

# Research on the Construction and Governance Experience of Ethnic Integrated Communities from the Perspective of Forging an Awareness of the Community with a Shared Future——A Case Study of Taodian Hui Ethnic Township in Shou County

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**Abstract:** Against the backdrop where forging an Awareness of the Community with a Shared Future has become the main focus of ethnic work, research on the construction of ethnic integrated communities is of great significance. However, existing studies mostly concentrate on border areas or ethnic minority-concentrated regions, with insufficient attention paid to central provinces dominated by the Han ethnicity. Taking Taodian Township, characterized by "small-scale concentrated residence and large-scale scattered residence", as a case study, this paper sorts out its construction experience from the dimensions of economy, culture, and social space. Meanwhile, it points out the challenges. Corresponding countermeasures are proposed. The aim is to provide references for the construction of ethnic integrated communities in central areas and advance the high-quality development of ethnic work in the new era.

**Keywords:** Ethnic Integrated Community, Awareness of the Community with a Shared Future, Community Governance

## 1. Introduction

Existing studies mostly focus on practical experiences in border areas or ethnic minority-concentrated regions. For example, Huang Weipan, taking the new citizen communities in Qianxinan as the research object, proposed a dual-track path of "policy-driven + cultural symbiosis"<sup>[1]</sup>. Shan Feifei revealed the embedded logic of "spatial reconstruction-governance decentralization"<sup>[2]</sup>. Tu Jing demonstrated the mediating role of multi-ethnic collaborative governance in resolving cultural conflicts<sup>[3]</sup>. The existing researches lack attention to the practices of ethnic townships in central areas where the Han ethnicity is the majority, making it difficult to address the integrated governance needs of atypical ethnic concentrated residential areas.

Taking Taodian Township in Shou County, Anhui Province as a case study, aims to explore the unique experience of constructing ethnically integrated communities in central provinces. Taodian Township is located on the west of Wabu Lake, with the Hui and Han populations accounting for 31.5% of the total, featuring a typical pattern of "small-scale concentration and large-scale scattered residence". Its regional particularity lies in that it is not only different from ethnic

autonomous areas in the west, but also distinct from the eastern urban communities, and thus serves as a microcosm of the harmonious coexistence of multiple ethnic groups in central areas.

## **2. Practical Experience in Building an Integrated Community**

### **2.1 Win-Win Economic Interests**

Taodian Township takes agriculture as foundation and has built an industrial pattern of "characteristic agriculture + integrated cultural and tourism + coordinated industry and trade":

In terms of characteristic agriculture, relying on the traditional breeding practices of the Hui people, it supports the breeding of beef cattle, mutton sheep and the integrated rice-shrimp farming under the "farmers+cooperatives" model.

In the aspect of integrated cultural and tourism, leveraging the ecological advantages of Wabu Lake, it has built a lakeside sightseeing zone, integrated resources to launch characteristic tourism routes. Hubin Village has become a well-established brand.

### **2.2 Cultural and Emotional Integration**

Building physical spaces and organizing cultural activities. It has invested 1 million yuan to construct the "Pomegranate Seed" Homeland, including the "56+" Studio, which use digital technology to showcase the history of ethnic groups, upgraded 5 ethnic harmony squares and held traditional Hui shuttlecock competitions.

Linking activities around traditional festivals. During the Dragon Boat Festival, 5 dragon boat teams were formed to participate in competitions. The Mid-Autumn Festival evening gala attracted over 2,000 people, and the programs covered the cultures of various ethnic groups, creating an atmosphere of co-residence and shared joy.

### **2.3 Joint Construction of Social Space**

To promote the integration of residential spaces, the township has invested 210 million yuan in the construction of a resettlement community for the residents, relocating 926 households, 3,013 people. The design incorporates Hui architectural elements and the characteristics of Han residential buildings.

To advance the equalization of public services. In 2023, it invested 5 million yuan to pave 20 kilometers of roads, renovate 15 kilometers of power grids, and build 3 garbage treatment stations. It has added 50 sets of fitness equipment, and set up a branch of the University and a day care center for the elderly.

To build a coordinated governance structure. It has established a network of "township committee + village general party branch + social organizations". For example, the "Pomegranate Seed" volunteers provides services related to people's livelihood.

## **3. Challenges in the Construction of Ethnically Integrated Communities**

### **3.1 Room for Improvement in Cultural Communication and Integration**

First, the differences in language, customs, and religious beliefs between the Han and Hui groups have created implicit barriers, affecting the depth of psychological integration.

Second, the religious norms regarding halal food and the inclusiveness of Han food lack a common space in public life. Obvious cultural conflicts, such as ambiguous food ingredient labeling and mixed use of cooking utensils, call for the establishment of a flexible supply mechanism.

Third, the concept of "halal" is often simplified to a food label. Misunderstandings about its religious connotations can easily trigger unintended cultural sensitivities.

### **3.2 Monotonous Economic Structure and Bottlenecks in Industrial Development**

First, the industrial ecology is fragile. Traditional crop cultivation relies on natural resources, resulting in weak resilience against natural disasters and market fluctuations. The situation of depending on the weather for a living undermines the material foundation of the community.

Second, the industrial chain is short. Industries are concentrated in the primary production link, lacking deep processing and brand building. This causes profit outflow and reduces opportunities for collaboration between Hui and Han residents.

Third, shortage of technological elements. The industrial sector has low technological levels and extensive management. Enterprises engaged in folk-custom-related industries lack innovation and brand awareness. This restricts industrial upgrading and social integration.

### **3.3 Improvement in Residents' Willingness and Ability to Participate in Governance**

First, the outflow of young and middle-aged labor has led to an imbalance in the structure of governance subjects. The left-behind elderly group, due to their low educational level, weak awareness of modern governance, and influence of traditional rural habits, suffers from a lack of cultural capital. They not only face obstacles in interpreting existing policies but also have a cognitive disconnect from the modern governance discourse system.

Second, there is a breakdown in intergenerational knowledge transmission. There is a lack of an effective mechanism for conceptual dialogue between the elderly group and the new generation of migrant workers in terms of modern rights awareness, which further deepens the shallowness of participation.

Third, the design of channels for community governance participation is flawed. Traditional platforms are one-dimensional; the mismatch between digital governance tools and the elderly group's technological adaptability has become a new barrier.

## **4. Suggestions for Promoting the Construction of Ethnically Integrated Communities**

### **4.1 Promoting Cultural Communication and Integration**

First, build more cultural interaction platforms. Guided by the principles of respecting differences and enhancing commonalities, the government promotes the construction of public cultural spaces. Meanwhile, it fosters cultural organizations and talents to inherit and innovate distinctive ethnic cultures.

Second, strengthen publicity efforts. Set role models by selecting advanced figures, encourage returned young people and college students to spread ethnic cultures through new media, and organize activities that combine traditional culture with ethnic culture.

Third, promote the integrated development of culture and economy. Rely on intangible cultural heritage and traditional handicrafts to develop related industries; transform cultural and tourism resources into cultural and tourism products, such as workshops and joint entrepreneurship, to promote ethnic collaboration and emotional bonds.

### **4.2 Cultivating Endogenous Drivers for the Coordinated Development of Ethnic Economies**

First, cultivate characteristic industries. The Micro-Social Foundation for Forging the Awareness of the Community with a Shared Future<sup>[4]</sup>. Local governments should guide social forces to develop ethnic-style catering and traditional handicrafts, integrate resources to achieve large-scale production, foster local brands, expand e-commerce and cultural-tourism channels, and leverage the advantages of various ethnic groups to establish cooperation mechanisms and long-term supply and marketing cooperation.

Second, innovate the culture-tourism integration model. The government needs to explore the Hui culture of Taodian Township and the Chu culture of Shou County, develop agriculture-culture-tourism integrated projects and enhance the communication and understanding between residents and tourists.

Third, improve the policy support system. The government should strive for higher-level financial funds, promote the modernization of infrastructure, implement differentiated support policies and establish an incentive mechanism for cross-ethnic joint entrepreneurship.

### **4.3 Improving the Community Governance Mechanism**

First, strengthen the collaborative governance of multiple subjects. The development of an ethnically integrated community emphasizes both external connection and internal integration<sup>[5]</sup>. Relevant government departments should integrate and coordinate multiple forces to reach consensus and resolve differences in public affairs decision-making.

Second, Routine governance methods can only make residents of all ethnic groups in the community stay at the perceptual level regarding community governance<sup>[2]</sup>. In response to ethnic cultural differences, a grassroots community work team should be established. This will ensure that the cultural diversity of the community is respected while promoting the harmonious development of the community.

Third, strengthen legal support of law. Conduct legal popularization practices. Focus on guiding residents to gradually change the habit of relying on informal mediation channels and instead resolve conflicts through official and formal channels.

## Conclusion

From the core perspective of forging the Awareness of the Community with a Shared Future, this research focuses on the case of Taodian Township and sorts out the experience of its community construction. Taodian Township's exploration not only enriches the research on ethnically concentrated residential areas, but also provides a replicable model for similar regions. By analyzing the challenges, this paper points out that these problems not only reflect the universal difficulties in ethnic integrated communities, but also highlight the unique restrictive factors in central areas. Countermeasures are proposed in response to the challenges. These countermeasures provide a path guide for Taodian Township and help construct a framework for the ethnic integrated communities. In the future, Taodian Township is expected to further consolidate the material foundation and emotional bonds for ethnic integration. Its experience will provide more practical references for the high-quality development of ethnic work in central areas.

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