Development of Rehabilitation in China

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ABSTRACT

Human coexists with illnesses, and illnesses drive the pursuit of rehabilitation. For thousands of years, ancient Chinese civilization has utilized gymnastics, Dao-yin techniques, and martial arts for physical conditioning. Additionally, traditional Chinese medicine has been employed to heal injuries. These early efforts in functional restoration are considered the precursors to traditional rehabilitation medicine. The period from 1980 to 1995 marked the inception of modern rehabilitation medicine in China. From 1995 to 2005, over 20 provincial-level rehabilitation facilities were completed. Between 2005 and 2020, rehabilitation was promoted and became widespread across various sectors. Since 2021, it has been integrated into the national healthcare system, becoming a pivotal component of the Health China Strategy, leading to its comprehensive development. Over nearly four decades of development, an integrated service system has been established, comprising six systems that provide rehabilitation services: the China Disabled Persons' Federation system, the healthcare system, the human resources and social security system, the civil affairs system, the education system, and the private sector. The completion of the China Rehabilitation Research Center (CRRC) in October 1988 formally introduced modern rehabilitation medicine to China. Its primary responsibilities encompass rehabilitation services, research, training, and social rehabilitation guidance. It also undertakes numerous national responsibilities, including disability prevention and autism rehabilitation. After 36 years of development, CRRC has evolved into a large, modern, and comprehensive rehabilitation institution offering a wide array of services, enjoying a high reputation both domestically and internationally. CRRC has established cooperative relationships with over 20 countries and regions, including Japan, Norway, Germany, and "Belt and Road" countries such as Oman and Uzbekistan. Looking ahead, our goals include enhancing international academic exchanges, further engaging in international projects, and increasing efforts in scientific research.