Fractured Foundations: The Entwined Threads of Inequality, Loneliness, and Social Unraveling

Appendix A

Table A1. Survey information

	Data	Description	Source	Website
1	2020-2022 Koreans' Happiness Survey	Happiness levels, inequality, and their determinants in Korea, providing insights into subjective well-being, attitudes, beliefs, and social values	National Assembly Futures Institute	https://kossda.snu.ac.kr/handle/20.500.12236/25423/simple-search

The data come from the Korean Happiness Survey conducted by the National Assembly Futures Institute from 2020 to 2022. This comprehensive survey, which includes responses from over 46,000 individuals, aims to collect representative data on happiness levels, inequality, and their determinants in Korea. It follows OECD guidelines for measuring subjective well-being and includes additional questions on attitudes, beliefs, social values, and activities to understand the social-psychological factors influencing happiness. The 2020-2022 Korean Happiness Survey data, which incorporate queries on perceived inequality, loneliness, and societal fragmentation indicators, form the empirical basis of these analyses. Data were collected through door-to-door interviews using tablet PCs. The sampling frame was constructed with a nationwide multi-stage stratified cluster sampling design, combining Probability Proportionate to Size (PPS) sampling for aggregate levels and random sampling at the household level.

Table A2. Variables

	Variable	Description		Note
1	Loneliness	Q: How often have you experienced symptoms of loneliness in the past two weeks? A: Seldom = 1 – Mostly everyday = 4		
2	Distrust	Q: In the society where I live, most people are trustworthy. A: Strongly agree = 1 – Strongly disagree = 5		
3	Exploitation	Q: Most people will take advantage of me whenever they can. A: Strongly disagree = 1 – Strongly agree = 5		
4	Indifference	Q: Most people try to help each other when it is necessary. A: Strongly agree = 1 – Strongly disagree = 5		
5	Inequality	Q: How equal or unequal do you think income and wealth are in our society? A: Very equal = 1 – Very unequal = 5		
6	Income	Individual Income from various sources, including earned, business, property, and transfer income.		Unit: 10000KRW As of December 10, 2023, the exchange rate between the United States Dollar (USD) and the South Korean Won (KRW) stands at 1USD to 1,288.60KRW.
		None = 1 Less than 100 = 2 100 ~ 200 = 3 200 ~ 300 = 4 300 ~ 400 = 5 400 ~ 500 = 6	500 ~ 600 = 7 600 ~ 700 = 8 700 ~ 800 = 9 800 ~ 900 = 10 900 ~ 1000 = 11 Over 1000 = 12	
7	Education	None = 0 Primary = 1 Middle school = 2 High school = 3 College (less than 4 years) = 4 College (for years) or over = 5		
8	Professional	Manager or Professional = 1 Otherwise = 0		Based on ISCO/ILO classification

			(https://ilostat.ilo.org/methods/concepts-and-definitions/classification-occupation/)
9	Homeownership	Homeownership = 1 Otherwise = 0	
10	Sex	Woman = 1 Otherwise = 0	
11	Age	10s and 20s = 1 30s = 2 40s = 3 50s = 4 60s = 5 70s or over = 6	
12	Marriage	Living with spouse or partner = 1 Otherwise = 0	
13	Religion	Having a religion = 1 Otherwise = 0	
14	Ideology	Left (=1) ~ Right (=10)	