

The Influence of the Family in the Withdrawal from Self-Employment:

Using the 2015 SSM Survey Data

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1 Aim

In the 1960's, the self-employment rate among Japanese across all industries was over 40 percent, but around the 2000's the rate declined rapidly to under 20 percent. In light of this statistic, it is very important to understand the mechanism of the withdrawal from self-employment. Although Takenoshita (2015) has already examined the withdrawal from self-employment from the familial perspective, I aim to back up his research questions using the 2015 SSM survey data (the national survey of Social Stratification and social Mobility of 2015). This paper examines how self-employers' families, including the spouses and children, have influenced the withdrawal from self-employment.

2 Methods

For this purpose, I analyze Japanese self-employment with quantitative analysis, using the 2015 SSM survey data (the third delivered version). In the 2015 SSM data, there are variables regarding the respondents' children's gender and whether they live together, which are not in the 2005 SSM data. I focus on male and female persons who have the experience of self-employment in non-agricultural sectors. And I apply discrete logit models to the person-period data. The dependent variable is "withdrawal from self-employment." And I used the categories: "closing a business" and "family reasons" from the variables of the "withdrawal reason" as competed risks of the models. Independent variables are marital status, children's gender, children's age, children's co-habitation, and the variables related to respondents' social stratification.

3 Results

The results show that male self-employers are likely to close their businesses after divorce, but are not likely to withdraw from self-employment in the case of having children with whom they live together. In line with the patriarchal ideology, Japanese self-employers tend to prefer male children to female children as their successors. However, according to the data, elderly male self-employers are likely to close their businesses, even if they have male children. Female self-employers are not likely to withdraw from self-employment after marriage, but are likely to withdraw from self-employment to concentrate on child rearing.

4 Conclusion

From these findings, we can affirm that the withdrawal from self-employment is influenced not only by their own life-cycle stages and labor markets, but also by their children's gender and life-cycle stages.

References

Takenoshita, H., 2015, "Who is Successful in Stabilizing Self-Employment?: Family, Gender and Labor Market Structures," H. Tarohmaru ed., *Labor Markets, Gender and Social Stratification in East Asia: A Global Perspective*, Brill Academic Publishers, 177-205.