



Montessori method teaches children how to manage their community

RAIFE CEBECI, founder of the Istanbul Montessori Institute (IME), has shared details of the Montessori education method at a seminar. Cebeci said the Montessori method is an approach that places importance on the soul and social nature of people and the social, emotional, cognitive and physical development of children.

Cebeci started the seminar by talking about the method, developed by Italian doctor Maria Montessori, which aims to improve the curiosity of children aged between 3 and 6 by nurturing them in an educational environment, talked about how the Montessori method first came to the region, saying that the education method, which recalls traditional Turkish culture, first became a source of inspiration in the Ottoman era. Research and work on the method intensified between 2002 and 2012, focusing on the pre-school period. Cebeci expressed her concerns that it is becoming a trend today and that some are using it for financial gains. "This situation is used by some people to take financial advantage, ignoring quality. However, the quality of class and teacher should be a priority in this method," she stated.

"The first six years of human life is the period when our brains develop the fastest. If families and teachers support brain development in the right way during this period, the child will be successful both in educational and social life. They will be ready for life no matter where they go or what they do in the future," said Cebeci. She added that children should have concrete experiences until the age of 6, an argument which is supported by the Montessori method, which she also claims supports both the cognitive and mental development of children.

Cebeci stated that the Montessori method aims to raise the child as a polite and calm person. "In Montessori classes, children learn how to manage their own community. While the older children develop a sense of love, compassion and leadership toward the younger ones, the younger students observe the older ones and learn how to learn from them," she said. Cebeci noted that a punishment and reward system is not implemented in the method, which is known for its closeness to natural human behavior. Instead, the system presupposes that we need to approach children in times of crisis and explain the reasons to them.

Cebeci also mentioned that there are misunderstandings in terms of the approach to freedom in the Montessori method. Students learn that their freedom is limited to other people's freedom and they grow with self-discipline in Montessori classes. A question-and-answer session held after the seminar helped answer the question marks in participants' minds, leading to a better understanding of the method. **ISTANBUL / DAILY SABAH**

In some parts of rural Karaman, the villagers have preserved a tradition called "Saya," for centuries. It involves a ceremony that is usually held on the 100th day after sheep mate, when the unborn offspring are thought to come alive in the ewes' wombs. Here, the key means of living are sheep and goat farming.



SAYA, AN ORAL TRADITION PRACTICED FOR CENTURIES

'Saya,' a centuries-old tradition, is usually practiced in parts of Anatolia on the day when an unborn sheep is believed to come to life in its mother's womb. It is still practiced in some villages of the central Anatolian city of Karaman. Young people wear special costumes and paint their faces black to become 'Saya,' a mythological character, to collect offerings by going door to door in the village of Madenşehri

IN SOME parts of rural Karaman, the villagers have preserved a tradition called "Saya," for centuries. It involves a ceremony that is usually held on the 100th day after the sheep mate and the unborn offspring are thought to come alive in the ewes' wombs.

One such place where the tradition still thrives is the village of Madenşehri on the skirts of Karadağ. Here, the key means of living are sheep and goat farming.

As part of the tradition, young people gather in a village chamber and start preparations. A shepherd's socks, coat, bandolier, packing needle and bell, all used in the ceremony, are brought together. The one of the youngsters is chosen to be the "Saya," who puts the costume on. His face is then painted black and bells are hung from different parts of the costume.

Then, the "Saya" and horse groom start collecting offerings from the villagers by going from door to door. While doing this, they recite traditional poems and every object that is taken from the residents' houses is believed to be "sadaqaah," (voluntary charity) for animals and the unborn sheep.

Speaking to Anadolu Agency (AA), the Mukhtar (the head of a village) of Madenşehri, Durmuş Ali Demir said this is a traditional ceremony, which takes place at the end of January or the beginning of February every year, following the mating of sheep, and in the hope of healthy lambs. "Young people of the village gather in



a chamber in the evening. One of them is chosen as the 'Saya' and the preparations start. The group knocks on every door in the village after the Maghrib Adhan. The 'Saya' lies down in front of the door and the owners give him some money or food items, such as oil, flour or rice," he said.

Demir stressed that it was very important for them to continue the traditions.

"Everything collected on that day is brought to the village chamber and then distributed to those who are in need. Young people also organize a fun event with the money they collect. We maintain our tradition and everyone in the village comes together through this tradition. It has been practiced for hundreds of years. We have

learned it from our grandfathers, now we are teaching it to the next generations. There are not many villages left which still practice it and if we also stop practicing it, it will soon be forgotten," he said.

Yasin Demir, who was the horse groom in the ceremony, said they are happy to continue a tradition that they have learned from the elders.

"This year's ceremony was great. Our grandfathers taught us this and now young people are learning it from us. Hopefully, it will continue like this. The charity collected in the ceremony is given to those who are in need and in the evening, we hold some entertaining events with the youth of the village," he said. **KARAMAN / AA**

Amateurs can hunt relics with modern 'Indiana Jones'

A TECHNOLOGY-WIELDING archaeologist billed as a real-world "Indiana Jones" on Monday launched an online platform that lets anyone discover archaeological wonders and fight looting.

A "citizen science" platform that space archaeologist Sarah Parcak wished for a year ago as part of a coveted TED prize went live at GlobalXplorer.org.

"The world's hidden heritage contains clues to humankind's collective resilience and creativity," Parcak said in a release.

"With GlobalXplorer we are empowering a 21st century army of global explorers to discover and protect our shared history."

A video of Parcak unveiling the wish was posted online Monday at www.ted.com.

GlobalXplorer blends satellite imagery with pattern-hunting of a sort to make a game of spotting clues to the whereabouts of antiquities or looting.

Visitors to the website are invited to sign in and take a quick tutorial before virtually hunting relics and treasures.

Spending time scrutinizing satellite imagery lets people "level up" as in video games and earn rewards such as a chance to virtually join archaeologists on actual digs.

"Parcak's wish has put the tools in everyone's hands to discover and protect humanity's rich history, effectively opening up a traditionally closed discipline," said TED prize director Anna Verghese.



"Now our stories are safeguarded by millions rather than just a handful."

Only tiny sections of imagery are shown, along with broad location data such as what country is involved, to avoid being a resource for looters seeking tips of where to search.

DigitalGlobe, which specializes in capturing high-resolution pictures of the Earth from space, said that it provided more than 200,000 square kilometers of satellite imagery of Peru and a customized version of an online crowdsourcing tool.

National Geographic and Sustainable Preservation Initiative were listed among collaborators on the project.

Archaeologists will follow up on sites pinpointed by the "crowd," paving the way for protection from governments or law enforcement agencies "As soon as they see new or destroyed sites from space, we will be there on the ground to investigate and protect them," said SPI founder and executive director Larry Coben.

Sarah Parcak envisions a 21st century army of citizen scientists discovering and defending relics.

Parcak condemned destruction of antiquities by the likes of violent extremists from Daesh and saw looting done by the desperately poor as "heartbreaking."

The TED Prize provides a million dollars to kickstart a big vision and opens a door to call on the nonprofit organization's innovative, influential and ingenious community of "tedsters" for help.

The TED community includes scientists, celebrities, politicians, artists, and entrepreneurs. Her work has caused some to refer to Parcak as a real-world version of the Indiana Jones character made famous in films starring Harrison Ford.

Parcak is a professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she founded the Laboratory for Global Observation.

She has won attention for her work satellite mapping Egypt and uncovering hidden pyramids, tombs and settlements.

The annual TED Prize has grown from \$100,000 to a million dollars since it was first awarded in the year 2005, to U2 band leader Bono and his vision of fighting poverty and disease.

Since its inception in 1984, TED has grown into a global forum for "ideas worth spreading" and has won a worldwide following for trademark "talks" during which accomplished speakers deliver thought-sparking presentations. **SAN FRANCISCO / AFP**

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