

Sichuan Situation Analysis in Social Care

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“Social care” in this report refers to the social management service for the retirees in enterprises, which is advocated and promoted by the Chinese government. The social management service for enterprise retirees is defined as “after retirement, the management responsibility is no longer done by the original work-unit (*danwei*) but the local community where the retiree lives. The pension is managed by the community service organization that provides the corresponding management service”.

The report consists of 5 parts. The first part is about the research purposes. It is emphasized that the purposes are: 1) to estimate the standard cost of the social management service for enterprise retirees at the community level; 2) to assess the needs for capacity building for organizations and practitioners in the social management service at the community level; and 3) to make some suggestions for upcoming training programs.

The survey method is reviewed in the second part. The investigation was conducted in 6 districts and counties, 7 city neighborhoods and rural towns, and 8 residents’ communities of two municipalities—Nanchong and Zigong—in Sichuan Province. Information was collected through focus groups.

In the third part, the current status of the social management service for enterprise retirees is analyzed. It is found that: 1) After many years of exploration, especially after the standardization of the institutions of labor security and public service, the social management service for enterprise retirees has stepped onto a new stage. 2) Service items that concerned enterprise retirees and community workers most and are considered to be the government’s responsibilities and the social insurance agency’s statutory duties have taken shape in the exploratory practice of local communities. Standardization and the guarantee of funds are needed for those items. 3) Although the standardization of the social management service at the community level is proceeding forcefully and orderly, it still needs to be accelerated to make practitioners younger in average age and professionally more competent.

Based on the analysis of the current status, three policy suggestions are discussed in the fourth part. 1) All levels of government should view and improve the social management service for enterprise retirees from a strategic perspective. 2) The development of social management service for enterprise retirees should be included as part of basic public services. 3) The promotion of professional social work should be the priority in the social management service.

In the last part, which is also the core of the report, specific suggestions for the implementation of the Social Care Sub-Project in Sichuan Province are made. The author suggests develop a service package for enterprise retirees all over the province while implementing the Social Care Project in Sichuan Province. The service package shall take into account the context of Sichuan Province and learn from experiences of European Unions. The report briefly discusses the necessity and feasibility of the service package, contents of the service package, the target population of the service package, the operation of the service package, the estimation of the budget for the service package, training of the users of the service package, and the incentive measures of the service

package.