

## The Provision of Equal Learning Opportunities for Students of Both Genders (Secondary 1 - 3)

In Technology Education, we advocate:

- the provision of equal learning opportunities for students of both genders at all levels,
- the facilitating of balanced development in technological capability, understanding and awareness for all students.

In S1-S3, schools are moving away from the traditional sex stereotyping of Home Economics for girls and Design & Technology for boys, as well as from a craft oriented approach, in helping students to develop an understanding of their aptitudes, interests and abilities for their future studies and career. The following are examples of some implementation modes observed in schools: -

### 1. Subject Based Learning Experiences

- In some schools, for example Ng Yuk Secondary School, PLK Lee Shing Pik College, Tang Shiu Kin Victoria Government Secondary School and Wa Ying College, instead of teaching girls Home Economics and boys Design & Technology, essential learning elements of Home Economics and Design & Technology were selected as core elements. All students had opportunities to learn these core elements in the two subjects in the allocated lesson time.
- It is essential that teachers have sound subject knowledge and good initiative in tailoring the curriculum in order to select the appropriate core elements in the two subjects.
- The patterns of curriculum organization in these schools can be roughly represented as follows:

a)

S1	Core Elements of HEc	Core Elements of D&T
S2	Core Elements of HEc	Core Elements of D&T
S3	Core Elements of HEc	Core Elements of D&T

or

b)

S1	Core Elements of HEc	Core Elements of D&T
S2	Core Elements of HEc or D&T	
S3	Core Elements of HEc or D&T	

### 2. Integrated Learning Activities

- A theme was selected in some other schools, for example Kiangsue Chekiang College (Shatin) and WEO Chang Pui Chung Memorial School, from different TE knowledge contexts, to form the basis of a problem solving activity. Through the process of problem based learning, students were provided with various learning experiences to nurture their technological capability, understanding and awareness.

- Teachers of different subjects had to work well together to decide on what subject content should be integrated as well as to design the learning activities and assessment criteria for the chosen theme.

At Kiangsu Chekiang College (Shatin), a theme on the design of a solar cooker and solar cooking was chosen for S3 students. It integrated learning in Design & Technology, Home Economics and environmental protection. Students used different approaches to solve problems at their own pace and learned by building up their knowledge in design, food preparation and science. Students had to search for information, analyze and understand the principles of collecting and using solar energy and its role in saving the environment, and design recipes that could be prepared using solar cookers for healthy eating. The activity provided an opportunity for the generation of innovations and the application of knowledge to different products that are useful in everyday living.



*At WEO Chang Pui Chung Memorial School, S.3 students made a uniform designed by themselves for a project on Fun Fair.*

### 3. Modular Approach

- Clusters of learning elements in the two subjects were taken as a basis for forming a number of modules to be used as the building blocks of the curriculum at different levels.
- The approach facilitated the flexible sequencing of learning experiences.
- Through the collaborative effort of subject teachers in planning the modules, students had opportunities to combine the learning of the two subjects together.

At Shun Lee Catholic Secondary School, the organization of the S.3 Home Economics and Design & Technology curriculum can be roughly represented by the following building blocks:

HEc oriented	Consumer Education	Fabric & Care of Clothing	Nutrition	Food Preparation & Preservation	Meal Planning
Common to HEc & D&T	Design & Design Process		Design Communication		Project on Fashion Design & Fashion Show
D&T oriented	Computer-aided Design	Ergonomics	Model Making	Electronics & Mechanics	



*Students working on the Fashion Design & Fashion Show Project*