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Family Care Provider's Life Satisfaction with Sociodemographic Features

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Abstract

In this paper, the life satisfaction based on the sociodemographic characteristics providing the parent and grandchildren cares has been investigated using the survey conducted by National Pension Service of Korea. According to the analysis results, grandchildren care providers show higher satisfactions than parent care providers in the gender, age, educational level, spouse status and economic independency excluding the health condition. It is unique to find that parent care providers in better health conditions show lower life satisfactions. The survey was carried out about the life satisfaction with gender difference, age difference, education level, economic independency, spouse status, and health condition.

1. Introduction

Family care used to be an innate function of family. However, the function of family has been weakened due to the industrialization, the urbanization and the increase of women's social activity. Also, the family care still required because of the extension of senescence, the change of family structure and immaturity of social care system. The senescence is recognized as a period to receiving care. However, such changes make elderly people expected to play the role of care provider. The family care has double-sided characteristics. The first one is the family care which is productive for improving the relationship among the family members and the next one is, increasing the understanding of life, sometimes, becomes a very burdensome experience depending on the private circumstance of care provider. However, after the middle and old ages, many psychological and physical changes happen in the course of development so that the possibility for negative experience is very high. Also, study results stating that fairly many family care providers have low life satisfactions due to the limited time for the recreational activity and the psychological and physical burdens caused by the care activity [1-3]. The life satisfaction is an assessment of the life from the past to the present and provides the criteria for a successful old age and the inclusion of own life

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continued from the past [4]. Therefore, the satisfaction on the life after the middle and old ages is a very critical element for successful later years. According to previous studies, it is assumed that parent care providers and grandchildren care providers have different characteristics. However, there has been no actual investigation on differences between these two groups, Therefore, this study aims to find measures to increase life satisfactions of parent care providers and grandchildren care providers.

2. Main Investigations

This study uses the data from the 5th panel investigation for the national old age security conducted by the National Pension Service of Korea. The subjects include 226 middle and old aged persons in ages of 50 or older caring parents or grandchildren. The parent care refers the case caring or nursing own or spouse's parents while the grandchildren care refers the case caring own grandchildren in ages younger than the 3rd grade of elementary school. The life satisfaction is scored as 1: Very Bad to 5: very good regarding the overall life. Higher scores mean higher life satisfactions.

3. Survey with Various Parameters

As in Figure 1, the life satisfaction of grandchildren care provider is specified to be higher than that of parent care provider. In terms of differences due to the gender, females show higher scores and males for the parent care while the males and females show the same life satisfaction score for the grandchildren care.

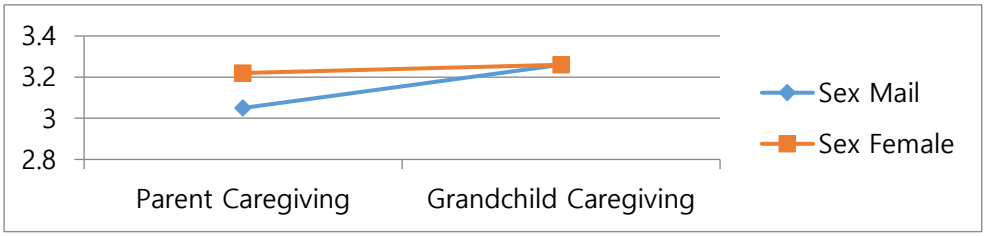


Figure 1. Gender Difference and Life Satisfaction.

As shown in Figure 2, in terms of the age, parent care providers' life satisfaction scores are slightly higher than grandchildren care providers'. And as the age is older, the life satisfaction decreases. Such result is the same to the results of previous studies [3-5] stating that as the age increasing, the life satisfaction decreases.

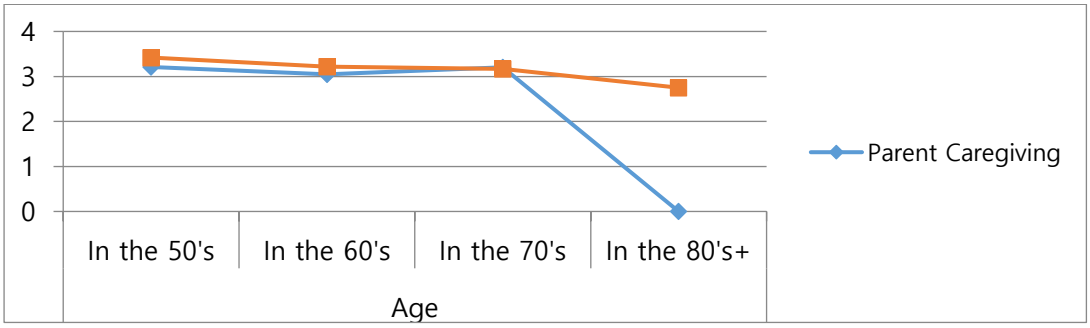


Figure 2. Age Difference and Life Satisfaction.

In the relationship between the education level and the life satisfaction, as shown in Figure 3, grandchildren care providers' life satisfactions are slightly higher than parent care providers' in overall. And the higher education level shows higher life satisfactions in insignificant differences. However, in case of parent care providers, excluding non-educated ones, no positive difference in the life satisfaction is identified.

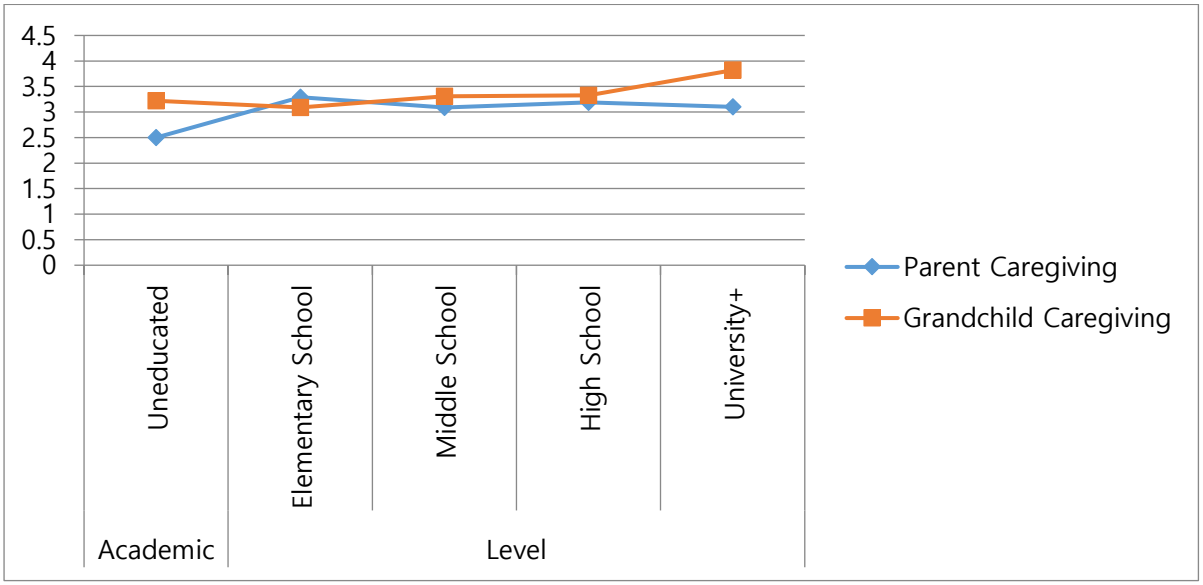


Figure 3. Education Level and Life Satisfaction.

For the spouse status and the life satisfaction, the both groups score higher for the life satisfaction when having spouses which is shown in Figure 4. In this case, the life satisfaction scores of grandchildren care providers are higher than those of parent care providers. Such result would be from that the spouses play the supportive role for the family care activity so that the physical and psychological burdens are lowed for the care.

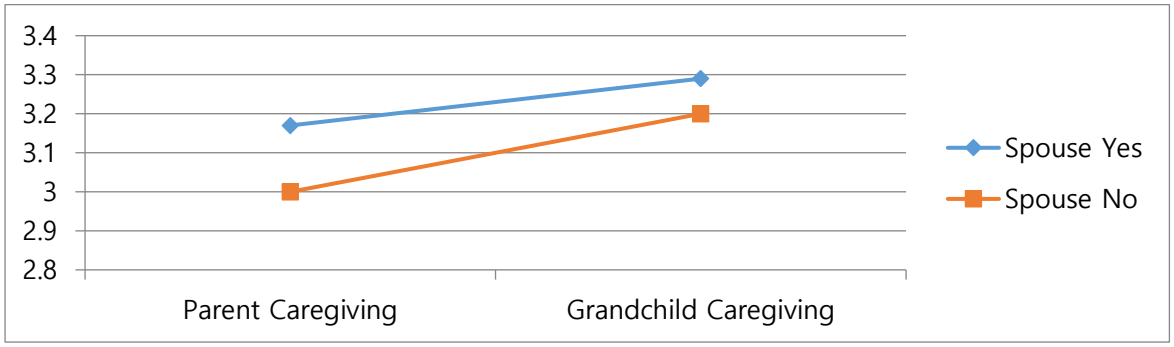


Figure 4. Spouse Status and Life Satisfaction.

As depicted in Figure 5, in terms of the economic independency and the life satisfaction, the both groups for the life satisfaction when economically independent. Regardless the economic independency, grandchildren care providers score higher for the life satisfaction than parent care providers.

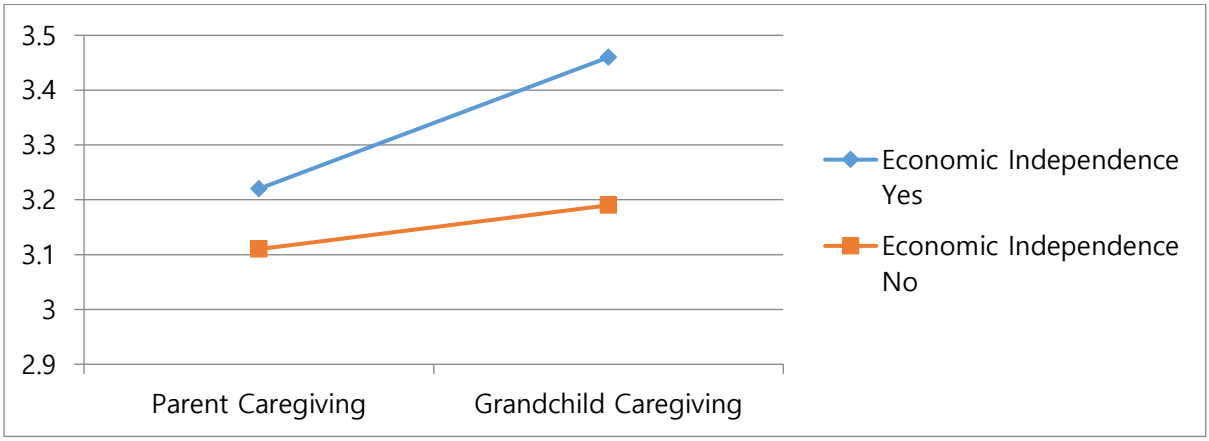


Figure 5. Economic Independency and Life Satisfaction.

In terms of the health condition and the life satisfaction as in Figure 6, grandchildren care providers in better health conditions the positive trend meaning that the life satisfaction increases while the life satisfaction of parent care providers shows the negative trend. Especially, in case of very good health condition, the life satisfaction is shown to be the lowest. Such result hasn't been found in previous studies so that follow-up studies in details on this matter are required.

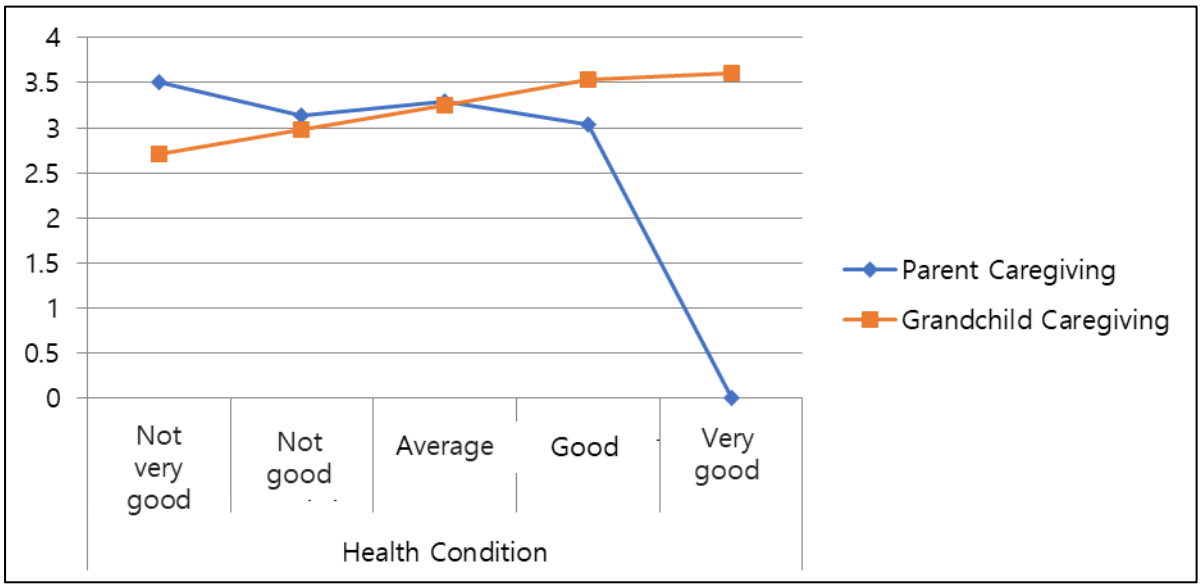


Figure 6. Health Condition and Life Satisfaction.

4. Conclusion

This study analyzes the life satisfaction based on the sociodemographic characteristics of 226 persons in 50 or older ages providing the parent and grandchildren cares by using the data from the 5th panel investigation for the national old age security conducted in 2013 by the National Pension Service of Korea. According to the analysis results, grandchildren care providers show higher satisfactions than parent care providers in the gender, age, educational level, spouse status and economic independency excluding the health condition. It is unique to find that parent care providers in better health conditions show lower life satisfactions. Therefore, follow-up studies in details on this matter are required.

Proposals based on such results include the followings: First, considering the age range of family care providers

covers 50s-80s, physical and psychological burdens for the providers are expected to be enormous. Therefore, supports for parent care provider through expanding the long-term senior nursing insurance system and the senor care service are required. Second, the rate of economically dependent in the survey subjects shows to be significantly higher. This points that considerations to import some payment system for family care are required to mitigate such rate. Third, since the family care is provided by persons in middle and old ages, the ages having many negative experiences in physical and psychological health, a program that enables family care providers to perform own health managements should be developed.

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