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Abstract

During last two decades in Taiwan, the medical manpower policy research often concerned with estimating the physicians' productivity and focused on quantity, quality, and distribution of physicians. Freiman (1984) and Jacobsen (1987) indicated the work effort was the important factor of productivity. In labor economics framework, work hours of high-income individual might decrease as his wage increase. Could the labor supply curve of high-income Chinese traditional medical physicians was backward-bending? It had limited paper to interest on this issue in Taiwan.

The object of this empirical thesis was considered about the impact of income on labor supply of Chinese traditional medical physicians in Taiwan. Second, attempt to find the explanatory factor of physicians labor supply. In final, according to the result, it could recommend the application policy of medical manpower.

The population of study was Chinese traditional medical physicians in Taiwan at June, 2002. Our representative sample selected by systematic stratified sampling principle. The data sources were constructed by structural questionnaire and diary that record the physicians' productivity during one week. The empirical econometric was estimated by generalized least square (GLS) under estimating the virtual wage by instrumental variables.

One of our results is that Chinese traditional medical physicians have been insensitive to wage changes with an elasticity of 0.2029. We also find it had more hours of work that physicians who gained the license through Chinese Medical Physician Specialist License Qualifying Exam and those own the pharmacy. Besides, the employment types were also the important factor of hours of work. In spite of our result does not show the backward-bending supply curve, we suggest that the policy maker consider the result of unlimitedly arise the level of physicians' wage.

Key word: Chinese traditional medical physician, Labor supply, Labor economics, Generalized least square.