



Philippine Normal University
The National Center for Teacher Education

Policy Brief Series

A Special Series on Policy Research | Issue 12 | 2017

Cultural Metaphors of Poverty and Development



Source: <http://www.remate.ph/2014/06/1m-osy-dadaan-sa-abot-alam-program-ng-deped/>

This policy brief looks at the cultural metaphors of poverty and development; concepts, ideas, and mindsets about poverty and development; and educational framework for the poor from the perspective of out-of-school youth and their parents. Policy recommendations are given.

In order to fully understand the out-of-school-youth (OSY) and their families, and help them through education, it is important to see how they make sense of their condition from their own perspective. Through drawings and discussion, OSY and their parents represented the cultural metaphors and their views on poverty and development. It was found that they see poverty as related to unemployment, vices, and unschooled children and youth. On the other hand, development is represented by having money, food, housing, and education for the youth and their family. They also viewed good governance and good programs as necessary to alleviate poverty.

Moreover, they viewed education as an important factor in improving their lives and as a means to success. It was found that they value industriousness, dedication, determination, ability to overcome life challenges, diligence, hard work, perseverance, optimism, and goodness of heart. Among the strategies they use for survival, which could inform a formula for innovation are the following: grabbing any possible prospect for survival, never losing sight to dream, aspiring for good life, and getting involved in any productive and lucrative activity. These findings can help policy-makers to have a glimpse of the cultural perspectives of OSY and their parents' cultural metaphors and mindset, and provide useful information in creating an education framework for them (Reyes, Valencia, & Gomez, 2016).



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The following policy recommendations are given based on the findings of the research:

1. A long term comprehensive Philippine education action plan that could serve as guide to educators and leaders is suggested. This covers various levels, from basic education, higher education, advanced higher education, to technical and vocational education. Further, a lifelong learning framework for OSY, adults, and those who are already working is also recommended. This covers alternative learning system, programs for adults in the workplace, and livelihood education and cooperatives (see Reyes et al., 2016 for the action plan and framework).
2. Department of Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and the Commission on Higher Education should closely collaborate with each other to ensure the education of the poor.
3. Teacher education institutions must consider teacher training and teaching standards that will inspire the disengaged youth.
4. Government agencies are suggested to partner with nongovernment agencies that aim to provide education to families.

REFERENCE:

Reyes, Z. Q., Valencia, M. C., & Gomez, M. A. (2016). *Cultural metaphors of poverty and development*. (Terminal Report). Manila: Philippine Normal University.



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