INVOLVEMENT OF PROFESSIONALS IN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM PROGRAMS IN THE DISTRICT OF AGUILAR, PANGASINAN

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Abstract

This Action Research underscored the important role that professionals can play in ensuring the effectiveness and success of the projects and programs of the Alternative Learning System (ALS), in its quest to reach out and benefit more residents of Aguilar, Pangasinan.

This research noted their very minimal and insignificant involvement in the programs and projects of the ALS. It determined how the ALS program preferences of the professionals relate with the reasons why they hardly involve themselves with the activities of the ALS.

Moreover, this research determined the effectiveness of the measures which can encourage their active participation and involvement in all the facets of ALS.

Hence, this research developed an Action Plan which when consistently implemented, is envisioned to effectively encourage the professionals of Aguilar, Pangasinan to actively participate and involve themselves in the various programs and projects of the ALS.

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Professionals play important roles in the community, particularly in the advancement of literacy in education among the youth and the adults, who were unfortunate and were not able to pursue higher education.

But because the professionals are very busy in earning a living for their respective families and in enhancing their careers, they overlook their other obligation to assist the marginalized sector of the community to improve their economic plight. It is also unfortunate to know that they fail to recognize and give attention to programs which were developed and designed for the purpose.

The failure of the professionals to join the quest towards this direction can not be construed as arrogance nor insensitivity on their part. Rather, this can be attributed to their absence of awareness to clearly identify which programs of the government can be best suited for them to join and actively participate in, so these can effectively serve the community residents, by providing them the knowledge and skills they need to improve their economic status.

The programs and projects of the Alternative Learning System, which are sponsored and implemented by the public elementary and high schools, are among the programs of the government which are expected to serve the grassroots. These are so important and the assistance of the professionals to make these successful is equally significant, because this can be made possible through the support and assistance of the professionals.

Ultimately, this study developed an Action Plan which is envisioned to encourage the active participation of the professionals in all the programs and projects of the ALS. The very aim of which is to ensure that every such program or project is a success and will serve its very purpose for being.

Statement of the Problem

This Action Research determined the involvement of the professionals of Aguilar, Pangasinan in the various programs and projects of the Alternative Learning System, under the sponsorship and implementation of the public elementary and secondary schools in the said municipality.

Specifically, this Action Research answered the following questions:

1) What is the extent of involvement of the professionals in Aguilar, Pangasinan in the various programs and projects of the Alternative Learning System?

2) What programs and projects of the ALS are preferred by the professionals?

3) What are the frequent reasons why the professionals hardly involve themselves in the programs and projects of the ALS?

4) What is the degree of effectiveness of the measures that can encourage the professionals to actively participate and involve themselves in the programs and projects of the ALS?

5) Based on the findings of this study, what Action Plan can be formulated and then proposed for implementation by the Department of Education, to encourage the professionals to actively participate and involve themselves in the various programs and projects of the ALS?

Significance of the Study

There have been many studies conducted in the past on the various aspects of Alternative Learning System. However, this study is very significant since it would pave the way towards the active participation of the professionals in Aguilar, Pangasinan in the various programs and projects of ALS.

Specifically, this Action Research and its results would benefit the following:

The Department of Education Alternative Learning System so it can initiate activities that would encourage the active of more professionals in the various programs and projects of the ALS;

The professionals themselves who would be better informed on the need for them to actively participate and involve in the various programs and projects of the ALS, by sharing their knowledge and skills and by providing financial support for the success of the said programs and projects.

The public elementary and secondary school teachers who can do their best to effectively implement the programs and projects of the ALS, so more professionals will opt to participate in these programs and projects of the ALS;

The learners and beneficiaries of the ALS who would be better educated and benefited by enrolling in the programs and projects of the ALS;

The researcher himself, in his capacity as school head, so he can effectively encourage the professionals in Aguilar, Pangasinan to actively participate and involve themselves in the implementation of the programs and projects of the ALS; and

The research enthusiasts who can consider this research and its results as vital material in a similar study, in another locale and in a wider scope.

Chapter II

THE SAMPLE

This Action Research had as respondents all kinds of the professionals of Aguilar, Pangasinan who are residents of the said municipality at the time of the survey.

However, the professional who served as respondents did not include the teachers in the public elementary and high schools in Aguilar district.

The estimated population of two hundred five (205) professionals was determined from the local barangay council office of the-sixteen (16) barangays of Municipality of Aguilar.

At the time of the survey, only one hundred (100) of the accounted professionals, were available and served as respondents of this research.

They were requested to accomplish the questionnaire that was constructed for the purpose, after an appropriate permit to administer the said questionnaire was secured from the mayor's office.

Table A presents the distribution of the actual respondents.

Table A

Distribution of Respondents

Professionals	Total Population*	Actual Respondents	Percentage
1. Doctor of Medicine	17	5	5.00
2. Lawyers	12	8	8.00
3. Certified Public Accountants	14	6	6.00
4. Registered Nurses	56	28	28.00
5. Pharmacists	23	4	4.00
6. Dentists	4	4	4.00
7. Midwives	28	20	20.00
8. Engineers	31	17	17.00
9. Nutritionists	7	3	3.00
10. Agriculturists	9	5	5.00
Total	**205**	**100**	**100.00**

* Source of Data: Barangay Council of Each of the-sixteen (16) Barangays of Aguilar Pangasinan

Chapter III

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study was descriptive developmental in design. It described to some extent the involvement of professionals of Aguilar, Pangasinan in the various programs and projects of Alternative Learning System which are implemented under the auspices of the Department of Education.

This research was also developmental since it designed and developed an Action Plan which stipulates measures on how the professionals can be encouraged to actively participate, involve and assist in the various programs and projects of the ALS.

Data Gathering Tool

The questionnaire that was constructed for the purpose was the main data gathering tool of this research. It was augmented by sporadic and unstructured interviews of the professionals who are willing to give their insights on aspects relative in the ALS, particularly its programs and projects.

The constructed questionnaire consisted of four (4) parts which gathered information on the: a) extent of involvement of the professionals of Aguilar, Pangasinan in the various programs and projects of the ALS; b) level of preference of the programs and projects of the ALS by the professionals; c) frequent reasons why they hardly involve themselves in the programs and projects of the ALS; and, d) degree of effectiveness of the measures that can encourage them to actively participate, involve and assist in the programs and projects of the ALS.

Reliability and Validity of the Questionnaire

The questionnaire was pre-tested to ten (10) professionals who were other than the actual respondents. The responses of the pre-test respondents were tabulated, processed and subjected to Kuder- Richardson instrument reliability equation (Downie: 1984).

It was declared as valid for administration to the target respondents since its coefficient of reliability of 0.93 had a descriptive equivalent of "very highly reliable", and after re-structuring its parts where the pre-test respondents had difficulty in answering.

The following coefficients of reliability range were used as points of reference to describe the validated questionnaire:

Coefficient of Reliability Range	Descriptive Equivalent	Symbol
0.91-1.00	Very Highly Reliable	VHR
0.81-0.90	Highly Reliable	HR
0.71-0.80	Moderately Reliable	MR
0.61-0.70	Slightly Reliable	SR
0.00-0.60	Not Reliable	NR

Treatment of Data

The Likert-Type five-point scale (Drucker:1983) was used to quantify to perceptions of the professionals on the various issues that were raised in this study.

Thus, to address issue number 1 on the extent of involvement of the professionals of Aguilar, Pangasinan on the various programs and projects of the Alternative Learning System, the following relative values were used:

Relative Value	Statistics Limit	Descriptive Equivalent	Symbol
5	4.21 - 5.00	Always Preferred	AP
4	3.41 - 4.20	Often Preferred	OP
3	2.61 – 3.40	Moderately Preferred	MP
2	1.81 – 2.60	Least Preferred	LP
1	1.00 – 1.80	Not Preferred	NP

To quantify the perceptions of the professionals on the programs and projects of the ALS that they prefer, the following relative values were used:

Relative Value	Statistics Limit	Descriptive Equivalent	Symbol
5	4.21 - 5.00	Always Preferred	AP
4	3.41 - 4.20	Often Preferred	OP
3	2.61 – 3.40	Moderately Preferred	MP
2	1.81 – 2.60	Least Preferred	LP
1	1.00 – 1.80	Not Preferred	NP

To address the reasons why the professionals hardly involve themselves in the programs and projects of the ALS, the following relative values were used:

Relative Value	Statistics Limit	Descriptive Equivalent	Symbol
5	4.21 - 5.00	Always	A

4	3.41 - 4.20	Often	O
3	2.61 – 3.40	Sometimes	S
2	1.81 – 2.60	Seldom	Sm
1	1.00 – 1.80	Never	N

The degree of effectiveness of measures that can encourage the professionals to actively participate in the programs and projects of the ALS were quantified with the following relative values:

Relative Value	**Statistics Limit**	**Descriptive Equivalent**	**Symbol**
5	4.21 - 5.00	Very Highly Effective	VHE
4	3.41 - 4.20	Highly Effective	HE
3	2.61 – 3.40	Moderately Effective	ME
2	1.81 – 2.60	Slightly Effective	SE
1	1.00 – 1.80	Very Slightly Effective	VSE

Chapter IV

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Extent of Involvement of Professionals in ALS Programs and Projects

The professionals of Aguilar, Pangasinan are slightly involved in the programs and projects of the Alternative Learning System which are sponsored and implemented by public elementary and high schools in the said municipality. This is proven by the average weighted mean of 2.55, as shown in table 1.0.

Table 1.0

Extent of Involvement of Professionals in the Programs and Projects of Alternative Learning System

Programs/Projects of ALS	Mean	Frequency	Rank
1. Literary Program			
a) Adult Education	3.01	MI	6.3
b) Out-of-school youth education	3.02	MI	4.5

2. Livelihood Program			
a) Backyard gardening	3.18	MI	1
b) Animal raising/husbandry	3.01	MI	6.3
c) Fish Culture	1.92	SI	14
d) Cottage Industry	1.83	SI	15.5
e) Retailing	2.13	SI	11
f) Farming	2.43	SI	10
g) Land management	3.11	MI	2
3. Skills Building/Management			
a) Computer literacy	2.02	SI	13
b) Computer repair	3.01	MI	6.3
c) Carpentry	2.92	MI	9
d) Furniture making	1.83	SI	15.5
e) Welding	1.73	VSI	17
f) Car-repair and servicing	3.02	MI	4.5
g) Tailoring	2.11	SI	12
h) Beauty parlor operation management	3.03	MI	3
Average Weighted Mean	**2.55**	**SI**	

Relative Value	**Statistics Limit**	**Descriptive Equivalent**	**Symbol**
5	4.21 - 5.00	Very Highly Involved	VHI
4	3.41 - 4.20	Highly Involved	HI
3	2.61 – 3.40	Moderately Involved	MI

2	1.81 – 2.60	Slightly Involved	SI
1	1.00 – 1.80	Very Slightly Involved	VSI

Legend:

The moderate involvement of the professionals can be explained by the reality that most of them are aware that their backyards are best utilized for food production and that it is healthier and safer to eat vegetables which are grown naturally and right beside their homes. Thus, most professionals are into backyard gardening, even without them learning or getting instructions from the trainers of the Alternative Learning System programs and projects.

Most of the professionals are fortunate to have tracts of lands which make them interested in having direct supervision in managing said real estate to ensure their utmost productivity.

The women professionals need to look their best at all times. Most of them are directly or indirectly involved in beauty parlor operation and management either as owners themselves or as clients.

Most professionals have vehicles of their own, thus are either owners or clients of motor vehicle servicing and repair shop.

Majority of the women professionals are involved in civic-oriented activities. Some are members of the Catholic Women's League and other civic-oriented organizations which are either directly or indirectly sponsoring programs on the education of the out-of-school youth, and even adults.

Conversely, the very minimal involvement of the professionals in welding, cottage industry, furniture-making, fish culture and computer literacy can be attributed to the reality that they consider these programs to be better ear-marked for blue-collar workers of Aguilar, Pangasinan. This concept was arrived at based on the sporadic interviews conducted by the researcher.

ALS Programs and Projects Preferred by the Professionals

The date in Table 2.0 indicated the least preference, on the average, of the programs and projects of the Alternative Learning System. This is proven by the average weighted mean of 2.38.

More specifically, the professionals most prefer the training programs on computer literacy (x = 3.37), animal raising and husbandry.

Table 2.0

Programs and Projects of the Alternative Learning System Preferred by the Professionals

Programs/Projects of ALS	Mean	Frequency	Rank
1. Literary Program			
a) Adult Education	2.07	LP	11
b) Out-of-school youth education	1.93	LP	12.5
2. Livelihood Program			
a) Backyard gardening	2.17	LP	8.5
b) Animal raising/husbandry	3.14	MP	2
c) Fish Culture	3.06	MP	5
d) Cottage Industry	2.11	LP	10
e) Retailing	1.93	LP	12.5
f) Farming	1.82	LP	15
g) Land management	1.81	LP	16
3. Skills Building/Management			
a) Computer literacy	3.37	MP	1
b) Computer repair	2.17	LP	8.5
c) Carpentry	3.08	MP	4

d) Furniture making	3.12	MP	3
e) Welding	1.89	LP	14
f) Car-repair and servicing	2.51	LP	7
g) Tailoring	3.02	MP	6
h) Beauty parlor operation management	1.32	NP	17
Average Weighted Mean	**2.38**	**LP**	

Legend:

Relative Value	Statistics Limit	Descriptive Equivalent	Symbol
5	4.21 - 5.00	Always Preferred	AP
4	3.41 - 4.20	Often Preferred	OP
3	2.61 – 3.40	Moderately Preferred	MP
2	1.81 – 2.60	Least Preferred	LP
1	1.00 – 1.80	Not Preferred	NP

The findings indicated that the preference of the professionals in the programs and projects of the ALS is not synonymous to their involvement in the said programs and projects. While they most preferred the training programs on computer literacy, animal raising and husbandry, furniture-making, carpentry and fish culture, they believed that these are best suited for them to sponsor and support for full and continuous implementation as these can best benefit the majority of the residents in Aguilar, Pangasinan. This is considering that such crafts and skills are best used by the middle-income group in earning a living.

The least preference of the professionals of training programs are beauty parlor operations and management, land management, farming, welding, out-of-school youth education and retailing. This can be attributed to their notion that these have been handled and offered extensively in the past until presently.

Reasons Why Professionals Rarely Involve in ALS Programs and Projects

The message of the professionals is clear they need to know where and how to come in and participate in the programs and projects of the ALS. And unless the program implementers launch a massive information dissemination on ALS and the details of its various programs, and invite the professionals in its meetings and fora, the participation and involvement of the professionals will remain as is - very minimal and insignificant.

Table 3.0

Frequency of Reasons Why Professionals Rarely Involve in the Programs/Projects of Alternative Learning System

Reasons	Mean	Descriptive Equivalent	Rank
1. Programs/projects are unknown to the professionals	4.18	O	6
2. Details of programs/projects are not clear	4.32	A	4
3. Poor information dissemination	4. 53	A	3
4. Professional participation is not identified nor clear.	4.72	A	2
5. Professionals are not invited to			

activities such as meetings/ conferences.	4.86	A	1
6. Inadequate facilities and equipment for programs/projects implementation	4.26	A	5
Average Weighted Mean	**4.48**	**A**	

Legend:

Relative Value	Statistics Limit	Descriptive Equivalent	Symbol
5	4.21 - 5.00	Always	A
4	3.41 - 4.20	Often	O
3	2.61 – 3.40	Sometimes	SE
2	1.81 – 2.60	Seldom	Sm
1	1.00 – 1.80	Never	N

Degree of Effectiveness of Measures that can Encourage the Professionals to Actively Involve in ALS Programs and Projects

The professionals can be best invited in the meetings, brainstorming and conferences (x = 4.51) where they can share their insights on how the ALS, its programs and projects can be further enhanced to benefit more residents of Aguilar, Pangasinan, by way of improving their economic plight (x = 4.40).

The results of the analysis implied that the professionals are more than willing to involve and extend assistance, in many ways, to make all

Table 4.0

Degree of Effectiveness of Measures that Encourage Active Involvement of Professionals in the Alternative Learning System Programs and Projects

Measures	Mean	Descriptive Equivalent	Rank
1. There must be massive information dissemination thru media and fliers on Alternative Learning System:			
a) purposes and goals	4.32	VHE	7
b) programs and projects sponsored	4.37	VHE	4
c) schedule and time of program activity	4.35	VHE	5.5
d) target participants and beneficiaries	4.35	VHE	5.5
2. Professionals can be:			
a) invited in meetings/brainstorming/ conference of ALS	4.51	VHE	2
b) sent letters to inform the contribution/ participation of their choices	4.23	VHE	8
c) informed of the possible beneficiary/ ies they can sponsor for assistance	4.56	VHE	1
d) invited to give their insights on how the ALS can be further enhanced to benefit more residents of Aguilar, Pangasinan	4.49	VHE	3
Average Weighted Mean	**4.40**	**VHE**	

Legend:

Relative Value	Statistics Limit	Descriptive Equivalent	Symbol
5	4.21 - 5.00	Very Highly Involved	VHI
4	3.41 - 4.20	Highly Involved	HI
3	2.61 – 3.40	Moderately Involved	MI
2	1.81 – 2.60	Slightly Involved	SI
1	1.00 – 1.80	Very Slightly Involved	VSI

The ALS programs and projects successful. There is a need to inform them exhaustively on all the facets of the ALS and how they can share their knowledge, skills, insights and resources for them to effectively assist in the successful implementation of the ALS programs and projects.

Action Plan to Encourage the Professionals to Actively Participate and Involve in ALS Programs and Projects

This Action Research developed and designed the following Action Plan which is envisioned to effectively encourage the professionals of Aguilar, Pangasinan to actively and consistently participate and involve in the various programs and projects of the Alternative Learning System, which are presently sponsored and implemented by the public elementary and high schools in the said municipality.

Action Plan to Encourage Professionals to Actively

Involve in ALS Programs and Projects

Activity	Details	Time Frame	Person Responsible/ Activity Implementers
1. Massive Information dissemination	1. Announcement of program details through the following: a) local radio station b) fliers in the streets, market, church, plaza, barangay halls and school campuses	1. At the start of program/training implementation	1. School Principals with the assistance of the barangay council officials
2. Quarterly meeting/conference	2. Specific discussions on the following aspects	2. Second week of January, April,	2. School Principals with the assistance of

on ALS	of ALS: a) mission and vision b) objectives c) each training program d) who can join/participate e) trainers f) duration of training program	July, and October	the barangay council officials and trainer in each training program
3. Open house	3. Training venue visitation by the professionals and the community residents to introduce to them the instructional facilities, equipment and materials used in each training program	3. Immediately after the quarterly meeting/conference	3. Trainers with the assistance of the barangay council officials
4. Graduation exercises	4. Encouraging the professionals and community residents to attend graduation exercises of program beneficiaries/learners of the training programs	4. To be determined based on the duration of the training program	4.School principals and trainors, with the assistance of the barangay council officials

Chapter V

CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions were drawn from the salient findings of this study:

1. The professionals of Aguilar, Pangasinan are slightly involved in the programs and projects of the Alternative Learning System, which are sponsored and implemented by the public elementary and high schools.

2. Majority of the ALS programs and projects are least preferred by the professionals, six (6) are moderately preferred while one (1) is not preferred by them.

3. Most of the reasons, considered for analysis in this research, are rated by the professionals as the always causes why they slightly involve themselves in the ALS programs and projects.

4. There are very highly effective measures that can encourage the professionals to actively involve and participate in the ALS programs and projects to make them effective and successful.

5. The Action Plan prepared and developed, based on the findings of this Action Research when reviewed, refined and subsequently implemented can be effective in encouraging the professionals to actively involve and participate in the various ALS programs and projects to make them successful in helping improve the economic plight of the residents of Aguilar, Pangasinan.

Chapter VI

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are the recommendations and insights based on the conclusions drawn in this Action Research.

Recommendations

1. The school administrators of the public elementary and high schools should map out measures, that should include the following, to effectively and successfully encourage the involvement of the professionals in the ALS programs and projects:

a) massive information and dissemination;

b) regular meetings and conference where all professionals and community residents must be invited;

c) invitations of professionals to visit venues of program trainings and activities.

2. The school administrators, together with the program trainers, should develop and prepare fliers, that will give details on each program and project, which will be subsequently distributed to every able resident of Aguilar, Pangasinan, including the professionals, to enable them to correctly choose the program/projects which they can actively involve and participate in.

3. The school administrators, the program trainers and the barangay council officials should work in concerted efforts to minimize to some negligible level the reasons why the professionals rarely involve in the ALS programs and projects.

4. The school administrators, together with the program trainers and the barangay council officials, should consistently implement the measures which are proven very effective in encouraging the professionals to involve themselves in the ALS programs and projects.

5. The school administrators, the program trainers and the barangay council officials should review the Action Plan prepared by the researcher, based on the findings of this Action Research and then subsequently:

a) make/introduce revisions and/or addendum to further refine the attributes/ parts of the Action Plan;

b) test-run the Action Plan to determine whether its activities are pertinent and applicable in the programs and projects of the ALS, to elicit the interest and participation of the professionals; and,

c) implement the Action Plan fully and consistently to serve its very purpose for being to enhance the active involvement of community residents in the various programs and projects of the Alternative Learning System which are being implemented by public elementary and high schools in Aguilar, Pangasinan.