

THE ROLE OF TLE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND JOB MISMATCH IN THE COUNTRY

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Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) is one of the most underrated yet practical subjects in the school curriculum. While other subjects focus on theories, equations, and memorization, TLE is all about hands-on learning—teaching students skills that they can actually use in real life. Whether it's cooking, woodworking, electronics, agriculture, or business, TLE gives students the opportunity to develop abilities that can lead them to employment or even their own business ventures (Gregorio, 2016). And yet, despite its importance, many still don't see the real value of this subject.

One of the best things about TLE is that it prepares students for real work. Not everyone is meant to pursue a four-year college degree, and that's perfectly fine. Some people are more inclined toward technical work or business, and TLE gives them a solid foundation for that. Instead of just relying on diplomas and resumes, students who take TLE seriously can graduate with actual skills—ones that employers look for. Imagine being able to fix electrical wiring, bake cakes, or do basic programming even before stepping into college or the workforce. That's a huge advantage!

Aside from employment, TLE also nurtures an entrepreneurial mindset (Español et al., 2024). In a country where job opportunities are not always abundant, knowing how to start and run a business is a lifesaver. Students who learn the basics of bookkeeping, food processing, or even simple sales strategies in TLE have a head start in becoming self-employed. A student who learns dressmaking can start a small tailoring shop. Someone who enjoys cooking can put up an online food business. The possibilities are endless. The

best part? They don't have to wait to become adults to start making money. Even students can earn from their skills while still in school.

But here's the problem—TLE doesn't always get the attention and support it deserves. In some schools, facilities are outdated, and the equipment needed for proper training is either incomplete or non-functional. How can students learn effectively if they don't have the right tools to practice with? Worse, some people still have the mindset that technical and vocational skills are inferior to academic achievements. This outdated way of thinking needs to go. In reality, skilled workers and entrepreneurs contribute just as much, if not more, to the economy as office workers and professionals.

Teachers also play a huge role in making TLE effective. A good TLE teacher doesn't just teach the basics—they inspire students to see the bigger picture. They should show students how their skills can be used in the real world, how they can turn a simple hobby into a career, and how they can use their talents to make a living. More than just lessons, students need motivation and confidence to believe that what they are learning can truly make a difference in their future.

Of course, TLE is not a magic solution to unemployment and poverty, but it is definitely a step in the right direction. By equipping students with practical skills, it gives them options—something that many people don't have. Instead of just relying on finding a job, they can create their own opportunities. Instead of waiting for someone to hire them, they can be their own boss.

It's time to give TLE the recognition it deserves. Schools should invest more in upgrading their facilities and making sure that students get proper training. Parents should stop looking down on technical and livelihood skills and instead encourage their children to explore them. And students? They should take it seriously. Because whether they plan to enter the workforce or start their own business, the skills they learn in TLE might just be the key to their future success.

References:

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