



Khandala - India

**Sadhana –  
Working Together to Support Waldorf Early  
Childhood Education in India**

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*Sadhana's annual meeting*

On Friday, May 29th, on the final evening of the annual Waldorf Training course in Khandala, I had the opportunity to attend the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Indian Waldorf Early Childhood Association 'Sadhana' and give a picture of the working areas and activities of IASWECE.

Sadhana became a member of IASWECE in 2014 and is represented in the IASWECE council by Sucheta Garud who has been active as Waldorf EC teacher and trainer/mentor for beginning initiatives in India in the past years.

After sending an invitation to the Waldorf schools and kindergartens, Sucheta was able to bring together 7 dedicated teachers from the different regions in India who are willing to

make a commitment to working together and forming the Core Group of this national association.

Among the tasks this group has undertaken are organising regional and national conferences, supporting new initiatives, coordinating the mentoring needed for beginning teachers and supporting the development of the training that is needed.





In addition, some members of the Sadhana Core Group have taken on the responsibility of forming a Core Group for Training in order to develop an internationally-recognised long-term training course for Waldorf ECE in India, to "Indianize" the curriculum, and to provide further training for more experienced Waldorf EC teachers in order to develop a local teaching faculty. As an act of concrete sisterhood they have welcomed Sarita Sanghai, a Nepalese Waldorf EC teacher who lives in Hyderabad, into this Core Group for Training to help her develop the necessary expertise for organising the training in Nepal.

I was invited to guide the core group of Sadhana in this important task. In my 3-day visit, we developed a short- and long-term working plan and were able to put an organisational structure in place so that the ways of working within Sadhana are carried from the beginning in a socially healthy way. Everyone present expressed the importance of safeguarding an attitude of sharing and serving as a leading gesture within the Core Group to avoid power politics that would hinder the work that needs to be done. A profile, mandate description and application process for becoming a Core Group member and also for membership in general were developed and agreed upon, and the foundation was laid for developing a long-term training course according to the IASWECE Guidelines.

We started each day with a verse, sang, worked on circle games, and used the tropical evenings on the terrace to share our biographies and visions until the fierce mosquitos drove us back inside. The rich meals and delicious famous Mumbai mangos lightened the days of working and living closely together. A strong foundation and warm collegueship to carry the future tasks were built.

It was my pleasure to be part of these important first steps and to witness the great potential and dedication that were present. I hope that every Waldorf kindergarten and early childhood program in India will become a member of Sadhana and support this important work!

