



Non-formal Education in South Korea: Policy & Sustainability

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Current status of non-formal
education policy in
South Korea

01 Non-formal education in South Korea

Definition of “lifelong education” under Article 2 of the Lifelong Education Act

- ① “Lifelong education” means all types of systematic educational activities other than regular school curriculums, including supplementary education to upgrade educational attainment, literacy education for adults, education to enhance occupational skills, humanities and liberal education, arts and cultural education, and education to enhance civic participation.
- ② “Literacy education” means a systematic educational program that enables people to attain basic life skills, including literacy skills, which are socially and culturally required for daily life.

01 Non-formal education in South Korea

Lifelong education in 2020

Rate of participation in non-formal education



39.3%

No. of lifelong education institutions



4,541

No. of lifelong education programs



281,420

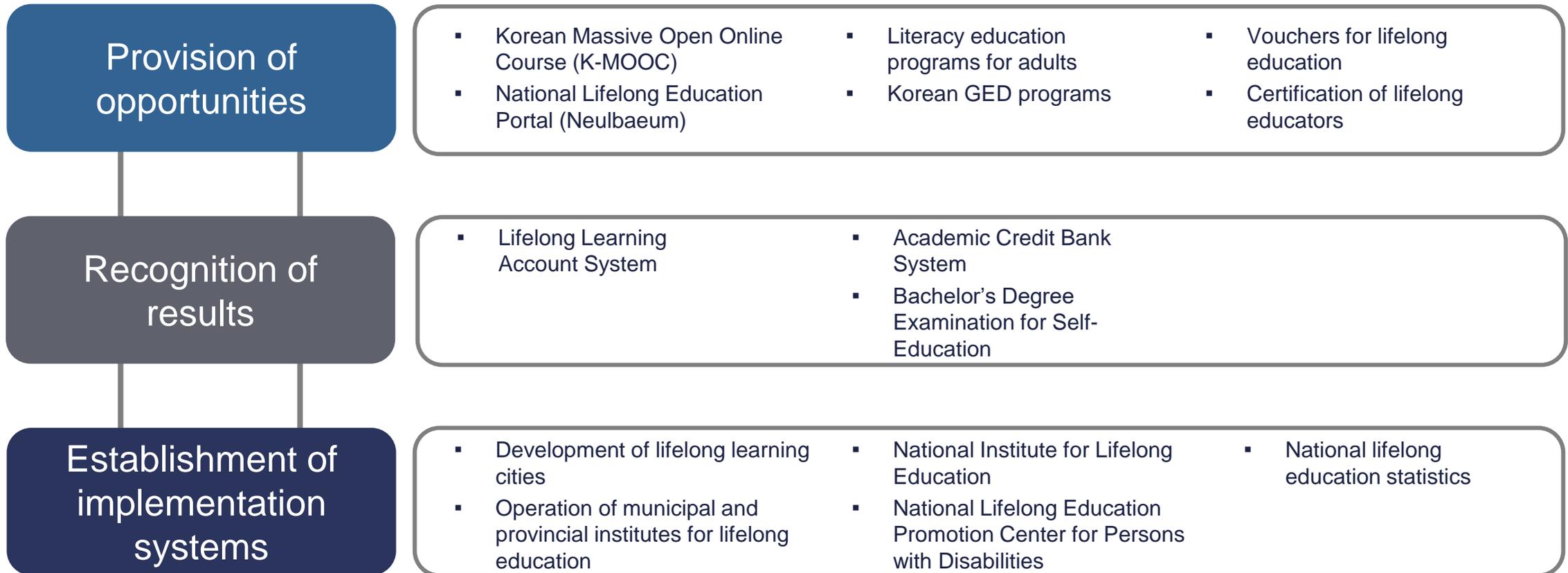
No. of lifelong education teachers/employees



73,829
20,688

01 Non-formal education in South Korea

Major lifelong education policies



How should we view the
sustainability of non-formal
education policy?

How should we view sustainability?

Key Question: What elements drive lifelong education policies in Korea?

Policies

- Clarity of policy goals
- Consistency of policy execution

Structure for implementation

- Organizational structure
- Legal framework
- Budget

Targets

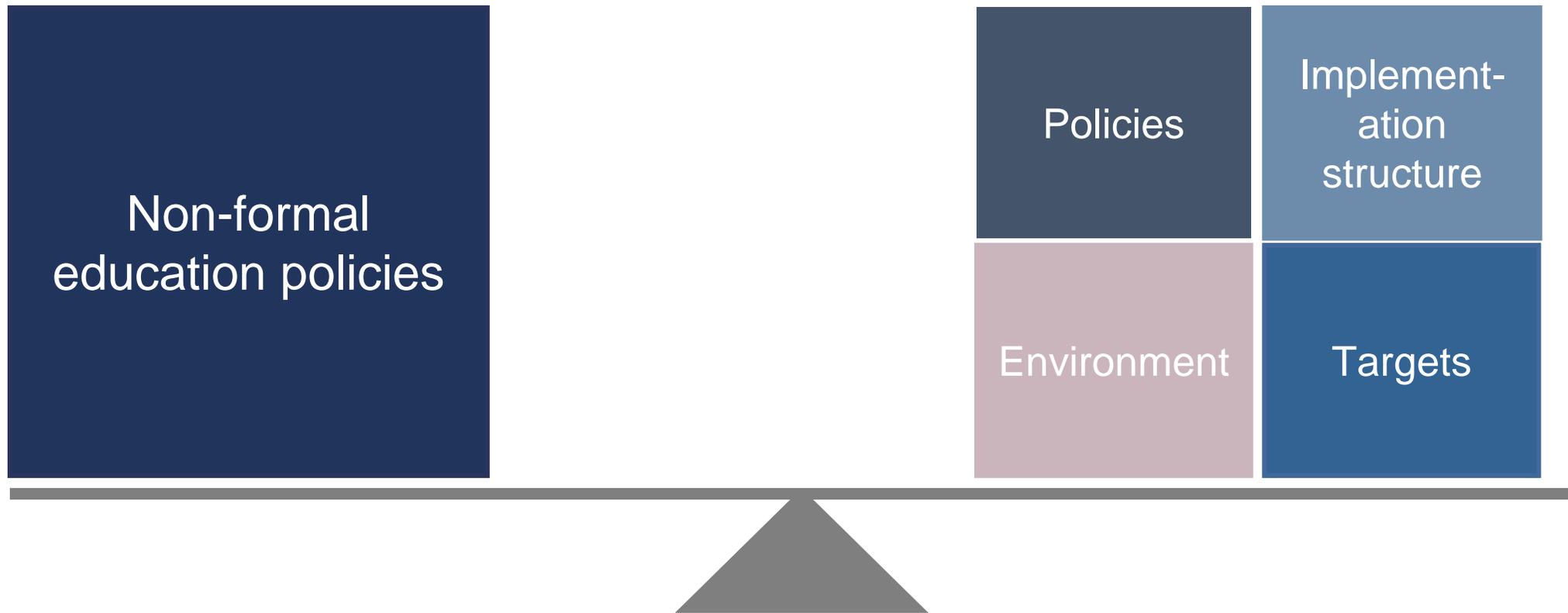
- Characteristics and needs of target group
- Policy awareness

Environment

- Changes in the social and international environment / events / technological changes
- Impact of government institutions

How should we view sustainability?

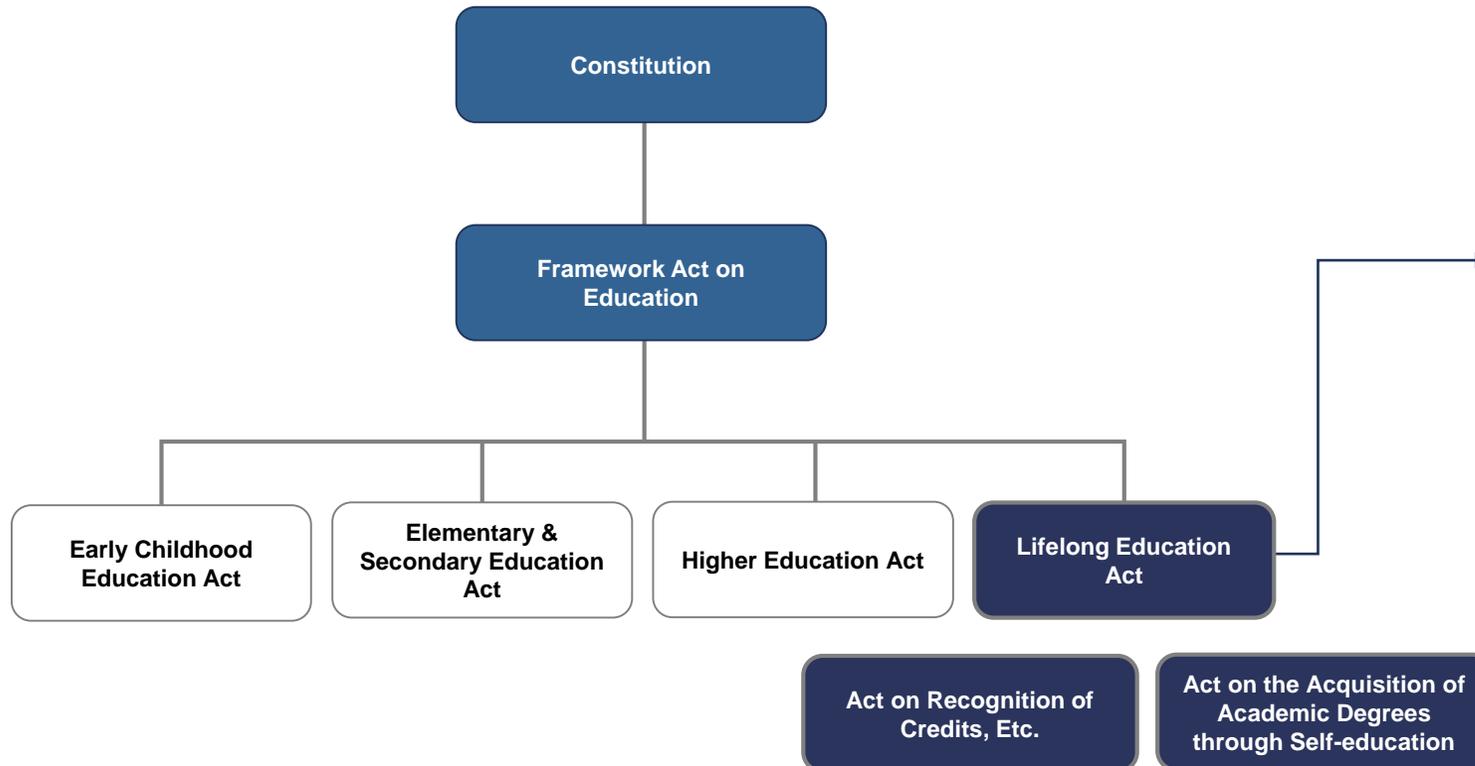
Key Question: What elements drive lifelong education policies in Korea?



Factors affecting sustainability
of non-formal education policy
in South Korea

Legal framework for lifelong education:
the Constitution, the Framework Act on Education, and the Lifelong Education Act.

[Education law in South Korea]



- Establishment of basic plans and execution plans for the promotion of lifelong education
- Operation of organizations dedicated to supporting lifelong education
- Expansion of opportunities to obtain qualifications and degrees
- Operation of lifelong education institutions
- Lifelong learning support system

Policy goals

Give shape to the ideology of lifelong education stipulated in the Constitution via the Framework Act on Education and Lifelong Education Act, and transform this ideology into policy through basic plans for the promotion of lifelong education

Article 31 of the Constitution

- ① All citizens shall have an equal right to receive an education corresponding to their abilities.
- ⑤ The State shall promote lifelong education.

Basic plans for the promotion of lifelong education (5 years)

Yearly execution plans for the promotion of lifelong education (city/province)

Framework Act on Education

Article 4 (Equal Opportunities in Education)

- ① No citizen shall be treated with discrimination in education for reasons of gender, religion, faith, race, social standing, economic status, or physical condition, etc.

Article 10 (Lifelong Education)

- ① All forms of lifelong education for citizens shall be encouraged.
- ② The completion of lifelong education may be recognized as the completion of school education equivalent thereto, as prescribed by statute and regulation.



Lifelong Education Act

City/province & city/county/district lifelong education ordinances



Policy goals

Goals & ideals of lifelong education
Article 4 of the Lifelong Education Act

Guarantee all citizens the right to lifelong
learning and education

Contribute to improving all citizens' quality
of life and pursuit of happiness

1. All citizens shall be guaranteed equal opportunities for lifelong education.
2. Lifelong education shall be based on learners' willingness to participate and study.
3. Lifelong education shall not be exploited as a tool for the promotion of political or personal prejudice.
4. Any person who has completed a certain lifelong education course shall be afforded due social rewards, such as accreditation of the relevant qualification and educational attainment.



Goals of lifelong education policies

Basic plans for the promotion of lifelong education

Realize a lifelong learning society

1st
2002

Build an educational welfare state (Edutopia) and a powerhouse of human resources
Realize a learning society in which people enjoy learning, share their joy, and are appreciated

2nd
2008

Realize a lifelong learning society in which people enjoy learning, prepare for the future, and live in harmony

3rd
2013

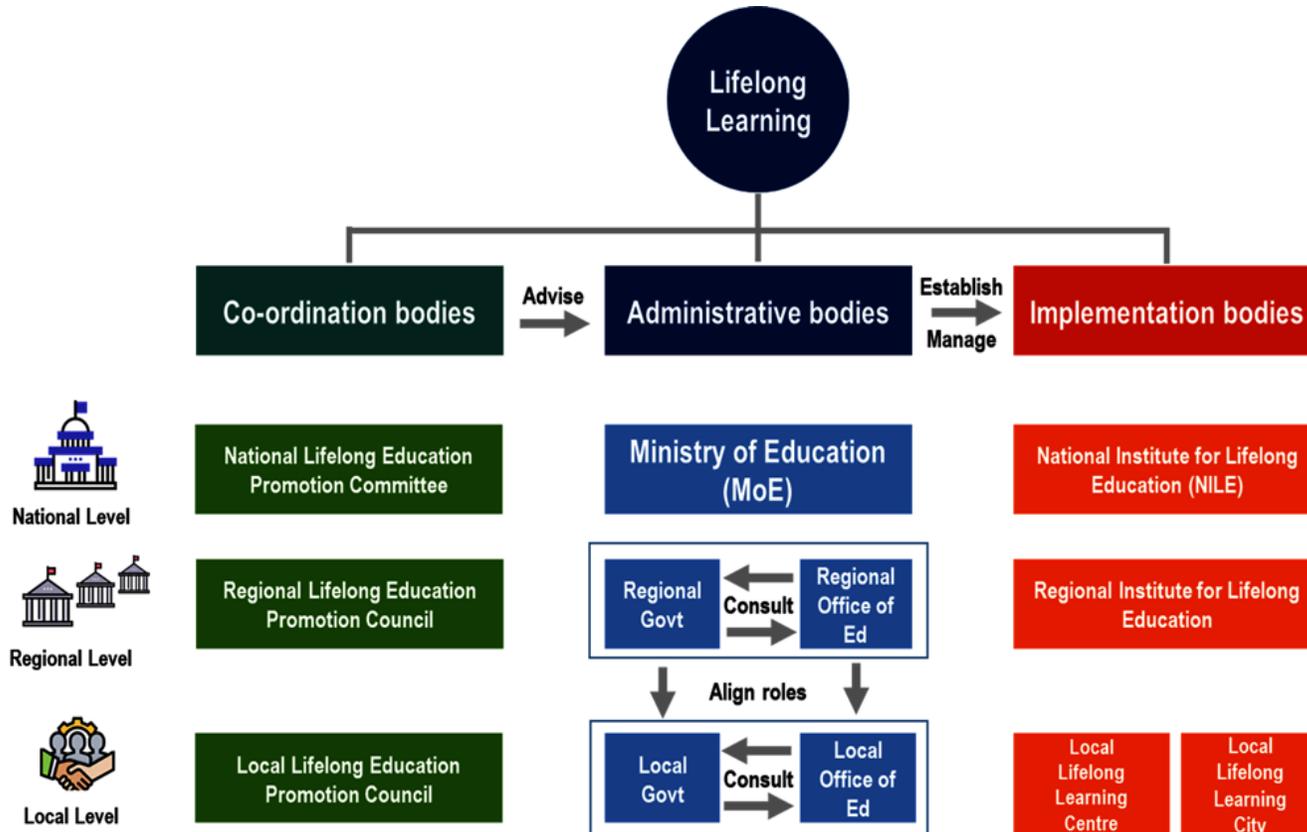
Realize national happiness through creative lifelong learning for the era of hundred-year lifetimes

4th
2018

Realize a sustainable lifelong learning society in which individuals and society grow together

Structure for implementation

Giving shape to the system for implementation of lifelong education through the Lifelong Education Act



Vertical axis

- Linking the national, regional (city/province), and local (city/county/district) levels
- Ensuring that national and regional policies are linked

Horizontal axis

- Establishment of administrative, coordination, and implementation bodies
- Operation of the National Institute for Lifelong Education, and regional/ local institutes for lifelong education as implementation bodies

Structure for implementation

Implementing policies through lifelong education professionals

Certified lifelong educators

Article 24 of the
Lifelong Education Act

- Professionals who plan, conduct, analyze, evaluate, and teach lifelong education
- Issuance of certificate by the Minister of Education after completion of a course of study or achieving promotion within a lifelong education training institution
- Mandatory assignment of certified lifelong educators in lifelong education institutions
- 143,808 certificates issued from 1996-2020

Literacy educators

Article 40 of the
Lifelong Education Act

- Professionals who can teach literacy education programs
- A requirement to operate literacy education programs that accredit educational attainment
- 5,720 teachers trained from 2008-2020

Surveys for data-based policy making

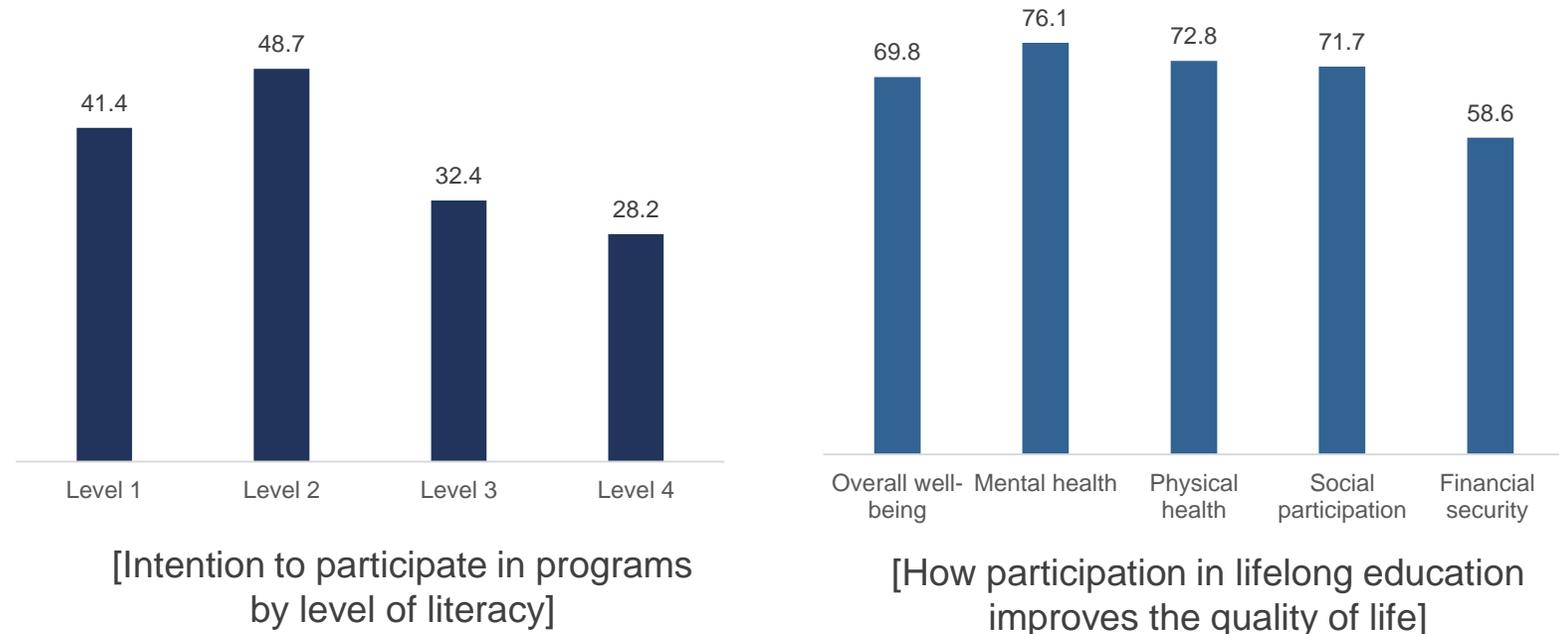
Survey on lifelong learning statistics

Survey on the state of personal lifelong learning

Survey on adult literacy

White paper on lifelong education

Attempts to understand current demand for, intentions to participate in, and satisfaction with lifelong learning initiatives



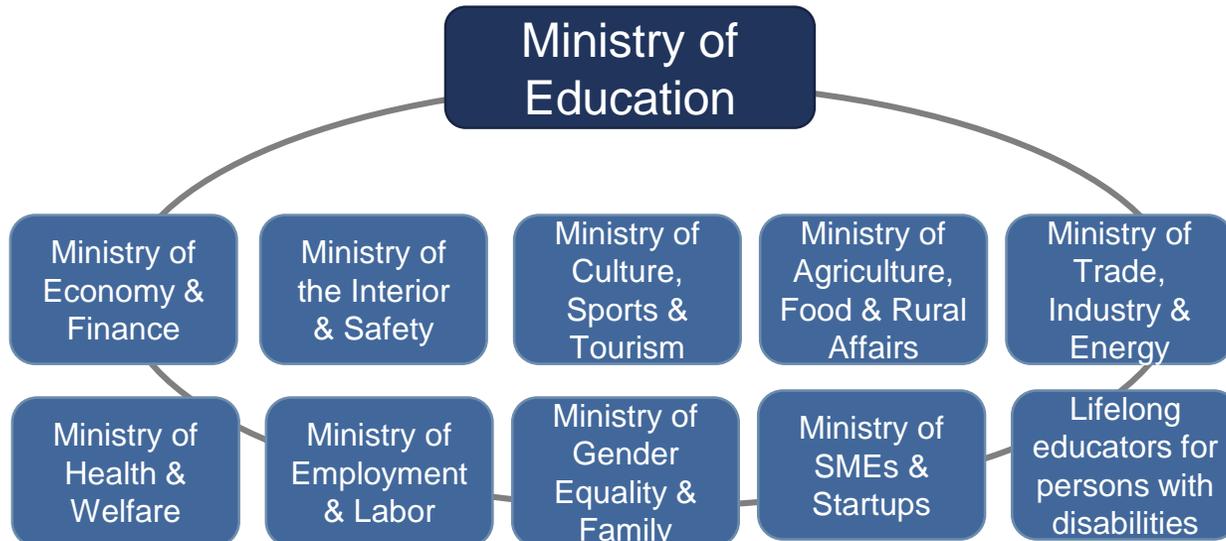
Challenges for non-formal
education policy
in South Korea

Structure for Implementation

Lifelong Education Promotion Committee: aims to enhance cooperation among government ministries relevant to lifelong education policies

Lifelong Education Promotion Committee (Article 10, Clause 4 of the Lifelong Education Act)

Reviews major matters concerning lifelong education promotion policies
Consists of the Minister of Education, serving as the chairperson, plus vice ministers of 9 ministries, and experts from the private sector

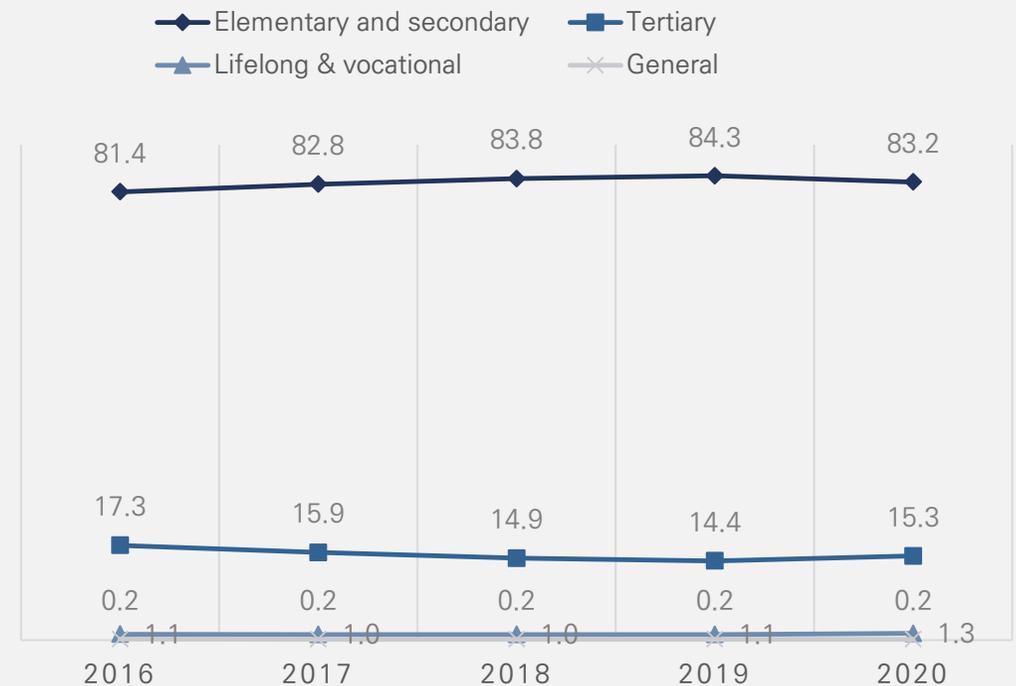


What about
in reality?

The budget for lifelong vocational education as a major item in the Ministry of Education's overall budget

Does the budget size match the importance of the policy?

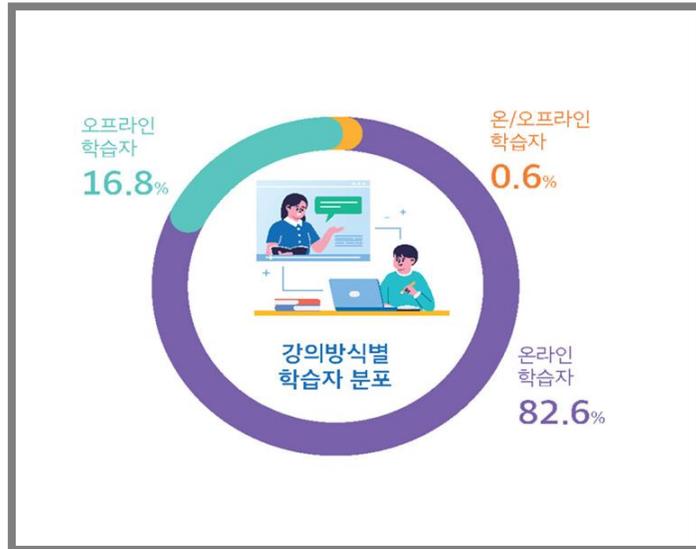
[Budget for lifelong vocational education as a percentage of the total education budget]



Source: National Institute for Lifelong Learning, Ministry of Education. (2021).
2020 White Paper on Lifelong Learning.

Changes in the environment

The lifelong education scene is changing faster than we previously imagined.

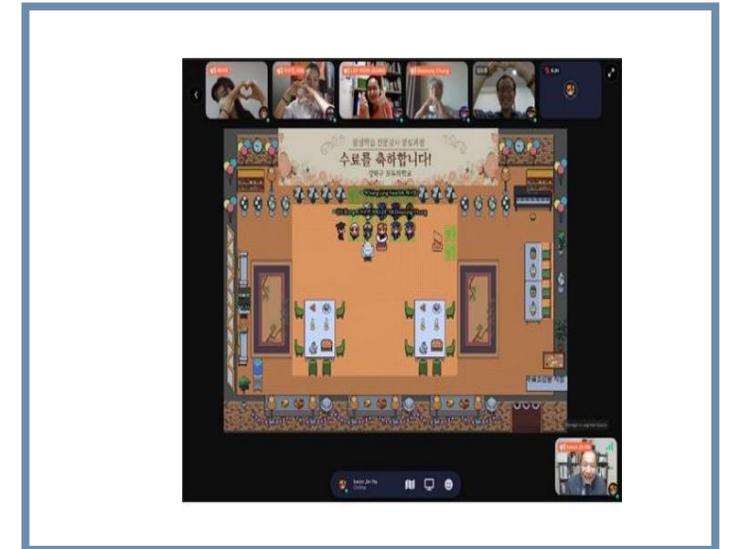


83% of lifelong learning program participants are online learners



Blockchain-based lifelong education vouchers

Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul

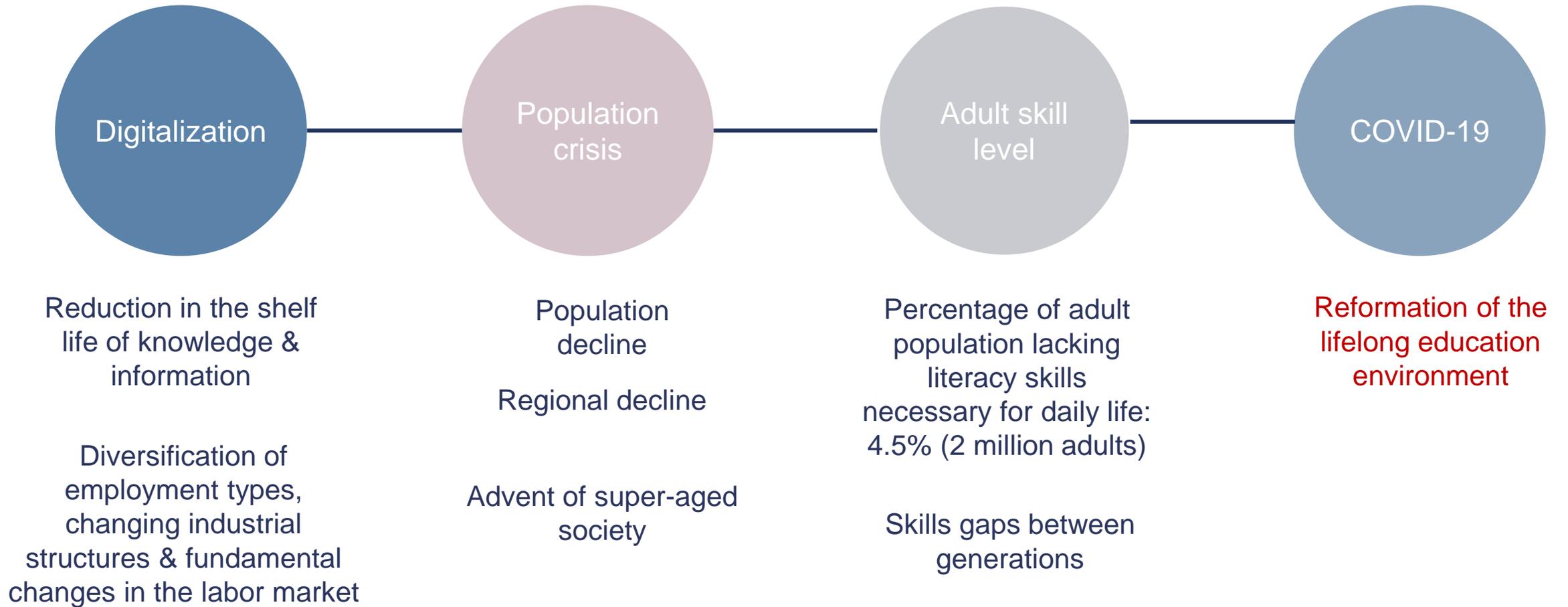


Metaverse lifelong educator training

Gangbuk-gu, Seoul

A sustainable future for non-
formal education policy
in South Korea

Changes in the environment



Changes in the policy paradigm

Legal guarantee of the right to lifelong learning

Revision of the Lifelong Education Act

- Guarantees “the right for all citizens to learn and receive education throughout their lives” (Article 1 of the Lifelong Education Act)

From provider-led to learner-centered

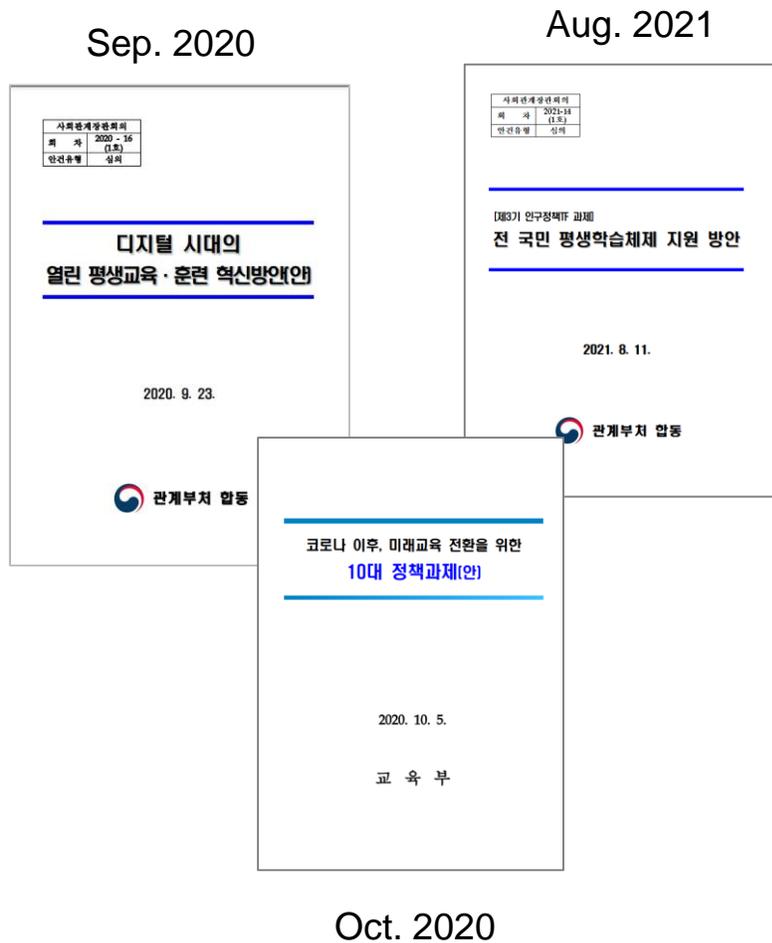
Full implementation of lifelong learning vouchers

- Vouchers provided by the government to enable learners to self-engage in learning according to their needs (amount = \$294 per year for those in the low-income class)
- Can be issued to any citizen by the state and local governments



Policy response to changes in the environment

Lifelong education policies to overcome the COVID-19 crisis



Realization of a society with universal lifelong education

Non-face-to-face

Elimination of obstacles to participation

Expanded recognition of learning results

Policy response to changes in the environment

Support for online study to increase access to lifelong learning

Lifelong Learning Center for All

Provision of content

- Providing quality online content related to lifelong learning, starting with university courses



Utilization of results

- Granting credits through the Academic Credit Bank System
- Issuance of completion certificates
- Link with lifelong education vouchers to subsidise expenses



Reinforcement of technical infrastructure

- Big data-based AI analysis
- Managing learning history based on blockchain and xAPI
- Fintech-based open market
- Web security

Digital capacity building

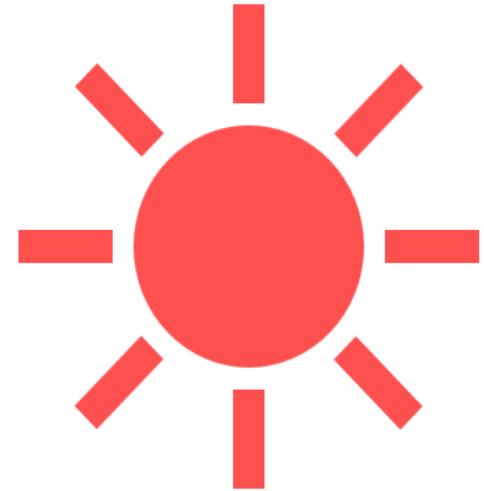
- **Expanding the scope of adult literacy education to include education in digital media competencies**
- **Building a digital convergence training platform**

The outlook for sustainability of non-formal education policy in South Korea

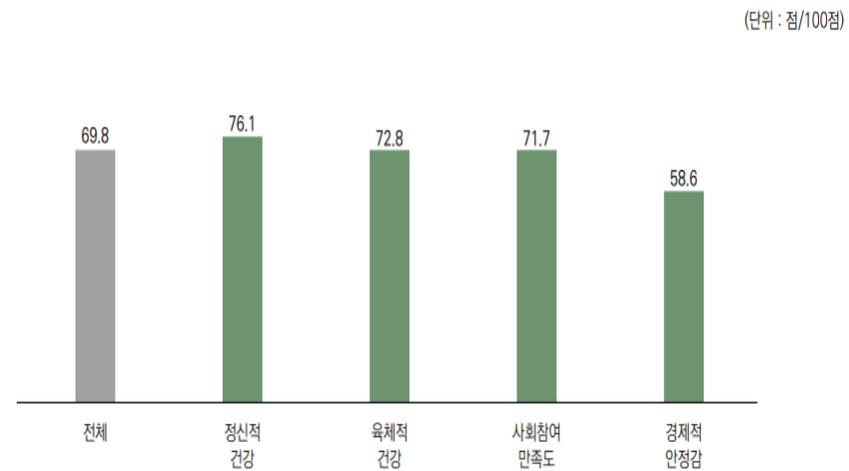
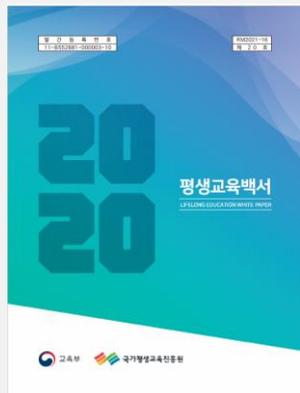
Not



but



Data-based policy making



 **Thank you!**

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