TLE AND THE PANDEMIC

by:
Nefalie V. Del Rosario
Teacher II, Mariveles National High School-Poblacion

In this time of pandemic, many people become unemployed due to the closure of industries and lack of new job vacancies. One of the subjects taught in school that is very relevant in this pandemic is the Technology and Livelihood Education or most known as TLE. This subject starts from exploratory stage then moves into mastery of a specific set of skills or specialization. In junior high school, TLE specializations are aligned to some of the technical vocational courses offered by Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

Do you still remember during your school days where you made plant crops, cook basic food, pickled vegetables, bake cakes, sew clothes and other stuffs? You made stuffs that you bring at home and the skills that you learned from TLE are still useful up to now. TLE is like the subject Science because it also aims to develop students’ creativity and innovation. In this age where various industries are rapidly improving and some are becoming obsolete, innovation becomes a more relevant skill. We can observe this in Filipinos who lost their jobs but still survive because they use their practical skills in putting up a business and creating new products. TLE is also relevant in this present time since it incorporates entrepreneurial skills. This provides more opportunity for people to earn money at their own time and resources.

Students can benefit in TLE in many ways. This subject can provide a better understanding on how economic, social, and cultural factors can affect them, their choices, and behaviors towards consumerism. Unlike other subjects, TLE emphasizes on practical application of the knowledge and skills in daily activities. Since it utilizes real-world applications, students may find the skills conducive and relevant in their everyday
lives. Students can explore various specializations such as cookery, metal works, housekeeping, cosmetology, dressmaking, and crop production. More notably, students and other individuals may acquire National Certification II or NC II that may add to their credentials and increase chances of being employed (Acordon, 2016).

According to Rubio (2018), TLE is essential to becoming a productive member of the modern workforce. Learning the technology and livelihood skills related to the field or industry where a student is interested in is an excellent way to increase chances of success. In the global community, TLE skills allow students to gain deeper knowledge and enhance their skills towards productive end. Students can be either an efficient employee or the boss of his or her own company. Generally, TLE encourages productivity no matter what the situation is. This pandemic highlights the need of productivity even when working at home.

As Filipinos get used to the home-based work set-up, their creativity is becoming more evident (IPOPHL, 2020). During the start of the pandemic, we saw various face mask, face shield and PPEs were made by ordinary people. Online selling and delivery systems become more popular and now there are many ways how people can do their businesses online and deliver their products all over the Philippines. We also observe, new food trends. People are introducing new food, and some are even healthier. There is also food that is being upgraded by changing the way it cooks and adding some ingredients. These innovations all rooted from TLE in one way or another.

Overall, TLE is a great vehicle for students to reach their prospective job or business. TLE skills are still relevant after this pandemic. This subject is very important since it develops students holistically and make them more skillful in many ways.

References: