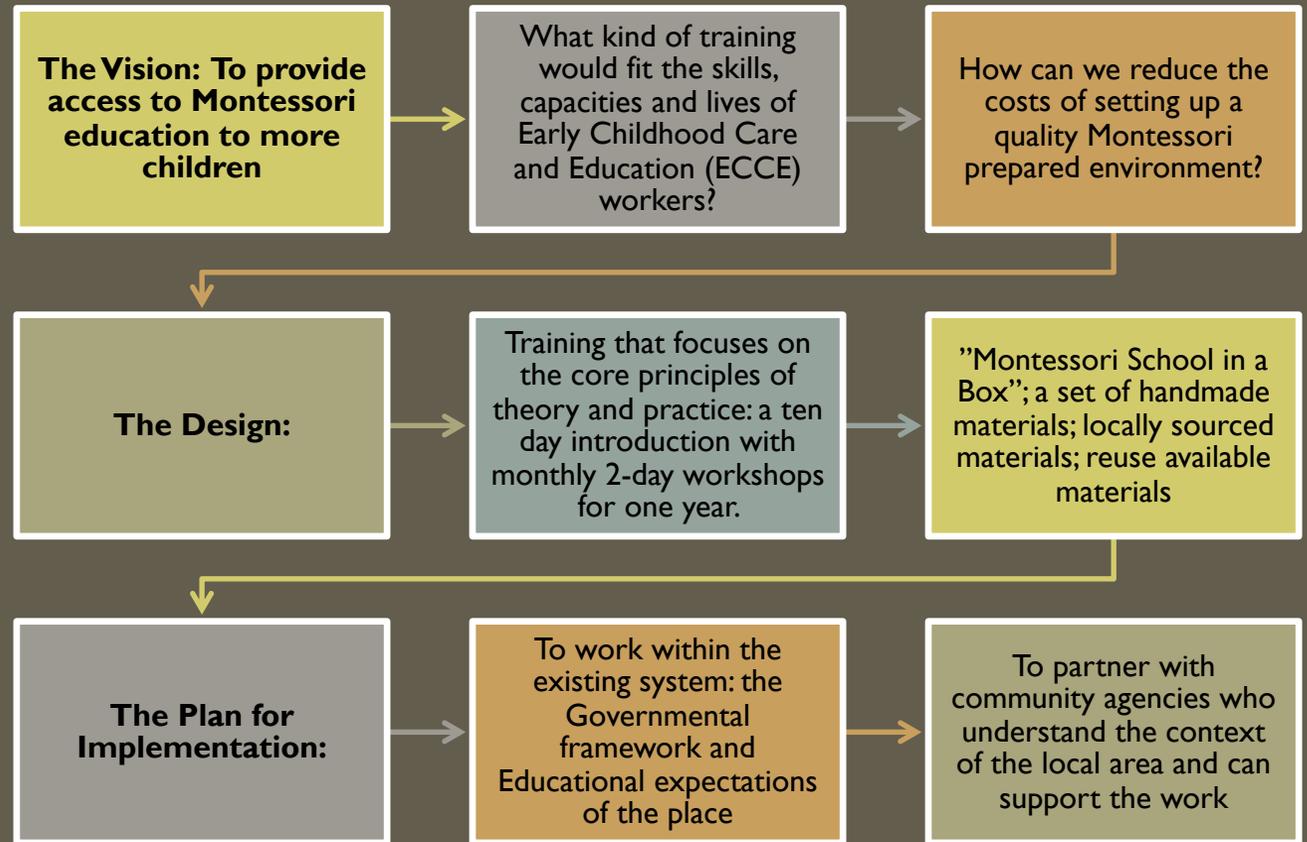


**C**ommunity  
**R**ooted  
**E**ducation

UMA RAMANI  
AMI Trainer (3-6)

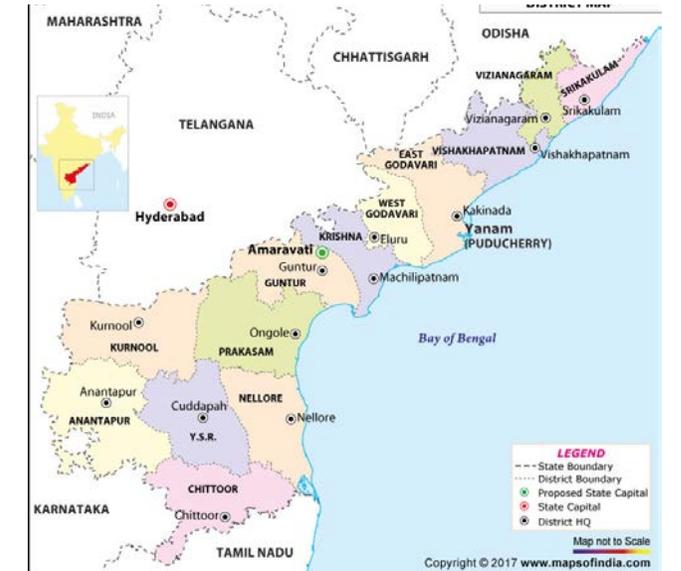


# WHAT IS EsF CoRE?

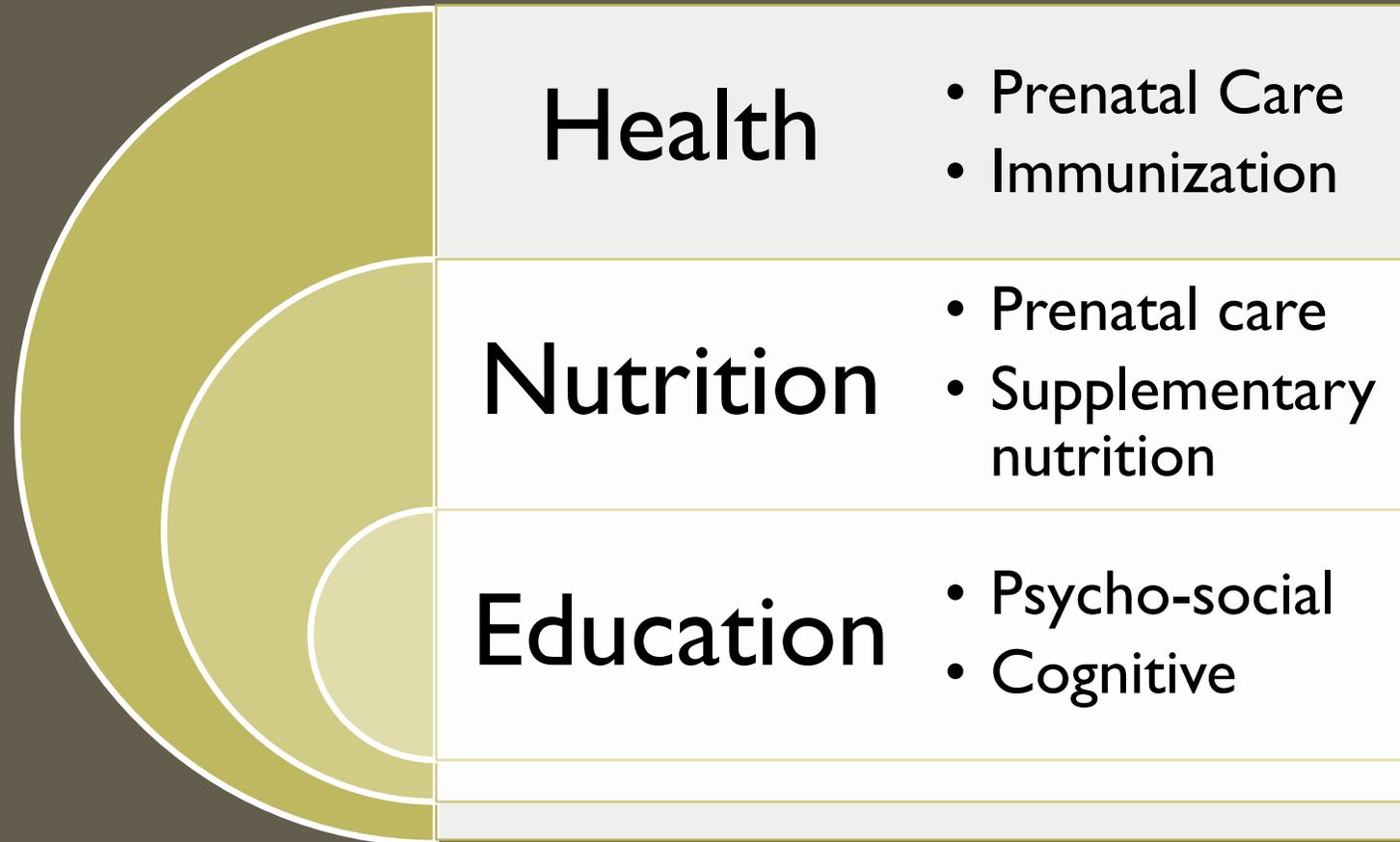


# THE THULLUR PILOT

- Andhra Pradesh Population: 53 million
- Number of children below 0-6 years: 9 million
- Guntur District
- Thullur Mandal: Number of children 0-6 years 5,400
- 21 Villages, 46 Aanganwadis
- 55 Aanganwadi workers and supervisors



# THE INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (ICDS)



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Aanganwadi concept is rooted in Montessori principles

---

Early childhood center serving pregnant and lactating mothers and children upto 6 years of age

---

One Aanganwadi Worker (AWW) and one Helper from the community and living within walking distance of the center

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Children live within walking distance of the center

---

Food and nutrition for pregnant and lactating women and children up to 6 years of age

---

Pre- and post-natal care; immunization

---

Psycho-social and cognitive development through the “play-way” method

---

**AANGANWADI  
“THE COURTYARD SCHOOL”**

# A VISIT TO AN AANGANWADI



- The Environment
- The Adult
- The Pedagogy

# THE PEOPLE

## THE LINK:

- Dr. Ramadevi Gourineni, Associate Professor in Neurology, Northwestern University

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- Mr. Jayadev Galla: Member of Parliament (Political backing)
- Mr. Kona Sashidar: Collector, Guntur District (Administrative backing)
- Project Director, ICDS (System support)
- Rajanna Trust, Private donors (Financial support)
- Panchayat officials (Local Government)

## TRAINING AND IMPLEMENTATION:

- The Montessori Training and Research Trust, Hyderabad
- EsF Hyderabad
- Uma Ramani (AMI Trainer 3-6): Design and Planning
- Helen Mohan Elias (EsF Coordinator): On-site Implementation
- Uma Shankar, Kalpana Viswas, Sashi Agarwal, Talat Shabnam: Program support



# TRAINING

- Duration: 12 months
- December 2017: 2-day Orientation of Aanganwadi workers
- February 2018: 5-day training
- April 2018: 5-day training
- May 2018 to January 2019: Monthly workshops 2 day each and site visits
- February 2019: Final workshop and site visits



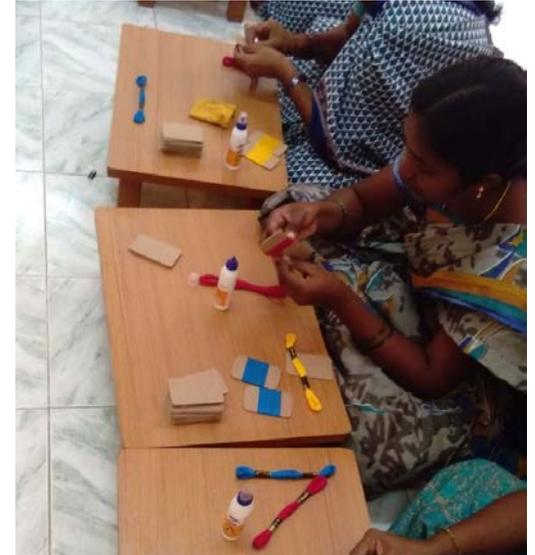
## CHALLENGES IN TRAINING

- We could not set up a prepared training environment
- We had to continuously adapt the training as we learned the local context
- Transportation
- The heat: 45 degree Celsius temperatures
- Lack of electricity
- Press coverage



## THE MATERIALS

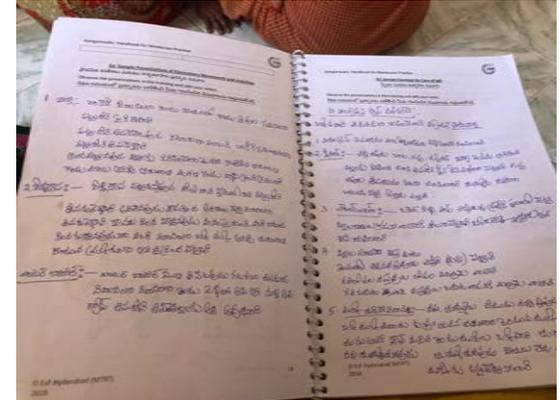
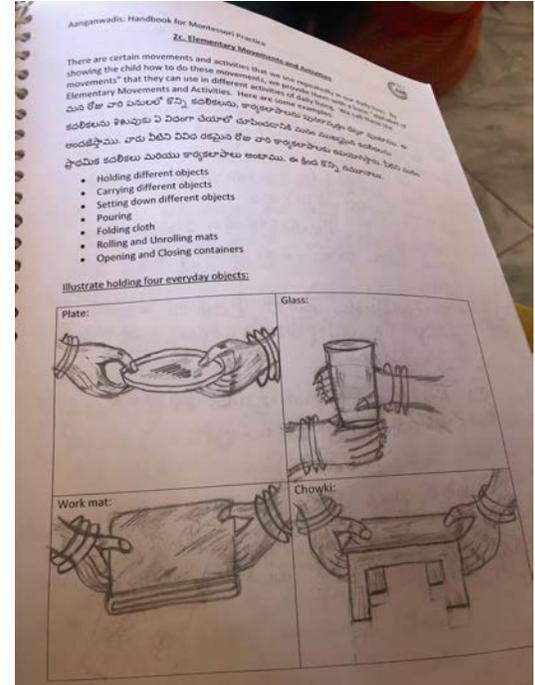
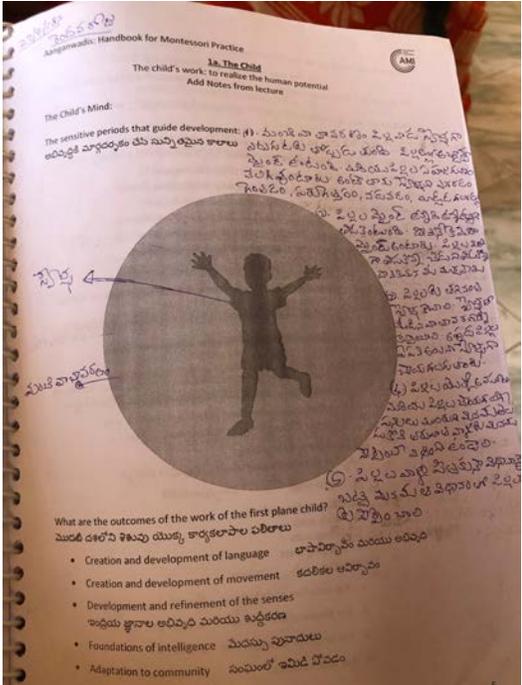
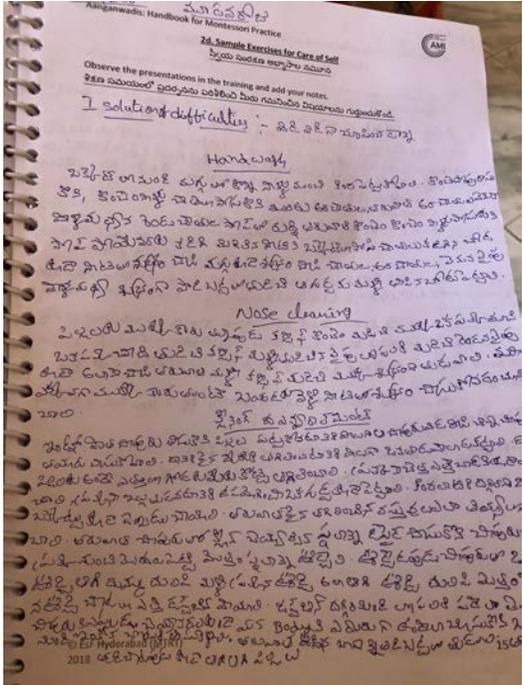
- Cylinder Blocks
- Red Rods
- Geometry Cabinet (10 shapes)
- Number Rods
- Spindle Boxes
- Decimal System Material
- Sandpaper Letters (Telugu and English)
- Moveable Alphabet (English)



# HANDMADE MATERIALS

# RECYCLED POSTERS BECOME CLASSIFIED VOCABULARY CARDS





# HANDBOOK FOR PRACTICE

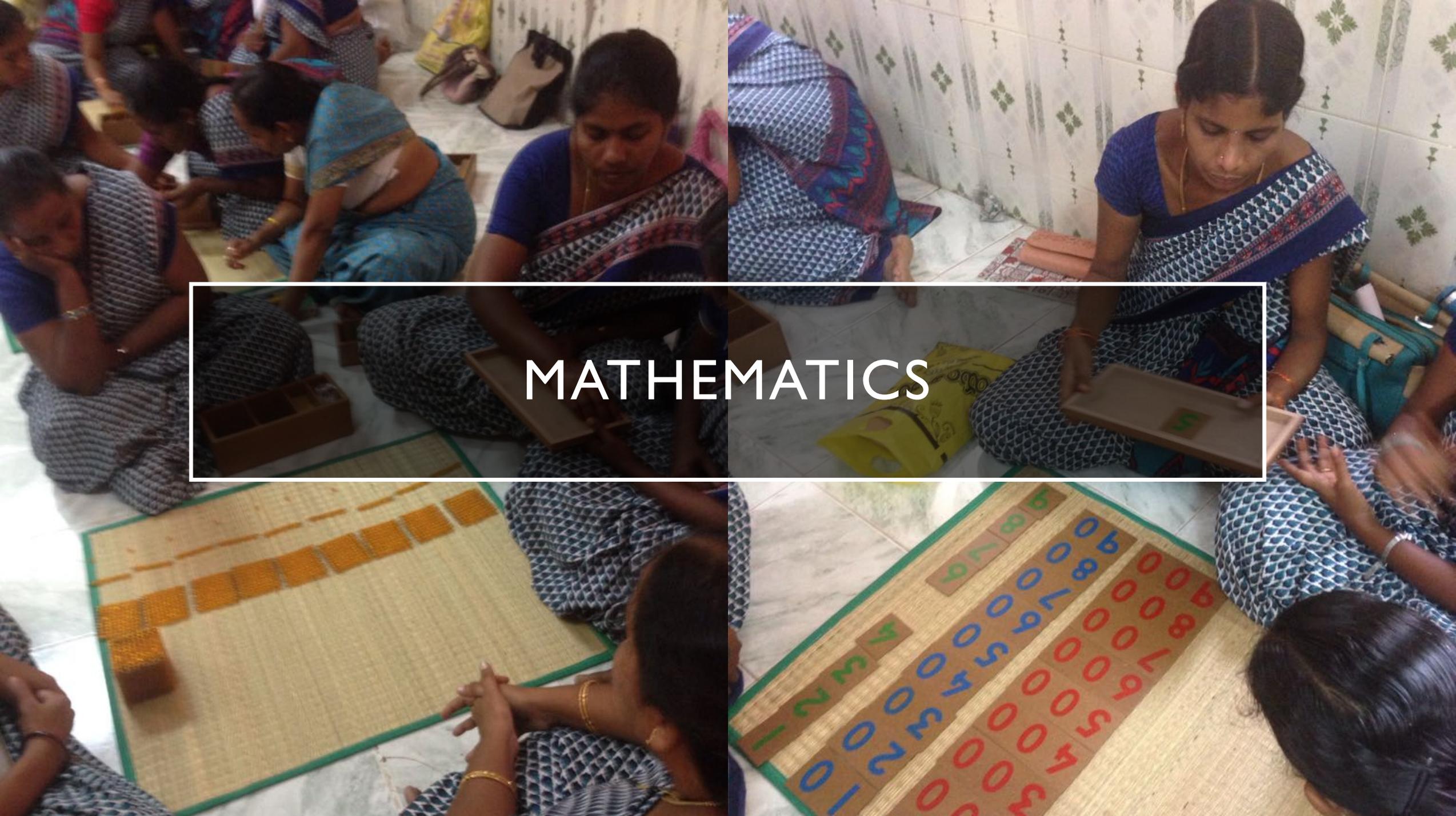
# TRAINING IN MOVEMENT





## THE SENSORIAL EXERCISES





# MATHEMATICS





## THE FIRST COHORT OF CoRE TRAINEES

“We wish we had known about this method for our own children.”

“My interactions with my family has changed in these 5 days.”

“This training is so different from all the other workshops we are sent to.”



# GETTING TO KNOW THE AANGANWADI WORKER: HELEN MOHAN ELIAS



# REFLECTIONS ON THE CoRE TRAINING

Uma Shankar  
EsF Hyderabad Volunteer



# THE TIMELINE

The Preparation of the Adult December 2017 - on going!

Human Tendencies  
Child as a self-constructor  
The role of the adult  
Cleanliness and Order  
Positive communications  
Education in movement  
Spoken language techniques

Material making and presentation techniques - April 2018 to October 2018

Care of self  
Care of the environment  
Material making: Sensorial and Language  
Introduction of Sensorial activities  
Basics of literacy  
Basics of numeracy

Distribution of material - November 2018

Setting up a prepared environment  
Creating communities of practice  
Group mentorship

“THE ONE CONTRIBUTES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OTHER”  
MONTESSORI





# SELF MADE MATERIALS





# SELF-DIRECTED ACTIVITY IN THE AANGANWADI

# THE CHANGING AANGANWADI CENTER



# INFRASTRUCTURE

Merging of Aanganwadis: Local Panchayat  
Land and Funds for building: Capital Region  
Development Authority (CRDA)  
Funds for Toilets: Swacch Bharath Scheme  
Solar Panels: MP's funds  
Plans: CRDA in consultation with EsF  
Hyderabad and Dr. Gourineni





## INAUGURATING ONE OF THE NEW CENTERS

Honorable Sri Jayadev Galla, Member  
of Parliament

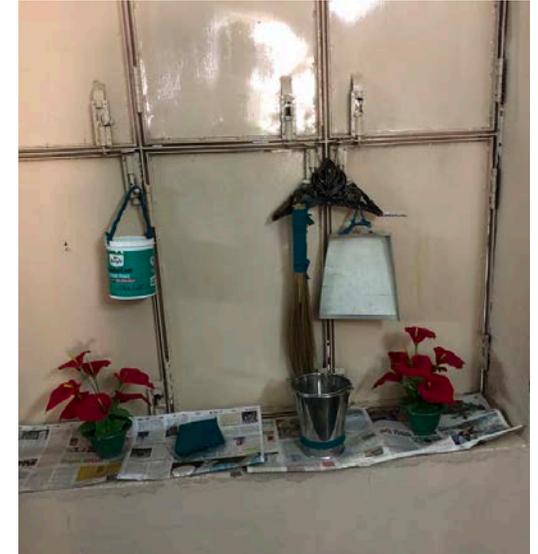
Dr. Ramadevi Gourineni

Helen Mohan Elias

Mandal Officer

Aanganwadi worker





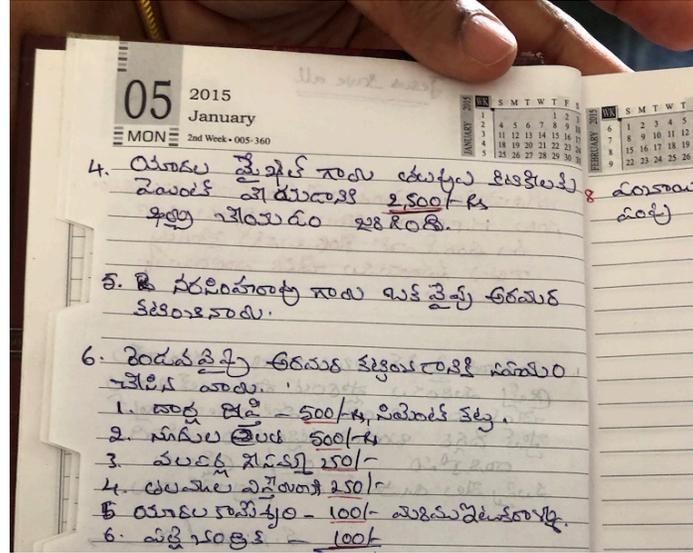
# THE COURTYARD SCHOOL: A HOUSE OF CHILDREN

# THE KITHCEN AND STORE ORGANIZED





THE MOTHERS' AREA



## MOBILIZING COMMUNITY RESOURCES

## REFLECTIONS OF AN AANGANWADI WORKER

“With the introduction of the Montessori method our Aanganwadis have developed a lot. Earlier we used to have 15 children, now we have 35 children. The training has been very helpful to us. It makes us very happy to create a beautiful environment and help children in their work of self-construction.”

Karuna Kumari, Nelapadu village



## REFLECTIONS OF AN AANGANWADI WORKER

“After the introduction of the Montessori method and materials, our children are very happy choosing their work and completing it by themselves. They are very independent, taking care of themselves and taking care of the materials and their center. Our work has also become easier. Earlier we used to sit them down and teach them every day. Now we introduce the materials to the children and then they are working by themselves.”

Shamshad, Rayapudi village



## PARENT OBSERVATIONS

“After the introduction of the Montessori method in the Aanganwadi, my daughter wants to do everything by herself even at home. She puts back things where they belong.”

“After the introduction of the Montessori method, more parents want to send their children to the Aanganwadi. We are grateful that you have provided the Montessori materials.”



# REFLECTIONS ON THE THULLUR PILOT: OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

## POSITIVE OUTCOMES

- Aanganwadi workers are motivated and empowered to speak and act on behalf of the children
- Community is rallying around the Aanganwadis with resources and time
- Children are active and engaged
- Enrollment is increasing

## REFLECTIONS

- Working with the government is not easy.
- A champion or champions are required to help coordinate things between the Montessori trainers, community and government.
- We need a comprehensive plan so that all resources can be planned for in advance
- Project needs to be cost effective to be sustainable.

# REFLECTIONS ON THE THULLUR PILOT: TRAINING

## WHAT WE GOT RIGHT

- We could only do our work because we had a strong community liaison
- We observed and listened and adapted the training and practice to the local context
- We used available materials and resources and showed them how to use them according to Montessori principles

## ASPECTS TO BE ADDRESSED

- The programme as we implemented it relied on the availability of trained Montessorians. The training team volunteered their time, Dr. Gourineni funded our travel and stay. We need to find a way to make this aspect be less capital intensive.
- The design and implementation was an on-going collaboration – how do we package CoRE to make it available for global application while retaining its flexibility to local conditions?

## NEXT STEPS FOR EsF CoRE

### Design

Expanding CoRE to a 0-6 programme  
Further reduce cost of initial set up of prepared environment  
Refine the Handbook for Practice  
Create Guidelines for Implementation

### Scale

Develop a hub and spoke model for expanding the programme:  
We have been asked to bring the programme to all Aanganwadis  
in the State of Andhra Pradesh (9 million children 0-6 years)

### Develop

Address the need for trained Montessori practitioners who can  
set up the hubs that will allow sustainable scaling of the work



EDUCATEURS  
SANS  
FRONTIERES  
AMMI