

## Master's Thesis Abstract

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Title

Factors for Volunteer Labor Supply

In Japan, the outflow of population from rural areas to cities is progressing due to the impact of income disparity. As a result, the population of rural areas is declining, and economic disparities with urban ones are occurring. Additionally, investing in education for the next generation, and poverty is likely to cascade into a cycle, especially in low-income and single-parent households. Therefore, children's cafeterias and free learning support activities are attracting attention. However, there are disparities in the prevalence of children's cafeterias and free learning support activities between regions. The reason for this is that participation in volunteer activities varies by region. In other words, by having more residents participate, it is possible to expand children's cafeterias and free learning support activities. It is important to consider incentives to increase the number of volunteers and to solve local issues such as isolation and poverty. Based on previous studies, we can determine several factors involved. Age, educational background, gender, annual household income, number of children, presence of household members requiring nursing care, living in rural areas, and participation in neighborhood associations and neighborhood associations are factors which increased the participation rate in volunteer activities. In contrast, increases in wages and working hours have reduced participation in programs, except under special circumstances such as natural disasters. This paper examines the factors that determine the participation rate in volunteer activities in Japan as a whole. For the study I utilized three years of published panel data from each prefecture, employing a Multiple Regression Models to determine the overall labor supply function of volunteers in Japan. Since it is necessary to consider the possibility that the high income is due to the high level of educational background, we performed a regression analysis of two patterns, one with "income" and one without. As a result of the analysis, the following two points were confirmed in common in both regression analyses. First, it was confirmed that the participation rate in volunteer activities tended to be promoted in areas with a higher number of people per household and a higher marriage rate. Second, we found that regions with lower female populations and university enrollment rates were more likely to reduce participation in volunteer activities. We also found that when income was not included as an explanatory variable, prefectures with longer working hours and higher per capita social welfare costs were more likely to participate in volunteer participation. However, even though Aomori Prefecture is an area with low incomes and tends to have long working hours, the participation rate in volunteer activities was low. Three points will be highlighted for policy recommendations in Aomori Prefecture. The first is to provide volunteer education in schools and public facilities so that various people can participate in volunteer activities. Second, we need to establish a system to encourage people with higher incomes and educational attainment to participate more in volunteer activities. Third, we need to create an environment that makes it easier for more members of the public to participate in volunteer activities. Remaining challenges for the study are the very small number of data, the lack of explanatory variables, and derivation of individual volunteer labor supply functions for various regions and fields of activity.