

# The present situation and problem analysis of community service for the aged in rural areas of China

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**Abstract:** The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China clearly puts forward that it is necessary to promote the realization of basic old-age services for all the elderly, including old-age services for the rural elderly groups, and how to let the rural elderly enjoy their old age should be the focus of the whole society and the country. With the gradual failure of the traditional family pension model, community pension services are gradually rising, but the current rural community pension services there are insufficient supply, service quality is not high, lack of professional training and other problems, urgent need to solve and improve. In this regard, this paper puts forward specific countermeasures from three dimensions: strengthening the supply of community elderly care service, improving the quality of community elderly care service, and training professional elderly care service talents, so as to help rural elderly groups improve their happiness of old-age care.

**Key words:** rural area; Community pension; Service status; Problem analysis

## 1. Introduction

According to the data released by the seventh national census and based on international commonly used definition of population aging, our country has entered the aging society. With the imbalance between urban and rural endowment service resources, rural areas endowment service system construction and quality guarantee are facing great challenges.

In 2022, The State Council issued the “14th Five-Year Plan” for the Development of Old-age Undertakings and old-age Service System, focusing on promoting the common development of old-age undertakings and industries, and promoting the high-quality development of old-age service system, the deployment of social security and old-age service network, strengthen the ability of home-based community old-age service, create an age-friendly social environment and other tasks. Among them, community elderly care has been highlighted in the planning.

Old-age care is related to the national economy and people’s livelihood. Only when the elderly in rural areas live a good life and the young people have no worries can they better realize the comprehensive revitalization of rural areas. In this regard, this paper deeply analyzes the status quo and problems of community elderly care services in rural areas, with a view to putting forward targeted solutions to promote the development and improvement of community elderly care services in rural areas. It is expected that this study can better understand the current predicament of community elderly care services, and provide a reference for relevant departments to formulate policies.

## 2. Overview of community elderly care services in rural areas

### 2.1 Definition and function of community elderly care service

Community elderly care service refers to a comprehensive service system that provides various forms of life care, medical care, culture and entertainment support services for the elderly living in the community, aiming to meet the diversified and personalized needs of the elderly, improve their quality of life and happiness, and promote the elderly to actively participate in various social activities.

### 2.2 The importance of community elderly care services in rural areas

Community aged care services in rural areas are of great significance to solve the problem of the growing elderly population in rural areas and the failure of family aged care model. For one thing, it can provide professional and personalized nursing care and rehabilitation treatment to help the elderly maintain physical and mental health; Second, it can provide psychological support and communication platforms to alleviate loneliness and depression among the elderly. Third, community elderly care services can also promote economic development in rural areas, create local employment opportunities, and increase the income level of local residents.

### 2.3 Development status of community elderly care services in rural areas

At present, there are a series of problems and contradictions in community elderly care services in rural areas. First of all, insufficient supply is a prominent problem, and many rural areas lack specialized institutions and facilities for the elderly. Secondly, the quality of services is generally low, with many elderly people unable to receive effective care and rehabilitation treatment due to a lack of professional nursing staff and inadequate training. In addition, the construction of community elderly care service system in rural areas is relatively lagging behind, and there are shortcomings in policy support and capital investment.

## 3. Analysis of existing problems of community elderly care service in rural areas

### 3.1 Insufficient service supply problem

#### 3.1.1 Lack of elderly care service resources

The resources of community aged care service in rural areas are relatively limited, coupled with the wide distribution of rural population and the imperfect infrastructure, the supply of community aged care service can not meet the daily needs of rural elderly groups.

In addition, most rural areas also lack specialized institutions or facilities for the elderly, making it impossible for the elderly to obtain appropriate care and nursing.

#### 3.1.2 The construction of elderly care facilities lags behind

In rural areas, the construction of elderly care facilities is relatively backward and there is a lack of modern and standardized elderly care facilities, which makes it difficult to provide high-quality elderly care services. At the same time, some existing public welfare facilities for the aged are not maintained quickly or updated in a timely manner, which cannot meet the growing spiritual and material needs of the elderly.

#### 3.1.3 Insufficient social financial support

Community elderly care services in rural areas are facing the problem of insufficient financial support. Due to the relatively low level of economic development and fiscal revenue in rural areas, grass-roots governments have effective power and insufficient funds are invested in community elderly care services. As a result, the scale and quality of community elderly care services in rural areas can not be effectively improved, and the needs of the elderly can not be fully met.

### 3.2 Low service quality problem

#### 3.2.1 The daily management of elderly care institutions is chaotic

In rural areas, some elderly care institutions have the problem of chaotic daily management. Due to the lack of unified management standards and supervision mechanisms, some elderly care institutions have uneven service quality and large safety hazards, which brings certain risks and troubles to the lives of the elderly.

#### 3.2.2 Nursing skills of elderly care workers are insufficient

Elderly workers in rural areas generally lack specialized nursing skills. Due to a relatively low level of education and limited training resources, many elderly care workers have not received systematic nursing training, resulting in a certain degree of deficiency in providing daily care and health monitoring, which affects the quality and effectiveness of community elderly care services.

### 3.3 Lack of professional training for service personnel

#### 3.3.1 Lack of professional personnel training mechanism

In rural areas, there is a lack of sound specialized personnel training mechanism. Due to the relative shortage of educational resources, rural areas lack relevant educational institutions and courses to train community elderly care service professionals, making the overall quality of elderly care service teams in rural areas low and unable to meet the diverse needs of the elderly.

#### 3.3.2 There are limited training opportunities for elderly care personnel

Due to transportation and geographical restrictions, training opportunities for elderly care workers in rural areas are relatively limited. Due to the inconvenience of transportation and lack of training resources, many elderly care workers are unable to obtain systematic training and opportunities to upgrade their skills, which makes it difficult for them to cope with complex situations and provide high-quality services.

## 4. Suggestions for improving community elderly care services in rural areas

### 4.1 Strengthen the supply of community elderly care services

#### 4.1.1 Improve the construction of elderly care facilities in rural areas

In order to improve the supply capacity of community elderly care services in rural areas, it is necessary to increase investment in the construction of elderly care facilities in rural areas. First, the number of community elderly care centers and day care centers should be increased and their layout optimized to ensure coverage in every rural community. At the same time, attention should be paid to upgrading the physical conditions of these facilities, including improving the structure of buildings, increasing the number of beds, and equipping them with modern medical equipment, so as to enhance the experience and effect of nursing and medical services received by the elderly in these institutions.

#### 4.1.2 Increase investment in diversified social capital

In order to solve the problem of insufficient supply of community elderly care services in rural areas, it is necessary to increase the intensity of social capital support. The government can attract more investors into the sector by formulating relevant policies and guiding the participation of private capital. In addition, various financing models, such as public-private partnerships and PPP models, can be explored to promote the construction and operation of elderly care facilities. At the same time, special fund allocations for community elderly care services in rural areas should be increased in the fiscal budget to ensure adequate financial input to meet the needs of senior citizens.

### 4.2 Improve the quality of community elderly care services

#### 4.2.1 Improve the management system of elderly care service institutions

In order to improve the quality of community elderly care services in rural areas, it is necessary to establish a sound management system for elderly care institutions. First, supervision and evaluation of elderly care institutions should be strengthened to ensure that they meet relevant standards and norms. At the same time, an information management system should be established and improved to realize real-time monitoring and evaluation of the operation and service quality of elderly care institutions. In addition, the training and management of staff in elderly care institutions should be strengthened to improve their professional quality and service ability.

#### 4.2.2 Strengthen the training and skill upgrading of elderly care workers

In order to improve the quality of community elderly care services in rural areas, it is necessary to strengthen the training and skill upgrading of practitioners. First of all, it is necessary to formulate and improve the corresponding training plan and content, including basic

knowledge training, nursing skills training, psychological counseling and so on. Secondly, in the training process, we should pay attention to practical operation and case analysis, and improve the practical operation ability and problem solving ability of practitioners. In addition, it is necessary to strengthen the professional ethics education of employees and cultivate their sense of responsibility and service awareness.

#### 4.3 Cultivate professional talents for elderly care services

##### 4.3.1 Establishment of professional personnel training mechanism

In order to improve the quality of community elderly care services in rural areas, it is necessary to establish a professional personnel training mechanism. First of all, it is necessary to improve the professional setting of relevant disciplines in higher vocational colleges, and set up education promotion courses related to community elderly care services. Secondly, it is necessary to strengthen the construction of talent team in rural areas, introduce experts to guide teaching work, conduct professional training, teach relevant theoretical knowledge, and serve rural elderly people under the guidance of professional service personnel, and grow into “professionals” through “professional guidance”.

##### 4.3.2 Broaden the training channels for elderly care service personnel

In order to promote the professional personnel training of community elderly care services in rural areas, it is necessary to broaden the training channels. In addition to the traditional college education, more opportunities can be provided for practitioners to learn and exchange through various training courses and seminars. In addition, the Internet and information technology can be used to carry out online training and distance education, so that more people can receive training conveniently and improve their professional quality.

## 5. Conclusions and Prospects

### 5.1 Research Conclusions

This paper mainly analyzes the current situation and problems of community elderly care services in rural areas, and puts forward suggestions to improve community elderly care services in rural areas. Through investigation and research, it is found that there are problems such as insufficient supply, low quality of service and insufficient training of personnel in community elderly care services in rural areas. In response to these problems, suggestions and measures were put forward to strengthen the supply of community elderly care services, improve the quality of community elderly care services and promote the training of professional talents.

### 5.2 Research Prospects

Future research can be carried out from the following aspects: in-depth investigation of the needs and expectations of the elderly in rural areas to further improve the supply of community elderly care services; Explore the integration and development of community elderly care services with other fields such as medical care and rehabilitation; And strengthen research and evaluation of community elderly care policies in rural areas to provide references for the government to formulate more scientific and effective policies.

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