

Survey on the Survival Situation and Support Needs of Older Persons with Disabilities in Rural Areas

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Abstract: This survey takes some rural residents in Linxi Town and Jingzhou Township, Jixi County, Anhui Province as the research objects, with the aim of understanding the most authentic survival status of rural elderly disabled people. The self-made "Rural Elderly Disabled Person Survival Status and Support Needs Survey Questionnaire" is used to explore the survival status and support needs of rural elderly disabled people. Through investigation, it was found that the survival status of elderly disabled people in rural areas is still poor, with problems such as poor economic and living conditions, difficult travel, insufficient medical resources, employment difficulties, low education level, and small social circles. In order to improve the survival status of elderly people with disabilities in rural areas, it is necessary to mobilize social forces, provide strong economic support, establish and improve accessible facilities, meet the travel needs of elderly people with disabilities in rural areas through various means, safeguard their right to education, improve the special education system, reduce employment discrimination, promote supportive employment for people with disabilities, improve rural grassroots medical care, ensure that elderly people with disabilities in rural areas have access to medical treatment, and coordinate various departments, Develop community-based services.

Keywords: Rural elderly disabled persons, Support requirements, Survival status.

1. Introduction

Since the reform and opening up of China, the country has experienced rapid economic and social development, and the social security programs have also grown considerably. In 2010, Wen Jiabao, the leader of the central government, proposed in the report of the government work conference that "in order to ensure the social life of the existing disabled people in our country, government departments should vigorously build a comprehensive and perfect protection system for the disabled, and they should formulate preferential policies to help the disabled, so as to create a better environment for the equal participation of the disabled in the life of the society. On August 1, 2012, the State Council promulgated China's first administrative regulation on the construction of a barrier-free environment, the Regulations on the Construction of a Barrier-Free Environment. In 2018, the Opinions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council on the Implementation of the Strategy for the Revitalization of Rural Areas proposed to "Strengthening the construction of the rural social security system" and "Strengthening and improving services for rural older persons with disabilities". Issues related to rural older persons with disabilities are related to the last mile of rural revitalization, and the CPC Central Committee and State Council has a firm attitude towards rural revitalization and pays double attention to rural older persons with disabilities. All of this reflects the high degree of care and attention that the Party Central Committee pays to the cause of helping persons with disabilities. At present, older persons with disabilities in rural areas continue to face many difficulties, such as the imbalance between urban and rural development and resource allocation, the insufficient quantity and poor quality of public services in rural areas, the lack of resources for education, rehabilitation and accessibility, and the weakness of organizations of persons with disabilities, all of which are obstacles to the transition of older persons with

disabilities in rural areas to a better life. Therefore, the issue of rural older persons with disabilities needs urgent attention.

The purposes of this survey are: to understand the most real survival situation of rural older disabled people and analyze its causes; to listen to the voices of disabled people and understand what they want most; and to put forward countermeasures to solve the problem according to the results of the analysis. To a certain extent, this survey has drawn people's attention to rural older disabled people, which is conducive to improving the living conditions of rural older disabled people.

This survey mainly takes some residents of rural areas in X County of Anhui Province as the research object to explore the survival status of rural older persons with disabilities and their support needs. The survey adopts the self-made Questionnaire on the Survival Status and Support Needs of Rural Older Persons with Disabilities, which is mainly divided into two parts, one is to understand the current situation of rural older persons with disabilities in terms of economy, education, employment, etc., and the other is to understand what kind of support is needed by rural older persons with disabilities. Because the questionnaire method is relatively shallow, interviews were conducted with two disabled persons with different types of disabilities, different degrees of disability, and different family situations, in order to understand as deeply as possible the real situation and needs of rural older persons with disabilities.

2. Analysis of the Current Situation, Causes and Support Needs of Older Persons with Disabilities in Rural Areas

2.1. Data collection

This survey mainly draws samples from rural areas of X County, Anhui Province, with a total valid sample size of 148. The questionnaire was designed and distributed for recovery

after reviewing relevant information, and finally interviewed with two friends with disabilities who were contacted.

2.2. Basic situation of the sample

Among the villagers surveyed by the questionnaire, 26.53%

of the respondents or their close relatives have disabilities. China has a large population base, and the rural population accounts for nearly half of the total population, so it can be seen that the absolute number of rural older disabled people is not small.

Table 1. Types of disability of survey respondents

Types of disability	Sight	Hearing	Speech	Intelligence	Mental	Physical	Multiple
Percentage (%)	17.95	23.08	10.26	15.38	17.95	46.15	5.13

Table 1 shows that the interviewed group has more types of disabilities, among which the number of physical disabilities is the highest, accounting for 46.15%. And many disabled people do not have a single type of disability, but multiple disabilities, which means that some disabled people endure multiple pains and inconveniences. In addition, we contacted two rural friends with older disabilities on a voluntary basis to have in-depth communication with them.

The first interviewee is physically disabled and has less strength than normal people. She said that she mainly relies on her parents to take care of her in her daily life. One of her parents is unemployed and she is not entitled to any policy subsidy, so she very much hopes that she can have a job. "I don't have high requirements for a job, anything will do, but there is no place to accept it. The requirements of the Disabled Persons' Federation for job referrals are that they are below grade 4 and living on their own. I'm not within that criteria, but I have some ability to work and can take on jobs." In addition to this, she said that it is difficult for physically disabled people like her to travel and go to school. At present, the number of accessibility facilities in rural areas in China is small and the coverage rate is low, and even if there are some accessibility facilities, there are problems such as low quality and poor utility, which makes it difficult for older persons with disabilities in rural areas to travel without barriers. Also, due to the small self-defense and counterattack abilities of the disabled, teachers and guardians are unable to accompany them every step of the way, and there are certain dangers in going to school, so the vast majority of schools are unwilling to accept students with disabilities, and while children with visual and hearing disabilities can still go to special education schools, children with physical disabilities have no way to receive an education.

The second interviewee has congenital cataracts. She was operated on when she was a child and one of her eyes was damaged, so now she can only see out of the one eye that is not so good. She said that she had only studied in junior high school, but because of her poor eyesight, she could not see the blackboard, and she had to be very close to the books in order to see them clearly, and she had to borrow them after her classmates had finished copying their notes, which made her learning progress very slow. Like the first interviewee, she also encountered the problem of traveling, "I have no barrier-free facilities here, and I've never seen a barrier-free access, and the characters on the signboards are also very small. Almost all the facilities are for normal people, and they don't even consider people with disabilities. There are so many disabled people in the country, and not every visually impaired person can apply for a guide dog. Besides, the number of guide dogs is limited, and it is really inconvenient for those visually impaired people who don't have a guide dog to travel." Together with the fact that this interviewee's family

has a serious patriarchal mindset, her parents stopped paying attention to her condition after the failed surgery and even treated her in a bad manner. And because her parents' income exceeded the standard, she had no way to apply for low income insurance. "There is only a severe disability supplement, only two hundred dollars a month, not enough for basic living expenses, sometimes only do some part-time work to send out flyers to maintain life, but not every day have to do, only occasionally when other people are recruiting to do so for a day or two." A meager income doesn't just mean a tight life, it also means it's hard to get to the doctor. "Our local hospitals don't work, and I've done bad eyes before. A friend suggested I go to a hospital in Guangzhou for treatment, but I couldn't afford to travel alone, and my friend couldn't have time for me every time. Plus a trip to the accommodation and food costs are also quite a lot, I went to the last time to live only one night, the day to check the night to live in a hotel, live in a hotel are more than a hundred a night, if you live too long can not afford to consume, so I can only hastily check the check and have to come back." Therefore, she wanted a stable job, but none of the social enterprises were willing to accept it, and the result of seeking help from the Disabled Persons' Federation was always "wait for the notice".

2.3. Analysis of the current situation of the survival of older persons with disabilities in rural areas

2.3.1. Poor economic conditions

According to the survey, 38.46% of the disabled respondents' families had an annual per capita disposable income of less than 2,000 yuan, 30.77% had an annual per capita disposable income of between 1,001 yuan and 5,000 yuan, 17.95% had an annual per capita disposable income of between 5,001 yuan and 12,000 yuan, 10.26% had an annual per capita disposable income was between \$12,001 and \$24,000, and only 2.56% of respondents with disabilities had a per capita disposable income of more than \$24,000 per household. What is the concept of an average annual disposable income of five thousand dollars for an individual? The average disposable income per month is \$416.67, and the average disposable income per day is \$13.89. To many people 13.89 yuan may not even be enough to order a takeout, but to 69.23% of the rural older disabled people, their standard of living is even lower than this figure. This disposable income of less than \$13.89 per day is not only to make ends meet, but may also be needed to purchase some long-term medications. In response to the question "What are the difficulties you or your close relatives are facing at present?", 61.54% of the respondents chose the item of heavy financial pressure.

In addition, we have taken into account some special cases, such as the second interviewee, who has a poor relationship with his family, whose family members are not willing to

provide him with too much help, and the disabled people themselves, who have difficulties in finding employment and earn a meager income, and their financial conditions are even worse. The above data and facts show that the disposable incomes of older disabled people in rural areas are basically

sinking in the lower regions, and their overall economic conditions are poor.

2.3.2. Difficulty in traveling

Table 2. Accessibility Survey Results

Accessibility	No	Yes but not perfect	Yes and very perfect
Percentage (%)	53.06	46.26	0.68

Table 3. Ability of Persons with Disabilities to Take Care of Themselves

Ability of self-supporting	Fully self-supporting	Partially self-supporting	Fully dependent
Percentage (%)	43.59	46.15	10.26

The data in Tables 2 and 3 show that there is a problem of low quantity and low quality of barrier-free facilities in rural areas. And at least 56.41% of partially self-care and fully dependent rural older disabled people have an urgent need for barrier-free facilities.

Besides, two friends with different types of disabilities in the interview also expressed the problem of traveling difficulties to us. The first friend with a physical disability said that there are basically no accessible facilities around him and that he needs to be accompanied by his family when he goes out. Many of the barrier-free facilities encountered are not very practical, for example, the slope is too steep to pass through, and there are barriers between two sections of barrier-free access, etc. The second friend with visual disability said that she has difficulties in traveling. The second friend with visual disability said that the characters on the road signs and traffic lights were too small for him to read, that barrier-free facilities were rare, and that there was no way to get a guide dog, so it was very inconvenient to travel.

In addition, medical resources in rural areas are already poor, and the high demand for medical resources by persons with disabilities puts their travel needs at a high level. To sum up, the problem of traveling is a major issue currently faced by rural older persons with disabilities. The contradiction between the huge demand for convenient travel by rural older disabled people and the current conditions that cannot satisfy rural people's need for convenient travel is becoming more and more prominent.

2.3.3. Poor medical conditions

Based on the limitations of economic and traveling problems mentioned above, seeing a doctor has also become a major problem in the life of rural older persons with disabilities. 38.46% of the respondents with disabilities indicated that the lack of healthcare services was one of the difficulties they encountered. 16.33% of the respondents with disabilities indicated that the most important support need for them was the support of rehabilitation resources. When ranking the importance of different subjects to rural older persons with disabilities, primary healthcare organizations received 4.05 points, second only to village committees.

2.3.4. Low education level

The above table shows that 84.61% of the respondents with disabilities have an education level of high school or below, and only 15.39% of them have a bachelor's degree or above. As a matter of fact, the rate of open special education channels for the disabled in the surveyed areas is higher than we thought, reaching 31.97%. However, there is no equivalence between the opening of special education channels in rural areas and the acceptance of special education by rural older

disabled people, because there is a large asymmetry of information between the relevant organizations and rural older disabled people. Therefore, the percentage of rural older persons with disabilities receiving special education should be lower than 31.97%.

Communication with two disabled people supports this conclusion. The first friend with disabilities had to give up her studies because there was no special education school for students with physical disabilities around her, and the ordinary school did not accept students with disabilities for fear of safety hazards in the school, and her proposal of alternative teaching methods to the school was not responded to, so she had no choice but to give up her studies. She laughed and said, "If I were Jack Ma, I would build a special school for physically disabled children." This kind of banter is full of the endless sorrow and helplessness of friends with disabilities. The second interviewee also did not receive special education. In school, she could not see the blackboard and books, and the teachers could not provide her with more help, so compared to able-bodied students, her learning progress was much slower, and therefore she could not enter a higher level of learning.

2.3.5. Poor employment environment

The results of the survey show that 10.81% are completely incapable of working, 79.73% have the ability to work but have poor working ability, and only 9.46% of the respondents are no different from normal people. From the manager's point of view, rural older disabled people have a lower education level, less labor capacity, and need to be provided with a relatively safe environment, while the main purpose of business management is to improve the efficiency of resource utilization and to obtain higher economic returns, therefore, in most cases enterprises will not employ rural older disabled people. The results of the survey on the willingness to do a job together with a disabled person show that 78.7% of people said they were willing and recognized their ability to work, 16.67% were willing but thought they were paying more, and 4.63% said they were not willing to.

From the perspective of colleagues, it seems that a high proportion of people said they were willing to share a job with people with disabilities and recognized their ability, but we have to take into account the survivor bias and the spotlight effect in the survey process, i.e., those who are more friendly are willing to fill in the questionnaire, and those who are not willing to work with people with disabilities will most likely not fill in the questionnaire, and the imbalance in the sample itself leads to the bias of this data. The spotlight effect is that people make choices based on ethics rather than on what they really think. Therefore, the percentage of choices should in fact be less than 78.7%. The sound respondents who said

"willing, but think they have to pay more" seem to be on the side of willingness, but their willingness is still based on secular morality rather than their heart's desire.

According to the results of the survey on people with disabilities and their interaction with others at work, 8.33% of them are unwilling to interact with others, 50.93% are willing to interact with others but have difficulties, and 40.74% can basically interact with others normally. From the perspective of the rural older persons with disabilities themselves, many of them have difficulties in interacting with others, which leads to slower exchange of information at work and easy conflicts with others. Therefore, even if some enterprises are willing to recruit a small number of disabled people, their employment environment is still poor.

2.3.6. Small social circle and difficulty in socializing

According to the survey, 42.5% of disabled interviewees think they face difficulties in having a small social circle, ranking first among the options, and 50% of disabled interviewees said they need social integration guidance services. The chat with the second interviewee gave a sense of an agitation caused by suffering, perhaps so that she would have some pleasure in venting, but such communication was inefficient and difficult. The circumstances of her childhood have shaped her basic personality, which in turn affects her communication style and behavior. After being frustrated in interpersonal interactions, she feels that society does not accept her at all and she is plunged into a kind of extreme and unstable emotion, and such a vicious circle makes her social pain snowball, which is more and more difficult to be solved, and more and more she is marginalized.

3. Analysis of the Causes of The Current Situation of Older Persons with Disabilities in Rural Areas

3.1. Insufficient investable resources

According to the 2019 National Survey Report on the Household Income Situation of Persons with Disabilities, the average annual per capita income of urban households of persons with disabilities is 1.7 times higher than that of rural areas, and the Engel coefficient is significantly higher than the national average. China's rural economic base is poor, the agricultural economy has low profit margins and is approximately in a state of complete competition, and the total economic volume is not high. In addition, in recent years the economy is in a downward trend, the financial need to increase investment in factors that stimulate economic growth, so the financial resources that can be used to support the needs of rural older persons with disabilities related to the construction of relatively limited.

3.2. The rural population of older persons with disabilities is too large and dispersed.

China's population base is large and the rural population is close to half of the total population, so even if the proportion of the rural population with disabilities is small, the absolute value is still a large number. This is compounded by the fact that economic conditions and medical and health care are poorer in rural areas, resulting in higher rates of disability and greater difficulty in removing persons with disabilities. In addition, because of the dispersed nature of rural settlements, it would be too costly to build facilities for all older persons with disabilities in rural areas, and the utilization rate would

be low.

Surveys have shown that there is a positive correlation between the level of education and the disposable income of rural older persons with disabilities, i.e., the higher the level of education, the higher the per capita annual disposable income of the rural older persons with disabilities. Therefore, the generally low level of education of rural older persons with disabilities affects the improvement of the economic level of rural older persons with disabilities.

Not only does the level of education affect the economic status of rural older persons with disabilities, but the economic status also has an opposite effect on the level of education. From the survey, it can be seen that for those whose per capita annual disposable income is over 24,000 yuan, the rate of bachelor's degree reaches 100%, while for those under 2,000 yuan, only 20% of them have high school education, and the rest of them are below high school, and the rate of bachelor's degree is zero percent. Thus, the low level of education of rural older persons with disabilities and their poor economic conditions affect each other, forming a vicious inertia constraint.

The self-care situation of rural older persons with disabilities is also basically positively correlated with their per capita annual disposable household income, i.e., the higher the degree of self-care, the higher the per capita annual disposable household income. A higher degree of self-care means that the degree of disability is less severe and the ability to work is stronger, and the physical condition of rural older persons with disabilities determines their relatively poor economic conditions. Similarly, the higher the annual disposable income per capita, the more adequate and practical the assistive devices available to the disabled.

Economic conditions also affect the social situation of rural older persons with disabilities, and the better the social situation of rural older persons with disabilities, the more adequate the information they can receive, and the more likely they are to be employed, and the better the employment environment affects their economic conditions, which in turn affects their possibilities for re-entering the education system. Therefore, the survival status of rural older disabled people is not caused by individual reasons within a short period of time, but is formed by the mutual influence and constraints of economy, education, employment, socialization and other aspects over a long period of time.

3.3. Analysis of Support Needs of Rural Older Persons with Disabilities

According to the questionnaire survey, the primary support needs of rural older persons with disabilities are social support, accounting for 80% of the total, and an inclusive social atmosphere and equal attention can make the living conditions of rural older persons with disabilities improve. The second is economic support. Only with sufficient economic support can rural older persons with disabilities afford to go to school, see a doctor and make friends. Psychological support and rehabilitation resources are also important needs of rural older persons with disabilities. Many people with disabilities have low self-esteem and are sensitive because of the different views of others. We cannot make everyone fully respect people with disabilities, but we can strengthen the psychological construction and guidance of older rural people with disabilities, so as to form a strong support force.

4. Countermeasures to Improve the Survival of Older Persons with Disabilities in Rural Areas

4.1. Mobilize social forces and give economic support.

Since most disabled people have weak working ability, their income from labor will not be too high, and 62.5% of rural older disabled people's main source of living is income from labor, therefore, 62.5% of rural disabled respondents said that they are facing the difficulty of high economic pressure.

To meet the economic needs of rural older persons with disabilities and improve their living standards, it is necessary to rely on the strengths of all parties. 2.5% of social assistance and 12.5% of policy support are obviously far from enough. First, to make the cake bigger, the government should increase financial inputs and raise the proportion of transfers to rural older persons with disabilities, and enterprises and individuals should, within their capacity, take on social responsibility and actively provide economic assistance to rural older persons with disabilities. Secondly, the cake should be divided up, and the government should do a good job of defining and grading the disabled, to ensure that every penny really goes into the pockets of those who need it.

4.2. Establish and improve barrier-free facilities, and various means to meet the travel needs of rural older persons with disabilities

Barrier-free facilities refer to facilities that guarantee the safety of passage and convenience of use for members of society such as persons with disabilities, the elderly and children. In the process of design and construction, barrier-free design should be integrated with the overall public environment facilities planning. First, it is necessary to strengthen the conceptual understanding of barrier-free design and to strictly follow the relevant norms and standards for barrier-free design in planning, design and construction. Secondly, in rural construction, it is necessary to increase the publicity of barrier-free design and improve the level of designers' use of barrier-free design. Finally, when accepting project construction, the construction of barrier-free facilities should be taken as an important evaluation criterion, so that persons with disabilities, the elderly and children can test the practicality of barrier-free design. The needs of persons with disabilities of different types and in different regions for barrier-free facilities vary, and the barrier-free facilities most urgently needed by persons with disabilities in rural areas at present are accessible routes, such as ramps of suitable gradient and blind alleys. In addition, it is also necessary to provide assistance according to the specific conditions of rural older persons with disabilities, such as equipping shared guide dogs. Although the number of guide dogs is insufficient, not all rural older persons with disabilities need guide dogs at the same time, and the utilization rate of guide dogs can be increased by means of sharing guide dogs. Another example is to encourage volunteers to provide companion services in their free time to help people with disabilities to get around. In the planning and design of rural construction, if enough attention can be paid to the needs of the disabled, the elderly and children, their satisfaction and fulfillment in the process of leisure, entertainment and communication can be improved.

4.3. Guaranteeing the right to education for rural older persons with disabilities and improving the special education system

Education is very important for promoting rural revitalization and improving the lives of people with disabilities, which is the basic path to achieve common prosperity and a powerful initiative to achieve common prosperity. Under the leadership of the Party, and with the attention, care and support of government departments at all levels, the cause of special education in China has already made extremely high achievements. However, special education is still a weak link in the nation's educational development. Education is the biggest endogenous driving force to lift people out of poverty, and only by guaranteeing the right to education for rural older persons with disabilities will it be possible to fundamentally solve the poverty problem of rural older persons with disabilities and improve their living environment.

To guarantee the right to education for rural older persons with disabilities, the first step is to allow rural older persons with disabilities to attend school, increase financial and social investment in rural special education, and establish a sufficient number and quality of rural special education institutions. Secondly, rural older persons with disabilities must be able to afford to attend school, which means that the socialist, non-profit nature of rural special education institutions must be guaranteed. Because rural special education institutions in China started late and from a low base, it is necessary to be psychologically prepared and to make contingency plans in case the capital investment is in a state of long-term loss or goes back to other levels. Finally, in order for rural older persons with disabilities to learn well, it is necessary to increase the cultivation of special education personnel, and to guarantee high-quality teachers and teaching effectiveness.

4.4. Reducing Employment Discrimination and Promoting Supportive Employment for People with Disabilities

Almost any problem is ultimately an economic problem, and the ultimate cause of most problems faced by rural older disabled people is poor economic conditions. Because of poor economic conditions, they can't afford to see a doctor; because they have lowered the per capita standard of living of their families, family relationships are strained; because they seldom engage in recreational activities, their social circles are small; and because they can't afford to go to school, they have a low level of literacy. Therefore, in order to quickly and efficiently solve the problem of rural older persons with disabilities, it is necessary to focus on solving the employment problem of rural older persons with disabilities.

In order to solve the employment problem of older persons with disabilities in rural areas, it is necessary, first of all, to intensify publicity efforts so that employers will understand that persons with disabilities have their own value of work; secondly, it is necessary to improve the laws and regulations to regulate the recruitment of employers and other personnel work, so as to achieve the purpose of reducing or even eliminating the employment discrimination against persons with disabilities in the society. Once again, it is necessary to strengthen the cultivation of employment awareness of the older disabled in rural areas, and to establish a correct and self-confident view of employment. In addition, the

Government should join hands with social forces to create special enterprises and provide special posts according to the special characteristics of different types of disabled persons. For example, in the case of massage for the blind, not only can the blind receive a salary for their work, but the consumers will also be more comfortable in receiving the service. For example, high-end clubs for the deaf, people with disabilities can get out of the countryside through employment, and business people can talk about their work without fear of business secrets being probed. Finally, to ensure that rural older persons with disabilities have something to work for, supervise the relevant enterprises in accordance with the Labor Law and other relevant laws and regulations to protect the legitimate rights and interests of rural older persons with disabilities.

4.5. Improve rural primary medical care and ensure that rural older persons with disabilities have access to medical care

The special characteristics of persons with disabilities determine that they have considerable difficulties in obtaining medical resources, rural medical conditions are already poor, and the demand for medical resources by persons with disabilities often lasts for a long period of time, so it is necessary to actively promote the sinking of high-quality medical and health resources into grass-roots health institutions. In addition, to ensure that rural older persons with disabilities have access to medical care, we must effectively carry out rural disability prevention, and actively carry out physical examination activities, so that early detection and early treatment to reduce the emergence of disability and aggravation of the degree of disability, and the reduction of the disability base to improve the average number of available medical resources for persons with disabilities. Secondly, standardized rehabilitation treatment should be incorporated into the scope of work of rural primary medical institutions, and efforts should be made to train primary medical personnel, encourage high-quality medical personnel to go down to the grassroots level for training, and raise the level of rehabilitation treatment in rural medical institutions. The second is to link up different levels of medical personnel, for example, encouraging specialists to provide weekly or monthly visits to the countryside, exchanging information on difficult and complicated cases with each other, and developing the family doctor system to provide door-to-door medical services. Lastly, the role of medical insurance and medical policies should be brought into play to reduce the financial pressure on medical care for older persons with disabilities in rural areas.

4.6. Linkage of various departments to develop community-based services

To solve the problem of rural older persons with disabilities, it is necessary to strengthen the linkage of various departments, develop community-based services, and encourage the participation of stakeholders in community-based services.

First, the higher level government should take the lead in guiding and promoting the cooperation of various departments to ensure the implementation of the work. For example, it should conduct exchange meetings on issues related to older persons with disabilities in rural areas, set clear, reasonable, and enforceable targets for each department, and open up a variety of monitoring channels to check the

results of their work on a regular basis.

Secondly, the village committee, as the most trusted body of the villagers, should actively take the responsibility to do its own work, coordinate all the forces, do a good job of publicizing the relevant policies, and guide the social forces to pay attention to this special group of rural older persons with disabilities, as well as to effectively put all the subsidies and benefits into the pockets of the rural older persons with disabilities.

Once again, social forces should be encouraged to invest in the cause of rural older persons with disabilities, encourage investment in the establishment of rehabilitation facilities, barrier-free facilities and special education institutions, encourage the development of social work, and give certain benefit reductions and exemptions to social enterprises that do help rural older persons with disabilities, and give certain honors to individuals who have played an important role in setting up a wind vane of caring for rural older persons with disabilities in the community. At the same time, grassroots medical institutions should improve the level of rehabilitation treatment, so as to promote the continuous improvement of the condition of the elderly with major illnesses after they have been operated outside the countryside. Medical insurance and social forces should be fully relied upon to reduce the burden of medical expenses on the elderly disabled in rural areas.

Finally, organizations of persons with disabilities should play their role. They can set up associations for exchanges among people with the same type of disability to express their demands to the relevant departments, share their treatment experience with their disabled friends, and share various facilities, information and other resources to improve their living standards. Disabled persons' organizations can monitor the work of village committees and primary health-care organizations, and report incidents of inaction or misbehaviour to higher levels of government, in order to promote the real implementation of all work.

5. Conclusion

At present, China's rural poverty eradication work is being carried out steadily, and rural older persons with disabilities, as a special group, are facing problems such as poor economic conditions, difficulty in receiving education, difficulty in traveling, insufficient medical resources, poor employment environment and small and difficult social circles. The contradiction between the aspirations for a better life and the inability of current conditions to satisfy those aspirations has become the main contradiction in the lives of rural older persons with disabilities. As a socialist country, we cannot give up on any group on the road to well-being, especially the special group of people who are impoverished or trapped by their disabilities. Therefore, we should truly solve the problem of rural older disabled people and promote their development by increasing economic support, improving barrier-free facilities, promoting employment and developing community-based services.

Firstly, due to time constraints, the sample of this survey is small, the scope of the survey is more limited, and there is a certain error with the reality. Secondly, due to the lack of experience in survey research, the preliminary preparations were not sufficient, which led to the slow progress of the survey. Finally, the countermeasures to improve the survival status of rural older persons with disabilities are only subjective views based on survey research and related

theories, and have not been practically tested for their feasibility.

Therefore, in the later survey research, attention should be paid to do all the preparatory work before the survey, make the sample more balanced as much as possible, make the survey results more representative, and verify the feasibility of the suggestions through practice when possible.

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