

## **Environmental Protest and Policy Change in Korea**

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How does environmental protest effect policy change? What characteristics of environmental protest are most closely related with greater policy influence? In this paper, focusing on the case of Korea, we try to answer these questions. We utilize a recently compiled database called Protest Event Data Archive Korea (PEDAK), which consists of a systematically collected and coded set of about 7,400 protest events reported in four major daily newspapers and weekly magazines in 1987-2007. We analyze various characteristics of environmental protest such as 1) the size of protest (measured in terms of duration, scope, number of participants, etc.), 2) sociovocational characteristics of protest participants and their movement strategies, 3) (direct and ultimate) targets of protest, 4) issues raised in the protest (e.g., political, economic, etc.), and 5) other "contextual" variables (e.g., the number of supporting or sponsoring movement organizations). Based on a careful analysis of these variables, this paper reports numerous important findings about the effects of protest movement on policymaking. Overall, protest participants, targets, and issues are most strongly related with higher degrees of policy impact. More specifically, the more blue collar workers are involved in the protest, the more the movement targets social organizations (not state institutions or private firms), and the more the grievances are economic in nature, the greater the influence of protest on policymaking. Meanwhile, the size of the protest and other "contextual" variables external to protest movement do not seem to be strongly correlated with policy efficacy. Our analysis effectively refutes the common notion that the greater the scope of the protest, the longer its duration, the wider its location of occurrence, the policy influence would be greater. As well, the logistic and financial support of other civic organizations does not prove critical in enhancing policy efficacy of environmental movement. We conclude our paper by submitting a set of theoretical reflections and policy prescriptions regarding the relationship between environmental protest and policy change