The Origin and Transformation of Workfare: A Policy Analysis of Dynamism of American Welfare Reform

Hayato Kobayashi

This paper unveils the origin of workfare and explores transformation of it through the policy analysis of welfare reform in U. S. A. Although "workfare" was invented by Charles Evers who is a leader of Civil Rights Movement in South, it had not become famous until President Nixon proposed Family Assistance Plan (FAP).

In America, welfare generally meant a public assistance for families with needy children, which was Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). As the more number of AFDC recipients and costs grow rapidly, AFDC was considered as big problem since the late of 1960'. As a result of much efforts of welfare reform, AFDC was replaced with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in 1996.

Workfare policies have old style in 1980' and new style in 1990' as previous studies point out, but there is modern style after 1996. I characterized components of new style as correction of welfare recipients' behavior and modern style as management of welfare population.

I conclude that workfare has both components of work-first model and service-intensive-model and antagonism between two models causes 'fast policy transfer'. As a result, workfare has transformed the meaning of it broadly and could have spread in the World.