

PAKISTAN

Pakistan Montessori Association (PMA)

(This report covers the period from mid 2014 to end 2015)

Memberships

The membership of the Association stands at 454 members.

Chief Patron

Our Chief Patron Professor, Anita Ghulamali, passed away on 9 August, 2014. She was a prominent educationist of Pakistan who brought her well-rounded personality to her vocation. PMA benefitted from her expertise in many matters. We were lucky to have such an illustrious personality as our patron. PMA will always miss her.

In order to fill in the position of Chief Patron, Dr Ismail Saad was invited to take over the position. Dr Saad has a long teaching and administrative career, and has been the Vice Chancellor of various universities.

Annual General Body Meeting

The Annual General Body meeting of the Association was held on September 27, 2014. The meeting was chaired by President Zohra Gaya. The annual report was presented at the meeting, along with the audited accounts. Elections for the term 2014-2016 were also held. Mrs Gaya was re elected as the President and a Board of 11 members were elected.

Managing Committee Meetings

Eight meetings of the Managing Committee and two meetings of the Finance Committee were held during the term under report, at which the activities and finances of the Association were discussed.

Events & Activities

On 31 August 2014, Dr Montessori's birthday was celebrated with music teacher William entertaining the guests by playing musical instruments and singing children's songs. National songs were also sung adding an Independence Day flavour. This was followed by a cake cutting ceremony honoured by Zohra Gaya and singing Happy Birthday to Dr Montessori. This event was attended by fifty Montessorians.

In September, an interesting presentation on Sensory Garden was conducted by a PMA affiliated school. They showed how all the five senses can be used in the garden. A large variety of handmade material was displayed to promote usage of the material. On the occasion, a book fair was held where books for preschool children were put on sale.

The Annual General Body meeting was also held the same day as mentioned earlier.

In October, a workshop on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) was held by Dr Ayesha Sarwat, head of the Dow University Psychiatric Department. She covered its causes, diagnosis and remedies. It was an interactive workshop where cases were studied and a quiz was conducted.

In November, Tanveer Mushtaq gave a much-awaited workshop on Introduction to Urdu—introducing Urdu to young children with emphasis on oral language, reading and writing. A pack of Urdu material was prepared by Tanveer herself and was on sale.

In January 2015, Nilufer Ahmed conducted a very interesting and inspiring workshop on Sensorial Extensions. She covered all areas of cultural subjects.

To observe Earth Day a workshop was conducted on Exercises and Games related to Nature by Shireen Gaya in April. Nine schools participated and gave their presentations. Some of the exercises were puzzle tree and its parts, sowing seeds and the resulting plants, spices with matching pictures, kinds of soil, honey from the bee to the table, fruit and their matching leaves, vegetables that come from different parts of a plant, leaf vein structure, classification of fruit with the number of seeds, adjectives related to objects in nature, rough and smooth textures from the garden and so on.

The PMA was invited to visit the Hyderabad County Cambridge School's pre primary section and talk to their teachers on classroom management and culture. PMA members Parveen Islam, Banoo Kisat, and Farah Sarfraz represented the Association and had an interactive discussion with the teachers.

In August, Dr Montessori's birthday was observed by having an informal sing along. On the occasion, Kishwar Allawala and Banoo Kisat who had attended a 2-week EsF Assembly in Thailand gave a presentation on the EsF Assembly sharing their experience with the members.

In October, along with the AGM, there was a lively session on story telling for children. Amna Hussain demonstrated how to make the session interesting for children.

In November, Masooma Hayat gave a very elaborate presentation on Writing Skills. It was an excellent refresher for Montessorians.

Hamqadam Foundation

A room in the PMA premises has been given to the Hamqadam Foundation, which works for the betterment of autistic children.

School Visits

A few Montessori schools were visited and where required, they were guided to make certain improvements. Registration certificates were given to two schools.

Montessori Children's Villa

The Children's House continues to function with four environments and four directresses under Kishwar Allawala.

Gool Minwalla Montessori Campus

A section of GMMC is being run by Rahi Montessori, which is functioning under Shireen Gaya.

Grounds at Clifton and PECHS premises are available for school events.

Publications & Media

Website: the Association has its own website, which is being managed by Maheen Pasha. Our url is: pakistanmontessoriassociation.org.

Newsletter

The Montessorian, the PMA Newsletter, is produced on a quarterly basis. Masooma Alibhai is in charge of the bulletin. *The Montessorian* is uploaded to the PMA website.

Library

The PMA Library is stocked with a number of Montessori and other related books. Apart from the library books we have Montessori books on sale.

Montessori Books

The Association publishes and keeps in stock the Urdu version of *Absorbent Mind*, *Discovery of the Child* and the *Secret of Childhood* for the benefit of the Montessorians, parents and all interested in child education.

As every year, we strive to propagate the Montessori philosophy and spread the message in any way we can. We are trying to take the philosophy to remote areas and to the underprivileged. Hopefully, we can have some Refresher courses for the benefit of our diploma members who did the course many years ago and for those who wish to continue to run schools in the Montessori method.

Kishwar Allawala
Secretary