

# Study on Exploring the Old-age Pension Problem in China Based on Consciousness Autonomy

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## Abstract

The problem of old-age pension in China is a huge project, and its causes are complicated. Based on the perspective of conscious autonomy, this paper analyses the causes of the formation of China's old-age pension problem, specifically the relationship between them, and puts forward some countermeasures to solve the problem of the elderly in view of conscious autonomy, so as to provide a useful way to solve the problem of old-age pension in China.

## Keywords

Consciousness autonomy; aging of population; old-age pension.

## 1. CURRENT SITUATION OF OLD-AGE PENSION IN CHINA

### 1.1. Increasing Aging Population

China is experiencing the largest and fastest aging process in world history. According to the data of the sixth national census, by the end of 2010, China's total population was 1.34 billion, and the elderly population over 60 years old reached 178 million, of which 119 million were over 65 years old. According to the law of population inertia, the size of the elderly population in China will exceed 300 million in 2026, more than 400 million in 2037 and 440 million in 2050, which is about 30% of the total population. At the same time, one third of the elderly groups will increasingly become an important part of society. Old-age pension has increasingly become an important social issue affecting China's future development. It will be a long-term arduous task to adhere to the people-oriented principle and share the responsibility of providing for the aged.

### 1.2. Unmet Needs for the Elderly in Nursing Homes

With the aggravation of aging and the increasing of the elderly population, there are many nursing homes in society. However, as far as the elderly are concerned, the existing number of nursing homes cannot meet all the needs of the elderly in the country. Because of the autonomy of social resource allocation and flow, most of the nursing homes in society nowadays aim at operation, which will result in the flow and change of nursing homes to places with high profits. People with pension problems are generally those with financial difficulties who are barely self-sufficient in their own lives and it is unrealistic to bear high pension costs for them. The liquidity of resource autonomy is the reason for this phenomenon.

## 2. AWARENESS AUTONOMY AND OLD-AGE PENSION

### 2.1. Awareness Autonomy and Economic Pension

#### 2.1.1 Awareness Autonomy Causing Regional Differences of Old-age Pension

After more than 30 years of reform and opening up, China's economy has developed rapidly and it has become the second largest economy in the world. China's achievements are obvious

to all, but from the internal point of view, there are still many problems. For example, regional economic development is unbalanced, and there are huge differences between urban and rural development. And these economic imbalances are the reasons that lead to the differences of the regional, urban and rural old-age pension. Reform and opening-up have changed the former planned economy-based economic system and gradually turned to the market-based economic system, which plays a fundamental role in the allocation of social resources, and this concept has been confirmed in law.

Market economy emphasizes the basic role of market in resource allocation. As the main body of market, market economy can rely on its own will to produce and operate according to market needs, which is the application of the principle of consciousness autonomy in economy. However, it is also the free competition activities of market participants that bring about the differences between urban and rural areas. And the economic difference between urban and rural areas is the reason that leads to the inequity and differentiation of regional and urban pension problems. It can be seen that the application of consciousness autonomy in economic aspects is one of the reasons for the differences between urban and rural areas.

### 2.1.2 Consciousness Autonomy Affecting Social Subjects to Undertake Pension Problem

In order to maximize the interests, market participants mediate and control their own production and management direction according to market demand, and the joint efforts of many such market participants have formed such a situation today. Old people had spent their whole life and youth on work. When they were young, they were working to devote their value to enterprises and society. They are honorable and respectable. However, when they suffer accidents, losing their ability to work, or they are gradually aging, their ability to work is reduced, they cannot meet the needs of the work well or cannot meet the needs of the era, and then they will face the risk of being dismissed. For example, enterprises produce and operate for the purpose of maximizing their interests. Expenditure on employees and the elderly is also a cost of the enterprise. Under the trend of maximizing benefits, enterprises often dismiss the elderly who gradually lose their ability to work according to their own needs. Enterprises do not care about the living arrangements of the elderly after their dismissal. This is also a game between the principle of consciousness autonomy and the elderly workers.

## 2.2. Awareness Autonomy and Pension in Private Law

Conscious autonomy is the highest idea, the highest goal and purpose of private law. Its legal representation is the autonomy of private law, and its essence is another expression of social autonomy. From the philosophy of law, awareness autonomy can be understood as: the will of a person can create rights and obligations for himself in accordance with his own laws, and the will of the parties is not only the source of the rights and obligations of the parties, but also the basis for their occurrence. The core connotation of conscious autonomy is that the parties create, change, eliminate and establish legal relations in private law on the basis of their own free will. Nowadays, the idea of conscious autonomy has been accepted and widely used in private law. It has been established as a basic principle in law. Taking civil law as an example, the principle of conscious autonomy refers to the independence of will, freedom and autonomy of action of civil subjects in civil activities. That is to say, when civil subjects engage in civil activities, they fully express their wishes with their true intentions, and establish, change and terminate civil legal relations according to their own wishes.

Since ancient times, our country has the concept of raising children and guarding against old age. It is an enviable happy moment to have many children and grandchildren. And there is a simple truth behind it that more children mean fewer worries about old age. However, the reality of social life forces young people to struggle for work and living areas. The social pressures of survival and life have brought young people embarrassment in their own lives. There are many young people in society who have difficult choices in their families and in

supporting their parents for the aged. This is already a social reality. Maintenance of parents is the responsibility of every child, and the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Elderly also stipulates that children should often go home to accomplish their parents. Faced with the pressure of responsibility and life, many young people tend to choose the answer which is beneficial to them. This also causes the embarrassing situation that many old people have children, but they are old and helpless. This is also the role of the principle of conscious autonomy in the choice of private law.

### **3. EXPLORING THE CAUSES OF THE OLD-AGE PROBLEM BASED ON CONSCIOUSNESS AUTONOMY**

#### **3.1. Awareness Autonomy Causing the Problem of Old-age Pension**

The problem of providing for the aged originates from the negative externalizations of economic, cultural and political operation, the most fundamental of which is the negative externalizations of economic operation. The problem of providing for the aged is caused by the imbalance of the development of market economy, which is based on the principle of self-government of the market subject under the guidance of the market law, as far as possible for their own best interests. From this point of view, we can draw a conclusion that consciousness autonomy is the cause, while pension is the result. The development of human society needs various forms of practice based on resources, which shows the importance of resources for development. Human needs are infinite, but resources are limited, and there is a set of contradictions. On the issue of providing for the aged, it is shown as the imbalance between the need for the aged and the supply of resources to support the aged. The principle of conscious autonomy leads to that every elderly person is meeting their pension needs through various forms. Under the circumstance of limited resources, other elderly people will naturally not be satisfied. As more and more elderly people are not satisfied, the problem of providing for the aged becomes more and more serious.

#### **3.2. Conscious Autonomy Itself Containing No “Synergistic” Forces**

The problem of providing for the aged is a group problem. If the elderly can't get effective “help”, it will cause the social injustice of providing for the aged, and induce social problems in other fields, which will hinder the economic and social development. However, the solution of social problems cannot be accomplished by a social member or a responsible subject. It needs to mobilize all aspects of the society to “synergize” into a single rope in order to solve the problem. But consciousness autonomy itself does not contain the “synergy” force, because it advocates that the subject of rights should follow his own consciousness or will to make the right choice or set obligations independently. Therefore, in the absence of protection of their own rights and interests, it is not operable to set up obligations for them to “coordinate”. Since consciousness autonomy does not contain “synergistic” forces, it cannot solve such social problems as pension.

### **4. SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF OLD-AGE PENSION IN CHINA BASED ON CONSCIOUSNESS AUTONOMY**

Our country's pension problem is a social problem, which can no longer be solved by individual strength. It requires the country to assume responsibility and the government to carry out it concretely. What's more, it needs the support and help of social forces.

#### **4.1. Strengthening the Rational Allocation of Old-Age Resources**

From the overall perspective, the government makes a reasonable design for the development of the national economy and promotes the coordinated development of regional

economy by means of policy adjustment. The government reforms the dual structure of urban and rural areas, eliminates the development of urban and rural economy, and establishes a free flow of labor market between urban and rural areas. Strengthening economic regulation and control is to make up for the deficiencies in the operation of market economy. The most important thing is to promote the rational allocation of social resources. The first is to promote the flow of resources to regions with slow development. The second is to promote the flow of resources to the countryside.

#### **4.2. Perfecting the Legislation on the Old-Age Pension**

For such social problems as pension, the country should assume its responsibility to ensure the elderly's life. The country should improve legislation to regulate and protect the legitimate rights and interests of the elderly. The government should fulfil its corresponding responsibilities to the problems of the elderly, increase the investment of funds for the elderly. As for the source of funds, it can be divided from part of the state administrative expenditure to reduce the consumption of three public expenditures, and use this expenditure in the cause of the elderly security. In addition, since the elderly are social problems, social forces can also assume certain responsibilities for the elderly. For example, social organizations can raise funds through various channels to create a community-based way to achieve their goals.

### **5. CONCLUSION**

Elderly people are growing old in a gradual process, which is natural. In view of the perspective of consciousness autonomy, this paper puts forward some countermeasures for the pension problem in China, hoping to provide some useful ideas for the pension problem in our country.

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