

# The Research about Community Aged Care Service System in the Aging Context

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## Abstract

With the aging trend strengthening, the capability of traditional family care has been weakening, and most of governments have increasingly attached great significance to the construction and improvement of community aging care service system. Aimed at analysing the demand, supply status, existent problems of community aging care service system in China, construction and improvement of service system, the conclusion has been drawn that there exist many weaknesses and problems in the community aging care service, besides, people generally do not have a good idea of community aging care, administrative color of community has been very severe, categories and subjects of service has been monotonous, community aging care capital of source has been unstable, laws and regulations about community aging care service have been inadequate and so on. In the end, several recommendations has been proposed those are aimed at completing community aging care service system from the view of government, community, social organization and others.

**Keywords:** aging; community aging care; service system

## 1. Background and introduction

The aging society is coming fully in the 21st. The data National Committee on

Aging Office has released shows that elderly population of up to or more than 60 years old in China has reached 185 million, which takes up 13.7% of the total population. It is expected that elderly population will exceed 200 million by the end of 2013, 300 million by 2025, and 400 million by 2033, 10 million aging people is equally added every year. Serious situation about aging has brought the society new contradictions and pressures, it not only lies hard burden upon the social pension, resulting in the aging and shortage of workforce, but also challenges the development of economy and society.

With the aging worldwide more and more serious, traditional family care ability has been weakened gradually, governments are increasingly focusing on the construction and improvement of community care service system. However, the miniaturization, core of the family structure, and the increase of social competition among the young people, also makes the traditional family support functions degenerating. Faced with this aging population, empty nest and aging challenges, elderly care and spiritual support life problems have become increasingly prominent, and the urgent need to develop social pension services. Social pension can be divided into institutional pension and retirement communities. Community aging care is a new model for elderly that is suitable for China's conditions, and it applies for the community resources to

carry out which is between family care and institution care. It has a unique advantage, can not only meet the elderly to enjoy the service in a familiar environment, but also has a low service charge and wide coverage, making up the shortage of family care, easing the institution care for elderly' pressure, reducing government' financial burden. The community aging care absorbs family care and institution care for elderly's advantages and has been approved by most people. It has adapted to the development of aging and has been a necessary complement for establishing a sound social care service system for elderly, therefore, the community care service for elderly has become an important way to deal with the challenge of population aging.

The popularity of community care service for elderly began in June 2001, when "Community Welfare Service for Elderly Starlight Plan" was conducted by Ministry of Civil Affairs. Our country issued some policies and took active measures, increase investment, strengthen community construction and work about service, provide various convenient services for community residents including old people and has made service environment of community-based housing support more complete. In 2005, every street had 1.32 urban old welfare agencies and every 9.8 community committees had 1 urban old welfare agencies averagely nationwide. In the end of 2007, China's urban community service facilities has reached 172002, the number of communities 9319, the networks of serving citizens 936802. They use the methods of home services, fixed services, tour services and others to provide daily care, domestic care, emergency and other free or low charge service for the elderly. At present, parts of the large and medium-sized cities have formed the community support service pattern as the main form of facility services, fixed services and home services,

the main content of the daily life care, medical care, mental health care, culture and entertainment, as well as participation in society and rights.

Although our community endowment has been developing over 20 years, it contains a lot of questions in the course of real development due to various reasons, for example, it is bound by traditional conceptions, and awareness of community care is not very strong; the community is lacking in fund, and its resource is unstable; professional personnel and volunteers are needed; community care services are scanty, supply and demand are not very balanced. The current situation of elderly'demand for community care service system has been explored and analyzed, and theoretical framework has been established in order to promote urban community care service system.

## 2. The review of literature

Community elderly care had been put forward first by the United Kingdom, and in the 1960s, community care services had been conducted, then Vienna, Austria and other Western countries follow suit, even the United Nations also advocate community elderly care. To the 1980s, community elderly care in the Western developed countries gradually mature, referring to the care content and coverage, providing "care inside community" and "care by the community", that is subject difference of care. "Care inside community" provide individuals with social health services; "care by the community" provides care from families of community, volunteers and private departments(Lester Parrott,2003). With the popularity of market consumers protectionism", "community care" and "responsibility sharing" of social services, the government' duty falls on the education, health, community insurance and individual' social services, in the other

areas, it is combined with community responsibility, family responsibility and individual responsibility.

At present, some foreign scholars have carried out the prediction about the trend of community care, and have conducted international comparative studies (MarshallMax, Creed Francis, 2000). Claire Store and others (2007) conducted a study on how to accurately define the number of employees in community care in England, as well as the relationship with community care service delivery. SonoTamaki (2008) studied the background of caregivers' playing an important role in the community care. YongDeugKim and RossLiz (2008) discussed how to advocate service users to participate in community care of South Korea based on the British community care policies and practice experiences. Davey Barbara (2005) had studied integration of health service and social care and had analyzed integration of service' influence on social care effectiveness. Overall, the study abroad on community care focused on the community care pattern and trend, practitioners issues, clients and the assessment of family needs, community care's cross-sectoral cooperation and so on, and had emphasized the research methods in the course of studying and the support and interaction among different research methods.

Domestic scholars had analyzed the community elderly service from methods means, empirical methods and different angles, including summarizing current situation, analyzing problem, learning from experience and enlightenment at home and abroad so as to put forward to suggestions for improvement. For empirical research, Zhou Weiwen, Pan Jinhong and other scholars analyzed and drew the inclusion that there is a great difference between demand of community elderly care and the community supply. Wang Shundong had a research and

thought that community elderly service lacked the supply of elderly care of daily life, community health service network was congruent, and put forward to countermeasures aimed at the problem. For the theoretical research, some researchers summarized the achievements of family endowment service in urban areas, it was pointed that the service object, service funding, service resources, service content, service contingent existed problems, and put forward to the countermeasures (Fang Xiuyun, 2006). There are many scholars studying the community elderly care from different angles, Tian Yurong analyzed existent vacant phenomena of community "care room of daytime" of Community Starlight Plan in the angle of social work, and discussed the lack of function about community service, pointing out that the pattern of community care should be promoted by social work training (Tian Yurong, 2003). With the implementation of the long-term family elderly care practice, study about study became more and more, regarding Dalian City Shahe district as a case, the present situation, implementation, experience, problems and countermeasures of the family elderly care had been researched and analysed comprehensively in depth (Du Gui'e, Chen Rui, Zhang Lingzhi, 2005). Regarding the Nanjing city as a case, Nanjing city community elderly care had been planned and designed from door-to-door service, the elderly day-care center (Chen Youhua, 2008). Taking Suzhou city as a case, the development of community elderly care had been explored from different dimensions of resource integration (Song Yanqi, 2011). There was much experience about urban family elderly care service system home and abroad, Zhang Ying put forward to a theoretical framework and advice of community elderly care service system aiming at outside practices.

### **3. The current situation analysis of social elderly service system**

#### **3.1. Bound by the traditional concept of retirement, we are lack of awareness of the community pension**

China is a country which highly emphasizes on "filial piety" .Concept that "Bring up children for the purpose of being looked after in old age" is deeply rooted in thinking of Chinese. Thousands of years of Confucian ideas are respected family pension. For now, China is still largely based on traditional ! Family pension and develop the traditional family pension. To a certain extent, family pension helps the country cope with the violent situation of the "silver wave". From the point of view of the social development, family pension only reflects the intergenerational reciprocity and mutual support also reflects the moral support and help. Therefore, regardless of how the social and economic progress, people's thinking and change of the family structure, the traditional family pension mode is still the most popular and important way to pension which causes the majority of the elderly or elderly family think that elderly spouse or children should provide services. Besides, it is lacking in knowledge of the content of the service.

#### **3.2. Community is full of administrative color and lack of independence**

Although the law stipulates that community residents are self-organization, with its long-term extrusion of the institutional units, development itself is not perfect and community organizations have strong administrative color which not only downplayed communities independence, but also limits the participation of the main parties. In the survey, 43.6 % of the pension'plans are from higher authorities. scholars have pointed out that

this form makes the current Community Support embarrassing : one is the Chief legal community organizations'strong administrative color, under the background of the community building and community service , most pension institutions established are not smooth. Because of resource constraints and other factors, management of the welfare and orientation of torn has quarrel. The other hand , the quality of the community service is not perfect, the residents do not agree with other factors, which makes their survive difficult.

#### **3.3. Types of community services and the main part are single**

Types of pension services of the community in china emphasis on community care and housekeeping. Daily care for the elder meets the needs of material life, while the spiritual service provided is insufficient. On the main part of Pension services, although some developed areas such as Shanghai, Ningbo and other places have carried out community services, but most areas are supported by government absolutely.

#### **3.4. Funding of the community service is instability**

Funding of community care services ' main methods are state financial subsidies , social assistance and community self-financing and so on. But the social and community self- help are only a small part. National community care services are funded mainly by the Civil Affairs Bureau inputs. Moreover, the Civil subsidies will proportionally distribute funds to community streets , but it is difficult to place these funds . The community only gives a small part of the input to facilities or completely without any input. Such fund-raising channels are influenced by external factors, uncertainties and instability are the biggest problem of this

source of funding which greatly affected pension services .

### **3.5. Laws and regulations of the community serves are not perfect**

Appropriate community care is lack of policies and regulations'support. For now, home care services throughout the implementation program are very few. Furthermore, the existing regulations' recognition for nonprofit organizations by social status, development of preferential policies to support civil society organizations, private capital to enter the community care services and other relevant provisions are obviously missing which hinders China's further development of community care services.

### **4. The demand analysis of community elderly care service**

The community elderly care demand mainly includes the following three aspects, and it is the difference from service categories of other population.

First, the daily care. Daily care is the basic needs of the elderly, that is help the elderly got when old people faced difficulties in daily activities. As the senior citizens get older and older, the demand of daily care also increases proportionally. But due to the restriction of China's current level of economic and social development, our society can't completely take on all the elderly life care of the whole society, therefore, with the hit of "silver wave", it is not a small social burden to our country.

Second, the medical care. Health care is the common needs of all ages, but it has a special characteristic of great concentrated demand, long time lasting. With the increasing of age, the degenerating of body function, the biggest problem of elderly is health. Once elderly lost their health, they are not only faced with death,

but also daily care and medical treatment importantly, so demand of medical care of the elderly is unmatched by other ages.

Third, the spiritual entertainment. After leaving the job position, the elderly often can't adjust to the changes of life style and environment, now, the elderly is likely to engender the disappointment and loneliness of being abandoned by the society. Therefore, most of the elderly hope to establish new social relationship in community and make new friends, continuing to devote to the society , achieve their own value and maintaining mental health, then most elderly would choose to reemploy or actively participate in community and social affairs after retirement.

### **5. The reflection about community elderly care system of China**

In terms of government, earnestly implement the responsibility of the government can guarantee the stable and sustainable development of community endowment. Firstly, rules and regulations should be built, and has an overall planning; then, the policy of supporting community endowment should be carried out, including fiscal policies and other preferential policies; next, the relationship between and department should be handled, and pay attention to division of labor and cooperation; last, government should establish and improve the community endowment service specification and the index system of measuring community care service level.

In terms of community, earnestly implement the responsibility of the government can guarantee the stable and sustainable development of community endowment. As the carrier of the endowment service system implementation, If Community endowment service system can play their own advantages

and realize the community endowment, it must first realize the transformation of role and change administrative role into autonomous organization. So community construction must first strengthen the self-construction of the residents committee, restore its autonomy and independence and clear the requirements of the job functions and responsibilities, so that community work can be implemented.

In terms of family, family endowment is the traditionally dominant endowment patterns, although the current endowment function has been weakened, but it still maintains a leading position. To ensure the elderly a happy sunset, the role of the family is important. So family should still develop its function of family supporting positively and effectively; Integrated into the community to help old people; and family members have the duty to provide the financial support to help the elderly.

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