An Econometric Analysis of the Hospital Cost Structure : A Preliminary Study

Kannosuke SAITO

This paper is a preliminary study to analyze, empirically, the hospital cost structure in Japan. The paper is divided into three issues : to consider the essential points of hospital cost function according to a survey of past studies in the United States of America, to construct a theoretical model of the hospital cost structure, and to check the availability of data in Japan.

The conclusions drawn are that the long-run hospital cost function should be estimated to verify the existence of scale economy in the hospital cost structure and that the optimal scale of a hospital can be deduced from the estimated parameters.

A Research on How Carework is Perceived by Students at Training Institutions for Certified Careworkers

Masahiro YOKOYAMA and Hiromitsu MIHARA

The purpose of this paper was to improve existing practices by investigating how carework is perceived by students at training institutions for certified careworkers. A questionnaire was sent to 333 students at 3 institutions. The results are as follows. Students are able to develop their own viewpoints about carework through the learning process. The students were introduced to home-bound carework by socialworkers for leisure, and terminal care through classes or by syllabus. The students felt that the social status of careworkers was low and that they weren't appreciated enough by the public in general. Accordingly, the system for training and educating certified careworkers should be improved, and careworkers should work to improve caregiving after graduation from the institutions.

Mental Health of College Students — Dissociative Experience Scale —

Tomohisa SASANO and Takako TSUKAHARA

This study was carried out to screen the mental health of a group of college students. Fifty-seven students underwent psychological testing using the Dissociative Experience Scale (DES). The statistical DES scores were as follows :median 1.94, mean 16.03, standard error of the mean 1.94, skewness 1.61 and kurtosis 5.82. The adjustment levels of all students with a DES score of less than 30 points were good, but those of some students with a DES score above 30 points were bad. Therefore, it is suggested that students with a DES score above 30 points should be interviewed by a psychiatrist or clinical psychologist.