

Abstracts

NAKAHAMA Takashi, Medical Assistance Reforms and Private Health Insurance in America

This article examines the expansion of Medicaid eligibility in the 1980s and the establishment of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in the 1990s. These public programs are designed to provide health coverage to low-income families and children who do not have access to private health insurance.

Under SCHIP, state governments provide health coverage to targeted low-income children by purchasing insurance products from private insurers. In addition, if low-income working families are eligible for but can not enroll in employer-sponsored health insurance due to the employee contribution, state governments help such families to enroll in family coverage by paying their share of premium contribution, which is referred to as "premium assistance."

These private insurance approaches to expand health coverage under public insurance programs are characteristic to American health insurance system and American model of welfare state.

HASEGAWA Chiharu, Health Care Security for Contingent or Alternative Workers: In relation with change of the industrial and employment structures of United States

While the American health care security system has a problem of expansion of medical expenses in common with other advanced nations, it also have a problem of rapid increase in number of the uninsured or underinsured after entering in the 21st century. Employer-sponsored health insurance has played a hard-core role of the system, but is regarded as questionable; because there is change of U.S. industry and employment structure (workers in service or retail/wholesale industries and service or sales occupations that could be offered health benefits rarely or insufficiently by their employers). Contingent workers or part-time workers are hard to join own employer-sponsored health insurance. Wal-Mart Stores sponsors health insurance for their employees, but they could receive insufficient health security because their burden of premium payment or high deductible of health plans.

KINOSHITA Takenori, Features of the Privatization in LA Welfare Reform: Focus on GAIN Case Management

This article clarifies the features of the privatization of the GAIN case management in LA county welfare reform implementation. GAIN is the work activity program of the welfare reform in LA, State of California. Firstly, I explain the outline of welfare reform in LA and make clear that the GAIN case management has an important role for welfare reform enforcement. Secondly, a cost effective is crucial matter of contract out in LA. However, the bid evaluation included to evaluate a career and organizational ability of the bid proposer. Thirdly, I clarify the bid process for contract out of the GAIN case management and explain this contracts contains the structure to give effective administration to the private enterprise like Incentive Payments and Performance Requirements. Finally, this article concludes that a competition between Public and Private Agencies promotes the effective management of Public and Private Agencies each other and improve the capability and performance of policy administration of the government. On the other hand, there are problems such as the staff re-placement by privatization and the increase of the monitoring cost offset a cost cut effect.

HISAMOTO Takashi, The Job training in California Community Colleges: The Case of Programs for Welfare Recipients

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the role of community colleges as workforce intermediaries. The 1990's American welfare restructuring, especially the 1996 welfare reform, strengthened the work-first approach.

However, if we look at the local level rather than the federal level, we see that while using a work-first approach, important use has also been made of a human capital approach using training and education. Supporting the training and education approach are community colleges. They have recently focused on low-wage workers and the working poor, but a problem is that these workers have no career ladders. In this paper, I have covered the CCCCalWORKs Program. The CCCCalWORKs program provides comprehensive support, and has had, despite its limits, some success in terms of building career ladders.

TSUKATANI Fumitake, The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC): Perspective of Welfare Reform

The primary objective of Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is to provide incentives to employers to hire certain economically disadvantaged and disabled individuals, many of whom lack job skills. Further, the WOTC program was designed to support the goals of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 by helping welfare recipients make the transition to work and succeed in the workforce. These workers are engaged in jobs that typically pay fairly low wages, with almost all of them working in jobs classified as service or clerical and sales. Although these jobs are frequently available in the retail, accommodation, the WOTC program provides tax incentives for employers to hire welfare recipients. Local service providers, like Goodwill Industries (a community-based organization), have a strong relationship with these industries. This “buddy system” plays an important role in helping educated welfare recipients enter the labor market through the WOTC program.

HANAWA Takeo, The Fiscal Structure and Features of Public Elementary and Secondary Education of the City of New York

This paper discusses about the fiscal structure and features on the public elementary and secondary education system operated in a scheme of “State and Local Government Finance”, through a case study of the New York City Department of Education (DOE). The school districts existing as the local government, independent from the States, does finance its own revenues from local property tax. Discussing the DOE, it mainly allocates the operational expenditures such as Teacher Salaries in the General Fund, supported by local property tax levies and the “Flex Aid” from the NY State. The Aid distributes the money to school districts in using the fiscal indicator of “Combined Wealth Ratio” (CWR), and it symbolizes the structural feature of the public education finance. This paper concludes that the Aid is primarily; (1) to just “reduce” the gap between the wealthiest and the poorest district, (2) to be funded even smaller money to the wealthiest district as well as the poorest funded much, in order to maintain a state-local partnership, and, (3) never to take away nor distribute the local tax revenues from the wealthier districts to fund the poorer.

YOSHIDA Kenzo, Beyond comparative studies of welfare states: Dynamism of welfare state in the United States

Welfare states in the developed countries are under pressures to adjust themselves to the globalization of economies and the aging populations. The comparative studies of welfare states, led by Espin-Anderson, emphasize diversity of their types and imply their stability against the external pressures. This article questions this position-arguing that previous studies have slighted internal forces from their common similarity to private benefits although they successfully pointed out that aspect of welfare states.

Analyzing changes of private pension plans in the United States, I describe the internal dynamism of the welfare states. Traditional private pensions called "defined benefit plans" prevailed as tools for employers, and unions, to reinforce isolation of their employees from the outside labor market until 1970s. The rapid growth of defined contribution plans, like 401(k)s, in recent decades means active change by employers to keep the tools useful for them in the emerging post-industrial economy. It consists not only from dismantling of the tools but also from renewal of them with concept of "property right of pension". This aspect can be a key to understand the recent restructuring of the welfare states.