# Difficulties and Outlets in the Construction of Ethnic social work Disciplines in China

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#### Abstract

The social nature of national work and the national nature of social work have put forward more and higher requirements for Chinese ethnic social work. However, at present, the construction of the ethnic social work discipline in China is lagging behind, and it is not mature enough in both theoretical research and work practice. This article reflects and analyzes the predicament faced by China 's current ethnic social work discipline construction from the two dimensions of theoretical research and concrete practice of ethnic social work, and puts forward corresponding countermeasures and suggestions for the innovative development of Chinese ethnic social work. Ethnology and sociology, especially social work, work together in cooperation, two-way integration and coordinated development, China's social work will have a brighter tomorrow.

**Keywords**: *ethnic social work*; *ethnology*; *sociology*; *subject system*; *talent development* 

China is a multi-ethnic country. National work is not only the main work in ethnic areas, but also an important work that cannot be ignored in areas where ethnic minority people have flowed into, especially in developed coastal cities. In other words, in the urban society where ethnic minority people flow in for business and employment, local social construction and social governance cannot be separated from social work and ethnic work. The social nature of national work and the national nature of social work have put forward more and higher requirements for Chinese ethnic social work. However, at present, the construction of the ethnic social work discipline in China is lagging behind, and it is not mature enough in both theoretical research and work practice. Therefore, we discuss and analyze the dilemmas and ways out of the current ethnic social work in China.

### I. Review of related literature

CNKI was searched for "ethnic and social work" and 121 articles were obtained. These 121 papers include 89 journal articles, 1 doctoral dissertation, 29 master's degree dissertations, and 2 conference papers. From the perspective of sociological neo-institutionalism, some researchers(Wang Xuhui et al.,2012; Zheng Wenhuan,2014;Lian Xuejun et al.,2017) have attempted to construct a theoretical framework for ethnic social work by focusing on the deep institutional logical connection between economic development and cultural adherence. Ma Guoqing and others (2017)started to clarify and reflect on the concepts related to ethnic social work, the research and practice of ethnic social work, the relationship between ethnic social work and related disciplines, the experience and inspiration of ethnic social work abroad, and how to carry out ethnic social work discuss. Guo Wei and Yang Han(2017) reviewed the development process of frontier social work in China from the Republic of China to today's ethnic social work, showed the historical picture of Chinese ethnic social work, and reflected on the status quo of the development of Chinese ethnic social work. Some researchers (Yan Yunhe & Zhou Zhengang, 2018) commented on the research status of Chinese social work and held that at present, the research on ethnic social work in China mainly focuses on the meaning and values of ethnic social work, the practice of ethnic social work, and the development of ethnic social work. In the future, ethnic social work should focus on the popularity and effectiveness of ethnic social work in the central and eastern regions, and Development of social work in ethnic areas.

Ashok Chand(2005) critically evaluates research and literature on child protection social work practice with minority ethnic families who speak little or no English. Yu, Sam Wai-Kam(2006) focuses on showing the significance of the studies of the traditional values and/or practices of ethnic minority groups to their development through examination of the health promotion strategies of Chinese people in the UK and the responses of traditional Chinese societies to foreign medical practices .Michael Reisch(2008) holds that since the turn of the twentieth century, the relationships among race, citizenship and culture have been central to debates about the goals of social policy and social work in the USA. Issues such as the compatibility between multiculturalism and other goals related to social justice are important issues of contemporary concern. Consistency between social equality and professional identity; social work practices and ethics can better adapt to the transformation of different ethnic populations and ethnic cultures.

The current state of research indicates that the researchers discussing Chinese social work are mainly Chinese scholars, and scholars outside China pay less attention to the subject development and talent training of Chinese social work. However, the social work theories and methods of European and American countries have been borrowed to varying degrees by scholars studying Chinese social work.

### II. Main Difficulties Facing the Construction of China's Ethnic and Social Work Disciplines

Ethnic social work is not a simple superposition of national work and social work, but a deep integration of national work and social work based on the concept of social work. At present, it seems that this "fusion" basically stays at the superficial level, that is, there are more "physical" grafts and less "chemical" reactions. To sum up, the predicaments faced by China's ethnic social work are mainly reflected in the following aspects.

# A. The discipline system is immature

China's current discipline system usually includes disciplines, first-level disciplines (referred to as "professional" in undergraduate education), second-level disciplines (referred to as "professional" in the undergraduate professional directory), etc. It is led by the education administration department. The settings are, of course, also regulated or adjusted after consulting the opinions of well-known experts and scholars in various fields of study.

In other words, the current subject system in China is basically the result of acknowledgment or acquiescence by well-known experts and scholars in various disciplines. According to the "Measures for the Establishment and Management of the Catalogue of Degree Awards and Talent Training" (degree [2009] No. 10) issued by the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council of China and the Ministry of Education, the discipline catalogue is managed hierarchically, and the disciplines and first-level disciplines are nationally awarded degrees The basic basis for authorizing auditing and subject management, degree granting units to carry out degree granting and talent training, and the second-level disciplines are the reference basis for implementing talent training by degree granting units; management that combines prescriptive and autonomous, relatively stable and dynamic adjustment Mechanism, the first-level subject list is adjusted every 10 years, and the second-level subject list is compiled every 5 years.

China published four catalogues of degree granting and talent training in 1983, 1990, 1997, and 2011, but the first three major catalogs were mainly doctoral, master's degree, and graduate professional disciplines. The most recent (2011) Undergraduate and bachelor degrees are included in the directory of degree awarding and talent development. However, the "Catalogue of Degree Granting and Talent Cultivation (2011)" reviewed and approved at the 28th Meeting of the Degree Committee of the State Council of China in February 2011 only listed the discipline categories and first-level disciplines, as well as the professional degree and talent cultivation catalog. There is no breakdown of secondary disciplines.

At present, the domestic Chinese academic circle generally regards social work and domestic economics and women's studies emerging in recent years as second-level disciplines under the first-level disciplines of sociology. The author has repeatedly participated in the teaching guidance committee of the sociology discipline of the Ministry of Education and the society The joint meeting of the directors of the Departments of School and Department of Social Work, one of the central topics discussed was the positioning and development of social work, housekeeping, and women's studies. Although social work has added a professional master's degree to China's current "Graduation of Degree Awards and Talent Training Discipline (2011)", since the directory does not have a second-level discipline, it cannot be seen that the social work major belongs to the sociology level. Subject, and in the "Directory of Doctoral and Master's Degrees and Disciplines and Specialties for Graduate Education" released in 1997, although the directory has secondary disciplines, it is impossible to appear because social work is not eligible for a master's degree. In that directory. This reflects that China's social work discipline system is not yet mature, which is obviously not conducive to the development of social work disciplines. It is recommended that in the next round of revision of China's "Catalogue of Degree Awards and Talent Training Disciplines", the second level should be retained under the disciplines and first-level disciplines. The discipline setting system includes social work and domestic economics, women's studies, etc., which have emerged in recent years, into the second-level discipline directory under the first-level discipline of sociology.

The adjacent discipline, which belongs to the same category of law as ethics, is also a first-level discipline. It has ethnology, Marxist ethnic theory and Five secondary disciplines, such as policy, Chinese ethnic minority economy, Chinese ethnic minority history, and Chinese ethnic art, are highly academic and theoretical, but their ethnic work practices are weak, which is not conducive to the development of ethnic work in China. Due to the lack of "ethnic work" or "ethnic work" second-level discipline support under the first-level discipline of ethnology, nor the establishment of a master's degree in ethnic work, China's ethnic social work lacks the strength from the first-level discipline of ethnology. support. For this reason, it is suggested that in the next round of the revision of China's "Certificate of Degree Granting and Talent Cultivation", a "ethnic work" or "ethnic work" secondary discipline should be set up under the first-level discipline of ethnology, and ethnicity should be set up when conditions are ripe The right to grant master's and doctoral degrees in work.

To sum up, in the existing discipline system in China, no matter it is a sociology or ethnology first-level discipline, it has not yet provided sufficient discipline nutrients for ethnic social work and a source of motivation for development. The root cause lies in the immature discipline system.

# B. Unclear research paradigm

As mentioned earlier, the immature and imperfect discipline system of China's ethnic social work has also affected its research paradigm. Just as social work originates from maternal sociology, the maternal discipline of ethnic work is of course ethnology. But what exactly is the research paradigm of Chinese ethnic social work based on the deep integration of national work and social work? Although some scholars have paid attention to this issue(Wang Sibin,2012; Ren Huang Guoying,2012; Xuhui,2012; Li Linfeng,2009; Cheng Zhongxing, 2011;Jin Yutong,2012), no basic consensus has yet been

formed.

Firstly, China's social work has developed from the late 1980s to about 30 years ago. Compared with other mature disciplines, it is very young. It is still in the professional development stage and has not yet risen from the "professional" stage to the "disciplinary" level. Although it strives to draw theories and methods from sociology, demography, anthropology, folklore and other secondary disciplines under the first-level discipline of sociology, it has not yet formed a unique research paradigm, basically The simple "assembly" of quantitative research and qualitative analysis is neither a quantitative research nor an empirical analysis of the second-level disciplines of sociology and demography, nor the "field ethnography" of anthropology and the "field folklore" of folklore. "Research standards", but operational skills that are biased towards social work practice, neglecting the theoretical exploration of social work research methods, leading Chinese social work to become a "master in action" and a "dwarf in theory" "Short board" pattern.

It is true that the emphasis on practice in social work is unquestionable, but its research paradigm is unclear and lacks corresponding theoretical guidance, and social work practice will eventually be difficult to go further. I have heard that colleagues in teaching and researching social work analyze the relationship between social work and sociology: sociology focuses on how the "social building" should be constructed, while social work is based on the "social building" described by sociology The construction "drawings" are specifically constructed. Obviously, advocates of this theory regard sociology as theoretical research, and social work as action practice. It is not difficult to understand why the self-dwarfed social work can only become a specialty in the sociology discipline, and it is difficult to develop into a second discipline under the first-level discipline of sociology-social work.

Secondly, the research paradigm is different from the sociological quantitative research or empirical research, empirical research and qualitative research. Chinese ethnographic research mostly belongs to qualitative or qualitative research, literature analysis, case studies, comparative research, observation and participation observation, Interviews and in-depth interviews, thematic research and guest research, institutional analysis, grounded theory, etc., important tools for constitute Chinese ethnographic research. Although questionnaire survey methods have appeared in the study of Chinese ethnology in recent years, they are mainly based on field research or fieldwork research paradigms. It is regrettable that at present, even the "professional" of ethnic work in China has not been formed, let alone the discipline of ethnic work. Just as China's social work has not yet evolved from a sociology into a research paradigm of social work, so has China's ethnic work not been differentiated from a ethnological study into a ethnological work.

To sum up, since the research paradigm of ethnic work and social work in China is not clear, the research paradigm of ethnic social work based on the cross-penetration of ethnic work and social work is of course impossible to talk about.

#### C. Insufficient talent training system

At present, China's social work has formed a training system talent for undergraduate-professional masters, but has not vet formed a talent training pattern for undergraduate-master-doctoral and postdoctoral work. As mentioned earlier, in the "Catalogue of Disciplines and Specialties Conferring Doctoral Degrees, Master Degrees, and Postgraduate Education" issued in China in 1997, "Social Work" is not visible at all; Although the "Master of Social Work" (MSW) is listed in "Annual Years", it is still unknown when the "Doctor of Social Work" (DSW) will be added. This is still a long way from China's current requirement to reduce the scale of scientific degrees, expand the scale of professional degrees, and vigorously develop professional degrees.

As China does not currently have a professional doctorate in social work, it is only possible to cultivate doctoral graduates in the field of ethnic social work through the autonomous establishment of social work or the second-level discipline of ethnosociology. However, because the ethnic minorities in China are mainly concentrated in western China, and the universities with doctoral degree authorization in sociology are mainly distributed in eastern or central China, their enthusiasm for training doctoral candidates for ethnic social work is not high. In this way, the task of cultivating a doctorate in ethnic social work has fallen to ethnic colleges and universities in western China that have doctoral programs in ethnology or sociology.

In recent years, the Lanzhou University Institute of Ethnology has set up a second-level discipline in ethnology under the first-level discipline in ethnology to train doctoral students in ethnic and social work. Even though China's top ethnic colleges and universities, such as the Central University for Nationalities, have established doctoral and master's programs in ethnology, sociology, and ethnosociology, none of the training programs revised in 2014 has set up "ethnic social work". The research direction is just to set up three research directions: "ethnic social work theory and method", "ethnic social work practice" and "ethnic social policy and social welfare" in the training program of the "Master of Social Work Specialty".

Although South-Central University for Nationalities has doctoral and master's degree programs in first-level disciplines in ethnology, it does not recruit and train graduate students in the "ethnic social work" direction, but only offers "social work" directions in the sociology master's program, but it also does not highlight "Ethnic social work" characteristics.

Although Southwest University for Nationalities has a doctoral degree in first-level disciplines in ethnology, it does not have a research direction of "ethnic social work". The School of Sociology and Psychology has a second-level discipline in "community management" under the first-level discipline in public management. Master's degree, two research directions of "School Mental Health Education" and "Social and Cultural Studies" are set up in the master's degree of ideological and political education, but there is also no "ethnic and social work" direction, which fails to connect well with the social work undergraduate professional education . Northwest University for Nationalities does not currently have a PhD in ethnology and sociology, but its "Master of Ethnology and Sociology" does not have a research direction of "ethnic social work", but only sets up "ethnic and social work" in the MSW "direction.

In addition, Yunnan University, which has a master's degree and doctoral degree in ethnology, has not set a research direction of "ethnic social work", although the university has set up a "ethnic sociology" under the doctoral degree and master's degree in ethnology The second-level discipline is cultivated only in the authorized places of MSW degree, but it is difficult to see the research characteristics of "ethnic social work".

The School of Humanities of Yunnan University for Nationalities has a master's degree and doctoral degree in sociology, and also has a master's degree in social work (MSW). Does China set up the research direction of "ethnic social work"? Sichuan University's full-time Master of Social Work (MSW) offers five research directions, including community social work, psychological assistance and medical rehabilitation, community poverty alleviation and social assistance, social administration, and disaster social work. The study of religious, administrative, and social issues involves ethnic aspects. This is similar to the situation in China where universities with a Master of Social Work (MSW) do not have a research direction of "ethnic social work", but only expand by opening one or two elective courses involving ethnic groups.

The above situation indicates that neither the comprehensive colleges in the western region of China nor the ethnic colleges and universities have put the training of "ethnic social work" talents on the important agenda, nor have they strengthened the "ethnic social work" within the existing disciplines. It 's more difficult to consolidate the foundation for the training of high-level talents in "ethnic and social work". Not to mention the characteristics and advantages of forming "ethnic social work".

#### D. Ethnic social work services are not in place

China's current stage of the ethnic social work discipline system is immature, the research paradigm is not clear, and the talent training system is not perfect, which has affected the quality of the Chinese ethnic social work talent training. In addition, there are still some problems that need to be improved for the Chinese government to purchase public services of social organizations. As a result, the service of ethnic social work in China is not in place(Hu Yangquan, 2006; Wang Sibin, 2013), and the service quality needs to be improved.

First, the government's purchase of public services from social organizations is the main driver of the Chinese government's governance reform and social management innovation offside. The government agreed on the rights and obligations of the seller and the buyer through the issuance of the bid and the contract with the winning professional social work agency. The winning professional social work agency and the professional social workers it hired performed the agreed service content through the contract. The problem, however, is that the government's supervision of social work services that perform contracts is actually difficult or even absent.

The reason is simple: the government cannot directly supervise the social worker who is providing the service, but can only supervise it through the social work agency that hires the social worker. The quality and satisfaction of public services are closely related to those who directly provide the service. Although the government can entrust a third-party evaluation agency to make a final evaluation of the professional service quality of professional social work agencies that directly provide services and the social workers they hire, these third-party evaluation agencies are basically "common" with professional social work agencies, and it is inevitable Offset occurs. In this way, the absence of government supervision and the bias of third-party assessment agencies can easily lead to inadequate ethnic social work services.

Second, whether it is ethnic social work in ethnic areas or ethnic social work in areas where ethnic minorities have flowed in, it is easy to cause ethnic social work to deviate from "ethnic work" and focus more on "social work", resulting in "ethnic work" The loss has affected the effectiveness of ethnic social work. In fact, when the government subcontracted ethnic social work to the successful social work agency to provide services, it has already entrusted the "ethnic work" to the successful professional social work agency. Sound, many professional social workers can hardly bear the dual responsibilities of "ethnic work" and "social work", and prefer only the areas of social work that they are good at. It is self-evident that the service of ethnic social work lacking "ethnic work" is not only inadequate, but also runs counter to the government's original intention to purchase social organizations to provide public services.

#### III. The Outlet and Countermeasures of the Construction of the Discipline of Ethnic and Social Work in China

Based on the previous analysis of the main dilemmas facing China's ethnic and social work, we believe that the development path and countermeasures for the construction of ethnic and social work disciplines in China in the future are as follows:

Firstly, in the multidisciplinary cross-penetration of ethnology, sociology, and social work, establish and improve the discipline of ethnic social work, and form a two-university system of "ethnology  $\rightarrow$  ethnic sociology  $\rightarrow$ ethnic social work - social work - sociology". Ethnic social work is a deep integration of "ethnic work" and "social work". It needs to draw nutrients from the two first-level disciplines of sociology and ethnology, especially in the MSW and ethnosociology disciplines. "Chemical formula" response instead of "physical formula" surface contact, and "national work" should be added to the next round of China's "Certificate of Degree Granting and Talent Cultivation," and a PhD in social work should be set up when conditions are ripe (DSW) and National Work Master (Bachelor) degree granting authority to form a complete and mature "Ethnic social work" discipline system.

essence of ethnology Secondly, the (socio-cultural anthropology) and the combination of quantitative and qualitative research in sociology are used to draw the essence of qualitative and quantitative research in the observation, recording, and description of social work practices in ethnic regions. As a supplementary research method, gradually establish ethnological work and social work, and based on the cross-penetration of ethnological work and social work in China, form a research paradigm for ethnic social work in China to avoid mechanically copying countries (foreign). Related theories and research paradigms.

Thirdly, From the aspects of talent training level, curriculum system and social work practice, we will improve the talent training system for ethnic social work, and avoid a simple "patch" talent training model for social work. Whether it is a comprehensive institution in western China or a national higher education institution in China, the training of "ethnic social work" talents should be mentioned on the important agenda, and the "ethnic social work" talent training should be strengthened within the existing disciplines. Instead of adding one or two elective courses related to ethnic aspects to the MSW curriculum, this will consolidate the basis for the cultivation of high-level talents in "ethnic social work" and gradually form the characteristics of "ethnic social work" in the seed country. And advantages.

Fourthly, the absence of government supervision and the bias of third-party assessment agencies in ethnic social work must be avoided to ensure that ethnic social work services are in place. At the same time, we must be alert to the shift of ethnic social work from "ethnic work" and focus more on "social work", causing the loss of "ethnic work" and affecting the effectiveness of China 's ethnic social work(Yuanyuan Feng & Monit Cheung,2008; Ŝpela Urh,2011). In addition, the "four in one" of ethnic work, religious work, civil affairs work and social work in the ethnic minority areas of China should be promoted to deepen the harmonious development of the national society in the government's purchase of social work professional services from social work institutions.

#### IV. Conclusion

The birth and development of social work in China has not been long, and the academic foundation is relatively weak. The construction of the ethnic social work discipline, which is a deep integration of "ethnic work" and "social work", has just begun. It faces many difficulties and challenges. It needs to start from the level of theory, method and practice, especially from the cross-infiltration of ethnology and sociology. The characteristics and advantages of China's "ethnic social work" have gradually formed in the intersection of the national work science and the social work science. All this depends on the establishment and improvement of the discipline system and research paradigm, but also the cultivation of talents and the effective supply of innovative practices.

Judging from the list of newly added doctoral and master's degree granting points in 2017 in China announced by the Degree Office of the State Council on March 26, 2018, there is still no breakthrough in the professional doctoral degree (DSW) in social work. It is necessary to observe in the future whether doctoral candidates are to be established and recruited for doctoral students in the field of ethnic social work. Judging from the list of 43 newly awarded masters in Chinese social work in 2017, there are 9 normal colleges, 8 polytechnic colleges, 8 financial and foreign language colleges, 3 agricultural and forestry colleges, 3 political and law colleges, 2 ethnic colleges (Guizhou University for Nationalities and Tibet University for Nationalities), 7 other colleges, 2 party school systems, and 1 social science system; from the perspective of regional distribution, these 43 new masters in social work are authorized The points are distributed in 4 in Northeast China, 5 in North China, 12 in East China, 6 in Central China, 5 in South China, 8 in Southwest, and 3 in Northwest.

China is a multi-ethnic country with a long historical tradition. China's national conditions. people's conditions and social conditions determine that the "two legs" of China's national work and social work in China must "go in step" in order to better promote the development of China's national equality, unity, mutual assistance, harmonious ethnic relations and the goodness of society run. At the same time, it also shows that the ethnic social work of the seed country should have Chinese characteristics, and it cannot copy the theories and methods of western national work and social work. Establishing a theoretical system of ethnic social work disciplines with Chinese characteristics, Chinese style, and Chinese style is not only a matter for the discipline of Chinese ethnology, nor is it a matter within the Chinese social work profession, but for Chinese ethnology

and Chinese sociology, especially social work. The need for cooperation and two-way integration and coordinated development. Only in this way will China's social work have a brighter tomorrow.

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