Sociological Analysis of the Current Situation of Disabled Children's Families

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Abstract. Taking X Town, Linqu County, Weifang City, Shandong Province as an example, this thesis investigates and analyzes the difficulties in economy, care and rehabilitation faced by disabled children’s families. This thesis uses the methods of case interview and literature research. It finds that the finance, guidance and education needs of disabled children’s families. From the perspective of formal and informal, this thesis analyses the countermeasures of social support, gives full play to all sectors of society, increases social understanding of disabled children’s families, reduces discrimination and prejudice against disabled children, and aims at helping disabled children’s families.

Research Background

Disabled children are the vulnerable groups in China's vulnerable groups. On the one hand, due to their young age and poor physical and psychological development, children are the groups that the society focuses on and protects. The development of children plays a crucial role in the progress of the whole country and society. On the other hand, compared with normal children in society, disabled children are more vulnerable to economic, physical and psychological abuse and destruction. Most of these disabled children are supported by their families. However, as an informal organization, the family fully assumes the responsibility of raising disabled children, the family is unable to raise and cultivate disabled children, and it will exert great pressure on the family development of disabled children, further hindering the progress of the whole society. The family is the basic unit that the disabled children depend on to live, can make the disabled children get the physical and mental health development, therefore, helps the disabled children family to get out of the predicament, establishes the perfect pluralistic social support system, can better protect the rights and interests of the disabled children, makes them get the better development. Since China's reform and opening up 30 years ago, the social structure and social system have undergone rapid changes and development. However, the social support system for disabled children started late and there are still many problems. Therefore, in order to ease the heavy burden on families of disabled children, we can start from the perspective of diverse social support.

Research Significance

It can not only protect the rights and interests of disabled children, but also improve their family living standards and social participation. The research on the multiple social support of disabled children's families can alleviate or solve the life difficulties of disabled children and their families in a short time, and provide a good environment for the healthy development of disabled children. Conducive to social equity and equitable development. Society for the disabled children family life status and the increase of demand attention, can promote the government and related departments
for disabled children related policy and strategy formulation and implementation, perfect the family social support system for disabled children, promote the fair distribution of social resources, improve the family safeguard function for disabled children, realize social harmonious and healthy development.

The Plight of Families of Disabled Children

The Economic Difficulties

In terms of economic expenditure, disabled children are significantly higher than ordinary children. Diseases and disabilities of disabled children are difficult to cure, so the expenditure on medical treatment often causes a huge impact on the family and brings a heavy economic burden. When the parents found that children with disabilities, most seek treatment for their children, hope children as normal children grow up, the process is, however, it takes great manpower and material resources, time, as a result, economic conditions of low-income families will become more financially for the treatment of disabled children rehabilitation, causing the deterioration of the whole family life quality seriously.

Family members with disabled children have fewer job opportunities and lower family incomes. Family support and care of the disabled children as an important system of informal, relatives of the disabled children to care for disabled children, care, training plays a very important role, because the vast majority of life can not or cannot provide for oneself completely disabled children must be taken care of by their relatives, for a long period of time of all and escort, and disabled children parents expectations of children is higher, so will spend a larger effort on them, expect children recover normal study life, so a lot of relatives for disabled children, most of it is one of the women will take care of disabled children full-time role, the choice of it will undoubtedly reduce the income source of the family and increase the economic pressure on the family.

Care Difficulties

In terms of care, disabled children often need more care and companionship than ordinary children. Most parents sacrifice almost all of their working and playing time to take care of their disabled children for the sake of their children's growth. This is not a short process, which may be decades or even a lifetime. Therefore, parents of disabled children face not only the financial pressure of raising their children, but also the mental and psychological double burden. Among the 10 respondents, only the in-laws of two families were young and in good health, who could help the parents of disabled children to look after their children. The parents of disabled children went out to work to support the family life. Other families do not have in-laws to help, but by the father or mother at home full-time to take care of the children, the financial burden of the family all on the other parents, the pressure is huge. In the interview, it was found that when parents of disabled children talked about their children, most of them were willing to talk to the interviewer. However, when parents of disabled children were asked if they would talk to their relatives and friends to relieve their pressure when they felt depressed, they were reluctant to talk to outsiders. Some parents of disabled children are afraid that their children will be discriminated against and treated badly by others. In order to protect disabled children, they are reluctant to let them contact with other people. At the same time, the child's disability causes a sense of inferiority to the parents when they communicate with others, and when they encounter difficulties, they try to find a way to solve them by themselves. As a result, the communication circle of the family is constantly narrowed, and the channels for seeking outside help are also constantly reduced. This makes parents have no place to vent their inner pressure and can only bear it silently, causing extremely adverse effects on their body and mind. In addition, most parents of disabled children have raised their concerns about their children’s future work and life. Although their children are disabled, all parents want to let their children learn a skill or technology through education, so as to cultivate their children into useful people. It is hoped that the society can have more institutions and schools
suitable for the rehabilitation of disabled children, so that their children can get the maximum degree of rehabilitation. Parents are worried about the future life of the disabled children, which has deeply tormented their hearts.

**Rehabilitation Difficulties**

Parents of disabled children disabled children were found after the fact, most parents choose to disabled children for treatment, but the effect of rehabilitation have very big difference, there are many reasons for the differences in the results, which is very important point is that the parents did not find a child's disability, timely children some different with other children's behavior and performance, parents thought it was only child is developing slowly, without realizing abnormality was the real reason for disabled children. In the final analysis, parents' awareness of prevention is not strong enough, and they lack the understanding and understanding of relevant aspects.

In addition, China's prevention and discovery mechanism for disabled children is not perfect, and the knowledge publicity of disability prevention is not enough. Most parents said they never thought their children would have a disability, and they did not know about the disability and the type, nature and characteristics of the disability before, let alone discover the symptoms of the child's disability. This lack of disability-related knowledge prevents parents from finding abnormalities in their children in time, leading to missed optimal treatment times.

In rehabilitation treatment for disabled children, the parents is also a lack of relevant information and channel, because our country lacks the corresponding special rehabilitation system for disabled children, the parents to the child's nowhere to undergo treatment, it is because of no blind, more prone to search ask around the phenomenon of disease, grasping, lead to the situation of the disabled children is not only better, also spent a lot of money but aggravating illness, cause the condition of the disabled children into irreparable consequences.

**Analysis of Social Support Needs of Families with Children with Disabilities**

**Economic Support**

Top of the list of family needs for disabled children is economic needs. First of all, the daily life of disabled children cannot be separated from daily care and medical services, which require the family to pay for. In the family living expenses of disabled children, the daily care and raising of disabled children account for a large proportion, which increases the financial burden of parents of disabled children. In real life, in order to take care of disabled children, their parents have to quit their jobs or take part-time activities, which greatly affects their family's source of income. At the same time, the financial burden will also reduce their family's quality of life and their daily work efficiency.

In addition, medical services and special education services are an essential part of the self-development of disabled children, but the corresponding services will result in their families’ continuous expenditure, resulting in their greater need for financial support. Rehabilitation for various diseases is costly and greatly aggravates the family's daily expenses. According to relevant data, the annual medical expenses of an average autistic child reach 23,000 yuan, 20,000 yuan more than the average family of children of the same age. For another example, the books that blind children learn need special techniques and materials, which leads to the fact that their expenditure on education is dozens of times higher than that of normal teaching materials for the same age students. Therefore, the daily survival and development of families with disabled children pose a greater demand challenge to their economic capacity.

**Training and Guidance for Parents of Disabled Children**

Because parents have different understandings and views on the characteristics of disabled children, the families of disabled children have different views on the quality of life, especially the different
needs for various services. For parents, they need to master the necessary knowledge and skills to solve the various difficulties faced by disabled children in their life development. For children with disabilities, they have different needs for hospitals and schools.

In the interview, the parents of 10 children all indicated that they had not received systematic training, and they could only achieve the education and training of disabled children through their own exploration, which led to the urgent need of parents for special guidance. If parents cannot interact with children with intellectual or mental disabilities, where does rehabilitation begin? The aggressive behavior of children with disabilities is an expression of their inner emotions and needs. If the parents can’t deal with it, it will lead to the estrangement between the parents and the children. Therefore, it is urgent to provide parents with guidance on children with disabilities through professional medical staff.

**Therapeutic Interventions and Educational Training for Disabled Children**

In addition to basic medical services, rehabilitation services are essential to the lives of disabled children, since medical and rehabilitation activities are essential to the recovery of disabled children. Respondents C said: "our family has never been a mental disability, where I know she would be so, we started only she is introverted, quiet, the more grow up only to find that children with normal children, this just take her to the hospital for examination, but the doctor said, found too late, has been transformed into mental disability."

According to the survey, the best recovery period for children with disabilities is from 0 to 6 years old. If emergency treatment is carried out during this stage of development, significant progress will be made. This will not only reduce the degree of disability of disabled children, reduce the incidence of complications, but also create favorable conditions for their future progress, help them to give full play to their life value and potential, and reduce the burden on the family. If children with low intelligence can be detected early, timely and effective treatment and intervention can help them develop their intelligence, prevent their intelligence from developing further, and reduce the obstacles they encounter in life.

According to the regulations on education for disabled persons, disabled children are equal to normal children and require the training of compulsory education. However, different from the regulations, children with disabilities in reality also need to participate in personalized special education, and different disability characteristics will arrange them into different educational facilities and curriculum. Interviewee B said, what is taught in the special education school is not suitable for our child, and she cannot keep up with the ordinary children. We want her to learn some special skills that are suitable for her." The training of disabled children should include both life skill training and job skill training.

Long-term life skills training not only enables them to live independently, but also makes them full of confidence in life, reducing their dependence on their parents; Long-term job skills training not only helps them improve their ability to work, but also provides them with employment opportunities, thus reducing the burden on their families. Therefore, to meet the educational needs of disabled children, will enable them to achieve independence in life.

**Social Support Strategies for Families of Disabled Children**

**Formal Social Support**

The government should play a major role in the social welfare of disabled children. In 2011, the implementation plan of "colorful dream action plan" for rehabilitation and relief of disabled children was formulated, which helped a large number of impoverished disabled children in both urban and rural areas. The plan clearly indicated that priority should be given to subsidize impoverished disabled children from low-income families in urban and rural areas. Therefore, the
government should increase investment, strive to improve the social security level of disabled children, and expand the coverage of social security for disabled children is the primary measure to meet the needs of disabled children's families. The state and society should establish the social security system in accordance with relevant laws. The improvement of the social security level is not only conducive to the survival and development of disabled children and their families, but also conducive to the construction of a harmonious and stable society in China. Therefore, poor disabled children should receive subsidies above the subsistence allowance, and local governments should do something, such as ensuring full coverage of child disability CARDS.

Special group of children should be placed on the top of the social security, the special protection of disabled children in the process of perfecting the social security in the country is lack of, also want to enlarge the coverage of social welfare, intensify the crippled child to perfect the social security, increase the funds for basic services needed for the children in the investment and the protection of the disabled children's welfare policy. Not only "preferential benefits", but also "preferential benefits" should be added appropriately. In the rehabilitation medical services, the government should increase the funds for the medical equipment needed by disabled children. In the education of disabled children, the education bureau must continue to implement the "two exemption and one subsidy" treatment, but also should do to increase the investment in the education of disabled children. In the above aspects, although the family highly affirmed the government's support from the economic aspect, the parents expressed that the lack of policies was their biggest concern and they hoped to get further support from the government.

The biased compensation mechanism plays an important role in meeting the stable survival and development needs of disabled children and their families, so the preferential policies for special children should be supported and understood by the public. The agency provides great support to disabled children and their parents. Institution teachers rehabilitate every disabled child on an equal footing by using their knowledge of social work or the psychology profession. At the same time, for parents to open training courses to close the distance between parents and children. And by providing support to parents, to create a harmonious and warm family environment for the healthy development of children. The parents highly supported and praised the support of the institution and the training philosophy of the institution. However, the following aspects of the support of the institution still need to be improved: first, the increase of government subsidies.

Nowadays, most of the funds of the institution come from social donations, resulting in the shortage of funds, which is far from being able to solve the supply and demand. The second is to expand the team building of the institution personnel. Nowadays, the institution and the staff are in short supply and cannot meet the needs of the families of disabled children, resulting in the limited support provided by the institution to the families of disabled children. School support mainly refers to the school's acceptance of disabled children, disabled children can enter the school to receive education as equal as other normal children.

Normally, many mildly disabled children can be fully self-reliant and enter the school for education. Some moderately disabled children can go to school and receive education with the help of their parents and the society, while severely disabled children can hardly enter the school and receive education. Especially in rural areas, due to the lack of teaching resources, resulting in poor teaching quality. In the period of preschool education, many kindergartens refuse to accept disabled children, and even if they do, there will be some discrimination. The support of the hospital is mainly to provide programs and Suggestions for the rehabilitation and disease diagnosis of disabled children. The hospital should be encouraged to organize itself to provide certain preferential treatment for impoverished disabled children and even provide them with free rehabilitation treatment.
Informal Social Support

Support within the family, including material and spiritual support, refers to the male members of the family are responsible for the work to provide financial support for the family, while female members are responsible for the daily life and rehabilitation of disabled children at home. At the same time, mutual spiritual support among family members is an important pillar of family support. According to the survey, in addition to the economy is less than most parents living at the same time, another key: most parents are proposed which itself does not have enough time and energy to take care of the disabled children, because it is now a disabled children all aspects of daily life cannot leave the accompanied by a parent carry-on, for every parent has a great influence on daily work. Although some grandparents assume the responsibility of taking care of the disabled children, which can relieve some of the living burden of the parents of the disabled children, once the elderly fail to take care of the children, the whole responsibility of taking care of the children will fall on the parents, which will lead to the greatest pressure on the parents in the family.

In such a high pressure environment, conflicts and frictions are inevitable, resulting in economic burdens and psychological pressures, and various conflicts emerge in endlessly. It is an effective way to encourage social workers to intervene in the family and help family members achieve communication and understanding by means of family therapy. They can teach families with disabled children how to resolve family conflicts, so as to give full play to the family's support function. In a harmonious and stable social environment, neighborhood relations will be more harmonious. In most cases, families with children with disabilities encounter.

In times of economic crisis, community neighbors can not only provide material help, but also help them take care of their disabled children. Most importantly, they can communicate with their parents to calm their emotions and provide moral support. Parents of disabled children are most empathetic to each other. In their daily care for disabled children, they have experienced the same experience and had the same confusion. In their treatment, they will form unique insights and successful experiences. However, due to the lack of organized induction and call, the support role of this group cannot be fully played. Therefore, it is urgent to establish a mutual aid network for families of disabled children.

Conclusion

Children with disabilities should be social focus on a group, as children's main activity areas - family, bear the most responsibility of raising and taking care of disabled children, disabled children and families tend to be in such aspects as economy, care and rehabilitation for disabled children face great pressure, need perfect social support system to support.

Families with disabled children are faced with huge economic expenditure, heavy burden of rehabilitation costs and physical and mental pressure of caregivers, which seriously hinder the development of the family and further threaten the harmonious development of the society.

Based on the analysis to the disabled children family, fully understand the household demand for disabled children, including economic, service, rehabilitation education requirements, and by establishing a perfect social support system to provide family help for disabled children, including formal social support of the government, institutions, schools and hospitals, as well as informal social support of family, community, neighborhood, mutual aid network.

Only by establishing a comprehensive family protection system for disabled children supported by a diversified society, can the whole society pay attention to the rights and interests of disabled children, care for disabled children, support disabled children's families, safeguard social fairness and justice, and promote the harmonious development of society.
References


