

## Events of October-2011

REOPENING CEREMONY OF THILLAIYAADI VALLI AMMAI MONTESSORI CENTER - PORAIYAR, NAGAPATTINAM Dt, TAMIL NADU.

October 6th

Today is one of the most important day in the history of Montessori education-Indian Child Education-Rural Child development-Sakthi Foundation-R.B School Poraiyar.

See hoe many units have joined together to initiate a social awareness?

Just few months Mr.Rajkumar our consultant from Poraiyar introduced us to Mr.Venkatesan and Mr.Muthuraman, 2 brothers from Poraiyar village who have been dedicated to educational field for past 63 years from their grand father's time. They have a school which is specially welcominh underprevilged children especially suppressed community of the nation, drop out students and children with specific learning disabilities to get educated through their school which has been established by SriBalaGurunatha Chettiyar - a staunch follower of Gandhiji.

Gandhiji has made a visit to this small school.

Today it is Government aided school. All of us wished to introduce Montessori method into this school for children below 6 years who are not going any where else, just sitting with their friends and siblings.

As the gesture of gratitude the above 3 members from Poriyar has taken steps to start the center with the guidance and financial support of Sakthi Foundation.

Proper meetings happened. Dr.Madeswaran went and saw the place. Few weeks later Mr.Muthu from USA also visited and approved the need to serve the locality with Montessori setup.

All of them visited Sendurai Montessori School and observed first and decided finally to set up the environment. Mean while they chose a teacher and she has been trained with pre lessons in child education with Montessori philosophy. Other teachers also attened the orientation work shop.

Mr.Karunakaran - local carpenter took the responsibility in making several wooden teaching aids. We have to appreciate his perfection and serve mind in reducing the cost price. He has been specially honoured on October 6th.

Dr.Madeswaran purchased Montessori equipments from Madras and all got shifted to Poriyar under the guidance of Mr.MuthuRaman.

Finally today is the day has arrived to high light the history with our task in promoting a rich Montessori education in a rural area of this nation for underprevilged people. All ready around 20 children of this age are there.

The school has been simply decorated. Teachers gave a warm welcome. Public, Rotary members, VIPs of the town, children, parents were there.

Montessori environment was simple, clean, well setup. We appreciated the teachers for that. List of activities, materials were charted out for the public's view.

By 10.50 A.M., Mr.Vaidhilingam - Retd Head Master lighted the sacred lamp and offered poojas of initiation. Neelanjanam was done with pushpanjali to Dr.Montessori's photo.

This was followed with the lightening ceremony by K.Mohanraj - assistant primary educational officer, K.Srinivasan - Chief Educational Officer, Mr.Muthuraman and Mr.Vaidhilingam.

CEO opened the Montessori section and the name board.

Children sang the official State song and started the function.

Here we give the minutes from the guests talk to the public:

1.Mr.Vaidhilingam spoke clearly about the difference between structural educational patterns and Montessori method. He also shared few important views about Montessori. The need for sensorial materials, activity based learning and personality development were stressed in his talk. He said that Montessori system alone can develop a child with good personality, self caring nature, confidence and serving mind.

2.Mr.K.MohanRaj also spoke the need for change in Indian educational patterns especially in child education. He said that Montessori education has gone in the hands of very rich society.

3. Mr.K.Srinivasan also said the same and thanked the members and Trust for making Gandhi's dream true.

4. Dr.Madeswaran explained the various needs of various materials. He also showed few important Montessori materials to the public and explained its need. He narrated many interesting incidents from Montessori's life especially how Dr.RadhaKrishnan, Nehru, Tajore were involved in spreading her ideas. People clapped for TATA Birla's warm service in driving the airplane for her from Mumbai to Madras in 1939.

5. Mr.Jeyaraman - Project manager - Sakthi Foundation spoke about the importance of every one's involvement in uplifting the life of each other. He also remembered how his family has been made to evolve through one man's help in the past.

6. Mr.Rajkumar remembered his duty to serve his native town and also crisply narrated the events behind the day. He also said that October 7 was the day Gandhi met Dr.Montessori in London and remembered the co-incidence of the day.

7. Mr.A.K.Das - Project manager - INTACK - was very much impressive in his talk. He said that Montessori education is very practical. He himself said how today morning he realized the need

for a real cone to understand how a solid cone appears. He appreciated the need for a practical education.

8. Mr.Namashivayam - Retd Head Master wished the best for all of us.

9. Mr.K.Rajee President Rotary Club - Poraiyar, thanked Mr.Venkatesan for taking interest in initiating the Montessori center in their area. He also welcomed many NGO activities and assured Rotary's fund for building construction and he said that most of the Rotary members are following Sakthi Mandala Funding Scheme.

The guests were honoured by Mr.Venkatesan and Mr.MuthuRaman with traditional Shawl. Simple snacks were served with tea.

Guests and public explored the new Montessori environment.

Dr.Madeswaran along with teachers conducted the group discussion for children regarding the new activity center. Various ground rules were setup by them. Children also started choosing the materials and worked.The function ended with national anthem.

Dr.Madeswaran will be observing the center once in a month and training the teachers.

By evening Sakthi foundation performed special poojas before SANI [SATURN]in his sacred temple Thirunallar for the development of every one's life.

The day has arrived for these children to construct them self. Gandhi's dream in bringing Montessori Education to Indian rural part has come true one more with God's wish through all of us!

We also thank the brothers of Poriayar who are just always thinking to establish good ideas to uplift their town through their purity of mind thought and action. We feel great about their whole family dedicated in the educational field. The humbleness, simplicity, truth behind the service all has made God to bestow the world's richest Child Education in their school.