

Study on Chinese Students' Affecting factors of Returning for Vacation

- Focused on COVID-19 Pandemic -

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<Abstract>

Bo Tu. 2021. 7. 1. 중국인 유학생의 방학중 귀국여부에 영향을 주는 요인에 관한 연구 - 팬데믹 상황을 중심으로. 다문화사회와 교육연구 08, 153-183. 코로나 전염병은 짧은 기간 안에 전세계로 확산되어 2020년도 국제사회는 코로나 팬데믹에 빠졌다. 2020년 2월 중순에는 중국정부의 강력한 통제로 점차 확산속도가 늦추어지면서 진정세로 돌아섰다. 하지만 중국에서 시작된 코로나 전염병은 한국, 일본, 이란, 심지어 유럽 미주까지 급속도로 번지면서 전세계가 전염병사태

(Pandemic)를 맞이하였다. 이러한 전염병을 억제할 수 있는 방법은 오직 백신이다. 인간이 2021년도에 코로나 팬데믹을 이겨낼 수 있을지 아직 미지수이다. 코로나는 각 국가 및 국민의 모든 측면에 영향을 미치며, 한국에서 유학하는 중국유학생들은 그 중의 한 그룹이다. K-culture 열풍을 맞춰 2019년도 기록적인 중국유학생들이 한국에 와서 유학했으며, 2020년도 코로나 팬데믹에도 불구하고 많은 중국유학생들이 여러 가지 힘든 상황을 극복하고 한국에서 유학했다. 하지만 겨울방학 때 이들이 또한 코로나 때문에 중국출국할지 고민에 빠졌다. 출국시 PCR검사, 재입국허가, 출국후 14일 격리, 출국과정 코로나 감염 위험성, 다시 귀국시 관련 검사 및 한국 입국후 재격리 등 여러 가지 힘든 점이 있지만, 출국 안할 경우에 고도감, 명절에 부모님 옆에 없을 시 스트레스 등 감당하기 힘든 점도 피할 수 없다. 본 논문은 한국 모 대학교 중국유학생을 대상으로 실시한 설문조사 및 계량통계 연구방법을 사용하여 중국유학생의 방학출국의사를 연구했다. 그리고 이를 통해 유학생이 이러한 의사결정을 한 이유를 연구하였다. 2020년도에 한국에 유학하러 오지 못한 학생 수가 많이 늘었고, 2020년도 겨울방학 때 중국에 들어가는 학생 수가 많이 줄었다. 코로나사태 및 감정요소의 상호작용은 또한 중국유학생이 중국 출국해서 겨울방학을 보내게 하는 큰 원인이다. (신라대학교)

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1. Introduction

Since the establishment of diplomatic relation between China and South Korea, the trade exchanges and cultural exchanges between the two countries have achieved sustained and benign development, and the diplomatic relation has

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maintained a general upward trend with the passage of time. After Moon Jaein took office, South Korea actively promoted consensus with China on various important issues and quickly returned to normal status. The COVID-19 pandemic spread across China in early 2020 and South Korea was one of the first countries to express condolences and actively helped China with actions. From the beginning of the pandemic to mid-February, Korean enterprises including Hyundai Motor and Asiana airlines provided help to China. In addition, the Korean government also expressed condolences to China and provided various material support. President Moon sent a letter to Xi Jinping on January 28, affirming China's timely response to the pandemic and expressed his hope that the pandemic will be controlled as soon as possible and his willingness to provide China with the necessary support and assistance (Yonhap news, 2020). On January 30th, the Korean government decided to provide China with humanitarian aid equivalent to \$ 5 million (Seoul Economy, 2020). President Moon pointed out that "China's difficulties are our difficulties" and "in order to help China, we must try our best to support and cooperate" (Chosun ilbo, 2020); He also pointed out that "it is incumbent on friends and neighbors to help each other, Korea will actively support and help China overcome the pandemic at an early date, It is also believed that China will overcome difficulties and move forward steadily, and Korea-China relation will achieve further development." He also said that "the Chinese government and people are facing the great difficulty of COVID-19 outbreak, so I would like to express my deep condolences and hope that

the patients will recover soon" (Yonhap news, 2020). The Korean government and others have brought great comfort to people of all walks of life in China, and the Chinese have been deeply touched. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying thanked Korea for their sincere and friendly understanding, support and help (FRMPC, 2020). President Xi Jinping also expressed deep gratitude to the Korean government and people of all walks of life for their solicitude, sympathy and great help (Xinhua net, 2020). Thereafter, when China managed to put the pandemic under control and South Korea suffered from severe pandemic difficulties, China in turn carried out public health diplomacy to South Korea, actively supported the anti-pandemic work in South Korea, and gave various encouragement and support to the Korean government and people in spirit and action (Bo Tu, 2020).

Through the public health diplomacy during the pandemic period, China and South Korea fully demonstrated the Confucian culture of "A friend in need is a friend indeed", and the two countries have withstood the severe test of the COVID-19 pandemic. Trade exchanges and cultural exchanges between the two countries have not been seriously hindered. From the perspective of economic and trade development, the total trade volume between the two countries was only US\$ 6.379 billion when they established diplomatic relations in 1992, but reached US\$ 243.43 billion in 2019 . And according to the data from the outbreak in 2020 to the end of November 2020, South Korea's export and import trade with China decreased by only 3.3% and 0.2%, respectively, far lower than that of South Korea's total foreign trade data in the same period, which

decreased by 7.1% and 8.0% (KITA, 2020). China has consolidated Korea's position as the largest trading partner and the largest import and export market, while Korea continues to be China's third largest trading partner. From the perspective of cultural exchanges, although the pandemic has greatly hindered cultural exchanges, especially many countries have drastically adjusted their international flights according to the changes of the pandemic, and even cut off all flights. However, as early as May 1st, China and Korea established a "quick channel" for the urgent personnel exchanges between the two countries, which provided convenience for the important personnel exchanges to resume work and resume production. This maintained and developed the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, and kept the industrial and supply chain of the two countries stable and smooth (FRMPRC, 2020).

So far, the cultural exchanges between China and South Korea during the pandemic have become a model for the international community. However, this does not mean that the cultural exchanges are not greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As an important part of people-to-people exchanges, the scale of international students in the two countries has been expanding and the number of students going to South Korea has maintained an increasing trend. In 2019, the total number of international students reached 160,165, which is the highest in history. In 2020, it decreased to 153,695 (Ministry of Education, 2020). This shows a decreasing trend for the first time in the past five years. At the same time, under the influence of the pandemic, Chinese students are facing many

practical difficulties in their study and life, such as returning home during winter vacation. After the winter vacation at the end of 2019, some Chinese students did not return to China, and they were exempted from various restrictions such as flight cancellation and visa procedures. Some students who returned to China were unable to come to Korea in time at the beginning of 2020, so they chose to suspend school or delay coming to Korea. Some students came to Korea before the flight blew out, thus avoiding various obstacles. At the end of 2020, Chinese students faced a more difficult choice, which was to return home and reunite with their families, or stay in Korea. Why did they make such a choice and what are the main considerations in making a choice? These problems can not be explained in the existing literature. In this study, Data from Chinese students from a Korean University is gathered using questionnaires, and their willingness to return to China under the COVID-19 pandemic is analyzed. In this, their goal of studying abroad, emotional factors and constraints related to the pandemic is analyzed, and relevant suggestions made.

2. Related Literatures

Existing literatures revealed the phenomenon of low birth rate with the economic development and social progress in South Korea, and the enrollment rate of colleges and Universities is gradually decreasing. Korean colleges and Universities need foreign students to make up for these

vacancies. At the same time, with the gradual reduction of barriers to entry and exit among countries, movement across borders has become increasingly frequent, and the long-term detention and short-term detention of foreigners in Korea have gradually become loose in terms of rules (Jeongliong Kim, 2020). In addition, Korean cultural products are becoming more popular, ranging from Korean wave to K-culture, attracting more and more foreigners to visit Korea. The academic research on international students is mainly manifested in the following aspects. First of all, in terms of research objectives, most of the academic circles have conducted research on Chinese students, including many papers written by these students (Heeseung Lee, Weiwei Yang, Chunli Guo, 2018). However, with the increasing number of Vietnamese students in recent years, many related papers have surfaced (Miyounng Kim, Yooah Lee, 2019). Secondly, from the perspective of scholars' research fields, focused on the study of foreign students' education, such as studies and educational courses. Some scholars have designed the customized education currency for international students (Eungong Choi, Song Mook Lim, Eunsun Go, Jungyeon Lim, 2020), or focused on Chinese foreign students' academic achievement and fallout (Dongwoo Chae, Guohua Chen, Kunoh Jung, 2020), and in terms of foreign students' adaptation to Korean Universities, scholars mainly started from the motivation of foreign students, paid attention to students' pressure and cultural adaptation and also studied their enrollment. For example, some papers studied the mobility motivation of Asian students in Korean regional Universities on the basis of choice of institution

and interpretations (Minkyung Lee, 2012), or researched the current influx status of Chinese students in Korea and tried to find efficient ways to attract more students (Bonghwan Choi, 2020). However, the focus of academic research is on the various pressures of overseas students, especially the pressure of cultural adaptation and the pressure of learning where many research results can be found. Some study made a prediction model on Chinese international students' adaption to Korean University life (Geumran Lim, Heegyong Kim 2011); cultural adaptation stress difference is studied as well (Yongsoo Cheon, Tran Nguyen Han, Gyumee Cheon, 2019); also the relationship among acculturation stress, learning motivation and academic achievement is studied (Cheon Gyumee, Cheon Yongsoo, 2019). Cultural adaptation, learning motivation and academic achievement interact with each other, and foreign students can achieve a certain sense of accomplishment in all three fields when they rationally adjust their relations and actively integrate into the Korean University environment. However, if one aspect is not coordinated in time, it will become a source of pressure for international students. Many important achievements have been made in the academic field on the stress of international students. Scholars also took a University as an example to investigate the interaction between the stress of international students and other factors (Bogo Lee, Hyun Tae Kim, Hee Jin Han, Kum Sikoh, 2019). Most scholars have pointed out that cultural adaptation stress is the source of stress of most international students, irrespective of whether they are Chinese or Korean students (Yong Soo Cheon, Euikyeom Kim, Gyu Mee Cheon, 2019; Yunjeong

Yang, 2020, Sojin Kim, Tran Nguyen Nguyen Han, 2020). Finally, there are few studies on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on overseas students. Other research studied the return of Korean overseas workers in the context of the pandemic (Hyeji An, Hyejeong Ahn, 2020). Some research studied the various policy changes of governments towards overseas students during the pandemic such as Japan's convention on foreigners under the pandemic (Wungki Kim, 2020), or the Korean education method of Korean universities such as an examination into the non-face-to-face Korean language class experience (Hyun Joo Kim, 2020), and the potential threat of Korean religious groups spreading the pandemic (Inhae Baek, Minji Kim, Subee Kim, 2020) and mapping community-level mobility changes of Koreans and immigrants (Jung Won Huh, Ju Young Jang, 2020).

It can be seen that the academic research community have conformed to the development trend of foreign students' education, and both the research objectives and the research field gradually extended the change of the situation. These existing literatures provided an important literature basis for future academic development, and also provided ideas for future academic innovation. However, within the research field, existing literatures mainly focused on the education of international students and the pressure of cultural adaptation of international students, while the research on the psychological state and realistic will of international students are extremely scanty, not to mention the lack of relevant content on the pressure and the will of international students amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. In reality, the

COVID-19 pandemic has strongly impacted all social fields in various countries, which has led to great changes in the educational methods and cultural adaptation pressure of overseas students. The academic circles urgently need to track and analyze the overseas students under the COVID-19 pandemic and come to a reasonable conclusion. After discovering the shortcomings of the existing literature, this study focuses on the various factors of Chinese students' willingness to return to China for winter vacation under the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic, so as to uncover the new pressure factors caused by the pandemic. This study will make up the shortcomings of the existing literature, and at the same time, help reveal the psychological state and realistic wishes of international students amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, which has both theoretical and practical significance.

3. Implementation process of questionnaire survey

3.1 Data and methods

By January, 2021 most Korean Universities have finished the semester. Chinese students had to make choices as follows: if they are language students, they still need to study in Korean language institutes, but due to the pandemic, most Universities have adopted the method of online teaching. Students do not have to go to the institutes, but can still attend classes even if they return to China. However, if they return to China, the students will be faced with the

undergoing PCR tests, visa proceeding, 14-day quarantine(all at one' s own expense, and also 14-day quarantine when they return to Korea), In addition they have to take face-to-face class again only if the situation(pandemic) improves. If they are undergraduate, master or doctoral students and they are already on holidays, they can choose to return to China to reunite with their families. However, they are faced with problems such as PCR tests, visas, and quarantine for more than 14 days (at their own expense, and another 14 days at their own expense when returning to Korea). At the same time, they are in danger of contracting the pandemic during the journey. If they don't go home, the holiday will be longer. However, the possibility of students working and earning money in Korea due to the pandemic situation will be reduced, and the inability to reunite with their families during the new year festival will lead to high psychological stress. Many students also face other problems such as suspension or resumption of school, delay of TOPIK, etc. All these problems did not appear before the COVID-19 outbreak. Therefore, when collecting data, various situations faced by students must be listed, and the research must classify the specific identities of students carefully in order to get comprehensive results. In addition, during the implementation of data collection, due to the pandemic situation, it is impossible to fill in the face-to-face questionnaire and conduct in-depth investigation by means of interview.

Therefore, this paper foresees these actual situations before data collection. In this paper, Chinese students from a Korean University are selected as the research subjects, and

the data are collected by the method of Wenjuanxing from January 10th to 12th, 2021. The data are filtered and classified, and then the questionnaire results are analyzed combining the actual situation. First of all, in terms of data collection, students are classified according to the courses they belong to (undergraduate, undergraduate extension, master's degree, doctoral degree, exchange students, language trainees, students on leave, etc.), and then they are classified according to the entrance year, entrance semester, name, student number, gender, visa status, visa deadline, country, and current residence address, etc. Two scenarios are set for Chinese students, who are returning to China during winter vacation and not returning to China during winter vacation. In addition to the results collected by several students' opinions in advance, this study also sets several reasons for the 2 scenarios, and reserves spaces for students to fill in other reasons themselves. Then, for those students who want to return to China or have already returned to China, we set options such as when to return to Korean Universities and where to quarantine after returning.

3.2 Analysis process and results

3.2.1. Statistics of students' information

This online questionnaire survey was conducted for three days, and 98 answers were collected. According to survey, there are 41 undergraduates, 31 master's students, 14 doctoral students, 2 exchange students, 7 language trainees and 3 on

leave students, covering all types of international students at present. The enrollment year of students is from 2014 to 2020, among which 66 students enrolled in 2019 and 2020, accounting for 67.35% of all the proportion. According to the entrance semester, 36 (36.7%) enrolled in the first semester, and 62 (63.27%) enrolled in the second semester. Among the 98 students, there are 36 males (36.7%) and 62 girls (63.27%). In addition to collecting other important personal information of students, this questionnaire survey reports the gender and visa status of students as follows:

<Tab 1 Statistical table of visa status of international students>

	Visa status	NO.	Percentage
1	Valid	70	71.43%
2	Expired, new visa applying	11	11.22%
3	Expired, new visa preparing	1	1.02%
4	Expired, new visa not applied	16	16.33%
	Total	98	

Source:based on the statistical result of Wenjuanxing.

3.2.2. Information statistics of foreign students' countries

The subjects of this questionnaire are foreign students from a Korean University, who are either in Korea, China or a third country. In view of the fact that the purpose of this study is to understand the willingness of students returning to China on holidays, it is not simply to divide international

students into different countries, but as follows:

<Tab 2 Statistics of countries where Chinese students are>

	Country	NO.	Percentage
1	Korea	51	52.04%
2	China (2nd semester suspended or online course implemented)	28	28.57%
3	China (back to China after 2nd semester)	19	19.39%
4	Other third country	0	0.00%
	Total	98	

Source: based on the statistical result of Wenjuanxing.

3.2.3. Statistics on the reasons why students do not return to China

For 51 students who stayed in Korea during their holidays, they were given five choices, and also a fill-in-the-blank column to describe their own reasons. This option is multiple-choice questions. The results are as follows:

<Tab 3 Statistics of reasons why Chinese students do not return to China>

	Reasons (Stress source)	NO.	Percentage
1	Quarantine stress, budget, and time degradation with Family	39	76.47%
2	Fussy Entry and exit procedures, PCR test stress	34	66.67%
3	Worry about being infected during the entry and exit process	28	54.9%
4	Parents' suggestion of staying in Korea during vacation	10	19.61%
5	Choose to stay in Korea in order to study, work or join in activities	4	7.84%
6	Others	4	7.84%
	Total	51	

Source: based on the statistical result of Wenjuanxing.

3.2.4. Statistics of the reasons why students return to China during winter vacation

Next, 19 students who returned to China during their holidays were given four possible reasons, and they were given a fill-in-the-blank column to describe their own reasons. They are multiple-choice questions. The results are as follows:

<Tab 4 Reasons for Chinese Students of Returning to China>

	Reasons (Stress source)	NO.	Percentage
1	Pandemic situation unstable in Korea, want to go home	12	63.16%
2	Want to spend the new year with family	6	31.58%
3	Parents' suggestion of going back to China during vacation	8	42.11%
4	Hard to study, work or join in activities while in Korea	8	42.11%
5	Others	2	10.53%
	Total	19	

Source: based on the statistical result of Wenjuanxing.

3.2.5. Statistics of the date of entry into Korea in the first semester of 2021

Finally, this study also counts the expected return to Korea of 19 students and 29 other students who stayed in China in 2020. Those data include entry date, planned quarantine address, flight number, specific airport, arrival time and residence address after quarantine. Among them, the statistics on the date of returning to Korea are as follows:

<Tab 5 Expecting return date of Chinese students to Korea>

	Expectation	NO.	percentage
1	Fly back before Feb 10th	5	10.64%
2	Fly back after Feb 11th	6	12.77%
3	Not decided yet	36	76.6%
4	Won' t fly back to Korea	0	0%
	Total	47	

Source: based on the statistical result of Wenjuanxing.

4. Analyzing the willingness of students to return to China for winter vacation

From the above statistics, we can get the statistical results of the students who answered the questionnaire about their willingness to return home, and their respective reasons for making different choices. Combining the above statistical results with the actual situation, we can find the proportion of students stranded in China increased greatly in 2020, and the overall willingness of Chinese students to return to China during winter vacation decreased at the end of 2020. In 2020, the overall situation of international students staying in China increased significantly compared with previous years. In addition, the proportion of female students (undergraduate students, master doctors, exchange students and language trainees) staying in China increased. When Chinese students plan to come to Korea in February, flights from all over the world greatly reduced or even cancelled, and even the traffic in both countries is seriously affected due to the pandemic. Therefore, a large number of Chinese students could not come to Korea because there were no flights. According to the national pandemic prevention policy and the policy of the Ministry of Education, Korean Universities adopted various methods such as postponing the start date of semester, starting online study etc. Therefore, many Chinese students chose to take online classes in China to spend the first semester and the second semester in 2020. It's not that no Chinese students could come to Korea, but the number of flights between China and South Korea has been greatly reduced

throughout the year. Even after the establishment of the “fast track” between the two countries in early May, the flights between the two countries still had only one or two flights per week in most provinces, and all flights must land in Incheon airport for pandemic detection before being transferred to all cities of South Korea. In addition, the price of air tickets has risen sharply throughout the year, and even some students needed to buy air tickets at a price higher than the tuition fee for one semester. Given these practical difficulties, many students chose to stay in China in 2020. According to the survey results of this study, the proportion of Chinese students who did not come to Korea in 2020 reached 28.57% (10.2% was due to online classes in China, and the remaining 18.37% was due to suspension and other reasons). Although this study is not supported by annual data, generally speaking, the proportion of Chinese students after obtaining visas and obtaining student status is very high. Unlike Korean students, Chinese students do not consider suspending school because of military service or other reasons, and the proportion of Chinese students suspending school is very low. Therefore, it can be concluded that the proportion of Chinese students staying in China in 2020(28.57%) is far greater than the annual data. At the same time, in terms of gender, the number of female students staying in China in the second semester of 2020 is 23, accounting for 37.10% of the total. In the same period, there were 5 male students who stayed in China, accounting for 13.88% of the total number of male students. It can be seen that the proportion of female students staying in China is far

greater than that of male students. From the perspective of students' identity, 8 language and exchange students chose to stay in Korea because they had not finished their language courses, and their vacation time was relatively short. Out of the 41 undergraduate students, 15 stayed in China, 11 chose to return home during winter vacation, and the rest chose to stay in Korea. Therefore, the proportion of undergraduate students staying in China was 36.59%. There are a total of 44 students, among which 9 were stranded in China, 8 chose to return home during winter vacation and 27 stayed in Korea. Therefore, the proportion of masters and doctorate students stranded in China is 20.45%. Therefore, the above statistics shows that gender and age are important influencing factors, females tend to stay in China more than males, and the younger they are, the more they tend to stay in China. According to the data and pandemic situation, we can find the major factors of why less Chinese students chose to go back during the winter vacation.

4.1 The factors of why not to return to China

The pandemic is the most important factor that leads to the reduction of students' willingness to return to China on holiday. In this study, the reasons for the students who did not return to China during the winter vacation were tracked, and six reasons related to the three elements of the goal of studying abroad, emotional factor and pandemic restriction were set up(see Table 3 for details). For international students who didn't return to China during holidays but staying in Korea to study or work can be classified as the

goal of studying abroad, while parents' exhortation not to return to China for spring festival can be classified as emotional factors, while isolation pressure, cost burden, shorten vacation time, complicated entry and exit procedures, PCR inspection, and fear of contracting the virus while traveling are classified as the pandemic restricting factors. According to the results of the questionnaire, 76.47% chose isolation pressure, cost burden and shorter vacation time, 66.67% chose too much trouble, 54.9% worried about contracting the virus in the process of returning home, followed by parents advising not to return home (19.61%), and finally working and studying (7.84%). Therefore, it can be seen that the pandemic restriction is the most important factor for not returning to China during the winter vacation in 2020. Meanwhile, from a realistic point of view, Chinese students finished their second semester at the end of December, and the new semester will start in early March 2021, the winter vacation lasts for about two months. However, if students want to return to China, they must first buy a plane ticket back to China at a higher price than normal. At the same time, they need to go to the exit-entry administration office to apply for an entry permit. Then, they need to go to the hospital to get a PCR test two days before they can get on the plane back to China. Then while returning to China, they have to face a more complicated and cumbersome procedure than usual, ensuring that they do not contract the virus. After entering China, they need to quarantine in the government-designated hotel for 14 days at their own expense. If the airport they use is not in the same province and city as their hometown, it is possible

that the students will quarantine for one more week when they arrive at their hometown (the policies vary from place to place) before they can be with their family. Furthermore, if students want to catch up with their enrollment in March of 2021, they need to leave for Korea around February 15th. At this time, students also have to go to the hospital to be issued PCR certificates (the Korean government stipulates that English and Korean certificates are required in principle), and then buy more expensive air tickets to Korea. After coming to Korea, they will also face 14 days of quarantine at their own expense. The whole process takes about one month to complete and students can't have contact with the outside world during the process, leading to great psychological pressure. Moreover, the airfare, quarantine and other expenses add up to as much as 10,000 to 20,000 yuan, and as much as 20,000 to 30,000 yuan. The cost of returning to a country is about the same as, or even twice as much as the cost of a semester at the University. This is a big burden for both students and parents. Therefore, it is not difficult to understand why many students chose not to return home, and some parents advise their children not to return. However, the proportion of students choosing to study or work in Korea is low. Thus this is rarely considered by most students. At the same time, it can be seen from Table 5 that among the international students who have returned to China, only 5 have chosen to return to Korea before the New Year. 6 have chosen to return to Korea after the New Year, and the remaining 36 have not yet decided when to come to Korea. It is estimated that they will make a decision according to the changes

brought about by the pandemic and the specific class time and teaching method of the classes. Also, they think it is very difficult to return to Korea during the pandemic period. Thus they hope to spend more time with their families.

4.2 The factors of why return to China

Emotional factors associated with the pandemic are what make Chinese students want to return to China during the winter vacation. This study also reports the reasons for 19 international students who returned home. Among them, 12 think that the pandemic in South Korea is unstable. Therefore they want to return home as soon as possible to avoid the pandemic(63.16%); 8 students need to stay with their families emotionally because spring festival is the most important festival for the Chinese (42.11%); 8 students received advice from their families, asking them to return home as soon as possible and reunite with them (42.11%). There are also 6 students who think that it doesn't mean much to stay in Korea during the holidays; they can't study with peace of mind, go out to work or take part in other social activities (31.58%) (see Table 4 for details). At the same time, this study found that there was not much difference in the proportion of each gender and student status among the students. This study also analyzed the residence of these students who have returned to China when answering the questionnaire and found that 11 of them are in Shandong, 3 in the three eastern provinces, 1 in Shanghai, etc. Generally, these areas have direct flights to Incheon Airport, so it's more convenient for them to go back

and forth, and there is no need for secondary quarantine after returning to China. Therefore, this study speculates that this is one of the reasons why it is easier for them to choose to return to China compared with students from other regions. In reality, when the questionnaires were sent out, South Korea was experiencing the second wave of the pandemic. At that time, between 500 to 1000 people were reported to be infected every day in Korea and China. However, it was well controlled at the moment, and people could go in and out freely, which is one of the reasons why some students chose to return home for the New Year. From the emotional point of view, when encountering large-scale disasters such as pandemics and earthquakes outside, the consciousness of human beings is that home is the safest place - people hope to stay with their parents so that they can take care of each other in times of difficulties and in case something goes wrong. At the same time, as Chinese value spring festival greatly, parents and students are willing to spend the festive season at home with their families, and visit relatives and friends during the period, which is human nature. Therefore, students want to return home to reunite with their families and families also advise students to return home. However, some students think that they can't study or work even if they stay in Korea. While others also think that there are some factors such as the reduction of working opportunities due to the pandemic. Therefore, on the whole, the cross combination of pandemic factors and emotional factors prompted some students to make the decision to return to China for winter vacation, but the study abroad goal had less influence on this decision.

It should be pointed out that the factors, related to the pandemic that effected the students' decision as to whether to stay in Korea or return home are related but different. The former restricts Chinese students from returning home for vacation, while the latter encourages students to return home. But no matter what, the pandemic is the most important factor that influences students to make two opposite decisions. When there is no pandemic, the goal of studying abroad and emotional factors are the strongest factors that affect the willingness of international students to return home for vacation. However, in the context of the pandemic, the impact of pandemic factors is far higher than the other two conventional factors that restrict students' willingness to return home.

5. Conclusion and Suggestion

Given the advent of the pandemic, the trade exchanges and cultural exchanges between China and South Korea have been strongly effected. However, the two countries have withstood the impact of the pandemic. They not only launched public health diplomacy during the pandemic to deepen mutual understanding and friendship in the pandemic era, but also created "fast track" and other ways to ensure relatively smooth logistics and necessary personnel exchanges. So far, the cooperation and interaction between the two countries can be called a model of cooperation during the pandemic period. As an important part of the cultural exchanges between two

countries, the situation of Chinese students studying in Korea is constantly developing, showing an overall upward trend. Under the influence of the pandemic, the total number of Chinese students studying in Korea decreased for the first time in five years in 2020. These students were faced with many practical difficulties because of the impact of the pandemic, and at the same time, they were also under huge psychological stress. At the end of 2020, these international students were confronted a difficult decision as to whether to return to China for winter vacation, or stay in Korea and wait for the first semester of 2021. The existing literature in the current academic circles is scanty on the analysis of students' stress and realistic wishes during the pandemic period. Therefore, the Chinese students from a Korean University were taken as the research subjects, and their willingness to return to China in winter vacation in 2020 was statistically analysed. The influence of studying abroad goals, emotional factors and pandemic constraints on their willingness to make decisions during the pandemic period were analyzed. This paper found that the proportion of international students stranded in China has increased greatly in 2020, and the proportion of students who were willing to return to China for winter vacation has decreased greatly at the end of the year. The pandemic restriction brought about by the pandemic was the overwhelming factor that caused Chinese students to be unwilling to return to China on holiday. The interweaving of factors relating to the pandemic and emotional factors are also important factors which led to choosing to return home. Given the above reasons, this paper puts forward

some suggestions on the management of international students in Korean Universities:

First of all, in view of the drastic influence of the pandemic on the willingness decision of Chinese students during the pandemic, it is necessary to understand and support their decisions, and make timely decisions on the start time, quarantine sites and studying method as soon as possible in accordance with the relevant national and local pandemic prevention policies, so that students can grasp the information as soon as possible and make the most reasonable decisions for themselves.

Secondly, for international students who have returned to China, information should be transparent and communication should be in place. Even in China, they can accurately grasp the relevant information of their Universities. For Chinese students staying in Korea, it is necessary to strengthen the supervision of pandemic prevention, so as to ensure that students in Korea can stay away from the pandemic.

Finally, it is important to understand that it is not easy for international students to choose to study abroad in the face of various pressures and difficulties. It is necessary to relieve their tremendous pressure under the pandemic and emotional factors from the spiritual level and give necessary humanistic care.

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