

Promotion of Early Childhood Development with Montessori - A Project with Broad Impact

(Bhandar, Nepal, Status and Progress Report, January 2020)



With suitable materials, the children learn playfully and develop their talents. (Photo: Hakimeh Yagotkar, Bhandar, 2019)



The team of the Montessori Centre.



The children's house - a part of the project in Bhandar for a long time:

Since 1999, about 20 children, full or half orphans or children from extremely poor circumstances, have been lovingly cared for and supported in the children's house. Many of them are now adults and successful. In 2015, the house was destroyed by the devastating earthquakes, but thanks to generous donations, it was quickly rebuilt in a bright, earthquake-proof and child-friendly way.

Reintegration of the children into the village communities: Last year, we implemented a modified concept. Children should grow up in a family if possible. We have therefore reintegrated most of the children from the children's house into their village communities and extended families and now support them in bringing up their children well. They receive financial support for healthy nutrition, school attendance and, for the older children, vocational training. Children who no longer have a family are taken into foster families and receive warm care. Regular visits to the

A highlight for the children – the new classroom.



Full concentration is required here.



The day is discussed together.



This is what the artists of tomorrow look like.

families ensure that the children are doing well and that our help gets to where it is needed.

Children's house transforms into a Montessori centre: The children's house is now open as a Montessori day care centre for all small children in the region. Hakimeh Yagotkar, the educator and Montessori teacher we sent to Nepal in 2018, accompanied the change process on site. Two local teachers received practical instructions from her in the Montessori methodology after a course visit to Kathmandu. They showed rapid progress and are now working independently with the children. The centre was generously equipped with Montessori materials. For the children, the stay in the new classroom is a highlight. They enjoy learning with the material and gratefully accept the offers for talent development.

Montessori Centre - first free quality pre-school: Good infant care is a luxury in the region, our centre is an innovation. Even poorer parents can now afford good support for their children because it is free. 26 kids aged 2-5 years are looked after there daily. We attach great importance to accept children from all castes and groups. In addition to the two trained Montessori teachers, several domestic workers and caretakers take care of the project - this way we create jobs. The centre has been in operation since June 2019.

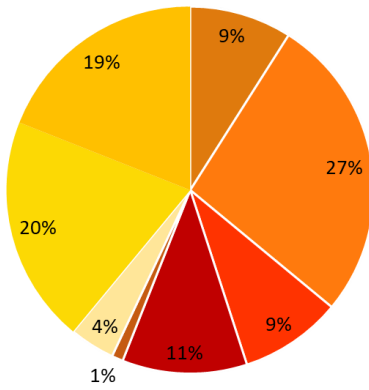
Holistic approach: We want to prepare the children for an independent life. In daily life, they learn, for example, how to change their clothes or serve food. The children are also involved in the organisation of everyday life. They have decision-making freedoms and the right to vote. Decisions made together are implemented and respected. In this way, the children are supported in developing independence and self-confidence.

The Montessori Centre will have a catalytic effect on the region: Although Montessori is widespread in the urban areas of Nepal, only a few teachers in the countryside know the methods. The former children's house in Bhandar now serves as a pilot - a model Montessori centre. Here, the children of the surrounding area are supported - but teachers from other schools are also trained. In our centre, they can get to know the methods on site and experience them in practice. Many school representatives have already visited the classrooms, studied the learning methods and would now like to have such an institution.

In this way, we develop an understanding for early childhood learning and have a catalytic effect on the region. The project is to be scaled up in the next few years by instructing the region's state preschools to adopt the best practices.

Please support us in our efforts to give children in Nepal a good future.

January 2020, Hakimeh Yagotkar and Silke Geissert



- Training Montessori Teachers
- Salaries Montessori Teachers
- Staff Salaries
- Food and Hygiene
- Garden and Animals
- Running Costs (Water, Gas, etc.)
- Outdoor Facilities
- Furnishing Montessori Centre

Total expenditure in 2019: € 22,817