

学位論文の要旨 (論文の内容の要旨)
Abstract of the Dissertation (Abstract of Dissertation Contents)

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学 位 論 文

Dissertation

論 文 題 目

Dissertation Title

Impact Evaluation of Socio-economic Policies on the Health Situations of Households in Developing Countries

In the realm of developing nations, a multitude of challenges arise, including but not limited to poverty, disasters, inequitable access to health services, internal displacement, and other vulnerabilities. Addressing these pressing issues takes precedence before embarking on the path toward sustainable development. Therefore, the governments of developing countries must prioritize and implement measures to tackle these challenges as a crucial prerequisite to advancing sustainable development goals. Thus, the doctoral dissertation endeavors to evaluate different policies which have diverse impacts on socio-economic and health-related outcomes in developing countries, utilizing Nepal, Afghanistan, and Cambodia as compelling case studies.

The doctoral dissertation consists of three distinct quantitative studies but all about the social-economic dynamics in developing countries, organized into three analytical chapters, using data from a survey in Nepal, two surveys in Afghanistan, and one observational data in Cambodia. The second chapter focuses on the aftermath of the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, which caused extensive damage to critical infrastructure in Greater Kathmandu and had detrimental effects on the health of affected households. In response to the disaster, the Nepalese government implemented a lottery system to allocate taxi permits to severely affected households. Utilizing this natural experimental setup, the study examines the impact of this policy on the health status of households and their access to healthcare services. The findings reveal that households receiving taxi permits experienced a reduction in the prevalence of chronic and diarrheal diseases, as well as a decrease in doctor visits. However, there were no significant differences observed in medical expenditure between the two groups. Additionally, the study highlights that rural households with taxi permits benefited more significantly from the policy. These research findings offer valuable insights for policymakers involved in post-disaster recovery efforts.

The third chapter investigates the impact of displacement caused by a mining company in Aynak, Afghanistan, on the dietary intake and health conditions of affected households. Displacement resulting from mining activities is a common consequence of regional development efforts, often leading to increased health risks for those affected. Using the Difference-in-Differences (DID) approach, the study analyzes changes in health-related outcomes before and after displacement for both displaced and non-displaced households. Data were collected in two time periods: pre-displacement in 2011 and ten years post-displacement in 2021. The findings reveal improved access to public facilities for displaced households and significant shifts in dietary habits. However, the current living conditions of the displaced population expose them to higher health risks, including malaria, diarrhea, and skin diseases, highlighting the need for better planning in displacement and resettlement programs to mitigate adverse effects. The study strongly recommends that policymakers prioritize the health needs of affected households and incorporate health considerations into the planning and execution of displacement initiatives.

The fourth chapter focuses on an Equity Card program implemented in Cambodia to reduce financial barriers to healthcare access among vulnerable populations. Using propensity score matching (PSM) analysis of data from the Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey (CSES), this study examines the influence of the Equity Card on healthcare-seeking behaviour, healthcare expenditure, and the rate of child deliveries at healthcare centers. The results indicate that households with equity cards tend to visit healthcare centers more frequently around 0.09 times on average, while expenditure does not significantly increase. Moreover, there is an approximate 7% increase in the rate of pregnant women choosing to deliver their child at a healthcare center instead of at home. These findings contribute to the existing literature on healthcare equity

and provide insights into the effectiveness of targeted interventions in improving healthcare accessibility and welfare outcomes in low-income settings.

Overall, the dissertation meticulously examines the policies concerning vulnerable populations in developing countries, shedding light on their profound causal impacts. It strongly advocates for greater engagement from policymakers to empower vulnerable individuals, enhance their access to healthcare, and facilitate their adaptation to environmental changes arising from various policies.

備考 論文の要旨はA4判用紙を使用し、4,000字以内とする。ただし、英文の場合は1,500語以内とする。

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