

Waldorf Education has found a way to the hearts of some parents in Mongolia - Impressions of the teacher of an introductory course

Stefanie Allon



Thanks to the initiatives of people in Ulaanbataar and the support of IASWECE it was possible to offer the first introductory course in Steiner/Waldorf education in Mongolia. Mongolia is a country that is larger than the surface of Germany, Austria, France, Italy, England, Holland and Denmark together. However, the population is only three million. Half of the inhabitants live in the capital city of Ulaanbataar. Mongolia's neighbors are the two giants, China and Russia. It has been no easy task to achieve and sustain independence. After the great conquests of Genghis Khan and his grandson in Europe and China, Mongolia only began to achieve its own independence for a few years in the 20th century. Between 1989 and 1992, after the "embrace" of the Soviet Union, Mongolia achieved a conflict-free transition to political independence.

Considering this history one can understand that this country finds itself in a delicate building-up phase in a difficult historical, geographic and economic situation.

Allon, Mongolia



Meeting a group of open, searching people in Ulaanbataar filled me with great joy and gratitude. One could really experience their search for a contemporary spirituality that bestows strength for individuality, in the midst of strongly nature-based spirituality, Tibetan Buddhism, atheism and other streams. And on the other hand, I also experienced a search for an education that does not place intellectual demands on the child, but accompanies and supports the individual development of each child in all areas. Thus Anthroposophy can help to create the connection between philosophical and practical experience - a task that presents itself to those representing Waldorf education in human situations that are new and that require new attempts to find solutions.

Naturally my inability to understand and speak the language was a great problem in communication. English (today the primary second language for many in Mongolia) was the contact language in the course (with translation into Mongolian). I think I can say that despite the linguistic obstacles and thanks to the great good will of these people, an encounter with the Steiner/Waldorf impulse was possible. It was an intensive time of being together for ten days from morning to evening, which allowed a good entrance into the anthroposophical view of the human being and the world, as well as opportunities to exercise practical capacities like singing, movement, handwork, etc., and at the same time a heartfelt social, happy encounter.

The main initiator of the course also arranged a day in the Education Department of the University, with three lectures on aspects of Waldorf Education for a large audience from the public (teachers in training and already trained state school teachers).

And so a beginning has taken place. And there is a foundation to build upon further, if that is wanted.

Stefanie Allon, who is married and lives in Israel with her children and grandchildren, grew up and was educated in Switzerland. She has worked as a teacher, curative educator, early childhood educator, and trainer in Israel and other countries.



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