

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

Humanities and Social Sciences (Social Sciences)



Title of Project : Risk and Well-Being Under Changing Global Society: Empirical Policy Research Based on Advanced Micro-Econometrics

Yasuyuki Sawada

(The University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Economics, Professor)

Research Project Number : 26220502 Researcher Number : 40322078

Research Area : Social Sciences

Keyword : Development Economics

【Purpose and Background of the Research】

The global society is currently experiencing a significant change due to demographic changes: The rapid aging in developed countries and a “population bonus” in less developed countries. In this study, we investigate this global societal change by focusing on three large-scale risks, i.e., aging, disaster, and poverty risks.

This project has two objectives: First, to collect and analyze detailed micro-data in order to accumulate evidence on Japan’s experience in rapid aging, disaster mitigation/coping and reconstruction from World War II, which should serve as an international public good; second, to acquire new evidence on risk and well-being of people in developing countries that are going through a population bonus stage.

【Research Methods】

First, we design and implement the Japanese Study of Aging and Retirement (JSTAR) survey, a panel survey of elderly people, in selected municipalities to uncover the Japanese experience.

Second, in addition to the JSTAR survey, we augment our studies of tsunami-affected areas in Fukushima, Miyagi, and Iwate prefectures. Also, we continue and compare past studies on disaster-affected communities in Japan and other countries, and compile lessons on post-disaster livelihood improvements.

Third, we further our field surveys /experiments in Bangladesh and other developing countries enjoying a population bonus so as to identify the nexus between risk and well-being of younger generations.

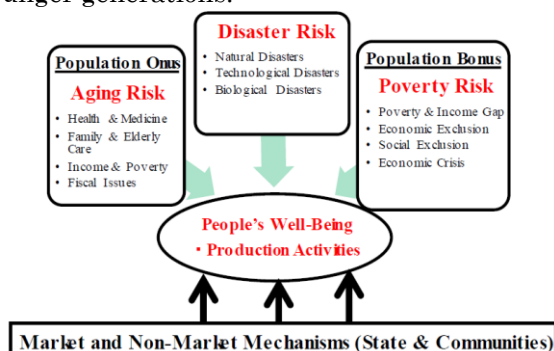


Figure 1 Conceptual Research Framework

【Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance】

For the aging component, we construct and analyze JSTAR panel data to accumulate evidence on risks of Japan’s rapidly aging society. We adopt the state-the-art structural estimation and field experimental methods to identify and disseminate effective policy instruments.

As for the disaster risk component, we conduct micro field studies that uncover the impacts of disasters and visualize the post-disaster recovery process in order to evaluate the efficacy of various policy interventions. Through this study, we aim to help design innovative insurance/risk-sharing mechanisms such as index-based insurance and post-disaster transfer matching mechanisms.

Finally, as to the population bonus and poverty risk in developing countries, we employ field-level micro-surveys/experiments to investigate the roles of social inclusion---in particular, the roles of financial inclusion in poverty reduction. The study should contribute to the development of effective microfinance and other micro-development programs.

【Publications Relevant to the Project】

- Yasuyuki Sawada and Satoshi Shimizutani (2008) "How Do People Cope With Natural Disasters? Evidence from the Great Hanshin-Awaji (Kobe) Earthquake," Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking 40, 463-488.
- Jeong-Joon Lee and Yasuyuki Sawada (2010) "Precautionary Saving under Liquidity Constraints: Evidence from Rural Pakistan," Journal of Development Economics 91, 77-86.
- Yasuyuki Sawada, Kazumitsu Nawata, Masako Ii, and Mark J. Lee (2011) "Did the Financial Crisis in Japan Affect Household Welfare Seriously?" Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking 43, 297-324, 2011.

【Term of Project】 FY2014-2018

【Budget Allocation】 150, 200 Thousand Yen

【Homepage Address and Other Contact Information】

<https://sites.google.com/site/yasuyukisawadapage/home>