

How do Men Talk about Taking Leave?

Fatherhood and Parental Leave Policies in South Korea, Spain and the U.S.

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1. Introduction

Allowing working fathers, as well as mothers, to combine family and work responsibilities has contributed to closing the gender gap at home and in the labor market (Bünning 2015) and improves the bond between parents and their children (O'Brien 2009). However, the use of parental leave by men is still far from a common practice in many societies. The persistence of a traditional gender-role ideology and its social norms, the rigidity of labor markets and organizational culture, and the existing gender inequality in public institutions, such as in family policies, are part of the explanation.

In recent decades, some countries have made effort to provide parental leave benefits to employed men. We know little, however, about how men talk about the leave system and use parental leave. In this study, we aim to extend our understanding of men's views and analyze how childless men and fathers of one child talk about taking leave and use leave policies. Using 80 personal in-depth interviews, we compare men's narratives and reasoning in South Korea, Spain, and the U.S. These three countries represent distinctive macro-institutional contexts, labor-market structures and cultures, and gender-role ideologies, and the findings suggest how these three features are linked to interviewees' narratives in different ways.

Although this paper focuses on men, we acknowledge that men's decision making regarding parental leave cannot be understood outside the couple dimension. Both partners' ideologies and employment characteristics are crucial for fertility decisions and childcare arrangements (Singley and Hynes 2005, Bygren and Duvander 2006, Kaufman and Almqvist 2017). In this work, we examine the couple dimension according to what our male interviewees reflect about their partners. This work contributes to a better understanding of the reasoning behind couples' use of parental leave from men's perspectives and will offer insight for the design of further policies and strategies to reduce gender inequality.

2. Three different contexts: Korea, Spain, and the U.S.

Labor force participation and gender equality

Among the three countries, despite the fact that it has the highest proportion of young adults with tertiary education, Korea also has the lowest female participation rate: 63.4% of females between 25 and 34 years old were in the labor force in 2012 (the reference year of our sample) (OECD 2018). A high gender wage gap—men earn 36.3% more than women, compared to 19.1% and 8.6% in the U.S. and Spain, respectively—is also a distinguishing pattern for Korea. The high level of unemployment in Spain during the peak of the 2008 global recession is outstanding, at 28.7% in 2012 for men (slightly lower for women), compared with 5.3% and 8.2% for Korean and American males, respectively. The instability of the Spanish labor market and the economy cannot be neglected as a key factor driving women to be economically active regardless of their gender-role attitudes. The lower gender wage gap in Spain should cause this factor to interfere less in Spanish parents' parental leave use negotiation than in that of parents in the other two countries. Spain has the highest female participation rate of the three countries (85.3%). The U.S. falls between Korea and Spain, with 74.1% female labor force participation.

The Gender Gap Index (GGI) from the World Economic Forum measures countries' gender inequality based on economic participation, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment. According to the GGI, Spain and the U.S. hold similar rankings, 26 and 22 (out of 135), respectively. Korea, however, reflects a context in which gender inequality is high, ranking 108. Additionally, gender-role attitudes reflect that Spain is the most gender egalitarian, followed by the U.S. and by Korea (World Value Survey 2010-2014). Lastly, the division of household labor shows that Korean men spend only 45 minutes per day in unpaid work, while their American and Spanish counterparts spend 150 and 146 minutes, respectively. In terms of paid work, Korean men spend on average 422 min in paid work per day, American men spend 335 minutes, and Spanish men spend 236 minutes.

Family policies.

Fully paid allowances for mothers and fathers exist only in Korea and Spain. In both countries, policies provide mothers with a longer period of paid leave than fathers. Maternity leave lasts almost 13 weeks (90 days) for Korean mothers and 16 weeks for Spanish mothers. In the Spanish case, ten out of the sixteen weeks can be transferred to the father. However, between 2008 and 2011, less than 2% of fathers used transferable weeks from maternity leave ([Flaquer and Escobedo 2014](#)).

Regarding parental leave, it is important to distinguish between paid and unpaid leave. Paid paternity leave is substantially shorter. Korean fathers can take five days off on leave after the birth of a child (though only three of them are paid). Conversely, although Spain has offered two paid days to new fathers since the 1930s, in recent times, a progressive effort has been made to improve fathers' leave length. In 2007, a two-week paternity leave was implemented; in 2017, the government approved a four-week leave for fathers, which became five weeks in July 2018.

In the U.S., there is no national legislation in this regard. Paid leave, if any, is provided at employers' discretion and is often intended exclusively for mothers and not fathers.

Nevertheless, according to a Department of Labor Survey from 2000, only 24% of private U.S. employers offered some kind of paid maternity-related leave, and only 12% offered a "leave for parents to care for a newborn" (Ray, Gornick and Schmitt, 2008).

[Table 1 about here]

The characteristics of parental leave differ substantially across countries. Childcare leave in Korea and Spain can be taken full-time or part-time. For the latter, there is a salary reduction proportional to the reduction in working hours. However, while Korea offers wage replacement in the full-time version, in Spain and the U.S., full-time leave is unpaid. Additionally, leave length differs substantially. Korea offers up to 52 paid weeks (1 year). The first 13 weeks are paid at 80% and from the 14th to 52nd week at 40%. In contrast, Spain is one of the most generous countries offering unpaid leave. Regarding full-time leave, Spanish parents can take 52 weeks with protection of their former job position and up to 156 weeks (3 years) with job protection, though they are not guaranteed the same position. For part-time leave, Spanish parents can currently reduce their working hours between 1/8 and 1/2 until the child is 8 years old (in 2012). Despite these policies, for the period 2005-2009, fathers in Spain started unpaid parental leave for 0.3% of yearly births compared with 5-6% for mothers (Escot et al. 2014). American parents face much less beneficial conditions. The federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) has provided 12 full-time continuous weeks of unpaid leave to new parents since 1993. Employees only qualify for FMLA leave if they have been working for at least one year at the company and the company has more than 50 employees. Such restrictions imply that approximately 40% of U.S. workers in 2012 were not covered by the FMLA (Klerman et al.

2014), and those workers largely belong to low-income families (Ray, Gornick and Schmitt, 2008). Some states complement the FMLA by offering partial-payment or more flexible conditions.

3. Theoretical approaches and literature review

To understand men's intentions and use of parental leave, we draw on the main theoretical approaches that past literature has highlighted as influencing the use of parental leave. We agree that gender is at the center of understanding how individuals use parental leave (Singley and Hynes 2005; Valarino et al. 2018). However, we need to understand other dimensions – labor market and financial conditions, cultural aspects, and institutional factors – to fully understand the role gender plays in how people understand parental leave and use it.

Workplace Environment.

Numerous studies have shown how labor market structure and workplace environment shape the use of parental leave by men. Working in the private sector implies additional constraints not present in the public sector (Beglaubter 2017). Additionally, studies emphasize the role of organizational culture and employers in explaining how men use parental leave (Haas et al. 2002, Bygren and Duvander 2006, Singley and Hynes 2005). The use of leave by other coworkers (Lapuerta et al. 2011), an employer's willingness to facilitate work-life balance (Crompton 2006), or working in a family-friendly environment (Escot et al. 2012) have positive effects on men's parental leave use. A recent study comparing intentions with parental leave use showed that men who received organizational support from their companies to plan parental leave ended up realizing their parental leave plans (Horvath 2017).

Individual- and Couple-level Dynamics.

Although higher income positively relates to leave-taking behavior (Lapuerta et al 2011), the higher the job status (i.e., managerial positions) the less likely leave-taking becomes, mainly because the opportunity costs for a career increase (Escot et al 2012).

Beyond individual characteristics, couple or household characteristics are crucial to obtain a full understanding of men's parental leave use. Based on household income, couples evaluate the affordability of taking childcare leave (Reich 2010, Meil et al. 2017). Additionally, men and women evaluate their educational and occupational status to determine the comparative advantages of the partners and their opportunity costs (Becker 1981). Similarly, fathers with partners who have a stronger position in the labor market are more likely to take parental leave than other fathers are (Reich 2010). The bargaining model predicts that each partner has *power* to trade with the other resulting from their relative earnings and time availability (Lundberg and Pollak 1996).

Cultural Explanations.

There is wide agreement among scholars on how individuals' subjective characteristics, such as identity, individual norms or ideology, influence parental leave behaviors (Doucet 2009). In particular, what is considered "good" mothering (caregiving) and fathering (breadwinning) relates to cultural norms (Craig and Mullan 2010, Kühhirt 2012, Singley and Hynes 2005). Conversely, some studies observing emerging unconventional patterns in parents' childcare arrangements have claimed that structural factors, such as an economic crisis, might force a gender-role change at the societal or institutional level (Chesley 2011, Dominguez-Folgueras et al 2018). The emerging pattern of gender-egalitarian fathers that adopt an active role in childcare

and subscribe to the ‘new fatherhood ideal’ (Petts et al. 2017) is associated with higher educational levels and younger ages (Escot et al. 2014). At the interactional level, men and women match their behaviors according to what they expect from each other and socially with respect to parental responsibilities (Lammi-Taskula 2008, Singley and Hynes 2005).

Welfare System and Policies.

The institutional context - characteristics of leave, length, wage replacement rate, and requirements to qualify - shapes individuals’ attitudes towards welfare programs (Valarino et al. 2018). A gendered paid parental leave system, by which mothers get longer leaves than fathers, reinforces traditional gender roles (Lapuerta et al. 2011). In the U.S. context, the fact that paid childcare leave is often offered only to mothers leads women to take further responsibilities in childcare after the end of the leave (Fox 2009). Beyond the parental leave system, the provision of public childcare supply or tax benefits after parenthood are important factors (Baizán 2009). In countries in which the welfare state does not promote gender equality, more traditionalism in gender roles occurs after parenthood (Neilson and Stanfors 2014).

4. Data and Methods

Data.

Our data were drawn from 80 in-depth interviews conducted in three countries in 2012. The interviewees were recruited through snowball sampling. Interviews were conducted face-to-face and typically lasted between 60 and 120 minutes. All interviews were voice-recorded and transcribed in full by a native speaker from each country. Sampling and interviewing in Korea and Spain were carried out by the authors, who are both sociologists. Fieldwork in the U.S. was performed by sociology graduate students. The sample includes 43 childless males and 37 fathers

with one child. Given the small sample size, we sought to avoid having too much heterogeneity within our sample. All the respondents are highly educated, heterosexual, native-born, urban men aged 24–35 in stable unions¹. Higher education is defined as the completion of tertiary education (a university degree or post-secondary vocational program). The selected ages—24-35 years old—capture the life-stage period in which family formation is highly prominent. In addition, we restricted the sample to individuals who are not full-time students, who are not expecting a child, do not have children from a previous relationship, and who are not separated, divorced, or widowed. Equal numbers of interviews were conducted in large urban areas in each country: Seoul and Busan in Korea, Madrid and Barcelona in Spain, and Boston and New York in the U.S. The interview questions touched on various topics: current or most recent employment of the interviewee and his/her partner; union formation, fertility ideals, intentions, and reasoning; household and childcare division of labor; gender-role attitudes; and views on family policies.

Data analysis. In the first stage, thematic coding was performed using qualitative software (Dedoose). In the second stage, we inductively coded and wrote extensive detailed memos about the narratives offered by participants. In the third stage, the authors shared their analyses and had an in-depth discussion. The data were rigorously revisited as many times as necessary to ensure the correct interpretation of each interview.

5. Findings

Money, time availability, and workplace climate matter.

¹ While all respondents in the Korean and American samples are married, the Spanish sample includes both married and stable cohabiting couples to reflect the diverse union formation patterns of the European context.

For both Spanish and American interviewees who use and plan to use parental leave, the rationale behind their intentions is often the partner's relative resources on the labor market and whether leave is paid or unpaid. In Spain, none of the males (and very few of their partners, according to interviewees) considered taking (or took) full-time parental leave. Regardless of couples' gender ideology, the economic uncertainty that has arisen in the Spanish context due to the economic crisis and the lack of wage replacement during childcare leave explain the very low usage of this policy option. Childless respondents show more flexible opinions regarding part-time unpaid parental leave or reduction of working hours. Nevertheless, those who expressed positive intentions to take part-time leave—as well as their partners—seem to be aware that their ultimate decision will be subject to two conditions: his and his partner's job situation and employers' willingness at the time of making the decision and their economic circumstances at that time. Bruno is an example. He is 27, childless, and works as a primary school teacher.

[Would you take part-time unpaid parental leave?] If I could afford it, I would not mind at all. Of course! But, as I've said before, the school administration is not very flexible in these cases, not even with women. I can't even imagine how they would be with men.

Those men who actively engage in childcare express that this is mainly due to their partners' employment circumstances rather than to their ideological commitment to gender egalitarianism. A majority of Spanish fathers who adjust their working conditions instead of using parental leave are self-employed. Likewise, for childless respondents in Spain, those fathers who report an arrangement in which he did not take unpaid leave and she did do not hold traditional gender-role attitudes.

Compared with the more traditional narratives of childless men, many fathers from the U.S. sample made some labor-market adjustments when they had their first child. The actual childcare

arrangements employed by the American fathers in the sample indicate three different strategies. The first strategy is that of dual-earner couples in which both partners hold occupations with a relatively similar status and male respondents report having a gender-egalitarian distribution of tasks at home. Both partners return to work after their paid leave allowance. A second common strategy is that of couples in which the female partners take a much longer parental leave than their husbands. Some of these women have unpaid parental leave available in their work place, while others take a deliberately extended period of unemployment or stop working for an open-ended period of time. These women act as primary caregivers for periods that range between 6 and 15 months or until their child(ren) goes to school. Some childless men expressed a hope that their partners would return to the labor market in the near future to continue their career development. There is also a small group of involved fathers. Fathers who are more involved in their child's care and who make adjustments to their labor force participation—taking FMLA leave and switching to a part-time job—have partners who hold a more stable and better paid position in the labor market than them. Often after considering the cost of daycare or nannies, these couples decide that it will be the man that will make the adjustment.

In the American sample, a clear majority of childless respondents expressed that they had no intention of stopping full-time work. In general, respondents intend to change their work hours, but these changes often consist in cutting back overtime rather than reducing work hours. For example, childless American respondents more or less respected their 40 hour work week but said that they might adjust their schedules by travelling less for work, arriving home earlier, eliminating weekend or after-hours work, or trying to work remotely from home. There is an assumption of intensive mothership during early childhood that leads childless men to not even envision themselves as parental leave-takers. Edward put it this way: *'I'm really looking forward*

to having little kids, but I'm not looking forward to having a baby'. Nevertheless, a small group held more gender-egalitarian attitudes, such as Jeffrey, a 30-year-old childless actor and acting teacher.

I don't have any kind of preconceptions about which parent should be taking care of the kids. I really don't think that matters... I would say if you can arrange it so either you're both working part-time and with complimentary schedules so that you can spend a lot of time with the child, then that would be great, or if one parent is working and the other's not—although I guess that would be less ideal because I certainly wouldn't want to get into an arrangement where I was working 80 hours a week, and Laura wasn't working at all, and I never saw my child. I wouldn't find that acceptable.

Nevertheless, rational choice based on partners' relative resources was often present among American respondents with a more egalitarian ideology. Some of them stated that the partner who would make job adaptations would be the one whose adjustment would make more sense economically for the finances of the family.

With few exceptions, the majority of our interviewees in the three countries took the paid paternity allowance after their child was born, and money is an important driving motivation to fully utilize the available leave system. However, despite having paid a leave system, not taking days off after a child's birth is a practice more common in Korea than in Spain or the U.S. This is related to workplace-influenced attitudes and assumptions surrounding the legitimacy of using leave, such as feeling unable to stop working (often among the self-employed or those in higher status positions) or being afraid of penalties for taking leave (i.e., weak relationship with employer). As Kitae—a 33-year-old journalist and father of one child—argues, “*When no one uses leave and it is kind of awkward to use leave, it is obviously hard to utilize a long leave.*”

Even though Korea has one of the most generous childcare leave policies in the world, the rigidity of its labor-market norms and long working hours position men's intentions and actions far from considering taking childcare leave. Paradoxically, in the U.S., with no statutory policies, fathers in our sample took longer paternity leaves than fathers in Korea. Regardless of recent changes in the family policy system, the comparison shows that workplace culture as well as attitudes toward who should use leave strongly shape the ways in which men use and imagine using leave.

Gender-role attitudes play an independent role.

The belief in gender-essentialist norms—the male breadwinner, female caregiver model—emerged in most of the interviews with the Korean men. Ascribing to relatively more gender-essentialist ideology, Korean men see the gendered pattern of using parental leave as natural and believe that leave should be used only by mothers because they are more fit for child rearing. There are strong and internalized social and cultural expectations that being a good father means sustaining a stable income. For Minho, a 31-year-old childless architect, this is clear.

'It is natural to focus on working when you become a father. I will be working harder for my family, for my child, as a head of the family.'

In contrast to the Korean males, none of the males in the Spanish sample are in a partnership that reflects traditional gender-roles. Highly educated men do not expect to have a stay-at-home partner, mostly because of their relatively egalitarian gender-role attitudes but also because of the convenience of having both partners economically support the household. As noted before, some childless Spanish men have positive intentions of taking leave, as do their partners (according to them). It is notable that all those who reported negative intentions – except two – also expressed

their belief that their female partners would be willing to take part-time leave (or sometimes full-time). While some of these males and their partners hold gender-traditional values, others show a more gender-egalitarian ideology. For the latter, it is the weaker position of their female partners in the labor market (i.e., unemployed, working part-time or precariously) that explains their negative intention to take leave rather than preconceived ideas about their gender roles within the family. Interestingly, men who reported that they and their partners would not take leave were highly educated and career-oriented, and their partners had similar trajectories.

Conversely, many of the childless American respondents emphasize the ideal arrangement as one in which they ‘can afford that she can stay at home’. Gender-essentialist beliefs about the ideal childcare arrangement are taken for granted, leading many American males to see intensive mothership during very early childhood as *normal* and, as a result, that they have no responsibility to take parental leave. Indeed, several childless respondents in their narratives imply that their active involvement as fathers will be more needed when their children are toddlers or older. Relying on a ‘biological discourse’ based on the breastfeeding argument and a ‘strong bond between the mother and the child’, these males consider themselves less useful for childcare during the early childhood period. Thomas, a 33-year-old substitute teacher, represents an extreme case of this idea.

I think that I would not want to change diapers. [Laughter] I think that would be her job.

When it comes to like guy stuff like teaching him to play sports and how to ride a bike, I said earlier, you know that, I would definitely be happy to take responsibility when it comes to that.

[Can you imagine what proportion of the child rearing she might do versus you?]

I think it would be 50/50. She'll do the female stuff, I'll do the male stuff. [Chuckles] I think it would be half and half.

Among childless American respondents, it is easy to identify the ‘flexible egalitarian’ attitude in which couples emphasize individual freedom as their rationale. Taylor, among others, clearly reflects this stance: ‘*It’s really a choice, so if she wants to pursue being a full-time mother, that’s fine. If she wants to pursue having a career, that’s fine as well.*’ Male ambivalence about the female’s role—as long as it makes financial sense—reinforces the assumption that the role of main caregiver continues to be a woman’s. While some of our interviewees affirmed that their partners have always desired to become full-time mothers, others emphasized that their partners were conflicted about whether to continue their careers or become a stay-at-home mom. Some males expressed their feeling of needing to know that they could be the sole provider for their family if necessary, while others with a flexible egalitarian attitude expressed a feeling of regret at the idea that their female partners might abandon their careers and education efforts to become full-time mothers.

Policy and institutional context.

The macro-institutional contexts interfere substantially with parental leave use and intentions in Spain and the U.S. There is a distinct difference between childless men and fathers in Spain: respondents in both groups mentioned a desire for equal and longer maternity and paternity leaves, but only fathers desired longer leaves for mothers. American respondents have a much more limited vision of ideal family policies. For American interviewees, ideal policies often involved paid maternity leave, and it was rare to insist on longer available leave for fathers.

Both Spanish and American respondents emphasize the need for workplaces to offer more time flexibility in allowing employees to manage their own schedule, work remotely, or work compressed schedules. Spanish respondents in particular complained about the inequality between the public and private sector in regard to applying statutory policies. It is known that many employees in the private sector, mainly men but also women, experience penalties when taking parental leave.

The scenario is quite different for Americans, since the U.S. does not provide statutory paid parental leave, and benefits depend on employers. Many of the childless American interviewees are not aware of the family policies that their companies offer, and such policies did not play any particular role in their decision to join their companies. When asked about how family-friendly their workplaces are, parental leave is not the first thing they mention; rather, they discuss flexible working hours or the ability to leave work when an emergency occurs. These men do not think about childcare on a daily basis. They know about their companies' parental leave policies only from workmates that have transitioned to parenthood recently. Most of the time, they refer exclusively to maternity leave. Indeed, the idea is so uncommon that some males use the term 'male maternity leave' to refer to paternity leave. David, for example, who is an accountant, never heard about a man taking time off in his company: *'I've never come across anybody taking off, a man taking off. I don't know. I've never brought it up to anybody, but I've never known anybody that has.'* Many of these men reported that they would feel uncomfortable asking for time off. David adds later, *'I might feel a little uncomfortable actually going to them saying, "Hey can I take a few months off cuz I've got kids." [Why?] Again I feel that's just more of a, I don't know. Sometimes I feel they might look at me the wrong way. "You're not the woman, so why are you taking time off?."* For many interviewees, the reason that stops them from using the

policies is their anticipation that this will hurt their careers or limit promotion possibilities. Most of them declare that they would feel comfortable using time off if they saw other male employees using it. Some of the fathers found out after becoming fathers the work-life reconciliation measures that their company provides. Flexible time, on-site daycare, or financial assistance to pay for childcare were some of the measures available to fathers working in more family-friendly companies.

7. Discussion

Attending to their reasoning and analyzing how men talk about it is key to understanding why men are largely underrepresented among parental leave-takers. Thus, this work explores narratives about the intended use and use of parental leave among childless men and fathers of one child from three different country contexts – Korea, Spain and the U.S. In particular, we pay attention to how our respondents internalize in their experiences the macro-institutional context.

The analysis of their narratives reveals three important findings. First, in the Korean context, strong masculinity norms and workplace norms make Korean men unwilling to take parental leave. They work (or plan to work) even harder after parenthood as a result of their more traditional gender-role ideology, which makes the doing gender approach prevalent in this context. This creates a mismatch between labor-market institutions and family policies because implementing paid parental leave has not resulted in more frequent leave-taking by men. Second, in the Spanish context, the lack of wage replacement in a scenario of economic uncertainty makes the relative resources perspective prevalent regardless of respondents' gender-role ideology and gender dynamics at home. Spanish policies fall short in supporting dual-earner couples in resolving work-life conflict. Nevertheless, some involved fathers made unofficial adjustments to their careers, most of them working as self-employees. Third, in the U.S., the lack

of statutory policies and the prevalence of a gendered culture in companies, combined with a strong liberalized and individualistic labor market, reinforce gender essentialist norms towards family. This work culture in a context of more gender egalitarian attitudes gives place to flexible egalitarian attitudes toward women among men respondents. While most American respondents do not envision a change in their full-time work schedules, they show their preference or ambivalence regarding their female partners working part-time or leaving the workforce after childbirth.

In sum, although labor-market and workplace norms, gender-role ideology, and institutional support have a complex effect on men's parental leave decisions, the role played by each of these factors is different in different countries. Ultimately, the result is a different subjective conception of what it means to be a 'good father'. Among Korean respondents, being a good father means earning a higher income and working longer hours. For many of the Spanish respondents, it means achieving flexible working conditions that ease the work-life balance. This is similar for American respondents ([Brinton et al. 2018](#)), who further wished to potentially be a family provider if the circumstances required it.

To encourage men to be more involved in early childcare by taking parental leave, the change would need to occur not only at the individual level (personal attitudes) but also at the institutional and organizational levels. Gender-equal statutory policies would legitimate equal treatment by gender in the labor market (i.e., end of discrimination against women in hiring processes, reduction of the gender wage gap, normative change towards the conception of a 'good employee') and drive organizations towards greater family friendliness. Employees, males and females, would then modify their perceptions and behaviors around work and family reconciliation.

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Table 1: Country context indicators: Korea, Spain and the U.S.

	Korea	Spain	U.S.
<i>Labor market and time use</i>			
• Female labor force participation rate, 25-34 years old [1]	63.4	85.3	74.1
• Male unemployment rate, 25-34 years old [1]	5.3	28.7	8.2
• Gender wage gap [1,2]	36.3	8.6	19.1
• Men's time spent in unpaid work (minutes per day) [3]	45	145.9	150.2
• Men's time spent in paid work (minutes per day) [3]	421.9	236.2	334.8
<i>Gender inequality and attitudes</i>			
• Country ranking (1–135) on the Gender Gap Index (GGI) [4]	108	26	22
• Percent of males considering that the best childcare option for children under school age is "Both mother and father part-time" [5]	5	16	4
• Disagreement with the statement " <i>When jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women</i> " (%) [6]	22.7	82.1	69.9
<i>Family policies</i>			
• Paid maternity leave (in weeks, in 2012)	12.9	16	0
• Paid paternity leave (in weeks, in 2012)	0.4	2.1	0
• Paid parental leave (in weeks, in 2012)	52	0	0
• Unpaid parental leave (in weeks, in 2012)	0	156	12

Source: [1] OECD Stats 2012; [2] The gender wage gap is defined as the difference between male and female median wages divided by the male median wage; [3] OECD Stats (Korea 2009; Spain 2009-10; U.S. 2014); [4] World Economic Forum 2012; [5] International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) 2012 - Family and Changing Gender Roles IV [6] World Values Survey 2010-2014.