ABSTRACT

In the past, tremendous efforts have been dedicated to the research on overseas Chinese and their communities; the research on overseas Chinese women, however, lacks in quantity. The author of this research paper attempts to explore the various aspects of the life of Chinese women in America in early twentieth century, taking a perspective from one of the most influential Chinese newspapers at that time, Chung Sai Yat Po. Topics discussed herein include career, education, social status, etc.

In the first Section, the aim, scope and methodology of the research will be defined. In the second Section, the author will present the statistical results of the quantitative analysis conducted on news on Chinese women in Chung Sai Yat Po, inter alia, the quantity and percentage of various social issues reported across different time periods. A series of qualitative analysis and discussions on selected issues will be included in the third Section, namely prostitution, education, activities of social groups and the change in the social status of Chinese women. In the last Section, the author will summarize the qualitative and quantitative analysis in previous sections and highlight the benefits and limitations of relying on Chung Sai Yat Po as the source of research material.
The author is of the opinion that the early part of the history of Chinese women in America is of significant research value. The research developments in this area will ultimately further our understanding in the early history of the Chinese in America and contribute to the study of contemporary Chinese women in America. Hence, the author presents this research paper as an introduction to this area as well as an invitation for further academic discussion, research and analysis.