

VERNACULAR EDUCATION

**Brief developed by PER Committee
Adopted by Working Collective on 6 August 2015.**

AWAM supports people's right to learn in the language of their own preference.

In an ideal situation, every community (e.g. within a geographical location) should be able to decide what language their children are taught in. For instance, if there are 200 children who want to learn in Tamil, then this should be possible.

However, AWAM also believes that the vernacular education debate is a red herring. It distracts us from a more critical issue at hand, that of the poor quality of education which Malaysian children as a whole, receive. This situation is compounded because education is politicised.

The most important aspect about education in Malaysia today is ensuring access to quality education for *all* children, one where they are able to learn how to think critically and build knowledge.