Early Childhood Education Teacher Resilience in Rural Areas: Concept, Improvement Efforts and Urgency

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Abstract

The success of early childhood education in rural areas cannot be separated from teacher resilience. The research aims to explore scientific insights into the urgency, influencing factors and efforts to increase the resilience of early childhood teachers in rural areas. The study used the Systematic Literature Review method by applying the PRISMA Protocol (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis. The results show that early childhood teachers' resilience is needed to support their critical role in providing quality early childhood education amid unique challenges such as limited resources and isolation. Factors that are at the core of teacher resilience include emotion regulation, impulse control, optimism, causal analysis, empathy, self-efficacy, and "reaching out". Efforts to increase their resilience include a range of strategies, including providing adequate support networks, professional development opportunities, and access to mental health resources. By addressing these influencing factors and implementing targeted interventions, we can empower early childhood teachers in rural areas to effectively meet challenges and maintain high-quality teaching practices for rural children.

Keyword: Resilience, Teachers, Early Childhood Education, Rural

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1. Introduction

Teacher resilience is a fundamental aspect of the teaching profession, characterized by the ability of educators to maintain their dedication in teaching despite challenging ups and downs (Schussler et al., 2018). This involves teachers' ability to adapt to a variety of environments, improve their skills in dealing with obstacles, and maintain their commitment to teaching practice (Xie, 2021; Gu, 2014). Resilient teachers are not only able to adapt to change but are also able to survive the worst conditions, which underscores the importance of resilience in ensuring positive student learning outcomes, as well as improving retention and well-being (Beltman et al., 2016).

In rural areas, early childhood education teachers face unique challenges that require a high level of resilience in order to perform their roles effectively (Ebersöhn, 2014). The condition of ECCE teachers in rural areas is indeed poor, as evidenced by the various challenges they face. Teachers in rural areas often face obstacles such as limited access to resources, inadequate training, inadequate facilities, and isolation (Rojo-ramos et al., 2022; Heda, 2022; Couples &; Melda yeni, 2022). These challenges can impact teacher well-being, job satisfaction, and ultimately, the quality of education provided to early childhood (Mun et al., 2022; Nasution, 2021).

The study of teacher resilience highlights the dynamic nature of adaptability and dealing with the worst stressful conditions teachers face, which are influenced by interactions between individuals and their environment over time (Li et al., 2019). Factors such as stress management, emotion regulation, and relational trust are critical in fostering teacher resilience (Xie, 2021; Li et al., 2019). In addition, the term we know as "teacher resilience" is closely related to their ability to utilize professional skills effectively, engage in reflective practice, and find purpose in their work (Leroux &; Théorêt, 2014; Ross et al., 2023). Understanding and improving teacher resilience is critical to addressing burnout, encouraging teacher retention, and ultimately improving student performance (Hong, 2012; Ross et al., 2023). By fostering resilience through mindfulness interventions, supportive environments, and reflective practice, educators can navigate the challenges of their profession and continue to have a positive impact on students' lives and well-being.

Gu & Day (2013) challenge the simplistic view that resilience is defined as simply bouncing back quickly from difficult or traumatic events. They argue that resilience is a complex concept and has many aspects, thus suggesting that resilience can be fostered through the interaction between one's personal resources and the support provided by one's environment (Peixoto et al., 2020). In particular, research conducted by Gu & Day (2013) shows that teachers' resilience is not innate or consistent, but is influenced by the personal, social, and organizational contexts in which they work.

The OECD (2019) reports that there are global concerns about teacher reductions, especially in developed countries. In western OECD countries, teacher retention and reduction are in crisis with a massive exodus taking place in most countries. For example, a UK survey of more than 4,000 teachers documented that 79% of schools reported having difficulty recruiting staff, and 43% of existing teachers plan to leave the profession within the next five years (Boon, 2020: 1). Meanwhile, Australian media report that 40% of graduate teachers in Australia quit within the first five years of entering their profession (Molloy, 2019), reflecting an ongoing and seemingly difficult problem teachers are at the start of their careers to overcome (Gallant & Riley, 2016: 563).

Mansfield et al (2012) conducted a study of 200 tenure and early career teachers. They teachers were asked about "what qualities define a strong teacher?". This research focuses on identifying protective factors that increase teacher resilience. The results highlight four main dimensions of protective factors: those related to the teaching profession itself (such as self-

efficacy beliefs and pedagogical competence), emotional aspects (including positive emotions and emotional regulation), social aspects (such as supportive relationships with students and co-workers), and motivational aspects (such as having goals in work) (e.g., intrinsic motivation, perseverance, expectations, and goals). These findings laid the groundwork for the development of scales that capture diverse traits of resilience in the teaching profession.

Growing concerns regarding increased levels of teacher burnout, teacher turnover, and teacher dissatisfaction have prompted an increase in research focusing on teacher resilience in recent times (Gratacós et al., 2023). Investigations related to teacher resilience conducted by various researchers have investigated various factors that contribute to resilience, which include personal attributes, social support systems, coping strategies, and professional resources (Brouskeli et al., 2018; Suryaratri et al., 2020; Diasti, 2021). A better understanding of these factors can empower educators and policymakers to design interventions and strategies aimed at improving teacher well-being, job satisfaction, and ultimately, student learning outcomes (Van Wingerden & Poell, 2019; Daniilidou et al., 2020; Cho et al., 2021).

Learning teacher resilience is important because effective and resilient educators have a positive impact on their students' academic performance. Teacher resilience, along with skills, abilities, and other attributes, forms a mosaic of educational support that is essential to student success in school. This is even more important for early childhood education teachers in rural areas with limited resources, where teachers serve as key facilitators of effective learning in developing countries (Ebersöhn, 2014).

Seeing teacher resilience as a concept that bridges the complex context of early childhood education practices and the individuals who work in them, numerous studies have identified the importance of teacher resilience and recommended that teacher resilience play an important role in teaching and education (Ainsworth &; Oldfield, 2019; Gu, 2014; Hiver, 2018; Liu & Chu, 2022; Mansfield et al., 2018). To teach best from time to time, teachers always need resilience (Gu &; Day, 2013: 22). The most important question that needs to be solved is how teacher resilience can be developed and maintained. Resilience recognized by Higgins (Kowitarttawatee &; Limphaibool, 2022: 2) is a static condition; can be encouraged and developed.

This research examines the urgency of ECCE teacher reciprocity in rural areas, which also includes factors that influence teacher resilience and efforts to increase teacher resilience. Examining the urgency of teacher resilience in rural areas helps to understand how the challenges of rural environments affect teachers' mental well-being, so as to design more effective support strategies. A deep understanding of factors such as access to resources, social support, and workload can guide efforts to increase teacher resilience, strengthen their capacity to deal with pressure and maintain teaching quality in diverse rural environments.

2. Method

This research is a research with the *Systematic Literature Review* (SLR) method, which is a methodical and structured approach to review existing literature on certain research topics or questions (Rushiana et al., 2023). SLR involves systematically searching, selecting, critically appraising, and synthesizing relevant studies to provide a comprehensive picture of the current state of knowledge in a particular field (Stracke, 2021).

The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (*PRISMA*) protocol is implemented during various stages of conducting systematic literature reviews. The PRISMA Protocol is a set of guidelines designed to improve transparency and quality of reporting in systematic reviews and meta-analyses. These guidelines help ensure that systematic reviews are conducted in a rigorous and transparent manner, allowing for reproducible results and aiding critical assessment of the review process (Page et al., 2021).

The systematic literature review process involves several steps, including: (a) defining the research question, (b) collecting data, (c) assessing the suitability of the data, (d) analyzing and interpreting relevant data, and (e) compiling and presenting its findings (Purba & Raya, 2021). The search is based on data sources on *Google Schoolar* using *publish or perish* in the range of 2000-2024. In this systematic literature review, there are a total of 14 national journals with the keyword "ECCE teacher resilience" and 13 international journals with the keyword "teacher resilience in early childhood education". Once done with the search stage, the next step is to gather relevant journal literature. The appropriate journal literature is carefully selected, then analyzed. The results of journal literature selection and analysis are then conveyed in research discussions to respond to research questions or achieve research objectives.

3. Result

Based on a search on the Google Schoolar data source using publish or perish, there were a total of 27 articles, and as many as 10 articles were reviewed in depth and comprehensively with a systematic literature review approach. The results are reported as follows:

Table 1. Literature Review

No	Penulis	Tahun	Judul	Jurnal	Deskripsi
1.	Mirna	2019	Resilience of	HAPPINESS	Resilience not only refers to a
	Wahyu		Honorary	(Journal of	person's ability to overcome
	Agustina &		ECCE	Psychology	adversity and rise from
	Germino		Teachers	and Islamic	failure, but also includes
	Wahyu			Science)	aspects of "reaching out" or
	Broto				the ability to see the positive
					side and strive for success
					and chances of success. This
					ability is the result of a
					combination of factors and
					components discussed earlier,
					as well as from the practice of
					dealing with failure rather
					than avoiding it, as well as
					choosing to live without
					achievement in order to
					pursue something. Factors
					that are at the core of
					resilience, such as emotion
					regulation, impulse control,
					optimism, causal analysis,
					empathy, self-efficacy, and
					"reaching out", are expected

No	Penulis	Tahun	Judul	Jurnal	Deskripsi
					to be possessed by honorary ECCE teachers who interact directly with students, parents, or guardians and their families.
2.	Fauzia Bella Cahya Ramdhania & Erna Susiati2	2021	Resilience of PAUD Teachers in Bandung City during the Pandemic	Jurnal Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini	The majority of ECCE teachers in Bandung City show a high level of resilience, reflecting their ability to overcome the challenges of learning from home (BDR) during the COVID-19 pandemic. Resilience here refers to the quality or ability of a person to bounce back when faced with a difficult situation.
3.	Alucyana, Yenni Yunita, Restu Nabila Ria Safitri, & Syarifah Fahriah	(2024)	ECCE teachers' resilience is seen from emotional regulation, age and length of service in inclusive schools	aṣ-ṣibyān Jurnal Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini	Resilience is very important for ECCE teachers in inclusive schools, as evidenced by research findings showing that emotional regulation, age, and length of service have a significant effect on ECCE teacher resilience. Specifically, 75.1% of ECCE teachers' resilience is influenced by emotion regulation, and a similar percentage is influenced by age in inclusive school environments. It is recommended for teachers to foster resilience in teaching and handling children with special needs, regardless of emotional regulation, age, or length of teaching experience.
4.	Devi Risma & Nurlita	2015	The relationship of psychological well-being to the performance of ECCE teachers In Pekanbaru City	Educhild	The psychological well-being of ECCE teachers in Pekanbaru is moderate, while their performance reaches a very high level. There was no correlation between psychological well-being and the performance of ECCE teachers in the city. A

No	Penulis	Tahun	Judul	Jurnal	Deskripsi
No	Triana Indrawati	Tahun 2019	The Effect of Resilience and Religiosity on Psychological Well-Being in Teachers in ROB Disaster-Prone ECCE	Jurnal Al-Athfaal	motivational boost is needed to improve the psychological well-being of ECCE teachers so that they continue to strive to maintain good achievements, while still focusing on the achievements they have achieved. Subsequent research suggested paying more attention to other factors that can affect psychological well-being, including external factors such as cultural conditions, family environment, society, and socioeconomic conditions, as well as internal factors such as emotional, intellectual, motivational, and problem-solving abilities. It can be seen that there is a positive impact of the level of resilience and the level of religiosity on psychological well-being in teachers in early childhood prone to tidal disasters, reaching 83.1%. These findings suggest that the higher the level of resilience and religiosity, the more likely the psychological well-being of teachers in early childhood disasters is likely to increase. For teachers who have low or moderate psychological well-being, it is advisable to increase their resilience and religiosity, one of which is through training in problem-solving and exploration skills as well as religious practice. Meanwhile, for teachers who have high psychological well-being, it is advisable to maintain it because this study shows that resilience and

No	Penulis	Tahun	Judul	Jurnal	Deskripsi
					psychological well-being. For future research, it is recommended to explore other variables that have the potential to contribute to the psychological well-being of teachers in tidal disasterprone ECCE, such as life experiences, optimism, sociodemographic characteristics, and levels of religiosity.
6.	Caroline F. Mansfield, Susan Beltman, Anne Price, & Andrew McConney	2012	"Don't sweat the small stuff:" Understanding teacher resilience at the chalkface	Teaching and Teacher Education	Newly graduated teachers and early career students view that teacher resilience has multidimensional and overlapping characteristics, and views on resilience can develop according to teacher career stages. To further conceptualize teacher resilience, four possible dimensions of teacher resilience (profession-related, emotional, motivational and social) are suggested and aspects within those dimensions are described. Some of the implications of the view of teacher resilience to teacher candidate education and future research will be discussed.
7.	Soon-ok Joo, & Sung-je Cho	(2019)	The Effect of Teacher Efficacy of Early Childhood Teachers on Teacher Happiness	Asia-Pacific Journal of Educational Management Research	Personal teacher efficacy has a significant influence on teachers' internal happiness. Second, ECCE teacher efficacy factors show that both general teacher efficacy and personal teacher efficacy have a significant influence on teachers' external happiness. Third, the teacher efficacy factor of early childhood teachers shows that both teacher efficacy in general and teacher efficacy in personal have a significant

No	Penulis	Tahun	Judul	Jurnal	Deskripsi
					influence on teacher self-
					regulation happiness.
8.	Sol Seo, &	2021	Mindfulness	Early	Work-related stress
	Jongil Yuh		and Resilience	Childhood	experienced by early
			as Mediators in the	Education Journal	childhood educators is
			Relationship	Journal	negatively related to emotional, verbal, and
			Between		emotional, and behavioral
			Job-Related		interactions with the child.
			Stress and		Work-related stress among
			Teacher-Child		child educators affects not
			Interaction		only educators' well-being
			Among Early		but also interactions with
			Childhood		children. Awareness and
			Educators		resilience are important
					personal resources for early
					childhood educators. Stress
					management programs that leverage awareness and
					resilience require appropriate
					implementation among early
					childhood educators to
					further improve the quality of
					ECCE service processes.
					Although mediating models
					can help us understand how
					work-related stress is
					associated with teacher-child
					interactions, future research should investigate additional
					personal variables that
					influence interactions with
					children to stress.
9.	Yi Wang	2021	Building	Frontiers in	Teacher resilience plays an
			Teachers'	Psychology	important role in teacher
			Resilience:		teaching and education
			Practical		around the world. However,
			Applications		little practical effort has been
			for Teacher Education of		made to systematically refine and (re)establish these
			China		and (re)establish these characteristics in teachers.
			Cillia		Teacher resilience is a
					dynamic process in which the
					various components must
					work interactively and
					collectively to adapt to the
					difficulties that challenge a
					system (i.e. individuals,
					communities, institutions,

No	Penulis	Tahun	Judul	Jurnal	Deskripsi
					and ecosystems). The model
					is then transformed into five
					modules namely Building
					Resilience, Relationships,
					Well-being, Taking Initiative, and Emotions with related
					topics that will be covered in
					online and regular training
					courses. This model has been
					used in a variety of
					educational contexts (USA,
					Spain, Australia, and the
					Netherlands) and the results
					are astounding as teacher
					resilience rates are increasing
					exponentially. Because, in
					this model, the responsibility of building teacher resilience
					is not only placed on one
					group, but all parties to the
					education system and its
					relationships
10.	Shaina	2019	An	Thesis:	Retaining highly qualified
	Annette		Exploration of	Northcentral	teachers is essential to ensure
	Wright		the Role of	University	a quality relationship
			Teacher Identity in		between teachers and students as this affects
			Teacher		academic success as well as
			Resilience		children's social and
			throughout		emotional development.
			Lispo County		Given that teacher identity
			Early		and resilience are relatively
			Childhood		new constructs in teacher
			Programs: A		reduction and retention
			Case Study		studies, the issue is how early childhood teachers describe
					their teacher identities at
					various points in their careers
					is relatively unexplored, and
					how, if at all, these identities
					can contribute to their
					resilience. Teachers'
					resilience, and/or
					transformation as their careers progress is still
					careers progress is still unknown. These findings
					reveal the most significant
					areas of teacher identity for
					these teachers include: (a)

No	Penulis	Tahun	Judul	Jurnal	Deskripsi
					professional and personal
					identity, (b) self-reflection,
					and (c) sense of agency,
					efficacy, and self-esteem. The
					results of these case studies
					can inform administrators
					about teacher identity
					construction and demonstrate
					promising practices in
					designing early childhood
					teacher training or mentoring
					programs to help strengthen
					their identity and help them
					become more resilient.

Mullen et al (2021) offer an action-based framework for fostering work climate, resilience, culture, coaching, and professional learning. Each action is described according to measures and one of four dimensions of resilience:

Table 2. Teacher Resilience Development

Action	Professional	Motivation	Social	Emotional
Recruiting	Hire teachers who	Look for	Hire teachers	Look for
and hiring	are organized,	teachers who	who are self-	teachers who
	reflective, and	enjoy working	motivated and	have
	passionate about	with others and	view teaching as	demonstrated
	students and	have good	a goal or calling.	the ability to
	subject matter.	relationships and	Design	persevere
	Design interview	communicators.	interview	through
	questions to	Design	questions to	challenges or
	evaluate those	interview	evaluate those	bounce back
	characteristics	questions to	characteristics	from failure.
		evaluate those		Design
		characteristics		interview
				questions to
				evaluate these
				characteristics.
Reculture	Support teachers	Make time for	Recognize the	Maintain an
	with the resources	teachers every	strengths and	open-door

Action	Professional	Motivation	Social	Emotional
	they need to be	day to	successes of	policy for
	effective in the	communicate	teachers.	teachers.
	classroom. Reduce	with colleagues.	Provide support	Provide strong
	teachers' workload	Hold social	for student	coaches and
	by not burdening	gatherings	discipline and	opportunities to
	them with tasks	before or after	parental care by	collaborate for
	that are	school to build	setting clear	teachers. Show
	unimportant or not	intimacy.	expectations	empathy and
	beneficial to			understand the
	student learning.			teacher's
				demands.
Coaching	Teacher coaches	Coach teachers	The teacher	The coaches
	communicate	observe their	trainers work to	support their
	school culture,	coachee and are	develop the	coachee's
	expectations,	observed by the	strengths of the	communication
	policies, and	coachee (peer	trainers. They	with the family.
	procedures. They	coaching). They	empower them	They advocate
	provide feedback	meet to discuss	to make	for them and
	on lesson planning	strategies that	decisions and	assist in the
	and delivery, as	can improve	provide	struggle to
	well as classroom	planning,	constructive	adapt, and
	management	management,	feedback. In the	bounce back
		and teaching.	face of	from failure, by
			challenges, they	implementing
			provide helpful	coping strategies
			guidance	
Professional	Division or	Time should be	Teachers should	
learning	School-wide	reserved for	be allowed to	development
	professional	community	attend or design	should be
	development	groups to discuss	self-	implemented to
	should be done to	challenges and	development as	protect mental
	share the	ways to	they deem	health, deal with
	information	improve.	relevant so that	difficulties,
	everyone needs.	Building	they can focus	communicate
	Social justice-	camaraderie	on improving	with parents and
	oriented	among staff is a	and developing	deal with
	professional	goal, as is	resilience.	difficult people,
	development	developing	District leaders	as well as
	raises awareness of	collective	can direct the	maintain work-
	issues such as	resilience.	focus of learning	life balance
	teachers' implied			
	racial bias.			

4. Discussion

Early childhood education teacher resilience in rural areas can be defined as the capacity of teachers to effectively utilize their emotional resources and professional skills to provide high-quality education to children despite facing various challenges such as limited resources, isolation, and lack of support systems. common in rural areas (Abu Hasan et al., 2022). This resilience includes the ability to manage stress, maintain positive emotions, and adapt to new experiences, ultimately allowing teachers to deliver effective teaching and problem-solving strategies (Kim &; Lee, 2021). Mirna Wahyu Agustina and Germino Wahyu Broto (2019) stated that the core factors of resilience include, among others: the ability to regulate emotions, control impulses, have an optimistic attitude, conduct causal analysis, show empathy, have self-confidence, and carry out effective communication or "reaching out"

In rural areas, where there may be a shortage of qualified educators and high rates of teacher reduction, resilience is an important factor for early childhood education teachers in rural areas, given the specific challenges they face. Rural teachers often face limited access to resources, isolation, and diverse student needs (Zhang et al., 2022). Resilience empowers educators to effectively navigate and overcome these barriers, enabling them to provide quality education and support to children in rural communities (Mun et al., 2022).

Resilience is often associated with decreased burnout and increased job satisfaction among teachers, which is critical to maintaining a positive learning environment (Mun et al., 2022). By fostering resilience, teachers can better manage stress, adapt to changing circumstances, and stay motivated in their roles, ultimately improving the overall educational experience for children in rural areas (Cho et al., 2021). In addition, resilience is also closely linked to competence and professional performance, demonstrating the importance of ensuring teachers can deliver high-quality education despite the challenges they face.

The resilience of ECCE teachers in rural areas is influenced by a variety of factors. Research shows that career advancement opportunities, rural environments, personal interests, and levels of implementation fidelity in curriculum delivery play an important role in shaping teachers' willingness to remain in rural areas (Clayback et al., 2023). In addition, factors such as ego resilience, work burnout, stress, lack of resources, technology awareness, and insecurity in teaching in remote areas can have an impact on teacher resilience in rural areas (Cho et al., 2021). In addition, the support provided to teachers, including self-efficacy, professional support, and work engagement, can contribute to their resilience and job satisfaction (Abu Hasan et al., 2022). In addition, factors such as public service motivation, teacher assignment mechanisms, and the importance of teacher support policies have been identified as major influences on teacher satisfaction and retention in rural schools (Mansfield et al., 2012; Mullen et al., 2021; Kowitarttawatee & Limphaibool, 2022).

Efforts to improve the resilience of rural early childhood education teachers through recruitment, recoaching, coaching, and professional learning can be strengthened by focusing on key aspects highlighted in the literature (Mullen et al., 2021). Strategies such as recruiting trainees from diverse backgrounds to reflect the communities they serve, providing incentives, and addressing specific challenges related to rural teacher shortages can contribute to building a stronger and more diverse teaching workforce (Mitchell &; Hampton, 2022). In addition,

efforts to re-nurture and nurture teachers can include improving local wisdom-based literacy culture, improving STEM education through metacognitive approaches, and emphasizing the importance of male teachers' involvement and perspectives in early childhood education (Amaliyah et al., 2022) (Chen et al., 2023).

Professional learning initiatives can further support resilience by addressing job stress, psychological burnout, and happiness among teachers, focusing on resilience-building strategies and collaboration among educators to effectively manage inclusive classrooms. By implementing a comprehensive approach that includes recruitment, recoaching, coaching, and professional learning, early childhood education teachers in rural areas can be better prepared to meet challenges and increase their resilience in educational settings.

A systematic literature review on the resilience of early childhood education teachers in rural areas faces several limitations and offers specific recommendations. One major limitation is variability in defining and measuring resilience across different studies, posing challenges in synthesizing findings and drawing conclusive conclusions. In addition, the lack of standardized parameters for assessing resilience in the context of rural early childhood education may hinder comparability of outcomes and generalization of recommendations.

Existing literature may show publication bias towards positive outcomes, and potentially ignore negative aspects that can impact teacher resilience-building efforts. To address these limitations, future systematic reviews should seek greater consistency in resilience measurement, consider nuances of rural contexts, and incorporate diverse perspectives to provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors affecting teacher resilience in early childhood education environments. Recommendations include the need for more rigorous research methodologies, the inclusion of diverse opinions and experiences, and an exploration of challenges and successes in fostering resilience among early childhood education teachers in rural areas.

5. Conclusion

Early childhood education teacher resilience in rural areas is the capacity of teachers to effectively utilize their emotional resources and professional skills to provide high-quality education to children despite facing challenges such as limited resources, isolation, and lack of support systems. common in rural areas. Resilience is important for competency development and professional performance, so teachers can provide high-quality education despite the challenges they face. Ego resilience, work burnout, stress, lack of resources, technology awareness, and insecurity in teaching in remote areas can have an impact on teacher resilience in rural areas. Efforts to improve the resilience of rural early childhood education teachers can be made through recruitment, re-coaching, coaching, and professional learning.

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