



Early College Folio

Unconventional Paths to College Education

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Move

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IT'S TIME TO *MOVE*

During these turbulent times, the COVID-19 pandemic and political turmoil have severely impacted the lives of people, particularly the children and youths in our country, Myanmar. Hundreds and thousands of college students are struggling to obtain an education that will shape their future and the society they live in. In some areas, access to even basic education is scarce, exacerbating the situation. This issue is not unique to Myanmar and is prevalent in many other countries, including some developed nations. Shockingly, [258.4 million children worldwide](#) still lack access to basic education. Given these challenges, educational leaders must not add further barriers for students who are striving to learn and grow through higher education, which provides theoretical and practical skills that lead to more stable livelihoods and professions.

I am bringing “Move” to the public’s attention to highlight the role of educational leaders and the impacts they can make. As an individual who is passionate about education and who recognizes the importance of access to it, I wrote this poem to highlight the obstacles that many disadvantaged students face when it comes to receiving a quality education. Through my words, I hope to inspire educational leaders, such as principals, founders, rectors, and deans, to create a more inclusive and loving environment that is accessible to all learners. I believe that education is a fundamental human right, and it is crucial that we work together to remove any barriers that prevent individuals from accessing it.

Through my 14 years of experience in the educational landscape, first as a student and later as an assistant to the Venerable U Nayaka, the founder and president of Phaung Daw Oo Monastic School and Phaung Daw Oo International University, I have witnessed the challenges that students face when trying to acquire critical knowledge. I have always looked up to his leadership style, one that emphasizes the values of loving kindness, compassion, equanimity, and sympathetic joy that rejoices in the good fortune of others, free from envy or ill will. However, more schools like this are needed, especially community-based learning environments, to help disadvantaged individuals in need of quality education.

I call upon educational leaders to take a closer look at the rules and regulations that may be hindering student access to education. As a society, we depend on each other to create a better future. The world is excited to receive the gift of education, but to make it happen, we need to work together. I wrote this poem to serve as a reminder that we all have a role to play in ensuring that education is accessible to everyone, regardless of their socioeconomic status or background.

MOVE

The light penetrates into endless darkness
Brain and mind's darkness sparked by wisdom
To accumulate wisdom, critical knowledge is needed
There are many places for critical knowledge with different names
Though, freedom of education is not free.

For instance,
Warmly welcome everyone but then, "must meet the following criteria."
The game costs a lot,
The award is too small.

However,
There is a small place,
Opening our eyes with such a fine art of college culture
With loving kindness, creating a learning environment for everyone
With compassion, improving the development of the society
With sympathetic joy, stepping forward to ultimate goals
With equanimity, overcoming the nightmare challenges
The tiny land led by cheerful leaders creates cheerful students.

With deepest wisdom,
Everything is education,
Every time is education,
Education is for everybody.

The whole world agrees education is important yet it is time to realize—
The key players of the educational atmosphere,
The Principals, The Founders, The Rectors, The Deans,
Please take a glance:

Leaders
Your stinginess is not good,
Greed is bad,
Arrogance is the worst.

Learners
We, must be respectful,
Be responsible,
Be creative.

For education,
You all are craving, we all are hungry,
Let's balance both of us.
We need you, you need us,
Let's depend on each other.
Let's march on together.

The world is excited to receive a precious gift from E D U C A T I O N.

MAY HONEY MAUNG was born in a small village called Dulabo, situated in Myingyan, Mandalay Region. She earned a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from Mandalay Yadanabon University. Recently, she led a team to self-publish a collection of poems in Burmese for Mother's Day. The book features contributions from students, teachers, and staff members of Phaung Daw Oo Monastic School. The experience inspired May Honey Maung to continue exploring her creativity and hone her writing skills.