

Analysis of the Situation of Autism Spectrum Disorders in China Under the Framework of SWOT-PEST Model

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Abstract

The number of autism spectrum disorders has been rising with the development of social economy and China has adopted some safeguard measures. However, compared with western developed countries, China has low concern, late start and low support for autistic groups. This paper uses the SWOT-PEST model to deeply analyze the respective strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the politics, economy, society and technology environment in which the autism spectrum disorders is currently located, in an effort to fully demonstrate the living conditions of the autism spectrum disorders in China and try to find out the crux of the current rehabilitation and training of autistic population in China.

Keywords

SWOT-PEST; Autism spectrum disorders; Autistic institution.

1. Introduction

Autism spectrum disorders are a group of developmental disorders that originate in early childhood and are characterized by social interactions and communication barriers, narrow range of interests, and repetitive stereotypes. The autism spectrum disorders can be divided into young autism spectrum disorders and adult autism spectrum disorders. The age division of the young and the adult is different from the existing laws in China. The age of young autism spectrum disorders is between 0 and 14 years old, while the adult autism spectrum disorders is over 14 years old.

China has not yet conducted a pedigree survey of the total number of people with autism. The Autism and Development Disorder Control Network of the United States, based on a survey of children born in 2006 and aged 8 in 2014, found that the prevalence of autism was 16.8 per thousand. That is, one in every 58 people born in 2006 is confirmed to have autism spectrum disorders and said that the prevalence of autism in Asia, Europe and North America is 1% to 2%.

Autism spectrum disorders has developed in China for more than 30 years. Due to the limitations of economic, cultural and medical levels in the early stage, the research, treatment and assistance of autism spectrum disorders in China started late. With the development of society, the awareness and support of autism spectrum disorders by the state, society, enterprises and the public have been improved, but it is still not satisfactory.

2. Model Analysis

The SWOT analysis method enumerates the strengths, weaknesses, external opportunities and threats within the research object, and combines the factors to analyze and draw corresponding conclusions. The PEST analysis method analyzes the four macro-environments of politics, economy, society and technology in which the research object is located, and realizes the

judgment of the comprehensive environment for the strategic development of the research object. This paper combines the two to comprehensively analyze the living conditions of autism spectrum disorders in China.

2.1. Analysis of the Strengths of Autism Spectrum Disorders

2.1.1. Political Strengths (PS)

The government's emphasis on autism spectrum disorders has risen with the improvement of national governance capacity and level. The central and local governments have successively introduced many supportive policies for autism spectrum disorders. During the "Eleventh Five-Year Plan" period, autism was officially included in the mental disability. The "Twelfth Five-Year" development outline proposed to develop and improve the technical standards for rehabilitation training for children with autism spectrum disorders. In 2011, the revised Measures for the Management of Persons and Disabilities in Regular Classes and the State Council's Opinions on Promoting the Development of Disabled Persons clearly pointed out that the education of autistic children should be gradually solved, and the education of children with autism should be guaranteed from the policy level.

2.1.2. Economic Strengths(ES)

China's economy has grown steadily, showing a steady progress. In the first quarter of 2019, the GDP was 21.3 trillion yuan, a year-on-year increase of 6.4%. The disposable income of residents has also steadily increased. The per capita disposable income of the national residents is 8,493 yuan, an increase of 8.7%. Whether it is a macroeconomic environment or a microeconomic environment, China's economic performance is showing a good situation. The enlargement of the national "cake" means that more funds are invested in the maintenance, rehabilitation, training, employment, medical care, and pensions of the autistic spectrum disorders. The expansion of residents' own "cake" means that the proportion of family investment in autistic children is reduced, and the family's economic pressure is reduced.

2.1.3. Social Strengths(SS)

Although the development of autism spectrum disorders in China is far behind the developed countries in the West, private capital is constantly pouring into the autistic group, and various types of rehabilitation and training institutions are emerging. According to the data released by the China Disabled Persons' Federation official website, as of the end of 2014, the number of real-name rehabilitation education institutions serving autistic patients in China has reached 1,345.

The quality of the people and the level of education are related. Under the background of the popularization of nine-year compulsory education and the continuous improvement of the teaching level in China, the quality of our residents is expected to be further improved. A study shows that the higher the national education, the increased understanding of autism. Under the environment of continuous improvement of national education in China people's awareness and understanding of autism will also increase, which is of great benefit to the autism spectrum disorders.

2.1.4. Technical Strengths(TS)

Although there are no medical treatments for autism spectrum disorders, after decades of development, China has studied and developed a variety of treatments for autistic patients, such as Applied Behavior Analysis and Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, etc. These treatments help to intervene and improve the condition of autism spectrum disorders.

2.2. Analysis of the Weaknesses of the Autistic Spectrum Disorders

2.2.1. Political Weaknesses(PW)

At present, China's policies and regulations to protect the rights and interests of autistic spectrum disorders have obvious policy preferences, and the concern for young autism spectrum disorders is far greater than that of adult autism spectrum disorders. The right to education of young autism spectrum disorders is guaranteed, and the right to education of adult autism spectrum disorders is ignored; the government has undertaken the medical rehabilitation expenses of some young autism spectrum disorders. For example, in Beijing and Hunan rehabilitation and training expenses of the adult autism spectrum disorders are only paid by local governments. However, other local governments have failed to do so.

2.2.2. Economic Weaknesses(EW)

At present, China's demographic dividends are gradually disappearing, population aging is increasing and the differences between the rich and the poor are highlighted. At the same time, China's reform and opening up has continued to advance, and the difficulty of reform has also increased. China's reform has entered the deep water zone where tough challenges must be met. The economic growth rate has slowed down and China's economy is facing downward pressure. The resolution of various social contradictions depends on the protection of state funds. The prominent and increasing social contradictions undoubtedly reduce the security of autism spectrum disorders.

2.2.3. Social Weaknesses(SW)

Organizations that provide rehabilitation and training for autistic patients are out of balance. According to a survey of 117 autism rehabilitation institutions across the country in 2013, there is only one rehabilitation institution providing services for adult autistic individuals over 16 years old, namely Jilin "Smart home", which is the first in China. It is an institution that conducts advanced autism rehabilitation services and employment training. Through research, the author found that after these years of development, as of April 2019, there are still no more than 10 rehabilitation institutions providing services and training for older autism spectrum disorders.

With the improvement of the public's education level, the situation of single marriage and late childbearing in China has increased. One study selected a sample of 417,303 Swedish children born between 1984 and 2003 and found that as parents age, they increase the risk of autism in children. Although most of the public have heard about autism, its depth and breadth are still lacking. Many people still hold the wrong view that "autism is a loneliness."

2.2.4. Technical Weaknesses (TW)

What is the cause of autism? medical scientists all over the world can't give an accurate answer, which means that autism cannot be controlled at the source. At the same time, fertility is an irreversible behavior. At present, the level of medical care in China cannot detect whether a child has autism spectrum disorders during pregnancy, which indicates that it is impossible to block the development of autism in the middle.

2.3. Opportunity Analysis of Autism Spectrum Disorders

2.3.1. Political Opportunity(PO)

At present, China actively creates a service-oriented government, and carries out reforms of simple administration, decentralization, optimization of services. This is a good opportunity for the creation and development of non-profit organizations, which means that the examination, the approval procedures, the difficulty of registration and the time and energy required are reduced accordingly.

2.3.2. Economic Opportunity(EO)

In 2009, the report of the research group of the Institute of Sociology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences on the "Preliminary Investigation of the National Autistic Service Agency for Autistic People" showed that there are various private rehabilitation education institutions for children with autism in 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in the country. Among them, there are a large number of institutions in the eastern developed regions, accounting for 67.2% of the national service agencies, 18% in the central region and 14.8% in the west. Rehabilitation institutions have obvious regional differences and regional imbalances. China's economic system reform outline clearly proposes to establish a regional balanced development mechanism, which is a great boon for the autism spectrum disorders in the central and western regions.

The per capita disposable income of residents and the increase in the number of institutions have a stimulating effect on the development of institutional rehabilitation and training services. The former is likely to seek better institutions for autistic children due to increased household income, and the latter introduces competition mechanisms to promote continuous improvement and learning of rehabilitation and training methods as well as business philosophy and development goals.

2.3.3. Social Opportunity(SO)

General Secretary Xi emphasized that in the 100 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, a strong, democratic, civilized and harmonious socialist modernized country will be built. At the same time, economic development will not forget humanistic care, which puts unprecedented demands on China's social governance capacity and level. Realizing the Chinese dream is a huge challenge. It is also a great opportunity. China is expected to pay more attention to the autism spectrum disorders.

2.3.4. Technical Opportunity(TO)

From the beginning of ignorance of autism, people have discovered many causes of autism and a means of treating autism until now. It shows that the development of science and technology is a spiraling process, under the efforts and research of all mankind. We hope and believe that one day we will solve the mystery of autism spectrum disorders.

2.4. Threat Analysis of Autism Spectrum Disorders

2.4.1. Political Threat(PT)

Compared with the developed countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada, China's support and guarantee policies for autism spectrum disorders are extremely incomplete. Take the United States as an example, at present, 35 states in the United States have insurance systems for autism treatment to varying degrees. The medical treatment, employment, and pension for autism spectrum disorders are protected by law. At the same time, the annual funding for autism research is 200 million US dollars. Research projects include autism etiology, behavioral research, natural factor research, drug research, early intervention methods, other rehabilitation studies, teacher training research, and effectiveness research.

2.4.2. Economic Threat(ET)

The development of social organizations in China is imperfect, and there is a shortage of non-profit organizations that promote and support autistic families. The source of guarantee funds for the autism spectrum disorders is single, almost all rely on the government to bear, which will undoubtedly exert tremendous pressure on the government's finances.

2.4.3. Social Threat(ST)

The establishment of an institution is a long process. The government's policy of issuing can not completely solve various problems of the institution. The private capital injection will also

consider other influencing factors. The superposition of multiple adverse conditions will increase the doubts and concerns of the founders of the institution.

2.4.4. Technical Threat (TT)

The current popular treatment methods for autistic patients are exotic, and the degree of localization is insufficient. The therapeutic effect is still open to question. At the same time, there are currently bad institutions in China that use the wrong treatment methods for profit, such as electric shock, chemotherapy, chelation, etc. These wrong treatments are ineffective and will aggravate the condition of autistic patients. The above technical problems pose great challenges for the treatment, rehabilitation and training of autism spectrum disorders in China.

3. Conclusions

The autism spectrum disorders face a series of predicaments such as insufficient national safeguard measures, imperfect institutional development, and low social understanding. It is a marginalized group in our society. In the context of the current lack of medical treatment, it is reasonable to establish a comprehensive social support system to protect the rights and interests of autistic patients in education, medical care, employment, and old-age care. The author hopes that the state, institutions, the public and other parties will join hands to overcome the weaknesses while carrying forward the strengths, and seize the opportunity to face the threats and work together to improve the living conditions of the autism spectrum disorders.

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