

## Summary of thesis

The Beijing society from the aspects of charity work during the period of  
The Republic of China(1911-49) — Focusing on Beijing Xiangshan orphanage

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This research aims to elucidate the works of social welfare in China in 1920s, which is considered to be a transition period for social welfare that was shifting from charity work to social work in the country. Concretely, I analyze the case of the Beijing Xiangshan orphanage (北京香山慈幼院), which carried out charitable education work in Beijing during that period.

The Points that I was able to newly elucidate through this research are as follows:

The first point is about the life of Xiong Xiling(熊希齡)(1870-1937), a Chinese philanthropist, and the establishment and development of Xiangshan orphanage. The characteristics of Xiong Xiling, the founder of Xiangshan orphanage are: 1) Keeping strong plural interest in education, 2) Extensive human networks, 3) Accumulating precise and practical abilities, 4) Far-sightedness to position Xiangshan orphanage as social work institution. Xiong Xiling's personal ability with abovementioned features promoted the shift from charity to social work at the orphanage. (Chapter 2)

Xiangshan orphanage adopted modern educational methods while also importance to the moral education based on tradition of Confucianism, and attempted educational experiments in a way unique to China. This paper pursued the process of the orphanage's gradual transformation from a traditional school, whose main purpose was to provide its students with moral culture and skills to make a living, into an educational experimental school as a new initiative. This research pointed out that Xiong Xiling had a pioneering viewpoint of recognizing the social nature of poverty in China during the time of the Republic of China in an era when the government-led social relief system was not yet established. Furthermore, it illustrates that the very existence of Xiong Xiling, the core person of the institution, was the biggest factor that enabled the orphanage to exist for almost 30 years producing many graduates. (Chapter 3)

Secondly, the financial trend that supported Xiangshan orphanage is discussed. From 1919 to the first half of 1926 the orphanage was financially supported by the government subsidies. However, due to the rapid increase of students and the change in the political situation, the orphanage lost its balance of income and expenditure

resulting in in huge debt. From 1926 to 1927, financially it was forced to make a major shift from government-dependent structure to a private dependent one. With regard to donators, there was overwhelmingly more institutions and organizations than individual contributors, and in particular the Bank of China in various parts of China served as the important fundraising route. (Chapter 4)

Looking at the fiscal trend from 1927 to 1937 after the establishment of Nanjing Kuomintang Government(南京国民政府), the amount of unpaid government subsidies from July to December 1927 was the largest. The reason behind is the unstable political situation at this time and resulting reorganization of various agencies and administrative personnel. In order to maintain Xiangshan orphanage, Xiong Xiling made the best use of his own network of people, writing letters to key persons and organizations that might be able to offer financial resources and making a strong appeal for support. In his letters I can see his modern viewpoints which emphasize the government's responsibility to promote social policy, quoting from “Fundamentals of National Reconstruction”(『建国大綱』) by Sun Yat-sen, etc. However, at the same time his method of trying to acquire governmental support was traditional in a way that he relied on personal connections and friendship. (Chapter 5)

The third point concerns the administrative agencies surrounding Xiangshan orphanage. The administrative agencies surrounding Xiangshan orphanage were the education department and the social affairs bureau under the city government, and both agencies supervised the management and operation of the orphanage respectively. The municipal education office was established in 1929, but only in 4 years it was merged into and later unified with the Social Affairs Bureau for management and supervision. Through the analysis of the documents that were corresponded between the Social Affairs Bureau and Xiangshan orphanage, I found that the main emphasis of the work of the Social Affairs Bureau was placed on strengthening the agency's management and supervision over private charity organization by repeatedly exerting pressure on them based on newly promulgated charity laws and regulations, rather than offering protection and support to them. (Chapter 6, Chapter 7)

In the final chapter, I have come to a following conclusion. Beijing had been the center of politics, culture and education since the Ming and Qing dynasty. However after the establishment of Republic of China in 1911, the The Warlord Era began and the control of the country was divided among former military cliques and other regional factions. This led to the decline of the power of the central government with the weakening of the state authority. After Kuomintang Government was established in Nanjing in 1927, the influence of Beijing weakened and the economic situation also deteriorated. Under such circumstances, there was a great demand for charity works among the people of Beijing –the

city where Xiangshan orphanage and Xiong Xiling were engaged in social welfare undertaking—through 1910s to 1930s due to the serious social unrest caused by unemployment, population influx because of natural disasters, pressure by Japanese troops, etc.

However, unlike Shanghai (上海), a kind of social climate that fostered matured charity network formed through active charitable activities by civil society, did not exist in Beijing. This is mainly because of two factors that characterizing the city of Beijing: One is a political factor. In Beijing, the power of the government was predominant for a long time as the capital symbolizing authority of the successive dynasties. The other one is an economic factor. Beijing economy had gotten exhausted ever since the late Qing Dynasty.

In the case of Xiangshan orphanage examined in this paper, a two-sided nature of social work on one side and charity work on the other is observed. While depending on government funding, Xiong Xiling also raised supplementary subsidies through his own personal network to cover the shortfall. It is also possible to say that it indicates transitional features in the major shift from charity to social work. However, when compared with Shanghai where both the social activities of the government and the activities of the private charity network were actively carried out on a relatively stable foundation, the situation in Beijing was much severer in terms of both government finance and private fund. The activities of Xiangshan orphanage relied on Xiong Xiling's personal network and efforts connecting the government and the private sector. In this sense, I can nonetheless recognize how important the existence of Xiong Xiling was, in that he, upholding advanced educational philosophy, fostered many capable individuals through his undertakings.