

Indigenous Peoples' Core Curriculum in the Philippines.

By Schedar D. Jocson

Language is the repository of cultural artefacts. As such, it is noted that language is not only a tool for communication, but an effective means of preserving heritage through education. The Education for All strand of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goal seeks to incorporate the marginalized sector for a quality and sound education.

The creation of the Indigenous Peoples' Core Curriculum of the Department of Education's Bureau of Alternative Learning Systems has become one of the solutions in trying to attain the MDG goal by focusing on indigenous people (IP). The material outlines the different skills and competencies deemed important based from consultations carried out by indigenous people within their communities. It also outlines the core messages indigenous communities want to address. The paper looks at the different basic learning materials being used by the Department of Education. It examines translations done by the department and looks at how the IP community culture is being preserved. The paper also evaluates the illustrations and if it does accordingly represent the target IP communities.

Finally, the paper suggests how IP education should be carried out in the Philippines and recommends probable causes for the lack of a quality IP education that is geared towards the IP communities alongside technological advances.