

Social Withdrawn Youth in Korea

(은둔형 외톨이; Oiettolie)



Dr. Jungup Lee

National University of Singapore

Department of Social work

Who Are Social Withdrawn Youth (SWY)?

Based on Korean's socio-cultural background,

- Stay at home mostly or all day during at least **three** months.
- Not able to attend or intentionally avoid social situations (e.g., refusal to attend school, unemployed).
- Have only one friend or no friend.
- Feel anxious or nervous due to their social withdrawal.
- Except for those who have psychotic disorders or at least moderate mental retardation (IQ 50-55).

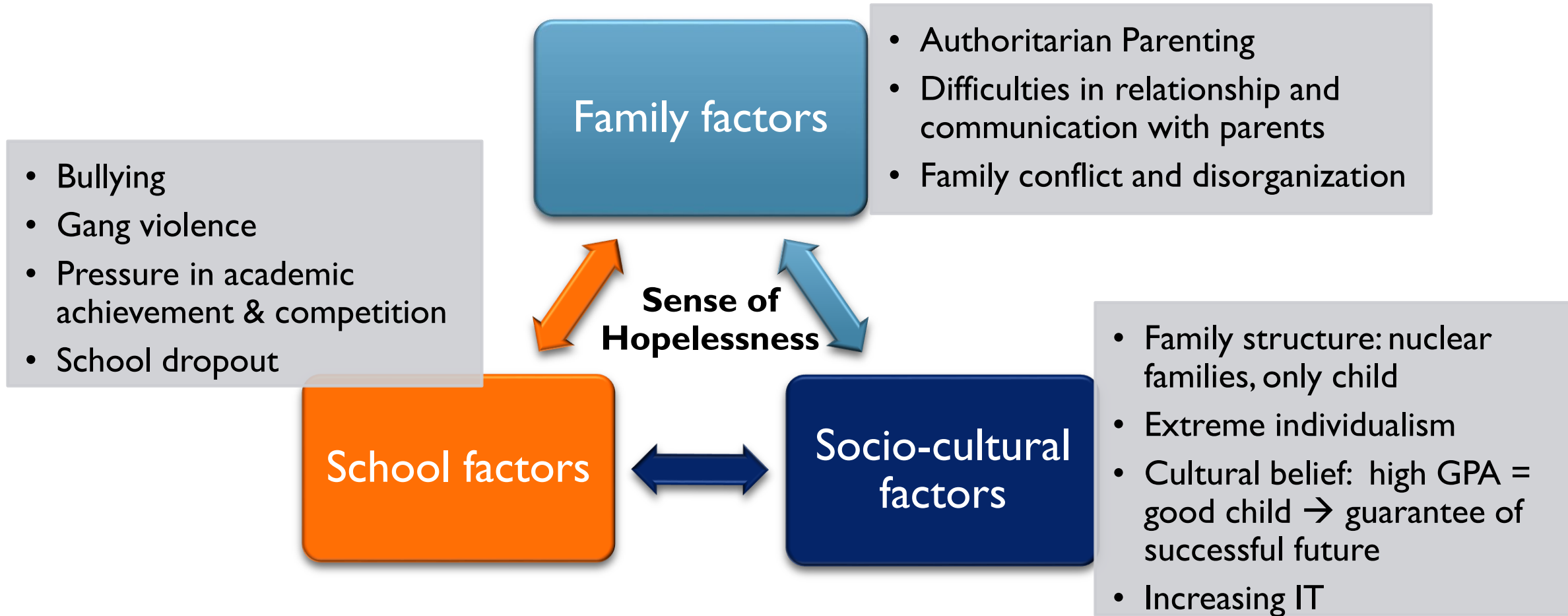
(Lee et al., 2013; Yeo, 2005)



Prevalence of SWY in Korea

- ***No official statistics.***
- National Youth Commission (2005): Among 1,461 high school students, 2.3% experienced the state of social withdrawal. 0.3% at severe risk. 7.1% at potential risk.
- Korean Broadcasting System (KBS): Approximately 100,000 SWY in Korea.
- Yeo (2005): 15% of school-refusal students were SWY.

Major Causes



Long-Lasting Consequences

- Potential risk behaviours: lone wolf (lone actor; someone who prepares and commits violent acts alone)
- Internet- and game-addiction
- Substance abuse
- Self-denying prophecy
- Deteriorate social skills
- Mental health problems: depression, social phobia, personality disorder, agoraphobia, schizophrenia
- Physical health problems: no exercise, nutrition imbalance

Screening, Assessment, & Treatment

Screening

- Neither attending school nor working.
- One friend or no friend at all.
- Spend most of time at home.

Assessment

- Social Withdrawn Youth Questionnaire (SWYQ; Lee et al., 2000).
- Parental Screening Questionnaire for Hidden Youth (Baek et al., 2011).
- Oietollie Propensity (Kim & Park, 2014).

Treatment

- Internet addiction prevention program
- Cyber counseling or e-mentoring program
- Home visitation program; Art therapy; Case study

Gap in Social Service Provision

- Service providers: lack of knowledge regarding SWY.
- No policies & programs for SWY.
- Difficulties in collaboration and linkage with agencies.

Ministry of Health and Welfare



Ministry of Information and Communication



Ministry of Education



Ministry of Employment and Labor

Next Step

Specific Service
Centres

Social Safety
Nets

Intervention
Education
Training

Policies &
Programs through
Integrated Support
from Government

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Thank You

Jungup Lee
swklj@nus.edu.sg

