

# Study on Community Ethnic Work in Chengdu City under the Perspective of Modern Governance

Gaga Mao\*

The Office of Academic Affairs, Southwest Minzu University, Chengdu, 610041, Sichuan, China

**Abstract:** The floating population of ethnic minorities is the key to national work in Chengdu, the city national success mainly depends on the work of Minority Floating Population. Chengdu as a multi-ethnic and multicultural city, this paper will select Yi floating population as the research object, Including the life employment situation, cultural rights, and the city of Chengdu ethnic work policy, system construction, the problem of grassroots community ethnic work, restricting factors. The paper puts forward the targeted and practical countermeasures and suggestions, and expectations of the government and social organizations to provide a reference for decision-making, to promote the development of Chengdu ethnic work.

**Keywords:** Chengdu City, Grassroots community, Nationality work

**Publication date:** October, 2019

**Publication online:** 31 October, 2019

**\*Corresponding author:** Gaga Mao, Maogaga2000@sina.com

## 1 Introduction

Many ethnic minority populations have flooded into Chengdu due to the acceleration of economic development and urbanization. This made ethnic issues to be more and more complex, and grassroots national work is the foundation and an important part of urban ethnic work. Grassroots communities and their staff are at the forefront of urban ethnic work and are directly contacted by the urban minority population. Their work results directly reflect on the success of national work and highlight the importance of grassroots national work in Chengdu. This paper is based on the analysis of the challenges and dilemmas faced by the grass-

roots national work in Chengdu to further improve the national work of Chengdu by proposing a solution path in the perspective of modernization of national issues, a view to promote the national unity and development of Chengdu and the stability of society as well as the construction of a harmonious society.

## 2 Challenges faced by ethnic work in grassroots communities in Chengdu

The development of the urbanization process has led to an increase in the floating of population, especially the minority population. The composition of ethnic minorities in Chengdu is becoming more and more complex and the proportion of ethnic minority population in Chengdu's total population is also growing. The urban floating population is often derived from a series of social problems such as urban management, public security, and cultural rights protection. Moreover, the ethnic relationship is complicated and the importance of ethnic work in the grassroots communities in Chengdu is becoming more and more important.

### 2.1 The increase of floating population of ethnic minorities poses challenges for the grassroots national work in Chengdu community

Since the reforming and opening, ethnic minorities have moved to large-scale population movements in order to improve their economic situation and seek better development opportunities. Thus, it provides a large amount of labor for the economic development of the city and brings the culture of the nation into the city as well as increases the cultural diversity of the city. At the same time, the increase in the floating population of ethnic minorities has also brought challenges to the

work of grassroots ethnic groups in Chengdu. Besides, when the ethnic composition increases, the differences in customs, culture, and religion among ethnic groups in political and economic life will also increase the complexity of ethnic relations. At the same time, the number of ethnic minorities flowing into Chengdu has increased. According to the sixth national census data, in 2010, the minority population of Chengdu was 126,900, accounting for 0.9% of the total population of Chengdu. Among them, 14,907 are Yi are from ethnic group, accounting for 11.7% of all ethnic minorities in Chengdu. However, the supply of public service resources is generally limited and there are problems such as insufficient supply and demand and tight resource use. In addition, the floating population of ethnic minorities has become a “marginal group” of a “marginal group”, which has increased the difficulty of public affairs security and management in the grassroots communities in Chengdu.

## **2.2 Differences in development among ethnic groups challenge the ethnic work of grassroots communities in Chengdu**

At the end of 2015, the number of ethnic minorities in Chengdu household registration was 126,939, accounting for 0.9% of the population of Chengdu. There are 55 ethnic minorities in the jurisdiction, such as Manchu, Mongolian, Hui nationality, Tibetan, Yi nationality, Qiang ethnic minority, Miao nationality and other ethnic groups. Thus, this has resulted in nearly 4 million people per year and minorities are migrant population<sup>[1]</sup>. Although the common factors among different ethnic groups are increasing, the multi-ethnic coexistence is accompanied by the unique national characteristics and customs culture of each ethnic group. The various ethnic groups have contradictions in their interactions because of their different understandings and living habits, thus, these have resulted in ethnic problems. The Yi migrant workers arrive in Chengdu to work in the remote mountainous areas have a low level of education. They have certain uniqueness and nationality in social customs and traditional concepts. Multi-ethnic urban politics and life are difficult to integrate, which directly increases the difficulty of ethnic work in grassroots communities. On the other hand, there are differences in the level of development of various ethnic groups. A considerable number of ethnic minorities who have flowed into Chengdu have less influence on modern culture. Plus, they even have limited Chinese proficiency, which creates obstacles

to inter-ethnic communication and gives grassroots communities in Chengdu. Thus, this has increased the difficulty in facing development of ethnic work.

## **2.3 Challenges brought by the complexity of ethnic work**

In the process of survival and development of different ethnic groups in Chengdu, the result in competitive relationship, combined with different levels of cultural education has a large difference in legal awareness and customs. Plus, this also resulted in irregular competition or confrontation in processing, which will turn to ethnic and cultural conflicts. In the survey, the cultural level of the Yi people in Chengdu was low. More than half of the people did not finish primary school and some of their Chinese expressions were difficult. The discrimination in the city and the differences among the ethnic groups caused the opposition between the ethnic groups. On the other hand, grassroots communities have a wide range of work and mixed affairs. “Residents’ committees and villagers’ committees shall set up people’s mediation, public security and public health committees to handle public affairs and welfare undertakings in their areas of residence, mediate civil disputes, assist in maintaining public order, and reflect the opinions, demands and suggestions of the masses to the people’s government.”<sup>[2]</sup>. The complexity of the work objects has led to the complexity of ethnic work and increased the difficulty of ethnic work in the grassroots communities in Chengdu.

## **3 The predicament of ethnic work in the grassroots communities in Chengdu**

The urban ethnic work should go deep into the trend of grassroots community as it is the development of ethnic work in Chengdu. However, for the community, the grassroots institution of the ethnic work in Chengdu faces multiple challenges. The grassroots communities themselves faced many difficulties, which has directly affected the effectiveness of the national work in Chengdu.

### **3.1 The overlapping of community functions and heavy tasks**

In the survey, there are widespread problems in the grassroots communities in Chengdu such as heavy work tasks, complicated content and lack of professionals. Among them, the overlapping of work function roles is also the cause of heavy work in the community. According to the “Organization Law of the

Neighborhood Committee”, the residents committee is a grassroots mass autonomous organization. However, in the factual work, the grassroots community in Chengdu has been given various functional work contents by the government, and various forms of dispatched institutions and financial support have been set up. The government is leading the management relationship to the grassroots community. Thereby, the community must manage public affairs in the community such as culture and education, unemployment, urban subsistence allowance, environmental protection etc. Thus, provide services and guarantees for the supply of community public goods. However, at present, the structure of ethnic minority migrants in Chengdu is complex and decentralized, making the work of ethnic minorities more difficult to focus on and the continuity of work cannot be guaranteed.

### **3.2 Restriction of professional knowledge, training and publicity in ethnic work**

The traditional grassroots community working methods have not adapted to the changing needs of the times and requirement of professional national social workers. Most of the existing grassroots staff and ethnic workers have not received systematic training in formal knowledge about ethnic and religious aspects. Thus, this resulted in lacking the necessary knowledge of ethnic religions. In other words, their theoretical literacy and work skills for ethnic work need to be further improved. The floating population of ethnic minorities, as the object of national work, is scattered and unfixed, which makes the grassroots community’s national policies and regulations, rights protection, and legal publicity and education of the floating population underdeveloped. Moreover, the effect is limited; the current Yi population is scattered and scattered and there are no specific large settlements. Some of the floating populations of ethnic minorities do not understand Chinese. In other words, there is no use of minority languages in the grassroots propaganda; the Yi people live in the traditional rural society with the lack of understanding of policies and regulations, urban rules and regulations as well as the rule of law. Thus, the lack of cultural knowledge and legal knowledge of the audience adds to the difficulty of community work.

### **3.3 Weak national work team in the grassroots community**

In recent years, Chengdu has actively strengthened cooperation with minority areas such as Liangshan and

Ganzi. They have taken the responsibility of minority cadres to work in key departments of ethnic minorities in Chengdu and grassroots communities or temporarily seconding minority cadres to deal with unexpected matters involving ethnic work. In addition, to a certain extent, it has alleviated and promoted the development of grassroots ethnic work in Chengdu. However, due to the household registration and working relationship, the work of the seconded cadre is just familiar with the work and the idea of returning to the original unit, so that the continuity of the work cannot be guaranteed. The effect can only be dealt with in a case, with headaches and pains, and lack of systematic and long-term follow-up as well as continuous efforts on national work.

### **3.4 Incomplete understanding of ethnic work**

In the work of grassroots communities, ethnic work needs to be a long-term attention, but it is a slow work; ethnic work is like a shadow, when you are fine, you can’t see it, once it happens, it is temporary and sudden. In other words, it is a process that takes time, investment, and accumulation to do a good job in national work. This makes the grassroots community less concerned about the development and maintenance of ethnic work. At the same time, grassroots communities have insufficient understanding of the complexity and difficulty of ethnic work in terms of organizational construction. Moreover, some grassroots community workers themselves do not understand or even misunderstand the situation of ethnic minorities due to cultural differences. It is difficult to promote the use of ethnic minorities in the form of national work and the lack of measures to deal with ethnic affairs. As for the obstacles in language communication, it is difficult for the grassroots community staff to communicate with the minority people, and it is difficult to conduct investigations about the jurisdiction. Lastly, the efforts to recruit minority workers to join the community are not currently sufficient.

### **3.5 There are drawbacks in working methods**

The grassroots communities in Chengdu are generally equipped with ethnic and religious coordination groups as well as information outlets. However, there are obvious drawbacks in the disposal of minority affairs. Sometimes in the handling of disputes, there is a purpose of maintaining stability, blindly pursuing a calming and adopting the negative practice of “taking money to keep stability and buy peace”. Therefore, there is a lack of discussion and analysis on the

problem, and the measures taken are passive and inevitable.

## **4 Thoughts on promoting ethnic work in the grassroots community of Chengdu**

### **4.1 Improving the multi-subject management system of ethnic work in the grassroots communities of Chengdu**

At present, the grassroots community management model in Chengdu is mainly a traditional government-led top-down administrative system. However, with the economic and social transformation, the weakening of household registration restrictions and the frequent movement of ethnic minority populations, the effects of traditional social governance models are also weakened. Thus, the diversified development of the community will not be adapted. Moreover, the grassroots community is not only a management, but also functions as social services, social participation, and social democracy. This requires us to strengthen the autonomy function of the community, improve the community management system, and develop and enhance the participation of diverse entities in the grassroots community. Thus, promoting the diversified development of the community. In the same way, with the diversification of the needs of urban minority migrants, community ethnic work is not limited to management, but also includes promoting cultural interactions among ethnic groups. Minority migrants participate in community culture, economic and social life, and protect their cultural rights etc. Thus, this promotes the diversified development of urban culture. Lastly, the grassroots communities in Chengdu should innovate the diversified governance model of grassroots communities.

### **4.2 Strengthening the status of propaganda and education in the national work of grassroots communities in Chengdu**

Uncertain factors affecting urban ethnic relations have increased with the acceleration of urbanization. The grassroots communities in Chengdu should strengthen publicity and public opinion guidance, so that members of society can recognize the social norms in urban life, understand each other's cultural concepts and behaviors. Thus, preventing the conflicts and conflicts between the ethnic groups in the city. Besides, it is crucial to cultivate a common socialist value system,

form the concept of internalization of urban residents, and let the people of all ethnic groups reach a certain degree of consensus and recognition in social life, so that all ethnic groups can abide by themselves spontaneously in the process of communication. Secondly, it is also necessary to reduce contradictions caused by misunderstanding or disrespect for cultural rights and interests of ethnic minorities. Thereby, guide people to safeguard their legitimate rights and interests through legal channels, promote national unity and maintain social stability are the correct path to follow.

### **4.3 Strengthening the construction of community ethnic work teams and enhancing the working ability of community workers**

Firstly, in order to strengthen the construction of community ethnic work teams, it is crucial to promote the ability of ethnic workers in grassroots communities to develop themselves while promoting the development of other members of society. The construction of the city's grassroots community should be strengthened, and appropriate ethnic minorities should be included in the team. At the same time, there are several elites who are enthusiastic about social affairs in the floating population of ethnic minorities in Chengdu. There are also some old cadres who have retired from living in Chengdu. They have a certain influence among the masses and often play a role in the handling of some obstacles. People who have a good grasp of legal policies and a high level of cultural education, and who are more familiar with the situation of ethnic minorities are hired as representatives of ethnic minorities to participate in the governance of grassroots communities. Secondly, grassroots ethnic workers have direct contact with ethnic minority people in the city and are at the forefront of urban ethnic work. Article 16 of the Urban Ethnic Work Regulations stipulates: "The urban people's government shall strengthen the education and management of the floating personnel of ethnic minorities and protect their legitimate rights and interests." Minority migrants should consciously abide by the laws and regulations of the country and obey the management of the relevant departments of the local people's government<sup>[3]</sup>. Therefore, training on national culture and national policies and regulations should be actively carried out. At the same time, institutionalization of ethnic work and measures should be strengthened to enhance the national work ability of the staff and the entire community.

#### 4.4 Correctly understand the work of urban ethnic groups and improve the working methods of urban grassroots ethnic groups

The grassroots level in Chengdu should be transformed into a service-oriented community governance model and specifically to the ethnic work of the community. First, we should properly resolve ethnic disputes by building a harmonious ethnic community and create a more stable social environment to promote the development of national society. In the specific operation, we must adhere to the principle of seeking truth from facts, clarify economic disputes, public security problems and ethnic contradictions. In other words, we cannot generalize national issues; adhere to equality before the law and handle ethnic affairs in accordance with the law; focus on the principle of prevention. As stated, “It is impossible to treat the relevant issues as a national issue because the parties are members of a certain ethnic group.”<sup>[4]</sup> Secondly, the ethnic work is wide, difficult, and complicated. Therefore, it is difficult to do a good job in ethnic work by relying on a certain department. Moreover, it is necessary to enhance the sense of cooperation, focus on the strength of all parties in the society and raise the level of national work. In other words, make full use of the ethnic structure and departments of Chengdu and mobilize social groups and community people to participate in ethnic work. Thirdly, strengthen communication and cooperation with the government of the outflowing land, and innovate a joint mechanism for national work. This can promote the interaction between the residents of the ethnic groups at the grassroots level

in Chengdu, the residents and the community. Let them participate in community decision-making, cultivate the sense of belonging of ethnic minority residents, and build a harmonious community.

As the foundation of the work of the ethnic group in Chengdu, the grassroots community currently has some problems that restrict the national work of Chengdu, which has also affected the overall development and progress of Chengdu. The ethnic work of the grassroots communities in Chengdu should also keep pace with the time. Under the new situation, we should actively adjust and improve the work system and gradually improve the work capacity to promote the national unity of Chengdu and build a harmonious and stable social environment.

**Funded Project:** special funded project of basic scientific research grant for Southwest Minzu University (2019NQN30), general project of research and reform of school-level education and teaching of Southwest Minzu University 2019 (1231119022), and output of construction project of ‘ethnicity language and character information processing laboratory’ of key laboratory of Southwest Minzu University.

#### References

- [1] <http://www.chengdu.gov.cn/servicelist/cdgtk06/>, 05/19/2016.
- [2] The “People’s Republic of China constitution”, article 111st.
- [3] Tianjin City Ethnic Affairs Committee, People’s Republic of China legal collection, Beijing: National Press, 2004:59.
- [4] Lai Y. Reflections on the construction of harmonious ethnic relations in cities, Records and Reflections on multi ethnic composition and ethnic relations in Chengdu, Beijing: National Press, 2010:225.