

Final project: INTEGRATION

Ethnomusicology & Art Course at Payap University, Chiang Mai

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Sub: Applying Ethno-Arts for Engaging Scripture in People's life.

Introduction:

Ethnomusicology and Art course is such a wonderful course and is very relevant for cross-cultural missionary. I feel very privileged to attend this course, especially the 'Applied EM and Arts course' last few weeks. Here I would like to write a small reflection on the overall course with specific plans on how I am going to integrate what have been learning from the course. I would like to write this paper as to answer few important questions.

1. Who is my target audience in my work or ministry are?

My target audiences are both the cross cultural missionaries and local or native Christian workers who work among people groups with a purpose to engage people with the Word of God for their holistic transformation. I work with NLCI ministry in India and we have around 12 Bible translation projects going on in India. These teams are very play a crucial role in community's holistic transformation. There are different activities done by these teams, such as; Bible translation, Literacy work, Community development, facilitating Multi-Lingual Education programs, and even Church planting. However, Bible translation in the native language of the people group where they work is the main focus. They are the ones who work hard for many years and translate the Scripture and make it available for the members of the community to hear the Good News of God's love. They hope that the

work of their hand would bring much fruits by winning many souls for Christ, and ultimately causing people to give glory and worship to God.

2. What is the context in which I will share this information?

The context in which I would share the things I learnt from this course or the materials I got from resource persons is primarily in Christian ministry context where there is already some mission activities going on. The specific context would where there is a Bible translation happening with other related ministry.

As I said above, we have some translation project going on. One of them is Malvi language project where the New Testament is in the verge of its publication. Others have many books from Bible translated already. However, there is always a challenge as to how these translated Scripture can be engaged in people's lives. After all we do not want to see the translated Scripture laying in the shelf, instead it is expected to transform people's lives. To this end we have the vision to engage Scripture in people's day to day lives. And this is the context which is very apt for me to share the useful information I received from this 'Applied Ethnomusicology and Arts Course'. It will be done in special occasions or events like conducting workshops for them, trainings and meetings with the concerned people, and doing ethnographic research etc..

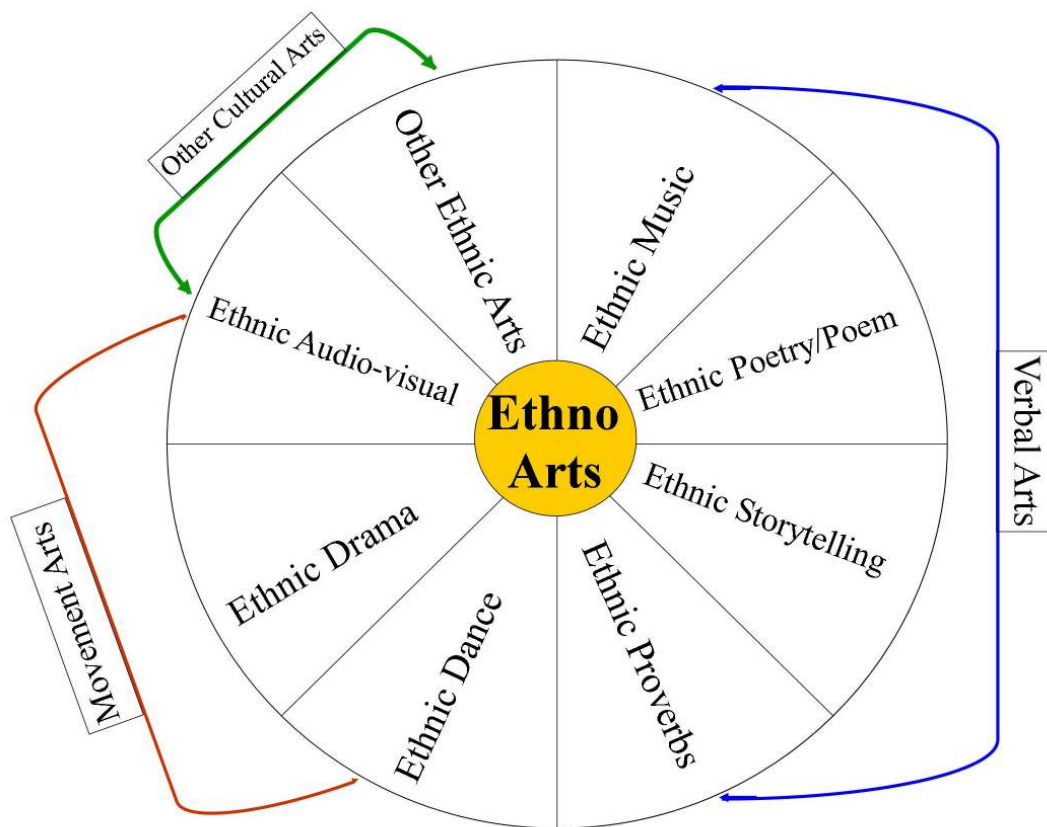
3. What are the key points that I would want people to know and understand?

There are several key points I would like people to know and understand. The important one among them is giving awareness of what I would like to call "Ethno-Arts" (Ethnic Music; Ethnic Drama; Ethnic Dance; Ethnic Verbal Arts; Ethnic Visual Arts) and its importance in

Scripture Use, Education, community development, and most importantly in Worship. Other key things I would like to pass on to them is the importance in understanding the usefulness of Ethnography Research, Fieldwork and Analysis with a special focus on Revitalization. Other important thing to be shared is how to do the documentation and recordings of cultural arts forms and preserve them for people's benefit and God's glory.

4. How will I present the material to them so that they understand?

Following chart shows a clear picture of what is Ethno-Arts and its various components (see in the next page). There may be many that can go under this list apart from what is already in it.

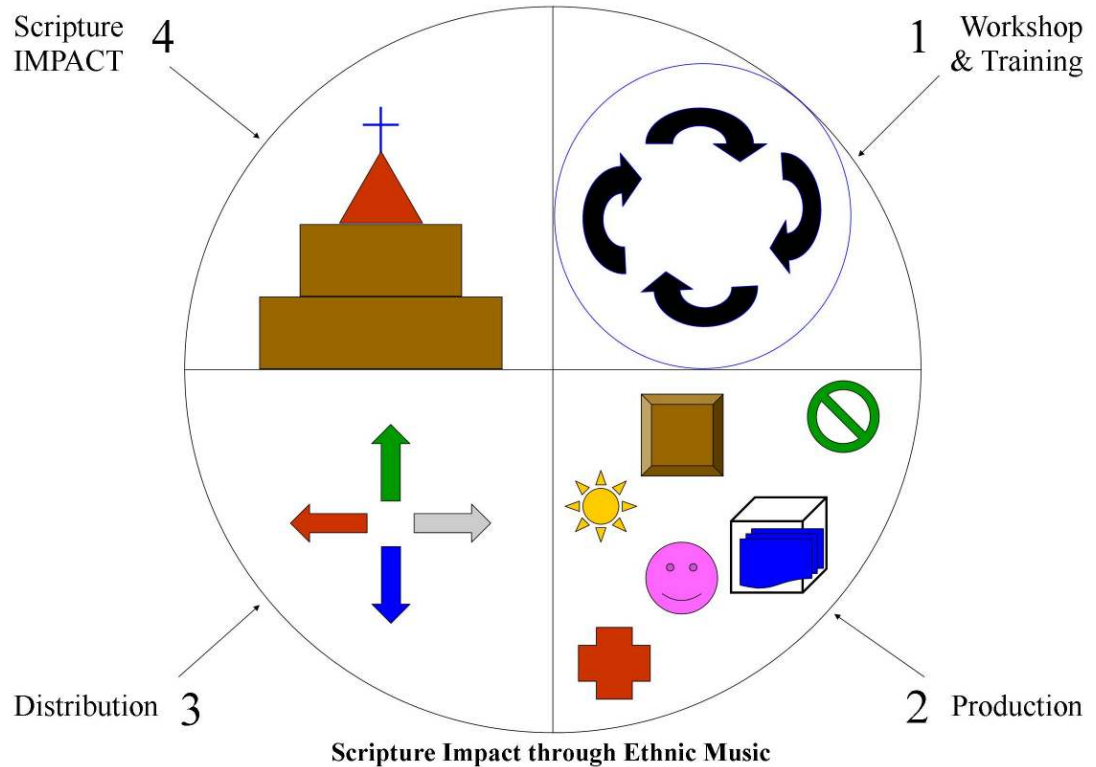


Holistic Scripture Engagement through various relevant cultural art forms; Ethno-Arts

Every art form is unique of its kind and it has values and authenticity to its culture. All of the art forms listed here may not be prevalent in every culture or community, but surely there will be some sort of art forms that is culturally relevant to their community. We could probably discuss here the importance and usefulness of each art form separately. This will give us a clear picture about what we are talking here and we can discuss them under specific categories, such as 'Verbal/Oral Art forms', 'Movement Art forms', and 'Other Cultural Art forms'. Verbal or Oral art forms becomes the major (50%) art forms in this chart, while other art form shares the rest.

For example: Here we can discuss specifically on **Ethnic Music**, one of the Art forms as a model for all. It is a vast subject all together and let us see what it takes to have an established Ethnomusicology in a particular situation. Here we will see it in the perspective of Scripture Use through Ethnic Music. Following chart shows Ethnic music as an art form with its several dimensions to it. It has basically four major parts;

1. **Workshop & Training:** It includes all ethnomusicology and song writing workshops, training both cross-cultural and local missionaries and others concerned people in the projects. It is an ongoing process where more than one workshop (level 1, 2, 3) or training is done as to develop the potential in the project itself. And these workshops and trainings are conducted based on the need of the people, which may be for worship song, literacy, health care, community developments etc etc. Under this category several other activities also done such as, ethnographic research and analysis.



2. Production: After a workshop or training is done people begin writing many songs based on many needs of the community, like health care, spiritual need, social need, educational or literacy need etc. These songs are then produced in cassettes and cds for people to sing and practice. It also includes producing song book, audio-visual albums etc.

3. Distribution: Once the production of albums or song books are done, then comes the distribution part. It has to do with an effective plan to distribute the copies to farthest place and every corner where the language speakers are found. This distribution has to be very strategic where not even single copy is out of use, i.e. people use it to fulfill their needs in personal and corporate life in the community.

4. Scripture Impact: This is the most important part of the whole process. Once the production is distributed, people are oriented to use it effectively. As they hear and sing by themselves the Scripture songs, so their lives being transformed day by day in an increasing manner. As they continue in worshipping the Lord in every aspect of their lives, the community then understand the purpose of life, that is to offer God a true worship. The prayer houses, the Church (the group of believer gathering together to worship the Lord in spirit and truth) is established. People have a greater interaction with the Scripture and they grow deeper and stronger in their spiritual life and Christian unity.

Note: In all these process few important things are noted. The leaders have developed a great relationship with the people, Individual and local consultants are trained well to continue the work, a constant follow up work is in progress and necessary evaluation and corrections are made. Over all the process from 1 through 4 continues as a cycle and so there is a growing spiritual movement happening among people.

5. **What is the time frame that I have set for myself to pass on this information or to integrate this material into the work I am already doing?**

The time frame I have set for passing on this information is from early next year (from January 2010 to 2011). I will be integrating all the lesson learnt from this course and the materials I am developing for the same. Following table gives a tentative time frame for proposed activities:

What (things to be done)	Who (responsible person)	When (time limit)	How (other remarks)
Read the material	Amar	1010 to 1011	I will incorporate my readings in other activities in yearly planning
Develop material for workshop and training	Amar and EM friends	1010 to 1011	I will would like to compile a document that best fits the Indian situation
Conduct EM workshops and training	Amar and NLCI personnel, local team members	Feb 2010 and as planned for the years together	Working with NLCI project teams by finding their needs
Get Consultant help and associate with EM Friends as	Amar gets help from Todd and Mary, Jonathan, Brian	Starts now on	We will figure out how we can work together
Few more to come...			