



Adult Social Care in China

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Traditional ways of caring for older adults in the Chinese society

- *Family support* – the first and foremost responsibility of the immediate family members. Adult children are the main source of physical, emotional, social, psychological and financial support for older parents. They are often involved in direct care-giving activities for their older parents.



- According to the Confucian Principle of filial piety, the younger generation of adult children is expected to care for their elderly parents.



When the People's Republic of China was established in 1949, this tradition was written into the Constitution. In 2013, a new law introduced to require adults children to provide mental and financial support to their aging parents.



Elderly Rights Law 2013

Adults should care about their parents "spiritual needs" and "never neglect or snub elderly people".

Grown children in China must visit their parents or potentially face fines or jail

Moral Dilemma



According to the Marriage law 1950, grown-up children are obliged to support their older parents irrespective of how the parents performed their parental duties of raising them when they were children.

What do you think?

How do you legislate love?





Self-care

- The modernisation of China has created enormous opportunities for young adults from the country side to pursue freedom and economic prosperity to improve their living standards.
- They have left their parents which lead to the increasing prevalence of “Empty nests” where older adults live alone below the poverty line, as they don’t have state pension and health insurance.
- The government give them “Dibao” (Basic pension) 550 yan a month (£40)



For many elderly people, the pension is not enough to support them, and their children can't support them, so they have to work. That work is usually rubbish picking, sifting through bins for scrap to sell, usually Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) drinking bottles, paper and cardboards.

The work is demanding and unrewarding - about four PET bottles for one yuan (10p).

A 94 year old Beijing woman made news in 2012 when it was reported that she had been collecting bottles and paper for more than a decade to support herself and her 74 year old disabled daughter.



Nursing / Care Home

In China, nursing/care home cost 100% to 146% of the pension for those older than 80, therefore, the nursing/care homes only fit the needs of middle and upper-class older Chinese who are more educated, employed and live in cities with retirement income and health insurance.



The government's policies are likely to continue with the basic concept of 'nine-seven-three': 90 per cent of old people will live at home, 70 per cent will get government care and 30 per cent will live in private facilities.



China needs more effective and efficient adult social care laws to provide support and to protect those more vulnerable adults and their informal carers!







【热血往事】 一对近**160**岁的老人住在不足**10**平米的房间，今天他们终于可以睡在一起了

