

CHANGES IN INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND REDISTRIBUTION EFFECTS

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This article is aimed at studying changes in income distribution since 1953 and at grasping, from the viewpoints of quantity and era, the effects of income redistribution by various systems, including taxation system and social security system. To tackle this problem from the viewpoint of era and household, the Household Economy Research Year-Book alone can be utilized. Also, the research cannot help being limited to homes of workers. A coefficient of fluctuation is used as a seal to measure inequality.

The primary distribution, which results just from production activities and which is not affected by systems at all, is called original income. As for original income, with 1961 as a border year, we can point out the trend of inequality before 1961 and that of equality after 1961. The documentary records which analyzed changes in difference of wages show that difference of wages has expanded when wages went up while fluctuating in a long period and that difference of wages has diminished when they went down. It is conceivable that the above fact reflects the trend of changes in income distribution.

When standard deviation in distribution of original

income is regarded as an indicator of wage difference, a periodical change in industrial fluctuation and inequality which are almost in parallel can be explained very well. In other words, in prosperous days, wage difference and inequality are expanded. Meanwhile, in depression, wage difference is diminished, and equality is promoted.

Both in prosperous days and recession, what plays an effective role in redistribution is income tax. However, plans to improve redistribution have been often unsuccessful. In many cases, the causes are attributable to the revision of taxation system. Judging from the viewpoint of effects of redistribution, the significance of existence of such a taxation policy in postwar days is doubtful.

The social security system involves the factor of inequality. We can point out some factors which promote inequality in the field of burden in social security. When we think benefit and contribution collectively, we realize that this cause is the fact that analysis was made using the data which do not take benefit in kind into consideration.

STRUCTURE ANALYSIS OF OLD-AGE PENSION INSURANCE IN UNITED STATES

GOICHI FUJITA

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This article analyzes the finance of the "old-age pension insurance," which is a link in the chain of the system of the 1935 U.S. Federal Social Security

Law, to study the material function of this insurance and to see what policy is intervening in this insurance.

In chapter II, the aspect of contribution of old-age

pension insurance is studied. This chapter clarifies, through the analysis of nature of pay-roll tax and income tax and the analysis of structure of proportional tax rates and gradual tax rates, that efforts are being made to lighten burdens of middle and old-age people and large income earners.

In chapter III, the aspect of benefit is discussed. In particular, the function of the "total wage proportion system" is analyzed in the form of a preliminary essay. This analysis clarifies that in the "total wage proportion system" an advantage is given to the middle and old-age people who have not many years to work until their retirement. This chapter concludes that the combination of the "total wage

proportion system" and the "gradual proportion system" makes it possible to grant the "unearned annuities" to those who retire at an early stage.

In chapter IV, two policy viewpoints are discussed on the basis of the policy analysis. One is the viewpoint of the "labor market policy" on which no great emphasis has yet been placed. The other is the viewpoint of the "financial restrictions" which is aimed at reducing costs for help to old people by establishing a system for this purpose.

Chapter V, which can be said to be a conclusion, touches on some problems of principle. In this chapter, discussions are made from the viewpoints of both social security and social insurance.

"SHAKAI SEISAKU" AND SOCIAL POLICY—A MEMORANDUM

TAKESHI INAKAMI

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I would like to conclude my article by giving some closing remarks based on the above studies.

(A) When the substance of social policy in the modern society is studied, various achievements in the existing Japanese social policy science must be analyzed in detail. However, there is the criticism that the thought based on the inflexible diagram is almost useless. At the same time, the fact cannot be overlooked that basic conditions for the establishment of policy science are left unfinished. Judging from the viewpoint of completion of basic conditions, it seems to me that a strong charm still remains in Eijiro Kawai's idea on social policy science.

(B) To narrow the scope of the object of social policy monistically will be not always useful. It seems proper to think that the object is rather omnipresent in the modern Japanese society, where the remarkable socialization of production and life has been pushed at the fast tempo.

(C) The development of social science regarding decision on social will is being actualized. A try to grope for the postulate which social policy should complete can be said to represent the trend of actu-

alization. As influential ways of thinking about the "On Social Choice," the type to place emphasis on market principle and the type to depend on the principle of decision by majority can be listed first. However, the type to establish a ubiquitous "postulate" can also be added. This type can be said to include the thought "civil minimum." The "On Justice," which was developed by J. Rawls, is regarded as a kind of "civil minimum." It can be said to be one of the forms of the "social total."

(D) This "On Justice" is based on the expatiation of fiction about imaginary abstract individuals at the "place of social contract." If this expatiation is made ubiquitously with the description of abstract individuals as a prop, it will have an excellent effect on the problem of "social justice," which naturally the modern social policy should complete. This "On Justice"—in my thought—has its own effect, because it has no important experiential nature of "civil minimum" from the beginning, and it is given a position as a theory of social postulate, which is set outside the theory of "civil minimum." These two theories should form a framework of important

theoretical relations for social policy.

(E) As far as "principle of justice" is concerned, J. Rawls and Masahiko Aoki showed both common nature and some sharp divergencies. It seems to me that Aoki is more persuasive both in the expatiation of the "principle of justice" from the "place of social contract" and in adherence to persistent abstraction.

(F) However, it is necessary, even in Aoki's case, to establish the detailed standards, which will be produced in the experiential application. Furthermore, it is important not to overlook the fact that the last link of his "principle of justice" has the

"weakness" that it must prearrange the "policy for mutual understanding." Also, there is the possibility that his formula for functional relations with social policy is used as weapons for criticism and rejection from beginning to end.

(G) Therefore, in designing and developing a positive social policy, it is necessary to add the theoretical development of "civil minimum." However, it is my temporary conclusion that this necessity does not deny the specific function of the theory of "principle of justice."

SOCIAL INSURANCE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF SOCIAL SECURITY ACTS

SEISHI ARAKI

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Usually the social security system is formed with social insurance as a center. Social insurance was established at the end of the 19th century to protect workers. The social security policy has developed since the thirties of the 20th century. As a result, social insurance has been incorporated into the social security system. In this course, the scope of application of social insurance has expanded, insurance accidents have increased, and the nature and function of social insurance have changed. On the other hand, the field of social security, which does not depend on social insurance, has also gradually expanded.

It is undeniable that social insurance has made great contributions to the development of social security. However, the limit of social insurance has also expanded. When social security is studied from the viewpoint of law, it seems necessary to concretely examine the significance and function of the legislation based on the social insurance system. This article discusses the existing social insurance system in Japan

in connection with the Workers Accident Compensation Insurance Law, the Unemployment Insurance Law and the Health Insurance Law. In the social insurance laws, there are some defects in the fields of the role and function as the social security law as well as the composition and contents as the traditional social insurance law. This fact poses the problems of legislation and the philosophy of law.

When grasping social security as a legal system, I cannot find a positive significance in establishing a fixed sphere of the social insurance law. It seems necessary to part from the traditional fixed idea of social insurance in order to study the nature of various needs for social security and the contents of benefits which cope with these needs and to grasp the substantial structure of legal relations concerning security benefits. From this stand, this article concretely examines the contents of the existing social insurance law and studies the significance of social insurance.

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF INTERN PROBLEMS

AKIRA SUGAYA

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As is generally known, in foreign countries the intern system is a prerequisite for becoming a clinician. Interns live in the hospital and undergo severe practical training. Needless to say, the system and conditions for the training are completed in these countries. During the training period, interns' life is guaranteed to a certain extent. Therefore, they can devote themselves to the training for clinical study. Under these circumstances, the expected purpose of the intern system has been achieved fully in these countries.

In the advanced Western nations, which have a long history of the intern system, the reform proposal has been made for the past few years that the intern system should not be regarded as training after graduation but be incorporated into education before graduation. In other words, this proposal means that the problem of intern can be settled by reforming the professional course of the medical education at university. Anyhow, however, the intern system still has been maintained as an absolute prerequisite for being a clinician.

On the other hand, in Japan, as a result of the partial revision of the National Medical Treatment

Law Enforcement Ordinance in late August of 1946, the intern system for the period of a year after graduation from the medical faculty was inaugurated in September in the same year. However, the completion of the training system for interns has been delayed, and the guarantee of their social position and life have been dissatisfaction. Therefore, the intern system has been unable to solidify its foundation since its inauguration although the system has barely maintained its form. Anyhow, although many problems are left unsettled, an end was put for the time being to the after-graduation intern system, which was an absolute prerequisite for the acquisition of doctor license, as a result of the passing of the Doctor Law Partial Revision Bill through the Diet in May 1968.

This article tries, through the historical study of developments of the intern system from its inauguration to its abolition, to clarify various problems of the intern system, to discuss what is the genuine settlement of the problems, and to study if the partial revision of the Doctor Law in 1968 was a genuine solution to the intern problem.

ON THE MEASUREMENT OF INCOME INEQUALITY

—Critical Note on Social Welfare Function Approaches—

TAKAO FUJIMOTO

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This note is to give critical comments on the revival of social welfare function approaches in both the theory and the practice of income inequality measurement. Firstly, a brief summary is given

concerning one of Prof. Atkinson's papers, which shows a beautiful application of the results in the theory of risk bearing to inequality measurement. In the paper, Prof. Atkinson also presents a new

measure which is invariant under linear transformation of the given individual utility function. So, secondly, a diagrammatical exposition of Atkinson's inequality coefficient is made. A comparison between Gini's coefficient and Atkinson's is also made.

In the third place, Atkinson's coefficient is put to criticism after transforming his coefficient formula. And attacks are made generally to social welfare function approaches.

Lastly, a new group of measures is presented.