

Discussion on the strategies of aging adaptation and barrier-free environment construction in old residential areas

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Abstract

The renovation of old residential areas suitable for aging and the construction of barrier-free environment are the focus issues of current social attention, which are of great significance to ensure the quality of life of the elderly and enhance social inclusion. However, there are some major problems in this area, including the high cost of renovation, the difficulty of financing, the ineffective effect of renovation and the lack of effective working mechanism. In order to solve these problems, some effective strategies are put forward, including raising the special subsidy standard, improving the residential function of the community, formulating the policy of installing elevators and promoting the establishment of long-term working mechanism. The implementation of these strategies will provide a strong guarantee for the aging transformation of the old community and the construction of barrier-free environment, and then improve the quality of life of the elderly and realize the sustainable development of society.

Keywords

Retrofit for aging; Barrier-free environment; Old residential area.

1. Introduction

With the increasing trend of population aging, the aging transformation and barrier-free environment construction of old residential areas have become urgent problems to be solved in today's society. By the end of 2022, China's population aged 60 or above has reached 280 million, accounting for nearly 20 percent of the country's population, of which more than 14 percent are aged 65 or above. In this context, the old community is facing the growing demand for elderly care and the urgent need for barrier-free environment. The aging transformation of the old community is to meet the needs of the old people's life and action, and improve their quality of life and sense of happiness. According to statistics, more than 80% of the elderly are more willing to retire in the familiar area, and the existing old residential areas often have problems such as inconvenient transportation, construction design does not adapt to the characteristics of the elderly, and lack of convenient facilities, which bring a lot of troubles to their lives. At the same time, the construction of barrier-free environment is also particularly important. According to the China Disabled Persons' Federation, China's disabled population has reached 85 million, and they need a barrier-free community environment to realize their rights and interests in equal participation in social life[1]. However, there are often defects in architectural design and transportation facilities in old residential areas, which limit the freedom of disabled people to travel and make it difficult for them to enjoy public services in the community. Therefore, this paper aims to discuss the strategies of aging renovation and barrier-free environment design in old residential areas, so as to provide practical and feasible solutions.

2. The importance of aging transformation and barrier-free environment construction

The importance of aging transformation and barrier-free environment construction of old residential areas cannot be ignored. With the intensification of the aging trend of the population, the aging transformation of the old community can meet the life and action needs of the elderly, and improve their quality of life and happiness. The aging transformation can also provide the elderly with a healthy, safe and comfortable living environment and reduce the occurrence of accidents and accidents. At the same time, the construction of barrier-free environment is also important for the social integration of people with disabilities. By improving the design of buildings and accessibility of transportation facilities, people with disabilities can travel more freely, enjoy public services provided by the community, and achieve equal participation in social life. In addition, the renovation of old residential areas suitable for aging and the construction of barrier-free environment also help to enhance the overall sustainable development of the community. Optimizing the public facilities and services of the community is helpful to improve the quality of life of the community residents and promote the harmony and stability of the community.

3. The basic concept of aging transformation and barrier-free environment construction of old residential areas

3.1. Old residential areas suitable for aging transformation

The aging transformation of the old community refers to the transformation and renovation of the old community to adapt to the special needs and lifestyles of the elderly. In the process of transformation, attention is paid to the barrier-free design of buildings and public facilities, including handrails, ramps, barrier-free elevators, etc., in order to facilitate the mobility of the elderly. Increase the safety facilities of the old community, such as the installation of non-slip floors, handrails, emergency call systems, etc., to reduce accidents in the daily life of the elderly. Provide convenient medical services, set up or integrate community clinics, medicine rooms and health consultation institutions, and make it convenient for the elderly to seek medical treatment nearby. Improve the convenience facilities in the community, such as adding walking paths, leisure activities, shopping centers, social Spaces, etc., so that the elderly can easily carry out daily activities and build social interaction. Elderly care service institutions or communities should be introduced to provide elderly care services such as housing, nursing, rehabilitation and entertainment for the elderly. Encourage the elderly to actively participate in community activities, establish a voice platform for the elderly, and provide them with opportunities to participate in community decision-making and affairs. It aims to create an environment suitable for the elderly to live and meet their basic needs, enhance their quality of life and well-being, and promote the interaction and integration of the elderly with the community.

3.2. Building a barrier-free environment

Barrier-free environment construction refers to a series of design and transformation measures to solve and eliminate physical or cognitive barriers caused by environmental restrictions, so that all people can freely and conveniently enter and use public places, transportation facilities and service facilities regardless of whether they have physical or cognitive disabilities. The construction of barrier-free environment is an important aspect of protecting the rights and interests of groups such as the disabled and the elderly. Provide barrier-free access, such as escalators, ramps, lifts, etc. in public places, buildings and streets, so that people with limited mobility (such as the disabled, the elderly, pregnant women, etc.) can easily access and move. Use accessible signs that are easy to understand, including Braille

signs, visually contrasting signs, audible prompts, etc., to help people with visual or cognitive impairments navigate and use the facilities correctly. Set up special disabled parking Spaces to ensure that people with disabilities have enough space to enter and exit vehicles. To provide wide, accessible toilets with handrails, barrier-free sanitation and emergency call facilities to meet the needs of people with reduced mobility. To provide assistive devices for persons with visual or hearing impairment, such as visual oriented signs, flash alerts, auditory oriented prompts, etc., to ensure their safety and ease of use.

Through the construction of a barrier-free environment, social inclusiveness and equality can be achieved, so that all people can participate in social activities and use public service facilities independently and independently. This will help promote social integration and co-construction, and create a more friendly, equal and humane social environment.

4. The main problems existing in the aging transformation of old residential areas and the construction of barrier-free environment

4.1. The renovation cost is high and financing is difficult

One of the main challenges of aging renovation and barrier-free environment construction in old communities is the high cost of renovation, and financing is often difficult[2].The buildings in old residential areas have a long service life, and the buildings need to undergo comprehensive renovation and maintenance. For example, roads in many communities are badly damaged and need to be repaved or repaired, which are relatively expensive. In addition, the renovation also includes the installation of barrier-free facilities, the renovation of indoor space and other aspects of the cost, plus engineering construction and management costs, the overall investment is large.

4.2. The transformation of barrier-free facilities is not complete, and the transformation effect is not obvious

Although some old residential areas have been reformed in recent years, there are still problems that the transformation is not complete and the transformation effect is not obvious. First of all, some transformation measures may only meet the surface needs, without a comprehensive consideration of the overall environment, resulting in unsatisfactory transformation effects. For example, only a small number of barrier-free access roads have been installed, while there are still high and low drops or obstacles elsewhere. Secondly, supervision is not in place during the renovation process, resulting in uneven construction quality.

4.3. He needs of elevator households are not balanced, and there is greater difficulty in promoting

In the renovation of old residential areas, the installation of elevators is an important issue[3].However, the promotion of the installation of elevators is faced with the problem of uneven household demand: the demand for elevators in low-floor households is generally low, and the demand for elevators in high-floor households is more urgent. This leads to the need to solve the balance of interests between residents of different floors when promoting the elevator project, which makes the promotion of the elevator project quite difficult.

4.4. Lack of effective working mechanism

In the process of aging renovation and barrier-free environment construction in old residential areas, there is often a lack of effective working mechanism. This is mainly reflected in the management level, including project planning, construction management, acceptance mechanism and so on. As the renovation of old residential areas needs to coordinate all parties, and the lack of an effective working mechanism will lead to slow progress of the renovation project, or even into a standstill state.

5. Effective strategies for aging transformation and barrier-free environment construction of old residential areas

5.1. We will raise special subsidies for the comprehensive renovation of old residential areas

In order to improve the effect of aging transformation and barrier-free environment construction of old residential areas, we can consider appropriately increasing the special subsidy standard for comprehensive renovation. By increasing capital investment, the living environment of the old community can be better improved to meet the living needs of residents. It is possible to increase the capital investment to improve the subsidies for aging renovation and barrier-free environment construction of old residential areas.[4].In this way, it can ensure that the actual situation of the elderly and people with special needs is fully taken into account in the renovation project, and their living needs are met. We will establish an open and transparent supervision mechanism for the use of funds to ensure the transparency and standardization of the process from application, approval to use of special subsidies. At the same time, establish a performance evaluation mechanism for subsidy funds to ensure that each fund can play a role to the maximum and bring real improvement effects.

In addition, it can strengthen the supervision and inspection of subsidy projects, and solve the problems and difficulties in the project. At the same time, the subsidy standards are regularly assessed and adjusted to ensure that they are in line with the needs of the actual renovation work and adapt to changes in social and economic development.

5.2. Improve the residential function of the community and improve the living quality of residents

In view of the functional imperfection of old residential areas, professional design agencies can be introduced to plan and transform them. Emphasis will be given to increasing public leisure areas, fitness facilities and social activities to improve the quality of life of residents. At the same time, the construction of convenient community service center, to provide convenient and fast community services. By expanding the public space of the old community, setting up public leisure areas and green landscapes, it provides a place for residents to relax and interact. This helps to improve the social life of the residents, reduce their sense of loneliness, and promote solidarity and friendly relations between the neighbors. Build fitness facilities in the community, such as gyms, running paths, etc., to provide residents with convenient exercise places. This not only helps residents maintain good health, but also enhances their enjoyment of life and sense of well-being.

In addition, the construction of community service center is an important measure to enhance the residential function of the community. Community service centers can provide a variety of services, such as community medical treatment, cultural entertainment, psychological counseling, etc., to facilitate residents to solve various problems in daily life. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen management and maintenance to ensure the cleanliness, safety and good order of public areas. Residents can also be encouraged to actively participate in community cultural activities and volunteer services to create a shared community atmosphere.

5.3. Formulate the system for installing elevators to ensure the safety of elevator use

The old residential areas are mostly multi-storey buildings, and the lack of elevator facilities brings inconvenience to the daily life of residents. Therefore, the policy of installing elevators is formulated, and the supervision and maintenance of elevator safety is strengthened to ensure the safe operation of elevator facilities. In addition, it is necessary to strengthen the maintenance and management of elevators and improve residents' confidence in the use of

elevators. Relevant departments can formulate corresponding systems to clarify the requirements and procedures for installing elevators in old residential areas. Establish a special examination and approval authority, responsible for reviewing and supervising the elevator retrofitting project, to ensure that it meets safety standards and technical regulations. At the same time, strengthen the supervision and maintenance of elevator safety, establish a healthy elevator maintenance and management system, regularly carry out safety inspections and maintenance, and timely deal with failures and hidden dangers. Strengthen the training and examination of elevator maintenance personnel, improve their technical level and responsibility awareness.

In addition, publicity and training of residents can be strengthened to raise their awareness of elevator safety[5]. Regularly organize relevant training activities to introduce the precautions for elevator use and emergency response methods to residents, so as to enhance residents' self-protection ability. Establish the emergency plan and rescue aircraft system of elevator accidents to ensure that the trapped people can be rescued quickly and effectively in emergencies. At the same time, establish a complaint and reporting mechanism to encourage residents to actively participate in the supervision and feedback of the problems existing in the operation of the elevator.

5.4. Promote the establishment of a long-term mechanism to carry out barrier-free renovation of old residential areas

In order to continuously promote the construction of barrier-free environment in old residential areas, a long-term mechanism can be established. Under the guidance of relevant departments, professional institutions and social forces will be organized to participate in the formulation of transformation plans and standards, and supervision and acceptance will be strengthened[6]. At the same time, policy and financial support will be provided to encourage residents to actively participate in the renovation work and create a good atmosphere for joint construction and sharing. Set up a special barrier-free renovation work leading group, led by relevant departments, and invite relevant experts and scholars, residents representatives, representatives of the disabled to participate. The team is responsible for developing the master plan and goals for accessibility improvements and overseeing the implementation of the work. At the same time, the evaluation and acceptance mechanism of barrier-free renovation projects should be established. Through the introduction of a third party evaluation body, the renovation project is evaluated to ensure that it complies with accessible design standards and requirements. The accepted projects will receive corresponding financial awards and certificates of honor, encouraging more communities to participate in barrier-free transformation.

In addition, residents can be encouraged to actively participate in barrier-free transformation through the introduction of policies to provide financial support and tax benefits. Set up a special fund to subsidize renovation costs, and establish a transparent mechanism for the application and use of funds to ensure the fair distribution and effective use of funds. At the same time, publicity activities were carried out to enhance the willingness of residents to participate. Through the organization of lectures, exhibitions and demonstration activities, to popularize the knowledge of barrier-free transformation to residents and encourage them to actively participate in the transformation work. Establish a team of volunteers to help the elderly and disabled solve difficulties in daily life, and create a community atmosphere of co-construction and sharing.

6. Conclusion

Through the discussion of this paper, the problems and strategies of aging transformation and barrier-free environment construction in old residential areas are deeply studied. Aiming at the

problems such as high cost and difficulty in financing, a series of practical solutions are put forward. We believe that increasing special subsidies, improving the performance of the community, promoting the implementation of elevator policies, and establishing a long-term working mechanism can create an aging environment and barrier-free living space for the old community. In this process, relevant departments, residents and communities need to actively cooperate to jointly push forward the smooth progress of the renovation. At the same time, publicity and education is also very important to improve the participation and awareness of residents, and create a good atmosphere for the whole society to pay attention to the needs of the elderly and care for the elderly.

Aging adaptation and barrier-free environment construction is a social issue with wide impact, which is of great significance to the quality of life and social inclusion of the elderly. Only by persistent and unremitting efforts can we create a better living environment for the elderly, provide better living conditions for the elderly, and promote the sustainable development of the society. As long as we work together and work together, we can contribute our strength to the aging transformation of old communities and the construction of barrier-free environment, and create a more friendly, caring and inclusive future for society.

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