

IMPORTANCE OF SKILLS TRAINING IN THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM

by:

Albert J. Mallari

Master Teacher I, Samal District

The Alternative Learning System (ALS) in the Philippines serves as a vital educational program that provides second-chance learning opportunities for out-of-school youth and adults. Beyond literacy and academic competencies, one of the most powerful components of ALS is skills training, which plays a key role in preparing learners for real-life challenges and sustainable livelihoods.

Skills training in ALS goes beyond the classroom. It includes practical, hands-on learning in areas such as basic computer operations, welding, carpentry, cookery, entrepreneurship, and other vocational or technical skills aligned with community needs and employment opportunities. For many ALS learners—especially those unable to return to formal education—these skills are essential for gaining decent employment or starting their own small businesses.

The impact of skills training is life changing. It empowers learners to become self-reliant, boosts their confidence, and opens doors to financial stability. Many ALS completers have successfully used their acquired skills to support their families, break the cycle of poverty, and contribute productively to their communities.

Moreover, integrating skills training into ALS promotes inclusive and practical education. It ensures that learning is relevant, responsive, and aligned with national development goals. Through partnerships with TESDA, LGUs, NGOs, and private institutions, ALS learners are given access to training, certifications, and livelihood support.

In conclusion, skills training in ALS is not just an educational tool—it is a bridge to a better future. By equipping learners with practical skills, ALS empowers them to overcome barriers, build better lives, and become active contributors to society.

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