Overview of Policy Approaches to Long-term Care, Support Services, and Family Support in Asia and the Pacific

Expert group meeting on “Older Persons and Intergenerational Solidarity’

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Definitions

Long term care

• the activities undertaken by others to ensure that people with or at risk of a significant ongoing loss of intrinsic capacity can maintain a level of functional ability consistent with their basic rights, fundamental freedoms and human dignity (World Report on Ageing and Health, 2015)

Care economy

• sector of economy that is responsible for the provision of care and services that contribute to the nurturing and reproduction of current and future populations. It involves childcare, elder care, education, healthcare, and personal social and domestic services that are provided in both paid and unpaid forms and within formal and informal sectors (American University).
International Policy Frameworks

Right – based Approach: SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, and 10
Family-based care system is put under pressure to a collapse

Source: UN World Population Prospects, 2019. Modified from OECD website: https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/1ad1c42aen/index.html?itemId=/content/component/1ad1c42a-en
Current Situation of LTC for older persons among selected Asia-Pacific countries/areas

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<th>Planning/piloting</th>
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LTC
- 15 of 22 countries/areas has implemented LTC
- 4 of 22 have Universal LTC
  - Use domestic and Foreign-born care workers
- 2 of 22 have large scale pilot
  - China: Insurance-based in urban area
  - Thailand: Tax-based

Support Service
- “Aging in place” policy and integrated community/home based LTC
LTC Models: Institutions, Institutional Change And New Social Contract

Institutions consist of formal rules, informal constraints and the enforcement, which are the rule of game in a society that shape human interaction.


Policy Change: LTC Policies and Care Economy

- New needs and problems (WHY)
- Institutional Change (HOW)
  - Paradigm shift
  - Changing of family role
- The Role of Actors (WHO)
- Regulation / Funding / working condition
  - New legal framework
  - Gender equity

Source: Adapted from Ranci, C., & Pavolini, E. (2013). Reforms in long term care policies in Europe
New needs and problems

• For many decades, the provision of care for older person had been mainly provided by family networks. Current aging process and shrinking household size created higher demand for care from outsiders.

• “Window of opportunity” for policy change for LTC comes from public policy crisis that the traditional policy solutions cannot cope with new needs and problems.
Paradigm shift is needed for Universal LTC Policy

Types of policy changes

• First-order change
  • Recalibration of existing policy

• Second-order change
  • Introduction of new instruments for the same goal

• Third-order Change (Paradigm shift)
  • Instillation of new goal
  • New role of institutions

Source: Modified from documents of MOH Singapore
Moving Toward More Integrated LTC care: Home And Community – based Care

- Universal LTC in Australia, Japan, and Singapore are shifting from institutional to non-institutional care and integration between LTC and medical services.

- Pilot LTC project in China and Thailand also focus more on community-based LTC.

Integration Between Central, Local Government, Community and Other Stakeholders

MoPH, MoSDHS, MoI, MoE, Others

District hospital & health centers

LTC manager
Training

DoH, MOPH
Provide healthcare

NHSO

Purchase

100 mil THB

Local Health Fund (LHF)

Sub-committee

Center for Older Persons

Case conference Individual Care plan

LTC manager Care giver

Outreach services

Dependent elderly

Local government (LGs)

LTC and Medical care integration
Housing and the living environment
Paid for Care-givers
Care and support to caregivers
Care Economy (Social Policy + Economic Policy): LTC Is Investment, Not Financial Burden

Study in OECD country

- Care economy may raise GDP growth more than investment in construction (De Henau et al., 2016)
- LTC had spill over effect on reduction of health care expenditure and increased GDP from effects of training formal caregivers and expanding employment (Costa-Font, J., & Vilaplana-Prieto, C., 2023).

Study in Thailand

- LTC increased GDP from effects of training paid caregivers (Sakunphanit et al., 2015)
New Legal Framework For LTC Is Necessary

Complexity of Legalization of Paid Care-assistance for LTC in Thailand:
2+ years for political debated among 4 Responsible Ministries, and finally need Deputy Prime Minister to lead the discussion

Act on Older Persons
National Older Persons Commission
Notification: Entitlement of older person for LTC
Notifications of Prime Minister Office:
Appointment organisations for LTC
Sep 2018

Determining Plans and Process of Decentralization to Local Government Organization Act
Local Government Organization Commission
Notification: LTC is a duty of Local Government
Ministerial Regulation of the Ministry of Interior:
_recruitment and “compensation” for “Volunteer” care-assistance
Nov 2018

Local Government Acts:
- Provincial Administration Organisation Act
- Municipality Act
- Subdistrict Administrative Organisation (SAO) Act
Mayor of Municipality
Chief Executive of the SAO
Planning and Budgeting for Community based LTC
Apr 2019
Conclusion

• **Agenda** of right-based LTC Policy including support services, and Family Support has already set
  • Strong international policy framework, and
  • Public policy crisis from regional-wide demographic transformation

• Main hurdles of **policy formulation** are traditional family-based care, policy legacy and myth on financial burden of social protection policies

• **Legitimate** for Universal LTC, a measure of Intergenerational solidarity:
  • Third order policy change (Paradigm shift) toward new role of institutions
  • Policy to integrate LTC, medical care and other social support
  • Policy for new legal framework & governance structure:
    • Multi-layer governments, Family, Community and Market
    • Integration of social policies and economic policies for care economy

• **Context-based system design**: from floor and continuous improvement