

reading room, kindergarten school, shops, and other facilities was built to provide public space and to make its facilities available to the villagers. The village center could also function as an ethnic cultural exhibition center and was built in a round yard because Dai and Yi people prefer dancing together in a circle to celebrate festivals or for entertainment (Figure 10). This yard has become a public communication space and could maintain the minority culture of the village.

As in the Yangliu Village, the villagers of Ma'anqiao were employed in the reconstruction process. Given the effective, economical, and easy-to-learn anti-seismic strategies, the villagers were able to build their homes by themselves without hiring a contractor and without using complex technology. The occupied houses were also inexpensive and easy to build and repair. In this way, the villagers built anti-seismic rammed earth houses and learned an economical way to make their living. The idea of the project was to transfer knowledge and skills during the construction process rather than merely teaching the villagers using drawings.

5.3 Discussion

The case studies show that both of reconstruction projects fully respected the traditional cultures and the autonomy of villagers and also made rational use of local materials and local technology to rebuild the rural communities. The concept “collaborative construction” not only provided an opportunity for the local labor force to learn new skills but also reduced the economic pressure on house construction. The two cases also considered the reduction of environmental and ecological damage in the entire process. Case 2, in particular, was an overall reconstruction project of a community, and its supporting facilities (i.e., construction of village center, setting up ecological toilets, and promoting public health awareness) have good social effects. The sustainable practices of Village level (ie. the orientation of houses should respect to climate, rain water harvesting system and water supply etc) and settlement level are also important aspects for this study. Due to the space constraints, the related strategies will be discussed in the further study.

6. CONCLUSION

Endogenous development emphasizes the concept of sustainability and focuses on the importance of humans living in rural areas. Endogenous development suggests a self-sufficient, regional characteristics-based model that is suitable to the situation of poor rural communities in Southwest China, which have poor transportation and backward economy. This model can also reduce the communities' dependence on inward investment by emphasizing the use of local resource and traditional core values. The discussed strategies could provide a systemic way to further study sustainable renewal in the poor rural communities of Southwest China.

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