

The Impact of Villagers' Participation in the Protection and Development of Traditional Villages on the Revitalization of Traditional Villages

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Abstract. Traditional villages carrying farming civilization are valuable historical and cultural heritage of China, and also the key to rural revitalization. Under the tide of modernization, Xihe Village, located in the mountains, is relatively intact as a traditional village. Under the guidance of the traditional village protection policy, the village has achieved remarkable results in protection and development. However, as the main body of village protection practice, local villagers still face corresponding problems in the protection and development of villages and the participation of relevant policies. These problems are manifested in residents' relatively low understanding of the protection policies of traditional villages; The government does not fully cooperate with the local villagers in carrying out cultural activities, and the village culture is not fully explored. Village infrastructure is still lacking, which is not conducive to retaining villagers to live and develop in the village. Therefore, in order to strengthen the participation of villagers in the protection of traditional villages, the government should strengthen the publicity of the protection and development policy of traditional villages. When carrying out cultural activities, the government should strengthen the cooperation with the villagers and explore the various cultural resources in the villages. Improve the infrastructure in the village, and provide better material guarantee for the life development of local villagers.

Keywords: Rural revitalization, traditional village, villagers participation.

1. Introduction

Traditional villages with material and intangible cultural heritages are important carriers of Chinese farming civilization. With the continuous acceleration of industrialization and urbanization, the urban population is increasing, and the rural population is losing, which causes many problems in the countryside. These problems make the countryside in the ecological, economic, cultural, social and other aspects are affected. In this context, many traditional villages are declining or even disappearing. In 2012, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the Ministry of Finance, the former Ministry of Culture and other departments jointly issued a document, pointing out that with the acceleration of industrialization and urbanization, the phenomenon of the decline and disappearance of traditional villages has become increasingly serious [1]. In the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the rural revitalization strategy was put forward as a major decision deployment. The rural revitalization strategy is an important strategic policy put forward by China to address rural issues. Therefore, traditional villages, bearing both material and intangible cultural heritage, play an important role in rural revitalization. At the same time, rural revitalization also brings new opportunities and challenges to the protection and development of traditional villages.

As an important carrier of traditional culture, traditional villages contain rich cultural connotations. Traditional villages not only contain material cultural heritage such as traditional buildings, but also retain various intangible cultural heritage. Therefore, civilization inheritance and rural revitalization cannot be separated from traditional villages. At the same time, traditional villages have historical value, cultural value, economic value and tourism value, and have important protection significance [2]. In terms of the protection and development of traditional villages, scholars mostly start from the aspects of economy and culture, propose to study the natural environment and human environment as a whole, and use the method of combining nature and culture to protect historical areas [3]. Fully

excavate and develop the historical, artistic, cultural, environmental and traditional aspects of the local heritage, coordinating local cultural heritage, environmental and biodiversity conservation [4]. Strengthen the protection and restoration of traditional buildings in villages, and carry out some projects to promote the sustainable development of local tourism [5]. At the same time, the problems existing in the protection of traditional villages and the corresponding solutions are put forward. However, there are few researches on the protection and development of traditional villages in Xinxian County, China, and relatively few researches on the protection policies of traditional villages and the participation of local residents in the protection and development policies of ancient villages. Therefore, this study starts from the local residents of traditional villages, studies how local residents view the protection of traditional villages and how they participate in the implementation of relevant policies, and tries to give an updated interpretation.

This study adopts the interview method. With the help of interviews, local residents and government officials of Xihe Village were interviewed to understand the status quo and development process of Xihe Village protection and development, as well as the villagers' understanding of and satisfaction with the implementation of the traditional village protection and development policy and their participation in the implementation of the policy, so as to provide relevant material support for this study.

2. Analysis of Current Situation of Village Protection and Development

2.1. Introduction of Research Object

This study takes Xihe Village in Xinxian County as an example. The village has a history of more than 700 years, and has been listed in the list of Chinese traditional villages, national ecological culture villages, Chinese landscape villages and traditional villages in Henan Province. It is a very representative traditional village. Under the guidance of the protection and development policy of traditional villages, Xihe Village adheres to the basic principles of giving priority to protection, taking into account development, respecting tradition, conforming to reality and being people-oriented, and strives to promote the protection of the village, expand the influence of traditional villages, carry forward traditional culture, improve the living environment, cultivate the characteristic industries of the village, and strive to promote the sustainable development of the village.

2.2. Development Status

2.2.1 Participation of villagers in village protection

In the protection and development of the village, the villagers play a vital role. In 2013, Xinxian County launched the "Hero Dream, Xinxian Dream" large-scale public welfare planning and design activity, and Xihe Village was included in the planning of the antique rural boutique tourism route created by the activity. However, in the process of village reconstruction, there are many difficulties, among which on the main road of the village, there are many villagers' cattle sheds, pig pens, etc., which affect the implementation of village reconstruction projects. Under the mobilization and consultation of some local villagers, the villagers took the initiative to demolish these buildings and cooperate with the transformation of the village. At the same time, funded by a number of migrant workers in the village, the "Xihe Farming Park Breeding farmers professional cooperative" was established to help the protection and development of the village. Under the guidance of the protection and development policy of traditional villages in Xinxian county, villagers rely on the resources of villages to develop tourism services with local characteristics. The cooperative has invested in the corresponding tourism supporting service facilities, set up farmhouses, homestay, etc., and provided a large number of jobs for the villagers through tourism and increased the income of the village.

2.2.2 Government's role in village protection

The government also plays an important role in the protection and development of Xihe Village. The local government combines local resources and capital, takes advantage of Xihe Village's

beautiful natural environment and ancient village's cultural and historical advantages, and takes rural tourism as an industry to attract social capital. Through the support of financial funds, the village development platform has been built, and Xihe Village has been built into a national 3A level tourist attraction integrating leisure and shopping. In the process of developing tourism services, integrating local folk customs, food and other traditional culture, the establishment of grain and oil culture museum and restoring the traditional wood oil pressing process in southern Henan. Organize old craftsmen to display oil pressing technology in the museum, reproduce local farming culture and tea oil manual pressing technology to tourists, and cultivate rural tourism cultural characteristics industry. And use the tourism industry to attract talents to return home, provide policy and financial support for local villagers' employment and entrepreneurship, organize villagers to go out for training and learning, improve the quality of villagers themselves, and help villagers start businesses and become rich. At the same time of tourism development, the combination of protection and development, the traditional buildings in the village were repaired and protected, and more than 20 ancient buildings with the characteristics of southern Henan were protected and restored. In addition, some traditional buildings will be transformed into tourist facilities such as homestays and theme post offices, and the traditional buildings will be protected in use to give full play to the value of traditional buildings.

3. Research and Analysis

3.1. Introduction of Research Methods

Interviews were used to collect research data. From the perspective of residents, this study aims to understand residents' views on the protection of traditional villages and their participation in relevant policies. Therefore, it is necessary to understand residents' understanding of the policies, satisfaction degree and trust degree. The relevant information cannot be fully understood through the literature, so the interview method can make up for the lack of literature and provide sufficient and reliable materials for the research. In this study, local residents and government officials in Xihe Village were interviewed to understand their real views on traditional village protection and their participation in relevant policies. At the same time, through interviewing local government officials, to understand the protection and development status of Xihe Village and the corresponding protection and development policies.

3.2. Interview Results

Through interviews with local government leaders and villagers in Xihe Village, it is found that there are still some problems in the village protection and development, which affect the villagers' participation in the village protection and development policies.

3.2.1 Problems with the villagers' understanding of the policy

In terms of understanding of the policies, many elderly people are limited by their personal culture and have a low understanding of the policies of traditional village protection. Young and middle-aged people have a relatively high understanding of the village's traditional village protection policies. In the interview, most elderly people in Xihe Village said that they did not know the traditional village protection policy of the village and could not provide relevant detailed information. On the other hand, young and middle-aged people know more about the relevant situation, and most of them get relevant information through the Internet. Compared with the elderly, they are more skilled in using modern technology and better understanding of relevant policies. Studies have shown that age has an important impact on recognition, and the four aspects of reading efficiency, social communication, recognition acquisition and the pursuit of excellence are greatly affected by education, so that education and age have an important impact on cognitive ability [6]. Human cognitive abilities generally increase gradually with age before the age of 35, and peak around the age of 35, and gradually decline with age after the age of 45, Educational background was positively correlated with cognitive ability [6]. According to the Comprehensive Survey and Research Report on China's Rural

Revitalization 2021, China's rural population is relatively old and relatively low in education level. The influence of age and educational background on cognitive ability limits rural residents' understanding of traditional village protection and development policies to a certain extent. This restriction also affects local residents' awareness of village protection and development. At present, a major obstacle to the protection and development of Chinese traditional villages is the backward consciousness of local villagers. Many villagers think that villages only have the function of production and life, and they do not realize the precious historical and cultural value of villages. At the same time, the publicity of relevant protection policies is not in place, which makes the villagers have a low understanding of the policies and do not realize the important significance of traditional village protection [1].

3.2.2 Problems of excavation and utilization of village culture

Through the interview, it is found that the current government's exploration of traditional culture in Xihe village mainly focuses on the protection and utilization of traditional buildings and wood oil extraction technology, and shows little in the aspects of food and festival activities. Therefore, compared with other traditional villages, Xihe Village fails to fully demonstrate its uniqueness and has limited attraction for tourists. Studies have shown that when tourists visit ancient villages, they are more willing to live in traditional buildings with a variety of traditional experiences to feel the historical atmosphere of a region than the modern accommodation environment [5]. This shows that the history and culture of a region is a key factor in attracting tourists. In terms of cultural expression, the cultural activities carried out by the government in Xihe Village have not been fully recognized by local villagers. The cultural activities carried out by the government did not fully cooperate and communicate with the local residents, and the residents' participation in them was not high. The local government has invited the art troupe to perform on the theme of Xihe Village. However, the performance was not fully recognized by the villagers, who believed that it did not fully show the local cultural characteristics of Xihe Village and was somewhat divorced from the local culture. In the process of protecting and developing traditional villages in China, homogenization is a serious phenomenon. The development mode of Chinese traditional villages is mainly to transform their own traditional culture into economic resources. However, under this development model, there is a lack of development planning for the characteristics of different traditional villages, which leads to more problems in culture and society. At the same time, as capital enters the development of traditional villages, many capitals commercialize culture under the banner of traditional villages. This phenomenon not only destroys the uniqueness of local culture, but also gradually forms a homogenized tourism development model [7].

3.2.3 Problems of village infrastructure

The interview shows that some infrastructure in Xihe Village is still lacking. In addition to agricultural activities, local villagers will also rely on the mountain to collect wild fruits and vegetables to increase their family income. However, the roads up the mountain are not well equipped to use machines. At the same time, the distribution of wild fruits and vegetables picked is more random, and there is no artificial planning, so the difficulty and consumption of picking is large, and the profit obtained is limited. So the job's appeal to young people in Xihe village is limited. At present, farmers have a high pursuit of economic benefits [6]. When they choose a job, they consider the economic benefits brought by the job. However, affected by the local infrastructure in Xihe Village, the profit brought by picking wild fruits and vegetables and selling them is less than the cost of investment, so it is difficult for young people to accept this job. However, as the main force of contemporary rural development, youth play a key role in rural development. In order to promote the healthy and sustainable development of traditional villages, it is very important to retain young people. Therefore, infrastructure plays an important role in the development of villages. It is not only an important part of traditional villages, but also undertakes important production and living functions of local residents [7]. Solving the problem of infrastructure is of great significance for village development.

4. Suggestion

4.1. Strengthen the Publicity of Village Protection Policies

Affected by their cognitive ability, residents of traditional villages generally have a low understanding of local village protection policies, and their own protection awareness of traditional villages is relatively weak, which affects the participation of residents in local protection and development policies. Therefore, the government should strengthen the publicity of relevant policies, interpret the contents of relevant policies, help local residents better understand the policies, improve the awareness of the importance of traditional villages, and enhance the enthusiasm of villagers to participate in the implementation of relevant policies. Due to their long-term existence in the village, the indigenous residents in traditional villages have formed traditions such as language, unique lifestyle and value system in the interaction with the local ecological environment system [7]. Therefore, local villagers are irreplaceable practice subjects in village protection. Improving their awareness of traditional village protection, understanding of relevant policies and participation in policy implementation are of great significance for traditional village protection.

4.2. Cooperate to Explore Local Culture

Through the interview, it is found that the current exploration and utilization of local traditional culture in Xihe village mainly focuses on traditional architecture and oil extraction technology, and less on other aspects of traditional culture. The government can deepen communication and cooperation with local villagers and fully understand the cultural needs of local villagers. Invite corresponding cultural performance teams to cooperate with local villagers to carry out some unique local cultural activities to enhance the attraction of the village to tourists [8]. At the same time, the local traditional culture in other aspects can be explored, such as special snacks, traditional festival activities, etc., in order to improve the attraction of the village. Rural traditional villages with farming civilization as the core are the core contents of traditional village protection [9]. Therefore, exploring the local traditional culture in various aspects is an important part of the protection of traditional villages. At the same time, the local culture of the village is also an important symbol to show the uniqueness of the village. Fully exploring village culture is not only conducive to the protection of villages, but also can show the uniqueness of villages, enhance the attractiveness of villages, and contribute to the development of villages.

4.3. Improve Infrastructure

Under the background of China's rural revitalization, developing rural characteristics according to local conditions is an important measure of rural revitalization. Xihe Village is located in the mountains, relying on the mountains is an important way of life for the local villagers. Picking wild vegetables and fruits is an important way for the villagers of Xihe Village to increase their income. However, the lack of infrastructure limits the benefits of this way, and it is relatively less attractive for young people to engage in this work. Therefore, the government can combine the local natural environment, customs and culture, improve the corresponding road facilities, facilitate the local villagers to go up the mountain to pick wild vegetables, wild fruits, etc., promote the local youth to participate in the corresponding work, and inject new vitality into the village development.

5. Conclusion

Through interviews and literature review, this paper believes that local villagers have high enthusiasm for the protection and development of the village. Under the guidance of the policy, the villagers actively participated in the protection and development of the village and made important contributions. The government also plays an important role in the protection and development of the village. By giving full play to Xihe Village's own historical and cultural advantages, the local government attracts capital to join, and provides sufficient funds and a good development platform

for the village development. At the same time, the government brought in a professional team to provide professional design for the renovation of the village. And cooperate with local villagers to build and improve tourism service facilities, dig local culture, protect local traditional architecture, attract foreign tourists, and bring a lot of tourism income to the local. However, there are still some problems in the development and protection of Xihe Village. Local residents' understanding of the protection and development policies of traditional villages varies greatly, so it is necessary to strengthen the popularization of relevant policies for local residents, enhance their awareness and responsibility for the protection and development of traditional villages, and encourage them to participate more deeply in the protection and development. The government's cultural exploration of the village is not comprehensive enough. It needs to strengthen cultural cooperation with local residents, carry out corresponding cultural activities, highlight the unique culture of Xihe Village, and enhance the attraction of the village to tourists. At the same time, on the basis of cooperation with local residents to carry out cultural activities, the government should accept the guidance of professionals to improve the quality of cultural activities. Further improve the village infrastructure, make full use of the resources in the mountains, help villagers on the road to prosperity, attract more young people to return to work, retain local young people, and provide more strength support for the protection and development of the village.

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