

# Motivations of Hospice Volunteers in Mainland China

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# Contents

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- Background
- Literature reviews & Aims
- Method
- Results
- Conclusion & Discussion

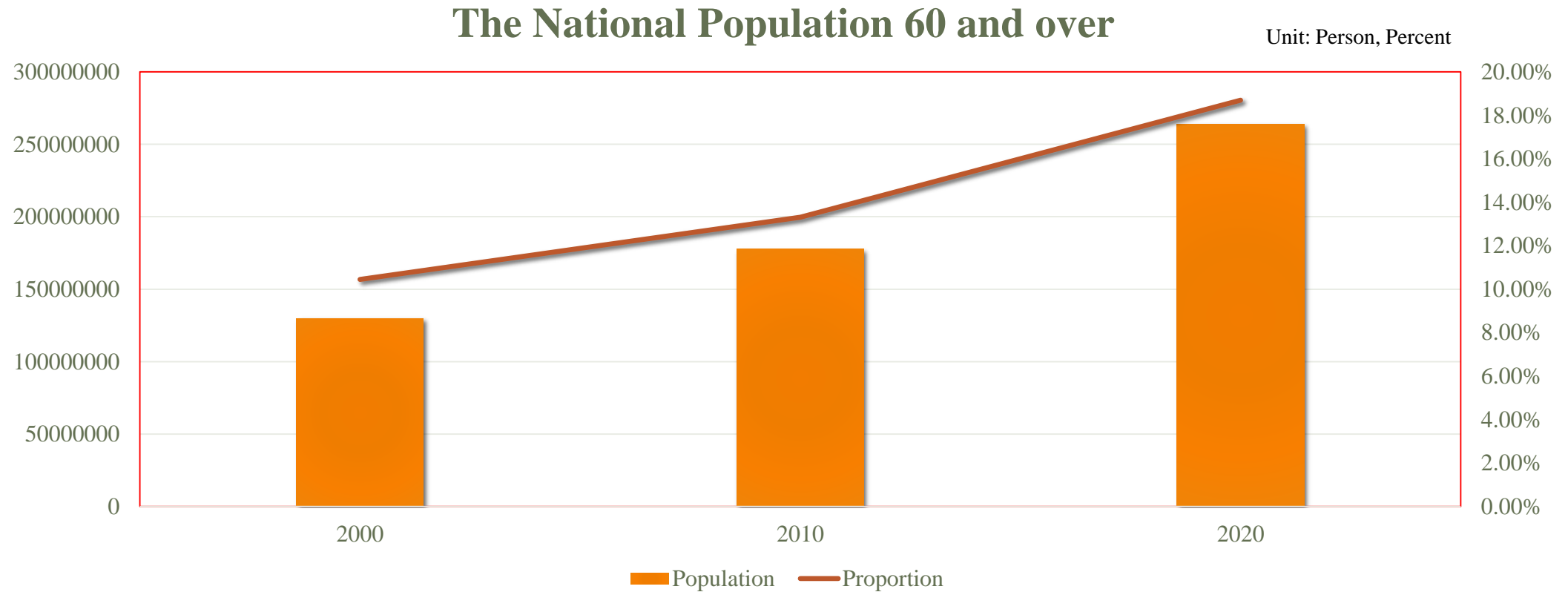
# Background

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- Ageing trends and need for hospice and palliative care
- Shortage of hospice service in mainland China
- Growing volunteers (fields and numbers)
- Taboo on death

# Background

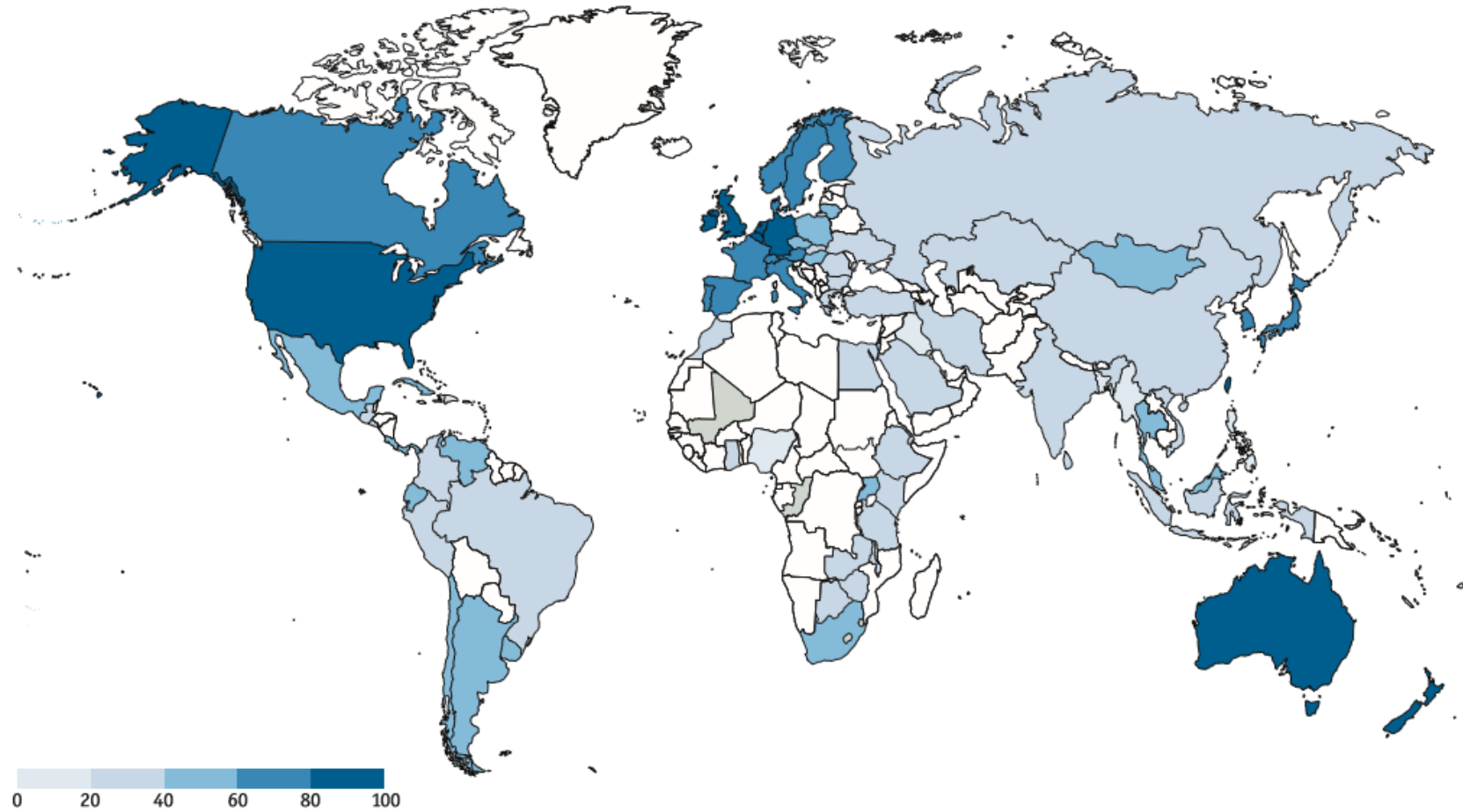
## Ageing trends and need for hospice and palliative care



Source: National Bureau of Statistics of China

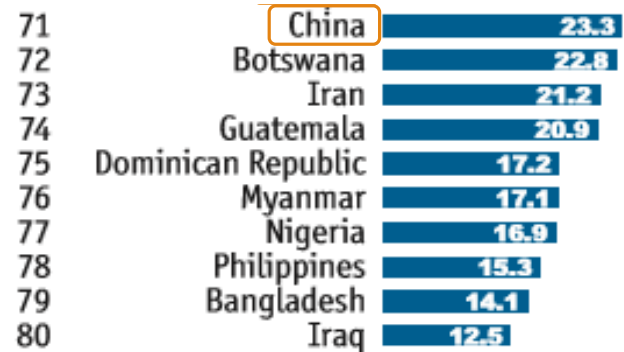
# Shortage of hospice service in mainland China

2015 Quality of Death Index—Overall scores



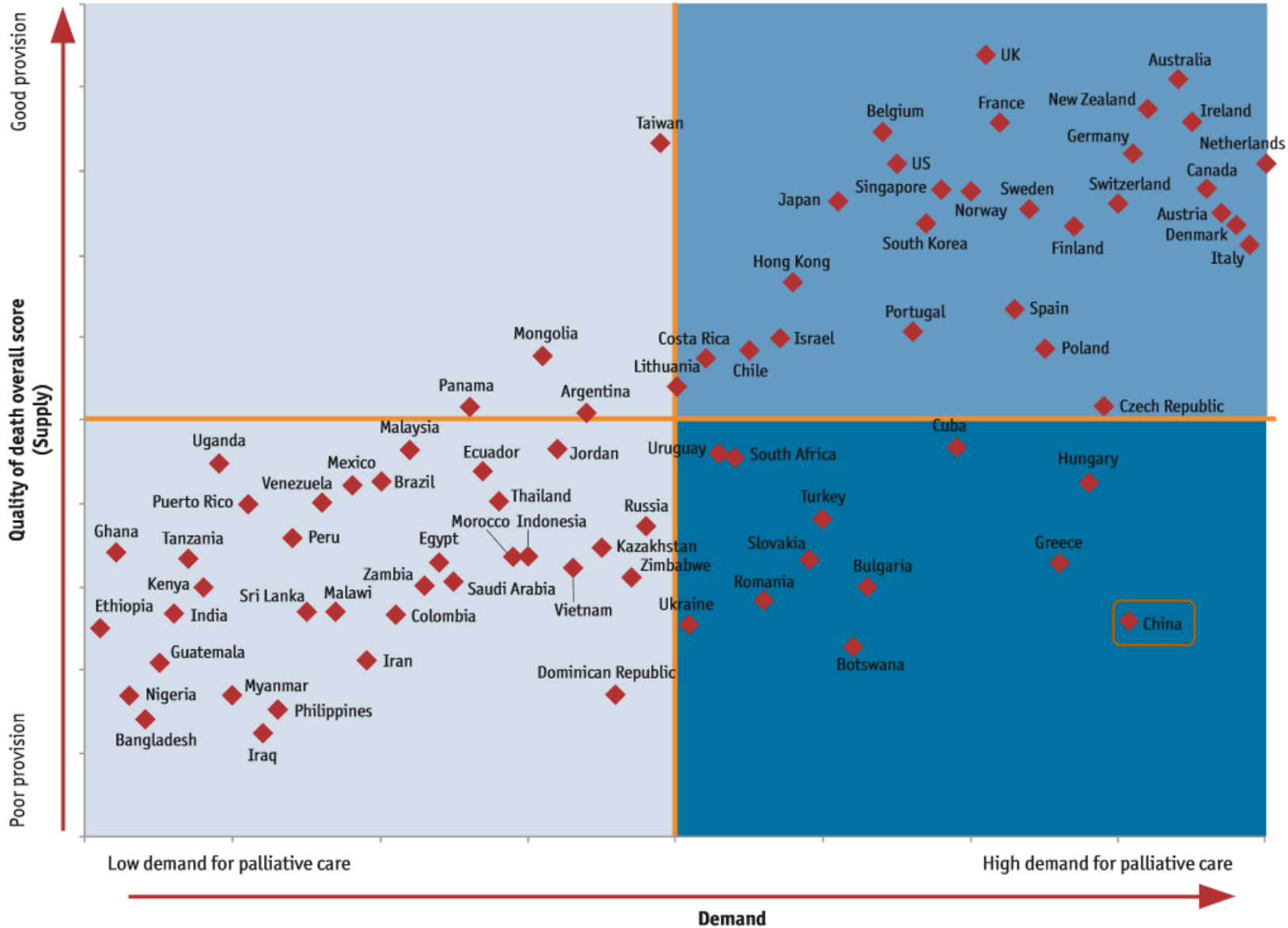
Source: The 2015 Quality of Death Index

## 2015 Quality of Death Index—Overall scores



Source: The 2015 Quality of Death Index

### Palliative care demand vs supply



Source: The 2015 Quality of Death Index

# Literature review

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- Since 1970s, 3 models about motivations of volunteers:
    - Two or three factor model (altruism-egoism, -civic responsibility)
    - Unidimensional
    - VFI (the Volunteer Functions Inventory) (*Clary E. G., et al, 1998*)
  - Economical perspective:
    - Public goods model
    - Private consumption model
    - Invest model
  - Particularly hospice volunteer:
  - Few differences among different ages (*Black B., et al, 1999*)
  - IMPCV (the Inventory of Motivations for Palliative Care Volunteerism) (*Claxton-Oldfield S., et al, 2004*)
  - Motivations remain stable and reduction in levels of fears (*Nissim R., et al, 2015*)
  - Chinese studies on motivations of volunteers:
    - Group: Youth volunteers, sports event volunteers,
    - (Empirical) Method: revised VFI (*Jiang Wei, 2018*)
- One paper reports a survey of hospice volunteers' service feeling (*Tao Xin, et al, 2018*)



# Aims

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- Why do they choose to be a hospice volunteer?
- Are there any differences with western countries?
- Suggestions for volunteer organizations and policy.

# Method

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- This is a qualitative research
  - Field work
  - In-depth semi-structured interview
- A hospice ward in a public hospital in Beijing, 6 beds in two rooms and 1 farewell room. 2 doctors and one is the director, more than ten nurses shared with oncology department.
- Around 8 volunteers will come and do some directive service each Wednesday and Saturday afternoon.
- One social worker or psychological consultant is on duty in workday. (NO PAY)

## Table 1 Basic information of interviewees

Name	Gender	Age	Occupation	Educational background	Religious belief	Volunteer service before
GCR	Female	48	Early retirement (civil servant)	Bachelor	Buddhism	No
BHB	Female	47	Unemployed (former owner of a company)	Bachelor	Buddhism	Yes
CD	Female	64	Retirement	Bachelor	None	Yes
WL	Female	58	Civil servant	Bachelor	None	No
LYL	Female	46	Psychological consultant	Master	None	Yes
WLJ	Female	44	NGO staff	Associate degree	Buddhism	No
WY	Female	55	Retirement	Master	None	Yes
YGQ	Male	51	Early retirement (teacher)	Bachelor	Buddhism	Yes
ZCJ	Female	20	College student	Sophomore	None	Yes

# Results

## Table 2 Four kinds of progress

Name	Gender	Age	Occupation	Educational background	Religious belief	Volunteer service before
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## Practice

### 1. An event

- (Think about the meaning of life and what is death)

### 2. Religion

- (Creed and practice) [*the Tibetan Book of Living and Dying*]

### 3. Hospice

- (Harvest)

### 4. Continue

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## Support

### 1. An event

- (Interest and philosophy of hospice)

### 2. Hospice

- (Devoted and feeling of being needed)

### 3. Unremitting

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## Be pushed here

### 1. Organizations (Buddhism)

- (Develop a program based on their ethic)

### 2. Hospice

- (Accept and gain)

### 3. Go on the work

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## Come to learn

### 1. Work for senior

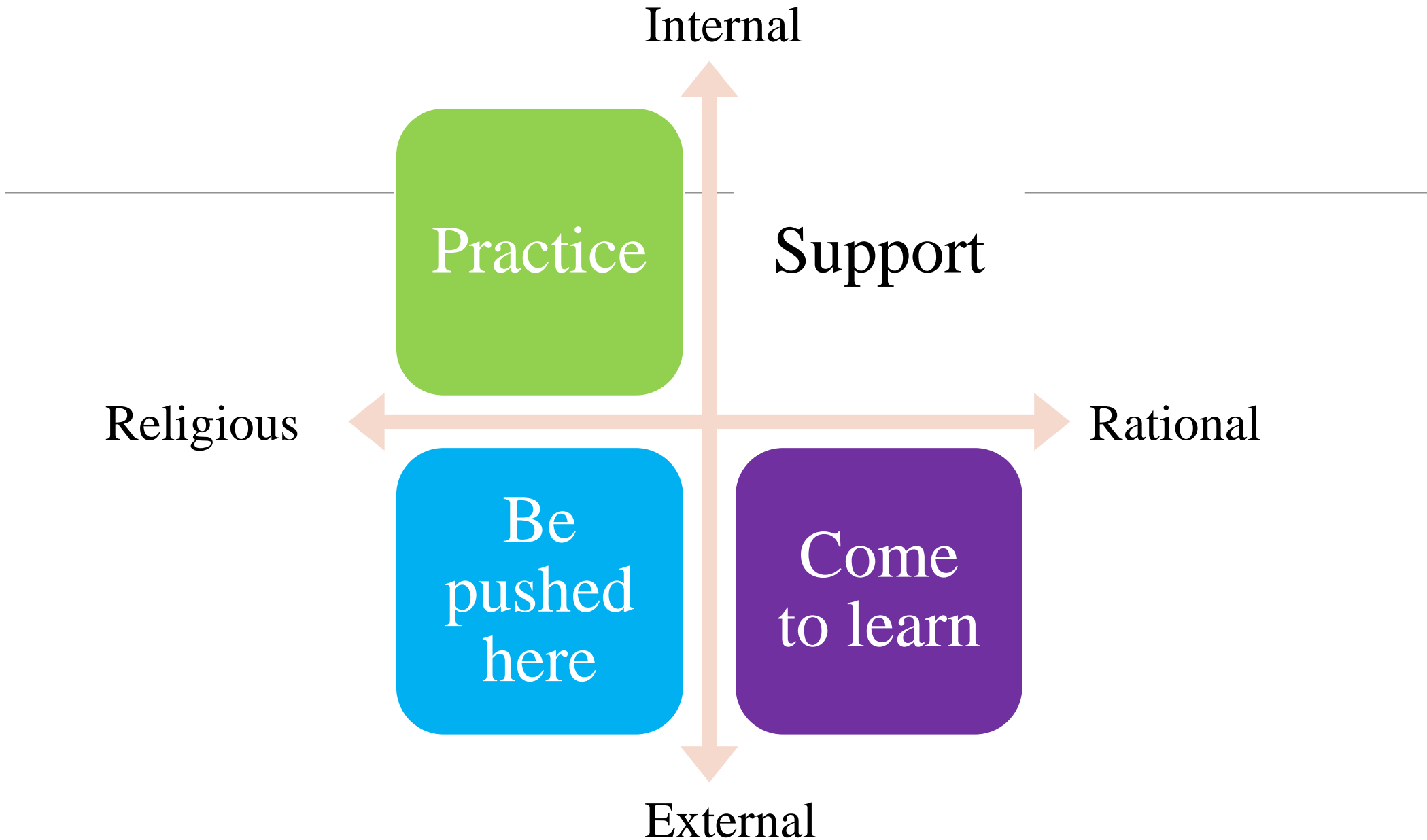
- (Need to know things related to end of life)

### 2. Hospice

- (Helpful)

### 3. A state of life





# Conclusion

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- It seems that a specific event related to death can be a trigger in the progress of being a hospice volunteer.
- Experience in hospice units can be positive, both emotional and professional. Maybe this is opposite to **common sense**.
- Self-promotion and personal gain are important to maintain enthusiasm.
- Belief of hospice can function as a religion in China.

# Discussion

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- The trigger is not unique and why are they? Are they more sensitive?
- What about volunteers come and go? (*Hospice is like a battleground.*)
- Maybe it is not difficult to talk about death in China.

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Thank you!