Exploration of the Path to Perfection of Diverse and Collaborative Child-Friendly Cities

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Abstract. As the construction of child-friendly cities continues to advance, its connotation continues to deepen and its outreach accelerates, the synergy between the government, the market, social forces and family governance in the areas of public governance and social policies and social welfare has become more significant. In the face of the lack of internal and external synergy and collaboration among multiple actors, the mismatch between the social environment and the construction of child-friendly cities, and the urgent need to create a child-friendly family environment, specific paths need to be taken to improve the situation by forming a multi-participant and multi-participant collaborative creation pattern, jointly promoting the upgrading of industries and enhancing the effectiveness of public services, and building the main position of families in the construction of child-friendly cities.

Keywords: child-friendly city; multiple subjects; urbanization

1   Introduction

Children's well-being is a fundamental indicator of social health and governance. Nearly 55% of children currently live in cities and the scale of children in cities has increased. As a vulnerable group, children are exposed to multiple risks and challenges such as gaps in protection mechanisms, reduced physical functioning and mental health problems in an environment of high-density spatial development, mobile and industrially encroaching urban systems, and a complex online civic environment. Low fertility intentions, rising parenting anxiety and rapid ageing reveal the endogenous contradictions between the rapid evolution of cities and the intergenerational transition.

[1] As children are the masters of society, children's rights and well-being are gaining importance and social recognition, and child-friendly concepts are being integrated into urban society. Child-friendly cities are an important way for children to participate in urban governance and reflect the concept of "people-centred" urban development, and in 1996, the Child-Friendly Cities initiative was officially launched; In 2016, Shenzhen applied for the construction of a child-friendly city, which started the construction of child-friendly cities in China; In 2021, child-friendly cities were included in the 14th Five-Year Plan; The "Guidance on Promoting the Construction of Child-Friendly

Cities" launched 100 pilot child-friendly cities nationwide, making the concept of child-friendly cities a social consensus and national consciousness. With the deepening of the connotation and expansion of child-friendly cities, the participation of multiple actors such as the government and social organizations, as well as the collaborative efforts of families, schools and communities, has become the core pathway to alleviate the difficulties of building child-friendly cities.

2   Literature Review

Deconstructing the connotation of child-friendly cities[2]: child-friendly cities are a system with child-friendliness as the core, covering policies, rights, services, space, environment and industry, etc.

Zhao Xin concludes that the interaction of governmental power capacity to operate together, the resonance of policy frameworks and the shaping of service chains become the driving force of child-friendly stable operation. [3] Wu Jinqun and Mao Jiyanan argue that in terms of the theoretical connotation of child-friendly city construction: people-centredness is the fundamental principle and governance transformation is the logical extension. [4] Jiang Wenwen and Han Juesheng explain the concept of child-friendly cities in terms of institutional protection, multi-party collaboration and children's participation in practice. [5] Li Yushu and Yan Chaoyun argue that the core meaning of child-friendliness is the protection and realization of children's basic rights based on children's perspective. [6] Li Jing and Ling Lu interpreted the meaning of child-friendliness from a multidisciplinary perspective and explored its contemporary value. [7]

Zhang Huiping believes that child-friendly cities must construct a realistic assessment index system. [8] Shen Yao and Zhang Xindan applied an international tool to analyse the results of an evaluation survey based on three major components: child participation, play and leisure, and child health. [9] Han Han and Yu Bingqin conducted a comprehensive evaluation of child-friendliness in terms of space, facilities, plant configuration, landscape culture and other dimensions from the perspective of children's behavioral psychology. [10] Huang Xi and Wang Yining used the NCD colour system as a theoretical basis for colour research to explore ways of building children's public spaces in the context of urban renewal. [11] Bai Jie and Xu Meihong examine the dilemma of urban street space and argue that child-friendly city construction should create shared spaces, achieve integrated design of sites and street spaces, enrich the colour design and spatial levels of interfaces, and expand children's spatial experience. [12] Zhang Jingjing and Xiang Chuya study the relationship between children's outdoor activities and the spatial and environmental elements of community parks, and propose the planning and design of community parks oriented by children's activity preferences. [13]

The theoretical connotations and development paths are continuously optimized. Existing research tends to focus on connotation theory, assessment system construction and urban planning fields to design hardware facilities such as road traffic planning and spatial design. Various governance, construction and participation subjects lack clarity

of responsibility, cooperation among subjects lacks importance, the role of subjects is diluted, and multiple subjects lack synergy and multiple forces are not brought into play. This paper provides an in-depth analysis of the dilemmas faced in building child-friendly cities, and draws out a path for improvement from the perspective of multifaceted synergistic development to provide a reference for building child-friendly cities with friendly policies, friendly services, friendly rights protection, friendly development environment and space, and friendly industries.

3   An analysis of the dilemma of child-friendly city construction

3.1   Insufficient internal and external synergy and collaboration among multiple actors

The construction of a child-friendly city requires the joint participation of multiple actors. However, there is a lack of and misalignment among multiple governance bodies, and the government has failed to reach a consensus within the government and the efficiency of departmental collaboration is low. At present, the construction of child-friendly cities in China is in the incubation and shell-breaking stage, resulting in too much room for free play of child-friendly city governance subjects, forming a blurred scenario of responsibility, and the frequent occurrence of absence, misalignment and overlap, which restricts the construction of child-friendly cities. There is the problem of poor collaboration and unreasonable structure in the hierarchy of participating subjects. When implementing top-down policy content, different departments and levels make different interpretations and adaptations due to differences in their understanding of policy concepts. This has led to loose cooperation between government departments and a failure to achieve smooth inter-departmental linkages.

The overemphasis on government administrative control has led to a lack of cooperation and communication between the various governance actors, and even to the neglect of the views expressed by multiple actors in the process of participation, leading to institutional overreach and contradiction. As a result, there is a lack of social acceptance of the government's governance policies and a chain reaction of restrictions on the realization of cooperative governance. At the same time, individual differences and personal preferences make the participation of multiple actors in the construction of child-friendly cities less motivated, resulting in a lack of synergy and less efficient collaboration among multiple actors as a whole.

3.2   Mismatch between the social environment and the construction of child-friendly cities

The construction of child-friendly industries is immature and the concentration of child-friendly industries is low. Due to the shortage of children's resources and the "don't lose at the starting line" mentality, there are many difficulties in enrolling in schools and expensive schools, and the fierce competition for children to enroll in schools and the high cost of raising children have become a strong constraint to child-friendly parenting. At present, the child-friendly industry information service

platform is not sound and the industry chain operation model is not perfect, which limits the transformation of the child-friendly industry and affects the value of the child-friendly industry and the quality of public products.

The effectiveness of child-friendly public services is unsatisfactory. Policies provide institutional support for social participation in the construction of child-friendly cities. However, social organizations providing public services are influenced by social forces, and there are endogenous contradictions that limit their participation in the construction of child-friendly cities; at the same time, the embedded and precise personalized child-friendly service system has still not taken shape, and the experience of public services for children is poor, lowering expectations of the effectiveness of public services.

3.3   A child-friendly family environment needs to be created

Due to the fragility of children's physical and mental development, children's growth and development depend on the protection of adults and families. As a private sphere, the family presents a high degree of autonomy in the process of child education and upbringing. A child-friendly family environment involves not only parental responsibility but also comprehensive planning for the family's educational capacity and the achievement of the child's overall developmental goals, with the family as the cornerstone and the child as the root.

The fundamental problem with the Chinese family environment is the disregard for children's rights and the lack of parental education, which leads to families ignoring children's rights and feelings and making it difficult to build a friendly family environment for children's growth and development. The inconsistency between the 'de-familisation' and 'commodification' of child care and the lack of clarity in the sharing of responsibilities between the family, the market, the government and society in the public service system has resulted in a widening gap between the needs of children and the supply of resources, and a gradual increase in family expenditure This is not conducive to creating a child-friendly family atmosphere.

4   The way to improve the construction of child-friendly cities

4.1   Formation of a multi-disciplinary and multi-party collaborative approach

To build a governance network of multiple actors, and to bring into play the advantages of different actors in the construction of child-friendly cities, in order to provide a sustainable guarantee for the construction of child-friendly cities. To build a child-friendly city, the government should play a key role in stimulating the cooperation of various subjects, bring into play the advantages of the leadership structure and leadership ability, strengthen internal communication and communication between the upper and lower levels of governance subjects, and realize the concerted action of multiple departments and institutions under the same goal.

The government should clarify the principles of construction, identify multiple subjects, define the division of labor among them and the relationship between their

powers and responsibilities, construct a child-friendly city construction system that is co-created and shared by multiple subjects, and stimulate universal participation and shared implementation of a child-friendly environment. With children at the center as the basis for realizing multifaceted collaborative governance and goal coupling, training related to children's rights is implemented for multiple subjects, providing a basis for the development of child-friendly undertakings and the construction of co-operative networks, and achieving smooth integration of multi-level and multi-faceted planning.

4.2   Upgrade industries and enhance the effectiveness of public services together

First, gradually improve the standards of the children's industry, strengthen the con-firmation of the quality of children's services and products, and enhance the product production function of the market; second, build a platform for the exchange of chil-dren's service industries, integrate industrial resources in various fields from multiple perspectives, such as childcare and children's parks, to form a number of child-oriented industrial clusters, promote the full penetration of the product service chain of chil-dren's products with the emotional needs of children as the core, and look for Provide new ideas for the upgrading of children's industries and products.

Coordinate the supply of government and market resources, and promote social organizations as an effective 'glue' and 'buffer layer' in the supply of public services. Actively build service platforms to improve the quality of child-friendly services, focusing on the promotion of child-friendly activities such as "care agents" and "par-ent-child activities", which provide specialized services for childcare, companionship and counselling, as well as an "embedded" mode of service delivery. embedded" ser-vice delivery model to make services more intuitive and convenient. At the same time, the building of professionals in the field of specialized children's work is being carried out vertically.

4.3   Building child-friendly families in child-friendly cities

The construction of child-friendly families is an essential part of the promotion of child-friendly cities. Taking children's emotional needs as the guide, we optimize the family environment for children's healthy growth, promote the construction of child-friendly families, create a good family atmosphere and enhance children's sense of family belonging, access and happiness.

From the perspective of family construction, the main responsibility for establishing child-friendly families rests primarily with parents, while the state and society are its main supporting forces. The emphasis on the leading role of the government is not to deny or undermine the responsibilities and obligations of the family in child-friendliness; both parties should play complementary and harmonious roles. Families provide informal services such as care, counselling and companionship to children, demonstrating that they are the most direct and effective entry point for the prevention of social problems, and that they should be empowered with a sense of

responsibility and guardianship. Family education should be shaped by changes in line with the development of the child's life cycle, dynamically adjusting educational approaches as well as interactive behaviors to meet children's new developmental needs.

5   Conclusion

Building a child-friendly city is a strategy to deal with fertility issues, aiming to create a social environment conducive to child development in general and to make young people think more positively about marriage and childbearing. Creating a child-centred city carries with it a vision of a better life and is about the growth, development and future of children. To build a child-friendly city, the multiple roles of "family responsibility", "state support" and "social cooperation" should be taken into account. It is important to clarify the collaborative mechanism of government co-ordination, departmental coordination and social participation, to insist on systematic planning, orderly promotion and diversified participation, and to stimulate the participation of all people in building a shared child-friendly environment, so as to ultimately realize the overall blueprint of a child-friendly city.

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