

# STUDY ON THE SURVIVAL STATUS OF WUSHU INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE INHERITORS IN ANHUI PROVINCE

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**Abstract:** In order to understand the survival situation of the inheritors of martial arts intangible cultural heritage and to enhance the inheritance effect of the inheritors, the article uses the field interview method as well as the questionnaire survey method to investigate 12 inheritors of martial arts intangible cultural heritage in Anhui Province. The results show that: (1) there are 6 people over 50 years old and 6 people under 50 years old; all the inheritors are married, there are 5 people with a family size of 4 or more, and 7 people with a family size of 3 or less; there are only 2 people with a university degree, and 7 people are engaged in agriculture. (2) The most common illnesses among the inheritors are joint and stomach diseases, and no one is terminally ill. (3) Eight of them have a sense of self-fulfilment and are satisfied with their work, and none of them said they could not have a sense of self-fulfilment. (4) Two people have a monthly income of \$4,000 or more, and 10 people have a monthly income of less than \$4,000. (5) Six people have administrative positions or part-time social jobs.

**Keywords:** Intangible cultural heritage; State of existence; Inheritors

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Intangible cultural heritage is the product of cultural memory and survival wisdom of the peoples of the world [1]. It records the production methods, customs and cultural concepts of human society, and contains the cultural genes, spiritual qualities, temperament and emotions of the peoples of the world, etc. It is the common valuable wealth of all mankind and plays a very important role in the inheritance and development of human civilisation. China's martial arts intangible cultural heritage is an important and unique part of the intangible cultural heritage, and is one of the manifestations of Chinese national culture [2]. It realises human interaction across language differences in the form of body language and fully embodies the common sports aesthetics and sports culture of human beings. The inheritor is one of the important subjects for the protection of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu, shouldering the important mission of inheriting skills and spreading culture. As an important bearer and transmitter of intangible cultural heritage [3], the inheritor has a very important status and role in the inheritance process. The advantages and disadvantages of the survival status of the inheritors are directly related to the effect of the protection of martial arts intangible cultural heritage.

## 2 RESEARCH METHODS

### 2.1 Field Interview Method

Go deep into the living environment of the inheritors to get a comprehensive and complete understanding of the survival status of the inheritors of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu in Anhui Province, which provides a good foundation for the smooth progress of this study. In addition, visit the person in charge of the protection department of intangible cultural heritage in each city of Anhui to investigate and understand the relevant situation of the inheritors of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu in Anhui Province, to provide reliable information for this study.

### 2.2 Questionnaire Survey Method

Questionnaire design: according to the research objectives and research content, on the basis of reviewing a large amount of literature, design a questionnaire for the inheritors of the intangible cultural heritage of martial arts in Anhui Province. The content of the questionnaire includes the demographic characteristics of the inheritors, physical health status, mental health status and so on.

Validity test of the questionnaire: In order to ensure that the content of the questionnaire can truly reflect the survival status of the inheritors, after the completion of the questionnaire design, five experts were asked to test the validity of the questionnaire. Two experts think that the content of the questionnaire is 'very suitable', two experts think that the content of the questionnaire is 'suitable', and one expert thinks that the content of the questionnaire is 'basically suitable'. According to the experts' opinions, the questionnaire was further improved, and finally the "Questionnaire on the Survival Status of Inheritors of Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage in Anhui Province" was completed.

Reliability test of the questionnaire: The reliability of the questionnaire was tested by retesting method. After the first distribution of the questionnaire, two weeks after the interval, for the same survey object, the questionnaire is distributed again, the test results of the two questionnaires related reliability coefficient is  $r = 0.81$ , indicating that the

questionnaire reliability meets the requirements, the questionnaire is credible.

### 3 RESEARCH RESULTS AND ANALYSES

#### 3.1 Demographic Characterisation of Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage Bearers in Anhui Province

##### 3.1.1 Age and gender

In terms of age, the results of the survey showed that among the 12 Wushu intangible cultural heritage bearers in Anhui Province, one was under 30 years old, two were between 30 and 40 years old, three were between 40 and 50 years old, two were between 50 and 60 years old, and two were over 60 years old (Table 1).

**Table 1** Age Statistics of Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage Inheritors in Anhui Province

Age range	Below 30 years old	30-40 years old	40-50 years old	50-60 years old	Above 60 years old
Number of persons	1	2	3	4	2
proportion (%)	8.33	16.67	25	33.33	16.67

The age of the inheritor is a reflection of the inheritor's experience and length of inheritance. Older inheritors are relatively more experienced in inheritance, and their innovation results are relatively better; young inheritors are not as experienced in inheritance, but they are relatively more passionate, with better innovation consciousness and ability, and they can inject new vitality into the process of inheritance. A reasonable team of inheritors should be reasonably distributed among all age groups, with both older and younger inheritors. From the results of the survey, the age of the inheritors of the intangible cultural heritage of martial arts in Anhui Province is on the high side in general, with 75% of the inheritors above 40 years old and only 25% of the young inheritors. This result should attract the attention of the relevant departments, otherwise we will face the development dilemma that there is no one to carry on the intangible cultural heritage of Wushu.

In terms of gender, of the 12 inheritors of the intangible cultural heritage of the martial arts in Anhui Province, 10 are male and 2 are female, with the proportion of female inheritors significantly lower than that of males. The reason for this result may be that women have no opportunity to inherit and promote the Wushu intangible cultural heritage due to the traditional concept of 'passing on the tradition to men but not to women'. With the development of society, the status of women has become more and more prominent, and women have been given their due status. Therefore, from the survey results, it can be seen that there are two women among the inheritors of Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage in Anhui Province, which also reflects the progress of the society to a certain extent. However, female inheritors are still relatively rare, and further attention should be paid to the status and role of women in the inheritance and development of Chinese outstanding traditional culture.

##### 3.1.2 Family and marriage

The survey results show that among the inheritors of the Wushu intangible cultural heritage in Anhui Province, there are three people with a family size of two, four with a family size of three, three with a family size of four, and two with a family size of five (Table 2). In addition, the marital status of the inheritors of the Anhui Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage was all married, none unmarried or widowed.

**Table 2** Statistics on the number of family members of the inheritors of the intangible cultural heritage of martial arts in Anhui Province

Number of family members	2	3	4	5
Number of persons	3	4	3	2
proportion (%)	25	33.33	25	16.67

Most Chinese people advocate that one should start a family before establishing a career, and that it is only after having a stable family that one is able to put one's main energy into one's career. From the results of the survey, all of the Wushu ICH inheritors in Anhui Province have established families, which is conducive to the inheritor's career of passing on the Wushu ICH. In addition, the survey results also show that the proportion of inheritors with a family size of three is the highest, which indicates that there are more inheritors with a family of three, and the family composition is relatively simple, which is also conducive to the inheritors focusing their attention on their inheritance career. However, as China encourages families to have multiple births, there is a possibility that the inheritors may have further

children, which requires the inheritors to deal with the relationship between their families and their careers, and to reasonably allocate the time between their families and their careers.

### 3.1.3 Education and occupation

In terms of education, the survey results showed that among the 12 Wushu intangible cultural heritage inheritors in Anhui Province, there were two with university education, three with high school education, four with junior high school education, and three with primary schools education (Table 3).

**Table 3** Statistics on the educational qualifications of the inheritors of the intangible cultural heritage of martial arts in Anhui Province

Academic qualifications	No schooling	Primary School	Junior high school	High School	University
Number of persons	0	3	4	3	2
proportion (%)	0	25	33.33	25	16.67

To a certain extent, academic qualifications reflect the comprehensive quality of the inheritor. Although academic qualifications can not be evaluated as a person's hard indicators, but it can not be denied that the higher the education of the person, the more knowledge to accept, the broader the field of vision. From the results of the survey, the educational level of the inheritors of the Wushu intangible cultural heritage in Anhui Province is generally low, with only two people having university degrees, and most of the inheritors no longer pursue further education after graduating from junior high school or high school, but choose to go out to work. The reason for this fact may be related to the era in which they lived at that time. Most of the inheritors of Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage in Anhui Province are in the rural areas, and they do not have good conditions to receive high-level education. However, this fact can be improved through subsequent efforts, and the inheritors can continue to improve their abilities through continuing education and professional training to promote the continuous development of the inheritance business.

In terms of occupation, the survey results showed that among the 12 Wushu intangible cultural heritage bearers in Anhui Province, one was a public official, two were teachers, and seven were farmers (Table 4).

**Table 4** Occupational Statistics of Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage Inheritors in Anhui Province

Occupation	Public official	Teacher	Farmer	Other
Number of persons	1	2	7	2
proportion (%)	8.33	16.67	58.33	16.67

People have the impression that bearers of intangible cultural heritage are a profession. However, ICH bearer is only a title, they all have their own occupations and use their leisure time to carry out ICH transmission work only after completing their own work. According to the survey results, most of the inheritors make a living by farming or working, and only a very small number of them are teachers or public officials. Although there is no distinction between high and low professions, teachers or public officials will, to a certain extent, be conducive to the preservation and transmission of ICH. This is because they have richer resources and wider contact with society, and have greater opportunities to promote intangible cultural heritage.

## 3.2 Physical Health of Martial Arts Intangible Cultural Heritage Inheritors in Anhui Province

Survival state is a variety of states that people show in the process of life [4], and physical health is the most important part of people's survival state. Healthy body is an important prerequisite for people to work, study and live. The physical health of the inheritors is a necessary condition to carry out the inheritance of intangible cultural heritage, and if the body has problems, it will greatly affect the inheritance effect of the inheritors. This study investigates the physical health of the inheritors by investigating their illnesses (Table 5).

**Table 5** Statistics on common diseases among the inheritors of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu in Anhui Province

Diseases	Number of persons	proportion (%)	Diseases	Number of persons	proportion (%)
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High blood pressure	4	33.33	Respiratory Diseases	4	33.33
Diabetes	2	16.67	Lung Diseases	0	0
Hyperlipidaemia	2	16.67	Kidney Disease	0	0
Heart Disease	0	0	Joint Diseases	5	41.67
Hepatobiliary Disease	0	0	Neurological Diseases	4	33.33
Stomach Disease	5	41.67	Skin Diseases	1	8.33
Others	2	16.67	None	2	16.67

The survey results show that among the 12 inheritors of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu in Anhui Province, 5 of them suffer from joint disease and stomach disease, which is the disease that affects the largest number of people, and it may be related to their practice of wushu since childhood. Because wushu is a physical exercise sport, long-term practice in large quantities can leave behind sports injuries including arthropathy. In addition, due to the lack of time control in their training, their diet and routine are also irregular, which may be the main factor leading to their stomach problems. The results of the survey also showed that some of the inheritors suffered from hypertension, neurological diseases, diabetes, high blood cholesterol and other 'old age diseases', which may be related to the age of the inheritors as a whole. On the whole, although some of the inheritors are suffering from diseases, the diseases they are suffering from are not fatal, their physical condition is basically normal, and their health condition will not affect their work of inheritance.

### 3.3 Mental Health of Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage Inheritors in Anhui Province

Self-achievement is a psychological feeling resulting from the balance between desire and reality, which refers to an individual's pride and satisfaction in his or her own achievements. It is an internal, self-evaluation-based emotional experience, which can stimulate the individual's enthusiasm, self-confidence and motivation, and promote their self-development and growth. Whether the inheritor can achieve a sense of achievement in the process of inheritance plays a very important role in the development of inheritance work. Therefore, this study investigates the inheritors' sense of self-achievement in the process of inheritance in order to judge the psychological health of the inheritors.

**Table 6** Statistics on the sense of achievement of the inheritors of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu in Anhui Province in the process of inheritance

	Very much so	Yes	Average	No	Not at all
Number of persons	3	5	4	0	0
proportion (%)	25	41.67	33.33	0	0

The results of the survey show that among the 12 inheritors of the Wushu intangible cultural heritage in Anhui Province, three were very able to gain a sense of self-achievement, five were able to gain a sense of self-achievement, four gained an average sense of self-achievement during the inheritance process, and zero could not or were very unable to gain a sense of self-achievement (Table 6). This shows that most of the inheritors are satisfied with the achievements made in the inheritance work. This is conducive to further enhancing the inheritors' sense of mission, sense of responsibility and work enthusiasm, which is of great significance to the further development of the inheritance work of the Wushu intangible cultural heritage inheritors in Anhui Province.

### 3.4 Physical Living Status of Martial Arts Intangible Cultural Heritage Inheritors in Anhui Province

The economic base determines the superstructure. In the rapid development of commercialisation and globalisation, the level of economic income significantly affects people's material standard of living. For the group of inheritors,

economic income not only determines whether or not they can solve the problem of food and clothing, but also determines whether or not the work of inheritance is carried out well or badly. In this study, the economic income level of the inheritors is used to investigate the material living status of the inheritors, so as to understand the survival status of the inheritors from the side. (Table 7)

**Table 7** Statistics on the economic income of the inheritors of the intangible cultural heritage of martial arts in Anhui Province

	0 yuan	Below 2000 yuan	2001-4000 yuan	4001-6000 yuan	Over 6000 yuan
Number of persons	3	4	3	2	0
proportion (%)	25	33.33	25	16.67	0

The results of the survey show that among the 12 inheritors of martial arts intangible cultural heritage in Anhui Province, there are three who have no income, four who earn less than 2,000 yuan per month, three who earn between 2001 yuan and 4,000 yuan per month, two who earn between 4,001 yuan and 6,000 yuan per month, and zero who earn more than 6,000 yuan per month. Generally speaking, the income level of the inheritors of martial arts intangible cultural heritage in Anhui Province is low, which may be related to the fact that the inheritors are mostly farmers. Through the visit, we learnt that most of the inheritors rely on odd jobs to make a living and their income is not stable, and some of them need to go out to work to make a living. Through the visit also learned that the state although the inheritors issued some subsidies, but this is far from being able to meet the needs of the inheritance work, in order to do a good job of the inheritance work, you need to pour money into it.

### 3.5 The Social Status of Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage Inheritors in Anhui Province

Social status refers to people's position and position in the social system. Social status is crucial for a person and can determine a person's behaviour, way of thinking and interpersonal relationships. A person's social status also determines the degree of respect an individual receives, the advantages and disadvantages of income distribution, the number of opportunities, the development of personal talents, and the level of self-realisation [5]. It can be said that a person's social status can affect the role of the community to which a person belongs to some extent. The social status of martial arts intangible cultural heritage inheritors in Anhui Province is shown in the following table.

**Table 8** Statistics on the social status of the inheritors of the intangible cultural heritage of martial arts in Anhui Province

	Village Cadres	National People's Congress Deputies	CPPCC member	Heads of Associations	Others
Number of persons	1	2	1	3	5
proportion (%)	8.33	16.67	8.33	25	41.67

The survey results show that among the 12 inheritors of martial arts intangible cultural heritage in Anhui Province, one is a village cadre, two are deputies to the National People's Congress, one is a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), and three are heads of associations. Village cadres have a high social status in the village and it is relatively easy to carry out inheritance work. Deputies to the National People's Congress and members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) have wider contact with people, and are able to put forward their opinions and suggestions directly to the relevant departments, and strive for more benefits for the inheritance work. The person in charge of the society has certain organisational ability, which is conducive to the exhibition and publicity of the inheritance work. On the whole, the inheritors of Anhui Wushu intangible cultural heritage have a certain social status, although the social status is not very high, but it can provide certain help for the smooth implementation of the inheritance work.

## 4 CONCLUSION

The inheritors of the Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage of Anhui Province are generally older, mainly male, married, with low education and mostly farmers. The physical health of the inheritors is generally good, and the diseases they suffer from are common, which do not affect their daily life and work and the development of inheritance activities. Most of the inheritors have a good sense of self-achievement and are satisfied with their work, and their mental health is

good. The social status of the inheritors is average, with more than half of the inheritors holding certain positions or titles but not at a high level.

### **COMPETING INTERESTS**

The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.

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