A Collection of Creative Writing
by May Doe Kabar

Copyright © 2017 by May Doe Kabar National Network of Rural Women | မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရေးနှင့်အတူများစွာသောနိုင်ငံရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်း

The poems and stories in this collection were written by Myanmar rural women members of the May Doe Kabar Network during the period 2015-2017 and were submitted through the iWomen Inspiring Women App. They have been compiled by the iWomen team. Hundreds more stories and poems are available on the iWomen App.
To All Women of Myanmar
May Doe Kabar

May Doe Kabar National Network of Rural Myanmar Women connects 20,000 rural women and their families across eight states and regions in Myanmar. It has at its core a network of 2,000 women saving and lending groups (self-reliant groups) and 31 women-led civil society organizations (township leading groups). May Doe Kabar was launched on October 2015 with support from the United Nations Development Programme. It creates a channel for realising the collective voices of rural women for inclusion in local and national policies. May Doe Kabar responds to the current needs and long-term aspirations of rural women and to promote the role and leadership of rural women to contribute to sustainable development and gender equality.
iWomen Inspiring Women App

iWomen Inspiring Women App is a free mobile app which was co-developed by May Doe Kabar members, tech women and UNDP innovators as a platform to network together the 2,000 women saving and lending groups into one cohesive national network. iWomen App connects women living in rural villages across Myanmar to inspire, foster self-belief and channel mentorship and peer support into their daily lives as they expand their roles in public and private spheres to become respected leaders in their communities.

iWomen App captures rural women’s attention by sharing human interest personal stories (Be Inspired Function); gives rural women knowledge on topics such as renewable energy, entrepreneurship, market, laws, rights, technology (Be Knowledgeable Function); provides a sharing platform where women can discuss, in private, issues of concern and receive remote mentorship (Talk Together & Be Together); runs competitions with prizes to embed the knowledge in the rural women’s minds and functioning as a project monitoring and evaluation tool (Ready to Play Function).
Welcome
May Doe Kabar, initiated by kind people of the world, is welcoming common flowers with open arms, to nurse and nurture them, like gardener with noble attitude, into royal flowers.

Chaw Su

Empowerment
Women are empowered by iWomen, Become world famous and flying high in the air, Many problems are being solved, The little bird in the air, flying around the world to show what women can do, Moving forward, hand in hand to help May Doe Kabar grow, Let's work for development with the aim to create a beautiful world, iWomen helps to nurture women leaders.

Thet Thet Win
မြန်မာပြိုဒီမေးယားတပ်မှာ အကြံပြုမှု ဖော်ပြထားသော အချက်အလက်များကို အခြေခံ၍ မျှဝေပြီး ဆောင်ရွက်ပေးပါသည်။

မိမိတို့၏ ဗိုလ်ချုပ်ရေးဦးဆောင်မှုကို စိတ်ချုပ်မှု ဖော်ပြထားသည်။

iwomen သို့မဟုတ် ကောက်လုံးစုစုပေါင်းအဆင့်သို့ သော့ချက်များကို ထိန်းသိမ်းပါ။

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A Letter to My Friend

Dear Friend, I recall our childhood as I read this letter. We had a hard time when we were young. Poverty is like a cycle passed from generation to generation. From our grandmothers to our mothers and to us. We need to do something not to pass this to our children and grandchildren any more. We must develop ourselves. We must start from ourselves first, then our households, our villages and finally our country.

I could reflect on many things only when I became a member of May Doe Kabar. As May Doe Kabar is a network having linkages with national and international organizations, we have many opportunities to gain knowledge, skills and learn about technology. I think about our rural women. They live in poverty and have no education through no fault of their own. Every rural woman is beautiful in her own way. That beauty is not in the face, but it’s a light in the heart. If we can illuminate the world with this light, the world will be more beautiful and peaceful for us. This is my dream. To make this dream come true, we need to have self-confidence. To become a mentally strong and capable person, we must dig a well and grow water lilies by ourselves. Only when we do it in practice will we come to know how to dig to get fresh clean water and how to collect good water lily seeds and nurture them.

My friend, we must overcome a large number of obstacles to become a successful person. I know that you also can do it. I am sure that you are working very hard to set aside your hurt feelings and to overcome difficult emotions.

Ma Thein
We are afraid of this tricky world
Don’t dare to go far
With great fear in heart
Like miserable caged birds
Now come iWomen
We can share knowledge and wisdom
Go together hand in hand
Bright future as leaders risen

Thet Thet Win

Kindness, Like a Boomerang Always Returns

It may be your first step, but don't be afraid. Keep your eyes open, your ears open and grab everything you can, read and learn! Be brave and face the challenges by going hand in hand. Opportunity knocks only once. Success is near.
Make it a habit to try to put yourself in the shoes of another person. Kindness, like a boomerang always returns. Whoever you work for - for your family or for community, be honest and don't expect to get anything back. Because what you really want is waiting for you. Be willing to serve others. Make your own dream and the dream for your group come true. Success is within your reach.

Cho Aye
When I was young I had a hard time.
My mother work hard without complaining,
She supported me so that I didn't feel inferior because I was a fatherless child,
She tried her best to increase the property left by my father,
She is my role model.

Aye Chan Aung

Endure stoically ups and downs of life without fear,
Believing that I can achieve my goals one day.

Win Yaung
I Want to Be a Good Village Tract Administrator.
I Will Try My Best to Be a Good Mother.

Dear May Doe Kabar rural women members, in the past the idea of serving other people never crossed my mind. I struggled hard to survive with many leaks in the roof and many holes in the walls of bamboo matting, no electricity and a shortage of water. In 2005, I first met someone who could light up my life: UNDP’s Human Development Initiative. Thanks to this project, I came to know, for the first time in my life, that a citizen despite living in the rural area could serve other people. Although I am uneducated and I am not a civil servant, I want to work for the community without anyone forcing me to do so.

Nyunt Yee

Be brave when facing failure,
Be patient when striving for something
And remain humble in the face of success.

Rose Lay
Strength
Though we are miles apart
All start a journey with the same heart
Thet Thet Win
Rural Women Let’s Keep Working Together Without Feeling Small

To be able to lead a peaceful life all the human beings need to be treated without discrimination, they should be treated equally. We should be able to share our ideas and exchange our views. We should not have jealousy and should treat others with empathy. If we can achieve this, there will be no abuses, violence, killing and insults. But we are now facing wars, conflicts, violence and abuses.

On the other side of the story, we also have opportunities to overcome the challenges we face as women and those of our children. I benefit from UNDP trainings and now I can lead and support the women in my township, and I can inspire my family. Thanks to UNDP, my life has completely changed.

Another thing which has changed my way of thinking and developed my capacity is the mobile app for rural women, iWomen Inspiring Women App. Whenever I feel depressed and want to give up, I always read “Be inspired” section. After reading it, I feel inspired and can overcome the problems and difficulties.

As long as I live, I will always get up again and again whenever I will fall down. I will never give up. I can proudly say that I have become this kind of person. We are human beings, so we don’t need to feel small and downhearted. Moreover, we have this iWomen App to let the world know us. We have technology in our hands now. We can share information and have opportunities to support the survivors of violence. We come to know how to establish linkages and networks which can support us. As rural women are also humans among other humans living in this world, let’s help each other to overcome challenges and work together for a brighter future without feeling small.

Nyo Nyo San
သုံးစွဲနေသူများအတွက် သင်္ကေတမှ ဖွင့်ရန် ပြည်တွင်းမှ ဆောင်ရွက် ပြီးသား မိမိ ကြိုးစားသော အချက်အလက်များ ရရှိရန် အခြေအနေမှ ဖော်ပြပါသည်။

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Empowered women shall be the might of the nation, serving the people's interests.

Sein Than

Let's go to the new united world,
Move forward hand in hand to our bright future,
Work together for rural development,
Let us go together with you, Mays,
To make our world beautiful.

Kyal Sin
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