

# Analysis of the Opportunities and Challenges of Basic Education Urbanization for the Construction of Harmonious and Beautiful Villages

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**Abstract.** This paper focuses on the opportunities and challenges brought by basic education urbanization to the construction of harmonious and beautiful villages. With the acceleration of urbanization, basic education resources are gradually concentrated in cities, which has a profound impact on the development of education in rural areas. Firstly, it analyzes the problems faced by rural education under the background of basic education urbanization, such as resource scarcity and uneven teaching quality. Then, it explores the potential challenges to the construction of harmonious and beautiful villages in terms of human resource development, social and cultural inheritance, and economic and social development. At the same time, it points out the new opportunities that basic education urbanization may bring to the construction of harmonious and beautiful villages, such as promoting the balanced allocation of educational resources through remote education and urban-rural educational cooperation, and using the advanced concepts and methods of urban education to promote educational reform and innovation in rural areas. It also puts forward targeted policy suggestions to balance urban and rural educational resources and promote the all-round development of the construction of harmonious and beautiful villages.

**Keywords :** Basic education urbanization; Construction of harmonious and beautiful villages; Opportunities; Challenges; Balanced allocation of educational resources.

## 1. Introduction

The construction of harmonious and beautiful villages is a new concept of rural construction in the new era in China, which further enriches and expands the concepts of "beautiful villages" and "livable and prosperous villages". Its core lies in achieving the harmonious, beautiful, livable and prosperous development of rural areas, emphasizing the harmonious coexistence of humans and nature, humans and humans, and humans and society. At the same time, it attaches great importance to the inheritance and promotion of the cultural core and spiritual appearance of rural areas. The construction of harmonious and beautiful villages is not only an upgraded version of the construction of beautiful villages but also an important part of the rural revitalization strategy. It aims to achieve the comprehensive revitalization and sustainable development of rural areas through multi-dimensional coordinated development [1,2]. By 2035, rural areas should achieve a comprehensive improvement both in appearance and essence.

Basic education urbanization refers to the dynamic process of the concentration of rural educational resources in towns and cities and the expansion of the urban-rural education gap. Its core manifestations include the flow of rural students to towns and cities, the hollowing out of rural schools, and the "urban superiority and rural weakness" pattern in the allocation of educational resources. Data shows that the number of rural primary schools in China decreased by 80.4% from 2001 to 2021, and the urbanization rate of compulsory education reached 81.91% in 2021, far exceeding the urbanization rate of 65.22% of the permanent population. The phenomenon of "urban congestion and rural emptiness" is particularly prominent [3]. Educational resources from primary school to high school are concentrated in cities, which has become the main trend of educational urbanization [1].

Rural education is not only an educational issue but also an important support for rural revitalization. By improving the quality of rural education, more talents with modern civilized qualities can be cultivated, promoting the economic, social and cultural development of rural areas [4]. Regarding the relationship between basic education urbanization and the construction of harmonious and beautiful villages, Xue Yanjie believes that with the acceleration of urbanization, high-quality educational resources are gradually concentrated in cities, leading to the scarcity of educational resources in rural areas and the further expansion of the urban-rural education gap. This phenomenon not only affects the educational quality of rural students but also weakens the attractiveness of rural areas, intensifies the outflow of rural population, and exacerbates the imbalance of educational resources between urban and rural areas [5]. In the view of Chen Shijian and other scholars, localized education should become an important development direction of rural education. By emphasizing the local and distinctive nature of rural education, rural schools can better inherit local culture and promote the revitalization of rural society. However, this process also faces many challenges, such as the disconnection between the curriculum content and rural reality, and the shortage of teacher resources [6]. Although the government and relevant institutions have taken various measures to promote the development of rural education [7], China's future practice should pay more attention to the localized development of rural education, combine the actual needs of rural areas, innovate educational models and teaching methods, and at the same time strengthen teacher training and resource input to achieve balanced development of urban and rural education [8]. If the imbalance of educational resources between urban and rural areas can be resolved as soon as possible, and the organic combination of universalization and improvement of basic education can be achieved, allowing basic education to play its due role in the construction of harmonious and beautiful villages, it will become an unavoidable practical issue.

The construction of harmonious and beautiful villages is an important part of China's rural revitalization strategy in recent years, aiming to build a livable and prosperous rural society by improving the material environment, enhancing social and cultural levels, and promoting economic development. Basic education, as an important support for rural development, is not only the carrier of rural cultural inheritance but also the key to improving the quality of the rural population and promoting rural economic development. However, in the process of building harmonious and beautiful villages, basic education is facing many challenges brought about by urbanization, such as the uneven distribution of educational resources, the difficulty in improving the quality of rural education, and the loss of rural teachers. These challenges not only affect the quality of rural education but may also exacerbate the educational gap between urban and rural areas, reduce the cultural atmosphere in rural areas, and hinder the all-round development of rural areas. This may be contrary to the original intention of the country's construction of harmonious and beautiful villages and is an issue that needs in-depth consideration or is worth discussing constructively.

## **2. The Opportunities of Basic Education Urbanization for the Construction of Harmonious and Beautiful Villages**

The essence of the contradiction between basic education urbanization and the construction of harmonious and beautiful villages is a microcosm of the imbalance in urban and rural development. The key to resolving this contradiction lies in breaking away from the "either-or" thinking and promoting the reverse flow of educational resources and the creative transformation of local values, making education an engine for rural revitalization rather than a blood-sucking machine. This requires the joint efforts of policymakers, educators, and rural communities to build a more inclusive educational ecosystem through urban-rural interaction [9].

Basic education urbanization can, to some extent, improve the quality of rural education. Against the backdrop of basic education urbanization, improving the quality of rural education becomes an important opportunity for the construction of harmonious and beautiful villages. This process not only helps to narrow the educational gap between urban and rural areas but also lays a solid talent

foundation for the long-term development of rural areas. In particular, the government's increased financial investment in rural education can provide rural schools with the possibility of improving hardware facilities, purchasing advanced teaching equipment and books. This can directly improve the teaching conditions of rural schools and create a more favorable learning environment for students. At the same time, by establishing special funds for rural education and attracting social donations and sponsorships, the sources of funds for rural education can be further expanded.

The construction of the rural teacher team is the key to improving educational quality. The government and education departments can make it possible for more outstanding talents to devote themselves to rural education by improving the treatment of rural teachers, strengthening training and professional development. Through targeted training and special teacher programs, fresh blood can be replenished to rural schools, improving the overall quality of the teacher team.

With the help of modern information technology, the sharing of educational resources between urban and rural areas has become possible. Through remote education platforms and educational cloud platforms, rural students can share high-quality educational resources from urban schools, further broadening students' horizons. At the same time, mechanisms such as pairing urban and rural schools for assistance can be established to effectively promote teaching exchanges, teacher training, and resource sharing, bringing valuable educational resources and experience to rural schools.

Urbanization of basic education may bring opportunities for talent cultivation in rural areas. The updated educational concepts and improved teaching methods brought about by urbanization can inject new vitality into rural education. By drawing on the successful experiences of urban education, rural schools can continuously enhance their teaching quality and open up channels for cultivating rural talents with modern knowledge and skills. This helps talents not only have a solid theoretical foundation but also possess strong practical abilities and innovative thinking, forming an important force for promoting the construction of beautiful and harmonious rural areas.

Urbanization of basic education promotes the sharing of educational resources between urban and rural areas. Through means such as distance education and online courses, rural students can access more high-quality educational resources, broadening their horizons and knowledge. At the same time, the increase in exchange activities such as urban teachers teaching in rural areas and rural teachers receiving training in cities can further enhance the professional quality of rural teachers, providing a strong teaching force guarantee for rural talent cultivation.

Urbanization of basic education is conducive to promoting the prosperity and development of rural culture. If urbanized educational resources gradually penetrate rural areas, the curriculum settings and teaching contents of rural schools will become increasingly rich and diverse, which can not only enhance the cultural literacy of rural students but also provide new impetus for the inheritance and innovation of rural culture.

The advanced teaching concepts and methods brought by urbanized basic education encourage rural students to actively explore and innovate. This cultural atmosphere helps to stimulate the sense of pride and protection of local culture among rural residents. While learning modern knowledge, students also begin to re-examine and explore the unique value of rural culture, such as traditional handicrafts and folk festivals, thereby promoting the dynamic inheritance of rural culture.

Urbanization of basic education can promote cultural exchanges between urban and rural areas. Through organizing cultural exchange activities and establishing a pairing assistance mechanism between urban and rural schools, rural students have the opportunity to learn about more diverse cultural knowledge and showcase the charm of rural culture to the outside world, enhancing the influence and dissemination of rural culture. This two-way cultural exchange may inject new vitality into the construction of beautiful and harmonious rural areas and promote the modern transformation and sustainable development of rural culture.

### **3. Challenges of Urbanization of Basic Education to the Construction of Beautiful and Harmonious Rural Areas**

The loss of rural educational resources caused by the urbanization of basic education is a challenge faced by the construction of beautiful and harmonious rural areas.

With the development of urbanization, rural schools have undergone policy adjustments such as "merging and closing", which, while integrating educational resources and improving teaching quality to a certain extent, have also led to the closure of some schools in remote areas. Rural students have to travel long distances to study in towns, increasing the educational costs for rural residents.

More seriously, the population flow from rural to urban areas has led to a significant reduction in the student population in rural schools, and excellent teachers have also flocked to cities. Rural education is facing a serious problem of teacher loss. This not only weakens the foundation of rural basic education but also exacerbates the educational gap between urban and rural areas, affecting educational equity.

Due to the relatively concentrated distribution of urban educational resources, rural students have difficulty accessing high-quality educational resources, further exacerbating the loss of rural educational resources. This uneven distribution of resources not only restricts the personal development of rural students but also hinders the revitalization of the rural economy and social progress.

Therefore, the loss of rural educational resources is an important issue that must be faced and solved in the construction of beautiful and harmonious rural areas. To address this challenge, effective measures need to be taken, such as increasing investment in rural education, optimizing the allocation of educational resources, and improving the treatment of rural teachers, to attract and retain excellent teachers, enhance the quality of rural education, and provide a solid talent support for the construction of beautiful and harmonious rural areas.

The urban-rural educational gap caused by the urbanization of basic education is a challenge to the construction of beautiful and harmonious rural areas. Urban schools, with their advanced facilities, strong teaching staff and rich extracurricular activities, provide students with a high-quality educational environment. In contrast, rural schools are confronted with problems such as a shortage of teachers, backward teaching conditions and monotonous curriculum settings.

This uneven distribution of educational resources not only affects the learning outcomes of rural students but also restricts their future development space. The widening gap between urban and rural education exacerbates social stratification and is detrimental to achieving educational equity and social harmony. Moreover, the urbanization of basic education leads to the loss of student population in rural schools. Many parents choose to send their children to urban schools for better education, which not only reduces the scale of rural schools and further dilutes educational resources but also aggravates the aging problem in rural areas.

Therefore, narrowing the gap between urban and rural education and achieving a balanced distribution of educational resources is an important task in the construction of harmonious and beautiful rural areas. The government and all sectors of society should work together to gradually eliminate the gap through measures such as increasing investment in rural education, optimizing the allocation of educational resources and improving the treatment of rural teachers. Only in this way can fair and quality basic education be provided for rural students, ensuring the smooth progress of the construction of harmonious and beautiful rural areas and the comprehensive revitalization of rural areas.

The urbanization of basic education has brought unprecedented challenges to the inheritance of rural culture.

With the advancement of urbanization, more and more rural children are sent to cities for better education, which leads to significant changes in the population structure of rural areas. The younger

generation gradually distances themselves from rural life, and their willingness to recognize and inherit rural culture continuously weakens.

Rural schools often focus more on imparting modern knowledge in their educational content, neglecting the education of local culture and traditional skills. This makes it difficult for rural children to develop a deep sense of identification with their native culture during their growth. At the same time, with the popularization of modern media, rural children are more likely to be exposed to foreign cultures. These fresh and diverse cultural elements to some extent undermine their interest and enthusiasm for rural culture.

In addition, the inheritance of rural culture is facing the challenge of talent loss. Many elderly people with rich knowledge and skills of rural culture gradually withdraw from the historical stage due to age and health reasons, while the younger generation lacks interest and opportunities to take on the responsibility of inheritance. This poses a risk of the essence of rural culture being forgotten and lost. While the urbanization of basic education promotes the improvement of rural education, it also brings many challenges to the inheritance of rural culture. How to protect and inherit rural culture in the process of urbanization has become an urgent problem to be solved.

#### **4. Analysis of Strategies to Address the Challenges of Urbanization of Basic Education**

Strengthening investment in rural educational resources. In response to the challenges brought by the urbanization of basic education, strengthening investment in rural educational resources is a crucial step. To achieve the construction of harmonious and beautiful rural areas, it is necessary to fundamentally improve the quality and level of rural education. The government should increase financial investment in rural education to ensure that the infrastructure of rural schools is improved, such as building modern teaching buildings and equipping advanced teaching facilities. This not only provides students with a better learning environment but also attracts more outstanding teachers to teach in rural areas.

At the same time, efforts should be made to optimize the allocation of rural educational resources to ensure a balanced distribution of educational resources between urban and rural areas. This includes the rational allocation of educational funds and the optimization of teacher resource allocation, so that rural students can also enjoy the same quality of educational services as urban students. It is also necessary to strengthen the training of rural teachers to improve their professional qualities and teaching abilities. Through organizing regular training and exchange activities, rural teachers can constantly update their educational concepts and master advanced teaching methods, thereby better serving the rural education cause.

In conclusion, strengthening the investment in rural educational resources is one of the important strategies to address the challenges brought by the urbanization of basic education. Only by ensuring that rural education receives adequate resource support can the smooth progress of the construction of harmonious and beautiful rural areas be promoted and rural children enjoy more equitable and high-quality education.

Measures to Narrow the Urban-Rural Education Gap. In responding to the challenges brought by the urbanization of basic education, narrowing the urban-rural education gap is a crucial step. Firstly, the government should increase investment in rural education, improve the hardware facilities of rural schools, and ensure that students can study in a safe and comfortable environment. At the same time, the treatment of rural teachers should be improved to attract and retain outstanding teachers, and their teaching skills and educational concepts should be enhanced through regular training to ensure that rural students receive high-quality education.

Promote the balanced distribution of educational resources and utilize modern information technology means, such as distance education and online education, to break geographical restrictions and enable rural students to access high-quality educational resources. By establishing a pairing assistance mechanism between urban and rural schools, promote educational exchanges and

cooperation between urban and rural areas, and achieve resource sharing and complementary advantages. Also, pay attention to the comprehensive quality cultivation of rural students, organize a variety of extracurricular activities and social practice activities to broaden their horizons and cultivate their innovative spirit and practical ability.

Narrowing the urban-rural education gap requires the joint efforts of the government, schools, families, and society. Through measures such as increasing investment, balancing resources, improving teachers' quality, and innovating methods, the urban-rural education disparity can be gradually eliminated, laying a solid foundation for the construction of harmonious and beautiful rural areas.

Promoting the Inheritance and Innovation of Rural Culture. In responding to the challenges brought by the urbanization of basic education, promoting the inheritance and innovation of rural culture is an indispensable part. Rural culture is the soul of rural society and the source of rural charm. To maintain the vitality of rural culture, it is necessary to strengthen the inheritance education of rural culture in the basic education stage. Rural cultural knowledge should be incorporated into the school curriculum system, and students should be enabled to deeply understand the history, customs, and art of the countryside through the establishment of local courses and cultural experience activities, cultivating their cultural identity and pride. At the same time, encourage teachers and students to participate in the protection and inheritance of rural culture, such as recording and promoting intangible cultural heritage, to ensure the continuation of rural culture among the younger generation.

At the same time, attention should be paid to the innovation and development of rural culture. On the basis of inheritance, creatively transform rural culture by integrating modern elements to make it more in line with the needs of the times. Establish rural cultural and creative industry incubation bases, encourage teachers, students, and rural residents to carry out cultural and creative projects, and combine traditional craftsmanship with modern design to develop cultural products with market competitiveness.

## 5. Conclusion and Outlook

Through the analysis of the opportunities and challenges brought by the urbanization of basic education to the construction of harmonious and beautiful rural areas, the following main conclusions are drawn:

Conclusion A: The urbanization of basic education plays a crucial role in the construction of harmonious and beautiful rural areas. The optimized allocation of educational resources in the urbanization process can bring advanced educational concepts, teaching methods, and high-quality educational resources to rural areas.

Conclusion B: The urbanization of basic education faces many challenges in the construction of harmonious and beautiful rural areas. The uneven distribution of educational resources, the expansion of the urban-rural education gap, and the loss of rural educational characteristics all pose constraints on the construction of harmonious and beautiful rural areas. How to maintain the uniqueness and local characteristics of rural education in the urbanization process has become an urgent problem to be solved.

Conclusion C: To achieve a positive interaction between the urbanization of basic education and the construction of harmonious and beautiful rural areas, the joint efforts of the government, schools, and society are needed. Through policy guidance, resource allocation, and educational reform measures, promote the balanced development of urban and rural education, and at the same time pay attention to the protection and inheritance of rural educational culture to provide strong educational support for the construction of harmonious and beautiful rural areas. Urbanization of basic education is an inevitable phenomenon in the process of urbanization, but its impact on the construction of harmonious and beautiful rural areas is dual. If "resource sinking" and "distinctive development" can be combined through policy guidance, not only can the predicament of rural

education be alleviated, but schools can also be reshaped as cultural engines for rural revitalization. Conversely, if the unidirectional flow of resources is allowed to continue unchecked, it may accelerate the decline of rural areas. The key lies in balancing efficiency and fairness and building an "urban-rural complementary and multi-symbiotic" educational ecosystem.

The following suggestions are made:

Suggestion A: Build an urban-rural education community. Learn from the experience of foreign "Education Revitalization in Remote Areas Acts", require urban teachers to teach in rural areas, and implement a teacher rotation system. Learn from the "Urban-Rural Education Collaboration Body" in Weifang, Shandong Province, form urban-rural school alliances, and share course resources.

Suggestion B: Rebuild the characteristics of rural education. Promote the "Village Castle Culture + Study Tours" model in Yongtai County, Fujian Province, and design practical courses based on agricultural and ecological resources. Offer elective courses such as modern agriculture and intangible cultural heritage skills in junior high school, and develop local courses.

Suggestion C: Strengthen institutional guarantees. Enact the "Rural Education Protection Law", set minimum standards for school operation, and prevent arbitrary school mergers and closures. Establish a special fiscal fund for rural education revitalization, with a focus on supporting the digital transformation of small-scale schools.

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