

Analysis of Spatial Transformation Patterns in Urban Villages from a Sociological Perspective—Taking the Transformation of Hounde Village in Guangzhou as an Example

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Abstract: This study analyzes the spatial renovation model of urban villages from a sociological perspective. Urban villages have special characteristics, and their renovation faces many problems. Its theoretical basis is the Western urban renewal concept, and the models are diverse with their own advantages and disadvantages, and the renovation will cause social problems. Taking the case of Liede Village in Guangzhou as an example, it shows the successful experience. It is proposed that the renovation model should be optimized by comprehensively considering multiple factors to promote urban and social development.

Keywords: Urban village; Sociology; Spatial renovation; Liede Village; Urban Renewal

1. Introduction

1.1. Definition of an urban village

Urban village is a special area formed during the process of urban expansion. It is located within the urban built-up area, surrounded or semi-surrounded by the city, and the land ownership is mostly rural collective. In the past, policies related to the reconstruction of urban villages mainly followed the direction of "demolition reconstruction", lacking consideration for environmental factors and mechanisms behind performance^[1]. Here, the architecture is chaotic, with a large number of self-built houses by villagers. The density is high and there is a lack of planning, and illegal construction exists. The population composition is complex, including original villagers and a large number of migrant workers. China's total floating population increased from 6.57 million in 1982 to 241 million in 2018, accounting for about 18% of China's total population^[2]. The infrastructure is weak, with poor facilities such as roads, water and electricity, and drainage, and the environmental hygiene is not good. The economic model is diverse, with remnants of traditional agriculture, and the housing rental and small-business sectors are prosperous. It retains some rural characteristics and is also affected by the city. It is an area that requires renovation and attention during urban development.

1.2. Background to the emergence of the urban village phenomenon

The phenomenon of urban villages is a special social phenomenon that emerges in the process of urbanization. In the process of accelerating the pace of urbanization, the scale of the city is constantly expanding, and the population of the city is also constantly growing. The expropriation of agricultural land has seriously affected the living and production space of the agricultural migrants, and at the same time they have suffered from space deprivation, forming social isolation from each other^[3]. As a result, the phenomenon of urban villages has emerged and become an inevitable phenomenon in the process of urbanization. The emergence of urban villages to a certain extent meets the needs of urban population expansion, provides living space for urban residents, and alleviates the problem of urban housing tension. Its formation and development are influenced by a variety of factors. The following is a detailed analysis of the background of the phenomenon of urban villages, mainly in terms of accelerated urbanization, land system and housing problems, urban-rural disparity and population mobility, social management and urban planning, economic transformation and industrial development, cultural integration and

identity, public facilities and community construction, ecological environment and sustainable development.

1.3. Purpose and significance of the study on the space transformation model

From a sociological point of view, the spatial transformation of urban villages not only helps to improve the quality of urban development, alleviate urban contradictions, and improve the happiness of residents, but also helps to promote economic and social progress, and also has important practical significance for cities to enhance urban competitiveness and community development. "Urban competitiveness is the ability of a city to produce goods, create wealth, provide services and improve the quality of life, and promote sustainable economic development in order to meet the needs of regional, national or international markets^[4]." Which is specifically reflected in the following aspects: The transformation of urban villages can solve the land and housing problems that exist in cities, upgrade the infrastructure construction of cities and optimize the spatial layout of cities, thus enhancing the overall development quality of cities. The transformation of urban villages can alleviate various contradictions in urban development, including the unbalanced development of urban and rural areas and the problems caused by population mobility, and promote the harmonious development of cities. The transformation of urban villages can significantly improve the living environment and conditions of residents, provide better public service facilities, and thus enhance the residents' sense of satisfaction in life. The transformation of urban villages can further promote the optimization of the economic system, achieve the intensive and economical use of land, improve the efficiency of land use, create more space for economic development and increase the economic income of residents. At the same time, it can also help deepen the reform of the social and public management system, improve the functions of social and public management, and optimize the way of social and public management. The transformation of urban villages can promote urban renewal and community development, realize sustainable community development and enhance community cohesion through spatial transformation.

2. Theoretical basis of spatial transformation of urban villages

The current spatial transformation of urban villages mainly comes from the Western concept of urban renewal, which originated in the 1930s in Western countries as a large-scale slum clearance campaign to solve the urban housing problem. The concept emerged with the large-scale reconstruction of cities after the Second World War, which also focused on residential construction and improvement of living space. By the 1970s, with economic restructuring and social change, the traditional urban structure gradually dissolved and problems such as inner-city decline became more prominent, the concept and practice of urban renewal was further developed and deepened. In April 2006, the General Office of the State Council forwarded the Guiding Opinions of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security on Employment Training and Social Security for Land-expropriated Farmers, which pointed out the basic ideas, principles, requirements and main opinions on solving the social security problems of land-expropriated farmers, and pointed out the direction for the establishment of a social security system for land-expropriated farmers^[5]. The goal of urban renewal is not only to solve the problems of housing and living space, but also involves the development of social, economic, cultural and environmental aspects of the city. Urban renewal promotes the sustainable development of cities by transforming and renewing old areas in the city, improving the living environment of residents and the overall image of the city. This process requires the cooperation and joint efforts of the government, enterprises and all aspects of society, as well as the use of multidisciplinary knowledge and methods, including sociology, architecture, urban planning, economics, and so on. From a sociological point of view, urban renewal is a complex and crucial issue, which is of great significance to the development of cities and the progress of society. In order to achieve sustainable urban development and harmonious integration of communities, the future renewal of settlements should be centered on neighborhoods, focusing on their wholeness and sustainability. This is not only an affirmation of the views of sociologists, represented by Jacobs, but also a return to the essence of urban life. Urban regeneration is no longer regarded as a simple means of spatial transformation, but as a self-regulating mechanism of the city, through the integrated use of economic, social and physical environment mediation, to bring about long-term and sustainable improvement and enhancement of settlements and cities.

3. Current Situation and Problems of Spatial Rehabilitation in Urban Villages

As a special phenomenon in urban development, the spatial transformation of urban villages involves

various social problems. Moreover, the spatial transformation of urban villages involves complex and diverse social problems. In order to realize the goal of a harmonious society, it is necessary to consider from various aspects and formulate a scientific transformation strategy. From the sociological point of view, the existing problems of urban villages and the problems faced in the process of transformation are as follows: Many urban villages lacked unified planning at the initial stage of construction, with chaotic spatial layouts, high building densities and narrow roads, leading to a crowded and depressing living environment. This unorganized development situation has made subsequent renovation extremely difficult. With the process of urbanization, some foreigners and low-income groups choose to live in urban villages, forming a diversified social class. In the process of spatial transformation, the conflicting interests of different social classes often lead to difficulties in the implementation of transformation plans, and are also prone to social conflicts. Many urban villages have developed unique community cultures and traditions over time. However, in the process of spatial transformation, these cultural features are often neglected or destroyed, leading to threats to the cultural heritage of urban villages. Due to historical and planning reasons, many urban villages are under-allocated with public service facilities (e.g. education, healthcare, sports, etc.), which affects the quality of life of residents. Some urban villages have more prominent law and order problems due to complex population and inadequate supervision, bringing a sense of insecurity to residents' lives. Due to the lack of effective management and maintenance, some urban villages have poor environmental hygiene conditions, such as untimely garbage disposal and poor public hygiene. Some urban villages have the problem of underutilization of land, with a large amount of land and space being inefficiently utilized or left idle, resulting in a waste of land resources.

4. Analysis of the spatial transformation model of urban villages from a sociological perspective

The spatial transformation modes of urban villages show diversity, mainly including government-led mode, market-led mode and community-led mode. Different transformation modes have their own advantages and disadvantages on community development, and need to be selected by considering the actual situation of urban villages. In addition, the participation and decision-making power of community residents should be emphasized to avoid a single government or market force dominating the transformation process. Social problems that may arise in the process of spatial transformation of urban villages include demolition and resettlement disputes, disputes over land rights and interests, and housing problems for the foreign population. If these problems are not handled properly, they may lead to serious social conflicts, affecting the transformation process and social stability. Therefore, it is necessary to establish a perfect mechanism for coordinating interests and social risk assessment to ensure the smooth progress of the transformation and social stability.

The social impacts of spatial transformation in urban villages are manifold. On the one hand, retrofitting can improve the living environment, enhance the city's image and promote economic development; on the other hand, inappropriate retrofitting may exacerbate social differentiation, disrupt community networks and affect the quality of life and social welfare of residents. Therefore, it is crucial to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the social impacts of spatial transformation in urban villages. This requires the use of multiple assessment methods to synthesize the balanced development between economic, social and environmental benefits. In-depth research and comparative analysis of spatial transformation cases for different urban villages can help to summarize the lessons learned and provide reference for future transformation work. By comparing the similarities and differences of different cases in terms of transformation modes, coordination of benefits and social impacts, experiences and lessons of general significance can be distilled to provide guidance for policy formulation and practice. In short, the government plays a role in the distribution, regulation, security and implementation of the pension insurance for residents in the transformation of urban villages^[6].

Based on the above analysis, the following is another way of expressing the policy recommendations: the government should further strengthen supervision to ensure the justice and fairness of the transformation process; secondly, it should pay attention to the right of community participation and decision-making to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of the residents; thirdly, it should set up a sound mechanism for coordinating interests and social risk assessment; and fourthly, it should strengthen the construction of laws and regulations to standardize the transformation process and the distribution of interests. Finally, it is necessary to ensure the implementation of relevant laws, and the legal implementation mechanisms of social security include administrative law enforcement, justice, arbitration activities to resolve disputes, and legal supervision procedures^[7]. Future spatial transformation of urban villages should pay more attention to the balanced development of habitat improvement and social justice, promoting sustainable urban development and social harmony and stability.

5. Empirical study: a case study of spatial transformation in the urban village of Hunde Village, Guangzhou

Located in the southern part of Zhujiang New City, Guangzhou's Hounde Village is a typical urban village. However, after nearly a decade of renovation, Hunt Village has been transformed from a dilapidated and chaotic urban village into a modern and vibrant urban community.

5.1. Background and Mode of Urban Renewal and Rehabilitation of Hunde Village in Guangzhou

The background and mode of urban renewal of Hunt Village in Guangzhou is a multifaceted and comprehensive process. By meeting the needs of urban development, protecting historical and cultural heritage, adjusting industrial structure, improving residents' quality of life, integrating land resources, improving public facilities, protecting the environment, and promoting synergistic development of the region and other considerations and practices, the successful transformation of Hounde Village has set a model for the renewal and transformation of other cities, providing valuable experience and inspiration. This paragraph will mainly focus on the background and mode of urban renewal and transformation of Hunter Village, covering the following aspects:

With the rapid development of Guangzhou city, Pearl River New City, as one of the core areas of the city, puts forward higher urban renewal requirements for the neighboring urban villages. As an urban village adjacent to the Pearl River New City, the renewal of Hunt Village is crucial to improving the urban image and quality of the whole area. Hunt Village has a deep historical and cultural heritage, so in the process of renewal and renovation, the government and relevant departments attach great importance to the protection and inheritance of historical and cultural heritage. Through the repair and maintenance of traditional buildings and neighborhood styles, Hunt Village has maintained its unique historical and cultural charm in the urban renewal. Differences in physical facilities and environments form a variety of settlements and social ecology, affecting people's daily interactions and life opportunities^[8]. In the process of urban renewal, Hunt Village focuses on the optimization and adjustment of industrial structure. On the one hand, traditional low-end industries are upgraded or eliminated; on the other hand, new industries, such as creative industries and science and technology industries, are actively introduced, thus upgrading the industrial capacity of the whole area. The ultimate goal of urban renewal is to improve the quality of life of residents. In the process of urban renewal, Hunter Village has greatly improved the quality of life of its residents by improving the living environment, increasing public facilities and optimizing traffic and travel. In the process of urban renewal, the integration and efficient utilization of land resources is the key. Through the redevelopment of idle land and revitalization of low utility land, Hunt Village has realized the optimal allocation of land resources, which provides an important material basis for the development of the region. In the process of urban renewal, Hunt Village focuses on improving public facilities, such as schools, hospitals and commercial facilities. The improvement of these facilities makes the life of the residents more convenient, and the quality of life is also significantly improved. In the process of development, Hunt Village attaches great importance to environmental protection and governance. By strengthening environmental regulation, implementing pollution control, and promoting green travel, Hunt Village has achieved economic development while ensuring the sustainable development of the ecological environment. As part of the Pearl River New City, the urban renewal of Hunte Village also takes into account the synergistic development with the neighboring regions. By strengthening inter-regional cooperation and exchanges, Hunter Village has realized complementary development and mutual benefits with the neighboring areas in the process of renewal.

5.2. Analysis of the process and mechanism of urban renewal and transformation of Hunde Village in Guangzhou

The urban renewal process of Guangzhou's Hunde Village involves multiple aspects and complex mechanisms. This paragraph will provide an in-depth analysis of its regeneration process and explore the driving factors and operational mechanisms behind it.

In the field of social integration research in China, most of the research focuses on the construction of social integration measurement system and the analysis of path mechanism^[9], and the research on spatial dimension has limited attention^[10]. The urban renewal process of Guangzhou's Hunde Village can be traced back to around 2007. Its renewal has gone through various stages, including preliminary preparation, implementation phase and subsequent improvement. With the joint efforts of the government, enterprises and residents, Hunt Village has been transformed from a typical urban village into a modern urban community. In order to realize urban renewal, land acquisition and demolition is a necessary part.

Through legal procedures, the government expropriates old buildings and land in Hunt Village to make room for new construction and development. During the demolition and relocation process, the government and enterprises ensure the legitimate rights and interests of the residents and minimize the impact of the demolition and relocation on their lives. Urban renewal projects usually require a large amount of capital investment. In this process, the government, enterprises and social capital participate together, forming a diversified investment and financing model. The government encourages the participation of social capital through policy guidance and financial support, while enterprises play a key role by providing the necessary financial and technical support for the projects. The key to urban renewal lies in planning, design and construction. In the Hunter Village project, the Government hired a professional planning and design team to formulate a scientific and reasonable planning and design scheme, taking into account the historical, cultural and geographical characteristics of the area. During the construction stage, emphasis was placed on quality, safety and sustainability to ensure the smooth implementation of the project. Resettlement and compensation of residents are important considerations in the process of urban renewal. The government and enterprises have provided residents of Hunter Village with diversified rehousing options, such as monetary compensation and relocation rehousing. At the same time, they also provide residents with support in terms of employment and education to ensure that they are properly resettled in the process of urban renewal. Urban renewal is not only about the transformation of buildings and the environment, but also the construction and improvement of public facilities. In Hunter Village, a series of new and renovated public facilities, such as schools, hospitals, commercial facilities, etc., have been built to enhance the convenience of life and quality of services for the whole community. Urban renewal has facilitated the industrial transformation and upgrading of Hunter Village. The original low-end industries are gradually replaced by new industries, such as creative industries and technology industries. This optimization of industrial structure not only enhances the economic benefits of the area, but also improves the employment structure and living standards of the residents.

5.3. Social Impacts and Implications of the Guangzhou Hundu Village Urban Village Transformation Case

The case of urban village transformation in Guangzhou Hunt Village has brought remarkable social impacts and far-reaching inspirations. It has not only improved the quality of life of the villagers and promoted the development of the village collective economy, but also provided valuable experience for the transformation of other urban villages. At the same time, it also reveals to us that the transformation of urban villages should be comprehensive and multi-dimensional, focusing not only on the improvement of the physical environment, but also on cultural heritage and community development. Only in this way can we ensure that sustainable urban development and social progress can be truly realized.

6. Suggestions for optimizing the spatial transformation model of urban villages

In the process of urbanization, urban villages have become a unique phenomenon. The spatial transformation of urban villages is of far-reaching significance for upgrading urban quality and improving the living environment of residents. Optimizing the spatial transformation mode of urban villages requires comprehensive consideration of various factors and adapting the transformation to local conditions. While preserving history, culture and characteristics, it should upgrade the quality of public facilities and services, improve urban infrastructure, enhance the economic vitality of urban villages, promote community participation and co-construction, formulate plans for sustainable development, strengthen policy guidance and support, and introduce market mechanisms to attract investment. The implementation of these measures will help optimize the living environment of residents, enhance the quality and image of the city, and further promote sustainable urban development. The following paragraph aims to explore how to optimize the spatial transformation mode of urban villages and put forward targeted recommendations.

The transformation of urban villages should take full account of local factors such as topography, history and culture, and socio-economic factors, and formulate a transformation plan that is in line with the actual situation. Avoid a one-size-fits-all approach to renovation, so that the renovation works can be harmonized with the local environment. In the transformation process, we should pay attention to the protection of the historical culture and characteristics of urban villages, so that the transformed urban villages still maintain their unique charm. This can be achieved by preserving ancient buildings and promoting traditional culture. The transformation of urban villages should strengthen the construction of public facilities and improve the quality of public services. For example, improve transportation facilities,

build parks and green spaces, and increase medical and health facilities to meet the basic living needs of residents.

The transformation of urban villages should improve urban infrastructure and enhance the overall functioning of the city. This includes the construction of facilities for water supply, power supply, gas supply, communications, drainage and so on, in order to ensure the normal functioning of the city. Through the transformation of urban villages, local economic vitality can be activated and the income level of residents can be raised. This can be achieved through the development of specialty industries and support for innovation and entrepreneurship. The transformation of urban villages should encourage the participation of community residents to build a better home together. This can be achieved by organizing residents' meetings and soliciting residents' opinions, so that residents can participate in the transformation process. The transformation of urban villages should formulate a sustainable development plan to ensure that the transformed urban villages can develop stably in the long term. In the planning process, we need to fully consider environmental, economic, social and other factors to ensure the scientific and feasible planning. The government should strengthen its policy guidance and support for the transformation of urban villages to promote the smooth progress of the transformation work. This can be achieved by formulating preferential policies and providing financial support. The transformation of urban villages can attract the participation of social capital through the introduction of market mechanisms. Through market competition, the quality and efficiency of the remodeling project can be improved, and the financial burden on the government can also be reduced.

7. Conclusion

Based on the above content, some suggestions for optimizing the spatial transformation of urban villages can be obtained: formulate plans according to local conditions and protect historical and cultural heritage; Strengthen the construction of public facilities and urban infrastructure; Activate economic vitality; Encourage residents to participate; Developing sustainable development plans; Strengthen policy guidance and support; Introduce market mechanisms to attract investment.

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