

# A Study on the Development of Rural Community Education in Fujian Province under the Perspective of Rural Revitalization

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**Abstract:** The rural revitalization strategy, as an important part of the national strategy, provides new development opportunities for rural community education in China. This paper conducts research on rural community education in Fujian Province under the framework of the rural revitalization strategy, expounding on the intrinsic link between rural community education and rural revitalization. It also analyzes the current situation of rural community education in Fujian Province and points out the existing problems. It then puts forward corresponding measures, such as enhancing awareness of rural community education, cultivating the teacher workforce and educational facilities, strengthening infrastructure construction in inland areas and enriching cultural activities in inland areas, with the aim of providing a basis and guidance for the high-quality development of rural community education and rural revitalization in Fujian Province.

**Keywords:** Rural Community Education; Rural Revitalization; Labor Supply

## 1. Introduction

The rural revitalization strategy is an important component of China's national strategy, aimed at comprehensively improving the economic, social, cultural, and ecological development level of rural areas. Community education is an integral part of lifelong education, and the high-quality development of rural community education has played a positive role in promoting rural revitalization. It not only enhances the quality, skills, and innovation capabilities of rural human resources, but also provides talent support for rural revitalization. By providing necessary training and education, it can improve farmers' skills, promote agricultural modernization, and promote the transformation and upgrading of rural industries. Education is not only related to economic development, but also to the quality of life of residents and enhances the cultural confidence and identity of farmers. Therefore, from the perspective of rural revitalization, this article studies the high-quality development of rural community education in Fujian Province, clarifies the paths and methods to improve the quality of rural community education, and provides scientific basis for the government and relevant departments to formulate and optimize rural revitalization policies, especially in the field of rural education<sup>[1]</sup>.

## 2. The intrinsic connection between rural community education and rural revitalization

### 2.1. Rural community education promotes the process of rural revitalization

On the one hand, rural community education can enhance farmers' production skills and cultivate high-quality workers through vocational training, providing solid talent support for rural revitalization. For example, it can help the farmers master modern agricultural technology and market management concepts, improve agricultural production efficiency, and promote rural industrial upgrading through organizing agricultural planting technology training courses, agricultural product e-commerce marketing courses, etc.; On the other hand, rural community education not only strengthens the construction of rural communities through cultural, moral, democratic and legal education activities, but also enhances farmers' community awareness and participation, laying a good social foundation for rural revitalization<sup>[1]</sup>.

## ***2.2. Rural revitalization promotes the development of rural community education***

Implementing the rural revitalization strategy can not only increase investment in rural community education, but also improve the educational conditions of rural schools and community education institutions. It can also provide rich educational resources and practical bases for rural community education, such as cooperation between rural enterprises and community education institutions to provide vocational skills training for farmers and improve production levels. In addition, rural revitalization can promote the prosperity of rural culture and excellent traditional culture, which will become an important part of rural community education.

## **3. Current situation of rural community education in Fujian Province**

### ***3.1. The situation of rural labor resources in Fujian Province***

The data from the seventh national census shows that the total labor force (population aged 15-59) in Fujian Province decreased by 99,100 people in 2020 compared to 2010. Among them, the number of labor force from Fujian decreased by 482,900, while the influx of labor force from other provinces only increased by 383,800. It can be seen that the influx of labor from other provinces cannot make up for the gap caused by the aging population in our province in terms of quantity. According to the labor force survey sample data of Fujian Province in September 2022, the rural labor participation rate is 65.3%, which is 1.3% higher than that of urban areas. The labor participation rate of rural youth aged 16-19 is 14.5%, the labor participation rate of rural population aged 50-60 is as high as 77.8%, and the labor participation rate of rural population aged 60-64 is still 56.2%.

From the above data, it can be seen that the overall participation rate of rural labor force in Fujian Province is higher than that in urban areas, especially for labor force aged 16-19 and over 50, which have much higher participation rates than in urban areas. The main reason is that young people in rural areas have shorter education years and insufficient rural pension security.

### ***3.2. Current status of rural Community education development in Fujian Province***

#### ***3.2.1. Increased policy support***

The Fujian Provincial Government attaches great importance to community education and has introduced a series of policies to promote its development. In 2005, Fujian Province formulated the "Fujian Province Lifelong Education Promotion Regulations", which clearly proposed community education as the entry point for lifelong education, actively carried out pilot work on community education, and proposed the goal of forming a community education network system covering urban and rural areas throughout the province. Subsequently, the "Outline of Fujian Province's Medium - and Long Term Education Reform and Development Plan (2010-2020)" and the "Implementation Opinions of Fujian Province on Accelerating the Development of Modern Vocational Education" were successively formulated, which clearly put forward the goals and tasks of promoting the development of rural community education, strengthening the construction of rural community education system, and improving the quality and level of rural community education<sup>[2]</sup>.

#### ***3.2.2. Increased investment in education funds***

Fujian Province has always attached great importance to the investment of rural education funds, continuously improving the guarantee mechanism and increasing investment efforts. In terms of regular funding, Fujian Province has established a compulsory education funding guarantee mechanism of "urban-rural unity, with a focus on rural areas". The average annual growth rate of education expenditure is 8%, ranking first in the province's fiscal expenditure for ten consecutive years. And Fujian continuously improves the standard of per capita public funds for rural compulsory education schools to ensure the daily operation of the schools. In terms of special subsidy funds, living allowance funds are provided for students from economically disadvantaged families in rural compulsory education schools. In 2024, the settlement will be based on the actual number of benefited students from the previous year reported by various regions and the provincial subsidy standards. Starting from the spring semester of 2024, the living subsidy standards for economically disadvantaged boarding students will be raised. In terms of project construction funds, the government implement a project to improve weak links in compulsory education and enhance capacity. In 2022, a total of 922 million yuan will be invested in improving the operating conditions of rural compulsory education schools in the province, with a

construction area of 401,700 square meters and the potential to add 60,000 new school places; The long-term mechanism project for ensuring the safety of primary and secondary school buildings in the province has invested a total of 1.182 billion yuan in various levels and types of funds, including 532 million yuan from provincial-level and above funds. The renovation of rural compulsory education school buildings covers an area of 573,000 square meters.

### ***3.2.3. Diversified forms and contents of education***

Firstly, the development of elderly education is good. Fujian Province has established a five level elderly education service system covering both urban and rural areas, providing a learning and communication platform for rural elderly people through numerous community (elderly) education institutions. In 2016, under the promotion of the Fujian Provincial Association for the Promotion of Lifelong Education, the first senior school in the province was established in Jinyi Village, Gutian County, offering courses such as music and dance, calligraphy and art, health lectures, and intelligent elderly assistance. Following the "three in one" model of "learning together, dining together, and being companions together", we insist on having one class every week, and through the integration of education and entertainment, we aim to enhance the learning interest of the elderly and implant the concept of elderly education into rural (community) areas. As of February 2024, the "Le Ling School" in Jinyi Village has carried out nearly 300 activities. The Le Ling School has gradually radiated from pilot projects to multiple parts of the province, and has been widely launched in Xiapu County, Ningde City, Sha County, Sanming City, and other places, and has had a certain impact nationwide<sup>[3]</sup>.

Secondly, vocational skills training is widely carried out. Provide various vocational skills training for rural residents, employed workers, laid-off workers, and migrant workers to enhance their employability. For example, some regions offer training in agricultural product processing and handicraft production based on local industrial characteristics.

Thirdly, family education has been given importance. Fujian Province has taken positive measures and achieved results in rural family education. In 2023, Xinqiao Town in Zhangping City will launch the "Elite Family Education in Rural Areas" campaign. Jinghua Family Education organized 8 family education themed activities, including 4 family education lectures, 2 parent salons, and 3 community parent-child reading activities, covering all primary and secondary schools and kindergartens in Xinqiao Town, benefiting more than 500 families. At the beginning of 2024, the Women's Federation of Fujian Province took the lead in coordinating with women's federations and relevant departments at all levels throughout the province to explore the selection of "family education special commissioners" to communities (villages). As of May 2024, 7,752 family education commissioners have been dispatched to 1,726 communities (villages) in Fujian Province, providing nearly 20,000 guidance services for family education. This system aims to solve the problems of insufficient teachers and courses in community (village) family education, and bring high-quality family education guidance services into households.

### ***3.2.4. Demonstration models continue to emerge***

The rural community education work in some areas of Fujian Province has achieved significant results and become a demonstration model. Two schools in Tong'an District, Xiamen City have been awarded as typical cases of provincial-level rural warm campus construction. Tong'an District has adopted the innovative approach of "group development" and achieved significant results in rural education construction. Xiapu Sansha Community School has won the title of "National exemplary organization of Rural Adult Education" and "exemplary organization of Community Education in Fujian Province", and was rated as "Fujian Community Education Demonstration Base" by Fujian Provincial Department of Education in 2018. According to the production needs of coastal towns and villages in Ningde City, various training courses have been held, including "Aquatic Fishing Workers", "Fishing Ships" skill training, "Ship Driving Training Class", "Ship Engine Training Class", etc.

## **4. Problems in the development of rural community education in Fujian Province**

### ***4.1. Lack of understanding of rural community education***

Some local governments, relevant departments, and rural residents lack a deep understanding of the importance of rural community education. Rural residents often pay more attention to agricultural production and household income, believing that community education has little impact on their lives and work, and their enthusiasm for participating in community education is not high. Most farmers believe that community education is only for leisure and entertainment or agricultural technology training,

and their understanding of the purpose, importance, and flexibility of community education is not enough. Some local governments focus mainly on economic development, infrastructure construction, and other aspects, with less investment and attention to rural community education. Some village cadres do not even know what community education is, and even believe that organizing villagers to carry out "blowing, pulling, playing, and singing" in their leisure time is to engage in community education. In addition, some grassroots educators and rural residents' understanding of community education still remains at the level of traditional cultural curriculum learning, without recognizing the important role of community education in vocational skills training, innovation and entrepreneurship guidance, cultural inheritance, and other aspects. This leads to a lack of broad mass base and support for the development of community education<sup>[4]</sup>.

#### ***4.2. Deficiencies in resource security***

Firstly, the teaching staff is weak. The common problems of the teacher team in rural community education are insufficient quantity, low professional level, and poor stability. On the one hand, excellent teachers are unwilling to teach in rural areas, resulting in a lack of professional teachers for rural community education; On the other hand, existing teachers lack systematic training and learning opportunities, and their teaching methods and concepts are relatively backward, making it difficult to meet the diverse learning needs of rural residents.

The second issue is the inadequate educational facilities. The educational facilities in rural areas are relatively rudimentary, and the number and scale of educational institutions such as schools and training institutions are limited, which cannot meet the learning needs of rural residents. At the same time, some educational facilities are not maintained and updated in a timely manner, which poses safety hazards and affects the learning experience of rural residents.

#### ***4.3. Uneven level of basic public cultural services in rural areas***

There are significant differences in the construction of public cultural infrastructure between coastal and inland areas in Fujian Province. Coastal areas such as Xiamen, Quanzhou, Fuzhou, etc. have a higher level of economic development and relatively complete construction of public cultural infrastructure. These cities have iconic cultural buildings such as modern libraries, museums, and cultural and artistic centers, which are relatively densely distributed. Taking Xiamen as an example, multiple large libraries and community libraries on the island form a network, making it convenient for residents to borrow books. However, some rural or mountainous areas in inland mountainous regions such as Sanming, Nanping, and Longyan have relatively simple cultural facilities. Some remote mountainous villages only have a simple rural library, and the updating of books is not timely and the variety is limited.

In terms of cultural activities, coastal areas have rich and diverse cultural activities, frequently hosting large-scale cultural performances, international cultural exchange events, various art exhibitions, etc. Cultural events such as Xiamen's International Marathon and Quanzhou's Maritime Silk Road Cultural Festival attract a large number of local residents and tourists from other places to participate. The scale and frequency of cultural activities in inland areas are relatively low, with local folk activities as the main focus, and there is a slight lack of innovation, openness, and influence in the activities. In addition, coastal cities invest more financial funds in basic public cultural construction, which can ensure the daily maintenance and updating of cultural facilities and the high-quality development of cultural activities. Due to relatively limited fiscal revenue, inland areas have relatively less investment in public culture, resulting in insufficient motivation for the development of public culture.

### **5. Measures to promote the development of rural community education from the perspective of rural revitalization**

The revitalization of rural culture is the soul of rural revitalization, and the revitalization of rural culture is an inherent requirement for achieving rural revitalization and enhancing spiritual and cultural literacy. Therefore, the quality of rural community education is the key to the revitalization of rural areas. In response to the problems in rural community education mentioned earlier, optimization can be carried out from the following aspects.

### ***5.1. Strengthen the understanding of various entities on rural community education***

Firstly, targeting rural residents, we can increase publicity channels and strengthen their understanding of community education. Then we can promote the importance, rich content, and diverse forms of community education to rural residents through various channels such as rural radio, television, bulletin boards, and social media platforms. For example, creating vivid and interesting community education promotional videos to be broadcasted on local television stations and online platforms, showcasing successful cases of community education in improving personal qualities, promoting employment, enriching life, and more. Relevant departments carry out targeted publicity activities based on the characteristics and needs of rural residents. For young people, we can promote innovation and entrepreneurship, emerging technology training, and other content in community education; For middle-aged and elderly people, emphasis can be placed on promoting courses such as health preservation and cultural heritage.

Secondly, local governments should incorporate rural community education into their local economic and social development plans, clarifying the development goals, tasks, and guarantee measures for rural community education. And they should take the development of rural community education as an important indicator for assessing local government and relevant department leaders. This assessment can encourage the government and relevant departments to attach importance to rural community education work.

Thirdly, it is important to regularly organize grassroots education workers to participate in community education related training activities, and invite experts, scholars, and outstanding peers to share their experiences, which helps them update their educational concepts, and comprehensively understand the connotation and role of community education.

### ***5.2. Strengthen resource security***

In terms of cultivating the teaching staff, preferential policies should be formulated to attract outstanding teachers to teach in rural communities. For example, providing living allowances, housing discounts, career development support, etc., to enhance the attractiveness of rural community education positions. A sound training system for rural community education teachers should be established, so as to regularly organize teachers to participate in professional training, including training on educational teaching methods, vocational skills, cultural inheritance, etc., which can enhance teachers' professional competence and teaching ability. At the same time, the rural area should establish a teacher incentive mechanism, commend and reward outstanding teachers, and enhance the stability of the teaching staff.

In terms of improving the construction of educational facilities, the government should increase investment in rural education facility construction, and plan and layout rural schools, training institutions and other educational venues reasonably. At the same time, the government can encourage social capital to participate in the construction of rural education facilities, and expand funding sources through donations, cooperative education, and other means.

### ***5.3. Strengthening infrastructure construction in inland areas***

The government should tilt its policies towards the construction of public cultural infrastructure in inland areas, increase special funding for the construction of public cultural facilities in rural areas of inland mountainous regions, and focus on supporting the construction and renovation of iconic cultural buildings such as libraries, museums, and cultural and artistic centers. At the same time, we will organize paired assistance activities for the construction of public cultural infrastructure between developed coastal cities and inland mountainous areas. Coastal cities can provide financial, technological, and talent support to inland areas to help them improve their level of cultural infrastructure construction.

### ***5.4. Enrich cultural activities in inland areas***

The local government should deeply explore the local cultural resources of inland areas and cultivate cultural brand activities with local characteristics. For example, Nanping can create a series of high-level cultural activities around characteristic resources such as Zhuzi culture and tea culture, to enhance the overall level of cultural activities in inland areas.

Combining the folk characteristics of rural areas, inland governments and cultural departments should actively introduce high-quality cultural activities such as large-scale cultural performances, international

cultural exchange activities, and art exhibitions, in order to innovate the forms and contents of cultural activities and enhance their attractiveness and influence.

## 6. Conclusion

Against the backdrop of rural revitalization, this paper conducts an in-depth study on the development of rural community education in Fujian Province. By analyzing the inherent relationship between rural revitalization and the development of rural community education, we have found that although the rural community education in Fujian Province has achieved good development results in recent years, there are still some problems inevitably. Based on this, a series of corresponding solutions are put forward in the paper. In the subsequent research, we will continue to focus on the evaluation system of the high-quality development of rural community education in Fujian Province and actively explore the educational development paths that suit the actual situation of rural communities in Fujian Province, with the expectation of providing more valuable references for the sustainable development of rural community education in Fujian Province.

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