Study on the Development of TCM Culture in Contemporary Hubei

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\textbf{Abstract:} This paper tries to make it clear how TCM culture develops in Hubei Province in the contemporary times. By reviewing lots of literature about famous TCM masters and their great works in history and collecting the figures concerned, the process of development of TCM culture in Hubei is divided into three stages, from 1911 to 1949, Hubei TCM culture struggled hard to survive; from 1949 to 1978, it faced both difficulties and opportunities; from 1978 till today, it has achieved an all-round development. We find that the change of the times and society exerts profound influence on evolution of the regional TCM culture. The results suggest that the societal background should be fully considered in promoting and disseminating TCM culture at present stage.

\textbf{Introduction}

Currently, as the medical mode and human perception of health are undergoing profound reforms all over the world, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is becoming more and more popular among people from different walks of life, for its unique strength of being simple, convenient, cheap and effective. In the meantime, the cultural attributes attached to TCM captures wider concern in public. More and more people get to find that, TCM is quite different from modern medicine, for it is deeply-rooted in traditional Chinese culture. The Yin-yang theory, the Essential Qi theory, the Five-phase theory, the conceptions of prevention and treatment of diseases, etc., they are all so closely connected with ancient Chinese philosophy, religious belief and other subjects within traditional Chinese culture. In this sense, China’s President Xi Jinping once claimed that TCM, as an embodiment of the profound philosophical wisdom and the health preservation concept and experience of practice of the Chinese nation for thousands of years, is the treasure of ancient Chinese science and the key to opening the treasure-house of Chinese civilization.
Chinese government and academic community in the recent years have paid more attention to the importance and development routes of TCM culture in China and abroad. In 2011 and 2016 the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (SATCM) respectively decreed the 12th Five-year Plan of the Construction of TCM Culture and the 13th Five-year Plan of the Construction of TCM Culture. The very recent TCM-related documents issued by the central government like the White Paper of TCM and Law of the People's Republic of China on Traditional Chinese Medicine all stressed the significance of TCM culture at present stage.

Hubei is the home to many outstanding TCM figures in history, like Emperor Shennong, Zhang Zhongjing, Wang Shuhe, Sujing, Pang Anshi, Wan Miziai, Li Shizhen, Yang Jitai, Ran Xuefeng, Li Jinyong. They all have exerted far-reaching influence on their future generations not only through their great medical skills but through their medical thoughts and masterpieces, such as Zhang Zhongjing’s Treatise on Febrile and Miscellaneous Diseases, Wang Shuhe’s Pulse Classic, Sujing’s Materia Medica of Tang, Pang Anshi’s General Treatise on Febrile Diseases, Wan Miziai’s Pandect of Wan’s Medical Thoughts, Li Shizhen’s Compendium of Materia Medica, Yang Jitai’s Gist of Medicine, Ran Xuefeng’s Exegesis of Treatise on Febrile and Miscellaneous Diseases and Li Jinyong’s Textual Research on Yellow Emperor’s Inner Cannon of Medicine. How TCM culture is inherited and sustained in Hubei is an extremely chapter for the development of TCM in history as a whole. Fortunately, Hubei provincial government is becoming more and more concerned about promotion of TCM culture formed in Hubei in the long history. The Implementation Opinions on Promoting TCM Development in An All-round Way and the 13th Five-year Plan of Development of the Health Service Industry in Hubei Province mentioned in details the importance of TCM cultural construction and communication and the measures should be taken in the future. In this sense, it’s of great value to have a systematic study on the development of TCM culture in Hubei especially in contemporary times.

Three Stages of Development of Hubei TCM Culture

From 1911 to 1949—Hubei TCM culture struggling to survive

After the first Opium War in 1840, China was gradually reduced to a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society. Followed by the territorial invasion, the brand-new western cultures rushed into China, among which there is western medical culture. The environment for TCM was worsened from then on.

During the reign of KMT and Beiyang Governmen, a series of prejudice policies and rules had been issued against TCM. At the critical moment, celebrities from Hubei TCM community carried out different types of battles, like petition and fasting for the survival of TCM in the China. In 1913, the famous TCM scholar Yan Xuefeng, together with other experts, spoke to the government, expressing their great concerns about the unfair treatment on TCM. 1922, famous TCM doctors Fan Xiaocun, He Zewang, Yuan Jun and others, who are from Wuhan, wrote letters to the authorities and required that the prejudiced rules should be cancelled. Most widely known is in 1929 when Fan Xiaocun appealed to repeal Yu Yunyou’s motion of abolishing TCM in China. ①Hubei TCM community made visible contributions to the survival of TCM culture.

During the KMT’s reign, medical education in Hubei set a good example for other regions, and many TCM talents were cultivated in this period. During 1923 to 1927, Ran Xuefeng headed a TCM school, Hubei School of TCM. In the summer of 1931, Xie Huidong set up Hankou Medical Association. In April of 1933, Hubei TCM Center affiliated with the National TCM Center was established by Fan Xiaocun. TCM education was flourishing in Hubei. ②With the booming of TCM education, TCM academic organizations sprang up as mushrooms here. In 1919, Ran Xuefeng, together with TCM masters Lu Jiian, Hu Shucheng, Li Ziyu set up Hubei Association of TCM and Hubei TCM Society and Ran was also the editor of Magazine of
Hubei TCM then. Meanwhile, provincial-level and municipal-level TCM Verification Committees were also successfully established. All these efforts proved to be meaningful in developing and disseminating TCM culture in Hubei in the future. During this period, there are many influential TCM scholars emerged from Hubei. Wang He’an, Li Peisheng, Hong Ziyun etc. are eminent figures on the Studies of Febrile Diseases; Hu Shucheng, Zeng Shaoda, Huang Shenwu, etc, are respected TCM gynecologists; Xiong Yunong, Peng Ziyu, Xiong Jichuan, etc. are renowned TCM Paediatricians; Lu Zhenqiao, Li Peilin, Chen Bozhuang are famous scholars in warm disease. As to the honored TCM clinicians, there are Ran Xuefeng, Zhang Menglong, Jiang Yubo, Jiang Shuren, merely to name a few. In Chinese Herbology, Liu Wurong, Chen Xulun etc. are of prestige, while Yang Jisheng, Qu Yimin, Wang Ruiqin etc. are famous in acupuncture and moxibustion.

From 1949 to 1978—Hubei TCM culture facing both difficulties and opportunities

After the establishment of PRC, the central government and Chinese top leaders like Mao Zedong paid due attention of the development of TCM and spread of TCM culture. In 1950s Mao for several times recommended western medicine doctors to systematically learn TCM. Mao in 1958 said, TCM is a great treasure, and should be fully explored and greatly improved. Obviously, the government policy for TCM development is strikingly contrasted with the previous times. ④

Under this background, TCM faced greater opportunities for development in Hubei. In fact, many achievements had been made during this period. Firstly, more medical organizations were built and constructed and TCM culture was increasingly popular among the average people. From 1955, provincial and municipal comprehensive hospitals had set up TCM departments in succession. In 1955, Wuhan Municipal TCM Hospital was founded. More and more people from Hubei were served by TCM. Secondly, the management of TCM got on the right track from then. Also in 1955, TCM Office was set up under the leadership Hubei Ministry of Health. In 1965, Hubei Ministry of Health mapped out Hubei Provincial Management of TCM with 39 detailed provisions, which provides a fairer environment for the development of TCM as well as TCM culture here. Thirdly, millions of folk formulas and hundreds of TCM classics were collected and then submitted to the government. For some time, TCM culture was hot spot among locals. What should not be ignored is a couple of TCM scholars like Zhang Jiasheng, Wang Mingzhang, Gao Xizhang, Wang Honggui, Gao Guoxun etc. had made TCM culture more popular among the celebrities in Algeria and Morocco as they actively joined Hubei provincial medical aid groups in these countries. This for sure had made TCM culture of Hubei better known in the world. ⑤

However, Hubei TCM culture was confronted with some challenges during this period. Some officials in the health community mainly received modern medical education so they didn’t had any sympathy for the disadvantaged position of TCM. Worse is the 10-year Cultural Revolution, when TCM education was for some time disrupted. Of course, the difficulty years saw financial problems in developing TCM and promulgating TCM culture.

From 1978 —Hubei TCM culture achieving an all-round development

In 1978, by starting her journey of reform and opening-up, China turns on a new leave in all aspects. In 1978, national leaders like Deng Xiaoping and Li Xiannian gave directions on TCM development. In 1980, the central Ministry of Health held a summit of integration of TCM and western medicine in Beijing, where the national policy of TCM had been comprehensively summarized. 1988, SATCM was established under the approval of the State Council, specialized in the management of TCM affairs. The sequence of encouraging polices and moves greatly unleashed the potential of TCM and people’s passion for TCM culture.

Hubei TCM gained rapid development under such backdrop. Most importantly, the number of TCM practitioners and medical establishments had increased rapidly. At the end of 1979, the number of TCM medical workers had amounted to 27304, there was 23 TCM hospitals above the
county level. 1982, Institute of Hubei TCM was built. Till the end of 1985, the number of TCM medical workers had risen to 34078, and most comprehensive hospitals in Hubei have built TCM departments. Besides, Hubei TCM community had carried out a couple of exchange activities both at home and abroad. In 1983, the 390th anniversary of the birth of Li Shizhen was held in Qichun, Hubei, Li’s birthplace. Hubei medical aid group in Algeria also applied TCM skills, like acupuncture and moxibustion.

The recent 10 years has seen unprecedented importance being attached to the development the cause of TCM in China. The central government has successively issued a dozen of high-profile policies in encouraging the prosperity of TCM, like Opinions on Supporting and Promoting the Development of TCM and Outline of the Strategic Plan for Development of TCM by the State Council and Law of the People's Republic of China on Traditional Chinese Medicine by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. In the meantime, the value of TCM culture has been newly discovered, the 12th Five-year Plan of the Construction of TCM Culture and the 13th Five-year Plan of the Construction of TCM Culture are stirring up wider concern in public.

In this setting, Hubei provincial government issued Articles of TCM Development in Hubei in 2002. In 2008, Decision of Promoting TCM Development was pronounced by Hubei provincial government, where for the first time it mentions the special role and great importance of Hubei TCM culture. In 2016, the provincial government issued another weighted policy, the Implementation Opinions on Promoting TCM Development in An All-round Way. Top priority is being given to TCM culture in the recent policies.

The stimulant factors, of course, have reaped fruitful benefits for TCM development in Hubei. In the first place, TCM masters are emerging from here Hubei now has the nationwide famous master Li Jinyong, who is not only a great doctor but also an outstanding expert in textual research of TCM classics in history, whose works like Research on TCM Classics and Textual Research on Yellow Emperor’s Inner Cannon of Medicine are quite popular among readers. In the field of febrile disease research, Mei Guoqiang is a household name. The other household names from Hubei TCM community include Wang Boxiang, Chen Ruquan, Tian Yumei, Xy Shenyang, Zhang Xiaoxing etc.⑥

In the second place, TCM higher education has achieved full prosperity in Hubei in recent years. There are two higher institutes of TCM here, Hubei University of TCM and Hubei College of Chinese TCM, which is rare in other provinces in China. Also important is that quite a few top universities in Hubei like Wuhan University, Huazhong University of Science and Technology etc. have provided students with TCM-related majors.

Moreover, TCM international exchange and cooperation have been fruitful in the new era. So far, Hubei University of TCM has established ties with more than 70 overseas colleges, medical organizations and specialized committees. Under the ‘Belt and Road’ Initiative, Hubei TCM culture is ushering in a spring for its own development. ⑦In 2015, Hubei University of TCM had primarily set up a TCM center—Sino-Malaysia TCM Center with KPJ medical group. Other overseas TCM centers, like Sino-Algeria TCM Center, Sino-Czech TCM Center are being under smooth construction. It’s not difficult to predict that Hubei TCM culture will be better known in the world.

Conclusion

The importance of TCM culture is being more and more widely recognized for it has been a perfect epitome of traditional Chinese culture. Hubei in history is a very important place for TCM to be practiced and TCM culture conceived and disseminated. In the contemporary times, a series of complicated factors contribute the decline of TCM culture in Hubei compared with the glory it has achieved in ancient history. In the past 100 years, there are ups and downs for TCM to develop in
Hubei province. As the central and provincial governments attach greater importance to it, TCM culture will surely have a brighter future in Hubei province.

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