

Research on the Awareness of Welfare Rights of the Elderly in China under the Home-Based Care Service System--Taking Yaofangmen in Nanjing as an Example

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Abstract: The home-based care service system is one of the main components of the current elderly welfare system and the main development direction of the future senior care model in China. As the service object of the welfare system, the elderly's awareness and attitudes towards welfare rights are related to the effect of the old-age supporting system's implementation, and also the key factors that restrict the improvement and development of it. The study found that the elderly's attitudes towards basic welfare responsibilities present the traditional view of family responsibility. Welfare rights consciousness shows different degrees of individualism and collectivism tendency. They hold the attitude of giving priority to economic development, believing that the government should bear the most share of welfare funding. At the same time, for the principles of the distribution of welfare rights, the elderly show a bias toward a selective approach to provision.

1. Introduction

Nowadays, China has entered the era of "welfare state", and welfare right has been established as a legal right. In recent years, the home-based elderly care model has become the leading idea of China's old-age supporting welfare system in order to solve the problem of social aging. We have initially formed a system based on home care, community care and complemented by institutional care. On this basis, the main body of welfare rights, the elderly's awareness and attitudes of welfare rights are related to the mass cooperation, implementation effect and many other aspects of the home-based care service model.

Recently, domestic and foreign scholars have done a lot of researches on the policy environment, operation mode, the responsibility subject, existing problems and countermeasures of the home-based care service system, forming a certain research system. However, they ignore the idea of the elderly who is the main body of welfare rights, how the elderly understand the policy welfare, why the elderly have such welfare consciousness, and what role the home-based care service model plays in improving the social welfare for the elderly.

Based on this, under the background of China's vigorous development of home-based care service model, this paper deeply analyzes the elderly's awareness of welfare rights in China, and explores it from the perspective of the welfare rights subject, so as to better improve the development of home-based care model, put forward targeted optimization proposals, and advance the social welfare policy and elderly services mechanism.

2. Elderly Welfare Rights Awareness Assessment

2.1 Welfare Rights Awareness

The consciousness of welfare rights means that the subject of rights realizes that he or she has all kinds of rights that he or she should enjoy, and can clearly understand the legitimacy, feasibility and boundary of rights. He or she advocates and exercises his or her own rights within the legal scope, and bravely defends his or her own rights, but he or she cannot ignore the material and spiritual conditions that society can provide as well as the affordability of society and others, and blindly advocate rights and act beyond legal boundaries.

People's most basic and fundamental ideas and views on social welfare are the concepts, beliefs and values of fairness and justice in the allocation of social welfare resources and their practical approaches formed after the influence of individual and environmental factors. Social welfare awareness can be said as a basic value concept for the allocation of social resources. It can not only guide people to understand the nature of social welfare, but also serve as a reference for judging and evaluating the current status of social welfare distribution. As a basis for social policy formulation, it also helps to understand the possible resistance or assistance in the implementation of social welfare policies.

2.2 Evaluation of the Elderly Welfare Rights Consciousness

Vic George & Paul Wilding (1994) discussed the structure of welfare ideology in “Ideology and Social Welfare”^[1]. Based on the research of Vic George & Paul Wilding, Professor Lai Weiliang constructed a series of basic elements of welfare consciousness, including “ value level, “ “ understanding social arrangements and problem level “ and “ social policy concept level. “ Based on this scale, the welfare ideology of Macao citizens was measured^[2]. According to the research of Professor Lai Weiliang and scholar Zhang Chaoxiong and combined with the special situation of the elderly in the home-based care model, the author revised the relevant systems and sentences in the scale, as shown in Table 1, and adopted the Likert scale method to design and distribute the questionnaire.

Table 1 Index System Of Elderly Welfare Awareness

Index structure	Index definition	Operationalized statement
Value level	Recognition of some social values (e.g. freedom, social equality, social justice, individualism, and collectivism)	Social justice: The goal of social welfare is to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor. The widening gap between the rich and the poor is an unfair social phenomenon.
		Individualism: Everyone should take the greatest responsibility for their own life. When individuals encounter problems, the family is the most responsible for providing assistance.
		Collectivism: The government should guarantee the basic life of every citizen. Regardless of rich or poor, the need to receive government benefits doesn't represent failure.
Understand the social arrangements and the problem level	Understanding of economic policy and social policy	The government should first pay attention to economic policy and then to social welfare policy;. The reform should adhere to the principle of “prioritize efficiency and balance fairness”.
	Understanding of the causes and countermeasures of social problems	The government must help every elderly person to solve their pension problems.
Social policy concept level	Basic attitudes towards social welfare	The government should provide social welfare to avoid weakening the ability of individuals to support themselves. The government should develop more welfare services to ensure the life of every citizen.
	Position on the role of government welfare (assumption of social welfare funds)	The government should bear the majority of the social welfare funds. When providing welfare services, the government can recover the service costs from the more affluent citizens.
	Position on the welfare role of the private system	Social welfare should be provided by charities and voluntary organizations, not the government.
	Preference for principles of social welfare	Universal provision: Receiving social welfare is the right of every citizen. Whether rich or poor, all people can receive government social welfare services. Selective approach: The social welfare of the government should be provided to those who cannot help them most.

		It is the most appropriate way to determine the acceptance of social welfare based on the income standard.
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3. Welfare Rights Awareness of the Elderly under the Home-Based Care Model

3.1 The Basic Attitude of the Elderly Towards Welfare

The results, as shown in Table 2, show that the elderly generally agree that the government should bear the responsibility of providing welfare, try to protect the basic needs of every citizen. Everyone who needs help has the right to obtain social welfare from the government, which is a necessary mean to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. It is not necessary to set welfare limits at the current stage.

Table 2 the Basic Attitude of the Elderly Towards Welfare Statistical Analysis

name	sample size	mean value	standard deviation
The government should provide social welfare to a limited extent so as not to weaken the ability of individuals to support themselves.	60	2.450	1.371
The government should develop welfare services on a larger scale, so that every citizen 's life is best guaranteed.	60	4.050	1.383

The overall welfare awareness level of the elderly surveyed is good, and they are positive about their welfare rights and the government's fair-oriented policies. On average, the government's welfare supply is satisfactory. However, some elderly people think that the government only bears limited responsibility for social and pension benefits, which is not only reflected in the diversity of welfare supply from charitable organizations and voluntary institutions, but also imposes the premise of efficiency and economy on the implementation of pension security, that is, efficiency should be given priority, fairness and economic policies should be taken into account, and the basic living needs of the elderly should be guaranteed on the basis of making the social cake bigger.

3.2 The Elderly's Cognition of Social Justice

The elderly generally believe that society should be fair and the formulation of public policies should meet this requirement to an appropriate extent. As shown in Figure 1, 83.34 % of the respondents strongly or relatively agree that the widening gap between the wealth is an unfair social phenomenon.

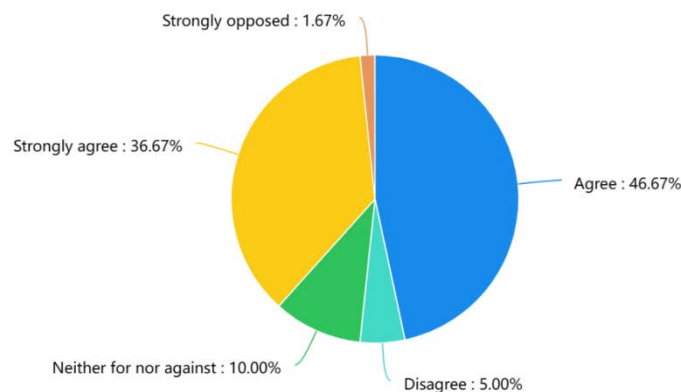


Figure 1 The Degree of Identification for” the Widening Gap between the Rich and the Poor is an Unfair Social Phenomenon.”

In the relationship between economic level and social justice, it is generally believed that the economic level can not restrict the acquisition of social welfare, regardless of the rich and poor individuals should enjoy equal social security, which is consistent in geography and gender, and the important performance and goal of social justice is to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3 the Degree Of Identification for” the Goal of the Government to Provide Social Welfare Should Be to Reduce the Gap between the Rich and the Poor.”

item	frequency	percentage	cumulative percentage
Disagree	9	15.00%	56.67%
Neither for nor against	25	41.67%	41.67%
Agree	20	33.33%	90.00%
Strongly agree	6	10.00%	100.00%
footing	60	100.0%	

This change is related to the promotion of social security and the construction of social ideological and moral standards. The improvement of the rights awareness of the elderly is conducive to the construction of the overall welfare society, and such measures should continue to be taken. In the in-depth interviews, the elderly 's description of social justice focuses on abstract concepts such as the smaller gap between the rich and the poor, the equality for all, and the openness and transparency of policies, but there are few specific expressions related to their vital interests. For example, the relationship between community home-based care services and social justice often lacks identity or even exits opposition. Some elderly people mentioned 'only serve the elderly with local household registration ', ' no differentiated services for the elderly of all ages ', etc., and less mentioned the fairness of the results and the fairness of the subject.

3.3 The Individualism Orientation of the Elderly Welfare Consciousness

The survey found that some elderly people showed that they did not need the community to provide home-based care services, and believed that individuals and families had the responsibility and ability to care for their own survival and life.

Some elderly people said that the home-based care service center is a place for the elderly without children 's care. It can be seen that some elderly people have insufficient awareness and do not realize the legitimacy and necessity of their welfare rights. The concept of “raising children for old age “ in traditional culture still in effect today. Many old people believe that it is their children who should provide for themselves; young people also regard it as their obligation to care for the elderly. The idea of the elderly and young people is difficult to change for a while, that there is no need for third-party intervention in the old-age supporting, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4 the Situation Of Individualism Identity Chart

name	sample size	mean value	standard deviation
Everyone should take the greatest responsibility for his own life.	60	3.283	1.574
When individuals encounter problems, the family is most responsible for providing assistance.	60	3.417	1.293

Chinese traditional Confucian culture contains a sense of family responsibility that can partially explain the family-based characteristics of people's welfare attitudes. It is manifested in the fact that the acquisition of individuals mainly depends on the efforts of themselves and family members. Only when their welfare needs cannot be met by individuals and families will they rely on social welfare. Therefore, individuals and families are the main body of welfare provision for a long time in our society. It can be seen that most of the elderly believe that the acquisition of welfare mainly depends on their own strength. Individuals and families are the main providers of welfare, and the government should be in a 'compensation' position.

3.4 Collectivism Orientation of the Elderly Welfare Consciousness

The collectivism orientation of the interviewed elderly shows that the government and the state can provide life security and welfare support for social individuals in need of help. However, according to data analysis, the performance of collectivism tendency is weaker at the level of personal value realization than that of individualism tendency, as shown in Table 5.

Table 5 the Situation Of Collectivism Identity Chart

name	sample size	mean value	standard deviation
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The government should protect the basic life of every citizen regardless of wealth.	60	3.450	0.891
The need to receive government relief does not mean failure.	60	2.783	1.519

According to the results shown in Table 5, there are differences in the timing of welfare supply for the elderly. Some believe that the government needs to protect the welfare of every member of society, while others think individuals only need relief when they are unable to maintain their own survival. Collectivism orientation has also changed to a certain extent with the improvement of home-based care services and social security, but it has continuity and inertia. On the one hand, the elderly emphasize that the occurrence of force majeure factors such as natural disasters makes the individual's strength unable to overcome. The government should provide material and institutional help to tide over the difficulties. On the other hand, the elderly pay attention to the priority of the state's help to vulnerable groups. The rich can help themselves, and even should improve the supply of welfare as much as they can. This reflects the broad spectrum of welfare supply consciousness from agricultural society to industrial society. The elderly interviewed have similar expressions on the social level of socialist core values and collectivism, which reflects its role in enhancing the concept of social collective^[3]. Among the younger elderly, the awareness of paying attention to their own power has been popularized. They have put forward higher welfare demands for the society and also pay more attention to whether there are new policies on old-age care and social security in the news media, changes in their own rights, which is conducive to the protection of the elderly's own interests and the understanding and publicity of other public policies.

In general, the elderly in China have a high psychological recognition of the government's promotion of the development of the social welfare system and the corresponding welfare responsibilities, and their welfare need recognition are strong. The elderly no longer think that accepting welfare indicates that they are useless to the society (see Table 5). On the contrary, the level of welfare supply reflects the society's concern and recognition to their own groups, representing the improvement of their own status. It is worth mentioning that the welfare attitudes of the elderly show identity differences in specific welfare programs, which makes it necessary for the government to actively pay attention to the priorities of social welfare demands of the public, including the elderly group, and meet the most core welfare demands of the public^[4].

3.5 The Elderly's Understanding of Economic and Social Policies

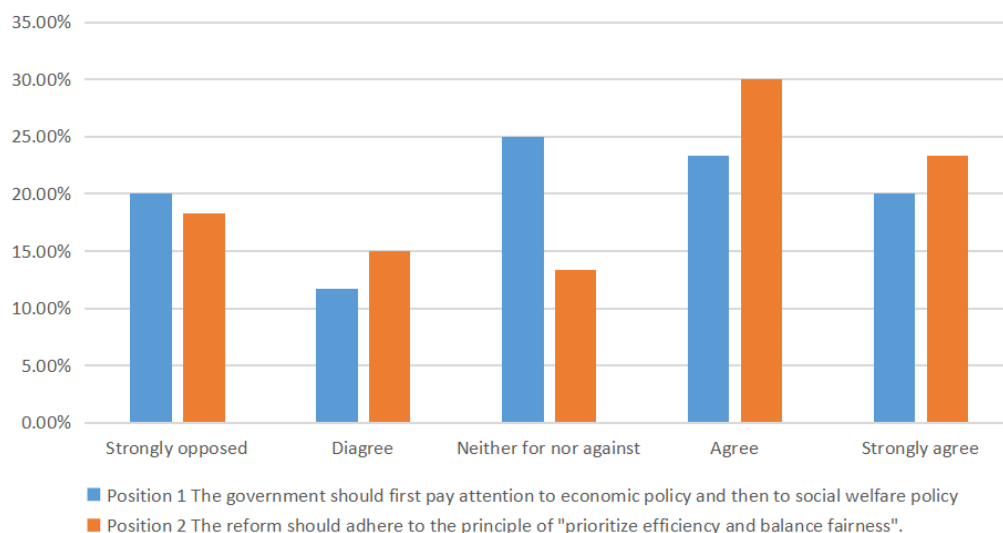


Figure 2 Understanding of Economic Policy and Social Policy

Due to their different personal life experiences, the elderly interviewed have different understandings of economic and social policies, as shown in Figure 2. The survey found that most of the respondents agreed that “economic priority, and then the development of social welfare”. The elderly interviewed said: “When the country is richer, more money will be given to help us live.”

Economic development, increases the overall wealth of society, to achieve the good situation of”

wealthy national”, “rich people”. On this basis, the social vulnerable groups can accept better social assistance and social welfare. In the process of development, the country should first develop the economy, accelerate the construction of the social level on the basis of economic development, and then pay attention to the social welfare policy, and ensure the basic living needs of the elderly in this policy. Therefore, some elderly people think that the social welfare security of the elderly group at the macro level of the national government is lower than that of economic construction, and social construction is in a secondary position. That is, the elderly group agrees that the government should bear the corresponding responsibility for social welfare, but the elderly also think that social welfare policy should give way to economic construction^[5].

However, the rights to survival and development are the basic rights of every citizen. For the elderly, these two basic rights are particularly important. As a vulnerable group in society, the elderly should be supported and protected by social welfare policies we first pay attention to economic policies and then develop social welfare policies, the elderly, as a vulnerable group, are easy to be ignored in the process of economic development. For some elderly people from poor families, their basic living needs are not supported by policies, and they don't get enough protection. Without welfare policies, the elderly group will easily become the outcast of society and be abandoned by the times.

China's social policy has always been working as a supporting measure of economic system reform, lacking of independent status. While we have already started a new journey of building a modern socialist country in an all-round way, it is urgent to guide the elderly to correctly understand the dialectical relationship between economic policy and social policy.

3.6 The Elderly 'S Understanding of the Role of the Government in National Welfare

The survey results, as shown in Figure 3, show that more than 80 % of the elderly interviewed agree that the government should develop larger-scale welfare services, so that the lives of every citizen can be best protected, and at the same time, they should bear most of the social welfare funds.

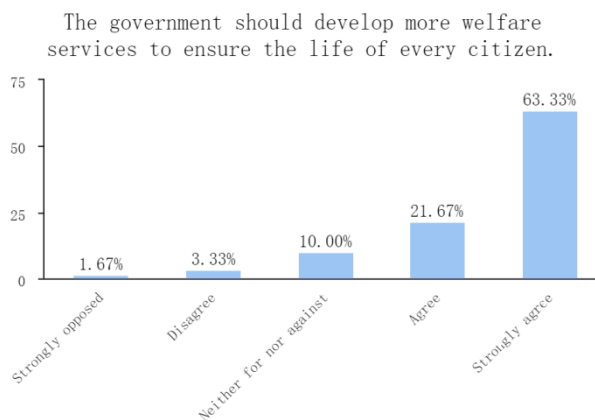


Figure 3 Elderly people's Basic Attitudes Towards Social Welfare

At present, China presents the situation of ' getting aged before getting rich ' and ' getting aged before getting ready '. The population is aging, the family function is weakening, and the single family lacks funds. It is difficult to provide the elderly with a suitable environment and comfortable old-age care services in the process of normal family operation. The family has heavy old-age care burden and large demand. Other forces are needed to join and share part of the responsibility for the family's old-age care, as shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5. At this time, the government and voluntary agencies should join to help.

The government should bear the majority of the social welfare funds.

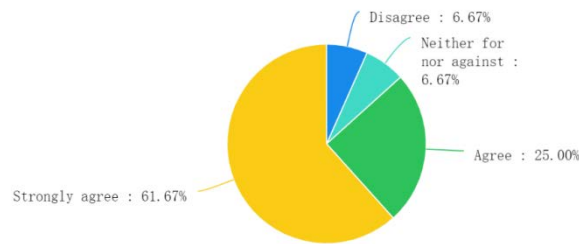


Figure 4 Position on the role of government welfare

The social welfare of the government should be provided to those who cannot help them most.

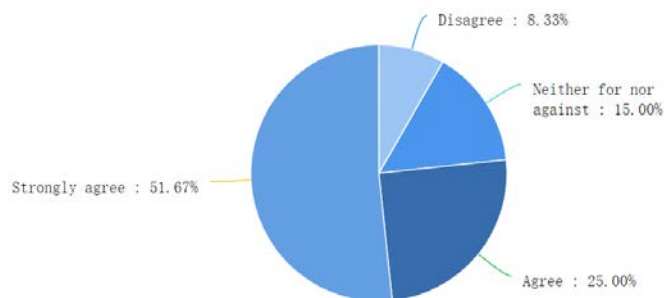


Figure 5 Preference for Principles of Social Welfare

As the main burden of social old-age care, the government should provide old-age care services for the elderly and other services for people. It should promote the development of China's old-age care and old-age care industry, support the development of diversified old-age care methods, and ensure the best protection for old-age care.

When the government pays for old-age care, the economic status of different families can be taken into account. Because some families are rich enough to pay the pension costs of the elderly, the government can recover the service costs from these citizens and reduce the pressure on itself. This reflects that the economic situation of Chinese family affects the elderly's awareness of social welfare rights.

3.7 The Elderly's Recognition of the Principle of Welfare Distribution

The survey results in Figure 5 indicate that the elderly widely accept that the distribution of social welfare should be provided selectively. In the process of welfare provision, only those who cannot help themselves should be helped, and the distribution process should pay more attention to fairness.

The welfare provided by the government should first be given to the groups that are difficult to survive and the people who need this welfare the most in the society. Reflected by some elderly people, the income gap among the families of the elderly is large, and there is a big difference in the degree of support for the elderly. Many families cannot meet the needs of the elderly, and need the government intervention to meet the most basic old-age life. Some elderly people identify that 'it is the most legitimate practice to judge whether the object should accept social welfare by income standard', and more elderly people do not have a greater view on this definition, as shown in Figure 6.

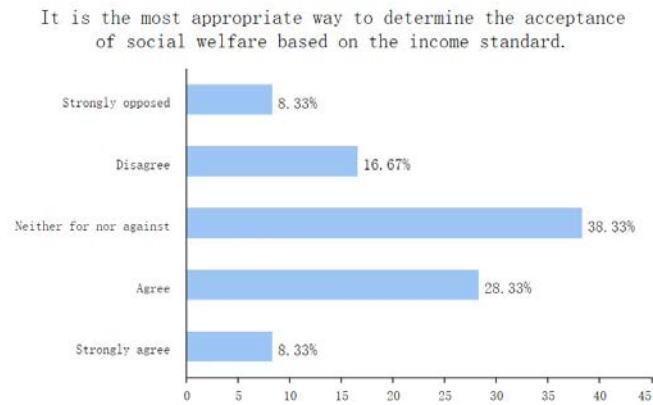


Figure 6 Elderly people's Preference for Principles of Social Welfare

The government's allocation of social welfare related to the elderly's old-age care should be reflected in whether the elderly's family can meet the basic needs of the elderly's old-age care services. In a selective manner, it can better meet the needs of social groups, tilt resources to more needy people, and focus on helping people with pension difficulties in order to better meet the demands of vulnerable groups, improve resource utilization efficiency and maximize the role of social welfare.

4. Conclusion

To sum up, at the level of values, the elderly have a strong sense of social justice, emphasizing the equality and justice of the pension welfare system, and the tendency of individualism and collectivism coexist side by side, which constitutes the epitome of the ideological value system of the contemporary elderly group with the coexistence of tradition and modernity. At the level of understanding social arrangements and problems, they generally hold the attitude of giving priority to economic development, support social development gives way to economic efficiency, and have a high sense of family-country. At the level of social policy concept, the elderly widely agree that the distribution of social welfare should be provided selectively, emphasizing the fairness of welfare distribution. Meanwhile, in the concept of social policy, the elderly stress the responsibility of the government in welfare funds.

The tendency of personal and government responsibilities seems to be contradictory in the elderly's welfare consciousness, but it is a reasonable reflection of pragmatic thinking, which is exactly in line with the current trend of home-based care's socialization. The elderly not only acknowledge the main role of the government in the welfare supply, but also agree with the responsibility of individuals and families. The government, individuals and families together constitute the multiple subjects of welfare provision, which is consistent with the goal of home-based care's socialization.

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