

Research on Marriage Problems and Countermeasures of Rural Disabled Persons

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ABSTRACT

The problem of disabled people is becoming more and more prominent, especially in the aspect of marriage. Disabled persons are facing difficult marriage, high divorce rate, high rate of widowhood problems. On the basis of reviewing the literature on marriage of disabled persons, the work finds that disabled persons have low self-efficacy, low self-confidence, and insufficient support from their families and communities. Based on the analysis of the main reasons for the marriage of the disabled, this paper proposes that the disabled should improve their self-cognition and build their confidence in life. In addition, family members should pay attention to the needs of marriageable disabled people, and the community should plan friendship activities for disabled people, so as to enhance the possibility of marriage between disabled people.

Keywords: *disabled persons; marriage; can increase; countermeasures*

collected for research.

1. INTRODUCTION

Since the reform and opening up, China's economic development has made remarkable achievements, and the comprehensive national strength has been significantly improved. With the cause of the disabled being promoted by the Party, the government and social organizations' support and attention, the living conditions of the disabled are getting better and better, and the disabled people's yearning for a better life is closely linked to the construction of a well-off society in China. However, there are still difficulties in building a better future life for the disabled. According to the monitoring results of the well-off progress of disabled people from 2007 to 2013, the marriage rate of disabled people was basically maintained at around 63.0%, far lower than the level of the whole society at around 83.1%. [1] For the disabled, marriage is not only a direct reflection of life happiness, but also reflects the level of emotional life and other security. However, considering the particularity of the disabled, their marital problems cannot be effectively solved in a short time. [2] Therefore, it is particularly important to study the marital status and its influencing factors of the disabled and find corresponding countermeasures.

2. RESEARCH DESIGN

2.1. Research Methods

This study adopts literature analysis and empirical research methods. Empirical research includes observation, interview and questionnaire. By referring to relevant literature, relevant trends and marital status of disabled persons are

2.2. Respondents

There are 226 valid questionnaires in this survey, 118 male disabled people and 108 female disabled people. The age of the respondents was concentrated in 15~60 years old, a total of 197 people in this age group, accounting for 87.16%; The remaining 5 were under the age of 15 and 22 were over 60 years old. Among the collected questionnaires, there were two questionnaires with missing age. Among the disabled people surveyed, physical and mental disabilities accounted for the majority of the respondents, with 91 (40.27%) having physical disabilities. The respondents of mental disability were 98, accounting for 43.36%. Visual and intellectual disabilities accounted for 7.52%, hearing disability 2.21% and speech disability 1.77%, respectively.

2.3. Methods of Data Analysis

Based on the analysis and discussion of the statistical results of the current situation of marriage and love of urban disabled people and the influencing factors, the author adopts relevant theories to conduct a certain theoretical analysis of the research results, explores their difficulties and needs in marriage and love, and then puts forward targeted countermeasures and suggestions to solve the difficult problems of marriage and love of urban disabled people. [2]

2.4. Literature Review

Reviewing previous studies on marriage of disabled people, Li Rongshi (1990), one of the earliest scholars concerned

about marriage of disabled people, believed that the marriage problem of disabled people was relatively serious in China at that time, and there were a large number of unmarried disabled people.[3] In particular, the intellectual and mental disabled people were more difficult to get married, and female disabled people were less likely to get married than male ones. In recent years, there are few studies on the marriage of the disabled, among which the scholar Xie Tao's research on the marriage of the disabled is more substantial and comprehensive.[4] For example, Yu Daoqing (2018) pointed out the problems existing in the marriage of disabled people in terms of education level, ideology and system.[5] Xie Tao (2014) concluded that there was no obvious difference between the economic support factors and physiological characteristics factors of marriage for disabled people compared with previous studies. They pointed out that disabled people who participated in employment were more likely to get married than unemployed disabled people. [5] The probability of marriage between high-income families and high-income families is low; The higher the disability level, the lower the life activity ability, the less likely to get married; People with urban household registration are more likely to get married than people with rural household registration.[6] The more educated they are, the more likely they are to get married. Male disabled people are less likely to get married than female disabled people, which is different from the conclusion put forward by Li Rongshi in 1990.[2]

3. THE PRESENT SITUATION OF DISABLED PERSONS WITH MARITAL PROBLEMS

3.1. Difficult Marriage of the Disabled

The marriage difficulty of the disabled is still a big problem they face. They have low marriage rate, high divorce rate, high widowhood rate and the late first marriage time. In this research, it was obvious that the marriage rate was much lower than the national average of 83.1% in 2010, and the overall divorce rate and widowhood rate were also higher than the national average. In an interview with disabled friends, due to their different physical defects, they have mobility problems and limited circle of friends. In addition to physiological defects, they suffer more or less discrimination in society, which makes it more difficult for them to get married. It can be said that the physical defects of disabled people make the unmarried rate high. Through the investigation and interview, it is found that the different attitudes of the disabled towards the marriage form and marriage itself will also affect the disabled's mate choice and marriage status. It seems that disabled people are not so active in solving personal marriage problems. More and more people get in touch with the opposite sex through matchmaking through friends and relatives, and then develop romantic relationship or conclude marriage.

3.2. High Divorce Rate and Low Remarriage Rate

Disability is classified into congenital disability and acquired disability. The age at which disabled persons become disabled has an important impact on their marriage. Marital disability affects the stability of a marriage and increases the likelihood of divorce. Compared with ordinary families, families with disabilities face more difficulties in life, such as the high cost of treatment, the lack of barrier-free social and physical environment, discrimination in job hunting, etc. Most of the disabled have a negative perception of their own existence, have little or no social contact, are more sensitive in dealing with others, and have low self-esteem. In the social culture, there is discrimination against disabled people, and there are unfavourable factors for disabled people to be actively involved in the society. In particular, there is serious discrimination in the process of the marriage of disabled people.

After all, marriage is a personal choice, and external support is limited. It is difficult to guarantee the quality of marriage with this perfunctory mentality. On the other hand, with the development of the times and the liberation of the mind, some disabled people also began to believe in "celibacy". They believe that as long as the life is happy and valuable, living alone is not bad. It is not hard to see that the negative view of marriage and love in the disabled group leads to the high unmarried rate and high divorce rate of the disabled.

3.3. Low Marriage Rate between the Highly Educated and the Uneducated

According to the dynamic update data of disabled people in Shandong province in 2018, the number of married disabled people in Shandong province shows an "inverted U-shaped" change with the improvement of education level, while the number of unmarried disabled people shows a "positive U-shaped" change. Uneducated disabled people have the lowest marriage rate compared to other disabled people. As education levels rise, the proportion of the disabled people getting married increases. The marriage rate of the disabled with high school is at its peak. For the disabled with a bachelor's degree or above, the higher the level of education, the greater the decline in marriage. It indicates that education level affects marriage to a certain extent, and the higher education level is, the higher the married rate will be. It is not difficult to explain this phenomenon. A person's education level can be used as an important indicator to measure his family background, whether he can gain an advantage in the labour market competition and whether he can form a good marriage and family. At present, in many studies, education level has become an indispensable variable in the population factor. Today, with the gradual improvement of economic development level, the demand of the country for high-quality talents is increasing. Higher education basically equals a good job. With the continuous improvement of education level, people's labour level and economic ability are also enhanced, which makes the

disabled with education level in high school and technical secondary school have the ability to earn a certain amount of income, increasing their advantages in choosing a spouse and making it easier to set up a family. In addition, this phenomenon is also a feature of marriage matching. When choosing a spouse, people tend to choose someone similar to their conditions. Especially in China, people emphasize on marriages between families of similar social status.

4. REASONS WHY IT IS DIFFICULT FOR DISABLED PEOPLE TO GET MARRIED

4.1. Heavy Financial Burden

As a vulnerable group, most disabled people have low income, low employment rate and unstable job, so they need to spend a lot of money for rehabilitation training and treatment. What's more, most of the disabled spouses are also low-income people, and thus the economic strength of the whole family is weak.

"Hard up" is still a word that goes hand in hand with many disabled people. Many ordinary people develop disabilities later in life often because they did not receive timely medical treatment when they fell ill at a young age due to poor financial conditions. As an adult, it is inevitable that due to a physical disability, one can barely find a job and get a high salary. However, even for disabled people who are not well off in life, their parents and families or disabled young people themselves still want them to start a family. They need, so to speak, no less for emotional gain than they need for the basics of life.

However, in the case of long-term unemployment or low wages, the disabled cannot well bear the responsibility and economic pressure brought by starting a family, and therefore they lack confidence in themselves and dare not have the illusion of getting married and having a family. Therefore, the first step for the disabled to start a family is to get employed. Otherwise, they can't bring income to the family and can't guarantee the basic life after they get married. And the disabled also have more expense on care. Marriage without a job will undoubtedly increase the burden on both sides.

4.2. Having a Spouse in Poor Health

Some disabled persons have spouses who are disabled, which makes their family life more difficult. Some practical examples show that parents with both disabilities also at high risk of having children with disabilities, and these families may not be able to keep a close eye on their children's health due to financial difficulties, physical constraints, mental problems and other reasons.

We can conclude that the type of disability affects the marital status of people with disabilities. Among them, the physical disabled are more likely to solve personal love and marriage problems than other disabled people, while the

groups with intellectual and mental disabilities face the most serious love and marriage problems. Mental disabilities and mental disability groups not only unable to have good communication, but also have unstable job. This type of the majority of people with disabilities is live on family support or government support. In addition, many of these disabled people are born with a disability; their offspring have a much higher rate of disability than other disability types. It makes the mentally disabled people at a serious disadvantage in the mating market position, and they face the most serious marriage problems.

4.3. Limited ways to Meet Their Spouse

People with disabilities believe that there are limited ways to get to know their spouses. Most of the ways for people with disabilities to get to know their spouses are introduced by their relatives and friends. Due to physical reasons and social prejudice, few people participate in matchmaking activities, and matchmaking agencies are also reluctant to accept disabled people. Limited social activities are one of the main obstacles to a marriage.

Through interviews with disabled people, we know that they still rely on informal support from parents, relatives and friends to solve their love and marriage problems. Although now relevant government departments and public welfare folk organizations in promoting the disabled dating are seeking solutions to organize activities of various dating, but due to the lack of access to information resources, only a small number of disabled people actually participate in social welfare organizations or participate in the government's blind date activities. Only relying on the help of their parents and friends, the circle of friends is limited. What's more, some disabled people surveyed said that they just want to deal with their parents' expectation of marriage instead of longing for marriage themselves.

5. MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF EMPOWERMENT

5.1. Establish the Correct Concept of Marriage

For individuals with disabilities, the first is to adjust their mentality and pursue happiness bravely, especially with the support and encouragement from their families and friends.

Secondly, we should help the disabled to establish a correct view of mate choice and emancipate the mind, on the basis of "equal family". At the family and social level, social workers are needed to eliminate discrimination against marriage of persons with disabilities and promote the concept of marriage in keeping with the times through extensive social promotion, social policies and relevant laws.

The love and marriage problems of the disabled ultimately

belong to their personal life problems, and the help provided by the outside world can only add more pressure on them. To pursue their real happiness, the marriage and love problems of the disabled should be solved through their own subjective initiative, so that the marriage and love problems of the disabled in the whole society can be eased.

5.2. Provide Rehabilitation Treatment for Disabled Persons

The government and society should pay more attention to the disabled, especially the severely disabled, and provide scientific rehabilitation treatment methods to help them solve the medical problems of serious diseases. Although these treatments may not be able to fundamentally eliminate the problem of disability, they can help people with disabilities partially restore their normal physical function and living ability, and help them to recover their mental health, which is the most important and urgent need of disabled people and also the guarantee of their marriage life. The government should vigorously develop the cause of disability prevention and rehabilitation, and enhance the ability of disabled people to independently marry and fall in love. Due to their own physical defects, disabled people more or less have a sense of inferiority, which leads to the loss of confidence in seeking true love and starting a family. This also seriously affects the enthusiasm of disabled people to independently solve their personal love problems. In the survey, it is found that physical defects have become the biggest obstacle to the marriage and love of the disabled. The government should take measures to prevent disability, help the disabled to alleviate their functional impairment, enhance their ability to live and take care of themselves, and improve their ability to participate in social activities. In addition, it is necessary to strengthen the pre-marriage health examination for the disabled, so as to give them some preferential treatment, reduce the probability of disabled children's disability, and create good conditions for the disabled to get married.

5.3. Provide Marriage and love Channels for Disabled Persons

Marriage channels for disabled persons should be established on the basis of their families, and they should be given more autonomy in marriage and love. Organizations at all levels should provide meeting opportunities for the disabled. In addition, the disabled persons' federation and their community should play the role of primary-level organizations to solve the marriage and family conflicts of the disabled. What's more, it is necessary to establish a special website for the disabled to open up a green channel for the disabled. In this way, the disabled people are exposed to various dating information. The special marriage and love services provided by social non-governmental charity organizations for the disabled are limited to change their marriage and love situation. Because of their physical

conditions, people with disabilities are less likely to have contact with the outside world and spend more time with their families and friends.

5.4. Improve the Economic Level of Disabled Persons

The government should improve the employment policy for the disabled, with the disabled persons' federation and the employment guidance centre for the disabled taking the lead in providing targeted employment guidance to the disabled who are able to work, so as to fundamentally improve their economic level. In addition, continuous social assistance should be provided to the elderly disabled and disabled people who have lost the ability to work. Besides, the elderly and medical care for the disabled should be guaranteed, and poverty alleviation efforts should be intensified for the disabled with economic difficulties.

5.5. Eliminate Social Discrimination against Disabled persons

We should strengthen publicity and education, eliminate social discrimination against the disabled, appeal to the whole society to pay attention to the living conditions of the disabled, care about their marital status, support the free love marriage between the disabled and the able-bodied, and give more care to the disabled. If physical defects are the biggest difficulty for the disabled to get married, then social discrimination is the biggest difficulty made by the outside world. This difficulty is caused by the overall social environment and can hardly be changed in a short period of time, which requires the continuous efforts of every individual. The author understands them in life more or less feel the glances from the outside world about their love marriages, it can be seen that although with the continuous development of social civilization, the whole society gives much more attention and care in the problem of disabled people's integration in the society. However, when the disabled date with normal people, the disabled will still be subject to unconscious prejudice and discrimination. This is because although ordinary people can understand the misfortune of disabled people, few people are really willing to choose them as their partners, which leads to the phenomenon that disabled people usually start a family in the form of double disability after blind date.

5.6. Standardize the Marriage System for Disabled persons

Premarital health checking is a neglected aspect in the marriage life of the disabled. The premarital health checking system and pregnancy health checking work are conducive to reducing the birth of children with genetic defects. After marriage, disabled persons shall clarify their supervisory duties to their spouses, and appropriate restrictions shall be

imposed on spouses who fail to perform such duties. Therefore, as relatives and friends of persons with disabilities, they should learn to look at persons with disabilities from a favourable perspective and believe that they have the ability to solve the problems of their personal relationship itself. They should not rush for success or have an anxious state of mind, which is not only not conducive to a harmonious family, cause a great psychological burden to the disabled, but also make them in a psychological state of inferiority and be more afraid of marriage. Therefore, families with disabilities should learn to encourage them and be their strongest backing.

6. CONCLUSIONS

For the disabled, due to their physical defects, they have very limited interaction with society. Their family is the only place for them to enjoy life, and it is particularly important that they can get the care and company of their families in daily life. Having a happy marriage and building a happy family is not only the pursuit of the able-bodied, but also the pursuit of the disabled. However, due to their own physical defects, psychological barriers, social prejudice and exclusion and other obstacles, the disabled face considerable difficulties in getting married.

Based on the empirical investigation and research on the issues related to marriage and love of rural disabled people in Dezhou city, the following new findings are listed:

At present, the marriage situation of urban disabled people is not optimistic with a high unmarried rate and a high divorce rate. The marriage problem of urban adult disabled males is particularly prominent, and the marriage satisfaction of married disabled males is generally lower than that of married disabled females. However, it is gratifying to note that the health status and growing environment of children with disabilities in urban areas have improved to a certain extent compared with previous surveys.

The factors that affect the marriage and love of disabled persons are complex in various aspects. The demographic characteristics, economic status, physiological status, psychological status, social environment and other factors of disabled persons have more or less impact on their marriage and love. In terms of love and marriage, the disabled people think that the biggest difficulty they face is their physical defects, which cause their mobility problems and low self-esteem. They have the most urgent requirements for improving their social participation ability, social skills and housing security.

Based on these findings, the author provides practical suggestions on the current development level of solving the marriage and love problems of urban disabled people from all walks of life. In order to solve the marriage and love

problems of disabled people in urban areas, in addition to the support given to disabled people by their relatives and friends, efforts should also be made to promote the development of marriage and love for disabled people under the guidance of relevant government departments and the cooperation of multiple subjects.

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