

Study on the Use of Donations by Overseas Chinese in the Face of a Major Outbreak of coVID-19 -- Take Qingtian, the Hometown of Overseas Chinese, for Example

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Abstract: Taking The hometown of overseas Chinese Qingtian as an example, in order to study the use of donations by overseas Chinese in the face of a major outbreak of coVID-19, and put forward Suggestions on the modification and improvement of the social donation system of overseas Chinese through questionnaires, interviews with overseas Chinese and visits by overseas Chinese departments. Under the vision of a community with a Shared future for mankind, we should continue to improve the governance capacity and modernize the governance system for overseas Chinese involved in global public health emergencies at local levels.

Keywords: COVID-19, social donations, overseas Chinese, overseas Chinese hometown Qingtian

1. Description of Current Situation

In the Spring Festival of 2020, "COVID-19" hit Wuhan, Hubei province and spread across the country. Under the unified deployment of the Chinese government, a smokeless battle began all over the country. Overseas Chinese have a long history of loving Mulberry. Whenever the fate of the Chinese nation is in danger, they come forward and donate money and materials generously to help the ancestral (native) people tide over the difficulties. In the face of the surging epidemic, Chinese and overseas Chinese have shown "18 martial arts" and participated in the "war of resistance" against the epidemic [1]. This donation is the most concentrated, rapid and effective donation of overseas Chinese in decades, and it also reflects the patriotism of overseas Chinese. But at the same time, it also exposes some problems in the aspect of social donation, such as the supervision, distribution and use of donation [2]. In the face of the major outbreak of the epidemic, the relevant legislation on donations to overseas Chinese in Guangdong province has been revised and improved again, and the use of donations by overseas Chinese in Zhejiang province also needs to be fully discussed and studied.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, overseas Chinese, with great patriotism, have joined in the action of donating money and materials. Based on interviews, questionnaire surveys and data collection, four characteristics of this donation by Overseas Chinese in Qingtian are obtained.

1.1. Organization of the Community

During the donation process, overseas Chinese donated materials to China through the Overseas Chinese Community, which was jointly organized by overseas Chinese communities, in accordance with certain principles and procedures. Overseas Chinese groups have played a great role in organizing Chinese people to unite and help each other, help themselves and defend themselves, contact each other, and seek common survival and development. Therefore, at the beginning of the outbreak of the epidemic, overseas Chinese groups at home and abroad made appeals through WeChat groups and other platforms by launching letters and other means. According to the questionnaire, 33.34% of overseas Chinese in Qingtian directly donated money and materials to China in the name of individuals, families or enterprises, and 54.76% of overseas Chinese chose to donate materials and materials to China through overseas Chinese groups.

1.2. Diversified Channels

In the overseas Chinese donate to the domestic epidemic, overseas Chinese donate channel diversification, based on the part of donor donated the reality for many times, through various channels, according to the results of the questionnaire, through the roc will be donated 82.14% concentration of cargo transport, and parts of the country social charity organizations such as the Red Cross connection (45.24%), directly to the hospital or the centers for disease control and prevention for supplies will donate 33.33%, with a specified accept the social donation, government departments and units of carried out in accordance with the agreed way to donate accounted for 57.14%. Among the above channels, 95.24% of the contact behaviors are

realized through websites, WeChat, Weibo, mobile client and other new media platforms, which also shows to some extent that in the era of we media, the importance of Internet communication to the donation activities of overseas Chinese has been greatly enhanced compared with that during the SARS period.

1.3. Global Integration

Under the pandemic, mankind, at home and abroad, is a community with a Shared future. We all share the same sky and cloud. "China plays the first half, the world plays the second half, and overseas Chinese play the whole game." Throughout the war on the epidemic, our overseas compatriots have been running and busy. When the COVID-19 epidemic broke out at home, overseas Chinese cared about their homeland, and they generously donated money and goods to their motherland. While the epidemic in China is basically under control and the epidemic abroad has not been effectively brought under control, overseas compatriots once again took active actions to help the "second home" fight against the epidemic. Many Overseas Chinese who had donated money and materials to China in the early stage once again took an active part in helping to purchase materials. The strength of the Overseas Chinese not only conveys warmth, confidence and courage to people around the world, but also conveys the responsibility and grace of a big country. All the overseas Chinese have become remakers of China's image and deep believers in a community with a Shared future for mankind.

1.4. Standardization of Management

In order to further support the epidemic prevention and control work and standardize the management of donated materials, the state and local governments have issued policies and regulations on a series of provisions on donated materials. In Zhejiang province, such as: on February 7, the 18th session of the thirteenth session of the standing committee of the people's congress passed the "Zhejiang province people's congress standing committee on the best current will be in accordance with the coronavirus pneumonia epidemic prevention and control work of decision rules, related to the epidemic prevention and control, emergency rescue of charitable giving, whole process must be open and transparent.

And in order to encourage donations, more preferential material import policies were implemented. For example, on February 1, The Ministry of Finance, the General Administration of Customs and the State Administration of Taxation jointly issued the Notice of "Novel Coronavirus Epidemic Prevention and Control Imported materials duty-free policy". On February 6, jointly issued the "interim measures for charitable donations will be exempted from import tax" (announcement no. 102, 2015), and other relevant provisions, foreign donors to the donee donated free of charge for the prevention and control will be coronavirus pneumonia outbreak import materials can be exempted from import tax, and tax subject, expand the scope of duty-free goods and materials, etc.

2. Weakness and Questions

Based on the interview results and questionnaire data, it is not difficult to find the following problems in the communication, organization and arrangement, cultural cognition, and rights and interests protection of the donations of overseas Chinese.

2.1. The Lack of Contact between the Institutions Receiving Donations Leads to Information Asymmetry

Overseas Chinese communicate with them through the Internet, through pictures forwarded by relatives and friends, through one-to-one communication with some overseas Chinese federation departments in relevant regions, and through some Chinese news releases [3].

In this context, although the donation agencies and the overseas Chinese Federation play a great role, not all overseas Chinese keep long-term contact with relevant overseas Chinese or charity organizations, so in the outbreak of a major epidemic, some organizations receiving donations are not closely connected.

From the point of view of the masses, the understanding of social donations is not clear enough, few people will pay attention to the follow-up use of social donations.

Few people pay attention to where your donations go. Who received it? How to use it later? Are there any follow-up reports? Is there any publicity on the Internet?

These have not been taken seriously, people's awareness of this aspect is not high enough.

2.2. The Recipient Organization has not Received Reasonable Guidance, and the Phenomenon of "Difficult Distribution" and "Difficult Transportation" Exists

Overseas Chinese materials donated to receiving units in China are usually government organizations or other official or semi-official organizations, as well as some charitable organizations.

Among the respondents, 54.76% of the overseas Chinese did not specify the purpose of the materials, and 67.86% of the overseas Chinese donated masks, protective suits, disinfectants and other anti-epidemic materials. Therefore, in the absence of a specific purpose, these anti-epidemic materials are usually distributed by personnel, first to collectives and then to individuals.

Some recipients fail to receive reasonable guidance and supervision, and their understanding of the types, USES and methods of donations is not clear enough. In addition, they also face the problem of "To whom? Who to send? How long will it take?", as well as some picture collection or evidence collection after sending, causing the general phenomenon of "difficult distribution".

In addition, although the domestic customs provided convenience for customs clearance during the epidemic period, such as the tax exemption policy for donated goods and materials, the process was still relatively complex. The survey results showed that 75% of the respondents believed that the circulation of goods and materials was a big problem.

At the same time, when donations are insufficient due to the impact of the epidemic, overseas Chinese in some

places need to go through some procedures for individual procurement, which are relatively complicated and take a long time to complete. This has also caused the "difficult transportation" of materials.

2.3. The Recipient Organization is not Clear, the Use of Donations is Inefficient, and the Donor Makes Blind Donations

In China, only officially designated charities can do charity, but the disclosure of these official institutions in the domestic society is insufficient, let alone facing overseas Chinese.

In addition, overseas Chinese living abroad, whose behaviors and habits are greatly influenced by foreign society, tend to donate to individuals and non-governmental charitable organizations, and lack professional permanent governmental institutions.

However, due to the small number, small scale, irregular operation and low professional level, some domestic and foreign voluntary donation organizations fail to make full use of a large number of charitable donation resources.

At the same time, after inquiring about the donated organizations mentioned by the interviewees, it was found that some of the donated organizations were not involved in the fight against the epidemic in China. That is to say, some overseas Chinese, including the returned ones, donated goods driven by their patriotism, but they were not used in China, without being aware of it.

It can be seen that there may be fraud in folk charity, and there are not a few people who make profits in the name of charity.

This has a lot to do with information asymmetry. For example, whether one should donate to the Red Cross or charity federation is not clearly stipulated by overseas Chinese organizations.

In addition, due to the insufficient guidance of public opinion on social donation, many Overseas Chinese did not participate in it in time. As a result, many overseas Chinese were interested in charity but did not know how to do it or where to do it.

What's more, there is a gradual loss of confidence in social donations.

2.4. The Effect of Donation is not Intuitive, the Donation Standard is not Clear, and the Tax Standard is not Flexible

In the process of donation, due to the large number and wide range of personnel involved, relevant departments were assigned to subordinate departments without real-time supervision and management, making it difficult to follow up after the allocation of many donated materials.

As a result, 80.95% of respondents are aware of the public information, while 38.1% think the information is still not public enough.

The relevant departments failed to obtain the donor's supply information and the recipient's demand information in a timely manner and could not be converted into the supply vector and demand vector [4].

The extent and effectiveness of these donations are difficult to determine because their use is not accurately quantified.

At the peak of the epidemic, many hospitals reported a shortage of supplies. One important reason is that a large number of supplies did not meet the first-line standards of medical use.

The donor community did not publicize the donation criteria at the beginning.

In addition, the tax deduction cannot flexibly adapt to the donations made during the outbreak of the epidemic. Public welfare donations can only be deducted from the enterprise income tax before tax, and the amount must not exceed 12% of the total profit of the enterprise, that is, public welfare donations cannot be deducted from the VAT.

2.5. The Cognition of Donation Field Needs to be Expanded and the Culture of Charitable Donation Needs to be Shaped

At present, many overseas Chinese will decide to make targeted donations.

Among the respondents, 69.05% of the overseas Chinese associations designated donations to their home areas and the worst-hit areas, mainly funds and medical supplies.

In practice, however, such donations are approaching saturation.

Under the home quarantine of the epidemic, People's Daily necessities and post-disaster economic recovery also need to be paid attention to [5].

The study, thus the conclusion, also reflects the past of the overseas Chinese charitable donations are mainly concentrated in the field of traditional, in economy, culture, health and environmental ecological new fields such as donations have appeared, but relative to the new requirements of development is still not enough and endowment resources, need guidance from the traditional field of charitable donation to expand into new areas.

2.6. The Legitimate Rights and Interests of Donors are not Sufficiently Recognized, and Relevant Laws and Policies are not Perfect

According to some of the regulations, there have been some developments in the relevant policies of the central government, including the recognition of donors, the expansion of donors' rights, the strict declaration system, explicit support for donation projects, and the further standardization of the establishment, use and management of donation projects [6]. Special normative documents have been issued to this end.

However, with the increase of donation scale, the information of donation is still fragmented, and no authoritative release channel has been seen to integrate the release.

Donation organizations or individuals, there is no need for "flying geese", but if the stone fell into the water but quietly, so as to have doubts about the direction of the donation, it is very sad.

In addition, the protection of the donor's personal privacy should be intensified, because of the disclosure of personal privacy due to bona fide donation, which many donors do not want to meet.

Although this situation has not yet occurred, but also need to strengthen the prevention.

At present, the laws and regulations on charitable donation in China are not perfect enough, so that the standardized management of relevant organizations and institutions, the supervision of donation at all stages and the play of social benefits are not perfect enough.

At present, most of the relevant legislation focuses on domestic charitable donations, with little attention paid to donations from overseas Chinese.

Moreover, there were some tariff policies and laws before, but the time was relatively long. Some general policies issued by the state, especially those related to the overseas Chinese group, have not been fully implemented at the local level.

3. Countermeasures and Suggestions

3.1. Inter-institutional Data Synchronization and Improvement of Coordination and Communication Mechanism

In today's convenient use of the Internet, the phenomenon of information asymmetry and lack of communication still exists.

To solve this problem, the establishment of a comprehensive coordination and communication mechanism should be strengthened, but it should not be limited to the information communication between the donor and the recipient institution or individual.

The content of the information should also include the donation standard, usage, donation efficiency, etc. The scope of information sharing and communication should be expanded actively, including the communication with the customs to shorten the time of customs import.

Strengthening the communication and exchange with overseas Chinese can promote the linkage of love and mutual help. The theory of network structure recognizes the role of subjective factors such as "emotional exchange" and "close trust" in social communication. Through these subjective factors, people are easy to establish "strong relationship".

By broadening the width and extending the depth, overseas Chinese donors can have better immersive experience and obtain information feedback more easily.

It can also improve the operating efficiency of the donation system, collect statistical data to sort out the most needed materials, and reduce the waste of resources.

Good coordination and communication system adheres to the principle of openness and transparency. Information disclosure strengthens the confidence of Chinese and overseas Chinese, builds non-governmental charitable organizations or green channels certified by the government, improves public credibility, and expands the scope of communication and organization through communication.

3.2. Medical Institutions Directly Accept Donations to Respond to Major Public Health Emergencies

As early as 1999, concluded the law of the People's Republic of China on public donations act, article 28, 29, 30, 31 to donors rights violations and divert the sources such as corruption, misappropriation or illegal behavior should bear legal responsibility for the regulation, and rules for some illegal behaviors by relevant department of the people's government at or above the county level shall impose a fine.

The Regulations of Zhejiang Province on Overseas Chinese Donations revised in 2004 also stipulates that the overseas Chinese affairs administrative departments of the people's governments at or above the county level shall be responsible for the guidance, coordination, service, supervision and administration of overseas Chinese donations.

The revised Ordinance focuses on the interests of donors so that neither side is ignored.

The combination of openness, transparency and privacy protection can effectively enhance the credibility of charitable organizations.

However, the regulations do not pay enough attention to the role of medical institutions in public health events.

It can be seen from the epidemic that the strength of medical institutions is far beyond expectations, and their professional level and ability have been widely recognized by all sectors.

If the public medical institutions at the county level and above are allowed to act as the recipients and the first supervisor directly, and the overseas Chinese affairs administrative departments of the people's governments at the county level and above are allowed to act as the second supervisor, the dual supervision can provide better guarantee for the fairness of distribution and improve the efficiency of material distribution.

At the same time, medical institutions have special personnel who are responsible for the transport of medical resources and have experience in preservation conditions, transportation cycle and procedures related to imported drugs. In the face of major public health emergencies, they can guide the transport of materials.

3.3. Strictly Examine the Qualifications of Recipient Organizations, Standardize Their Guidance and Publicity

At present, in the domestic society, the donor organizations are mixed, the management level is uneven.

There is no clear and public for Chinese, let alone for overseas Chinese [7]. Therefore, it is not only necessary to enhance the propaganda for overseas Chinese donations, but also to solve the problem of inadequate guidance in the domestic society.

At the same time, it makes full use of new media and major Internet platforms to identify the authoritative organizations receiving donations and crack down on illegal fund-raising activities through disclosure, ordering rectification, commendation and promotion of charity culture.

In the form of supervision by public opinion, regional brands will be built and philanthropic donations will be

extended from traditional fields to new fields such as economy, culture, medical and health care, environment and ecology.

Make charitable donation from the simple "blood transfusion" relief to "hematopoietic" relief transformation.

3.4. Quantitative Assessment and Evaluation, Improve the Effectiveness Feedback Mechanism, and Reduce Material Loss

At present, most of the feedback information is not followed after the material is received, but there are still some problems after the release, including the validity of time, the usability of the material and the effect.

There is no systematic standard of quantitative assessment, will affect the operation of the donation mechanism.

Therefore, we should improve the effectiveness feedback mechanism, strengthen the quantitative assessment such as the supervision of the use of materials after the release, directly reflect the quality of information in the indicators, reduce unnecessary waste, solve the problem of the donation back end, and build a donation system that conforms to the development direction of The Times.

At the same time, the loss caused by link problems in the donation process should be reduced. As much as you donate, you should use it.

On the one hand, the donation procedures in the case of a major epidemic outbreak still need to be simplified. According to special circumstances, the customs can create immediate customs clearance procedures, shorten the inspection process, and improve the efficiency of customs clearance of donated goods and funds.

On the other hand, the flexibility and adaptability of tax credits should be enhanced to adjust the flexibility during an outbreak.

In December 2008, the Notice of the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation on the Pre-tax Deduction of Charitable Relief Donations and Related Management Issues issued by the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation allows the pre-tax deduction of enterprise and individual income tax in the calculation and payment of enterprise and individual income tax in accordance with the current tax laws, regulations and relevant policies.

That is to gradually expand the scope of tax incentives to increase the enthusiasm of donations.

3.5. Improve the Mechanism for Culture of Charity and Correct the Public's Stereotyped Impression of Donations, so as to Get the Donations Right

In this questionnaire survey, 30.95% of overseas Chinese believe that the domestic donation supervision system and system are not widely recognized, which has a great relationship with the differences in the cognition of charity culture between China and the West.

Domestic public opinion is more inclined to the fact that charitable donation is a matter for a small number of

people, and it is a behavior of the group with strong financial resources to support the vulnerable groups.

In the publicity and reports of the donation behavior of the disadvantaged groups, it is more to shape their ordinary but great image than to advocate the values of donation by everyone, and it also fails to connect the feelings of the nation.

The sound mechanism of charity culture can arouse more people's attention in the social level, and create a new environment of charity culture: everyone can participate, and it is easier to donate.

More people join in charitable giving, forming a good atmosphere of charity for all.

On the basis of carrying forward the traditional charity culture, the government should strengthen the cultivation and education of the charity concept for the next generation, and truly realize that donation is not an act of charity, nor a means of profit.

The edification of charity culture can also deepen patriotism and enhance the sense of belonging and confidence of citizens of big countries.

The great strength of the state and society will also drive more small forces of the Overseas Chinese to make charitable donations to the best of their ability, no matter in the face of a major epidemic outbreak or in their daily lives.

3.6. Ensure the Rights and Interests of Donors through Legislation, and Make the Donation System Flat and Diversified

Among the respondents, 46.43% of the overseas Chinese highly approve of the credibility of the domestic government and believe that the supervision over the use of overseas Chinese donations is the best one under the supervision of government departments; 26.19% of the overseas Chinese believe that third-party supervision is more reasonable; and 25% of the overseas Chinese believe that self-disclosure by the recipient organizations is the most convenient way.

This reflects the different demands of donors for the construction of the donation system. The existing system can no longer meet the requirements of subjective and objective protection of consumers' rights and interests. The diversification of participants in the donation system and the flattening of donation management are the characteristics of the donation system in line with the development of The Times.

Although laws and regulations on charitable donations are being updated, many local organizations and management have not formed systematic interaction with the state, and their functions are limited.

In view of the existing relevant legislation, most of it focuses on domestic charitable donations, while less attention is paid to donations from overseas Chinese.

China's charity laws and regulations need to be further improved in such aspects as the standardized management and operation of charity organizations, tax preferences for charity donations, supervision of charity donations at all stages and the play of social benefits.

We should strengthen the research on the particularity of overseas Chinese donation and the individuality of overseas Chinese donation legislation so as to make relevant laws and regulations truly achieve the purpose of guiding and regulating overseas Chinese donation.

Further improve the legal system of donation, from the source to give strong support, so that the overseas Chinese everywhere can do what they want to do better, but also more confident to do what they want to do charity.

The perfection of the legal system of donation provides more possibilities for all provinces and regions, and also better guarantees the rights and interests of donors and recipients.

Under the premise of fully absorbing the excellent policies of foreign countries or provinces and combining with China's national conditions, a new donation system in the new era will be constructed.

4. Conclusion

Through online questionnaire survey, overseas Chinese interviews and visits by overseas Chinese departments, this research has fully discussed and studied the use of overseas Chinese social donations, and put forward opinions and Suggestions on the modification and improvement of the overseas Chinese social donations system.

In the process of investigation, I also deeply felt that "connecting the heart with the spirit, and seeing the truth through timely help".

No matter where the overseas Chinese at home and abroad are, they always have their heart set on their ancestral home country.

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