

Women

How are Women's Inequality and Poverty Reproduced in the Sector of Culture and Art?

Oct 6, 2023 (Fri) 9:00-11:30

Organizer: Gwangju Jeonnam Women's Association United

Background

According to the survey of Household Finance and Living Conditions 2021 by the Statistics of Korea, the poverty rate of households headed by females throughout their whole life cycle is higher than those by males. The results could be demonstrated in the sector of culture and art, too. According to the survey on the status of Gwangju artists 2021, the income of female artists in Gwangju was KRW 15.35 million in average, lower than that of male artists with KRW 22.52 million. Especially, the proportion of female workers is higher than that of male workers in general. The domain of culture and art has been a typical sector in which female worker accounts for higher proportion than male workers. Most of people involved in the sector are working as freelance and they could basically get a job based on social network. So, the labor structure tends to be determined by gender awareness of decision makers which could cause inequality. Even in some cases, power is concentrated in a certain group of people and training is usually done in apprenticeship, which makes it difficult for workers to defy the order and direct of superiors. So, hierarchical system in this sector is inevitable. This hierarchical structure holds back female artists in an economic hierarchy, which could cause various human rights issues such as sexual harassment, gender discrimination, and human rights infringement. In dictionary, the term inequality refers to a condition that a person experiences inequality derived from discrimination in terms of rights, duty, and entitlement. Also, the condition in which scarce resources such as income, materials, status, and power are differentially distributed in a social context could be determined as a social inequality. We could identify diverse human rights issues including poverty and inequality as a result of those unequal social structure and could figure out solutions to those issues as well. Therefore, this session will offer an opportunity to touch upon inequality, assess the current status of inequality, and seek for ways to overcome those issues in the culture and art sector.



Objectives

We will share cases of poverty and inequality home and abroad that could affect the life of female artists. Additionally, we would like to figure out ways to address structural inequality by reviewing rules related to guaranteeing status and rights of female artists.

Main Agenda

1. Case of poverty and inequality of Korean female artists
 - 1) Gender gap in roles and income
 - 2) Career-breaks of women due to lack of awareness on women's reproduction rights regarding child bearing and caring
 - 3) Deteriorating women's rights (rising in gender violence)
2. To review rules to guarantee artists' status and rights in gender perspective and discuss implementation method
 - 1) To have discussion on improvement of enforcement rules according to the enactment of the ordinance on the status and rights guarantee of artists
3. To discuss regional, domestic, and global collaboration to respond to inequality and poverty in the sector of culture and art

