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Dr. You has been engaged in interdisciplinary research. Her specialist research has focused on migrant health as well as occupational health policy. She has conducted several research projects, funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology of Taiwan, centered on occupational health and risk governance. Having extended her research interest to the use of assistive technology in care work, she is now involved in an interdisciplinary team regarding the R & D of a multi-mode lifting device with the perspective of gendered innovation, as well as proposing evidence-based recommendations for the state policy of long-term care and assistive technology.

Dr. You has a diverse academic background of law, labor studies and social policy. She received her BA degree in Law from National Taiwan University in 1991, then MA in Labor Studies from University of Chinese Culture, Taiwan in 1994, and Ph.D. in Social Policy from University of Warwick, England in 2003. She worked in the Department of Healthcare Administration, I-Shou University, Taiwan from 2004 to 2015, and then transferred to current post since February, 2015. Having taught Medical Ethics for several years, her research specialty also covers ethical education, and her professional service extends to examination of research ethics. She is the board member of Institutional Review Board, E-Da Hospital and sits on the Human Research Ethical Review Committee, National Cheng Kung University.

Gender inclusiveness and risk governance: The social-technical innovation of a multi-mode lifting device

As well-known, musculoskeletal injury is the major health risk for care workers. Related to this, the international trend emphasizes on a safer approach to client handling, i.e. No-lift policy, in that manual lifting of patients is eliminated or minimized wherever possible. This research focuses on the process of social-technical innovation of a multi-mode lifting device, which aims to provide innovative shifting methods with friendly object design in the commercialization process. As there is a clear gendered inclination in care work, particular attention is paid to the strategies of gender differences in occupational health protection. Equally important is the concern whether gendered needs has been taken into consideration for the design of the assistive device. This study intends to know about whether the relevant actors can be involved in decision-making process through their respective networks and knowledge.

This study is based on a two-year research project, which involves an interdisciplinary team including academics in engineering design, occupational therapy and social policy, as well as practitioners such as OTs, doctors, and manufacturers. We intend to present the extent to which new ideas, new concepts, or innovative research dimensions have emerged with the introduction of gender perspectives. In the future, we will also explore the mechanism of financial subsidy for assistive devices, which is also an important part of social-technical innovation. At length, this study aims to provide policy recommendations for the state long-term care system and assistive technology policy.

Keywords: assistive device, social-technical innovation, risk governance