Immigration Health Policy Korea – the Health Requirement

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# BACKGROUNDS

## The number of Current immigrants in Korea (2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migrant workers (716,000, 51%)</th>
<th>Non-migrant workers (676,167, 49%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42,275</td>
<td>196,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>14%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Type of Immigrants in Korea

1) Marriage Migrants

2) Migrant Workers
   A. Employment Permit Workers
   B. Working Visit (Korean Chinese)

3) International Students
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-arrival</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marriage migrants</strong>&lt;br&gt;Medical examination is required. However, it does not seem to work well. (e.g. costs of the examination is only $10 and it includes blood test, urine test &amp; x-rays)</td>
<td>Not required</td>
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<td><strong>Migrant workers</strong>&lt;br&gt;Full medical examination including blood/urine tests and chest x-ray is required by a physician. This policy has been changed to self-reported health form since August, 2012, however, it is still required by the local government of sending countries.</td>
<td>Before the policy was changed in August, 2012, they had immediate medical examination in three days after arrival. It has been changed to submit medical certificate conducted by a physician in 90 days after arrival.</td>
<td>They are entitled to the community based insurance in Korea.</td>
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<td>Korean Chinese: They are not required medical examination conducted by a doctor, but a self-reported health form.</td>
<td>To apply for the certificate of alien registration, those people must submit medical examination conducted by a physician in Korea.</td>
<td>Large number of Korean Chinese in Korea work illegally so that they are often left behind the health coverage.</td>
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<td><strong>International students</strong>&lt;br&gt;Not required</td>
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<td></td>
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✓ Medical examination is required.

✓ However, it does not seem to work well.

e.g. Total costs of the examination is only US$10 but includes blood test, urine test & x-rays in Vietnam

Pre-arrival
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No medical examination is Required

On arrival
Marriage migrants

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Post-arrival
Medical examination is required. However, it does not seem to work well.
(e.g. costs of the examination is only $10 and it includes blood test, urine test & x-rays)

In case of the end of marriage:

1) up to 2 years of marriage – Korean government issue deportation orders, but some exceptions exist (e.g. Loss of spouse).

2) After 2 years of marriage and holding a permanent residence or a citizenship in Korea, they are treated as Korean citizens.
## Migrant workers: Employment Permit Workers

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**Full medical examination including blood/urine tests and chest x-ray is required by a physician. This policy has been changed to self-reported health form since August, 2012, however, it is still required by the local government of sending countries.**

Before the policy was changed in August, 2012, they had immediate medical examination in three days after arrival. It has been changed to submit medical certificate conducted by a physician in 90 days after arrival.

They are entitled to the employment insurance in Korea.
✓ Full medical examination by a physician including blood/urine tests and chest x-ray is required.

✓ This policy has been changed to self-reported health form since August, 2012.

✓ However, it is still required by the local government of sending countries.
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### Pre-arrival

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### Upon-arrival

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### Post-arrival

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Pre-arrival

Upon arrival

Post-arrival
Migrant workers: Korean Chinese

- Large number of Korean Chinese in Korea work illegally so that they are not often covered under employment insurance.
International students

- Pre-arrival: Not required
- Upon-arrival: Not required
- Post-arrival: Not required
International students

No Medical Examination is required during immigration process at all.
Basic Philosophy

- Multiculturalism and the concept of ‘inclusion’
  - Approaching migrant health from the human rights perspective
  - Health care requirements and services to protect the health of migrant populations and the nationals
  - Provision of non-discriminatory health care services

Are you sure that there is no problem???
Current Problems

- No systematic policy structure that can be used as a manual by related-Ministries and local governments
- Lack of information dissemination system
- Need of relevant access to health care services
- Non-mandatory health insurance provision to employers
- Monthly premium perceived to be costly to migrant workers
- Too much *laissez-faire* approach
Necessary Policy Reactions

- Inter-Ministerial Migrant Health Council that can orchestrates segmented policies
- Information delivery system
- Language/culture supporting system
- Effective health insurance access
- Government interference at least to a level that migrants maintain/promote their health
- Research on the health/QoL of the second generation
- Data accumulation