

A STUDY EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF MARIA MONTESSORI AND ITS RELEVANCE IN PRESENT EDUCATIONAL SCENARIO

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ABSTRACT

Montessori system its impact can easily be seen in the field of pre-primary education in the European countries, U.S.A., India, China, Japan, African countries, Latin American countries and all through the world, This system has encouraged lovers of education to discover new methods of teaching young children. This system emphasized the necessity of study of children in order to educate them properly. As a result, education became child-centered. The construction of curriculum became oriented to the actual needs of life. It was considered necessary to provide a good environment in the school. The aims of education became oriented to individual development of each child. Hence emphasis was laid on the development of personality of each child. Proper training of teachers was considered necessary

Keyword: Educational Philosophy, Maria Montessori, Present Educational Scenario

INTRODUCTION

Education in the broadest sense of the term is meant to aid the human being in his/her pursuit of wholeness. Wholeness implies the harmonious development of all the potentialities God has given to a human person. True education is the harmonious development of the physical, mental, moral (spiritual), and social faculties, the four dimensions of life, for a life of dedicated service.

Education is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits. Educational methods include storytelling, discussion,

teaching, training, and directed research. Education frequently takes place under the guidance of educators and also learners may also educate themselves. Education can take place in formal or informal settings and any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels, or acts may be considered educational. The methodology of teaching is called pedagogy. Formal education is commonly divided formally into such stages as preschool or kindergarten, primary school, secondary school and then college, university, or apprenticeship.

REVIEW OF RELATED STUDIED

Ozerem and Kavaz (2013) examined the efficacy of Montessori method education on pre-school children. The results showed that the creativity and social skills ability were found to be higher in more per cent of the students, further implying that the Montessori students have higher creativity and social skills

Badiei and Sulaiman (2014) revealed that children in Montessori curriculum have a higher score in cognitive, social and language development than children in public kindergarten with National Preschool Curriculum. Other studies have yielded similar results that there is a difference between Montessori and traditional kindergartens in cognitive, language and social skill development.

Brianna Flavin (2017) “The best thing about a Montessori environment is that it allows for children to work, develop and learn at their own individual pace,” says Anitra Jackson, Montessori educator and writer of *Chronicles of a Montessorian*. “Children are exposed to lessons, activities and materials that build upon their skill set, and they progress in their development as an individual.”

Chloe Marshall (2017) explored the Montessori educational method has existed for over 100 years, but evaluations of its effectiveness are scarce. This review paper has three aims, namely to (1) identify some key elements of the method, (2) review existing evaluations of Montessori education, and (3) review studies that do not explicitly evaluate Montessori education but which evaluate the key elements identified in (1). The goal of the paper is therefore to provide a review of the evidence base for Montessori education, with the dual aspirations of stimulating future research and

helping teachers to better understand whether and why Montessori education might be effective.

Hechinger Report (2018) examined The researchers tested approximately 140 students at the start of the preschool and found that both the Montessori and non-Montessori kids began at age three with similar achievement scores. The 70 students who went to the Montessori schools advanced more rapidly on math and literacy tests over the next three years. At the end of kindergarten, when this study ended, the Montessori kids had significantly higher achievement. (Softer skills, such as group problem-solving, executive function and creativity were not better for Montessori kids. The two groups did about the same on those measures, or the differences were not statistically significant.)

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The present study aims at pointing out the educational philosophy of Maria Montessori and relevance of her methods in the present educational system. Montessori classrooms are beautifully crafted environments designed to meet the needs of children in a specific age range. Dr. Maria Montessori discovered that experiential learning in this type of classroom led to a deeper understanding of language, mathematics, science, music, social interactions and much more. Most Montessori classrooms are secular in nature, although the Montessori educational method can be integrated successfully into a faith-based program.

Every material in a Montessori classroom supports an aspect of child development, creating a match between the child's natural interests and the available activities. Children can learn through their own experience and at their own pace. They can respond at any moment to the natural curiosities that exist in all humans and build a solid foundation for life-long learning.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the evolution of Montessori method of teaching.
2. To make an appraisal of Montessori contribution to present education system.

3. To identify the areas where Montessori method may be found relevant in present educational settings.
4. To make suggestions for improvement in Indian Educational System.

HYPOTHESES

1. Maria Montessori Method offers significant vision for Educational planning for the children of Pre-schools.
2. The educational ideas of Montessori are significantly relevant to modern Indian Education.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY OF MARIA MONTESSORI

The Montessori Theory is an approach to learning developed by Maria Montessori where the key principles are Independence, Observation, and Following the Child, Correcting the Child, Prepared Environment and Absorbent Mind. The Montessori Theory approach, concepts and foundation principles can be applied across all ages. The main purpose of Montessori education is to help every child develop essential skills already within him to master the creative learning process all through his life. It is all about helping him develop the skills essential for success, not only in school, but also in life. In this study we studied the Montessori's system of education and conclude the benefits of the Montessori's system of education like mentioned below:-

1. Focuses on Key Developmental Stages
2. Encourages Cooperative Play
3. Learning Is Child-Centered
4. Children Naturally Learn Self-Discipline
5. Classroom Environment Teaches Order
6. Teachers Facilitate the Learning Experience
7. Learning Method Inspires Creativity
8. May be More Effective in Developing Certain Skills
9. System is Highly Individualized to Each Student

10. Curriculum Focused on Hands-On Learning

One of the greatest benefits of the Montessori Method, particularly during the early learning experience, is the focus on hands-on learning. The emphasis is on concrete, rather than abstract learning, as students work on activities that teach language, math, culture and practical life lessons. Teachers encourage students to concentrate on tasks, and they discourage students from interrupting one another, allowing students to focus on activities until they are properly mastered.

There are many potential benefits of a Montessori preschool for children just starting out in the education process. These important early years prepare a student for the learning experience that is to come, whether they continue with the Montessori Method or move to a public classroom environment in the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We are living in the age of science and technology. Advancement of science and technology has given birth to cut throat competition and other problems among youngster. Youngster has very little or no interests in activities like physical exercise, literature, religion, philosophy, social customs, science etc. Proper Guidance and education environment can play a vital role to deal with the problem. Educational institution should arrange guidance programme with the help of different team of professional and social workers. It's study is crucial as it helps young learners to understand the society and the world in which they live and view the socio-economic development and changes in the context. Beside this

1. The modern education system should be based on self-expression, inspires creativity as recommended by Plato.
2. Modern education system should be free from evils, which are still prevailing in society. Hence modern education system should be based developing Certain Skills
3. Modern education system should be development according to the changing needs of society and thinking process should be developed and based on experimentation so that Childs experience is enriched.

SUGGESTIONS

Research is never ending process. Every investigator after completing his/her piece of research inevitably becomes aware of area in which further research is needed and naturally feels motivated to indicate areas which may further be taken up for research by other investigators. The researcher by virtue of experience in the field of study offers the following suggestions for further research:

1. In depth study of present investigation can be conducted to gain more knowledge and ideas.
2. A comparative study can be conducted amongst Frobel and Montessori present Indian and Western Philosophers.

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