

Research on the Inheritance and Dissemination of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Ethnic Minorities from the Perspective of Cultural Ecology

Daoyuan Chi

Experimental High School Attached to Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China

Abstract: Intangible cultural legacy is a crucial part of ethnic cultural variety and social memory. Globalization and modernity are posing significant threats to ethnic minority' intangible cultural heritage. Cultural ecology gives a macro view on the evolution, adaptation, and survival of cultural legacy in specific contexts. The purpose of this research is to investigate how to successfully maintain and inherit ethnic minorities' intangible cultural assets from a cultural ecology viewpoint, as well as the dissemination methods that will assure their long-term growth. Cultural ecology views the inheritance of intangible cultural legacy as requiring a healthy ecological context. This covers not just environmental conservation, but also socioeconomic circumstances, education, policy support, technical advancement, and national self-identity. According to research, it is critical to build a multi-level inheritance system involving government, community, schools, and media through multi-party collaboration. In terms of communication, current media technologies such as the Internet, social platforms, and multimedia devices offer new and expanded opportunities for the promotion of intangible cultural assets.

Keywords: Intangible Cultural Heritage, Cultural Ecology, Inheritance and Protection.

1. Introduction

Globalization is causing unprecedented integration and conflict among civilizations from all over the world. The intangible cultural legacy of ethnic minorities, which is a concentrated manifestation of diverse cultural systems and historical traditions, must be conserved and passed down. Intangible cultural heritage is more than simply a storehouse for national memory; it also represents the country's cultural character and historical continuity. However, due to unequal economic growth, cultural homogeneity trends, and the influence of contemporary lifestyles, ethnic minorities' intangible cultural legacy confronts a variety of challenges, including the loss of traditional knowledge and skills, as well as a decrease in the number of inheritors.

Examining the inheritance and transmission of intangible cultural property via the perspective of cultural ecology may provide us with a more comprehensive and in-depth understanding. Cultural ecology emphasizes the interaction and interdependence of culture and its environment, arguing that cultural survival and advancement must be based on adaptive management and ecological balance. To investigate the inheritance and dissemination of ethnic minorities' intangible cultural heritage, researchers should consider the culture's internal ecological structure, external environmental influences, and how to promote its long-term development in modern society through policy intervention, educational promotion, and technological application.

2. Overview of Cultural Ecology and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Ethnic Minorities

2.1. Cultural Ecology Theory

Anthropologist Julian Steward established the notion of cultural ecology in the mid-twentieth century, which investigates how humans and their cultures adapt to their

biological and physical settings. According to this idea, culture is a component of the ecosystem, which involves interactions between resources, the environment, technology, social structure, and values. Cultural ecology contends that cultural forms and changes are not only impacted by biological development, but also heavily controlled by their surroundings. When analyzing cultural phenomena, we must take into account their link to the natural environment [1].

This idea highlights that human culture's evolution and change is an adaptive process that occurs as a result of human-environment interaction. This adaptability encompasses not only biological adaptation, but also technological, social, and ideological elements. When environmental conditions change, culture adjusts to ensure optimal adaptability. Furthermore, cultural ecology theory focuses on the interplay of different cultures, namely how they impact, adapt, and coordinate while sharing the same habitat.

Cultural ecology theory offers a valuable viewpoint on the transmission and distribution of ethnic minorities' intangible cultural heritage. It directs our investigation into how intangible cultural heritage may be kept and maintained in its unique ecological context, as well as how it might develop sustainably via innovative adaptation techniques in the face of external environmental constraints. This involves examining the influence of elements such as human social structure change, value transformation, and technology innovation on the transmission and preservation of intangible cultural assets [2].

2.2. Definition and Classification of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Ethnic Minorities

The notion of ethnic minorities' intangible cultural legacy includes diverse social behaviors, expressions, knowledge, skills, as well as related instruments, products, handicrafts, and cultural places that communities, organizations, or individuals consider to be part of their cultural heritage. For ethnic minorities, intangible cultural heritage not only

preserves the nation's history and memory, but it also serves as a significant expression of their cultural identity and distinctive way of life. These types of legacy have been passed down through generations and are strongly tied to ethnic groups' lifestyles, religious beliefs, social structure, and environmental adaptations. They contribute significantly to the continuity and creativity of ethnic culture.

The notion of ethnic minorities' intangible cultural heritage includes, but is not limited to, traditional music, dance, drama, rituals, festivals, oral traditions, social behaviors, and natural and cosmic knowledge systems. These cultural forms represent ethnic minority' perceptions of the natural and social environments, reveal their attitudes and philosophical

thinking about life, and serve as a significant source of group identification and cohesiveness.

The classification of ethnic minorities' intangible cultural heritage can be divided into five dimensions: oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, social customs, rituals and festivals, knowledge and practice of nature and the universe, and traditional handicraft skills. Each category contains distinct information and phrases relating to minority cultures [3].

Legends, folktales, riddles, slang, and other oral traditions and expressions constitute cultural legacy that is passed down and practiced. As seen in Figure 1:



Figure 1. Inheritance of weaving techniques for intangible cultural heritage of ethnic minorities.

Performing arts include different kinds of artistic expression such as music, dance, and theater. As seen in

Figure 2:



Figure 2. Tibetan Intangible Cultural Heritage Performance.

Weddings, burial ceremonies, and harvest festivals are examples of social traditions, rituals, and festivals that center

around ethnic communities' lifestyles and key social activities. As seen in Figure 23:



Figure 3. Yao intangible cultural heritage “Having Fun on the Yuanxiao (Filled round balls made of glutinous rice-flour for Lantern Festival)”.

Knowledge and practice of nature and the universe include traditional understanding and practice of the ecological

environment, agricultural production, medical knowledge, and other areas. As seen in Figure 4:



Figure 4. Sani Yi Traditional Culture Protection Area.

Weaving, ceramics, and woodworking are examples of traditional handicrafts. These abilities represent not just the beauty of workmanship, but also have significant cultural and

historical worth. As seen in Figure 5:



Figure 5. Intangible Cultural Heritage - Changsha Zongbian.

3. The Current Status of Inheritance of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Ethnic Minorities

3.1. Analysis of Inheritance Methods

Ethnic minorities' intangible cultural legacy is passed down through a variety of techniques, which are typically classified into five categories: oral transmission, practical inheritance, mentoring, familial inheritance, and modern educational distribution. Word of mouth is the transmission of knowledge and abilities through storytelling, folk song singing, oral advice, and other means. This approach is simple and

straightforward to use, but its stability and accuracy are limited. Practical inheritance stresses the preservation of traditional knowledge by engaging in specific actions and rituals [4]. Master apprentice transmission is a more formal kind of inheritance in which the inheritor gradually acquires skills and information through apprenticeship. Family inheritance is the transfer of intangible cultural legacy from elders to younger generations within a single family or clan, as demonstrated in the family's specialty handicrafts and art forms. Finally, the modern education communication method employs school instruction, media, and the Internet to disseminate intangible cultural heritage in a larger societal context. As seen in Figure 6:



Figure 6. Teaching method of master and apprentice.

The means of inheriting intangible cultural assets are evolving in response to societal changes and technological advancements. The use of multimedia and virtual reality technologies allows intangible cultural heritage to be displayed and taught in a more visual and dynamic manner. By staging public events such as cultural festivals and museum exhibitions, intangible cultural assets can get greater public attention and interest, hence increasing its social diffusion power.

3.2. Inheritance Difficulties and Challenges

While inheritance processes progress and evolve, inheriting ethnic minority' intangible cultural legacy remains tough and challenging. To begin, lifestyle changes brought about by globalization and modernization have resulted in the progressive marginalization of traditional culture, and the younger generation's interest in intangible cultural assets has declined. The pressures of economic progress have caused many prospective inheritors to pursue more economically effective professions, resulting in a break in the transmission of traditional skills and knowledge [5].

The popularization of the contemporary educational system has had an influence on traditional teacher-student transmission and family internal inheritance mechanisms, diminishing the quality and depth of intangible cultural

heritage inheritance. Some cultural legacy may be misconstrued or rejected in many countries owing to their religious or ethnic identity, making succession more difficult.

Although technological change has opened up new avenues for the dissemination of intangible cultural heritage, it has also raised concerns about intellectual property protection, the legitimacy and authenticity of cultural content, and how to innovate appropriately while preserving the essence of tradition. As a result, establishing a balance between progress and conservatism, change and tradition, is now the most difficult task for the inheritance of intangible cultural assets.

4. Inheritance Strategies from the Perspective of Cultural Ecology

4.1. Ecological Adaptability Inheritance

Ecological adaptive inheritance focuses on the coordination and adaptation of intangible cultural heritage and the ecological environment during the inheritance process, with the goal of promoting the harmonious coexistence of cultural heritage with the natural environment, social environment, economic development, and so on. This inheritance method focuses on how ethnic minority' intangible cultural legacy may retain its vitality and cultural worth in modern surroundings, as well as how cultural forms can grow to adapt to changing ecological circumstances. This

entails adapting to environmental changes, modernizing traditional knowledge and technology, and adjusting cultural behaviors in a timely manner.

Ecological adaptability inheritance necessitates a thorough understanding of the intrinsic logic of intangible cultural heritage, respect for its traditional traits, and identification of changeable aspects. Inheritance should not merely duplicate the past, but rather explore methods to integrate tradition and modernity in an ever-changing world. This necessitates a flexible and adaptable inheritance approach, which includes adaptive management and creative change of the content, shape, and expression of intangible cultural assets.

4.2. Community Participation and Co-construction

Community engagement and co-construction emphasize active participation and collaborative activity among community members as the foundation of intangible cultural heritage inheritance. Emphasizing that cultural legacy is the community's collective asset and duty, its continued succession should be based on active cooperation and cooperative upkeep by all members. Community engagement can take many forms, including organizing cultural activities, forming craftsmen groups, offering training courses, producing cultural festivals, and so on [6].

Community co-construction increases community members' mutual connections and collaborative spirit by allowing them to work together to create a social environment that promotes cultural inheritance. Community members can use local policy support to create a more favorable environment for the inheritance of intangible cultural assets, such as by constructing cultural exhibition halls, developing intangible cultural heritage databases, and implementing other publicity and education initiatives. This concept of co-construction and sharing has the potential to boost cultural life in the community, raise cultural awareness, and foster innovation and revival of cultural assets.

4.3. Digital Inheritance and Communication

Digital inheritance and dissemination refers to the use of digital technology to record, conserve, distribute, and recreate intangible cultural material, opening up new avenues for its inheritance in modern society. This technique not only efficiently protects intangible cultural assets from the passage of time and physical circumstances, but it also allows more people to learn and interact with intangible culture through media platforms such as the Internet.

Building a digital archive allows for the creation of high-quality digital records of intangible cultural material that can retain sound, picture, and motion information for an extended period of time. Users can immerse themselves with intangible cultural heritage by using technologies such as virtual reality and augmented reality, hence increasing the efficacy of inheritance. At the same time, social media's interaction and distribution capacity may pique public interest and engagement in intangible cultural assets, resulting in increased cultural popularization and education [7].

Digitization also contributes to the development of a cross-regional and temporal network for the inheritance of intangible cultural heritage, facilitating cultural exchanges between different regions and ethnic groups, enriching channels for the dissemination of intangible cultural heritage, and providing strong technical support for its long-term inheritance.

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Building a digital archive allows for the creation of high-quality digital records of intangible cultural material that can retain sound, picture, and motion information for a long time.

Users may immerse themselves in intangible cultural legacy by using technologies like virtual reality and augmented reality, which substantially improves the effectiveness of inheritance. Simultaneously, the interaction and distribution potential of social media may pique public interest and engagement in intangible cultural assets, resulting in more cultural popularization and education.

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6. Conclusion

Intangible cultural legacy inheritance is more than just reproducing cultural activities; it also takes into account environmental, social, economic, and technological aspects. As a result, while developing inheritance plans, we must take into account all of the factors listed above to guarantee that intangible cultural property may be properly maintained and cultivated in a changing context.

The use of ecological adaptive inheritance mechanisms contributes to the sustained development of intangible cultural resources. It needs us to adapt inherited practices while maintaining tradition in order to balance intangible cultural assets with the new social context. Meanwhile, community engagement and co-construction are critical for the preservation of intangible cultural assets. Only when local communities inspire passion and collaborate to safeguard and inherit their cultural treasures can intangible cultural heritage become active and widespread in society.

In today's fast changing information technology landscape, digital inheritance and transmission have created new pathways for intangible cultural assets. High-tech methods may not only help us capture and conserve cultural heritage more effectively, but also market it internationally via internet platforms, pique the curiosity of young people, and raise

public knowledge and acknowledgment of traditional culture.

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