

Core Narratives – Engaging a Globalizing World

Narrating and Reflecting on Stories of Local People

OBJECTIVES: Part A: 1) To provide local persons the opportunity to tell their stories (through missionary narrators) of the changes that have taken place in their lives during what has been characterized as a period of unprecedented global interchange (1990-2003); 2) To use the themes from the Global Economics and Cultures Project as lenses for understanding the impact of globalization;

Part B: 3) To provide an opportunity to missionaries to give critical feedback as to how mission may best be done in light of our present day globalized world.

Part A: Local Person's Story

STAGE 1: Framing the Narrative

In stage one, we ask you to narrate the story of a local person (or community) and the impact on their lives of what has been characterized as unprecedented global interchange. The story should originate with the person. You may find the most effective way of doing this is by interviewing the person (or group).

Your narrative should include the particular changes the person(s) describe that happened in their lives since the economy opened to international markets. The narrative should describe:

- What their lives were like before globalization came to their village or town.
- What happened?
- Where and when was it? Length of time?
- Who was involved?
- What was done to them? How?

STAGE 2: Understanding what has changed

In stage two, use the six Global Economic and Cultural themes (Consumption, Production, Migration, Political Relations, Social Relations and Religious Experience) as outlined in the handout to understand what has changed as a result of globalization on the people and their local culture.

1. What has changed in their basic patterns of consumption of goods and services?
2. How have relationships within the family and community changed? New relationships?
3. How has their interaction with institutions changed?
4. Has the person been required to migrate? Has the person been affected by the migration of others?
5. Has their means of producing a living for themselves and their family, or community changed?
6. How consistent or inconsistent with their spiritual values are these changes?
Has their religious practices been effected?

STAGE 3: Evaluation of the impact of these changes on local people

In stage three, you are given the opportunity to document how the local person(s) evaluated the consequences of these changes on them.

1. How did the main characters decide to deal with the changes?
2. How has the connection of the culture of this place to the rest of the world changed by media, trade, telecommunications, etc.?

3. What do the main characters see as signs of hope in the changes?

STAGE 4: Reflection of the local person's experiences

In stage four, the local person is given the opportunity to reflect on how they feel about these changes personally.

1. How do they feel about these changes?
2. Are they at peace within themselves with the current situation and their role in it, or are they struggling within themselves?

Part B: Missionary's Insights and Views

In Part B, you are provided with the opportunity to share your insights as to how globalization has affected your mission and how mission might be best conducted in light of our present day globalized world.

STAGE 1: Insights

In stage one, you are given the opportunity to reflect on how the changes that the local person has recalled affected you personally.

1. Are there any insights you would like to share as a result of accompanying the person(s) in telling their story?
2. How have global changes affected your approach to mission?
3. How consistent or inconsistent with your spiritual values are these changes?
4. Are you at peace within yourself with the current mission situation and your role in it?

STAGE 2: Imagining the future of mission

In stage two, using these given assumptions

- that Globalization has had an effect on local cultures and the worldwide community;
- that new areas of missionary endeavors* are advocated by Church documents.
**Redemptoris Missio* draws explicit attention to six areas or environments of mission: mega-cities, youth, migrants and refugees, the mass media, the new areas such as peace and care for the environment;
- that missionary endeavors are most fruitful when there is an integration of the key elements of mission: proclamation, witness, dialogue, spirituality and prayer, reconciliation and social transformation.

1. Imagine how you would shape the future of missionary activities.
2. Imagine what kind of advice you would give to someone entering the field of mission today.