

Migrant Integration

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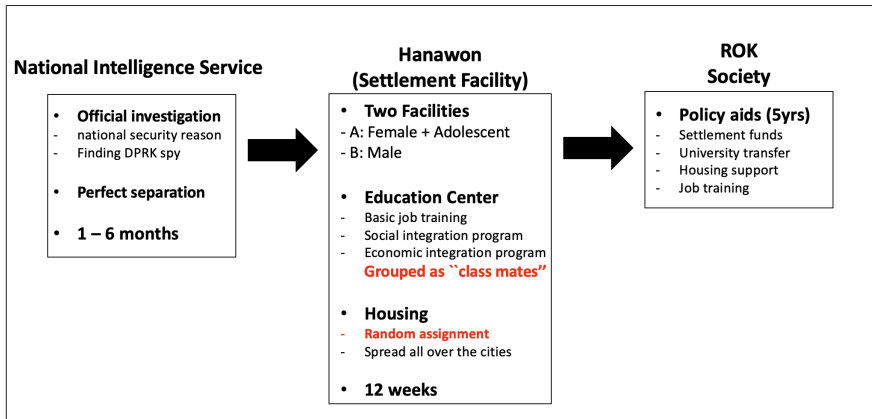
Background

- ▶ Survival Migration
 - ▶ Problems with integration into host countries' political, economic, and social systems (UNHCR, 2022)
- ▶ North Korean Refugees
 - ▶ 29,880 North Korean refugees (South Korean Gov., 2021)

Demographics	All	Women
Population	100%	76%
Residence: Capital Areas	64.8%	74.4%
The Top 4 Reasons for Being Dissatisfied		
I have to live away from Family (Social-Psychological)	29.8%	31.9%
Too intense economic competition (Economic)	19.7%	18.1%
Discrimination against North Korean refugees (Social-Economic)	16.5%	17.1%
Economic difficulties (Economic)	12.8%	13.4%

Background

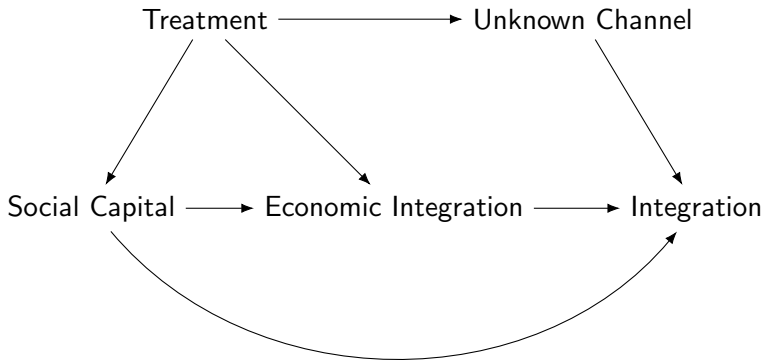
Official process before DPRK refugees come to ROK society



Intervention

- ▶ Intervention:
 - ▶ Co-ethnic professional mentoring group (previous SK attempts)
- ▶ Target Population:
 - ▶ Female migrants from the DPRK (the largest group)
 - ▶ 20 to 30 years old (more susceptible to treatment)
 - ▶ Living in the South Korean capital areas (most likely to reside)
- ▶ Conceptual Outcome:
 - ▶ Primary Outcome: Successful Integration
 - ▶ Secondary Outcome 1: Social Capital
 - ▶ Secondary Outcome 2: Economic Integration

Mechanisms & Mediation



Primary Outcome

- ▶ **Primary Outcome:** Successful Integration and Satisfaction
- ▶ **Challenges to Measurement:**
 1. Unclear Conceptual Endpoint:
 - ▶ What is the antithesis of “failed migration”?
 - ▶ What summarizes satisfaction, contentment, and integration?
 2. Measurement over a short time frame:
 - ▶ Integration (unlike the failed ones) happens over a long period
 - ▶ Can we confidently say that the presently measured short-term integration will persist in the long run?
 3. Not directly observable → subject to measurement bias
 - ▶ Need of multiple outcomes measurements for robust results

Primary Outcome

- ▶ **Primary Outcome:** Successful Integration and Satisfaction
- ▶ **Challenges to Measurement:**
 - 4. Spillover of treatment:
 - ▶ The very nature of our treatment (co-ethnic mentoring program and consequent social capital) is inclined to have the spillover effect
 - ▶ The treated may positively affect the control group's outcomes
 - ▶ Despite potentially reducing our treatment effect (conservative results), it is morally desirable
 - 5. Non-compliance:
 - ▶ Heterogeneous treatment effects based on the types
 - ▶ Mentoring program and following accountability is key to address this problem

Primary Outcome

► Identification Candidates:

► **Candidate 1:** Hanawon-Classmate Cohorts:

- Using temporal variations in cohorts within Hanawon facilities
- Same classmates in Hanawon build a social network
- Assigning treatments to different cohorts to prevent spillover
- **Problem:** Due to national security concerns, it may not be easy to work with the government

► **Candidate 2:** University-Department Cohorts:

- After Hanawon, lottery-based assignments to different cities
- 80% receive a university education without prerequisites
- Assigning treatments based on university-department clusters
- Most convenient environment for a strong job market signal
- Universities are friendly to work with

Primary Outcome

► **Measurement Strategy:**

► **Self-reported life-satisfaction surveys** (South Korean Gov., 2021)

- Asking several questions to measure the success of integration
 - Are you satisfied with your life in South Korea?
 - Are you happy that you migrated to South Korea?
 - If you could speak to a friend considering migrating, how likely would you recommend they migrate to South Korea?

► **Implicit-Association Tests** (Project Implicit, 2022)

- Measuring attitudes and beliefs that people may be unwilling or unable to report.
- Revealing your automatic associations of concepts based on fast and accurate sorting of survey items
- We will use it to reveal and measure the bias against South Korean society, economy, and culture (Choi et al., 2022)

Secondary Outcomes

- ▶ Outcomes: Mediating factors
 - ▶ Social Capital
 - ▶ Economic Integration
- ▶ Rationale:
 - ▶ Outcomes more “objective” in nature, directly observable → less susceptible to bias, obfuscation
 - ▶ Reveals channels that drive satisfaction and integration, facilitating learning about mechanism
 - ▶ Allows refinement in intervention/policy by facilitating understanding of which levers the treatment successfully “flipped”

Secondary Outcome

- ▶ Measurement Strategy: Series of pre- and post-survey questions
 - ▶ **Social Capital**
 - ▶ ROK Settlement Survey (data compatibility)
 - ▶ Social connectedness self-reported batteries - Duke Social Support Scale or UCLA Loneliness Scale (Koenig et al., 1993, Russell et al., 1978)
 - ▶ Depth of closest relationship – inclusion of the Other in the Self (Gächter et al., 2015)
 - ▶ Breadth of relationships – Self-reported number of friends on social media platforms, such as KakaoTalk (Bailey et al., 2018)
 - ▶ **Economic Integration**
 - ▶ Employment Status (binary)
 - ▶ Hours worked each week & Duration in current job
 - ▶ Wage
 - ▶ Self-reported job satisfaction
 - ▶ Attitudes toward market system

Secondary Outcome

- ▶ Additionally details:
 - ▶ Dimensionality: Given multiple measures for each mediator, we plan to reduce dimensionality, potentially with PCA
 - ▶ Measurement validity checks:
 - ▶ Randomly sample some participants to obtain further verification of answers.
 - ▶ E.g., Using small monetary incentives for compliance, request proof of employment, pay stub, etc.
 - ▶ Implicit Association Test (IAT)
 - ▶ Attitudes toward market system

Secondary Outcome



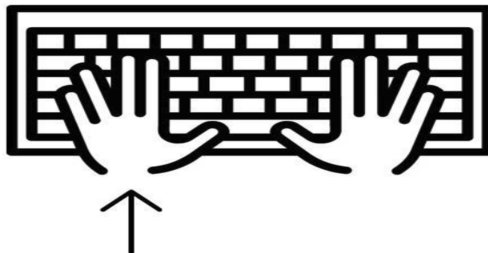
HAPPY

JOY



SICK

GREED



Secondary Outcome



HAPPY
JOY



SICK
GREED

