# Social Work Intervention Analysis of Home-based Care Service for Rural Elderly in Heilongjiang Province

## **Qu Zhuo**

Harbin Institute of Finance, Diancarbon Road, Xiangfang District, Harbin City, Heilongjiang Province, China

Keywords: Home-based Care; Social Work; Service Model; Practical Path

Abstract: With the increasing miniaturization of rural households, the increasing degree of rural aging and the increasing number of young and middle-aged migrant workers in rural areas, the function of providing for the aged of rural households in China is becoming weaker and weaker, and the problem of providing for the aged of rural residents is becoming more and more prominent. Home-based pension is the ideal way for rural residents to provide for the aged. The change of the connotation of home-based pension in different periods reflects the deepening of people's understanding of home-based pension. Based on the existing research results and the reality of our country, home-based pension can be defined as a general term of multi-level and auxiliary services provided for the elderly at home under the guidance of the government, the operation of non-governmental organizations and the assistance of community organizations. This definition emphasizes the role of the government and non-governmental organizations, limits the role of the community to assistance, supervision and evaluation, and also highlights the central position of the elderly in home care services. Based on the analysis of the necessity of home-based care for the elderly in rural areas, this paper explores the social work intervention methods of home-based care for the elderly in rural

#### 1. Introduction

As a large agricultural province, Heilongjiang Province is particularly prone to rural pension problems. In 2017, the province's total population was 38.31 million, of which the rural population was 17.06 million, accounting for 44.6% of the total population; the elderly population aged 65 and over reached 3.589 million, accounting for 9.4% of the province's total population. It is predicted that in 2020, the number of elderly people aged 60 and over in Heilongjiang Province will reach 7.65 million, and the aging level will reach 19%; in 2045, the level of aging in Heilongjiang Province will reach more than 33%. At the same time, in 2017, the per capita GDP of Heilongjiang Province was 39,226.40 yuan, lower than the national average. The economic and social development of Heilongjiang Province lags far behind the population aging. The rural outflow of young and middle-aged laborers, the miniaturization of family size, the declining security of family support for the elderly, and the rural social endowment insurance system have not yet been fully established. These factors have combined to promote the solution of rural pension problems in Heilongjiang Province.

Under such a social background and premise, it is of great theoretical and practical significance to study the demand and supply of rural social care services in Heilongjiang Province. In theory, this innovative research perspective can not only make up for the shortcomings of current research to a certain extent, but also provide an important theoretical basis for the formulation of the social old-age security system for urban and rural development and the path selection of rural social care services in the future. In reality, it not only has a very important practical significance for carrying forward the glorious tradition of the Chinese nation respecting the old and loving the old; it is also beneficial to more effectively guarantee the quality of life of the elderly in rural areas, completely solve the worries of rural residents; and is conducive to the stability of rural society. It will promote the construction of a socialist harmonious society, promote the construction of a new socialist countryside, accelerate the process of urbanization, and promote the healthy development of rural

DOI: 10.25236/issec.2019.021

social economy.

This paper studies the demand and supply of rural social care services in Heilongjiang Province under the background of population aging, analyzes the current situation and development trend of rural population aging in Heilongjiang Province, and analyzes the problems and causes of the elderly in rural areas. Emphasis on the feasibility and necessity of social work involved in rural home care services, aiming to jointly improve the quality of life and improve service levels of the elderly. At the same time, according to the different needs of the elderly, choose different social work methods, conduct targeted interventions for the client, and evaluate the social work interventions from methods, effects, processes, etc., and explore the advantages and disadvantages in the service process. Finally, from the perspective of social work profession, it summarizes the advantages and disadvantages of social work involved in rural home care.

# 2. Necessity of home-based care for the elderly in rural areas

The necessity of home-based care service for the elderly in rural areas The gap between rural residents and urban residents has increased. By contrast, the problem of home-based care for rural residents is more serious, and the acceleration of the pace of aging has made this problem more prominent. How to make the rural elderly enjoy the fruitful results of reform and development, and improve the quality of life and living standards of the rural elderly, like the urban elderly, has become an important social problem in front of us. Combining with the reality of rural areas in China, we believe that home-based pension is the ideal choice for rural residents, so it is not only necessary but also timely to carry out home-based care services in rural areas. Its necessity is mainly embodied in the following three aspects.

### 2.1 Home-based care is a beneficial supplement to the old-age care of rural families

At present, a large number of young and middle-aged laborers in rural China go out to work, which separates the main body and object of family pension, coupled with the increasingly miniaturization of rural households, the weakening of family pensions, and the limited supply of rural old-age resources, resulting in far less supply than demand. Home-based pensions have just overcome this deficiency and are the ideal choice for rural residents to support their families. Advocating home-based care does not mean negating family pensions, but treating home-based care as a useful supplement to family pensions.

## 2.2 Home-based care conforms to the traditional concept of filial piety in China's rural areas

"Raising children and preventing old age" is a deep-rooted concept in rural areas of China. Most of the rural elderly are reluctant to leave home to go to old-age care institutions. They think it is a very shameful thing, and their children also think that they will be unfilial. Under the background of the weakening function of family pension, family pension conforms to the traditional concept of filial piety in rural areas. Older people do not need to leave their familiar family and community environment, but the main body of providing pension services has changed. Besides family members, there are also government and non-governmental organizations. At the same time, home-based pension also reduces the burden of family pension. Of course, although the government and non-governmental organizations have become the main providers of home-based pension services, this does not mean that they should replace the independent self-support of the rural elderly and their children's support obligations. They only play a supporting role in the rural elderly's pension services.

# 2.3 Home-based care can effectively use the resources of rural acquaintance society

Compared with the city, the countryside is an acquaintance society. In such a traditional society, people have a higher degree of familiarity and trust, neighbors are willing to help each other, and people's interaction is full of emotional factors. Residents' pension needs a lot of resources, but the rural pension resources are relatively scarce. It is undoubtedly an effective way to make full use of the mutual assistance between the rural people and their neighbors. The home-based pension model

can give full play to its advantages in this respect. It can fully carry out mutual assistance activities among the elderly in rural areas or between middle-aged people and the elderly. Time Savings Bank is a good example. The practice is that healthy middle-aged and elderly people can provide free pension services for the elderly who are in poor health, but the service time should be calculated. When these middle-aged and elderly people who provide free services are in poor health, they can get the same time of free pension services.

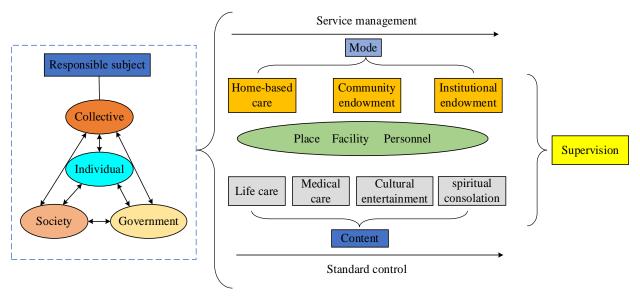


Fig.1. Management model of home-based old-age care service for rural elderly

## 3. Applicability analysis of social work intervention in rural elderly's home-based care

Firstly, social work intervention in home-based pension service can strengthen the service function of home-based pension, and effectively make up for the deficiencies of institutional pension and family pension. Influenced by the traditional culture of "raising children and preventing old age", the elderly are reluctant to leave their families and go to institutions for the aged, and the institutions for the aged are still in its infancy and development is not perfect, so most of them are providing for the aged at home; however, with the development of economy and the change of family structure in modern society, children are busy with work and do not have enough time to look after the elderly, family pension this. One way of providing for the aged is shrinking day by day. Community home-based pension is to leave the elderly in the community they are familiar with. Social workers, according to the different needs of the elderly, make use of all the advantageous resources in the community to provide the elderly with life care, medical care, leisure and entertainment and spiritual comfort, which can effectively make up for the deficiencies of institutional and family pension. At the same time, the involvement of social work in home-based pension also alleviates the single problem of pension service mode in China, makes it possible to integrate various systems, helps to achieve diversified pension goals, makes the pension system more perfect and plays a better role in order to meet the different needs of the elderly.

Secondly, social work intervention in home-based pension services can effectively promote the professional and professional development of social work. As a practical specialty, the knowledge system, theoretical basis and working methods on which social work is based need to be constantly improved and developed in the long-term practice. The phenomenon of "professional unprofessional, professional unprofessional" is obvious in the development of social work practice.

Finally, the involvement of social work in home-based pension services can promote the completion of the social security system for the elderly in China. At present, China's old-age security system still has many shortcomings, which need to be further improved. The needs of the elderly are diversified, while the community lacks a professional management system. The advantages of community resources are difficult to be effectively integrated. As a result, the existing

social security system can not effectively meet the needs of the elderly at different levels and ages. Intervention of social work into home-based pension service can make different pension schemes for different elderly people to meet their different pension needs, which is conducive to the realization of the goal of providing for the elderly and making the elderly happy, and promote social harmony. Social workers can reflect the shortcomings of social security to relevant departments, so as to promote the social security departments to formulate scientific and rational policies.

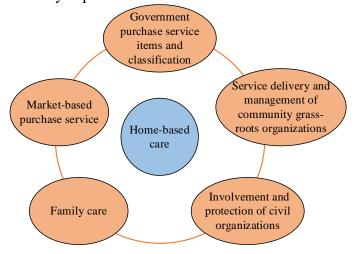


Fig.2. Service structure of home-based old-age care

# 4. Practical path of social work involved in rural home care services

The rural social pension service supply system can provide social pension services for the elderly, and the main body that meets its various pension needs includes the government, the community and the market. These entities together constitute the supply system of the social pension service, and the total service composition they provide The overall supply level of the social pension service system. In this complex system, each supply subject has the characteristics of substitution, mutual influence and relative independence. They are an indispensable and important part of the rural social pension service supply system, which bear different functions.

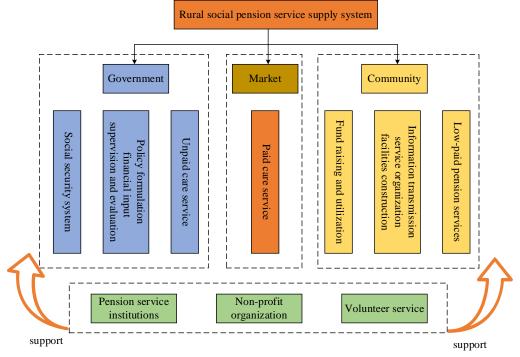


Fig.3. The path of home-based care service system for rural elderly

The social intervention methods for rural elderly living at home are mainly divided into the

elderly community work, the elderly case work, the elderly group work, and the comprehensive working methods. The working method is flexible and can be carried out in accordance with the general process model of social work practice, namely, the six general processes of receiving, estimating, planning, intervening, evaluating and closing the case.

# 4.1 Community working methods for the elderly

The elderly community work methods for rural elderly living at home are mainly from the perspective of macro or meso, serving the elderly in the community as a target to solve the problem of community pension for the elderly. Social policy advocacy in the community, community participation in the elderly, the construction of community pension environment, the excavation of community pension resources, the establishment of social support for the elderly in the community, the construction of facilities for the elderly in the community, and the education of the elderly community. Old age social work practice methods. In particular, community care methods effectively combine formal and informal services. Formal services are mainly services provided by professionals and institutions. Non-formal services are mainly provided by non-professionals such as family members, neighbors, volunteers, etc. Personalized and community-based seniors receive good care and services.

## 4.2 Methods of case work for the elderly

The method of working for the elderly in the community at home is different from the case management. It refers to the social value of elderly people as a guide, based on good working relationships, starting from the changes of the elderly or the family, and the comprehensive application of human relations. Relevant knowledge and technology, through direct or indirect individualized services, integrate internal and external resources, help older individuals to improve their self-development capabilities, prevent and solve problems, and improve the quality of life and individual life of the elderly. Older case work methods focus on individual cases, with particular emphasis on older individuals or older families who are confused or unable to adapt to social circumstances or relationships, emphasizing one-on-one professional relationships. The old-age case work method is one of the main methods of social work intervention in the community home care, such as the above-mentioned personalized care services, including cognitive counseling, spiritual escort, hospice care, sad emotional treatment, etc., most of which need to use the elderly case work method to carry out services.

## 4.3 Working methods of geriatric groups

The working method of community home-based elderly group refers to a group of social workers composed of two or more elderly people, through specific working procedures, steps and the use of various skills, to achieve the change of the internal behavior of the members of the group and achieve the working objectives of the elderly group. The working methods of geriatric groups need to refer to the multi-disciplinary theories of gerontology, demography, sociology and psychology, involving the knowledge and skills system of geriatric group structure, group workers, group motivation, group working process, group working skills and so on. For example, social groups for the elderly, in general elderly service institutions, day care centers for the elderly, there will be social groups. These groups can be composed of members with different interests. Social groups can increase the interaction between the elderly and share the positive meaning of life. Social workers play a key role in planning, coordinating and enabling.

#### 5. Conclusion

As a new type of socialized old-age security, rural home-based care services have certain public service nature and are suiTable for the elderly's willingness to care for the elderly. With the role of rural elderly gradually shifting from "parents" to "dependents", the supply of rural home-based care services should be guided by the needs of rural elderly for the elderly, the economic support of rural elderly, life care, medical care, The needs of home-based care services such as spiritual comfort

have not been effectively met. The social worker "helping self-help" values and special professional methods can provide high-quality all-round services for the elderly and promote the professionalization and systematization of home-based care services. At the same time, social work can integrate the family, community and social pension service resources, consolidate the foundation of home care services, build a community home care service platform, and improve the level of home care services.

### Acknowledgements

The authors acknowledge the Research Project of Heilongjiang Provincial Higher Education Institutions' Basic Research Business Expenses: Research on Social Intervention Strategies for Home Care Services in Rural Areas of Heilongjiang Province (Grant:2018-KYWF-E012).

#### References

- [1] Naik R, Doherty T, Jackson D, et al. Linkage to care following a home-based HIV counselling and testing intervention in rural South Africa[J]. Journal of the International Aids Society, 2015, 18(1):19843.
- [2] Lv J, Zhang K B. Type Analysis of Rural Settlements Development of Hadaqi Region in Heilongjiang Province[J]. Applied Mechanics & Materials, 2014, 587-589:4.
- [3] Xing Y, Pei R, Qu J, et al. Urban-rural differences in factors associated with willingness to receive eldercare among the elderly: a cross-sectional survey in China[J]. Bmj Open, 2018, 8(5):020225.
- [4] Hoffman N. A Home-Based Intervention's Impact on Caregiver Burden for Veterans With Dependence Performing Activities of Daily Living: An Interdisciplinary Approach[J]. Social Work in Health Care, 2015, 54(5):461-473.
- [5] Anka A, Sorensen P, Brandon M, et al. Social work intervention with adults who self-neglect in England: responding to the Care Act 2014[J]. Journal of Adult Protection, 2017, 19(2):67-77.
- [6] Zhao-You L I, Zheng J Y. On the Collaborative Supply of Home-based Care Service for the Elderly in China's Rural Communities[J]. Journal of Northeastern University, 2016, 18(6):616-621.
- [7] Ham A D, Hugginshoyt K Y, Pettus J. Assessing statistical change indices in selected social work intervention research studies[J]. Research on Social Work Practice, 2016, 26(1).
- [8] Hbsw A D P, Msw M O. Social work intervention for women experiencing early pregnancy loss in the emergency department[J]. Social Work in Health Care, 2019(1):1-20.
- [9] Wilson A B, Farkas K. Collaborative Adaptations in Social Work Intervention Research in Real-World Settings: Lessons Learned from the Field[J]. J Evid Based Soc Work, 2014, 11(1-2):183-192.