

Intelligent bed testing in China and Denmark

Aim of the project

According to the statistics, it is estimated that both Denmark and China are facing the challenges of aging society now, over 15% of the citizens in each country are above 65. Meanwhile, as the early developer of the welfare technology, Denmark has its unique advantages in this area. It would be a win-win solution to introduce Danish welfare technology into the Chinese context. Only a limit number of research on this topic has been identified.

The overall aim of this study is to explore and find out how to transform welfare technology into the Chinese context:

1. To gain insight into elderly and severely ill patients, relatives and healthcare professional's experiences and acceptance towards the concept of intelligent bed in the Danish context. (Regional Level)
2. To explore and identify the needs of elderly and severe patients, relatives and healthcare professionals towards the concept of the intelligent bed in the Chinese context. (Regional Level)
3. To pilot the concept of the intelligent bed for elderly and severe patients in the healthcare sector in China. (Regional Level)
4. To design a service model based on innovation theory on how to transform Danish welfare technology into the Chinese context. (International Level)
5. To develop a new theoretical approach on how to transform welfare technology into the Chinese context. (International Level)

Target Group:

Elderly patients with dementia, mental disease or disability, their relatives and the healthcare professionals from the district nursing in Soenderburg, Denmark, and rehabilitation department at Guangdong Provincial Hospital of TCM, China. Patients must be at least 60 years old.

Methods:

Case study approach, data triangulation, chain of evidence

Data collection techniques

1. Participant observation
2. Documentary study
3. Semi-structured interview
4. Log-files

A process perspective has been implemented during the research. Each patient tests the intelligent bed for at least 4 weeks. The whole phase was divided into before, during and after phase. This perspective allows to compare the care which were delivered to the patients both before and after the implementation of the intelligent bed.

Preliminary Results

The functions of the intelligent bed are able to improve the health care quality of the patients, significantly decrease the workload of the health professionals, but may encounter some social-cultural barriers due to the different social settings, organizational cultures, etc.

Questions to be addressed:

1. What is the role of the culture difference in these two tests?
2. What is the potential significance for the future design of the intelligent bed?
3. How to better strengthen the validity of the research by using various way of data collection techniques?
4. What might be the role of the health professionals in the development of the new welfare technology?
5. What are the disadvantages that might be existed in this study and what other research methods might be relevant?
6. Etc.

Reference

1. The Intelligent Bed at Home: a Case Study of the Use and Experience of Caregivers. Submitted to *International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care*.
2. Framework for effect evaluation of the Intelligent Bed in Denmark & China. Under submission.

