

Better a Neighbor Nearby than a Brother Far Away? Mutual Aid as Disaster Response during COVID-19 Lockdown in Shanghai

Lin Dong

Department of Crisisonomy, Chungbuk National University, 1 Chungdae-ro, Seowon-Gu, Cheongju, Chungbuk, Korea

A B S T R A C T

The purpose of this study is to understand the mutual aid behavior behind community group buying during the COVID-19 lockdown in Shanghai. Public discontent over the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown measures has contributed to the spread of mutual aid across communities in Shanghai, where residents have spontaneously organized community group buying to meet their basic needs in response to the lack of daily necessities. In order to achieve the purpose of this research, this research first used literature information to verify the mutual aid behavior in community group buying as a means of disaster response, and then used semi-structured interviews to investigate and analyze community group buying organizers. As a result of this study, it was found that community group buying is a means of solidarity among groups when government systems are unable to meet their own needs, and that mutual assistance is driven by individual needs, experience, and social capital.

Key words: COVID-19 lockdown; mutual aid; community group buying; disaster response; Shanghai

Profile

Lin Dong (dy05460546@gmail.com)

He is a Ph.D. course student of Department of Crisisonomy in Chungbuk National University. His major subject is crisisonomy, disastryonomy, and safety management, etc.