

# **The Interaction of Institution and Culture: The Picture and Service Reflection of Family Caregivers in Post-war Kinmen**

**Hsiang-Lan Liu**

Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Fu Jen Catholic University

**Mei-Feng Hsu**

Social Supervisor, Kinmen County Long-Term Care Service Association

**Yu-Ting Gao**

Licensed Social Worker, Kinmen County Long-Term Care Service  
Association /

Master's Student, Department of Long-Term Care, National Quemoy  
University, Taiwan

## **Abstract**

Kinmen's aging society emerged during the Cold War, but long-term care was overlooked post-martial law as economic growth took priority. Families resorted to hiring migrant care workers. Recently, the development of long-term care services have fostered family caregiver case management and services. This study applies a social care framework to analyze Kinmen's family caregivers using archival data from a local caregiving association and government policies and measures. Findings highlight distinct caregiver profiles: male, left-behind, and older caregivers. Challenges include unspoken

exhaustion (male), remote supervision (left-behind), and physical strain (older). Moreover, relevant national and local measures are oriented toward the needs of individuals, service providers encounter barriers in reaching into households in need, highlighting the tensions between cultural norms and institutional structures. The establishment of innovative services tailored to the needs of local family caregivers, thereby fostering transformation in the culture of care.

**Keywords: Family Caregiver, Minnan Culture, Social Care, Cold War, Kinmen**