

## BRIDGING GAPS: THE ROLE OF ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM IN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

*by:*

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Education is a basic human right, yet countless individuals remain excluded from the formal school system due to factors such as poverty, remote living conditions, age, disabilities, or other life challenges. To address this issue, the Philippines introduced the Alternative Learning System (ALS), aiming to close the educational divide and support inclusive learning opportunities for all.

ALS provides a flexible and accessible form of education, especially designed for out-of-school youth, adults, and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. It allows learners to study at their own pace, time, and location, with the guidance of mobile teachers and facilitators. Using a modular and non-formal curriculum that matches basic education standards, ALS enables individuals to acquire essential knowledge and skills without attending conventional classrooms.

One of ALS's most vital contributions is its role in promoting inclusive education. It reaches communities often overlooked by traditional systems—indigenous groups, persons with disabilities, child laborers, and even those in correctional facilities. By offering literacy programs, livelihood training, and values education, ALS empowers these learners to build better futures and become active, productive members of society.

The true impact of ALS goes beyond academic success—it changes lives. It nurtures self-confidence, opens doors to employment or further education, and renews hope for those who felt left behind. As both the government and various organizations

continue to support and develop ALS, it remains a key instrument in making education accessible to all and advancing social equity.

In closing, ALS serves as a beacon of second chances, showing that it's never too late to learn and grow.

#### *References:*

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