

The Impacts of Societal Factors on the Development of Self-Help Groups for the Disabled Persons in China: A case study of Beijing

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Abstract

In recent years, the development of groups with emphasis on mutual-aid and self-reliance among service recipients has been advocated as an important strategy to reconstruct the social services in China's welfare reform. As a result, self-help groups for the disabled persons (SHGDP) have gradually developed because of their significant social welfare function for meeting individual, group and community needs. Based on the case study of HTY, a self-help group for the physically disabled persons in Beijing, this study explores the societal factors that contribute to the development of SHGDP in China. The qualitative method was employed to conduct the study. The results showed that legitimacy and relational density are the important societal factors that affect the capacity of SHGDP to attain external support for their development. The policy implications for the development of SHGDP were also discussed.

Keywords: Self-help group, rehabilitation, organizational development, Chinese social welfare