

Study on the Development Model of Children's Rehabilitation in Wenzhou

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Abstract

Under the background of “the Healthy China 2030”, the society pays more and more attention to children's rehabilitation. Taking the development of children's rehabilitation in Wenzhou as an example, this paper divides the development stages of children's rehabilitation in Wenzhou, reviews the evolution of policies related to children's rehabilitation and analyzes the current development status of children's rehabilitation institutions in Wenzhou, especially private children's rehabilitation institutions. This paper also explores the main problems existing in the development of children's rehabilitation in Wenzhou through the above three aspects. Finally, this paper puts forward suggestions on the development mode of children's rehabilitation in Wenzhou from four aspects: improving the construction level of rehabilitation institutions, perfecting children's rehabilitation laws and regulations, perfecting the guarantee mechanism of rehabilitation funds, and supporting the development of High-quality rehabilitation institutions.

Keywords

Wenzhou; Children's Rehabilitation; Private Children's Rehabilitation Institutions; Development Model.

1. Introduction

In the context of “Healthy China 2030”, the state attaches great importance to children's health. Among children's health problems, children's rehabilitation is an important problem which is extremely easy to be ignored. The outline of “Healthy China 2030” plan proposes to establish a rehabilitation assistance system for disabled children and implement precision rehabilitation [1], but the development of children's rehabilitation is limited by many conditions in the process of implementation. Firstly, the policy environment plays a very important role in the development of children's rehabilitation [2]; Secondly, there are still some problems in the construction standard, management mode and operation mechanism of rehabilitation institutions in China, which restrict the development of children's rehabilitation in China [3]. Therefore, it is a long way to go to realize that all disabled children can enjoy rehabilitation services and truly achieve the goal of “be treated as much as possible”.

By reviewing the development process of children's rehabilitation in Wenzhou, this paper discusses the development direction of institutional construction and policy support of children's rehabilitation from the dimensions of policy evolution and institutional status, and puts forward feasible suggestions to promote the development of children's rehabilitation.

2. Development History

In the early 1980s, the new concept of modern rehabilitation medicine was introduced into China and became the beginning of the construction and development of rehabilitation institutions in China [4]-[5]. As one of the earliest cities which introduced children's

rehabilitation, Wenzhou has ushered in a good opportunity for start-up and development. The development of children's rehabilitation in Wenzhou can be divided into three stages.

2.1. Initial Stage (1990-2000)

This stage was the initial stage of children's rehabilitation in Wenzhou. Some special education schools had been established, such as Wenzhou Special Education School and Ouhai Libao special school. Children's rehabilitation projects were relatively single, mainly for the rehabilitation of physical disabilities, and rarely for the rehabilitation of spirit and intelligence.

2.2. Development Stage (2001-2016)

At this stage of development, the types of rehabilitation service institutions were diversified, and children's rehabilitation service institutions were expanded from special schools to public hospitals (The 2nd Affiliated Hospital and Yuying children's Hospital of Wenzhou Medical University) and private rehabilitation institutions (Wenzhou Xingle children's Growth Center, Wenzhou Xingzhijia Autism Rehabilitation center, etc.). The training system of rehabilitation professionals had been continuously improved. Taking Wenzhou Medical University as an example, the Department of rehabilitation medicine was established in 2003 and began to recruit master's students majoring in rehabilitation medicine and physiotherapy in 2007. Children's rehabilitation projects had been gradually improved, and attention had been paid to the rehabilitation of mental and intellectual aspects such as autism and cerebral palsy.

2.3. Popularization Stage (2017 to Present)

At this stage, various policies for children's rehabilitation in the province have been issued one after another, especially the subsidy policy for children's rehabilitation, which has promoted the rapid improvement of the number and quality of children's rehabilitation service institutions. The scope of rehabilitation services radiates from the urban area to the surrounding counties (cities and districts). Both the quantity and quality of private children's rehabilitation institutions have been significantly improved. At the same time, private hospitals have also begun to carry out children's rehabilitation treatment, such as Kangning Hospital and Runde Hospital of Pingyang. The training of children's rehabilitation professionals has further developed. Wenzhou Medical University enrolled doctoral students in rehabilitation medicine and physiotherapy in 2018. It is now one of the two rehabilitation specialist training bases of the national health and Family Planning Commission in Zhejiang Province.

3. Evolution of Children's Rehabilitation Policy

This paper mainly takes the laws, regulations and policy provisions related to children's rehabilitation as the research object, and analyzes the changes of children's rehabilitation policies in the past 30 years from 1990 from four aspects: laws, regulations, comprehensive policy documents and development planning. From the trend of laws, regulations and policy provisions related to children's rehabilitation, the advanced concept and thought of children's rehabilitation have been gradually accepted and recognized, and some changes have taken place in various policies and regulations for the development of children's rehabilitation, resulting in the trend of "special regulations" [6].

3.1. Laws

Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of the Disabled promulgated in 1990 is the legal basis of other regulations on the children's rehabilitation. It was revised in 2008 to clarify that the right to rehabilitation services is the right of disabled people, and to give priority to the rescue treatment and rehabilitation of children with disabilities at the legal level.

3.2. Regulations

From the national level, the relevant content of rehabilitation for disabled children has gradually evolved from a certain clause in the relevant regulations for disabled people to a special regulation [7]-[12]: Opinions on the Establishment of Rehabilitation Assistance System for Disabled Children. The requirements for the rehabilitation of disabled children have become more and more clear, and it has more guiding significance for the implementation of relevant policies for children's rehabilitation.

3.3. Comprehensive Policy Document

Since 2016, the relevant comprehensive policy documents on children's rehabilitation in Zhejiang Province have been gradually improved [13]-[16]. The Zhejiang Disabled Persons' Federation has successively formulated the children's rehabilitation subsidy system, the children's rehabilitation service system and the management system of designated rehabilitation institutions for children, and gradually formed a perfect policy system. Among them, the children's rehabilitation subsidy system plays a great role in promoting the development of children's rehabilitation.

3.4. Development Planning

The Plan / Development Outline for the Disabled in China [17]-[21] is issued every five years, which is synchronized with the national five-year plan. In recent years, the content of children's rehabilitation has been increasing. The content has expanded from the initial focus on the rehabilitation of deaf children to the rehabilitation of mentally disabled children and mentally ill children. At the same time, it also puts forward the importance of improving rehabilitation technical standards, establishing rehabilitation assistance system and strengthening rehabilitation discipline construction.

The Outline of China's children's Development [22]-[24] is published every 10 years and has been published three times since 2001. Among them, the contents related to children's rehabilitation are constantly refined and improved. It is proposed to form a perfect working mechanism of mutual connection among screening, diagnosis, rehabilitation and assistance by 2030. The establishment of this mechanism can enable children with disabilities to receive more High-quality rehabilitation services and truly "be treated as much as possible".

Wenzhou Development Plan for the Disabled [25]-[27] is issued every five years, which is synchronized with the national five-year plan. The contents and objectives related to children's rehabilitation are clearer and more specific, such as including some children's rehabilitation projects into the payment scope of specified diseases, standardizing the coverage of children's rehabilitation institutions by 90%, and the proportion of rehabilitation subsidies for disabled children by 100%. It plays a great role in the development of children's rehabilitation in Wenzhou.

4. Current Situation of Rehabilitation Institutions

4.1. Organization Type

Although the cause of children's rehabilitation in Wenzhou started late, it has developed rapidly in recent years. At present, children's rehabilitation resources are mainly distributed in the health system, education system and private rehabilitation institutions.

The children's rehabilitation resources of the health system are mainly concentrated in the rehabilitation disciplines of hospitals at all levels. They have a certain scale, mainly public hospitals. In recent years, private hospitals have also opened rehabilitation disciplines. Due to the long rehabilitation course of children, in-hospital rehabilitation is needed to achieve good results, and the rehabilitation beds provided by public hospitals are limited. Taking the Second

Affiliated Hospital of Wenzhou Medical University and Yuying children's Hospital as an example, children undergoing rehabilitation treatment in the children's rehabilitation department need to be hospitalized for an average of 14.5 days, and only about 500 patients can be treated in one year. In 2020, The 2nd Affiliated Hospital and Yuying children's Hospital of Wenzhou Medical University established Longwan Rehabilitation Hospital Area (Wenzhou Rehabilitation Hospital). The children's rehabilitation department has 249 beds, which can greatly alleviate the shortage of children's rehabilitation medical resources.

The rehabilitation resources of the education system are concentrated in special education schools. At present, there are 8 special education schools in Wenzhou, which have basically covered all counties (cities and districts). Special education schools focus on special education and rehabilitation of certain specific diseases, such as intellectual rehabilitation for mentally retarded children, language rehabilitation for deaf mute children, etc. The rehabilitation treatment provided is mostly combined with educational content to help disabled children acquire skills and enhance their social adaptability.

Private rehabilitation institutions are established for profit, usually with limited scale, Limited rehabilitation projects and limited diseases, but they are still an important supplement to the children's rehabilitation service system. Children's rehabilitation is a continuous process. The detailed rules for the rehabilitation service system of disabled children in Zhejiang Province specify that full-time rehabilitation requires rehabilitation training or treatment of no less than 20 working days per month. Hospital rehabilitation resources are often difficult to meet the rehabilitation needs of disabled children throughout the year, while private children's rehabilitation institutions can play a positive supplement. Private institutions can also solve the limitation of public rehabilitation hospitals that cannot cover all counties (cities and districts). Table 1 shows the distribution of children's rehabilitation institutions in Wenzhou.

Table 1. Three Scheme comparation

Distribution of rehabilitation institutions	Health system	Education system	Private rehabilitation institutions	Total
Lucheng District	2	0	4	6
Ouhai District	2	1	3	6
Longwan District	1	0	0	1
Dongtou District	0	0	0	0
Yueqing City	0	1	8	9
Ruian City	2	1	6	9
Longgang City	0	0	1	1
Pingyang County	1	1	3	5
Cangnan County	2	1	10	13
Yongjia County	0	1	1	2
Wencheng County	0	1	1	2
Taishun County	0	1	1	2
Average	10	8	38	56

4.2. Current Situation of Private Children's Rehabilitation Institutions

In terms of the distribution of private children's rehabilitation institutions, the geographical distribution is uneven. In terms of the number of private children's rehabilitation institutions per million population, Yueqing, Ruian and Cangnan are far ahead of other counties (cities and districts), while Dongtou District and Longwan District, as urban areas, have no private children's rehabilitation institutions. Among them, Dongtou District has only 107000

permanent population, so it is relatively difficult to ensure the source of students of rehabilitation institutions.

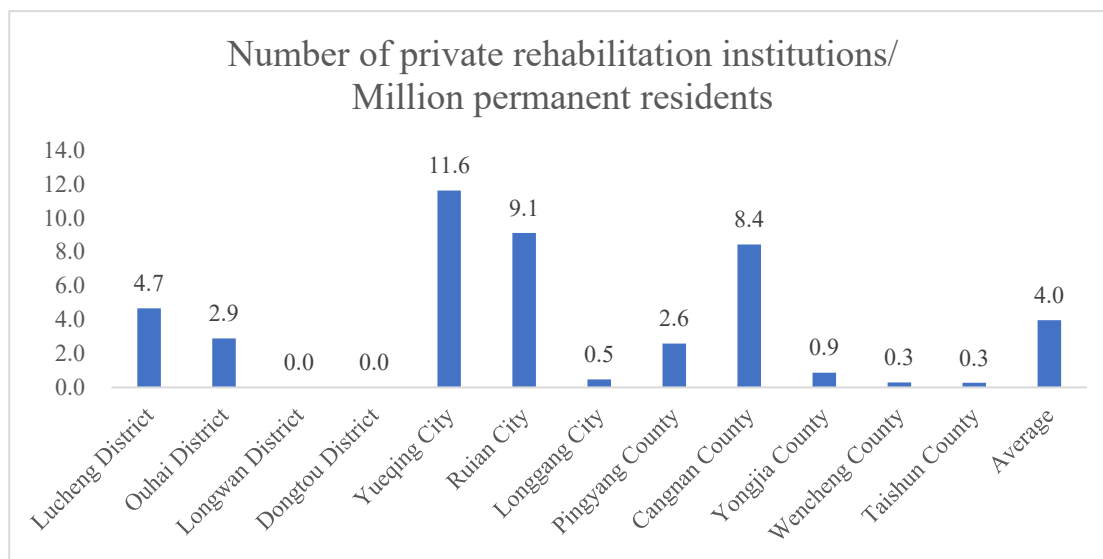


Fig 1. Number of private children’s rehabilitation institutions owned by one million people in each county (city, district) of Wenzhou

From the type of rehabilitation treatment, almost all private children’s rehabilitation institutions can provide rehabilitation projects for autistic children. It can also be seen that mental rehabilitation is increasingly accepted and paid more and more attention by parents. In addition, the counties (cities and districts) with few private children’s rehabilitation institutions provide relatively few types of rehabilitation due to the limitation of institution scale and teachers.

Table 2. Distribution of rehabilitation types in children’s rehabilitation institutions

Disease	Autism	Mental retardation	Language developmental disorder	Developmental retardation	Hyperactivity	Learning skill development disorder	Cerebral palsy	Down syndrome
Lucheng District	4	3	2	2	3	2	1	2
Ouhai District	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	0
Yueqing City	8	6	4	1	1	2	4	1
Ruian City	6	6	1	0	1	1	0	0
Longgang City	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
Pingyang County	3	1	1	1	1	2	0	1
Cangnan County	9	1	2	5	2	1	0	1
Yongjia County	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wencheng County	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Taishun County	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total	37	20	14	12	11	11	6	5

From the perspective of the establishment time distribution of private children’s rehabilitation institutions, with the implementation of the rehabilitation subsidy system for disabled children bringing the medical rehabilitation projects for children with cerebral palsy and intellectual disabilities into the specified disease payment range, and the introduction of the guidance of the government encouraging and guiding the development of private children’s rehabilitation

institutions, private children's rehabilitation institutions has been developing very quickly in recent years.

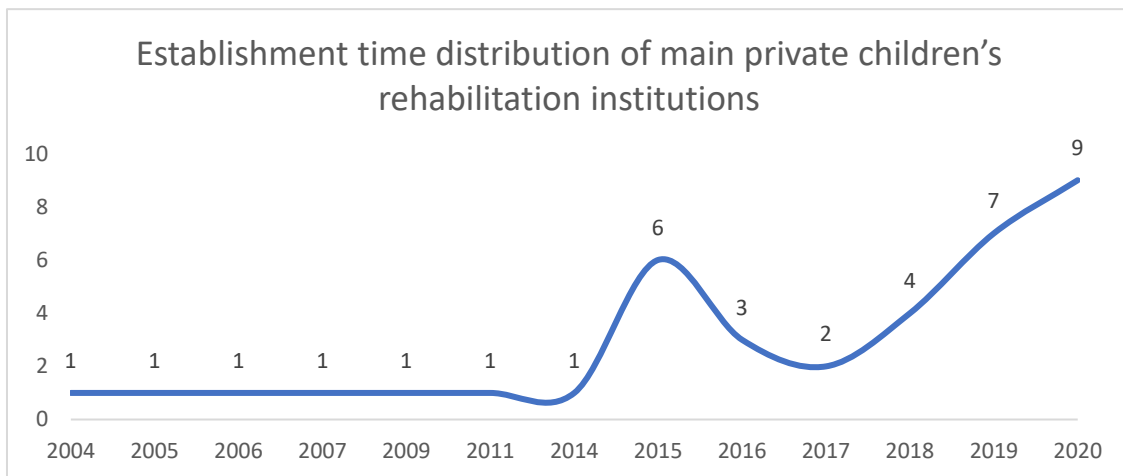


Fig 2. Establishment time distribution of main private rehabilitation institutions

5. Research on the Existing Problems of Development Model

5.1. The Geographical Coverage of Children's Rehabilitation Institutions is Unbalanced

At present, there are still 5 counties (cities and districts) in the prefecture that have not set up hospitals related to children's rehabilitation, 2 districts have not set up private children's rehabilitation institutions, and there is only one private children's rehabilitation institution in 4 counties (cities), and the rehabilitation projects that can be provided are also very limited. The city's main rehabilitation resources are concentrated in the three districts of the city and the counties (cities and districts) with high economic development levels such as Yueqing, Ruian and Cangnan, and the regional rehabilitation resources are unbalanced.

5.2. The Special Laws and Regulations for Children's Rehabilitation are not Perfect

With the implementation of the strategy of governing the country according to law, all aspects of China's social development are gradually forming a legalized system based on laws and relevant regulations. The development of rehabilitation of disabled children is also in line with the development direction of legalization. From the national and provincial levels, special policies have been introduced in recent years, but these policies need to be further implemented by local governments. Taking Wenzhou government as an example, in recent years, it has successively formulated the "the 12th Five Year Plan", "the 13th five-year plan" and "the 14th five-year plan" for the development of the cause of the disabled, so as to promote the development of the cause of the rehabilitation of the disabled. Throughout these policies, children's rehabilitation policies are mentioned in these documents, but not detailed. It is necessary to formulate special laws and regulations for children's rehabilitation system.

5.3. The Cost of Children's Rehabilitation is a Heavy Burden on Families

The Working Rules of the Rehabilitation Service System for Disabled Children in Zhejiang Province suggest that disabled children should receive full-time rehabilitation training or treatment rehabilitation for no less than 20 working days every month. If you carry out rehabilitation treatment or training in private children's rehabilitation institutions for one month, the rehabilitation cost will far exceed 2400 yuan of rehabilitation subsidy, which will still be a large expenditure for families with financial difficulties. At the same time, children's

full-time rehabilitation needs to be accompanied by parents, which will also affect the income of some families.

5.4. The Cultivation of Rehabilitation Institutions Lacks Policy Support and Constraints

The long-term mechanism for the government to encourage, guide and support social forces to carry out children's rehabilitation services has not been established. Whether the medical rehabilitation projects for some disabled children are included in the payment scope of specified diseases or the children's Rehabilitation subsidy policy, in the process of implementation, they are faced with the problems of insufficient cultivation, insufficient development and limited-service capacity of market players providing services [28]. At the same time, the entry and exit mechanism of private children's rehabilitation institutions has not been clearly established.

6. Development Countermeasures and Suggestions

6.1. Improve the Construction Level of Rehabilitation Institutions

The concept of children's rehabilitation in rural families is backward, and the attention to the rehabilitation treatment of disabled children is relatively low. The government should take effective measures to focus on strengthening the construction of public and private rehabilitation institutions in counties (districts and cities) with weak coverage of children's rehabilitation resources, narrow the gap of regional rehabilitation resources, expand the radiation range of rehabilitation resources, and enable disabled children to "be treated as much as possible". Meanwhile, we should explore new technology innovation rehabilitation service mode such as Internet mode, and provide rehabilitation services for disabled children in remote areas through online rehabilitation teaching and online training for parents .

6.2. Perfect the Laws and Regulations on Children's Rehabilitation

The special legislation on the rehabilitation of disabled children is conducive to the refinement of the provisions related to rehabilitation in the law on the protection of persons with disabilities, the implementation of rehabilitation work and meeting the rehabilitation needs of disabled children[5], and constantly improve the relevant laws, regulations and systems of children's rehabilitation, such as clearly establishing the working mechanism of screening, reporting, referral and early rehabilitation education for disabled children, and the working mechanism of early rehabilitation education, parent training and teacher training for disabled children. Specific measures should to be promoted of the development of private children's rehabilitation institutions. At the same time, we should also pay more attention to the integrity and feasibility of the legislative process and the procedural and operational nature of the implementation process.

6.3. Improve the Guarantee Mechanism of Rehabilitation Funds

On the basis of provincial rehabilitation subsidies, the government should pay attention to the establishment of an overall assistance mechanism for families of disabled children. Establish hierarchical rehabilitation subsidy policies and improve the guarantee mechanism of rehabilitation funds for urban and rural minimum living security families, disabled children from poor families with files and cards, disabled orphans, disabled children included in the support scope of people living in extreme poverty and disabled children from other economically disadvantaged families.

6.4. Support the Development of High-quality Rehabilitation Institutions

Improve the access standards of private rehabilitation institutions. In terms of the existing agreement management measures for designated rehabilitation institutions for disabled children in Zhejiang Province, it is necessary to further refine the institutional qualification, environment, equipment and facilities, personnel allocation, service capacity, system construction, safety guarantee and other aspects to clarify the access standards. Establish an evaluation mechanism for private children's rehabilitation institutions, build a number of designated rehabilitation institutions for disabled children with high professional level, excellent service quality and good rehabilitation effect, give appropriate financial subsidies and tax relief policies, and encourage High-quality institutions to set up branches and so on.

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