

## ABSTRACT

This study shows how the Alternative Learning System program provided by Arnold Janssen Mission Foundation, Inc. affected the lives of its graduates from the Sagip Dunong Community Learning Center. The Sagip Dunong Center was established as an adaptation of the Hatid Aral program of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas with the idea of training volunteers to teach the out-of-school youth in an easily accessible center. This study focused on identifying the effects and changes experienced by the alumni in different aspects of their lives. The study used descriptive qualitative research design. Data we gathered in the form of interviews. The interviewees were the Program Director of the AJMF, Inc., two Instructional Managers of the Sagip Dunong Community Learning Center and four of its alumni. The data were categorized based on Todaro and Smith's Concept of Development, which encompassed the individual's self-esteem, their ability to sustain themselves and their freedom from oppression. The results of the interviews showed that the AJMF's ALS Program enhanced the learners' self-confidence, increased their chances of getting a job and helped them believe in themselves and that they have the freedom to improve their lives. The findings of the study strongly suggest that the ALS program of the Arnold Janssen Mission Foundation has positively changed the lives of its learners. The changes mentioned by the alumni supported Schultz' theory that investing in an individual's education can contribute to his or her development. More importantly, it affirmed the important role and the advantages of civil society organizations in the provision of basic services, specifically educational programs, for the betterment of individuals. Finally, this research highly recommends the strong cooperation among the AJMF Inc., the public sector, other program managers and community developers and researchers, as well as the learners and their family, in the further development of the ALS Program.