

## AMI International Trainer's Meeting Transformation of the Adult: Insight, Intuition and Innovation

Anju Asokan | Chennai



AMI Trainer's Meet that happens once in three years is a gathering of Montessori experts under one roof, united by a common cause - to reflect, connect and inspire



AMI Committee welcoming the trainers for the meet that extended for a week between October 26 and 31, at Hotel Savera



## Chennai Plays Host to International Trainers

The morning of 27th October, witnessed a warm welcome from AMI Executive Director, Lynn Lawrence and AMI Director of Pedagogy, Judi Orion, reminiscing the previous evening's classical dance performance. Leading with observation, Lynn gave the gathering an overview of Maria Montessori's time in India. She also proposed for the theme of this year's trainers' meet to be based on observation.

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An evening of welcome - to the city of Bharatanatyam with a performance guided by Gowri Ramnarayan, Director of Justus Repertory

The training cohort was then introduced in the room with the many sub groups of trainers. The room also felicitated a group of trainers who did their training 50 years ago! A plea was let out to all the trainers to engage with their social media, use the hashtags and enhance communications to spread the word and rope in more students to work with children.

## Montessori Books Publication in India

AMI Primary Trainer, Rukmini Ramachandran then took over to introduce the Indian Montessori Foundation publication. She went over the history of Montessori publications in Chennai — elucidating the early beginnings with see through paper, on how C T Nachiappan - who lived for the work of keeping Montessori books alive.

Creative Development and Age of Miracles were introduced to the delegates with their backstories. AMI Trainer Ruby Lau had visited Srilanka and gotten some papers with missing lectures and by chance a woman whose mother had trained with Montessori in Colombo, came forward with the missed lectures thereby completing the puzzle — this gave way to publishing The Age of Miracles.

Rukku read the article that The Hindu published in 1939, about Maria Montessori’s words in 1920 and she calls herself a humble pilgrim of Madras.



## Carolie Wilson’s Book Launch

IMF also published another book ‘Exploring Roots of Montessori in India’ by Carolie who wrote as her PhD thesis - extensive work of exploring Montessori. This brought together Montessori’s vision, philosophy and work in India.

Carolie took the room through her journey of how she began her work in Bombay and Madras, describing each stop as a ‘link in a long chain’. This included meeting the late Rukmini Devi Arundale and speaking with her about how Montessori’s work and lectures were carried out in the theosophical society.

She also introduced the crowd to many people on the way who were supporters and advocates of the Montessori method, who were instrumental in furthering her work in many parts of India.

Many trainers purchased the book from the IMF books stall outside and had it signed by the author herself!





The trainers visited Olcott bungalow in the Theosophical Society, which was Montessori's residence in 1939. The photo above is the students of the Primary 3-6 course in 1939.

It was an enriching week for trainers! From meeting peers with a common vision from all over the world, to listening to presentations of research papers especially those that studied parallels between Montessori and Rabindranath Tagore, Gandhian and J Krishnamurti. Another key moment from the conference that had ripple effects on many trainers personal life was listening to Anne Kelly and Julia Ballesteros Senties talk about the Montessori for Dementia, Disability and Aging. It was moving and resonated with everyone, having cared for a loved one at some point. Trainers of the same age levels collaborated in groups with focus points to discuss and draw conclusions. Challenges and solutions were also brainstormed. It was a room full of positivity! The Meet was brought to a close with a classical performance that was beautiful and inspiring.



Many minds and ideas collaborating to offer an education system that centres and caters to the needs of the child



It was a coming together of friends with the same vision, furthering Montessori's work and reaching the child



Supraja Montessori Study Centre welcomed trainers from world over into their prepared environments of training and study



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## From the Trainers!

*"This is the first time I have attended an AMI trainers meeting. With Montessori trainers from 26 countries, at all age-levels including Montessori for Dementia, Disability and Aging, Montessori Sports and School Leadership, the energy was intense! The best part, of course, was meeting friends who I have known and worked with on zoom for years and now met in person for the first time. It was a proud moment that we were 6 elementary trainers from India all with Supraja Montessori Study Centre as our home base" - **Prabha Narayanan, Director of Training at Vivek High Montessori Institute, Chandigarh.***



*"Anuradha Shankar's detailed and nuanced narration of women's role in India's freedom and her presentation 'Kasturbha the Maker of Gandhiji' was moving, thought provoking and a gripping tale of people committed to a common goal. It was a humble reminder to park prejudice, greed, bias, discrimination, violence of action and thought to serve the human spirit." - **Kavya Chandrashekar, Executive Director, Montessori Institute of Bangalore***

*"I'm so happy to have been a part of the organising committee. Maria Montessori was here in 1939 giving her first course in India ... And now, many years later, all the trainers from all over the world, all over India, have gathered to talk about her ideas and to take the work forward. It has been a wonderful opportunity to see new avenues open up in Montessori work such as research avenues where we can collaborate with different people." **Rukmini Ramachandran, Director Supraja Montessori Study Centre***





# EVENTS 2025-'26

Sat   19th July 2025	Talk	Montessori Education. An Aid to life	Online
Sat   23 August 2025	Volunteering for IMF	Working together for a thriving community	Online
Sat   30 August 2025	Exclusive Talk for Flagship Schools	Fostering a collaborative Montessori Community	Online
Sat   20 September 2025	Talk	Nourishing Body and Spirit. The Child's Journey with Food	Online
Sat   19 October 2025	Talk	Navigating the Adolescent years	Online
Sat   15 November 2025	Talk	Helping Children Grow in Harmony	Online
Sat   6 December 2025	Orientation	Work of the Indian Montessori Foundation	Online
Fri   23 January 2026 Sat   24 January 2026	CONFERENCE	<b><u>Seventh National Montessori Conference: SAPARYA</u></b>	Onsite - Mumbai
Sat   21 February 2026	Exclusive Talk for Flagship Schools	Designing a Prepared Outdoor Environment	Online

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