
ABSTRACTS

Correction or Exacerbation: The Impact of Digital Infrastructure on the**Structural Imbalance between Industry and Employment***Zhang Guosheng Li Wenjing • 26 •*

The widespread digital infrastructure has been an important factor affecting both industrial and employment structures, as well as the correlation between them. Does it help to correct the long-standing structural imbalance between industry and employment? To answer this question, this paper empirically examines the impact of digital infrastructure on the structural imbalance between industry and employment using the quasi-natural experiment of the Broadband China Pilot. We construct a DID model with data from 284 prefecture-level cities in China. The study finds that digital infrastructure exacerbates the “imbalance” between industrial and employment structures, and this finding holds true after controlling for potential endogeneity and other robustness tests. Further study shows that the widespread use of digital infrastructure promotes the advanced employment structure and thus helps to correct the “imbalance” between industrial and employment structures. However, since the human capital upgrading and labor skill adjustment lag behind the technology diffusion and its employment creation in the process of digital infrastructure adoption, the mismatch between supply and demand generates labor mismatches, which aggravates the structural imbalance between industry and employment. In other words, the exacerbating effect of digital infrastructure is greater than the correcting effect at present. Accordingly, this paper argues that the government needs to accelerate the construction of supporting institutions, promote educational progression in accordance with the digital technology improvement, strengthen the inclusive supply of digital infrastructure, and deepen the reform of the dualistic institutional system.

An Examination of the Relationship between Urban Economic Density and Total Factor Productivity:**The Moderating Effect of City Size***Cheng Kaiming Liu Shucheng • 39 •*

The degree of urban economic agglomeration is an important factor affecting production efficiency, and significant differences prevail in the productivity of cities of different scales. In this study, we build a theoretical model on the “inverted U-shaped” relationship between urban economic density and total factor productivity, and also test the relationship empirically using the panel data of cities at and above the prefecture level in China, with the perspective of moderating effect of city size. Our study finds that, combined with the positive externalities of scale economies and the negative externalities of crowding effects, the impact of urban economic density on total factor productivity shows a robust “inverted U-shaped” feature. The overall threshold of economic density was 3.4 billion Yuan per square kilometers. And the city size plays a positive role in regulating the effect in that the expansion of city size is conducive to raising the economic density threshold. Under the new development pattern, it is necessary to promote coordinated developments of large, medium and small cities, and adopt urban development strategies tailored to local conditions to avoid urban sprawl.

The Impact of Social Security Increasing Levy Intensity on Employers' Compliance and Fee-Shifting through Wage

Chen Qiulin Tan Jiahui ·55·

The social security fee collection has been transferred from the Social Security Administration Department to the Tax Bureau in 11 provinces at the same time. As a result, the levy intensity increases for the corporations in these regions. We treat this event as a quasi-natural experiment in this paper, and examine the impact of increasing levy intensity on corporates' social security benefits and remuneration decisions. We use data collected from an online recruitment platform(Zhaopin.com) and the corresponding data on corporate employers and build RDD fuzzy breakpoint regression models. The results show that the reform of contribution collection system has significantly improved employers' social insurance compliance. However, the increased collection intensity leads to employers' fee shifting behaviors and employees' wage reduction. The fee-shifting effect is more severe in small and micro enterprises. We also find that employers reduce the burden of social insurance expenditure mainly by reducing the salaries of low-educated employees, meanwhile highly-educated employees have their social security benefits and wages improved simultaneously. These results call for deepening reforms in the social insurance premium collection system and other supporting policies, so as to promote the justice and efficiency of related policies.

The Phenomenon of College Graduates' Flexible Employment: Viewing from a Human Capital Matching Perspective

Feng Xiliang Qiu Yue ·70·

Along with the rapid digital transformation, new flexible employments are emerging, and an increasing number of college graduates choose flexible employments nowadays. Yet it is unclear whether this is related to the changes in human capital formed through college education. Using data collected through a questionnaire survey on the college graduates in 2021, we examine the relationship between human capital matching and the nature (initiative or passivity) of college graduates' flexible employment choice. The results show that: (1) the enhancement of human capital matching significantly improves the possibility of college graduates actively choosing flexible employment. Under the same conditions, the promotion effect of skill matching is stronger than that of major matching for college graduates to choose actively flexible employment; (2) human capital matching can indirectly affect the tendency of college graduates choosing flexible employment by improving their demand for autonomy, competence and career development; (3) the impact of human capital matching on college graduates' flexible employment choice shows great heterogeneities among various types of major, college and skill. This study enriches the existing literature on the effect of human capital matching on college graduates' employment, and provides a psychological viewpoint on the related mechanisms. The results can throw light on improving efficiency of college education and labor transformations.

The Effect of the Basic Pension Schemes Integration on Individuals' Subjective Wellbeing: Evidence from the CHARLS Data

Xie Zhenfa Yang Siyu ·85·

Employing data from the four waves of the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS) between 2011 and 2018, this paper investigates the impact of the integration of basic pension schemes for rural and non-working urban residents on individuals' subjective wellbeing using time-varying difference-in-differences method. We find that: (1) The reform has significantly improved residents' subjective wellbeing, with an increase of

0.064 in self-rated life satisfaction, and a reduction of 0.420 in depression index. (2) The effects are more pronounced among women, the low-educated, those covered by the new old-age pension system for rural residents, those receiving pension benefits, and the residents in East China. (3) For the elderly who are already receiving pensions, the subjective wellbeing improvement is mainly driven by increased pension income. This paper suggests that the integration of basic pension schemes for rural and non-working urban residents is of far-reaching significance for the improvement of residents' subjective wellbeing. It should gradually improve the overall planning level, actively promote cross-regional integration, further optimize and expand its impact on individuals' subjective wellbeing, and promote the realization of China's modernization with coordinated material and spiritual civilizations.

The Effect of Social Participation on the Elderly's Health

Sheng Yinan Liu Yuanzhuo · 97 ·

Based on the activity theory and the stress and coping theory, this paper analyzes the impacts of social participation on the health of the Chinese elderly using data from the 2018 China Longitudinal Ageing Social Survey. We find that social participation helps to prevent the impairment of the elder's ADLs, slow down the presence of chronic conditions, and improve the elder's general health significantly. The effect varies by types of social participation, such as labor participation, volunteer and recreational participation. The mechanism analysis shows that social participation can significantly alleviate the detrimental health impacts resulted from negative life events, experienced recently or back in the childhood. The effect is more substantial for those having multiple negative life events, and also for those who experienced negative life events recently. Subpopulation heterogeneities are also observed in the health effect of social participation, in which greater health improvements are observed for the oldest-old, and the elderly living in rural or western areas, as compared with their counterparts. In addition, the heterogeneity is also salient by types of social participation. The conclusive remark calls for attention to the development of human resources of the elderly, and the facilitation of the elderly's social participation by improving environmental and institutional arrangements.

A Study on the Influence of Living Arrangements on the Elderly's Self-rated Quality of Life

Zhou Xiaomeng Lu Yaru · 111 ·

This paper examines the impact of living arrangements on the elderly's self-rated quality of life in China using data from the 2017–2018 Chinese Longitudinal Healthy Longevity Survey (CLHLS). We find that the self-rated quality of life of the elderly living in institutions is significantly lower as compared with those living with families, and is not significantly different from those living alone. For the elderly having fewer living children and the Oldest-old, no significant difference is observed between the institutional and non-institutional living arrangements regarding the elderly's life quality. Daily care, spiritual consolation and medical services are the internal mechanisms through which to improve the elderly's self-rated quality of life. While the lack of spiritual consolation constitutes the major weakness of institutional living, the poor accessibility of medical services constricts the non-institutional living arrangement. In view of this, the paper puts forward to policy recommendations on strengthening the construction of spiritual consolation services in old-care institutions and increasing the supply of institutional elderly care services, and also calls more attention to caring for the elderly living in non-institutional settings.