



# The social support for single-child-lost (Shidu) Families

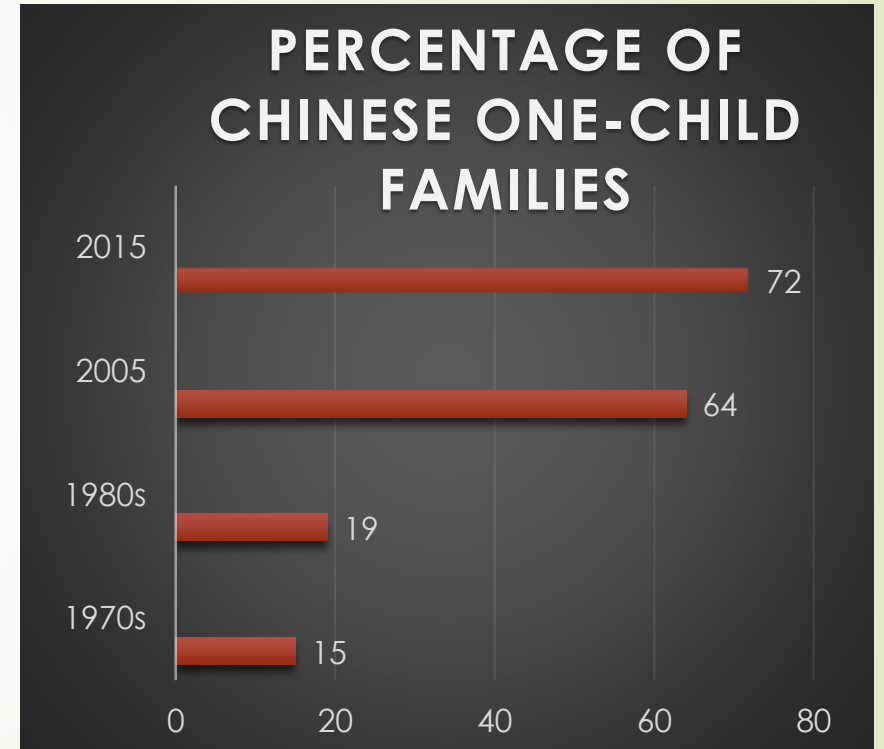
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# The Story

This is a picture of  
my best friend Jun  
and me.



# Background : One-Child Policy

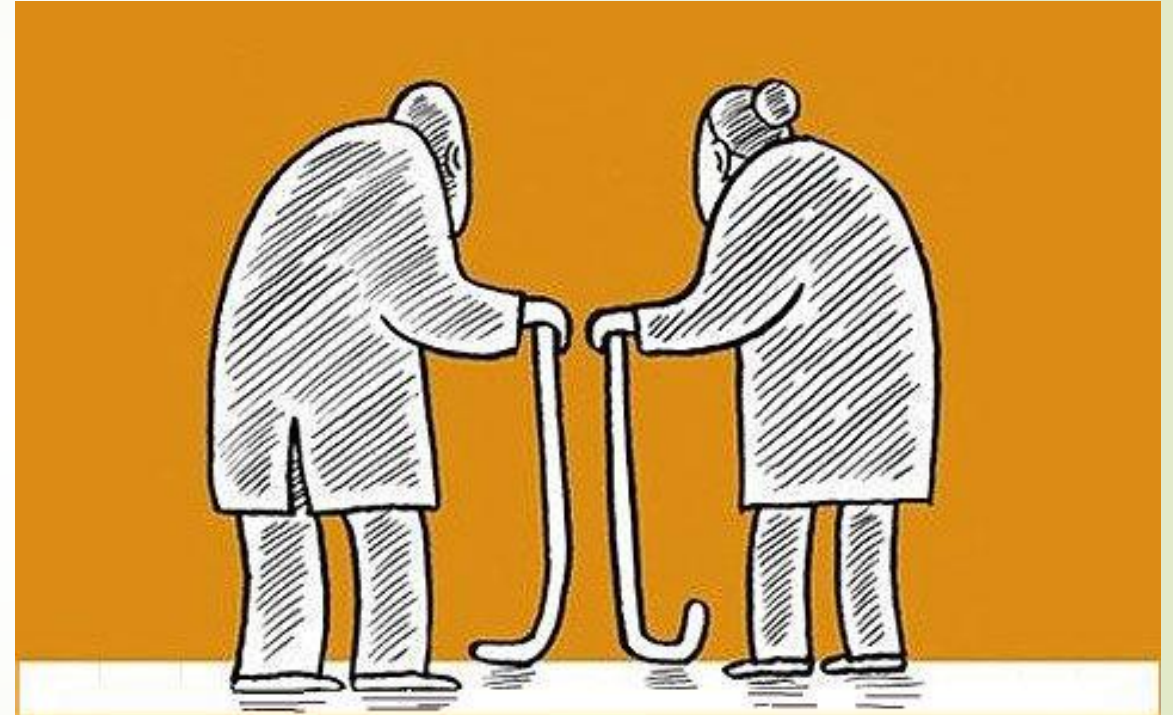


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOnEdlQAjfo&t=37s>

Data sources: China's National Health Ministry

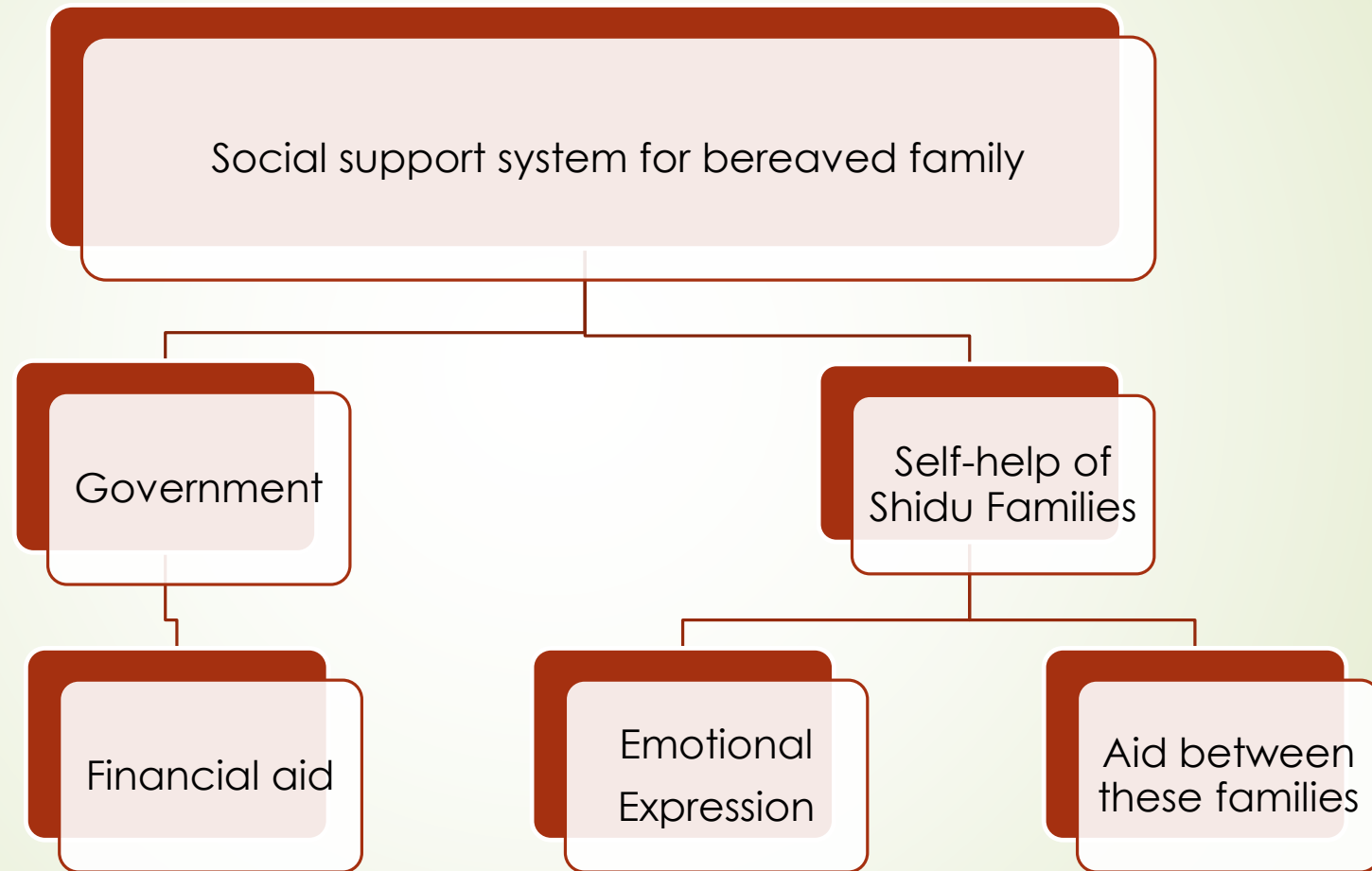
# Identify the problem

- China ended its one-child policy in October 2015.
- There were more than 1 million single-child-lost families in China by 2012. 76,000 families lose their only child every year.
- Chinese pension system is weak
- These childless parents face their senior years without support from their children, posing challenges in medical care and psychological support.
- It is difficult for them to sustain their livelihoods
- They need the help from society and community.





# The current support system



# The current support system

- Government Assistance
  - Financial aid: average 340 yuan (\$56) per month in most regions.
- Self-help of Shidu Families
  - Online community (people with a shared fate)
  - Aid between Shidu community

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zt\\_94O3OI9E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zt_94O3OI9E)





# Problem



- ▀ Governments
  - Not enough financial resources distribute to these families.
  - Corresponding psychological, medical and pension programs have not kept pace
- ▀ Lack of professional social workers to help these elderly people
  - Low income and social status
- ▀ Shidu Parents
  - Self-enclosed

# A new framework of support







# Governments

- China's government plays a dominant role in supporting these families;
- Stable financial aid is necessary but elderly care and psychological support is more important towards Shidu families.
- Purchase the elderly care service for childless parents from NGO.
- Buy business insurance for Shidu families so as to ensure their capacity of facing challenges.

# NGOs

- provide professional social workers to help Shidu parents.
- Increasing numbers of professional social workers is needed in China.
- Collaborate with universities to cultivate more professional social workers.
- Create more of specific training programs cultivate its social workers.



# Community

- Community practitioners should change people's misunderstanding toward Childless parents.
- Organize more volunteers to provide service to Shidu families.
- Use social media to spread the positive attitude toward Shidu families.







# Theories to use

- Social capital

Shidu parents prefer to communicate with the people who share the same fate since others who never experience the loss of their children cannot understand their feelings. Boding with the same experience, they build their own social network over the Internet- sharing their sorrow, giving each other comfort. Using the power and resources, this community works together to solve the collective problems, like demanding more compensation from the State government.

- Self-help model

The service from government and society cannot satisfy their need. They have no alternative but rely on themselves. The community practitioners use Internet to build their own community, helping communities know their goal and increasing their capacity to get more attention from government and secure enough support from society.



Thank you for listening!

Questions?

