

## FACTORS INFLUENCING THE DEVELOPMENT OF WUSHU FOR EXCELLENCE IN JIANGSU PROVINCE, CHINA

### FATORES QUE INFLUENCIAM O DESENVOLVIMENTO DO WUSHU DE EXCELÊNCIA NA PROVÍNCIA DE JIANGSU, CHINA

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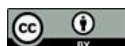
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#### Abstract

In recent years, wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province, China, has drawn increasing academic and policy attention in the context of sports governance reform and traditional culture development. The purpose of this study is: (1) To study the current situation the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China; (2) To analyze the positive factors influencing the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China; (3) To find approach development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China. This study adopted a mixed-method research design. First, structured in-depth interviews with 15 experts were conducted to examine the current development situation. Second, quantitative data were collected through 420 valid questionnaires and analyzed using statistic software to construct and test a Structural Equation Model (SEM) with five hypotheses. Finally, focus group discussions with 11 experts were carried out to verify the empirical results and further explore development approaches. The results indicate that the current development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province is supported by existing governance frameworks but faces challenges related to regional imbalance, limited market integration, uneven policy implementation, and reserve talent continuity. Quantitative analysis confirms that government functions and policy

#### Resumo

*Nos últimos anos, o wushu de alto rendimento na província de Jiangsu, na China, tem atraído cada vez mais atenção acadêmica e política no contexto da reforma da governança esportiva e do desenvolvimento da cultura tradicional. O objetivo deste estudo é: (1) Analisar a situação atual do desenvolvimento do wushu de alto rendimento na província de Jiangsu, na China; (2) Analisar os fatores positivos que influenciam o desenvolvimento do wushu de alto rendimento na província de Jiangsu, na China; (3) Identificar abordagens para o desenvolvimento do wushu de excelência na província de Jiangsu, China. Este estudo adotou um desenho de pesquisa de método misto. Primeiramente, foram realizadas entrevistas estruturadas em profundidade com 15 especialistas para examinar a situação atual de desenvolvimento. Em segundo lugar, dados quantitativos foram coletados por meio de 420 questionários válidos e analisados utilizando software estatístico para construir e testar um Modelo de Equações Estruturais (SEM) com cinco hipóteses. Por fim, foram realizadas discussões em grupos focais com 11 especialistas para verificar os resultados empíricos e explorar mais profundamente as abordagens de desenvolvimento. Os resultados indicam que o desenvolvimento atual do wushu de excelência na província de Jiangsu é apoiado pelas estruturas de governança existentes, mas*



implementation, social identity and cultural inheritance, economic input and resource allocation, market mechanism and capital input, and reserve talent management all have significant positive effects on the development of wushu for excellence, with the structural model demonstrating satisfactory reliability, validity, explanatory power, and predictive relevance. Based on expert consultation, a development-oriented approach is proposed, emphasizing policy guidance, cultural foundations, rational resource allocation, regulated market participation, and systematic reserve talent management to support sustainable development. By integrating governance, cultural, economic, market, and talent dimensions, this study provides an analytical framework and practical reference for promoting the sustainable development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province, China.

**Keywords:** Wushu for Excellence. Jiangsu Province. Government Functions and Policy Implementation. Social Identity and Cultural Inheritance. Economic Input and Resource Allocation. Market Mechanism and Capital Input. Reserve Talent Management.

*enfrenta desafios relacionados ao desequilíbrio regional, integração limitada do mercado, implementação desigual de políticas e continuidade da reserva de talentos. A análise quantitativa confirma que as funções governamentais e a implementação de políticas, a identidade social e a herança cultural, o investimento econômico e a alocação de recursos, o mecanismo de mercado e o investimento de capital, bem como a gestão de talentos em reserva, têm efeitos positivos significativos no desenvolvimento do wushu de excelência, com o modelo estrutural demonstrando confiabilidade, validade, poder explicativo e relevância preditiva satisfatórios. Com base na consulta a especialistas, propõe-se uma abordagem orientada para o desenvolvimento, enfatizando a orientação política, os fundamentos culturais, a alocação racional de recursos, a participação regulada no mercado e a gestão sistemática da reserva de talentos para apoiar o desenvolvimento sustentável. Ao integrar as dimensões de governança, cultura, economia, mercado e talentos, este estudo fornece uma estrutura analítica e uma referência prática para promover o desenvolvimento sustentável do wushu de excelência na província de Jiangsu, China.*

**Palavras-chave:** Wushu de Excelência. Província de Jiangsu. Funções Governamentais e Implementação de Políticas. Identidade Social e Herança Cultural. Insumo Econômico e Alocação de Recursos. Mecanismo de Mercado e Insumo de Capital. Gestão de Talentos em Reserva.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Wushu for excellence represents an important pathway for the modernization and sustainable development of traditional Chinese wushu within contemporary competitive sports systems. As one of the major regions with a strong foundation of traditional wushu practices, Jiangsu Province possesses abundant cultural resources and a relatively complete organizational structure. However, despite these advantages, the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province has not yet formed a mature

and highly efficient system. In practice, issues such as uneven regional development, limited youth participation, weak integration with market mechanisms, and instability in reserve talent cultivation continue to constrain long-term sustainability.

In recent years, national and local governments in China have introduced a series of policies aimed at promoting the inheritance and innovative development of traditional sports. These policies have provided a supportive institutional environment for wushu development. Nevertheless, policy support alone has not fully resolved structural challenges at the implementation level. Existing studies indicate that the sustainable development of traditional sports depends on the coordinated interaction of multiple factors, including governmental governance capacity, cultural and social recognition, economic investment, market participation, and talent development systems. However, empirical research that integrates these dimensions within a unified analytical framework remains relatively limited, particularly at the provincial level.

This study focuses on the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province and systematically examines the key influencing factors from five dimensions: governmental functions and policy implementation, social recognition and cultural inheritance, economic investment and resource allocation, market mechanisms and capital participation, and reserve talent cultivation. By employing a mixed-method research design and constructing a structural equation model, this study aims to clarify the structural relationships among these factors and to provide empirical evidence for optimizing governance strategies and promoting the sustainable development of wushu for excellence.

## **2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

1. To study the current situation the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China.
2. To analyze factors positive influencing the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China
3. To find approach development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China

### 3 LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 3.1 Policies of wushu development in Jiangsu Province, China

An examination of national and provincial policy documents, including the Opinions on Deepening the Integration of Physical Education and Sports, the Opinions on the Implementation of the Promotion of the Wushu Duanbit System, the 14th Five-Year Plan for Sports Development, and the Jiangsu Province National Fitness Implementation Plan (2021–2025), reveals a coherent policy framework supporting the standardized, systematic, and excellence-oriented development of wushu in Jiangsu Province. Guided by the national strategy of building a strong sports country and advancing the Healthy China initiative, these policies emphasize people-centered development, coordinated governance, and institutional innovation, positioning wushu as both a cultural heritage practice and a component of modern sports systems. At the national level, policy priorities focus on integrating wushu into school education, strengthening reserve talent cultivation mechanisms, standardizing training and evaluation through the Duanbit system, and enhancing the international influence of Chinese wushu. At the provincial level, Jiangsu's implementation plan reinforces these orientations by promoting mass participation, improving fitness infrastructure, encouraging social and capital participation, and developing traditional sports programs with regional characteristics. Collectively, these policies establish a supportive institutional environment that links education, fitness, competition, and industry development, providing a clear policy foundation for the sustainable and excellence-oriented development of wushu in Jiangsu Province.

#### 3.2 Status and framework of wushu development in Jiangsu Province, China

Existing studies generally conceptualize wushu as a comprehensive cultural practice rather than a single competitive sport, integrating cultural memory, ethical cultivation, and a multidimensional training system that links technical performance with cognitive and psychological development (Li *et al.*, 2021; He, 2023). With regard to Jiangsu Province, the literature indicates that wushu benefits from a relatively

strong cultural foundation and broad participation, yet excellence-oriented development remains constrained by structural bottlenecks, particularly limited industrialization and weak market linkage, alongside uneven policy execution and resource distribution across localities (Xie *et al.*, 2019; Yang *et al.*, 2024). Scholarship also repeatedly identifies talent sustainability as a critical weakness, as fragmented training pathways, insufficient reserve systems, and uncertain career transitions accelerate instability and outflow among young practitioners (Hong, 2024; Li & Ji, 2024). In response, recent research increasingly supports an integrated development approach that simultaneously reinforces cultural inheritance, improves governance coordination and public participation, and leverages digital dissemination to expand engagement and training efficiency, thereby strengthening long-term sustainability and excellence outcomes (Qiu & Zhang, 2022; Liu & Peng, 2024).

### **3.3 Theoretical basis of wushu development in Jiangsu Province, China**

This study constructs a multidimensional framework for wushu development in Jiangsu Province by integrating policy implementation theory, cultural heritage theory, sports industry theory, development strategy theory, talent development theory, and holistic development theory. Policy implementation theory explains how policy intent is converted into outcomes through coordination, resources, and stakeholder engagement (Get, 2018; Li & Shi, 2025). Cultural heritage theory positions wushu as a living heritage sustained through transmission and adaptive renewal (Inglehart & Baker, 2021). Sports industry theory frames wushu as a cultural sport product whose sustainability relies on market integration and value creation beyond administrative dependence (Nauright, 2019; Shilbury, 2020). Development strategy theory highlights long-term goal alignment, competitive positioning, and resource orchestration to improve systemic coherence. Talent development theory focuses on staged cultivation pathways that connect training, education, and identity formation to stabilize the reserve pipeline. Holistic development theory further emphasizes coordinated progress across performance, psychology, culture, and community participation. Together, these perspectives support the analysis of structural conditions, constraints, and sustainable pathways for excellence-oriented wushu development in Jiangsu.

### **3.4 Analysis of key factors influencing the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province, China**

Based on a systematic literature review and variable screening process, this study identifies five core factors influencing the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province: government functions and policy implementation, social identity and cultural inheritance, economic input and resource allocation, market mechanism and capital input, and reserve talent management. Existing studies consistently indicate that government policy orientation and implementation capacity shape the overall institutional environment and strategic direction of wushu development, influencing resource distribution, regulatory effectiveness, and internationalization pathways. Social identity and cultural inheritance determine the depth of public recognition, intergenerational transmission, and community participation, forming the cultural foundation that sustains wushu as a living tradition. Economic input and resource allocation provide the material basis for development by affecting infrastructure construction, funding stability, and the integration of wushu into broader cultural and sports industries. Market mechanisms and capital input drive the commercialization, branding, and industrial vitality of wushu, enabling the transformation of cultural value into sustainable economic returns. Reserve talent management directly influences long-term competitiveness by shaping education systems, coaching quality, youth training pipelines, and career development pathways. These five interrelated factors jointly construct the structural conditions, developmental capacity, and sustainability potential of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province, forming the analytical foundation for subsequent empirical modeling and hypothesis testing.

### **3.5 Related research**

Existing studies generally agree that the sustainable and high-quality development of wushu relies on the coordinated interaction of governance systems, cultural identity, resource input, market mechanisms, talent cultivation, and integrated development pathways. Research on government functions emphasizes policy orientation, interdepartmental coordination, funding support, and implementation

effectiveness as key determinants of regional development conditions. Studies on social identity and cultural inheritance view wushu as a symbolic cultural system through which values, collective memory, and social belonging are reproduced across communities and generations. Economic and resource-oriented research highlights stable financial input, infrastructure provision, and diversified funding as the material foundation for both mass participation and elite training. Market-oriented studies further stress the role of capital investment, branding, digital platforms, and cultural entrepreneurship in enhancing industrial vitality, while also noting risks of excessive commercialization. Research on reserve talent management identifies education systems, coaching capacity, youth pipelines, and career pathways as central to long-term competitiveness. Finally, scholarship on wushu excellence converges on the view that cultural heritage, competitive performance, and industrialization must be advanced in an integrated manner, as excellence emerges from systemic alignment rather than isolated improvement.

#### **4 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This study explores the factors influencing the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province, China using a mixed-methods design that integrates qualitative and quantitative approaches, with data analyzed in three steps:

Step 1: A qualitative investigation, this study selected 15 experts for interviews and systematically analyzed the current situation of the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province, China.

Step 2: A quantitative analysis was performed to examine positive influencing factors, collecting 420 valid questionnaires analyzed to identify the key factors influencing the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province, China.

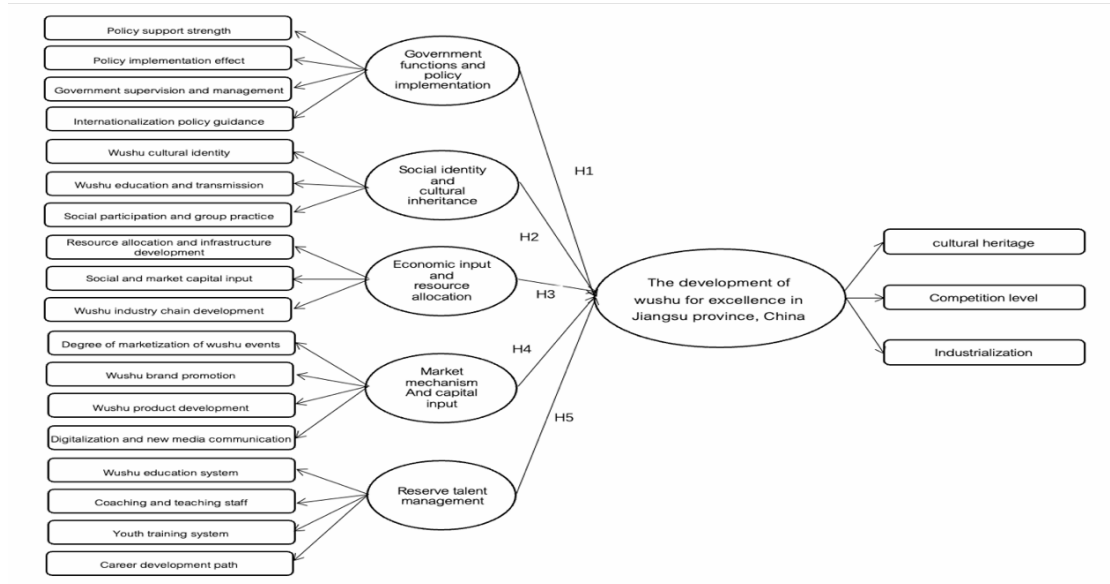
Step 3: To qualitative methods were re-employed. focus group discussions with 11 experts to find an approach for the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province, China.

This integrated research design balances qualitative and quantitative perspectives, ensuring systematic analysis and providing academic support for the sustainable and excellence-oriented development of wushu in Jiangsu Province, China.

## 5 RESEARCH CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

**Figure 1**

*Conceptual model constructed by researchers*



This study takes government functions and policy implementation, social identity and cultural inheritance, economic input and resource allocation, market mechanism and capital input, and reserve talent management as independent variables, and the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province, China as the dependent variable, and systematically constructs a framework of core factors influencing wushu development. Based on an extensive literature review and expert interviews, this study integrates policy implementation theory, cultural heritage theory, sports industry theory, development strategy theory, talent development theory, and holistic development theory to establish a conceptual framework for analyzing the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province, China.

This conceptual framework comprehensively reveals the hypothesized relationships between the five key influencing factors and the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province, China, and clarifies how institutional governance, cultural identity, resource input, market mechanisms, and talent systems jointly shape excellence-oriented outcomes in terms of cultural heritage, competitive level, and industrialization. The specific hypothetical relationships are as follows:

H1. Government functions and policy implementation influencing the development of wushu for excellence Jiangsu province, China

H2. Social identity and cultural inheritance influencing the development of wushu for excellence Jiangsu province, China

H3. Economic input and resource allocation influencing the development of wushu for excellence Jiangsu province, China

H4. Market mechanism and capital input influencing the development of wushu for excellence Jiangsu province, China

H5. Reserve talent management influencing the development of wushu for excellence Jiangsu province, China

## **6 RESEARCH RESULTS**

### **6.1 The Current Situation of Wushu Development for Excellence in Jiangsu Province, China**

The development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province has benefited from national fitness strategies and provincial sports policies, yet its overall progress remains constrained by structural imbalances and systemic challenges. Based on literature review, policy analysis, and expert interviews, the current situation can be summarized as follows:

1. **Policy Support and Implementation.** Jiangsu has established a relatively complete policy framework for wushu development under the 14th Five-Year Sports Development Plan, emphasizing competitive performance, youth training, and cultural transmission. However, disparities in local implementation and insufficient interdepartmental coordination limit policy effectiveness across regions.
2. **Social Identity and Cultural Inheritance.** Wushu enjoys a strong cultural foundation and public recognition in Jiangsu through school education, community activities, and cultural events. Nevertheless, tensions persist between traditional cultural expression and the requirements of standardized elite sports development, weakening the integration of cultural identity into the excellence-

oriented system.

3. **Economic Input and Resource Allocation.** Public financial support and infrastructure investment are concentrated in major cities such as Nanjing and Suzhou, while smaller cities and rural areas face resource shortages. Inefficient utilization of existing facilities and the absence of long-term funding mechanisms further restrict balanced development.
4. **Market Mechanism and Capital Participation.** Market participation in wushu remains limited, with low levels of commercialization, weak brand operation, and insufficient digital engagement. Private capital involvement is minimal due to unclear investment returns and inadequate policy incentives.
5. **Reserve Talent Management.** Jiangsu has a foundation for talent cultivation through sports schools and higher education institutions, yet training pathways between grassroots, school, and elite levels are fragmented. Coach shortages, limited professional development opportunities, and unclear career prospects contribute to talent attrition.
6. **Key Issues and Challenges.** Uneven policy execution, imbalanced resource distribution, weak market mechanisms, low private-sector participation, and unstable reserve talent systems collectively hinder the sustainable and excellence-oriented development of wushu in Jiangsu Province.

In summary, while Jiangsu possesses favorable policy conditions, cultural resources, and a basic talent foundation, persistent structural constraints continue to limit the high-quality and sustainable development of wushu for excellence.

## **6.2 Analyze the positive factors influencing the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province, China**

### *6.2.1 Descriptive analysis*

This study sorted and analyzed the basic demographic characteristics of the respondents, describing the overall distribution of the sample in terms of gender, educational background, age, occupational category, years of wushu practice, and length of involvement in wushu-related work. The results indicate that the sample includes

different categories of wushu-related participants and shows a reasonable and representative structure, providing a sound basis for subsequent quantitative analysis.

### 6.2.2 Reliability analysis

**Table 1**

*Reliability testing*

Variable	Item	Item reliability	Variable reliability
Government functions and policy implementation	Policy implementation effect	0.822	0.910
	Government supervision and management	0.809	
	Internationalization policy guidance	0.794	
Social identity and cultural inheritance	Wushu cultural identity	0.824	0.891
	Wushu education and transmission	0.812	
	Social Participation and Group Practice	0.802	
	Resource allocation and		
Economic input and resource allocation	infrastructure development	0.838	0.911
	Social and market capital input	0.833	
	wushu industry chain development	0.870	
	Degree of marketization of wushu		

		events	0.862	
Market mechanism and capital input		Wushu brand promotion	0.870	0.924
		Wushu product development	0.838	
		Digitalization and new media		
		communication	0.850	
Reserve talent management system		Wushu education system	0.842	
				Coaching and teaching staff 0.835
		Development of wushu for excellence		Youth training
	0.865			
Career development path		0.922		
	0.817			
Cultural heritage		0.909		
	0.855			
Competitive level				
	0.817			
Variable	Dimension	Dimensional reliability	Variable reliability	
	Industrialization	0.869		

Cronbach’s alpha coefficient was used as the reliability evaluation index of the scale. The reliability of the six variables and 21 dimensions of government functions and policy implementation, social identity and cultural inheritance, economic input and resource allocation, market mechanism and capital input, reserve talent management, and the development of wushu for excellence are all above 0.8, and the reliability of the dimensions to which each variable belongs is also above 0.8. Therefore, the overall data results are relatively stable and have high reliability. The correlation (CITC) index of each item with the total is higher than 0.4, and the reliability

(CAID) after deleting the item is not higher than the reliability of the corresponding variable. Therefore, there is a certain correlation between each item and the variable, and all items can be retained for subsequent analysis.

### 6.2.3 Effectiveness analysis

**Table 2**

*Validation Factor AVE and CR Index Values*

Validity	CR	AV
Government functions and policy implementation	0.837	0.67
Policy support	0.800	0.62
Policy implementation effect	0.824	0.65
Government supervision and management	0.811	0.63
Internationalization policy guidance	0.795	0.61
Social identity and cultural inheritance	0.790	0.70
Wushu cultural	0.824	0.58
Wushu education and transmission	0.813	0.64
Social Participation and Group Practice	0.803	0.62
Economic input and resource allocation	0.809	0.72
Resource allocation and infrastructure development	0.840	0.67
Social and market capital input	0.833	0.66
wushu industry chain development	0.875	0.66
Market mechanism and capital input	0.825	0.65
Degree of marketization of wushu events	0.862	0.70
Wushu brand promotion	0.873	0.66
Wushu product development	0.839	0.60
Digitalization and new media communication	0.851	0.62
Reserve talent management	0.838	0.67
Wushu education system	0.844	0.68
Coaching and teaching staff	0.836	0.67
Youth training	0.866	0.65
Career development path	0.818	0.64
Cultural heritage	0.856	0.69
Competitive	0.819	0.64
Industrialization	0.870	0.71
Development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province,	0.814	0.72

The test results show that the comprehensive reliability CR of the six variables and their dimensions in this survey is higher than 0.7, and the average variance extracted AVE is higher than 0.5, indicating that the variables and dimensions have strong aggregation.

**Table 3**

*Heterotrait-Monotrait Ratio (HTMT)*

	Government functions and policy implementation	Social identity and cultural inheritance	Economic input and resource allocation	Market mechanism and capital input	Reserve talent management	Development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China
Government functions and policy implementation						
Social identity and cultural inheritance	0.409					
Economic input and resource allocation	0.455	0.504				
Market mechanism and capital input	0.407	0.494	0.532			
Reserve talent management	0.51	0.468	0.558	0.457		
Development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China	0.588	0.654	0.621	0.541	0.61	

In the measurement model analysis of six variables, namely, government functions and policy implementation, social identity and cultural inheritance, economic input and resource allocation, market mechanism and capital input, reserve talent management, and the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China, the HTMT values between all latent variables were below the threshold of 0.90. This result indicates that

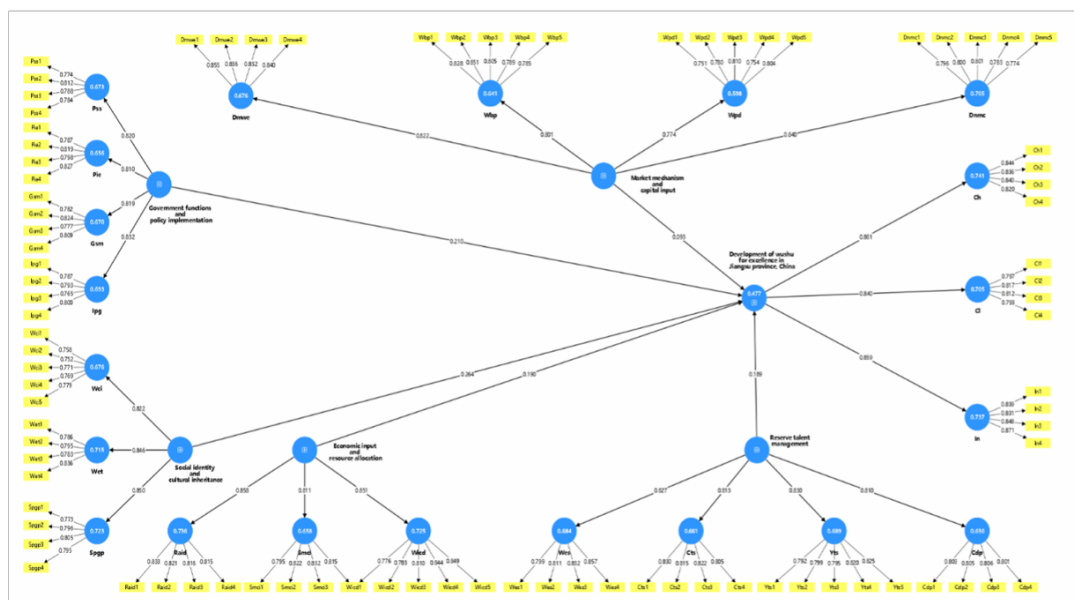
the constructs exhibit good discriminant validity and that each variable measures a distinct conceptual dimension.

### 6.2.4 Structural equation model

This study used SmartPLS4.0 to establish a path model and imported the collected 420 sample data into it. The path model estimation diagram is shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 2**

*Schematic diagram of the structural model*



Source: Constructed by the researcher

**Table 4**

*Variable Interpretation Rate*

	R-square	R-square adjusted	Result
DWFE	0.478	0.471	Medium

The calculation results show that the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) of the dependent variable, development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China, is 0.478, with an adjusted  $R^2$  of 0.471. This value is higher than the recommended threshold of 0.33, indicating that the five independent variables have a medium level

or above of explanatory power for the dependent variable. The  $R^2$  results demonstrate that the proposed structural model has satisfactory explanatory capability, providing empirical support for subsequent structural path analysis.

**Table 5**

*Variable prediction determination coefficient*

Regression path	f-square	Result
Government functions and policy implementation→Development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China	0.066	Small
Social identity and cultural inheritance→Development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China	0.100	Small
Economic input and resource allocation→Development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China	0.042	Small
Market mechanism and capital input→Development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China	0.019	Small
Reserve talent management→Development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China	1.46	Small

The f-square results indicate that all structural paths from the five independent variables to the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China exceed the minimum threshold of 0.02, demonstrating the existence of meaningful effect sizes. Although the effect sizes of each path fall within the small range, they collectively confirm that government functions and policy implementation, social identity and cultural inheritance, economic input and resource allocation, market mechanism and capital input, and reserve talent management all exert substantive influences on the dependent variable.

**Table 6***Correlation value analysis of predictive ability*

	SSO	Residual Sum of Squares (SSE)	Q <sup>2</sup> (=1-SSE/SSO)	Result
Development of wushu for				
excellence in Jiangsu province, China	1260.000	831.347	0.340	Medium
Cultural heritage	1680.000	820.478	0.512	Medium
Competitive level	1680.000	921.292	0.452	Medium
Industrialization	1680.000	797.675	0.525	Medium

The blindfolding procedure results indicate that the endogenous constructs in the model exhibit adequate predictive relevance. Specifically, the Q<sup>2</sup> value for the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China is 0.340, indicating a medium level of predictive relevance. Moreover, the Q<sup>2</sup> values for its three dimensions cultural heritage (Q<sup>2</sup> = 0.512), competitive level (Q<sup>2</sup> = 0.452), and industrialization (Q<sup>2</sup> = 0.525) all exceed the recommended threshold of 0.15, further confirming that the model demonstrates satisfactory predictive capability at both the construct and dimensional levels.

**Table 7***Hypothesis Testing**(1) Direct effect test*

Regression path	$\beta$	T	P	95%CI	
				Lower	Upper
Government functions and policy implementation→Development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China	0.214	5.172	0.000	0.131	0.293
Social identity and cultural inheritance→Development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China	0.266	5.257	0.000	0.163	0.363
Economic input and resource allocation→Development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China	0.180	3.862	0.000	0.090	0.273
Market mechanism and capital input→Development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China	0.116	2.465	0.014	0.023	0.210
Reserve talent management→Development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China	0.187	3.431	0.001	0.080	0.292

The results of the structural model hypothesis testing indicate that all proposed paths are statistically significant. Government functions and policy implementation have a significant positive effect on the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China ( $\beta = 0.214$ ,  $T = 5.172$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), with the 95% confidence interval [0.131, 0.293] excluding zero, suggesting that stronger policy guidance and effective governmental implementation contribute positively to excellence-oriented wushu development. Social identity and cultural inheritance exhibit the strongest positive influence on the development of wushu for excellence ( $\beta = 0.266$ ,  $T = 5.257$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ; 95% CI [0.163, 0.363]), indicating that enhanced social recognition and sustained cultural transmission play a crucial role in promoting high-quality and sustainable wushu development in Jiangsu province. Economic input and resource allocation also show a significant positive relationship with the development of wushu for excellence ( $\beta = 0.180$ ,  $T = 3.862$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ; 95% CI [0.090, 0.273]), highlighting the importance

of sufficient financial investment and rational resource distribution as fundamental material supports. Market mechanism and capital input have a positive and statistically significant effect on the development of wushu for excellence ( $\beta = 0.116$ ,  $T = 2.465$ ,  $p = 0.014$ ; 95% CI [0.023, 0.210]). Although the effect size is relatively smaller compared with other factors, this result suggests that market-oriented mechanisms and capital participation still play a supportive role in enhancing wushu development. Reserve talent management likewise exerts a significant positive influence ( $\beta = 0.187$ ,  $T = 3.431$ ,  $p = 0.001$ ; 95% CI [0.080, 0.292]), confirming that systematic talent cultivation, training systems, and career development pathways are critical for sustaining long-term excellence in wushu.

In summary, all hypothesized paths in the structural model are supported, demonstrating that government functions and policy implementation, social identity and cultural inheritance, economic input and resource allocation, market mechanism and capital input, and reserve talent management jointly promote the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China.

### *6.3 Approach development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province, China.*

The development-oriented approach for wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province, China can be summarized into the following five aspects. (1) Government functions and policy implementation: Strengthen strategic orientation, interdepartmental coordination, regulatory standardization, and policy continuity to improve implementation effectiveness and governance stability. (2) Social identity and cultural inheritance: Reinforce cultural identity recognition, embed martial ethics and cultural inheritance into training systems, expand community participation, and maintain intergenerational continuity to enhance long term cohesion and social support. (3) Economic input and resource allocation: Establish stable funding mechanisms, optimize allocation efficiency across training and competition systems, strengthen professional support services, and improve infrastructure utilization to secure material foundations and system resilience. (4) Market mechanism and capital input: Promote marketization of events, improve brand promotion, expand product development and industrial linkage, and accelerate digitalization and new media communication under regulated

governance to enhance operational efficiency and sustained vitality. (5) Reserve talent management: Improve early talent identification, build structured training pathways, strengthen education training coordination, enhance coaching and multidisciplinary support, increase competition exposure and assessment, and improve career development paths to ensure talent continuity, retention, and long-term competitiveness.

## 7 CONCLUSION

First, the sustainable development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province is built upon relatively solid institutional foundations shaped by long-term government support and structured training systems. Policy frameworks related to competitive sports reform, national fitness, and traditional culture promotion have supported stable elite performance and gradual professionalization. Nevertheless, regional disparities in resource allocation, uneven policy implementation, limited market integration, and structural constraints in reserve talent continuity continue to restrict balanced and long-term sustainability.

Second, empirical analysis based on PLS-SEM confirms that government functions and policy implementation, social identity and cultural inheritance, economic input and resource allocation, market mechanism and capital input, and reserve talent management all exert significant positive effects on the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province. The structural model demonstrates satisfactory reliability, validity, explanatory power, and predictive relevance, indicating that excellence development is driven by the joint interaction of institutional governance, cultural legitimacy, material support, market participation, and human capital foundations rather than by any single factor alone.

Third, the sustainable development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province relies on a coordinated five-dimensional development approach. Effective government functions and stable policy implementation provide institutional security and governance continuity. Social identity and cultural inheritance strengthen legitimacy, cohesion, and intergenerational transmission. Adequate economic input and efficient resource allocation ensure material foundations for high-level training. Regulated market mechanisms and capital participation enhance operational vitality and developmental

flexibility. At the core of this system, reserve talent management secures long-term continuity, reproduction of excellence, and sustainable competitiveness. Together, these dimensions form an integrated and resilient pathway for advancing high-quality and sustainable wushu excellence development in Jiangsu province.

## 8 DISCUSSION

(1) The empirical results confirm that government functions and policy implementation exert a significant positive influence on the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province. This finding indicates that excellence-oriented development in traditional sports remains strongly shaped by state-led governance, policy guidance, and institutional coordination. Effective policy implementation provides strategic direction, stabilizes organizational structures, and enhances systemic coherence, thereby supporting long-term excellence cultivation. This conclusion aligns with elite sport governance research emphasizing the central role of public policy instruments and institutional design in sustaining high-performance sport systems (Grix *et al.*, 2024; De Bosscher *et al.*, 2025).

(2) The results further demonstrate that social identity and cultural inheritance significantly promote the development of wushu for excellence. This suggests that excellence development in traditional martial arts is deeply rooted in collective cultural recognition and identity construction, rather than being driven solely by technical or administrative factors. Cultural inheritance strengthens legitimacy, enhances social support, and reinforces long-term commitment among athletes and institutions. This finding aligns with social identity theory, which highlights the motivational function of cultural belonging (Tajfel *et al.*, 2022), as well as cultural sociology perspectives that stress the institutional resilience of tradition-based sports (Tomlinson, 2024).

(3) Economic input and resource allocation are shown to have a significant positive effect on wushu excellence development, underscoring the importance of material foundations in sustaining high-level training systems. Stable financial investment and rational allocation of resources support training infrastructure, professional services, and competition preparation, thereby reducing structural constraints and improving developmental efficiency. This result corresponds with elite

sport development literature identifying economic resources and infrastructure as core conditions for sustainable excellence (Oakley & Green, 2020; Green & Houlihan, 2022).

(4) The analysis indicates that market mechanisms and capital participation also contribute positively to the development of wushu for excellence, although their effect size is comparatively smaller. This suggests that market-oriented mechanisms function as supplementary drivers within a predominantly state-led sport system. When appropriately regulated, capital participation enhances operational flexibility, supports event development and brand visibility, and expands developmental capacity without undermining public value orientation. This conclusion is consistent with research advocating hybrid governance models that balance public regulation and market efficiency in sport development (Andreff, 2020; Chalip, 2022).

(5) The findings confirm that reserve talent management plays a critical role in sustaining the long-term development of wushu for excellence. Systematic youth training pathways, coaching stability, educational coordination, and clear career development mechanisms ensure continuity and reduce talent attrition. This result reflects core principles of long-term athlete development theory, which emphasizes progressive training structures and developmental continuity (Balyi *et al.*, 2023), and is further supported by comparative elite sport research identifying reserve talent systems as key predictors of sustained excellence (De Bosscher *et al.*, 2025).

(6) The results indicate that the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu province is shaped by the coordinated interaction of multiple structural dimensions. Government governance provides institutional stability, cultural inheritance supplies legitimacy and cohesion, economic input ensures material continuity, market mechanisms enhance operational adaptability, and reserve talent management secures long-term reproduction of excellence outcomes. This integrated pattern supports a system-oriented understanding of excellence development and aligns with contemporary governance perspectives emphasizing multi-dimensional coordination in elite sport systems (Houlihan & Zheng, 2023).

## 9 RECOMMENDATIONS

### 9.1 Research-based application suggestions

Based on structural equation modelling and expert consultation, this study constructs a validated analytical framework for examining the development of wushu for excellence in Jiangsu Province. The findings provide practical and research-based guidance across multiple application domains:

1. Policy Governance and Institutional Coordination

The results offer empirical evidence for provincial sports authorities to improve governance mechanisms related to wushu excellence. Strengthening policy coherence in funding allocation, competition systems, talent identification, and inter-departmental coordination can enhance institutional stability and long-term sustainability.

2. Excellence System Management and Organizational Practice

The findings provide practical references for elite training institutions, sports schools, and wushu associations to optimize management structures and training systems. Integrated planning across different development stages can improve system efficiency and continuity of excellence cultivation.

3. Cultural Transmission and Excellence Alignment

The study supports educational and cultural institutions in integrating excellence-oriented wushu development with cultural inheritance. Embedding elite training within educational and cultural frameworks enhances social recognition, cultural legitimacy, and public support.

4. Strategic Resource Allocation and Development Planning

By clarifying the relative influence of policy support, economic input, market mechanisms, and reserve talent management, the framework assists decision-makers in prioritizing resource allocation and designing balanced, long-term development strategies.

5. Academic and Policy Reference Value

This study provides a theoretical and methodological reference for future research on traditional sports governance, excellence development, and cultural sustainability within the context of Chinese wushu.

## 9.2 Future research directions

To further advance research on wushu excellence development, future studies may consider the following directions:

### 1. Comparative and Regional Expansion

Applying the analytical framework to other provinces or regions in China can enhance comparative understanding and improve the generalizability of the model across different governance and cultural contexts.

### 2. Mechanism-Oriented Cultural Analysis

Future research should move beyond significance testing to examine how social identity, cultural inheritance, and educational environments operate within excellence-oriented systems, particularly in shaping athlete motivation and long-term engagement.

### 3. Longitudinal and Dynamic Research Designs

Given the cross-sectional nature of the present study, longitudinal research is recommended to track changes in policy effectiveness, resource allocation, and talent development over time, thereby strengthening causal interpretation.

### 4. System Interaction and Governance Dynamics

Further studies may explore the interaction mechanisms among governance, market participation, and talent systems to better understand how multi-dimensional drivers jointly influence sustainable excellence outcomes.

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### **Authors' Contribution**

All authors contributed equally to the development of this article.

### **Data availability**

All datasets relevant to this study's findings are fully available within the article.

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