

## **Abstract of Doctoral Thesis**

### **Title: Footwear Industry in Contemporary Korea -From the Perspective of Industrial Cluster in the Busan Area-**

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This research aims to reveal the actual situation and inside story of industrial cluster through empirical analysis of Korean footwear industry. The footwear industry has supported the economy of the Busan area as an major export industry, however it failed to respond to the sudden change of the business environment and is currently positioned as a declining industry. Here, despite being placed in unfavorable environment, the shoe industry integration continues and companies that show growth is still exist.

In this research we investigate the footwear industry from the perspective of cluster relative vision theory. The summary presents in the following two reasons. First, when considering industrial clusters, despite there are differences in the form of existence of industrial clusters and differences in management and economic environment, it is possible to share the economic benefits of agglomeration within the cluster due to the policy support

Secondly, the footwear industry has already experienced shrinkage of accumulation, and new evidence has been observed. In the existing technology-intensive industries such as machinery, metals, automobiles, etc., there are no facts similar to the footwear industry, so the suggestion from the footwear industry is the significance of this research.

This research focuses on the following four approaches. First, as a prerequisite for discussion, from the time of the Korean War to the present, in order to clarify the dynamic growth of industrial cluster, we investigate the footwear industry and shoe manufacturers using time series analysis. Second, we will clarify how the industrial structure has changed due to shrinkage of cluster through the analysis of statistical data. In that case, we will pay attention to how the shrinkage of cluster has

changed compared to the conventional footwear industry, and how it works. Thirdly, the footwear industry acquire insufficient management of resources from the network and are active in self-sustaining business development. In doing so, we will classify footwear manufacturers into companies and clarify the state and network structure of footwear manufacturers by type. Finally, we will focus on cooperative relationships in the network and how the coordination function affects the sustainability mechanism of industrial cluster.

In the footwear industry, new type of enterprises are created through structural adjustment, and at the same time, collaborative networks of formed long-term relationship, from which knowledge sharing, introduction of demand and promotion of innovation, continuous establishment are actively implemented.

Furthermore, in the footwear industry, as a result of capturing the actual facts of the footwear industry from a broader perspective, such as the development of niche markets, industry-academia-government collaboration, etc., the footwear industry is entering a new turning point, and it is necessary to reevaluate the positioning the footwear industry as a declining industry.