ALS 101: DIFFERENT ACRONYMS USED IN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM

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Alternative Learning System is a parallel learning system in the Philippines that provides a practical option to the existing formal instruction. It provides opportunities for Out of school children, youths and adults to access education in a more flexible way. Although ALS exist for a number of years, but still, many are not familiar with the program. Despite of regular advocacy meetings, many are asking how the system works, what programs do they offer or what are the benefits of it to their clienteles. Before we unlock the answer to these questions, maybe it is better to first become familiar with the different acronyms used in the program so that we can explain further the importance of each program to our target learners, clienteles and stakeholders.

Acronyms, Technically, a word that is formed by combining some parts (usually the first letters) of some other terms. We actually see and hear a lot of these in the Alternative Learning System usually associate it with “non-formal and informal learning. In these issue we will learn a lot of frequently used acronyms in ALS Programs and Projects. This will help newly designated District ALS Coordinators, Mobile Teachers, Instructional managers, Learners and even students from colleges and universities.

The following are the most frequently used acronyms in ALS Program.

OSC, OSY and OSA (Out of School Children, Youths and Adults) – refers to learners who are not enrolled in any programs of the department of Education. OSC ages from 14 below, OSY from 15 – 30 years old and OSA from ages 31 and above. This are the target clienteles of the Alternative Learning System.
DALSC, MT and IM (District ALS Coordinator, Mobile Teachers and Instructional Manager) – specialized teacher that deliver the programs and projects of Alternative Learning System in different barangay. They are in charge of advocacy and social mobilization within the target barangay. Serves as the facilitator of learning to remote and far flung areas.

FLT (Functional Literacy Test) – a test to assess the different skills of the learners. It tries to measure the learner’s literacy levels in reading, writing and computational skills. Composed of 5 parts, PIS or the Personal Information Sheet, Pagbasa, Pagkukuwenta, Pagsulat at Pakikinig at Pagsasalita.

CLC (Community Learning Center) – a place or school that serves as a community hub. It is a place where learning takes place. Usually in a church or chapels, barangay hall, buildings or even cemetery.

IPED (Indigenous Peoples Education) – provide an IP education service acceptable to IP’s in general and to specific communities in particular.

A & E (Accreditation and Equivalency) – a test designed to measure the competencies of those who have neither attended nor finished elementary or secondary education in the formal system. Passers of the A & E Test are given a certificate/diploma.

BLP (Basic Literacy Program) – is an intensive community-based training for illiterate out of school youth and adults, who are willing to learn basic literacy skills. Learners of this program will learn three basic skills, ability to read with comprehension, ability to compute simple problems and creative thinking and problem solving.

INFED (Informal Education) – another program of ALS that focuses on Livelihood and skills training. It aims to improve the life of the clientele, a lifelong learning to address the needs of the target learners.
References:


http://www.deped.gov.ph/k-to-12/inclusive-education/alternative-learning-system/


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acronym