“How does economic deprivation lead to problem drinking?”
: The mediating effect of income inequality consciousness and depression

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Intergenerational transmission of poverty (Kim, 2010) → Fixation of poverty/economic deprivation

Household experience of poverty (2011~2014년)

- Yes: 28.2%
  - 1 yr poverty: 10.2%
  - 2 yrs: 5.8%
  - 3 yrs: 4.1%
  - 4 yrs: 8.1%
- No experience: 71.8%

% income held by upper 10%*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>% Income Held</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Korea **</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Asian countries where data were available in 2013
** Increased from 29% in 1995 (16% increase)
(Source): International Monetary Fund
Meaning of *poverty* in current society

Not just economic deprivation. It means deprivation of basic needs, ability and opportunity, and sociocultural isolation.
Influence of poverty, income inequality on individual and society

Economic hardship and increasing inequality is being manifested in many aspects of social problems.
Poverty, income inequality and alcohol use (2005-2013)

Drinking behaviors by Income Group

Drinking rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Group</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>low</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>77.7</td>
<td>82.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mid-low</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>82.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mid-high</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

High risk drinking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Group</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>low</td>
<td>19.6</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mid-low</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mid-high</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Alcohol dependence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Group</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>low</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mid-low</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mid-high</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>high</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>


Changes in Hazardous drinking, Alcohol dependence rate by Income group (2005-2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>drinking rate (income)</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous drinking (high)</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous drinking (low)</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol dependence (high)</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol dependence (low)</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Literature on poverty, income inequality and alcohol problems

1/3 of those in the lower income group (receiving basic livelihood benefit) have alcohol-related problems (Do & Hong, 2014)

The poverty group showed faster increase in problem drinking over the 4 years. Also, people with higher perception of income inequality showed faster increase in problem drinking (Chung & Lee, 2015)

Material hardship (economic deprivation) in the lower income group leads to drinking behavior and increases the risk of alcohol problems (Lee & Lee, 2016)

Lower perception of subjective class is related to higher level of stress, which leads to alcohol related problems (Hwang & Chung, 2016)

Richard Wilkinson (2005)

Income inequality → wider gap in social status → depression, stress, aggression, anxiety increase → health problems (including alcohol and drug abuse)
Process of social stress (Aneshensel et al., 1991; Turner et al., 1995; Pearlin, 1999)

The poor experiences social stress from negative life events coming from deprivation in basic clothing/shelter, education, health, social activities

- Negative emotions related to relationship problems and social pressure can lead to alcohol consumption
- People with limited resources have limited ways to cope with stress
- Easy access to alcohol in Korea makes easier to use alcohol to cope with stress
Relationship between psychological vulnerability and problem drinking has been studied extensively.

Need to understand the influence of socioeconomic factors on alcohol use (and examine the path of such influence).

However, the influence of macro socioeconomic factors has received less attention.
This study aims to examine the path of how economic deprivation influences problem drinking.

Research questions

- What is the relationship between economic deprivation, perceived income inequality, depressive mood, and problem drinking?

- How does economic deprivation influence problem drinking?
Methods

Data
The Korean Welfare Panel, 8th wave (2013)

Study participants
13,553 adults (20+)

Analytical method
Path analysis
SPSS / AMOS

Main variables
Problem drinking (AUDIT), Experience of Economic deprivation, Perceived income inequality, depressive mood (CES-D)
Operational definition of variables

Problem drinking: Alcohol Use Disorder Identification Test (AUDIT)
• 10 items (frequency, binge drinking, negative experience after drinking, etc.)

Perceived income inequality: Perception of income inequality in Korea
• 1 question (1-7), higher score - higher perception of inequality

Depressive mood: The Center for Epidemiologic Studies of Depression (CES-D)
• 11 items, higher score - higher level of depressive mood

Experience of economic deprivation
• 16 items in 5 areas (food, shelter, education, social deprivation, health)
  yes or no item. Higher score – higher level of deprivation
# 16 Indicators of Economic deprivation

| **Food** | Lack of money to buy food  
Lack of balanced meal due to lack of money  
Skipped meal or reduced food consumption  
Had nothing to eat due to lack of money |
|---|---|
| **Shelter** | Could not pay rent for 2 months  
Temporary shelter  
Inadequate noise reduction, ventilation, lighting, heating  
Inadequate level of noise, pollution, odor  
Safe from natural disaster (flood, landslide, tidal wave, etc.)  
Could not pay for heating  
Could not pay for water, electricity |
| **Social deprivation** | Bankrupted person in the family  
Could not pay for insurance or regular bills |
| **Health** | Could not receive medical care  
Chronic illness |
| **Education** | Could not pay for children’s tuition |
Conceptual Model

- Perceived income inequality
  - Economic deprivation
  - Depressive mood
  - Problem drinking

Control: sex, age, education, religion
**Results: Demographic Characteristics**

### Sex

- Female: 43.1%
- Male: 56.9%

### Age

- 20s: 7.0%
- 30s: 12.1%
- 40s: 17.3%
- 50s: 15.8%
- 60s: 15.1%
- 70+: 32.7%

### Education

- Elementary: 2.2%
- Middle: 31.1%
- High: 12.0%
- College: 27.7%
- Graduate: 27.0%

### Religion

- Yes: 53.4%
- No: 46.6%

_N = 13,553_
Results

Control: sex, age, education, religion
Discussion

Economic deprivation → depressive mood → problem drinking
• Those who experience deprivation in many aspects in life are more likely to be depressed, and are more vulnerable to drinking problems

Economic deprivation → perceived income inequality → depressive mood → problem drinking
• Those who experience deprivation have higher perception of inequality, and this affects one’s health through depression
• Inequality threatens psychosocial factors → bad health

Health inequity.
Unequal society leads to more prominent hierarchy in society, leading to less social cohesion. This results in higher level of stress and anxiety which affects one’s health

Drinking behavior is a product of interaction between physical, psychological, environmental factors
1. Most addiction professionals or social workers working with addiction tend to view addiction as an individual’s problem. **We need to expand our perspective to include a macro view of addiction.**

2. It is easier for people with limited resources to turn to drinking as a coping mechanism to many problems and life stress. **Professionals need to understand that these life problems and stress come from the social structure.** Interventions of alcohol problems must tailor to needs of specific groups.

3. Economic deprivation does not only mean financial deprivation. It includes deprivation in many aspects.
   - They are more vulnerable to problem drinking.
   - **Interventions of alcohol problems should consider both individual and structural aspects.**
Thank You

ありがとうございます