TEACHING SHIELDED METAL ARC WELDING IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

by:
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It was during the administration of President Benigno Aquino Jr. when the K-12 was fully implemented. Grade 11 and 12, called the Senior High School adds as an additional year for the students. It offers two tracks: Academic Track and Technical Vocation and Livelihood Track.

The Academic track offers different strands such as General Academic Strand (GAS), Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Accountancy, Business and Management (ABM), and Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS)

The Technical-Vocational-Livelihood track offers different strands such as Information and Communications Technology Strand, Home Economics Strand, Agri-Fishery Arts Strand, and Industrial Arts Strand.

Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) is one of the specializations offers under the Industrial Strand. “Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) also known as manual metal arc welding (MMA or MMAW), flux shielded arc welding or informally as stick welding, is a manual arc welding process that uses a consumable electrode covered with a flux to lay the weld. Both the rod and the surface of the work piece melt to create a weld.” The purpose of welding is to maintain, repair and produce metal products.

A teacher should be an expert in this field preferably a National Certificate holder will share his or her knowledge with the students, from Theoretical discussion to application. The students need to undergo actual using of welding machine and producing metal products to determine that they gain knowledge from it.
The actual application of learning SMAW becomes a challenge to teachers and students due to the suspension of face-to-face classes because of the threat of Corona Virus popularly known as Covid 19.

Compromising the skills of the students in SMAW is a struggle for the schools and teachers since there is less monitoring of the actual application of the skill. SMAW is an example of learning by doing, in which you must do or apply what you have learned. There will be a lot of adjustments on this part on the part of the students. On the other hand, there are students who have the capability to provide the materials and welding machines for their output.

There are advantages and disadvantages of using the different platforms in teaching welding.

The advantage of using modular approach is that it helps the students and teachers to cope with the challenges of teaching SMAW in connection to covid 19. SMAW teachers made Self-Learning Modules that are provided to the students that will guide them in learning the skill. Modular approaches become possible through the collective efforts of the teachers. It is just one of the innovative solutions in response to the pandemic. The disadvantage is that the teacher cannot monitor the output of the students.

Online teaching of welding is also an application platform. The advantage of using it is that the students can see the demonstration of the teacher, the teacher, on the other hand, can also determine if the students are doing the correct safety measures, guidelines, and steps in producing their outputs. The disadvantage is that not all students have the access to an internet connection.

Teachers’ monitoring to students’ output is a must. It will be the basis whether the students develop the skill in welding or not.
References: