Analysis of New Era Social Welfare Policy Transformation Path

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Abstract: It is in the nature of social policy for social welfare services to adapt to the social demands that arise as a result of changes in social structure. Meanwhile, it is a distinguishing feature of social welfare that special attention is paid to specific social groups, particularly vulnerable and difficult communities. The economic, political, and social factors of a society influence the direction of social service policy objectives, which is also influenced by the broader trend of social development, particularly global modernization and the transformation of local social structures. As a result, sorting out and analyzing the external environment and circumstances of the development of social services is both theoretical and practical.

Keywords: Social welfare service; Institutional environment; Transformation of social welfare services

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1. Introduction

Any country’s social policy is established and implemented in a specific social environment, which is inextricably linked to the external social environment and has a complicated influence on the functioning and development of the entire society. Social service policies are no exception. Starr Ace - Anderson in the transformation of the welfare state, points out that the cause of the welfare system transformation, on one hand, likely the welfare system is no longer adapt to the change of social environment, that is to say, “in many countries, to protect the building society will be frozen in a no longer exists, outdated in the social economic order. Making it impossible to respond adequately to those new risks and needs,” this is “exogenous.” On the other hand, it may be the “failure” of the welfare system itself, which is the “endogenous source” [1]. The former provides an analysis of the external environment of welfare system transformation, while the latter needs to analyze the logic of welfare system itself.

2. External factors of social welfare service transformation

To begin with, globalization refers to things like: greater linkages between nations and communities; convenient travel and telecommunications have reduced the time and space difference between people; and develop a better understanding of the potential relevance of what is occurring in other nations. The influence of the worldwide context of globalization on a country’s social welfare and social policies is referred to by some experts as “the global welfare situation” [2]. The impact of a country’s social policy and social welfare on a worldwide welfare situation is many and complicated. The openness of expanding the national economy and the common demands of transnational economic and social welfare policymakers should consider the global economy and domestic welfare maximum coordination between, that is to say, welfare policy is not a replacement for economic and social policy coordination, but rather the overall global
coordination of process. The good and negative effects of international non-governmental organizations and international voluntary services’ social assistance and social service operations on the development of local social services. On the one hand, national welfare organizations or global governance or fundamental rights for other countries to aid disadvantaged groups or projects, actively promote the progress of national social policy, and promote an equitable distribution of global welfare resources, on the other hand, standards and methods of determining tend to be local in the native culture of political and economic background of social welfare and social service policy.

Globalization’s exact influence on social services is uncertain, although it might be significant. The abandoning of mainstream ideology has resulted in a significant shift in the state’s role in social services, as well as a progressive increase in the quality and quantity of services. Central and Eastern European countries have experienced this change since 1990. In terms of economics, rising foreign competition constrains government spending in critical sectors like social welfare. This limitation has lately been strengthened, particularly in Europe. This constraint has driven the government to diversify means of supply and finance in social services, including asking more service consumers to pay for the services they get. One of the many good implications of increased globalization is that countries become more aware of how other countries address comparable social issues, leading in selective borrowing from effective policies and practices. International institutions like the United Nations have tremendously aided the interchange and diffusion of social welfare experience between countries [3].

Second, population and family structure changes. Changes in population and family structure may be the most powerful drivers of the growth of social assistance systems in many countries. There are two long-standing trends in population and family development, namely, population ageing and family size shrinkage, both of which have significant implications for social services. The latter tendency is significant since it influences whether or not elderly parents are cared for by their grown children. In the twenty-first century, a combination of demographic shifts and changes in family care will have a considerable influence on the need for official social services. As people live longer and become more reliant as they age, the worldwide community is becoming increasingly worried about meeting the expanding demands for health and social care among the elderly, as well as the rising expenses of addressing these expectations. Another aspect is the rising trend in women’s employment rates, which indicates that in most cultures, women are increasingly joining the labor market as traditional family caregivers, resulting in fewer persons caring for dependent family members. The traditional family pattern has been challenged, and the responsibility of caring for the elderly, children, teenagers, and other family members has gradually spread to society as the number of single-parent families, unmarried cohabiting families, and families affected by divorce and remarriage has increased.

However, there are counter-arguments. Think population structure and family structure, including issues of women’s employment, do not affect social services in and of themselves, and the direct reason for the increase in demand, that is, the burden of population structure change may be affected by political management, such as promoting employment policies will automatically reduce the dependency ratio, such as in Scandinavia, where the overall employment rate is 10% to 15% higher than in continental Europe. The decisive issue is whether social policies are designed to promote women to limit employment and retire early, as in the European Community, or to support their full involvement in the labor market, as in Scandinavia. The welfare system is critical in Scandinavia, where female employment and fertility rates are high, since even women who give birth may work provided, they have access to strong social services and generous life insurance. Modern families require welfare programs that reconcile job and family goals. Third, social governance must be modernized. China is undergoing a protracted process of transitioning from a planned economy to a market one. Many aspects of society are being updated, and social services are expected to follow suit. It is critical to pay greater attention to worldwide trends and selectively learn.
from other nations’ innovation and best practices during this process. The original social welfare system has been unable to adapt to changes in social structure, has been unable to flexibly react to changes in social requirements, and is destined to create institutional alteration as a result of the shift from traditional society to modern society. Under the backdrop of China’s modern social transformation, Chinese scholar Liu Jitong proposed the concept of “modern social welfare,” transforming the original “social welfare system focusing on social security” into a new “modern social welfare” system focusing on social policies and social services. We can see from his explanation that modern social service is a subsystem of modern welfare. Jitong Liu also mentioned that in this research, the current welfare conceptual framework to establish purpose is clearly differentiated. The scientific division of state responsibility, market responsibility, civil society responsibility, community responsibility, family responsibility, and individual social responsibility, right, power, and obligation between social boundaries, and the relationship between the three departments of scientific division of state responsibility, market responsibility, civil society responsibility, community responsibility, family responsibility, and individual social responsibility. To transform government activities, distinguish the institutional differences between public policies, social policies, and welfare policies, deepen the reform of government institutions and the administrative management system, and encourage the innovation of social management and social services [2]. Modernizing social services is a critical component of modernizing social welfare and social policy.

The fourth point is the shift in individual autonomy. Individual decision-making and welfare monitoring are required factors in addition to the dimensions of welfare state provision to society, market and informal sector. People who receive services are more likely to be viewed as empowered “customers” than as passive recipients of standardized services. Customers of these services may now expect to participate in decisions about what is appropriate for them, rather than being forced to get a prescribed service. There is a rising disdain for bureaucratic convenience, and the service supermarket model is becoming more popular. The conventional rights of professionals to consumers are being questioned more and more in this environment. The cultural change impacting social services is more evident in certain countries than in others, and it may make service providers and their employees very uncomfortable.

3. Internal factors of social welfare service transformation

With the profound changes of social structure, social life style has also undergone profound changes, and people’s demands for social services are increasingly diversified and complex. The main performance is:

First, the number and diversity of social services demanded is expanding. The obvious rise, ageing population trend of women employment proportion increase, young migrant workers make the old age pension, child care and sick people gradually take care of external functions such as family and society, elderly home care services, early childhood education services are demographic change requests for new social services. At the same time, social structural changes are bringing new social groups with increasingly diverse interests, such as urban migrant workers, migrant population, empty nesters, and left-behind children, making the survival state of the social groups of social integration more and more complicated. For these special groups, an overall understanding of the state’s unique needs is the key to solving the problem triggered by society.

Second, the need for social services is continuing to increase. People’s living conditions have steadily increased as the economy and society have progressed, and their fundamental material requirements have been addressed. The need for health and medical care services, life leisure public entertainment services, television, telephone, communication network, and other life technology services is always developing as it progresses from survival to health and development. As a result, people’s desire for social services ranges from material to spiritual, from fundamental living necessities to developmental service needs, from a single service to a diverse and complete service, and from a macroscopic abstract service to a more delicate and
specific service.

Third, the structural imbalance in the supply of social services is becoming increasingly obvious. Long-term resource allocation of urban and rural dual social service level of urban and rural society gap is becoming more and more obvious, advantage of social service resources concentrated in cities, market and production technology services in rural areas have played an important role in social production and living in recent years, and the public service system has gradually tilted to the rural; in addition, labor market segmentation and stratification exists in it. The gap is represented not only in terms of quantity, but also in terms of supporting service systems; for example, depending on the employment of the social security system, the informal employment population of social welfare and social services qualification will be excluded from the system. Therefore, only by constructing a fair and just social service system can we ensure that all citizens enjoy equal access to social services.

Fourth, the strategies for meeting social service needs are constantly evolving. With the expansion and extension of national social service practice, the meaning and content of modern social services has expanded and expanded. In China, the meaning of social services has evolved from the original civil administration welfare for the disadvantaged and difficult group of special social services to a more comprehensive social service for all social members of broader social service. The means of delivering social services has steadily shifted from welfare to market and social, that is, social services can come from the government, the market, social groups, and other distinct ways. Government-oriented, enterprise-oriented, social organization-oriented, and market-oriented are the four major strategies to address social service needs. China’s social service now operates under a government-led multi-subject cooperative social service supply model.

4. The existing social service system is inadequate and has problems

China’s varied supply model for social services is still in its early stages. The social service system may yet be improved due to restrictions in social and economic growth as well as historical circumstances. The following are the features of China’s government-dominated social service provision model:

First, top-down social policy systems and implementation techniques; second, top-down social policy systems and implementation methods; third, top-down social policy systems. For example, “a thousand lines above, a needle below” in the development of community services, where the above thousand lines are administrative departments at all levels and the needle below is the community. There is frequently a “gap” between “top-down” policy execution and “bottom-up” service demand, resulting in “empty” feelings of “uselessness” and “uselessness” among real consumers of social services, causing social construction projects to become “political achievement projects.”

Second, as the principal goal of the system design and evaluation system, overall development. For example, the development of new countryside that serves people and their livelihoods, the industrialization of agriculture and animal husbandry, the development of equipment agriculture and animal husbandry, and the increase in the GDP of the primary industry, the overall increase in the income of farmers and herdsmen, but still some farmers and herdsmen become wealthy, without regard for fairness. In the link between efficiency and equality, how to take into consideration the interests of the majority of people are still an important issue to explore.

Third, the insufficiency dominated the social welfare system. In our country, civil affairs departments are still important government institutions that have dominated the entire welfare system in recent years. Government spending on socially vulnerable groups is huge, and the performance of civil affairs departments at various levels in the social service system construction is very obvious, such as the lowest life guarantee coverage and even the level rising, expanding support measures on difficult people. The elderly’s community services and facilities have been regularly updated and upgraded. Taking social
services for the elderly as an example, the number of service institutions for the elderly has been steadily expanding, with the quality of service continually improving. The elderly social service facilities and government institutions have reached an agreement on institutional arrangements for the prevention of ageing population, but the government during the implementation of the service concept and service means is still in a state of filling a vacancy type service, such as social endowment service, which focuses our services in-house of intensive care. However, there is not enough attention to the needs of social services for the elderly.

As a result, the current creation of China’s social service system is not the major issue of technical operation, but rather system and idea construction. China, as Hua Jianmin stated, does not lack money or people at the moment. Institutional supply is particularly in short supply. The key to re-energizing China’s growth is to concentrate on institutional reform and innovation, in order to receive institutional rewards and promote China’s long-term sustainable development.

5. The goal of transforming the social service system
To begin, we should transform from a complement to a moderately inclusive social service. The Ministry of Civil Affairs and other relevant departments have always led and guided China’s social services to provide basic living care and service guarantee for socially vulnerable groups such as widows and orphans, the elderly, the disabled, minors, and entitled groups, which is a type of “complementary” social service. The original in a narrow sense of the scope of the vulnerable groups shows limitations as the population and social structure changes, social class structure and multiple complex relations in interests, so the civil social service object is to further expand to the floating population, and other special groups left-behind population, and the traditional “3 without” the old man, children, and the disabled, such as civilian objects. It has also gradually extended to all elderly groups, children and adolescents, and the majority of disabled people, especially those with special difficulties among members of society. Some scholars believe that China should pay attention to moderate universal benefits of social welfare, give consideration to the intermediate state of universal benefits and “complementary,” and pay attention to universality, multi-level and appropriateness [4-6].

The second point to consider is subject orientation, which ranges from a single subject to several subjects. The welfare state concept was acknowledged by European countries after WWII, and it had an irreplaceable impact. The welfare state has been increasingly questioned since the 1970s, as a result of the economic crisis, and a new concept has developed. This is what welfare pluralism is all about. “Unit welfare,” “collective welfare of people’s communes,” and “social welfare” were all single government concerns prior to the reform and opening up. The unit welfare sustaining the unit system experienced transformation and differentiation as the market economy system’s reforms progressed and the unit system disintegrated. The government has steadily explored the means to socialize social welfare as welfare socialization reform has progressed. In recent years, social service institutions and community services have been flourishing, and communities and social organizations, as the undertaking subjects of social services, have gradually stepped on the historical stage. However, the mechanisms and systems for communities and social organizations to receive social services need to be further improved.

Third, governance mode: from management to communication. Type social governance mode of the rule of the agricultural society, the concept is the core value of the will to power and order, social structure composed of the ruling class and ruled class, from the ruling class to the relationship between the ruling class is mainly loyalty and obedience, is the manner of loyalty and obedience, so is the “more” as the main characteristics of the social governance mode. In modern industrial society, efficiency and fairness and their relationship are the main contents of core values, and people are more contractual relations guaranteed by law, and achieve the function of social integration. In this governance mode, social service is a means
and form to solve social contradictions and coordinate social relations.

Service social governance model advocates the construction of the social mechanism of common governance, namely in the 1970s, based on the double failure of market order and the government order, through the government, market and society effective cooperation between various social sectors to make up for the insufficiency of the single order, in the form of “common governance” to construct the social order. The social order of “common governance” contains the following contents: First, different from previous theories, the social order of common governance gives priority to social harmony and hopes to improve the social level through coordination of social conflicts; Secondly, the social order of common governance pays less attention to the participation of market and government, but pays more attention to the cooperation between participants. Thirdly, the government and other social forces jointly constitute an interdependent network system, and the government undertakes the task of establishing common norms and directions for guiding actions. Mechanism of social service from the state and society by the laws and regulations of vulnerable groups in society members to social assistance and social support and special groups, to the right and the rationality of the social members demand as the guide, through the national and various social forces, coordination and cooperation, on the basis of public interests and core values, meet the demand of a particular service.

Disclosure statement
The author declares no conflict of interest.

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