

# REALISTIC PROBLEMS AND RESPONSE STRATEGIES OF PROTECTING INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF WUSHU IN ANHUI PROVINCE

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**Abstract:** With the purpose of promoting the development of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu in Anhui Province, the realistic problems of the protection of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu in Anhui Province are analyzed through literature analysis, logical analysis and other research methods. The results show that the real problems in the protection of martial arts intangible cultural heritage in Anhui Province are: (1) lack of static protection; (2) poor legal protection; (3) lack of protection funds; and (4) thin protection awareness. In response to the above problems, the article puts forward the following coping strategies: (1) use of modern technology for multifaceted recording; (2) establishment of a protection mechanism in line with the policy; (3) strengthening of publicity and education; and (4) increase of financial investment.

**Keywords:** Wushu; Intangible Cultural Heritage; Anhui; Problems; Strategies

## 1 INTRODUCTION

As a unique physical and cultural expression of the Chinese nation, the intangible cultural heritage of wushu carries a deep historical and cultural heritage and national spirit. Wushu intangible cultural heritage not only has high historical and cultural value, but also has a unique status in the field of art and science. The protection and inheritance of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu is of great significance to the promotion of national culture, the enhancement of national self-confidence, and the promotion of human cultural diversity.

As one of the important birthplaces of Chinese martial arts, Anhui Province has a rich intangible cultural heritage of martial arts. However, the current protection status of Anhui Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage is far from satisfactory, and most of the protection work of Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage is only superficial. At present, Anhui Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage is facing the problem of lack of personnel in the inheritance, and the social cognition is at a low level. This paper will analyze the real problems facing the protection of martial arts intangible cultural heritage in Anhui Province, and discuss the response problems from the multi-dimensional aspects of modern scientific and technological means, policy and legislation, education and promotion, financial support and so on. It aims to provide theoretical support and practical operational suggestions for the sustainable development of the Wushu intangible cultural heritage in Anhui Province, with a view to contributing to the protection and inheritance of this valuable cultural heritage in a modest way.

## 2 INHERITANCE VALUE OF MARTIAL ARTS INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN ANHUI PROVINCE

### 2.1 Historical and Cultural Values

Anhui has been one of the important birthplaces of martial arts since ancient times. As early as in the period of the North and South Dynasties, a number of martial arts schools have emerged in the Anhui region. Through the development and evolution of successive generations, a unique martial arts culture with Anhui characteristics has been formed, and in modern times, undifferentiated martial arts programs have been recognized as martial arts intangible cultural heritage. These intangible cultural heritages of martial arts not only enjoy a great reputation in Anhui, but also have an important position in the national martial arts circles. These martial arts intangible cultural heritages not only record the historical process of the Chinese nation, but also reflect the cultural characteristics and regional features of different historical periods. Anhui Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage also integrates various cultural elements such as Confucianism, Taoism, medicine and martial arts, forming a unique cultural style and characteristics. This multicultural fusion makes Anhui Wushu culture more colorful. Through the inheritance and promotion of Anhui Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage, we can better understand and appreciate the long history and rich culture of the Chinese nation.

### 2.2 Scientific Fitness Value

Wushu intangible cultural heritage in Anhui Province has significant scientific fitness value. Wushu pays great attention to internal and external cultivation, emphasizing the unity of body and mind. When practicing, Wushu practitioners rely on the coordination of body movement and breathing to achieve the effect of both internal and external training. This form of exercise not only strengthens muscle strength and improves flexibility, but also regulates breathing and improves cardiorespiratory function, realizing both physical and mental training. At the same time, the exercise and breathing methods of Wushu are beneficial to improve body functions, enhance immunity, and play a role in the prevention of disease. Some of the specific movements and breathing methods in wushu can also be used to treat some chronic diseases, such as hypertension, diabetes, etc., to help alleviate the symptoms and improve the quality of life.

### **2.3 Socio-Educational Value**

As one of the traditional sports programs in China, Anhui Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage has a long history and deep cultural heritage. In many aspects, such as techniques and rituals, it carries profound national cultural information, and can be called a bright treasure in the treasury of Chinese martial arts. Wushu is not only a form of sports, but also an important way of cultural education. Through the study and inheritance of wushu culture, it can cultivate young people's will quality and the spirit of unity and cooperation, and thus improve their comprehensive quality. At the same time, Wushu culture vigorously advocates the spirit of "martial arts and morality", which is of great help to promote social justice and national spirit. Learning and inheriting the intangible cultural heritage of Anhui Wushu helps to enhance people's cultural self-confidence and sense of identity. Through the study and training of Wushu, people can understand and experience the history and culture of the Chinese nation more deeply, and further enhance the sense of belonging and pride in Chinese culture.

### **2.4 Economic Exploitation Value**

With the improvement of people's standard of living, tourism has gradually become a kind of leisure and recreation program, which can relieve stress and broaden the horizons[1]. With the continuous development of tourism and people's increasing pursuit of a healthy life, Anhui Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage has potential for economic development. With the continuous development of tourism and people's increasing pursuit of a healthy life, Anhui Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage has potential economic development value. The excavation and organization of Anhui Wushu intangible cultural heritage resources can develop Wushu cultural tourism projects, attract tourists to come to visit and learn, and at the same time, make great contributions to the local tourism economy. With the deepening of global cultural exchanges, cooperation with international wushu organizations, joint development of wushu cultural products, wushu tournaments and other activities can not only enhance the international competitiveness of the wushu industry, but also promote international economic cooperation and cultural exchanges.

## **3 REALISTIC PROBLEMS IN THE PROTECTION OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF WUSHU IN ANHUI PROVINCE**

### **3.1 Lack of Static Protection**

Wushu intangible cultural heritage is one of the important contents of intangible cultural heritage, and plays an important role in the protection, inheritance and promotion of Chinese outstanding traditional sports intangible culture[2]. It is one of the important contents of intangible cultural heritage of wushu, which plays an important role in the protection, inheritance and promotion of Chinese traditional sports intangible culture. The static protection of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu refers to the use of specific scientific and technological means to record the traditional wushu sound, text, technical movements and ancient instruments and other data or information, and preserve them in books, tapes, CDs, or museums, libraries and other carriers. This kind of protection is conducive to people's better understanding, utilization and development of traditional Wushu resources, which in turn generates economic, academic and social benefits. The static protection of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu is one of the important ways to effectively protect traditional wushu. At the same time, we should also recognize that static protection has certain limitations and needs to be combined with dynamic protection to jointly promote the inheritance and development of wushu.

#### **3.1.1 Static protection fragmentation**

In Anhui Province, martial arts intangible cultural heritage materials are scattered in the private sector, failing to achieve centralized management and unified protection. As a result, it is difficult to systematically organize and properly protect the many valuable martial arts documents, ancient instruments and technical records. The inheritors of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu are also scattered in different parts of the country, and their inheritance activities are usually confined to their own communities or sects, lacking cross-regional and cross-sectional exchanges and cooperation. Moreover, the aging problem of the inheritors is becoming more and more serious, while the younger generation is not interested in learning and inheriting wushu, which further aggravates the fragmentation of the distribution of the inheritors. The protection mechanism

for the intangible cultural heritage of wushu in Anhui Province is not yet perfect, and there is a lack of unified protection planning and coordination mechanisms. Local administrations and cultural institutions are working separately in the protection work, lacking unified guidance and strong support. The distribution of protection resources is also characterized by fragmentation, and the protection efforts of different regions and schools are not balanced, making it difficult for some important Wushu intangible cultural heritage projects to receive adequate support and protection.

### **3.1.2 Static protection of non-professionals**

Public cultural institutions such as libraries, museums and archives are specialized institutions for the protection of intangible cultural heritage in Anhui Province, but the content of protection through these specialized institutions is extremely limited. These institutions lack professionalism and pertinence in the protection of intangible cultural heritage, resulting in a large amount of data, objects, sites, places, etc. not being effectively protected. At the same time, there is a lack of talents with specialized knowledge in the protection of martial arts intangible cultural heritage in Anhui Province, which makes it difficult for the protection work to be promoted in depth and prevents the systematic research, excavation and protection of martial arts intangible cultural heritage.

## **3.2 Poor Legal Protection**

The intangible cultural heritage of wushu is a treasure of the Chinese nation, and it is the responsibility of each and every one of us to strengthen the legal protection of it. Only by improving legislation, strengthening law enforcement and enhancing intellectual property protection can we effectively protect the intangible cultural heritage of wushu and let it shine more brilliantly in the new era. However, the legal protection of martial arts intangible cultural heritage is still imperfect, which brings many challenges to the inheritance and development of martial arts culture.

### **3.2.1 Inadequate legal protection system**

At present, China's legal protection of intangible cultural heritage is not yet perfect, and laws and regulations specializing in martial arts intangible cultural heritage are even more lacking. This leads to a lack of clear legal basis and guiding principles in the protection process, making it difficult to effectively carry out the protection work. Although the Law of the People's Republic of China on Intangible Cultural Heritage[3] and other legal documents have been promulgated, the protection of Wushu is still not perfect. and other legal documents have been promulgated, there are still insufficient specialized legal documents for the intangible cultural heritage of wushu, and there is a lack of specific legal provisions detailing the scope of protection of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu. The lack of legal documents makes the protection of Wushu intangible cultural heritage lack of legal protection, and cannot solve the many problems that exist in the process of protection of Wushu intangible cultural heritage. In addition, the protection of intellectual property rights for commercial development and cultural dissemination of Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage is also insufficient. Existing laws and regulations have problems such as unsound planning, unspecific protection measures and unclear protection authorities.

### **3.2.2 Inadequate oversight and accountability mechanisms**

At present, China's monitoring and accountability mechanism for intangible cultural heritage is not yet perfect, and there is a lack of accountability mechanisms specifically for martial arts intangible cultural heritage. This leads to a lack of clear legal basis and guiding principles in the protection process, making it difficult to carry out the protection work effectively. An effective monitoring mechanism is the key to ensure that the intangible cultural heritage of wushu is effectively inherited and protected. However, the current supervision mechanism often focuses on the declaration and recognition stage, and the supervision of the subsequent inheritance activities, the use of funds and the progress of the project is insufficient, making it difficult to form a closed-loop management. How to carry out effective accountability is an urgent issue to be resolved when ineffective protection or irregularities are found in the intangible cultural heritage of wushu. At present, accountability mechanisms often lack clear standards and procedures, making it difficult to enforce accountability and affecting the seriousness and authority of the protection of martial arts intangible cultural heritage. The lack of supervision and accountability mechanisms makes the protection of martial arts intangible cultural heritage lack legal safeguards and fails to solve the problem of insufficient protection of martial arts intangible cultural heritage protection.

## **3.3 Lack of Funding for Protection**

In view of the urgent need for financial support for the organization, preservation and publication of information on the intangible cultural heritage of wushu in Anhui Province, the protection unit of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu in Anhui Province has submitted applications for special funds for protection to the central administration on several occasions. Through field research, it can be understood that although the application amount of each project is as high as millions of dollars, however, up to now, in addition to the representative bearer of the intangible cultural heritage projects in Anhui Province, each person has a subsidy of 7,000 yuan per year, the inheritance of the unit does not have any available funds for the protection. Municipalities have included funding for the protection of intangible cultural heritage in their annual budgets, but the funds invested in organizing, preserving, researching and publishing information, as well as carrying out heritage activities, are very meager.

### **3.3.1 Limited administration funding**

According to relevant documents from the Anhui Department of Culture and the Anhui Department of Finance, although Anhui Province allocates funds to ICH programs, the amount is still insufficient for the huge number of protection objects. For example, in 2017, Anhui Province allocated a total of 12.9 million yuan to ICH projects under the jurisdiction of 12 units in the province. However, this amount of funding is still slightly insufficient for the many ICH programs in need of protection. The distribution of administration funding is also uneven: some Wushu ICH projects with significant cultural value and influence may receive more funding, while some equally important but lesser-known projects may face a shortage of funding. Administration funding for the protection of Wushu ICH relies mainly on financial budgets, the allocation of which is often constrained by a variety of factors, such as policy orientation and economic conditions. In addition, there is limited social funding for ICH safeguarding, resulting in narrower channels for raising funds for overall safeguarding.

### **3.3.2 Single source of funding**

At present, funding for the protection of the intangible cultural heritage of the martial arts relies mainly on administration financial allocations. Although the administration has invested a certain amount of money in this area, it is often overstretched in the face of the many martial arts programs that need to be protected and the extensive protection work. This single source of funding has many limitations.

On the one hand, it is difficult for the limited administration funding to meet the all-round needs for the protection of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu. From the inheritance, research and promotion of wushu to the construction of related facilities and the cultivation of talents, all aspects of the work require a large amount of funds to support them. Relying on administration funding alone cannot ensure that all work is adequately funded, which may result in some important conservation projects not being able to be carried out smoothly, or being greatly compromised in the course of implementation due to insufficient funding.

On the other hand, a single source of funding also makes the safeguarding of martial arts intangible cultural heritage vulnerable to changes in the administration's financial situation and policies. Once the administration makes adjustments in the allocation of funds or policies, it may have a direct impact on the protection work, resulting in instability and discontinuity in the protection work.

In addition, a single source of funding is not conducive to mobilizing all sectors of society to participate in the protection of the intangible cultural heritage of martial arts. The potential power of enterprises, social organizations and individuals has not been fully stimulated and utilized, and a good situation of multiple inputs and joint protection cannot be formed.

## **3.4 Low Awareness of Protection**

The protection of the intangible cultural heritage of martial arts is not only closely related to the inheritance and development of culture, but also involves the promotion of national spirit, the maintenance of cultural diversity and the sustainable development of human society. However, at present, the general public's awareness of the protection of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu is still relatively weak, and at the same time, the cultivation of the inheritors of wushu has also been neglected. This requires deep reflection and effective action.

### **3.4.1 Insufficient public awareness and lack of proactive protection**

The intangible cultural heritage of wushu faces the problems of insufficient public awareness and lack of active protection consciousness, which is indeed objective in the current society and poses a serious challenge to the inheritance and development of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu. The general public knows little about the basic concepts, historical origins, cultural connotations and values of Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage. They may simply regard wushu as a competitive sport or a performing art, but ignore the deep cultural heritage and historical legacy behind it. Given this lack of knowledge, it is often difficult for the public to recognize the unique value of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu in terms of passing on the national culture, enhancing national self-confidence, and promoting physical and mental health. Therefore, they may not pay due attention and enthusiasm to the protection of the intangible cultural heritage of martial arts. In the fast-paced modern living environment, people tend to pursue activities that bring instant gratification and are more entertaining. In contrast, the learning and transmission of Wushu ICH requires a great deal of time and effort, and it is difficult to see significant results in a short period of time. This has led to a lack of interest in Wushu ICH among many people, which in turn affects their awareness of active protection.

### **3.4.2 Neglecting the training and support of the relevant inheritors, leading to a break in inheritance**

Inheritors are the living carriers of martial arts intangible cultural heritage, carrying a wealth of technical knowledge and cultural connotations. Their existence or not is directly related to whether the intangible cultural heritage of wushu can be effectively inherited and developed. Since China's reform and opening up, with the accelerated process of modernization, a large number of inheritors have moved to the city, detached from the "soil" of production and life, resulting in a disconnect between the life of the inheritors and the survival of the intangible cultural heritage of martial arts. This is directly related to whether the Wushu intangible cultural heritage can be effectively inherited and developed. Only by combining life and production, i.e., cultural places and cultural behaviors, can traditional culture be naturally spread and continued[4].

Therefore, cultivating and supporting the inheritors is a key link in the protection of Wushu ICH. At present, the training mechanism for Wushu intangible cultural heritage bearers is not sound enough. In many places, there is a lack of systematic training programs, professional teachers and necessary teaching facilities, making it difficult for inheritors to receive comprehensive and in-depth study and training.

Due to the existence of the above problems, many Wushu intangible cultural heritage programs are facing the crisis of inheritance faults. The skills and knowledge of the older generation of inheritors cannot be effectively passed on, and the younger generation's lack of interest and enthusiasm in the intangible cultural heritage of wushu has led to the danger of a break in the chain of inheritance.

## **4 RESPONSE STRATEGIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF WUSHU IN ANHUI PROVINCE**

### **4.1 Multifaceted Documentation Using Modern Technology**

The purpose of digital conservation of martial arts intangible cultural heritage is to realize the real record of its inheritance data, and digital conservation is also to give it a "second life"[5]. Digital preservation is also to give it a "second life". Using high-definition cameras, audio recordings and three-dimensional scanning technology, we digitally record the performance process and details of the techniques of Wushu ICH, and set up a digital archive of Wushu ICH to ensure the safe storage and easy retrieval of data. Utilizing cloud storage technology to back up and share the digital resources of martial arts ICH to prevent data loss and promote resource sharing. Develop VR and AR Wushu ICH experience programs to enable audiences to immerse themselves in the charm of Wushu ICH. Simulate the Wushu training environment through VR and AR technologies to provide novel training methods for Wushu enthusiasts and athletes. These technologies are utilized to recreate historical scenes, allowing the audience to more intuitively understand the historical background and cultural connotations of the Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage.

### **4.2 Establishment of Policy-Compatible Protection Mechanisms**

Since legislation cannot be realized in the short term' making full use of the policy advantage in state management is an important measure to solve the lack of law. The systematic protection of intangible cultural heritage not only requires a sound institutional mechanism to support it, but also needs comprehensive, whole-process, and overall top-level design from multiple aspects such as improving the system, perfecting the framework, controlling the quality, and following laws and regulations[6].The administration's publicity and education on the laws and regulations related to the protection of the intangible cultural heritage of martial arts in Anhui Province as well as the importance of protection is an important way to raise the social awareness of heritage protection. The formulation of regulations for the protection of the intangible cultural heritage of martial arts in Anhui Province is not only a response to the national call for strengthening the protection of intangible cultural heritage, but also based on the profound knowledge of the deep heritage and unique value of the intangible cultural heritage of martial arts in Anhui Province. The development of laws for the protection of intangible cultural heritage in China started at the local level. Some provinces have introduced intangible cultural protection regulations to provide a legal basis for the protection of intangible cultural heritage in the region, so the administration should formulate regulations for the protection of intangible cultural heritage of martial arts in Anhui Province as soon as possible. In short, the development of Anhui Province, martial arts intangible cultural protection regulations, is to fill the legal gaps, improve the protection system is an important measure to promote the prosperity of Anhui Province, martial arts intangible cultural heritage, and promote the protection of cultural diversity is of great significance. The administration should attach great importance to speeding up the legislative process to ensure the early introduction and effective implementation of the regulations.

### **4.3 Strengthening Public Awareness and Education**

As an important part of regional culture, the public can be informed of the historical origin, development and unique value of the intangible cultural heritage of martial arts through publicity and education. As the public learns about the intangible cultural heritage of martial arts, they will develop a stronger sense of identity and belonging to the culture of their own region. For young people, publicity and education can break their stereotypes of traditional martial arts. It can make them realize that the intangible cultural heritage of wushu is not only a kind of sport, but also a kind of cultural form containing profound philosophical thoughts and moral concepts. Many people have a limited understanding of Wushu ICH, and publicity and education can popularize the public's knowledge of the types, characteristics, and techniques of Wushu ICH. For example, by organizing lectures, exhibitions and other activities to introduce the stylistic features and technical characteristics of different Wushu ICH items, the public can form a more intuitive understanding of Wushu ICH. At the same time, the public's interest in Wushu ICH can be stimulated through exciting performances and interactive experiential activities. Organize wushu ICH experience activities, invite the public to participate in wushu training and feel the charm of

wushu ICH. This kind of hands-on experience can encourage the public to have a more in-depth understanding of the Wushu ICH, and then cultivate their awareness of the protection of the Wushu ICH.

#### **4.4 Increased Funding**

The importance of strengthening financial investment for the protection of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu is self-evident, and it is a solid backing to ensure the inheritance and development of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu. Strengthening capital investment can also be used to improve the infrastructure conditions for the protection of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu, such as the construction of wushu museums, wushu inheritance bases, wushu training venues, etc., to provide the necessary material protection for the inheritance and development of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu. At the same time, it can also support the cultivation and introduction of wushu talents, such as setting up scholarships, subsidizing wushu students to study abroad, and introducing outstanding wushu coaches and scholars from home and abroad. These measures play an important role in enhancing the overall level and influence of wushu culture. The central administration should actively allocate special funds for protection in accordance with this provision' and administrations at all levels should also actively implement the funds in place. In addition to direct investment by the administration, it can also utilize the advantages of administration to raise funds through multiple channels. For example, enterprises and consortia investing in heritage protection can be exempted from tax; make full use of the publicity of mass media to report on the endangered status of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu, the inheritors and donors, etc. To summarize, the importance of strengthening financial investment for the protection of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu is indisputable. It is the material foundation to guarantee the inheritance and development of the intangible cultural heritage of wushu, and an important guarantee to promote the prosperity and development of wushu culture.

### **5 CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Anhui Wushu Intangible Cultural Heritage, as an important part of the intangible cultural heritage, carries the long history and heavy culture of the children of China, which is rich in historical information, martial arts techniques and national spirit. Through the protection and inheritance of these heritages, it enables future generations to understand and learn from the wisdom and skills of their ancestors, and enables the continuation and development of Chinese martial arts culture. This heritage is not only a respect for history, but also an inheritance and promotion of Chinese history and culture, which helps to enhance national cultural confidence and cultural identity. Wushu intangible cultural heritage of Anhui Province not only enjoys a great reputation at home, but also has a very high international influence in the international arena. Through the carrier of Wushu, Anhui Province can carry out cultural exchanges with other countries in the world and show the unique charm and profound heritage of Chinese culture. Such exchanges help to enhance international understanding and friendship, and promote the diversity and inclusive development of world culture. It is not only an important carrier for us to inherit and promote traditional culture, but also a bridge to enhance national cohesion and promote international cultural exchange. Therefore, we have the responsibility and obligation to jointly safeguard and pass on this valuable cultural heritage to ensure that it will live on and blossom, and make positive contributions to the diversity of world civilizations and the prosperity of human civilization.

#### **COMPETING INTERESTS**

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