

Public Participation in Cultural Heritage Protection

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Abstract: China's thousands of years of historical precipitation, our ancestors left us a lot of valuable cultural heritage, many of which we have studied its value, but there are still a lot of them, with the current technical means cannot be studied. With the rapid development of China's economy and the acceleration of urbanization, many ancient buildings and historical relics with valuable cultural value are in the scope of urban planning and transformation. Many of them have been seriously damaged due to the lack of scientific means of protection. In recent years, more and more cases have been organized by government departments and development companies to unite the masses for the protection of cultural heritage. However, due to the lack of systematic theoretical knowledge and sufficient practical experience, up to now, the expected results have not been achieved. In this paper, the role of public participation in the protection of cultural heritage is analyzed through case studies, combined with theoretical research, in-depth excavation and summary of the role of public participation in the protection of cultural heritage and its necessity.

1. Introduction

In the past five thousand years, there are so many stories in China that we lack the cultural heritage to support our historians. The great stories in these stories will be buried in the long river of history forever. How can we inherit and carry forward the precious experience in stories and the heritage of our ancestors? A person who has no memory of the past will be confused about the future, and a country that has lost the memory of the past will blindly walk on the road to the future. Protecting the precious heritage left by our ancestors is necessary for the whole Chinese nation to move forward in the future.

2. Understanding of Public Participation

Public participation is a two-way communication process between the government and individuals, enterprises, institutions and all its organizations except the government[1]. In this process, the government is responsible for organizing experts to investigate and formulate plans for the protection of cultural heritage, and timely and complete notification of relevant information and its implications in projects, plans, planning or policy formulation and implementation actions to the public. After receiving the notification, all the public will respond positively and feedback the opinions and perceptions of the notification to the government[2]. In the process of public participation, the government should adopt a series of measures to unify public ideas and guide public work because of the different quality of the public and the complicated social relations between the public and the public. Public participation is an action with detailed plans, specific plans and clear objectives. It is a long-term means for the government to guide the whole people to protect cultural heritage together. The understanding of public participation is shown in Figure 1.

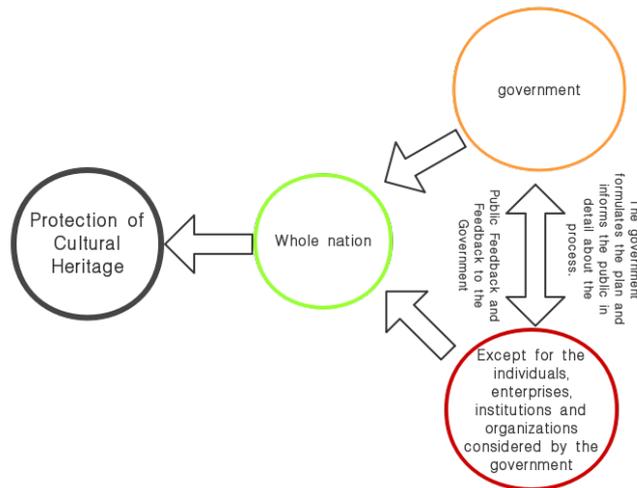


Fig.1. Understanding of public participation

3. The Significance of Protecting Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage is the inheritance of the spirit of the Chinese nation. It bears the story of 5000 years of China, reflects the wisdom and rich imagination of the ancestors, demonstrates the vitality and creativity of the Chinese celebrities, and is the crystallization of the wisdom of the ancestors. The value of cultural heritage is objective and inherent in itself. Its significance is mainly embodied in three aspects: historical value, artistic value and scientific value. Cultural heritage is the inevitable product of the development of human society and history. Different cultural heritages reflected the productive forces, production relations and the degree of civilization of the society at that time from different perspectives. The comparison of cultural heritage in different periods can reflect the political and cultural reform, the development of science and technology, and the changes of public material and spiritual life in the two social stages[3]. Generally speaking, the cultural heritage can make us "history repeat" to a certain extent, which is an important basis for objective understanding of history. Cultural heritage has a lot of artistic value, especially the cultural heritage which uses painting, sculpture and other means in its external manifestation. It can not only reflect the social content and ideology of its era, but also inherit the artistic form of its ancestors perfectly. Bronze ware, ceramics, wood carving and so on have very high artistic value. The preservation of cultural heritage must have its carrier, and its carrier is created by the ancestors using the materials and technology they possessed at that time[4]. They reflect from different angles the degree of people's understanding and utilization of nature and the level of development of science, technology and productivity in that historical period in which they existed. For example, Shang bronze wares and iron wares of the Warring States Period can provide important materials for scientists to study the level of social productivity and scientific and technological level of these two eras.

Protecting cultural heritage and preserving the inheritance of national culture are important cultural foundations for connecting national emotional ties, promoting national unity and maintaining national unity and social stability. They are also prerequisites for maintaining cultural diversity and creativity in the world and promoting the common development of mankind. Strengthening the protection of cultural heritage is an inevitable requirement for building advanced socialist culture, implementing the scientific concept of development and building a harmonious socialist society. China is an ancient civilization with a long history. In the long years, the Chinese nation has created rich and colorful cultural heritage. The CPC Central Committee and the State Council have always attached great importance to the protection of cultural heritage. With the joint efforts of the whole society, the protection of cultural heritage in China has achieved remarkable

results[5]. At the same time, we should also clearly see that the current protection of cultural heritage in China is facing many problems, the situation is grim, not optimistic. In order to further strengthen the protection of China's cultural heritage, inherit and carry forward the excellent traditional culture of the Chinese nation, and promote the construction of advanced socialist culture, the State Council decided that the second Saturday in June every year from 2006 would be China's "Cultural Heritage Day". Notices on strengthening heritage protection were also issued.

4. Case Study of Public Participation in Protecting Cultural Heritage of Xi'an Big Wild Goose Pagoda

4.1. Brief history of Xi'an big wild goose pagoda

The Dayan Pagoda in Xi'an has been built for more than 1300 years. It has experienced more than 70 earthquakes before and after, countless wars, and the tower body has already been tilted. From the 1980s to the 1990s, due to the dramatic increase of population and the rapid expansion of the city scale in Xi'an, the Big Wild Goose Pagoda accelerated tilting and sinking. In 1983, the scientific research project "Research on the Inclination of the Big Wild Goose Pagoda and Its Reinforcement" was officially established. After more than 30 years'efforts of the scientific research team and the cooperation of relevant units, the inclination and sinking of the Dayan Pagoda were controlled. In 2011, after Qinshihuang Terracotta Warriors and Horses, Huangdi Mausoleum and Huaqing Pool, the Qujiang Big Wild Goose Pagoda in Xi'an was successfully promoted to the first 5A-level scenic spot in Xi'an and the fourth national 5A-level scenic spot in Xi'an[6].

4.2. Analysis of public participation in protecting the cultural heritage of Dayan pagoda

As a national cultural heritage, the Big Wild Goose Pagoda is the witness of the whole nation's history. Any member of the Chinese nation has the duty to protect it and ensure its complete succession from generation to generation. As a cultural heritage, the Big Wild Goose Pagoda is not renewable. As such an important heritage belonging to all the descendants of China, public participation in its protection is bound to be the inevitable trend of the development of social democracy, but also the key to the long-term inheritance of historical and cultural heritage[7]. The ancient buildings in the historical and cultural relics of the Dayan Pagoda have the characteristics of immovability. The protection of the ancient buildings should be guided by experts and the local people are the key to play the best role. At present, the national awareness of the protection of cultural heritage is still too weak[8]. We need to increase the propaganda of knowledge related to cultural heritage protection through the media, so that more people who want to protect cultural heritage have better ways to implement it, so that those who do not have public awareness of the protection of cultural heritage can realize as soon as possible that the protection of cultural heritage is the responsibility of everyone in the whole nation.

5. Perfection and Implementation of Cultural Heritage Protection System

Perfecting the system of cultural heritage protection should be government-led and public participation. Although our country encourages public participation in the protection of cultural heritage and formulates relevant laws, it has not been able to build a good communication bridge with the working public through the system, and can not meet the public's demands for cultural heritage protection. At present, the government's efforts to encourage public participation in the protection of cultural heritage are insufficient. The right mechanism of public participation in restraining government behavior depends on the government's initiative in identifying and screening cultural heritage, and the public can hardly participate in it. China has not promulgated relevant laws specifically to promote the development of non-governmental cultural security organizations, allowing them to grow on their own, resulting in slow development and unable to meet the actual needs. The government should also strengthen the incentive for the public to participate in the protection of cultural heritage[9]. Nowadays, the incentive mechanism is not attractive enough for the public to mobilize public enthusiasm.

6. Conclusion

Cultural heritage belongs to the common ownership of the whole nation. Protecting cultural heritage is not only the responsibility of the government, but also the obligation of every descendant of the Yellow Emperor. At present, China's cultural heritage protection system is not perfect enough, and the government and the public communication is not smooth, which also leads to the system can not be well implemented. There is still a long way to go in the future for the protection of cultural heritage. The establishment and operation of a relatively perfect cultural heritage protection system must be guided by the government to guide the public, how to do it, and at the same time, to guide the public, so that the public can actually do it.

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