
Literature Study on the Development of Chinese Traditional Village Protection

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Abstract: *Traditional villages are still very important part of China's cultural heritage protection system and a treasure of China's historical and cultural heritage. But under the influence of rapid urbanization, they are facing serious survival crisis. To this end, the state has issued a series of protective policies, and research efforts in various disciplines and have also carried out for the various protection work. However, due to the late start of protection works and the immature stable and effective protection system, contradictions and conflicts in the process of protection and development of traditional villages have been constant. By sorting out the protection predicament of traditional villages, this paper analyzes the causes of contradictions and conflicts, and puts forward that the protection work of traditional villages should pay attention to the villagers' main status and cultural cognition, at the same time, it should improve the existing evaluation index system and pay attention to the evaluation system research on the effect after the implementation of the plan.*

Keywords: *traditional villages; urbanization; protection method; evaluation method*

1. Introduction

Traditional villages refer to those villages with material and intangible cultural heritage and high historical, cultural, scientific, artistic, social and economic values. Traditional villages come into being naturally with the development of history. Most of them are gradually spread by several small villages and eventually form a larger village or region. Traditional villages have rich resources in traditional farming culture, and intangible cultural heritage can be inherited and developed in a lively manner. However, with the continuous development of urbanization and industrialization, farmers have moved to cities, resulting in a sharp drop in rural population, the withdrawal of schools, idle fields, dilapidated traditional buildings, and a tendency of hollowing out in many villages. The way of production, life and values in rural areas have been affected by urban life. The traditional buildings in villages are gradually rebuilt

or abandoned, and people show their yearning for new architectural life. The development of traditional villages and the farming culture they carry are affected to a certain extent, and the traditional farming mode that has been inherited for thousands of years has changed (Zhang Z. D., 2020; Wang J., 2021). The continuous expansion of cities has damaged the rural environment and ecological culture, but the modernization process is undoubtedly the historical trend. As for a nation, if it does not join the flood of social progress, it is bound to lose its development vitality and eventually tend to die out (Zhang S. Y., 1992).

The research on the protection of traditional villages mainly highlights the conflict between urban and rural dual social structure and the integration of traditional civilization and modern civilization in the process of China's rapid industrialization.

With the proposal of new urbanization strategy and the continuous release of government policy documents, how traditional villages find their own development path in the process of rapid economic development has become the focus of domestic academic attention. In view of this, this paper starts from the background of traditional village protection, analyzes the current situation of traditional village protection, summarizes the opportunities and challenges encountered in the protection of traditional villages, and explores the direction and focus of future research on traditional village protection, so as to provide theoretical support for the research on the sustainability of traditional village protection and development.

2. Chinese traditional villages protection

2.1 Development

Throughout the development of the research on the protection of traditional villages in China, the development has been slow in the past period of time. The concept of protection was first viewed from the perspective of architecture. In the early stage, traditional dwellings were mainly taken as the research object, with the summary and description of the physical form objectively existing in villages as the center, and the construction of living space as the direction, focusing on the connotation of single buildings in villages. With the deepening of the concept of sustainable development, the protection of traditional villages based on tourism development has gradually exposed problems, researchers believe that traditional villages on the list have lost their rich cultural context and vitality without considering the value and protection significance of traditional villages in the process of rescue, protection and development, with the continuous development, thousands of precious traditional villages will be exactly the same as the 660 cities today in more than a decade (Li F., 2019). Therefore, in recent years, under the severe challenges faced by traditional villages, researchers have re-recognized the importance of the history and cultural connotation of traditional villages. The research perspectives include

geomancy, human geography, folk culturology, ecology, planning, geography, and typology, and the research fields involve traditional social life and culture. The existing research pays more attention to the integration of multiple perspectives and disciplines, and focuses on the relationship between human and nature and the symbiosis model between human and society. In addition, western theories such as social memory, cultural landscape, ecological museum concept, darning theory, cognitive map also provided ideas for searching for "Chinese solution".

2.2 Current situation

Early studies focused on the material status and resource survey of traditional villages and towns, the protection of traditional villages has not been separately proposed, but is generally described in various legal documents of famous historical and cultural cities and towns and villages. Many traditional villages with certain protection value have been in the stage of laissez-faire development for a long time (Hou W. J., 2019).

With the acceleration of urbanization, cities have become a powerful driving force for social and economic development. A large number of rural people enter cities to enjoy the modern civilization brought by cities. The rapid loss of rural population has aggravated the aging and hollowing of traditional villages. Traditional villages based on feudal system and farming civilization have lost their foundation and environment, and the profound cultural connotation of traditional villages is constantly disappearing. Secondly, traditional villages are facing the transformation of economic mode and cultural inheritance mode, and the development mode, industrial technology and lifestyle of cities are copied to traditional villages, seriously impacting the traditional culture of villages (Zhang D., 2015). After China signed the UN millennium Development Goals in 2000, the widespread existence and contradiction of the urban-rural dual structure are acknowledged. In 2005, the idea of new rural construction was put forward in the "11th Five-Year Plan" strategy, however, in the promotion of the new rural construction plan of "unified planning, unified layout and unified implementation", it was all "one-size-fits-all" and standardized, ignoring the will of farmers, ignoring the ties of blood relationship and geographical connection, cutting off the existence of national culture, and wiping out the unique cultural connotation of villages (Zhang Z. Z. & Xu F., 2018).

In terms of management and organization, the "top-down" mode led by the government, or the "top-down combination" mode led by the original residents, supported by the government and participated by the public, mainly prefers economic motivation and political performance motivation. It is an administrative management mode based on the preference of political achievements. This management mode will lead to long-term dependence of aborigines, and after a long time, aborigines will lose their psychological appeal to maintain the original

ecology of villages (Li S., 2020). In addition, the fading of the sense of protection and the disorderly development of tourism have seriously damaged the natural and cultural environment of traditional villages, making the rural landscape "the same as every village" (Figure 1), resulting in great damage to many traditional villages (Fan D. X., 2021).

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, from 2002 to 2012, the number of natural villages in China decreased sharply from 3.63 million to 2.71 million, a decrease of nearly 900,000 natural villages in 10 years, with an average of 80-100 natural villages disappearing every day, including a large number of traditional villages. In the past 15 years, the number of traditional villages in China has decreased by nearly 920,000, and the number continues to decrease at a rate of 1.6 per day (Wang C. L., 2021).



(a) Jiuxing Village, Minhang District, Shanghai



(b) Huaxi Village, Jiangyin City, Jiangsu Province



(c) Nanshan Village, Yantai City, Shandong Province



(d) Liuzhuang Village, Xinxiang County, Henan Province

Fig. 1 The phenomenon of "the same as every village"

2.3 Opportunities

2.3.1 National policy promotion

The protection of traditional villages cannot be sustained on its own. In order to contain the crisis of the rapid disappearance of traditional villages, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the Ministry of Culture, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage and the Ministry of Finance jointly issued a notice on The Investigation of Traditional Villages in April 2012. The circular clarified the concept of traditional villages and emphasized what types

of villages should be protected (Huang J. P., 2014; Zhi J. R. & Yang Y. Y. 2018). Following the Notice, in order to evaluate the protection value of traditional villages and identify the protection level of traditional villages, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and other departments issued a notice on the Index System for Evaluation and Identification of Traditional Villages (Trial) in August 2012. In September 2012, the expert committee on the protection and development of traditional villages decided to change the customary title of "ancient village" to "traditional village" (Wang Q., 2021), thus giving a clearer definition of "traditional village" in domestic academic circles. In December 2012, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Finance jointly issued the Guiding Opinions on Strengthening the Protection and Development of Traditional Villages, and published the first batch of Directories of Traditional Villages in China, thus elevating the protection of Traditional Villages in China to the level of national cultural strategy. In recent years, the state has issued a series of policies, as shown in Table 1. It can be seen that with the continuous improvement of national attention and refinement of policies, the protection and development of traditional villages are also deepening year by year.

Table 1 Government documents and their main contents

Time	Government documents/Conference	Document content
In 2013	Several Opinions on Accelerating the Development of Modern Agriculture and Further Enhancing the Vitality of Rural Development	The document proposes to strengthen the protection of traditional villages and dwellings with historical and cultural value and ethnic and regional elements.
In 2014	The Guidelines on Deepening Rural Reform and Accelerating Agricultural Modernization	Plans for the protection and development of traditional villages should be formulated, and traditional villages and dwellings with historical and cultural value should be included in the protection list, and investment and protection should be increased.
In 2015	Several Opinions on Strengthening Reform and Innovation and Speeding up Agricultural Modernization	The document proposes to support a number of scenic tourist towns and villages with historical, regional and ethnic characteristics, and will create diversified and distinctive rural tourism and leisure products, improve the list of

In 2022	Rural Construction Action Implementation Plan	<p>traditional villages and carry out surveys on traditional residential buildings, and implement protection plans for traditional villages and residential buildings, to attract and rally people from all sides to support the construction of hometown and inherit rural civilization.</p>
		<p>.....</p> <p>The document proposes to strengthen the protection and utilization of famous historical and cultural towns and villages, traditional villages and traditional houses; We will protect ethnic villages, local dwellings, cultural relics, agricultural relics and folk customs.</p>

Source: Developed for this research.

2.3.2 Focus on the change of direction
2.3.2.1 Traditional village subjects and their cultural cognition

Zhang J. W. (2016) proposed that the mode of government-enterprise cooperation should be chosen in the process of tourism development in order to avoid the disadvantages of single government dominance or private enterprise dominance. Xu C. C. & Wan Z. Q. (2015) analyzed three common protection modes: "combination of village tourism", "multi-subject association" and "museum". Among them, "multi-subject association" refers to the joint raising of funds by local governments, scientific research institutions, cultural media, enterprise groups and individual fund-raisers to implement village protection, which is consistent with Zhang J. W. (2016) 's research. However, in the context of "heavy development and light protection", traditional villages may still be reduced to tourist landscape areas by choosing this method.

In view of this, Sun Y. K. (2017) and Xu S. L. (2017) explored the mode of sustainable development of traditional village protection from the perspective of harmonious coexistence of traditional village protection and tourism development. From the perspective of cultural

ecology, Liu J. Y., Ge X. F. and Chen Y. P. (2017) proposed that cultural symbols with tourism characteristics of traditional villages should be formed in the process of heritage protection and development of traditional villages. On this basis, Wang T., Li H. Z. and Wang J. (2020) propose that to actively develop rural tourism economy, in addition to grasping the cultural characteristics of traditional villages themselves, they should also deeply explore the connotation of their core values. Zhao S. X. (2020) integrated previous studies and proposed that traditional villages could be built into "ecological museums", which could not only protect regional characteristics, but also transform the natural and cultural heritage of traditional villages into tourism value, so as to realize the coordinated development of protection and development.

Compared with the previous research results, the existing research pays more attention to the symbiosis between the protection and development of traditional villages and the exploitation of tourism cultural characteristics and values. Although the sustainability of the protection and development of traditional villages had been emphasized, the phenomenon of the conflict among the needs of different subjects still exists, the status of villagers as cultural subjects are not paid enough attention, and the "cultural consciousness" of villagers are not stimulated.

2.3.2.2 Construction of traditional village evaluation system

As the protection, utilization and development of traditional villages are difficult to balance, and the contradictions between various subjects are prominent, relying solely on tourism to increase the income of indigenous people is obviously not the final solution, nor is it suitable for villages with no potential development value. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of traditional villages. To a large extent, evaluation studies can determine the follow-up conservation strategies of traditional villages.

At the beginning of the study of traditional villages in China, descriptive evaluation was the dominant research method. Later, traditional villages went deep into the multidisciplinary field, and quantitative evaluation methods and the combination of qualitative and quantitative methods were gradually applied to the value evaluation of traditional villages. Based on the field survey data and the actual development needs of traditional villages, the researchers mainly adopted Delphi method, analytic hierarchy process, fuzzy comprehensive evaluation and other methods, and used Yaahp software to conduct the statistical and quantitative analysis of the data (Li X. B., Pan Y. N., Shi C. Y. & Guo Y., 2022; Liu Y. & Peng K., 2022).

The model of evaluation research is relatively fixed, and experts need to use their own professional knowledge and evaluation experience to score the relevant evaluation indicators. As the primary component of traditional villages, local villagers from generation to generation

are the most familiar with the place they live in, and play an important role in the evaluation process of traditional villages. Therefore, in the process of establishing the evaluation system, their sense of identity, belonging and sense of place cannot be ignored.

Compared with the previous evaluation and research processes of value categories, the research on the protection and development evaluation system focuses more on the present and future development of villages, but there are not many research results on the evaluation of the implementation effect of the protection and development of traditional villages, and public participation has not received enough attention in the protection policies and guidelines of traditional villages.

3. Conclusion

New-type urbanization is "people-oriented" urbanization. However, in the past, urbanization did not take into account ordinary people, the needs of the masses and local reality, and it was blind investment attraction. If the villages and buildings lack popularity, they will surely become ruins and disappear in people's memory. As the origin of Chinese countryside culture, traditional villages also face the risk of survival crisis and cultural rupture in the process of urbanization.

Therefore, the protection and development of traditional villages ultimately depends on how to retain and attract people. The main body of traditional villages, their cultural cognition and public participation are effectively integrated into the evaluation system of the implementation of traditional village protection planning, which is conducive to a more comprehensive evaluation of the protection and development of traditional villages in the process of new urbanization. Otherwise, it is difficult for traditional villages to achieve "living" inheritance in the process of protection and implementation.

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