Research on the Realistic Dilemma and Countermeasures of The Mode of Rural Mutual Support for The Aged in Hebei Province From The Perspective of Rural Revitalization

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Abstract

At present, the proportion of the elderly population in the total population of our country is rising, and the problem of old-age care has increasingly become a thorny problem of the whole society. Hebei Province took the lead in exploring and promoting the mode of rural mutual support for the elderly, and explored a new mode for solving the difficulty of rural elderly care effectively. Based on the rural revitalization strategy, this paper analyzes and concludes that the model is faced with realistic difficulties such as imperfect elements, weak basic structure, imperfect operating mechanism and limited security level, and puts forward countermeasures and suggestions such as improving laws and policies, enriching mutual assistance content, strengthening cooperation and increasing financial support, which can not only better meet the needs of rural elderly groups for old-age care. It is also an inevitable requirement to ensure the smooth implementation of the rural revitalization strategy.

Keywords

Rural revitalization; Rural areas of Hebei; Mutual support for the aged; Counterplan.

1. Introduction

The first principle of matter of Marxism requires us to proceed from reality and seek truth from facts. To implement the strategy of rural revitalization to solve the problem of old-age care in rural areas, we must realize the objective situation of the development gap between rural and urban areas, and fully tap the potential advantage of old-age care resources in rural areas. Hebei Province as a traditional province of agriculture and industry double superposition, rural old-age care problems are more prominent. As a large number of rural young and middle-aged people go out to work nearby, the phenomenon of hollowing out in rural areas has become increasingly prominent, resulting in the traditional rural family pension model is difficult to meet the needs of rural elderly. Under the comprehensive implementation of the rural revitalization strategy, Hebei Province, combined with the actual situation of all rural areas of the province, adheres to the demand-oriented, promotes and builds the rural mutual assistance pension model, and plays a positive role in alleviating the increasingly severe pension problems in rural areas.

2. The Main Difficulties Facing The Mode of Rural Mutual Support for The Elderly in Hebei Province

Based on the level of rural economic development and the actual situation of the needs of the elderly, the rural mutual assistance pension model in Hebei Province provides a new pension model for the rural elderly. By helping each other, the elderly can give full play to their remaining strength, which can make them feel satisfied that they have contributed to others and society, and can also relieve the sense of loneliness in their hearts. However, after more
than ten years of development, the mode of rural mutual support for the aged in Hebei Province has gradually exposed many problems.

2.1. The inherent elements of the mutual support mode are not sound

As early as 2012, The State Council proposed to explore and build a new pension model suitable for the specific reality of rural areas, that is, the rural mutual assistance pension model. Although the mode of rural mutual support for the aged in Hebei Province has achieved good results after more than ten years of development, it still faces the problems of three internal elements: "public cognition", "grass-roots management" and "government supply".

First, the traditional concept of "raising children for old age" in the current rural areas of Hebei Province is still deeply rooted in people’s hearts, and most elderly people still hope to support their children at home. Just as the so-called "leaves to return to the root", the elderly basically have a complex of attachment to their homeland, and also want to be familiar with the environment for old age. At the same time, children’s traditional concept of old-age support also affects the development of rural mutual support for the elderly. China has been paying attention to "filial piety" since ancient times. For most children, supporting their parents at home when they are old is the manifestation of filial piety.

Second, at present, Hebei Province rural mutual care for the elderly happiness hospital by the local village collective unified management, the president for the village cadres concurrently, other nursing home management staff and service personnel are mostly village villagers. On the one hand, in the daily work, the village cadres themselves have more village affairs to deal with, and it is difficult to devote limited energy to the management of the daily affairs of the mutual care and happiness home, and they lack the corresponding management experience and service ability. On the other hand, the lack of publicity in some villages has led to some elderly people not knowing that there is a mutual care and happiness hospital in the village, or knowing that there is a mutual care and happiness hospital but do not know the specific location and how to participate, which reflects the obvious absence of grassroots management.

Third, the rural mutual care and happiness home is under the guidance of governments at all levels, and the health department and civil affairs department supervise and guide its business. Finally, the village committee directly manages the daily operation of the mutual care and happiness home. However, the positioning and nature of the rural mutual care and happiness home are still unclear. There is no relevant legal system in the management of operation, service content and methods of its clear standard provisions, the operation and management of rural mutual care for the elderly happiness home completely rely on the nursing home internal development of management programs and methods, but these management programs and methods are like a scrap of paper, in fact, did not play any substantive role.

2.2. The basic structure of mutual-aid pension model is fragile

The operation and development of the mode of rural mutual support for the elderly is focused on providing elderly services to meet the needs of the elderly in rural areas. At present, the basic structure of rural mutual support mode in Hebei Province is relatively fragile, which is mainly reflected in the following three aspects.

First, the mutual aid rules and management mechanism of the mutual aid pension model are still inadequate, which is easy to lead to injustice and conflict of interest. Some prefecture-level city governments lack detailed demonstration and improvement of mutual assistance rules in the process of implementing the mutual assistance mode in the rural areas under their jurisdiction, resulting in the formulation of mutual assistance rules is not rigorous, and there are vague and misunderstanding. At the same time, the particularity and actual needs of different regions are not fully taken into account when formulating related policies on mutual
care for the elderly, which leads to the limitation of sustainable development of mutual care for the elderly. Second, the service content provided by the mode of mutual support for the elderly is insufficient in the process of operation, resulting in the actual needs of the elderly people participating in the mode of rural mutual support for the elderly can not be met. At present, the service items provided by the mode of rural mutual support for the elderly in Hebei Province are relatively simple, which mainly focuses on ensuring the material needs of the elderly. Sometimes collective activities such as art parties are carried out to create a harmonious cultural atmosphere for the elderly, but in practice it is difficult to diversify such activities. According to Masno’s hierarchy of needs theory, when the basic needs of the elderly are met, they will pursue high-level needs for the elderly, such as entertainment and spiritual comfort, while the service projects with a single mode of mutual support for the elderly cannot meet the elderly’s higher needs for the elderly, affecting the enthusiasm of the elderly to participate in mutual support for the elderly, which is not conducive to the development of the rural mutual support for the elderly.

Third, the service objects of the mutual support mode are mainly empty-nesters who live in rural areas for a long time and whose children are not around to take care of them, but who can take care of themselves. These elderly people have differences in background, culture and values. Therefore, during the operation of the mutual support mode, some rural elderly people find it difficult to understand and accept the concept of mutual assistance and pursue the maximization of personal interests. It may cause internal conflicts and confrontations. In addition, there are some people who are barely able to take care of themselves or have no self-care ability at all, or are currently in a state of illness in urgent need of care and their children do not have time to take care of the elderly, they also have needs for old-age care. However, due to the limited conditions, this part of the elderly can not enjoy mutual care services. All in all, the quality and quantity of the service objects at the base level of the mutual aid pension model directly affect the overall service quality and level of the mutual aid pension model.

2.3. The operation mechanism of mutual-aid pension model is not perfect

The mode of rural mutual support for the elderly is an important exploration to promote the development of rural old-age service in China, but its operation mechanism is still not perfect, which can be analyzed from the macro, meso and micro perspectives.

From a macro point of view, the role of the government is unclear in the operation of the rural mutual care mode. The operation subject of the rural mutual support for the elderly model includes the government, social organizations, village committees and elderly individuals. As the main leading subject of the rural mutual support for the elderly model, the government, in addition to fulfilling its due management responsibilities and obligations, has taken over some service items and contents that should be dispersed and undertaken by the society, which easily leads to the problem of unclear rights and responsibilities.

From the middle point of view, the participation degree of social organizations in the operation and development of rural mutual support for the elderly is not high. Nowadays, China's development has entered a new period, and the development of all aspects needs to fully mobilize the enthusiasm of social organizations to participate, and effectively play the role of social organizations in construction. [1] However, because the number of elderly people participating in the rural mutual pension model is not large, there is no corresponding scale, and social organizations do not pay much attention to the rural mutual pension model, resulting in the lack of further development of the rural mutual pension model.

From a micro point of view, village committees in many areas do not understand the essence of the rural mutual care mode. In the actual operation process of the mutual care mode, they have not conducted field research on the real needs of the elderly in the region, and they cannot
implement the mutual care mode in a targeted manner according to the actual situation in the region. In fact, although the rural mutual aid pension model takes "mutual aid service" as the core of the model, different regions need to have a preliminary understanding of the elderly pension situation in the region when running the mutual aid pension model, so as to ensure the smooth implementation of the rural mutual aid pension model.

2.4. The guarantee level of mutual aged care model is not high

Due to the limitations of the economic development level in rural areas and the unbalanced distribution of resources, the current rural mutual support for the elderly model in Hebei Province in the actual promotion and operation process, the level of mutual support for the elderly model is not high, mainly reflected in the limited scope of security and insufficient security.

First, in terms of the scope of security, the mutual support mode can only provide the elderly with a certain degree of basic life security services, while the elderly in rural areas do not have a high demand for this aspect, and they look forward to more careful care in life and spiritual care and comfort. Moreover, with the growth of age, the elderly feel more and more loneliness and loneliness. Therefore, they also look forward to receiving spiritual services for the aged. In addition, when the elderly suffer from illness or die, it will bring psychological burden to other elderly people and may even affect their physical and mental health. However, due to the lack of professional service personnel for the elderly, it is difficult to provide corresponding spiritual comfort services, and can not find and solve the potential psychological problems of the elderly in a timely and effective manner.

Second, in terms of guarantee strength, it is mainly reflected in the inadequate configuration of hardware facilities. The operation of the rural mutual care for the elderly model relies on the mutual care for the elderly happiness hospital, and the rural elderly need corresponding hardware facilities to support them. However, the hardware configuration of the mutual care home for the elderly is not ideal, such as limited beds and insufficient supporting medical equipment, which affect the guarantee level of the mutual care model to a certain extent.

3. Countermeasures to Improve The Mode of Rural Mutual Support for The Aged in Hebei Province

As a new mode to solve the problem of rural pension difficulties, Hebei Province’s rural mutual assistance pension model conforms to the actual situation of rural pension in Hebei Province. While effectively improving the problem of rural pension difficulties, the following suggestions are put forward for its optimization and development based on the support of rural revitalization strategy:

3.1. We will improve relevant laws and policies and increase support

Under the background of the current rural revitalization strategy, a complete legal and policy guarantee system is one of the conditions for the sustainable development of the rural mutual assistance pension model. First, strengthen the top-level design. Grasp the principle of the relationship between universality and particularity of contradictions, and strengthen the formulation of guiding and practical policies and relevant laws and regulations under the guidance of the rural revitalization strategy and the goal of solving the problem of rural elderly care in view of the universal problems exposed in the practice of Hebei Province’s mutual care mode. For example, at the policy level, it clarifies the operation nature and development orientation of the rural mutual care mode, and formulates policies for enterprises, public institutions, social organizations of elderly care services and other subjects to enter the rural mutual care industry, guiding and regulating their participation in the development of the rural mutual care mode. Second, determine the operating standards. The government should make a
unified plan for a series of standards for the operation of the rural mutual care mode, including detailed standards for service objects, service levels, and service items. At the same time, due to the different levels of economic development in different rural areas, there are certain regional differences, so special problems appear in the process of implementing and developing the mutual assistance pension model, so it is necessary to regularly carry out work meetings on the development planning of the rural mutual assistance pension model and other related aspects, and modify and improve relevant standards according to the actual situation of different regions. Constantly improve the recognition of the rural mutual aid pension model and its own development level.

3.2. We will encourage diverse social participation and enrich mutual assistance

It is necessary to give full play to the subjective initiative of different social subjects to actively participate in the rural mutual support mode, provide more service projects for the elderly who participate in the rural mutual support mode, and enrich the content of mutual support among the elderly. First of all, we should improve the recognition of rural mutual support mode. Government departments should hold meetings at the city, county and township level in a planned way, invite representatives of social organizations and the masses to participate, encourage cadres at all levels and representatives to fully understand the connotation of the rural mutual support for the elderly model, and actively do a good job in the promotion and construction of the rural mutual support for the elderly model; At the same time, it is necessary to go deep into each village to publicize the rural mutual care mode to the rural elderly, eliminate the wrong understanding of the rural mutual care mode, and encourage more rural elderly to participate in the mutual care mode. Second, while fulfilling its responsibilities, the government should also give full play to the role of the market economy, encourage the market to enter the rural mutual care mode in an orderly manner, commercialize service items and service standards reasonably, combine the advantages of artificial intelligence industry, provide more professional pension products and equipment for the elderly, and enrich mutual aid content. Finally, the introduction of more elderly care service professionals and service volunteers, in addition to providing basic services such as food and clothing, but also including medical health, entertainment, spiritual comfort and other more professional services for the elderly.

3.3. We will absorb the opinions of mutual partners and strengthen coordination and cooperation

The main bodies at all levels of the operation of the rural mutual care mode should be clear about their role positioning, provide high-quality mutual care services for the rural elderly, and meet the needs of the rural elderly.

First of all, the development and improvement of the rural mutual support mode should adhere to the people-oriented value concept contained in Marxism and meet the needs of the elderly as the core service purpose.[2] Subjects at all levels should carefully listen to the suggestions and opinions of all parties, take the needs of the elderly as the guide, establish a demand-oriented mechanism, including the demand expression and demand feedback mechanism, and effectively protect the vital interests and needs of mutual assistance for the elderly. On the one hand, it collects the demands of the elderly timely and accurately through the demand expression mechanism, and provides accurate elderly care services after classification and sorting. On the other hand, through the demand feedback mechanism, we take the initiative to find the problems existing in the process of mutual support for the elderly and solve them and give feedback in time, so as to achieve “early detection, early solution and early feedback”.

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Secondly, subjects at all levels should conduct a comprehensive assessment of the elderly’s needs in medical care, entertainment and other aspects, actively integrate and rationally plan rural mutual care resources, provide corresponding elderly care services for the elderly according to existing resources and actual needs, and balance the relationship between supply and demand. As far as medical needs are concerned, relevant medical facilities should be equipped, health knowledge and skills training should be actively carried out, and elderly people should be targeted to learn daily rehabilitation skills and improve the overall level of medical and health knowledge. As far as the entertainment demand is concerned, there is a contradiction between the great demand for spiritual comfort of the rural elderly and the relatively scarce recreational activities resources. The government should vigorously organize various recreational and cultural activities to enrich the spiritual and cultural life of the elderly. In addition, it is necessary to actively tap the potential advantages of the elderly in entertainment activities, make full use of the rural elderly human resources, and create a cultural and entertainment stage that the elderly enjoy.

3.4. **We will increase financial support to promote the development of elderly care**

The economic foundation determines the superstructure, the implementation of rural revitalization, and the implementation and development of the rural mutual pension model need the support of government financial funds, which is a strong guarantee for the further development of the rural mutual pension model.

First, the government financial funds are the main source of funds for the operation and development of the rural mutual pension model. According to the differences in economic development level and fiscal revenue of different regions, special funds will be set up for the rural mutual pension model to ensure that the rural mutual pension model has sufficient funds for construction. At the same time, establish a supervision system for the application of funds, supervise the use of special funds in the rural mutual assistance pension model, follow up on the construction of various projects, and prevent the use of funds from being inefficient, misused and abused. Second, expand the fund raising channels of the rural mutual assistance pension model, establish the operation of the rural mutual assistance pension model and develop a diversified financial support system, mobilize social forces to participate in the construction of the rural mutual assistance pension model, and increase social capital investment to guarantee the development of the rural mutual assistance pension model. [3]For example, formulate relevant policies to attract social capital investment, and reduce the difficulty of financial support for rural mutual pension mode by enterprises and public institutions and social organizations of elderly service.

4. **Conclusion**

Effectively alleviating the problem of old-age care in rural areas has become a key factor affecting the coordinated development of urban and rural areas. In the current grim situation of rural pension, the rural mutual assistance pension model provides a pension method with broad development space for rural areas to alleviate the increasing pressure on the elderly, which is in line with the new requirements of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era on solving the problem of elderly pension in rural areas, and is an important measure to solidly promote the rural revitalization strategy and promote the coordinated development of urban and rural areas.
References


