

Study on the Origin and Inheritance of Bamboo-bell Ball in Shizhu Tujia Autonomous County*

Caixia Jiang
Sports College
Southwest University
Chongqing, China 400715

Hao Qin
School Artistic Group
Dianjiang County No. 5 Middle School
Chongqing, China 408317

Abstract—Based on the analysis and combing of the research theories related to the inheritance and development of national traditional sports at home and abroad, this paper comprehensively applies the mathematical statistics and literature data to the historical origin, current inheritance situation and inheritance dilemma of the bamboo-bell ball project in Shizhu Tujia Autonomous County of Chongqing. The research and discussion shows that the inheritance method of bamboo-bell balls in Shizhu County lacks innovation; the original environment has been changed with the lack of self-identity; there is improper development, project alienation and backward management mechanism, etc. If they want to get out of the predicament, it is necessary to establish the protection and development principle of "culture-oriented", to use "inheritance and innovation" as the driving force for development, to take "educational inheritance" as the means of development, and to set "system construction" as the development guarantee.

Keywords—Shizhu Tujia Autonomous County; bamboo-bell ball; inheritance; development

I. INTRODUCTION

As an important part of Tujia sports culture and Tujia traditional history and culture, bamboo-bell ball has its distinctive national characteristics and regional characteristics reflecting the customs and lifestyles of the Tujia people. The unique geographical and cultural environment is the native soil of the bamboo-bell ball. However, along with the development of the economy and the changes in the way of life, the original environment has been constantly changed, and the bamboo-bell ball has gradually lost its foundation of inheritance and development. Under the impact of modern sports culture, the transformation of social consciousness and the transformation of visual culture, the traditional naturalistic and empirical bamboo bell movements are severely challenged. Based on this, in order to better preserve this traditional national sports project with Tujia nationality, and to deal with the practical problems in its development and inheritance, it is necessary to use the current inheritance status as the starting point, explore the root causes of the inheritance dilemma, and discover the development path and ideas of bamboo-bell ball in Shizhu Tujia Autonomous

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County.

At present, there are few studies on bamboo bell balls. In the research on the inheritance and development of bamboo-bell ball, He Jiayu believes: "The change of people's lifestyle and the destruction of the original basic environment, the backward way of inheritance, the impact of modern sports culture, the lags of management mechanism and the inferiority variation of the project itself are the relevant factors affecting the development of the Tujia bamboo-bell ball [1]". Liu Mengli believes that the development path of bamboo bell balls is: "Pay attention to the carrying-out of activities, improve the rules, enhance the athleticism of sports, combine it with the curriculum of universities and ethnic areas, and carry out commercial packaging promotion.[2]" Through the review of the literature, the existing theoretical research mostly stays at the analysis of the status quo of the inheritance status, and lacks the systematic analysis of the economic and social environment system in which the bamboo bell is built in the development. Based on this perspective, this study will analyze the bamboo-bell ball of the Shizhu Tujia Autonomous County. Through the analysis of the current status of the bamboo bell balls, it will be helpful for exploring the development ideas and paths of bamboo-bell ball in Shizhu Tujia Autonomous County.

II. OVERVIEW OF BAMBOO-BELL BALL IN SHIZHU COUNTY

A. Bamboo-bell Ball in Shizhu County

Shizhu Tujia Autonomous County (referred to as Shizhu County) is located in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, east of Chongqing, the south bank of the Yangtze River and the center of the Three Gorges Reservoir area. It is a special autonomous county, a submerged county in the Three Gorges reservoir area and a special poverty alleviation special county.

Shizhu County is dominated by Tujia, and there are 29 ethnic groups including Han, Miao, Uygur, Yi, Li, Dai, Wa, Bai, Shui and Tu. [3] Shizhu County has won many honorary titles, and was once rated as "the hometown of Chinese folk culture and art" and "the second batch of national tourism demonstration zones". This autonomous county with ethnic minorities is rich in diverse traditional sports of ethnic

minorities. At present, the projects that have been well-received include bamboo-bell ball, sky-earth ball, and swinging dances.

In the Tujia bamboo-bell ball movement in China, the Shizhu Tujia bamboo-bell ball is far ahead and has an unshakable position. As a representative traditional sports project in Shizhu County, it has achieved remarkable achievements. In September 2011, Shizhu County's own Tujia bamboo-bell ball performance project won a silver medal in the National Minority Traditional Sports Games held in Guiyang. On August 15, 2015, the Shizhu County National Middle School representative team participated in the Chongqing Municipality. The 10th National Minority Traditional Sports Games held in Inner Mongolia won the first and second prizes. Among them, "Bamboo-bell Ball" won the first prize, "Grab the Sky-earth Ball," won the second prize, and was praised and paid attention by many media such as CCTV and Guiyang TV. [4]

B. The Origin of the Bamboo-bell Ball

The bamboo-bell ball is a sport that the Tujia people have developed in the long-term production and living, and is a traditional folk sports program that the Tujia people express their joy and celebration during the festival. This is a competitive and interesting traditional sports project that the Tujia people like. Currently, it is mainly distributed in Shizhu Tujia Autonomous County.

The origin of the bamboo-bell ball is very early, and there are many sayings. In the book "Bamboo-bell Ball" written by the inheritor of the Zhuling Ball in the National Middle School of the Shizhu National Heritage Base, he compiled the origin of three kinds of bamboo-bell ball. "Entertainment Saying" says that in the Tujia mountainous area, when the valley is "rush-in-harvest" every autumn, the local rich bamboo has gradually become an important prop for the Tujia children's games. "Dispute Saying" says that according to the legend, the Tujia ancestors were naturally distributed because of their surnames, bloodlines and geographies, and they were controversial in order to divide the geographical boundaries and the property of nearby fields, or to divide the ownership of trees and fruits. In order to live peacefully and resolve disputes, after the harvest, in the season, the children's backs are equipped with blue bamboo bells as tools. The two sides of the dispute sent equal numbers of strong people to compete for bamboo bells to make the bells be on their own back (the metaphor to grab the precious fruit) to resolve the dispute. In the Qing Dynasty, Yongzheng implemented the period of "reconstruction of the land". The Tujia people in the barbaric land are considered to be bold and open and dare to love and hate. In particular, the marriage and love customs are incompatible with the traditional ritual system, so the Tujia "daughter club" is banned. However, the "daughter club" of the Tujia nationality was held in other names in the middle and late Qing dynasty, but it was not as straightforward as it used to be. Men and women gather to play games. In the game, they use pack baskets in their lives and the bamboo-bell balls that children used to play, pitching and catching the ball (using the ball to pick up the ball), which gradually forms a new

form of marriage between young men and women of Tujia, which also combines the Han Chinese throwing hydrangea element [4]. "Bamboo-bell ball not only exercises the body, but also reflects the rich and unique culture of the Tujia people."

III. THE STATUS QUO OF BAMBOO-BELL BALL

A. The Traditional Inheritance Model Has Been Broken and the Inheritance Method Lacks Innovation

With the holding of various types of national sports games, the development of urban and rural folk activities, and the support of various government policies, it seems that Shizhu bamboo-bell ball is prospering. But many people blindly look at the prosperity of the surface, instead of knowing that the traditional inheritance mode of "speaking and preaching" is gradually broken, and the inheritance of Shizhu bamboo-bell ball is facing a serious crisis.

Tujia bamboo-bell ball is mainly passed down in the performance of collective activities, such as important festivals, gatherings and celebrations. Although this form is entertaining and can enrich people's cultural life, such a way of inheritance is difficult to form a systematic channel, which is not conducive to theoretical summary.

With the support of various government policies, bamboo-bell ball began to develop in schools and opened up the inheritance way of school education. According to the survey, on September 27, 2011, the Shizhu County government conducted a special study on the promotion of Tujia bamboo-bell ball, requiring all units to concentrate on the bamboo-bell ball movement in Shizhu County, and form a team to improve the ornamental, competitive, entertaining and characteristics like these of bamboo-bell ball, and then organized into a book that is officially published. In the same year, Shizhu County invested 5 million yuan to implement the "Four-A" project, which was to compile a set of bamboo-bell ball teaching materials, set up a traditional physical education class, run a training class, and fight for a national traditional sports competition project, which can comprehensively promote the national tradition sports project Tujia bamboo-bell ball. In 2011, the Shizhu County Board of Education, with the support of the County Party Committee and the County Sports Bureau, promoted Tujia bamboo-bell ball to counties and townships, and organized bamboo ball competitions in primary and secondary schools. Bamboo-bell ball stepped into the middle and primary schools. Shizhu Tujia bamboo-bell ball has started to develop in some middle schools headed by Shizhu Nationality Middle School "Bamboo-bell Ball Passing Base". In Shizhu County Ethnic Middle School, each class has 4 class hours per week. The school also organized off-campus competitions and training to incorporate Tujia bamboo-bell ball into the school games. However, among the 65 primary and secondary schools in Shizhu County, most of the primary and secondary schools have not carried out or suspended the teaching of bamboo-bell ball. Only a few schools are teaching bamboo-bell ball.

B. The Original Environment Has Been Changed with the Lack of Self-identity

The unique geographical and human environment is the original soil of bamboo-bell ball. The bamboo-bell ball originated from the rural labor production process and rises in the rural folk activities. However, with the rapid development of rural economy in Shizhu County in recent years, the changing lifestyle, the imbalance of the population structure left in the countryside, the original environment of the bamboo-bell ball is constantly being changed, and the bamboo-bell ball has gradually lost its foundation of inheritance and development.

Under the impact of modern sports culture, compared with the richness of competitive sports, the nationality of traditional sports is no longer able to stimulate their interest. The younger generation lacks a sense of identity with their own culture and does not have a strong sense of responsibility and a sense of mission to protect and inherit national traditional culture. Therefore, most of the young people in Shizhu County do not play bamboo-bell ball, which directly leads to the inheritance of Tujia bamboo-bell ball and their development become unsustainable. Their social consciousness has changed, and the bamboo-bell ball sport full of traditional naturalism and empiricism has been severely challenged.

C. Improper Development, Project Alienation

Partial support from government policies and funds and the rapid development of characteristic tourism in ethnic minority areas in Shizhu County in recent years make bamboo-bell ball enriched and developed as a national activity that can be both performed and contested. This seems to be very happy, but the illusion of superficial prosperity also hides the fatal weakness, that is, the tendency of the Tujia bamboo-bell ball to become alienated and utilitarian. In the development of the bamboo-bell ball business, it becomes quick success. In order to pursue the interests, the Tujia bamboo-bell ball is arbitrarily written and developed insufficiently, which led to a serious decline in its attractiveness. The deterioration of this utilitarianism has caused the Tujia bamboo-bell ball to face recession or extinction.

D. Management Mechanism Is Lagging Behind

There are many problems in the process of industrialization of bamboo-bell ball, but its management and operation lacks specialized departments and management personnel. The teaching and inheritance of bamboo-bell ball in Shizhu County schools are under the responsibility of the Sports Health and Arts Branch of Education Commission, but only one staff member of the County Sports Committee Office is doing research and statistical work. The determined inheritor is only a teacher named Jin Chenggang, and the number of teachers who can undertake the task of bamboo-bell ball sports teaching is no more than five. Many Tujia areas have also been gradually localized, and the population that participates in the bamboo-bell ball has been greatly reduced. This is the embarrassing

situation in which the Tujia bamboo-bell ball has been left out.

Since the economic benefits brought by the Tujia bamboo-bell ball is weaker than other industries and ignored by the people, most officials do not realize the importance of the traditional sports culture of a nation to their nation, and they are not aware of traditional national sports which can bring to the local with spiritual and cultural life and national pride. It can be seen from such condition data that the management and development of the bamboo-bell ball has reached a level that can not be optimistic.

IV. CONCLUSION

A. Establishing the "Culture-oriented" Principle of Protection and Development

Many national traditional sports forms are preserved, but the roots of their culture are gradually losing. Many people blindly look at the surface prosperity, but do not rethink on the ultimate purpose of protecting and developing national traditional sports. Therefore, the awakening of the people's inheritance and development of the cultural significance of the bamboo-bell ball is placed in the primary position and basic principles. Otherwise, the protection and development of bamboo-bell ball can only become a superficial article, and it can only become a phenomenon that "its shell is still there, but it does not exist."

B. Taking "Inheritance and Innovation" as the Driving Force for Development

Breaking the traditional way of inheriting the words and deeds, changing the structure of a single inheritor, using modern media tools to digitally preserve bamboo-bell ball related materials. The digital resources of texts, pictures, sound recordings, and images that are conducive to preservation, such as the origin, methods, and activity rules of bamboo bells, are stored in local archives or placed in the portal of Shizhu Sports Bureau for study by researchers or promotion.

C. Taking "Educational Inheritance" as a Means of Development

The school is the cradle of sports. The school is the most important bamboo-bell ball inheritance base. The bamboo-bell ball has fewer requirements on equipment, and the rules and methods of development are diversified. Its own nationality, interest, safety, competitiveness, education characteristics is suitable for developing in school teaching, integrating into national sports curriculum as a school-based curriculum development, increasing the diversity of campus culture, strengthening the training of bamboo-bell ball for school teachers, forming a systematic teaching method of bamboo bells and speeding up the construction of bamboo-bell ball. These will be more conducive to the promotion and popularization of bamboo-bell ball in schools.

D. Taking "Mechanism Construction" as the Development Guarantee

The government has formulated corresponding policies to provide guarantees for the development of bamboo-bell ball. It will be necessary to set up an organization for professional research and development, conduct research on protection and development of bamboo bell ball competition methods, performance content layout, etc., and provide financial support for the organization's activities. At the same time, it will be important to strengthen supervision over the support policies and development plans of bamboo-bell ball.

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