

HOME ECONOMICS STRAND: WHAT LIES AHEAD

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From the usual high school cooking lessons, Home Economics (HE) becomes one of the significant strands under the Technical-Vocational-Livelihood (TVL) track that offers various specializations. Students enrolled in this program may opt for food and beverage services, the manufacturing of bread and pastry, cookery, and housekeeping, which are all aligned with various relevant college courses (Access Computer College, 2020). Apart from such opportunities in college, students are also given options for employment or business wherein they can thrive after their studies.

Home Economics strand is among the programs with the most significant number of national certifications to be provided by TESDA. In this strand, students may acquire up to NC III in barbering, bartending, hairdressing, wellness massage, local guiding services, events management, and many others (Llego, 2014). Those skills, if certified, can be used as qualifications when working overseas and may result in being hired even in international sailing cruise and passenger vessels. Hotels and relevant industries are also accepting graduates of the HE programs from senior high, especially since they possess competence in housekeeping.

Food production, such as breadmaking, beverage creation, and cookery, on the other hand, provides a clear path for entrepreneurship among students as they will have the fundamentals of how customers must be served with different products. Through the skills in the said areas, learners can explore their capacities and try profiting from them. This is similar to dressmaking because such talent and craftsmanship may build a

customizable dress business for graduates. Handicrafts, such as the production of fashion accessories and jewelry, will also be a potential venture to explore.

If the graduates are seeking to get more qualifications to be able to work in high-end facilities, tertiary education programs are also available. According to the University of the Philippines-Diliman (UPD) website, in 2022, students may enroll in their College of Home Economics to take Interior Design, Hotel and Restaurant Management (HRM), Food Technology, Family Life and Child Development, Clothing Technology, and Community Nutrition. These programs may help the students land their dream job and anticipated salary. Tertiary education remains a promising outlet and exit portal for senior high school graduates, considering that companies require a Bachelor's Degree in their chosen programs. Besides, a higher chance of employment awaits those with a higher academic background.

From getting employed immediately in different companies, building own handicraft businesses, and taking degrees for tertiary schooling, the HE programs in SHS is not limited to just learning how to cook. It enables the students to explore what they can learn and how they will develop a competitive background regarding skills and training. Graduates from the said strand will soon become assets of various manufacturing industries holding operations for mass production and quality management. Through this strand, those individuals can practice their skills early on with a hands-on approach. Learning the theories and transforming them into practice is what the TVL track is about. Also, it is about molding young minds to become competent professionals after their academics.

References:

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