ABSTRACT

This study analyses public attitudes towards the degree of government involvement in ensuring the livelihood and care of the elderly in Japan. Using four years of individual-level data from the Japanese General Social Survey collected over the period 2000-2005, we estimate ordered logit models with various explanatory variables based on the socio-demographic, economic, political, and social background of the respondents. Many significant factors are common in both the livelihood and care specifications; and their effects are found qualitatively the same and in line with our prior expectations. The estimation results also show positive coefficients of year intercept dummies, implying an increase in support of a government based system over time. Further investigation shows that this trend is caused by those who favor government redistribution policies becoming increasingly more consistent in their support for a government-based care and pension system.