

Policy Challenges in Supporting a Decent Quality of Life for the Elderly with Dementia and Their Caregivers



The National Dementia Policy



The National Dementia Policy is an important program designed to promote social responsibilities for dementia patients and to provide quality care services to dementia patients and their families.

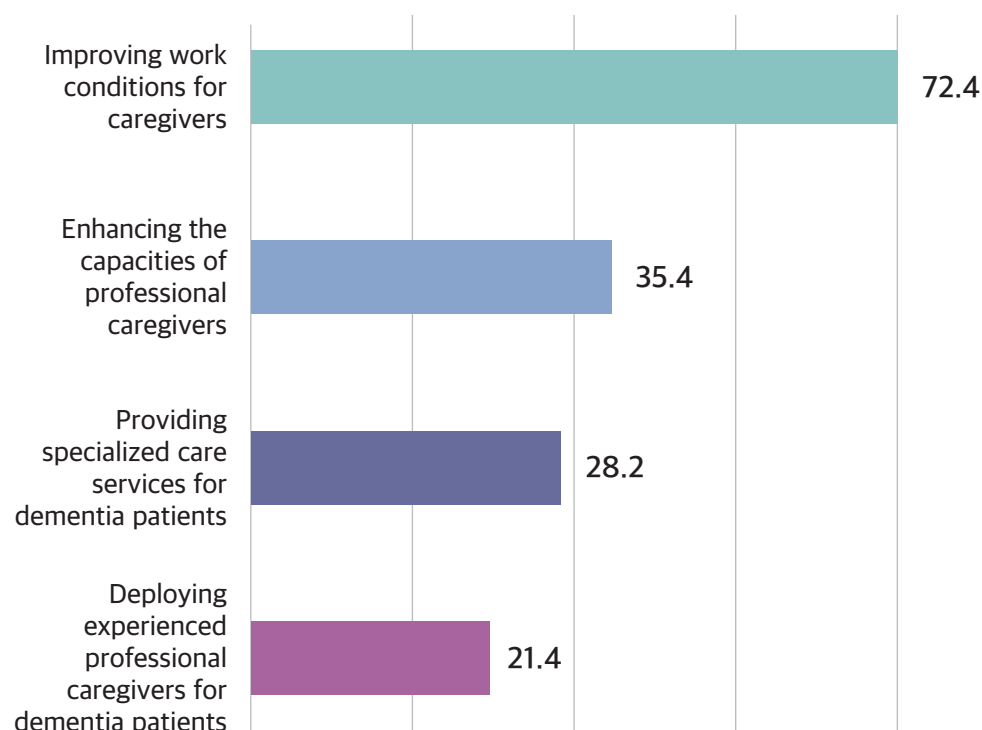
The South Korean government has implemented the fourth Comprehensive Plan for the Management of Dementia(2021-2025) as part of its efforts to support the elderly with dementia and their families. In a super-aged society, the importance of a state policy on people with dementia is growing.

Policy needs among caregivers

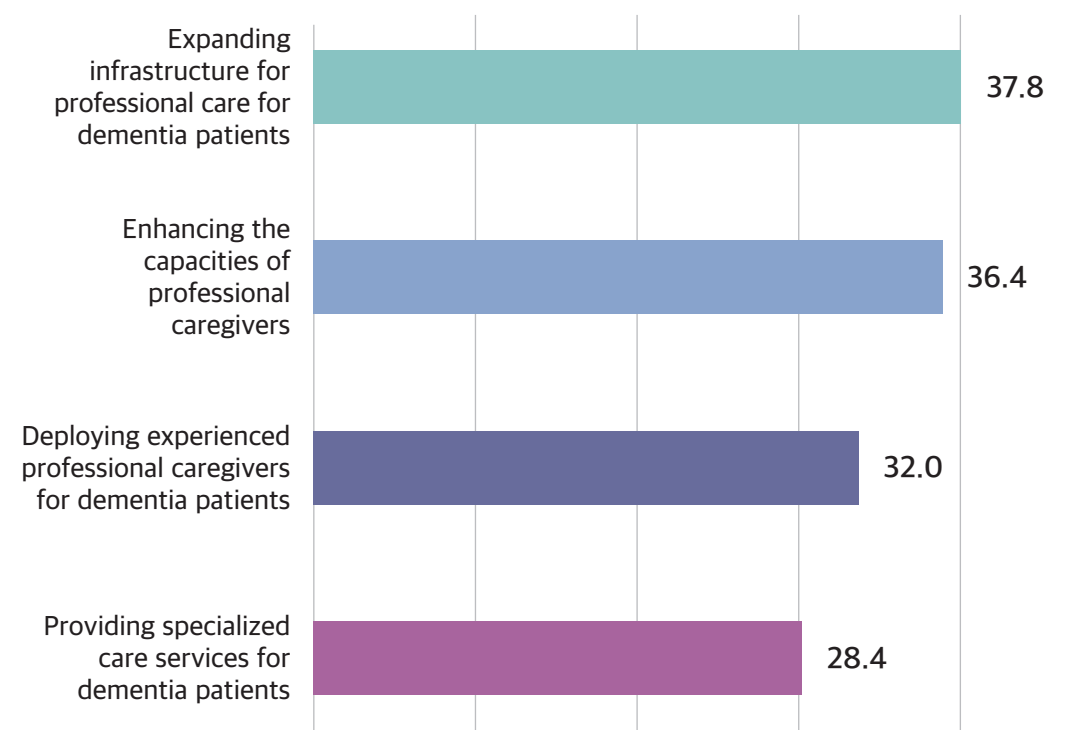
As for urgent policy needs, family caregivers pointed to expanding infrastructure for professional care for dementia patients(37.8%) and enhancing the capacities of professional caregivers(36.4%). professional caregivers prioritized improving work conditions for professional caregivers(72.4%).

<figure 1> Policy needs regarding care for dementia patients

(Unit: %)



<Professional caregivers (first and second responses combined)>



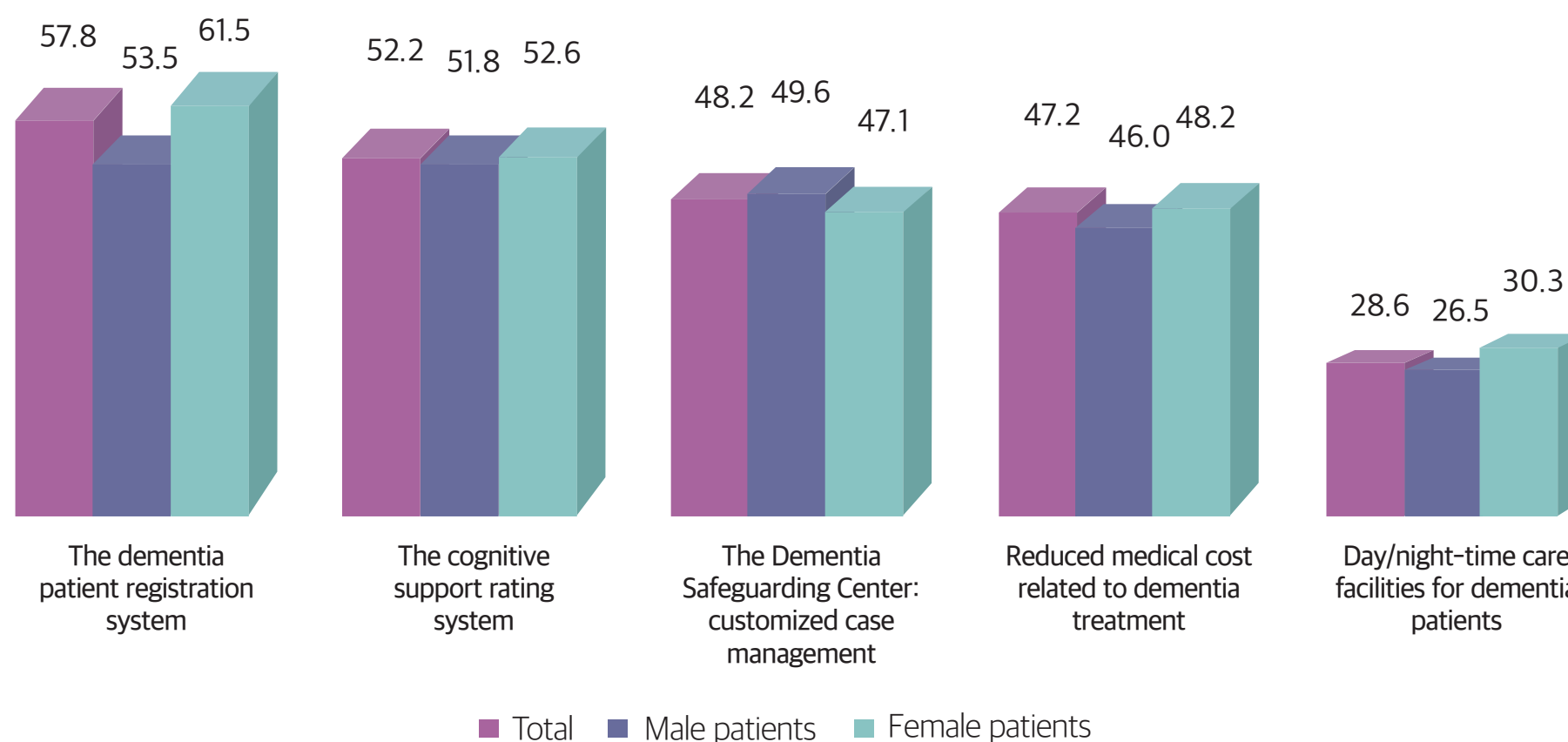
<Family caregivers (first responses, and first and second responses combined)>

Experience of using services of the National Dementia Policy

The following services were most frequently used by family caregivers: the dementia patient registration system(57.8%); the cognitive support rating system(52.2%); and the customized case management system(48.2%).

<Figure 2> Experience of using services of the National Dementia Policy

(Unit: %)



Policy suggestions

We suggest the followings in order to mainstream care in policies on dementia and to improve care services and the quality of life for dementia patients.

Given that a majority of family and professional caregivers in dementia care are women, it is critical to incorporate a gender perspective in dementia policy

- ✓ Expanding target groups for training on dementia care and customizing training materials for each group
- ✓ Expanding care infrastructure for dementia patients and improving the quality of care for dementia patients in care facilities
- ✓ Revising the functions and roles of the Dementia Safeguarding Centers and creating a dementia-friendly community environment
- ✓ Strengthening support for family caregivers: promoting respite care services for family caregivers and including the families of dementia patients in insurance coverage for counseling.

For more details, please view the
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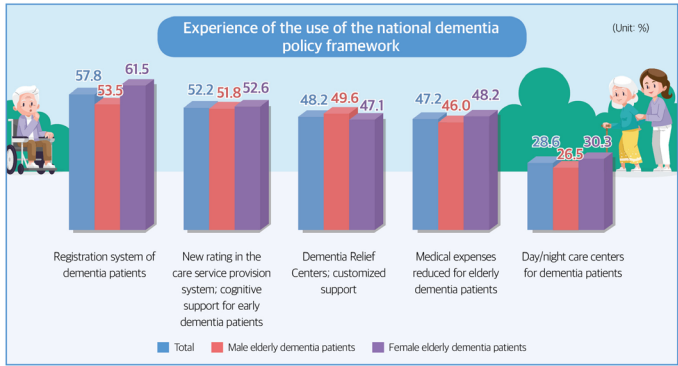
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The Necessity of and Policy Tasks for Mainstreaming "Care" into the National Dementia Policy Framework

Abstract

- Dementia has a negative impact on the quality of life of dementia patients themselves and their family members, and its prevalence is increasing, resulting in a rise in socio-economic costs related to public dementia care services.
- In this respect, the previous Moon Jae-in Administration presented the "National Dementia Policy" as a part of the 43rd Policy Tasks "To guarantee a healthy and decent life for the elderly in preparation for an aged society".
- While the national dementia policy was developed to enhance social responsibility for dementia, the policy framework has tended to concentrate on infrastructure building. There is a limitation that a gender-sensitive perspective has not been sufficiently applied to policy management and resource allocation.
- This study analyzes how the national dementia policy framework sufficiently and properly considers various characteristics, including the gender of dementia patients and family caregivers. Also, this study analyzes the working conditions of government-funded caregivers for "good dementia care services".
- Drawn from the analysis, this study presents policy tasks that would mainstream care into the national dementia policy framework and improve both the quality of life of dementia patients and the quality of care services.



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