
| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Research on the Construction of Ecological Museum and the Active Participation of Community Masses: A Case Study of Yim Tin Tsai Village in Hong Kong

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| ABSTRACT

The construction of ecological museums under the guidance of the new museum theory has been widely used in the protection and utilization of traditional villages, historical blocks, industrial heritage, etc., in China. The concept of new museum science has become a new practice and thinking in building eco-cultural towns and eco-cultural communities (Pan, 2018). The construction concept of the Ecological Museum of Yim Tin Tsai Village in Hong Kong is a theoretical attempt to study and solve the long-term development of Yim Tin Tsai Village. This article mainly demonstrates the community mass active participation mode that Yim Tin Tsai Village faces in the construction of the ecological museum. Through data analysis, examples and other methods, and by desktop deduction and research, we will carry out practical analysis to improve the active participation of community people in community management mode and plan to realize the role of community people in actively participating in the construction and management of ecological museums, realize the new idea of overall ecological conservation, and let local people's participation and community governance interact and work together. At the same time, most of the current domestic research on community creation is focused on mainland villages, and few researchers have focused on villages in Hong Kong. Yim Tin Tsai Village in Hong Kong as an excellent representative of new rural tourism development has formed a relatively mature model of community participation in the construction of the eco-museum, and the need for research has thus emerged.

| KEYWORDS

Ecological museum; construction; community people; active participation

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

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1. Introduction

The construction concept of Yim Tin Tsai Village Ecological Museum is to take ecology and livelihood as an organic whole and adopt a dynamic concept to protect and develop the community in the process of development.

At present, the development of Yim Tin Tsai Village in Hong Kong is faced with many problems, such as the underdeveloped economy on the island, the small permanent population, the overload of large cultural activities in the village, and the weak sense of community active service. It is urgent to build a community management model that integrates up and down and the harmonious coexistence of ecology and livelihood.

The record of Hong Kong tourists from 2017 to 2019 shows that the number of tourists visiting Yim Tin Tsai Village has increased steadily. Yim Tin Tsai Village urgently needs to adopt a new community management model to meet its long-term development. It is a positive attempt to transform the existing management model of Yim Tin Tsai Village with the concept of the ecological museum. However, the concept of an ecological museum involves many aspects. This paper mainly focuses on the lack of enthusiasm of community people to participate actively.

2. Development Status

Yim Tin Tsai Village in Hong Kong is known as “**Hong Kong's Back Garden**”. It was built more than 300 years ago. It can be reached in less than half an hour by boat from Saigon Wharf. Yanzi Village is one of the five major salt fields in Hong Kong and was once named after the prosperity of the salt industry. After continuous repair in recent years, it now has “**Yantian Zisunning Saltern**”, which produces about 10 tons of sea salt annually that meets international food safety requirements. “**Yantian Zisunning Saltern**” has recorded and witnessed the industrial and cultural changes of the salt industry in its own way (China News Service, 2022), and the salt culture has a deep foundation. Yim Tin Tsai Village is also one of the birthplaces of Christianity in Hong Kong. The Catholic Church of “St. Joseph's Chapel”, the patron saint of Yim Tin Tsai Village, is enshrined on the island. This church has been listed as a protection project by the **UNESCO** Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage Protection Organization. There is also the “Yantianzi Cultural Relics Exhibition Hall” on the island, which tells the unique historical story of Yim Tin Tsai Village.

From the current development situation of Yim Tin Tsai Village, it has industrial, religious, salt culture and other values worth studying and inheriting. In the post-epidemic era, the “micro vacation” under the concept of ecological museum construction has risen, and the frequency of local travel has increased rapidly (Wei, 2014). Yim Tin Tsai Village needs to be further explored.

3. Problems to be Solved

For many reasons, such as planning and development, most of the Yim Tin Tsai Villagers have lived in other places, and most of the remaining villagers are old, and most of them do not live on the island. There are few native islanders, and the inability of residents to participate in more community management is particularly prominent, especially in the art festival held in Yim Tin Tsai Village in 2019, where the number of visitors increased rapidly, and the villagers were unable to cope with it. The enthusiasm to actively participate in the reception on the island decreased, and the island's energy load also faced challenges. How to manage Yim Tin Tsai Village catalpa with the thinking of a museum, display and publicize the original history and culture can't just stay on the surface, stimulate the enthusiasm of the original residents to participate together, explore the local cultural value, let the people benefit from the ecological museum model, and finally achieve harmonious coexistence, ecological sharing is worth in-depth consideration.

4. Management Exploration

4.1 Existing Community Mass Participation Management Mode

Through the study of rural governance in the United States, Japan, and Singapore, the Hangzhou Modern Community Culture Construction and Development Center shows that there are three main rural community management modes in foreign countries: autonomous community management mode, represented by the United States; Mixed community management mode, represented by Japan; The administrative-led community management model is represented by Singapore. The construction of rural communities in these three countries started early and accumulated a lot of successful experience in rural community management, which has certain reference significance for improving the community management of Yim Tin Tsai Village (Institute of Financial Strategy of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences & Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Tourism Research Center, 2023).

4.2 Problems in Management Mode

Yim Tin Tsai Village also faces challenges while enjoying various honors. Among many factors, the community people actively participate in joint management and establish integration between the upper and lower levels, and financial support and social participation are particularly important. At present, the ecological and cultural conservation work of Yim Tin Tsai Village is still in its infancy, which does not match the speed of tourism development in Hong Kong, and lacks the sustainability of development. Therefore, professional analysis and planning and policy support are urgently needed. Obviously, in the modern community autonomous management organization relationship, Yim Tin Tsai Village does not belong to any of the typical autonomous community management model, mixed community management model, and administrative-led community management model, nor has it formed innovative practices beyond the three models. Only relying on the voluntary and spontaneous participation of the masses in management, it lacks foresight and cannot last. How to tell the “salt story” of Yim Tin Tsai Village and how to carry forward and inherit in the process of inheritance are the current priorities in the context of the shrinking traditional salt industry.

5. Thinking about Community Practice Mode

5.1 Overview of Active Participation Mode

Throughout the country's rural community management model, the common ground is: first, the community management organization is sound, and the rights and responsibilities are clear. Second, community organizations play an important role in rural community management. Third, the rural community management model conforms to the basic national conditions of the country and has achieved good results. Yim Tin Tsai Village needs to build a community management model with the community as the organizer, manager and propagandist so that local people can participate in and work together with community governance.

5.2 Practical Elements of Active Participation Model in Yanzi

From the existing reference model, Yim Tin Tsai Village's mass participation in the community management model is still in the exploration stage, and there is no more mature and consistent with local practices. The conclusion is analyzed from four aspects. First, from the nature of participation, Yantianzi people's participation belongs to independent planning, lacking the guidance of upper planning; Second, the practice of authorization, is still at the initial stage, and it still needs policy support and top-level design in terms of government hosting and democratic participation; Third, communication channels. Although there are formal joint meetings at present, the informal, top-down or bottom-up integration and co-governance are not reflected; Fourth, due to the introduction of external organizations, there is a lack of economic support and talent allocation.

5.3 Organization Construction and Management

To let the community masses actively participate in the management, it is necessary to organize and integrate the collective and individual communities in Yim Tin Tsai Village and achieve the combination of the upper and lower levels, internal and external links in the management and operation. Take Yim Tin Tsai Village Committee as the organizational core, actively strive for policy support and financial support, and do a good job of cultural restoration; At the same time, focusing on the cultivation of community management talents, with the assistance of the community "think tank", scientific planning, research and broaden the new space of community governance, build smart communities, and solve the problem of the number of managers and management efficiency; Build ecological communities and solve the balance between community ecological conservation and community development. By introducing foreign funds, talents or literary and artistic workers, volunteer services, etc., Yim Tin Tsai Village will be well publicized, and Yantianzi foreign literary and artistic workers and long-term residents will be regarded as an important force for Yantianzi cultural heritage, cultural extension, and cultural dissemination. At the same time, policy support will be introduced to do a good job in providing cyclical value-added services, and the ultimate goal of sharing, symbiosis, and sustainable development will be achieved through multiple measures.

6. Conclusion

After analyzing the actual situation of Yim Tin Tsai Village and combining it with the research of the existing rural management models in many countries, this paper puts forward a community management model under the concept of building ecological museum management in Yim Tin Tsai Village, positioning the community masses as the organizer, manager and propagandist of the community, and in the idea of letting the community masses take the lead and integrating diverse forces into the construction and management of the community, It is hoped that the community management of Yim Tin Tsai Village, Hong Kong can explore a model that conforms to its own reality and can be sustainable for a long time. Let the ecological protection, historical value, and cultural value of Yim Tin Tsai Village continue and develop in the process of inheritance.

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