

Tapping into Kawi Knowledge: Kawi Ways of Living

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Abstract

Myanmar has created a generation left behind. KAWI is the heartfelt commitment of a team of Parami University students to these young people, who face five threats of continuous political instability, educational collapse, deep social inequality, rapid technological disruption, and the hollow promise of rote learning and systemic epistemic injustice in a world demanding practical action. While delivering post-quake relief, this team confronted school-aged children dropping out of rote-learning-oriented public schools and turning to survival work. Recognizing the exhaustion, uncertainty, and financial pressure the youth struggle with in their pursuit of education, KAWI forges a blueprint founded on co-creation, Ubuntu-Currere pedagogies, living as pedagogy, lifelong learning, and the pursuit of passion. KAWI, therefore, redefines learning as a quest embedded in daily life. It taps into our hidden potential, critical thinking, and practical skills that rote-learning education smothers. Via KAWI, these youth learn to navigate the defining issues of our time. They seize the radical freedom to act and self-govern. They realize their potential, even when external forces threaten to crush it. KAWI seeks ways of understanding human existence as fundamentally interconnected, interdependent, and mutually constituted. It rejects the individualistic, competitive logic of both the exam-oriented education system and the neoliberal knowledge economy. Instead, KAWI embraces a vision of education as collective liberation where the flourishing of each is inseparable from the flourishing of all.