

# **Ecological Education for Community towards Zero Waste and Sustainable Cities**

Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> 2015

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# 1. The Gap in way of Life under Centralism and Local Autonomy

## ❖ Centralism :

- Aimed to meet the requirements of major industrial and bureaucratic organizations (mass production and consumption within mental conformity and passivity)
- Adaptation to centralized political system, losing sensitivity to local peculiarities and particularities (relinquish responsibility to locality, weaken cooperation bet. individuals, leading to significant social and ecological damage)

- People lose intimate relationship w/ surroundings
  - No interest to use local resources wisely
  - Locality : spot for good imported and garbage generated spot for stopping in social sense  
(no community activity, no frequent contact bet. people and accordingly getting into a world of their own)
- Consequences : disastrous ( w/o strong and vital civil society, civil void of stalled decision making)

## 2. Ecological Education (New Concept Education)

❖ Effect of education : both by its content and by the way it is delivered

❖ Formal education :

- Fulfill the needs of centralized society  
( reinforcing centralized logic, restricting chance to draw on experiences of daily life)

❖ Bureaucratized education :

- Shapes human experiences in accordance w/ political, economical and cultural priorities of the state  
(no particularity of regions, no singularity of individual)
- One sided relationship bet. school teacher and student

- ❖ Bring People's education closer to their needs : to transfer resources and decision making from the capital to the region and local community
- ❖ Ecological education :
  - Must have close tie with local community life
  - Programs fitted to local circumstances
  - Stimulate a demand for localized knowledge
  - Role of student and teacher not hierarchical
  - Both teacher and student gain understanding of the local and historical context of all their knowledge
  - Regain the capacity to distinguish what is important and what is not

### 3. Reviving communities

- ❖ Communities successively destabilized by political centralization, industrialization and urbanization
- ❖ Maurice Stein(1964) : “Eclipse of community” exaggerating the merits of local autonomy and non formal relationship
  - Many attempts to make the community life idyllic
  - Emphasized in ecological movement
  - Romantics : fear to lose the community forever due to modernization
  - Resistances : fear to return to pseudo community form of social organization
  - Community ideal sometimes stubborn to anything, and exclusive to the others from outside

- Local government :
  - mediating bet. the state and citizens
  - can foster the development of civil society
- Supporters of ecological movement : often stress to live in ancestral home, and sometime confine their territory where true commitment is easy to be feasible
- However, bio- regional level necessary : wider social relationship linked to the social and natural environment
- Requires more efficient use of domestic and indigenous resources and greater responsibility towards the natural and social environment

## 4. Obstacles in community Education

- Passivity among large portions of inhabitants : lack of unwillingness to join the project demanding time and energy of theirs
- Expect the politicians to take care of, make solutions for their lives ( hangover of centralization system)



## 5. Strength in Community Education

- Population is tied to a specific place  
( regional loyalty is widespread)
- Regions are rich in ecological and cultural traditions and traditional values
- Dense network of small communities enable people close and easy contact to ecological environment
- High level of homogeneity among people : no significant social segregation
- Strong ties among community people in critical situation  
(empty central treasury, crisis of welfare state)

## 6. Globalization

- ❖ Optimist : various culture in harmony, nations rich
- ❖ Pessimist : inequality and conflict in terms of economy, politics, ideology and culture
  - Multinational industry : depletion of country and regions including exploitation of natural resources and labor market, let the government lose the control of its natural resource and employment of labor
  - Exclusion of foreign matter : from individuals, to entire locality
    - May trigger the close tie between communities and adult education in community becomes important

## 7. Two ways to cope with influence of globalization

### 1. Centralism :

- Social assistance to people in need
- Being more dependent on bureaucratic (welfare) machine
- Traditional assistance and redistribution not helpful to escape from the situation
- Requires people to relinquish all social links

## 2. Local Autonomy :

- Economic relation just one aspect of exchange bet. people (social, cultural, ecological as well)
- Create new, wider, and more satisfying form of solidarity
- Market of both wealth/consumption and employment/ no exclusion
- Homogeneous society, less economic margin among people due to tight social networks of informal nature, such as family

## 8. Regional NGOs for Environmental Concern in Daejeon, Korea



## ❖ Ecological Exploration (Wild Flower)

- To visit W.P and observe the seasonal wild flowers, ecological disturbing plant , invasive species plant, and to educate the survival tactic of plant and insect
- Open to Daejean Citizen





## ❖ Kungang River Monitoring

- To investigate and discuss the ecological disturbance in the river ( Water and Sediment) and to educate the citizens how to cope with



## 2. Coalition of Green Daejeon and Chungnam

### ❖ Gapcheon Tributary Festival

- To display the photos of urban forest, pilgrimage to Gapcheon tributary, educate the importance of tributary in urban development





## ❖ University Student Activity

- Labor Support for Agricultural Village
- Exhibition for Community Design  
(Community Ecology, Culture, Environment, History Etc.)
- Eco-School Operation, Scare Crow Festival, Village turning into Museum



## ❖ Village Energy Coordinator Education

- Solar Energy, Waste to Energy  
(Biomass, Livestock Feces, Solid Waste)
- Segregation at the Source of solid waste, Storage, Utilization
- Energy Conservation in Village



### 3. Daejeon Council for Sustainable Development



## 4. Daejeon Coalition for Consumers



# Thank you

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