

論文の要約

氏名 YUKTADATTA PATTAPHOL

論文題目

Three Essays on Public Policies during the COVID-19 Pandemic
新型コロナウイルス感染症 (COVID-19) の公共政策に関する論文

論文の要旨

This dissertation discussed three essays on public policies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the COVID-19 pandemic and its countermeasures disrupted the world and the Japanese economy [1-8], the Japanese responded by providing a one-time payment of JPY 100,000 to every resident in Japan. Since the pandemic had heterogenous effects on various socioeconomic groups [9,10], the first essay examined associations between socioeconomic status and satisfaction with a one-time government subsidy of JPY 100,000. This essay enabled us to measure policy effectiveness. Meanwhile, we assumed that people most affected during the pandemic were likelier to feel that one-time payment is insufficient to alleviate the economic shock. As a result, they were less likely to feel satisfied with the policy. Under such assumption, this study allowed us to identify the most vulnerable during the pandemic. The study found that the one-time payment was inadequate to unwind public anxiety in Japan. As predicted, various socioeconomic groups had a different likelihood of being satisfied with the policy.

Although Japan had a vaccine willingness of 66% in September 2020 [11], the willingness might decrease owing to the coverage of the side effects in early February 2021 or before the mass vaccination. Since we surveyed vaccine willingness during the same period, we could observe the change in vaccine willingness. Utilising the concurrence, we studied the relationship between socioeconomic status and COVID-19 vaccine willingness and discussed it in the second essay. The results revealed that vaccine willingness declined to 47%, and people with different socioeconomic backgrounds had different vaccine willingness. The findings emphasised policymakers considering the effect of news coverage on vaccine willingness while considering diversity in Japan.

The pandemic countermeasures, such as the state of emergency, abruptly deprive people of social contact and resource [12-14]. Unfortunately, some with

a certain socioeconomic status might struggle to adjust more than others [15-17]. As a result, these people developed loneliness conditions [18]. Since Khan and Kadoya [18] found age and gender are the critical determinants of loneliness, the third essay examined the interaction effects between age and gender on the likelihood of feeling lonely and the probability of becoming lonely in 2021. Since different sub-socioeconomic groups had different chances of feeling and becoming lonely in 2021, the results emphasised the importance of tailoring countermeasure policies.

Although this dissertation explored different aspects of the pandemic, these studies concurred that the pandemic has heterogeneous effects on socioeconomic groups. Hence, "one-size-fits-all" or universal public policies may not be suitable for curbing pandemic-related issues. Policymakers should tailor policies based on the characteristics of socioeconomic groups.

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