

Research on the Construction Strategy of Rural Community Space in China

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Abstract. This study takes the construction strategy of rural community space as the research object, combines the objectives of the rural revitalization strategy in the new era in China, and clarifies the goals and successful experiences of rural community space creation by analyzing relevant cases created by communities in Taiwan, China. Combining the multidisciplinary perspective, we will comprehensively sort out the current strategies for the construction of rural community space in China from the aspects of material space, industrial space and social space construction:1) The local superior resources should be fully utilized, and the multi-party cooperation strategy should be adopted to guide the villagers to participate in all stages of rural community construction, management and operation.2) We should build an interactive mechanism between rural community space construction and the healthy development of the local economy, so as to achieve sustainable development of rural communities.

1 Introduction

"Community" refers to the regional living environment in which people live together, including multi-dimensional meanings of life, history, industry, culture and environment, and implies the emotional consciousness of "hometown" [1]. Community construction takes public participation as the core, emphasizing that residents take their own needs as the starting point to participate in community construction, and at the same time generate community identity when participating [2]. The core issue of community space construction is human participation. It is the emotional bond that maintains the community residents living in the same community space. It also improves the community living environment. From this point of view, the construction of rural communities is consistent with the development strategy of the current rural construction in China from the "construction type" to the "governance type" model. General Secretary Xi Jinping put forward the strategy of rural revitalization in the report of the 19th National Congress, pointing out that priority should be given to the development of agriculture and rural areas, and in accordance with the general requirements of industrial prosperity, ecological habitability, rural civilization, effective governance, and affluent life, establish and improve the institutional mechanism for urban and rural integration development. The policy system will accelerate the modernization of agriculture and rural areas. On the basis of guaranteeing "locality", activating the inner viability of the village and realizing the sustainable development of the countryside is the main work of rural revitalization.

2 Research on the construction of rural community space

2.1 Elements of rural community space

Rural community space creation is a complex, long and repetitive development process driven by multiple factor [3]. Community building in Japan is the beginning of overall community building in a real sense. Professor Kiyoshi Miyazaki of Chiba University in Japan advocates that the issues of community building can be divided into five categories: "people", "culture", "land", "production" and "landscape"(Figure1). These five categories cover the five factors that influence the community's specific participants, local history and culture, regional characteristics, economic industries and local landscapes. The structural relationship between the various elements reflects the relationship between production, ecology and life, and thus they occupy an equally important position in the construction of rural community space.

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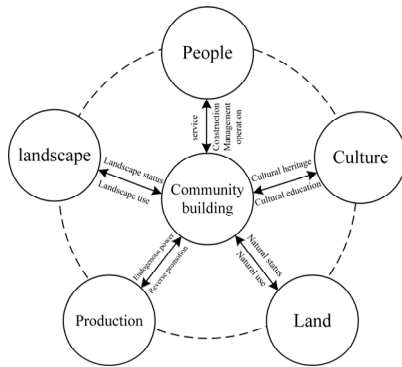


Fig. 1. The relationship between "people", "culture", "land", "production", "landscape" and the community building

2.2 Spatial characteristics of traditional Chinese rural communities

2.2.1 Diversity of community space

The rural community space is usually based on the daily life and production of local residents. It is not only a geographical space but also a social space. The daily life of rural residents forms a spatial boundary, and the way of daily life shapes the spatial structure [4]. Whether it is the production space, living space, communication space for the villagers, or the belief space, commercial space, etc., it is closely related to the daily life of the villagers. In the process of production and life, the villagers spontaneously use or build some space to expand their production and life content. The lanes, ancient wells, ancient trees, old stage, courtyard, drying yard and other spaces in some traditional Chinese villages have become a space with great life and vitality, bearing the spontaneous needs of the villagers, production habits and cultural customs. The scale of these spaces is pleasant, the layout is disorderly and free, and the forms are rich and colourful. While satisfying the production and life of the villagers, it has greatly promoted the emotional exchanges of the villagers and enhanced the sense of belonging and cohesion of the community.

2.2.2 "Vernacular" of community space

The rural community space is like a natural and eclectic spatial structure that adds fun, natural beauty and return to the true flavour of the rural landscape, making it a strong local character [5]. In the Chinese countryside, these spaces are generally formed spontaneously, reflecting the most authentic living habits, lifestyles and local memories of people living here for generations. There is no gorgeous decoration, and it also reflects the construction techniques and local materials at that time [6]. These places are often important media that trigger the "collective memory" of residents.

2.2.3 Complexity of community space

The function of China's rural space is diverse and complex. This is a very distinctive and distinct local character. It is different from the unity of urban space. In China's rural areas, each specific space has many different functions and cultural connotations. For example, the drying space is a space formed by production. It not only bears the function of production and life, but also serves as a public space for the villagers to communicate and communicate with each other, and plays an important role in the rural communities of China. The diversification of the functions of rural space is essentially the type of space spontaneously formed from the actual production needs of the people.

2.3 Problems in the current rural community space in China

2.3.1 The dislocation of the construction subject of community space

China has been affected by policies such as the new rural construction in 2003 and the new rural community construction explicitly proposed by the Party Central Committee in 2009. The government, as a top-level designer and policy and funding provider, has replaced the traditional space-building subject – villagers, play an important role in rural construction [6]. The top-down construction model of the government as a top-level designer has improved the material space of the villagers' living to a certain extent. However, due to the neglect of the actual needs of the villagers during the construction process, the spatial scale imbalance, the spatial form and function are relatively simple, the trend of community-based urban construction is obvious, and the residents' sense of identity is poor will be caused. At the same time, because villagers have long been affected by this model, they have insufficient understanding of rural community construction. Most villagers will think that the government is the dominant force in rural construction and the organizer and promoter of rural construction. If there is no government guidance in the future, local rural construction will lose its direction.

2.3.2 The destruction and extinction of traditional rural space

In the early days of China's reform and opening up, due to the collapse of the communes, the separation of political and social organizations, and the reform of the household contract system, the collective consciousness of the villagers was weakened, the exchanges between the villagers were reduced, the public collective activities were difficult to organize, and the role of internal public opinion was weakened. With the further development of the social economy, the rural society has gradually changed from an "acquaintance society" to a "semi-acquaintance society". The private consciousness of the villagers has further intensified, and the private space has continued to expand. At the same time, the unfavourable construction atmosphere such as rebuilding

and cultivating foreigners has severely separated the continuity of local memories in the process of rural construction and weakened the sense of belonging of the villagers to their hometowns. The traditional functions of street, drying, ancient wells and ancestral halls have gradually lost their diverse functions. The traditional rural space has begun to undergo apoptosis, and the local memory has become blurred.

3 Case studies on community building in Taiwan, China

The Taomi Community is located in Puli Town, Nantou County, Taiwan, China. It was originally known as "Taomili" and is a small mountain village with a total area of 18 square kilo-meters and a large number of animal and plant resources and river wetlands. Before 1999, like other traditional villages, it experienced problems such as agricultural economic recession, population aging, and environmental damage. In 1999, Taomi Li became the focus of an earthquake. More than half of the households in the village were seriously damaged, but they suddenly exposed the social problems of Taomi Village and caused reflections from all walks of life.

3.1 Constructed subject

The construction of the Taomi community adopts a bottom-up organization, including the new hometown foundation, the grassroots government, the teachers and students of Ji-nan University, and the community residents [7]. In the process of community construction, the grassroots government did not over-intervene as a leading force, mainly providing financial support; Ji-nan University teachers and students community to provide technical support; Hometown Foundation as a platform for mutual communication between the participating entities, actively guide Community residents participate in community construction; community residents, as the leading force in community construction, actively participate in knowledge training and participate in the restoration and remediation of the ecological environment. As the core of community construction, community residents have formed a strong cohesive force and participated in community building, which is the key to the success of the Taomi community.

3.2 Ecological industry support

The construction of rural community space should focus on excavating the characteristics of rural natives, fostering the autonomy of rural non-agricultural production, promoting the common development of diversified industries, and enabling the sustainable development of rural community space with the support of diversified industries. Based on the rich and unique frog species in the region, Taomi Village vigorously develops the characteristic theme industry featuring the "Frog Republic" and attracts a large number of tourists from all over the world. In 2014, with the peach rice as

the prototype, the frog family searched for the peach blossom source process, and created a very touching film of "Peach Frog Source". The industry of the peach rice community has moved from frog sightseeing and eco-tourism to film and television and media, and the industrial chain will continue to expand and grow.

3.2.3 Cultural support

Taomi Village is rich in ecological resources. There are 23 species of frogs in Taomi. With the help of local governments and organizations, the villagers of Taomi explore their potential resources and design frogs into various lovable cartoon characters. The landscape pieces are placed in a prominent position in the countryside. Local residents are strongly encouraged to use local materials to make handicrafts and carry on the inheritance of characteristic culture. After ten years of development, Taomi Village has become an ecological and cultural sightseeing experience leisure area.

3.3 Summary

In contrast, the community building in Taiwan is based on local residents, emphasizing the overall construction of the community, and formulating an industrial development model that suits the local conditions to reunite the cohesion of the community in response to the local economic decline and other issues.

4 China's rural community space construction strategy

4.1 Based on local residents, multi-party system cooperation

The construction of rural communities emphasizes the spontaneous creation activities under the influence of rural internal forces. Therefore, rural community residents are important subjects in community construction (Figure1). In order to protect the interests of residents in community construction, they should be multi-level and multi-channel. The method participates in the planning, design, construction and operation management stages of rural community construction (Figure2). Other participants should pay attention to the guidance of "bottom-up" participation of community residents, improve their enthusiasm and cohesion of participation, and support by relevant technologies, funds, policy guarantees and other aspects to arouse the endogenous power of "self-renewal" within rural communities.

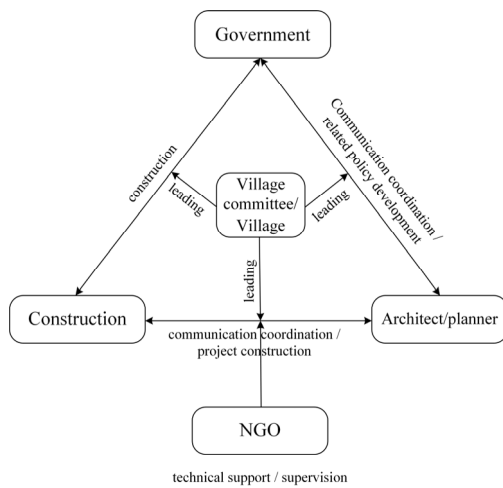


Fig. 2. "Village-led, multi-open cooperation" organizational model

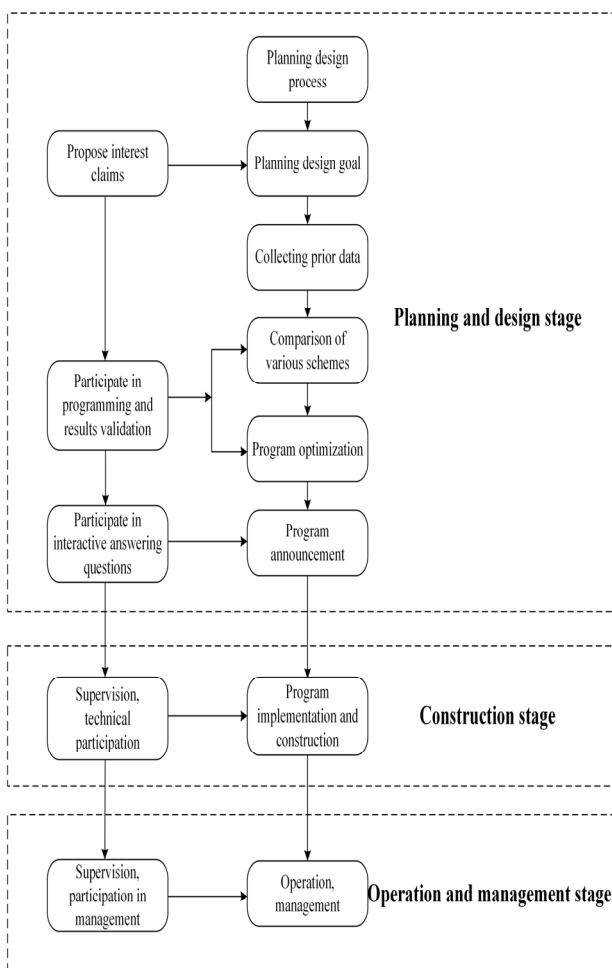


Fig. 3. Villagers participate in the process

4.2 Dual Construction of Rural Community Space and Rural Social Relationship

In the traditional rural society, the drying grounds jointly produced by the villagers not only complete the functions of their production, but also play an important role in maintaining the collective cohesion of the local society as a public space for gathering and exchange

between villagers. Therefore, we can understand that if the constructed community space can appeal to the villagers and attract them to participate in certain activities on a regular basis, then this space can also create a fragment of rural social life while improving the quality of life of the community residents. This has a positive effect on the lack of cohesiveness within the rural areas and the unfamiliar improvement of social relations among residents.

4.3 Explore local advantages and improve the quality of human settlements

Because of its unique geographical environment and cultural tradition, the village has its unique local nature. The rural space and the built environment are highly dependent on the natural environment and traditional culture. Therefore, this kind of locality is hidden in every corner of the rural society. At the same time, the "innate advantages" of different regions in the material and cultural aspects are not the same, and have their unique appeal. Therefore, in the process of building rural community space, we must actively explore the advantages of its material and cultural level in the specific situation of rural communities, and explore ways to create space for its community. At the same time, we must combine the production and living habits of local residents, build a high-quality, popular community space type, create a platform for traditional culture to be interpreted, comprehensively improve the quality of rural human settlements, and let the local culture be passed down while letting the rural communities Get sustainable development.

4.4 Activating the viability of rural communities through the allocation of industries.

In rural communities, the development of industry is an important prerequisite for ensuring the sustainable development of local communities. If there is no suitable industry as the basis for the development of rural communities, the community consciousness of the villagers will be difficult to sustain. The development of rural communities needs to rely on the continuous support of internal forces. At this stage, due to the imbalance of urban and rural development, the phenomenon of rural population outflow and rural decay has intensified. Therefore, the efficient development of rural industries can promote the long-term effectiveness of the self-organization mechanism of rural society. The rural industry has been revitalized, which can guarantee the quality of life of community residents, stimulate their enthusiasm for community construction and maintenance, and further attract external talents and funds to participate in the development of rural society. Therefore, we should actively explore the rural superior resources, and develop the types of industries that adapt to the long-term development of local villages according to their own realities, thus promoting the sustainable development of local rural communities.

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