

## UNDEFEATABLE PASSION

by:

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Each of us certainly went through the stage in our lives of becoming a student. We experienced waking up early in the morning to pack our bags and iron our uniforms. We also experienced being late in class due to extreme traffic. We even had the opportunity to walk home with our friends. In particular, we had the chance to learn about various lessons in a variety of subjects. Mathematics, for example, taught us how to multiply, divide, and add numbers. Matter, according to science, is anything that occupies space and has mass. The different parts of speech, such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and so on, were taught to us in English. It was the subject Filipino that educated us about numerous stories that have evolved throughout time in our Filipino culture. And lastly, the Makabayan Subject taught us about the valor of our Filipino heroes who gave their lives for our country's freedom. All of these topics and lessons we learned are being taught in a place we consider as our second home, which is the school. The dedicated educators who stand in front of the class while discussing are the teachers. The students, on the other hand, are the pupils that need teaching to gain and acquire knowledge. We spent years studying so we could have a better life in the future with our dream professions. However, not all of us are lucky enough to finish and be able to graduate from school. Circumstances like poverty, indifferences, and lack of support affect an individual's education, resulting in their dropping out of schools. According to the 2017 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey (APIS), out-of-school children and youth accounted for around 9% of the estimated 39.2 million Filipinos between the age of 6 to 24 years old. The unfortunate events in their lives are the reason they need to stop going to school, despite having a big dream for the future. However, some Filipino adults decided to continue their education despite the age difference and difficulties, so they could still achieve their

desired goals and finish a degree. That's the purpose of establishing the ALS, or Alternative Learning System, which serves as an alternative or substitute education system for differently-abled children, out-of-school youth, and adults.

The school teaches us the things we need to learn ahead of time, so we are prepared to face the future. However, in the month of March 2020, the entire world was shocked when an infective virus known as the Corona virus or Covid-19 unexpectedly invaded and changed the lives of everyone. No one foresaw the unexpected outbreak of the Pandemic, which disrupted numerous systems in the global economy. The transformation of traditional face-to-face classrooms to online and modular learning is one illustration of how the pandemic reshaped the education system. Blended learning was developed by the Department of Education (DepEd) as the new normal learning modality wherein students can learn and teachers can teach. Rather than being filled with students and teachers, classrooms have now been converted into modular rooms where students' modules are stored. Teachers are now providing meeting codes for students to attend their online classes using video conferencing apps, replacing classes that were previously held in the classroom. Meanwhile, students who can't attend classes online due to poor internet connection or slow operating gadgets can take modular learning that involves receiving self-learning modules. Students at every grade level are having a hard time adjusting to the new normal learning modalities. Like adult learners that are thriving in the middle of a pandemic. Not all of them are familiar with using different technological applications on the internet, and most of them don't have enough resources to support themselves in attending online classes. Unemployment is another factor that contributes to the difficulties that adult learners face. The pandemic has also resulted in a reduced or modified type of assistance for adult learners. As a result, the difficulties they are facing can be described as being on a far deeper level. The education of adults is even more crucial in this time of uncertainty among the well-being and mobility of the economic in the communities across the world. Because it will contribute to the creation of life skills that are necessary for enhancing and maintaining adults' health and well-

being during these challenging circumstances. Regardless of the problems and obstacles the world has in today's time, it will not deter a heart that is driven to achieve its goals from aiming to cross the finish line. And despite the transition to the new normal educational system, adult learners continued pursuing their careers and didn't let the pandemic stop them from learning. The pandemic may hit every country in the world as hard as the magnitude of an earthquake, but it will never defeat the undefeatable passion of Filipino adult learners.

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