

Research on the protection and inheritance of intangible cultural heritage industry of ethnic minorities with small population in China

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Abstract: *Intangible Cultural Heritage cannot be absent in the construction of the community of shared future of the Chinese ethnic group. Intangible Cultural Heritage is the spiritual crystallization of human civilization and an important embodiment of ethnic group self-confidence and cultural identity. The Intangible Cultural Heritage of 28 ethnic groups with a small population in China is an important part of Chinese culture. At the same time, globalization and the transformation of livelihood mode make the Intangible Cultural Heritage face the dilemma of inheritance and protection. The number of Intangible Cultural Heritage projects and inheritors is relatively small, the aging of inheritors and the lack of traditional power have always plagued the inheritance and development of Intangible Cultural Heritage. This paper intends to grasp it macroscopically as a whole, start from the perspective of data statistical analysis, focus on the motivation of Intangible Cultural Heritage Inheritance of ethnic groups with small population, and try to put forward the solution. So as to promote the inheritance and innovative transformation of Intangible Cultural Heritage of ethnic groups with a small population, and inject cultural power into the consciousness of building a community with a shared future for the Chinese ethnic group.*

Keywords: *ethnic groups with small population; Intangible Cultural Heritage; Data analysis.*

1. Introduction

All 56 ethnic groups in China have their own intangible cultural assets, among which the intangible cultural heritage of the ethnic group with a small population is very distinctive. With the impact of modernization and the change of production and life style, many ethnical intangible cultural heritages have gradually withdrawn from people's life. However, these excellent intangible cultural heritages are the precious wealth of the Chinese nation. Thus, it is necessary to strengthen the protection and inheritance of the intangible cultural heritages of the minority ethnics.

2. Research background

According to the sixth ethnic group census, there are 28 ethnic minorities with a small population, with a total population of 1.76 million. The planning covers 13 provinces (regions) such as Inner Mongolia, Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Fujian, Jiangxi, Guangxi, Guizhou, Yunnan, Tibet, Gansu, Qinghai and Xinjiang, as well as the minority inhabited areas of Xinjiang production and Construction Corps. It includes 2119 administrative villages inhabited by ethnic minorities with a small population (hereinafter referred to as "inhabited villages"), 71 ethnic townships with a small population, 16 autonomous counties with a small population and 2 autonomous prefectures with a small population. Establish a list of representative Intangible Cultural Heritage projects and confirm the protected objects in order to concentrate limited resources. It is one of the important basic work of Intangible Cultural Heritage protection to focus on the protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage projects that embody the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese ethnic group and have historical, literary, artistic and scientific values. The State Council published four batches of ethnic group project lists successively in 2006, 2008, 2011 and 2014 (the name of the first three batches is "ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage list", and the name of the fourth batch is changed to "ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage Representative project list" after the implementation of the Intangible Cultural Heritage law of the people's Republic of China), A total of 1372 ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage representative projects (hereinafter referred to as "ethnic group projects"). According to the statistics of declared regions or units one by one, there are 3145 sub projects in total, involving 3154 representative project protection units of ethnic group

Intangible Cultural Heritage.

3. Existing problems

3.1 *There are few ethnic Intangible Cultural Heritage projects with a small population, which need to be excavated urgently.*

As of December 2020, there are 1372 ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritages. Among them, there are 94 Intangible Cultural Heritage projects of ethnic minorities with small population, accounting for 6.8% of the total number of ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage projects. It can be seen from the data that the proportion of Intangible Cultural Heritage projects of ethnic minorities is low and needs to be excavated urgently. In Table 1, the 10 provinces and regions have a small population, and the ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage projects are uneven and uneven. For example, there are 130 ethnic group intangible cultural projects in Fujian Province, of which only one Intangible Cultural Heritage of Gaoshan people with a small population. Among the 122 ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritages in Yunnan Province inhabited by many ethnic groups, there are only 8 ethnic groups with small population, accounting for 6.5%, while Jino ethnic group has no ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage projects. There are 127 ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage projects in Xinjiang, including 31 projects for ethnic minorities with small population, accounting for 24% of the total number of the region. There are 34 ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage projects in Heilongjiang, including 13 ethnic groups with small population. This proportion is the highest in the provinces and regions with a small population, accounting for 38.2%. The list of ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage productive protection demonstration bases involves 41 project enterprises or units, 39 ethnic group list projects, and only one ethnic group with a small population.

Table 1 Comparative data of ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage projects with small population

Provincial area	Total number of ethnic group projects	Ethnic minority project with small population	Percentage
Inner Mongolia	89 term	14 term	15.7 %
Xinjiang	127 term	31 term	24.4 %
Tibet	88 term	4 term	4.5 %
Qinghai	73 term	11 term	15 %
Yunnan	122 term	8 term	6.6 %
Guangxi	52 term	6 term	11.5 %
Heilongjiang	34 term	13 term	38.2 %
Gansu	68 term	4 term	5.9 %
Fujian	130 term	1 term	0.8 %
Liaoning	67 term	2 term	3 %

3.2 *The population is small, and the number of ethnic Intangible Cultural Heritage inheritors is relatively small.*

Intangible Cultural Heritage is a "living" cultural form with its inheritors & practical activities as the main carrier. The representative inheritors of Intangible Cultural Heritage at all levels not only shoulder the mission of continuing the traditional context and highlight the highest level of heritage practice ability, but also constantly integrate the gifted personality creation into inheritance practice activities, which plays an irreplaceable role in ensuring the lasting inheritance of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Therefore, the protection of representative inheritors is an important part of the protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage. In 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012 and 2018, the ethnic group competent department of Culture named five batches of representative projects and representative inheritors of ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage, a total of 3068 people. Among them, there are 80 ethnic group heirs of ethnic minorities with a small population, accounting for 2.6% of the total. In the provinces and regions with a small population. In addition, it can be seen from Table 2 that in the 10 provinces and autonomous regions where ethnic groups with small populations reside, the number of state-level inheritors is mostly about 10%. Heilongjiang and Xinjiang have a relatively high proportion, and Fujian has no state-level inheritors for ethnic groups with small populations.

Table 2 Statistics of ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage inheritors of ethnic minorities with small population

Provincial area	Total number of ethnic group inheritors	Ethnic inheritors with small population	Percentage
Inner Mongolia	82 people	8 people	9.8%
Xinjiang	112 people	25 people	22.3%
Tibet	96 people	1 people	1%
Qinghai	88 people	10 people	11.4%
Yunnan	125 people	7 people	5.6%
Guangxi	49 people	5 people	10.2%
Heilongjiang	31 people	15 people	48.4%
Gansu	68 people	8 people	11.8%
Fujian	143 people	nothing	
Liaoning	58 people	1 people	1.7%

3.3 The population is small, the age of ethnic Intangible Cultural Heritage inheritors is serious, the endogenous power of inheritance is insufficient, and the support is insufficient.

According to the official statistics of China Intangible Cultural Heritage digital museum (Table 3), the age of 28 ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage inheritors of ethnic groups with small population is generally high, of which the average age of Kirgiz ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage inheritors is 87.5 years old. The average age of Daur ethnic group heirs is 87, and the oldest is 90. The only ethnic group successor of Luoba people with a population of only a few thousand is 82 years old, and the only ethnic group successor of Dulong people is 53 years old. After investigation, it is found that due to age, physical reasons and insufficient local support, most inheritors have insufficient inheritance power. In addition, the local government does not pay enough attention to it. The inheritors did not find the inheritor until their death, and their own skills did not survive and disappear. It is a great pity.

Table 3 Average age of ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage inheritors of ethnic minorities with small population ^[1]

ethnic group	Number of people	Average age	Maximum age	ethnic group	Number of people	Average age	Maximum age
Tatar	1	56	56	Kirgiz	10	87.5	88①
Lhoba	1	82	82	Nu	1	64	64
Russian	2	76.5	78	Achang	1	61	61
Hezhe	3	76.5	84	Tu	6	65.7	72
Dulong	1	53	53	Tajik	6	72	90
Oroqen	7	78	85	Maonan	2	58	63
Ewenki	4	58	71	Braun	2	62	66
Salar	4	75.5	79	Uzbek	1	66	66
Yugur	4	74	81	Mulao	1	54	54
Baoan	4	77	91	Daur	7	87	90
De'ang	2	83.5	93②	Xibo	5	71.5	85
Jing	2	76	86	Jingpo	2	70.5	79
Jino	1	53	53				

① The biggest age of the Kirgiz ethnic group successor is 103 years old and has died.

② Li Laweng (2020), the ethnic group successor of De'ang people, died on March 28.

4. Countermeasures and suggestions

4.1 On the existing basis, the excavation of Intangible Cultural Heritage of ethnic groups with a small population in Canada

In the period of rapid development of ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Intangible Cultural Heritage work of ethnic groups with small population is relatively weak. On the existing basis, we should scientifically, reasonably and step by step speed up the identification of Intangible Cultural Heritage projects of ethnic minorities with small population, increase Intangible Cultural Heritage projects of ethnic minorities with small population, and carry out the identification at the county and municipal levels to ensure that each ethnic minority with small population has its own inheritance projects.^[2] Doing a good job in the identification of grass-roots Intangible Cultural Heritage projects is conducive to cultural self-confidence and the hearts of the people, so that all ethnic groups have a full sense of happiness and acquisition, enrich the Chinese ethnic group culture, facilitate the exchange and integration of all ethnic groups, and forge the sense of community with a shared future of the Chinese ethnic group.

4.2 Excavate inheritors and improve the number of inheritors of Intangible Cultural Heritage

There are 28 ethnic groups with a small population, rich culture and a long history, but the population is small, and the number of ethnic inheritors is too small, which is one of the main reasons affecting the development of intangible cultural heritage work. Therefore, we should further explore and cultivate inheritors, make a certain breakthrough in the small number, and improve the intangible cultural heritage list system of ethnic minorities. Build a number of ethnic group intangible cultural heritage protection and utilization facilities for ethnic minorities with a relatively small population, encourage ethnic minority areas to establish intangible cultural heritage projects and inheritor database construction, effectively promote the construction of online museums and digital exhibition halls for ethnic minorities with a small population, and carry out rescue records of representative inheritors of ethnic group intangible cultural heritage projects for ethnic minorities. ^[3]A number of ethnic group demonstration bases for the productive protection of intangible cultural heritage of ethnic minorities with a relatively large population should be named. Gaoshan, Pumi and Menba have no ethnic group inheritors, so targeted intangible cultural heritage projects should be excavated and inheritors should be gradually cultivated level by level, even ethnic group inheritors.

4.3 Strengthen the quality of inheritors, improve their inheritance ability and increase support

First of all, the existing population is small, the number of ethnic inheritors is small, and most of them are elderly inheritors. The rescue records of Intangible Cultural Heritage inheritors should be carried out. Secondly, support the establishment of a number of productive protection enterprises and demonstration bases for Intangible Cultural Heritage. We will increase the productive protection of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of ethnic minorities with a small population, strengthen the protection of the cultural heritage of ethnic minorities with a small population selected into the ethnic group and provincial Intangible Cultural Heritage lists, cultivate ethnic cultural inheritors and encourage them to be younger. Carry out research and training for Intangible Cultural Heritage inheritors, expand the scope of participation and improve the overall quality. Combined with the implementation of the protection and development of villages and towns with ethnic minority characteristics, we will carry out the overall dynamic protection of cultural ecology for the ecological resources, language and culture of ethnic minorities with small population, and establish a cultural ecological village.^[4] Finally, policies and legislation should properly tilt the endangered Intangible Cultural Heritage projects. For example, inheriting the forging technology of Baoan waist knife of the previous year has always been an important means to maintain the survival of the whole Baoan people, and it is also the lifeblood of Baoan people & economy and culture. Due to the knife control of the public security department, the distribution and skill spread of the security waist knife are also limited. The Falcon culture of Kirgiz people has been handed down for thousands of years, but the eagle is an ethnic group second-class protected animal and is not allowed to be caught at will. This traditional ethnic group custom of Eagle training conflicts, leading to the loss of this traditional project. Therefore, all localities should issue policies and regulations suitable for the development of local Intangible Cultural Heritage, which is not only conducive to the extensive development of cultural activities with ethnic characteristics, but also conducive to the construction of common spiritual homes of all ethnic groups.

4.4 Take the Intangible Cultural Heritage of ethnic minorities with a small population as the carrier to promote ethnic exchanges and integration

China ethnic residential pattern is large mixed, small concentrated and staggered mixed, and has a long history in multi-ethnic areas. Each ethnic group has its own splendid history and culture. Ethnic groups with a small population living in the northeast, northwest, southwest and Southeast have formed a ethnic group relationship with other ethnic groups such as the Han people. In the context of building a strong sense of a community with a shared future for the Chinese ethnic group, inclusiveness is the main theme. The Intangible Cultural Heritage of ethnic groups with small population has distinct regional characteristics and uniqueness. At the same time, the Intangible Cultural Heritage culture of ethnic groups with a small population enriches the Chinese ethnic group culture, maintains the world cultural diversity, strengthens ethnic group unity, realizes the pluralistic integration of China, and has inestimable value for the coordinated development of social culture of all ethnic groups. ^[5]The reason why Chinese culture has been more ancient for thousands of years and continues to spread is that many cultures are shared and maintained by all ethnic groups. For example, in Mongolian folk myths and legends about the origin of human beings, it is said that Mongols, Han people and are brothers of one ancestor. From a certain point of view, it shows that in the early ancient concept, simple ethnic group identity and identity already exist. We should speed up the pace of bringing Intangible Cultural Heritage into the campus and classroom. In 2021, Hulunbuir City cooperated with Beijing Normal University to carry out the activity of "colorful Intangible Cultural Heritage and vast grassland - Hulunbuir Intangible Cultural Heritage culture into the Great Bay area of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao" and Hulunbuir Intangible Cultural Heritage into the campus. The activity of "Intangible Cultural Heritage into the campus" enables the traditional Chinese culture and art rooted in Hulunbuir to be displayed in front of teachers and students. On the basis of highlighting folk customs, characteristics and original ecology, it shows the latest achievements in the protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Hulunbuir, and makes use of the excellent academic resources and discipline advantages of Beijing Normal University. Based on the development needs of ethnic group Intangible Cultural Heritage, we will help Hulunbuir minority Intangible Cultural Heritage inheritors and practitioners strengthen their foundation, improve their quality and increase their education. Therefore, through the Intangible Cultural Heritage Inheritance platform, the mutual exchange between ethnic cultures can not only reduce conflicts, but also contribute to the mutual understanding among ethnic groups, and play a practical role in promoting ethnic group unity and exchanges.

5. Conclusion

Clearly put forward the overall objectives and main tasks of Intangible Cultural Heritage protection. The protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage in China is not just a simple cultural work, but a strategic work that fully integrates into China economic and social development and affects the overall situation. The protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage of ethnic groups with small population is an organic part of the overall task of the great rejuvenation group of the Chinese ethnic group and ethnic group construction. ^[6] Understanding and studying the Intangible Cultural Heritage of ethnic groups with small population will help to inherit and develop excellent Chinese traditional culture, conserve cultural ecology, enrich cultural resources and enhance cultural self-confidence; It helps to give better play to the creativity of traditional crafts, discover the creative value of traditional crafts, and cultivate and carry forward the craftsman spirit of excellence in the whole society; It helps to promote employment, achieve targeted poverty alleviation, enable all ethnic groups to have a sense of gain and happiness, and highlight the contemporary value of intangible cultural heritage.

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