



Bala Mandir Research Foundation

cordially invites you to the

S. Manjubhashini Memorial Seminar - 2011

Education as Parenting Insights From Gandhi, Tagore and Aurobindo

Registration	9.30 a.m.
Welcome	10.00 a.m.
Theme presentation V.R.Devika Managing Trustee, The Aseema Trust	10.10 a.m.
Questions	11.10 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
Group Discussions (along with Tea)	11.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
Group presentations	12.30 p.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Date: Friday 23rd December, 2011

Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Venue: Bala Mandir Resource Centre
31, Prakasam Street, T.Nagar, Chennai - 600 017.

December is upon us. As we consider the prestigious annual BMRF event, the S. Manjubhashini Seminar, we put our minds together on a fresh focus to good parenting and to the happiness of children everywhere.

Observing the enormous change in the transmission of information today and the tremendous upheaval of the communication systems around the world, we find that technology has been lauded and applauded, used and misused, maybe even reviled at times. We must acknowledge that the current tools of communication are pervasive, almost a lifeline for most of us. We have gigabytes of information, even libraries of knowledge, but wisdom is still elusive. One may not always find wisdom on the monitor of a computer.

Should the value for the contemporary eclipse the history of older ideas? A resounding NO is the answer. Is there an argument for going back to the roots? YES, I can hear some say. We need to study the perspectives of our wise ancestors. We must listen to their voices, especially to those from our relatively recent past.

The voices of Aurobindo, Tagore and Gandhi, our very own sages, speak with relevance to our current concerns on parenting. There may be some differences in their perspectives and their priorities, and it would enlighten us to analyse and understand them. All three of them articulated a philosophy which reflected a holistic vision. They threw light on life and living, education and parenting, childhood roles and adult responsibilities. Living in a community, conserving Nature's richness, working with one's hands, sharing civic duties, rearing children to be good citizens, respecting the rights of others, fighting for freedom from colonial rule and being worthy of that freedom: all these aspects were linked together by them in a complex web of ideas.

We have invited V.R. Devika, the Gandhi scholar, to speak to us on the theme. The talk will be followed by group discussions, where there will be an opportunity for you to discuss your response to the ideas presented and your thoughts on how they can be implemented in your own parenting activities.

Please come with open minds and warm hearts, so that the collective energy generated can take our cause forward.

S. Anandalakshmy