

Investigate "Mutual Care for Old-age" Mode in Rural Areas Based on Population Aging

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Abstract

This survey selects villagers of a village in Weifang City, Shandong Province as the research object, expounds the feasibility of the rural " mutual care for old-age " mode under the background of aging. Through interview and investigation, deeply analyzes the development difficulties faced by the rural " mutual care for old-age " model. And puts forward suggestions for the implementation of the rural " mutual care for old-age " mode under the background of aging. Then hoping to " mutual care for old-age " model can blossom in rural areas and alleviate the current stalemate of getting old before getting rich in China.

Keywords

Providing for the aged; Rural pension; mutual care; Population aging.

1. Overview

At present, China is in a period of rapid development of population aging. Scientific and effective are very important to population aging. With the construction of new countryside, the rural economic development level and living standard have been significantly improved, but the most important mode of rural pension is family pension, that is, pension by children and land. With the deepening of rural aging, pension work is facing many problems. The traditional rural pension model is more and more impacted by reality, and the new pension model of " mutual care for old-age " came into being.

2. Questionnaire Design

In order to ensure the objectivity and impartiality of the research conclusion and provide practical data support for the implementation of the " mutual care for old-age " model, this study adopts the method of field investigation and combined with relevant literature. The survey lasted for a week (October 2021 - November 2021). Influenced by COVID-19, the survey narrowed the scope of the investigation. Only villagers in some villages in Weifang were investigated, and the elderly in the " mutual care for old-age" mode were visited.

3. Questionnaire Results and Analysis

Generally speaking, the mode of " mutual care for old-age " is rare in rural areas at this stage, and the respondents have insufficient understanding of the mode. However, through our explanation, most villagers agree with the implementation and popularization of the mode, which is of great help to solve the problem of providing for the aged in rural areas.

3.1. Closed Survey Results and Analysis

3.1.1. Is It Better to Send the Elderly to Nursing Homes or Receive Them from Their Children Than to Leave Them in Rural Areas for the Elderly?

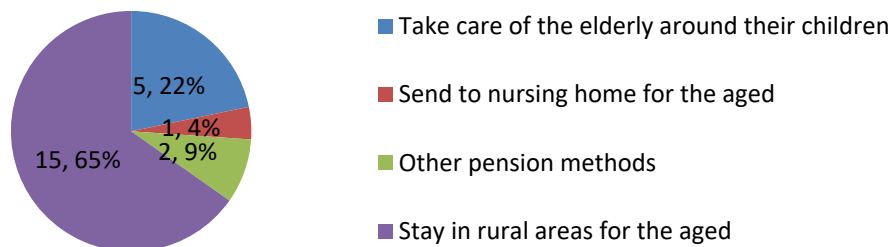


Figure 1. Current situation of rural elderly care

According to the survey results, most children think it is more appropriate to leave their parents in rural areas for the elderly, accounting for 65%. Due to the influence of traditional ideas, a very few children are willing to send their parents to nursing homes for the elderly, accounting for only 4%. In addition, 22% of their children said to receive their parents to provide for the elderly in cities and towns, so that their parents can live a good life with themselves.

3.1.2. How to View the "Mutual Care for Old-age" Model?

When asked whether they are willing to become a service provider of "providing for the aged", most people first think of nannies who abuse the elderly in cities. After patiently explaining its meaning, more than half of the rural elderly are willing to join this social pension activity, of which 26% of the elderly show high enthusiasm and willingness; Another 22% of the elderly said it was worth considering and needed the consent of their children; 30% of the elderly think that their physical quality is poor and even need the help of others, so they are not suitable to participate in the activity of " mutual care for old-age ". Most of the elderly have the desire to participate in the " mutual care for old-age " model, have high enthusiasm and ability to solve their own pension problems, and are willing to contribute to the society's response to the aging crisis.

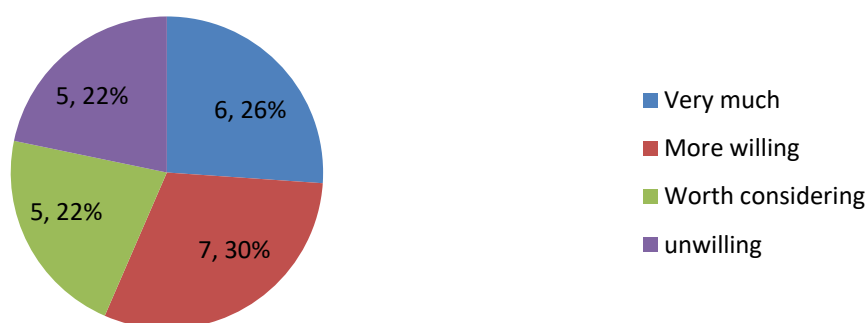


Figure 2. Willingness to participate in the " mutual care for old-age " model

3.2. Investigation Results and Analysis of Open Questions

In order to fully understand the implementation process of the rural " mutual care for old-age model and judge whether the model is in line with today's rural development, an open-ended question is designed in the questionnaire. Interview the helpers who are under the " mutual care for old-age " mode to understand their views on the new pension mode.

3.2.1. Service Provider of " Mutual Care for Old-Age " Model

The helper was a 77 year old grandmother. When asked how she was, she smiled and said, "it's OK. She can still do it.". In rural areas, "being able to do things quickly and less trouble to children" has become a common concept of the rural elderly. She was busy all day. She helped the old man get up in the morning and cooked food for him. When she was full, she began to sweep the street for more than two hours. I said, "aren't you tired? You sweep the streets and take care of the elderly every day.". She still replied with a smile: "cooking at home is not the same. It's 1500 yuan a month. You don't have to ask your children to clean the street for a few hours a day. You can exercise and stay idle at home.". The simple old man also has pain in his heart. He also has the day when he is in bed waiting to be taken care of. She is also afraid of the coming of that day. Taking care of the disabled old man every day will inevitably think of her future.

3.2.2. "Mutual Care for Old-age " Model for Service Recipients

The person assisted is an 86 year old grandfather. His wife has died for many years. She has three daughters and one son. Three of them are married to other places. The son lives with his father. Both his son and daughter-in-law work as teachers in the township and basically have no time to take care of the elderly. His son was quite satisfied with the old lady's work and said with great satisfaction: "Grandma, we always take her as a relative. She works very quickly and never delays my father's dinner. She saves us a lot of things here. We can work outside at ease. My father doesn't have to spend a high price to live in a nursing home. We have less economic pressure as children. Thank you for your help." My son's words are very gratifying to the people around us. I hope the " mutual care for old-age " model can be carried out better and better in the countryside. I hope the government will give more help and subsidies to these old people who are still engaged in service work, so that more old people are willing to pay for the cause of providing for the aged.

4. Practical Results

4.1. Feasibility of Rural " Mutual Care for Old-Age " Model

4.1.1. Weakening of Family Pension Model

With the aging of rural population, the traditional family pension model is facing great problems. On the one hand, the employment of rural labor force in different places makes it difficult to give life companionship and spiritual comfort to the elderly at home. In addition, the 996 and 007 work modes are common in rural enterprises. Even if they are around their parents, they do not have enough energy to take care of the elderly, increasing the burden of family pension. The emergence of the " mutual care for old-age " mode solves the urgent needs of rural children. It can be seen from economic support Provide help in daily care and spiritual comfort, and share the pressure of rural family pension to a certain extent; On the other hand, the weakening of the family pension model is bound to have an impact on pension institutions. Most rural families are difficult to bear the high costs of pension institutions. Affected by traditional ideas, rural people's attitude towards pension institutions has always been unfriendly, and the participation of the " mutual care for old-age " model will certainly reduce the cost and bring the "hat of filial piety" to their children.

4.1.2. Outstanding Advantages of Rural Elderly Care

In cities, it is very expensive to hire elderly nannies, and it is difficult to find a responsible nanny. Some children even install hidden cameras to monitor nanny activities 24 hours a day. In rural areas, the villagers get along very well. The speed of news dissemination is comparable to that of live broadcasting. They have a thorough understanding of each other's previous situation, and it is easy to find a favorite service provider. According to the survey, a large number of rural

elderly aged 60 ~ 75 react that they are restless in their old age and have problems all over. Most of them are due to the root causes left by overwork in their youth, which makes them unwilling to stop their work and continue to work hard in their old age, which also makes the " mutual care for old-age " model implemented in rural areas.

4.1.3. Promote the Elderly to "Have Something to Do"

According to the survey, the elderly who have been engaged in low-energy work in their later years live longer. Low-energy work includes easy work such as sweeping roads, taking out garbage, caring for vegetation and caring for rivers. They rely on labor to strengthen their health and earn a meager income. They are no longer bound by the "cumbersome" label given by the traditional society. Moreover, it is not an isolated case for the elderly to make outstanding contributions to the society. Novel coronavirus pneumonia, Zhong Nanshan, 84, is the first to go to fight against the new crown pneumonia battlefield. Zhang Guimei, a 64 year old public welfare principal who is still committed to changing the fate of girls in mountainous areas; Ye Jiaying, an 86 year old female scholar who devoted her life to spreading Chinese traditional culture. In view of this, encouraging the young elderly to actively participate in the " mutual care for old-age " model can not only enable them to make their spare efforts to contribute to the social pension, but also enrich their later life.

4.1.4. Cross the Generation Gap and Go to Win-win

Most of the rural elderly come from hard times, with a low level of education. They are very different from their children in living habits, consumption views and values. The contradiction brought by this time and experience is difficult to overcome. According to the survey results, about 80% of the elderly and their children lack common topics, and it is difficult to agree spiritually and ideologically. On the one hand, the young elderly can take care of the elderly instead of their children, which spans the gap between the two generations and eliminates the loneliness and loneliness of both sides of the service; On the other hand, the " mutual care for old-age " model can help children reduce the pressure of life, economy and spirit, and the young elderly can save more pension funds for themselves, so as to achieve a win-win situation.

4.1.5. Provide Employment and Help the Elderly

In rural areas, the elderly who should have "retreated to the second place" will still stick to their work, otherwise they will become a burden on their families. The emergence of the " mutual care for old-age " model provides more employment opportunities for the rural elderly, drives the elderly to engage in work within their ability, gives full play to the resource value of the elderly, and provides assistance for the smooth development of China's pension work.

4.2. Problems Faced by the Model of "Providing for the Elderly" in Rural Areas

4.2.1. Lack of Institutional Guarantee

Although the " mutual care for old-age " model has experienced practical exploration and theoretical support from people from all walks of life, so far, the responsibility definition and risk assessment in the implementation process are still lack of institutional guarantee, resulting in many elderly people and their families do not recognize this pension model, and the " mutual care for old-age " model can not fully mobilize the participation enthusiasm of social groups. At this stage, the " mutual care for old-age " model can be implemented because the rural elderly have relatively weak awareness of safeguarding their rights. Because there is no relevant legal system to guarantee the working hours and income level of the model, there is often a mismatch between pay and income. Moreover, the government's participation in the " mutual care for old-age " model is very low, and even regards it as a "neighborhood mutual aid" sophistication, which does not need the support and guarantee of relevant policies, resulting in the ineffective pilot of the " mutual care for old-age " model for many times.

4.2.2. LoW SOCIAL CONCERN

In this survey and interview, no one has heard of the " mutual care for old-age " pension model, and the interviewees do not even know that they have participated in the pension model, which proves that social groups pay very little attention to the " mutual care for old-age " model. The so-called "filial piety" of rural people means that their parents don't have to work and just enjoy themselves in their old age. If the elderly at home still work, their children are unfilial. Affected by such chivalrous values, rural children are unwilling and dare not let older parents participate in social service providers. China's " mutual care for old-age " model has limited support in rural areas and great resistance to promotion.

4.2.3. Old Pension Concept

Influenced by traditional ideas, in the vast rural areas, the concept of family pension is deeply rooted, and their acceptance of new community pension and "old-age pension" is very low. The old people in rural areas generally believe that their old age is for pleasure and it is time to rest after working half their life. This narrow value concept is no longer suitable for today's society. In the face of the crisis of aging, "self-help, self-help and tide over the difficulties together" is the traditional virtue of the Chinese nation. It can be said that it is the general trend for the elderly to participate in social work. Which of Gu Fangzhou, a scientist, Zhong Nanshan, a medical worker, Xu Zhimo, a writer, and Zhang Guimei, a teacher, did not spare no effort in his later years to strive to make more contributions to the society, which is worthy of salutation and learning from every generation.

4.2.4. Insufficient Employment and Labor Law for the Elderly

The elderly have rich life and work experience and are more and more favored by employers. However, the elderly are not qualified workers stipulated in China's labor law and their employment can not be guaranteed. In addition, the main service objects of the " mutual care for old-age " model are the disabled or semi disabled elderly. The physical quality of the young elderly is relatively poor, and they lack professional nursing knowledge, resulting in high occupational risk. In addition, the "old-age pension" has not been included in the scope stipulated in the labor law, resulting in rural children's disapproval of their parents' participation in this pension activity, and it is very difficult to find service providers.

4.3. Policy Suggestion

4.3.1. Improve the Social Security System

Only by establishing a perfect " mutual care for old-age " security system can the country ensure the smooth implementation of the " mutual care for old-age " pension model. First of all, as the core and leading provider of elderly care services, the government needs to do more to improve the elderly care system, establish and improve the "elderly care" security system, and strive to create a unified "elderly care" model for future publicity; Secondly, the government formulates corresponding laws and regulations, defines the rights and obligations of both sides of the "elderly care" service, defines the responsibilities and risk assessment of service providers, and escorts the employment of the elderly.

4.3.2. Improve Social Cognition

Relevant departments should strengthen the publicity of the connotation and advantages of the " mutual care for old-age " model. On the one hand, the rural elderly should find their own value and voluntarily become a "old-age pension" service provider to play a role in the society and make a contribution to the pension cause; On the other hand, rural children should understand the real significance of the " mutual care for old-age " model. This model can not only help them reduce the pension burden, but also enrich the old people's later life. The elderly at home should be appropriately encouraged to participate in the pension activities.

4.3.3. Give Full Play to the Commercial Equity Plan

In rural areas, the elderly over the age of 60 can receive a pension of 120 ~ 200 yuan per month, and many elderly people can't get a pension, which is simply not enough to make up for the daily expenses of the rural elderly. It is reported that in 2020, state-owned enterprises will allocate a 10% equity plan to the social security fund, which also calls for continuing to expand the equity plan to subsidize the rural elderly, and set up a pension fund specifically for farmers to alleviate the pressure of rural elderly care.

4.3.4. Improve the Employment and Labor Insurance for the Elderly

The labor law should consider bringing the elderly into China's legal special labor groups and establishing special social insurance for the employment of the elderly, so as to reduce occupational risks and protect the labor rights of the elderly. The labor law should also give additional subsidies to private service providers in the "old-age pension" and "mutual pension" models, and call on more elderly people to participate in social pension activities, so that they can exert their spare efforts and tide over the difficulties together with young and middle-aged people at the time of the crisis of an aging society.

4.3.5. Aging Related Transformation of Idle Cottages

The "mutual care for old-age" model can be used by the community to develop from a simple "one old to one old" to a "multi person mutual aid" home-based elderly care model, so as to realize the transformation from win-win to multi win. The government should invest in the use of idle school buildings and village departments in rural areas for aging related transformation, so as to create a "one residence, multiple dwellings" style residence for the elderly, so that the elderly can help each other together. In order to encourage the young elderly to participate in the "old-age pension", the village can introduce preferential policies such as "free old-age pension" and "subsidized pension fund" to attract this social force.

5. Conclusion

In today's society, providing for the aged has always been a difficult problem. According to statistics, the elderly population in Shandong has reached 23.25 million, ranking the highest in the country, and is still increasing year by year. The elderly in rural Shandong account for about 30% of the total rural population, that is to say, rural Shandong has entered an aging era. Through face-to-face interviews, we learned that the burden of the rural family pension model has increased. The era of giving birth to children and preventing old age has passed. It is not a good thing to have more sons, especially because the children's family conditions are different, and it is difficult to implement alimony fairly. Facing the rural pension problems found in this survey, we will put forward a series of opinions and suggestions to verify the feasibility of the "mutual care for old-age" model, hoping that the "mutual care for old-age" model can blossom everywhere in rural areas.

Under the background of aging society, the research on the scientific old-age pension model of "mutual care for old-age" dominated by the young elderly is in line with the needs of the development of aging society. This model is not only a transition of family pension model, but also a beneficial supplement to China's existing pension model, which is helpful to alleviate the current impasse of getting old before getting rich. Therefore, relevant departments should create a good atmosphere for the smooth development of the "mutual care for old-age pension" pension model and provide assistance for the orderly development of China's pension cause by improving the social security system, improving the social cognition level, improving the employment and labor insurance for the elderly, giving full play to the commercial equity plan, and transforming idle villages involving aging.

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