

Reason for Enrolling in Meister School and Career Plan after Graduation

01 The Need for Analysis and Analysis Materials

| It is necessary to analyze the reason students enroll in Meister Schools and their career plans after graduation to ensure the substantiality of Meister School policy.

- Beginning with 21 schools in 2010, 47 Meister Schools are currently operated or in preparation as of 2016. The employment rate of graduates has been more than 90% for three years in a row since the first graduates were produced in 2013. The program has thus become a role model for intermediate vocational education.
- Note, however, that these schools are facing internal and external environmental changes such as shrinking manpower requirements from industries due to the economic slump, more demand for field duty abilities such as operation and application of NCS-based curricula at vocational education institutes, and difficulties securing the operating budget.
 - Therefore, it is necessary to implement substantial Meister School policy measures amid such a changing environment. This study sought to deduce the policy implications by analyzing the reasons for enrollment and career plans of students entering Meister Schools in the 2016 school year.

| Analyzed material: "Survey of Freshmen in Meister Schools in the 2016 School Year" by KRIVET

- Analyzed material: Data in the "Survey of Freshmen in Meister Schools in the 2016 School Year" conducted by KRIVET as part of the "Analysis of Factors Leading Meister School Freshmen to Enroll in Meister Schools: Focus on the Development of Career and Employment Policy Issues."
- Analysis targets: The study surveyed 860 Meister School freshmen in the 2016 school year (20 freshmen at each of the 43 Meister Schools with freshmen in the 2016 school year) and analyzed 760 responses excluding insincere responses among the 799 students answering the survey.

<Table 1> Respondents' Characteristics

(Unit: persons, %)

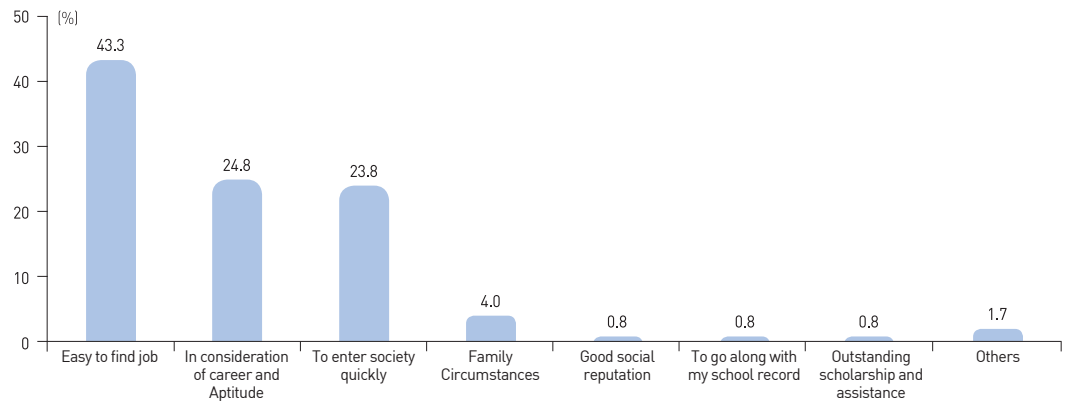
Type	Frequency	Percent	
Gender	Male Student	609	80.1
	Female Student	151	19.9
Location of Meister School	Metropolitan Area	163	21.4
	Chungcheong Region	175	23
	Honam Region	135	17.8
	Yeongnam Region	249	32.8
	Gangwon and Jeju	38	5
Total	760	100	



02 Main Reasons for Enrolling in Meister School

The freshmen in Meister Schools cited the high possibility of employment as the primary reason for enrolling in a Meister School.

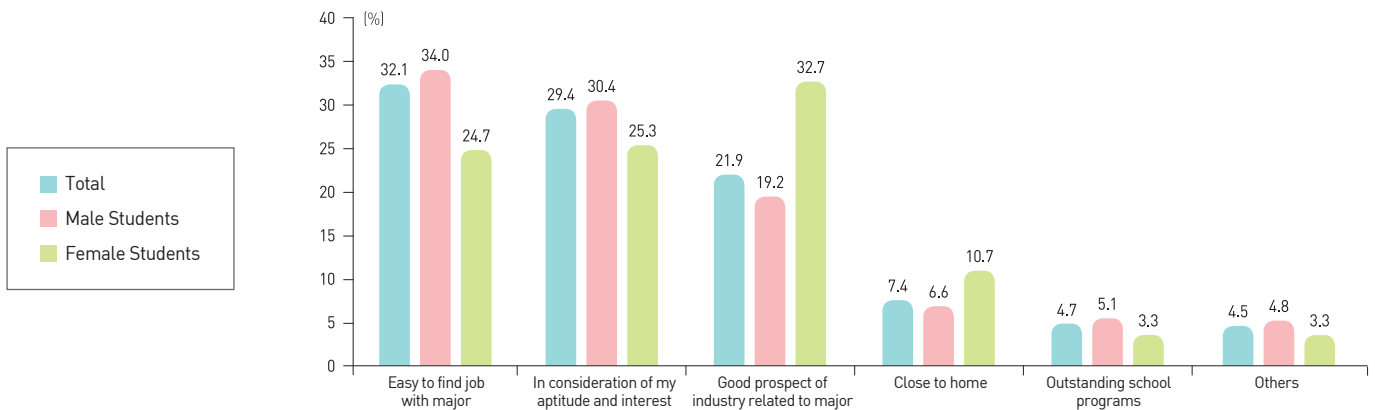
- For the question regarding the main reasons for enrolling in Meister School, 43.3% answered "high possibility of getting a job" followed by "consideration for future career and aptitude (24.8%)" and "to enter society earlier (23.8%)."



[Figure 1] Main Reasons for Enrolling in Meister School

- As for the question about the main reasons for selecting the current school, 32.1% answered "major field of study making it easy to get jobs" followed by "major field of study matching my aptitude and interest (29.4%)," and "major field of study being in an emerging industry (21.9%)."

- Note, however, that more female students cited the better potential of the major-related industry (32.7%) than the possibility of getting jobs (24.7%). This implies that more male students considered the possibility of getting jobs to be important than female students.



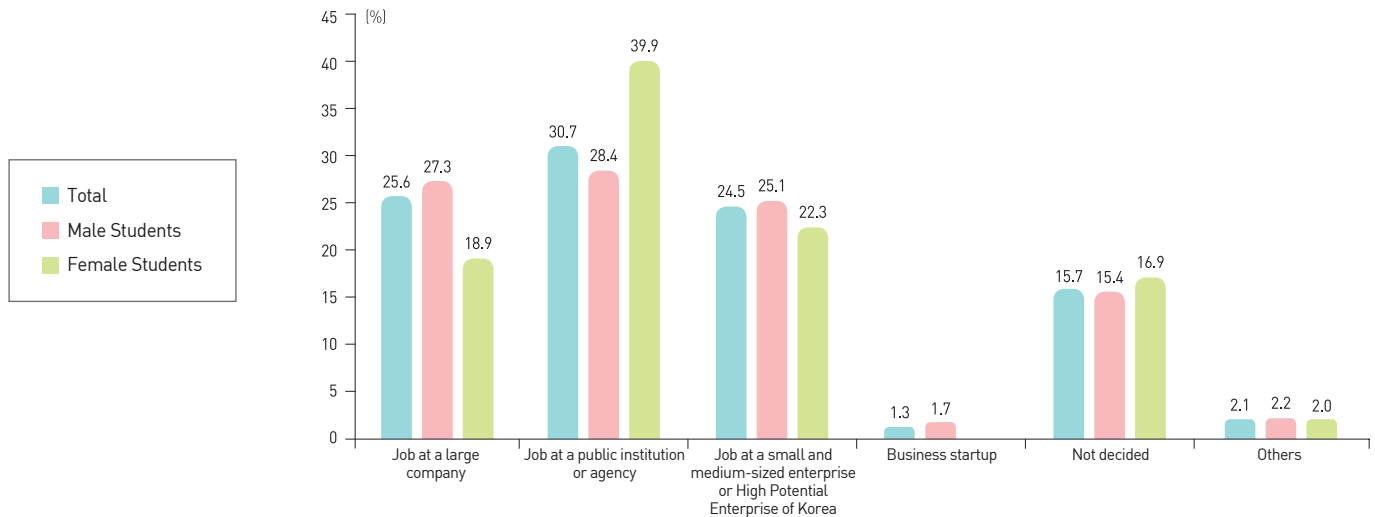
[Figure 2] Main Reasons for Selecting Current School

03 Career Plan after Graduating from Meister School

Most students selected working at public institutions and government agencies as their career plan after graduating from Meister School and considered employment stability to be the main criterion for selecting a job.

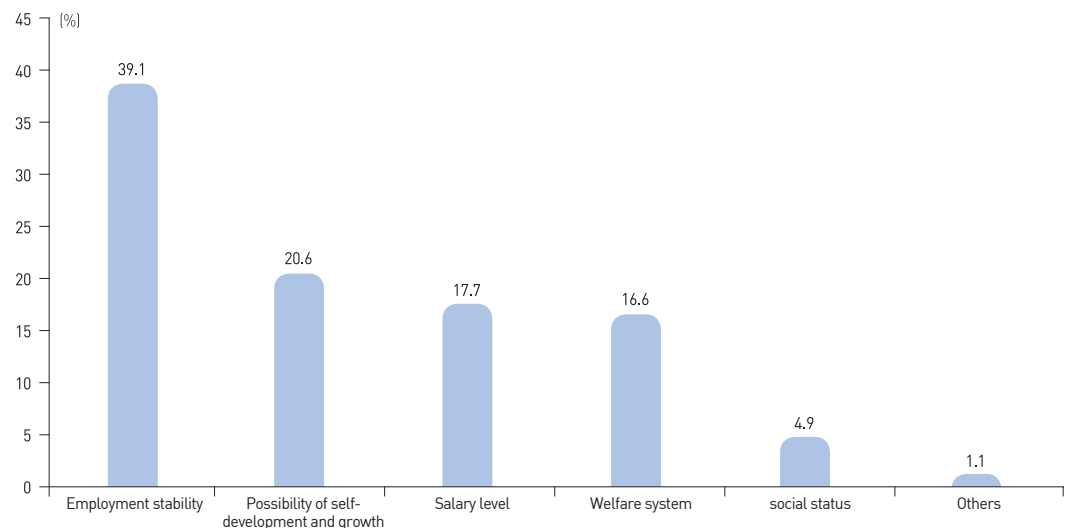
- Most students preferred public institutions and government agencies as an employer after graduating at 30.7%, followed by large companies (25.6%), small and medium-sized enterprises or High Potential Enterprises of Korea (mid-sized enterprises that are larger than SMEs and smaller than large companies) (24.5%), and undecided (15.7%).

- Female students preferred public institutions and government agencies more than male students (females: 39.9%; males: 28.4%).



[Figure 3] Employment Plan after Graduating from Meister School

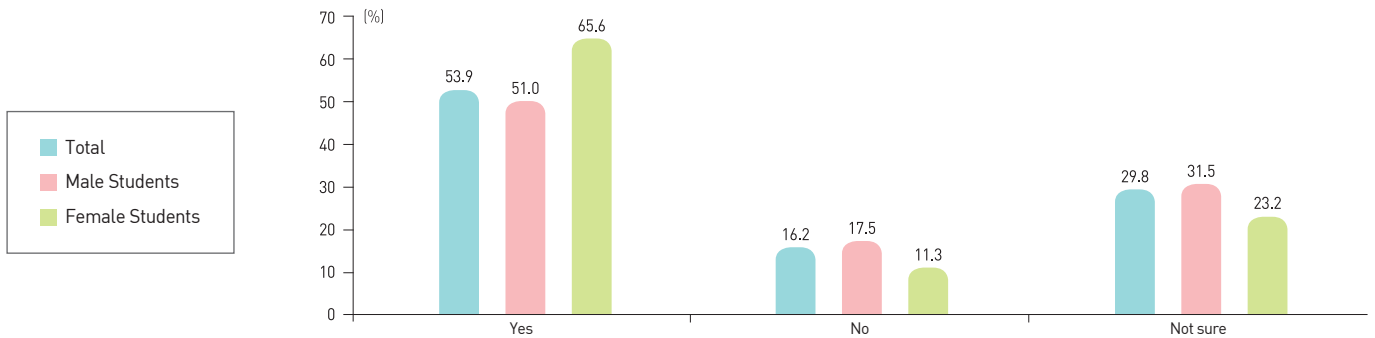
- As for the main criteria for selecting jobs, most students answered employment stability at 39.1% followed by the possibility of self-development and growth (20.6%), wage level (17.7%), welfare (16.6%), and social recognition (4.9%).



[Figure 4] Main Criteria for Selecting Jobs

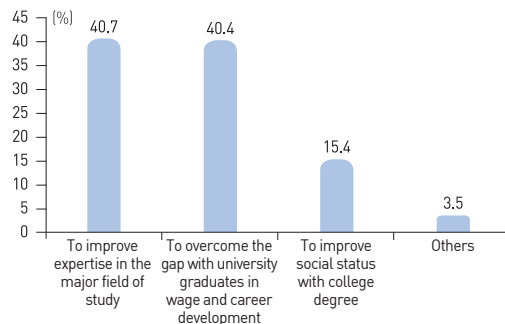
| More than half of Meister School freshmen had plans to work before obtaining a university degree? "employment first, university later" -- and the rate is higher in the case of female students.

- More than half (53.9%) of the students answered that they planned to work before obtaining a university degree, and more female students (65.6%) had plans to work before obtaining a university degree than male students (51.0%).

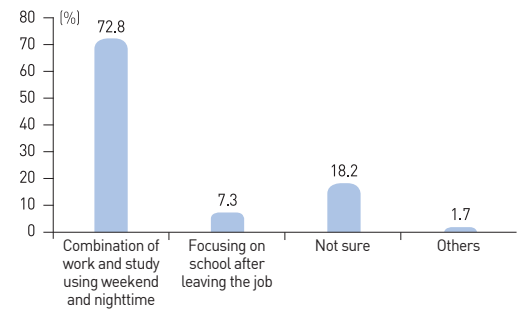


[Figure 5] Plan for "Employment First, University Later."

- Students answering that they had plans to work before obtaining a university degree (405 students) were asked as to the reasons. Most students answered "To improve expertise in the major field of study" at 40.7%, followed by "Difference in wages and career development from college graduates (40.4%)" and "College degree needed for social status (15.4%)."
- 72.8% of the students who had plans to work before obtaining a university degree (405 students) answered that they preferred the combination of working on weekdays and studying on weekends and at night regarding the type of the "Employment First, University Later" plan.



[Figure 6] Reasons for "Employment First, University Later."



[Figure 7] Preferred Type of "Employment First, University Later."

04 Implications

- Meister School students selected the high possibility of finding employment as the primary reason for enrolling in Meister School. This reflects the awareness of the recent high youth unemployment rate.
- In terms of employment plans and criteria for selecting jobs after graduation, Meister School Students seem to prefer relatively stable employment.
 - Considering the fact that the number of jobs is continually decreasing even at large companies as industries are reducing their manpower requirements due to the recent economic slump, policy is needed for supporting the discovery of small and medium-sized enterprises or High Potential Enterprises of Korea (mid-sized enterprises that are larger than SMEs and smaller than large companies) that are relatively small in size but have outstanding competitiveness.
 - It is necessary to establish policy measures for designing and presenting a career path vision for graduates of Meister Schools to grow into key technical manpower in applicable industries through experience working in small and medium-sized enterprises or High Potential Enterprises of Korea (mid-sized enterprises that are larger than SMEs and smaller than large companies).
- Considering the requirements of Meister School graduates who intend to work prior to obtaining a university degree, a special admissions program for working applicants is necessary, and the departments related to the major fields of study at Meister Schools and the work after graduating from Meister Schools need to be expanded. A differentiated education curriculum also needs to be implemented to help the students grow into meisters.

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