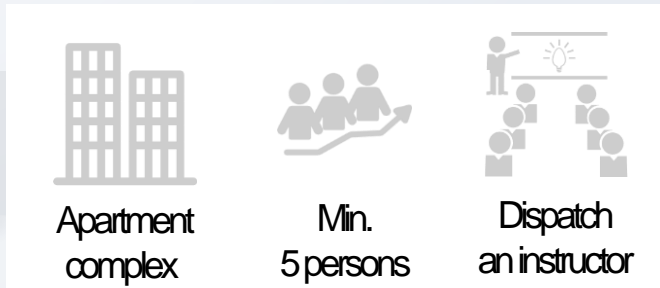
- **Seodaemun-gu has a set of community outreach programs for lifelong learning**
[Examples]
 - Vertical Alley Project (Sero-golmok) for the residents in the apartment complex
 - Korean Sauna Class Program (Jjimjil-bang class) for the underprivileged
- **These outreach programs are also geared toward more inclusive lifelong learning in the city.**
 - Easy access to learning opportunities for local residents and working people
 - A study cell can be created through these programs.
 - Example of 'Open governance' of lifelong learning: active participation of residents in the decision-making process.

Outreach 1: Vertical Alley Project

- Elevator = Vertical alley / Sero-GolMok (in Korean)



Traditional alley in a town



New 'vertical' alley

- Now many people meet their neighbors in an elevator, 'vertical alley'.
- A resident can create a class with neighbors on their own interests for learning.

Outreach 1: Vertical Alley Project

- **Vertical Alley Project (*Sero-golmok* project) supports small community learning classes in the apartment complex**
 - A group of five residents at an apartment can ask the city of a class on a variety of topics (art, Korean history, writing, bike repair, dancing, etc.)
 - Seodaemun-gu dispatches an instructor to form a class for an apartment class
 - A class can happen either at a resident's room or at a community facility of the complex
- **Outcome of Vertical Alley Project**
 - Since its inception in 2013, a total of 50 courses have been developed.
 - More than 600 residents each year have registered for a course.
 - Access to learning opportunities have been significantly widened, as at least 1/6 of residents in the city live in an apartment.

Outreach 2: Sauna Class Program

- **Korean Sauna (Jjim-Jil Bang)**
 - Literally means “heated room”
 - Popular spot for Korean families and tourists for hangout
 - Usually houses a big rest area, public bath, restaurant or snack bar
 - Easily found in any city
 - Oftentimes considered as a very affordable accommodation
- **Korean Sauna as a learning space**
 - Way to access the less advantaged
 - The smallest one can host hundreds of people



Outreach 2: Sauna Class Program

- **Korean Sauna Class program (Jjim-Jil Bang Learning) offers diverse short lectures at a public bath for those who lack time for learning.**
 - Korean Sauna (Jjim-Jil Bang) is a unique and popular place that combines public bath and rest area operated 24/7.
 - Many low-income people use Korean Sauna as a place for short stay or getting refreshed for their work, especially during the evening and night-time.
 - City government has placed a series of evening lectures for these users.
- **Outcome of Korean Sauna Class Program**
 - Started in 2013 and host over 6 classes
 - More than 200 residents each year have attended the lectures

Seodaemun's open governance

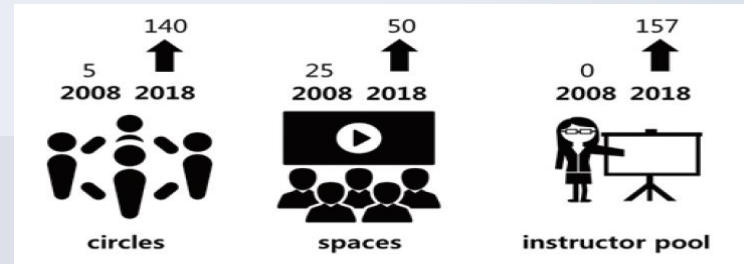
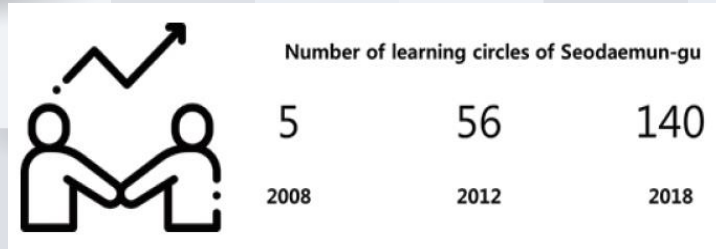
- **Local participants can be active decision-makers of Seodaemun's lifelong learning policies**
 - Starts as a learner of the class
 - Can become an instructor with relevant knowledge and skills
 - Can open a course as an experienced instructor, having the partnership with city government.



- **Open governance allows more people to actively involve with the city's lifelong learning programs and creates more inclusive policies.**

Changes we made

- **Real-life change made for participants of learning programs**
 - A case of Mrs. Kang, who couldn't read and write at all
- **A sense of community increased by local participants**
 - Community empowerment is realized, as residents better understand one another after participating in the courses and classes.
 - A case of Vertical Alley Project participants: could solve floor noise complaints between the apartment residents.
- **More voluntary learning opportunities for locals through study cells and outreach**



THANKS!

Any questions?

☐ <http://sdm.go.kr>



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