

# Assets Perspective on Exploring the Path of Children's Social Development A case study of the T Community "doll court" Project

Yan Junhui, Tan Weihua\*, Gong Qian

*School of Public Administration, Hunan Normal University, Changsha, 410000, Hunan, China*

*\*Corresponding Author*

**ABSTRACT.** *Communities are the main environment in which children live. Community assets may affect children's social development. However, there are still relatively few studies on how community assets, especially community legal assets, affect children's social development. Therefore, this research analyzes how the T community "Doll Court" project excavated community legal assets and other community assets to achieve the purpose of promoting children's social development, and discussed the path of children's social development from the asset-oriented perspective.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Asset-based, Social development of children, Social work*

## 1. Introduction

In recent years, it is generally recognized that the social development of children is not only directly related to the individual's physical and mental health and the perfection of personality, but also to the development of the whole society. Therefore, how to promote the social development of children has become the key task of children's research at the present stage. "People in the context" emphasize the social development of children in where the environment they live in. Including the community environment. At the same time, children are an integral part of the community population. Their education is the key to the construction of the community. And under the concept of "Home and Community Education", the effective use of community resources to promote the social development of children is also one of the objectives of the community.

## **2. The Conceptual Connotation of "Asset-based" and Its Significance of Promoting Children's Social Development**

### ***2.1 Conceptual connotation of "asset-based"***

The "asset-based" community development model proposed by American scholars John L. MC Knight and John P. Kretzmann in 1993. It focuses on community strengths or competencies and emphasizes that communities should be understood with "asset lenses" or "ability lenses" rather than with "community lenses". On this basis, they put forward a community development path based on advantage perspective theory, which is based on community assets, pays attention to internal resources, and is driven by interpersonal relationships. The model has three characteristics: asset-based, internal orientation and relationship-driven. The so-called asset-based mainly focus on the search for assets and advantages with the community, John Kretzmann and John L. McKnigh two people divided community assets into personal assets, community social organization assets, community groups and sector assets, natural resources and material assets. The internal orientation emphasizes the ability of community residents, groups and groups to define community issues and participate in the promotion of community affairs. Relational drives mainly refer that assisting the relationship construction of each subject in the community and increasing its social support network and trust. From these three characteristics, it can be found that the asset-based community development model can not be separated from the active participation in the various subjects in the community, but also from the establishment of good relations between the various subjects.

### ***2.2 Significance of the concept of "asset-based" in promoting the social development of children***

The significance of asset-based development concept in promoting children's social development is mainly reflected on the following points: Firstly the transformation of vision. Most scholars analyze the factors and pathways that affect children's social development from the family and the school. But the asset-based community development models emphasizes that children should be placed in the environment in which they live to consider the path, which includes not only the family and the school, but also the social environment such as the community and so on. And it realizes the transformation of the vision of narrow to broad. Secondly the driving force of sustainable development. The sustainable development concept, which is inspired and created, plays an important role in promoting children's social development. Thirdly stimulate the innovation of development. Based on the T community "the doll courts" project, this paper explores how to make full use of the advantages of individual and community resources to promote children's social development. And create a harmonious community atmosphere of mutual assistance and activate the community support network.

### **3. " Doll Court "Project Research Analysis**

The author tries to analyze the application of the asset-based social development of children by taking the "doll court" project carried out and the CY social work organization of T community child development practice.

#### ***3.1 Project background***

The "doll court" voluntary service project was set up by the community party committee and the community league committee to integrate and utilize the resource advantages of the district. With the strong support of the provincial public security bureau, the provincial judicial department and the provincial prison administration, a unique model project of children's rule of law education was created and the city's first children's court was set up with the professional ability of the social work organization. The project mainly takes "asset-based" as the perspective, fully excavates, integrates community resources, disseminating safety and legal knowledge to community children through improvisation drama, law popularization small classroom, rule of law painting, mock court, rule of law study to tour, law preaching and so on. So that they can learn how to use the law to protect themselves.

#### ***3.2 Project intervention process***

The process of children's intervention in the T community mainly revolves around the professionalization and standardized development of services. The main process of intervention is needs assessment to mapping community assets to building relationships to mobilizing assets to cultivating own organizations and building external relationships.

##### ***3.2.1 Needs assessment***

T community cooperated with the CY social work organization and signed the "Doll Court" projects agreement. The social work organization conducted a needs survey on community children's rule of law education in the community. Examine the extent of children and parents' awareness of the rule of law education and their legal education approach. Understand children's needs and expected forms of rule of law education from the perspective of children and parents. A total of 89 valid questionnaires were distributed among 100 questionnaires. The demand survey shows that children's legal education is imperative in the community, mainly reflected off the following aspects: first, children's rule of law education is popular with parents. Second, parents want their children to learn to use the law to protect themselves. Third, rich and interesting rule of law education activities are more popular. These needs analysis provide important directionality guidance of the formulation and implementation of actual project programmes.

### 3.2.2 Mapping of community assets

After the social worker enters the T community, the first thing is to evaluate and integrate the community resources to carry out the feasibility analysis of the "doll court" project. Through community stroll, household survey and other interviews with community residents. In the process, social workers record and summarize the important assets of the community collected from the community, and set up the community asset bank. Secondly, social workers draw on the classification method of community assets. Then social workers try to use the theoretical framework of community development model which based on two people's assets. And they use the analysis of three levels of individual, social environment and geographical environment to depict community assets and to use the assets found to promote the social development of children.

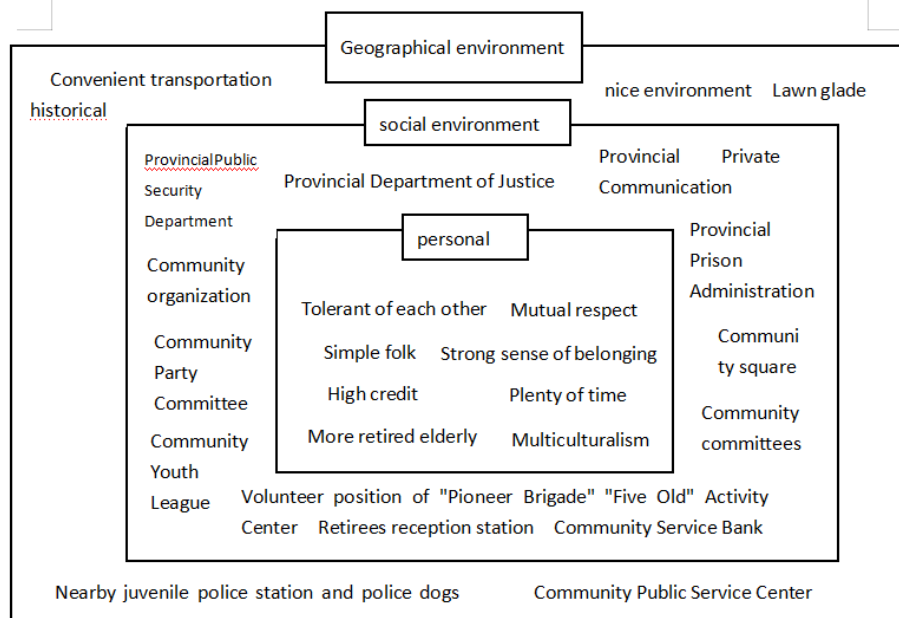


Figure 1 T Map of community assets

### 3.2.3 Building relationships

Under the guidance of the asset-based perspective, the implementation of the "Doll Court" projects and the ultimate social development of children needs to pay attention to the relationship between the participants of the whole community, the relationship between community social organizations, individuals, associations and

departments, and the degree of participation of children in the activities. In the "Doll Court" project series of activities, social workers contact residents actively, and mobilize residents to lead their children to actively participate in the activities. In order to set up an interest group on the rule of law, rule of law mutual assistance groups to establish and maintain the relationship between various groups in the community.

#### ***3.2.4 mobilization of assets***

One is to mobilize personal assets. According to the characteristics, interests and specialties of the community participants, social workers set up voluntary service teams with community volunteers as the main group; social workers-based propaganda groups, activity planning teams; children and parents-based mutual aid teams for the rule of law. These three teams play their respective roles in the activities. Second, using community social organizations and community groups and sector assets flexibly. Social workers coordinate with community party committees, league committees and neighborhood committees to plan and arrange activities to effectively promote the rationality of the activities; link the assets of community service centers, provincial public security departments and other assets to provide venues for the dissemination of knowledge on the rule of law. Link the resources of enterprises around the community to collect funds to buy drinking water, activity gifts, audio equipment, print posters, etc. Third, the integration of natural resources and material assets. Such as legal lectures in community service centers, small classes in law popularization, etc. The activities of acting drama performances in outdoor open spaces and painting of rule of law make the idle resources in the community be used effectively. At the same time, posters of each event were posted on the community affairs bulletin board, and residents who past here were able to understand clearly the time and manner in which the activities were carried out, which greatly facilitated the participation in children.

#### ***3.2.5 Nurturing self-owned organizations***

Social workers organized community residents' volunteers through a series of seminars to form a volunteer gang of education on the rule of law, and identified the help of the volunteer gang as the leader of the organization, so that before each activity was carried out, the help owners organized everyone to participate in voluntary activities, which effectively encouraged the enthusiasm of everyone.

#### ***3.2.6 establishing external relations***

The asset-based perspective not only emphasizes the intrinsic motivation of the community but also emphasizes the intervention in the external forces of the community. The community regards the provincial public security bureau, juvenile correctional facilities and police dog bases as closely linked cooperation units, such as inviting the legal publicity counselors of the provincial public security bureau to

carry out a series of activities such as "doing their own chief safety concept", "police camp open day" and police professional experience in children. Juvenile correctional facilities and police dog bases are open to children that come to study under the rule of law and carry out related activities in the form of situational experience, game interaction and peer education.

#### **4. Project effectiveness**

According to the semi-structured interview method and the records of each activity, assess the process evaluation of the clients and their parents, community workers. This paper mainly uses the three connotations of children's social development, namely social cognition, social emotion and social behavior, to analyze and discuss the effectiveness of the doll court.

##### ***4.1 Development of Doll Courts and Children's Social Awareness***

Social cognition is a process in which individuals speculate and judge the psychological state, behavioral motivation and will of others. For children, the most related to their social development is the development of children's behavior selection ability and children's cognition of authority

1) Behavioral selection ability has been significantly improved. Such as the "doll court" series of activities in the behavior drama performance, through the behavior drama performance police catch thieves, cross the road to run red lights, let children express their views on the scene. In response to these actions, most children say: "these actions are really too bad, I will not do that!" It can be seen that in the activities, many references and publicity and education can deepen the impression of children, and they can learn to analyze whether the practice of others is correct or not, to establish the value of abiding by the law, to improve the ability of behavior selection significantly, and to reflect the social development.

2) Establish a sense of legal authority. For example, in the course of studying under the rule of law, children listen to the story of the crime confession by feeling the life of the criminals who lost their personal freedom under the wall of the high court under the supervision of the few. And children can deeply experience the seriousness of the violation of the law from the consequences of their criminal acts and the advice of life, and truly realize that the authority of the law is sacred and inviolable.

##### ***4.2 Doll Courts and Children's Social Emotional Development***

Social emotion is the attitude experience of whether people's social needs are satisfied or not. In the process of children's social emotion development, children's moral emotion and the development of self-concept are two very important aspects.

1) Moral feelings are satisfied. Children have access to the legal aid helpline

when visiting public legal service centres, which is a powerful skill for self-protection and enhances security; The close contact and communication between the two in the course of instruction by the judiciary reduces the fear of the judiciary, such as the police uncle that allows the child to think of them and report to the police faced with an emergency or danger.

2) Clarify the concept of self. Self-concept is personal self-awareness. In the process of promoting the knowledge of the rule of law, social workers show pictures of people in different identities to children, such as classmates, teachers, parents, police and other symbolic pictures, and guide the children to tell their feelings to this kind of people. Through this activity, children understand when people in different identities what they should do. It promotes children's cognition of self-concept.

#### ***4.3 Development of Doll Courts and Children's Social Behaviour***

The development of children's social cognition and social emotion will directly affect the development of children's social behavior, which is finally reflected on social behavior. Pro-social behavior and anti-social behavior are two manifestations of social behavior, both of which are important aspects of children's social development. Therefore, social workers have planned a number of activities for these two kinds of behavior: Studying garbage sorting, civilized behavior promotion regulations, drug control and other regulations in an acceptable way, such as explaining, painting, letting children send leaflets, etc. A series of interactions imperceptibly guide children to attach importance of legal knowledge, gradually influence and form legal consciousness from all aspects of listening, speaking, reading and writing. After the education of the rule of law, children's pro-social behavior is obviously increased, and anti-social behavior is obviously reduced.

### **5. The Construction Path of Children's Social Development**

Based on the community's assets, the T community has promoted the smooth progress of the "doll court" project and the social development of children. Therefore, we can use the practical experience of the "doll court" project to analyze the path of children's social development from the perspective of asset-based.

#### ***5.1 Community capital development and community asset bank***

From the perspective of "asset-based", it emphasizes the development and utilization of community resources. It needs to integrate all kinds of community resources, and establish the asset bank of the community. First of all, to find personal advantages, including children themselves, parents, kindergarten teachers, peer groups, community enthusiastic residents and so on. For to peer groups, children should establish good and friendly relationships and promote development through mutual help. Second, to tap organizational advantages. The Government can provide policy guidance of the purchase of social work services to promote the

development of related projects. Non-governmental organizations can fully play the role of human and material resources to meet the needs of the community.

Finally, need to discover community environmental advantages. A child protection practitioner shared his opinion on what he meant by a friendly environment: We should ensure that we create an enabling and friendly environment to ensure successful engagement of children in practice. So create a harmonious community atmosphere and a safe community environment to ensure the safety of children in the community; improve the community's various recreational facilities conducive to the development of children to create a place for children to play; increase the green area in the community to provide a beautiful natural environment for children to grow up.

### ***5.2 Foster community self-organization, relying on volunteer power***

Bring parents' volunteers together who have different cultural backgrounds, life experiences, knowledge and skills, interests and hobbies to form a voluntary association for the development of children. Then encourage parents to support the service according to their spare time. At the same time, it is necessary to train parents' volunteers in a timely manner. The training covers all aspects of children's social development. The training methods can employ excellent teachers to give lectures or exchange experiences, so that parents can understand the help needed for children's social development, and master the correct skills and methods to truly exert the strength of parents' volunteers to help preschool children. In order for parent volunteers of the Voluntary Association for the Development of Children to be able to work continuously.

### ***5.3 Relationship-driven, build mutual cooperation platform***

In the case of limited community resources and support, it is necessary to build mutual aid and cooperation platform to promote the construction of social development of children. First, we should focus on building partnerships, for the social development of children through the establishment of partnership, and take the common interests as the starting point. So that the practice of social development of children can benefit both individuals and communities. Second, strengthen mutual trust. Through strengthening trust inside and outside the community, let people feel the connection between people. They will have more space in the mind to make more concern to others and society and make friends with others. At the same time they contribute their talents, and work together for the social development of children.

## **6. Conclusion**

From the existing research data onto our country, the data onto studying the natural and social environment of preschool children from the perspective of



asset-based is still very limited. Therefore, according to the shortcomings of previous research, this paper takes this perspective as the starting point to put the social development of children in the community system to carry out research. And it is innovative in the perspective of research. Furthermore, we get the path of children's social development from the perspective of asset-based —— excavate community capital, establish community asset bank, cultivate community self-organization, rely on volunteer strength, carry on relationship-driven, and construct mutual aid and cooperation platform. In a word, it is a new research idea to explore the path of children's social development from the perspective of asset text, which is of great significance to promote children's social development, but because there are some differences in the historical culture and realistic basis of each community, it is necessary to seek the appropriate development path of the local situation.

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