

# **Research on the Coordination of State and Family Responsibilities in the Provision of Elderly Care Services from the Perspective of Social Policy**

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**Abstract:** With the continuous acceleration of population aging in China, the supply of elderly care services, which undertakes the basic guarantee function of people's livelihood, has gradually become a key and urgent issue that needs to be solved in the field of social policy research and social governance. The reasonable division of responsibilities and effective cooperative coordination between the state and families in elderly care work can directly affect the daily life quality of all elderly groups, while it also exerts a far-reaching influence on the long-term harmony and stable operation of the whole society that supports national social development. Social welfare services in China during the transition period require multi-party participation to cope with the weakening of traditional family support functions.[1]The policy system for elderly care services should be constructed within the framework of "state-society-family" relations, clarifying the roles of each actor to achieve collaborative governance.[2]Taking the daily elderly care practices and typical innovation cases of Shandong Province as the core research object, this paper mainly relies on the mature welfare pluralism theory and combines the basic connotation of responsibility division theory to conduct systematic and targeted research.

This paper analyzes and sorts out the practical responsibility boundaries of the state and families in the current elderly care service field, summarizes the various practical dilemmas that the two main bodies face in the process of performing their social duties, and explores feasible coordination and improvement strategies which are suitable for local economic and social development. The research results show that China's current elderly care service supply system still has many obvious shortcomings in actual

operation, which include unclear definition and positioning of national elderly care responsibilities, continuous weakening of family elderly care functions that is accompanied by increasing care pressure, and the lack of complete and effective long-term coordination mechanisms between the state and families. Under the general background that national population structure keeps changing and traditional family living modes are gradually transforming, it is very necessary to build a scientific and standardized responsibility coordination system with the characteristics of "state-led guarantee, family-based support and multi-subject participation". Through the tripartite collaboration of family, government, and community, a new-era community for home-based elderly care should be established through legislative guarantees.[3]By clarifying the unclear responsibility boundaries of each main body, improving and optimizing relevant national and local policy systems, and integrating scattered social and public resources, we can steadily improve the overall quality and operational efficiency of elderly care service supply, which can provide basic theoretical references and practical operable approaches for the whole society to actively respond to the population aging problem.

**Keywords:** Elderly Care Services; State Responsibility; Family Responsibility; Responsibility Coordination; Social Policy

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Research Background**

According to the official data results of the Seventh National Population Census that was publicly released by the National Bureau of Statistics in 2021, the population aged 60 and

above in China accounts for 18.70% of the total national population, and the population aged 65 and above accounts for 13.50% of the total population. These core data fully indicate that China has officially entered the development stage of moderate population aging which poses new challenges to social livelihood construction. Relevant population research institutions have made a unified prediction that by 2035, the number of elderly people aged 60 and above in China will successfully exceed 400 million, accounting for more than 30% of the total population of the country, and China will officially step into the stage of severe population aging. The rapid and continuous development of population aging has not only greatly changed the overall population structure of Chinese society, but also brought severe practical challenges and long-term operational pressure to the construction and improvement of China's elderly care service system that safeguards the later-life quality of the elderly. In the traditional social development process of China, the family has always served as the most core and reliable dependent force for elderly care, which undertakes most of the daily elderly care work and spiritual comfort tasks for elderly members. However, in the process of continuous social development and economic progress, domestic families are gradually showing a miniaturized scale, cross-regional population mobility is becoming more and more frequent, and the separation of living and residence between young and middle-aged generations and elderly generations is becoming increasingly common, which has jointly weakened the inherent elderly care capacity of traditional families. It is obvious that relying solely on family strength can no longer meet the increasingly diverse and rising market demand for elderly care services. In addition, the country's overall elderly care work and specific operation modes still have many deficiencies and imperfections, among which prominent practical problems such as unbalanced development of urban and rural elderly care services, serious mismatch between service supply and actual elderly demand, and scattered and idle public resources have not been completely solved and improved.

Shandong Province is a typical major populous province in China whose overall population aging level is significantly higher than the national average level, so the local elderly care service development status and practical

exploration modes are very typical and representative in the whole country. In the long-term development process, Shandong has actively explored new ways of elderly care that are suitable for local rural and urban characteristics, and launched many innovative elderly care modes, which include the mutual elderly care model in Hongniya Village of Wulian County and the innovative "family-institution integration" elderly care model in Linqu County. At the same time, Shandong Province also faces many common elderly care problems that exist in most regions of the country, such as insufficient construction quantity and imperfect functions of rural elderly care supporting facilities, and excessive living and care pressure on ordinary pension families. Therefore, scientifically clarifying the respective functional positioning and responsibility scope of the state and families in the field of elderly care services, and actively promoting effective docking and in-depth coordination between the two main bodies, is of great practical significance for Shandong Province and even the whole country to actively respond to population aging and continuously improve the social policy system that is related to elderly care.

### **1.2 Research Significance**

In terms of theoretical significance, most previous academic researches tend to simply emphasize the leading role of the state or the core position of family-centered elderly care, so few studies carry out comprehensive and systematic analysis on the cooperative relationship between the two main bodies.[4]

Different from previous single-angle researches, this paper takes the welfare pluralism theory as the basic theoretical support, which comprehensively sorts out and analyzes the interactive responsibility relationship between the state and families in the whole process of elderly care service supply. Grassroots governments face problems such as inadequate policy implementation and insufficient resources when providing elderly care services for rural only-child families, and thus need to improve the service mechanism.[5]

It effectively enriches and expands the research connotation of responsibility coordination in the field of social policies, while its research ideas and analytical frameworks can also provide certain theoretical reference basis for responsibility division and cooperative

governance in similar public service fields that include infant child rearing and disabled group care. Family support policies for elderly care should center on empowering family development, enhancing the family's own capacity to bear the burden of elderly care. Within the perspective of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the construction of the welfare system should balance fairness and efficiency, giving full play to the joint roles of government and society.

In terms of practical significance, this paper clearly sorts out the core work responsibilities and specific cooperative coordination methods of the state and families in daily elderly care services through systematic research. The research conclusions can effectively help optimize the unreasonable allocation mode of existing elderly care public resources, reduce the long-term care pressure of family caregivers, and make the supplied elderly care services more in line with the real and diverse life needs of the elderly group. The relevant research results can provide practical and operable reference suggestions for government departments at all levels that formulate targeted elderly care policies and continuously improve the overall elderly care service system. In particular, it can provide solid theoretical support for the innovative practice and optimization of local elderly care services in Shandong Province, which further helps the whole society realize the development goal of enabling all elderly people to enjoy adequate life care, spiritual support, happy old age and life security in their later lives.

### **1.3 Research Methods**

This paper mainly adopts two basic research methods in the process of writing and research, which include literature research method and normative analysis method. In the early stage of the research, the author collects and sorts out a large number of domestic and foreign academic documents, journal papers and policy materials that are related to elderly care services, national and family elderly care responsibilities, and multi-subject responsibility coordination, so that the author can fully understand the current research status and practical progress of related fields and lay a solid theoretical foundation for the follow-up research and analysis. On this basis, this paper applies the normative analysis method to systematically clarify the due responsibility positioning and functional scope

of the state and families in the field of elderly care services, sort out and summarize the practical difficulties and bottlenecks that exist in the actual implementation of responsibilities, and finally puts forward targeted coordination strategies and optimization paths that combine a number of typical practical cases of elderly care development in Shandong Province.

## **2. Theoretical Foundation and Literature Review**

### **2.1 Theoretical Foundation**

**Welfare Pluralism Theory:** The core viewpoint of this theory is that social public welfare services which are represented by elderly care services should not be independently provided and undertaken by a single social subject, but need joint participation and cooperative supply by multiple main bodies that include the state, market economy subjects, ordinary families and social organizations. According to the basic connotation of welfare pluralism theory, ordinary families are the most basic and core unit of social welfare supply; the state mainly undertakes the basic bottom-line guarantee responsibility and overall policy guidance responsibility of public welfare; the market and various social organizations can provide diversified and personalized supplementary welfare services according to social needs. In the research field of elderly care services, this theory provides a core theoretical basis for reasonable responsibility division and multi-subject cooperative governance among the state, families and other social subjects, which also fully confirms that multi-subject coordinated cooperation is the key way that can continuously improve the comprehensive supply capacity of elderly care services.

**Responsibility Division Theory:** This theory mainly focuses on clarifying the responsibility boundary, functional scope and specific implementation modes of different social subjects in the process of undertaking public affairs, whose core research goal is to clearly define the main body of public work, the specific content of responsibilities and the effective implementation methods of work. Elderly care services belong to typical quasi-public goods that have strong social public welfare attributes. In the specific process of service supply and implementation, the responsibilities of the state and families should be reasonably divided

scientifically according to the public attribute level of elderly care services and the actual undertaking capacity of each main body. This division mode can effectively avoid various practical problems that include missing public responsibilities, overlapping functional duties and mutual shifting of obligations, and ensure the stable and effective implementation of all elderly care work and public welfare responsibilities.

## **2.2 Literature Review**

Foreign elderly care research, which began much earlier than China's, has developed mature theoretical systems and practical models through decades of exploration. Based on welfare state and welfare pluralism theories, Western countries built context-specific systems tailored to their national conditions: Nordic high-welfare countries emphasize state-led universal services, funded by progressive taxation to provide comprehensive, equal access to elderly care for all citizens; while the United States prioritizes the auxiliary roles of market and family, forming a multi-tiered model where commercial insurance and private providers meet diverse demands alongside basic public support. Recent foreign studies have shifted focus to three key areas: evidence-based formulation and optimization of family caregiver support policies, institutional design of long-term state-family coordination mechanisms, and digital and intelligent innovation of traditional elderly care services. These findings offer valuable theoretical references for China, though localization adjustments are necessary.

Against the backdrop of China's accelerating population aging, domestic scholars have extensively studied the functional positioning and responsibility division between the state and families in elderly care. Two main academic perspectives have emerged: one argues that families remain irreplaceable in China's elderly care system, advocating for activating inherent family care functions while establishing state support systems such as caregiver allowances and respite services; the other holds that the state should assume greater social responsibilities, calling for increased financial investment and accelerated construction of public elderly care service networks. Other scholars have examined urban-rural disparities in elderly care development and the integrated innovation of home-based, community-based and institutional

care models. However, most existing studies focus on either the state or families in isolation, lacking systematic research on their collaborative coordination, especially empirical analyses combined with local typical cases.

## **3. Current Situation and Dilemmas of State and Family Responsibilities in Elderly Care Service Supply**

### **3.1 Current Situation and Dilemmas of State Responsibility**

#### **3.1.1 Current Situation of State Responsibility**

In order to actively respond to the population aging problem that is becoming increasingly severe in China, the country has successively issued a number of formal laws, regulations and supporting policy documents in the field of elderly care, which include the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly and the 14th Five-Year Plan for the Development of National Undertakings for the Aged and the Elderly Care Service System. On the basis of unified national policy standards and deployment requirements, Shandong Province has combined local population characteristics and elderly care development status to formulate a series of detailed and targeted local supporting policies. For example, Shandong launched a pilot subsidy policy for elderly care services for moderately and severely disabled elderly people in 2025, which issues electronic consumption coupons through the official "Civil Affairs Connect" platform and covers three mainstream elderly care modes of home-based care, community-based care and institutional care, so that it clearly defines the functional positioning and basic responsibility scope of the state in local elderly care services.

The government has continuously increased special financial investment in the field of elderly care services in recent years, where these special funds are mainly used for the infrastructure construction of various elderly care institutions, the improvement and upgrading of urban and rural community elderly care supporting facilities, and the special subsidy of home-based elderly care services for disadvantaged elderly groups. Shandong Province actively supports the high-quality development of local elderly care undertakings through civil affairs supporting funds and the introduction of social capital from all walks of

life. The local government has invested more than 2 million yuan in total to upgrade and renovate the original mutual elderly care service station in Hongniya Village of Wulian County, and built a fully functional rural happiness courtyard that is suitable for local elderly life. In addition, 553 township health centers in Shandong Province have established a stable integrated "medical and elderly care" cooperation model with local elderly care institutions, which effectively improves the overall service capacity of rural grassroots elderly care services.

With the continuous attention that the government pays to elderly care undertakings, the government's supervision level and comprehensive service capacity for elderly care work are also constantly improving. A complete supervision and management system that includes elderly care institution grade evaluation and unified service quality standards has been initially established, which can effectively standardize the daily operation of the elderly care service market. At the same time, Shandong Province is also actively promoting the innovative development of the "Internet + elderly care" service model. Linqu County takes the lead in developing an online home medical service mini-program in the province, which can accurately provide 25 types of basic medical diagnosis and treatment services and traditional Chinese medicine health care services for the elderly at home and make grassroots elderly care services more intelligent, convenient and efficient.

### 3.1.2 Dilemmas of State Responsibility

In the specific process of promoting the implementation of elderly care services, the boundary between the state's basic bottom-line security responsibility and overall policy guidance responsibility is not clear and specific enough. Although Shandong Province has officially launched the special subsidy policy for disabled elderly people, many low-income and solitary elderly people who live in rural remote areas still face many practical problems. The policy application procedures are relatively cumbersome and complicated, and most elderly people have low awareness and understanding of relevant preferential policies. Meanwhile, the state has not formed a complete and systematic supporting policy system for family caregivers, and the coverage of professional respite care services is relatively narrow, which cannot

effectively relieve the long-term physical and mental pressure that family caregivers bear in daily care work.

The resource allocation of elderly care services in Shandong Province is extremely unbalanced in urban and rural areas, different administrative regions and different elderly groups. The construction of urban community elderly care facilities is relatively complete and perfect, which has complete supporting services and sufficient professional staff. However, most rural and remote villages are faced with insufficient public service facilities, shortage of professional elderly care staff and insufficient daily operation funds. In addition, the supply of professional nursing services for special groups such as disabled and demented elderly people is seriously inadequate. Compared with the diversified service supply for healthy elderly people, the professional service gap is very obvious, which results in unreasonable and unbalanced overall allocation of elderly care resources.

In the process of grassroots policy implementation, many local governments only pay attention to the formal construction of projects but ignore the actual service effect of policies. Many rural happiness courtyards in Shandong Province have been completed in construction, but they lack stable and sustainable daily operation guarantee funds and management mechanisms, so that they cannot provide long-term and stable daily care services for local elderly people. The simple home care and bathing services that are provided by some urban community elderly care centers cannot match the real life needs of local elderly groups, which leads to obvious deviations in the actual implementation effect of national and local elderly care policies.

## 3.2 Current Situation and Dilemmas of Family Responsibility

### 3.2.1 Current Situation of Family Responsibility

In the current social development stage, ordinary families are still the main undertaker of daily elderly care services in China. Although continuous social changes have affected the traditional family care capacity, families still bear most of the daily elderly care work and spiritual comfort tasks. In rural areas and small and medium-sized cities of Shandong Province, the vast majority of elderly people still rely on their children and relatives for daily life care and

long-term emotional companionship. Even if some elderly people participate in village mutual elderly care activities or enjoy government public home services, their families still undertake the most basic daily care responsibilities that guarantee the basic life of the elderly.

In addition, with the continuous upgrading and diversification of elderly people's life and spiritual needs, the specific modes of family elderly care have also become more abundant. Modern family care is no longer limited to the most simple daily life care such as eating and living, but also includes accompanying the elderly to see a doctor, professional rehabilitation nursing and daily spiritual comfort and communication. Some families in Shandong Province will take the initiative to apply for government elderly care consumption coupons to purchase formal professional care services. Some families also make full use of the local "time bank" mutual aid mechanism in Linqu County, which allows healthy young elderly people to provide volunteer care services for the elderly with limited mobility so as to make up for the insufficient care capacity of their own families.

### 3.2.2 Dilemmas of Family Responsibility

The inherent elderly care capacity of domestic families is gradually weakening with social changes. The typical "4-2-1" family structure is very common in various regions of Shandong Province, which brings huge life and economic elderly care pressure to local young and middle-aged groups. Large-scale cross-regional population mobility has also greatly increased the number of empty-nest elderly people who live alone in rural areas. Most adult children of the elderly in Hongniya Village of Wulian County choose to work and live in other cities all year round, so they cannot provide on-site care for their elderly parents. Modern young and middle-aged people are faced with heavy work pressure and fast life rhythm, so they lack sufficient spare time and energy to take care of the elderly at home. For example, Liu Dequan, a villager in Heiwa Village of Linqu County, suffers from sequelae of cerebral infarction and needs long-term care. Because his children cannot stay at home for a long time due to work needs, he can only rely on regular government home rehabilitation services.

Long-term family caregivers are generally under excessive physical, economic and mental

pressure. Most of the caregivers are the elderly's spouses or adult children, who need to invest a lot of time and energy in daily care work all year round. Families that take care of disabled and demented elderly people in Shandong Province generally lack standardized professional nursing knowledge and skills, and also need to bear high daily care costs. Even with certain government special subsidies, families still need to bear a large part of the economic expenses, and they also face huge emotional and mental pressure that is difficult to relieve.

At present, the social support system for family elderly care in China is not perfect enough. The state's targeted supporting policies for family caregivers are relatively scarce and single. Although some areas in Shandong Province have launched regular caregiver skill training activities, the popularization scope and coverage of the training are very limited. Supporting service measures such as professional respite care and psychological counseling for caregivers are not complete enough. The important social value of family elderly care has not been fully recognized by the whole society, so the legitimate rights and interests of grassroots family caregivers cannot be fully protected and guaranteed.

## 4. Necessity and Feasibility of State and Family Responsibility Coordination in Elderly Care Service Supply

### 4.1 Necessity of Responsibility Coordination

The rapid growth of diversified elderly care demand that is brought by population aging cannot be fully met by relying solely on the state's public resources or single family strength. As a province where the population aging problem is particularly prominent, Shandong faces a very sharp contradiction between the actual supply and market demand of elderly care services.

The state's policy system and financial investment can provide stable basic living material guarantees for the majority of elderly people, while intimate daily care and emotional companionship from families can make up for the lack of humanistic care that exists in public services and meet the unique emotional and personalized life needs of the elderly. The organic coordination of the two main bodies can realize full coverage and precise supply of elderly care services for all elderly groups. The

innovative "family-institution integration" model in Linqu County is a typical practical case, where the government actively promotes professional public elderly care services to cover rural areas and ordinary families and families provide daily life companionship for the elderly, which effectively guarantees the overall quality of life and spiritual needs of local elderly people. A series of supportive policies that are launched by the state, including special care subsidies, regular respite services and professional skill training, can effectively reduce the long-term care pressure of family caregivers. The disabled elderly consumption subsidy policy that is fully implemented in Shandong Province can directly reduce the daily care economic cost of pension families. The popularization of respite services enables tired family caregivers to get proper rest and adjustment, which greatly improves the long-term sustainability of family elderly care. The in-depth coordination of state and family elderly care responsibilities can also promote the integrated and coordinated development of three mainstream elderly care modes: home-based care, community-based care and institutional care. The "medical-elderly integration" and "family-institution integration" service modes that are widely promoted in Shandong Province organically integrate the overall policy guidance of the state and the active participation of grassroots families, which successfully transforms the original fragmented and scattered elderly care service system into a complete and integrated whole and significantly improves the overall operational efficiency of local elderly care services.

#### **4.2 Feasibility of Responsibility Coordination**

The mature welfare pluralism theory and responsibility division theory in academic circles lay a solid and reliable theoretical foundation for the coordinated cooperation of state and family elderly care responsibilities. The two theories clearly define the functional positioning, responsibility scope and specific cooperative modes of multiple social main bodies in the process of elderly care service supply, which provides effective theoretical guidance for practical grassroots work.

The Chinese government has always attached great importance to the long-term development of national aging undertakings, and has successively issued a series of special supportive policies and development plans that target

elderly care services. On the basis of unified national policy deployment, Shandong Province has combined local actual conditions to launch targeted local policies such as disabled elderly special subsidies and family-institution integrated elderly care, which builds a complete institutional guarantee system for the coordinated development of state and family responsibilities.

Grassroots regions in Shandong Province have actively explored new modes of coordinated elderly care between the state and families in long-term practice, and accumulated rich and replicable practical experience. Hongniya Village of Wulian County has built a unique "courtyard care + collective care" elderly care model that relies on government policy support, village collective organization and family neighborhood mutual aid. Linqu County has realized the effective docking and organic integration of traditional home-based elderly care and modern professional public services through government platform construction and active family participation.

With the increasingly prominent problem of population aging in the whole society, all sectors of society in Shandong Province have gradually formed a unified consensus that elderly care work is not a single family matter but the common social responsibility of the state, families and the whole society. This positive social public opinion atmosphere provides favorable external conditions for the in-depth coordination and effective implementation of state and family elderly care responsibilities.

#### **5. Path Construction of State and Family Responsibility Coordination in Elderly Care Service Supply**

##### **5.1 Clarify Responsibility Boundaries to Lay a Foundation for Coordination**

In the process of elderly care service supply, the state should firmly undertake four core responsibilities, which include bottom-line social guarantee, overall policy guidance, public resource integration and daily service supervision. First, the state needs to provide basic and reliable elderly care public services for special disadvantaged groups in Shandong Province, such as low-income elderly, disabled elderly and solitary empty-nest elderly, so that it can ensure that various preferential subsidy policies can be accurately implemented in place.

Second, the government should continuously improve the local policy system and refine targeted implementation rules that aim at family care support and rural elderly care services. Third, the state needs to increase public resource investment, which focuses on the infrastructure construction of rural elderly care sites and the professional skill training of grassroots elderly care personnel. Fourth, relevant departments should strengthen the standardized supervision of the elderly care service market, standardize the service behavior of all operating institutions, and fully guarantee the overall quality of public elderly care services.

Ordinary families need to undertake the most basic and essential elderly care responsibilities in daily life, which include daily life care, long-term emotional companionship, necessary economic support and active decision-making participation. First, families need to provide meticulous daily life care and warm spiritual comfort for the elderly, and actively carry out neighborhood mutual care and assistance that is practiced in Hongniya Village. Second, families should provide appropriate economic support for the elderly according to their own actual economic conditions so as to ensure the basic life of the elderly. Third, family members should actively participate in the elderly's daily pension decision-making, and actively cooperate with the public services that are provided by the government and professional pension institutions, so that they can effectively improve the overall effect of elderly care, which has been well verified in the home rehabilitation service practice in Linqu County.

### **5.2 Improve Policy Support to Strengthen Coordination Guarantee**

The state and local governments should gradually establish a complete and systematic policy support system for family elderly care. The government needs to appropriately expand the coverage scope of elderly care service consumption subsidies for disabled elderly people in Shandong Province, simplify the tedious application and approval procedures, and improve the public awareness and popularity of preferential policies. Relevant departments should continuously increase the supply of professional respite services through government purchase of public services, which can provide short-term alternative care for overworked family caregivers. It is necessary to carry out

full-coverage professional skill training for all grassroots family caregivers to popularize basic elderly nursing knowledge and daily rehabilitation skills. At the same time, the state should further optimize the tax preferential policy system for pension families, which can actively encourage adult children to earnestly perform their legal support obligations for the elderly.

The overall supply policy of elderly care services needs continuous optimization and upgrading. Local governments should focus on improving the service quality and operational efficiency of home-based and community-based elderly care services, actively promote the mature "family-institution integration" model in Linqu County, and extend high-quality professional pension services to every ordinary family. It is necessary to continuously upgrade the service level of various elderly care institutions, focus on the development of professional nursing-type pension institutions, and meet the special professional care needs of disabled and sick elderly people. The integration of medical care, health care and elderly care needs to be further deepened, and the mature "medical-elderly integration" model should be comprehensively popularized in Shandong Province to realize effective resource sharing and business docking that exist between medical institutions and elderly care institutions. In addition, the digital construction of grassroots elderly care services should be continuously advanced to improve the convenience and intelligence level of daily smart elderly care services.

### **5.3 Strengthen Resource Integration to Improve Coordination Efficiency**

Relevant government departments should strengthen daily communication and business coordination among civil affairs, health, finance and other departments in Shandong Province, which can effectively integrate scattered and idle elderly care public resources in various fields and avoid repeated project construction and resource waste. The provincial government should accelerate the construction of a unified provincial-level elderly care service information platform so that real-time information sharing and overall optimal allocation of public pension resources across the province can be realized. The government should actively guide and attract social capital from all walks of life to

participate in the supply of elderly care public services through standardized service purchase and public-built private-operation operation modes. It is necessary to fully encourage social organizations and grassroots volunteers to participate in daily elderly care public welfare services, and further optimize and improve the typical grassroots mutual aid mechanisms such as neighborhood mutual assistance and "time bank" that are widely adopted in various regions of Shandong Province.

#### **5.4 Improve Supervision and Evaluation to Guarantee Coordination Quality**

The government needs to establish a complete and standardized whole-process supervision system for elderly care services, and formulate unified local service quality standards and scientific evaluation indicators that are suitable for the development of Shandong Province. Relevant departments should carry out regular grade evaluation and inspection work on various elderly care institutions and community pension service centers, and publicly disclose all evaluation results to the society. Special supervision and audit of elderly care special financial funds should be strengthened to ensure that all fiscal funds are exclusively used for elderly care undertakings.

The whole social supervision and public feedback channels should be continuously unblocked. Local governments in Shandong Province can build a special elderly rights protection hotline and online complaint platform to timely receive and handle public demands and problems that appear in elderly care work. It is necessary to severely investigate and punish various illegal and irregular behaviors in the field of elderly care, so that the legitimate rights and interests of all elderly groups can be fully safeguarded.

#### **5.5 Create a Good Atmosphere to Gather Coordination Consensus**

The whole society should strengthen the public propaganda of traditional elderly care culture, and actively carry forward the fine traditional virtue of respecting the elderly and caring for the elderly. We should make full use of local official media and community grassroots publicity channels in Shandong Province to popularize national elderly care policy content and the important value of family elderly care, which can continuously raise public awareness of

elderly care work and social participation enthusiasm.

Grassroots communities should actively guide the elderly to update their traditional elderly care concepts, encourage the elderly to actively accept diversified modern elderly care modes, and advocate the elderly to participate in various social public welfare activities to enrich their spare time and spiritual life in their later years.

### **6. Conclusion and Prospect**

#### **6.1 Research Conclusion**

The coordinated performance of elderly care responsibilities by the state and families is the core key measure for the whole society to actively respond to population aging, continuously improve the comprehensive elderly care service system and effectively protect the legitimate rights and interests of elderly groups. In the current actual operation process of China's elderly care service supply system, the state still has many practical problems such as ambiguous responsibility positioning, unbalanced public resource allocation and policy implementation deviations.

Based on the basic connotation of welfare pluralism theory and responsibility division theory, the state should firmly undertake the core social responsibilities of bottom-line public guarantee, overall policy guidance, public resource integration and daily service supervision. Ordinary families need to bear the basic life responsibilities of daily life care, long-term emotional companionship, necessary economic support and active decision-making participation. The efficient and stable state-family responsibility coordination system can be effectively constructed by clarifying ambiguous responsibility boundaries, improving multi-level policy support systems, integrating scattered elderly care public resources, optimizing scientific supervision and evaluation mechanisms, and creating a positive social elderly care atmosphere. The innovative practical modes of "family-institution integration", "medical-elderly integration" and rural mutual aid elderly care in Shandong Province have fully verified the scientificity and effectiveness of this optimization path, which can significantly improve the overall supply quality and operational efficiency of social elderly care services.

## 6.2 Research Prospect

With the continuous in-depth development of national population aging and steady social progress, the coordinated development of state and family elderly care responsibilities will face new development opportunities and unknown practical challenges in the future. Subsequent academic research in this field can focus on three main directions. First, researchers can explore the innovative coordination modes of elderly care responsibilities under the background of digital social development, and analyze the specific impact that smart elderly care technology exerts on the responsibility coordination mechanism in Shandong Province. Second, according to the differentiated elderly care demands of different regions and different elderly groups in Shandong Province, targeted differentiated responsibility coordination strategies can be studied. Third, subsequent research can put forward targeted coping strategies for the specific impact that continuous family structure changes bring to state-family responsibility coordination. In addition, it is necessary to carry out long-term tracking and effect evaluation on the practical promotion effect of responsibility coordination in Shandong Province, continuously optimize and improve the cooperative coordination path, and provide continuous practical support for the sustainable and high-quality development of China's elderly care undertakings.

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