



The Impact of the Old Age Pension on Subjective Well-being: Evidence from Thailand

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Abstract

In this study, an **examination** of the impact of old age pension on subjective well-being in Thailand was conducted. The primary aim of this research was to investigate and analyze how old age pension affects the subjective well-being of the elderly in Thailand, specifically those aged 60 and over. Data was obtained from the Health Aging and Retirement in Thailand (HART) survey for the 2015 and 2020 waves. The random-effect ordered logit model was the primary method for analyzing the impacts on subjective well-being, given the panel structure of our data, while the ordered logit model was an alternative approach. The results indicated that old age pension exerts a minimal influence on subjective well-being, as other factors may exert a more substantial impact on subjective well-being. Along with pension, other variables such as age, marital status, residential areas, regions, health status, and income were found to have greater impacts on subjective well-being. Subjective well-being was found to decline with age. Being married was strongly associated with higher levels of subjective well-being. Residing in urban areas tends to have a significantly positive effect on subjective well-being. Better health status and higher income perception were also associated with notably improved subjective well-being. Interestingly, the findings from this study also demonstrate the regional disparities in subjective well-being. In conclusion, encouraging social engagement and offering mental health support are beneficial for fostering social relationships among older adults and sustaining their subjective well-being. Government interventions, such as increasing pension benefits and introducing more flexible retirement periods, should be taken into account to reduce financial concerns and enhance subjective well-being among the elderly. Hence, health promotion programs that emphasize nutrition and physical activity should be prioritized to help maintain the elderly's health. Lastly, further focus on the quality of life among older adults and the region's economic context is also essential for informing effective policy decisions.

Keywords: Subjective Well-being, Old Age Pension, Ordered Logit Regression Model, Health Economics