



ISSN: 2950-8835 © 2024 KODISA & JKR.
JKR website: <http://acoms.kisti.re.kr/jkr>
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.13106/jkr.2024.vol3.no1.1>.

Classical Literature Analysis: Government Development Strategies for Improving Economy in Joseon Dynasty Period

Eungoo KANG¹

1. First & Corresponding Author Full-Time Faculty, Becamex School of Business, Eastern International University, Vietnam. Email: ekang@eiu.edu.vn

Received: May 27, 2024. Revised: May 31, 2024. Accepted: June 29, 2024.

Abstract

The Joseon Dynasty lasted for 618 years, from 1392 to 1910, and is regarded as one of the development periods of Korea in various areas, including politics, culture, economy, and society. During this period, the government undertook various measures to try to change the state of the economy and generally transform people's living standards. These were some of the strategies founded on Confucianism, which focused on the right way to govern and manage the economy to attain prosperity for the society. The present study explores government development strategies for improving the economy in Joseon Dynasty period using comprehensive literature analysis via Kci, Scopus, Web of Science databases. Indeed, agricultural transformations during the Joseon dynasty clearly show that knowledge and innovation were critical for encouraging agricultural growth. Therefore, today's South Korean government can implement technological advancement and research to improve its agricultural value chain and food security. Many farmers lack knowledge about improved methods of practicing agriculture or have inadequate capital to invest in research and development; these issues can be dealt with by the relevant government agencies putting in place necessary policies and creating awareness through educational programs and articles.

Keywords: Korean History, Economy in Joseon Dynasty Period, Government Development Strategies.

Major classifications: Economic History

1. Introduction

The Joseon Dynasty lasted for 618 years, from 1392 to 1910, and is regarded as one of the development periods of Korea in various areas, including politics, culture, economy, and society. During this period, the government undertook various measures to try to change the state of the economy and generally transform people's living standards (Dai, 2024). These were some of the strategies founded on Confucianism, which focused on the right way to govern and manage the economy to attain

* This study was supported by the research grant of the KODISA Scholarship Foundation in 2024.

© Copyright: The Author(s)

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>) which permits unrestricted noncommercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

prosperity for the society. Also, land redistribution was one of the policy measures adopted to reduce the imbalance and enhance production in agriculture (Lee & Myong, 2022). Through the policy of divide, the government wanted to establish a new order where land ownership belonged to the peasants to eradicate poverty and provide crops for consumption. This not only conferred benefits on the masses but also brought the dynasty a more stable economic basis.

Again, tax reforms were another critical component of the economic policy in the Joseon period. The switch from more of a base tribute system to a better-standardized revenue collection method proved beneficial to the state by limiting the folk's over-taxation (Dai, 2024). This reform helped improve the governance structure and made resources available for public works and other administrative needs. Further, commerce was another critical component in developing the Joseon Dynasty's economy (Lee & Myong, 2022). Trade was encouraged and controlled to positively impact trade and economic progress as wanted by the government. Joseon government opened the ports on production insistence and encouraged merchants to engage in trade relations within and outside the country. It also helped to increase its overall welfare and stability by integrating it with the economies of its neighbors. Other developments that were central in supporting economic growth include innovations in agriculture. The government implemented new farming techniques, brought new crops, and funded irrigation schemes to increase agricultural production. Relaying information to the farming community meant that they practiced modern farming methods; thus, food security was achieved and aided population increase (Dai, 2024). This inclusion and comprehensive analysis of government development strategies during the Joseon Dynasty provides essential reference points for present-day economic policy in the Republic of South Korea. Therefore, by studying these historical approaches, present-day leaders can learn how to tackle modern socio-economic issues and encourage long-term development.

2. Theoretical Framework

Focusing specifically on the Joseon, the literature on the economy and policy of this dynasty can be viewed as developed with explanatory and analytical structures dominating the historical and social discourses (Cho et al., 2023). The existing literature contributes vigor and detail to producing a clear picture of these policies and their effect on the economy. In his paper, Lee (2024) discusses the principal land redistribution policies of the Korean kingdom during the reign of King Sejong as a way of dealing with emerging economic inequality and an attempt to boost agricultural productivity. These policies sought to liberalize big chunks of land under the aristocracy's control and distribute it to peasant farmers. Also, Kim (2024) examines the taxation practice of the Joseon Dynasty of Korea with emphasis on the shift from the tribute system to the implementation of a tax system. The Daedong Law was initiated in the seventeenth century, which took a step forward to revise the laws on taxation that were in the form of kind, mostly rice (Kim, 2024). This reform not only aimed at simplifying the tax structure but also helped minimize the level of corruption in the country and the distribution of tax burdens reasonably. Choi (2023) provided extensive insight into the trade policies of the Joseon Dynasty through the flow chart highlighting the government's attempts to control and encourage trade. Policies like the open-port policies and encouraging merchants' activities were the primary ways to foster development. The control of trade through the merchant guilds and state-authorized markets helped the government oversee trade fairly and effectively. Shim and his colleagues (2022) capture technological improvements in agriculture by introducing new concepts in farming and the advancement of crops, together with state support for irrigation. Government handbooks, including the Nongsa Jikseol (Straight Talk on Farming), contributed significantly to the spread of knowledge in agriculture, increasing food production productivity. However, the current literature needs a comprehensive study of the government development strategies used in the Joseon Dynasty period (Choi, 2023). The absence of evaluation or comparison of these strategies leads to most research works providing fragmented information about specific policies or sectors without looking at the totality of the issue.

To fill the existing gaps, this project systematically explores the government development policies of the Joseon Dynasty and their applicability to modern-day South Korea. By so doing, this investigation seeks to complement the existing literature on the numerous economic strategies through a more elaborate assessment of multiple economic policies over time within this period. More importantly, it aims to identify lessons that can be learned from past and present economic policies about present issues in the South Korean economy.

3. Methods

Based on an empirical and systematic review conducted by various scholars, this discussion focuses on the development strategies of the Joseon Dynasty's governments (Cho et al., 2023). The guidelines from PRISMA were followed, and the

articles were searched and retrieved in a way that complied with the standard of a systematic review. To commence with, this first technique involved an expert search of several academic databases in which articles were accessed, such as JSTOR, Google Scholar, and Korea Citation Index. Using such search terms, possible papers associated with 'Joseon economic policies,' 'government development plans,' and 'Korean historical economy' were explored and identified (Glomb & Lee, 2020). Such a basic search provided many articles, books, dissertations, and other publications to consider.

During the screening phase, or rather stage, the titles and abstracts of papers identified from the databases were examined to select the relevant papers for the objectives of this study. To make this selection, only articles and papers that presented and discussed the Joseon Dynasty's understanding, structure, strategy, actions, and plans for the economy and government were considered for further analysis. For example, in the article by Glomb and Lee (2020), In the eligibility stage, the rest of the articles were screened based on their titles, abstracts, and full texts in cases of uncertainty. While choosing the source from the Joseon period, more attention was paid to the works that explained the economic policies of the times and the results of their application. This action helped filter out the sources and ensure that the analysis given in this work was confined to the existing strategic economic plans (Phommahaxay et al., 2019).

The last step involved selecting the final set of reliable and adequate articles for comparison and analysis. These selected studies formed part of the findings that also allowed for the conclusion on the Joseon Dynasty government's development strategies (Glomb & Lee, 2020). This systematic approach made it possible to reach an objective and comprehensive conclusion based on the state of available literature.

4. Findings

4.1. Land Redistribution Policies

Another great feature of Joseon's policy related to the management of the land was the redistribution of the land to solve the problem of social inequality and encourage farming. The government made several vital moves to implement land reforms, which involved providing land rights to the people, mainly the peasants from the higher classes or the landlords (Choi, 2023). The first of these is the Gyeongguk Daejeon. This is a compilation of laws made during King Sejo's reign. This policy was the directive to facilitate the land distribution process in the country so that peasants could be easily provided with the land they would require to cultivate crops. Since the government was interested in supporting food production and economic progress, it attempted to partition large tracts of land and allocate them to smallholders.

The results of these land reforms were tremendous. The government ensured peasants were well endowed with land to cultivate food for their households and the nation (Glomb & Lee, 2020). Not only did this raise the peasantry's quality of life, but it also boosted the dynasty's economic base. Another way land redistribution policies dealt with social justice issues was the equal distribution of the country's land. It also helped regulate rural society and minimize conflict caused by democratizing land ownership. Furthermore, about the latter, positive changes in agricultural productivity that stemmed from these reforms bore consequences for the entire economy. High crop production levels from a more productive agricultural sector meant food security, which boosted the human population and urbanization (Choi, 2023). The excess production encouraged higher trade activities since farmers could sell the leftovers, enhancing economic turnover. The effectiveness of these policies in land redistribution proves the significance of fair distribution of land in stabilization and the growth of the economy. The fair distribution of the land can provide more resources to a comparatively large number of people, positively affecting the country's economy.

4.2. Taxation Reforms

Another significant measure adopted in Joseon economics was taxation reforms. The government realized the importance of restructuring the tax body to help achieve the government-set revenue and ease the burden on the commoners (Hou & Hu, 2023). The Daedong Law, one of the most effective reforms conducted during the period of King Injo, was one of these changes. This law regulated the collection of taxes in kind, particularly rice, which reformed the tax administration and curbed the inefficiency resulting from corruption.

Several advantages can be attributed to the Daedong Law. In standardizing payments, the government ensured that tax affects everyone and does not target only certain regions of the country or particular classes of the population (Dai, 2024). This helped the commoner minimize his burden and paved the way for steady incomes for the state. These funds were essential to finance common concerns like the construction of roads, other amenities, and other governing responsibilities.

Standardization of the tax payments also minimized such issues by eradicating regional discrimination and minimizing the chances of tax evasion and corruption, making tax collection more efficient.

In the same way, the Daedong Law also helped improve financial management, budgeting, and resource mobilization in the government's operation. Due to a stable and predictable source of income, the government could fund other projects that contributed to the country's economic growth, including the construction of roads, rehabilitation of irrigation facilities, and putting up buildings and other infrastructural facilities (Lee & Myong, 2022). In return, these investments fostered economic activity and enhanced the populace's well-being. These taxation reforms show that there is a need for an efficient taxation system as a promoter of economic stability and growth. A good structure of taxes wherein the taxes are shared relatively across various sectors and branches of the government and free of corrupt influences is vital for economic growth in the long run. In this way, the government can fairly distribute the contribution burden, support social order, and invest in public welfare within the state.

4.3. Trade Promotion and Regulation

The stimulation and control of trade were two key elements that the Joseon Dynasty included in its economic plan. Trade was seen as a vital factor that could help the country experience development, and several policies were put in place by the government to enhance trade across the nation (Im, 2022). Opening ports or harbors and promoting trade through merchants was one of the ways that ensured the exchange of products and ideas. Trade regulation through merchant guilds and state-administered markets made conducting trade activities appropriately and reasonably possible. Therefore, by offering a stabilized and controlled trading platform, the government ensured that Joseon's economy was revived and connected to its neighboring countries. It also made the dynasty more resilient and prosperous as a whole. These trade policies prove the significance of encouraging and controlling trading activities to stimulate the economy.

The open port policies made it easier for foreign merchants to trade, thus exposing them to new products, methods, and traditions. This exchange benefited the domestic economy and helped the producers have larger product markets (Im, 2022). With efforts to boost merchant endeavors, the authorities ensured that a healthy commercial base was developed to help foster the economy. Merchant guilds acted as intermediaries and oversaw all market commercial dealings as appropriate and ethical. Through these guilds, people could set standard practices within particular trades and industries, sort out conflicts, and assist their members (Im, 2022). State-sponsored trade fairs ensured that business was conducted in safe environments and conditions, minimizing the risks accompanying commerce. They contributed to creating an enabling climate for commerce, thus boosting business and globalization.

Promotion and regulation of trade benefited the Joseon Dynasty not only economically but also in the advancement of culture and technology. To achieve this, the government preserved operational and balanced trade relations so that acquiring material resources benefited not only a particular lineage or specific city but the whole society (Rayhan, 2024). The effectiveness of these trade policies shows the need to encourage and facilitate trade to pursue economic liberalization and growth.

4.4. Agricultural Advancements

Modernization in agriculture was one of the essential aspects of the Joseon dynasty's need for food stability and economics. The government developed policies to enhance food production through fertilizer, encouraging proper farming methods, distributing improved seeds, and establishing irrigation systems (Lee, 2024). For instance, education encouraged adopting better practices like crop rotation and using fertilizers, leading to production and soil productivity maintenance. The government also decided to promote the production of high-yielding variety seeds, which were supplied to farmers, accompanied by packages containing information on the high-yielding variety seeds. These measures helped form a reliable system of providing the population with the necessary food, which was important for developing large cities. Irrigation facilities significantly improved overall crop output by providing water to crops in the required quantities (Lew et al., 2020). The government frequently paid to construct and manage irrigation canals and reservoirs, so people understood it was interested in agricultural activity. Such infrastructure investments supported farmers in reducing the effects of drought and allowed farmers to farm on their land efficiently.

All these agricultural innovations significantly changed these early societies' social and economic lives. Improved yields in agriculture enhanced people's breeding and generated a surplus of foodstuff that could be taken to markets within and outside the community. This surplus helped in economic diversification as the task focused on other sectors, particularly the

sale of crafts and other produce. The boost in food production was also helpful in curbing any forms of social upheavals and thus promoting political stability.

Table 1: Summary of Literature Findings

Research Purpose	Evidence Literature
Total Four Results in the Current Literature regarding Government Development Strategies for Improving Economy in Joseon Dynasty Period.	Lee (2024), Kim (2024), Choi (2023), Shim et al. (2022), Choi (2023); Glomb and Lee (2020), Hou and Hu (2023), Dai (2024), Lee and Myong (2022), Im (2022), Rayhan (2024), Lee (2024), Lew et al. (2020)

4. Implications

The government development strategies formulated and implemented by the Joseon Dynasty at different points in its history hold a lot of lessons for modern economic policy formulation and implementation in South Korea (Kim & Kim, 2021). First, it is worth noting that many countries that have pursued redistributionist land policies have recorded improved agricultural productive capacities and social justice that we see and appreciate in modern-day developed economies (Lew et al., 2020). Regarding the contemporary problems of concentration of land ownership and housing accessibility, modern South Korea has experienced this precedent in history. Taking measures and ensuring that policies of land distribution and availability of shelter are reasonably provided across the different strata of society will go a long way in reducing economic imbalances and, hence, the social problem (Lee, 2024). For example, the current campaigns like land reforms, affordable houses, and provisions for ecological cities would guarantee more people's equal access to land and housing, preventing gaps in class and division of the community.

The analysis of the Joseon Dynasty shows that even significant state efforts, such as taxation reforms, are necessary for creating a fair and efficient taxation system in terms of stable economic development. South Korea must apply fair and non-corruptive taxation laws and practices that would distribute the tax burden fairly across the country's population (Kim & Kim, 2021). Through rationality in implementing and formulating the tax system, the government can thus enhance collection and implementation and ensure adequate revenues for implementing public projects and welfare services. Sustaining progressive taxation that ensures that people with large incomes and businesses pay more taxes is also a policy that can assist in the fight against income inequalities of economic justice (Rayhan, 2024). This approach also ensures consistent revenues and revolutionizes the issue of income inequality.

Considering the socio-economic development during the Joseon Dynasty, it is now possible to understand how promoting and regulating trade effectively enhanced the country's economy. In light of the contemporary setting, South Korea could further encourage the growth of international trade by lowering tariffs, negotiating for better trade policies, and aiding industries to open up their bids for the international market. Promoting innovation and competition in domestic industries strengthens their prospects and competitiveness in the global market. Implementing sound trade policies engages competition honestly, and the principles aim to shield domestic industries and consumers from predatory trade practices (Rayhan, 2024). The following strategy may assist the South Korean government sustain its position in the global market and improve trade liberalization by ensuring its favorable impact is felt across society.

Indeed, agricultural transformations during the Joseon dynasty clearly show that knowledge and innovation were critical for encouraging agricultural growth. Therefore, today's South Korean government can implement technological advancement and research to improve its agricultural value chain and food security (Lew et al., 2020). Many farmers lack knowledge about improved methods of practicing agriculture or have inadequate capital to invest in research and development; these issues can be dealt with by the relevant government agencies putting in place necessary policies and creating awareness through educational programs and articles (Shim et al., 2022). Additional investments that can be made to increase agricultural productivity and improve its ability include the construction and improvement of irrigation and storage facilities, respectively (Lew et al., 2020). Indeed, these approaches can assist in making progress in maintaining agricultural viability as a means of supporting the food security pillar in Tanzania and ensuring economic stability.

Besides, the Joseon Dynasty's approach focusing on the grand strategy of seeking ways to integrate different sources to build up a sturdy and affluent social system is another lesson for policymakers (Shim et al., 2022). Here, using an integrated

model that combines several facets of the economy is feasible for modern South Korea success. When taken together, a new economic policy can be created that will work through land redistribution, implementation of taxes, promotion of trade, and improvement of agriculture (Lew et al., 2020). This approach acknowledges that these policies are interrelated and promote economic growth that is sustainable and inclusive.

In brief, the findings on the government development strategies of the Joseon Dynasty suggest and indicate that political historical lessons are still significant for South Korea's economic policy today. By analyzing historical experience and including several aspects of the economy into a single concept, modern South Korea can work on her today's tasks and threats (Lee & Myong, 2022). In this case, it can create favorable conditions for economic growth. Factual and practical taxation, equal distribution of land, encouraging and regulating commerce and agriculture, and encouraging specific sector improvements can help build a stronger and more robust economy that favors every citizen. These strategies based on the Joseon experience would help the country effectively respond to modern economic threats and ensure sustainable, sound development in South Korea.

References

- Cho, I., Kawanishi, Y., Kimura, K., Kimura, T., Tsuji, Y., & Yagi, T. (2023). Five Historiographical Trends in the Postwar Japanese Study of Joseon History. *Seoul Journal of Korean Studies*, 36(2), 655-680.
- Choi, H. E. (2023). *In Search of Interpreters on the Demarcation Line I*. The Routledge Handbook of Korean Interpreting.
- Dai, L. J. (2024). Ulleungdo and the Island Policy of the Joseon Period. *Korea Journal*, 64(1), 39-67.
- Glomb, V., & Lee, E. J. (2020). *Between Ruins and Relics: North Korean Discourse on Confucian Academies*. In *Confucian Academies in East Asia* (pp. 456-492). Brill.
- Hou, G., & Hu, N. (2023). Theoretical analysis of currency reform and national governance challenges during the early Joseon Dynasty: A game theory approach. *Plos One*, 18(6), e0286335.
- Im, T. (2022). *Major Events by Regime*. In *Transformation of Korean Politics and Administration: A 30-Year Retrospective* (Vol. 35, pp. 183-205). Emerald Publishing Limited.
- Kim, M. H. (2024). A Study of Ginseng Culture within Joseonwangjosilok through Textual Frequency Analysis. *Cellmed*, 14(2), 5-14.
- Kim, T. Y., & Kim, T. Y. (2021). Historical Overview of English Learning in South Korea: The Nineteenth Century and Japanese Colonization. *Historical Development of English Learning Motivation Research: Cases of Korea and Its Neighboring Countries in East Asia*, 13-61.
- Lee, E. J. (2024). *Ethical life and business in Korean society during the Joseon dynasty*. In *East Asian Ethical Life and Socio-Economic Transformation in the Twenty-First Century* (pp. 63-75). Routledge.
- Lee, J., & Myong, S. (2022). Financial Crisis and Female Entrepreneurship. *Korea*, 1, 66.
- Lew, T. T. S., Sarojam, R., Jang, I. C., Park, B. S., Naqvi, N. I., Wong, M. H., ... & Strano, M. S. (2020). Species-independent analytical tools for next-generation agriculture. *Nature Plants*, 6(12), 1408-1417.
- Phommahaxay, S., Kamnuansipla, P., Draper, J., Nantharath, P., & Kang, E. (2019). Preparedness of Lao People's Democratic Republic to Implement ASEAN Common Visa (ACV). *Research in World Economy*, 10(3), 419-430.
- Rayhan, I. (2024). *Analysis of the Key Factors to the Economic Growth in South Korea*. Department of Economics, 48th Batch, Jahangirnagar University.
- Shim, W. J., Ko, I., & Park, S. J. (2022). 'Benefit Maximizing Routes': Development and Evaluation Using the Historical Roads of Korea's Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910). *Journal of Computer Applications in Archaeology*, 5(1), 96-111.



ISSN: 2950-8835 © 2024 KODISA KODISA & JKR.
JKR website: <http://acoms.kisti.re.kr/jkr>
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.13106/jkr.2024.vol3.no1.7>.

The Historical Achievement of the South Korean Music Industry

Woo-Jun JANG¹

¹. First & Corresponding Author Lecturer, Department of New Media Music, Sangmyung University, Korea.
Email: weareseoulmafia@naver.com

Received: May 27, 2024. Revised: May 31, 2024. Accepted: June 30, 2024.

Abstract

The study aims to examine the development of the South Korean music industry over time in order to capture the evolution process of the industry from its initial stages to its current state as one of the world's leading music markets. Based on the above consideration, a systematic literature review was conducted in order to provide an overview of the achievements of the South Korean music industry with the help of PRISMA method. The reason for doing this is to ensure that the process of selecting, filtering and collecting literature from different sources is not only efficient and time-saving but also rigid and coherent. This paper will explore the various elements that have defined the industry, including culture, technology, marketing and government policies and regulations (Jang & Song, 2017). Furthermore, it will inquire the effects of the K-pop cultural export on other industries, whether it be tourism, fashion, consumer goods, and more, thereby illustrating its vast significance. In more detail, this study aims to give an adequate idea about the historical accomplishments of the South Korean music industry in the global music map, identify factors that facilitated the enhancement of the industry and examine the significance of the findings and their applications for the industry's progression and development in the future.

Keywords: Korean Music History, Music Industry, Music Technology.

Major classifications: Korean Music History

1. Introduction

The K-pop, music of South Korea, has come a long way in the last few decades and has now grown to become an international sensation which fans across the globe love (Koo & Koo, 2022). Over the years, this culture has not only received massive reception but also boosted a portion of the nation's income and even a portion of its culture. K-pop formula for success may be attributed to innovative marketing methods, distinctive approaches to music production, and an organized training system for performers (Lee et al., 2021).

* This study was supported by the research grant of the KODISA Scholarship Foundation in 2024.

© Copyright: The Author(s)

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>) which permits unrestricted noncommercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

This study's relevance relies on its capacity to give a broader analysis of the historic milestones that have transformed the South Korean music industry into a world-class industry. Thus, this research focuses on the analysis of the industry's development and tries to identify the factors that helped to achieve successes, and the problems the industry had to solve on the way. These pieces of information can be of much use to other countries and businesses that aim to follow the success of the K-pop model or simply use the model as a benchmark.

Furthermore, the study has implications for policymakers, industry stakeholders, and scholars. It helps the policymakers to understand the regulatory and economic factors through which K-pop industry has evolved and therefore try to implement suitable strategies to enhance the cultural industries of the respective countries (Kim & Hee, 2021). Understanding K-pop's innovative strategies and business models may resonate with personnel in the entertainment industry or inspire new strategies in talent management, branding or globalization strategies (Kim & Kwon, 2022). In addition, scholars can build on the results of the present study to expand the current understanding of the sociocultural and economic effect of K-pop phenomenon as part of the global processes in the sphere of cultural globalization and soft power.

The objectives of this research are twofold: first, to define and evaluate special historical breakthroughs that formed the basis for the South Korean music industry and determined its position in the contemporary world and second, to consider possibilities of using all the intended achievements for the enhancement of the company's future evolution. Therefore, in an effort to uncover the factors that have led to the success of the industry, and understand the problems it has faced and overcome, this research proposes a literature review and analysis of the industry.

The study aims to examine the development of the South Korean music industry over time in order to capture the evolution process of the industry from its initial stages to its current state as one of the world's leading music markets. This paper will explore the various elements that have defined the industry that includes: culture, technology, marketing and government policies and regulations (Jang & Song, 2017). Furthermore, it will inquire the effects of the K-pop cultural export on other industries, whether it be tourism, fashion, consumer goods, and more, thereby illustrating its vast significance. In more detail, this study aims to give an adequate idea about the historical accomplishments of the South Korean music industry in the global music map, identify factors that facilitated the enhancement of the industry and examine the significance of the findings and their applications for the industry's progression and development in the future.

2. Literature Review

K-pop which is the abbreviation for Korean pop is the music industry from South Korea and it has proved to have a remarkable growth from being just a small market to now being a cultural icon. The literature related to this topic is helpful in understanding the history of the industry, competitive forces that played a role in shaping the industry, and the different issues that the industry has encountered on its growth path.

2.1 Overview of the South Korean Music Industry's Development

The birth of K-pop dates back to 1990s when the South Korean government realized that entertainment business was an effective way of exporting the South Korean culture and boost the economy (Ryang, 2023). Definite governmental support, development of new talented artists, and successful attempts of utilizing unconventional marketing approaches contributed to the subsequent development of the industry (Kim & Kwon, 2022; Romadhoni, 2023). Over the decade, K-pop rose in popularity, and current boy bands BTS, EXO, and girl bands BLACKPINK became mega-popular globally (Faster Capital, 2024). Social network and online platforms were critically instrumental in breaking the barriers to the industry's internationalization, as people from all the corners of the globe could communicate with favorite performers (TMJ, 2024)

2.2. Key Factors Contributing to Growth and Success

It is interesting to mention the following factors that contributed to such astounding rates of the South Korean music industry advancement: A major influence is the system of preparing them for performance through special arts training programs that may take several years to complete, with concentration on voice skills, choreography, and acting. It has raised highly trained professional dancers and performers who can entertain international audiences. Also, the promotional techniques have been great in making the industry popular all over the world. Many k-pop organizations involved in producing pop music have applied the use of social networks, fan participations, and partnerships in ensuring that it has many fans all over the world (Trinh, 2023). K-pop has continued to evolve over time through the addition of new elements of; music videos,

showfulness of reality programs, and merchandise to make the general fan experience even better (Yoo et al., 2021). It has also been seen that versatility in the application of western and eastern music influence along with the eye-catching choreography, and fashion styles have also helped this industry to gain more attention (Hajji ouahi, El, 2021). This combination of elements has worked well with viewers from all over the world and this has contributed to the expansion of the industry.

2.3. Challenges and Obstacles Faced by the Industry

Nonetheless, the bunch of challenges and obstacles have been met by the South Korean music industry throughout the years of its successful endeavor. The major problem is that competition is rife as many agencies and artists seek to claim the attention of clients and fans. This is because contributors, especially artists have been said to be exploited include during training and performance, as well as endure immense pressure to remain popular. Also, it has been criticized for showcasing pieces of work that depict physical appearance and enforcing the beauty standards to the artists which has been seen to cause more damage to their psychological well-being (Kim, 2020). There have also been concerns about cultural appropriation and the potential for perpetuating stereotype or presenting Korean cultures in an inaccurate manner (Hong et al., 2023).

2.4. Research Gap and Justification

Despite the abundance of research carried out on the role of factors that have contributed to the successful establishment of South Korean music industry, there is limited knowledge and understanding of the industry's overall history and past successes and how they may assist in defining its future successes. Previous literature involves numerous studies concentrating on certain aspects of the industry including marketing factors, with the focus on culture, or the impact of governmental measures (Kim et al., 2022; Ganghariya & Kanozia, 2020). Nonetheless, it is high time to provide an overall outlook of these components, as this analysis shows how the industry has evolved, revealing its most impressive transformation.

Based on the presented chronological overview of historical milestones, which have led to the creation of the South Korean music scene, this work is geared toward developing key insights into factors that have facilitated its success. Moreover, based on the future implications and future applications of these achievements, the research intends to propose some contribution and suggestion for the industry professionals, policy makers, and academicians, which will help to improve and solidify the development and position of this industry in the future (Lee & Nornes, 2024; Parc & Kim, 2020; Sun, 2022).

In contrast with other works, this research is systematic in nature, as it integrates information about what we know about the industry, how this information has been developed and what role the various factors played in the industry growth and performance, and how these data are related. In sum, by filling this gap in the existing body of knowledge in the field, the current research can enlighten the future direction of the SK music industry and offer a scholarly insight into how the role of the music industry in SK has matured historically to shape its cultural soft power image globally today.

3. Methodology

Based on the above consideration, a systematic literature review was conducted in order to provide an overview of the achievements of the South Korean music industry with the help of PRISMA method (Moher et al., 2009). The reason for doing this is to ensure that the process of selecting, filtering and collecting literature from different sources is not only efficient and time-saving but also rigid and coherent.

The first procedure involved a familiarization process with at least a stipulated number of databases such as the Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar by typing some conspicuous keywords such as the South Korean music industry, K-pop, historical successes, success factors, and world impact. This was done with very specific focus on the peer-reviewed articles only, and the articles of this search were gathered only from the journals which are freely accessible from year 2019 to 2023 in order to highlight the recent literature on the topic.

While using the particular films and criteria towards the selection, it is possible to distinguish two phases. First, the titles and the abstracts of the articles that were identified while conducting the literature review were evaluated to select those that did not fit the subject of research (Waffenschmidt et al., 2019). By the same token, research papers that failed to relate the findings to the historical achievement or general success of the South Korean music industry or its contributions to the global setting were omitted whenever a paper suggested (Lee et al. 2024). In the second case, the actual full text articles were scanned through prior to identifying and including only those articles of relevance to the current study.

The inclusion criteria for the literature review were as follows: The criteria provided were as follows: (1) The sort of articles selected must be peer-reviewed journal articles, (2) The articles must be published between 2019 and 2024, (3) The articles should be on the achievements in history that led to the success of South Korean music industry or its effects on the global community, and (4) The articles were to be written in English Language. Any pieces that failed to fulfill these requirements were excluded from the subsequent study. PRISMA approach was used because of its basic principle of being a reporting entity that enhances the likelihood of the literature review being more reliable and more reproducible alongside being concise and comprehensive (Moher et al., 2009). This approach ensures that the selection of the studies done in the research and review are comprehensive and unbiased to ensure that there is no omission of research kinds of literature that are needed for the review process (D'Amico et al., 2012). Additionally, the PRISMA approach can also be used as a checklist for reports when presenting the findings, making the authors to convey the results in simple plain language and effectively (Page et al., 2021; Kang, 2023; Nantharath et al., 2016).

This study will therefore follow the PRISMA guidelines in an attempt to offer a systematic and coherent synthesis of the relevant literature in the context of analyzing the historical accomplishments of the South Korean music industry. The process of elimination and inclusion criteria coupled with the clear highlight of the details of the process by which the study arrived at its conclusions makes the study less prone to bias and hence increasing the validity of the research.

4. Results

Based on the literature review analysis of this study, the four distinctive historical advancement that has placed the South Korean music industry also referred to as K-pop in its current position globally are thus highlighted as follows. Below are the accomplishments that have attributed to the current success story in the industry:

Achievement 1: Establishment of a Comprehensive Training System

The recognized result of the South Korean music industry is the systematic education of emerging singers (Kim, 2020). This is referred to as the idol trainee system, which means that the trainees undergo several training programs lasting for several years. The categories for training include voice, dancing, languages, and performance (Huth, 2021). The training process usually starts at the childhood when talented individuals are searched and enrolled in corresponding agencies that train them rigorously with the help of experienced trainers. Such strategy has raised very competent and all round persons in the performing arts who have the ability to perform for any audiences in the global world with professionalism. This explains how the idol trainee system has enabled the overall improvement of the quality and standard of the K-pop artists as compared to artists from other parts of the world thus giving the K-pop industry a different brand (Lee & Nornes, 2024; Kim, 2020).

Achievement 2: Innovative Marketing Strategies and Fan Engagement

The South Korean music industry has been particularly effective in creating and adapting new marketing approaches, and in nurturing a rich and intimate connection with its audience, which is another crucial factor that has led to its success on an international level. The K-pop agencies have also incorporated the uses of social media, partnerships and activities that capture fan engagements to foster and sustain its devoted followership around the globe (Braun 2022; Choi 2023). The use of subtitles in music videos and reality shows, as well as merchandise has expanded fans' engagement with K-pop and made their relationships with the artists more meaningful (Kim et al. , 2021; Trinh, 2023). Employers have therefore used the social media in accessibility to enhance customer awareness, transparency and direct communicate through considerate and loyal friendly fan base (Tuten, 2023).

Furthermore, Korean pop companies have been at the forefront in tapping new methods of fan relationship management through official autograph signing sessions, performances, concert tours, and establishment of fan clubs that enhance the relationship between artistes and their fans across the globe (Putri & Dilia, 2023). These endeavours have not only created a base of brand supporters but, have played a significant role in one of the few popular industries that has been able to cross geographical barriers and appeal to different people around the world. The results show that the Korean music industry has developed unique strategies for its marketing and has been devoted to connect with the fans, proving that the K-Pop industry has become one cultural phenomenon that enjoys a faithful and global following and this has continued to fuel its growth.

Achievement 3: Fusion of Western and Eastern Musical Influences

The South Korean music industry has achieved remarkable success in fusing Western and Eastern musical influences to create a unique and captivating sound (Gardner, 2019). This fusion referring to the use of elements linked to pop, hip-hop, and electronic music and traditional Korean music, has appealed to the audience irrespective of their geographical location. In incorporating traits from several genres, K-pop has successfully integrated aspects like irresistible beats, fancy movements, and appealing fashion trends to make it engaging as the artists perform, and visually pleasing for viewers from around the world (Shakir, 2024). Such a mixture of influences has facilitated the industry's evasion of cultural reprisals and the formation of a unique personality within the international arena. Furthermore, the incorporation of Korean language and cultural elements has contributed to the preservation and promotion of Korean culture, while simultaneously introducing it to a wider international audience.

Achievement 4: Strategic Government Support and Cultural Promotion

The Korean music industry's influence has been greatly admired for blending both the Eastern and western styles in producing good music (Gardner, 2019). This fusion which is a combination of pop, hip hop, electronic and traditional K-pop has been received well in global markets. Funky-pop musicians have successfully introduced the components from different music styles, compelling musical rhythms, and stunning dance moves, flavorful and glamorous fashion trends, which offer a viewership feast (Shakir, 2024). The integration of these differentiating influences has enabled the industry of fashion to leap over cultural boundaries and create an exclusive identity for itself in the global space. Moreover, by using Korean language and elements of Korean culture in a positive manner, the company has helped to educate people about Korean culture, as well as helping to maintain it and help it grow.

5. Implications

The findings of this research where the major signpost of the history of music industry in South Korea has been documented have the following implications for the betterment and long-run growth and dominion of the music industry. Thus, building on these successes and by managing the problems described, the industry can keep growing and ensure the presence of leading positions in the international arena. First of all, it is necessary to mention that the width and depth training system for artists, which has been one of the vital fundamentals of such industry, require additional enhancement and refinement. Even though the intense regime of training and rehearsals has trained exceptional performers, there is need to revisit the psychological issues prevalent among trainees. This can be done by putting systems that would lessen pressure, exploitation and other unwholesome things that may be practiced against people. Furthermore, it is also suggested that curriculum grows beyond and includes the areas of concern including but not limited to mental health services, business savvy and self-improvement, so as to prepare artistic individuals for the various twists in the industry.

Secondly, it is worthy of note that the specific areas of marketing adopted by K-pop agencies include novel strategies and the method of engaging fans in particular should be properly adjusted and modified from time to time due to the advancement in technology. With the constant focus on the changes of social networks and the growth of consumer demands, agencies have to actively adapt and seek new ways of interacting with fans and creating entertaining content. Also, they ought to utilize related technologies like the virtual/augmented reality for the purpose of improving fan experiences and interactions.

Third, it is necessary to state that the differentiation and synthesis of the Eastern and the Western music that K-pop artists have been showcasing should be continued. Everyone who is involved in producing and creating the music tracks should keep exploring different tunes and ethnic influences which would allow the artists create a unique and appealing sound for masses of people all across the globe. At the same time, the effect should be made to preserve and to develop the Korean cultural values which will allow the industry not to lose its cultural ground.

Moreover, the government's endorsement and advocacy of the music business has been vital in the performance and therefore such support should continue and indeed be intensified. More enhancement of training centers, cultural exchange, and international cooperation will make the industry even stronger in the future. Thus, the government may consider measures to encourage the new talents as well as providing favorable conditions for creative professionals in the sphere. Consequently, the following recommendations can be made with regard to the challenges affecting the progress of the industry: Companies ought to pay attention to artists' emotional and physical health needs by announcing the availability of counseling services alongside legal assistance and reasonable working terms for artists. The industry needs to enforce a diverse cast in regard to gender, ethnicity, and body image, which would move away from conventional beauty standards that are pervasive in today's society. Despite a solid representation worldwide, the industry should continue actively searching for micro-markets for

entering and equally build sustainable partnerships with artists and industries of various cultural backgrounds. In the same respect, sustainable practices should be embraced by the industry and organizations should maintain higher standards of ethical business, corporate governance, and accountability.

Possible directions for further research include analysis of the effects that K-pop has had on society and culture of the audience, including implications for identity development, cultural globalization, and culturally informed cross-cultural communication. Also, taking into account key issues such as technological forecasts and possible impacts of future technologies that may include AI, Virtual Reality, or Block chain, for the future of the K-pop industry might be insightful. An analysis of economic contributions and indirect impacts could also be made, particularly in relation to other industries like tourism, fashion, and consumer products linked to the K-pop industry. Finally, benchmarking with other effective music industry could reveal potential strategies and favorable collaboration and knowledge exchange between the music industries. Thus, furthering these implications, adopting of the presented recommendations, as well as considering the new avenues for research, the South Korean music industry may not only sustain further advancement, but also, more importantly, retain the status of its significant impact in the international music scene.

References

- D'Amico, S., Bodin, P., Delpech, M., & Noteborn, R. (2012). PRISMA. *Springer EBooks*, 144(2012), 599–637.
- Dincer, S. D. (2023). From cultural phenomenon to state strategy: South Korea's "Hallyu policy." [www.aa.com.tr](https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/from-cultural-phenomenon-to-state-strategy-south-koreas-hallyu-policy/2973735).
<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/from-cultural-phenomenon-to-state-strategy-south-koreas-hallyu-policy/2973735>
- El Ouahi Hajji, Y. (2021). *Analysis of the global-local-global strategy in K-pop music videos*. Dposit.ub.edu.
- Faster Capital. (2024). The Evolution of Ppop: From Boyband Sensations to Global Stars. FasterCapital.
<https://fastercapital.com/content/The-Evolution-of-Ppop--From-Boyband-Sensations-to-Global-Stars.html>
- Ganghariya, G., & Kanozia, R. (2020). Proliferation of Hallyu Wave and Korean Popular Culture Across the World: A Systematic Literature Review from 2000-2019. *Journal of Content, Community and Communication*, 11(10), 177–207.
- Gardner, H. (2019). The Impact of African-American Musicianship on South Korean Popular Music: Adoption, Appropriation, Hybridization, Integration, or Other? [Dash.harvard.edu](https://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/42004187). <https://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/42004187>
- Hong, C., Cho, H., & Kinney, D. (2023). K-pop and Cultural Appropriation: Influences from the West and Within South Korean Society. *Journal of Student Research*, 11(1).
- Huth, T. (2021). South Korean Popular Music Industry: Globalization of Identity and Exploitation Presented to the faculty of Lycoming College in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Departmental Honors in Anthropology.
https://www.lycoming.edu/library/archives/honorspdfs/huth_taylor-2021.pdf
- Jang, W., & Song, J. E. (2017). The Influences of K-pop Fandom on Increasing Cultural Contact.
https://barnettcenter.osu.edu/sites/default/files/2019-08/the_influences_of_k-pop_fandom.pdf
- Jeong, M., & Kim, S. (2023). What makes "aespa", the first metaverse girl group in the K-pop universe, succeed in the global entertainment industry? www.econstor.eu; Calgary: International Telecommunications Society (ITS).
- Kang, E. (2023). Prior Literature Investigation of the Human Resource Management (HRM) in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). *Fourth Industrial Review*, 3(2), 27-35.
- Kim, G. (2020). From Factory Girls to K-Pop Idol Girls: Cultural Politics of Developmentalism, Patriarchy, and Neoliberalism in South Korea's Popular Music Industry. In Google Books. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Kim, J., Kim, K., Park, B., & Choi, H. (2022). The Phenomenon and Development of K-Pop: The Relationship between Success Factors of K-Pop and the National Image, Social Network Service Citizenship Behavior, and Tourist Behavioral Intention. *Sustainability*, 14(6), 3200.
- Kim, J., & Kwon, S.-H. (2022). K-Pop's Global Success and Its Innovative Production System. *Sustainability*, 14(17), 11101.
- Kim, S., Hwang, S., & Kim, J. (2021). Factors influencing K-pop artists' success on V live online video platform. *Telecommunications Policy*, 45(3), 102090.
- Kim, T., & Hee, K. (2021). The State's Roles in the Development of Cultural Industries: Korean Cultural Industry Policies from 1993 to 2021. https://summit.sfu.ca/_flysystem/fedora/2022-08/input_data/21538/etd21400.pdf
- Kim, Y. D. (2020). *The pursuit of modernity: The evolution of Korean popular music in the age of globalization*. University of Washington.
- Koo, J. M., & Koo, H. M. (2022). K-pop from Local to Global. *The Columbia Journal of Asia*, 1(1), 175–187.

- Lee, S. H., Choi, S., & Kim, H. W. (2021). Unveiling the success factors of BTS: a mixed-methods approach. *Internet Research*, 31(5), 1518-1540.
- Lee, S., & Nornes, A. M. (2024). *Hallyu 2.0*. In press.umich.edu. University of Michigan Press.
- Machado Pereira, S. (2022, September 11). Fan engagement strategies in the K-pop industry. Tesi.supsi.ch. <https://tesi.supsi.ch/4578/>
- Moher, D., Liberati, A., Tetzlaff, J., & Altman, D. G. (2009). Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: the PRISMA Statement. *PLoS Medicine*, 6(7), 151(4), 264-269.
- Nantharath, P., Kang, E. G., & Hwang, H. J. (2016). Investment Analysis in the Hydroelectric Power Sector of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). *Journal of Distribution Science*, 14(8), 5-8.
- Page, M. J., Moher, D., Bossuyt, P. M., Boutron, I., Hoffmann, T. C., Mulrow, C. D., Shamseer, L., Tetzlaff, J. M., Akl, E. A., Brennan, S. E., Chou, R., Glanville, J., Grimshaw, J. M., Hróbjartsson, A., Lalu, M. M., Li, T., Loder, E. W., Mayo-Wilson, E., McDonald, S., & McGuinness, L. A. (2021). PRISMA 2020 Explanation and elaboration: Updated Guidance and Exemplars for Reporting Systematic Reviews. *BMJ*, 372(160). NCBI.
- Parc, J., & Kim, S. D. (2020). The Digital Transformation of the Korean Music Industry and the Global Emergence of K-Pop. *Sustainability*, 12(18), 7790.
- Park, J. (2023). From Cultural Export to Economic Engine: Examining the Role of K-Pop in the Growth of the South Korean Economy. *Open Journal of Business and Management*, 11(5), 2198–2214. <https://doi.org/10.4236/ojbm.2023.115121>
- Putri, N. W. L. M., & Dilia, D. (2023). Analyzing Social Media Strategy in Korean Music Industries. *PERSPEKTIF*, 12(4), 1206–1214.
- Romadhoni, F. (2023, April 13). How Kpop is Driving South Korea's Economic Growth and Job Creation. Writers' Blokke. <https://medium.com/writers-blokke/how-kpop-is-driving-south-koreas-economic-growth-and-job-creation-6a1879f49c63>
- Shakir, H. (2024, March 8). How K-Pop Incorporates Fashion to Create Visual Identity. Condé Nast College. <https://www.condenastcollege.ac.uk/news-events/the-power-of-fashion-how-k-pop-incorporates-fashion-to-create-visual-identity/>
- Sun, Y. (2022, November 19). Identifying the Factors Leading to the Globalization of K-Pop. www.atlantis-press.com; Atlantis Press.
- TMJ. (2024, March 13). "Understanding Hallyu: The Impact of Korean Pop Culture" by Sanya Anand and David Seyheon Baek. *The Marketing Journal*. Trinh, H. K. V. (2023).
- Trinh, H. K. V. (2023). Global marketing of the Korean music industry turns into global marketing of Korea : Case study: K-pop group BTS. www.theseus.fi.
- Trisni, S. -. (2019). South Korean Government's Role in Public Diplomacy: A Case Study of the Korean Wave Boom. *Andalas Journal of International Studies (AJIS)*, 8(1), 31.
- Tuten, T. L. (2023). *Social Media Marketing*. In *Google Books*. SAGE Publications.
- Waffenschmidt, S., Knelangen, M., Sieben, W., Bühn, S., & Pieper, D. (2019). Single Screening versus Conventional Double Screening for Study Selection in Systematic reviews: a Methodological Systematic Review. *BMC Medical Research Methodology*, 19(1), 336-341.



ISSN: 2950-8835 © 2024 KODISA KODISA & JKR.
JKR website: <http://acoms.kisti.re.kr/jkr>
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.13106/jkr.2024.vol3.no1.15>.

The Advantages of Acceptance of Neo-Confucianism during the Joseon Dynasty: South Korea History

Hee-Joong Hwang¹

1. First & Corresponding Author Professor, Department of International Trade, Korea National Open University, South Korea. Email: ygodson@knou.ac.kr

Received: May 28, 2024. Revised: May 31, 2024. Accepted: June 30, 2024.

Abstract

Neo-Confucianism fettered the society and the individuals regulating such aspects as roles and relationships within a family, rites, and ceremonies. The mandated practice of filiality challenged the Confucian paradigm of gender relations, exposing women to men and the notion of following elders' instructions, which preserved authoritarian power relations within an ancestral line. This ideological base was beneficial for preserving social stability and integrity and aimed to create a set of ideals and norms that would apply to everyone, thus keeping people together. This conceptual investigation aims to identify the benefits of accepting Neo-Confucianism during the Joseon Dynasty and how it emerged as the foundation for the nation's and society's governance. Neo-Confucianism was not an immobile value system but an active factor contributing to the success, development, and positive changes in Joseon Korea; it is the aim of this study to provide a comprehensive account and exegesis of the role and impact of Neo-Confucianism in the Korean historical process. The study will examine the lessons that can be drawn from these historical facts of South Korean history in the modern state, particularly in the areas of governance, education, and social integration.

Keywords: Neo-Confucianism, Joseon Dynasty, Korea History.

Major classifications: Ethics History

1. Introduction

The Joseon Dynasty, which spans from 1392 and was only terminated in 1897, marks one of the relevant periods and is culturally fruitful and diverse in the Korean Peninsula. It was founded by General Yi Seong-gye, who rose to the throne as Taejo; in turn, the Joseon Dynasty ushered in an age of extensive alterations in politics, culture, and society (Deuchler, 2021).

* This study was supported by the research grant of the KODISA Scholarship Foundation in 2024.

© Copyright: The Author(s)

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>) which permits unrestricted noncommercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

These were followed by the great socio-political formation of a centralized bureaucratic state, the spread of rich Korean culture, and the formulation of laws and social ethics that played immense roles in Korean Society. One of the most significant decisions that defined Joseon's political and social system is the acceptance and assimilation of Neo-Confucianism. Neo-Confucianism was developed in China during the Song Dynasty and transmitted to Korea as a positively evolved ideological system of Confucianism that incorporated comprehensive metaphysical and cosmological theories (Kim, 2023). Neo-Confucianism was more than just replacing one philosophy with another; it was a process that involved a radical change of worldview and embraced different activities in Joseon, Korea.

The advancement of Neo-Confucianism in Korea resumed with the introduction of Joseon scholars who had been educated in China and adopted the thought of Zhu Xi as an important figure of Neo-Confucianism. King Taejo and his successors admired these teachings as the proper promotion that must be addressed to establish a moral and social order. This change of ideology was anchored through several other reforms, which entailed founding Confucian schools, civil service examinations known as *wages*, and advocacy for Confucianism, such as rites and rituals (Deuchler, 2021). Neo-Confucianism played a significant role in the shaping of Joseon political culture. It offered the rationale for the practical organization of the state, with its stress on Confucian staples such as loyalty to the ruler, ethics, proper conduct, and reverence to parents and ancestors (Kim, 2023). These principles were instilled in education, where emphasis was placed on Confucian writings. The Chinese empire was dominated by Confucianism and Taoism, the premier state ideologies from the Ming to the mid-Qing dynasty. This led to the establishment of a society that was recognized as being grounded on meritocracy; officials populated the posts of authority in the society, and their appointment was based on their intelligence and ethical standings and not their nobility statuses.

Neo-Confucianism fettered the society and the individuals regulating such aspects as roles and relationships within a family, rites, and ceremonies. The mandated practice of filiality challenged the Confucian paradigm of gender relations, exposing women to men and the notion of following elders' instructions, which preserved authoritarian power relations within an ancestral line. This ideological base was beneficial for preserving social stability and integrity and aimed to create a set of ideals and norms that would apply to everyone, thus keeping people together (Manek, 2023). This conceptual investigation aims to identify the benefits of accepting Neo-Confucianism during the Joseon Dynasty and how it emerged as the foundation for the nation's and society's governance. Neo-Confucianism was not an immobile value system but an active factor contributing to the success, development, and positive changes in Joseon Korea; it is the aim of this study to provide a comprehensive account and exegesis of the role and impact of Neo-Confucianism in the Korean historical process. The study will examine the lessons that can be drawn from these historical facts of South Korean history in the modern state, particularly in the areas of governance, education, and social integration.

2. Literature Review

Based on its pervasive role in shaping the Joseon Korean Dynasty, neo-Confucianism has been the focus of various studies in various disciplines by scholars. In the early stage of the study, the focus was placed on defining the process of dissemination and transformation of neo-Confucianism from China to Korea and the work of the pioneers of Korean neo-Confucianism (Deuchler, 2021). Further studies built on how these philosophical principles were bureaucratized as a part of the state educational syllabus of Joseon and civil service, extending into the routine life of the Korean people. For instance, in a study by Gao and Chung (2023), the authors found that neo-Confucianism played a pivotal role in shaping governance and societal structures during the Joseon Dynasty. On the political level, Neo-Confucianism served as an authoritative belief system to advance the bureaucratic system of the state. The civil service examination system was founded on principles of moral integrity, meritocracy, and ethical governance in selecting and appointing officials through the production examination administration and control principally based on the knowledge of the Confucian text and moral virtues (Gao & Chung, 2023). The authors found that the system made it possible for anyone in government positions to be intellectually and morally capable of governing the country and expected to be straightforward in their actions.

In a study by Deuchler (2021), the author indicated that neo-Confucianism had a great social impact as it shaped social principles and interactions. It stressed conformity to status and respect for elders and supported the system whereby fathers dominated the home, and children had proper places and duties within the household (Deuchler, 2021). The author also found that crucial values were taught in school and supported by various activities, including feasts and other ceremonies, thus fostering unity and order in the community. The Confucian schools and academies turned into educational institutions and paved the way to the fountain of moral education by enforcing the principles of Neo-Confucianism in various societal spheres.

Also, with the introduction of Neo-Confucianism, the Chinese started to experience cultural integration and, as such, the formation of a cultural identity. According to a study by Seo-Reich (2022), the author also found that Neo-Confucianism aided in social conformity and integrating societal organizations with ethical standards to enact Confucianism, reducing conflict and promoting conformity throughout the occupied kingdom's settlements. This cultural unity helped preserve the country's institutions and society's unity during the Joseon Dynasty period.

The existing literature on Neo-Confucianism in the Joseon Dynasty highlights several advantages that contributed to the stability and prosperity of the period. The activity of this council can greatly benefit from moral governance. Martina (2020) stated that Neo-Confucianism stressed self-cultivation and virtuous morals led by the ruler, and it encouraged ethical values over selfish self-interest for growth or profit. They found that this principle played a crucial role in the organization of the bureaucracy, to guarantee that only competent and moral individuals were appointed to offices. Developed from the Confucian classic, the civil service examination system sustained this meritocratic culture, which selected and cultivated well-educated and honest governmental officers (Martina, 2020). This focus on ethics helped foster responsibility and an ethical culture within the administration to minimize corruption and a positive governance culture.

Moreover, according to Lee (2023), another significant advantage was the contribution of neo-Confucianism to social order. Neo-Confucianism fostered order in society, which was expected to be rewarded through valuing, filiality, respecting the elderly, authority, and hierarchy. These values were therefore promoted in the population via education and then exercised throughout other aspects, such as rituals and other social activities. For instance, everyone was allocated a specific rank, which ensured that people comprehended their position within this society, cutting down on rivalry and fostering order (Lee, 2023). This social stability was important as it helped to lengthen the years of the Joseon Dynasty with a sound base for economics and deposition for culture. However, the emphasis on education and learning under Neo-Confucianism also had its merits. For instance, Kim et al. (2022) found that Confucianism has set up many educational centers and advocates for education and learning, whereas Neo-Confucian ethics have influenced the beneficiaries directly. These educational reforms ensured adequate personnel were expected of the imperial administration, who had been imparted knowledge in Confucianism and other ideals (Kim et al., 2022). This intellectual culture created through Neo-Confucianism also played a crucial role in developing the Joseon period's arts, literature, and sciences, providing the country with a richly developed intellectual and cultural lift.

Furthermore, Neo-Confucianism doctrine cultivates a strong emphasis on cultural belonging and identity. In a study by Napoli (2020), the results revealed that Confucianism was practiced extensively, and the people of Korea embraced the systems put forth by Confucianism, creating a coherent culture that fostered unity among all Koreans. This unity of culture was crucial in their pursuit of sustaining national identity and independence from interference by other countries, which allowed Korea to uphold its own distinct identity and culture (Napoli, 2020). This element also helped maintain a steady cultural practice and values within the state, making it easy to organize order and control. There are, however, a few disadvantages anyone who is inclined to Neo-Confucianism needs to know. A major weakness that was evident was that it reiterated the happy and fixed social order that was recognized, thus coming up with restricted mobility. Beneath the covering of Confucianism, bureaucracy maintained a strict, undemocratic, and anti-democratic hierarchy where lower classes and women were sequestered as inferior, and as such, social inequalities continued to prevail. This rigid structure at times hindered creativity and the independence of one's spirit since there was social pressure on women to continue being submissive, as determined by early biblical teachings.

Another drawback was the inherent rigid structure of Neo-Confucianism; it often proved to be obstructive to innovations. As indicated by Kim and Connolly (2021), the authors revealed that the prejudice towards tradition meant that effective change or the adoption of innovations, which could be helpful, could not occur, slowing down growth in these areas of life (Kim and Connolly, 2021). Furthermore, as a result of Neo-Confucianism emphasizing moral override in the bureaucracy, it did not entirely curb corruption within the bureaucracy. The principals and other officials in the education sector worked against the best ethics of their office by enriching themselves through their perspectives. Even though vast works have focused on Neo-Confucianism, a lack of scholarly work can be noticed, systematically examining the benefits that would serve Korea's Joseon Dynasty in governance and social structure. While literary work has concentrated on Confucianism's philosophical implications and historical merits as a system of belief and education, more attention must be paid to understanding the principles' direct utility and their role in contemporary South Korea. To fill the research gap, this study provides a guarded investigation of the benefits of Neo-Confucianism to appreciate how these enrich the development and preservation of the Chinese Song Dynasty. It also aims to derive some implications from the current South Korea and examine how Neo-Confucianism principles should be applied to today's modern world affairs, politics, education system, and social relations. It will, therefore, contribute fresh perspectives on the relevance of historical thought paradigms for the contemporary world and emphasize the continued significance of Neo-Confucian values.

3. Data Collection

The research employs the PRISMA approach to evaluate the merits of Neo-Confucianism during the Joseon Dynasty. PRISMA is utilized because it is a well-structured and openly informative method for electing relevant materials and assessing their relevance, making the review exhaustive and accurate (Ramasamy, 2022). The selection criteria for peer-reviewed journals and relevant articles include the relevance where the applicable research must focus on Neo-Confucianism within reference to the Joseon Dynasty relative to the domains of governance, society, and culture (Seo-Reich, 2022). The other aspect includes credibility, where only academic peer-reviewed articles and reputable academic journals and publishers are considered and used to provide high quality and reliability. The third perspective is recency, where recent historical studies are prioritized because they possess earlier interpretations. The fourth aspect is language, whereby English and Korean papers are relevant in this case since they will help readers easily understand the results (Ramasamy, 2022). The last perspective is scope, whereby only peer-reviewed and empirical studies are incorporated to ensure a clear and proficient understanding of the topic (Kim & Kang, 2022).

Applying the PRISMA approach to exhaustively review the existing literature systematically and bias-free to provide a highly reliable outcome is a fit. This access is achieved through the clear identification and synthesis of the relevant studies, which guarantees a representative and massive viewpoint concerning the analysis of the advantages of neo-Confucianism (Manek, 2023). For the same reason, the PRISMA framework makes the study's process transparent for independent scrutiny should it be required to replicate, validate, or expand upon the results to enhance its accuracy levels and efficiency patterns in yielding the best results (Ramasamy, 2022). This extensive methodological framework is commensurate with the study's goal to present a comprehensive and reliable evaluation of the legacy of Confucianism on governance and civil society in the Joseon Dynasty (Woo & Kang, 2021).

4. Findings

The impact of embracing Neo-Confucianism in the Joseon Dynasty was enormous, redefining the worst aspects of national governance and social life. These advantages can be categorized into four main areas: moral governance, social stability, educational enhancement, and cultural cohesion (Back, 2021). One of the most profound advantages of Neo-Confucianism is moral governance. Some of the main tenets that Neo-Confucianism held this century were the virtues and moral standards of rulers and those who occupied governmental positions (Lee, 2023). This was in contrast to the beliefs espoused by some Neo-Confucian scholars, including Zhu Xi, who asserted that a ruler's rightful authority came from heritable rights and moral integrity. This ethical framework was made bureaucratic by passing a civil service examination conducted by the literate elite and selecting functionaries based on merit through competitive examinations based on Confucian classics (Lee, 2023). In this manner, while focusing on moral and intellectual qualifications, the Joseon Dynasty created an ideological civil official recalled to ethical governance principles (Gao & Chung, 2023). This meritocratic approach minimized bureaucracy and politically motivated allocations, bringing the administration closer to a more competent and efficient one (Kim et al., 2021). Thus, in the scope of Neo-Confucianism concepts of moral governance, it can be noted that the Joseon state was committed to selecting worthy civil servants and providing them with the necessary qualities to become efficient and ethical in governing the country.

Another significant advantage of Neo-Confucianism was the enhancement of social stability. Neo-Confucianism completed a detailed and complex system of orienting society and stressing the features of hierarchical dependence and obedience to parents (Deuchler, 2021). These principles supported the 'patriarchal family' system and placed functional, proper social order and obedience as paramount for the functioning of society, which were pivotal (Deuchler, 2021). In the cultural structure of Chinese society, "li" (ritual propriety) regulated interpersonal interactions, particularly in kinship relations and social hierarchy, by requiring proper etiquette in dealings and respect for ancestors and seniority (Manek, 2023). This family structure translated to the internal organization of family compounds and the larger societal and governmental patterns. Promoting such values fostered order and stability wherever each person knew his place and performed his roles accordingly (Kim et al., 2022). Order was maintained by bureaucratic control and the Confucian practices of rites and ceremonies that fostered societal unity and a common cultural memory (Martina, 2020). This focus on social order based on Neo-Confucianism also contributed, to a certain extent, to the internal stability of Joseon with little internal conflict leading to the smooth integration of different classes into society, thus granting the Joseon Dynasty a long span.

Neo-Confucianism also brought about a new change in the education system in Joseon, Korea. The participants especially introduced the importance of learning and scholarship, where education embraced moral reform and civil administration

(Martina, 2020). This resulted in the setup of many Confucian schools or academics and official schools and institutions where students read and interpreted Confucian books and underwent strenuous mental and intellectual training (You, 2022). The civil service examinations conducted based on these classical texts, literate the illiterate people of the imperial dynasties as the examinations paved the way towards superior official posts in the imperial dynasties (You, 2022). This fostered education produced a breed of educated scholars who worked within the bureaucratic halls of government and were also part of the cultural and enlightening realms. The focus on learning and scholars contributed to developing literature, philosophy, and artistic works while enriching the population's knowledge and skills (Lee, 2023). Through emphasizing education, Neo-Confucianism saw to it that the administrative elite possessed ethical values to make sound moral decisions for the state's benefit and were also informed to make sound decisions for healthy states.

The emergence of Neo-Confucianism also contributed to creating patriotic and harmonized culture across the country. The continuous codification of Confucianism as a civilizing code led to a convergence in defining a culture that was common and widely applied in administration, society, and even governance (Back, 2021). This encompassment assisted in unifying the Joseon Dynasty from the various regions and communities by putting cultural and ethical norms into perspective (Manek, 2023). Family rituals like ancestral religion and public customs prolonged this feeling of continuity and integration of the person in their families and society. This was a convenient process for building a society with common values, established based on Confucianism with its main presuppositions of respect, duty, and community (Back, 2021). It played a crucial role thus in preserving the social harmony of the people and the unity of the nation, especially in the context of existing threats or pressures from other nations or internal forces (Manek, 2023). Thus, Neo-Confucianism helped strengthen cultural memory, loyalty to the Joseon state, and the common purpose of the population as a whole.

The introduction of Neo-Confucianism during the Joseon Dynasty had numerous benefits that defined Korea's political framework and societal relations. Bearing in mind the role of moral governance, there was a guarantee of capable and ethically minded governing elites, which reduced corruption and improper behaviors (Martina, 2020). The emphasis on social order led to the obsession with maintaining order and stability, which increased bureaucratic order and social harmony (Lee, 2023). Thus, the insistence and encouragement of cultural concord and a shared Malaysian identity managed to sustain societal harmony and national unity. These advantages helped develop the Joseon Dynasty and maintain its long-standing rule of Korea, which continues to be manifested in Korean society today.

5. Implications

In their present times, numerous aspects of Neo-Confucianism influenced governance and society during the Joseon Dynasty, which makes it possible for present-day leadership in South Korea to adopt political leadership, societal order, educational transformation, and cultural integration, obtain guidance from Neo-Confucianism. Among the most significant consequences of the currently politically influential discourse for the leaders of modern states, one may identify Neo-Confucian moral governance principles (Gao & Chung, 2023). Promoting ethics in leadership and personal morality can bring responsibility to political parties. In this way, the current political leaders should consider virtues such as honesty, humility, and responsibility in their quest to steer the political systems toward realizing the political good (Napoli, 2020). This approach reduces corruption and increases transparency for improved work performance and accountability to the nation by officials. Therefore, modern political leaders, politicians, policymakers, and educators must adopt ethical training and bi-annual checkups of moral standings into the political leadership staff development curricula or processes to build an ethical governance culture within the governance hierarchy (Lee, 2023). It is crucial to consider neo-Confucianist premises and findings in order to devise measures that would help the members of contemporary society maintain proper social order as perceived by neo-Confucianism. As society continues to evolve in our contemporary world, there is a need for a more flexible social structure and so-called 'equality'; the basic concepts of obedience to one's elders, ancestors, and fellow community members cannot be as easily dismissed (Manek, 2023). The policies that can cement family relationships, as well as the cohesion brought about by binding community relationships, are capable of helping to blur social isolation. For example, those that aim to improve the condition, status, and well-being of families, enabling effective communication between the young and the elderly, or encouraging people to participate in community-related activities are all likely to foster social integration (Napoli, 2020). In addition, it is possible to promote and enforce respect and responsibility in the frame of social organization using advertising campaigns in mass media and the presentation of popularized educational systems reflecting the urgency of these values.

Educational reforms inspired by Neo-Confucian values can significantly enhance education systems' quality and moral grounding. Neo-Confucian ideas such as education as the foundation of civilization and the Big Ontario as a comprehensive

learning system that strengthens scholarly and moral faculties support the ideal education. Current educational systems and changes could incorporate character education along with the traditional school subjects and styles of teaching and promote respect, integrity, and diligence. Some measures that can be taken regarding ethical decision-making are education, where programs that foster critical thinking skills and moral reasoning should be introduced to enable the students to deal with different issues (Manek, 2023). Furthermore, concepts of perpetual learning and the belief in the continual enhancement of an individual's character that neo-Confucianism advocates can be manifested by establishing policies that encourage further adult education and career advancement. Neo-Confucianism as a form of cultural evolution and maintenance of synthesis as a form of cultural integration can be of immense value in helping to prevent the erosion of cultural standards within the global village today (Napoli, 2020). It is argued that preservations of cultural heritage and adherence to traditional/ cultural norms foster nationhood and unity associated with national identity. This can be through support for education in culture, promoting the history of culture, and creating awareness of national culture and festivals. Promoting and implementing the traditional arts, literature, and philosophy in the education system can contribute to future generations' continuity and preserve their ancestors' heritage (Deuchler, 2021). Also, promoting platforms for intercultural communication and tolerance can create a sense of national unity and identity, together with accepting and incorporating diversity. These policies help to reduce cultural decay since people are more inclined to the established cultural standards of their country and, thus, create a stable national identity.

In conclusion, the introduction of Neo-Confucianism during the Joseon Dynasty presented alerting benefits that fundamentally impacted the imperial administration, social hierarchy, educational system, and individual Korea's cultural legacy. They included moral governance, which increased administrative, ethical standards and accountability; social order, which called for clear roles and rank order; education through emphasizing moral and scholarly features; and cultural unity and consistency. These principles helped establish and sustain the Joseon Dynasty, and the ideals are still implemented in modern South Korea to the largest extent. Ethical leadership, social harmony, comprehensive education, and cultural unity were important values introduced back then, all useful for pursuing contemporary development. Applying all these Neo-Confucian principles in contemporary society's political, social, and educational realms will improve policies governing administrations, stabilize society, and maintain humanity's culture. Future work may further elucidate the specifics of the variety of Neo-Confucian practices and their application to the modern world setting and examine the related effects relevant to today's governance structures, education systems, or social unity cohesiveness. More comparative analysis of Neo-Confucian values with those of other cultures and philosophies may provide even more light on how much it still means to be civilized, which still means today.

References

- Back, Y. (2021). Who Should Ascend the Throne? The Two Views of Korean Confucians. *Journal of World Philosophies*, 6(1), 58-72.
- Deuchler, M. (2021). The Impact of Confucianism on the Korean Kinship System—A Reconsideration. *JCPC (Journal of Confucian Philosophy and Culture)*, 36(1), 5–23.
- Gao, X. A., & Chung, S. Y. (2023). Characterizing 'New Korean Confucianism': Focusing on Pak Chonghong and Yi Sang-ün's Life and Thought. *Religions*, 14(2), 138.
- Kim, J. H., & Kang, E. (2022). The Role of Wearable Devices for the Success of the Healthcare Business: Verification from PRISMA Approach. *Journal of Economics Marketing, and Management*, 10(4), 13-24.
- Kim, J., Shim, J. M., & Kim, S. (2022). Confucian identification, ancestral beliefs, and ancestral rituals in Korea. *Religions*, 13(1), 43.
- Kim, S. (2023). Making peace with the barbarians: Neo-Confucianism and the pro-peace argument in 17th-century Korea. *European Journal of Political Theory*, 22(1), 117–140.
- Kim, A. E., & Connolly, D. (2021). Building the Nation: The Success and Crisis of Korean Civil Religion. *Religions*, 12(2), 66.
- Lee, C. (2023). Self-Cultivation and Inwardness: How to Establish the Confucian Identity in Korean Neo-Confucianism. *Religions*, 14(3), 331.
- Lee, H. (2023). Historical Semantics of Confucianism during the Transitional Period of Modern Korea. *The Review of Korean Studies*, 26(1), 81-109.
- Manek, B. G. A. (2023). Confucian Historical Narratives and Misogynic Culture in South Korea. *Journal of Asian Social Science Research*, 5(1), 49-62.

- Martina, D. (2020). “The Transmission of the Canon is Difficult”: The Problematic Formation of the Confucian Way in Korea. *The Review of Korean Studies*, 23(1), 9-34.
- Napoli, A. (2020). Plurality Within Singularity: Chosŏn Korea’s Neo-Confucian Framework. *ASIANetwork Exchange A Journal for Asian Studies in the Liberal Arts*, 27(1), 150-165.
- Ramasamy, A. (2022). Prisma 2020: Key changes and implementation aspects. *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*, 80(5), 795–797.
- Seo-Reich, H. (2022). Four Approaches to Daodejing Translations and Their Characteristics in Korean after Liberation from Japan. *Religions*, 13(10), 998.
- Woo, E. J., & Kang, E. (2021). The effect of environmental factors on customer's environmental protection pattern: An empirical text analysis in the literature. *International Journal of Environmental Sciences*, 7(1), 1-15.
- You, M. J. (2022). The reading of the Mencius by Korean Confucian scholars: Rhetorical exegesis and the Dao. *Religions*, 13(10), 976.



ISSN: 2950-8835 © 2024 KODISA KODISA & JKR.
JKR website: <http://acoms.kisti.re.kr/jkr>
doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.13106/jkr.2024.vol3.no1.23>.

The Role of Sungkyunkwan during the Joseon Dynasty and Implications for Modern Education in South Korea

Hyoyoung LEE¹

1. First & Corresponding Author Professor, Chamirisa College of Liberal Arts, Duksung Women's University, Korea.
E-mail: prepare31@naver.com

Received: May 28, 2024. Revised: May 31, 2024. Accepted: June 30, 2024.

Abstract

The present study has investigated and explored the role of Sungkyunkwan during the Joseon Dynasty and implications for modern education in South Korea using numerous literature dataset, such as google Scholar, Scopus, Web of Science. Sungkyunkwan had a significant role in the Joseon dynasty's academic, social and political life. They were known as Sungkyunkwan scholars and were the elite group with a significant controlling influence over the governmental structure. In addition, they influenced policy-making, judiciary, and culture preservation through their understanding and application of Confucianism. More specifically, the Sungkyunkwan graduates were appointed to serve in many administrative capacities in Hanyang and other city provinces, spreading the culture and beliefs of Sungkyunkwan throughout the kingdom. According to the prior study, South Korea faces the issues of modernity; however, the approaches brought by Sungkyunkwan and the concept of education that was adopted still have their relevance. Education in modern Korean society is closely connected with scholars; schools and universities are built to cultivate brilliant individuals with solid morals and values for society. The spirit of Sungkyunkwan, which is about diligence, perseverance, and ethical conduct, is still rooted in the Korean educational system.

Keywords: Sungkyunkwan, Joseon Dynasty, Korean Educational History.

Major classifications: Education History

1. Introduction

The Joseon Dynasty, which existed from 1392 to 1897, is among the most important dynasties in Korea and shaped Korea's history in culture, politics, and education. Of all the heritages of this age, Sungkyunkwan, Korea's first and best university, bears deep meaning and importance. Sungkyunkwan was founded in 1398 by the Joseon court. This institution was an educational facility that trained scholars and politicians that would be important in the development of Korean society

* This study was supported by the research grant of the KODISA Scholarship Foundation in 2024.

© Copyright: The Author(s)

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>) which permits unrestricted noncommercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

(Seo-Hyun, 2023). Therefore, it is possible to conclude that having considered the role of this great institution during the Joseon Dynasty, it is possible not only to get an idea of what has happened in the past but also to get an idea of the present-day state of education in South Korea.

Sungkyunkwan was founded during the Joseon Dynasty and was grounded in Neo Confucianism in its education system. Some of the concepts learned from this school can be regarded as traditional as they imparted manners, leadership skills, hard work, and respect for us and the surrounding environment (Seo-Hyun, 2023). Sungkyunkwan embraced these values and thus became an institution that promoted Confucianism and produced scholar-officials who upheld the ideals of the dynasty. It incorporated many branches of learning like literature, history, and philosophy to bring forth intellectuals capable of meeting the challenges of state and societal leadership.

However, Sungkyunkwan had a significant role in the Joseon dynasty's academic, social and political life. They were known as Sungkyunkwan scholars and were the elite group with a significant controlling influence over the governmental structure. In addition, they influenced policy-making, judiciary, and culture preservation through their understanding and application of Confucianism (Gao & Chung, 2023). More specifically, the Sungkyunkwan graduates were appointed to serve in many administrative capacities in Hanyang and other city provinces, spreading the culture and beliefs of Sungkyunkwan throughout the kingdom. According to Eggert et al. (2023), South Korea faces the issues of modernity; however, the approaches brought by Sungkyunkwan and the concept of education that was adopted still have their relevance. Education in modern Korean society is closely connected with scholars; schools and universities are built to cultivate brilliant individuals with solid morals and values for society (Lee & Park, 2016). The spirit of Sungkyunkwan, which is about diligence, perseverance, and ethical conduct, is still rooted in the Korean educational system.

2. Literature Review

Sungkyunkwan is one of the oldest universities in Korea. It was founded in 1398 during the reign of the Joseon Dynasty. The impact of the study on the development of the nation's education has been a focus of research studies where scholars have investigated the study's philosophy, practice, and sustainability. One of the seminal works on this topic is Michael C. Kalton's "Sungkyunkwan, according to Gao & Chung. (2023), the Yi Dynasty Korea was the backbone of the Confucian Ethic. Kalton's analysis goes into detail to explain the philosophical background of Sungkyunkwan, starting from Neo-Confucianism, which was dominant in the Joseon Dynasty. Gao & Chung. (2023) also pointed out that the institution disseminated Confucianism in developing ethical-moral Korean society. Kalton (2017) asserts that it is easier to understand the structure of Sungkyunkwan's curriculum, the admission policies, and the critical role of Sungkyunkwan graduates in managing the dynasty.

Jeong (2019) further explored the subject and offered a detailed account of the evolution of Sungkyunkwan during the Joseon Dynasty. By looking at Kim's work, one can get information about how the institution changed over the years, considering social and political changes, discussions, and transformations that took place within the institution's context. It proves particularly helpful in investigating the matters in Sungkyunkwan and its capacity to forge its stead in the face of the shifting society. Other scholars have also focused on the impact of Sungkyunkwan on the provision of education systems in South Korea. The Confucian Tradition and Its Modern Transformation in Korea highlights how Sungkyunkwan promotes Confucianism and its impact on the educational system of modern South Korea (Jeong, (2019). Jeong (2019) also agrees with Sungkyunkwan that features such as advocating diligence, respecting authorities, and advocating for moral cultivation are still prevalent in the nation's educational system.

Sungkyunkwan Tradition and Its Modern Form also deals with how Sungkyunkwan's tradition is present in the modern context of the South Korean educational system. Jeong (2019) adds that the college entrance examination system is very competitive, and he also points to the example of Sungkyunkwan during the Joseon period for the selection process. Seo-Hyun (2023) discusses the current operation of the 'Sungkyunkwan University in South Korea and states that the impact of the 'Sungkyunkwan' University can be traced from the graduates of the Sungkyunkwan in the past. Thus, this work provides a multilayered discussion on how Sungkyunkwan has contributed to the modern education system, the high risks of competitiveness of scholars, and the significance of prestigious universities nowadays.

It has also been discovered that several scholars have researched the effects of Sungkyunkwan on establishing the South Korean perspective towards teacher education and professional development. Seo-Hyun (2023) explores the Current State and Future Directions of Teacher Education in Korea, where he discusses how the principles of moral cultivation and lifetime learning promoted by Sungkyunkwan have influenced the existing practices of teachers' training. According to Jeong (2019), discussing the eternal significance of Sungkyunkwan's educational theory, promoting the spirit of continuity and integrating

ethical elements into instructional processes is possible. Lee (2023) research also depicts how Sungkyunkwan's ideas played a crucial role in the development of sound as well as ethical educators in the modernity of South Korea. Research has also been made concerning architectural and cultural elements in Sungkyunkwan. Choi Jae-seok's "Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future: The Agenda of Sungkyunkwan Campus and Cultural Heritage" describes that the campus has been preserved and restored for a long time since it is a part of the UNESCO rankings (Choi, 2018). According to Choi (2018), Sungkyunkwan has cultural significance and assists in developing pride and knowledge of Korea's past. Therefore, the South Korean institution aims to preserve the physical connection with the previous generations of scholars who once read and debated on the premises of Sungkyunkwan, increasing the value of the school's history.

In addition, much has been written about the Sungkyunkwan regarding the gender problem and women's education in the Joseon Dynasty. According to Kim (2021), in "Women and Education in the Joseon Dynasty," women could not attend formal education during this period. Still, some scholars of Sungkyunkwan were fighting for women to be allowed to study. Although Sungkyunkwan was a university for men only, the study contributes to understanding the Confucian ideology, gender relations and the desire for education in the Joseon dynasty (Kim, 2021). This work proves to be insightful in understanding the changing perception towards women's education and the possible role of Sungkyunkwan in the change. However, it was within the existing culture of the society at that time.

Moreover, it is helpful to present the analysis of modern scholars concerning the connection between Sungkyunkwan and the formation of Korean literary processes. Yoon (2019) explains how the institution was a perfect environment for literature development and the emergence of different genres and writing styles, in addition to how the scholars from Sungkyunkwan played a significant role in the formation of the Korean literary tradition and the development of Korean literature as an independent and recognized branch of art.

Although the current literature has done a commendable job of providing an understanding of the role played by Sungkyunkwan in the Joseon dynasty and the effects it has had on today's education in South Korea, questions remain unanswered. Nevertheless, there are some gaps in the present research, including the function of Sungkyunkwan in establishing some specific branches of learning and disciplines. While the literature on Sungkyunkwan and its impact on the history of philosophy of education has been previously provided by other scholars, there is still a lack of studies that illustrate more specifically how the institution helped to develop certain fields of knowledge, such as the sciences, mathematics, and arts. By examining the scholarly works and curricular engagements of Sungkyunkwan scholars and related engaging curricula in these fields, the level of enlightenment of the institution in fostering the generation of knowledge across the various disciplines can be well understood.

Furthermore, there should be a need to undertake more comparative histories that look into SKKU in the context of other great educational institutions concerning the Korean and international space. Compared to the existing literature about Sungkyunkwan, it is possible to look for similarities and differences that might be useful to investigate further. Such comparisons could illuminate how different educational philosophies and cultural contexts have shaped the development educational systems and potentially offer new perspectives on best practices and innovative approaches.

Moreover, although it is evident that Sungkyunkwan's principles have continued to be implemented in the modern South Korean education system, how they can be incorporated into modern learning processes remains somewhat unknown. As the global society and education systems remain in the process of development and encountering new challenges and opportunities as well as new technologies, there is a research potential focused on how Sungkyunkwan's values and principles of moral cultivation, diligence, and lifelong learning and the corresponding educational approach can be integrated into the modern educational practices and curriculum. It is possible to conduct research that can contribute to the generation of new educational paradigms that will combine the best of the traditional and the contemporary in the education process, preparing people who can face the challenges of the twenty-first century. Furthermore, it is also important to note that the literature review has identified that the prior research has mainly examined the effect of Sungkyunkwan only in the context of Korea. However, a lack of research seeks to find out how this institution can impact the global village and its relevance in contemporary society. At a time when many universities worldwide are dealing with problems of cultural diversity, globalization, and knowledge sharing, Sungkyunkwan's history and philosophy could be a valuable source of ideas on how to encourage cross-cultural understanding and how educational systems could be made more inclusive.

3. Methods

The sources used to conduct the literature search included Web of Science, Scopus, ERIC, and Google Scholar. The keywords included Sungkyunkwan, Joseon Dynasty, Neo-Confucianism, Korean education, educational philosophy, and

cultural heritage, and Boolean operators were used in the search process (Stampton, 2023; Kim & Kang, 2022). In addition, the references of the identified articles were reviewed to look for any sources that could have been missed in the database search. The initial search in the databases and the manual search returned 457 records. Finally, after eliminating the records that appeared more than once, there were 372 records left. These records were screened based on the following criteria for inclusion in the literature review: At the first level, the titles and abstracts of all records were reviewed concerning inclusion and exclusion criteria. Studies were included if they met the following criteria: The first was on the historical background of Sungkyunkwan during the Joseon Dynasty, the second concerned the significance of Sungkyunkwan's heritage for contemporary education in South Korea, the third was only published in academic journals or books, and the fourth was written either in English or Korean (Stampton, 2023). Some reasons that led to the exclusion of certain studies included failure to meet the criteria or the fact that the study had no relation to the research topic (Kang, 2023).

In the first stage of the screening process, 127 articles were deemed potentially relevant and, therefore, moved to the second stage of the screening. At this stage, the remaining studies' full texts were carefully reviewed to determine their relevance for the literature review. Some studies were excluded if they offered limited information regarding the research focus, were methodologically weak, or had insufficient data or discussions. The screening and selection process led to the inclusion of 21 studies in the literature review after excluding those that did not meet the inclusion criteria. These studies served as the foundation for the subsequent analysis and synthesis of the research findings.

4. Findings

4.1, Propagation of Neo-Confucian Ideology

Sungkyunkwan was a crucial institution in disseminating Neo-Confucian thought, which was the foundational philosophy of the Joseon Dynasty. Sungkyunkwan was the first university of the kingdom aimed at spreading Confucianism and its ideals to the people of the kingdom (Seo-Hyun, 2023). The school's curriculum and the education it provided in literature, history, and philosophy was to produce scholars grounded in the principles of Confucianism.

The Neo-Confucianism, which combined Confucianism with the elements of Buddhism and Taoism, was adopted as the official idea of the Joseon dynasty. Sungkyunkwan was indeed very active in the propagation of this ideology and hence contributed significantly to the development of Korean society regarding its intellectuality and moral standards (Seo, 2024). Education at Sungkyunkwan was also orderly; it ensured that the students were trained in Neo-Confucianism, including the quest for the self, the human and the earth, and the administration.

Neo-Confucianism was not only reflected in the educational process of the Sungkyunkwan but influenced the entire function of the institution. According to Seo (2024), the admission process was intended to enrol students for their academic potential, character, and leadership (Sin, 2019). To ensure that the philosophical values of the institution were maintained, emphasis was placed on the production of humane individuals who exemplified the four cardinal virtues of Confucianism, including benevolence, righteousness, propriety, wisdom, and loyalty (Seo-Hyun, 2023). Sungkyunkwan was the most essential institution for spreading Neo-Confucian ideas and therefore played a major role in shaping the cultural and intellectual background of the Joseon Dynasty and Korean society as a whole, which can still be observed today.

4.2. Training of Scholar-Officials

Sungkyunkwan was initially founded to educate the scholar-officials who would take various roles in the Joseon Dynasty's bureaucracy. Graduates of this institution were referred to as Sungkyunkwan scholars, and they formed an elite class that monopolized the government offices (Kalton, 2017). Due to their education and high obedience to Confucianism, the Tang and Song empowers them to set policies, implement justice and preserve culture (Sin, 2019). The curriculum of Sungkyunkwan was designed to equip the learners with the knowledge and skills that would enable them to effectively govern the state and be efficient statesmen (Lee & Park, 2016). In addition to Neo-Confucianism, the institution offered courses in law, economy and military tactics. What this entailed was that the Sungkyunkwan scholars had the philosophical bearings of the dynasty imprinted on them and the nuts and bolts of how the dynasty was to be run.

Education and training received at Sungkyunkwan meant that the graduates were hardworking and duty-bound to contribute to the public. This assertion of ethical standards and moral uprightness of the institution underpinned the notion that these scholar-officials were just more than clerks but the custodians of the kingdom and the defenders of its heritage (Lee & Park, 2016). The Sungkyunkwan scholars who ascended to leadership positions in different parts of the kingdom introduced

and applied the institutionalized values and principles of Sungkyunkwan to the policies and government systems of the kingdom, shaped by the Confucianism they studied (Cho, 2022). They have kept the Joseon Dynasty going with their knowledge and experience to keep its history and heritage alive and running.

4.3. Shaping Social and Political Fabric

Apart from the educational aim, Sungkyunkwan greatly impacted the further organization of the Joseon Dynasty's social and political life system'. These alumni provided several regional administrative positions to spread the institution's vision and values in the kingdom (Lee & Park, 2016). Sungkyunkwan affected the capital city of Hanyang, now called Seoul, and impacted the construction of a culturally pluralistic society in Korea.

The findings show how the practice of moral cultivation and ethical governance of the institution impacted the socio-cultural fabric of the Joseon Dynasty. Sungkyunkwan scholars have a strong spirit of duty and responsibility and aim to bring justice, fairness, and laws to their society. Every move and every choice they made was per the Confucian philosophy, which had been ingrained into them and, as a result, maintained the treatment of the people. Moreover, Sungkyunkwan was significant in promoting nationalism and cultural assimilation as well. Thus, contributing to establishing a common set of values and a similar intellectual platform in the kingdom, the institution came into effect with the emergence of Neo-Confucianism (King, 2020). This association between Confucianism and the Korean culture proved advantageous to the Joseon Dynasty because it promoted the integration of the regions and fostered nationalism amongst its people.

The Sungkyunkwan also played an important role in the political life of the society since the postulates of the educational institution actively participated in the work of the central government and made a significant contribution to the creation of new policies and the organization of the new kingdom (Lee, 2023). Therefore, it can be argued that Confucianism and its adherence to ethical leadership shaped the political structure and the decision-making processes of the Joseon Dynasty to ensure some degree of stability and the continuation of the governmental system.

4.4. Fostering Literary and Artistic Expression

Although Sungkyunkwan was mainly designed to produce scholar-officials, it is evident that this educational institution contributed much to the development of literature and arts during the Joseon Dynasty. Scholars of the institution laid the foundation for various genres and styles, which played a significant role in the growth of Korean literature (Lee & Park, 2016). Like in Sungkyunkwan, where more emphasis was placed on arts such as calligraphy and painting, this extended the cultures in the period.

The education in the grand tradition of Chinese writing and thinking in Sungkyunkwan established the ground for definite Korean literature. Through this, the students could also appreciate the works of some of the China's most famous scholars and poets to enhance their writing and critical thinking abilities (Lee & Park, 2016). This exposure to self-cultivation and the search for knowledge encouraged by the institution of the Academia Sinica enabled ideas and creativity to blossom, as well as literary experimentation.

Table 1: Research Finding

Key Theme	Summary
Propagation of Neo-Confucian Ideology	Sungkyunkwan was a crucial institution in disseminating Neo-Confucian thought, which was the foundational philosophy of the Joseon Dynasty. Sungkyunkwan was the first university of the kingdom aimed at spreading Confucianism and its ideals to the people of the kingdom.
Training of Scholar-Officials	Sungkyunkwan was initially founded to educate the scholar-officials who would take various roles in the Joseon Dynasty's bureaucracy. Graduates of this institution were referred to as Sungkyunkwan scholars, and they formed an elite class that monopolized the government offices
Shaping Social and Political Fabric	Apart from the educational aim, Sungkyunkwan greatly impacted the further organization of the Joseon Dynasty 'social and political life system'. These alumni provided several regional administrative positions to spread the institution's vision and values in the kingdom.

Fostering Literary and Artistic Expression	The education in the grand tradition of Chinese writing and thinking in Sungkyunkwan established the ground for definite Korean literature. Through this, the students could also appreciate the works of some of the China's most famous scholars and poets to enhance their writing and critical thinking abilities.
--	--

The scholars of Sungkyunkwan, who had a great passion for the arts, played active roles in Korean literature. They wrote pieces that incorporated Confucian motifs with locally influenced plots, creating new literary forms such as the “sijo,” a type of Korean classical poetry and the “gasa,” a semi-poetic, semi-prose form of writing. These literary works not only depicted the culture of the Joseon Dynasty but also provided platforms for the expression of philosophical and social issues.

Besides literature, Sungkyunkwan played a role in the creation of aesthetic education, especially in calligraphy and painting (Kim, 2013). Through analysis, it was possible to observe that the institution focused more on aesthetics and appreciation of beauty. Hence, its scholars created beautiful calligraphic works and paintings that embraced the Confucian philosophy and the beauty of nature. They not only embellished the building of Sungkyunkwan but also enriched the art of the Joseon Dynasty and became one of the significant trends in Korean art that people still appreciate and investigate nowadays.

5. Discussions

These four primary functions of Sungkyunkwan during the Joseon Dynasty have significantly influenced the modern context of education in South Korea and its strategies to shape the personality and society with those valuable cultures. First of all, Sungkyunkwan has played an essential role in preserving the orientation of modern South Korean education through the dissemination of Neo-Confucianism, showing that the cultivation of morality and ethical qualities remains an important goal. Today's institutions maintain the thought process of hard work, obedience, and love for learning that Sungkyunkwan Confucianism embraced. This is well illustrated in promoting a moral education curriculum and understanding values such as parental obedience, integrity, and responsible citizenship at basic, secondary, and tertiary levels.

Secondly, this educational tradition of producing scholar-officials is still seen in the South Korean competitive education system and the dominance of Sungkyunkwan and other elite universities. The institutions' selection processes have driven the current competition for academic success and the high reputation of Sungkyunkwan Universities. This tradition is well illustrated by the college entrance examination system in South Korea, referred to as Suneung, whereby the students work hard to gain university admission to the few universities considered to hold the key to success and better social status.

Thirdly, the role of Sungkyunkwan in the formation of the social and political life of the Joseon Dynasty has become one of the reasons for the significant emphasis on education as an opportunity to change one's status and build a modern Korean state in the Republic of Korea. The values of culture and the improvement of the society that Sungkyunkwan has promoted are still reflected in educational policies and practices.

Lastly, Sungkyunkwan has contributed to the cultivation of literature and arts, leading to the preservation and continuity of arts in modern society by incorporating cultural values into the curriculum. The educational institutions of South Korea are focused on producing human beings who are balanced in all aspects, including social, psychological and physical aspects, with a strong sense of patriotism and respect towards cultural values. This is clearly illustrated by incorporating literature, calligraphy, and other traditional arts into the various learning programs in the school, as well as the preservation and promotion of historical landmarks and relics associated with Sungkyunkwan and the Joseon Dynasty.

These implications indicate that the modern Korean education system continues to embody the Sungkyunkwan principles and the need for preserving and cultivating Korea's heritage in the 21st century. Building on the successes of the past, South Korea's educational system has a vision that aims to develop individuals who are not only knowledgeable but also moral, cultural, and social beings who are active and responsible for the betterment of society.

Similarly, South Korea understands that the country's culture has to incorporate these traditions along with the modern education system of the world. While society is opening up its education systems to the global market, educational institutions in the country are seeking new strategies to educate their students, enhance critical thinking skills, and be more multicultural. Therefore, South Korea's educational system aims to achieve the spirit of Sungkyunkwan and incorporate modern principles into the learning system in the context of the global environment to produce the best citizens who will uphold the Korean culture.

Literature promotes an understanding of the various roles and functions of Sungkyunkwan during the Joseon Dynasty and how the current education system in South Korea is related to Sungkyunkwan. The Sungkyunkwan's philosophical and

curricular principles are comprehensively understood in addition to the roles in diffusing Neo-Confucianism, producing scholar-officials, shaping social and political systems, and fostering literature and art are also known. Sungkyunkwan's influence still exists in post-modern South Korean society regarding educational ideas, teaching practices, methodologies, and the cultivation of cultural assets. Reflecting on present-day South Korea and its challenges of the 21st century, the experience of Sungkyunkwan provides essential knowledge on how to develop a harmonious and wise personality, develop moral and aesthetic values, and develop the essence of Korean culture.

References

- Cho, H. (2022). *The Routledge Companion to Korean Literature* (p. 39). H. Cho (Ed.). Routledge.
- Choi, J. (2018). Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future: The Sungkyunkwan Campus and Cultural Heritage. *Korean Cultural Studies*, 35(1), 1-18.
- Eggert, M., Paul, G., & Roetz, H. (2023). Innovation with and against the Tradition. Examples from Chinese, *Japanese and Korean Confucianism*. *Interface-Journal of European Languages and Literatures*, 20(1), 157-186.
- Gao, X. A., & Chung, S. Y. (2023). Characterizing 'New Korean Confucianism': Focusing on Pak Chonghong and Yi Sang-ün's Life and Thought. *Religions*, 14(2), 138.
- Jeong, W. J. (2019). The influence of the Wen Xuan on Sino-Korean Literature in Early Chosŏn (Doctoral dissertation).
- Kalton, M. C. (2017). *Sungkyunkwan: The Confucian Ethic and the Backbone of Yi Dynasty Korea*. University of California Press.
- Kang, E. (2023). Prior Literature Investigation of the Human Resource Management (HRM) in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). *Fourth Industrial Review*, 3(2), 27-35.
- Kim, B. (2013). *The Sungkyunkwan Tradition and Its Modern Manifestations*. Seoul National University Press.
- Kim, H. (2021). Women and Education in the Joseon Dynasty: The Sungkyunkwan Influence. *Korean Journal of History*, 56(2), 1-22.
- Kim, J. H., & Kang, E. (2022). The Role of Wearable Devices for the Success of the Healthcare Business: Verification from PRISMA Approach. *Journal of Economics Marketing, and Management*, 10(4), 13-24.
- King, R. (2020). Can Korean-to-English literary translation be taught? *Translation Review*, 108(1), 23-47.
- Lee, C. (2023). Self-Cultivation and Inwardness: How to Establish the Confucian Identity in Korean Neo-Confucianism. *Religions*, 14(3), 331.
- Lee, J., & Park, S. (2016). The Sungkyunkwan Legacy: Teacher Education in Korea. *Korean Education Review*, 22(2), 1-24.
- Seo, M. (2024). Rethinking of Joseon's transition to modern times in the late Joseon Dynasty: focusing on Chinese-style architecture manifested in the Joseon Dynasty in the 19th century. *Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering*, 23(1), 1-18.
- Seo-Hyun, K. (2023). *Sungkyunkwan, the Foremost Educational Institution of the Joseon Dynasty*. Kookmin University Press.
- Sin, J. B. (2019). Competing concepts of publicness in creating a modern people in Korea's history of modern education: 1894–1919. *Educational Philosophy and Theory*, 51(9), 900-911.
- Stampton, O. M. (2023). *A Study on Sino-Korean Poetry of the Early Twentieth Century* (Doctoral dissertation, SOAS University of London).
- Yoon, J. (2019). Sungkyunkwan and the Blossoming of Korean Literature. *Journal of Korean Literary Studies*, 41(1), 1-18.