

Research on the Needs and the Solution Analysis of Aged-Care Service at Home in City*¹

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Abstract

With the increase of aging population, the system of the service of aged-care at home has become the hotspot which has attracted great concern of the government and theoretical circle. In this study employs Shanghai Changning District as study samples. According to the survey, there are mainly three types of the elderly care services, which including the life care, health care and spiritual consolation. To improve the management mechanism and administration efficiency, comprehensively promote the old-age home service, perfecting community service, and strengthen the construction of institutional capacity, enhance the level of standardization, etc. The above measures are in response to the increasing demand for the service of aged-care at home.

Keywords: urban elderly, aged-care at home, demand, recommendations

Introduction

According to the sixth census data show that China has 17,658,700 over 60 years old, and ratio is 13.25percent of the total population. With the increase of aging population, aging and empty nest, these phenomena increase the pressure on the country's pension. In addition, due to the implementation of family planning policy, the nuclear family of "421" is gradually increasing and the traditional function of family support for the aged is gradually weakening .So, families need the socialized pension ways to relieve the burden. Therefore, the state has adopted a number of policies to encourage the development of socialized elderly service.

Since 2006, administrative rules and regulations the service of aged-care at home emerged on the national level .The State Council issued a document "Opinions on Accelerating the development of age service " and "strengthen and improve the views of community service work." ,which were established to build accession system of age service industry. Two documents explicitly provide that government will take various measures to support the development of age service and determine all kinds of organizations working under the guidance and supervision of community committees. Implementation of these policies has laid a good policy environment for the development of care services.

In 2008, the National Office on Aging issued the opinion "on comprehensively promote home care service work", which established a clear definitions and content of the services for the aging at home. The proposal pointed out that aging at home is the supplement and update traditional family providing for the aged and an important element of building service for the elderly system. In 2011, 2011-2015 plans about aging, China should establish a response system as soon as possible, taking the government as the prime mover, community the pillar and endowment institution as the support.

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The home-based care for the aged has caused the concern of theory circle. Dong Hongya (2010) proposed that China should establish the aged security system of "Sharing, complementary, coordination" as soon as possible, taking the government as the prime mover, and improving the quality of life of elderly in their twilight years. Based on the comparison of endowment service model, which includes family support, institutions and community for old age. Yang Yiyong (2011) suggested that government should build a security system of including the life care, health care and spiritual consolation base on interaction of family, community and government resources. Liu Chi, Han Junjiang (2013) thought should build up a full range of functions and meet the needs of diversity. In the comprehensive and holistic premise, Scholars made thorough researches on the home-based care for the aged from the perspective of public policy, especially the perspective of supply. But the research of needs is rather little. The author thought that the demand is the premises and basis in formulating regulatory policies. The demand and supply are indispensable.

Method and Sample

To do the study, Research Group further investigates the demands of the elderly based on Changning District of Shanghai between March 2013 and April 2013. In this paper, the people of 60 years or older is for the survey. Methods the written form questionnaire that the adoption designs you. The demand of the elderly has been divided into 3 perspectives, which include daily life, health care and spiritual consolation. A total of 700 questionnaires were collected. The numbers of effective returned questionnaires were 674 (96.3percent). The survey was carried out through the questionnaire and the interview form face to face in the park, the square as well as the community. The research uses SPSS19.0 statistical software to analyze the survey data.

Based on the research, 286 of them are males, 388 are females. Females are 1.4 times higher than the males. 49.3 percent of the aged in their 60s, 27.3percent of the aged in their 60s, 80 and older make up 23.4 percent. The education of the elderly is generally in the low level. People who have never gone to school account for 16.6 percent, 52.8 percent have not been educated higher than the junior middle school. Higher educational background is 21.2 percent. The aged with educational background of a college are 7.9 percent. The elderly with bachelors' degrees or higher degrees account for 1.5 percent. On the number of children, 1.8 percent of the old man has no children, 45.4 percent of the old man have only one child, 26.6 percent of the aged has two children, 26.2 percent of the old man has three or more children.

Results

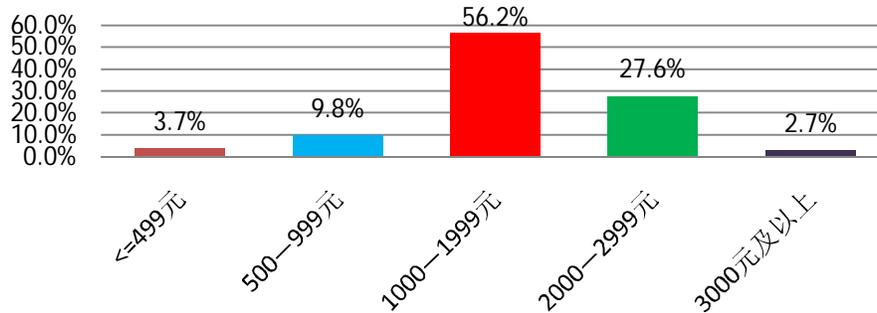
Daily Life Care is Universal Needs of the Aged, Especially the Housework, Food and Emergency Call Service

The economic security is the single most important thing in improving that quality. To study the status of the elderly, the author investigated the actual income of the elderly. According to the survey, their monthly income on average was only about 2,457 yuan. 1.4 percent of the aged monthly income in 499 yuan the following. 1.2 percent of the aged monthly income from 500 yuan to 999 yuan. 14.4 percent of the aged monthly income from 1000 yuan to 1999 yuan. 63.1 percent of the aged monthly income is from 2000 yuan to 2999 yuan. 19.9 percent of them monthly income is in 3,000 yuan and above. The findings also show that 56.2 percent of the daily expenses of the aged are from 1000 yuan to 1999 yuan. 27.6 percent of them are from 1000 yuan to 1999 yuan. Through the above analysis , pension can meet their daily living expenses.

Table 1: The demands of the elderly life care for distribution

Service project	Kind of catering service		Service project	improve living conditions		Service project	service content	
	frequency	percent		Frequency	percent		Frequency	Percent
No need	18	2.7	No need	20	3.0	No need	14	2.1
Meal assistance	30	4.5	Public wheelchair	40	5.9	Housework	389	57.7
Deliver the food to your door	131	19.4	Airy sunroom	67	9.9	Purchasing	29	4.3
Canteen for the elderly	337	50	Elevator	225	33.4	Chatting	43	6.4
Cooking	78	11.6	Avoiding falls	64	9.5	Nursing care	182	27.0
Buy vegetables	80	11.9	Emergency call	258	38.3	Entertainment	17	2.5
Total	674	100	Total	674	100	Total	674	100

Figure 1: Distribution of the elderly daily living



Old People Has the Higher Requirement to Medical Health

As their physical health and independence fail, more elderly people rely on others to help. The demand for life care need increased gradually. This paper studies on life care need mainly from three aspects: the elderly’s dining, living and service content. Results show that 50 percent of elderly people would choose the old mess hall. 38.3 percent of elderly people would install the emergency call device. Shanghai has also been installed "Health Link" and implemented renovation projects for the elderly. These measures improved living conditions to a certain extent. At the services, 57.7percent of the elderly want to service on housework; secondly, the nursing care is 28.8percent.

As a special social group, the extent of requirement was high for community nursing in the family having old people. Based on this investigation, 61percent of them considered their health status was bad and very bad. The health care requirements in elders have become one of the most expected needs. The survey reveals that the frail elderly often suffer from a combination of multiple diseases. Rounding out the top 5 were cerebrovascular disease (30.4percent), arthritis (21.7percent) cataract and glaucoma(12.5percent),the diseases of respiratory system(8.6percent) , diabetes(4.7percent); Compared to the other diseases, the possibility of a cure of chronic diseases which is characterized by long treatment period, frequent re-examination and high costs is less likely . The chief way of curing is to slow the progression of the disease. Therefore, these huge segments of the elderly patients have the demand for long-term care and prevention and health care are escalating.

Others have shown the aged can’t basically satisfy demands for the medical services. How often do you take a physical? The results showed most old people in a few years or even never physical examination. 36.4 percent of the aged hopes that community regularly organizes the large-scale free medical consultation and health service activities. The elderly people, moreover, don’t visit the doctor when they are ill. Main reason behind it is that they can’t afford to pay medical bills. The economic burden makes the old are wealthy enough to see the doctor. Most seniors buy some medicine at drug store or self-regulate.

Table 2: the distribution of demand for medical care in the elderly

Service project	Physical condition		Service project	Medical conditions		Service project	Medical service	
	Frequ - quency	Percent		Frequ - ency	Percent		Frequ - ueny	Percent
Long term care	19	2.8	Not physical	60	8.9	Regular health training	121	18.0
Semi-valid	16	2.4	Occasionally medical examination	89	13.2	Other services	32	4.7
Have something serious	129	19.1	Sick when checking	156	23.1	Sending the medicine	119	17.7
Take medicines	248	36.8	Unscheduled medical	134	19.9	Regular family visits	141	20.9
Health	262	38.9	Regular physical check-up	235	34.9	Free medical check up	246	36.5
						No need	15	2.2
Total	674	100	Total	674	100	Total	674	100

The Elderly Hope to Community Support to Make Up the Weakening of the Family Solace

China has a long history of family support for the aged people. It is not only the important sources of supply, but more importantly, families play an important role in the spiritual pillar. Happy in old age when the elderly's spiritual life quality influences the elderly directly.

In a social intercourse, first spouse is one of the most in ordinary intercourse, then the neighborhood, and children. Thus it can be seen that blood relation occupied the most important position in in their daily communication. With the development of modern technology, firstly, 39.3 percent of children stay in touch with them through phone calls, followed by visiting their parents (36.9percent).

Figure 2: Daily leisure activity for the elderly

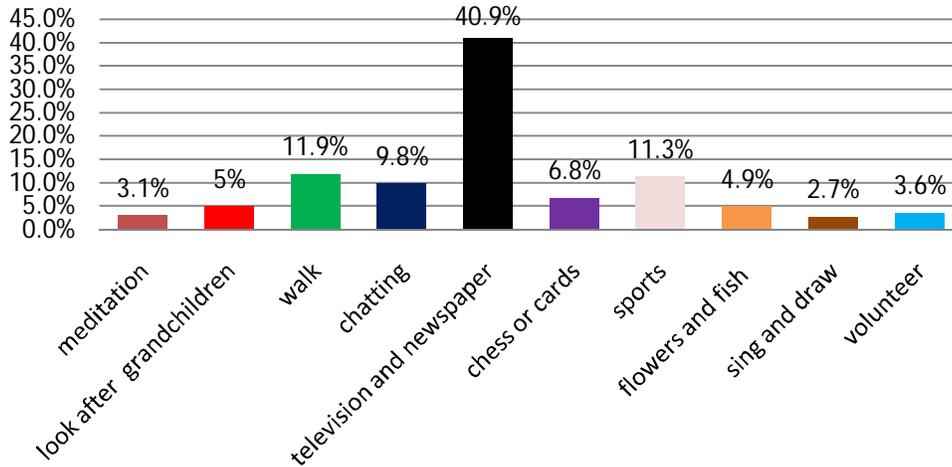
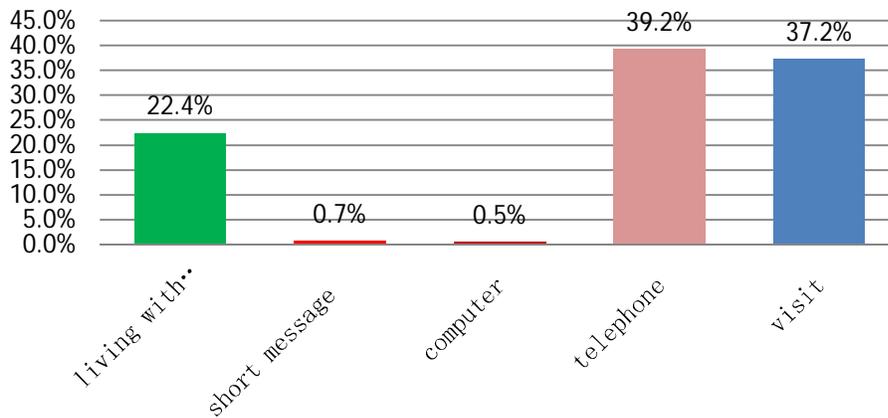


Figure 3: The communication of parents and children



In the old people's entertainment life, the aged like to spend what remains of their time watching television or reading a newspaper. This takes up 40.9 percent of leisure time, chat takes up 40.9 percent, physical exercises take up 22.9 percent, and recreational activities take up 11.3percent percent. The results suggest that the type of leisure for many aged people is in a single, and the level for the spiritual life of the old is low. With the improvement of material life level, people pay more and more attention to the joyful spirit and emotional support. Country will take action to make the elderly's spiritual life and meet cultural and recreational activities.

With China's rapid population ageing development, we will accelerate the establishment of a sound social services system for the elderly. The aged-care at home model adheres to the traditional endowment, reducing family stress. It is the certain trend for China supporting model to speed the social support. The service of aged-care at home includes life care, nursing care and spiritual solace. Which are the most important needs of life care, then health system, and spirit comfort. But as living standards go up, demand level will be gradually rising. The services for the aged are increasing and becoming more and more diverse. In addition to material, health and spiritual level, the demands for the aged include safeguard of rights and the quality of life level. Building a good service of aged-care at home system is an important issue.

Conclusions and Recommendations

According to the conclusions above, the author gives some suggestion on improving system of service of aged-care at home from the old people's demands.

Firstly, improve the management mechanism and administration efficiency

The management functions of departments should be clear and government should avoid administrative function's offside, malposition and absence. The main functions of government are as follows: establishing regulations and supervising the work of Home-based Care for the Aged. As a result, elderly care by the community should integrate government, market (social) and family. The state should provide free service level for those with limited means. Other the old man with needs are to provide a low compensation and unpaid (government subsidies) Service. Government expands the public finance investment, establish long effect mechanism. Expanding the channels of funding sources, the role of social welfare lottery tickets in leading and supporting the service of aged-care at home should be given full play. The government should lead the public charity service and formulate favorable policies.

Secondly, comprehensively promote the old-age home service, perfecting community service

We would like to enrich content of the service of aged-care at home and meet the diverse requirements. Actively complete the city (county), (town) countryside, the community (village) level 3 networks, providing household service, rehabilitation nursing and spiritual consolation. We should improve the community endowment service, including renovation and reconstruction of the nursing home and Daycare Centre. We will improve policies encourage non-government sectors to participate in the service of aged-care at home undertakings. Establish and improve community health services, fully exert the role of community health services. Community health centers play a key role in providing basic medical items, including medical, family bed, home rounds, etc. We will step up development of public facilities. Communities lack of infrastructure by investigating. The recreational needs for the elderly cannot be met. Therefore, the government should accelerate the construction of community cultural and sports facilities, including function rooms, gym and reading room, to satisfy entertainment and leisure needs for the elderly.

Thirdly, to strengthen the construction of institutional capacity, enhance the level of standardization

Firstly, relevant laws and regulations should be improved. Its emphasis on the ways to create regulations of the service of aged-care at home, systematize management system and improve related systems and the corresponding supporting. These important initiatives offer regime as the security for the development the service of aged-care at home. Secondly, reinforce standardization construction. To develop and improve the service of medical, service enterprises qualification, service specifications, service facilities, service environment and service offerings, etc. Thirdly, we should enhance specialization. We should strengthen the development of qualified personnel and improve the overall quality of service staff. Whether the quality level of the staff is high or hot, it affects implementation of the service of aged-care at home. Therefore, strengthening the contingent of service staff, promoting the old-age home service. Increase the salaries and welfare benefits of service staff, guarantee stability of the team. We should establish the system of pre-employment training, and nursing staff shall have acquired a corresponding certificate before taking. Some college should add related majors and courses with the service of aged-care at home to cultivate high quality talent of social workers. We will accelerate the cultivation of pension service volunteers to form linkage mechanism which Professionals and volunteers complement each other.

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