

論文の内容の要旨

論文題目 Essays on Time Allocation and Labor Supply

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This dissertation consists of essays studying time allocation and labor supply. The first essay focuses on the fact that married women exhibit more elastic labor supply responses to wage changes than do single women or men. Mincer (1962) argued that this is explained by a high elasticity of substitution between market work and home production. To test this hypothesis, we use a sharp change in Japanese tax rates to estimate labor supply and home production elasticities for Japanese workers. The results support Mincer's hypothesis: market and home production are near- perfect substitutes for married Japanese women, while home production effects are modest for other demographic groups. These results contrast with those for the US, where male and female elasticities have been converging.

The main question of the second essay is whether the internet has changed how we communicate or not. We examine the impact of internet penetration on time allocation, loneliness, participation in social activities, and marriage by exploiting exogenous regional variation of internet penetration in Japan. Our estimates show that internet penetration is associated with a substantial increase in leisure minutes, lonely minutes per day, especially lonely leisure minutes and lonely maintenance minutes. In addition, we find internet penetration decreases marriage probability for individuals in their fifties and increases divorce rate for individuals in their forties, fifties, and sixties. Overall the results show that the internet changed how we communicate, through increasing value of lonely leisure minutes and decreasing costs of meeting partners.

The last essay in this dissertation estimates effects of internet penetration on labor force participation, hours worked, employment status and wage. We found that internet penetration increases the probability of labor force participation. Our estimates also show that internet penetration is associated with a substantial increase in wage, especially for

males. In addition, non-college-graduated groups are highly affected by internet penetration for both men and women. Those results suggest that internet penetration helps encourage more labor force participation because of an increase in wages for males and decrease in the reservation wage for females.