Promotion path of livable quality in old town in big city based on social dimension

A case study of Wuhan in China

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Abstract

Based on the social dimension, this paper constructed an analytical framework for the improvement of livable quality in the old urban areas of large cities, and took the old urban areas of Wuhan as the research area to analyze the development difficulties faced by the old urban areas of Wuhan by means of field investigation, interview and questionnaire survey. The research shows that the rapid expansion of Wuhan city not only promotes the renewal of the old city, but also gives rise to a series of problems, such as the contradiction between social resources and human needs caused by the change of social structure, the reconstruction of social relations breaking the original social stability, and the loss of urban vitality caused by the shaping of urban characteristics. Therefore, based on the social perspective, this paper analyzes the social problems and their forming mechanism in the livable development of the old urban areas of large cities, puts forward the path framework for improving the livable quality of the old urban areas of large cities, and discusses the strategies for improving the livable quality of the old urban areas with examples to promote the livable development of the old urban areas of large cities.

Keywords

Old town, Social dimension, Livable city, Formation mechanism, Quality improvement path, Wuhan

1. Introduction

In the context of global urbanization, the construction of livable city has become a new path for domestic and foreign cities to cope with urbanization issues and adapt to the sustainable development of global cities. At present, highly urbanized megacities at home and abroad have opened an era of stock development, providing opportunities for the development of old town. As the most culturally vibrant area in the cities, the old town is not only the center of urban residence and commerce, but also a social form formed by the endogenous cohesion and exogenous driving force. The livable quality of the old town is improved It is an important embodiment of the city's realization of livable goal. However, in the process of livable city construction, it has brought about the improvement of the urban material space environment and hardware facilities, as well as social phenomena such as social structure changes, social class differentiation, lack of social sense of belonging. In the context of new contradictions, livable city is the main goal of urban development. We should not only pay attention to livable city in the material level, but also pay attention to the immaterial study of city in the social dimension. The old city is not only the center of urban residence and commerce, but also a kind of social form formed under the action of endogenous cohesion force. The old city is an important embodiment of

realizing the livable goal of the city. Therefore, to interpret the connotation, representation and dilemma of the livable development of the old city under the social dimension and explore the path to improve the livable quality of the old city is conducive to shaping a healthy and stable social form and promoting the livable development and value embodiment of the old city.

Wuhan is the central city of Wuhan city circle. It is an old historical city with rich historical and cultural deposits. In 2016, the 13th Five-Year Plan for promoting the Rise of Central China pointed out that Wuhan should be supported to build itself into a national central city and a harmonious and livable smart city. In recent years, Wuhan has implemented the old city reconstruction and optimized the old city to "livability". As a non-protected historical district in Wuhan, Dong-ting District is the "marginalized" object of urban development. In the process of development, social problems such as population loss, employment differentiation and social isolation have occurred. Therefore, based on the social dimension, this paper constructs an analytical framework for the improvement of livable quality in the old town of big city, and takes the old town of Wuhan as the research area, uses field investigation, interview, questionnaire and other methods to analyze the development dilemma faced by the old town of Wuhan. Studies have shown that the rapid expansion of Wuhan's cities has created a series of problems while promoting the renewal of the old town. For example, changes in social structure have led to conflicts between social resources and human needs, and the reconstruction of social relations has broken the original social stability and the shaping of urban characteristics have led to the loss of urban vitality in the old town. Based on this, based on the deep social reasons behind the improvement of livable quality in the old town, this paper proposes a research framework for the development of livability in the old town based on the social dimension, and mainly from four levels to build a path to improve the quality of livability of the old city based on the social dimension: first, return to livability value, promote social harmony and stability and cultural inheritance; Second, identify the key to livability, pay attention to people's social needs, and emphasize the dominant position of people in the old town; third, determine the goal of livability, reflect the humanistic spirit of the old town, and achieve stable, harmonious and livable development; Fourth, build a livable path, mainly including: ①Innovation-driven development, promoting social structure optimization; ②Optimizes social space, reconstruction of social relations; ③Reshapes regional culture, continues the urban context; ④Establishes a multiple social governance system to realize the return of public life. Taking the Dong-ting old town of Wuhan as an empirical case, it discusses the specific path of improving the livable quality of the old town of big city: first, innovative implantation, promoting function optimization and quality improvement; second, shaping the characteristics, promoting the inheritance of traditional life and cultural integration; and finally, precise management and control, to achieve joint governance of multi-body linkage. This paper aims to promote the development of the old town into a livable space that meets people's spiritual and material needs by focusing on the social dimension of the livable development of the old town.

2. Under the social dimension, the core representation of livability in old urban areas

2.1. Social dimension connotation

The term "social dimension" was first proposed by Anthony Giddens in "Social Dimension", and the concept of "social dimension" was first applied in the field of sociology (Zhong 2015). British designer Matthew Carmona first introduced the concept of "social dimension" into design, which divides urban design into six dimensions: form, society, vision, cognition, function and time. Among them, the social dimension emphasizes the relationship between human and society in urban space, and pays more attention to the suitability design of human-oriented concept. Cities are in a dynamic process of development. People are influenced by various social factors while promoting social development. Cities

not only provide people with living space, but also promote social interaction and interaction among residents of different gender, age, family, culture, belief and other components, resulting in a variety of social relations and the formation of social identity. Therefore, the social dimension pays more attention to social space, social structure, social equity, social relations, social culture, social identity and other aspects.

2.2. Livable city connotation

The connotation of livable city is a concept of dynamic change expression, a reflection of phased problems arising in urban development and a reflection of people's demands for urban quality of life. People have different understanding and cognition of it at different stages of development. The concept of livable city originates from Howard's conception of "garden city" at the end of the 19th century. He believed that a city that meets the needs of life, harmonizes the relationship between life and production, and has a comfortable and healthy environment is livable (Zhao 2008). After World War II, livable cities took people's needs as the core, people-oriented concept as the guidance, and paid more attention to the improvement of residents' living quality. Salzano believes that livable cities are the connection between history and the future (Salzano E 1997). Harweg believes that a livable city is a city Shared by all (Hahlweg D 1997). Evans believes that the livability of cities, the living suitability and the ecological sustainability characteristics, etc. (P. Evans 2002). Domestic scholars Wang Shanchao and Qi Kang believed that livable cities should have the characteristics of livable, livable and livable (Wang 2002; Qi 2014). Zhang Wenzhong believes that livable cities are cities with convenient infrastructure, efficient production and environmental protection, high living comfort, good environmental quality and high people's satisfaction (Zhang 2016). Generally speaking, a livable city is a city with a comfortable and convenient life, a prosperous economy, profound cultural accumulation, a safe and harmonious society and a healthy ecological environment.

From the perspective of research scale, livable city includes livable city, livable block and livable residential area. The three types of space have different concerns, respectively focusing on the whole city and the city. As the core region bearing social, living, cultural and other urban functions, the old city is a typical characteristic region representing the inner space of the city and the outer street space of the city, as well as the key content of livable city construction (Xia 2019).

2.3. The core representation of livability in the old city under the social dimension

The old city is not only the center of urban residence and commerce, but also a kind of social form formed under the action of endogenous cohesion force. Under the social dimension of the old city livability development is based on humanistic concept as the core, is the response of the "social" demands on the people living life, mainly includes the social fairness, social relations, social culture and social governance characterization of four aspects, including:

- social justice, mainly displays in the old city decentralized social structure order, emphasize the people in the city's main body role; It reflects the equal allocation of social public resources and public services, the democratization and fairness of social and political rights, and the public's participation.
- Social relations, pay attention to blood, geography, karma, such as under the role of harmony, temperature neighborhood relations, the formation of social interaction between residents and a sense of social belonging, cohesion social forces, stimulate social vitality.
- Social culture, pay attention to the inherent regional culture of the old city, inherit and continue the cultural accumulation of the old city, retain its implicit social memory, highlight the regional characteristic.

- Social governance reflects the expression and coordination of the interests of diversified interest subjects such as government, residents and capital, guarantees the effectiveness of public participation, and the social governance model of co-construction, co-governance and sharing in the old urban area (Wang, et al. 2018; Zhang 2009; Ao, et al. 2007; Song, et al. 2017).

3. The realistic dilemma of livable development in old urban areas under the social dimension

In the process of rapid urban development, on the one hand, the external expansion of the city leads to the rise of new cities and forms the replacement of old city functions; On the other hand, it is reflected in the internal renewal of the city, and the large-scale renewal and reconstruction project of the old city is implemented. At the same time, the process of urban development is also a profound social change. In this process, the main urban areas, especially the old urban areas, their development contradictions and social problems interweave together.

3.1. Social dimension connotation

The change of social structure caused by the renewal and transformation of livability in the old city is mainly reflected in three aspects: first, the change of population structure. In the context of China's aging population, the old urban areas are characterized by the building height, street space and living atmosphere suitable for the elderly, resulting in the aging of the old urban population is much higher than the average level of the city. At the same time, the physical decline of facilities, services and environment in the old city has led to the release of the living population, and the low living cost of the old city has attracted different groups to move in, which has promoted the increase of the floating population. Secondly, the change of family structure. Affected by the change of population structure, the family structure type circulates among three generations of family types, and the family relationship tends to be equal. Third, the social class structure changes. Influenced by the change of national policies, the promotion of modernization, the inertia of traditional genes, the social replacement of population mobility and other factors, the social stratum of the old city is constantly divided and the group types are constantly diversified.

The changes in these three aspects bring about two contradictions in the development of livability in the old city: one is the structural contradiction of social resources. How to realize the homogenized allocation of social resources is a real dilemma facing the improvement of livable quality in the old urban area. The change of social structure gives rise to more diversified social behaviors, activities and demands, which are prominent in contradiction with the lack of social resources, inequality and low quality in the old urban area. Second, the contradiction of social order structure. For a long time, the old city has been continuously divided into different social strata, forming a social order structure with government as the center, clear hierarchy and boundary. However, in its development, it pays more attention to the balance of interests of multiple social roles and emphasizes the status of people in the city. Everyone is the subject of the society and the development trend of the network of social subjects.

3.2. The reconstruction of social relations breaks the original social stability

For a long time, the old city has formed a relatively stable social relationship network. On the one hand, the appropriate street space pattern in the old city provides a good environment for residents to interact with neighbors, and a harmonious neighborhood relationship has been formed after years of living together. On the other hand, it is the superposition of a variety of social relations such as blood relationship, geographical relationship and business relationship. However, under the influence of rapid urban development, social transformation, social structure change and other factors, the traditional social network is broken, and the social relations in the old city are faced with the pressure and risk of

reconstruction, which is mainly reflected in the following aspects: first, the traditional "acquaintance society" function is weakened. The old social population structure change, the influence of the population flow, part of the local residents out of disintegration of the original neighborhood, migrants moved to increase neighborhood strangeness, neighborhood refactoring to bring old neighborhood social support function recession, weakening residents social security and social opportunities to reduce risk; Secondly, the disorganization of social "relationships". The weakening of neighborhood relationship based on blood relationship and geography brings about the breaking of traditional geographical relationship, the weakening of family concept maintained by blood relationship and the risk of the old people's status in the family and the loss of discourse power under the transformation of intergenerational relationship within the family. At the same time, the disorganization of social "relationships" in the old city has led to the transformation of residents' lifestyle, social space isolation, uneven distribution of social public resources, identity differentiation of different classes, lack of social equity and other problems. Therefore, building a harmonious and stable social relationship is an important content to improve the livability of the old city.

3.3. The reconstruction of regional culture leads to the rupture of social memory

The old city is the accumulation of urban cultural resources, the persistence of urban culture, and the typical area of urban characteristics. The regional culture of the old city is not only the embodiment of the physical space such as the old blocks and buildings bearing the urban culture, but also the implicit social culture such as the life style, market culture and urban memory formed for a long time in the old city. However, the old city is faced with the dilemma of lack of social memory and regional characteristics due to social changes, multi-interest game and other factors. It is mainly reflected in the following aspects: first, driven by interests, the improper renewal and reconstruction of the old city brings about the decline and disappearance of the historical carrier that records the real urban life in the old city, resulting in the loss of the urban memory of the old city; Second, the production and life style of the residents in the old city is an important embodiment of the social culture. The residents are the living continuation of the social culture in the old city and the cohesion of the social memory. However, the change of the social structure in the old city promotes the rupture of the historical and cultural heritage of the city. Third, the transformation of social relations and the lack of the spirit of man, land and place in the development process of the old city bring about the change of cultural atmosphere in the old city, and the residents' social identity and sense of belonging to the old city weaken. Therefore, how to establish a balance between the renewal and protection of the old city and the social and cultural memory, and enrich the retention form of social memory, is the key for the old city to stimulate the social vitality, improve the cultural quality, and make the old city have sustainable vitality and value.

4. Discussion on the development Path of livability of Dong-ting Area in social dimension

4.1. The characteristics of social dimension in Dong-ting district development

Dong-ting area is located in the northeast of Wuhan city and on the north bank of Yangtze River. Within the scope of the original Rental historical features area of Hankou, Dong-ting area reaches To Hehe Road in the north, Jiangnan Road in the south, Yanjiang Avenue in the east and Zhongshan Avenue in the west. It is located in three delimited "non-protected" zones of the intersection of historical culture and features areas, covering an area of 28.93 hectares.

(1) Social structure characteristics

Through field survey, Dong-ting area the social structure has the following characteristics: due to aging, inconvenient transportation service facilities, lack of environment facilities management lead to

problems such as the local residents massive out-migration, but because they are in prime locations, the rent was lower than those of other new residential, attracted a lot of work in the nearby foreign tenants, residents are obvious foreign characteristic; In terms of population age structure, the aging phenomenon is obvious. The family structure is mostly the couple's nuclear family composed of the elderly and tenants, the general nuclear family composed of parents and children, the single nuclear family composed of single young people and the widowed elderly and the direct family structure (Figure 1). The employment situation is mostly for local retired workers, migrant workers and individual business households, the income sources are mainly small businesses, pensions, subsidies, etc., the overall income level is relatively low; Social stratum includes individual industrial and commercial stratum, professional and technical stratum, clerk stratum, unemployed and unemployed stratum, industrial worker stratum, etc., with obvious stratified stratum and certain gap in education level, income and psychological characteristics between each stratum (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Family structure of residents right: Family structure type. Source: drawn by the author.

Figure 2. Occupational composition of population. Source: drawn by the author.

(2) Social interaction characteristics

In the process of research, found that in addition to the necessity of traffic behavior, is more of daily life and his neighbors, his behavior has the following characteristics: one is the Dong-ting area living place for traditional points, unit dormitory, public housing, such as type, this kind of living place for residents in social interaction may be in the streets, residents of life behavior by indoor to streets and lanes space to expand, but limited social space is difficult to meet the needs of residents; Second, due to the limited space of streets and alleys and the harmonious and quiet living atmosphere in the old city, people's social communication is mainly static activities, supplemented by dynamic activities; Third, local residents form a deep neighborhood relationship based on blood ties, karma, geography and so on after a long period of getting along with each other, with a strong sense of community belonging. However, due to the intervention of the migrant population, the social interaction between neighbors is only at the initial

stage, and the relationship between neighbors is relatively fragile. The lack of mutual help among neighbors weakens the neighborhood relationship. The fourth reason is that Dong-ting Street is located in the center of the old city, with appropriate street size, rich commercial functions, high street vitality, attracting a large number of people. On the one hand, this phenomenon shows the value of the city, but on the other hand, due to the intervention of foreign tourists, it weakens the social communication between residents and increases the isolation of social relations.

(3) Sociocultural characteristics

The social and cultural characteristics of Dong-ting area, on the one hand, are reflected in many historical buildings, and the existing historical and cultural heritages reflect the historical characteristics of the vicissitude and the historical situation of the development of Hankou Concession. The region is mainly composed of concession buildings and historical buildings of the Han School of the Republic of China, presenting an overall situation of China and the West merging and organic symbiosis. The historical buildings in the area include religious, cultural, financial, commercial and residential historical buildings, among which the religious historical buildings maintain their original functions but fail to make good use of them. Most of the functions of cultural, financial and commercial historic buildings have been reformed, but the main functions of commercial buildings have not highlighted their historical and cultural values. Although the residential building retains its original functions, its cultural environment and living quality need to be improved. On the other hand, it is reflected in the rich social network and the traditional market life. Firstly, the traditional architecture, street pattern and the market life behind it are the living memories and special cultural genes of residents. Secondly, the indigenous people stay behind to maintain a unique atmosphere of the market, mobile vendors, characteristic snacks, traditional food reflects the original flavor of the "old man mouth"; Finally, Dong-ting area still has a small number of veteran artists, but the impact of economic development, facing the crisis of lack of inheritors. On the whole, the commercialization of space, the reduction of living places and the weakening of social relations lead to the rupture of social culture.

(4) Characteristics of Social Governance

Dong-ting area rich social network is its present multiple governance characteristics: one is the one yuan governance pattern of residents autonomy, reflect the self-management and neighborhood assistance of residents, but because of the large population mobility, floating population, residents' autonomy "participation is low, also faces social members" unit person "to" social person ", "community person" transformation, the plight of social participation; Second, autonomous team's dual governance model, with the owners' committee and owners representative team set up autonomous team, give full play to the exemplary and information bridge, but there is a lack of legal status of the owners' committee, the grass-roots party construction foundation weak, most of the open area without property management and property since the disadvantages such as tube group; Three is the red property leading three governance model, "red engine project" and "red property" promotion, the realization of the neighborhood committee, owner representative group and property enterprises "tripartite linkage". However, there are also some problems, such as the contradiction between the quality of public welfare services and the ability to collect fees, the lack of public service platforms, and the imperfect cultivation mechanism of party members and college students. The fourth is the four-yuan governance model of community service center, which changes from neighborhood committee to community service center, rationalizes the allocation of community resources, weakens the color of community administration, implements grid management, and realizes the all-round social control of the community. In general, although there are multiple social governance models, residents' sense of participation and enthusiasm are not strong in the implementation, and they are faced with the dilemma of social governance ability.

4.2. Social dimension lower Dong-ting Street livable quality improvement path

(1) Social structure characteristics

Dong-ting area is typical of the old city in Wuhan city, Dong-ting area should be analyzed deeply livability development direction, according to the status quo of function, space, industry, etc., exploring a innovation, implant, revival of old city livability development path, improve the quality of the space environment, may provide more employment, promote healthy population flow, improve urban appeal. Specifically, they include:

- First, the functional spatial network is sorted out to meet the social needs of residents. Firstly, by understanding the activity characteristics and activity appeals of different activity groups in social space, the functional space types of mixed friendly space, entrepreneurial mutual assistance space and comprehensive open space are constructed. Secondly, we should strengthen the characteristic space experience, refine the design of sites and activities, and pay attention to the residents' sense of space experience to reflect humanistic care. Finally, the Shared courtyard is built to promote the efficient use of land space, activate open space, adapt to the needs of various groups, enrich the life of residents, and set up a caring cafeteria for young people to pay attention to vulnerable groups (Figure 3).

Crowd Classification Crowd Needs

Figure 3. Schematic diagram of functional spatial network based on residents' needs. drawn by the author.

- Second, optimize traffic network, promote social life atmosphere. Based on the principle of "human orientation", first of all, under the principle of preserving and continuing the traditional spatial pattern, the corridor of streets and lanes should be opened up to improve the accessibility of internal traffic of streets and lanes. Secondly, build a traffic microcirculation system. In view of the current internal traffic problems, unidirectional guidance measures are formulated in combination with the functions of various parts of streets and lanes, and additional parking facilities and traffic signs are added. Finally, give full consideration to the needs of two different groups, the young and the old, sort out the activity flow lines of the young and the old, reduce the interference of each other's activities, and construct the humanized neighborhood traffic (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Traffic network optimization diagram. drawn by the author.

- Third, implant innovative industries and promote the optimization of social structure. Firstly, the existing functional industries in the region are sorted out. Analyze the relationship and influence of existing functional industries on residents' activities, and make statistics on the gap between existing functions and residents' demands. At the same time, it makes a comparative analysis of the functional demands of the representatives of different social strata groups, and then considers the advantages of the existing industry and how to reasonably implant the new industry under the game of all parties. Secondly, combined with the diverse characteristics of the region, the cultural and tourism industry should be innovatively implanted, and the function of complex industry should be constructed to provide employment opportunities, improve economic income, and promote the optimization of social structure (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Composite industry function map. drawn by the author.

(2) Shaping the characteristics, promoting the inheritance of traditional life and cultural integration

The cultural inheritance of Dong-ting area is not only the continuation of traditional culture but also the integration of modern culture, so as to stimulate its unique social memory and keep its unique cultural characteristics. From the perspective of material space of "tangible culture", traditional spatial texture is the material basis of social and cultural memory. First of all, it is necessary to maintain the unique environmental characteristics of Dong-ting area, repair and guide the renewal of old buildings, continue the traditional street space texture in space, form and scale, maintain the traditional living environment atmosphere, and awaken the social memory perception and harmonious social relations. Secondly, it maintains the interaction between traditional symbols and modern symbols, protects and excavates the architectural symbols and spatial landmarks in the Dong-ting area, maintains the authenticity of the space, and embodies the "spirit of place". At the same time, it reflects the symbiosis between the old and the new symbols. On the space of the old and the new buildings, it infuses new elements and integrates multiple symbols, which not only reflects the recognizability and traditional charm of the space, but also has modern characteristics.

From the perspective of intangible culture as an immaterial carrier, the market life in Dong-ting district is the emotional foundation of social culture and society. On the one hand, the values and lifestyle that people have long formed in the neighborhood have been inherited. With the introduction of modern lifestyle, the traditional lifestyle dominated by poker, chess and walking in Dong-ting area has been transformed into a modern lifestyle dominated by movies, supermarkets and diversified travel. Using Lifan and back streets to create new dynamic space and realize diverse new and inclusive street life; On the other hand, cultural folk custom inheritance. On the basis of in-depth exploration and sorting out regional folk culture, relevant social activities can not only enhance residents' sense of identity but also inherit regional cultural characteristics.

(3) Precise management and control, to achieve joint governance of multi-body linkage

Dong-ting area livability development under the social dimension is the key to a balance of interests, concrete methods, one is the realization of "unity of pluralistic governance mode, Dong-ting area has formed the pattern of" multiple work ", but there are still many implementation issues, and, in particular, the role of autonomous team play, shall establish effective training, operations, incentive mechanism, make full use of various main "complementarity" advantage, form diversification of governance, the governance process interaction, the governance structure of flat pattern of "unity of pluralistic governance. First of all, we should fully balance the interests of multiple parties and promote the efficient use of regional resources. Secondly, with the help of the government, we should actively guide more social forces to participate in social governance. Finally, the cultivation of grassroots governance organizations and community self-governance organizations should be strengthened to realize the transmission of government power from top to bottom and social organizations from bottom to top, so as to form complementarities and enhance residents' sense of participation and enthusiasm. Second, to establish social values and make the community an organic community. We should fully respect the appeals of all stakeholders, safeguard social fairness, and enhance residents' awareness of social participation. Third, the intervention of the community planner to realize the coordination among residents' demands and interests, community planning and communication, government management and organization; Fourth, smart social governance, the establishment of a smart community platform, to provide a platform for neighborhood exchanges, neighborhood mutual assistance, care for vulnerable groups, resource sharing, to build a "co-construction, co-governance, sharing" smart community.

5. Conclusion

Old city in the process of the development of the city under the action of endogenous convergence formed a kind of social form, livable old city is not only the space for people to "reside", but also the space for people to "live", can guide the city to form a harmonious neighborhood relationship, form a social identity and sense of belonging, can restrain the social bad phenomenon to some extent. Based on humanistic concept as the core, the attention of the old city livability development of the research on the level of social dimension, in urban development from the satisfaction of people's material demand to the attention of the people's psychological and spiritual needs, from the social structure, social relations, social culture and social governance four dimensions to construct the old city livability development path, and implant from innovation, promote the function optimization and improving quality, unique shape, promote the continuation of traditional life and culture darning, precise control, realization of plural common management three aspects to discuss its development strategy. Of course, the livable development of the old city needs to be discussed from aspects, and the social dimension path of the livable development of the old city is only one dimension that has been developed. Based on the perspective of social dimension, this paper discusses a way of thinking for the development of livability in the old city, hoping to provide a feasible practical path for the construction of livable social form in the old city.

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