TECHNOLOGY AND LIVELIHOOD EDUCATION: PREPARING
STUDENTS TO MODERN WORKFORCE

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Nowadays, education plays a very important part in having success. Education is necessary for the people to gain skills, knowledge and other capabilities that prepare them when they are already in their chosen field. Due to the changing demands of the world in the workforce, curriculum of schools also change in able to adapt to what jobs and careers are in demand in the present time so that they may prepare the students to be empowered individuals once they are already in their tracks. One of the subjects offered for the students is the Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) wherein they learn different skills, particularly for technical vocational tracks.

Alicia Rubio (2018) said that “TLE is vital to becoming a productive member of the modern workforce because choosing a career path, and then learning the technology and livelihood skills related to that field or industry can be an excellent way to improve the chances of succeeding in a career endeavor.” She further stated that beginning on a career path by attending a school that teaches skills that relate to a particular industry of field is an excellent way to receive the best livelihood training. TLE serves as the students training ground for them to be geared with necessary skills that they can be used in their future jobs.

In this discipline, students will be given a general idea of some careers that they may want to pursue in the future including food technology, agriculture, welding,
technology-related jobs and many other fields that are related to technology and livelihood. TLE gives students a great advantage because they will be having general ideas of the careers that they want to take and by the time that they are already decided of what to pursue, it would not be hard for them to cope with the practices and skills that they need to possess because during high school, they were already given a great chance to develop their knowledge and skills that are extremely needed in able to become a skillful worker.

According to Fatima Umlas (2015), TLE curriculum is intended to give students a better output and enhance the quality of education in the Philippines. This will develop and improve a student’s skill so that the standard of a Filipino student will be the same as in other countries. Umlas also said that these trainings help Filipino students in seeking better job here and abroad. TLE also leads to student to discover what career they want to purse after school life. Since it provides trainings for the students, this could be a great stepping stone for students’ success because once they already finished studying, they were already trained to be part of the modern workforce.

The technical and vocational courses under TLE are offered accordingly with the Training Regulations (TR) granted by Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and a primary partner of Department of Education (DepEd). The curriculum enables students to be equipped with hands on trainings which develop and improve their performance so that they will be capable enough of the practices in their future careers not only here in the Philippines but in abroad as well. They can be globally competitive when it comes to their jobs because they were molded to become skillful individuals through the trainings and practices offered by the TLE curriculum.
Elena Acordon (2016) strongly believes that TLE has an extremely important place in our educational system today because this academic discipline incorporates in its curriculum as many pertinent life’s skills that will help students succeed independently in their chosen career paths. Acordon also pointed out that the most important aspect of TLE is that students do not only learn that the subject matter has relevance to their present lives but that it will be of constant use as they continue to grow. This means that the education they have gained because of TLE curriculum can impact them for a lifetime and the only thing they got to do is to improve what they have already acquired.

Due to the competition in the modern workforce, it is crucial for the educational system in the country to produce promising and skilled workers in able to contribute to the society. Equipping students with necessary skills that they need in the workforce could be challenging but with the determination of the schools to produce highly-skilled trainees and with the support of the government, it is not possible for us, Filipinos, that someday, we were the ones who will be in demand to foreign countries because of being known to be virtuoso in the modern workforce.

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