

Articles

Trend of Services for Children's Halls in Post-war Japan — Guidelines for the Establishment and Management of Children's Halls —

Makiko YAEHASHI

In an effort to probe for ways to improve the services of the children's halls, trends in post-war Japan and revisions of the guidelines for their establishment and management were examined.

The results are as follows:

1. The number of children's halls has increased.
2. The "After-School Measures for the Healthy Upbringing of Children in Children's Halls" has been promoted.
3. The status of workers in children's recreational facilities has been elevated.
4. The activities of children's halls have been coordinated with other child care support groups.

The Development of a Method for Measuring "Dynamic Moving Detectability" — An Examination of the Principles and Methodology —

Yoshihiro KANEMITSU

The optical ability of humans to discriminate moving objects in visual space has been expressed by "Kinetic Visual Acuity (KVA)", which is based on the concepts of limen or threshold.

On the other hand, the present study defines dynamic vision followed by eye movements as "Dynamic Moving Detectability (DMD)". Then an attempt was made to measure this DMD, using vigilance tasks grounded on the Signal Detection Theory (SDT). The followings are discussed.

1. The conceptual definition of dynamic moving detection
2. Measurement principles of dynamic moving detectability — A study of optical physiology and psychometrics —
3. Measurement methodology of dynamic moving detectability — The equipment and the index —
4. Future problems of these examinations

Original Papers

An Econometric Analysis of the Hospital Cost Structure: An Empirical Study

Kannosuke SAITO

The purpose of this paper is to analyze empirically the hospital cost structure in Japan. The transcendental logarithmic cost function, which contains the input factor prices and the output of hospital services, is assumed. The two stage least square method is used to estimate the parameters of data from 1984 to 1997. This study tried to determine the short and long-run hospital cost curves.

The conclusions drawn are that the estimated hospital cost function is an effective measure to verify the existence of scale economy in the hospital cost structure and to deduce the optimal scale of a hospital. Also it is important to include a scale factor of the hospital in the hospital cost function as an independent variable for analysing the short and long-run hospital cost structures.