

# "Three-Society Linkage" Action Strategy Applied to Lonely Family Service

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**Abstract:** A special social group of "bereaved parents" was created by the implementation of the family planning policy in China in the 1970s, which are confronted with many difficulties, such as lack of economic support, lack of life care and lack of spiritual comfort, at any time on the verge of collapse. Through a project on the application of "three-social linkage" to the service of bereaved parents, this paper analyzes the practice of "three-social linkage" mechanism to help the rebuilding of the Families, explores the general mode of the rescue of the bereaved parents, and provides professional thinking for helping this group to get out of the predicament, and make a humble effort for the harmonious and stable society.

## 1. Introduction

"Bereaved parents", a somewhat sad title, replaced another identity they had been proud of, but never returned - father and mother. With the continuous occurrence of the tragic tragedy, Bereaved parents have gradually received attention from people. The country has also begun to support them through corresponding policies. Judging from the current situation, the government is willing to provide financial resources to help the loss of single families, and caring people from all walks of life are also willing to join in the caring operation. However, the current main bodies are still basically in a state of discord, and have not yet established an effective state. How to integrate all kinds of resources and provide multiple services for the lost families has become the common mission of the academia and the government and society.

## 2. Analysis of the status quo of "Bereaved parents"

"Bereaved parents" refer to the death of an only child, whose parents no longer have children, are unable to bear children, and are reluctant to adopt children. The age of those who lost their independence was mostly 50 years old. As a special social group derived from the family planning policy, each year China will newly produce 76,000 bereaved parents and 150,000 destitute old people.

Not only that, in the absence of the existing social security system, the group of people who lose their independence are suffering multiple difficulties from the economic, pension, and spiritual aspects. The drug dependence caused by the deterioration of the body is an economic expenditure that cannot be ignored. For the elderly, the lack of life care and care of the group makes it difficult to take care of some household items, and the issue of pensions cannot be guaranteed. In the spiritual aspect, the group of individuals who lose their independence are faced with different degrees of mental trauma or psychological disorder. They often cannot walk away from the pain of being beaten, stay away from the crowd, and are extremely sensitive to psychology. At the same time, in terms of adoption, contrary to "restricted adoption," the lack of independence has no chance to find a suitable adoption target.

## 3. The conception and development of the "three-society linkage" mechanism

The "three-society linkage" is based on the government's purchase of services as a traction, the community as a platform for practice, the social organization as a carrier of services, and social

workers as a professional pillar, forming a joint force through resource sharing and complementary advantages. That the mechanism of "three-social linkage" is introduced in the work of the family assistance of the disabled is ripe for the current mechanism and social conditions:

**A. Government functions tend to be service-oriented**

At present, with the construction of service-oriented government, the government has gradually changed the way to offer social service, actively empowers power to the community, transfers the social service project to the relevant social organizations. The government began to provide financial support to social organizations through the purchase of services to social organizations and encourages social organizations to play a role.

**B. Professional services of social workers tend to be professional**

At present, the government and society have different degrees of supportive measures and policies for the "Bereaved parents". However, due to the different characteristics of each individual family with a lack of independence, the actual implementation of policies is uneven. Taking into account the particularity of the physical and psychological aspects of the "Bereaved parents", they desperately need professional social workers to intervene in them. Using professional skills and methods, they can help them out of difficulties.

**C. The development of social organizations tends to be mature**

Since the deepening of reform and opening up, our country's social organization has grown. In recent years, social organizations at various levels have successively undertaken the transfer of government functions, actively participated in social management and public services, and their social influence is continuously expanding.

**D. Community service construction tends to improve**

After recent years of construction and development, most communities in China's cities have established relatively complete community service systems and networks, have certain service facilities and equipment, and also have full-time or part-time community workers and volunteers to provide basic services such as life care, medical care, and spiritual comfort for the lonely family.

**4. The "three linkages" application to the practice of individual family service**

In December 2013, under the support of relevant government policies, the professional supervisor of social work at North China Electric Power University established the Ever Love Home Service Center to undertake the "Warm Heart" project of the Hebei Social Work Promotion Association. The elderly are the main service targets. On the one hand, contact the Dajijia Community of Baoding City as a service platform for the "three agencies" to care for the "Bereaved parents". On the other hand, we employ professional social workers and actively contact social organizations and university student volunteers to provide professional service support, which embodies the management model of "three linkages".

**A. The basic situation of losing the only-child family in Baoding City**

In order to better understand the status and appeals of the "Bereaved parents", the survey was conducted using a combination of quantitative questionnaires and in-depth interviews. A total of 96 questionnaires for "Bereaved parents" in Baoding City were collected, and 9 in-depth interview materials were collected.

No reliance---older age, poor living conditions, enhancing dependence of support. The economic situation is not good, some families' income can't afford the expense(50% of the poverty due to the loss). The annual income of 65.6% families is 10000~30000, 90% of total household expenditure is 10000~30000,

TABLE I. Income of You and Your Spouse in the Past Year (Baoding)

		frequency	Effective percentage
Pension, endowment insurance (RMB)	0-10000	12	12.5
	10000-30000	69	71.9
	30000-50000	15	15.6
Family Planning Special Assistance	0-10000	93	96.9
	30000-50000	3	3.1
Total revenue	0-10000	6	6.3
	10000-30000	63	65.6
	30000-50000	24	25.0
	50000-80000	3	3.1

No joy---emotional distress, lack of spiritual comfort. Negative emotions: helpless 72.7%, depression 68.2%, anxiety 45.5%, depression 40.9%, the negative emotions are widespread. 39% feel that life does not make sense, 33.9% bad mood, and emotion easily out of control, 39% life is out of order, and sleep disorders. They need effective communications.

TABLE II. Classifiers with negative emotions (Baoding)

		frequency	Effective percentage
Negative emotions	fear	7	31.8
	Afraid	10	45.5
	low	15	68.2
	nervous	7	31.8
	Helpless	16	72.7
	guilt	6	27.3
	anxiety	10	45.5
	depressed	9	40.9

Demand for support --- The pension issue is prominent.67% poor families has entered the age of retirement, their own pension problem, and especially the demand of those who lost self-care ability, and the living alone poor elderly is significantly strong.

Demand for medical care---hospitalization and nursing problems. Once hospitalized, they would probably face problems like no signatures and no nursing care and some families could not afford the large amount of the medical expenditure.

**B. The "three-communications linkage" application to the operational model of lonely family services**

Based on the investigation and analysis of the actual needs of the “disadvantaged groups”, the “Warm heart” project uses the “Social Workers-Psychology Collaboration” model and adopts the “One Family, One File, One Family, and One Program” in-depth assistance programs from physical health. The four levels of mental health, social return, and ability development provide psychological support and social care for "Bereaved parents". Specific service programs are illustrated by the community, social organizations, and social workers:

First, the community provides a support platform. The community is an important place for the elderly to survive. It is a working platform for the construction of a social support system for the "Bereaved parents". It provides the social organizations and social workers with the basic orientation and support for services, and their service scope and content need to be further expanded.

In the process of the "three-society linkage" intervention in the family of estranged individuals, the Dajiuji community can provide diversified services to integrate resources and provide convenience, such as targeted psychological counseling, based on the psychological characteristics and practical needs of "Bereaved parents". Spiritual comfort, social communication services, etc.; to create a unique culture of the community, through regular community activities such as recreation, health talks, etc., to help the less-integrated groups to better integrate into the community atmosphere, to provide mutual communication and common comfort for the disabled elderly .

Second, social organizations provide support services. Social organizations are an important link between government and society. They can provide direct services for community and integrate social work and social resources. Through integrating role of the operation of social organizations, the social organizations can meet the basic living and spiritual needs of the "Bereaved parents" more professionally and effectively

In the process of the "three-social linkage" used in the family of "Bereaved parents", on the one hand, there are public welfare organizations that carry out various forms of service activities to promote the enthusiasm of the elderly who are not alone, improve the physical quality and mental outlook of the elderly, and launch mobilization through donations. The forces of all parties in society have eased the economic difficulties of the families who have lost their independence. On the other hand, social organizations related to "Bereaved parents" services can also be integrated into a single service network to coordinate the resources of different social organizations, give full play to the advantages of the organizations, and improve the sustainability and service quality of support.

Finally, social workers provide expertise. Social workers are the professional forces in the "three-social linkage" to improve the quality of life of the elderly. Social workers and social organizations collaborate to cooperate with the community to provide professional and targeted quality services to the elderly. They are the executors of implementing and providing community services.

## **5. Assessment of the implementation effect of the “three-society linkage” family care project**

### **A. Analysis of beneficiary groups**

Since the implementation of the linkage model, a large number of elderly people who have lost their independence have benefited from it and gradually walked out or reduced the pain of bereavement. In order to examine the effect of project implementation, based on the stratification of the economic conditions of the indigent independent family, a random stratified sampling method was used to select 32 disengaged elderly people who participated in the activities, and to reflect changes in the frequency of negative emotions before and after the activities of old people and to meet friends. The change in quantity is the main indicator for the assessment of the mental outlook and improvement of social integration.

#### *1) The emotional status and social integration of the monopolist before intervention*

In the initial interview, we found that there are many negative emotions in the person who lost their independence. These negative emotions are not what they were before.

After the incident happened, I often felt depressed and deeply powerless. (F1)

It is easy for one person to be cranky at home and feel afraid every night (W1)

At the beginning of that period, I specifically rejected the red thing and I felt uncomfortable when I saw it (L1)

The chest is always sullen, breathless (S1)

Not only that, but when asked who the loser had talked to, the 32 interviewees invariably stated that they had never sought professional psychological assistance. They just spoke to their spouse or relatives and observed us. We also found that after the events of independence, the old people had apparently evaded social interactions

From these interviews, it can be seen that the respondent did not have any hope of finding someone (including looking for a psychiatrist) and even felt more distressed (dizziness and nausea) after listening to those words. They have become accustomed not to tell people, but to accept these

negative emotions in silence. From the psychological point of view, they have learned a kind of learned helplessness.

### **B. The emotional status and social integration of the monopolist after intervention**

In order to change such unwholesome social interaction status as the unemployed, the task force adopts social work professional skills of “along with, sympathize with, support, lead, and influence” in practice to encourage absent-mindeds to enhance social interactions with their counterparts. Establish a trust relationship.

## **6. Summary and reflection**

The elderly group of the lack of independence, through services and participation in collective activities, has undergone major changes in their thinking. Through visual comparison and analysis, we have found that the number of adverse emotions experienced by the elderly during the intervention period has continued to decline, while the number of friends who interact with each other has decreased. Constantly rising, the spirit of the old people has been greatly improved. In the process of practice and exploration, the recognition and gratitude of the lonely family are the best encouragement to the practice process. The gradual response and cooperation of the abstention family is the best proof of the practical results. From a closed life to a brand new life, the transformation of the lonely family has moved us. It also makes us believe that all our suffering will eventually be beautiful. No matter how many ups and downs we experienced, the old people will eventually be free from suffering.

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