

2018 Doctoral Dissertation (Abstract)

A study on the demands for long-term care services for elderly people
and their child caregivers in urban area of China

Niu Xiaochen
Ph.D. in Gerontology
Graduate School of Gerontology
J. F. Oberlin University

Chapter I : Introduction

In the long history of China, families are usually responsible for the nursing care for the elderly as the main providers of it. However, due to the rapid development of industrialization, urbanization, and nuclear families, it becomes more difficult for families to care for the elderly. Therefore, China is attempting to explore some social solutions to solving the problems.

Chapter II : Factors related to the demands for long-term care services for the elderly and their child caregivers (Study 1)

The feature of this research is that we clarified the factors related with the demands for long-term care services for the elderly and their child caregivers. Besides, we are aware of the factors such as the attitudes to family care and nursing care services that have not been added to analytical models so far, as well as the fact that not only the elderly or their child caregivers themselves but also the influence of the consciousness factor of the opponent was also added to the analysis model. About the consciousness factor of the opponent, for example, in the case of the elderly, the consciousness factor was not only by the evaluation of the child caregivers' consciousness factor by the elderly, but also by the investigates to the child caregivers directly.

Analysis revealed that the elderly and their child caregivers had a significant influence on their desire to use the community services, such as their attitudes towards family care or nursing care services. However, concerning the influence of opponent consciousness factor, in the case of the elderly, the influence of the child caregivers' consciousness factor is almost non-significant. Only in the case of the child caregivers, the consciousness factor of the elderly had a significant influence. From the analysis above, it was suggested that the elderly are choosing to use community services according to their own judgment other than child caregivers.

Chapter III. Factors related to the degree of agreement on the demands for long-term care services for the elderly and their child caregivers (Study 2)

The feature of this study is that we clarified the degree of agreement with the demands for long-term care services for the elderly and their child caregivers based on qualitative surveys as well as quantitative surveys which were rarely mentioned so far.

As the result of quantitative analysis, the elderly and their child caregivers have a low degree of agreement with the demands for long-term care services. Considering the factors related to the degree of coincidence by using “Intergenerational solidarity model”, only the “Affectual solidarity” showed a significant association. In the qualitative research, “Filial piety” and “Communication in family member emphasis” and “Alternate care possibility” were the factors that agreed with the demands for using family care. “The recognition of the limitation of family care” was the reason why they agreed with the demands for using community services. However, as the result, it was suggested that the agreement on the demands for long-term care services was not obtained as the result of intentional communication between the elderly and their child caregivers, it was that observing the traditional norm as an implicit rule, conjecturing opponent’s intentions, or compromising according to the opponent.