

# *The Study on Transformation of Government Functions in Urban Community Care Services for the Old*

*---Based On A Survey Of Tianjin Binhai New Area*

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**Abstract**—Along with the aging of population in our country, the model of community care has gradually developed into a new model best suits China's national conditions. At present, China's urban community care services for the old have many problems, like the offside or vacancy of government functions; inadequate supply and unequal distribution of community care resources; the bad development of the third sector or other community organizations. All these make it difficult for our government to transform their functions in this area. The paper innovatively makes an in-depth study from the perspective of the urban community care services and basis on the investigation and analysis in Tianjin Binhai New Area , finally put forward suggestions for the transformation of our government functions.

**Keywords**—urban community; community care services for the old; government functions; transformation of government functions

## I. INTRODUCTION

Tianjin is the first municipality to implement community care services for the old in China, which has a history of more than 20 years. December 2010, Tianjin and Ministry of Civil Affairs signed a cooperation agreement, which had regarded the Tianjin Binhai New Area as the first reform and innovative district and the experimental area of national civil affairs.It provided a appropriate opportunity for the development of community care services to Binhai New Area .

The data from Department of Civil Affairs of Tianjin showed that at the end of 2015, there had registered a population of 1,244,549. Among them, there were 259,781 people over 60s, which accounted for 20.88 percent of the total population. It increased more than 17809 people compared with 2014, increased by 7.36 percent, which was slightly higher than the proportion of city average. For the old in Binhai New Area, there are ninety percent living in the community, in addition to such an aggravating trend of aging, it is significant to take Tianjin Binhai New Area for example to study the transformation of government functions in urban community

care services for the old.

## II. THE PROBLEMS OF TRANSFORMATION OF GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS IN COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES FOR THE OLD

### A. *Insufficient Supply Capacity of Institutional Public Goods*

The development of community care services for the old in Tianjin Binhai New Area, has been lack of a scientific, standardized and specific services regulation. Over the years, the government of Binhai New Area based on the relevant state laws and regulations or other guidance from the government of Tianjin to develop the community care services for the old. So far, the specific laws and regulations about community care services in this area have been in the blank.

### B. *Excessive Interference for Community Management from the Local Governments*

As a local government, it is her duty for the government of Binhai New Area to lead the building of community care services for the old, which is the fundamental guarantee for the sustainable development of the community services for the old. Nevertheless, because of the long-term impact by planned economy, the inertia from model of traditional All-round-style Government still exists. So it makes the governments of Binhai New Area be accustomed to control the management of community care services. Together with that resources for community care services are mainly from the government, especially the financial resources, the community organizations have to attache to the local government.

### C. *The Lack of Supervision and Management Functions*

At present, it is the truth that the development of community care services is still in an exploratory stage, supervision and management functions are relatively backward, management means are single, and so on. The Regulatory and management for community care services in

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Binhai New Area depend on the administrative supervision from the government. It is lacking of strong social regulators and uniform regulatory standards. And the supervision and management means also lack objectivity and fairness.

### III. INVESTIGATION AND ANALYSIS ABOUT DEMAND CONDITIONS OF COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES IN TIANJIN BINHAI NEW AREA

#### A. The Basic Situation of Sample

The reading literature, sample survey methods and consultation methods were used to investigate the demand of the old about community care services. We sent 500 questionnaires to six functional areas in Tanggu by the random sampling way, and recovered 481 valid questionnaires with the effective rate of 96.20 percent. The respondents aged 60 years old and over, whose the minimum age was 60s, the maximum age was 89s, with an average age of 75.31 years. The population of the old men was 234, the women was 247, and sex ratio is 0.947. Most of them received junior or senior high school education, their vocation were diversity but the majority were wage earners. Many lived with their children, and their income mostly from 2001 to 3000 yuan. The questionnaire includes basic information of the elderly, the care needs of the old from community and the supply situation of community care services.

#### B. Demand of the old in the community of Binhai New Area

For the diverse demand of the old who are living in community, the paper studies the following aspects: whether they need their community to provide care services; what aspects of services they mostly want to receive; which services their community has been provided; thire willingness to pay for community care services.

- Data of the survey showed that up to 81.59 percent of the old needed their community to provide care services. With an aging population and the popularization of "4-2-1" family structure, it is increasingly difficult for the old to rely on their own children or spouse to enjoy their old age. And due to the influence of the traditional family pension model, most of them want to stay at home at the rest of their life. Moreover, to respond to the plight of the sustainable development of family pension model, the local governments are trying their best to explore community care model. So, all these factors lead more and more elderly people to turn their eyes towards their own residential communities, and hope it could provide all kinds of sound services.
- In terms of what aspects of services they mostly wanted to receive , there were 218 elderly selecting medical services, which accounted for 44.67 percent of the total sample. There were 175 elderly people choosing entertainment services, accounted for 35.86 percent of all, and the remaining 95 elderly selected housekeeping, accounted for 19.47 percent of all. The living lifestyle does have a major influence on the demand of the old . In general, the people living with their children and spouse pay more attention to the

demand of medical and recreational services. The demand of housekeeping services was more in common for those living alone. With they grow older, the demand for domestic services and medical services would also gradually be growing.

- There were 414 old people more or less had accepting the various care services provided by the community, accounted of 84.84 percent of the total number of samples. The remaining 74 elderly not received any community-based care services , accounted of 15.16 percent of the total number of samples. After analysis, we could conclude that, whether the old received the community care services related to their age. And the older they were, the more probability they needed the community care services. So did the income levels. To some extent, the income level stood for the power of purchasing. These with higher income level were more likely to buy community care services.
- There were 79.10 percent of old people believed that the services should be provided free of charge, while 20.90 percent thought that it was reasonable to charge appropriately. The age, living style, income level and education level all affected their willingness to pay. Especially deserve to be mentioned, the level of education has a big influence on the willingness of payment. These with lower cultural level thought it was the government's duty to provide community services for free.

#### C. The Current Supply of Community Care Services for The Old in Binhai New Area

Based on the present situation of supply of community care services in Binhai New Area , the paper did the research mainly from the following aspects: existing community activities, existing equipment of community activities, existing community services for the old and existing form of community services.

The results of survey showed that most communities had service stations, day-care centers, catering rooms and other basic facilities, like elderly centers, universities for the old. There were also various activities venues as well as reading rooms, audio-visual rooms and so on. But the community activities venues established specifically for the old were insufficient, activity devices were also single, and mainly to be dominated for chess or mahjong rooms.

TABLE 1

The Supplement of Community Care Services		
Services	People	Rate(%)
Catering Services	186	38.11
Home-care Services	207	42.42
Day-care Services	149	30.53
Medical Services	216	44.26
Entertainment Services	292	59.84
Sporting Services	354	72.54
Law-advice Services	43	8.81
Dispute-resolution Services	94	19.26
Chatting Services	155	31.76
Others	82	16.80
None	58	11.89

TABLE 2

The Acceptance of Community Care Services		
Services	People	Rate (%)
Home-care Services	166	34.02
Day-care Services	275	56.35
Catering Services	318	65.16
Community Agencies	131	26.84
Others	89	18.24
None	74	15.16

(Postscript : It is a multiple choice, so the total proportion is more than 100 percent)

From the two tables , we could see that, various forms of community care services for the old were indeed provided by the local governments or communities. But we should also notice that there was a wide gap between the supply and the acceptance of community care services for the old. Moreover, health care, law-advice and other supply were obviously insufficient. The survey generally reflected that the elderly spiritual demand was not well met.

#### IV. THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPEEDING UP THE TRANSFORMATION OF GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS IN URBAN COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR THE OLD

##### A. Transforming the Government Ideas, and Establishing a New Sense of Service

To successfully transform the government functions to promote the development of urban community care services, first of all, it is necessary to change the concept of governments. The government should be combined with the market, make full use of their various functions change the single administrative means to mixed means including political, economic, juristic, informational, administrative and other means. Sending part of the ability of the administrative functions appropriately to the third sector, and making full use of community organizations and committees.

##### B. Building a Sound Legal System, and Promoting Community Care Services Legalization

To promote the development of urban community care services, we should establish a series of specific, operational and legal system. It should be involved all aspects of life of the old, such as the subsidies for the oldest, the problems of dental health for elderly, etc. Striving for providing a comprehensive legal protection for the old, and strengthening community care services management. Meanwhile, for the development of the third sector, the government should develop appropriate preferential policies to encourage the development of social organizations and non-profit organizations.

##### C. Reforming the Financial Investment Mechanisms, and Promoting the Development of Investment Diversification

As the main investor in community care services, government should establish a stable investment mechanism of public finances. The government should also continue to

improve the mechanisms of investment diversification of community care services. Building a diverse investors system that based on government financial investment as the mainstay, supplemented with community itself and continued to attract community enterprises, social organizations and individuals to raise funds for investment diversification development system .

##### D. Reforming the Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms, and Promoting Community Care Service Management Being Standardized

The government should base on the uniform norms or standards for the old in community and the providers of community care services to develop a long-term, continuous feeding back and adjusting monitoring and evaluation system. The government should strengthen the training and assessment of service staffs who directly provide the community care service. They should quickly formulate and revise standards for admittance into industry and evaluation mechanism to guide the third sector to provide better care services for the old.

##### E. Nurturing the Awareness of Residents to Participate in Community Affairs, Improving the Participation Ways for Residents

To promote the development of urban community care services, apart from the legal protection, policy support, and supervision and management of financial resources, the government should also nurture the awareness of the old to participate in community affairs, like holding the hearings, forming dance teams.

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