

## **HOW TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION CAN ENRICH LIVES – CROSS-CULTURAL LEARNING IN NORTHERN VIETNAM**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Transformative education can be a lofty goal. It implies that the individual is transformed in their thinking and actions to be able to generate positive outcomes for themselves and others. Such transformations may involve shifts in consciousness, changes in relationships, and envisioning alternative approaches and possibilities for social justice. Some of this can be achieved through knowledge building, however the real change occurs through application in the real world. Capilano University places emphasis on experiential learning so that graduates can apply competencies to make positive change in the communities locally and around the globe. On occasion, these changes are transformational – both for the learners involved and the communities that they serve. This paper addresses ingredients of transformative education with specific attention toward the work that Capilano University and Hanoi Open University have been conducting with the villages of Lao Chai and Taphin in the Sapa region of Vietnam. This work has changed virtually every individual that has participated and has helped the villages in their quest to grow from poverty to prosperity in the new tourism economy of the region.