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| Journal Name: | [**Asian Journal of Education and Social Studies**](https://journalajess.com/index.php/AJESS) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_AJESS\_139602** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **ENHANCING GRADE 8 STUDENTS’ UNDERSTANDING OF ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY-ENHANCED ACTIVE LEARNING (TEAL)** |
| Type of the Article | **Original Research Article** |

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| PART 1: Comments | | |
|  | Reviewer’s comment **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | This study offers a valuable contribution to educational research by exploring the implementation of Technology-Enhanced Active Learning (TEAL) in a secondary school science classroom in the Philippines—a context with limited prior research. Its focus on ecosystem understanding, student engagement, and the integration of digital tools reflects current pedagogical priorities. The findings can inform instructional design and encourage scalable innovations in STEM education in developing countries. | The useful information in our manuscript can be useful to many, including those educators and researchers. The manuscript shows how our young students can better and clearly understand and become more interested in some challenging science topics especially ecosystems by just simply combining technology and active learning. Of course, by focusing on Grade 8 students, our study truly sheds light on a critical educational stage where curiosity and critical thinking of students can truly flourish. The findings may lead to more effective teaching strategies and promote wider use of technology in the classroom. |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | Yes, the title is clear and appropriately reflects the core elements of the research: target group (Grade 8), content area (ecosystems), and instructional approach (TEAL). | Yes it is clear, informative, and well-aligned with the content of the study. The title effectively communicates the target audience which is our Grade 8 students, the subject matter also was stated (ecosystems), and the instructional approach was there (TEAL), making it easy for readers to understand the focus of the research. |
| Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here. | The abstract is comprehensive, outlining the study’s purpose, methodology, key findings, and conclusions. However, it can benefit from minor refinement for clarity and to highlight the sample size limitation.  Suggested revision: “Although the sample size was limited to 10 students, findings revealed...” | Thank you for your comment. We are glad to apply your feedback for the benefit of all. We are also happy that your journal is accessible and the editors are approachable. In that way we can make our manuscript clear and ready to be published. |
| Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here. | Yes, the manuscript is scientifically sound. It clearly presents a theoretical foundation, a robust quasi-experimental design, appropriate data analysis techniques (descriptive statistics, correlation, regression), and meaningful interpretation of results.  That said, the **small sample size (n=10)** and **short intervention duration (2 weeks)** should be acknowledged more critically in the limitations. Additionally, the **repetition** of one objective in Section 2 (Objectives) should be corrected. | Yes, the manuscript is scientifically correct. Because the study is based on a clear research question. Aside from that, the appropriate methods used to measure students' understanding of ecosystems are presented. Therefore it is scientifically correct. |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | Yes. The manuscript includes numerous references, many of which are recent (2020–2024), covering key domains such as TEAL, student engagement, and science education. However, the inclusion of more **local or Southeast Asian studies** would strengthen its contextual relevance.  Suggested addition:   * Domingo, M., & Gonzales, L. (2022). “Digital Learning in Southeast Asia: Localizing Global Practices.” *Asia Pacific Education Review*. | Yes, the references in the manuscript are recent. It follows the APA format. |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | The manuscript is well written and mostly free from major grammatical errors. Some minor edits are recommended for conciseness and clarity. For example:   * **“...a student engagement survey and observation of class participation.”** could be reworded as: “...a survey on student engagement and classroom observation.” | Yes, English is suitable in writing the manuscript since it is considered as a universal language. By using English as a medium, we can communicate and express our thoughts soundly where everyone can understand without confusion or doubt. |
| Optional/General comments | The paper is timely, well-organized, and relevant. The use of TEAL is effectively aligned with constructivist theory and supported by a solid review of literature. However, the following improvements are recommended:   * Avoid repetition of objectives (Section 2). * Strengthen discussion on limitations and how they affect generalizability. * Improve coherence in the **Recommendations** section by categorizing future research, teacher practice, and policy suggestions more distinctly.   This manuscript is suitable for minor revision. The research is original, scientifically sound, and relevant to the journal's scope. Suggested improvements pertain to clarity, objective consistency, and expanded discussion of limitations. | Thank you for giving us enough time to do some minor revisions in our manuscript. We are delighted from the bottom of our heart. We rest assured that all the revisions will be revised as soon as possible. |

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| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s comment** *(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)* | No, there’s none. |