

TESDA AND THE INTEGRATION OF TLE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

by:

Rodel A. Magat, MAEd

Teacher III, E.C Bernabe National High School

Living in a modern world means being able to adapt quickly. It means being open to change and innovation. It means pushing through uncertainties with bravery and relentless determination. This should be inculcated in students as they traverse through a demanding society. Students should be reminded that regardless of inequalities of opportunities, there are institutions or systems that they can rely on to be prepared for an equally challenging society.

Teachers should be instrumental in teaching the young the importance of being skilled. Teachers should provide learners with what reality is so they will lessen the confusion that students will face in adulthood. That is why the essence of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is being bolstered nowadays in mainstream media. Educational leaders are also bolstering the popularity and significance of TESDA by partnering with it and enrolling learners in its courses.

In 2019, TESDA, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), established a Joint Working Group with the Department of Education. The said MOU is to harmonize technical vocational education and training of skills in the Philippines' basic educational system. The said MOU builds up the TVL track in senior high schools. The Joint Working Group is in charge of the harmonization and complementarity of policies and programs, strategies, consistency, and quality assurance of trainers and standards. It also focuses on discussions and resolutions of concerns that may be raised concerning the implementation of Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE).

The legal basis of TESDA is Section 6 of Republic Act 10533, or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013. TESDA contributes to the continuous implementation of the K-to-12 program through DepEd's TVL specialization track for senior high school learners. The additional years in high school are aimed at the provision of sufficient time for the mastery of concepts and skills. Graduates are also expected to be ready for college, business, and work and to be able to learn for the rest of their lives.

In a recent study (2012), it was found that TESDA scholars are performing slightly better in terms of employment. This is aligned with TESDA's aim to ensure the empathic payment of Technical Vocational graduates. It offers training for the Work Scholarship Program and Private Educational Student Financial Assistance grantees to some Filipino youth. These scholarships and programs are beneficial, especially since not all students have the means to pursue tertiary education.

Here, the institution aims for scholars to be accepted in self-employment sectors or wage employment. It further plans to cater to the different abilities of students and their interests and to provide them with alternatives.

The integration of TESDA into mainstream education is an indicator of a changing society. It shows Filipino students that they have some options for the kind of future they want to carve out. It would be helpful if the institution visited junior high school students so they could better select their senior high school specialization. Partnering with institutions that support TLE is a good way to help students become determined and thriving in the future.

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