

## **Through the Taiwanese and Japanese Elderly Care Policy Rethinking about the Family Role in Welfare State Structure**

LEE Pei-Fang

Department of Social Welfare, National Chung Cheng University

The family is individual's basic source of well-being and also is the basic mutual aid units. Through family, people not only got basic support and care, but also the responsibilities and obligations. Those responsibilities and obligations are intergenerational. However, with the change of people's employment patterns, living patterns and the development of feminism, family structure has changed and loses its support and care function. Welfare state in order to response to these risks, start to provide a variety of welfare services to cover the needs of individuals and emphasis on the rights and obligations between the state and individuals, especially like social insurance. However, when the welfare state provides a number of welfare services to response to the decline of the family functions, it may also cause "de-responsibility" with people's solidarity responsibility in their family.

From the point of view of responsibility, Kittay (1999) have proposed the "principle of doulia". It is means if someone responds to another person in troubles, and the other people should response to his/her predicament. Kittay use that to explain the responsibility relationship between the welfare providers and recipients. In the family, such relationship is obvious and direct, but out side the family the responsibility of solidarity will become indirect. Welfare policy expands the solidarity relationships and makes the state has an intermediary role between the relationships of responsibility and it also reduce personal direct responsibility of intergenerational solidarity. Therefore, when the welfare state try to through the social welfare policy indirectly strengthen the solidarity in society, actually may destruct the direct intergenerational solidarity in family. Thomas (2005) believes that the involvement of national laws and policies and the policy value choice, Will have a very important influence on the family structure and dynamics. Face to the modern society which suffering new social risk, welfare state cannot takeover everything, but still think family structure and function is changed by external objective factors, and never think the family also can be a important means to improve the structure of welfare state.

This article will through the Taiwanese and Japanese elderly care policy to discuss how the welfare policy weaken the personal directly solidarity responsibility in family and strengthen the social solidarity in society, and I will also discuss that if the welfare policies can not take the responsibility anymore, what is the more serious problem we will have to face.