BRIDGE BETWEEN CLASSROOMS TO REAL LIFE: TECHNOLOGY AND LIVELIHOOD EDUCATION

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Philippine Education aims to produce globally competitive graduates who are ready to face, to live, and to survive in the contemporary world (Gregorio, 2014). This is realized through a curriculum with enhanced subject competencies that is contextualized, suitable and appropriate for the 21st century Filipino learners. This also rationalizes the integration of Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) in Basic Education.

Ever since, it has been providing to students the competencies that are worthwhile for their daily living. Likewise, it has been giving them practical means and effective alternatives that they can use in their lives. It serves as bridge between classrooms to real life. This transcends on three (3) practical approaches of the subject. First, it prepares students to face the future by educating them on the basics of living. Second, it teaches to live through entrepreneurial means. Third, it empowers students to survive with sufficient work skills.

Technology and Livelihood Education prepares students to face the future by the basics of living. During the classical period, girls stay at home to learn household activities to be good wives. Their mothers serve as their trainers, teachers so to speak, in order to imbibe the competencies they ought to have. On the other hand, the boys serve as squire to be trained in order to become brave warrior. These two analogies highlight the basics of living. Thus, these are prerequisites that are needed to be known and to be applied by individuals as part of living. These can be in forms of cooking, food preparation, household chores, simple household maintenance, and alike. Through these
competencies, students acquire the elementary skills that are useful for everyday living (Pili, 2018).

TLE teaches to live through entrepreneurial means. It is acknowledged that not all students has the capacity and capability to enter tertiary level. It is a fact that because of family economic status, many of the students will no longer continue their studies. However, through entrepreneurship, they still have opportunities to have decent lives. Entrepreneurship gears students to acquire necessary skill in organizing, managing, assuming and conceptualizing a business or enterprise. This can be in forms of service-related enterprises like carpentry, automotive servicing, electrical installation and maintenance, consumer electronic servicing and alike. Likewise, this can be in a form of food related businesses like horticulture, crop production, animal production, fish processing and alike. Through these, it is possible for students to achieve decent lives regardless of their educational attainment.

TLE empowers students to survive with sufficient work skills in life. The Philippine economy is fueled by both blue and white-collar jobs. Thus, majority of the working force lies on the hand of the skilled workers who work in both industrial and agricultural sectors. It is a prerogative of Education to produce highly competent skilled workers. This is realized through TLE’s competencies like automotive servicing, carpentry, plumbing, masonry, tiles setting, mechanical drafting, computer hardware servicing and programing, electrical installation and maintenance, consumer electronics servicing, handicraft "novelty" production, shielded metal arc welding and refrigerator and air conditioning and alike. Through these technical skills with the National Certification by Technical Education and Skill Development Authority (TESDA), these can provide higher employability both local and abroad in the future. Thus, these help them to have a better and brighter future.

TLE is a substantial applied subject in the K to 12 curriculum that prepares students to face the future through the basics of live. Teachers prepare students live through
entrepreneurial means and empowers to survive with sufficient work skills. This exemplifies its value as a practical and applied subject for the benefit and welfare of the students. Therefore, though TLE, students are ready and equipped for life.

References:
