

How can Home Economics Empower Lives and Communities in the 21st Century?

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Pursuing a major in-Home Economics within the Bachelor of Technology and Livelihood Education (BTLED) program is not merely a choice; it is a commitment to serve, uplift, and empower individuals, families, and communities. Today, Home Economics extends beyond traditional household tasks, equipping learners with essential life skills in areas such as food preparation, financial literacy, clothing and textiles, and entrepreneurship. This makes it crucial for personal development and national progress (Tiongco, 2021).

The BTLED program, formerly known as the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Education (BSIE), has evolved to address the needs of contemporary education and society. With its Level II accreditation status, the program ensures high-quality instruction, a relevant curriculum, and the development of competent graduates capable of meeting the demands of the K to 12 educational system (CHED, 2023). As a major in-Home Economics, I am being trained not only to be an educator but also to serve as a life coach, a role model, and a change agent (Zandvliet & Broda, 2022).

In a country like the Philippines, where poverty, unemployment, and poor nutrition remain prevalent, Home Economics plays a critical role. It imparts practical and entrepreneurial skills that lead to livelihood opportunities and enhance family well-being (Dela Cruz & Macayan, 2022). Through experiential learning, students acquire competencies that can be directly applied to real-life situations—skills that are particularly vital in rural and underserved communities (Austria & Oliva, 2021).

Furthermore, Home Economics promotes gender equity and community development. As highlighted by UNESCO (2022), life skills education empowers young women and men to actively contribute to their households and society, thereby fostering inclusive development. I firmly believe that Home Economics is a powerful tool for nation-building.

My ultimate goal is to become an educator who nurtures life skills, cultivates resilience, and inspires innovation among students. Through this program, I aim to

instill not only knowledge but also the confidence and motivation necessary for success in life and the ability to uplift others. By choosing to major in Home Economics within the BTLED program, I am not only selecting a profession; I am embracing a mission to effect positive change.

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