

1. The basic ideas of the Ecological Systems Perspective in Social Work functions as a metaphor that gives us an understanding of how people and the social environment share in the affairs and the functions of their lives; how people relate to one another and to their environment. This perspective provides an understanding that people can be known and appreciated in the surrounding of and in the systems that they live in.

This system has been used by social work scholars to help us understand the environmental elements of the professional basis on the person and environment bonds.

2. The four levels of systems that conceptualize the social environment that were developed by Brim and Bronfenbrenner are:

Microsystems: which entail the face to face or direct connections between the contributors. This is where direct contact transpires. When we can gain an understanding of how this system is interrelated with other microsystems, we gain a better understanding and we become more informed in understanding of the behavior in a particular environment.

Mesosystems: refers to the mesh of microsystems that people participate in; the network of personal settings where people spend their social lives; home, school, work, church, communities. This is where we connect in our friendship groups with our peers and how we are linked with one another within the diversity of these settings. In social work, it is important that we understand the mesosystem, *the network of personal settings* that may affect a particular microsystem that may

be under investigation because of the influence it can have in the behavior of other settings.

Exosystems: refers to the largest institutions in our society that have power and influence over our individual systems such as government agencies. In these systems people are not directly involved but there is a level of association that can affect someone at the microsystem; example can be a parent's work setting, which can affect a child's life in a myriad of ways although the child is not directly involved.

Macrosystems: refers to the larger subcultural and cultural factors in which the micro, meso and exo systems are based. It is in the macrosystem that influence on social interests is most common.