



An Exploration of the Status Quo of Traditional Villages After Scenic Transformation from the Perspective of Residents: A Case Study of Pengjiazhai

Yanchen Sun^(✉)

College of Arts, Hubei University, Wuhan, China
sunyanchen_v@163.com

Abstract. The scenic transformation of traditional villages has brought earth-shaking influence to the lives of the original residents in the villages. This paper takes Pengjiazhai as the research object and investigates its residents. It analyzes the current situation of residents in traditional villages in terms of living environment, life and sense of village value through questionnaires and interviews. The author proposed that it is necessary to pay attention to the demands and feelings of residents after the scenic transformation of traditional villages, and jointly manage and protect the village with residents, so as to ensure the healthy development of the traditional villages and create a harmonious relationship between the scenic spot and the people.

Keywords: Residents · Traditional villages · Scenic Transformation · Tujia nationality

1 Introduction

Pengjiazhai is located in the southwest of Shadaogou Town, Xuan'en County, Enshi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Hubei Province. In 2008, Pengjiazhai was designated as a provincial-level cultural relics protection unit in Hubei. Pengjiazhai is major historical and cultural sites protected at the national level. With the strong support of the government, it was listed in the fourth batch of "Chinese Historical and Cultural Villages" published by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and the State Administration of Cultural Heritage in 2009. [1] It is one of the first five "pilot villages for protection and development of minority villages" in Hubei. Under the leadership of the government, Pengjiazhai gradually became known to the world. Moreover, the government also gave many policies and financial support, and the protection and development of the historical and cultural heritage of Pengjiazhai were carried out and implemented smoothly. The Pengjiazhai scenic spot was gradually built, attracting a large number of tourists, but this also brought great changes to the lives of the original residents of Pengjiazhai.

2 Status Quo of Natural Landscape

Pengjia Village is located in the Guanyin Mountain which is near the mountains and rivers and backed by the lush. Stilted buildings cascade up, accompanied by the cultivation of bamboo whirling and green forest. [2] In front of the clear and verifiable Longtan River, the village extended long. The landscape is a vibrant field scenery. Wheat waves up and down. There is an iron cable bridge upon the Chajigou in front of the village, connecting with the mountain road opposite to the outside world. [3] At present, the village is lined with shady trees, and the large fields are well preserved. However, due to the development and the increase in the population of the village, the managers of the scenic spot had acquired a part of land for road paving, planning and renovation. Currently, much less land is used for planting than before. In Guanyin Mountain, there are many stone paving roads, mainly with different stone carving patterns, supplemented by words, also known as “Ping An Road”, which forms a unique scenery among the mountains.

3 Status Quo of Residents Live

3.1 Status Quo of Traffic and Facilities

Because the Pengjiazhai settled in the mountains, the contact with the outside world has been relatively poor, which is one of the important reasons for the relatively complete preservation of Pengjiazhai. Before the scenic spot was built, the communication between the village and the outside world was mainly made up of public buses. Residents could freely enter and exit the town by the bus costs 3 yuan, and it was very convenient for relatives to visit. Residents can go to Shadaogou town by bus to supplement daily needs or sell special products, so as to carry out sales activities. After the villagers' oral presentation, the author learned that since the establishment of the scenic spot, the village has been surrounded by the scenic spot, and the buses entering and leaving have been cancelled. Villagers have to walk far away before get on the bus. In addition, they can only seek help from leaders and friends, or rent vehicles to travel between the villages and towns.

According to the villagers, the road of scenic spot is not open to the public, the traffic is inconvenient. At present, the villagers enter and exist through face recognition, the gate of the scenic spot opens at 8 a.m. and locks at 5 p.m. When relatives visit, village residents also need to pick up people at the entrance of the scenic spot, but there is far away from the village, and each trip takes a long time.

Village infrastructure is not perfect, and there is a lack of street lights, people are inconvenient to move at night. There are snakes and beasts in the mountains, it is difficult and dangerous for people to get around once they are injured, but the problem is not solved. After the scenic spot was built, more tourists and more garbage were generated. Only one cleaning staff was responsible for the public areas in the village, so it was hard to take care of hygiene, and the number of garbage cans is relatively small.

3.2 Status Quo of Employment and Income

With the advent of the information age, the residents of the mountain villages have gradually come into contact with information from the outside world. Many villagers

have worked outside before the development, and their income is relatively considerable. In most of the farmer surveyed, young people are now or once used to work outside, and most of the left-behind households are the elderly. After the overall planning and development of Pengjiazhai, some young people in the village got the news of the development and planned to work in their hometown. Unfortunately, in the early stage of planning and development of the scenic spot, most of the required migrant workers are technicians, such as planners, architects, construction workers, drivers, etc., and these jobs require experienced or full-time personnel, so villagers can only participate in the simple work with less income. Because the villagers could not get satisfactory income from the pre-planning and development of the scenic spot, the number of people returning to their hometown was small. After the completion of the scenic spot, operation and maintenance of the scenic spot need a large number of personnel, because the residence is within the scenic spot, Pengjiazhai villagers have a natural advantage. The scenic spot will give priority to the residents of Pengjiazhai or nearby villages and towns as staff.

At present, the main income of local villagers can be divided into five parts: a. rural restaurant, b. free fruit and vegetable garden, c. picking of local herbs and agricultural products, d. homestay, e. working in the scenic spots. According to interviews and surveys, this income will fluctuate according to natural conditions and can be divided into two parts: daily and disaster. Take rural restaurant as an example. Before the epidemic disaster, the tourist flow of Pengjiazhai Scenic Spot was stable, and the annual income of the original villagers in the scenic spot could reach 250,000 to 300,000 yuan. But during the pandemic, with fewer tourists and only the occasional group study, the annual income fell to 50,000 to 100,000 yuan, so villagers looked for other ways to make money. For example, villagers will cultivate fields and grow vegetables in their spare time, and many tourists like to buy their produce. Then, they found that they could set up a farm garden and let visitors pick their own fruits and vegetables. They put the price of each fruit and vegetable on the brand, this is real self-help business, and they also get extra income to subsidize the family.

3.3 A Sense of Belonging to Hometown

Before the construction of the scenic spot, the village people flow is small, the villagers have a simple life. Many villagers have lived in Pengjiazhai for generations. Although living in Pengjiazhai is not as convenient as the city, but the neighborhood relationship is harmonious, interpersonal relationship is simple, life is very comfortable. After the scenic spot was built, there were more tourists in the village. Although occasionally disturbed, the villagers do not complain, but are very enthusiastic. [4] They hope that more people will visit the village to not only bring in income, but also meet more people and make more friends. When I interviewed most of the elderly residents, I found that they were satisfied with their lives. They had relatives and friends nearby. Although their children work outside, they are reluctant to leave their hometown because they are familiar with the living environment and have feelings for their hometown.

4 The Sense of Value Village

4.1 State of the Architectural Heritage

Pengjiashai stilted building Group is an important representative of the traditional architecture of the Tujia people, reflecting the culture and wisdom of the Tujia nationality. With the change of the times, many houses in Pengjiashai are vacant, in disrepair, and some have even collapsed. Fortunately, many scholars and government officials have recognized the importance of Pengjiashai stilted buildings to the diversification of ethnic minority buildings in my country, and issued a series of protection and repair measures. The stilted building has been refurbished, which obtained the recognition of the villagers. After that, the scenic spot and the government decided that local professionals should carry out unified repair and construction. Both the repaired and reconstructed buildings retain the unique characteristics and cultural spirit of Tujia nationality architecture. The residents of Pengjiashai also gradually realize that the buildings they live in are valuable cultural heritages. With the help of the government and the scenic spot, the villagers use the houses civilly and safely, so that the “living fossils” of Tujia stilted buildings in the Wuling Mountains will be preserved for a long time. Buildings need not only to be preserved, but also to be lived in. Only when people use buildings can they get better protection. [5].

4.2 Status Quo of Tujia Nationality Culture

In the torrent of the development of the times, Tujia nationality culture has undergone many changes, and the lives of residents have also entered into modernization. But in festivals and ordinary life, some original customs still retain, such as the ceremony of building site selection, house layout, waving dance, various folk songs, etc. The villagers treat tourists very warmly. When faced tourists’ doubts, the villagers will put down their work to communicate with tourists, and introduce the situation in the village and Tujia nationality culture to tourists in detail. Every tourist who comes to Pengjiashai can feel the simplicity and enthusiasm of the villagers, and can have a deeper understanding of the richness of Tujia nationality culture. Not only does Pengjiashai remain the diverse Tujia nationality culture after development, but also brings Tujia nationality culture to more tourists and the world, which greatly enhances the pride of Pengjiashai residents in Tujia nationality culture.

5 Conclusion

As a traditional village, Pengjiashai tries its best to preserve the original ecology of the village’s architecture and layout after being become a scenic spot, and constantly repairs the original buildings instead of demolishing and rebuilding. This is the part that all traditional villages need to learn when building scenic transformation. However, it is necessary to consider the living and spiritual needs of the residents after scenic transformation. According to the survey, after the traditional village is turned into a scenic spot, it will have a huge impact on the residents. As scenic spot developers and decision

makers, they should understand the needs of residents, and solve the problems for residents before and after development. The protection and development of characteristic traditional villages need to take national culture as the core. Primitive inhabitants are important carriers of the culture. Only with the participation of community residents can villages develop better and longer. Any development is inseparable from the active participation of local community residents. The fruits of village development should also benefit its residents.

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