

Report on the Development of Nursing Institutions in China

By the end of 2014, the population of senior citizens in China already reached 24 million, among which 40 million are the disabled. Local caring service will be the main development model in the future. The Report pointed out that nursing institutions hold the nature of welfare and charity, huge investment, long payback period, high risk, therefore it demands support and assistance for public welfare undertakings and industries. The major serving objectives of public nursing institutions should be disabled and semi-disabled elderly.

By geographical distribution, more nursing institutions located in the eastern than in the western regions. According to research data, 76% of institutions are in city and the rest in rural area. In private institutions, 87% provide mainly daily care (ADL) services, about 10% provide mainly rehabilitations, and the final 3% offer end-of-life care services. Charges of private institutions with average monthly rate 2133 RMB are higher than the public ones 1919 RMB.

Problems on the development of nursing institutions

By the end of 2014, there are totally 55140000 beds from all types of nursing institutions, on average 26 beds per 1000 seniors. The Report indicated, because of incomplete policy and imperfect competitive mechanism, the development of nursing institutions face a series of problems, such as dispositioning, imbalanced structure, delayed services, lack of supervision and so on.

The Report states that medical resource is one of the important components in nursing institutions, however, medical allocation rate is rather low in Chinese nursing institutions. Only 54.7% of institutions have medical facilities, 46.6% have rehabilitation facilities, which means half of the institutions do not have these facilities. This directly caused vacancy in some of the nursing institutions and in other institutions the disabled elderly have no space to move in.

Service target displacement of public nursing homes

Due to the incorrect positioning, some of the public nursing homes, whose facility and services far exceed the basic demand received plenty of younger, healthy and wealthy senior residents rather than those economically difficult, non-family and some disabled elderly people whom the government is responsible of. The displacement of servicing objectives caused unfairness of social welfare, in which unqualified group enjoyed more public benefits.

Incomplete competitive mechanism of dual development of nursing institutions

At present, nursing institutions run in dual model – public and private. Marketing mechanism of competition is still incomplete. Public nursing institutions are entitled all benefits and privileges from the government, but compete with the private ones. This situation leads to difficulties to form a fair market, therefore the development of private institutions are limited. As the report indicated, 48.1% of institution breaks even, 32.5% in deficit and only 19.4% is profitable.

Small-scale, specialized and chain operation as the developing model of nursing institutions

According to the Report, based on the service demand of national elder generation and the international experiences of nursing organizations, primary model and target for Chinese elderly is local and nearby services. In recent years, centralized and suburbanized nursing institutions are unacceptable to many seniors, which also leads to two kinds of hardships. One is that some nursing homes have vacancies, the other is that some family carries great burden of looking after the older generation. Experts suggest that

development of nursing institutions must proceed with effective management by category and adjustment of structure.

Extensive management of nursing institutions as disadvantages

The Report shows that the vacancy rate of average 48% is rather high in suburban private institutions. It is an outstanding issue in the structure of nursing institutions. The report indicates that concentration of suburban nursing institutions caused the elderly isolate from their original social circles, and even cut ties with other age groups. The experiences of many other countries have manifested, in regard to the management of operation, specialization, and comfortability of the residents in the nursing home, it is not true that the bigger the better. Specialized, community-oriented and chain operated institutions will be the main development trend.

Establishment of category management mechanism

International experiences have proved that the effective means of managing nursing institutions is to categorize by the service objectives and service functions. At present China, lack of relevant management mechanism in nursing institutions leads to ineffective supervision, inaccurate positioning and unclear standard of serving targets in public institutions.

Experts suggest that standard of institutional category and evaluation mechanism by third party should be established as soon as possible. According to different types of service objective and content, nursing institution is divided into three categories – independent, assistant, and intensive nursing institutions. Based on the scope of services, different supervision regulation will be applied.

Developing hospital integrated nursing institutions

Due to the special character of nursing homes and health condition of old people, the Report pointed out that hospital integrated nursing institution is going to be the main direction of development, which should emphasize health management, long-term care, and rehabilitation of the disabled. Principal goal is to maintain the steady physical function of the disabled and semi-disabled. Therefore, it is not simply combining hospital and nursing home, and should prevent nursing institution from building large-scale hospital.

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See also the finnish summary of the report on FEFE blog entry

<http://www.karelia.fi/blogit/kiikarissakiina/>