



INDIAN
MONTESSORI
CENTRE

Presents

Maitri 2026

Aykkiyam

Montessori for harmonious unity



Indian Montessori Centre (IMC)

The Indian Montessori Centre (IMC) is a registered society with its headquarters in Bengaluru, India. The IMC was formed to support the Indian Montessori Training Courses (IMTC) and propagate the Montessori philosophy and method of education.

The IMC awards diplomas to successful students of the courses conducted every year by the Indian Montessori Training Courses (IMTC) all over India and abroad.

The diploma is recognized by the Department of Education, Government of Karnataka (vide No. ED 447-PGC 90 (3-12-91)).

Maitri

The Indian Montessori Centre has been organizing conferences and gatherings for the past many years for fellowship and professional development of educators, be they teachers, trainers, heads of schools, alumni or parents. It is a time to come together as a group to share, learn and synchronise one's thoughts and actions in the journey of child development by anyone who is invested in the true service of mankind and nature.



Aykkiyam - Montessori for Harmonious Unity

This Maitri focusses on the Harmony one brings into the world by their work. The very nature of mankind to work towards bringing harmony to the whole of the creation is being lost in our hustle to accumulate tangible things.

“One who lives in harmony with oneself lives in harmony with the universe.”

Aykkiyam – provides an opportunity for educators, researchers, parents, and policymakers to reflect on:

- How Montessori philosophy nurtures unity of mind, body, and spirit in children.
- The role of education in cultivating peace, sustainability, and intercultural understanding.
- The ways in which Montessori practices can inspire global citizenship, respect for diversity, and ecological responsibility.
- Building bridges between tradition and innovation, honoring ancient wisdom while addressing contemporary challenges.

A Prologue

The world today is marked by complexity, fragmentation, and pressing global challenges—environmental crises, social inequalities, conflict, and rapid technological change. These issues demand not only practical solutions but also a reawakening of humanity’s sense of unity and interdependence. The Sanskrit word *Aykkiyam* embodies this aspiration, signifying *harmony, oneness, and coherence*. It reminds us of the universal truth that humanity, nature, and the cosmos are interconnected, and that true peace lies in nurturing these bonds.

Harmony in education refers to a balanced and peaceful coexistence between students, teachers, and the school environment, fostering respectful relationships, mutual understanding, and a supportive atmosphere for learning and development. It encompasses creating an inclusive space where diverse learners are engaged and valued, social-emotional growth is prioritized, and collaborative efforts by the entire school community lead to a positive and effective educational experience for everyone.

Dr Maria Montessori, through her vision of education for peace, emphasized the importance of preparing children not just for academic success but for life as responsible, compassionate members of society. Her call for a “cosmic education” and for adolescents to develop social responsibility resonates deeply with *Aykkiyam*, offering a framework for building a world rooted in harmony.

Objectives

- To explore the relevance of Montessori pedagogy and its application to modern educational contexts.
- To highlight how Montessori education fosters harmony within the self, the community, and the environment.
- To share best practices, research, and case studies that demonstrate education as a pathway to peace and sustainability.
- To create a platform for dialogue between educators, parents, policymakers, and youth in envisioning a harmonious future.
- To strengthen the Montessori movement's contribution to global peace-building and ecological stewardship.

Themes:

- **Inner Harmony:** Integration of mind, body and soul - Harmony with oneself; Effects of gadgets on the natural development of children
- **Social Harmony:** Learn conflict resolution , Cultivating Social responsibility, Embrace diversity
- **Ecological Harmony** – integrating sustainability and environmental stewardship into Montessori practice
- **Global Harmony** – preparing children for peace, intercultural dialogue, and global citizenship; Nurturing a learner for life

Expected Outcomes

- A shared vision for Montessori education as a pathway to *Aykkiam* in the 21st century.
- Concrete strategies for integrating peace and sustainability into educational practice.
- Strengthened networks among Montessori educators and institutions across regions.
- Recommendations and a declaration that reinforce Montessori's role in building a harmonious world.

Who is it for?

- Educators and trainers
- School leaders and policymakers
- Researchers and scholars in education and child development
- Parents and community representatives
- Youth voices and alumni

Venue: Asian College of Journalism, Taramani

City: Chennai

Dates: 25th & 26th/Jan/2026