

On the Trend of Sino-Japanese Child Care Development Issues: Quantifying the Change of Care Diamond in the Child Welfare Law

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Today, the world has undergone a fundamental change; globalization and individualism are deepening the macro and micro level at the same time, respectively. Countries have to face the reconstruction of public and intimacy spheres, Asia society is no exception. Some researchers believe that the demographic changes and economic recession is the cause of this social change, while fertility decline and these two factors reinforce each other. How to increase fertility is increasingly becoming an important national political issue, and to create a social environment of easy-to future workforce of children healthy and happy growth is a priority. Asian societies, whether China or Japan, especially in child care, "familism" is recognized as the biggest feature of their welfare regime, in which the female family members undertake the majority of child care. Secondly, the countries are believed to play a certain role. However, with the development of individualism and the increasing of women labour participate rate, the function of the family is becoming weak, and "familism" welfare system is doomed; while the recession and the global trend of cuts in the welfare state proved that relying only on government action leads to non-solution. Child care starves for the other providers outside of the families and country. "Care diamond" theory is the application of "welfare pluralism" theory in care issues, it suppose that the task of taking care of the population (e.g., children or the elderly) is bear by the state, family, market and community of four different sectors, it vividly depicts the supply status of care work. This article assumes that the grasp of the change of child care issues "care diamond" can predict the future development trend at certain degree. Quantitatively measuring the proportion of provision of each provider in care diamond can reflect reality more accurately, it can also verify and complement the existing qualitative researches. Therefore, this article will attempt to quantify the care diamond in the child care issues according to the changes of care diamond caused by two amendments of Sino-Japanese Child Welfare Law, (the latest version and the former recognized by prominent changes), and propose novel view on the development trend of the child care issues of the two countries. This article will use literature research method, mainly based on the text interpretation of the two amendments of Child Welfare Law in the two countries to identify the data in the text of the countries of each revision involving the four corners of the care diamond, then use these data for classification, conversion, and superimposing, and finally draw the four corners according to the calculated angle of the proportion. Finally, the summary, assessment and prediction of development trend were made for the child care of the two countries according to the change of the sizes of four corners.