

NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF TEACHING TLE THROUGH BLENDED MODALITY

by:

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While the Covid-19 pandemic will most likely forever be commemorated as a historical crisis, it can be argued that it left one good impression in all corners of the world: education does not need to be enclosed in the four corners of a classroom. Because of the global shutdown, most countries shifted their educational delivery systems to online and remote means. Thus, a trend that revolutionized the educational sector was born.

However, not all subjects can fully benefit from the advantages of an online classroom. Some subjects such as Teaching Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) require hands-on teaching for a more effective transfer of skills and knowledge. Thus, to experience the best of both online and hands-on classes, TLE through blended modality has been a big point of interest in recent years (Villa et al., 2023).

Nevertheless, teaching TLE through blended learning comes with both difficulties and possibilities. With the combination of face-to-face and online learning, TLE teachers need to adjust their methods to ensure that students learn practical skills effectively. Unlike subjects that rely on reading and memorization, TLE is hands-on, requiring students to practice skills such as cooking, carpentry, or basic electronics. This makes blended learning a challenge, but it also opens doors for new ways of teaching.

One of the biggest difficulties in teaching TLE through blended learning, much like in delivering education online, is the lack of proper resources (Baticulon et al., 2021). Not all students in the country have access to computers, stable internet, or even basic tools for hands-on activities. While some can easily join online discussions and watch

instructional videos, others struggle with weak connections or outdated devices. This gap in resources makes it harder for teachers to ensure that all students are learning equally. Some students may only rely on printed modules, which might not be enough for a subject that requires demonstrations and practice.

Another challenge is monitoring student progress (Clavero & Briones, 2023). In a traditional classroom, teachers can easily guide students and correct their mistakes in real time. In blended learning, especially when students practice at home, teachers have limited ways to check if students are performing the tasks correctly. Some students may complete activities without fully understanding the techniques, while others may struggle without immediate feedback. This can affect their skill development, as TLE requires hands-on practice to master.

However, blended learning also brings new opportunities for teaching TLE in creative ways. The use of online platforms allows teachers to provide video tutorials, step-by-step guides, and interactive activities that students can revisit anytime. Unlike in a physical classroom where demonstrations are done once, recorded lessons give students the chance to pause, rewind, and review lessons as needed. This flexibility can help students learn at their own pace, especially those who need more time to understand certain tasks.

Another advantage is the use of digital tools for assessment. Teachers can use online quizzes, project submissions, and video presentations to evaluate student learning. Instead of traditional paper-based tests, students can showcase their skills through recorded demonstrations of their work. This allows teachers to assess not just knowledge but also practical application, even from a distance.

Blended learning also encourages students to be more independent. Since they are given tasks to complete at home, they learn how to manage their time, follow instructions, and solve problems on their own. These are valuable skills that will benefit them in the

workplace or as future entrepreneurs. The challenge, of course, is ensuring that students are truly engaged and not just completing activities for the sake of submission. Teachers must find ways to motivate students, whether through interactive discussions, rewards, or real-life applications of what they are learning.

Collaboration between schools, parents, and the community is also important. For TLE to be effective in a blended setup, students need support at home. Parents or guardians should provide guidance, especially when students are using tools or cooking at home. Schools can also partner with local businesses or organizations to provide additional learning resources or hands-on training opportunities. If students cannot access certain materials at home, schools should find ways to provide alternatives, such as lending equipment or offering face-to-face practice sessions when possible.

Despite the challenges, blended learning in TLE can be successful with the right strategies. Teachers must continue to adapt, using technology to enhance their lessons while still ensuring that students develop practical skills. While it may not fully replace the traditional hands-on approach, blended learning offers a way to continue education even in difficult situations. It is not a perfect system, but with effort and creativity, it can still prepare students for future jobs and business opportunities.

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