

Study On the Development of Community Aged Care from the Perspective of Harmonious Society

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Abstract. As the development of aged population, community is playing a crucial supportive role in the construction of supporting of the aged care system, providing stable and harmonious ruling environment for the CPC and catering to the construction of harmonious society at a certain level. Therefore, the community aged care becomes the basic requirement not only for construction of harmonious society, but also for construction of harmonious family, turning out to be an intrinsic element of constructing harmonious society.

Introduction

Besides support from law and theory, the CPC's ruling also needs a stable and harmonious social construction environment, which could be gained from construction of harmonious community. The development of community aged care reflects the purpose of the Party which is to put people first, and reflects the Party's innovative development in social administration. What's more, it brings a range of influences towards the construction of harmonious family and the development of the seniors [1].

Community is a Crucial Foundation for Aged Care

In the period of planned economy, as the majority people had stable employment, little space was left for any social organization to grow. In addition, taking the favorable number of children in each family into consideration, associated with nice welfare from working unit, there was no need to worry about one's old age. In the rural area, where people were all commune members, in despite of their plain life the old never felt anxious if there were nobody looking after them, as their children lived nearby. While the widowers, the orphans, and those not provided for enjoyed support from institutional old-age care by government. While in market economy, people who used to live in working unit now live as an individual, and therefore the problem of aged care is largely solved in the way of socialization. The idea is good, but it causes a series of social problems during implementation. In rural area, due to the huge number of migrant workers entered cities to seek jobs, large amount of children and aged people are leftover. In city, because of increased living cost and changed family structure, the young generation undertake heavier pressure of supporting the aged. Moreover, because of modern people's pursuit of career, it becomes common to see population flow between cities and countries, hence leaving more empty nest families. Either in rural or in urban areas, retirees unconnected with their previous working unit, they usually fall into the category of no organization, and finally discover community the most attractive place to stay.

Actually, community emerges as a kind of autonomous organization in the process of civilization and modernization in China, serving not only as a powerful platform of solving citizen's social public life, but also as an imperative carrier to resolve the parents care problem. Belonging to the formal service system responsible for looking after senior citizens, community offers stable support for aged care and naturally evolves into people's first choice. Consequently, community plays an irreplaceable

role in supporting senior citizens.

The Development of Community Aged Care is the Basic Requirement of Harmonious Society Building

The Development of Community Aged Care is the Requirement of "to Put Human First". The philosophy of "to put human first" follows the mission of building socialistic harmonious society[2], and provides the best value concept for developing aged care, which is not only the eccentric concept that must be insisted in the practice of society construction, but also the provision of driving the old-age welfare industry to flourish. In peaceful time, people most fundamental requirement in the angle of politics appears as insurance of various political rights and freedom; in economics as insurance of wealth right; in social life, exceeding merely a free and cozy social atmosphere, appears as safe and efficient social insurance, of which old-age support is a key item. When their needs of aged care swift from household to community step by step, the senior citizens show increase not only in quantity but also in variety of requirement. The development of community aged care enables the old to enjoy their rest life in familiar environment, realizing that the old attended and the old supported.

The Development of Community Aged Care Matters the Feelings of People. As the Party presents people's interest, it must make good arrangement for issues of public concerns, e.g. education, aged care, medical treatment, employment, welfare treatment, housing, etc, so that from their realistic interests people can judge the ruling Party's sincerity and determination of being in office for people. The old people group is one of the disadvantaged ones in China's society. Only upon satisfactory settlement of this issue could we solve the other social problems related with the old. Furthermore, if the community support of the old is settled down in a proper way, the family burden of large young will be evidently cut down, who can devote into the construction of socialist modernization with greater energy.

The Development of Community Aged Care is the Realistic Requirement of Harmonious Society Building. The idea of constructing socialistic harmonious society is put forth as a correction to a range of social problems, which emerged during the years' social evolvement in China. Of all these social problems, old-age supporting comes up lately but looks like a simple issue. Yet with overwhelming force, it involves extensively, not only thousands of households, but also everyone's worries for the future, for old age is the final destination of life. The huge number of the aged in China means that to maintain stable and harmonious, this group should be well settled at the very first. Satisfactory arrangement of old-age supporting service problem is, in addition to great comfort for the young adults who have not become aged yet, of fundamental significance of constructing harmonious society. The proper settlement of community aged care will bring benefits to each household and even the entire nation. From this aspect, we could regard development of community aged care a realistic and basic requirement of constructing harmonious society.

The Development of Community Aged Care is the Requirement of Harmonious Family Building. In 2009, the nation women's union started the item of Research about Chinese Harmonious Family Building and Countermeasure, delivering questionnaires to 10,000 households in both rural and urban areas located over 10 provinces, cities and areas nationwide [3]. The sample seize is ten thousand households, half in cities and half in countryside. The questions cover family basic information, family marriage status, the depending relationship between family and community, and so on. As the data of people's choice towards old-age supporting service mode shows, although living in different areas, people still would pick up family support as their first choice. This percentage in eastern area, western area and middle area accounts for 40.6%, 55.9% and 55% among all samples respectively. After that comes people's favor of community-family support service, and the percentage in east, west and middle area is 33.3%, 26.8% and 27.2% respectively. For institution

support the percentage is 26.1%, 17.3% and 17.7% respectively [4].

Table 1 Different Preferences on Endowment Parents Caused by Rural-urban Gap [Units of People]

Rural and Urban Areas		At Home	At Community-family	At Institutions	Totally
East	Sample Number	1509	1235	969	3713
	Percentage[%]	40.6	33.3	26.1	100.0
West	Sample Number	1541	740	478	2759
	Percentage[%]	55.9	26.8	17.3	100.0
Middle	Sample Number	1380	683	444	2507
	Percentage[%]	55.0	27.2	17.7	100.0
Totally	Sample Number	4430	2658	1891	8979
	Percentage[%]	49.3	29.6	21.1	100.0

Literature Source: T.H. Hong: *Harmonious Family Building in China*, (Social Sciences Academic Press,China 2011. p.112)

Of all statistics of family life values and behaviors, it is really thought-provoking when coming to people’s choice on depending strengthen of realization of “ the old supported, the old treated, the old entertained, and the old devoted” in later life. Either in urban or rural area, over half people depend on their children for old-age support and medicine. Over 50% people believe that it is on themselves that they should rely to realize “the old entertained” and “the old devoted” (the percentage number is 49.7%,64.3% and 47.8% ,60% separately [5]. Influence brought by national policy concerning old-age support mainly falls in the category of “the old treated”, ranking a second one of all options (28.8% in city). It is clearly, the strength of social power and national policy is far away from being strong enough for people to rely on. Community, the nearest space available to the aged, features natural advantage in promoting the harmonious family building and old-age support system.

The harmony between family and social environment, a key insurance for development of harmonious family, actually is the question of how to deal with the relationship between “core family” and “united family”. In the large context of harmonious society, the harmony of family serves as solid foundation for the harmonious community building. Accordingly, everyone should pay attention to his relationship with neighborhood and with community development. Under the general premise that the entire society advocate improvement of citizen’s moral quality, we reach the consensus that principles like ethnics, affection, credit, respect, mutual help, contribution and so on should be fully considered, neighborhood relationship enhanced, harmonious family development environment built up, and harmonious family constructed with neighborhood watch [6].

The Development of Community Aged Care is Requirement of Harmonious Community Building

The policy of reform and open to the outside world has driven every field to achieve substantial development. Cities nationwide carry out a series of community service in succession, and weave

into a diversified public service system step by step, including service for the disabled, the aged, the young, the entitled groups, the subjects of special difficulties, and various service items offering convenience and benefits to people. It takes just over 30 years for China to gain evident result in community construction. Instead of a pure basic social unit, community proves to be a microcosm of society, reflecting multiple social relationships, diversified social groups and social activities. Here, you can see the majority of social phenomenon which emerged as the society evolves. To be noted, the community in cities has already turned out to be a meeting and conjunction place for all kinds of social groups as well as social conflicts. In this new era, the function of community in cities is more imperative than ever and the calling for harmonious community is unprecedented urgent. Only when the community and family are both in harmony, the entire community can gain the provision of harmony [7].

Bearing the understanding of basic implications of harmonious community and spirit of the CPC, a community which is mature, healthy and harmonious should possess characteristics of the following aspects:

Harmonious interpersonal relationship, indicating good family relationship and nice neighborhood;

Emphasis on fairness and justice, capable of balancing interests of all parties;

Complete organization and article;

Mature community service items and serving system;

Right now, the community service is mainly composed of community welfare service and service for people's convenience and benefits. The main service include: paid service of convenience and benefits for community residents, concerning every aspect of their life; two-way services for enterprises, institutions, government organizations located in community; social welfare service catering to special groups in community, like the old, the disabled, the entitled subjects, the juveniles, all kinds of low-paid or non-paid social services [8]. The Party and government always emphasize that the community construction should bear the center of serving people and should take fairness and justice as principle. Senior citizens, inhabitants of community, are of spatial and subjective advantages in sharing community resources and in participation of community activities. So, distribution of chances should be careful to coordinate interests of different parties in the process of community construction.

As data of investigation on institutional old-age supporting service show, only 5.5% people plan to send their parents to professional institutions offering old-age supporting service [9]. They express that life would be ideal if their parents live in close neighbor, surrounded by helpful hands, with reliable medical service available and amateur life colorful. This ideal life could reduce the young's living pressure and enable the old to enjoy the pleasure of family union, reaching happiness and harmony in real sense. Community support service for the old has advantages in nature that meet with all these conditions. On one hand, we could design living space to increase the possibility for the old to live at home, on the other hand, supportive and attentive staff could offer door-to-door service, and the community could offer spaces, making full advantage of all the resources to carry out colorful activities [10].

Conclusion

To be brief, community is going to take significant social responsibility in parents supporting in the future. Beyond a link between family and society, it is also the main field for the old to stay and do exercise, becoming the society's epitome. Much more than a partial task in social development, community construction and development requires the entire society's joint attendance, and especially a new premium to be put on from our nation and government so that it can be incorporated in the integrative planning, realizing the content and form of innovative community supporting

service for the old from any angle.

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