



You are here: > [Norway and India](#) > [News and Events](#) > "Barnehage" in Bangalore.



Photo: <http://www.papagoya.com/>

## "Barnehage" in Bangalore.

01.11.2016 // Barnehage, is the Norwegian word for Kindergarten. The Scandinavian kindergarten model emphasizes on nurturing children academically and socially from an early age. This is a model that has sparked interest among the founders of Papagoya Kindergarten in Bangalore.

Helen Issar, Darshana Rajaram, Sheetal Ramdas and Hanne Kristin is the team behind the new Kindergarten in Bangalore. Their vision is to create a space where children get the opportunity and ability to best utilize their childhood. Papagoya is the first kindergarten in India with a full Norwegian curriculum developed in cooperation with Norwegian partners.

Helen Issar takes with her the experience from having lived in Norway for four years, "Barnehage is much too valuable for India to miss out on" she says.

The name Papagoya is inspired by papegøye, the Norwegian word for Parrot. A parrot's character traits are amazingly similar to those of a toddler - they come in all shapes and sizes, love to imitate, are musical and colourful.

An important part of the Norwegian model is the outdoors, Papagoya wants to infuse this aspect of kindergarten actively in their curriculum. The Norwegian model is all about learning through playing, as in opposition of being indoors and watching television," says Helen Issar.

The establishment of Papagoya is also a statement for women's empowerment in India, usually kids stay at home, typically with their mother for a long time. Having a space like Papagoya enables more women to pursue careers on the same basis as their husbands.

One of the big differences the team sees between the Indian and Norwegian model is the independent learning which is central in Norwegian kindergartens and schools. "In Norway they are learning from an early age to become this little person, things like learning to get dressed and tying their shoelaces by themselves all goes in to becoming a contributing member of society. All these small ways of learning are something India really can benefit from," notes Darshana.

"The whole idea of gender equality is also heavily present in Norway; the thought is rooted right from the beginning. Girls and boys learn to cook, clean up, build and play together, there is no distinguishing between them and that is how you can build a society from the ground up that is very gender equal," the team adds.

As the founders are Bangalore natives their network in their hometown has been important to spread the word about Papagoya. Darshana and Helen admit they are working with a niche-concept, Social Medias and the webpage is the main channels for reaching parents and children in Bangalore.

Papagoya is currently open for admissions and is scheduled to open in the next few weeks.

[Visit Papagoya's homepage](#)