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The Social and Cultural Factors for Institution-Care Pension in Urban China, With Chengdu City as an Example

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Abstract

Objective: Institution-care pension become an common choice. **Background:** With the development of economy, urbanization, and cultural diversification, the graying of Chinese society, is markedly increasing, during transitional period. **Method:** Using binary logistic regression, this paper analyzes the form, social and cultural factors, and influence mechanisms of institution-care pension, using Chengdu City as a case. **Conclusion:** Habit differences of old people and adult and worrying about being discriminated against are significant to institution-care pension of the old. Furthermore, considerate pension service, family members are not around, and reducing family conflicts might also affect the institution-care pension. Among them, habit differences of old people and adult have the most significant effect. **Application:** The institution-care pension in China is critical to the social well-being of senior citizens and the sustainable development of society, as well as to the formulation of related government policies.

Key words: Pension model; Institution-care pension; Family structure; Intergenerational relations

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INTRODUCTION

A country's extensively aging population affects relations between generations, including those involving economic and emotional support (Attias-Donfut et al., 2005). In China today, rapid urbanization and improvements in living standards are the driving forces of institution-care pension (Wang & Zhang, 2014). The institution-care pension is one of the adjustment processes of consumption patterns for elderly people, and it will change the structure of social space in a city (Wang et al., 2016).

The model of "raising" and "supporting" is pursued in the traditional Chinese context. The older generations desire to be taken care of by their adult and to take responsibility for raising grandadult. Residents' family structures have changed dramatically, due to trends toward population aging and smaller families, and the nonlocalized development of occupations during the transition period, which provide the backdrop for the weakening of the function of family support. Hence, the problem of providing support has become a serious one (Dong & Ding, 2009).

In the transformation period, Western cultural values spread and gained recognition among urban senior citizens. The impact of China's traditional cultural values is intrinsic, whereupon, the choice of pension models in urban China is complex. Under the twin effects of traditional culture and modern culture, institution-care pension gains recognition from the elderly gradually. Institution-care pension mean that senior citizens support their retirement via retirement organizations, such as welfare housing, nursing homes, and senior citizen centers. Compared with the pension models in Western countries, ties between parents and adult are more intimate (Lee & Xiao, 1998).

Hence, it is necessary to explore the selection of institution-care pension for urban senior citizens in the midwestern cities of China, from the viewpoint of traditional Chinese customs and culture. In addition, this

paper discusses the social and cultural factors that pertain to the institution-care pension.

1. METHOD

1.1 Sample and Study Setting

The main metropolitan areas of Chengdu City—Qinyang District, Jinjiang District, Jinniu District, Chenghua District, and Wuhou District—were selected for study. For this study, it was decided that the interview participants should meet the following conditions: first, they should be 60 to 90 years of age; second, they should live in a nursing home of Chengdu; and third, their adult should be married.

1.2 Data Collection

Data were collected in four massive, in-depth sets of interviews and questionnaire surveys in Chengdu, for the periods September to October 2016. Finally, we acquired 1,226 copies, effective response samples accounted for effective rate of 91.3%.

1.3 Reliability Analysis

The consistency, stability, and reliability of the test data were measured via a split-half reliability coefficient and Cronbach's alpha coefficient. The split-half reliability coefficients were better than 0.5, which means high reliability. Meanwhile, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient was better than 0.7, which shows that the questionnaire data are of adequate quality, and can be adopted.

2. RESULTS

2.1 Institution-Care Pension Becomes an Effective Auxiliary

Institution-care pension acts as an important component of the pension model in Chengdu. Currently, the main institutions for the aged are nursing homes, welfare housing, elderly leisure centers, elderly health centers, and elderly care centers, most of which are scattered in the Qinyang District, Jinjiang District, and Wuhou District; their cost is between 500 and 3,000 yuan per month (Figure 1).

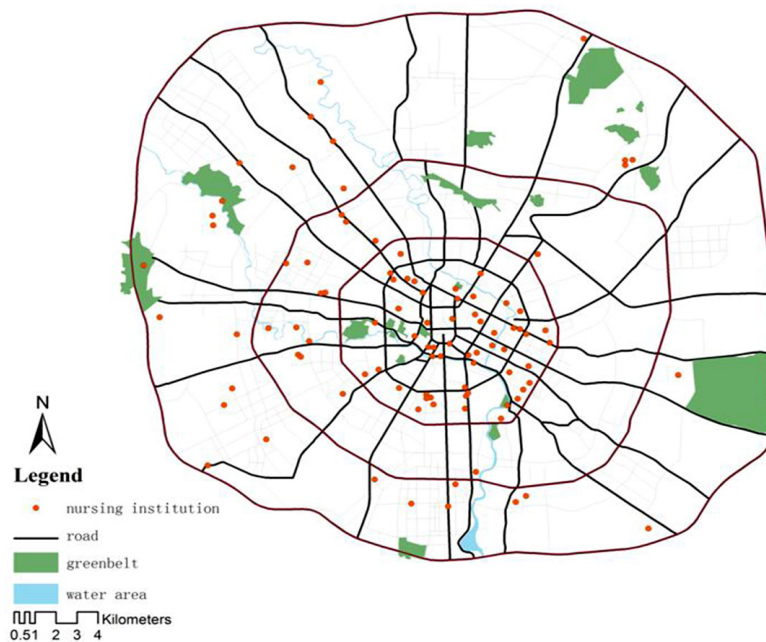


Figure 1
Spatial Distribution of Nursing Institutions

2.2 Social and Cultural Factors for the Institution-Care Pension Model

Under the condition of controlling for other variables, the social and cultural factors of the institution-care pension model were analyzed using binary logistic regression. The correct prediction ratio of the model is 89.1%, and the whole significance is 0.000, which indicates that the model is significant. The results are given in Table 1.

(a) Habit differences of old people and adult as a positive influence on the institution-care pension model

choice, and the Sig. value is 0.002, which means it is significant at the 1% level.

(b) Worrying about being discriminated against has a positive influence, and the Sig. value is 0.047, which means it is significant at the 5% level.

(c) Considerate pension service, family members are not around, and reducing family conflicts have a positive influence on institution-care pension model choice, and Sig. values are 0.059, 0.085 and 0.091, respectively, which means they are significant at the 10% level.

Table 1
Socio-Cultural Factors to Institution-Care Pension

Variable	B	S.E.	Wals	df	Sig.	Exp (B)
Habit differences from adult	0.513	0.221	5.376	1	0.002***	1.67
Worrying about being discriminated against	0.154	0.215	0.518	1	0.047**	1.167
Considerate pension service	0.115	0.216	0.283	1	0.059*	1.121
Family members are not around	0.039	0.218	0.031	1	0.085*	1.039
Accessible communication between the elderly	16.201	36.564	0	1	0.1	108.657
Reducing family conflicts	0.022	0.198	0.012	1	0.091*	1.022
Constant	0.658	0.014	2.168	1	0.004***	0.518

Note. Cox & Snell $R^2 = 0.177$; Nagelkerke $R^2 = 0.335$; $-2 \log$ likelihood = 35.734. * indicates Sig. (bilateral) has influence at the 10% significance level, ** indicates Sig. (bilateral) has influence at the 5% significance level, *** indicates Sig. (bilateral) has influence at the 1% significance level, B coefficient, S.E. is standard error, df is degrees of freedom, Exp (B) is confidence interval.

DISCUSSION

The pension choice is the result of multiple social and cultural factors coupling. Their influence mechanisms are discussed as follows.

In the absence of emotional support, the institution-care pension has become the best choice for the elderly (Settergren & Mikula, 2005; Wang et al., 2015; Shideed et al., 2013). The current status of Institution-care pension in Chengdu City confirmed this idea, once again.

In view of habit differences from adult, elderly couples worry about being discriminated against, or even becoming the cause of family conflicts, so they prefer Institution-care pension. Lifestyle differences between elderly people and adult show up in daily routines, such as health habits, housekeeping habits, and eating habits. In the absence of independent housing, due to the weakening of the body functions and inconsistent living habits with young people, an elderly man would choose pension institutions. An elderly man in Qingyang Road said that “eating habits differ greatly among people of different ages; we feel uncomfortable to live together with adult, there is a generation gap, so living together is in trouble.”

Meanwhile, because complete service is the advantage of a pension agency, a small proportion of senior citizens will choose Institution-care pension, because of the relatively comprehensive, professional service (Pedrazzi et al., 2010).

In addition, an elderly person with only one child will be more willing to choose an institution-care pension. According to the traditional Chinese concept, a married daughter should move into her husband’s house and join his family. In this way, an elderly couple who have only daughter are condemned to live alone. An elderly man in Chengdu City Park in the eastern suburbs said that “our daughter married for three years, they have a baby and parents-in-law, we do not want to disturb her life, nursing home is very comfortable and convenient.” Studies have also found that living with the married daughter has

become the only choice for some elderly residents, in some cases (Davis, 1991; Ikels, 1993).

However, Wang Yuesheng’s conclusion shows that the vast majority of Chinese parents are willing to live with their adult, but adult may not be willing to live with their parents (Wang, 2006), and this finding has also been confirmed by Fei Xiaotong (Fei & Liu, 2011). Hence, elderly parents will choose to go into an institution after their only child gets married.

CONCLUSION

Habit differences of old people and adult and worrying about being discriminated against are significant to institution-care pension of the old. Furthermore, considerate pension service, family members are not around, and reducing family conflicts might also affect the institution-care pension. Among them, Habit differences of old people and adult have the most significant effect.

This preliminary research effort is one of the first empirical studies of the social and cultural factors for institution-care pension in urban China. Although it is subject to some limitations, this paper provides the basis for future studies and supports existing studies regarding the factors for institution-care pension of elderly people.

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