

審査の結果の要旨

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Rural areas in Asian countries such as China and Japan are challenged by population decline. Sustaining the function of rural areas requires a certain amount of rural population. Accompany the visions in a sustainable rural society where people are expected to live, an appropriate rural social system provided by government is essential to keep an appropriate amount of population in rural areas.

The key originality of this research is to link basic income (BI), which is defined as a periodic cash payment unconditionally delivered to all on an individual basis without means-test or work requirement, to holistic approaches on sustainable regional management. Based on the concerns on BI as an approach to the future social transformation in the human society, the overarching motivation of this research is that BI may contribute to keeping an appropriate amount of rural population in China and Japan by reshaping the meaning of work, employment and lifestyle, the structure of the local economy and social security system in the rural context. Whether BI could be feasibly implemented is thus a key question for any discussion promoting BI into policy and economic agenda, and it should be investigated corresponding to the governance system. So far there is a lack of studies touching upon the question above.

This research aims to investigate the feasibility of implementing BI in the rural context under different governance systems, taking China and Japan as two case studies. Three research objectives are formulated as follows: 1) calculate the cost of implementing BI in rural context, 2) investigate the attitudes of key stakeholders involved in the policymaking process toward BI in rural context and 3) provide strategies on enhancing the feasibility of BI in rural context of China and Japan corresponding to the opportunities and challenges embedded in the governance system of the two countries respectively.

An intensive literature review on BI theories including the BI definition and potential impacts of BI on the human society and 15 selected BI empirical cases around the world was conducted in Chapter 2.

Chapter 3 estimated the cost of implementing BI in the rural context of China and Japan at the municipal level, taking rural Ganzhou and Sado as two case studies. Secondary data about the public finance of local government in rural Ganzhou and Sado were used for the cost estimation. Taking the adjustment on existing policies into consideration, it was estimated that the implementation of BI at present would annually cost 1.2 billion USD to 1.6 billion USD in rural Ganzhou. Meanwhile, the annual cost of implementing BI in Sado was estimated at from 231.0 million USD to 295.5 million USD. The result implies that if BI was currently implemented in rural Ganzhou or Sado, a huge financial deficit would be created, which largely increases the public finance expenditure of the local government immediately. BI is argued not affordable merely based on the current capacity of local public finance in rural Ganzhou and Sado.

Chapter 4 and Chapter 6 aim to address the objective 2. Chapter 4 quantitatively investigated the public

attitudes toward the implementation of BI and the factors influencing their attitudes in the context of rural Japan, taking the Hokuriku region as a case study. An online survey was conducted among 1028 local residents in August 2019. Through cross-tabulation analysis and chi-square test, it is found that from the perspective of self-interest, the attitudes toward BI varied among the surveyed respondents with different age and income, family structure, interest in participating in non-market activities and employment status, due to concerns about the gains and loss from a trade-off selection between BI and existing policies it would replace. From the perspective of individual value, the public attitudes toward BI are significantly influenced by the perception on the future vision of society created by BI.

Chapter 5 overall discuss the feasibility of four scenarios in the case of Sado based on the result from the cost calculation in Chapter 3 and the findings from the survey in Chapter 4. It is argued that compared with the other three scenarios, scenario 3 (SS3) giving all adult between 20 to 64 years old a full BI is likely more feasibly to be implemented due to a comprehensive consideration of the cost and public attitudes in Sado toward this policy.

Chapter 6 investigated the attitudes of the local government in the rural context of China through qualitative approaches. Taking rural Ganzhou as an example, 4 interviews and 3 group discussions on officials of the local government of Ganzhou at different levels and a member of Ganzhou political consultative conference were conducted during September 2019. The result from discourse analysis shows that the local government of Ganzhou considered that BI would potentially bring both positive and negative impacts on rural Ganzhou from the social, economic, and political perspectives. The general attitudes of the local government toward BI at present is interpreted not positive due to several constraints including the risk on the stability of rural society, controversial impacts on the rural economy, radical attributes of BI, limited financing capacity as well as limitation to initiate policy reform without authorization from the superior government. Correspondingly, strategy recommendation was made for addressing the constraints above.

Based on the findings from the previous Chapters, Chapter 7 overall discusses the opportunities, challenges, and strategies on enhancing the feasibility of implementing BI in the rural context of China and Japan. BI and the existing national rural policy frameworks in each of the two countries is argued reciprocally interlinked with each other, which provides grounds for practically promoting the debates on the implementation of BI into policy agenda. However, limited public financial resources of local government and features of the policymaking process determine that BI is difficult to be initiated from grassroots as a local policy in rural context under the existing governance system either in China or Japan. A top-down approach from the national level is required to implement BI in rural context with the emphasis on developing local economy and industries and on diversifying financial sources. Meanwhile, modification and innovation on the approach of BI are also required in the practices which further expand the current BI definition. Finally, the current governance system in China is argued more feasible to implement the above rural social system. Chapter 8 summarizes and concludes the entire dissertation.

As mentioned above, the results of this dissertation include valuable information to test the feasibility of basic income under different political and economic conditions for the development of a sustainable rural community. Those results have a significant contribution to the academic field of sustainability science. This committee unanimously agreed to award the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

よって、本論文は博士（サステイナビリティ学）の学位請求論文として合格と認められる。