Analysis on the Problems Existing in the Development of Current Religious Charities of Our country

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Abstract. Influenced by the religion nature, religious charities not only have belief foundation of social mass, also has strong social public trustworthiness, giving full play to the social service function of religious charities can further improve people’s livelihood, promote the harmonious and stable development of the socialist society. Therefore, new era, the country should pay more attention to the development of religious charities, solve problems existing in the development of current religious charities through proper organization and guidance, expand the development scale, make corresponding contribution to the construction of the harmonious socialist society with Chinese characteristics.

Introduction

Religion is the mother of charity, because religion has some belief foundation in society, social public trustworthiness is relative high, therefore, developing religious charities from the angle of religion can give full play to the social service function of religious charities, improve people’s livelihood, make corresponding contribution to the construction of the harmonious socialist society with Chinese characteristics. In the new era, with the attention on the religious charities from the party and country, standardizing religious charities has already become an inevitable requirement to guide the religious organizations to match the society, it is an important channel to mobilize religious people to participate in the society construction, it embodies our country’s supplement for social charities, which has an important significance. However, in the specific practices, the development of religious charities still faces many problems, it produced some negative effects on the realization of charity results, thus we should pay more attention to the development of religious charities, take some measures to solve problems, improve the development level of religious charities, promote the construction of harmonious socialist society.

Main Problems existing in the development of current religious charities in our country

With the development of opening up, though our country’s religious charities have achieved some results in recent years, but it started relate late and with limited scale, it also has some problems with the rapid development, compared with developed countries, it still is the initial stage, there are places not match with the era, which needs to be adjusted and revise, mainly expressed as follows:

Development scale of current religious charities is relatively small. Seen from the religious charities development of our country in recent years and that of countries like USA, there is still a great distance between the religious charities development and that of other developed countries, total donation amount is less than millesimal of that of USA, even remove the influence of economic strength on the religious charities, average donation amount of social mass in USA is also over 60 times of China, thus we can see the current development scale of religious charities in our country. There are mainly reasons from two aspects for this great distance, the influence of economic development and the former great distance. According to relevant researches, number of American religious organizations is relatively small, only accounts for 20% of the nonprofit organizations, while, this small part of religious organizations undertake over 60% of their social charitable donations. At the same time, under the influence of such social reality, the social public trustworthiness of American religious organizations also relatively higher, it ranks just second to the church, thus in the American society, the social service ability and service mode of the religious
organizations can get the recognition and trust of the social groups, their further development of religious charities has solid foundation, also has a positive influence on the thrive of modern society. Relatively speaking, our country’s religious charities development is still at an initial stage, with small scale, the further development meets some difficulties, and still needs to overcome some difficulties and get attentions from our country and society.

**Organizational form is relatively single.** Seen from the economic foundation of current religious organizations and religious charities, it normally includes following channels: firstly, spontaneous donation of the believers is the main composition of the religious charities; secondly, daily rent of the land and houses is the most stable and important daily source of funds of the religious charities organizations; thirdly, service fee got from their religious welfare works organized by relevant religious organizations and specified religious activities, such as the tuition fee, sales revenue of publishing relevant magazines and books; Fourthly, religious aid and donations from overseas religious organizations. At the present stage, most of the religious charity organizations have already paid more attention to religious charities, while the organization form is still relatively single, mainly focus on providing disaster relief and helping and supporting the poor, which affected the enthusiasm of social mass to participate in religious charities on a certain extent, also affected its further development in the modern society. Meanwhile, financial difficulties also are not benefit to the modernization construction of religious charities, because of its late beginning, its social influence is limited, which can not effectively motivate the enthusiasm of the social religious mass to participate in the religious charities, thus it still has some difficulties.

**Religious charity policy system is not sound.** At the present stage, our government and relevant departments still have no clear definition on religious charities, the development of religious charities lacks of stable system and guarantee of the specific policy, even The Guidelines for the Development of Chinese Philanthropy issued in 2005 did not put forward clear support for religious charities, but drew a drawing line for it, on a certain extent, it increased the difficulties for the development of religious charities in the modern society, which lead to that religious charity in our country cannot form the development mode of large-scale, systematism and institutionalization. At present, our country’s religious charity has some limits both on depth and width, it needs continuously supports from all social powers. Therefore, in order to further develop social public welfare charity in our country, we should pay more attention to the religious charity, unify powers from all walks of life, give a full play to the social effects of the religious charities, service for the construction of harmonious society.

### Development ways of religious charities of our country in the new era

**Strengthen to explicit and construct their social identity.** In the new era, the transformation of Chinese society and the further exploration of the social space of economic development, created corresponding opportunity for the formation of social welfare organizations and its further development in the modern society. Meanwhile, with the further adjustment of the national governmental functions and the release of relevant powers, the development of social charities organization has corresponding opportunity. Under this background, the formation and innovation of social public welfare organizations has gradually got attentions from all sectors of the society. Therefore, in order to adapt the development of public charitable organization in the present era, religious charitable organizations need to explicit and construct their own identities in the management process, distinguish the religious activities with social service activities, at the same time with avoiding misunderstanding of social mass to the religious prejudice to promote the religious charity activities. In the aspect of practice, Chinese religious charitable organizations can positively refer to the overseas successful experience to explicit and construct their own identities.

Firstly, acquire corresponding legal identity. In recent years, with the improvement of people’s living standard and their awareness on religious belief, some religious organizations achieved corresponding development under the support of social mass. Meanwhile, in order to acquire acceptance of the society and improve their public trust, religious organizations choose non-public
funds to register and construct foundation of public organizations, greatly enlarged social service of these religious organizations, provided corresponding helping way for social mass, has positive influence on the construction of the harmonious society. Amity Foundation, Tzu Chi Foundation and Lingshan Foundation are representatives. These religious organizations realized their construction concept of service for the society through organizing multiple charity activities, finished the initial construction of their identity and had some social influence.

Secondly, innovate basic content of their activities, enlarge service filed. From the emerging of Chinese charity activities to now, basic form of our religious charity is social aid, on two aspects of disaster and helping the poor, had some positive influence on the social livelihood. While with the social progress and development, traditional concept, organizational form and basic service scope of religious charities cannot meet present social demand, if the religious charity wants to get further development, they have to change the traditional concept, transfer from the religious charitable aid to charity. Meanwhile, in the new era, religious charitable organizations also should confirm corresponding service sense, organize all kind of public welfare charitable activities based on the real social demands, such as the public welfare service organized by the Christian youth party, medical and educational service organized by the Tzu chi’s charity foundation and so on, really combine religious charities with social welfare to further express the sociability of religious charities.

At last, learn the relative development mode of overseas religious charities. Some overseas religious charities have a long story, and developed a relative mature development mode during its long historical process, which has some influence on social welfare, thus Chinese religious charities can refer to and provide corresponding guidance for the development of Chinese religious charities. From the whole situation, the enlightenment of overseas advanced development experience of religious charities is mainly expressed on that if Chinese religious charities want to get a further development in the modern society, they should not be limited by their double identities, but should fully delicate in the construction of social charities based on understanding their own social service function, and acquire relevant result to make contribution to the modernization of the socialism with the support of their religious believers.

Promote the religious activities to develop along with the professional direction. Based on understanding their own identities, religious charities also need to strengthen professional training for relevant people, to provide human resource guarantee for the revolution and innovation of religious charities. At present, our country’s social service function has already become diversified, the exist of this development leads to the competitiveness among same organizations, while professional talents is the key factor for its success or failure in the competition. Meanwhile, professional talents not only have influence on the survival and development of a single organization, from the development of the whole religious charities in our country, professional construction is also an content cannot be ignored. Therefore, in the new era, in order to give full play to their social functions and make contributions to the society, religious charities should strengthen their own professional construction through professional talents training and form corresponding development features, at the same time with improving their own service level, produce positive effects to other religious charities, final to make contribution to the construction of the harmonious society.

It needs attention in the professional development process that religious charities improve their own professional service ability with some measures is not only to make professional treatment for their organizational structures, such as establish guidance institution, aid institution and propaganda, and also need to strengthen their development advantage, make fully use of their religious nature thus to publicize the charity concept of religious doctrine, influence their believers to promote the development of religious charities. Besides, during the professional development process, religious charities can also strengthen the training and guidance for helping special objects, such as nursing for special disease and care for the elders, organize professional charitable service mode, improve the professional level of religious service.

In specific, profession means that the organizations should have professional talents, talents should have professional knowledge and skills, such as organizing charitable service for people needs professional nursing people and psychological consultants to provide physical and mental health
guidance for the needed people. Public welfare protection needs professional engineers and material analysts. Under the guarantee of professional talents, relevant people of the religious charitable organizations should supervise charitable activities cooperating with organizational system to improve the professional level of the charitable organizations. For example, at present, Tzu Chi Foundation of our country has already got an high level of professional development, set the public welfare environment protection project as example, this foundation cares much about the environment problems, and actively organized a series of environment protection activities, and organize environment protection propaganda periodically, positively improved the environment protection concept of social mass, not just build a good social image for the Tzu Chi Foundation, also attracted more environment protection people to make contributions for social environment protection.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, as an important part of our country’s social public charities, religious charities have an extremely important influence on the development of social public charities, even have corresponding functions on the construction of socialism and harmonious society. Therefore, relevant government departments should pay more attention to the religious charities, timely find out problems in its development and help them solve the problems, improve the development scale and service ability of the religious charities in our country and make contributions to the construction of socialism and harmonious society.

**References**


