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## 1. Introduction

Every year, thousands of students venture into foreign countries as part of study abroad, alternative spring break, voluntourism, and other untrained volunteer ventures. Education about and exposure to other countries and cultures is vital to creating global citizens, a goal that the UN has named crucial for fostering peace.

This project seeks to collaborate with local organizations and the community at large to create an educational program (e.g. study abroad, service learning, field school, etc.) that would bring college-aged students to the indigenous Paiwan village of Timur in southern Taiwan in service of their goal for cultural sustainability.

## 2. Context

- Indigenous groups make up 2.3% of Taiwan's population
- The Paiwan of the south central mountain range have limited access to education and employment and frequently migrate to cities
- In the past 35 years, the number of indigenous individuals living outside of tribal communities has risen from 6% to approximately 40%.
- Communities are actively seeking ways to sustain their culture



Pingtung County, Taiwan



Villages of Sandimen Township, Timur is bottom left (SW corner)

## 3. Host Organizations

- **Youth in Timur**, young Paiwan community members that treat the village as a classroom, relying on the *vuvus* (elders) to give them traditional knowledge, with the goal of recording the disappearing Paiwan culture.



Vuvu Du Lanbao teaches young men traditional trapping and hunting.



- **National Pingtung University (NPTU) Language Center** will be central in providing housing, language assistance, and logistical support for the educational program in Taiwan
- **GOOD Travel** houses the program and provides logistical support from the US, will cooperate with UF to award university credit for the summer program

## 4. Research Questions

- How do we incorporate aspects or concepts of sustainability into a study abroad program to ensure we contribute to the community and people of the target country?
- How can we help this indigenous organization and/or community meet its goals through the development and implementation of this study abroad program?
- What considerations need to guide our curriculum?
- How will this program include and benefit the greater community?

## 5. Methodological Approach

**Generative Curriculum Model** Field work for this practicum was approached using an adaptive participatory approach first modeled by Canadian researchers working to build primary school curriculum in collaboration with First Nations' communities. This approach prioritizes collaboration driven by the target communities and uncovering new knowledge through dialogue and reflection.

## 6. Methods

- **Group meeting**



In the group meeting, Youth in Timur members discuss the meaning of cultural sustainability and their role in addressing it in their community



- **Social Transect Mapping**



During a "transect" with YIT member, we visit a classroom where the students are learning a traditional language

- **Ethnographic Observation and Participant Observation**



## 7. Results

- **Many Voices, One Story**, research questions and methods were designed to elicit the telling of a story, creating context and aiding in collaboration (see photo narrative)
- **Study Abroad/Service Learning Program**, the first group of students will be visiting Taiwan in the Summer of 2020

## 8. Recommendations

### 1. Best Practices for collaboratively creating cross-cultural educational programs

- Do not rely on universals or generalizations, develop a strong **contextual understanding** of the history, culture, needs and goals of the community both before and during fieldwork
- Let **collaboration** be driven by the community, make it easy for them to generate topics and materials that resonate with them, follow their lead
- Maintain and improve the program over time through **reflection**; collaboration does not stop once the program is designed

### 2. Culture in the SDGs

- Culture should be a central consideration in development initiatives, those that build on a foundation of culture are more relevant, more easily adopted, and more enduring

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