

Examining the Management and Utilization Policy of Cultural Landscapes in Village Settings: A Case Study of Hahoe Village in South Korea

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Abstract

Historical buildings are instrumental in preserving the ethos of a specific era, serving as crucial conduits for contemporary individuals to experience the past. Accordingly, this study investigates the significance of historical buildings as repositories of past societal and cultural narratives while offering contemporary individuals a means to engage with bygone eras. Through an examination of diverse international village cultural landscapes shaped by human activities over time, this study specifically focuses on analyzing the management and utilization policies implemented in Hahoe Village. As a representative case within the national context, the study sheds light on the inadequacies of current cultural heritage protection policies in considering the resident community, which has maintained historical continuity and adaptability to societal changes. The preservation of cultural properties in Hahoe Village, situated in Andong, necessitates an increased understanding among residents and the cultivation of active cooperation within the framework of management and utilization policies.

Keyword : traditional village, history, cultural landscape, Andong Hahoe Village

1. Introduction

Architectural structures provide a unique insight into the societal, cultural and historical aspects of a given period. They serve as tangible representations of the thoughts and ideas prevalent during their construction and enable present-day individuals to connect with the past. Andong Hahoe Village, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2010, exemplifies a traditional residential settlement that successfully maintained a harmonious relationship between humans and nature amidst the challenges posed by industrialization in South Korea. Hahoe Village serves as a living museum that offers a rich and immersive journey into Korea's past all the while being a vibrant residential community in the present day. The preservation of Hahoe Village exemplifies the harmonious coexistence of history and contemporary life and illuminate the importance of heritage preservation in sustaining cultural identity. However, the preservation-oriented approach adopted for cultural landscapes has inadvertently resulted in

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inconvenience for the current inhabitants who continue to utilize these spaces as their homes. Therefore, it is essential to consider the perspectives and requirements of the resident community in discussions pertaining to the authentic preservation and effective utilization of cultural landscapes [1-3].

Previous research in regard to Hahoe Village has been much studied since it was designated as World Heritage Site. The village has preserved its traditions and sustainability over the course of modernization through successful institutionalization of tradition and sustainability [4]. However, the village has also faced challenges related to tourism impacts and community sustainability [5][6]. Some of the issues related to tourism impacts on Hahoe Village include the acceleration of the change of the village's industrial base and the influx of strangers, the degradation of quality of life caused by increasing tourism and the tension between conserving the village's historic environments and developing tourism. Despite these challenges, the title 'World Heritage' has excelled in its role as a tourism brand, and the immediate outburst of tourism after the World Heritage List inscription has affected Hahoe Village [5]. However, appropriate management is needed to maintain brand equity, and the village must have a comprehensive preservation plan that balances with the demand for tourism development while securing the village's community sustainability as a living place other than a tourist destination [6].

The purpose of this study is to examine a specific case of a village cultural landscape that has evolved over an extensive period and shaped by human life and experiences. Specifically, the study will investigate the management and utilization policies implemented in Hahoe Village through a thorough analysis of its present conditions and patterns of usage. Furthermore, this study provides a comprehensive definition of cultural landscapes while encompassing both tangible and intangible cultural assets that manifest as a result of various temporal and environmental factors, thereby constituting an integral component of urban landscapes.

2. Historic cultural landscapes in villages

2.1 Examples of Village Cultural Landscapes in World Heritage Sites

2.1.1 Holašovice, Czech Republic

As shown in [Fig. 1], Holašovice is a typical rural village situated approximately 20 kilometers away from Budejovice, a medieval city in the Czech Republic that has earned World Heritage Site status. Initially cultivated by German farmers during the 18th and 19th centuries, this village witnessed a complete German withdrawal after World War II, subsequently inhabited by Czech residents. It boasts

exceptionally preserved traditional Central European architecture and features indigenous architectural styles prominent in the 18th and 19th centuries.



[Fig. 1] Holašovice, Czech

2.1.2 Holloko Village, Hungary

Holloko Village, located in a mountainous region around 100 kilometers north of Budapest, Hungary, lies within the administrative district of Nograd not far from the border with Slovakia. As shown in [Fig. 2], despite the collective farming practices during the communist era, Holloko Village stands as one of the few remaining traditional villages in Central Europe where the village's structural and housing patterns have remained unchanged.



[Fig. 2] Holloko village, Hungary

2.1.3 Hongcun and Xidi Village, China

Hongcun and Xidi are ancient villages located in Southern Anhui, China, characterized by

well-preserved appearances and structures dating back to the end of the Qing Dynasty. As shown in [Fig. 3], these rural villages possess unique local characteristics that still resonate with the vibrant cultural heritage of Huanan, China. Notably, China's designated World Heritage Sites, Lijiang and Pingyao, showcase cities with historic significance while Hongcun and Xidi showcase rural villages with distinctive local flavors.



[Fig. 3] Ancient Villages in Southern Anhui - Xidi and Hongcun, China

2.1.4 Shirakawa-go, Japan

As shown in [Fig. 4], Shirakawa-go is comprised of three villages situated in Gifu Prefecture and Toyama Prefecture, Japan. This rural village has been sustained by its aging population due to its remote location and inconvenient transportation access. Historical records from a century ago indicate the existence of over 1,800 houses in 93 communities within the province. However, by 1994, approximately 92% of these houses had vanished, leaving behind only around 140 structures. Recognizing its cultural significance, this area has been inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



[Fig. 4] Shirakawa-go, Japan

2.1.5 Hoi An, Vietnam

Hoi An, a traditional trading port near Danang in central Vietnam, thrived as a hub for commerce between China and Japan. It served as one of Southeast Asia's prominent trading ports and boasts a well-preserved architectural heritage shaped by Chinese and Japanese merchants. As shown in [Fig. 5], most of the buildings in Hoi An were constructed between the 18th and early 20th centuries with narrow streets organized in traditional patterns. The town successfully retains its traditional lifestyle, religious practices and culinary heritage while also hosting various traditional festivals. The unique combination of traditional and foreign influences is evident in the distinct building and street patterns found throughout Hoi An.



[Fig. 5] Hoi An, Vietnam

3. Evaluation of the historic cultural landscape in Andong Hahoe Village

3.1. Historical background of Hahoe Village

Andong Hahoe Village, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2010, represents an exceptional example of a cultural landscape that has successfully preserved its tangible and intangible heritage. As shown in [Fig. 6], the village's geographical seclusion surrounded by rivers has facilitated the conservation of its cultural assets by insulating them from external influences. Situated along the Nakdong River, at the heart of Taebaek Mountain, Hahoe Village's topography is characterized by gentle ridges and valleys and it resembles the contours of a human hand. Deviating from the prevailing architectural orientation in Korea, the village features dwellings facing all directions with a concentration of houses atop the central ridges that extends outward. This distinctive architectural layout contrasts with

the prevalent southern orientation, typically adopted to ensure summer coolness and winter warmth [7]. Hahoe Village is further divided into Bukchon and Namchon sections that are separated by a central road. Yangjindang represents the former while Chunghyodang represents the latter. The village's spatial arrangement revolves around concentric circles and delineates noble households with private residences clustering around this central nucleus. Roofing materials vary with semi-official dwellings predominantly featuring tiles while many private houses maintain thatched roofs ranging from compact cottages to larger structures accompanied by auxiliary buildings [8]. The diverse architectural forms such as ㅡ, ㄷ, ㅁ and ㄱ shapes, resemble a living museum of ancient constructions and affording visitors a vivid glimpse into the past. Moreover, the village's distinctive features extend beyond its buildings as seen in its unique alleyways and earthen walls radiating from the central core interwoven with secondary pathways reminiscent of a spider's web [9].



[Fig. 6] Andong Hahoe Village

In terms of cultural assets, Andong boasts a considerable number with 73 state-designated cultural properties and 177 provincially designated cultural properties, amounting to a total of 250 sites. State-designated cultural properties account for 14 percent of Gyeongbuk Province's cultural assets while provincial designations encompass 17 percent of the region's cultural properties. Considering Gyeongbuk Province's composition of 23 cities and counties, Andong City stands out as a cultural hub. The abundance of cultural assets in this area can be attributed to Andong's historical role as a center of Confucian culture with prestigious ancestral halls, lecture halls and traditional residences [10]. Hahoe Village represents one of the few historical sites in Korea that has successfully withstood the challenges posed by industrialization to embody a traditional settlement that ingeniously integrates the natural landscape and human habitation. However, the perpetuation of this heritage and tradition hinges upon institutional protection and support. In present, the village is home to 218 residents across 95

households, actively preserving and promoting the cultural customs and practices of the Banchon community. As the sole village globally to maintain such intangible traditions, it stands as an invaluable testament to the richness of human heritage.

3.2 The utilization of Andong Hahoe Village as a historical and cultural landscape

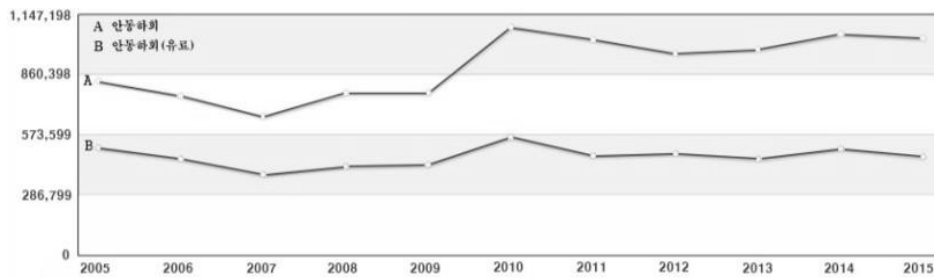
The surrounding landscape of Hahoe Village in Andong not only exhibits exceptional preservation but also serves as a cultural landscape deeply rooted in Confucian traditions. It transcends its status as a static clan village and embraces its identity as a dynamic cultural landscape and attracts visitors who seek to engage with its rich heritage. Various ceremonial events including the Bulcheonwi memorial service and religious rituals in Byeongsan occur in proximity to the main house to offer visitors an immersive experience of the village's vibrant traditions. The village proudly showcases living examples of Confucian and folk cultural practices such as Julbul nori (a traditional game) and Hahoe byeolsingut talnori (a mask dance), which continue to thrive. In addition, the village provides opportunities for visitors to engage in ancestral games at well-established folk playgrounds to take advantage of the natural surroundings particularly the Nakdong River and the cultural landscape featuring Seowon (Confucian academies) and Jungsa (ancestral shrines).

In terms of tourism, the village's focus on preservation and sustainable tourism practices aligns with the growing trend of sustainable and responsible tourism. Tourists are increasingly seeking out destinations that prioritize the protection of cultural and natural heritage and Hahoe Village meets this demand. For students and researchers, Hahoe Village serves as a living classroom. It provides insights into traditional Korean society, architecture, culture, and lifestyle. Many school trips and academic tours are conducted here, reinforcing its importance in educational tourism. Thus, its unique blend of historical architecture, living cultural practices, educational value and sustainable tourism practices has established it as a must-visit destination in South Korea.

3.3. The management and utilization policy of Hahoe Village

The preservation of cultural assets in Korean villages often neglects the needs of the resident community which plays a crucial role in maintaining the historical integrity and adaptability of these sites [10]. It is imperative to develop policies that prioritize residents' understanding and active cooperation to recognize that cultural heritage preservation should not be imposed upon villages where people currently reside, as these properties embody a living legacy rather than mere relics frozen in

time.



[Fig. 7] Number of Visitors to Hahoe Village during 2005-2015

Hahoe Village holds significant value as a tourism resource in Andong. However, as shown in [Fig. 7], recent data indicates a stagnant visitor trend. Insufficient transportation systems and overall tourism infrastructure coupled with limited investment capacity due to local economic challenges [11], have impeded the village's full potential as a tourist attraction. Nonetheless, efforts are underway to transform the Andong area into a world-class Confucian cultural tourism destination to seamlessly integrate traditional Confucian culture. Positive strides have been made in establishing a mountainous tourist resort that capitalizes on the region's abundant forest and valley resources. Ultimately, it is essential to carefully consider whether the Cultural Heritage Preservation Policy may inadvertently infringe upon individuals' rights to property and pursuit of happiness.

Specific strategies for Hahoe Village would need to be based on the unique context, culture and needs of the village and its residents. It would be beneficial to conduct a detailed study or consult with local stakeholders to understand these needs in more depth. Furthermore, any updated preservation strategies should align with South Korean regulations and UNESCO guidelines to ensure the continued protection of this valuable heritage site.

4. Discussion

Specific strategies for Hahoe Village would need to be based on the unique context, culture and needs of the village and its residents. It would be beneficial to conduct a detailed study or consult with local stakeholders to understand these needs in more depth. Furthermore, any updated preservation strategies should align with South Korean regulations and UNESCO guidelines to ensure the continued protection of this valuable heritage site.

Firstly, engage the local community in discussions and decisions about preservation policies. This

could be achieved through regular meetings, surveys or participatory planning sessions where residents can voice their opinions and suggestions. Second, preservation policies should consider the local economy and how it can be supported and enhanced. This could include strategies for promoting local businesses and crafts, creating job opportunities related to the heritage site or developing sustainable tourism that benefits the local community. Third, preservation policies should be regularly reviewed and adapted based on feedback from residents and changing needs. This ensures that the policies stay relevant and effective over time.

Moreover, the significance of adequate infrastructure and investment in promoting cultural landscapes as tourist destinations should be emphasized. The case of Andong Hahoe Village has illuminated the challenges arising from deficient transportation systems and tourism infrastructure which have impeded its full realization as a captivating tourist attraction. Endeavors to transform the Andong area into a globally renowned Confucian cultural tourism destination have exhibited promise but further investments and enhancements are imperative to heighten its allure and ensure enhanced accessibility.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, this paper is to provide a comprehensive examination of the policy framework surrounding the management and utilization of cultural landscapes in villages. Through an analysis of various case studies including Holašovice in the Czech Republic, Holloko Village in Hungary, Hongcun and Xidi Village in China, Shirakawa-go in Japan and Hoi An in Vietnam, a nuanced understanding of the diverse characteristics and preservation strategies employed in different regions has been attained.

The investigation of Andong Hahoe Village, a distinguished UNESCO World Heritage Site, has yielded valuable insights into its distinctive geographical features and architectural composition. The incorporation of Confucian culture within its cultural landscape has fostered a vibrant ambiance and exemplified by the perpetuation of traditional ceremonies and activities. Nevertheless, the study underscores the imperative of recognizing the pivotal role of the resident community in the safeguarding and utilization of cultural properties. Policies that engender comprehension and active involvement among residents are indispensable for the sustainable preservation of cultural heritage within villages that continue to serve as inhabited spaces.

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