

A Test on Income Pooling Hypothesis with Japanese Nuclear Family Data

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ABSTRACT

In the standard household model, household maximizes one objective utility function, which implies that household members pool their income. This paper uses Engel curves to examine whether this hypothesis is true or not. It turned out that the income pooling hypothesis is rejected for food, clothes and cosmetics. Furthermore, expenditure share of wife in food, clothes and cosmetics increases when wife's share of income increases. I also explore the correlation change between wife's expenditure share of food and wife's income share from 1989 to 2004. The result is that this correlation appears to be stronger in 2004 than in 1989.