



# Research on the Protection and Practice of Traditional Villages Under the Background of Folk Culture

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**Abstract.** Traditional villages have rich history and folk culture, which is the essence and crystallization of national culture. This paper discusses the “folk culture” of Shanxi Province, extends the research object to traditional villages, from three aspects of material folk culture, living folk culture and spiritual folk culture, and puts forward the strategies to protect and develop various folk cultures.

**Keywords:** folk culture · Shanxi Province · traditional villages · protection and practice

## 1 Introduction

With their unique natural and cultural resources, traditional villages represent the historical continuity of Chinese agricultural civilization. They are the root of life of the current revival of traditional culture, and the spiritual home that people reflect on and miss in the development of modern civilization. In recent years, the state and local governments have gradually intensified their efforts in the protection of traditional villages and poverty alleviation through tourism, and issued a series of policies such as “strengthening the protection of traditional villages and dwellings with historical and cultural value and ethnic and regional elements” [1]. It is an important task of the current rural revitalization strategy to revitalize the traditional villages that are neglected in the process of urbanization, promote the traditional culture, and let the rural people out of poverty and become rich. In this case, “most scholars believe that the development of tourism is the most important way to ensure the survival of villages and protect the traditional national culture” [2]. Good natural ecological environment, cultural atmosphere and the simple folk customs of traditional villages are the driving force of the market, attracting tourists and having high historical and cultural value. It is imperative to find a way to protect and develop these villages, while developing tourism without destroying the original ecology, and while improving the living conditions of the aborigines and benefiting the farmers. State, local governments and local villagers are working to protect traditional villages. Among the many protection measures, the inheritance and protection of folk culture cannot be ignored.

## 2 Folk Custom Elements of Traditional Villages in Shanxi Province

Traditional village folk customs include tangible material folk customs, intangible spiritual folk customs and social life behavior folk customs, and the material remains include the village form and traditional architectural landscape, such as village public space, cultural space, primitive dwellings, streets, religious rituals and custom buildings. Intangible folk custom activities include folk stories, traditional oral literature, traditional music, dance, art, opera, acrobatics, handicraft skills, festival customs, etc. [3].

### 2.1 Material Remains of Traditional Villages in Shanxi

Traditional villages in Shanxi Province can be physically divided into production and living relics, architectural and landscape relics, such as ancient villages, ancient castles, ancient roads, ancient crosses, ancient roads, ancient streets and alleys, etc. Ancient dwellings, millstones, Wells, production tools, water conservancy projects, as well as ancient temples, ancient towers, ancient arches, stone carving, summer vacation projects, carving, masonry, clay sculpture, painting and other landscape and cultural relics. At present, due to the lack of maintenance funds, a large number of ancient buildings and ancient dwellings in traditional villages are in a very poor maintenance state, and have been damaged. In recent years, some village buildings and traditional dwellings have been demolished due to the development of tourism, leading to its complete deterioration.

### 2.2 Preservation of Traditional Ancient Villages in Shanxi Province

Ancient villages in Shanxi have rich cultural resources and diversity. Shanxi has the largest number of preserved ancient villages in northern China, with 3,500 original ancient villages and more than 1,500 registered traditional villages. It is 959 precious, well-preserved traditional villages from the Yuan to Qing Dynasty, one of the oldest villages in China. In December 2018, 545 villages in Shanxi Province were selected into the National Traditional Village List in five batches, and nearly 300 traditional natural villages with good natural ecological environment and certain historical and cultural value were selected [4]. In addition, according to the statistics of the Shanxi Provincial Department of Housing and Construction, 500 traditional villages are on the verge of disappearing, while the rest are damaged to varying degrees. 27.4% are well preserved, 14.3% are on the verge of disappearing, and 58.3% are damaged [5]. These traditional villages are not only an important cultural heritage for the local rural production and life, but also reflect the strong local history, natural, geographical and cultural characteristics, but also are the non-renewable tourism resources with potential use value. Therefore, strengthening the protection of traditional villages and rationally developing and utilizing the resources such as dwellings, folk customs and landscapes passed down from generation to generation will play an important role in promoting the revitalization of traditional villages.

**Table 1.** Statistical Table of Provincial Intangible Cultural Heritage Projects in Shanxi Province (self drawn)

project	folklore	Traditional music	Traditional dance	Traditional drama	quyi	Traditional sports competition and acrobatics	Traditional art	traditional skill	Traditional medicine	folk custom	tofe	ranking
Yuncheng City	17	5	10	10	4	2	18	21	14	11	112	1
Linfen	7	9	15	10	5	6	10	0	5	16	83	2
Changzhi	8	5	5	6	8	1	10	20	1	11	75	3
Jinzhong	3	2	12	4	1	6	10	15	11	9	73	4
Jinseong	10	3	8	8	5	0	7	12	2	8	63	5
Taiyuan	5	3	5	4	1	7	7	20	2	6	60	6
Luliang	5	9	4	7	2	1	6	11	1	4	50	7
Xinzhou	0	5	8	4	0	1	6	13	0	9	46	8
Great Harmony	1	5	1	9	1	0	5	5	0	0	27	9
Yangquan	1	1	4	0	1	0	2	5	0	2	16	10
Sakchu	1	1	2	3	0	0	1	3	0	2	13	11
amount to	58	48	74	65	28	24	82	125	36	78	618	0

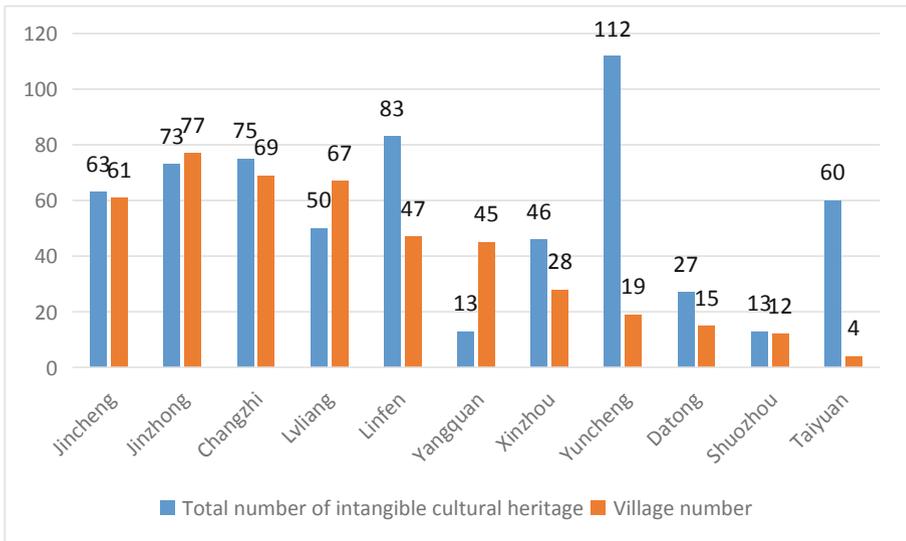
### 2.3 Intangible Cultural Heritage Resources of Traditional Villages in Shanxi Province

It can be seen from the data in Table 1 and Fig. 1 that traditional villages in Shanxi Province are orally distributed and have some intangible aggregates, which is evident from the number of traditional villages in Jincheng, Jinzhong and Changzhi. Meanwhile, using the GWR (geographic weighted regression model) formula:

$$\gamma_i = \beta(u_i + v_i) + \sum_m \beta_m(u_i, v_i)x_{im} + \varepsilon_i$$

The dependent variable is  $\gamma_i$ , the value of the independent variable parameter  $x_m$  is  $x_{im}$  in the spatial position  $i$ ,  $x_{im}$  the coordinate of the spatial position  $i$  is  $(u_i, v_i)$ , the breakpoint in the regression equation is represented by  $\beta_0(u_i, v_i)$ ,  $m$  is the number of independent variables in the model, and  $\varepsilon_i$  is the error term. The exploration of the important influence factors affecting the accessibility level has important practical significance for the practical protection and further reasonable development of the villages. It can be seen that although Luliang, Linfen, Yangquan and other places are also rich in intangible resources, although the intangible resources of Yuncheng are relatively high in the whole province, the number of traditional villages is also relatively large compared with other cities. Therefore, the protection level of traditional villages is relatively high and has certain research value.

Based on these related data, it is believed that the author is necessary to explore the characteristics of the intangible cultural heritage resources shaped by the regional differences in Shanxi Province from the perspective of folklore, and to develop the tourism



**Fig. 1.** Coupling diagram of the distribution of traditional villages and the number of intangible cultural heritage items in Shanxi Province (self drawn)

of traditional villages in Shanxi Province selectively according to local conditions, so as to realize the integration of culture and tourism.

### **3 Countermeasures to Protect Traditional Villages Under the Background of Folk Culture**

#### **3.1 Establish Folk Culture as the Focus of Tourism Development Concept and the Focus of Work**

Rural agricultural culture is the traditional village in Shanxi, the foundation of the continuation and development of modern society, highlight local characteristics, in the province typical cultural resources, historical and cultural village on the basis of tourism development, good to introduce capital and traditional village project, design and construction of a batch of local memorial, folk culture village and folk museum building as the carrier of historical village [6]. Folk cultural resources physical or digital form of revival use, targeted to develop some brigade integration projects, such as display intangible cultural heritage and tourist participation and experience, myths and legends and folk literature, folk music, dance and drama, commercial drama and non-material resources, to create a batch of traditional rural tourism products.

#### **3.2 Straighten Out the Management Mode, and Scientifically Formulate Plans for the Protection of Traditional Villages and the Development of Tourism**

Due to the rich folk cultural heritage resources in Shanxi Province, high use value, the traditional village tourism development should follow the “protection, rescue first, rational utilization, inheritance and development” policy, correctly handle the protection of traditional village cultural landscape, genetic plug-ins and tourism development, cultural innovation, play a leading role, according to the traditional village tourism development planning to scientific and reasonable, heritage protection, village development and the relationship between the villagers’ income. In the tour in the planning of, leave space for the villagers’ daily life, help the village old house residents for simple transformation, recommend tourists, encourage the villagers to participate in tourism development, eventually establish the government guidance, social capital investment, public participation, in the proper implementation of land circulation, rational use of land development, on the basis of the development of traditional rural tourism management mode.

#### **3.3 Explore Cultural Characteristics, Enhance Cultural Creativity, and Enrich Rural Folk Tourism Products**

The special regional characteristics of the Yellow River folk culture, farming culture, border fortress culture, seeking roots and ancestors culture, and commercial customs in Shanxi show its cultural status as one of the cradles of Chinese civilization, and it can use the folk characteristics of different cultures to develop high-value tourism. Each village can combine its own natural characteristics, folk customs and the maturity of the tourism market, and develop the rural food experience, folk performances, traditional handicrafts, and the design and sales of cultural and creative products.

### **3.4 Revitalization the Rural Economy and Expand the Local Tourism Industry Chain**

According to the traditional six elements of “food, accommodation, transportation, travel and entertainment” and the resource differences in different regions of Shanxi Province, we strive to establish a complete industrial chain of traditional village tourism development, that is, through land transfer, integration of local resources, large-scale production of agricultural and sideline products, local raw materials, and local dishes reflecting local cultural characteristics. The village has become a platform for displaying local folk customs, culture and traditional skills. Strive to adopt catering, accommodation and tourism services, consider converting some bungalows into hotels; attract tourists through traditional folk arts such as wedding culture, steamed bread culture, farming experience, dance performances, opera performances and martial arts as rural tourism products, produce tourism commodities through paper cutting, embroidery and cloth art of traditional handicraft skills, and implement cooperative operation mode or industrialization development. Organize and encourage young villagers or returning villagers to study actively, make full use of modern e-commerce and Internet technology, integrate the folk tourism products in the village, jointly create a market, carry out advertising, and improve the marketing industry chain of traditional tourism development in the village.

### **3.5 Establish a Mechanism for Protecting the Interests of Rural Civil Society Organizations, and Attach Importance to the Inheritance and Protection of Rural Cultural Heritage**

The protection and tourism development of traditional villages in Shanxi not only need to pay attention to improving the material life of villagers, increase their income, protect and respect their traditional lifestyle and aesthetic habits, but also need to meet their spiritual and cultural needs and improve their happiness as much and way as possible. But also should pay attention to protect the interests of the human genetic carrier, establish a set of scientific and effective national folk genetic protection mechanism, try to restore the traditional ceremony in the village, find the elderly do oral history, through local Chronicles, oral documents and data, etc., restore the folk culture in the village, such as marriage, ancestor worship, genealogy, genealogy, family precepts, etc. As long as the culture and heritage of traditional villages are guaranteed systematically, the ecological development of traditional villages will be guaranteed.

## **4 Conclusion**

Under the current national rural revitalization strategy, many traditional villages in the modern tourist attractions in Shanxi Province, is not only the natural village landscape and the beautiful landscape architecture, but also behind the agricultural civilization and ancestral culture of folk culture resources and carry forward, the inheritance of rural folk customs is the traditional village survival of the cultural spirit and soul. With traditional village folk culture as the overall space, the traditional village cultural resources into a new era of creative industry, is both the requirement of protecting and inheriting

the traditional culture, and the traditional village to adapt to the modern, healthy and sustainable development road, only dominated by the government, with the traditional interests of the villagers as the main requirements, is the scientific and social interests cooperation management mechanism, effectively protect the vitality of the traditional village.

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