

A Study of Cultural Ecology for Small-Sized School in Thailand

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Abstract

The objective of research was to study components of cultural ecology for small-sized schools in Thailand. Using descriptive research on 2 steps which were 1) study 12 documents about cultural ecology for small-sized schools and 2) confirm the components by the 7 experts in educational administration and measurement and evaluation.

The research found that:

The components of cultural ecology for small-sized schools consisted of 5 main components included: 1) Shared-values that consisted of social value and individual value 2) Organizational communication with 2 components, they are: Internal communication, External communication 3) Knowledge and local wisdom has 4 components described are knowledge, skills, believe and behavior, 4) Environment of Learning with 3 components, included collaborative learning, integration and climate, and 5) Adaptation to the environment with 3 components, Effective, Relationship and Change.

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INTRODUCTION

Education is a very important factor that will improve the quality of the population. The trend of Thai education in the future shows that Thai people will have average education level. While the inequality in educational opportunities would have decreased for people to have the opportunity to receive higher quality of educational services. However, education gives importance to strengthening the foundations of the people to participate in the management of education system. To be an educational arrangement that can be integrated, especially in small-sized schools is essential needed to occur in Thailand.

Cultural development is an important foundation that should be started. It should get involved in the current development model of

education and be able to connect to development in other dimensions as the priority [1]. The future condition that educational phenomena alert the impact of education is determining. The level of awareness towards the importance of quality of education is the most needed. Hence, it will affect to other dimensions.

When it combined the views of cultural dimensions and other dimensions, will result elements of sustainable development in which there are forms of sustainability that also consider quality of education. Cultural ecology is one of them that as an indication of the identity of different areas, both physical and cultural. Development of education in terms of teaching and learning should be considered based on what is the identity of that area.

Development that considers the cultural costs and natural costs that exist in that area of school is the basis for various development.

Therefore, ecological culture is important to the area of development because it is a concept that allow school to enhance quality of teaching and learning [2]. It is based on understanding the area, both physical understanding and cultural understanding of people. The impact also of ecological culture is hoped as appropriate to adjust the environment as it should be to learn and to live together in the safe environment. The argument was made that to change human's environment and use resources for sufficient consumption is through proper development of education [3].

The notion of cultural ecology that happen school will understand both the understanding of the culture of people around and the path of appropriateness in changing the environment from school [4]. The importance of space in the natural and cultural environment means that every development has given impact into localization which can be understood from cultural ecology.

The researcher is, therefore, interested in studying of cultural ecology development in

small-sized schools in Thailand. Due to the basic education will give opportunity to have changes for the future development. The development is likely to be in the right direction. In response to the identity of each area that is very different to each other. The comprehensiveness of cultural ecology will lead the development of small-sized schools into the effective in the operation in the future, especially teaching and learning development as the impact of it is very essential.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

To study components of cultural ecology for small-sized schools in Thailand.

LITTERATURES REVIEW

Cultural ecology

From the study of the components of cultural ecology according to the concept [1], [2], [3], [4], [5], [6], [7], [8], [9], [10],[11], and [12]. Researchers can synthesize components used as a form of cultural ecology for small-sized schools, 6 components are as follows: 1) Shared-values 2) Organizational communication 3) Knowledge and Local wisdom 4) Environment of Learning 5) Adaptation to the environment 6) Joint interaction as illustrated in table 1.

Table 1 The result of synthesis of cultural ecology concepts, document, and related research in order to determine the cultural ecology for small-sized schools.

components	Yoss Santosombat (2001)	Manat Suwan (2002)	Chanan Wongwipak (2016)	Steward, J. (1955)	Linjie Chou (2009)	Van de Vliert et al., (2009)	Flinn and Alexander, (1982)	Mesoudi et al., (2003)	Bird and Fang, (2009)	Berry, (2004)	Bada (1995)	Tamika P. La Salle, et al., (1995)	Include
1. Shared-values	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	8
2. Organizational	✓		✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	7
3. Knowledge and Local	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓		✓		6

4. Environment of	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	9
5. Adaptation to the		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	8
6. Joint interaction								✓			✓	✓	3

From table 1, the researchers analyzed the key components of cultural ecology to the concept of the property's concepts. Researchers have used the criteria to consider components that correspond to the sample context and consider the frequency of 6 or more as the priority. Hence, the components of cultural ecology consisted of 5 elements: 1) Shared values 2) Organizational communication 3) Knowledge and Local wisdom 4) Environment of Learning and 5) Adaptation to the environment. The researchers have taken the analysis components in step 1, offering a qualified qualification to confirm the components in step 2.

Scope of Research

The scope of this study is as follows:

This study is to analyze and synthesize documents and research about cultural ecology are as follows:

Shared-values consist of;

- 1) Social Value
- 2) Individual Value

Organizational communication consists of;

- 1) Internal communication

External communication Local knowledge and wisdom consist of;

- 1) Knowledge
- 2) Skills
- 3) Believe
- 4) Behavior

Environment of Learning consists of;

- 1) Collaborative Learning
- 2) Integration
- 3) Climate

Adaptation to the environment consists of;

- 1) Effective

2) Relationship

3) Change

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research was a descriptive research intended to study the components of cultural ecology for small-sized schools in Thailand. This research was divided into 2 steps. Step 1 was to develop research tools by studying analyzing and synthesizing from relevant theories, researches and documents. Step 2 was to confirm the primary factors, secondary factors and indicators of learning culture by 7 experts in educational administration and measurement and evaluation, and then verify cultural ecology primary factors, secondary factors and indicators that are appropriate in the context of small-sized schools in Thailand. The 7 experts were whom in the field of educational administration, and the measurement and evaluation. The research was about to confirm the cultural ecology according to the researchers that had been analyzed in first step. Using assessment tools to confirm the evaluation checklist was the process of distribution of instrument. And open-ended questions were used in order to provide more ideas.

V. RESEARCH RESULT

The component of cultural ecology for small-sized schools in Thailand were five main components: 1) Shared-values, there are two components of it, they are Social Value and Individual Value, 2) Organizational communication with two components, such as Internal communication and External communication, 3) Knowledge and local wisdom has four components which were knowledge, skills, believe and behavior, 4) Environment of Learning with three components, involved Collaborative Learning, Integration and Climate, and 5) Adaptation to the environment with three

components, Effective, Relationship and Change. indicator of cultural ecology by using thematical
The researchers synthesized components and an content analysis and frequency.

Table 2 Component synthesized of cultural ecology concepts, document, and related research in order to determine the cultural ecology for small-sized schools in Thailand.

Primary Factors	Secondary Factors	Indicators
Shared-values	Social Value	1. members of society agree to be good 2. members of society would like to behave in 3. has been carefully scrutinized
	Individual Value	4. people always practice often 5. people can openly accept 6. It is the decision to choose what they want 7. that people worship
Organizational communication	Internal communication	1. Communication between director and personnel 2. Communication between personnel in organization
	External communication	3. Communication between director and parent 4. Communication between Personnel and parent 5. Communication between parent and parent
Knowledge and Local wisdom	knowledge	1. experience 2. Inheritance from generation to generation 3. Education
	skills	4. problem-solving 5. Adaptation 6. Learning for survival
	believe	7. Beliefs about superstition 8. Religion
	behavior	9. Way of life in existence 10. A balance between people and society and environment
Environment of Learning	Collaborative Learning	1. Learning within the community 2. Exchange of knowledge 3. Cultural learning
	Integration	4. Implementation 5. Troubleshooting
	Climate	6. Conducive to learning 7. Relative type
Adaptation to the environment	Effective	1. Behavior in response to the environment 3. Human behavior affects the environment
	Relationship	4. Must have mutual understanding with the general environment 5. <u>The relationship between ecology culture and population</u>
	Change	6. There is intelligent adaptation of the population to the environment. 7. There is a constant change. 8. Have modified the environment to be in line with their

From table 2, the components of the cultural ecology as shown in figure 1

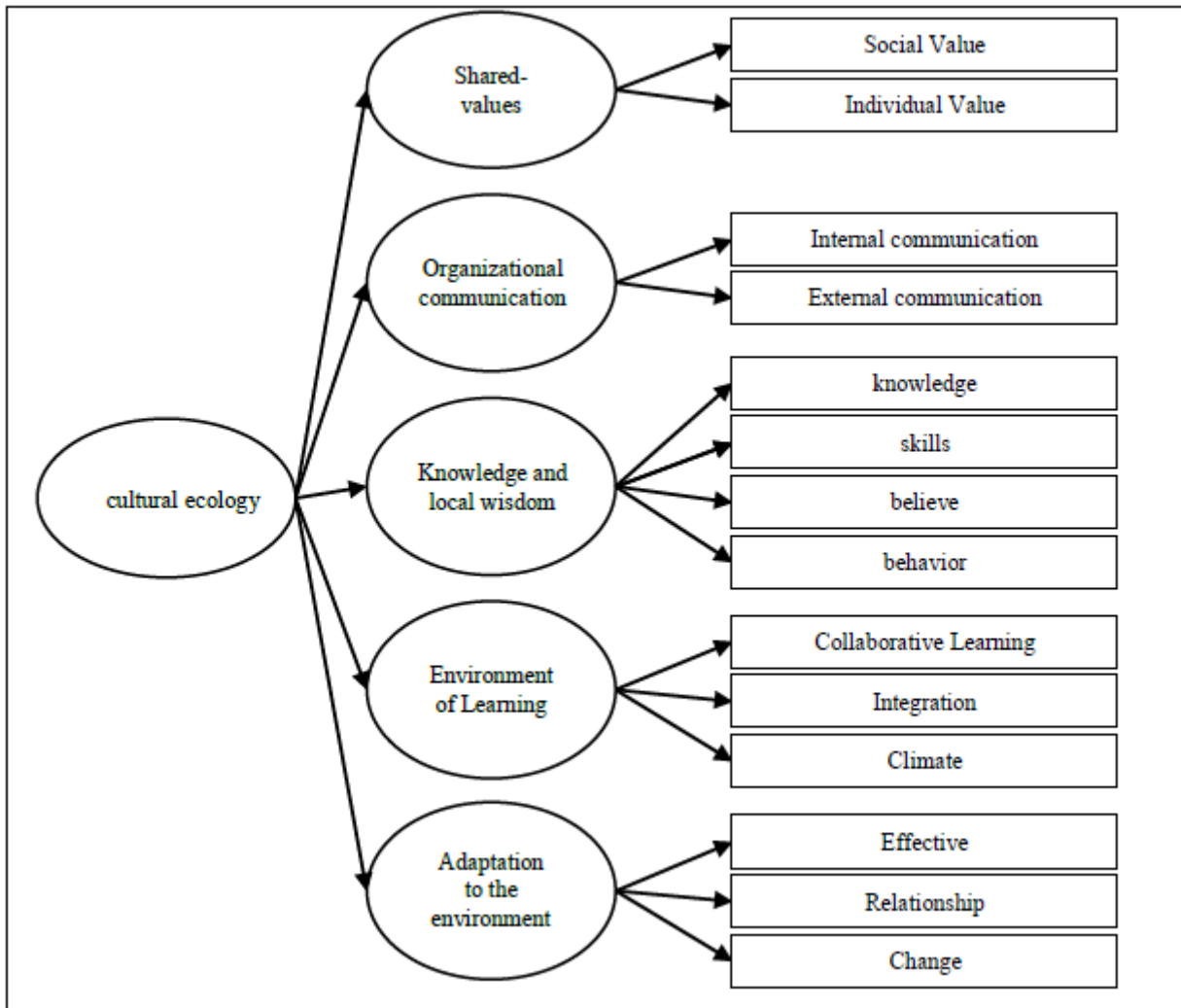


Figure 1 Model of cultural ecology for small-sized schools.

VI. DISCUSSION

The result of components of cultural ecology for small-sized schools in Thailand comprised five main components, they were

1) Shared-values, there are two components of it, they are Social Value and Individual Value, 2) Organizational communication with two components, such as Internal communication and External communication, 3) Knowledge and local wisdom has four components which were knowledge, skills, believe and behavior, 4) Environment of Learning with three components, involved Collaborative Learning, Integration and Climate, and 5) Adaptation to the environment with

three components, Effective, Relationship and Change. In accordance with the British Columbia Ministry of Education, which has given importance to the development of sustainable education as known that the development of sustainable education has become a concept globally. Procedures must relate to living and interaction with the environment. In the context of Thai Basic Education, there is still a dispute in academic circles occurred, while the concept of sustainable development is one of the important options that school should turn on. Because, the impact of implementation of cultural ecology will happen to current economic activities as the human resource become the output of education. Therefore, it is needed to implement education that consider other

alternative ideas such as cultural ecology. It is to create sustainability for what being taught in the school and what students will do after graduating from school. Hence, this research gave information of components of cultural ecology that will measure and indicate the phenomena to study.

By understanding the components of cultural ecology will stimulate to the the relationship between environmental education and sustainable development. In order to occur education reform in terms of impact of education towards environment, it is important to study the basic important such the components of cultural ecology.

Recommendations

Recommendation for implementation

1. School administrator with similar context can bring the cultural ecology for other small-sized schools to be a guide to enhance the development culture in schools.

Recommendation for next research

1. The future research must explore the need of development of cultural ecology to design model that is for small-sized school, according to the results of this study, as information that can be used to enhance the cultural ecology in the small-sized school.

2. There should be a study and development of cultural ecology form considering the specific challenges in the specific context and condition besides small-sized school.

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