

For a Better Life: Korea's Growth as an Innovative and Inclusive Nation

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1. More inclusive societies make it easier for young people from any economic stratum to become entrepreneurs, through access to education and capital. They have fewer barriers based on family connections. Equal opportunity is essential.
2. Opportunities for young people are critical. Widening inequalities of income and wealth can also cause social tensions and cynicism. Some young people decide there's no point in starting new businesses or developing new inventions, because they can't get ahead. Economic stresses also deter them from starting families, which can lead to a vicious cycle of an aging society without adequate domestic purchasing power, and high youth unemployment.
3. Anti-monopoly policy is important. Concentration of economic power in a few major industries or industry groups tends to aggravate inequalities and dampen the development of new business entrants.
4. Preventing big money from taking over democratic institutions is essential. Where politics are dominated by big money from the wealthy and big corporations, laws and public policies tend to favor big money, to the detriment of small businesses, new entrants, small investors, and innovators.
5. It is useful to encourage centers of innovation outside major urban areas. Where business, finance, education, and politics are geographically centralized in one or a few major cities, innovation can be dampened because the cost of housing in those centers makes it difficult for those without money to get in, imposes a barrier to entry on those without connections, encourages subtle forms of graft and bribery, and fosters conformity.
6. Openness and diversity are useful for innovation. Societies that isolate themselves and are racially and ethnically homogeneous, risk conformity and an inability to learn easily and quickly from others outside their periphery.