

CONTEXTUALIZATION OF MYDEV LIFE SKILLS MODULES TO SUIT ALS LEARNERS' NEEDS AND INTERESTS

by:

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The goal of USAID's Mindanao Youth for Development (MYDev) program, which was carried out by the Education Development Center (EDC) from 2013 to 2019, was to strengthen governance, enhance life skills, and raise the economic productivity and civic engagement of youth who are not in school in order to address major obstacles to peace and stability in the Mindanao region of the Philippines. The Mindanao region, which has long suffered with persistent war between the government and terrorist, insurgent, and criminal groups in the area, saw the implementation of MYDev in eight areas devastated by conflict. Thousands of people were forced to flee their homes during a five-month violent crisis that struck the city of Marawi in 2017 – not one of the original MYDev target cities – and seriously damaged both private property and infrastructure. Because of this, the MYDev Life Skills Curriculum was adopted by the Alternative Learning System (ALS) to support ALS learners to earn knowledge and skills using MYDev Life Skills Modules in preparation for the labor work force.

Since most of the ALS learners can obtain the knowledge have in MYDev modules, it is also a good advantage for them to be ready for the job they are seeking in the future. Though there are issues encountered using the modules, learners show interest in exploring the MYDev life skills modules. One problem found in using the modules is with their contexts or the language used. The MYDev life skills modules are using English context which find difficulty to some other learners most especially in the lower levels to comprehend of what have been written in the modules. This is why contextualization of the modules is very significant to address the needs of the learners.

The MYDev life skills consist of nine (9) modules. The one to six modules are given within three months from the opening of classes while the rest modules are given when the learners are closely exiting in the ALS program. The good thing about the MYDev life skills modules have already contextualized modules that published by the DepEd ALS Region III. Those contextualized modules are now furnished and used by most ALS teachers in the region. Contextualization of MYDev modules is essential key to provide effective learning and development suited to the needs and interests of the learners. Having such contextualized modules can elevate the number of learners to pursue their willingness to read, learn and earn skills from the MYDev life skills modules. Because some learners are enrolling in ALS not only to get a diploma or certificate but also to earn life skills training program.

Further, contextualization is a significant process which involves the culture and environment where the learner lives. It is also a method to configure the context of the modules. It means that the learners would easily understand the context of the modules. The benefits of using MyDev life skills modules are giving the learners ideas and skills about applying a job, exploring their personal values, making a biodata/resume, building consciousness on the various hazards at workstation and many more.

Having a job or entrepreneurship after completing the Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) program of ALS learners through the help of MYDev Life Skills Curriculum is a great honor however learners are encouraged to pursue their Senior High School level and high higher education or even take skills training in Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

References:

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