

IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING THE ECOLOGY IN EDUCATION

by:

Jieceryl B. Golias

Teacher I, Samal National High School

Ecological education, as defined by Ganderton (2021), is the process of cultivating an understanding of the current environment while considering the needs and demands of the people within it. The dimensions and parameters of ecological education have evolved over time, making it an adaptable and dynamic spectrum of information and learning. It aims to provide people with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions and judgments and to understand the context based on ecological education theories and definitions.

In addition, ecological education focuses on the interactions between humans and the environment, which is increasingly recognized in the field of education as essential for creating a formal yet supportive learning environment. According to Sang-O (2007), the study of ecology reveals that life creates the conditions for its own existence. Therefore, to fully comprehend the ecology of education, it is essential to first understand the individuals at the grassroots level and their interactions, as this provides an opportunity to clearly delineate each role and its significance in the educational community.

During my three years as a teacher in a public school, I faced numerous adjustments and challenges in my professional journey, both mentally and emotionally. In my first year of teaching, my main focus was on effectively imparting my subject matter to the students. I dedicated myself to developing strategies, techniques, and approaches to ensure that my students understood the material or the lesson. While I was successful in this aspect, I failed to recognize the importance of engaging with my

colleagues. This lack of interaction and communication led to a disconnect, and I found myself isolated from my peers. This experience taught me the significance of not only connecting with my students but also fostering relationships with my fellow educators.

As a prospective educational leader, it is essential to grasp the delicate balance of interaction and communication within your educational community – the school. The scope of your educational environment extends beyond the confines of the classroom to encompass the entire system. Every individual in the institution or organization should be interconnected like a web, as we are integral parts of a spectrum striving to deliver not only quality education to students but also to establish a healthy and supportive system for all members of the institution.

References:

Ganderton, P. (2021). *Ecological Education*. Oxford Bibliographies,

10.1093/OBO/9780199830060-0235.

Sang-O, L. (2007). Educational perspectives in the ecological paradigm – possibilities and limitations. *Asia Pacific Education Review*, 8(2), 194–204.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/bf03029255>