

# Entitlement and Bargaining Power of Marriage Immigrants in Korea

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## Abstract

The share of marriage between South Korean male and brides from other Asian countries sharply increased since 1990s reaching around 10% of new marriage in 2005. The revision of immigration law in 1997 restricted legal entitlement of marriage immigrants by requiring them two-year conditional residence and guarantee of their spouses for naturalization. We employ large data set collected in 2012 to investigate the impact of citizenship acquisition of these brides on their bargaining power in various aspects. We employ propensity score matching using detailed information of brides, their spouses and households. Our results show that legal entitlement of marriage immigrants raises the chance of being hired as a regular worker and lowers decision power in a household. The findings in this paper implies that legal framework is important determinant of bargaining power of immigrants in labor market and households.