EQUAL CHANCES, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALS LEARNERS

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We always say that learning is a lifelong process. Practically, it starts at home and continues to take place as the individual interacts in the school.

Alternative Learning System (ALS) opens door of opportunity and helps transform lives especially for the deprived. It is accessible to all regardless of all age, sex and background. The DepEd through Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS) caters to the educational needs of all Filipinos who are unable to avail of the formal school; system or those who have dropped out of the system.

The importance of ALS is to break the cycle between literacy and poverty. It provides opportunities to the economically depressed and disadvantaged to upgrade the skills of the learners, knowledge and competencies and gain elementary or secondary certificate in order to improve their lives and that of their families.

It has always been premised that the Out-of-School Youths (OSY) who end up dropping from school; due to financial constraints are destined to suffer from lack of access to lucrative high-paying jobs that would otherwise lift up their families from poverty. This situation has traditionally been described as a vicious cycle of poverty – one where unless there is effective intervention, will continue unabated.

It is proposed that the ALS provides one such intervention that can break the cycle. Recent experiences from learners who completed and passed the ALS Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) test tie up with the scholarship program of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) has shown that the ALDS can increase the
chances of high school dropouts and increasing the employment opportunity after the trainings.

As Martin Luther, a Protestant religious reformer, implied in his teachings that the family and school along with the church are leaders of reformation.

But if we've been reading news from the newspaper or chatted with the people in the community, we rightfully say that our communities aside from the schools challenge the development of our students.

Reference:
Cesar S. Tolentino, Research Manager, Contact Center Association of the Philippines National Colloquium on the Alternative Learning System 2012.