

## ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION BEHIND BARS

by:

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As individuals we do have different perspectives when we hear the word jail and persons deprived of liberty. Most of us will think that it would be perilous inside the jail. In achieving lifelong learning, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups: Out of School Youth (OSY), Out of School Adults (OSA) and those learners that conflict with the law. Most of the time the Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) have less access to quality education programs.

The Department of Education (DepEd) through the Alternative Learning System program provides equal opportunity to access quality education even those who are Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL). The collaboration of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and DepEd make this program possible.

Furthermore, training and seminars are given to the ALS Teachers as well as the Jail Officers that handle (PDL) ALS learners to enrich their physical, emotional, and cognitive skills to deliver quality education. Support from some private stakeholders increases the willingness of the PDL learners to pursue their studies and to do better for their future. Continuing their studies may lead to decreasing their life sentence, escape from depression and anxiety, it will also open doors for new opportunities like PDL can learn new skills through the help of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

According to research entitled *The Effect of Education on Criminal Convictions and Incarceration: Causal Evidence from Micro-data* there are a number of reasons to expect that an increase in education causes a decrease in crimes. In line with this, the burning

passion of the ALS teacher and jail officers intensify to let our learners to access to quality education. Different techniques and strategies are given to PDL ALS learners to cope up with the skills that they must acquire to a competitive, equally ready and can decrease an individual's criminal propensity by increasing his attachment to legitimate society.

*References:*

The Effect of Education on Criminal Convictions and Incarceration: Causal Evidence from Micro-data

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/ecoj.12204>