This may sound cliché but it is undeniable that education is the stepping stone to success. You have several advantages when you have a degree than those who were not able to finish study. That is why the government has the great determination to promote education in the country because education could give a great transformation not only on the part of the learners but to the country as well. As much as possible, the government wants Philippine education to be very accessible for all, regardless of gender and age. However, there are still a lot of youths who were not able to access education because of some factors such as poverty, personal problems and personal attitude. Some were not able to finish even basic education because of some factors.

Regarding these problems, the government had this Alternative Learning System, a free education program implemented by the Department of Education (DepEd) under the Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS). According to Ariel Cañete (2016), ALS “provides a viable alternative to the existing formal education instruction encompassing both the non-formal and informal sources of knowledge and skills.” This learning system were intended for out-of-school youths (OSYs) who were forced to drop out from their former schools, for those who cannot afford formal schooling and for those who do not have schools in their communities. Those who are in elementary and high school level can enroll in ALS.

Another thing that makes ALS very beneficial for all is that even working Filipinos and senior citizens can have an access to ALS wherein they will be the ones to choose their schedules according to their choice and availability. Even though it has two different schematics for conducting instruction which are school-based and community-
based, this program still has the same learning modules which cover the subjects Science, English, Filipino, Mathematics, Social Studies and even current events. The students under this learning system can still learn a lot like those who have in formal schools because the instructions are also coming from government-paid professional teachers, private sectors and volunteers.

According to AmeriSchools (2017), an alternative school, like what we have here in the Philippines, can put the students in an advantage in several ways. For instance, there are fewer student enrolled in ALS than on formal school which means this type of school can offer smaller class sizes wherein there is a smaller student-to-teacher ratio that results into more one-on-one interaction. The students can be easily supervised by the teacher and more attention can be given which promotes better and more effective learning. It has also personalized and skill-based instruction which give students an immersive learning experience.

This practical option does not only bring hope to the students who are enrolled under this learning system. Their families can also benefit from it because those who are enrolled and will be able to finish can have job opportunities and with that, they could help their families to support them financially. Aside from this, this can also be beneficial for the community as a whole. The lesser the out-of-school youths, the more progressive the community is because there will be more workers and productive citizens if most of the people within the community have received schooling may it be formal or even in other learning systems provided by the government.

Indeed, as the years pass by, our government finds more and more reasons for the young people not to study. Aside from public schools, learning systems like ALS was also provided to reach out more people who were not able to receive formal schooling. The access for education became easier and available for all people in the community, regardless if they are young people or in the bracket of senior citizens. What the government wants them in return are just to study well and prioritize
education so that in the near future, they will become professionals and productive citizens who can give a drastic change to the country through transformation that was never seen before.

References:

http://www.deped.gov.ph/als

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