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# **REVIEW ARTICLE**

# A Review on Traditional Villages Protection and Development in China

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ABSTRACT - Traditional villages serve not only as a habitat for inhabitants to grow and dwell but also as a significant domain for the preservation of historical and cultural legacy, bearing the fond memories of local residents and accumulating substantial economic and cultural worth. The advancement and fostering of traditional villages constitute a primary objective within the contemporary academic realm. Drawing upon data extracted from the Scopus database spanning from 2007 to 2024, this study undertook a comprehensive examination and structural analysis of pertinent research concerning the safeguarding and progression of Chinese traditional villages through data aggregation and synthesis. The outcomes of the investigation are outlined as follows: (1) Areas of focus in research on the safeguarding and advancement of Chinese traditional villages encompass spatial arrangement, assessment frameworks, and the promotion of tourism. A consensus has also been reached regarding the essence of traditional village preservation: primary stakeholders in the preservation process should include government entities, businesses, scholars, residents, and other involved parties, the focal point of preservation should be the village core, the fundamental phase of preservation and advancement revolves around categorized evaluation, and the approach to safeguarding and development involves the revitalization and activation of the village. Spatial pattern research methodologies encompass GIS spatial analysis, space syntax, data compilation, and assessment, while evaluation techniques include the Delphi method, analytic hierarchy process, and fuzzy comprehensive evaluation. (2) The existing research on the evolving landscape of traditional villages is deemed inadequate, lacking a comprehensive framework to provide guidance, and largely concentrated within a specific research scope. (3) Subsequent research endeavours should employ systematic frameworks to delve deeply into the study of traditional villages that are in a state of development but lack distinct characteristics. Addressing the issue of traditional villages' lack of vibrancy and fostering the resilience of traditional villages are vital objectives for future research.

#### ARTICLE HISTORY

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

"Tradition" refers to the beliefs, values, practises, artwork, systems, and behaviours that have been passed down through the ages and influence how individuals behave in social situations as well as the historical development they have inherited. "Village" refers to a large settlement or a group formed by multiple settlements. In China, the term "traditional village" was first proposed in 2012. The government document clearly states: "Traditional villages were established earlier and have relatively rich traditional resources. They also have a particular historical, cultural, scientific, artistic, social, and economic importance." Traditional villages, an essential part of China's traditional civilization, are being drastically restructured and differentiated because of the country's processes of industrialization, urbanisation, and agricultural modernization. In addition, preserving human settlements and vernacular architecture comprises fostering the growth of customary culture and interpersonal relationships [1]. In order to fully understand the living conditions of traditional villages in China and build a scientific and effective protection system, six traditional village selection campaigns were launched in 2012, and a total of 6 batches, 8,155 traditional villages were selected for listing on the official list.

In other countries, preserving historic villages has been a key element of regional development strategies, with wideranging implications for policy and practice. In despite of the fact that these countries have rural building regulations that authorize the protection of rural landscapes, many historic villages still face ongoing physical degradation and loss of heritage value [2, 3]. As a result, other countries have been striving to develop and discuss new approaches to the study of historical rural science, as well as new ideas that integrate the objective of rural cultural preservation with the sustainable and resilient development of rural areas [4, 5]. The review is predicated on a search conducted on February 1, 2024, through the Scopus database for papers. Numerous academic works have examined the social and environmental changes, and some authors have conducted systematic reviews of related disciplines [6]. However, there are few literature reviews on the protection and development of traditional villages. Consequently, a systematic review that outlined the essential components of relevant research was developed based on academic publications that were published internationally and covered case studies of traditional villages. The investigation provides notable contributions to the existing body of literature concerning the safeguarding and advancement of traditional villages. Primarily, by scrutinizing 160 papers, the study offers a comprehensive examination of the literature pertaining to the protection and development of traditional villages. Furthermore, the analysis conducted in the study delves into the various research viewpoints and present circumstances surrounding the protection and development of traditional villages in China. Furthermore, the study offers further perspectives and recommendations for the future course of research on Chinese traditional villages.

There are two sections to the literature review. The first section methodically examines and evaluates the body of general research on the topic of China's traditional villages' development and preservation. There are multiple phases involved in the selection and collecting of articles (see Section 2.1). The first section outlines the topics, goals, and strategies for traditional village growth and protection while methodically analysing the meaning of traditional village protection (see Section 3.1). The second section of the literature review presents a qualitative analysis of the study's methodology and content in addition to identifying a number of important subjects (see Sections 3.2 and 3.3). Furthermore, the limitations of current research as well as the future course of research are examined.

# 2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

#### 2.1 Publication Selection

The process of developing the systematic review involved retrieving literature using search strings from the Scopus database on February 1, 2024. The years 2007 through 2024 were used to filter these literary works. This approach was chosen because it offers more extensive publication coverage [7]. The selection procedure used an approach that Mu & Aimar had previously evaluated [8]. The collection process is shown in Figure 1.

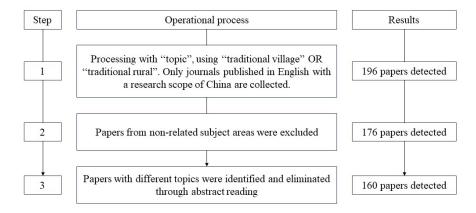


Figure 1. Flowchart of paper collection process (Author's elaboration)

The author used the terms "traditional rural" and "traditional village" in a "topic" search to start the retrieval process. Every paper had to meet a series of requirements, which included language, topic relevancy, and publication year. Only articles published in English-language publications with a focus on China were included in the selection. A total of 196 papers were gathered in the initial round. Moreover, 176 papers remained when abstracts from unrelated publications were found and removed. After that, we carefully examined the chosen papers from the Chinese instances to collect 160 papers. We can analyse the situation of "year of publication" from figure 2: The results show that the earliest papers on the topic of rural protection were published in 2007, and by 2023, the largest number of papers were published. There is an increasing trend in the number of publications from 2019 (2024 only includes data before February).

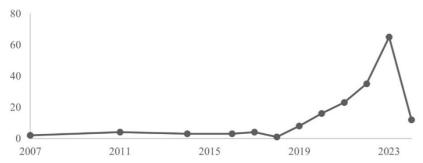


Figure 2. Number of papers publication (Author's elaboration)

#### 2.2 Focus themes

In order to understand the results of each publication, we categorized 160 papers by topic and keywords. Three thematic studies might be used to summarise the traditional village research: connotation of traditional village protection, research methods of traditional villages and research content of traditional villages. In addition, the content of each theme can be compared to further explore.

# 3. RESULT

#### 3.1 Connotation of Traditional Village Protection

#### 3.1.1 Introduction of traditional village

Traditional villages refer to living settlements with relatively complete historical appearance, relatively rich cultural relics, unique production and living patterns, and still retain the survival and life of villagers, which are the main components of cultural heritage [5, 9]. Tradition is a continuous expression of culture from ancient times to modern times, so it can be seen that traditional village is settlement that can not only meet the daily needs of the villagers, but also meet the mutual interaction between the villagers, evoke the common memories of the villagers, and have certain local characteristics [10, 11]. Traditional villages contain rich and diverse values, including cultural heritage value such as history, science, art, agricultural production, the ecological value of harmonious coexistence between man and nature, the life value, and cultural education value [12–14]. Rural revitalization, traditional villages, and general villages have evolved over time, but they have not been completely transformed into a new type of community. showing relatively closed characteristics in the customs and social relationship networks of villagers, while traditional villages have more prominent characteristics of self-adaptation and self-organization compared with others [15, 16].

#### 3.1.2 Protection object of traditional village

The difference between traditional villages and other historical and cultural heritage sites lies in scholars' understanding of "people" [17, 18]. Rural inhabitants are incorporated in conservation study of traditional villages, and a consensus is developed that villagers are the major body of protection, whether from the conservation of traditional villages or tourism development. The conservation of traditional villages is believed to primarily prioritize the inhabitants, and human living in villages is the only thing that can bring the villages back to life and provide long-term vitality for their development [19, 20]. Traditional village protection is complicated because it involves many different factors, and solving issues in a single area is no longer sufficient to meet the increasingly complex needs for protection. Examples of these factors include enhancing the living conditions of villagers and raising their standard of living [21].

## 3.1.3 Protection subject of traditional village

The conservation of traditional villages is a complex process that requires the participation of several parties. a consensus has been formed, the participation of multiple subjects is encouraged, and the participation of the government, enterprises, experts, and villagers are advocated to encourage the protection of traditional communities with the help of several stakeholders. Scholars have proposed that the government should organise, support, and oversee the preservation of traditional villages even though it is a sort of spontaneous action. As an autonomous group, non-governmental and non-profit organisations are examples of third parties that are crucial in advancing the protection of traditional villages [22, 23]. The villagers are the focal point of the community. Traditional villages protection with villagers as the core is not only consistent with their essential nature, but also an important foundation for promoting their effective implementation. In order to give full foster, the enthusiasm and initiative of the villagers, scholars have also proposed to strengthen the subjectivity of the villagers through empowerment.

At the same time, it should be noted that the villagers are still relatively backward in terms of ideology, cultural quality, capital and technology, etc., especially the villagers pay more attention to their own short-term interests, rather than the long-term public interests. In the process of protecting traditional villages, the enthusiasm and initiative of villagers will be influenced by the government and non-governmental organizations, and only after clarifying the roles of all aspects, under the joint guidance of the government and society, can we give fully utilise the benefits of all aspects and promote the protection of traditional villages.

# 3.1.4 Protection method of traditional village

Classification, evaluation, and optimization are important methods of villages conservation and development [24, 25]. Scholars have investigated for the evaluation, protection, development, and validity of traditional villages in order to protect and develop them scientifically. Based on "Evaluation and Identification Index System for Traditional Villages (2012)", combined with regional characteristics, many quantitative evaluations index system for many villages has been formed [26]. Numerous academics have also examined quantitative and qualitative, hierarchical and categorical assessment methods in order to investigate the adaptability of the national evaluation system of traditional villages in the region, such as the construction of index systems through analytic hierarchy process (AHP) and Delphi method, so as to make up for the shortcomings of qualitative assessment and strengthen the quantitative research [27, 28].

Besides the excellence evaluation, the evaluation on planning implementation and post-implementation evaluation has been continuously optimized, such as multi-dimensional value evaluation system, cultural inheritance degree evaluation system, and rejuvenation degree evaluation system have been established, which is of great significance for verifying the protection effect of traditional villages and promoting the development of traditional villages. Researchers have furthermore carried out evaluative research on the expansion of tourism in traditional villages as a means to meet the demand for progress. By assessing the potential for tourism development, the infrastructure, resources, and conditions related to tourism, traditional communities' adaptability were assessed [29–31]. The academic has developed comprehensive research on the uniqueness of traditional villages, offering various insights for their preservation and advancement. These include establishing a governance mechanism that focuses on the ongoing evolution of traditional villages, rewarding those who contribute resources for village protection, and enhancing public infrastructure to facilitate village revitalization [32–34].

The expansion of the idea of protection and development provides directional guidance and promotes the practical exploration of protection and development. The link between development and protection is evolving as knowledge advances and our understanding of cultural heritage protection changing. We need to acknowledge the dialectical relationship that exists between progress and protection, where protection is the premise of development and development is the purpose of protection. A small number of resource-rich villages can be protected as museums, while most traditional villages should be actively revitalized and developed, as the spaces of sustainable development [35, 36].

# 3.2 Methods for The Study of Traditional Village

#### 3.2.1 Evaluation methods

The traditional village value evaluation method is adjusted according to different situations, and the evaluation process often uses not only one method, but a combination of evaluation methods. At present, the evaluation methods used by scholars include Delphi, analytic hierarchy (AHP), entropy weight method, semantic difference method, fuzzy comprehensive evaluation, etc. (Table 1).

Table 1. List of evaluation method by evaluation process (Author's elaboration)			
Step	Evaluation process	Evaluation method	
1	Indicator system construction	Field investigation, literature review, theoretical analysis, case verification, Delphi, analytic hierarchy process	
2	Determine weights	Delphi, analytic hierarchy process, entropy weight method	
3	Develop score criteria	Equivalence scoring, interval scoring, semantic differences, Delphi	
4	Method of score calculate	Weighted average, correction coefficient, fuzzy comprehensive evaluation	
5	Analysis of results	Factor analysis, cluster analysis	

Table 1. List of evaluation method by evaluation process (Author's elaboration)

Delphi is a method of obtaining predictive information by seeking expert opinions from members of a group of experts. Because the value evaluation of traditional villages is greatly affected by subjective factors, the method has been widely concerned by scholars. Firstly, scholars utilize the Delphi to ascertain the weight's consultative value, and then they use the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) to ascertain the weight's ultimate worth. In addition, the Delphi method can be used in the construction of evaluation index system, the development of scoring criteria. Academics first utilize the Delphi to ascertain the weight's consultative value, and then they use AHP to ascertain the weight's ultimate worth. A multi-objective approach to decision-making, the AHP combines qualitative and quantitative aspects to create a hierarchical structure for a complex problem and break it down into numerous constituent factors. For example, a value evaluation system is constructed according to the target layer, criterion layer, and index layer. Due to its advantages of clear hierarchy and conciseness, the analytic hierarchy process has been widely used in the study of traditional village value evaluation.

The entropy weight method is a multi-criterion decision-making method, which determines the weights of different criteria by calculating the entropy value of the index, and the entropy value reflects the variability and uncertainty of the index. A smaller entropy value indicates that the index has a greater degree of dispersion and a greater impact on the comprehensive evaluation. The Semantic Difference Method (SD) is a method for quantitatively measuring psychological feelings through verbal descriptions. The method solves the problem that the decisive index is not easy to quantify and is often used by researchers in the process of formulating scoring criteria. For example, the score corresponds to the grade, and the evaluation index score is determined according to the characteristics and degree of the index. The method of fuzzy comprehensive evaluation is utilized to convert qualitative research into quantitative research by employing fuzzy mathematics for conducting a comprehensive evaluation of objects or entities that are influenced by multiple factors. For example, scholars use fuzzy mathematics to calculate the membership degree of the evaluator's comprehensive evaluation, which is divided into three evaluation grades: excellent, good, and medium, among which the excellent membership accounts for the majority, and the evaluation is excellent.

#### 3.2.2 Spatial pattern research methods

Geographic Information System (GIS) spatial analysis method regards a single traditional village as point elements, focusing on the examination of its spatial distribution type and balance, spatial distribution core area and spatial distribution influencing factors. Firstly, the methods employed to assess the density of spatial distribution in the analysis of spatial distribution types and balance include the average closest neighbour index, geographic concentration index, and imbalance index. Kernel density is utilized to determine the spatial distribution orientation of points within the core region of spatial distribution studies, typically derived from the positional coordinates of said points. Upon visualization of kernel density values, one can readily identify the high-density aggregation area's location. The global Moran index and local Moran index are frequently utilized in examining the spatial correlation of influencing factors in village distribution studies [37].

Space syntax is method that regards the street and lane space in the traditional village as a single node, simplify the connection relationship between the streets and alleys in the village, draw the topological relationship and axis diagram between the nodes of each street and lane in the village, and calculate and represent the connection value, control value, depth value, and integration value using distinct colors on the graph [38]. Data statistics and summary are traditional techniques employed to examine the spatial arrangement of villages. Tabulating and plotting the quantity of villages in each area constituted the initial phase, with the diagrams utilized to scrutinize the characteristics of the geographic dispersion of villages. Subsequently, an analysis of the attributes of different village types was conducted, and the spatial arrangement of villages was classified according to the factors influencing their distribution (Table 2).

Research Methods	Research objective	Specific methods
Geographic Information System	Distribution type and balance	Average nearest neighbor index, geographic concentration index, imbalance index
analysis	Core	Nuclear density
	Impact factor	Global Moran index and local Moran index
Spatial syntax	Degree of connectivity	Connection index
	Degree of relevance	Control index
	Accessibility	Depth index
	Discreteness	Integration index
Routine analysis	Distribution characteristics	Statistics
	Distribution type	Summary

Table 2. List of evaluation method by evaluation process (Author's elaboration)

# 3.3 Topic for The Study of Traditional Village

# 3.3.1 Spatial pattern

Due to the widespread use of big data, the precise location of traditional villages has been recognized, so that the research is no longer based on the spatial pattern of a single villages but expanded to the regional scope. The research of spatial pattern can be summarized into two aspects: research on the evolution features, spatial distribution, and the influencing elements, and research on the spatial plane morphological characteristics of villages and their influencing elements [39, 40]. There are three areas of study in the areas of spatial distribution, evolution features, and influencing elements: analysing the spatial arrangement features of village based on the Geographic Information System (GIS) research method, analysing the spatial patterns of traditional villages in different periods in the study area, deriving and summarizing their evolution characteristics, and analysing the natural and human influencing factors of spatial distribution. This type of research centres on examining the spatial arrangement of villages through the consideration of both temporal and spatial aspects, and is relatively mature [41, 42].

Three levels of research—from macro to micro—have been conducted on the spatial plane morphological characteristics of villages and influencing elements: the spatial morphological characteristics of the external environment in which the village is located, the morphological characteristics of the street space and public space, and the morphological characteristics of the plane and building substrate of the courtyard of the village [43]. This research ranges from macro to micro, from the whole village to the local dwelling, and focuses more on the morphological characteristics of the village space and dwelling. the characteristics of village dwellings also reflect the general characteristics of the overall village spatial pattern [44].

#### 3.3.2 Evaluation system

The approach of scientific evaluation has gained a lot of attention for studying the conservation and development of villages. Scientific and effective evaluation can be used as an important theoretical basis for village planning, decision-making and management, and provide a theoretical reference. The content of the topic can be summarized into three aspects: value evaluation, tourism resources and development evaluation, and environmental improvement evaluation [26]. The research on value evaluation has achieved certain results, but due to the large differences in the characteristics

of different villages, it presents different landscape patterns and development levels, and the targeted regional evaluation is still lacking. On the other hand, the current evaluation research mostly focuses on the evaluation of historical, cultural, aesthetic, and artistic values, and lacks a holistic evaluation based on cultural heritage, living protection, development and utilization, etc., and the depth and breadth of evaluation need to be further improved. The research content can be divided into three aspects: value identification, protection evaluation, and utilization evaluation [28]. (1) Value identification is to classify and grade traditional villages and select villages with high protection value. In 2012, the criteria, "Evaluation and Identification of Traditional Villages", established a directory and promoting the standardization of the identification. Subsequently, scholars have successively divided and valued traditional villages in some specific areas [45]. (2) The protection evaluation involves the protection significance, protection status and protection content. Scholars have mostly constructed evaluation systems from the aspects of locality, culture, and authenticity, such as emphasizing the importance of cultural values, and evaluating the cultural landscape resources of villages from aesthetic view. (3) The purpose of utilization evaluation is to promote the sustainable development of villages, and the research focuses on the degree of village activation and resource utilization [24, 46].

In general, a complete research system for evaluation of tourism resources and development has not yet been formed, and most of the related studies focus on the evaluation of tourism resources and tourism development potential, while Few research have been done on how to best balance the development of tourism with the preservation of traditional qualities, such as solving the contradiction between tourism development and cultural heritage protection, promoting economic development while protecting the authenticity of villages, avoiding constructive destruction and other issues. (1) In terms of tourism resource evaluation, scholars have established resource evaluation criteria for the vague classification of tourism resources or supplemented the resource evaluation system from the aspects of humanities and artistry [47]. (2) In terms of tourism development evaluation, scholars have constructed an evaluation system from the perspective of tourism development potential. The assessment of tourism development effect is from the perspective of user satisfaction, or from the perspective of residents' adaptability [48]. The content of environmental improvement evaluation is scattered. The attractive villages and the revitalization of rural culture are highlighted. It also addresses the coordination of human settlement improvement and development and addresses the liveability, spatial suitability, and ecological harmony of the village. The research includes the overall evaluation of human settlements and the evaluation of specific local spaces, mainly including: landscape environment improvement evaluation [49], infrastructure optimization evaluation [30], and public space evaluation [50].

## 3.3.3 Tourism development

Research on how traditional villages are developing as tourist destinations has progressively grown, and the research content has been continuously expanded, from the descriptive research on tourism resources in the fields of geography and architecture, to the multi-field, multi-angle and multi-disciplinary development [51]. The research of tourism development can be summarized into three aspects: tourist attitude, and tourism impact. In terms of tourism perception and attitude, the main research directions are authenticity and experience tourism. Traditional village tourism can promote local development, but it may also destroy the original ecological environment. Villagers hope to improve their living standards by improving the infrastructure of traditional villages, while tourists wish to experience the authenticity of traditional villages [52]. The development of tourism is beginning gradually from the viewpoint of both visitors and locals. After that, scholars began to interpret the authenticity of the material and cultural resources of traditional villages, so as to meet the needs of tourism authenticity experience and local cultural identity. The impact of tourism development is reflected in the spatial style, landscape environment, and cultural heritage. The spatial structure is ecological, and their architectural forms and structures are constrained and consistent by the local natural environment, while excessive commercial construction will change the spatial structure of traditional villages, gradually blurring the original spatial structure, and affecting the continuation of traditional village resources.

On the other hand, tourism development has strengthened infrastructure and economic and industrial construction, improved the living standards of villagers, attracted the return of the outflow population, and alleviated the problem of hollowing out traditional villages [53, 54]. In the realm of research concerning the sustainable advancement of traditional village tourism, extensive examinations have been conducted regarding the evolution of resources in traditional village tourism, as well as their implications and resolutions. However, as traditional village tourism grows and the number of visitors rises, the original fragile tourism resources will be damaged to varying degrees. Increasing the characteristics of tourism resources, combining tangible cultural heritage with the tourism industry, and maintaining the sustainable development of tourism are still the key points that need to be paid more attention to. Due to the weak economic development, imperfect infrastructure, and low overall education level of the villagers in traditional villages, the government is still leading the way to strengthen planning, formulate reasonable management policies and benefit distribution systems, so as to alleviate the negative impact of multiple stakeholders. On the other hand, since cultural heritage is the core competitiveness of tourism development, it is necessary to pay more attention to the preservation of cultural heritage and create distinctive brand symbols to prevent similar village scenes [10, 55, 56].

# 4. DISCUSSION

Currently, the investigation on the conservation and development of traditional villages in China presents common hotspots: spatial pattern, evaluation system, and tourism development. Consensus has also been reached on the

connotation of the conservation of traditional villages: the subject of protection should be the joint participation of the government, enterprises, experts, villagers and other parties, and the object of protection has reached a consensus that the villagers are core, and the key process of protection and development is classification and evaluation, and the method of protection and development is to activate and revitalize the village. Spatial pattern research methods include GIS spatial analysis, spatial syntax, and data statistics and summarization. It is used to investigate the type and equilibrium of the spatial distribution, core area, influencing factors, and the interaction between each space. The evaluation methods, Delphi method, analytic hierarchy process, semantic difference method, entropy weight method and fuzzy comprehensive evaluation method, are used to construct the index system, determine the weights and scoring criteria, etc. It is deemed insufficient to study on the dynamic development of traditional villages. The contemporary research indicates a trend of diversification of evaluation subjects, integration of evaluation objects, and diversification of evaluation techniques, which is conducive to the realization of rescue protection. However, the attention to a certain static time point can only reflect the protection and development status of a certain time, which is not consistent with the characteristics of traditional villages that are always in dynamic development, and it is difficult to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the dynamic development characteristics of traditional villages, and it is difficult to make accurate judgments on the development status of traditional villages. Therefore, the evaluation research of traditional villages should be expanded from time and space.

Systemic framework guidance is insufficient. Research on the preservation and advancement of traditional villages is primarily focused within the realms of architecture, society, landscape, environment, and other related disciplines. Scholars across various fields leverage their expertise to address a multitude of issues encountered in traditional villages. However, due to the limitations of their respective professional fields, the research ideas only realize the living protection of traditional villages from the aspects of protection and utilization of traditional buildings, improvement and reconstruction of social organizations, and protection and continuation of cultural landscapes, ignoring that traditional villages epitomize an organic framework characterized by a harmonious coexistence between humanity and the natural environment. Their protection and development should be reflected in ecological environment, traditional culture, social organization, industrial economy and other aspects. There is not enough research done on the changes of traditional villages that are developing and have no significant characteristics. Practical research is more inclined to traditional villages that have developed and have regional characteristics. Under the influence of rapid regional development, traditional villages have undergone changes in terms of historical features, ecological environment, industrial development and villagers' lifestyles. The change of traditional villages is also an objective reality that cannot be ignored in their dynamic development. However, in the practical exploration of traditional villages, traditional villages in ethnic minority areas, mountainous areas, and remote areas with obvious regional characteristics or mature development are favoured. Scholars' attention to this part of the traditional village has weakened the attention to the evolution that have occurred in other traditional villages. Each traditional village has gone through a hundred years of growth, contains profound cultural connotations, and presents a unique landscape style. For example, there are obvious differences between plain villages and mountainous villages in terms of landscape pattern and street space. Therefore, they should be reconstructed based on the natural environment, social conditions, economic level, and spatial morphological characteristics, so as to improve the regional awareness of the development of traditional villages.

# 5. CONCLUSION

This study aims to provide the overview of Chinese traditional villages protection and development practices. We investigated and summarized related research results of traditional village. We commence by delineating the essential concepts and historical context of the conventional village analyses. Subsequently, an examination is conducted on the implication of safeguarding traditional villages, along with an analysis of the approaches and material utilized in researching traditional villages. Furthermore, an exploration of the similarities and deficiencies in past research endeavours is deliberated upon, alongside recommendations for prospective studies. Motivated by the literature, the study proposes that, using a systematic framework approach, research on traditional villages that are growing but lack distinguishing features ought to be thoroughly examined and put into practise. The issue of lack of dynamic development of traditional villages be addressed to encourage the resilience of traditional villages.

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## **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

Zhou Zi Hua.: Conceptualization, Methodology, Writing- Original draft preparation

Omar Jamaludin & Doh Shu Ing.: Supervision

# DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data used to support the findings of this study are included within the article.

# **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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