

Shrinking Cities on the Verge of Rural Demographic Cliff: Survive with City Diet

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Summary

1. The number of small and medium-sized rural cities which reached the peak of population is growing, while the issue of vacant houses in not only urban areas but also rural areas is worsening.
2. Amid the era of demographic cliff, 20 cities in Korea experiencing over supply of physical stocks due to sustained and severe population decline are classified as ‘Shrinking Cities.’
3. Despite the fact that Shrinking Cities in Korea are having a fiscal difficulty owing to rapid population decline, housing abandonment and deficit in public facility management, the urban policy direction is still toward spatial expansion with new development.
4. In order to break the vicious cycle of Shrinking City, a paradigm shift should be implemented from expansion-oriented policy to City Diet strategy, focusing on reducing environmental scale and maintaining the quality of life for the existing population.

Policy Issues

1. (Scale Optimization) To readjust the scale of built environment (City Area, House, Basic Infrastructure) in accordance to declined population and to arrange strategy to vitalize the function of existing city areas and surrounding living areas
2. (Efficient Service Provision) To establish effective service operation and management plan according to given supply and demand prospects of public service in each neighboring area and to arrange supporting system for shared public service between nearby local governments
3. (Neighborhood Stabilization) To provide customized management strategy for vacant and abandoned houses specifically in neighboring areas in danger of extinction and to encourage economic participation of the vulnerable people by creating linked jobs to the strategy