ALS TEACHER PARA SA LAHEART

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Every teacher has the heart to serve his learners. Despite the personal difficulties many teachers are facing, they won’t neglect their duties as a teacher. As everybody would always say, “Teaching is a noble profession.” It goes not only in a saying but in deeds as well.

An ALS teacher works with all his heart. Everything has a reason, everything has a purpose and has a mission to accomplish. Regardless of age, of site, of level of knowledge, ALS facilitators work without hesitation. Implementers go beyond what is expected of them not only because of the salary that they receive every month, not only because of their benefits as they teach in far-flung areas, but they work wholeheartedly to reach those who are in need. They have the passion for serving the less fortunate individuals. And this passion drives them to move to different areas of assignments just to reach them.

As stipulated in Deped Order 36, s.2002 – Education for All (EFA), the Philippine EFA 2015 Plan visualizes a holistic program to attain an improved quality of education for every Filipino in 2015. In line with this, the Alternative Learning is serious in working with its goals. As an answer and action to this, facilitators need to conduct a closer anticipation of serving the depressed, deprived and underserved of the country. ALS Bataan seriously stirred every out-of-school children, adults to attend every A & E session held in the community. Facilitators need to set a schedule to cater every individual in a certain community despite the risks of going to the venue, without measuring the distance and altitude of the site, whether it is along the coastal or in upland.
Many ALS teachers in Bataan won’t hesitate to serve with a heart, for they live in their ALS goal, Aim, Lead and Serve. They never select any learners that they would accommodate, for anybody who needs education must be served, for as long as they are part of their clientele. In making schedules for the learners, the teacher needs to adjust with to schedules of their learners, which is not a usual set-up in the formal school. Some would be having night classes, others would depend on the availability of their work and most of the time, depending on the season. Numerous teachers are going coastal waiting for their fishermen learners to attend sessions. Some of them need to ride in a boat/Banca just to reach them. Others would spend long time driving, going to upland if the can be reached by vehicles, if not they would be obliged to walk from 1.5 km to more than 10 kilometers far. But some learners are in low land would attend a regular session as per scheduled by the facilitator. An equal opportunity is served to whichever venue they are serving. Facilitators also do DLLs and prepared materials just like in the formal school.

ALS teachers also offer different opportunities whenever possible. There are districts in Bataan who are lucky of serving the OSYs, adults and children with Education Skills Training (EST) Program. They encourage their learners to attend classes in EST during Saturdays and weekdays in ALS sessions. Some of the offered courses are; Cookery, Bread and Pastry, Massage Therapy, Housekeeping, Computer Hardware Servicing, Food and Beverage, Garments, Fish Culture, Fish Capture, Food Processing and etc. These pieces of training are in partnership with Bataan School Fisheries and some Municipalities who are in full support of the ALS programs. Hundreds of learners have been served with this program and still counting.

To bring education everywhere, facilitators likewise extend service in catering persons with special needs. Concerning DepED Order no. 46 s 2014, Guidelines in the implementation of ALS for PWD program states that, to further attain the goals of the Department of Education (DepEd) relative to Education for ALL (EFA) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and in the effort to reach all types of learners, this
Department through the Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS) revitalizes the ALS for Persons with Disability (ALS for PWD) Program. Since some districts are offering SPED classes, there are some of them who are not in school, because of this, a facilitator in Samal talked to the CID Chief formerly Education Supervisor in ALS, Dr. Milagros M. Peñaflor as to how he could help cater the needs of these individuals. It was success, presently, ALS SPEd class started this June 2019 at Gugo Elementary School in Samal. Mam Godlyn is now handling seventeen (17) gifted children. Ma’am Godlyn is teaching them depending on the result of their preparatory assessment. Individualized schedule were made to cater to the needs of these gifted learners.

To locally widen the service of ALS to every municipality, one of the facilitators proposed to the Mayor and Municipal Councilors of Samal, that ALS should be given appropriate funding which will be part of the Municipal Ordinance. Luckily it was granted, the request was done in July and signed in September. This is now known as Ordinance No. 19-014. Part of the ordinance is the appropriation of the budget for ALS and that the Barangay Health Workers will be part of the traditional yearly mapping of ALS implementers. ALS Bataan facilitators are in great anticipation that this is will also be possible to all the municipalities of the province.

Amidst all these hard work and passion of every ALS, the teacher is his heart of giving his service. This heart leads him to look for almost everything that a learner needs in learning. From the paper and pencil to free foods that they would have during their examination. These wouldn’t be possible with the help of the government, the NGOs, and private individuals who undoubtedly believing in ALS’ goal of producing functionally literate individuals.
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