

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

Humanities and Social Sciences (Social Sciences)



Title of Project : Investigation of the long-term causal effect of economic inequality on educational inequality based on longitudinal survey and experiments of parent-child pairs and international comparison

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Research Area : Social Sciences, Economics, Public Economics

Keyword : Education, Family, Panel data, Cognitive and noncognitive ability, Experiment

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

Income inequality and inequality of opportunity has become a major concern among developed countries. In Japan, eliminating child poverty and strong intergenerational correlation of economic status is considered one of the highest priorities.

What education policies effectively enhance equality of opportunity? Japan has been left behind in an emerging international cooperation to answer this question since Japan has lacked a longitudinal survey that follows the same children from preschool age through adulthood with measures of cognitive and noncognitive ability and labor market outcomes in adulthood.

We will investigate the long-term causal effect of economic inequality on educational inequality by expanding the Japan Child Panel Survey (JCPS) to include preschool children and adolescents, conducting experiments on parent-child pairs, and starting an international project that compares the effect of economic inequality on children.

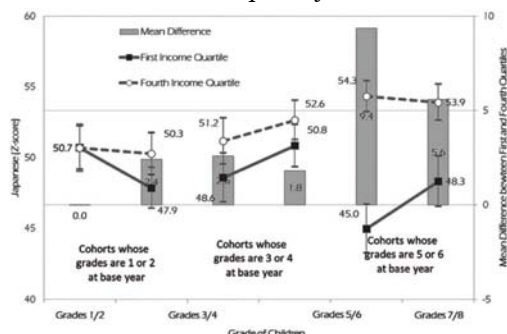


Fig.1. Dynamics of Test Gap across Household Income Groups (Akabayashi et al 2016)

【Research Methods】

First we will conduct a panel survey of preschool age children about child care arrangement, family education, and child's behavior. Second we will construct unified measures of the cognitive ability of school children across ages. Third we will conduct a survey of young adults to investigate the determinants of college enrollment and early economic and social outcomes. Fourth we will conduct experiments on the same parent-child pairs over time to uncover how family influences children.

Lastly, we will start comparative research with China and OECD countries.

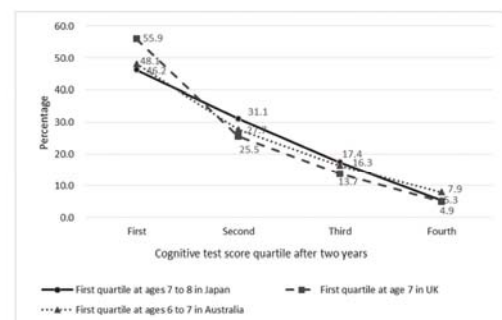


Fig.2. Mobility of Test Scores: Comparison of U.K., Australia, and Japan (Akabayashi et al. 2016).

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

The study will enhance our understanding about the long-term dynamics of educational inequality along the course of child development. The outcomes of this project will be useful not only to the domestic education policy but also to the global research and policy community.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

Akabayashi, et al.(eds) 2016. An Economic Analysis of Academic Ability, Non-Cognitive Ability, and Family Background. Yuhikaku.(in Japanese)

Akabayashi,etal. 2016. "Toward an International Comparison of Economic and Educational Mobility: Recent Findings from the Japan Child Panel Survey." Educational Studies in Japan: International Yearbook. 10: 49-66.

【Term of Project】 FY2016-2020

【Budget Allocation】 140,400 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact

Information】 <http://ies.keio.ac.jp/projects/5965>