Analysis on Social Security Problems and Countermeasures of the Disabled in China

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Abstract. With the development of economy and society, the social security system of disabled people in China gains a continuous perfection and development. This paper analyzes the current situation of social security for the disabled, puts forward the problems in this field, and discusses the countermeasures to improve the social security of disabled persons in order to better protect the legitimate interest of them.

Introduction
The disabled in China shows features such as large in number, high in aging level, low quality and poor living. Since the reform and opening-up, the social security system of disabled people in China has been gradually established and improved, but it still cannot meet the social security demands of the disabled. The growth of social security for the disabled is lagging behind the pace of economic growth. On the basis of previous research, this paper further analyzes the problems of social security for the disabled and explores the countermeasures to improve the social security of the disabled from the perspective of different subjects.

According to the total population of China in the sixth national census and the proportion of people with disabilities in the Second China National Sample Survey on Disability, the total number of disabled people in China at the end of 2010 is estimated to be 85.22 million. [1] As a large-scale social vulnerable group, if not properly taken care of, it is bound to restrict the development of economy, affect social stability, and block the development of society. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the social security system for the disabled, so that people with disabilities can share the fruits of development and participate in building a harmonious society.

Problems of Social Security for the Disabled

The Legal System and Supervision Mechanism is Imperfect
In 1990, China’s first law on protecting the legitimate rights and interests of disabled persons, People with Disabilities Act of the Peoples Republic of China, was enacted, which only clarified the government's responsibilities in safeguarding the rights and interests and developing undertakings for disabled persons. It has also provided guidance in principle and direction for dispensing social welfare and equitable social environment for disabled persons. It is difficult to implement social security policies concerning medical treatment, education and employment of disabled persons because of the lack of efficient and sound legal system. In addition, most of these legal provisions are still purely left on the theoretical shelf, such as moral restraint, social supervision and so on. At the same time, due to the lack of effective supervision mechanism, corruption and peculation are common at the primary level.

Unbalanced Development between Urban and Rural Areas
The sample survey of the disabled shows that the proportion of disabled persons in rural areas is much higher than that of urban. [2] With the acceleration of urban - rural integration, the gap
between urban and rural areas has gradually narrowed. But for various reasons, the living standard and social security level of the disabled between urban and rural areas still have a great gap. Social security in rural areas is nonstandard and immethodical, and the implementation of policy lags behind the city obviously. On the other hand, because of the unbalanced development of regional economy, the social security of the disabled in the western area is relatively laggard, and the social insurance coverage is also at a disadvantage. In summary, the construction of social security of the disabled is not in step with the development of society, and cannot meet the demands of the disabled.

**Strong Government but Less Social Power**

In the self-sufficient natural economy, the family is the main production unit, and the support of the disabled is mainly borne by the family. With the development of economy and improvement of social civilization, the government has strengthened the protection of the disabled and has gradually established the social security system for the disabled through the formulation of relevant laws and policies. And the government’s intervention has played a fundamental role in protecting the lives of the disabled. However, with the enhancement of individual consciousness and the growth of service demand such as education, medical treatment, employment and other aspects, security services that the government provided have been unable to meet the increasingly diverse needs of the disabled. According to the survey, the medical and cultural facilities in many communities (village committees and neighborhood committees) did not give priority to services for the disabled. In a word, the social participation in the protection of the rights and interests of the disabled is still poor.

**Measures to Improve Social Security of Disabled Persons**

“We must be soberly aware that the basic undertakings for disabled people in China are still relatively weak, and the social security measures for them are not perfect. There are still many difficulties for disabled people in aspects of basic living, medical treatment, rehabilitation, education, employment and social participation. Besides, the living conditions of the disabled are generally worse than those of ordinary people.”[3] Therefore, in order to improve the social security for the disabled, we must achieve the common participation of the community and make the transition from “family - state responsibility” to “family - state - social responsibility”.[4]

**Defining the Dominant Responsibility of the Government**

Disabled people are the cost of human civilization. According to the public management theory, the government is the core of the public sector which utilizes the social resources, widely uses political, legal, economic and other methods to strengthen the government’s ability of governance, and then improve the government’s performance and service quality. The disabled is considered to be the market failure and external economy. It can’t protect their rights and interests only by the social self-awareness and the economy behavior. Therefore it is necessary for the government to step in and take the lead, so as to achieve the social equity and justice including disabled persons. [5] The government plays the role of the last line of defense in the social security of disabled persons. In order to promote programs for the disabled, it is important to define the government’s specific responsibilities first and make the government play the main role in the law, policy and finance.

**Improve the Legal System**

Legislation is the fundamental guarantee for the standardization of social security system. The government should build up a complete legal system in the field of social security for persons with disabilities, which will cover all aspects of rehabilitation, education, medical treatment, employment, old-age care and so on. Firstly, adjust measures to local conditions and keep pace with the times in policy making, take full account of the differences between the types of disability and make the social security of disabled people more consistent with people - oriented concept. Secondly, establish and improve supervision mechanism and standardized management. The social security departments, disabled persons' federation (DPF) should define the scope and objects of
social security, and regulate the capital source, capture expends rate, distribution, management supervision and so on, so that the operation of the security system will become more perfect. Gradually establish and perfect the legislation system of disabled people in our country, which will guarantee the seriousness and authority of the security system, and reduce the randomness of security for the disabled in the end. Thirdly, raise more financial input, and support the development of various causes of disabled people. At the same time, it should arouse the enthusiasm of social public to donate, for example, the establishment of special funds for rehabilitation of disabled persons, in which the government simply need to undertake certain regulatory responsibilities.

**Play the Role of Non-Profit Organizations**

Non-profit organizations are non-governmental social organizations which are engaged in voluntary and nonprofit activities and not for the purpose of profit. As time goes on, security services the government provided have been unable to meet the increasingly diverse needs of the disabled. It shows that the government is not omnipotent, and it is impracticable to simply depend on the government’s efforts to solve so many social problems. However, as the third sector which is different from government departments (public sector) and enterprises (private sector), the non-profit organization adapts to the development of modern society and provides a new way to deal with the multiple and complex social problems. Therefore, it is necessary to relax restrictions on non-profit organizations, reduce the barriers to entry, and encourage non-profit organizations to enter the social security of the disabled. At the same time, the government provides support from the ideology, policy, financial and human resources, plays a regulatory role and not to over-intervene in the daily work of non-profit organizations.[6] And then create a good social environment, and help steer resources toward the social security for the disabled.

**Conclusions**

In conclusion, we ought to improve the legal system of social security of the disabled as soon as possible, and safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of them by legal setting. We should clarify the responsibilities of various social subjects and mobilize all social resources actively, in order to form the situation of “government-led, social forces to participate in”. At the same time, we should narrow the gap between urban and rural areas and among regions, and gradually improve the welfare of the disabled, so that people with disabilities can better integrate into the society, share the fruits of development and participate in building a harmonious society.

**References**