Perspectives on post-disaster psychosocial support for people with dementia in China

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• China disaster rescue system and data
• Post-disaster psychological crisis intervention
• Nursing care for post-disaster elderly patients with mental illness
• Dilemma for post-disaster services for elderly people with dementia and possible solutions
Classification of Disasters in China

- **Natural disasters**: earthquake, typhoon and flood, etc.
- **Outburst of public health events**: notifiable diseases, food poisoning and nuclear radiation.
- **Production safety accidents**: fire disaster, traffic accident, plant explosion, air crash, marine perils and mine disaster, etc.
- **Complicated conditions**: war, terrorist attack and hostage hijacking, etc.
Disaster Warning and Response Level

- Natural disaster
- Outburst of public health events
- Production safety accident
- Complicated conditions

Red - Grade I
Orange - Grade II
Yellow - Grade III
Blue - Grade IV
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading criteria</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
<th>IV</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of deaths</td>
<td>&gt; 200</td>
<td>100-200</td>
<td>50-100</td>
<td>30-50</td>
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<tr>
<td>People for emergent transfer and rescue</td>
<td>&gt;1 million</td>
<td>0.8-1 million</td>
<td>0.3-0.8 million</td>
<td>0.1-0.3 million</td>
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<td>Collapsed and severely damaged buildings</td>
<td>&gt;0.2 million</td>
<td>0.15-0.2 million</td>
<td>0.1-0.15 million</td>
<td>0.01-0.1 million</td>
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<td>Number of people in need of government rescue due to food or water shortage caused by disaster out of agricultural or husbandry people</td>
<td>Over 30% or over 4 million people</td>
<td>Over 25% or over 3 million people</td>
<td>Over 20% or over 2 million people</td>
<td>Over 15% or over 1 million people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response leader</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>IV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uniformly organized and led by Director of National Commission for Disaster Reduction</td>
<td>Organized and coordinated by associate director of National Commission for Disaster Reduction (minister of civil affairs)</td>
<td>Organized and coordinated by secretary-general of National Commission for Disaster Reduction</td>
<td>Organized and coordinated by the office of National Commission for Disaster Reduction</td>
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Government Procedure for Disaster Response

1. Evaluation
2. Report to National Commission for Disaster Reduction
3. Initiate response
4. People from National Commission for Disaster Reduction enters the disaster area
5. Held a disaster conference
6. Release disaster loss and demands
7. Monitor
8. News propaganda
9. Disburse natural disaster relief allowances from central government
Ministries Cooperate with Each Other with Division of Labour and the Army and Police Join in if Necessary

- Medical aid
- Emergency material allocation
- Disaster relief fund and materials distribution
- Disaster relief material transport
- Communication guarantee
- Social security guarantee
- Public health
- Psychological aid
- Disaster victims
Natural Disasters in China in 2016

• Disaster-hit population nationwide was up to 190 million person times
• National disaster warning response was initiated for 5 times
• There were 9.101 million person times of emergency relocation of disaster-hit people
• 7.906 billion of natural disaster fund for living allowances were allocated from central government

China Network, Information Office of the State Council (Jan. 23, 2017)
Production Safety Accidents in China in 2016

• 60,000 various production safety accidents nationwide
• 41,000 people died
• Among them, 32 were major accidents, and 571 people died.
• 15 accidents were investigated into and completed, and 200 people were given punishment according to government and party discipline, and 97 people were transferred to judicial authorities

Notifiable Disease Epidemic Nationwide in 2016

- 6,944,240 cases of notifiable disease reported nationwide (excluding Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, hereinafter the same).
- 18,237 people died
- The morbidity reported was 506.59/100,000 people
- The mortality reported was 1.33/100,000 people.
- The morbidity of category A infectious disease was increased by 100.00% from that in 2015 (1 case of plague, 27 cases of cholera, no death)

China Network, released by the NHFPC (Feb. 23, 2017)
Food Poisoning Accidents in China in 2015

- A total of 169 cases of food poisoning were reported from 28 provinces in 2015.
- 5,926 people were poisoned
- 121 people died
- Compared with 2014, the case number, poisoned people and death number were respectively increased by 5.6%, 4.8% and 10.0%.
Development of Post-Disaster Psychological Crisis Intervention in China

- The fire disaster in Karamay in 1994
- The earthquake in Wenchuan in 2008
- Emergency medical aid “13th five-year” plan (2016-2020)
Witness of folk stage: Peking University Institute of Mental Health

Peking University Institute of Mental Health (PKUIMH), co-located with National Mental Health Center, China-Center for Disease Control [NCMH-CCDC]

- Takes responsibility of organizing and providing technical support and training on prevention and management of disaster in national level

- In 1994, the first psychosocial intervention team was sent to disaster site by the Ministry of Health
PKUIMH in the Folk Stage
Field studies and interventions by PKUIMH

• Studies on disasters started in 1988
• Intervention started in December 1994
• National training started in June 2000
• Facilitate national policy making from 2003
Cases of field studies and interventions by PKUIMH

- Lancang earthquake, Yunnan Prov, Nov. 1988
- Klamayi fire, Xinjiang Prov, Dec. 1994
- Zhangbei earthquake, Hebei Prov, Jan. 1998
- The Yangtze River flood, summer 1998
- Luoyang fire, Henan Prov, Dec. 2000
- Dalian air crash, Liaoning Prov, May 2002
- Mountain-climb accident, Peking Univ., Aug. 2002
- SARS, Beijing, 2003
- Homicide in kindergarten, Beijing, August. 2004
- National Mental Health Response Teams, 2005
- Wenchun earthquake, 2008
- Yushu earthquake, 2010
- Yingjiang earthquake, 2011
- Changchun fire, 2013
- Xin Jiang: Wulumuqi attack of terrorism/Pi shan earthquake, 2014
- Tianjin Port bombings 2015
Dec 26, 1994, a big fire happened in Klamayi, 323 people were killed, including 288 school pupils; 180 were seriously wounded, nearly all 9-14 years old. Upon the request from the Petroleum Department, the Ministry of Health sent the first psychological crisis intervention medical team, and the staff were from PKUIMH.

Lessons learnt from Klamayi fire

• For the first time recognized the difference between crisis intervention for the population and clinical work with patients
• Training is essential for all support workers
• Media can take an active role but news reporting on this issue was under strict supervision
• Follow-up studies are needed despite the difficulties and obstacles
• Different from clinical conditions/Training indispensable/Media restricted/Study infeasible
The First Post-Disaster Crisis Training

Supported by WHO 2000, has introduced and translated a set of training materials, including:

• 500,000 manuals translated
• 4 video tapes translated
• Training slides
• National workshop

Compiled Chinese Disaster Psychosocial Management Manual in 2004 (1st version)
Evening of May 7th, 2001, a passenger plane of Northern Airline of China crashed into the sea near Dalian. All 103 passengers and 9 crew died.

Upon the invitation of enterprises, on the next day, the intervention team arrived Dalian for individual support, group debriefing, training for local doctors and media report work.
Learning from Dalian intervention

• The first official media report of China: *post-disaster psychological intervention comes too late*, by reporter, Jin Yonghong from Health News

• Specialized institute of mental health lacked related awareness and skills
The incident in Beida Hospital kindergarten, August, 2004

One child died and 17 persons (including 14 children) were injured by a patient with schizophrenia.

The government (the Ministry of Education) for the first time demanded to include psychological crisis intervention plan in medical rescue procedure.
Stages of Psychological Crisis Development after a Major Disaster in China

- The fire disaster in Karamay in 1994.
- The earthquake in Wenchuan in 2008.
- Emergency medical aid “13th five-year” plan (2016-2020)

- Folk-led stage
- Government-led stage
- Systematic management stage
• First aid, psychosocial response to Sichuan earthquake
• The government initiative dispatched teams
• Not only sanitation system
3-Year Psychological Reconstruction after the First Funding Allocated from the Central Government Participating in training
• The central government and local government at the first time organized psychological crisis intervention work: training, medical team, international cooperation, 3-year psychological reconstruction

• Needs assessment done by Institute of Mental Health and Department of Sociology, Peking University, 20-23 August, 2010.
Rapid Evaluation of Social Psychological Effect after the First Disaster

• In “Mar. 10” Yingjiang earthquake, a total of 351,300 people from 77,300 households were hit by the disaster, in which 25 people died and 314 people were injured.

• National Commission for Disaster Reduction designated the experts from the National Disaster Reduction Center, Ministry of Civil Affairs, PKUIMH to perform post-earthquake social psychological effect evaluation on 26,177 people form 6 disaster-hit towns and 22 schools.
In 2014, in the “May 22nd Terrorist Incident” in Urumqi Municipality, Xinjiang province, with 39 people died and 94 people injured.

The NHFPC sent comprehensive medical teams, including psychological crisis intervention team.
Nursing Care for Elderly Patients with Mental Illness after Wenchuan Earthquake in 2008

• Mianyang mental health center, and mental hospitals in An County, Santai, Jiangyou, Deyang and Dujiangyan after Wenchuan Earthquake in 2008.

• All hospitals accommodated elderly patients, in which Santai Mental Hospital had 180 beds, and elderly dementia patients accounted for 10%.
Nursing Care for Patients with Mental Illness after the Earthquake in 2008

Mianyang MH Center 20080518

Anxian MH Hospital 20080528
Mental Health Status of Elderly Affected Populations 7-9 months after Wenchuan Earthquake

- SRQ-20 was applied
- The elderly affected populations aging 60 and above (n=84) was investigated 7-9 months after the earthquake in Mianyang
- SRQ cutoff value=7 is screening positive, with a total of 57 cases (67.9%), females higher than males (P=0.023)
- **Risk factors**: existing physical illness, females and family monthly expenses
- **Protective factors**: Number of family members living together, religious belief and family receiving rescue

Xiang Hu, Wang Huali, Ma Hong, Yu Xin et al. Elderly Chinese 2012, 6 (32)
Development Stages of Psychological Crisis Intervention after Major Disasters in China

- **Folk-led stage**
  - The fire disaster in Karamay in 1994

- **Government-led stage**
  - The earthquake took place in Wenchuan in 2008.

- **Systematic management stage**
  - Emergency medical aid “13th five-year” plan (2016-2020)
Chinese Government Initiatively Managing Disaster

• National Comprehensive Disaster Prevention and Reduction Plan (2011-2015) [2011] No. 55 (8 words on psychology)

• National Long-Term Plan for Talent Training and Development for Disaster Prevention and Reduction [2011] No. 2

• Advices on Strengthening Social Work Professional Talent Team Construction [2011] No. 25

• Emergency Medical Aid “13th Five-Year” Plan (2016-2020) [2016] No. 46 (4 words on mental rehabilitation)
Inadequacy of Existing Policies

• Of existing policies, only the *Guiding Advices on Strengthening Social Psychological Aid Work of Natural Disaster* is specially targeting at psychological aid.

• Other policies only mentioned “Psychology”, but have no specific work indices.

• At present, only emergency stage is focused on – a month after disaster.
Defects of Specific Response Procedures

- Incomplete plans for various disasters by the government of all levels
- In sufficient ability to formulate work plan after outbreak of disaster
- Poor coordination among various departments
- Lack of human resources/specialized team
- Lack of long-range studies, difficulty in policy making by enquiry
Aging Pacing up in China

The elderly population (60 and above) accounts for 10% of the total, or the elderly population (65 and above) accounts for 7% of the total.

- 131 million in 1999
- 222 million in 2015
- 400 million in 2033
- 470 million in 2054
National epidemiological investigation in 2014

- The results of national epidemiological investigation in 2012-2014:
- Among the population of 65 years of age and above, the prevalence rate of elderly dementia was 5.56%
- higher than the result of 4.6% in some regions since 1987
Challenges of Population Aging and Mental Health

• The mental health hospital in China's civil affairs system are re-adjusting the thoughts of supporting the elderly

• Supporting the elderly at the spiritual level: Plan, standard, training and evaluation of mental health service for the elderly in the service system of supporting the elderly

• Establish a fundamental medical service network covering the urban and rural areas
Nursing Care of Elderly Population after Disaster

• No specialized policies— To appeal
• No Specialized services— To try
• Shortage of evaluation tools targeting at elderly people — To introduce and formulate
• No specialized psychological crisis intervention team — To train

We are faced with arduous tasks, so go on fighting!
Thank you

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