

Convergence research for solving national, social and industrial issues

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Convergence research is a type of study that integrates perspectives, theories and tools of different disciplines[1]. Basically, researchers from various fields collaborate and share their knowledge and skills with each other to achieve one research goal. With the advent of the 4th industrial revolution, the demand for convergence research to solve complex social problems and technological difficulties continues to increase[2].

In order to respond to rapid changes in the future society, government-funded research institutes(GRIs) in Korea are demanded to accelerate convergence research projects that define national issues and solutions and to collaborate with industries and academia. GRIs are making efforts to find scientific and technological solutions through convergence approaches to solve problems, such as global warming, dementia, infection, disaster, and *etc*[3]. Recently, the US government has launched a new program (Convergence Accelerator), which is aimed at resolving issues in fast and efficient ways, is similar to the GRIs convergence program in Korea.

Female researchers in Korea had less opportunity to participate as a leader or member of big research projects[4]. The GRIs convergence program, however, has been insisted on gender equality, and female researchers are promoted to playing a key role as a team leader position. The increasing participation of outstanding female researchers drives the GRIs convergence program success and encourages other female researchers. Convergence research conducted by remarkable researchers, regardless of gender, will enhance people's lives and overcome human crises by solving great socio-economic problems and scientific challenges.

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[4] Soohan Kim, Dongjun Park, Soyoon Park. Gender Inequality and Women's Role in Interdisciplinary Research. *The Women's Studies*. 2019; vol. 102: No.3 5-36.