

THE ROLE OF TLE IN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT: CONNECTING LEARNING EXPERIENCES TO WORKFORCE NEEDS

by:

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In the Philippines, Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) is an extremely vital curriculum for providing the students with the skills needed to address the demands of today's labor force. As an essential part of the K-12 Basic Education Program, TLE provides students with hands-on knowledge and technical abilities, connecting academic learning with practical application. This strategy supports the Department of Education's (DepEd) goal of developing globally competitive Filipino students prepared to tackle the demands of the 21st-century workforce. TLE education emphasizes experiential learning in a variety of sectors, including agriculture, home economics, technology, and information and communication technology (ICT). This method is targeted to students' interests, allowing them to explore potential career paths while developing critical skills that are in high demand in both local and worldwide markets.

Dr. Maria Elena Cruz (2019) highlighted how TLE fosters entrepreneurial and technical skills among students. Students exposed to practical learning opportunities in TLE are more likely to succeed in vocational careers or small business ventures after graduation. Her findings emphasized the need for modernizing TLE facilities and integrating advanced technologies to further enhance students' learning experiences. Similarly, the research conducted by Dr. Jonathan Reyes et al. (2020) revealed that the inclusion of digital tools and resources significantly improved students' problem-solving and critical-thinking abilities. Students who had access to computers and internet connectivity in their TLE classes performed better in activities related to business simulations and technical drafting.

Cooperation between varied stakeholders, including parents, community leaders, entrepreneurs, and teachers, plays an important role in the effectiveness of TLE learning. As noted by Dr. Angela Santos (2021), engagement in such activities provides learners with valuable mentorship, different viewpoints, and exposure to TLE skills under actual situations. Private companies, such as those in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors, have also started offering training programs and internships for TLE students. These collaborations not only enhance students' employability but also address the skills gap in industries crucial to the Philippine economy.

In spite of the success of TLE in equipping the students for employment, there are still challenges to be addressed. The limited funds, old facilities, and lack of training among teachers impede the program's maximum potential. These problems are solved through higher funding and policy assistance from the government and active involvement of all education stakeholders. TLE education is a bridge between abstract learning and application. Through its provision of skills to Filipino learners for actual jobs, it continues to play an important role in molding the future of the country's workforce.

References:

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