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Pathways to Building Community Embedded Childcare Services: Experiences and Insights from Community-based Elderly Services

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Abstract: With the change of family structure, the demand for childcare has increased, and community embedded childcare service has obvious advantages but faces difficulties. China's community-based elderly care service has achieved remarkable results, and it is experienced in supply mode, content quality, resource integration and service innovation. Community-embedded childcare can be learnt from community elderly care, including the demand-oriented service concept, the transformation of service facilities suitable for young children, the mode of service personnel combining professionals and volunteers, the way of integrating resources by multiple main bodies, and the intelligent equipment to enhance the service level. Drawing on the experience of community-based elderly care services will help community-based embedded childcare services to resolve development dilemmas, improve service quality and achieve sustainable development.

Keywords: community-embedded childcare services; community-based elderly services; insights

1. Introduction

With China's economic development and changes in family structure, more families are facing the dual pressures of childcare and work, and the demand for childcare services is increasing day by day. However, traditional childcare institutions are deficient in terms of quantity, quality and degree of radiation. In order to strengthen the construction of an inclusive childcare service system, the Third Plenary Session of the Twentieth Central Committee proposed to support the development of a community-embedded childcare service model, the advantages of which lie in the effective integration of community resources, the low cost of time and economic costs, the promotion of economic development and the building of harmonious communities.

Since the integrated development of home, community and institutional care was proposed in 2019, community care services have achieved remarkable results. Its mature facility layout can provide reference for childcare planning sites, the staff collaboration model can help childcare to set up quality teams, and the precise grasp of demand reminds childcare services to understand the needs of young children and parents in order to achieve high-quality development, which provides a multifaceted reference for embedded childcare in the community.

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2. Strengths and Developmental Difficulties of Community-Based Embedded Child-care Services

Community-embedded childcare services, as an innovative model of childcare services, meet the needs of modern urban development. Through the integration and optimisation of resources, it provides more families with safe, high-quality, affordable and accessible community childcare services, improves the quality of life of community residents, provides support for the sustainable development of the community, and helps to alleviate the public's anxiety about childbearing, which is one of the initiatives to promote balanced population development. However, it is important not to overlook the dilemmas in its development; new things have two sides; while stressing its superiority, it is necessary to make up for its shortcomings and achieve better development in the course of exploration.

2.1. Advantages of Community Embedded Childcare Services

In reconstructing the birth guarantee system with Chinese characteristics, it is proposed that "embedded" childcare facilities should be constructed to fit the work and life scenarios of residents [1]. Community embedded childcare services aim to embed childcare services in the community, providing parents with convenient, efficient and high-quality childcare solutions. It has advantages in terms of spatial and geographical location, integration of educational resources, safety supervision and security, and social interaction. Firstly, community embedded childcare centres are generally located within the community, which greatly shortens parents' commuting time for picking up and dropping off their children. This convenience enables parents to better balance work and family, providing a better standard of living and work efficiency. For example, in first-tier cities, the time parents save on commuting can be used to spend more time with their children and take care of household chores. Children receiving childcare services in a familiar community environment can also adapt quickly to childcare life and ease the discomfort of absent parents. Secondly, community embedded childcare centres can fully integrate educational resources within the community, for example, inviting people with specific professional qualities in the community to participate in teaching activities as volunteers, so that teachers of different professions and backgrounds can provide children with more diversified and individual activities to broaden their horizons. At the same time, it is conducive to the coherence of education, community embedded childcare centres can establish close links with kindergartens or primary schools in the community to ensure the coherence of children's education, so that the transition period will be smoother for the children. Thirdly, the relatively closed and familiar environment and safe security configurations within the community provide safeguards for embedded childcare, making it easy for the organisation's staff to carry out safety management and ensuring the children's personal safety. Community residents can effectively supervise the community embedded childcare institutions and participate in the supervision process of the institutions through daily observation and feedback, prompting them to regulate their own behaviour and provide service quality. Finally, community-embedded childcare services promote interaction between families and the community. This interaction enables parents to learn from each other's childcare knowledge and experience, forming a family support network where they help each other, share resources and work together on scientific childcare, thus enhancing community cohesion.

The advantages of community-embedded childcare services indicate that they have great development potential and positive significance, and in terms of what kind of services should be realised, the author believes that they should have the following key features. In terms of spatial layout, community-embedded childcare services should focus on fully exploring and making use of all kinds of resources within the community. Through the transformation of unused space in the community, we are committed to creating a

high-quality environment that is both safe and comfortable for young children. The geographical advantage of the community should not be ignored, which is important for easing the pressure of parents' lives and improving the convenience of childcare services. In terms of teacher training, professionally qualified childcare staff is a key factor in ensuring the quality of childcare services. In view of the unique physiological and psychological characteristics of the early childhood age group, it is necessary for childcare institutions to have a team of highly professional staff with rich childcare knowledge and practical experience. Such a staff team can better understand the needs of young children and provide them with scientific, reasonable and personalised education and care, so as to promote their healthy growth and all-round development. As the core of the construction of the birth support service system, the community child care service should be transformed from a single child care service to the expansion of convenient living services, infant and toddler child care services and child care services in the community [2].

2.2. Development Dilemma of Community Embedded Child Care Services

China has been committed to building a high-quality inclusive childcare service system, and community-embedded childcare should be an important part of it, which should be developed while solving and avoiding problems such as imperfect top-level design, imbalance between supply and demand of childcare services, uneven quality of services, and gaps in human resources, etc., in the existing inclusive childcare service system [3].

Although community-based embedded child care services have yet to be piloted and implemented on a large scale, we have to pay attention to the following points in order to prepare for a rainy day in order to achieve satisfactory results in practice. Firstly, while looking forward to the renovation of community spaces suitable for the growth of young children, the source of funding is particularly crucial. The initial investment is large, including the renovation of the space and the purchase of equipment. Despite the relevant subsidy policies in some places, some child care centres may still face financial constraints. Therefore, it is impossible to rely on the Government alone, but relying on enterprises and social organisations may lead to an unstable supply of funds, which requires us to define and allocate the main body of investment funds. Secondly, tight site resources are another major problem. At present, the internal sites of the community are carefully planned and laid out, and it is more difficult to find suitable sites. Child care centres have specific requirements for sites, such as good ventilation and lighting, and the availability of outdoor space. However, sites meeting these conditions are often limited, and some community residents may be opposed to the opening of child care centres in their communities, making coordination of sites difficult. Once again, the childcare industry has a great demand for professionals, but at present, colleges and vocational schools have not yet set up special childcare-related programmes. The professionalism of existing personnel needs to be improved, and caring for infants and toddlers between the ages of 0-3 requires teachers to have stronger comprehensive skills, which makes it more difficult to recruit talents. Finally, embedded community childcare involves a number of departments and sectors, and is more complex to manage and supervise. Effective management and supervision mechanisms need to be established to ensure the standardised operation of childcare providers and to safeguard the safety and health of infants and toddlers. At present, public awareness of and trust in community-based childcare is generally low, and how to ensure the quality of services, safeguard children's safety, and give parents "peace of mind" is a common concern of the Government and all sectors of the community.

3. Initiatives and Successful Experiences of Community Elderly Services

China's community-based aged-care service policy has experienced the change course of initial exploration period, gradual shaping period, rapid development period, and quality enhancement period [4], and under the guidance of scientific and reasonable

policies, community-based aged-care services have achieved remarkable results, and various aged-care service models have been formed in each pilot area [5]. Among them, community-embedded elderly care integrates the advantages of home, community and institutional elderly care, takes the community as the carrier, embeds the elderly care function into the community, and integrates various resources such as the government and the society to provide elderly care services [6]. After the pilot test, scholars have made progress in the study of community-based elderly service practice, which is summarised in this paper as follows:

Firstly, In terms of service provision models, they are mainly divided into government-led, socially participatory and multifaceted and cooperative models. The government-led type has authority and stability through the key role played by the government in each link, but it also suffers from low service efficiency and lack of flexibility. The social participation type encourages social forces such as social organisations, private organisations and individual volunteers to participate in the provision of community services. While compensating for the lack of flexibility of the government type, it lacks a certain degree of continuity and stability, and is more specialised in comparison. Multi-party cooperation, i.e. the government, social organisations, enterprises and individuals work together to provide elderly services, each playing to their own strengths, to achieve the diversification and sustainable development of service provision. Most of the community elderly service models are a combination of government-led and social participation. The government plays a leading role in community-based elderly care services, formulating a series of relevant policies and regulations, and actively encouraging the participation of all sectors of the community. For example, tax incentives are implemented to encourage businesses and non-profit organisations to participate in the provision of community care services. At the same time, community elderly care services attract the participation of a large number of social actors, forming a good situation in which the government, enterprises, social organisations and community residents work together, the government enhances its credibility, the fulfilment of corporate social responsibility enhances its credibility, social organisations receive extensive publicity, and the residents enjoy convenience while realising their social values, so that a win-win situation is achieved for all parties.

Secondly, in terms of the content and quality of services, this is reflected in the diversification of content and the development of personalisation, with the quality yet to be upgraded. Community-based elderly care services cover a wide range of areas, including life care, medical care, rehabilitation and health care, and psychological comfort. Through regular research and mapping of the needs of the elderly, community-based elderly care organisations are able to keep abreast of the needs of the elderly and make timely adjustments to the content and mode of service. They provide personalised services for the elderly with different needs, for example, giving more warmth and care to the elderly with sensitive minds and a strong sense of loneliness; and purchasing and installing sports equipment for the elderly who like to exercise, so that they can fully enjoy a good life in their twilight years. In terms of service quality, the good and the bad are mixed, as reflected in the fact that the service standards of various communities cannot be unified and are not sufficiently standardised. The infrastructure in some communities is not well developed, resulting in the needs of the elderly not being well met. By strengthening the supervision of service quality and making continuous improvements, community elderly care services will be able to develop significantly and receive the satisfaction and favourable comments of the elderly.

Thirdly, with regard to the integration of service resources, the effective provision of community-based elderly services cannot be achieved without the full integration of resources. On the one hand, resources are integrated within the community by transforming unused places in the community into places suitable for the activities of the elderly. For example, unused factory buildings, warehouses or residential buildings can be converted into activity rooms and care centres for the elderly. The converted places not only provide

more activity space for the elderly, but also revitalise idle assets in the community and improve the efficiency of the use of community resources. On the other hand, the integration of resources among various communities and the sharing of information resources online are particularly important in the era of big data on the Internet. Build an information sharing platform using Internet technology to achieve efficient sharing and optimal allocation of elderly service resources among different communities. Sharing various initiatives online through the community to promote mutual exchange and learning can effectively avoid duplication of construction and waste of resources, and achieve the optimal allocation of elderly service resources on a wider scale. In addition, the medical, educational and commercial resources around the community are equally important, and these peripheral resources and community elderly services complement each other to create a convenient and comfortable living environment for the elderly.

Fourthly, in terms of service supply innovation, community-based elderly care services are further developing under the trend of "Internet + elderly care services". With the continuous penetration and application of such cutting-edge technologies as the Internet of Things (IoT), big data and artificial intelligence, community-based elderly care services have ushered in opportunities for development, and have been upgraded and transformed in multiple dimensions. Through IoT technology, community senior care services connect various senior care equipment and facilities to form an intelligent senior care service network, greatly improving the safety of the elderly's lives. The combination of big data and Internet technology improves the convenience of information communication and exchange in community elderly services. In addition, the Internet platform provides an information exchange channel for each participant in community elderly services. In short, in this era, community elderly services have achieved the dividends of technological updates and iterations. It not only improves the quality and efficiency of community senior care services, but also provides a better environment for the elderly to live in old age.

4. Community-Based Embedded Childcare Services for the Elderly in the Community

Community-embedded childcare services and community-based elderly care services focus on the service provision of "one old and one young", and are important initiatives to promote the high-quality and sustainable development of community services, enhance people's satisfaction and improve their standard of living. Although community-embedded childcare and community-based elderly care differ in terms of service targets, there are lessons to be learnt from them in terms of service concepts, service facilities, service personnel, resource integration and other aspects.

Firstly, in terms of service concepts, community-based elderly care services emphasise community-based care, treating the elderly as an individual with multiple needs, focusing not only on the physical health needs of the elderly, such as daily care and medical rehabilitation, but also on the psychological comfort and social participation of the elderly, and alleviating the sense of loneliness and the realisation of the value of old age through the accompaniment of volunteers and the organisation of social activities. Adhering to the concept of humanistic and humanistic care, social embedded care services should also be oriented to the physical and mental developmental needs of young children, recognising that there are individual differences between young children and the elderly, and that the provision of personalised services can effectively address the diversified service needs of parents. Understanding the physiological, psychological and cognitive developmental needs of young children at different stages of growth, and not disregarding the need to meet the individual needs of young children just because they are young, we can design scientific and reasonable programmes for parents and children. When children leave their families and enter the childcare environment, they may not be able to adapt at first and

need to be given enough love and attention. Through gentle language, affectionate attitude and patient guidance, we help them to build up a sense of security and trust in a timely and quick manner.

Secondly, in terms of service facilities, community services for the elderly pay great attention to safety and comfort, and carry out ageing-adapted reforms of community environments and service facilities for the elderly, which take full account of the characteristics of the elderly's bodily functions and their living habits, with the aim of creating for them a living environment that is both safe and comfortable. The physiological characteristics of infants and young children require that community embedded service facilities should emphasise safety and comfort, and undergo "child-friendly" renovation. For example, safety barriers and soft mats are installed in childcare centres to ensure the safety of children's activities. Elderly service centres usually set up areas with different functions, such as medical care and cultural and recreational areas, to meet the various needs of the elderly, which effectively improves the professionalism and relevance of services, and also helps to improve the quality of life and sense of well-being of the elderly. Community embedded childcare services in the spatial layout can learn from the practice of functional zoning in the community elderly services, combined with the growth characteristics of young children and educational needs, set up a sleeping area, catering area, teaching area and play activities and other functional areas, independent and interconnected to form an organic whole, so as to create a professional and functional childcare service centres, providing a comprehensive, professional and fun for young children to live and learn environment. Living and learning environment for children.

Thirdly, in terms of service personnel, the manpower of community elderly services includes professional medical and nursing personnel and non-professional volunteers. Professional medical and nursing staff should not only have solid nursing knowledge and practical skills, but also good communication skills and patience. Regular training is provided to both professional and non-professional staff, which is not limited to professional knowledge updating, service skill enhancement and professional ethics education. Community embedded child care can draw on this model by recruiting professional caregivers and child care teachers for professional care and education, who, through their professional skills and mastery of early childhood education methods, can guide young children in their learning and deal with emergencies, etc.; non-professional volunteers, who are dedicated to and experienced in child care, can be recruited to take part in simple child care work. It is also necessary to attach great importance to the training and development of the two types of child care personnel, and to enhance their educational and teaching abilities and child care standards through the provision of professional training courses, while providing them with opportunities and room for career development. It is worth noting that in the recruitment of childcare workers, emphasis should be placed on the examination of moral integrity, and the personal safety of infants and toddlers should be particularly well protected, so as not to give certain unlawful elements an opportunity to take advantage of them and to avoid the occurrence of incidents that endanger safety.

In terms of resource integration, community-embedded childcare services have first adopted the model of multiple supplying bodies for community elderly services, the core of which lies in the leading role of the government, while actively absorbing multiple bodies, such as social organisations, private organisations and individual citizens, to jointly provide services, which not only realises multi-party co-operation for mutual benefit and win-win results, but also promotes optimal allocation of resources and the formation of a strong synergy of community services. Secondly, internal community resources are integrated, making full use of the medical resources already available in the community, such as community health service centres, to provide convenient health check-ups for young children; educational resources in the community, such as kindergartens and primary schools, provide support for early childhood education; cultural and human resources are also fully mobilised, and through the organisation of rich and colourful parent-child and

community cultural exchanges, not only does it enrich the spiritual world of young children, but also provides Parents are provided with valuable learning opportunities to help them enhance their parenting concepts and skills. Once again, we actively integrate various resources between the community and the neighbourhood, and liaise with neighbouring educational institutions and children's playgrounds, so as to provide broader activity space and learning opportunities for young children, and to make the path of development of young children exciting and diversified. Finally, family participation is valued and encouraged. Community-embedded childcare is located within the community, which effectively saves parents' commuting and financial costs, and promotes a close connection between families and childcare services. Through regular return visits and communication, it enhances parents' understanding of and trust in the childcare service, and at the same time allows parents who are usually busy with their work to be more involved in their children's growth and work together to help their children's all-round development.

In terms of intelligent service provision, community embedded childcare and community elderly care services have been significantly upgraded with the support of intelligent devices. Community embedded childcare services should seize the opportunity to introduce health detection, such as through smart bracelets or smart thermometers and other devices, to accurately obtain the temperature, heart rate, sleep quality and other data of infants and young children, in order to provide a strong basis for the timely discovery of infants and young children's possible health problems; safety and security, for example, smart cameras can comprehensively cover all corners of the childcare premises, and parents can, through the mobile phone apps At the same time, the intelligent access control system can strictly control the entry and exit of personnel to ensure that only authorised personnel can enter the childcare area, avoiding potential security risks brought by unrelated personnel; education and interaction, such as intelligent early learning machines can provide appropriate music, stories, games and other content according to the age and developmental stage of infants and young children to stimulate their interest in learning and curiosity. Machine. In safeguarding the safety of infants and toddlers at the same time to meet the expectations and requirements of parents on the quality of childcare services. This intelligent service model will strongly enhance the overall quality of community embedded childcare services, make them stand out in the market competition, and provide a better environment and conditions for the healthy growth and all-round development of infants and toddlers.

5. Conclusion

As an important way to meet family childcare needs, this paper provides ideas for the development of community-embedded childcare services by analysing their advantages and dilemmas, and drawing on the practices and experiences of community-based elderly care services. Although community-embedded childcare services have the potential for development, they need to solve the problems of funding, venues, talents and supervision. The initiatives and successful experiences of community-based elderly care services provide insights, including service concepts, service facilities, service personnel, resource integration and intelligent services. In the future development of community-based embedded child care services, it is necessary to fully absorb these experiences and continuously improve itself, so as to meet the needs of families for child care, promote the high-quality and sustainable development of community services, and provide infants and toddlers with a high-quality environment for growth.

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