

# The Impact of Community Environment on Multi-ethnic Embedded Community

Taking Shuhan Street Community in Chengdu as an Example\*

Xiaoqing He

Southwest Minzu Research Institute  
Southwest Minzu University  
Chengdu, China

**Abstract**—Multi-ethnic embedded community is an important path for all nationalities to interact and communicate in China, this paper will take Shuhan street community in Chengdu as an example, will analysis the impact of community environment on the development of multi-ethnic embedded community, also some advises will be given based on the analysis.

**Keywords**—*impact; community environment; multi-ethnic embedded community*

## I. INTRODUCTION

In May of year 2014, chairman Xi Jinping put forward “build the society structure and community environment of multi-ethnic embedded community” for the first time at the Second Xinjiang Work Seminar of the CCCPC. Community as the basic geographical area that all nationalities to interact and communicate, how to build a community environment that can make all people happily live, work and study together, keep watching and helping each other, it is worth for us to think about.

### A. Meaning of Community

The word community stems from sociology. In 1881, German sociologist F.Tennis used the word *Gemeinschaft* in the sociology study for the first time in his book *Community and Society*, here it refers to a society unit of homogeneous people share common value and combine a society relationship, that people close with each other, keep watching and helping each other and also full of human interest [1]. Afterward, American scholar translated the word *Gemeinschaft* into community; a community is a small or large social unit (a group of living things) who has something in common, such as norms, religion, values, or identity. Communities often share a sense of place that is situated in a given geographical area (e.g. a country, village, town, or neighborhood) or in virtual space through communication platforms. Durable relations that extend beyond immediate genealogical ties also define a sense of

community. People tend to define those social ties as important to their identity, practice, and roles in social institutions like family, home, work, government, society, or humanity, at large [2] [3]. Yanjing university students who led by Fei Xiaotong, and was early translated community into local society in China from the English version book of Tennis.

With the continuous development and change of society, the community of modern society has become a community of social life based on region and administrative region, and its connotation is more and more abundant, according to different categories, communities can be divided into many types. According to its development situation, it can be divided into traditional community, developing community and modern community; it can be divided into urban community, rural community, and town community according to provincial characteristics; it can be divided into economic community, political community, cultural community, military community and special community according to main function; it can be divided into nature community, statutory community, specialized function community and spiritual community according to the way of formation; it can be divided into learning community, service community, environmental community, security community and cultural community according to construction practice characteristics. Of course, in the modern society, it is not realistic to classify a community as a certain type, and the modern community is often a combination of several types.

### B. Meaning of Community Environment

The space of human existence and the various natural factors, that can directly or indirectly affect human life and development are called environment. The whole living environment that has actual effect on human psychology is also called environment, and more is called psychological environment.

Community environment has two levels, broad sense and narrow sense, generalized the community environment is consider community itself as the main body, community environment is the environmental factors that are closely related to community development outside the community boundaries, that is the impact on the community from the

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external environment of community. The narrow sense of community environment is to consider residents in a particular community as the main body, to find out the various factors and conditions closely related to the residents' life in the residential area [4].

### *C. Meaning of Multi-ethnic Embedded Community*

Multi-ethnic embedded community environment also have two levels, one is embedded in space-time, and this is the low-level of embeddedness. Another is embeddedness of emotion, which is the high-level. If the community is regarded as a machine, the machine parts are the embeddedness of each nation in the time and space, the run of machine can be seen as the interact and communication among nations, if the machine runs well, it as the symbol of ethnic relations is at their best.

## II. COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT OF SHUHAN STREET COMMUNITY

Shuhan street community was established in 2001 with an area of 0.28 square kilometer, according to the latest statistical data, the permanent population is 5,248 households, 14,153 persons, temporary resident population of 4,399, the community is inhabited by 18 ethnic groups including Han, Tibet, Mongolia and Hui, while also living with 126 foreigners, and the main minority is the Tibetan. Multi-ethnic embedded community of Shuhan Street is formed naturally, in this case, the social structure and the community environment play a key role in the formation and development of it, every coin has two sides, the formation and development of the community also impact the community environment.

### *A. Location Factors of Shuhan Street Community*

The southwest region of China it has many ethnic groups, and Sichuan is the key province borders Tibet, Qinghai, Gansu, Shaanxi, Chongqing, Guizhou and Yunnan. Among them, Tibet, Qinghai, Gansu, Guizhou and Yunnan are inhabited ethnic minorities. Sichuan province itself has the second largest Tibetan area, the only Qiang ethnic community and the largest area of Yi nationality in China. The provincial capital Chengdu is adjacent to Aba Tibetan, Ganzi Tibetan and Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture, Maban Yi, Ebian Yi, Muli Tibetan and Beichuan Qiang autonomous county. Wuhou district is located in the southwest of the central area of Chengdu city, Jiangxi street is in its administrative area and north to the center of the city, Shuhan street community belongs to Jiangxi street, surrounded by Temple of Marquis street, fourth section of one ring road and Temple of Marquis Wu Heng street, this area is the main path in and out of Chengdu from Tibet, Ganzi and Liangshan, this unique geographical location makes Shuhan street community has a strong location advantage.

### *B. Infrastructure Factors of Shuhan Street Community*

There are 17 big units in Shuhan street community, 11 Chengdu offices of Tibetan region. Kangding hotel, which

was formerly the guesthouse of Ganzi prefecture, it is the main accommodation place for non-native people from Tibetan areas. In addition, the community is adjacent to Southwest Minzu University, which has 56 nationalities students; there are also Chengdu office hospital of the people's government of Tibet autonomous region; Chengdu Swan hotel, its predecessor is the sanatorium for Tibetan workers and the second hotel of Tibet's office in Chengdu; south to Xiaojiahe community, which has Tibet middle school, north to Temple of Marquis Wu, the major historical and cultural site protected at the national level, national AAAA grade scenic spot, national first-class museum. At the same time, there are Chengdu offices of ethnic minorities; Huaxi hospital, the world's largest single point hospital, it is also the national center for critical and critical care in western China. As some other scholar has said, the community is not an island, it has a very complex and intimate connection with other communities.

### *C. Economic Factors of Shuhan Street Community*

With the rapid development of China's market economy and urbanization, the urban and rural pattern were further broken, an increasing number of ethnic minorities left their permanent residence, begin to settle down in the city. The ethnic products street located in Shuhan street community, includes Tibetan, Han, Hui and Uygur operators; there is a steady supply of national products throughout the country, not only created jobs for all nations and increased economic income, but also allowed more ethnic minority migrants to take root in Chengdu. The ethnic products street is still the ethnic supplies distribution center that radiates Ganzi, Aba, Tibet, Gansu, Qinghai. Frequent and large population movements have led to the development of catering, transportation, accommodation, clothing and other industries in the community and surrounding communities, the economic development and prosperity has brought more and more minorities to the community, except for certain number of floating minorities, many ethnic minorities have settled in Chengdu. There are 440 residences in Wuhoumingyuan (name of apartment building) of Shuhan street community, Tibetan residents account for nearly half. There is Sichuan Tibetan art trading Co. Ltd., located on the south side of Wuhoumingyuan, and was also founded by Tibetan businessmen. When the economy of this part of minority population link to the economy of the community and the city, ethnic relations are increasingly close.

### *D. Culture Factors of Shuhan Street Community*

China has been a multi-ethnic country since ancient times and the culture of Chengdu itself is diverse and inclusive. Before the founding of the People's Republic of China, there were a number of ethnic groups, including Hui, Manchu, Mongolia and Tibet; since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the number and type of ethnic minorities have been on the rise. And as one of the province that used to speaking dialects, the minorities from Sichuan can speak very nice Sichuan language, the communication of language also shorten the distance among different nationalities. Rich cultural atmosphere of Southwest Minzu University and the ethnic products street, make the newcomers from minority

area have a less sense of strangeness but a sense of belonging. Every weekend, there are Tibetan, Uygur and Yi dance parties in Southwest Minzu University and near the community, except students, teachers and local residents, they also attract non-native people, people join their favorite dance teams regardless of nationality, age or occupation, and the square dance in the community can no longer find a single national dance, colorful songs and ornaments attract guests from all over the world, the special food of all ethnic groups is also continuously enriched to meet the dietary needs of various ethnic groups.

#### *E. Other Factors of Shuhan Street Community*

Chengdu enjoys a reputation as a land of abundance, the climate is pleasant, and it is a very livable city. At the same time, with the continuous improvement of the living standards of Tibetan people, more and more people in Tibetan areas have come to Chengdu for old-age care, medical treatment and tourism. Since the majority of the minority people in Shuhan street community are from Ganzi prefecture, many pharmacies in the community have opened the use business of Ganzi medical card, it makes convenience for people from Ganzi prefecture in the community; the small shops of the community even sell the Tibetan early education machine, since more and more children from Tibetan area are studying in Chengdu. In order to satisfy the Tibetan young people's love and pursuit of Apple products, the community also has an apple store dedicated to the Tibetan compatriots. At the same time, in order to enriching the amateur life of the community residents, the community regularly held the cultural and propaganda activities with national characteristics, this not only close the relationship of community residents, but also promote the interact and communication among different nationalities, these activities also play a role in publicity and education.

### III. PROBLEMS OF SHUHAN STREET COMMUNITY

In addition to the hardware and the system, the most important component of the community environment is people. Different nation has great diversity in the cultural connotations and symbolic meanings, so when the floating population, especially ethnic minorities enters the city, their initial reaction to the urban mainstream culture and the alien culture is often repulsive or resistant, after a period of adaptation, they start to imitate, and then borrow and absorb.

#### *A. Management Problems*

The influx of a large number of minority floating populations brings a series of problems to the management of the community. First, people from Tibetan area they would love to choose stay in Shuhan street community, because of the multi-ethnic community environment, so more illegal private hotels opened, the price is cheaper compare to other legal hotels, also the guests have no need to register their ID information, this cause the potential security problems. Second, people from Tibetan area they are not familiar with the urban administrative penalties, they often setting up stalls or unlicensed operations by the streets, in

order to make more money, they refuse to abide by rules of urban management. Third, since the hotels, shops and hospital in the community with limited carport, cars occupied the carriageway all day along; make the narrow street narrower, very easy to cause traffic jams and accidents.

#### *B. Ethnicity Difference Problems*

Minorities usually have very strong national customs, some Tibetan men generally like drinking, singing and dancing, they just singing regardless of time and place, this causes hate and complain of other nations. In Wuhoumingyuan, there are more private hotels, the guests from pastoral area, some of them; they just relieve themselves anywhere they want as what they used to in their hometown, especially in the early years.

#### *C. Community Personnel Problems*

Shuhan street community is a multi-ethnic community, there are near 20,000 populations, but with only 13 community workers, 7 permanent employees and 6 informal employees. Most of the workers are not well educated on ethnic theory and policy; they face difficulties in properly dealing with ethnic issues sometimes. In the community, the major minority is Tibetan, but few workers can speak Tibetan language. Also the appraisal system of the community is not perfect, the promotion space of the workers is small, less young and well-educated person can work for long time. All of these made the community work more hard and difficult.

## IV. CONCLUSION

#### *A. To Establish Corresponding Policy*

Community work involves all aspects of community life, it is impossible to solve a problem by one unit, many things involve multiple units, how to coordinate and avoid the unit pass the buck, new regulations that are suitable for the community need to be carry out. One possible way is to clear responsibility and duty of related units at the same level and superior, the units in the community have the responsibility and obligation to help to solve the community problems. For example, the parking shortage, the community can send initiative proposal to the units in and nearby, to see if they can provide some carport, all units have the duty to better the community environment.

#### *B. To Enhance Publicity and Education*

Use literary and artistic propaganda to strengthen the mutual understanding and respect among the peoples. For the local person, they should try to understand minority cultures; for floating population, they should learn to abide by public order and good custom.

#### *C. To Strengthen Community Personnel Quality*

The community can make full use of community resources to strengthen their worker's work ability; they can continue to expand friendly cooperation with Southwest Minzu University. The workers can study Tibetan language

with Tibetan students or teachers; more Tibetan student volunteers should involve in the daily work of community, but not only for emergency case. Government should increase community budget based on community situation, increase the workers' salary, improve the appraisal system, to attract and recruit more young and well-educated people to work in the community, solve the problem of labor lack.

Under the condition of market economy, the urban population composition of multi-ethnic is already become a universal phenomenon. Compared with rural communities, urban communities have better living conditions, community environment, wider employment channels and better education resources. According to the western classical theory of push-pull, the thrust of rural communities will greatly increase the tension of urban communities, especially with the development of urbanization in China, the tension of urban community will play a greater role.

The development history of Shuhan street community tells us that we should focus on the theme of the times, and continue to study the new situation and problems encountered in the urban community work, take active attitude to meet new challenges with new service concepts and methods.

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