

## **Syllabus**

The Course covers the application of the Montessori Method to the education of children from 2½ to 6 years of age.

There are three main sections:

- (1) Child Psychology
- (2) The Theory of the Montessori Method
- (3) Practical Demonstration Lectures (Demonstration and explanation of the Montessori Apparatus and all practical details).

### **Child Psychology**

Child psychology deals with the developmental stages of the child, focusing on the years from birth to six and seeing him as the constructor of his own personality.

A study of embryology helps in understanding the needs of the child after birth. It also addresses the special powers that a child is endowed with and the critical, sensitive periods of his development.

This gives the students a vision of the need for a specially prepared environment and the spiritual preparation of the adult.

### **The Theory of the Montessori Method**

The Theory lectures focuses on the origin and principles of the Montessori Method. Some of the important topics being:

- The role and attitude of the adult
- The function of the "prepared environment"
- The means of development as distinguished from a didactic apparatus and the way in which they satisfy vital needs of self-construction

All the lectures converge around the central conception of education as a help to life and the **child as the lever of human upliftment.**

The salient features of setting up of a House of Children, its organisation and administration are dealt with as part of this section.

*The Lectures on Child Psychology and the Theory of the Montessori Method are recommended to parents and to all, professionally or otherwise, interested in child welfare and education. They can be attended separately from the practical section at a fee.*

## Practical Demonstration Lectures\*

These lectures deal with the scientific nature and presentation of the means of development (apparatus) offered to children from 2½ to 6 years of age in a Montessori House of Children.

According to their aims they are divided as follows:

- **Exercises of Practical Life** deals with the acquisition of co-ordination of movement and practical independence in daily life and social awareness.
- **Sensorial activities** serve as a means of intelligent exploration of the environment and development of consciousness and cognitive development.
- **Language activities** focus on the development of spoken and written language.
- **Arithmetical activities** help in the development of the mathematical mind (four operations in arithmetic within the framework of the decimal system)
- Other **cultural activities**.

While dealing with the spontaneous exploration of written language and its historical and psychological background, it will be made clear how the young child is one of most vital contributors to a total eradication of illiteracy.

\* The practical demonstration lectures and Practice classes can be attended only by those taking the complete course of training.

## Technical Details

The course will consist of:

- (a) **Lectures:** These will be delivered in **English**.
- (b) **Practice Classes:** Where students, in smaller groups, handle the materials and acquire the technique of their presentation under the supervision of qualified assistants. These are held twice a week for each group.
- (c) **\*\* Written work:** Students are required to make:
  - (1) Synopses of lectures.
  - (2) A "Material - book" containing the illustrations and description of the various parts of the apparatus, the techniques of their demonstrations, exercises, their aims, etc.
  - (3) Nomenclature cards for items of human culture: Geometry, Botany, Geography etc.
- (d) **Observation** of children at work in Montessori Houses of Children and making records.

(e) **Periodical Tests:** Two written tests are conducted during the course to prepare the students for the final examinations and to test their understanding of the Method and its practice.

\*\* The written work will have to be submitted at regular intervals during the course. Candidates who do not submit at the time specified may be refused admission to the final examinations.

### **Attendance**

Students who wish to appear at the final examinations need to observe punctuality in attending the lectures, and practice classes etc. Late comers will be given half-attendance only. **Less than 90%** attendance disqualifies from the examinations. Any case of absence should be notified, in writing, whenever possible beforehand. In case of illness, a medical certificate stating the nature and duration of the illness has to be submitted. **Sick-leave and any other absence lasting more than 3 consecutive weeks disqualify from the examination and any absence, also because of illness will be included among the only admissible 10%.**

### **Holidays**

Unrestricted public holidays declared by the Government of India as observed in the State will be observed.

### **Examinations**

The examinations consist of two parts, written and practical. The written part consists of two papers, one on Child Psychology and one on the Theory of the Montessori Method; both papers also contain a number of questions dealing with the practical application of the Method. The *practical* part includes a demonstration of the use of the apparatus in each of its four areas and questions relating to these exercises.

NOTE: Students are eligible for admission to the Examinations (which have to be passed successfully in order to obtain the diploma) only if

- (1) Their attendance at all classes was satisfactory
- (2) Their written and other work during the course was handed in punctually and proved satisfactory,
- (3) Their performance at the periodic tests during the term was satisfactory,
- (4) They have cleared all dues.

Those who fail to appear on the scheduled date and at the appointed time for these examinations or any of their parts, for a valid reason, may be given an opportunity to appear at examinations held thereafter, but they will have to pay the full examination fee once more and may also be required to attend additional classes for which a fee will be charged. They will have to apply for this in writing latest on the day scheduled for their appearance with full acceptable explanation of their failure to appear as scheduled; medical grounds will have to be attested by a regular medical certificate.

Those who are declared not successful have to undergo another full course of training. Those who are granted permission to appear for a re-examination in one of the two parts have to pay a second examination fee, also a class fee, if they are required to attend additional classes. If they fail in the re-examination they will have to undergo another full course of training, if they want a diploma.

## **DIPLOMA**

The diploma awarded after a successful examination will show the standard attained. This diploma qualifies the holder to apply the *Montessori Method* to the education of children between 2½ and 6 years of age, but not that of children over 6 years of age nor to impart training in the Montessori Method to adults in any form. It also entitles the holder to use the name "Montessori" for the group of children in his/her charge *provided* it is fully equipped, directed and organised, according to the requirements of the Montessori Method as set forth during the course of training. **The diploma will be awarded by the Indian Montessori Centre.** They will be signed by the Chairman of the IMC, a member of the Pedagogical Committee and the Director of the Training Courses.

## **Attendance Certificate**

Students who do not appear at the final examinations will be awarded attendance certificates provided their attendance is satisfactory; so also those who follow only the lectures in the Theory and Psychology of the Montessori Method. These attendance certificates do *not* qualify the holders to apply the Montessori Method to the education of children *nor* do they entitle the holders to the use of the name "Montessori " *nor* to impart training in the Montessori Method to adults in any form.

## **Minimum Qualification**

Only those who have completed at least 18 years of age, when the Course commences and possess at least a High School Certificate with English can be admitted. (Graduates preferred). Knowledge of English is essential. The Director of the Course may make an exception in special cases at his/her own discretion. All students admitted in this category will be "on probation" for at least 2 months and have to pass a test at the end of this period, only then the admission will be made final. No exception is made for those below 18 years of age.

### **APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION**

Each applicant has to supply two copies of his/her passport size photograph (recently taken) together with the application form. These photographs must mention the name and address of the student on the reverse.

A hand written life-sketch (in English) of about 300 words and copies of the certificates with mark sheets have to be attached to the application form. A medical certificate of good health and fitness is also to be given. Applications filled incompletely will NOT be considered. Applications should reach the office within the stipulated time.

### **FEES**

The Registration fee has to be enclosed with the application form; no application will be considered unless the fee has been received. The tuition fee is payable in advance. The practical class fee is charged for the use of the apparatus during the practice classes.

### **REFUND**

Students, who are refused permission to appear at the examinations and have already paid for the same, will receive a refund of the examination and diploma - fees minus money order charges.

Refund of the registration fee and other fees will NOT be made if a registered student withdraws before or during the course or has to discontinue for any reason.

### **INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS**

Stationery required for the course, text - books and other individual requirements will have to be procured by the students.

Essential items required:

- |                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (i) Art papers in 5 -6 colours | (vi) Poster colours               |
| (ii) Cutter                    | (vii) Instrument Box              |
| (iii) Gum bottle               | (viii) Pair of scissors           |
| (iv) Eraser                    | (ix) Metal Scale                  |
| (v) Files, loose papers, etc.  | (x) Nomenclature cards and slips. |

The above list is given for guidance only; special instructions will be given during the Course.

### **LITERATURE (Recommended)**

1. Works by Dr. Maria Montessori:
  - a The Discovery of the Child
  - b The Absorbent Mind
  - c The Secret of the Childhood (New edition 1982)
  - d The Formation of Man
  - e What you should know about your Child
  - f Education for a New World
  - g To Educate the Human Potential
  - h The Advanced Montessori Method Vol. 1, Vol. II
  - i From Childhood to Adolescence
  - j Education and Peace
  - k A Child in the Family
  
2. Leaflets by Dr. Maria Montessori:
  - a The Child
  - b Reconstruction in Education
  - c Peace and Education
  
3.
  - a Maria Montessori, her life and work by E. M. Standing
  - b Education for Human Development. Understanding Montessori by Mario Montessori Jr.
  
4. Gateways to Montessori Parts I and II – by A. M. Joosten and  
Meenakshi Sivaramakrishnan
  
5. Towards Healthy Humanity - A. M. Joosten