ALS: MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

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Education for All (EFA) aims at promoting quality education to all citizens. It focuses in promoting the “right” to have an access to education that is affordable to all even to out of school youth. The government provides everyone this opportunity to be well-educated and equip them for the future especially the underprivileged who was widely praised.

EFA states that “the existing Bureau of Alternative Learning System (Bals) of the DepEd should be developed, strengthened and mandated to serve as the government agency to guide the evolution of the country’s Alternative Learning System (ALS).”, flourishes as a program that signifies those who believe that education is still a strong tool to alleviate life in general. It is a free education program that benefits those who cannot afford formal schooling and is generally flexible to the available time of the enrollees.

Alternative Learning System is flexible and it is an anytime, anyway learning. The function of the ALS includes coordinating with various agencies for skills development to ensure continuing employability, efficiency, productivity and competitiveness in the perspective workplace. Likewise, the expansion of access to educational opportunities for citizens of different interests, capabilities of demographic characteristics and socio-economic origins and status.; and addressing the needs of marginalized groups. Primarily, ALS is anchored on the teaching of life skills that goes beyond obtaining information but is more concerned about the application of the competencies and values to develop within the individual the power to make decisions toward improving the quality of learner’s life.

More importantly, it targets Out-of-School Youths (OSY), Adults and children who went to pursue college or work without a college diploma. The Accreditation and Equivalency) (A&E) test given for the completers of the program aims to assess the basic
skills such as literacy, numeracy and problem solving. Those who pass the examination should be given an A&E diploma which is equivalent to a high school diploma.

There are many success stories not only of the ALS program itself but also of individual learners whose pursuit for knowledge and better life have etched remarkable change and promising future.

For the full and effective implementation of the ALS program, there are Mobile Teachers (MTs), and District ALS Coordinators (DALSCs) assigned in depressed disadvantaged and undeserved community, for sometimes there are Instructional Managers (IMs) and Facilitators funded by Local School Board (LSB) or Provincial School Board (PSB) for their honorarium.

Reference: