

The Working of the Working Committee

06th December 2014

The Individual and the Collective



Human life is moved by two equally powerful impulses, one of individualistic self-assertion, the other of collective self assertion; it works by strife, but also by mutual assistance and united effort: it uses two diverse convergent forms of action, two motives which seem to be contradictory but are in fact always coexistent, competitive endeavour and cooperative endeavour.

The Organisation of Social Life

The right organisation of social life on a basis of equality and comradeship ought to give each man his proper place in society, his full training and development for the common ends, his due share of work, leisure and reward, the right value of his life in relation to the collective being, society.



The Auroville Foundation

29th September 1988

“The Foundation shall be a body corporate by the name aforesaid, having perpetual succession and a common seal with power to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract and shall by the said name sue and be sued”

The Auroville Foundation

Three authorities

- the Governing Board;
- the Residents' Assembly;
- the Auroville International Advisory Council.

The Governing Board – functions and powers

- To promote the ideals of Auroville and to coordinate activities and services of Auroville in consultation with the Residents' Assembly for the purposes of cohesion and integration of Auroville;
- To review the basic policies and the programmes of Auroville and give necessary directions for the future development of Auroville;
- To accord approval to the programmes of Auroville drawn up by the Residents' Assembly;

The Governing Board – functions and powers

- To monitor and review the activities of Auroville and to secure proper management of the Auroville properties
- To prepare a master-plan of Auroville in consultation with the Residents' Assembly and to ensure development of Auroville as so planned;
- To authorise and coordinate fund-raising for Auroville and to secure proper arrangements for receipts and disbursement of funds for Auroville.

The Residents Assembly – functions and powers

- Advise the Governing Board in respect of all activities relating to the residents of Auroville;
- Allow the admission or cause the termination of persons in the register of residents;
- Organise various activities relating to Auroville;
- Formulate the master plan of Auroville and make necessary recommendations for the recognition of organisations engaged in activities relatable to Auroville for the approval of the Governing Board;
- Recommend proposals for raising funds for Auroville for the approval of the Governing Board.

The Working Committee of the Residents Assembly

- Assist the Residents' Assembly or, as the case may be, the Governing Board, in discharging its duties under this Act.
- Shall consist of not more than seven members to be chosen by the Residents' Assembly from among themselves.
- Create or constitute organisations, trusts, societies or associations relatable to Auroville (subject to some conditions)

The Auroville International Advisory Council

In tendering any advice to the Governing Board, the Council shall endeavour to secure that-

- the ideals for which Auroville has been established are encouraged, and
- the residents of Auroville are allowed freedom to grow and develop activities and institutions for the fulfillment of the aspirations and programmes envisaged in the said Charter of Auroville.

Working Committee – Routine Responsibilities - Examples

- 1 Engage with the local bodies of the region
- 2 Liaison work with Government Departments
- 4 Public Relations
- 3 Periodical consultation and review meetings with the Secretary of the Auroville Foundation
- 4 Periodical meetings with working groups such as FAMC, TDC, Housing Service, Entry Service
- 5 Periodical information sharing and feedback collection meetings with the Residents Assembly
- 6 Act as an “internal client” of the TDC and closely follow up on town development

Working Committee – Example Task List

Action Item

In partnership with

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 Engage with the new Central Government and in particular with the Ministry of HRD | Auroville Foundation Office |
| 2 Engage with the Ministry of HRD on these important issues:
Clearing of the file on land exchange, sales and procurement | FAMC |
| Revival of the proposal to get tax exemption for the Auroville Foundation (100%, no qualifying limit) | FAMC |
| Significant enhancement in the annual development grant to Auroville | FAMC and TDC |
| Auroville to be recognised as an institution of National Importance | Auroville Foundation Office |

Working Committee – Example Task List

Action Item

In partnership with

3 Engage with the Tamil Nadu Government on various issues including

Land use protection

TDC

Collaboration in regional planning

TDC

4 Set up an effective fund raising cell

TDC, FAMC

5 Review entry and integration processes with the relevant working groups to attract more young people to join Auroville

Entry Group

6 Work for the realization of the in-kind economy

FAMC, BCC

Working Committee – Skill Sets

- Communication (oral and written)
- Coordination
- Integration
- Liaison
- Legal
- Administrative

Working Committee Members – Need to have. . .

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- Focus on Auroville vision and values
- Integrity
- Fairness
- Firmness
- Flexibility
- Commitment
- Engagement
- Patience
- A pro-active and result-oriented approach

Qualities given by the Mother

- Sincerity
- Peace
- Equality
- Generosity
- Goodness
- Courage

Qualities given by the Mother

- Progress
- Receptivity
- Aspiration
- Perseverance
- Gratitude
- Humility

Working Committee Challenges

- Getting drawn into day-to-day crisis management and losing focus on long term goals.
- Meeting-intensive work style
- Wanting to take every decision as a group
- Lack of clarity on roles and areas of responsibilities of members
- Overlaps with other working groups
- Criticism by Auroville residents
- Micro management

Working Committee Opportunities

- Be a pro-active catalyst for the growth of Auroville in all its dimensions
- Integrate the initiatives of various working groups
- Strengthen and nourish the relationships with well wishers of Auroville, the State and Central Governments and the local and regional elected bodies
- Enhance the engagement of Auroville residents in the development and growth of Auroville
- Strengthen the working relationship with the Governing Board and the International Advisory Council
- Engage with thought and vision leaders in India and abroad and widen the network of Auroville partners

The Mother on the Organisation of Auroville

What political organisation do you want for Auroville?

“An amusing definition occurs to me: a divine anarchy. But the world will not understand. Men must become conscious of their psychic being and organise themselves spontaneously, without fixed rules and laws—that is the ideal.

For this one must be in contact with one’s psychic being, one must be guided by it and the ego’s authority and influence must disappear.”

The Mother on the Organisation of Auroville

(In response to a question regarding spontaneity vis-à-vis organisation in work:)

“Spontaneous work can be done only by a man of genius.

Is there anyone claiming to be a genius?...”

03.07.1972

The Mother on the Organisation of Auroville

Q: Does the construction of Auroville require a working-method, organisation and co-ordination?

“Discipline is necessary for life. To live, the body itself is subject in all its functions to a rigorous discipline. Any relaxation of this discipline causes illness.”

Q: What should be the nature of this organisation, in the present and in the future?

“Organisation is a discipline of action, but for Auroville, we aspire to go beyond arbitrary and artificial organisations. We want an organisation which is the expression of a higher consciousness working to manifest the truth of the future.”

The Mother on the Organisation of Auroville

Q: Until this group consciousness appears, and until we can work collectively in the true and right way, what should we do?

A hierarchical organisation grouped around the most enlightened centre and obeying a collective discipline.

Q: Has the time come to wish for, to set up, to try for a general organisation, or should one wait for the right attitude and men?

An organisation is needed for the work to be done - but the organisation itself must be flexible and progressive.

Manifesting the dream. . . .



You say that Auroville is a dream.

Yes, it is a "dream" of the Lord and generally these "dreams" turn out to be true - much more true than the human so-called realities!

The Mother
20.5.1966

Thank You

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