

Beyond Welfare Productivism: A Case Study of Social Protection for Population Ageing in Taiwan

Dr. Fen-ling Chen

Associate Professor in Sociology

Yuan-Ze University, Taiwan

135, Yuan-Tung Road, Nei Li, Chung-Li, 320, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Tel: 00-886-3-4638800 ext. 2163; Fax: 00-886-3-4355971

flchen@saturn.yzu.edu.tw

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Abstract

Many scholars discuss countries in Eastern Asia as a case of productive welfare states or a model of welfare capitalism. However, in risk society, the government has to solve new and unexpected social problems. An economic-oriented government may face challenges to reform its welfare provision. Traditionally, children have responsibilities to take care of their parents when they are old in Taiwan. The family is the main welfare provider. Comparing with many European countries, the role of state welfare for population aging in Taiwan remained relatively minor. Social security policies are deficient and strict; therefore, many population ageing have financial problems since their offspring have more risk to suffer from unemployment under the change of global economy.

In recent fifteen years, the welfare issues for population ageing attract more attention by the politician. The introduce of public pension system and the provision of allowance for population ageing become a popular issue. Many reforms have been introduced to protect the elderly from poor. In this paper, first of all, we will analyse the change of family structure and of financial model among the elderly in Taiwan. We also compare the situation in Taiwan with other selected countries. This study aims to analyse the changing policies for the elderly in Taiwan from the 1980s to

present. We will especially focus on the development of pension schemes and the phenomenon of mainstreaming welfare. Finally, from the example of pension reform in Taiwan, we discuss the role of government in risk society from theoretical perspectives and analyse this case under global tendency of welfare retrenchment.