

論文の内容の要旨
論文題目 Essays in Empirical Labor Economics
(実証労働経済学に関する研究)

氏名 西村仁憲

This dissertation consists of four studies.

In Chapter 2, we analyze whether government intervention on firms' employment policies have an effect on the employment of the elderly. As a result of the pensionable age increasing in Japan, this policy distinguishes between the mandatory retirement age and the pensionable age. The Japanese government has obliged firms to employ elderly workers until they reach the pensionable age. According to literature, the labor force participation rate of elderly male workers increased just after the implementation of this policy. However, according to this paper's results, there is no effect on the employment of the elderly workers after the introduction of the policy. Consequently, this paper discusses why the government intervention in the demand side of the elderly labor market had no effect on elderly employment. According to this discussion, it is possible that firms have avoided the cost of employing the elderly by using measures that, while following the letter of the law, do not fully support the policy aims.

In Chapter 3, we analyze the effect of informal elderly care on caregiver labor supply. Since the Japanese government intervenes on the supply side of the elderly care market and market entry of nursing home suppliers is regulated, this analysis utilizes exogenous variations from the supply side of government intervention on the elderly care market. Owing to such intervention and regulation, public nursing home capacity exogenously changes for caregivers, which we use to estimate the effect of informal elderly care on labor supply. To the best of our knowledge, no study has thus far utilized exogenous institutional variation as an instrument to estimate this effect. Analysis results reveal that the effect of informal elderly care on female labor force participation is negative. By contrast, male labor force participation is not affected by such care, since, in Japan, females spend more time on informal care than males. The increase in nursing home capacity is thus effective for decreasing the female burden of informal care.

In Chapter 4, we analyze the effect of the Japanese social security system on retirement behavior. We simulate that some counterfactual reforms on the Japanese social security system will influence the Japanese male elderly's labor supply. If the eligibility age of receiving basic pension is changed to age 70, the labor participation rate of the Japanese male elderly increases by about 4.7 percent between age 63 and age 69 in average. If the full amount of basic pension is cut in half, the reform increases the labor participation rate

of the Japanese male elderly by about 1.4 percent between age 63 and age 75 in average. We estimate the structural parameters of the utility function of the Japanese households. We find that the estimated Japanese consumption weight is close to the estimated value in the U.S.

In Chapter 5, we analyze the reasons for differences in the estimated effect of retirement on health in previous studies. We investigate these differences by focusing on the analysis methods used by these studies. Using various health indexes, numerous researchers have examined the effects of retirement on health. However, there are no unified views on the impact of retirement on various health indexes. Consequently, we show that the choice of analysis method is one of the key factors in explaining why the estimated results of the effect of retirement on health differ. Moreover, we reestimate the effect of retirement on health by using a fixed analysis method controlling for individual heterogeneity and endogeneity of the retirement behavior. We analyze the effect of retirement on health parameters, such as cognitive function, self-report of health, activities of daily living (ADL), depression, and body mass index in eight countries. We find that the effects of retirement on self-report of health, depression, and ADL are positive in many of these countries.