

# On the Aging Problem of the Chinese Population

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China has been ranked among the population aging countries earlier than we have expected. Given the stern reality, it is very important for us to correctly understand the causes, the process, and the characteristics of its aging problem and the impact on the social economic development thus caused in China.

## **1. The causes for the early coming of the aging problem in China**

The main cause of the early coming of the aging in China is the rapid development of social economy and scientific technology. With the improvement of medical condition and social culture, the birth rate and mortality rate of China keep decreasing, and the average life expectancy of the people extended continuously. In 1950, the average life expectancy of China was less than 40 years old. While now it has risen to 71 years old. Still, it is expected to reach 75.7 in 25 years time.

The "Birth Control" Policy implemented in the late 1970s is the main factor of the early coming of the aging in China. The population policy of China focuses on the control of the population. According to the census, in the past 20 years, China has reduced 240 millions of birth. Because the structure of the population could not be changed, when fast growth of the population was under control, the population structure could not but develop in the trend of aging, thus caused the historical change of the age structure of Chinese population.

## **2. The characteristics of the aging of the Chinese population**

- (1) The speed of aging in China is fast; the trend of aging is obvious.**
- (2) The absolute number of aging people increased rapidly.**
- (3) The appearance of the aging people is prior to the level of economic development.**
- (4) The development of the cities and towns is complicated and the development of regions is unbalanced.**

## **3. The problems brought about by the aging of the Chinese population**

- (1) The income and maintenance of the aging**
- (2) The health and medical service for the aging**
- (3) The social participation of the aging**
- (4) The solicitude and care to the aging**
- (5) The rights and interests of the aging**

## **4. The social economic impact by the aging in China**

The problem of aging in China has a far-reaching impact on the China's economic sustainable development. The problem of aging in China is a double-edged sword, which has both positive and negative aspects. The key point lies in how to convert the negative aspects into the positive aspects and how to develop the positive impact and reduce a negative one. The negative impact of the aging population is mainly manifested in the aspect of increasing burdens of the society, institutions and enterprises for pension. Meanwhile, its positive aspect is that the educated and well-trained aging people are the immense treasures of the society and the senior-service industries are becoming the new growing points. We should adopt

an active policy to allow a full play of the active impact of the aging and restrict the negative impact to its least capacity.

**5. The strategies of solving the problem of aging**

**(1) Economic maintenance**

We should better solve the problems of economic maintenance to the aging and meet the lowest living demands of the aging people.

**(2) Spiritual nourishment**

Effective measures should be adopted to provide spiritual nourishment to the aging and meet the demand of higher level of the aging people.

**(3) Health care**

Medical insurance and health care system should be developed and perfected by adjusting the supply of medical care service to realize the health of the aging people.