

Achievements and Challenges on teacher training of Ecohealth education for teachers of Donkhamxang and Bankeun Teacher Training College in Lao PDR

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➤ Introduction / Background and Objectives

Ecohealth is a health concept which aims to sustain harmony between socio-economic development, environment/ecosystem, human lifestyle/livelihood, and human health. Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) in Laos introduced Ecohealth education tentatively to teacher training colleges (TTCs) in Luang Prabang, Savannakhet and Pakse in 2018. From February 2020, MOES will introduce Ecohealth education to all TTCs as part of official curriculum. In order to disseminate Ecohealth education in TTCs successfully, trainings for teachers were implemented in TTCs in Donkhamxang and Bankeun. This study aimed to clarify achievements and challenges of these trainings.

➤ Methodology

We conducted trainings for teachers of Donkhamxang and Bankeun TTCs and National University of Laos on Ecohealth education in November 2018. (Pic.① - ②). The trainings consisted of lectures about contents of Ecohealth education and a workshop of Ecohealth mapping activities (Pic.③ - ⑥), in which participants were divided into groups, discussed in each group and made a map about relationships between socio-economic development, environment/ecosystem, human lifestyle/livelihood and human health. At the end of the trainings, we conducted a survey by using a self-administered questionnaire, which comprises questions to check participants' levels of 1) understanding about the training contents, 2) understanding about teaching points of Ecohealth education, 3) confidence of teaching Ecohealth, 4) recognition of the importance of teaching Ecohealth, 5) interest on Ecohealth education, and 6) impressions of the training. As for the questions from 1) to 5), result of each teacher was classified into 5 levels: Excellent, Good, Average, Below-average, and Poor.

➤ Results

We collected data from 27 participants. Over 70 % teachers answered "Excellent" for 1) understanding about the contents and 4) recognition of the importance. On the other hand, only 7% answered "Excellent" for 2) understanding about teaching points, and only 19% answered "Excellent" regarding 3) confidence. According to the report of 6) impressions of the training, some teachers answered that they want to know more about example of teaching method and teaching plan.

In particular, regarding the mapping activities, about 90% teachers answered "Excellent" or "Good" for understanding about contents of mapping activity. In addition, teachers appreciated the usefulness of mapping activity for deepening understanding about Ecohealth concept.

To improve teacher's confidence and understanding about teaching points, providing teacher's guide is necessary. Besides, lesson plan making and lesson study should be included in future trainings.

➤ Conclusions and Policy implications

Teachers understood the contents of training and recognized the importance. However, levels of the confidence and understanding of teaching points were low. Ecohealth Mapping activity is useful for deepening understanding about Ecohealth concept. Providing teacher's guide is needed, and lesson plan making and lesson study are required in future trainings.



Teacher training on Ecohealth education in National University of Laos ①



Teacher training on Ecohealth education in National University of Laos ②



Lecture of Ecohealth concept ③



Ecohealth mapping activity ④



Ecohealth mapping activity ⑤



Ecohealth mapping activity ⑥

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