Legal Framework, Policy Agenda and Dementia Advocacy Groups in Taiwan

Hong Chen-Shuo (洪晨碩)
Graduate Institute of Sociology, National Taiwan University
E-mail: r99325005@ntu.edu.tw
Outline

- Six Stages of Acceptance of Dementia – a Civil Society Perspective
- Research Objective
- Data and Method
- Result
- Conclusion
Six Stages of Acceptance of Dementia – a Civil Society Perspective

1. Ignoring the problem
2. Some awareness
   - First media reporting
   - First caregiver support
3. Building dementia infrastructure
   - Alzheimer association
   - Professional meetings
   - Training of caregivers
4. Advocacy efforts
   - More established association
   - Publication of data
   - Developing professional guidelines
5. Policies and dementia plans or strategies
   - Standards of dementia care
   - Legal framework
   - Public health perspective
6. Normalization
   - Acceptance of dementia as a disability

(World Health Organization and Alzheimer Disease International 2012
Dementia: a public health priority)
Use the case of Taiwan to reveal more local contexts to complicate the “Six Stages of Acceptance of Dementia – a Civil Society Perspective” model.

- The dementia advocacy groups
- The legal framework
- The long-term care policy
Data

- **Secondary data:**
  - Government document
  - Academic research
  - The Legislative Yuan Gazette
  - Newspaper databank

- **Interview**
  - Some participants related to the dementia advocacy groups.
Taiwan: 1991-1998

- The amount of news report about dementia had reached its first peak in 1995.
  - According to a newspaper databank (United Daily News Index), the number of articles on dementia was 315 in 1995, while it was only 90 in 1991.
- The first caregiver support group sponsored by civil society organization was established in 1998.
### Six Stages of Acceptance of Dementia – a Civil Society Perspective

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**1991-1998 in Taiwan**
- First revision of Handicap Welfare Act, 1990
First Revision of Handicap Welfare Act

- **Time:** 1990

- **Initiator:** disability movement from civil society
  - The Parents’ Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (PAPID)
  - The League of Enabling Associations (LEAs)

- **Goal:** to revise the Handicap Welfare Act established in 1980

- **Benefit for people with dementia:** financial support and one part of the legal basis of long-term care.
First Revision of Senior Citizens Welfare Act

- **Time**: 1997
- **Initiator**: senior citizen movement from civil society
- **Goal**: to revise the Senior Citizen Welfare Act established in 1980
- **Benefit for people with dementia**: one part of the legal basis of long-term care
  - **Article 15**
    For elders **who are not capable of taking care themselves** and **who must receive long-term care**, the subsidies shall be provided by the municipal and city/county authorities concerned, based on **financial conditions** of the elders and their families, as well as the **level of incompetence**.
    
    (Senior Citizens Welfare Act, 2012)
Six Stages of Acceptance of Dementia – a Civil Society Perspective

First revision of Handicap Welfare Act, 1990

1991-1998 in Taiwan

First revision of Senior Citizens Welfare Act, 1997
Possible Exploration

- The medical-based and service-oriented characteristics
  - depoliticizing some problems which need more comprehensive dementia policy

- Taiwan Alzheimer Disease Association, 2002
Long-Term Care Policy

- **2000** - Pilot Program for the Development of a Long-Term Care System
- **2002** - Project for the Development of Care Welfare Services and the Care Industry
- **2007** - Ten-Year Plan for Long-Term Care
  - Activities of daily living (ADLs)
  - Instrumental Activities of daily living (IADLs) with living alone
  - For people with dementia: ADLs
Disability: Elders who are not capable of taking care themselves, who must receive long-term care and incompetence.

People with dementia

Disability: Elders who fit the criteria of ADLs and IADLs

Disability & Dementia

People with dementia
Six Stages of Acceptance of Dementia – a Community Perspective

- First revision of Handicap Welfare Act, 1990
- 1991-1998 in Taiwan
- First revision of Senior Citizens Welfare Act, 1997
- Policies and dementia plans or strategies
- Standards of dementia care
- Legal framework
- Public health perspective
- Ten-Year Plan for Long-Term Care, 2007

Taiwan Alzheimer Disease Association, 2002
Conclusion

- We need to pay more attention to the local historical contexts in any country. The characteristics of dementia advocacy groups, the legal framework and the long-term care policy in different period can complicate the six stages model.

- Medical-based and service-oriented advocacy group may be a double-edged sword. It may delay the civil society to put the political activities on their agenda, but the diagnostic identity they promote also help the people with dementia and their family to fight for their needs.
Thanks for your attention!