

Research on the Management of Residents in Resettlement Communities in the Yellow River Beach Area: A Case Study of H Community in Jinan City

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Abstract: In recent years, China has attached great importance to the development of the Yellow River coastal areas and formulated many promotion policies for this purpose. The relocation and resettlement of residents in the Yellow River beach area is one of them. The implementation of this measure has enabled the people in the beach area to move out of the Yellow River coast in an orderly manner, ensuring the safety of residents and making their lives more convenient. At the same time, it also promotes the construction of new rural communities. H community is a typical community for relocation in Huanghe Beach District, Jinan City. This study conducted semi-structured interviews with residents of different identities and occupations in the H community, and conducted field research for a period of time to point out the governance status and difficulties of the H community. Based on the research, suggestions were proposed for similar communities and problems.

Keywords: Resettlement community; Yellow River beach area; Residents' participation in community governance

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1. Research background

The General Secretary of the CCP emphasized that “high-quality development is the development that embodies the new development concept” and “to promote high-quality development in the Yellow River Basin, regions with good economic development conditions such as regional central cities should develop intensively and improve their economic and population carrying capacity.” The land between the Yellow River channel and the flood control embankment is called a beach area, which not only plays a role in flood discharge and detention but also carries the production and life of the people in the beach area. However, due to factors such as flood season surges and river inundation, the infrastructure in the beach area is relatively backward, and

the economic and social development is relatively slow. The 20th National Congress emphasized the need to promote ecological protection and high-quality development in the Yellow River Basin, carry out the relocation and construction of residents in the Yellow River beach area, and improve community governance in the beach area. This is of great significance for improving the lives of the people in the beach area. Shandong Province, according to the decisions and arrangements of the Party Central Committee and the State Council, has formulated a plan for the relocation and construction of residents in the Yellow River beach area of Shandong Province based on extensive research, solicitation of public opinions, and listening to experts and grassroots opinions ^[1].

2. Research significance

In recent years, China has strongly supported the development and construction of the Yellow River Basin, and there are also more and more resettlement communities in beach areas that are similar to the situation of the H community. H Community is a typical community for resettlement in Tanqu District, Jinan City. Currently, the community has complete public facilities such as elderly care, medical care, and schools, greatly improving the living standards and happiness of residents. Studying this community has certain reference significance for the construction of other resettlement communities ^[2]. The search results for related terms such as “Yellow River beach area demolition” and “beach area resident resettlement” on websites such as CNKI are less than 50, indicating that there is still a lot of room for development in this research field.

3. Basic concepts

3.1. Resettlement community in the Yellow River beach area

The Yellow River beach area refers to the residential areas near the banks of the Yellow River. In Zone Z, local residents are divided into the beach area (inside the dam) and the beach area (outside the dam) by the Yellow River embankment. The beach area refers to the villages living in the beach area. Since 2020, with the strong promotion of government policies, residents of Z district’s beach area have gradually moved to H community, which is located about 10 kilometers away from the original village inside the beach. In general, it refers to rural communities in the Yellow River floodplain area that are forcibly relocated and resettled through unified planning and centralized resettlement following national policies, with the government’s administrative power. The vast majority of floodplain residents achieve comprehensive relocation based on voluntary principles ^[3].

3.2. Resident participation

Resident participation is a fundamental condition for community governance. In the process of community governance under the leadership of the party and government, how to mobilize residents to participate in community affairs is a theoretical and practical problem ^[4]. In this article, it refers to the active participation of residents in community construction, and residents providing opinions and suggestions for community construction based on their own needs. Common ways for residents to participate include voting, elections, consultations, and so on. Resident participation in community construction is beneficial for improving the level of community governance and enhancing the happiness and satisfaction of community residents. The 2017 policy document on strengthening and improving urban and rural community governance clearly states that “urban and rural communities are the basic units of social governance” ^[5].

4. Research methods

4.1. Literature research method

In the relevant literature, there are many books, journals, online reports, and so on related to the research background, which also provide a lot of reference materials for this article. At the same time, this article summarizes the background, review, and others of the relevant content. In addition, during the writing process, this study consulted relevant government policy reports, as well as previous documents on community governance and resettlement of residents in the beach area.

4.2. Field observation method

The main method used is participatory observation, which systematically observes the production and lifestyle of villagers after they move to the building, the construction of community infrastructure and overall environment, and the communication and interaction between the street office and the community, to timely record the residents' participation behavior and problems arising in the process of community governance.

4.3. Semi-structured interview method

Detailed interviews were conducted with residents in the beach area, including residents of H community, H community management personnel, and H community property service personnel, using face-to-face interviews. Pay attention to the fairness of the interview process and prioritize the interviewee's wishes. The specific interviewees are shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Interviewer information

Respondent ID	Age	Gender	Education	Community residence time
SD001	22	Woman	Junior college degree	Half a year
SD002	55	Woman	Primary school education	Three years
SD003	65	Man	Primary school education	Three years
SD004	68	Woman	Primary school education	Two years
SD005	21	Man	Junior college degree	Three years
SD006	24	Man	Bachelor's degree	Two years
SD007	23	Woman	Bachelor's degree	One year
SD008	29	Woman	Junior college degree	Three years
SD009	37	Woman	Bachelor's degree	One year
SD010	59	Woman	Primary school education	Three years

5. H Community residents' participation in practice

5.1. Current situation of H community

H Community is a resettlement community for residents of the Yellow River beach area relocation project. In August 2020, the residents of the beach area officially moved in, and the subsequent demolition and reclamation have been completed. Since the implementation of the Yellow River relocation project, residents in the Yellow River beach area have completely broken away from the old "three systems" rule of "building platforms in three years, building houses in three years, and repaying debts in three years", and ushered in a new "three systems"

community life of “three-zone co-construction, three transformation reforms, and three industry integration” in H community. Due to the adoption of a lottery system for housing selection in the resettlement community of the beach area, the residents of the original villages were dispersed. To facilitate the management of community residents, H community broke the traditional management mode and divided 21 villages into four major communities by region, named Yellow River A District, Yellow River B District, Yellow River C District, and Yellow River D District.

5.2. H Community residents’ governance practice

5.2.1. Party building coordination leads empowerment matrix linkage

Give full play to the role of community party committees, neighborhood committees, and grid branches in community governance, optimize community property service management, and form a new socialized management model with party organizations as the core, grids as the link, and property services as the basis ^[5]. Set up house maintenance service points in resettlement communities, and achieve rapid maintenance services through publicity and guidance, joint office work, ledger management, and other methods. Attract social investment and install vehicle charging facilities in resettlement communities ^[6].

5.2.2. Developing group economy to increase residents’ income

To further increase the collective income of the party building work area, achieve synchronous improvement of residents’ and collective income, and actively explore effective forms of collective economy, a convenient service center has been established in the party building work area of H community to provide convenient services ^[7-8]. One is to establish community factories, elderly meal assistance, and medical service areas to provide employment opportunities for 65-year-olds and services for the elderly, weak, and disabled. The second is to promote the development of grid small and micro enterprises, provide employment opportunities for the masses, and promote collective income increase in the Xingfu River Party building work area ^[9].

5.2.3. Improve supporting facilities to facilitate residents’ lives

For the convenience of residents’ lives, the surrounding areas of the H community are equipped with projects such as the Yellow River Cultural Square, Xinghe Agricultural Service Complex, Elderly Care Service Center, Health Center, Kindergarten, and so on. Xinghe Shopping Plaza is a commercial complex that sells a wide range of products including food, clothing, and daily necessities, bringing great convenience to the daily lives of local residents. Reform and expand the original hospital, enhance medical facilities, introduce medical talents, and expand medical coverage, so that residents of H community and local residents can seek medical treatment in front of their homes.

5.2.4. Carry out cultural and entertainment activities to enhance residents’ integration

Establish a Yellow River Culture Square with the themes of “Great Yellow River” culture (Yellow River Culture) and “Small Yellow River” culture (Yellow River Street Culture), showcase the new connotation of Yellow River culture through various distinctive paving, and allow the people of the beach area to see the mountains and waters, remember their nostalgia, and understand their homes and gardens. Equip physical fitness facilities around Huanghe Square, such as running tracks, walking machines, Tai Chi wheels, and so on.

6. Difficulties in community governance of resettlement in beach areas

6.1. Changes in lifestyle have led to an increase in basic living costs

H community is the same as the urban community, and community residents may need to pay property fees. For residents in the beach area, this is a fee that does not need to be paid before relocation. Before relocation, each household was a separate household, and many residents would cultivate vegetable fields and raise livestock in their yards, achieving a certain degree of self-sufficiency without the need to purchase daily necessities. The government will also provide electricity subsidies to residents in the beach area. In addition, the water sources used by each household are groundwater and river water, and no additional purchases are required. After relocation, ten households form one unit, and three units form one building. Residents of the H community are required to pay property fees on a monthly or quarterly basis, as well as timely payment of water and electricity fees.

6.2. The background sources are complex, making it difficult for the community to integrate in the future

Cross-group integration is not easy. The residents of resettlement communities often form small groups due to differences in their sources. Different groups may have differences in language expression, customs, and culture, which restricts broader communication and interaction within the community^[10]. Additionally, because the H community is a house randomly selected by residents, villagers from different villages in the same area have it, which can easily lead to people from the same village gathering together for warmth, which is not conducive to unity among residents and community integration.

6.3. Basic conditions are limited, making it difficult for subsequent industrial development

Developing industries is the pillar of retaining residents, and providing a large number of high-quality employment opportunities is also a major issue that needs to be addressed in the resettlement of the beach area. H Community is located in the northernmost part of Z District, 50 kilometers away from the urban area of Z District. The industrial foundation of this area is weak, and its development level is far lower than other towns in Z District. Due to its location on the edge of the Yellow River, the ecological environment is fragile, logistics and transportation are not smooth, and resources such as capital, technology, and talent are scarce. The area is an urban area with a small market size, low consumption power, and low labor quality. The labor-intensive enterprises that have been introduced are limited in their future development.

6.4. Insufficient internal management within the community makes it impossible to achieve comprehensive and in-depth management

Residents' participation in community governance requires community management organizations to do a good job of communicating with residents in the early stage and building channels for their participation, which requires a significant investment in material and time costs. However, the daily management of the H community has a strong dependence on the local government. Although the community property belongs to the market operation department, it is still supervised by community organizations and the local government in management. This results in community organizations having less say in the management of the H community, making it difficult to establish effective communication measures.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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