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Title

A Study on Developing Civil Society Organizations for Urban-Rural Complex Area

Abstract

The objective of this research is to investigate the necessary conditions for the emergence and the development of civil society organizations (CSOs) in urban-rural complex area. In doing so, we mainly focus on social entrepreneurship, government policy, network structure, characteristics of social environment of the area, and agenda of the movement as key factors of emergence of civil society organizations. At the same time, we suggest the practical way to foster civil society organization where the factors are not established well.

Extended from non-government organization (NGO), the concept of CSO includes various entities playing an important role in civil society, such as labor union, media, corporate foundation private research institution, and political groups. Though CSOs are very important in civil society movement, they are at stake especially in rural area these days because of the rising of individualization, and the decreasing of voluntarism, and the lack of opportunity to learn about social problems.

This tendency is more server in rural area. Traditionally, most civil society movements based on CSOs have evolved in urban area where various resources for the movements are abundant. In South Korea, therefore, civil society movements have been being concentrated in the metropolitan areas of Seoul, the capital of the country. Furthermore, this tendency happens not only at the country level but also at the regional level; even in a local province, most of civil social movements occur in urban areas rather than rural areas.

Under this situation, this study tries to reveal the current situation of CSOs in urban-rural complex area and to figure out the way to develop CSOs located in Chungnam province of South Korea, which is one of the typical urban-rural complex areas. For the examination, we performed (and will perform) deep focus interview with members of CSOs in the area. In advance to the interview,
however, we established theoretical hypotheses of the factors that may affect the developments and activities of the CSOs; 1) there are significant differences between CSOs located in urban and in rural areas in emergence of CSO, 2) there are significant differences of the factors that regulate CSOs activation level, 3) the emergence and sustenance are affected by several variables such as social entrepreneurship (Mair et al., 2012), government policy (Wuthnow, 1991; Fama and Jensen, 1983), network in the local community (Pfeffer and Salancik, 2003), local environment, and local agenda issues.

In performing the deep focus interview, we selected an urban and a rural area in Chungnam province, and sampled 3 CSOs in each area, respectively. In addition, we selected one bridging organization between government and civil society. We interviewed a member of the organizations about their experiences and prospects of in their organizations.

Practically, we can directly apply the results from the study to the strategies to develop CSOs. For instant, we can find the influx path of local communities, which have potential to grow CSOs, into civil society movement. From the results, also confirm the way to extend the network of the CSOs.

**Keyword**

civil society organization, CSO, Urban-Rural Complex Area