Leaving the Parental Home among Young Adults in Korea: Gender and Socioeconomic Differentials

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Introduction
• Leaving the parental home and living independently has been perceived as a major marker in transition to adulthood.
• Recent evidence shows the rising share of young adults who continue to live with parents in the U.S. and European countries.
• Little research focuses on East Asian countries.

Data and Sample
• Data are pooled from the Korean Labor and Income Panel Study (KLIPS) 1998-2015.
• Young adults born in 1978-1984 were followed-up from age 18 to at least 31 (up to 37).

Methods
Study Outcomes:
- Remaining in the parental home (reference group)
- Leaving parental home upon marriage
- Leaving parental home with economic independence

Explanatory variables:
- Age, education, parent’s education, household income, residence, employment and non-cohabiting last year

Statistical strategy
- Discrete-time multinomial-logistic model
- Separate analyses for men and women

Descriptive Results
% of Types of Leaving the Parental Home

Mean Age at Leaving the Parental Home

Cumulative Incidence of Leaving the Parental Home by the Reasons and Gender

Hazard Ratios from Multinomial Logistic Regression

Research Questions and Contributions
Q1: When do young people leave their parental home?
- Using national representative and longitudinal study, this research follows up young adults from age 18 to at least 31.
Q2: What are the reasons for leaving the parental home?
- We distinguish two reasons of leaving the parental home: marriage vs economic independence.
Q3: Are there differences by gender and SES?
- This research investigates the effect of individual as well as household SES on the likelihood of leaving the parental home for men and women separately.

Conclusions and Discussion
Different patterns for reasons of leaving parental home by gender
- Women are more likely to leave the parental home upon marriage than men.
- Since age 26, the share of people leaving the parental home due to economic independence is larger for men than for women.

Different effect of SES by the reasons of leaving the parental home and gender
- For men, their household income and employment are significantly associated with leaving the parental home upon marriage.
- There is little difference in the relationship between SES and leaving the parental home with economic independence between men and women.

Future research should consider reasons for leaving the parental home and gender in studying young adults' living with parents.

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