Letters from Rabindranath Tagore to Dr. Maria Montessori

Santiniketan
Feb 3 1926

Dear Dr. Maria Montessori,

I read with much pleasure your last letter for which I express to you my sincere thanks. As far as I know, the Montessori Method is widely read and studied not only in some of the big cities of India but also in out of the way places; the method is however, not so extensively followed in practice largely owing to the handicapped system of education prevalent in the country. The enthusiasm and admiration felt for your work have induced a few individuals of means to institute small experiments which are conducted with success on lines recommended by you.

With all good wishes,
Yours very sincerely
Rabindranath Tagore

Uttarayan
Santiniketan, Bengal

August 18, 1935

Dear Dr. Montessori,

Permit me to introduce to you Mrs. Sen¹, one of my past students in my Institution at Santiniketan. Mrs. Sen is keenly interested in the education of the young children and in order to gather experience, she has now been touring around some of the most important educational centres of Europe. She is eager to go to Italy to visit the famous schools there which follow your method of teaching and I shall be glad if you will kindly take some interest in her and make it possible for her to visit such institutions.

Apologising for the liberty I am taking

I remain

Yours sincerely

Rabindranath Tagore

3.

February 16, 1936

Dear Dr. Montessori,

I thank you for your letter of 25th January and readily consent to be a member of your Honorary Committee. I shall indeed consider it a great honour to be identified with the good work you are doing in the realm of children’s education.

I have not yet heard from Mr. Vaswani²: needlessly to say, he will be extremely welcome here and I shall be glad to help him, if it be within my powers to do so.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Rabindranath Tagore

Dr. Maria Montessori,
The Montessori Training College
Studio House, Rosslyn Hill, London, N.W. 3

Dear Dr. Montessori,

It is kind of you to have sent me your invitation to the international conference at Oxford and I wish, it were possible for me to attend and hear the interesting discourses which I am sure, would be made on various topics pertaining to children's education. Unfortunately, in the present condition of my health, a voyage out of India is not at all possible and I contend myself with sending you my good wishes for the success of the conference.

Yours sincerely,
Rabindranath Tagore

Dr. Maria Montessori
1 Hampstead Hill Gardens, London, N.W. 3

January 6, 1940

Dear Dr. Montessori

It is a great joy to hear from you and have your good wishes which I warmly reciprocate. As you know, I am a great admirer of your work in education and along with my countrymen think it very fortunate indeed that India; at this hour, can get your guidance in creative self-expression. I am confident, that education of the young, which must lie all work of national reconstruction, will find a new and lasting inspiration from your presence.

May I hope that you will visit our institution when you come to Bengal?

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely
Rabindranath Tagore

Dr. Maria Montessori
Adyar, Madras

LETTERS FROM MARIA MONTESSORI TO RABINDRANATH TAGORE

Dear Sir,

I was delighted to receive your splendid picture. Having had the honor of knowing you personally, I had kept our meeting always fresh in my mind and in my heart and I have very often spoken about you. I was therefore delighted, in talking to Prof. Gangulee to find that he was a close relation of yours. To him I expressed my wish for one of your pictures and as I had not received a reply, it came as a great surprise and caused a greater joy. I thank you again with all my heart not only for the picture, but also for the splendid work that you are doing, for your uplifting of the human soul. Lastly I want to express all my gratitude for the interest you take in my method that, I hear, has had the honor of being coupled to your revered name. Would it be asking too much to beg your secretary to send me a relation of the Montessori Movement in India? I am very much interested in your country, for I feel that your people have achieved a higher degree of capability for feeling and sentiment than the Europeans, and I am certain that my ideas which are founded only on love for the children would find a good welcome in the hearts of the Indian people. With heartfelt good wishes for the new year, very sincerely.

Maria Montessori
Roma 8 Genmajo 1926

Dear Dr. Tagore,

I thank you very much for your kind recommendation to the Indian lady who came to follow my last course here in London. I also wish to thank you for the part you took in the inauguration of the Montessori School in Benares and the beautiful words you used for me on that occasion. Your kind sympathy towards me and towards my work and above all, the great love that you have always had for the small child encourages me to ask your collaboration for the campaign that our International Association intends to carry out in favour of the child.

It is our aim to throw more light than hitherto upon its personality and the great truths that it has revealed of the natural laws of psychic development. These, when fully appreciated, will prove to be of enormous importance to the life of the adult. Your name on our Honorary Committee will secure the attention of the many millions that love you and follow you, and we hope that you will, therefore, permit us to make use of it for the benefit of childhood.

The bearer of this letter, Mr. U.B. Vaswani must be well known to you since he was a student at your college. He has been a student of my last course held here in London and his faith, his enthusiasm and his seriousness and culture have revealed to us that he is the best person to try and tie up all the strings of this movement in India and we beg you to consider him as our representative and to render him any services which your organization can in the fulfillment of his task.

May I hope to have your reply at an early date, and thanking you in anticipation.

Believe me
Yours sincerely
Maria Montessori

3. 9th March 1936

Dr. Rabindranath Tagore
Uttarayan
Santiniketan
Bengal, India

Dear Dr. Tagore,

I am very grateful for your letter of February 16th by which you consent to giving us the honour and help of your name for our campaign for the welfare of the child. Our society greatly appreciates this fact and instructs me, as its president, to express to you its deeply felt appreciation of this generosity.

Very sincerely yours
Maria Montessori
President

Dr. Maria Montessori
Calle Ganduxer
Barcelona, Spain

4. 31st December 1939

Dear Dr. Tagore,

Excuse me for not having written to you before and thank you for the kindness you have shown me and my work. My occupations which are rendered more pressing by the inconvenience brought to the organization on account of war, has made it impossible for me to do so before now. I take advantage of the few days of vacation in order to express to you my deep appreciation of this wonderful country that I had so much heard about and so much desired to see.

I take this occasion to wish you a very prosperous and happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,
Maria Montessori

MESSAGE ON COMMEMORATION OF RABINDRANATH TAGORE