



# Musings From a Teachers's Ink September 2019

## TEACHER TRAVELOGUE - DEBUT

Teacher Ink debuted its Teacher Travelogue program this July by taking a group of teachers to an unusually wonderful learning space, tucked away in a little village in Coimbatore – The Isha Home School. It was an experience to see a school that did not have any concept of weekend as learning happened all the time! The children were independent, free and above all – happy!

The school had teachers from varied backgrounds, most of them volunteers, and as such, the children had different teachers during the year. The time schedule for the day was shared with the learners only a day before!

Sri Sadguru's brainchild, the school epitomises what true learning really means. The TI travelogue group spoke to the teachers, the coordinators, the children and absorbed the environment and the best practices they could see in the school. Evenings were set aside to go around the Isha Foundation Campus and to reflect on what the teachers learnt from the school visit.

The TI team is absolutely excited to provide opportunities to teachers to see unusual learning spaces around the world. As Lakshmi Raju, one of the traveller sums it up beautifully, "Lot of fun and lot of learning and a great opportunity to connect with like minds".



## FLORIDA MONTESSORI TRAINING COURSE

In another milestone, Teacher Ink kick started the Florida Montessori Teacher Training Program in collaboration with Shahita's FloMont World School. There are 16 candidates enrolled in its first batch.

Course admissions are open through the year. Those interested in joining the programme may write to – [teacherink2015@gmail.com](mailto:teacherink2015@gmail.com) or call 9538570114

# People Who Shaped Education

## Confucius

### (551-479 BCE)

*If one loves humaneness but does not love learning, the consequence of this is folly; if one loves understanding but does not love learning, the consequence of this is unorthodoxy; if one loves good faith but does not love learning, the consequence of this is damaging behaviour; if one loves straightforwardness but does not love learning, the consequence of this is rudeness; if one loves courage but does not love learning, the consequence of this is rebelliousness; if one loves strength but does not love learning, the consequence of this is violence.*

The psychological foundation of Confucius' educational thought is that human nature is neutral at birth. He observed that 'By nature, people are close to one another; through practice, they drift far apart.' Because of the neutrality of human nature at birth, the environment, including education, plays a very important role in raising the young. Confucius was heavily involved in teaching; and there are several texts about his ideas and practice related to teaching method and instructional content. Confucius paid attention to students' individual characteristics. Confucius also expected his students to be motivated and active learners. In his words, 'No vexation, no enlight-

enment; no anxiety, no illumination. Confucius urged his students to take the initiative in learning. They should be eager in and dedicated to learning. When students were taught something, they were expected to draw relevant inferences from it. In addition to intellectual education, moral education also played a very important role in Confucius' educational theory and practice. One of his students commented that 'The Master instructed in four aspects: culture, moral conduct, wholehearted sincerity, and truthfulness.

Confucius emphasized the importance of humanity in daily life in the way one treats parents and others. He said that 'What you do not wish for yourself, do not impose on others.'<sup>15</sup> Confucius also stressed the importance of humanity in governing. As to the influence of Confucianism on education, the following are the most important. First, the principle that 'Those who excel in office should learn; those who excel in learning should take office' has guided Chinese education.

Confucius' purpose of education focused more on social rather than individual development. The moral values he advocated were ultimately related to gov-

erning and regulating social relationships. Confucius depicted a developmental path for his students—to achieve self-cultivation first, then family harmony, then good order in the state, and finally peace in the empire. Therefore, the real emphasis was on the social rather than private purpose of education.

The emphasis on the social dimension is usually related to the instrumental purpose of education, i.e., to use education as a vehicle to achieve a purpose other than education per se. The training of talent loyal to the government was the fundamental principle of the official Confucian education.

*Source: Palmer, A; Fifty Msajor Thinkers on Education; Routledge 2001*





*The teacher we debut this month is someone who has relentlessly worked in a school, lovingly conceptualised by two enterprising Canadian women sharing the same name - Barbara Zeibots and Barbara Galbraith. Ms. Swarnalatha, has been with the school for over 10 years now. Latha is a simple human being with high professional aspirations and a hard-to-find commitment to her school - Global Pathways - located in the outskirts of Coimbatore.*

We are happy to share her ideas about and for education and her life as a teacher:

**What got you into teaching profession?**

I was inspired by the methods used by the teacher in my son's school and the other children who studied there. This led me to take a step toward what I so happily do today.

**What are your aspirations as a teacher?**

All I want to do is make a meaningful difference in a child's life. As a teacher I feel I have the perfect platform to do that.

**What is Swarnalatha's typical day like?**

(Laughs) Home to school. School to home. Busy always!

**What was your defining moment in your career as a teacher?**

There are many. But I remember one day a parent of a child in my class shared with me that her daughter felt very confident about learning and had become emotionally strong after I became her teacher. The family is grateful to me always. I will never forget this moment.

**How do you keep yourself updated professionally?**

I keep in touch with educationists and other teachers. I also read a lot and participate in professional discussions with my colleagues. I also take up courses that upgrade my teaching skills. Last year, I did the Master Teacher Educator Certificate course that Teacher Ink offered. It was a very interesting programme.

**What is that one piece of advice you would like to give your counterparts in other schools?**

Keep your sense of humor and always practice kindness.



**TEACHER  
Feature**

**Ms. Swarnalatha  
Teacher, Global Pathways  
Coimbatore**

***Titbits from a teacher...***

***Favorite food... Biryani!***

***Favorite pastime... Listening to music and reading books***

***Favorite quote... Never give up!***

***When I'm down, I... think of all the good moments I had and and also the bad times that I overcame successfully***

***Favorite role models..Barbara Z and Barbara G***

***My stressbuster... spending time with my friends***





## WAYS TO BE FEATURED IN THE TI NEWSLETTER

Share best practices through your reflective articles:

Many of you do extraordinary things in the classroom, we would like the teaching community to hear your success stories in a reflective first person narrative. Write to us today.

**Teacher Feature:**

Teachers are unsung heroes. And there is a lot you have contributed in your own small or big ways to your own school community. We would love to feature you as the star teacher in this section. Call or write to us to be seen and heard.

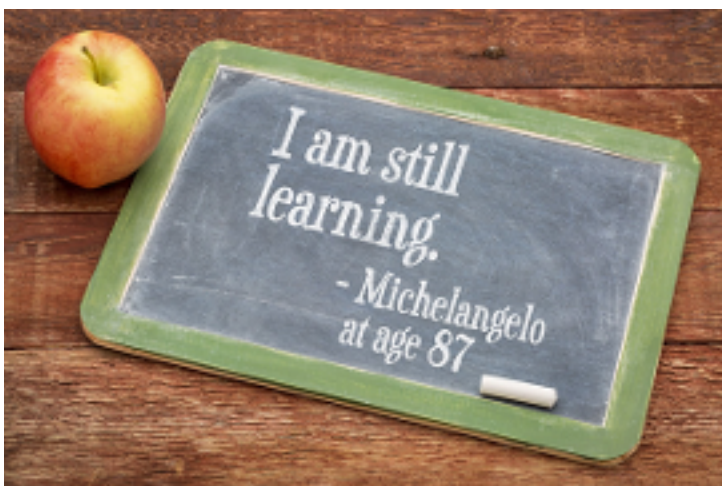
Advertise your school or product or service:

'Musings from a Teacher's Ink' is an endeavor to bring more and more teachers to the limelight – to be seen and heard. A lot of time and effort goes into bringing this newsletter to life.

You can advertise your school or an educational product or service for a reasonable cost. Your contribution will give you visibility and help us access quality resources for the teachers.

For placing an ad, contact Ms. Susmita Shroff at 9538570114 or write to her at [teacherink2015@gmail.com](mailto:teacherink2015@gmail.com)

## LAST WORD...



### Inviting feedback

Dear Teachers..

Let us know what you would like featured in this newsletter.

We also seek and welcome your feedback on this endeavor. We will try and select a few compelling feedback in this section in our next feature.

You may send your feedback, insights, ideas, reflections through our facebook page – Terrific Teachers' Turf – or whatsapp us on 9916038106

You may even send the same via email – [teacherink2015@gmail.com](mailto:teacherink2015@gmail.com)