

Study on the Hollowing Out of Rural Villages in Ethnic Areas and Countermeasures

-- Investigation and Reflections based on Some Villages in Xiyang Ethnic Yi

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Abstract

Ethnic areas; hollowing out; countermeasures and suggestions
Abstract: The 2022 government work report clearly points out that "we will make great efforts to improve agricultural production and promote the overall revitalization of the countryside. Improve and strengthen agricultural support policies, continue to promote the development of areas out of poverty, and promote a good agricultural harvest and an increase in farmers' income." This is a clear direction for China's "three rural" work this year. From a systematic and medium to long-term perspective, the modernization of agriculture, the revitalization of the countryside and the prosperity of farmers will become the key support for China's economic cycle. However, as a large agricultural country with thousands of years of traditional farming culture, the continuous exodus of rural population to cities and towns has led to the hollowing out of rural population, industries, village management and rural culture, resulting in insufficient effective supply of agricultural products, inefficient land use, weak management of grassroots organizations, gradual decline of rural culture, widening gap between urban and rural areas and more prominent social problems. The problem is that the rural areas are becoming more and more crowded. The lack of rural infrastructure pushes the young labor force out of the countryside, while the superior conditions of urban modernization attracts the young labor force, making the current situation in rural areas more difficult and the phenomenon of "hollowing out" more and more intense, which is a great resistance to the implementation of rural revitalization. In this paper, we investigate some representative villages in Xiyang Ethnic Yi, Jinning District, Kunming City, in order to explore the difficulties and root causes of rural areas in ethnic areas, and try to provide reasonable and feasible countermeasures and suggestions.

Keywords

Rural Revitalization; Village Survey; The Reasons for the Lag in Rural Development; Countermeasures and Suggestions.

1. Introduction

With the prominence of the "dualistic structure", hollowing out has become more and more serious. The loss of population, the loss of culture, and the withering of villages are the main manifestations of hollowing out, and these problems directly lead to the large gap between urban and rural areas and the difficulty of carrying out the work of "three rural areas". Hollowing out of population, hollowing out of culture and hollowing out of villages has become a roadblock to the implementation of rural revitalization strategy and is a big problem that needs to be solved. Therefore, "hollowing out" has attracted great attention from the government and academia, and the No. 1 document of the Central Government in 2013

proposed to strengthen and innovate the social management of rural villages; in 2014, in the government work report of the State Council, the people explicitly mentioned that the problem of "hollow villages" should be given high priority. In 2014, the State Council's government work report explicitly mentioned that the problem of "hollow villages" should be given high priority; in 2015, the three pilot reforms of the national rural land system were fully launched; in 2017, the report of the 19th Party Congress first proposed the implementation of the rural revitalization strategy, and the Central Rural Work Conference made comprehensive deployment of its key tasks. Although the introduction of the policy points out the direction, in order to fundamentally solve the problem, we should clarify the formation mechanism of "hollowing out", and solve the problem of hollowing out scientifically and reasonably by addressing the root causes of the problem. This study takes several typical hollowed-out villages in Xiyang Ethnic Yi as examples, and proposes targeted and operable countermeasures to provide useful reference and reference for the management of hollowing out in rural areas of ethnic areas by analyzing the symptoms and effects of hollowing out.

2. Basic Information of the Survey Site

Xiyang Ethnic Yi is one of the two ethnic minority townships in Jinning District, Kunming. The villagers are simple, the village style is simple, and the natural resources are rich, but the natural environment and transportation location of the township are relatively poor, resulting in a large number of dangerous houses, poor transportation, low value-added agricultural products, low economic income, etc. A large number of young laborers have gone to the city to work and never return.

The township's Taiban and wooden wooden villages were included in the second batch of the list of traditional Chinese villages on August 6, 2013; Lei Rongye Village, Daqi Clothing Village, Yiziger Village and Yaduadian Village Committee were included in the third batch of the list of traditional Chinese villages on November 17, 2014. Most of the traditional villages in the township have a unique flavor of the Yi and Hani ethnic groups, including the traditional village of Yiziger, which is known as the "Hometown of Dinosaurs," a small section of the ancient tea road, the typical three-dimensional climate of the community, and the unique natural landscape of the township with its distinctive ancient buildings, unique mountain forests, and neat terraced fields. It has great conservation and development value.

The youngest inheritor is 46 years old and the oldest is 84 years old, and these cultural heritage projects are facing the dilemma of having no one to inherit them.

3. The Manifestation and Characteristics of "Hollowing out" of Rural Areas in Ethnic Areas

3.1. Hollowing out of Population

Although there are a rich natural and cultural heritage resources, but according to recent years data show that the Yiyang Ethnic Yi youth human resources are decreasing almost every year, the latest statistics is Yiyang Township total population of 9614 people, 3616 permanent residents, of which about 2800 people over 50 years old, accounting for 77.78% of the total resident population.

More and more "away from the countryside" "away from the land" of the rural population to settle in the city, the number of rural residents decreased sharply, the rural "popularity" thin, resulting in the rural population "Hollowing out". In order to understand the outflow of people from this township, we interviewed villagers from the village of Yiziger, a village belonging to the Xiyang Yi ethnic group, and the village secretary of Gaoliangdi.

Interview 1.

ZYX: You hardly see any young people in the village. How many people are there in the village now, roughly? How many young people are there?

YZG1: Young people have gone to the city to work and make money. There are very few young people working at home. There are not many young people in the village, only about ten or so in their 30s and 40s.

ZYX: What is the main source of income for the villagers?

YZG1: We grow (black skin) peanuts, (fruit) melon seeds, (high calcium) selenium rice, and so on.

ZYX: How about the income from these? How much can you earn in a year?

YZG1: My two sons, the two of them only come back in the New Year, the land, my partner and I planted, a year can save a 50,000 to 60,000, considered good. They do not have so much land, a family is also about 30,000 bar.

ZYX: Without the help of young people, is it hard for you to do these farming tasks? Do you miss your children?

YZG1: Yes, my partner talks about the children every day. Farm work can be done, my partner and I are 63 years old, in the village is still "young" (embarrassed smile), most of the village are 60, 70 years old, there are many almost 80 years old is not less to do work in the field, we are the old people do work.

Interview 2.

ZYX: Do you have the latest data on the demographic structure of the village?

GLD1: Gaoliangdi, total population 458, resident population 168, more than 50 resident population accounted for 83.33% of the total resident population.

ZYX: What are the percentages of elderly, women and children?

GLD1: Most of the people who stay in the village are older than 50 years old, probably also account for about 80%. Women and children are getting less and less these two years, and they all follow the men to work.

ZY: Is there an elementary school and a middle school in the village?

GLD1: There is no school in our village, the children have to go to a school 15 kilometers away to study, the children have to live in the school from the age of 4 and come back once a week, so do the children in our neighboring villages.

ZY: How many people buy houses in the city?

GLD1 knows of a few who have already bought, and some who have heard from them (villagers), and I don't know if it's true or not, but there should be quite a few.

It can be seen that the quality of the population left behind is generally low, as most of the population left behind are the elderly, women and children, the main characteristics of this part of the villagers are relatively weak labor force and not innovative enough; at the same time, the population structure is aging, there are only a few young people in the village, and the young people who go out will only occasionally return to the village during the New Year or special holidays, and stay for a few days before they go back to the towns. The education in the village is not up to the level of the town, and it is also difficult for the elderly or women to assist children in learning and education because they do not have enough knowledge, so the overall level of education in the village can be imagined.

3.2. Hollowing out of Villages

As the income of villagers working outside the village increases, more and more new houses are being built in the villages. The old people left behind have feelings for the old house but no longer hold the economic power, while the young people who have left their hometowns to work outside the village are influenced by the modernization and urbanization of thought and

their feelings for the old house are not so strong, coupled with the alienation of neighbourly feelings and comparison, most of the villagers who have some savings choose to give up the repair of the old house and find another land to build a new house, which is also called "build new but not demolish old". The "building new but not demolishing old" has directly led to the "expansion of the village", i.e., the area of new housing is increasing, but the residents in the center of the village are becoming scarce. Aging, abandoned and unused houses are everywhere, and the whole village is becoming more and more decayed.

3.3. Hollowing out of Industries

Villages with continuous population exodus are generally in great difficulties in terms of industry. The construction of new houses on arable land and the desolation of arable land directly led to a significant reduction in the area under cultivation. The "three treasures" of Xi Yang Ethnic Yi - fragrant glutinous rice, sunflower seeds, and red pepper - are suitable for production in the township after repeated trials and tests, but it is difficult to form a scale due to the failure of personnel and technology to meet standards, and the development of rural industries is gradually hollowing out.

3.4. Management Hollowing out

Due to the limitation of the number of resident populations, there is a serious lack of subjects as well as objects in the management of grassroots organizations. More importantly, the managers and the resident population are facing the same low overall quality level. In these villages where the quality of both the managers and the managed is low, many things and tasks are more difficult to promote effectively, or even difficult to implement, which makes it difficult to guarantee the management level and efficiency.

3.5. Cultural Hollowing out

Compared with urban areas, public cultural facilities in rural areas are obviously insufficient, and cultural resources cannot meet the needs of villagers, which creates a great obstacle to the spread and development of culture. Meanwhile, the authors learned through surveys and interviews that the literacy level of these left-behind villagers is not high and their cultural quality is relatively low. This, coupled with the sharp decline in the number of children remaining in the village, has had an impact on the shrinking of schools in the countryside, which in turn has had a negative impact on education.

4. The Impact of Hollowing out

4.1. Insufficient Effective Supply of Agricultural Products

Since people over 50 years old account for about 80% of the total resident population in villages, it is only logical that this group is the main force engaged in agriculture. The lack of labor makes the development of agriculture hindered, not to mention the promotion of new or modern agriculture, so the promotion of new agricultural machinery and agricultural technology is not easy to implement due to the lack of people.

4.2. Low Efficiency of Land Use

The low efficiency of land use is a direct manifestation of land hollowing out. In a farming society where the elderly is the main group, they do not have much difficulty in traditional farming, but they have too much difficulty in using and accepting new farming machines and farming technologies.

4.3. The Gap between Urban and Rural Areas is Expanding

As the "dual structure" intensifies, the living conditions and public facilities in cities and towns become more and more advantageous, while the relatively high economic income makes

workers from rural areas gradually give up the idea of returning to their hometowns. The stronger the ability, the higher the economic income, the greater the capital for rural workers to stay in the city, and thus the fewer they return to their hometowns; those with average work and income may return home after a few years of earning some money. This is invariably the endogenous screening "can talent" channel of the town, so that relatively capable people stay in the city, and these people for their own good life more efforts to dedicate to the city, and thus the construction of the city will be promoted. In this way, the construction of the city becomes better and better, and the advantages become more and more obvious. And the exodus of rural talents makes the disadvantage also gradually increase.

4.4. Social Problems are Becoming More and More Prominent

The three groups of people left behind (the elderly, women and children) are not only the main core members of a family, but also a relatively vulnerable group of people who need extra care and love. The absence of parents (or at least one of them) may cause psychological problems of varying degrees in the development and education of children, as well as the need for companionship and guidance during a particular period. Studies have shown that children who lack communication with their relatives tend to be withdrawn and behave oddly, even leading to different degrees of psychological problems; couples who live apart for a long time not only dilute the relationship between husband and wife, but also add a lot of distress and trouble to sentimental women, and in the long run, the relationship between husband and wife will be in crisis and family conflicts will break out frequently; elderly people left behind cannot keep up with modern changes, and their unfamiliar understanding of electronic products directly impede their life and efficiency. More seriously, many elderly people have a lot of problems in going to the doctor, and it is the norm for some of them to "delay minor illnesses and suffer from major ones". In response to this problem, we interviewed the villagers and directors of the two committees in the village of Izig and the wooden village respectively.

Interview 3.

ZYX:How old are you, kid? What grade are you in?

YZG2:I'm almost ten years old, and I'll be in the fourth grade at the beginning of the school year.

ZYX:Mom and dad are not at home, what should I do if I don't know how to do my homework during the week (summer vacation)?

ZYX:Grandparents can't read or write, they write it themselves, they don't write what they don't know, they put it away, sometimes mom and dad call and ask them, but sometimes they don't even understand the topic.

Interview 4.

ZYX:How often does your husband (working) come back?

YZG2: I can't say, I'll come back if there's something, I won't come back if there's nothing, I'll stay longer this New Year, 20 days, I didn't come back after the first month.

ZYX: usually phone communication is not much, each time the continuous chat time will be more than half an hour?

YZG2: nothing generally do not communicate, he works the night shift, sleep during the day, the phone to talk for a long time to quarrel.

Case 1 (two committee office director statement).

Lei rang Tian's grandfather Liu, 78 years old, two daughters married to a neighboring village after working in Kunming, a son family are in Kunming, the elderly do not use electronic products. Gallstones pain for most of the year, tolerated for most of the year, has been afraid of trouble not willing to let his partner tell the children, but also unwilling to go to the hospital. Finally the pain can not stand up, there is no way, the old companion to call the children, the son took leave of absence is not convenient, the youngest daughter came back to take Grandpa

Liu to the hospital for examination. Found to be gallstones, stones are too large, have to be operated, in the family persuasion Grandpa Liu only agreed to surgery.

4.5. Village Culture is Gradually Declining

On the one hand, in the traditional agricultural society of China, the essence of "countryside" already contains rich and colourful traditional rural culture; on the other hand, the characteristic culture of ethnic areas is concentrated in the villages, and various forms of ethnic activities are also the carrier to reflect and pass on the culture. The decrease of farming area and farming population, and the gradual decline of ethnic activities have made the inheritance of traditional culture in rural areas unsustainable, not to mention the expectation of innovative development of traditional culture. The lack of inheritance subjects, the difficulty of innovation, and the lack of cultural atmosphere have become the current situation of the declining village culture.

5. Suggestions for Countermeasures Against "Hollowing Out" of Rural Areas in Ethnic Areas

5.1. Increase Farmers' Income

The reason why most farmers leave their hometowns to seek development in the city is that there are more employment opportunities and higher wages in the city. The employment channels in villages are particularly narrow and the sources of income are limited. The local government should drive the economic income through special industries to achieve higher economic income, and properly transform traditional farming into high-yielding or special agricultural products with characteristics. In addition, it can also develop the characteristic cultural tourism industry in ethnic areas to promote ethnic culture and at the same time realize the opening of sales channels for agricultural products, to improve farmers' income and realize regional economic growth.

5.2. Improve Land Utilization Rate

The most important problem facing China at present is how to allocate the limited land resources with the best quality. Land resources are non-renewable resources, and in order to give full play to the value of land resources, the utilization efficiency of land should be effectively improved. Therefore, the configuration of land resources should be fully considered before they are utilized, and they should be fully utilized. In the process of rational planning and utilization of agricultural land resources, the actual use of agricultural land resources in the region should be dynamically supervised with detailed data on agricultural land resources, and the agricultural land resources management system should be continuously improved to fully implement the management planning of land resources. The government should vigorously promote land regulations and policies, strictly enforce relevant laws, and strictly protect agricultural land in each region. Effective protection of agricultural land resources, at the same time, the government should also continue to build and improve agricultural water conservancy projects, and relevant government departments should issue special funds and include construction funds for building irrigation canal systems and drainage facilities in the scope of subsidies.

5.3. Improve Grassroots Management

The local government should strengthen the establishment and improve the training mechanism of rural talents and the system of cooperation and circulation of talents. Fully stimulate the action and role of grassroots leaders such as "first secretary", "college student village officials" and "leaders hanging to help" in village governance. Pay attention to and solve

the problem of farmers' loss, attract farmers to return to their hometowns for employment, and attract local talents to return to their hometowns.

5.4. Strengthen Social Security

Strengthen the protection and assistance for the "three left-behind people" by establishing relevant laws and regulations, especially in the education of children, medical insurance for the elderly and care for women. The elderly has devoted their whole life to the society and family, and they should be cared for in their old age, which also reflects the traditional virtue of the Chinese nation, so we should give them adequate protection in terms of policy and system in their old age, when they need food, clothing, housing, transportation and medical care most. The saying "one woman influences three generations" is also sufficient to prove the important influence of a woman in the family and even in society, and the development of any society cannot be achieved without the dedication of women. We will strive to ensure that every flower of our country can bloom under the sun.

5.5. Strengthen Education

On the one hand, the impact of the shrinking rural schools on the right to education and quality of rural children needs the attention of local governments. The phenomenon of children not being sent to school at the right age because schools are too far away must be addressed. On the other hand, the government should increase the investment and funding for education in rural areas and improve the facilities and equipment of schools. At the same time the importance and introduction of teachers is also crucial to improve the overall quality level of teachers, strengthen the overall educational environment and atmosphere, and give rural children a quality growth paradise.

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