

I am an urban Chinese who has been isolated to Chinese grassroots communities for a long time. To go to the grassroots to see with my own eyes what has happened and is happening on the life of the Chinese people over the past 40 years since China's reform and opening-up, I chose to take the opportunity to serve as a team leader for China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS) in 2020 summer, supported by Peking University.

To get qualified, all the candidates were required to pass the online training session and corresponding test. While the team leader was obliged to complete additional training, test and interview. After all was done, our team consisting of seven members was required to work together to collect questionnaires in six different communities in different two provinces over a period of one month.

Our basic responsibility was to make appointment with interviewees, visit home, collect family and personal information, measure and record physical data, such as height, weight and blood pressure, after obtaining their signed informed consent. And as the team leader, I not only had to undertake the same interviewing tasks, but also decided the daily tasks of each team member, everyday accommodation arrangements and the control of the funds. While, because of the knocking-doors questionnaire collection process, we were often misinterpreted as frauds, disrespectful brats and annoying government workers.

As a result, the questionnaire process was not satisfactory. I had been yelled out of the house by uncle interviewee whose was on the night shift, asked to leave by the grandmother interviewee's family, and called a fraudster by aunt interviewee whose child is in high school. Even my female team members experienced sexual harassment from male interviewees more than once during the questionnaire process.

The investigation was not going well, the living conditions during the investigation were sometimes disappointing as well. In order to save on the limited research funds

allocated by Peking University, we had to live in farmers' homes frequently to save on transportation between the community and the city.

What I remember most vividly is a remote community 45 minutes' drive from the nearest small county. The farmer's house I stayed in that night was built of flat slabs of stone, and the roof was made of thinner stones supported by thick, long beams. There was no electricity in the room, and it smelled damp. Every morning, I was roused by the rooster in the yard outside. While chicken and sheep raised by the farmer always had a random defecating time at the trail outside the yard.

Although the living environment in those days was a little disappointing, and the interviewees in the community were often uncertain about their time at home because of busy farming, they were all very warm and cooperative. Several times our team was forced to stay for lunch by interviewees.

Grassroots survey data are hard to come by, which is true in China, not to mention those in most Africa countries and other underdeveloped regions with poor transport links. Hence, I gradually understood why there was a lack of data in parts of the WTO databases.

I am proud to have made a modest contribution to largest database on the health of the Chinese elderly, and I am fortunate enough to know six of my team members, who now fixing meet once a year. Subsequently, I accepted the invitation of Peking University to complete their CHARLS Data Analysis course. In that course, I used STATA with three other team members to complete the project report of "The Influence of parental care needs on children's job choice". Although the final report is only based on the data of CHARLS 2019, I think conducting a comparative study on the existing data by combining endowment databases of other countries or regions will provide better results.

Of course, this investigation has brought me closer to the Chinese grassroots which made me return to campus with a more pressing passion for economics and mathematics. While working harder to complete my major courses, I took as many economic courses as I could. I hope through further study, I can better understand the two miracle lands of China and the United States and the people living there.