



ABSTRACT

Title of the Research: **PROPOSED SELF-RELIANCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN KAWIT, CAVITE USING SPECIAL EDUCATION-BASED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM**

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Every individual regardless of age, status in life, and disabilities has the right to be educated and be part of a society as per Education Act of 1982. However, due to age eligibility being implemented by the Department of Education, learners with special needs will no longer be included in Special Education programs by age 21. This study aimed to propose a self-reliance development program for persons with disabilities in Kawit, Cavite, using Special Education-based Alternative Learning System for PWDs aged 21 to 40 years old.

The study used quantitative research method to analyze and determine the needs of the respondents in terms of self-reliance using the self-made questionnaires. On the second part, the study used qualitative method in the form of structured and informal interview to be able to gain an in-depth understanding of the present situation of the respondents. Respondents were 1 ALS supervisor, 3 ALS coordinators, and 79 people with learning, visual, communication, and orthopedic/physical disabilities.



Findings of the study show that PWDs in Kawit need minimal assistance in doing the task in independent and community living, recreation and leisure, and in vocation signifying that they are highly self-reliant. This study concludes that PWDs in Kawit need to develop self-reliance to be able to gain independence. ALS is the suitable venue for the continuity of learning and acquiring skills. Special program may be created solely for the enhancement of the PWDs skills. Enhancement of the ALS teachers' capability in handling the PWDs thru trainings, seminars, and workshops is needed. Partnership among LGU, other stakeholders, and the ALS in the implementation of the program is essential. Collaboration between the parents and the teachers is very significant in the acquisition and enhancement of self-reliance of PWDs.