

# How Can Social Work Make Communities Safer? Challenges, Change and Channel

Wei Deng

Law School of Jimei University, Xiamen; 361021, China

89153999@qq.com

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**Abstract.** The rapid development of modernization has also brought Chinese society into a "high-risk society". Moreover, due to the breakdown of social structure and the decline of traditional community security governance, the consequence is the emergence of anti-social challenges characterized by malignant cases such as retaliatory crimes. Therefore, we need to change the traditional concept of security governance, and create a new concept of community security under the concept of social work, and use the methods and ways of social work to respond to various anti-social challenges.

## Retaliatory Crime: Anti-Social Challenge to Community Security

In recent years, anti-social retaliatory crimes have frequently appeared in Chinese society, such as injuries to children on campus, arson cases in public transport, driving against passers-by, etc. These cases generally have the characteristics of incidental, sudden and deep malignancy, and even have the color of anti-social terrorism crime of the wolf type, which brings serious challenges to community security. In addition to the individual reasons, retaliatory crimes should also be considered from the following macro reasons.

We think the first reason is the structural break between social strata in the process of social transformation. Many years ago, it was pointed out that China's social structure is showing a trend of polarization and immobilization, and the gap between social structures is widening, forming a so-called "broken society" or "bottom society". [1] Underclass groups often lack channels for upward mobility or reasonable interest expression mechanism, which leads to cognitive distortions and even personality disorders when they encounter damaged interests. They are easy to choose "weapons of the weak" such as violence, self-mutilation, petitions and clustering to form anti-social Retaliatory Crimes and give them to the grassroots level. The community has brought tremendous security pressure.

Then, because of the development of modernization, industrialization and urbanization, Chinese society has entered a "risk society". The security risk faced by communities in a risk society is not a natural risk in the traditional sense, but a kind of "uncertain and imperfect" risk in the specific development of the system. Especially at present, China's development has entered a new normal, the domestic and international environment has undergone major changes, and various systems have not yet been formulated, adjusted and improved in time, which will bring about various problems and social risks. Such as the potential unemployment risk of Sino-US trade frictions, the security risk of migrant workers returning home, the public health risk caused by the failure of public health vaccine supervision, the risk of stratum differentiation and conflict caused by high housing prices, and other institutional social contradictions. If risk cannot be prevented in time, it will directly lead to individual emotional or life problems in the public, and accumulate constantly to eventually erupt in retaliatory incidents.

The worst of all, the lag and decline of community service. Poor living environment, declining community industry, lack of community sports infrastructure, community contradictions brought about by demolition and laid-off, fragile social security system, lack of professional social workers and so on are all the community structural factors of anti-social crimes. For a long time, community construction has lost its "self-organization" and become the "second messenger" of the government.

The community is busy with daily administrative affairs and can not really provide services to the community residents. It shows the characteristics of role vacancy, inadequate ability and inefficiency in resolving the individual risks of the public, maintaining community safety and coping with community conflicts.

### **Creating Positive Community Security Strategies under the Concept of Social Work**

Community security is the cornerstone and foundation of social public security system. The effectiveness of community security governance is directly related to national security. The Chinese government attaches great importance to the construction of safe communities through the comprehensive construction of urban and rural communities, and calls for the focus of social governance to be placed on urban and rural communities, because the strong capacity of community services and management makes the foundation of social governance solid. [2] In order to resolve the accumulation of individual risks brought by risk society and actively respond to the challenges of anti-social security crimes, we need to establish a new concept of security governance at the medium-level of community work connecting individuals and macro-level.

First, shape a new people-oriented security concept. Traditional community safety governance does not pay enough attention to the individual safety risks of the public, and can not satisfy the diverse security needs of community members such as democracy, security, psychology and environment. It is still a kind of satisfaction to the low-level material safety needs. Community members have low participation in safety governance and are accustomed to safety and security. Rationally, hitchhiking can not form a joint force for safety management. According to Steven Lorengen, the new concept of community security refers to human security, "which means that individuals and communities can choose to eliminate, reduce and adapt to threats to their own, environmental and social rights. People have the ability and freedom to practice the above-mentioned choices and actively strive for opportunities to realize their choices". [3] The new concept of community security pays more attention to the satisfaction of various security needs and rights of community members, the protection of the rights and fairness of community residents, and believes that community organizations with a sense of community belonging and identity need to be cultivated to meet the security needs of community members in the ideological field and spiritual world. The new community security emphasizes that the participation of community members is the basic guarantee of community security. It is believed that in the face of more and more frequent, uncertain and complex emergent risk events, the cooperative and participatory mutual assistance of community members can reduce people's fear and anti-social psychology in response to threats.

Second, formulate a pluralistic security governance program. From the existing theory and practice of safe community construction, there are many models and schemes of community safety construction, such as "stable community" focusing on the prevention of public security crimes, "disaster-prevention community" focusing on the prevention of natural disasters, "sustainable community" focusing on post-disaster reconstruction and development, and emphasizing security. The "resilient communities" of capacity-building, the "vulnerable communities" of emphasizing the protection of vulnerable groups and so on. [4] Among them, the most widely influential and widely used program is the "safe community" construction program proposed by the World Health Organization in 1989. Generally speaking, the above-mentioned safety community construction schemes mainly focus on the prevention and response of natural disasters and public environmental security. The scope of security is narrow and single, and the diverse security needs of community residents, especially some sudden and private security needs, are not concerned. From the perspective of the trend of community safety construction and governance, modernization and urbanization require the community to provide residents with comprehensive safety services, such as food safety, health safety, mental safety and communication safety, not only material safety and security in the traditional sense.

Thirdly, it should be transformed into multi-coordinated governance of "top-down cooperation". In the traditional community safety governance, the government and relevant functional agencies play a

dominant and dominant role. This "top-down" management mode also makes the responsibility of social security in a one-sided state, weakening the sense of responsibility and participation of other subjects, making it difficult to mobilize enthusiasm within the community. According to the modern concept of community security, the governance of community security must be transformed from a unified governance model to a pluralistic governance model, emphasizing that the main body of community security must be all kinds of social organizations, including the government, security departments, enterprises, communities and other formal organizations, as well as unjust family, relatives and friends, mutual aid groups, etc. Type organization. Through the cooperation of these organizations, we can build a comprehensive and three-dimensional safety governance network, which can make the resources of the community play the most effective role and effectively help the individual members in the risk situation.

Finally, professional security services are provided. Community is the spiritual home of everyone's life, the best place to solve personal difficulties and problems, and the most basic and fundamental firewall of social security. The existing community work mode can not prevent crisis events in advance and intervene professionally, and can not identify the potential risk factors and high-risk groups in society. Therefore, some minor problems are easy to escalate into social crisis or criminal events. Community work must get rid of the old and extensive mode and transform into a refined and professional mode of work. The methods of community work must be improved. Only in this way can community work become an important part of social safety valve and social stability.

### **Channel of Social Work in Promoting Safe Community Construction**

There are three main methods of social work: case work, group work and community work. These three methods have unique advantages and functions. They can effectively solve the personal or environmental problems faced by high-risk groups, thereby reducing their probability of taking extreme actions.

In the process of assisting clients, social workers individually assist imbalanced individuals to improve their environment and enhance their ability to adapt to life; coordinate social relations and establish a benign interactive network; adjust their self-functions and promote personality development; and recognize and face them with a healthy and mature mind. We should make good use of social resources and opportunities to solve problems. Social work has a unique function of mental health service, which can help people who suffer setbacks in life or career overcome psychological pressure and actively respond to challenges. Professional social workers regularly go to communities, rural areas and families in case-based work methods. Through the assessment of psychological risk factors, the potential psychological and spiritual hazards of the population are investigated and managed at different levels. Individual psychological intervention is carried out to resolve various potential social crises. The method of case work can link up the "psycho-social" system well and give enough attention to the high-risk persons, so as to eliminate the crisis from the source.

The unique feature of group work is that through the organization and convening of social workers, people with similar situations or problems will form purposeful groups, so that they can get mutual support and experience in group activities, in order to help individuals enhance their social functions and deal with individual problems more effectively. For those who are not well adapted to society or who are in a certain crisis or predicament, group work achieves the purpose of correction and rehabilitation by setting up special social groups and using group situations. Therefore, the characteristics and advantages of group work can be used to eliminate the view that high-risk individuals are abandoned by society or victims of social competition, and to eliminate the idea of retaliating against society by extreme behavior, so as to play an invisible role in resolving social crisis.

Community work method is to build the first and most important firewall of social security by building community culture and community safety network, organizing community volunteers, integrating resources, providing social security and social assistance. Community work also develops

risk assessment scales by social workers, identifies risks through home visits, identifies high-risk groups in the community, and then intervenes in the community to quickly and effectively resolve crises and risks in a limited time to prevent excessive phenomena. Finally, and most importantly, community work can establish a sense of belonging and responsibility to the community, make the community a spiritual home for everyone's life, and reduce the occurrence of harmful community behavior.

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