

Development of Kyungrodang Senior Care Services in Korea

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Abstract

The study was purposed to find how the kyungrodang senior care system grew since launched it in Korea. Coping with dramatic care needs of the elderly population, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs(MOHSA) and the author have been developed community senior care system since 2000. Through five years of implementation, the programs got taken for the government regular programs. The programs were expected to got more of the variety as well as participant organization and personnel. Thus, this study was compared how the system has been expanded through the activation period.

The data were collected through a survey and visiting interviews with 1,225 out of 1,975 kyungrodangs, which is 62% of total model kyungro-dangs from the 1st of April till the end of August in 2005.

The findings shown that both government and private participations were increased. Among the governments, not only the MOHSA but also Ministries of Information and Communication, Culture and Tourism, and Rural Development Administration, etc have entered. The service providers were increased more than 2.5 time from 44 Senior-welfare centers. The service and programs get more of professional personnel participation and health promotion programs shown the priority of demands and popularity.

Social activity programs, information and counsel programs, and senior empowerment and community participation programs were composed with the health promotion. Those components supported seniors to feel fun, and to keep World Health Organization (WHO)'s health promotion tasks for the aged.

Korea experience led the health promotion programs better to be combined with social programs to solve their life needs and to cope with changes of social communication and information skills.