

## **The Integration, Educational Value and Realization Path of Red Heritage Resources of Zhaoqing Peasant Movement**

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**[Abstract]** Zhaoqing, an important place where the peasant movement took place in Guangdong, is an area where the peasant movement was launched earlier, developed rapidly and had significant influence. The red heritage resources of the peasant movements in Zhaoqing are abundant, widely distributed, and the demonstration construction efforts are significant, which have educational value in cultivating students' spirit of hard work and perseverance, cultivating students' sense of patriotism and promoting the spirit of unity and cooperation. To better realize the educational function of the red heritage of the peasant movement in Zhaoqing, it can be achieved through integrating the red heritage resources of the peasant movement in Zhaoqing, leveraging the educational value of this red heritage, and enhancing the educational effectiveness of it.

**[Keywords]** Zhaoqing Red Culture; Zhaoqing Peasant Movement; Red Heritage; Red Resources; Educational Value; Educational Path

The Red Heritage refers to the important revolutionary sites, memorial halls, memorials and objects, as well as the revolutionary spirit they embody during the 28-year historical period from the founding of the Communist Party of China to the eve of the liberation, which includes the Central Revolutionary Base, the Long March of the Red Army, the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, and the War of Liberation<sup>[1-2]</sup>. Regarding the issue of red heritage, various regions have conducted related studies on protection, inheritance and development<sup>[3-4]</sup>, and have actively promoted the protection and inheritance of red heritage resources.

As a region in Guangdong where the peasant movement was launched relatively early, developed rapidly, and had a significant influence on the peasant movement, Zhaoqing holds an important historical position and considerable social influence in the peasant movement of Guangdong. It has also left behind a wealth of red heritage resources related to the Zhaoqing peasant movement and provided effective teaching material for cultivating university student. This paper will take the red heritage of the Zhaoqing peasant movement in the form of tangible cultural heritage as the research object, and explore the issues of resource integration, educational value and educational path of the red heritage of the Zhaoqing peasant movement.

### **I. The Overview of Zhaoqing Peasant Movement**

Zhaoqing is one of the areas where China's peasant revolutionary movement was launched earlier<sup>[5]</sup>, and Zhaoqing Peasant Movement has an important position and plays an important role in the history of Guangdong peasant movement. Zhou Qijian, a revolutionary from Zhaoqing, played an important role in the occurrence and development of the peasant movement in Zhaoqing. Together with Peng Pai from Shanwei, Ruan Xiaoxian from Heyuan, and Huang Xuezheng from Zhanjiang, he is known as one of the four great leaders of the peasant movement in Guangdong<sup>[6-7]</sup>. He fully activated the enthusiasm and cooperation of the people in Zhaoqing, led the peasant movement in Guangning, Gaoyao and other places<sup>[6-7]</sup>, and led people all over Zhaoqing to be fearless of hardships, sacrifices, resistance and struggle. His leadership played a crucial role in advancing the revolutionary struggle of the peasant movement in Zhaoqing in an orderly manner, making significant contributions to the social progress and prosperity of the region. Premier Zhou Enlai once highly praised Zhou Qijian, saying: "The leadership of the peasant

movement in Guangdong was held by Peng Pai while in terms of armed struggle, the initial leadership was Zhou Qijian ."[8]

## **II. The Status Quo and Problems of the Red Heritage of Zhaoqing Peasant Movement**

### **1. Red Heritage of the Zhaoqing Peasant Movement Distributed Across Three Districts, One County-level City, and Four Counties**

As a revolutionary heartland of the peasant movement in Guangdong, Zhaoqing possess a rich legacy of red heritage related to the peasant movement in three districts, one county-level city, and four counties. According to the existing forms of red heritage, it can be divided into tangible cultural heritage and intangible cultural heritage. In Zhaoqing, the existing red heritage is mainly composed of tangible cultural heritage, such as the former site of Xijiang Propaganda and Cultivation Institute in Duanzhou District, the former site of Shapu Farmers' Association in Dinghu District, the former site of Wushi Ancestral Hall of Shapu Farmers' Association's Children's School in Dinghu District, the former site of Gaoyao Second District Farmers' Self-Defense Army headquarters, the former site of Duanyuan Township Farmers' Association, Wu Tengzhou's former residence, the former site of Jiangtou Township Farmers' Association in Sihui City, and Zhou Qijian's Former Residence, Zhou Qijian's memorial hall, Jiangmei Township Farmers' Association site (Xijiang Farmers' Movement Historical Site Exhibition, Jiangmei Township Farmers' Association Historical Site Exhibition, Peasant Movement Fort Revolutionary Site), the former site of the 14th District Farmers' Association of Guangning County, the former site of the Farmers' Association of Guangning County, and the former site of the Preparatory Office of the Farmers' Association of Deqing County, the former site of the farmers' association in Baibu Village, the former site of the farmers' association in Huaiji East District of Huaiji County, Deng Baqi's Former Residence, the former site of Fengchuan Second District Farmers' Association, and the former site of the farmers' association in Zhongshu Township.

### **2. Significant Progress in the Construction of Demonstration Bases for Red Heritage of Zhaoqing Peasant Movement**

Zhaoqing attaches great importance to the red heritage resources of Zhaoqing peasant movement, and invests funds, personnel and efforts to carry out the construction of Zhaoqing peasant movement's red former site, former residence and memorial hall, establishing demonstration bases for red culture education and patriotic education. As the birthplace of Zhou Qijian, one of the four major leaders of the peasant movement in Guangdong, Guangning County has carried out effective preservation of red heritage related to Zhou. The county has restored and established Zhou Qijian's former residence, recreated the historical context of his involvement in the peasant movement, and built the Zhou Qijian Memorial Hall. In Deqing County, the 2022 list of Top Ten Livelihood Projects emphasized the need to strengthen the protection of revolutionary sites. Restoration efforts were initiated for the Xie Ancestral Hall—the former site of the Deqing County Peasant Association Preparatory Office—and the Liang Ancestral Hall—the former site of the Baibu Village Peasant Association in Fengcun Town. These efforts aim to faithfully restore and preserve the historical legacy of the peasant movement's red heritage in Deqing County.

### **3. Continued Promotion Needed for the Protection and Restoration of Red Heritage of Zhaoqing Peasant Movement**

Under the guidance of national policies, the strong support of provincial and municipal governments, and the active participation of all sectors of society, under the protection scheme of "one site, one policy", most of Zhaoqing's red heritage sites related to the peasant movement have undergone adequate restoration, which has better restored the struggle process of the peasant movement. Many of these sites have been opened to the public as red education bases, serving as important platforms for educating university students about the history and stories of the peasant movement. However, the

preservation of some red heritage sites related to the peasant movement in Zhaoqing has been constrained by limited funding and other factors. As a result, issues such as insufficient implementation of protection measures and the need for stronger restoration efforts have emerged. At present, the related preservation work is being gradually advanced, with the goal of fully implementing the protection of Zhaoqing's peasant movement red heritage.

#### **4. Integration of Red Heritage of Zhaoqing Peasant Movement Needs to Be Strengthened**

Zhaoqing is rich in red heritage resources of peasant movement, but there is still room for improvement in resource integration and overall utilization, which is mainly manifested in the following aspects. Firstly, education on the peasant movement's red heritage is primarily conducted at the local or regional level. Each district and county mainly draws on its own peasant movement heritage resources to guide students in learning about local history through activities such as site visits and video viewing. However, there is a lack of a unified educational framework centered on the peasant movement in Zhaoqing, as well as a comprehensive strategy for integrating and utilizing red heritage resources. Secondly, while a considerable amount of publicity work has been carried out to raise the public profile of the peasant movement in Zhaoqing, it has largely focused on the legacy of Zhou Qijian, with insufficient attention given to the promotion and utilization of other related red heritage resources.

### **III. The Educational Value of Red Heritage Resources of Zhaoqing Peasant Movement**

#### **1. Cultivating Students' Spirit of Hard Work and Perseverance**

In the history of the peasant movement in Zhaoqing, revolutionary leaders overcame numerous practical difficulties, such as poor and harsh conditions. They did not retreat in the face of hardship or shrink from challenges; instead, they responded actively and achieved remarkable results in the struggle of the peasant movement. This process vividly demonstrates the spirit of hard work and perseverance embodied by the revolutionaries of the Zhaoqing peasant movement. Their history of resilience and dedication serves as a powerful source of inspiration for university students, encouraging them to overcome obstacles, strive for excellence, and maintain a proactive attitude in both their studies and daily lives.

#### **2. Cultivating Students' Sense of Patriotism**

In the course of their resistance struggles, the revolutionaries of the Zhaoqing peasant movement faced life-threatening dangers, yet they bravely chose to stand up, fearlessly making sacrifices and even risking their lives to defend the gains of the revolution, which embodied a profound sense of patriotism. The patriotic spirit demonstrated by these revolutionaries carries strong educational value, capable of nurturing in university students a deep love for their country and their communities. It helps to instill patriotic sentiment, encouraging students to study diligently, strive with purpose, and contribute their youthful energy to the development of the nation and the prosperity of society.

#### **3. Promoting the Spirit of Unity and Cooperation**

During the struggles of the peasant movement in Zhaoqing, revolutionary leaders encountered a series of new problems, difficulties, and challenges. In the face of these, they did not lose direction, did not fear hardships, and did not shrink from challenges. Instead, they strengthened their ties with the people, relied closely on the collective strength of the masses, and united the peasant community, demonstrating a strong spirit of unity and cooperation. This admirable quality of working together in solidarity serves as an important source of inspiration for university students, encouraging them to learn

how to collaborate, and to understand the value of collective strength in overcoming difficulties in both their studies and everyday life.

#### **IV. Educational Pathways Through the Red Heritage of the Peasant Movement in Zhaoqing**

##### **1. Integrating Red Heritage Resources of the Peasant Movement in Zhaoqing**

It is essential to adopt an integrated approach to the red heritage resources of the peasant movement in Zhaoqing. From the perspectives of protection, educational route design, and publicity, these scattered resources should be unified to enhance their educational impact, social influence, and public attention. This integration can be achieved through the following measures: (1) Establish a leading group for the protection of Zhaoqing's red heritage sites related to the peasant movement. This group should conduct special investigations and field visits focused on heritage preservation. Rather than limiting attention to individual heritage sites, the goal is to develop a systematic and comprehensive protection plan, laying a solid foundation for the creation of route-based, region-based, and theme-based red education programs. (2) Establish a publicity system for the Zhaoqing peasant movement. The municipal department or the relevant department entrusted by the municipal government shall serve as the publicity authority, be responsible for coordinating and allocating resources, and carry out the overall publicity work of the Zhaoqing peasant movement, thereby increasing public awareness of its history and drawing attention to its red heritage resources. (3) Integrate representative red heritage resources related to the peasant movement across Zhaoqing to develop a comprehensive educational program. This includes designing coherent and well-structured red education routes, featuring route-based, region-based, and theme-based models to create a unified educational framework for the Zhaoqing peasant movement. Key proposals include:

a. Zhaoqing Citywide Route-Based Educational Tour on the Peasant Movement (featuring representative red heritage sites from each district, city, and county): Duanzhou District - Dinghu District - Sihui City - Guangning County - Huaiji County - Fengkai County - Deqing County - Gaoyao District.

b. Duanzhou-Dinghu-Sihui Adjacent Area Peasant Movement Educational Route: Duanzhou District (the former site of Xijiang Propaganda and Cultivation Institute) - Dinghu District (the former site of Shapu Farmers' Association, the former site of Wushi Ancestral Hall of Shapu Farmers' Association's Children's School) - Sihui City (the former site of Jiangtou Township Farmers' Association, Chen Bozhong's former residence).

c. Guangning Area Peasant Movement Education Route: Zhou Qijian's Former Residence - Zhou Qijian's Memorial Hall - Jiangmei Township Farmers' Association site - the former site of the Farmers' Association of Guangning County - the former site of the 14th District Farmers' Association of Guangning County.

d. Zhaoqing Peasant Movement Leaders' Former Residences Thematic Education Route: Wu Tengzhou's Former Residence - Chen Bozhong's Former Residence - Zhou Qijian's Former Residence - Deng Baqi's Former Residence.

##### **2. Leveraging the Educational Value of Zhaoqing's Red Heritage from the Peasant Movement**

The red heritage resources of Zhaoqing peasant movement possesses educational values such as cultivating students' spirit of hard work and perseverance, cultivating students' sense of patriotism and promoting the spirit of unity and cooperation. To fully utilize these resources and realize their educational

potential, efforts can be made from three dimensions: approaching, engaging with, and advancing through red heritage:

(1) Approaching Red Heritage

Currently, there is a lack of comprehensive literature documenting the full course of the Zhaoqing peasant movement—from its origins to its development. To address this gap, a dedicated research team should be established to study the movement and compile publications such as *A Brief History of the Peasant Movement in Zhaoqing*. This would form a systematic body of historical records and serve as an accurate and effective reference for in-depth research, classroom teaching, and public education. Through such resources, university students can learn about the history of the movement, understand its underlying spirit, and be inspired by the touching stories behind Zhaoqing's red heritage.

(2) Engaging with Red Heritage

A coordinated effort should be made to integrate red heritage resources related to the peasant movement across Zhaoqing. University students should be required to visit red heritage sites and memorial halls as part of their curriculum. Through these historically rich revolutionary sites, and by exploring photographs, texts, and revolutionary relics displayed in memorial halls, students can rediscover the red memories embedded in these spaces. This direct engagement allows them to truly experience the spirit of hard work and patriotism demonstrated during the course of the peasant movement.

(3) Advancing Through Red Heritage

By integrating the red heritage of the Zhaoqing peasant movement into classroom history instruction and practical educational activities, red education can be further strengthened. Through a variety of methods such as lectures, site visits, and themed events, students are immersed in the revolutionary atmosphere and learn about the great spirit, noble character, and fine traditions embodied in the struggles of the peasant movement. This approach encourages university students to internalize the values of perseverance, patriotism, and unity in their daily lives, guiding them toward becoming high-quality talents for the new era—individuals with a strong sense of historical mission, firm ideals and beliefs, and a deep sense of social responsibility.

### **3. Enhancing the Educational Effectiveness of the Red Heritage from Zhaoqing Peasant Movement**

To improve the educational impact of Zhaoqing's red heritage related to the peasant movement, efforts should be made across three key dimensions: basic protection, public attention, and educational appeal.

(1) Basic Protection

From the perspective of heritage conservation, protection is the foundation for any educational initiative. Strong determination and practical measures must be taken to implement this. It is recommended to formulate a *Special Regulation on the Protection of Zhaoqing's Red Heritage from the Peasant Movement*, and to include all related sites in the city-level cultural relics protection list. Full coverage of protection should be achieved, with clear steps and a well-structured conservation plan in place.

(2) Public Attention

From a publicity standpoint, efforts should be intensified to promote awareness of Zhaoqing's red heritage across all population groups. The public should be encouraged to value and actively participate in the preservation of these red heritage resources, thereby ensuring their integrity. Particular focus should be placed on university students, fostering interest and engagement with Zhaoqing's red heritage and history.

### (3) Educational Appeal

From the perspective of the appeal of red-themed educational activities, it is essential to keep pace with the times by continuously innovating the forms and content of education. The educational experience should be enriched with approaches and formats that resonate with university students, thereby increasing engagement and enhancing the overall effectiveness of red heritage-based education.

## V. Conclusion

Zhaoqing is a heroic city of the peasant movement, rich in revolutionary legacy and traditions. Across its three districts, one county-level city, and four counties, numerous former residences, historical sites, and memorial halls related to the peasant movement have been preserved. These provide valuable resources for revolutionary tradition education and patriotic education. Zhaoqing's red heritage related to the peasant movement is abundant and carries significant educational value. However, there remains room for improvement in how these resources are utilized and how their full value is realized. To make effective use of these red heritage resources, it is necessary to move beyond traditional approaches by integrating them into cohesive educational routes — route-based, region-based, and theme-based — forming a unified framework for peasant movement education in Zhaoqing. Through this process, university students can develop a spirit of perseverance, cultivate a sense of patriotism, and learn the importance of unity and cooperation while engaging with the red heritage of Zhaoqing's peasant movement.

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