

# A review on the Chinese College volunteer Service

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**Abstract.** At present, College volunteers play an important role in the Chinese voluntary service, as the number of Chinese college volunteer association members is so big while the amount of volunteer services is so large. However, it is difficult for a college volunteer association to become big and strong as well as a social volunteer association, and there are many problems to be studied and improved. Through the research on the work of the Chinese college volunteer service, this paper explores some common problems in it, and tries to build the operating mechanism of Chinese college volunteer service, which is project-based, specialty-oriented, and normalized developed.

**Keywords:** College students; volunteer service; operating mechanism.

## 1. Introduction

Chinese college volunteer service has been developed rapidly recent years, as the service field has been expanding while the influence has gradually expanded. According to the relevant data of the China Youth Volunteer Association, more than 400 million people in China have participated in more than 8 billion hours of different forms of volunteer service activities since the implementation of volunteer projects in China in 1993. It is satiated that young people takes more than 70% of the whole volunteers, whether in Sichuan earthquake relief or in Shanghai World Expo volunteer service. Therefore, college volunteers are considered as the backbone of China's volunteer service, and it shows some characteristics and problems in the volunteer service work of colleges and universities that are worth studying.

Table1. percentage of young people in volunteer services

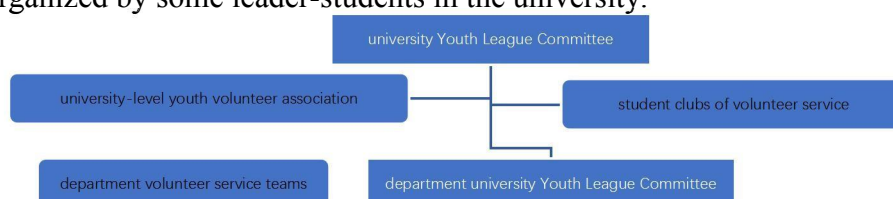
volunteer service	Sichuan earthquake relief	Shanghai World Expo	Guangzhou Asian Games
Youth volunteers percentage	70%	91%	90%

## 2. Status of Chinese college volunteer service

Since December 1994, the China Youth Volunteer Association was established in Beijing, various colleges and universities had begun to establish the youth volunteer association.

### 2.1 operation mode

In China, college volunteer association is generally divided into three levels, the university-level youth volunteer association is generally subordinate to the management and guidance of the university Youth League Committee, while the department Youth League Committee sets up a middle-level volunteer service team, and there will be some student clubs of volunteer service spontaneously organized by some leader-students in the university.

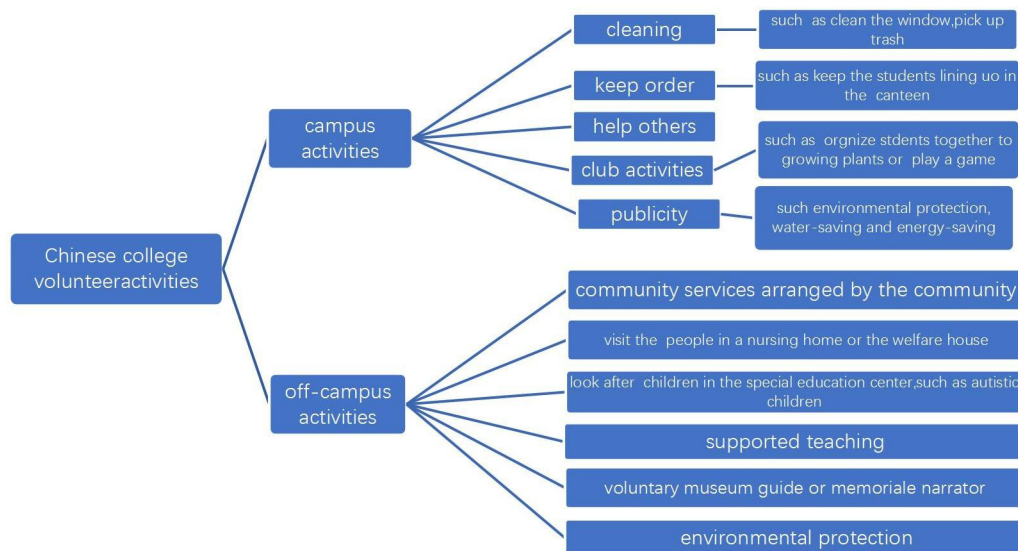


Three-level operation mode

There is always only one university-level youth volunteer association, that is the largest and most energetic ones in a university, and it undertakes almost two-thirds of the volunteer service activities. Student volunteer service clubs generally be established in a specific field to carry out their own activities, such as environmental protection clubs, volunteer teaching clubs, etc., the member of clubs is often ten or twenty students. The department-level volunteer service team is in between.

### 2.2 The content and scope of service activities in colleges and universities in China

The content of volunteer service activities in Chinese colleges and universities can be basically divided according to two aspects: inside and outside of the campus.



On campus, volunteer activities mainly includes: cleaning the campus, maintaining order of dormitory and the canteen queue, help others, club activities, publicity, etc.

Volunteer activities off the campus mainly includes: community service, visit the old in a nursing home or look after the orphanage in the welfare house, help in the special education center, supported teaching, voluntary museum guide or narrator in a memorial etc., environmental protection (energy saving, water saving, environmental protection, etc.) 6 aspects.

## 3. Characteristics and problems of volunteer service in Chinese colleges and universities

College volunteer service association is different from other volunteer service association, as its members are all students who are studying on campus, so college volunteer service presents certain characteristics, which brings some problems.

### 3.1 The students aspect

College students in China are generally in school for 3-4 years, and affected by factors such as courses, internships, and graduation, the effectively time participating in volunteer service is less than 2 years. It is not possible to engage in specific volunteer activities for a long time and the association structure is unstable.

### 3.2 The volunteering specialization is low

At present, there are few high-level professional volunteer services, on the contrary, most of them carry out simple volunteer services. In that way, volunteer services require relatively high professional skills of volunteers, such as emergency rescue, disaster prevention and relief,

psychological assistance, disability assistance cannot be done by college student volunteers who are generally lack of these professional skills.

### **3.3 The volunteer activities in university**

There are a mountain of volunteer activities in university , most of them staying at the level of learning From Lei Feng to do good deeds, just like campus cleaning or help classmates. Well-organized, project-oriented and brand-based volunteer activities haven't been found infrequently in Chinese campus . In some ways, volunteer service groups are not much familiar with others on campus. As the amount of the volunteer activities is huge, the service boundaries are blurred, sometimes, it is hard to distinguish service from activities.

### **3.4 The distance problem**

In China , colleges and universities are far away from the city, and it takes a whole day time and dozens of kilometers to travel for students go out to participate in off-campus volunteer service activities. And a series of problems that come with it, such as students safety, transportation costs, meals, etc.

### **3.5 The service mechanism and guarantee system**

According to the existing system of college volunteer service, students leave the association and graduate from university every years. it is difficult to cultivate long-term volunteer service leaders. There is no perfect guarantee for the safety of college students in the process of volunteer service, transportation costs and other issues.

### **3.6 Finance problem**

It is a generally problems such as in insufficient funding in colleges and universities. College students have no salary income, and it is difficult for universities and serviced institutions to allocate funds for student volunteers, resulting in some activities that cannot be carried out as scheduled, good volunteer service ideas are difficult to be implemented, and dare not plan large volunteer service projects, which limits the development of volunteer service work in colleges and universities.

### **3.7 Undeveloped**

China's large-scale university volunteer service has been carried out for less than 30 years, while some foreign countries have been done that for nearly a hundred years. Many volunteer services tending to be traditional and unable to carry out high-quality development.

## **4. Solutions**

Chinese college volunteer service really has many problems to be solved, if we don't do that, Chinese college volunteer service would live a hard way to survive. Researching on the above problems, the following four aspects of suggestions are provided.

### **4.1 Project-branding**

Project-branding requires volunteer service activities to be projectized and branding them. As there are a large number of volunteer service activities scattered in universities, it is should be reassigned according to the service contents. The similar work should be ranged into a group while the disparate ones should be sorted out into different groups. At the same time, the reestablished group become a new project, and all the volunteer service activities should be divided into the projects. For instance, all the activities related to environment protection neither the yellow river protection or energy saving.

Well-organized will promote volunteer service activities steadily and orderly developed for a longtime. A good volunteer brand makes a volunteer service famous and influential in the society. Once a volunteer brand is well-known by people, it means that the volunteer service is accepted by the society. In that way, more and more people will be attracted and join the volunteer service.

## 4.2 Specialization

Actually, specialized volunteer service is badly needed during this period. For example, when the COVID-19 infecting the world, plenty of volunteers who of medical background are needed, the nucleic acid testing only can be done by the professional medical staff. Volunteers who only have a warm heart can help nothing. In the same way, volunteers without the relative skills can do nothing in the exhibition center, the museum ,memorial hall and s autistic children center. So do the emergency rescue, disaster relief, psychological assistance, disability assistance as well. Specialization is the right way for all the volunteer service to go, especially for the student volunteer who studies a major in colleges. It is suggested that college students may carry out volunteer service d with one's major effectively to help others and the society as a specialized volunteer who is different from the normal volunteer without professional skills.

First of all, a centralized training should be held after the annual volunteer recruitment. Secondly, project-based training is needed according to the type of volunteer service in which volunteers are engaged, such as service training in special education centers and training in elderly care services. Finally, each volunteer service activity is considered to be summarized immediately as a training to find problems, summarize experience, and make it going well.

## 4.3 Normalization

“Rome was not built in a day.” Volunteer service is a huge long-time project to be deal with in the society. On one hand, once a specialized volunteer service project is built, it is need to be keep operating from frequently. On the other hand, the normalization of volunteer service activities supports a clearly outline of the whole year's work. For example, the learn-from-Lei Feng activities are carried out in March while the supported teaching activity is held on summer vocations. The establishment of a volunteer service brand costs a lot of work to do, if it can't be carried out normally, the brand effect will no more exists.

In order to encourage college students to devote themselves to volunteer service, levels of assessment and reward measures should be formulated, both online and offline mode, such as monthly volunteer stars election show, and annual outstanding volunteers evaluation rewarding and so on.

## 4.4 Boosting

Boosting correctly and appropriately yields twice the result with half the effort. Broadcast the spirit of volunteer and the good deeds widely through public media as well as using self-media platforms such as WeChat, QQ ,blog, and Tik Tok(mobile app) . regular arrangements for the concentrated study of volunteer outstanding deeds help others learning from the volunteer stars, and strive for outstanding volunteers.

## 5. Summary

This paper studies the characteristics and problems of Chinese college volunteer service of the time, indicating that only can project-branding , specialization and normalization help Chinese college volunteer service effectively and well developed in the future.

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