

Research on Community Elderly Care Service in China

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Abstract. Faced with the accelerated aging process and imperfect system of elderly care in China, community elderly care service stands out from other pension modes and becomes the most suitable pension mode for China's development. Community elderly care service has the advantages of both home care and institutional care, but its development in China is not mature. By analyzing the current situation of community elderly care service, the paper shows the great significance of developing community elderly care service. This paper also points out the existing problems and puts forward suggestions on how to develop community elderly care service with Chinese characteristics by referring to the experience of other countries, so as to promote the further improvement of China's elderly care system.

1. Introduction

1.1. Acceleration of Aging

China has a large population base, and with the development of economy and the improvement of people's living standards, the aging process is accelerating. Statistics show that in the next 20 years after 2015, the proportion of the elderly population in China's total population will double and increase. And over the next 30 years, China's total elderly population is expected to exceed 400 million, with more than 90 million elderly people. It is predicted that the proportion of elderly population will remain above 30% in 2051-2100, is far higher than the international standard(as shown in Fig. 1)

country	2010		2050	
	Population aged over 60(million)	Proportion of population aged over 60(%)	Population aged over 60(million)	Proportion of population aged over 60(%)
China	173.8	12.78	433.8	30.95
Global	759	11	2008	22
developed country	269	21.7	416	32.5
Underdeveloped country	446	9.3	1407	22.7

Source: National Bureau of Statistics

Figure 1. Comparison of the number of elderly population in China and the world

1.2. The Elderly Care System is not Perfect

Faced with the national conditions of "getting old before getting rich", China's elderly care system is still not perfect. The traditional home care model relies on children to take care of the elderly in the family. However, nowadays, many young people need to develop their careers which will certainly affect the quality of home care under heavy pressure. At the same time, although institutional endowment has a high degree of specialization, its unified and even mechanized services are not easy to accept. In addition, the price is relatively expensive, so many elderly people do not approve of their children spending too much money.

2. Analysis of the Current Situation of Community Elderly Care Service in China

2.1. The Concept of Community Elderly Care Service

Community elderly care service takes advantage of the home care model, in which the elderly live with their children in the communities where they have long lived in. This way of supporting the elderly can make the elderly find a sense of belonging and it is also in line with the traditional concept of filial piety. Community pension service also absorbs the advantages of institutional care model. Community elderly care center will be equipped with professional team, high-end service facilities, personalized psychological care and home service. Through the medical services and daily life services provided by the community, the elderly do not have to worry about their children going to work during the day or no one at home, because they can ask the community elderly center for help in case of emergency. This not only relieves the pressure of their children, but also enables the elderly to obtain more professional and standardized care services in the community.

With the development of economy, traditional home care model can not be sustained, and the future will be dominated by community elderly care, which means that community elderly care service has a broad market prospect. However, although community pension service has been developed for many years in China, its operation is still in an exploratory stage. At the same time, as a part of the elderly care service system, community elderly care service accounts for a very low proportion. The state commission on aging also pointed out that a elderly care service system based on home care, supported by community care and supplemented by institution care should be established. It can be seen that the development of community elderly care service must also be well connected with other elderly care service models.

2.2. The Development Status of Community Elderly Care Services in China

2.2.1. Development History

The government has formulated many preferential policies for the development of community elderly care services. For example, the document "*opinions on accelerating the development of community service industry*" issued in 1993 has planned the development of community elderly care services. Subsequently, as more and more non-governmental organizations joined in the construction of community elderly care services, China formulated the opinions on accelerating the realization of social welfare socialization in 2000, which further standardized the concepts, subjects and other specific matters of community elderly care services. With the promulgation of the law of the People's Republic of China on the protection of the rights and interests of the elderly, which was revised in 2012, the importance of old-age care work has aroused people's further attention. With the cooperation of all parties, China's community old-age care service system has been deconstructed and constructed.

2.2.2. Regional Development

Up to now, the development of community care services in China has turned over a relatively satisfactory data sheet. Compared with the simple old-age care service previously provided, current service connotation has been extended from the basic life care to body function, physical and mental health and other aspects of the service. The form of service has changed from monotonous seminars and medical examination months to various cultural activities such as tea parties and get-togethers. In terms of the number of service equipment, China's community elderly care equipment, such as medical examination equipment and entertainment facilities, has jumped from 2.3 million in 2000 to 5 million in 2017. In terms of the number of personnel, workers who specialize in community care jumped from 8 million in 2000 to 18 million today.

Some cities have achieved remarkable results. Beijing continues its practice of paying attention to basic needs, it emphasizes that community elderly care must be built on the basis of repletion, and improves the diet conditions through regular dining subsidies and cheaper dining costs in the canteen. In addition, Beijing adheres to the people-oriented thought, and organizes regular meeting to obtain the spiritual needs of the elderly, and takes a series of measures to ensure the

implementation of policies. Shanghai divides large areas of its expensive land to establish community day-care centers, and makes sure that the elderly receive care in a comfortable environment. Shanghai also uses the "happiness index" to measure the effect of its elderly care service, and designs a detailed plan for the well-being of the elderly. Changchun encourages the social from all walks of life to participate in community volunteer service, and create incentives to stimulate the masses. Other cities have also caught up with the boom of "combining medical care with nursing care", and have issued relevant policies to address the health problems of the elderly. Shenyang allows communities to work directly with nearby hospitals. It can ensure the health of the elderly with low-cost, high-quality medical services.

3. The Existing Problems of Community Elderly Care Service in China

The development of community elderly care service has some problems, such as insufficient funds and unprofessional personnel, which restrict its development. The specific analysis is as follows:

3.1. Service Personnel Have Low Degree of Specialization

According to the data, most of the employees in community elderly care service center are junior or senior high school graduates. Many of them have not received any professional training related to elderly care service, and they lack the ability to quickly and efficiently absorb such knowledge. Some of the employees are temporary workers who have changed works for many times, while others are approaching retirement with weak physical function and learning ability. They rely on their daily life experience to provide services and lack professional skills and diathesis to deal with emergencies.

3.2. Rules and Regulations have not been Implemented

China has not issued specific laws and regulations to force the implementation of the relevant provisions on community elderly care services, which makes many provinces do not pay attention to the development of community elderly care services,. Although some areas have formulated and issued the standards of implementation and the policies have been implemented, too, the effect is not very well. Due to the limitation of time, space, manpower and material resources, many regions either hold a recreational activity and then do nothing, or the service mode is too simple and only provides the most basic consulting services for the elderly.

3.3. Division of Labor is not Clear

The neighborhood committees and street offices are responsible for the management of Community elderly care service, but it also requires the cooperation of other government departments, such as social security bureau, finance bureau, human resources and social security bureau. However, the current situation is that each department acts independently, which makes the organization of community elderly care service show the characteristics of fragmentation. The division of rights and responsibilities of specific matters is also not clear, which greatly hinders the improvement of elderly care services.

3.4. Construction Funds Failed to Meet Demand

At present, the development of community elderly care service is mainly funded by government appropriation. However, after the government's funds are allocated layer by layer, only a few of them can finally used by community. The community does not have enough fund subsidies and some funds are corrupted by officers, so, the lack of funds has become a major factor which restricts the development of community care services in China.

4. The Solutions to the Existing Problems in China's Community Elderly Care Services

4.1. The Foreign Experience of Community Elderly Care Service

Under different cultural backgrounds, China and the west have formed their own distinctive

community elderly care service systems. The community elderly care service system in foreign countries tends to emphasize the responsibility of the government and the community, and through continuous improvement, western countries have improved their community elderly care service system, which provides China many references. For example, the United States has built a very comprehensive community elderly service system. It divides the community into different blocks and makes clear the positioning of each block, such as independent living community, assisted-living community, special nursing, as well as the continuing care retirement community. So that the elderly can quickly and timely find the services they need in each block. This highly personalized and specialized community elderly service mode meets the needs of the elderly at different stages and is a measure which is worth learning. In the UK, the responsibilities of each subject are stipulated in the form of legislation. It emphasizes the dominant position of government and encourages the cooperation between community and government. The government devolutes funds and authority to the community and supervises the community, so the community has autonomy, but if the community violates the law, it will be severely sanctioned. The United Kingdom also establishes an assessment mechanism to ensure the professional level of service personnel.

Because China and western countries are different in the cultural, political, and economic development, we should absorb and draw lessons from the advanced concept of foreign countries, and proceed from our national conditions to promote the development of community elderly care service in China.

4.2. Suggestions on Improve Community Elderly Care Services in China

4.2.1. Train Professional Elderly Care Service Personnel

We should attach importance to training a group of community elderly service personnel with excellent professional skills. On one hand, we should improve the industry admittance threshold to attract a higher cultural level and professional people to join the team. On the other hand, the training and re-education of employees should not be neglected. We can cultivate personnel who specialize in different fields, such as daily life, medical treatment, rehabilitation and psychology, the education departments should support colleges and universities to hold relevant training courses, so as to improve the comprehensive strength of the whole staff.

4.2.2. Motivate the Enthusiasm of All Participants

Firstly, the government should pay more attention to the construction of infrastructure, it means not only the construction of medical equipment, but also the construction of universities for the aged and other places conducive to enriching the inner world of the elderly. Secondly, community residents should also be encouraged to actively participate in community elderly care services. Thirdly, we should realize the importance of non-profit organizations in community care service. The characteristics of non-profit organizations lie in that they do not make profits. Compared with social elderly care institutions, they will pay more attention to the physical and mental health of the elderly. At the same time, non-profit organizations should also play a coordinating role. They can be directly responsible for the government's community elderly care service projects and provide suggestions for the government.

4.2.3. Improve Legislation and Other Mechanisms

To improve the community elderly care service system, the first step is to speed up legislation and formulate detailed laws and regulations. The top-level system design should be strengthened, and specific regulations should be made on the institutional management, the flow of talent and care mode, so as to gradually standardize community elderly care services. At the same time, the government can introduce some preferential policies to encourage and support the development of community elderly care service. The policies that have been issued should be strictly carried out. It is necessary to integrate community resources, and make full use of modern information technology to build a low-cost and efficient community elderly service center. We must always take the renewal

of community elderly care equipment and the improvement of infrastructure construction as the key work, so as to fundamentally ensure the implementation of pension services.

4.2.4. Establish Diversified Capital Raising Channels

In order to realize the sustainable development of community elderly care service in China, the key is to stabilize and constantly expand its economic sources. The source channels of community elderly care service funds should be broadened and should not just rely on financial allocation. Firstly, the government should formulate relevant preferential tax policies as soon as possible to cultivate the development of community elderly care service and reduce its tax burden. Secondly, we should develop public welfare undertakings and encourage both enterprises and individuals with good economic conditions to make donations. We should actively develop the aging industry, it can provide more employment opportunities for the community and drive the development of the service industry in the community, so as to improve the economic strength of the whole community and raise more funds for the development of community elderly care service.

5. Conclusion

As a social issue of vital interest to everyone, whether the aging of population can be properly dealt with directly affects the stability and development of the whole society. Faced with the accelerated aging process and imperfect elderly care service system in China, community elderly care service stands out from other elderly care models and becomes the most suitable elderly care model for China's development. Therefore, this paper studies the community elderly care service in China from multiple perspectives, and shows the great significance of developing community elderly care service by comparing it with family care model and institutional care model. This paper also explores the problems it faces, according to the present situation of community elderly care service. Finally, the paper concludes that the development of community elderly care service is feasible, and it can be improved from four aspects: Firstly, to train a professional elderly care service team. Secondly, to mobilize the enthusiasm of all participants. Thirdly, to improve legislation and other mechanisms. Fourthly, to establish diversified financing channels.

Old people in community care center can not only get psychological satisfaction by spending their later years with their children, but also experience professional elderly care services. Therefore, it is a correct choice to solve the problem of elderly care in China, and through the study of community elderly care service, it can help to promote the further improvement of China's elderly care service system.

6. Reference

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