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The Relationship Between Digital Informatization Level and Health Satisfaction Among South Korean Older Adults

Hee Jung Kim, MSN, RN

College of Nursing, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea, Republic of (South)

Sun Ju Chang, PhD, RN

College of Nursing & The Research Institute of Nursing Science,, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea, Republic of (South)

Purpose: The use of information and communication technology is closely related to better health and quality of life. Recent studies have shown that the digital divide is related to health disparities among older adults. However, this relationship has not been adequately examined among South Korean older adults. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to (a) examine the relationship between digital informatization level and health satisfaction and (b) identify the factors that influence the health satisfaction of older adults in South Korea.

Methods: Secondary data analysis was conducted based on “The 2017 Digital Divide Survey” published by the National Information Society Agency (NIA), South Korea. The participants were 1,548 older adults (age ≥ 65 years) who had been recruited from the general population and individuals with disabilities. The following variables were examined: sociodemographic characteristics, social support, digital informatization level, the motivation to use digital devices, attitudes toward the use of digital devices, the outcomes of the use of digital devices, and health satisfaction. The data were analyzed using *t*-test, analysis of variance, and Pearson's correlation and hierarchical multiple regression analyses.

Results: With regard to digital information level, older adults obtained the following mean scores: 77.07 (access), 14.41 (competence), 21.06 (application), and 29.60 (overall). They obtained a mean health satisfaction score of 2.33. Social support, digital informatization level, and the motivation to use digital devices were significantly correlated with health satisfaction ($p < .001$). There was a statistically significant difference in the health satisfaction of groups that varied in their attitudes toward the use of digital devices and outcomes of the use of digital devices. Digital informatization level, the motivation to use digital devices, and attitudes toward the use of digital devices significantly influenced the health satisfaction of older adults in South Korea.

Conclusion: The present findings showed that digital informatization level, the motivation to use digital devices, and attitudes toward the use of digital devices influenced the health satisfaction of older adults in South Korea. To enhance the health satisfaction of South Korean older adults, it is necessary to be cognizant of their digital informatization level, motivation to use digital devices, and attitudes toward the use of digital devices. Furthermore, it is necessary to develop effective interventions that can improve the digital informatization level and health satisfaction of South Korean older adults.

Title:

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Keywords:

Digital informatization level, Health satisfaction and Older adults

Abstract Summary:

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between digital informatization level and health satisfaction among older adults in South Korea. Accordingly, the data that the National Information Society Agency had collected as a part of the 2017 Digital Divide Survey were analyzed.

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First Primary Presenting Author***Primary Presenting Author***

Hee Jung Kim, MSN, RN
Seoul National University
College of Nursing
PhD student
Seoul
Korea, Republic of (South)

Author Summary: Hee Jung Kim is in Ph.D. course at the College of Nursing at Seoul National University, Republic of Korea. She received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Seoul National University in 2013, and a Master's degree from the same university in 2019. Her research interests include Care for Vulnerable populations (particularly, elderly and disabled populations).

Second Author

Sun Ju Chang, PhD, RN

Seoul National University

College of Nursing & The Research Institute of Nursing Science,

Assistant professor

Seoul

Korea, Republic of (South)

Author Summary: She completed her Ph.D. in nursing at Seoul National University in 2010. Her research interests are health behaviors and quality of life in vulnerable population in health care system, especially older adults and disabled persons.