Every child should learn! And every child should have the opportunity to learn and to achieve a quality of life he/she desires based on his/her educational efforts and achievements. But what if a child doesn’t have the chance to attend and finish a formal basic education?

Alternative schooling opportunities accommodate the educational needs of the youth who do not have access to formal education in schools. School and community leaders are also given the chance to comply with their lawful responsibility to deliver equal access to education for all students through alternative schooling.

The most usual form of alternative school functioning nowadays to provide for the youth in at-risk status is intended to be part of a school district’s thorough dropout prevention program. The “alternative school” is usually portion of the middle or high school program offered to secondary-aged students. The students enrolled in these schools normally are under attaining and usually are incomplete in credits to graduate or to be with their same age students. Yet, they yearn to stay in school and obtain their diplomas, or they have been placed in the school by the court system. In many communities, these alternative schools also extend a particular parenting program with special chances for teenage mothers wanting to graduate from high school, but incapable to attend the traditional high school.

In the Philippines, Alternative Learning System (ALS) is a parallel learning system that provides a practical option to the existing formal instruction. When a child does not have
an access to attend formal education in schools, ALS is an alternate or substitute. Both the non-formal and informal sources of knowledge and skills are included in ALS.

Since the constitution states that every Filipino has a right to free basic education, the Government creates ALS to furnish all Filipinos the opportunity to have access to and finish basic education in a manner that fits their different situations and needs.

There are two major programs in ALS that are being implemented by the Department of Education, through the Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS). One is the Basic Literacy Program and the other is the Continuing Education Program – Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E). Both programs are modular and flexible. This expresses that learning can happen anytime and in anyplace, depending on the suitability and availability of the learners.

ALS Non-formal Education takes place outside the classroom, in the community, usually carried on at community learning centers, barangay multi-purpose hall, libraries or at home, handled by ALS learning facilitators, such as mobile teachers, district ALS Coordinators, instructional managers at a concurred timetable and place between the learners and facilitators.

The variety of student and family needs and the social behaviors required for youth in today’s world are all met by alternative schooling.

References:

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