

Social assistance dilemma for rural disabled people based on social exclusion theory

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Abstract: With the development of our economy, China has now entered an all-round well-off society and has basically achieved total poverty eradication, and the level and level of various social security systems have been greatly developed. As a very special group of people with disabilities, rural people with disabilities have become one of the main groups we focus on for social assistance. However, due to the specificity of their location and their own characteristics, rural people with disabilities have a series of difficulties in receiving social assistance. Based on the theory of social exclusion, this paper will analyses how people with disabilities in rural areas are excluded from social assistance, and make corresponding policy recommendations.

Keywords: Social assistance dilemma; Social exclusion theory; Rural disabled.

1. Introduction

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With the rapid development of economy and society in recent years, China has basically entered a well-off society and made remarkable achievements in the eradication of poverty. The 20th report pointed out that we should comprehensively promote rural revitalization and promote people's livelihood development. Among them, the rural disabled, as a vulnerable marginal group in rural society, have a large and significant population, which has attracted wide attention from the society. Therefore, assistance for the disabled should be focused on the rural areas, and solving the problem of assistance for the disabled in the rural areas is a necessary condition for rural revitalization.

China's current social policy for the disabled includes way more kinds of social assistance, from out the minimum of life to provide the disabled with special medical treatment, education, and employment assistance, and strive to do their best to give its help, rescue level and efficiency also gradually improve, letting a large number of disabled people get more effective help.

But rural disabled as a very special part of the disabled group, compared with urban areas, the region, environment, and its own characteristics, the rural level of social assistance for the disabled is low, the gap is bigger, and the ability to get resources in daily life is very limited, increasing the difficulty of this group's normal life. Overall, the existing social assistance service system has a number of issues that make it difficult to meet the needs of rural disabled people. Because the policy and demand sides do not match, it is difficult to achieve accurate support, and the plight of social assistance causes certain obstacles and exclusion.

This paper will use the framework of social exclusion theory and combine the unique characteristics of the disabled to analyze the phenomenon of "exclusion" of social assistance for the disabled in rural areas, and put forward targeted suggestions on the shortcomings of the existing social assistance policies, so as to contribute to the future development and assistance of the disabled in rural areas.

2. literature review

2.1. Living Status of The Disabled In rural areas

There is a large population of disabled people in the rural areas of China. According to relevant statistics, the total number of disabled people in China was 85.02 million at the end of 2010. Among them, 75 percent of the total number of disabled people live in rural areas. And can be seen from the research of existing scholars, most of the rural disabled families are poor compared with other poor populations. On the one hand, poor professional skills, a single income source, low income level, long medical expenses, medical expenses, by imbalance, make ends meet. On the other hand, physical disability, besides being an inconvenience to the disabled, more deeply hits the confidence and faith of the disabled, making the disabled suffer from physical and psychological double torture.

In addition, the disabled in rural areas are also excluded by ideas, education, employment, and other aspects, and the reasons for their exclusion are summarized into three aspects: self-responsibility, generation of social structure, and creation of social policies (Zhou Linang, 2003). Some scholars, based on the background of the current COVID-19, analyzed the difficulties faced by rural disabled people, such as individual health, social support, family support, and unemployment, having been separated from the rural society before the epidemic, and provided new ideas for the assistance provided to rural disabled people under regular prevention and control (Xiangyuan, 2022). Assistance for the disabled in rural areas

The domestic research on the social security system for the disabled has gradually deepened, and some achievements have been made, but there are still many problems.

At present, China implements social assistance models for the disabled that mainly include medical intervention assistance, social participation assistance, and labor assistance. (WenWen, 2018) Chinese scholars research basically includes the children, the elderly, and the disabled as the objects of social assistance research, but for the study of rural social assistance for the disabled, there still exists a large number of blanks, for the rural disabled social assistance system faces such problems as system construction lag, lack

of diversity, narrow surface relief, and many other problems (Zou Xin, 2016).

Xu Lin, Cheng Kai, Song Baoan, and other scholars mainly discussed and studied the urban disabled, and did not study the rural disabled specifically. Li Jia, Zhang Yumeng all chose to study the urban social assistance for the disabled, almost involving the rural disabled; Wang Luhang explained the existing rural social assistance policies from the perspective of fairness.

2.2. Research prospect

China's current rural disabled assistance policy is not perfect enough, for part of the rural disabled groups help little, and due to the fact that relief does not reach the designated position, it may produce the opposite effect. This paper will be based on the theory of social exclusion, and the analysis due to the defects of social assistance and the influence of rural disabled groups on the current relief policy will put forward targeted modification countermeasures and suggestions to improve the yield and happiness of the rural disabled group.

3. Analysis of Social Exclusion for the Disabled in rural areas

3.1. Theoretical background: Social exclusion theory

Since the 1950s and 1960s, Europe began to use the concept of "social exclusion" to study the new problem of poverty, focusing more on analyzing the causes and processes of poverty from the broad socioeconomic, political, and institutional environments. The concept of social exclusion was first proposed by the French scholar René Renois in 1974 and further developed into the theory of social exclusion in the 1990s. With the emergence of the European economic stagflation and welfare state crisis in recent years, sociologists and policy scholars have paid increasing attention to the concept of social exclusion, which has been widely used to explain the modern welfare state's new poverty problem, long-term unemployment structure change of poor families, welfare state contraction, and immigration.

The European Commission has the most representative definition of social exclusion. It believes that social exclusion refers to the exclusion of people by trading activities and service area rights in the current society under diversified and changing factors. Social exclusion also means the right to housing, education, health, and proximity services. It has implications for individual district groups, especially the discrimination and isolation between people living in different urban or rural areas. In addition, social exclusion is also a process. In this process, some people fail to get lifelong learning opportunities due to discrimination or because they are pushed to the edge of society and are unable to fully participate in various social activities.

3.2. Analysis based on the social exclusion theory

The group of rural disabled people is not only limited by regional environmental factors but also becomes a typical object excluded because of their own particularity. Although many social assistance and welfare policies and measures in recent years have given them a lot of help, due to the defects of the policy itself, the rural disabled have suffered more exclusion in the process of relief. This process makes

assistance for the disabled in rural areas lack of place, makes it difficult to solve the fundamental problems, and is not conducive to social development. This paper will use the framework of the theory of social exclusion for the analysis.

3.2.1. Analysis from different dimensions of social exclusion

Social exclusion is a multi-dimensional concept that manifests in many aspects, such as economy, culture, politics, relations, and systems. However, in the process of implementing the social assistance policy for rural people, it mainly focuses on the exclusion of systems, politics, and culture, while the correlation with the economy is small.

From the perspective of institutional exclusion, most of the current assistance policies for the disabled (in rural areas) are formulated by various government departments, and the suggestions are made by experts and scholars and then promulgated and implemented by them. But in this process, the disability group is not involved, and it is difficult to enter the core of policy making. It can be said that a large part of the policies is to treat the disabled from the standpoint of normal people, which makes some of the policies formulated out of line with the needs of the disabled, which leads to a very limited effect in the actual implementation of the assistance policies. As a result of this, the disabled are indirectly excluded outside of the policy system, with the consequences of institutional exclusion. Here, institutional exclusion is also a manifestation of political exclusion. Although it is difficult for the disabled to enter the political system, this is not the result of human factors; it has the consequences of an extremely low political participation rate and makes it difficult to affect policy results, so these two types of exclusion are closely related.

From the perspective of cultural exclusion, although the phenomenon of discrimination and discrimination against the disabled has improved in recent years, influenced by the current social

atmosphere and traditional ideas, the disabled are excluded in social employment and other activities. For the disabled in rural areas, they are often limited by family conditions with a low educational level and personal ability, so that even if they receive employment assistance, they will have poor quality and low efficiency in their employment and find it difficult to continue. In the long run, the government's special employment assistance is not only meaningless but also makes some disabled people lose their confidence and willingness to find jobs, and they will eventually be excluded by society.

3.2.2. Analysis of the causes of social exclusion

From the perspective of the causes of social exclusion, it is mainly divided into structural social rejection and functional social exclusion. Functional social exclusion means that the excluded individual, group, or organization is in a state of exclusion because of their lack of function. Structural social exclusion is caused by social exclusion caused by an unreasonable social structure.

This perspective transforms the perspective of social exclusion from the multiple dimensions above to both internal and external aspects. Internally, the functional social exclusion focuses on the disabled, and although the policy is not in place, the root cause is still in the disabled. Externally, the structural social exclusion is caused by the deficiency of some system in the current society, which can be associated with the above institutional exclusion, and the blind area in the relief policy indirectly increases the social exclusion of

the rural disabled.

4. Countermeasures and suggestions

At present, the level of social assistance for the disabled in China is relatively low, which makes them often at the bottom of society and often excluded on both the economic and social levels. Based on the welfare economics of Pigou, it is necessary to make the disabled enjoy their social security rights and interests more fairly and to provide corresponding assistance to the disabled through state intervention. Therefore, the government should take the necessary measures to make a reasonable allocation of resources through certain adjustment means so that the disabled can enjoy the fruits of social development like normal people.

4.1. Balancing the overall level of urban and rural assistance

According to the existing studies, the main reason for the difference in the level of social assistance for the disabled among regions is the imbalance of regional economic development. Therefore, it is necessary to use the central government to provide economic assistance to difficult areas to ensure the balance of assistance levels between regions. In addition, a nationwide monitoring website for the assistance of the disabled can be established to monitor the implementation of social assistance in real time, so as to realize social supervision of social assistance work for the disabled, which is conducive to central institutions finding the gaps between regions and taking remedial measures in time.

4.2. Policy-making is centered on people with disabilities

The focus of social assistance policy for the disabled in rural areas must change from "assistance for the disabled in the past" to "what kind of assistance the disabled need". Social assistance is a basic right enjoyed by the disabled in rural areas. It is the responsibility and obligation of the government and society to meet the assistance needs of the disabled. It is necessary to establish the main position of rural disabled people in the formulation of relief policies and guarantee their right to know about and participate in the policies. Rural disabled assistance policy system design and arrangement can be improved through scientific research and accurate judgment to find out where the needs of the disabled are, provide targeted, personalized, and diversified relief services, avoid marginalization in the process of policy formulation and implementation, and improve the rural policy for the disabled.

4.3. The aid policy adjustment keeps pace with the times

Due to the continuous development and changes in the economy and society, the living environment of the disabled in rural areas has also undergone great changes. Especially in the context of the current epidemic situation, the survival of this group is becoming more and more difficult, and more assistance should be given to them. In constructing the standard system of social assistance, it is necessary to formulate adjustable provisions according to the actual situation of the region so as to facilitate timely modification and make the regional social assistance more in line with the needs of the disabled in the region.

4.4. Increase the attention to the disabled in rural areas

Most of the disabled groups in rural areas have low education and ability. Due to their own limitations, the social participation degree of the rural disabled groups is not high, attracting little attention from the social mainstream. The mainstream media in China should pay more attention to this group and encourage the whole society to pay more attention to the disabled group in rural areas and support the development of the cause of the disabled.

5. Epilogue

As a part of today's society that cannot be ignored, the number of rural disabled people is still growing, and it is in a relatively unfavorable environment. The elimination of social exclusion of the rural disabled is a complex and systematic project that requires the coordination and cooperation of all aspects of social forces. In the new era, the demand for disabled persons' assistance in rural areas has undergone unprecedented new changes. The assistance policies for disabled people in rural areas should also actively respond to the call of The Times, adjust the policy concept in time, constantly improve the assistance policies for disabled people in rural areas, meet the needs of rural disabled people for a better life in the new era, and fundamentally eliminate social exclusion.

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