

## 【Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research(S)】

### Humanities and Social Sciences (Social sciences )



**Title of Project : Theoretical and Empirical Economic Analysis of Social Barriers**

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Research Area : theoretical economics

Keyword : game theory , social barrier, fostering system, medical and educational services on disaster area, longstanding health problem

#### 【Purpose and Background of the Research】

Society has been structured according to the standard of 'normal' people. 'Non-normal' people are often those who are the target of welfare programs. These people face various barriers when they attempt to join economic society, seeking for independent living and employment (Figure 1). Using the keyword 'normal,' we are searching for clues to solve this problem by defining social barriers systematically through a game theoretic model, and analyzing the model empirically so that 'non-normal' people, such as those with disabilities or longstanding health problems, children requiring care, or those seriously affected by disasters, can be included in our society. The problems faced by these people are the magnifying lens that clarifies the distortions of society which 'normal' people are facing. A decrease in the problem for non-normal people would also lead to a decrease in distortions for the entire society.

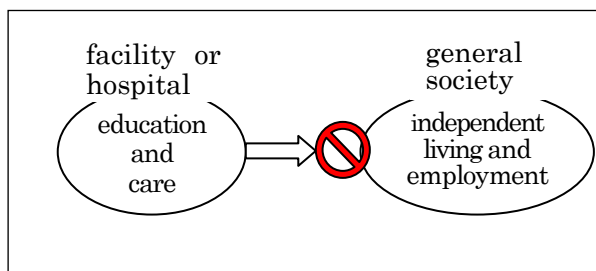


Figure 1 social barriers

#### 【Research Methods】

We are composed of four groups by research subject—a group researching disabilities (Osamu Nagase and Satoshi Fukushima), a group researching longstanding health problems (Yuko Kodama), a group researching children's fostering systems (Tomomi Tanaka), and a group researching disaster areas (Masahiro Kami). Across these four groups, three teams have been assembled by research methods – theory & experiment, institutions & case studies, and empirical analysis. These groups and teams work together tightly. The theory and experiment team conducts comprehensive research, using and developing dynamic game theory, inductive game theory, search theory and behavioral economics, and analyzes the subject from the viewpoint

of discrimination or prejudice, disparity, negative chains, and so on. The results of the analyses will be shared with all teams. The institutions and case studies team not only conducts surveys, but also analyzes the effects of institutional transformation, and compares international institution using the method of comparative institutional analysis. The empirical analysis group undertakes panel surveys & analyses for the disabilities group, statistical surveys for other groups, and performs field experiments for the fostering system group.

#### 【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

In order to explore the problems of the social barriers facing people who fail to be included in a 'normal' society, we attempt to transform both economic theory and the direction of economics by revealing the social distortions facing 'normal' people. Problems associated with 'disability,' 'longstanding health problem,' or 'child-care' have been studied separately. Our comprehensive analysis of these problems will decipher the distortion prevalent in our society. A large number of people feel that life is very stressful and fraught with difficulties. Japan's suicide rate is one of the highest among the OECD countries, which is only a tip of the iceberg. We wish to contribute to the establishment of a social and economic system for all people, including 'normal' people.

#### 【Publications Relevant to the Project】

- A.Matsui, S.Kawashima, and O.Nagase eds., "Disability Revisited (*Shogai-wo Toinaosu*)," (in Japanese), Toyo Keizai Shinpo-sha, 2011.
- A.Matsui, O.Nagase, A.Sheldon, D.Goodley, Y.Sawada, and S.Kawashima eds., "Creating a Society for All: Disability and Economy," The Disability Press, Leeds, U.K., 2012.

#### 【Term of Project】 FY2012-2016

【Budget Allocation】 141,400 Thousand Yen

#### 【Homepage Address】

READ (Research on Economy and Disability)'s  
Home Page : <http://www2.e.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~read/jp/>