

**Toshmatov Ruzmatjon Dovudjon o'g'li, Assistant
Namangan Engineering and Technology Institute**

**MONTESSORI METHOD: A CHILD-CENTERED APPROACH TO
EDUCATION**

***Abstract:** The Montessori Method, developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, is a child-centered educational approach emphasizing independent learning, hands-on activities, and a prepared environment. It focuses on the holistic development of the child, nurturing intellectual, social, and emotional growth. Montessori classrooms are characterized by mixed-age groups, a focus on self-directed activity, and specially designed learning materials.*

***Keywords** Montessori Method, Maria Montessori, Child-Centered Education, Independent Learning, Hands-On Activities, Holistic Development, Mixed-Age Groups, Self-Directed Activity, Learning Materials, Lifelong Learning.*

Тошматов Рузматжон Довуджон оглы Ассистент

Наманганский инженерно-технологический институт

**МЕТОД МОНТЕССОРИ: ПОДХОД К ОБРАЗОВАНИЮ,
ОРИЕНТИРОВАННЫЙ НА РЕБЕНКА**

***Аннотация:** Метод Монтессори, разработанный доктором Марией Монтессори, представляет собой ориентированный на ребенка образовательный подход, подчеркивающий самостоятельное обучение, практические занятия и подготовленную среду. Он направлен на целостное развитие ребенка, способствуя интеллектуальному, социальному и эмоциональному росту. Классы Монтессори характеризуются разновозрастными группами, ориентацией на самостоятельную деятельность и специально разработанными учебными материалами.*

***Ключевые слова** Метод Монтессори, Мария Монтессори, Образование, ориентированное на ребенка, Самостоятельное обучение,*

Практические занятия, Целостное развитие, Разновозрастные группы, Самостоятельная деятельность, Учебные материалы, Обучение на протяжении всей жизни.

The Montessori Method, pioneered by Dr. Maria Montessori in the early 20th century, revolutionized the field of education. It is grounded in the belief that children learn best in an environment where they are allowed to explore, discover, and learn at their own pace. This approach contrasts traditional teacher-led classrooms, prioritizing self-directed learning, independence, and respect for a child's natural psychological development. Montessori classrooms are known for their distinctive setup, featuring age-specific materials and activities that cater to different stages of a child's growth.

Philosophical Underpinnings: The Montessori philosophy is based on the idea that education should be an aid to life. It focuses on the whole child, considering their physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development. Montessori believed in the innate potential of each child and the importance of nurturing this potential in a supportive environment.

Key Components of the Montessori Classroom: Montessori classrooms are carefully prepared environments, equipped with specific materials that promote active learning. They are structured to encourage independence, with activities set up for children to choose freely. Mixed-age groupings are another hallmark, facilitating peer learning and social interaction.

Role of the Educator: In Montessori education, the teacher's role is that of a guide or facilitator, rather than a traditional instructor. Teachers observe children and provide materials and activities that align with their developmental needs and interests.

Montessori Materials: Unique educational materials are central to the Montessori Method. These materials are designed to be self-correcting and to

allow for hands-on learning. They cover various areas, including practical life skills, sensory learning, mathematics, language, and cultural studies.

The Montessori Method has made a significant impact on the field of education, offering a child-centered approach that nurtures the holistic development of children. Its focus on independent learning, hands-on activities, and a prepared environment aligns well with contemporary educational goals. Montessori's principles of respecting the individuality of each child and fostering a love for learning have proven to be timeless, continuing to influence educational practices globally.

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