

Study on the Problems and Countermeasures of the Rural Community Home Care Service for the Aged: Based on the Home Care Service Center for the Aged in Linqu County

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Abstract: With China's population ageing, the issue of caring for the elderly has become a national concern. The rural economy is relatively backward in comparison to cities and towns, the old-age security service policy facilities are not yet perfect, and the large-scale outflow of young and middle-aged labor force following reform and opening-up has weakened the traditional family old-age support function, and the benefits of community old-age support appear, but it is still limited by a number of factors. The research object in this paper is the Weifang Linqu County Community Home Care Service Center for the Elderly, which summarizes the current implementation of rural community home care services. This paper also investigates the problems that exist in old-age care at home in rural communities and proposes some solutions.

Keywords: Rural old-age support; Community home-based old-age support; Community old-age service

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1. Introduction

By the end of 2019, there were 253.88 million people aged 60 and over in China, accounting for 18.1% of the total population, according to the 2019 economic data released by the National Bureau of Statistics of the People's Republic of China ^[1]. The World Assembly on Ageing held in Vienna in 1982 stipulated that the proportion of the population aged 60 years and over should exceed 10 per cent, which means that the country or region has entered a stage of serious ageing, the problem of providing for the aged is very serious. In this context, compared with the urban elderly, the rural elderly does not have a fixed source of income, mostly rely on family children to support the elderly, but after the implementation of China's 33-year family planning, a couple in a rural family can only have two children at most. Compared with the past, the burden of family support for the aged is too heavy. Furthermore, following the reform and opening-up, the rate of urbanization in our country has accelerated, and a large number of rural laborers have left, weakening the family support function for the elderly. Against this backdrop, the Community Home Endowment Service Organization emerges as the Times demand. In China, there is currently no standardized and clear standard for home care services for the elderly in rural towns. Experts and scholars say that old-age care at home in rural communities can be summarized as a multi-level old-age service system centered on the family, supported by the community, and augmented by institutions ^[2].

At present, the research on the Rural Community Home Care Service Center for the aged in China

mainly includes two aspects: one is the influencing factors of the rural community home care service demand, and the other is the current supply mode of the Rural Community Home Care Service. In the study of the factors influencing the demand for home care service for the aged in rural communities, based on the investigation and analysis of Jiangsu Province, this paper constructs a model of the influencing factors of the rural elderly's demand for various types of community-based home-based old-age services and studies the hypothesis that the factors influencing the rural elderly's demand for community-based old-age services include personal factors and family factors, in the case of personal factors, there is a negative correlation between an individual's age and his/her will, a negative correlation between his/her gender and his/her will, a positive correlation between his/her educational level and his/her will, a negative correlation between his/her health status and his/her will, and a positive correlation between policy understanding and his/her will, among the family factors, the number of children and the family economic situation are negatively related to their wishes ^[3].

In the research on the current supply model of the old-age service in rural communities, Liu Nina and Gao Xiuwen in "The expansion of the relief: The development path of the community-based pension service in rural areas: taking Beijing as an example." They conclude that there are three modes of the community-based pension service in rural areas in Beijing, respectively, the pure mutual aid model, in which the village is collectively responsible for managing the mutual aid team and providing door-to-door services to the elderly in the village who need but do not want to live in community service institutions, however, this mode of service only includes day care, spiritual comfort and visiting. The second mode is mutual help service + dining mode, that is, holding a restaurant for the aged in the village, which is provided by the village collective, services are either free or low-cost, complementary to mutual assistance services, and the third mode is mutual assistance + integrated mode, which is managed by social enterprises, in addition to mutual aid services and restaurants for the elderly, the service also includes day care and professional care services, which are more professional and standard than the former two models ^[4]. This paper summarizes the main problems existing in the service for the aged at home in rural communities and puts forward some countermeasures and suggestions.

2.The problems of old-age service at home in rural communities

2.1. Rural residents have a low acceptance of the concept of supporting children for old-age care in the community

In China's rural areas, there is no set age for providing for the elderly. Because of the shortcomings of China's rural community pension policy, rural residents are particularly unfamiliar with the concept of home care for the elderly in rural communities, the above circumstances result in the rural population's poor acceptance of the old-age service institution in the rural community. The survey found that the rural elderly still adheres to the traditional concept of "Raising children for old age." On one hand, there is a misunderstanding that the Community Home Care Service Center for the Elderly is what they used to understand as a nursing home; this is a place for elderly people who have no children or whose children are unfaithful and unwilling to support their parents, so they feel it would be a shame to join a community home care service center for the elderly.

2.2. The current fees charged by rural community home-based old-age service institutions exceed the limits that rural residents can afford

According to the survey, most of the current rural community home care service centers for the elderly are profit-making, and the normal operation of the institutions can only be charged for services to the elderly who participate in the service institutions, however, the elderly in the rural areas have not returned due to the lack of awareness of this rural community service organization, so there is little social funding support,

funding mainly from government grants, but Linqu County as a small county has limited financial resources, therefore, in order to maintain the rest salary, the main sources of income are the government-subsidized pension and the daily living expenses given by the children, but this is far from enough to cover the cost of a home-based pension service in a rural community. To keep the service running, Linqu County's home-based pension service centers charge a minimum fee of 2,600 yuan a month for the elderly, but the state-subsidized pension is about 200 yuan per person per month, and in rural areas, people's economic income is not high, in addition to the family's Daily living expenses and children's education expenses, the money left over is not enough to cover the costs of community-based home-based care services for the elderly, especially in families with elderly people who cannot take care of themselves and who are willing to sacrifice the work of adult women in the family, because their wages are much lower than the fees charged by community-based pension services, the financial burden on the family as a whole is less when they choose to sacrifice their work than when they involve the elderly in community-based pension services.

2.3. The services provided by the old-age Home Service in rural communities can hardly meet the needs

The Rural Community Home Care Service organizations lack financial support and have difficulty in attracting high-quality professionals. Most of the nursing staff employed at present are temporary workers with low educational level and insufficient knowledge of professional services, service personnel can only provide such simple services as life care, ^[5] and it is difficult to provide professional training for service personnel due to the shortage of funds, so the overall quality of the old-age service team is lower and smaller. The service is currently small, with 120 older persons in the facility, but there are only 40 caregivers for older persons, which is only appropriate in cases where older persons do not require care at the same time, nursing staff are not sufficient when all older persons are in need of care in the event of a sudden special problem or when older persons are in need of multiple personal care in the event of a sudden physical problem; there are only 8 professional nursing staff out of 40 nursing staff, that is to say, most nursing staff can only provide basic life care such as washing and cooking. They cannot provide professional services for the elderly who are sick in bed or need professional care for other physical problems, low level of professionalism.

3.The feasible path for the development of home-based old-age service in rural communities

3.1. Policy support

3.1.1. Strengthen the propaganda, improve the rural elderly to the community home for the elderly sense of identity

Government departments should fully recognize the importance of home-based old-age service in rural communities, and pay close attention to the publicity of home-based old-age service centers in rural communities, which can make use of existing successful cases, through the village committee, which is responsible for carrying out home lectures and propaganda, using village broadcasting stations to broadcast propaganda on a regular basis, and using stage performances. For the elderly, there is a Home Care Service Center.

3.1.2. Focus on policy creation and institutional leadership

The government should work out a series of incentives and subsidies to support the development of the old-age care industry, preferential tax policies, certain subsidies for the old-age Care Service institutions, and reduce the burden of old-age care expenses by reducing the operating costs of the old-age care industry, at the same time, private capital is encouraged to take an active part in the construction of the rural community home-based old-age service center to provide some financial support for the sustainable development of

the old-age care institutions.

3.2. Deepen the integration of medical care with endowment care and promote health care for the elderly

We will actively develop a new model of old-age care that combines medical care with old-age care, and constantly improve a multi-level old-age care service system that is “Home-based, community-based, institutional-based, and integrated with medical care.” We can make reference to the successful cases of the combination of medical care and nursing care, support the establishment of cooperation between old-age service institutions and medical care institutions, and embed the old-age service institutions into community hospitals, to develop a new model of combining medical care with nursing care for the elderly, which provides medical care for the elderly in hospitals downstairs and daily life care for the elderly in pension service institutions upstairs^[6]. At the same time signed professional doctors and family doctors, for the elderly choose to provide home care services^[7].

3.3. Improving professional competence and strengthening team building

In light of the current state of service teams in rural communities, steps should be taken to improve their professional quality, and professional and technical personnel should be subjected to the same professional qualification and registration system as medical institutions. At the same time, professional and technical personnel have been hired to provide continuous training and Continuing education in order to improve their professional quality. Simultaneously, the use of big data, artificial intelligence, and other technologies to promote the development of old-age care services has focused on developing an intelligent old-age care service information platform with information release, acceptance, and feedback of individual needs of the elderly, as well as inquiry of old-age care service facilities, and joining the “Virtual nursing home” service MODEL, through the call center platform and the old-age service organization^[7].

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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