The House of Mother's Agenda
Aspiration-Auroville
Kottakuppam 605104
(Tamil Nadu) India

On October 30, 1989, The House of Mother's Agenda was re-opened in Aspiration, Auroville. It is a meeting point for all those who seek to study Sri Aurobindo's and Mother's work. There is a lending library for books and cassettes of Mother's Agenda, as well as a display of photos, books, and quotations which explains the history and relevance of their work and draws special attention to the unique document of Mother's Agenda: Her exploration into the consciousness of the body.

The House of Mother's Agenda is open every day, and on two evenings each week adults and young people meet to share and discover together the inner reality of our life in Auroville.

We hope that this place will be a gathering point especially for Auroville youth to look within, and also to look outside, because Sri Aurobindo's action can be encountered anywhere in the world. To help us in this exploration we would like to ask all those who are connected with Sri Aurobindo and Mother to send us any kind of documentation of Their work on earth, wherever and in whatever form you see a new consciousness manifesting: through articles, photographs, works of art, music, etc.

In your own life, when you have some special encounter with Him and Her, share it with us. Mother's Agenda, which She subtitled "Agenda of the Supramental Action on Earth," is
An Interview with Selvaraj and Aurora

Editors’ Note: After we received the announcement about the House of Mother’s Agenda, we had an opportunity to speak with two young people who are very much concerned with it. Selvaraj is a young Tamilian from a nearby village who was educated in Auroville and is now helps run the Last School. Aurora, born in Auroville from Dutch parents, educated in Holland, returned to Auroville 3 years ago and works in the township administrative center.

Selvaraj: The House of Mother’s Agenda came about because Auroville youth expressed the fact that we didn’t know much about Mother and Sri Aurobindo’s experience and even Satprem. We had heard a lot of controversy about the Agenda in Auroville. Also, living in Auroville we heard quotes from Sri Aurobindo and Mother off and on, but we didn’t really sit down and read much.

We put this feeling of wanting to learn more about all of this out to other Aurovillians, and they said yes it is important to have a place where youth can come to have their questions answered, or just to share, and that’s how we started. Lots of adults came to the first meeting. We put questions to them and some of them also said they had some of the same questions.

Both younger and older spoke about whether we would ever reach anywhere near the spiritual point that Mother and Sri Aurobindo reached; of when the transformation was going to happen, and can we all achieve it; and even how much we see the truth in what they said.

Aurora: We are not only focused on the Agenda. We talk about people’s experiences of coming to Auroville; what is happening in India and Auroville; why are we here together; and then questions arise.

Selvaraj: Around 10 young people and 30 adults came to the first meeting—that’s the usual number, though sometimes fewer.

Collaboration: Is there an agenda for the meeting?

Selvaraj: Sometimes. Later we found out that a lot of us felt we should read a book, like the Adventures of Consciousness, by Satprem. Many people had said that they had come to Auroville by reading that book. That’s why we chose it.

Aurora: Lots of our young people have experienced Sri Aurobindo and Mother through growing up in Auroville, with their parents and friends around them, not needing to talk much about Sri Aurobindo and Mother. When they have to explain them to outsiders they felt they did not know enough. They had it inside them, but they needed the basic biography of Mother-Sri Aurobindo and information which could be helpful to introduce people.

Selvaraj: We meet lots of people who ask us about this, and we feel quite shy to talk about it. Thinking that we don’t know much, we don’t want to say anything.

Collaboration: People in the USA also say that they’re not used to talking about the Yoga in this country. They just keep it secret.

Selvaraj: That’s how it is in Auroville. People don’t feel like talking about it with their children because it feels like preaching. They don’t want to do that. They think that everyone should learn by themselves not by their parents pushing them into it.

The other thing is to have a place where young people can get together to express what they are thinking, and what they want to do and create; where some of the adults who are interested can
come and listen and get to know what are the interests of the youth.

**Collaboration**: Can you think of an example of something you discussed?

**Aurora**: In the House of Mother’s Agenda we speak about things that are very personal. So others have to really listen without laughing or making fun—then when you hear it you don’t go around talking about it. Some people express their special experiences—dreams or out-of-the-body experiences that people normally don’t speak about.

**Collaboration**: What about the generation that’s younger than you?

**Selvaraj**: There are only about ten people our age (early twenties) who come; a lot more don’t come. The younger ones are just watching what happens. In Auroville there is a lot of controversy—talking about what is really the Yoga—and sometimes people make fun of it. It is all mixed there. So the younger ones are just watching. Some do come and sit for one or two meetings, and then they don’t come to the next.

**Aurora**: Sometimes the younger ones don’t understand what we are talking about. It can be complicated. We tried to have topics for every meeting, but usually we listen to music in the beginning, start reading, and then discuss what we read. Anything which comes up we talk about.

**Selvaraj**: We’re also trying to collect experiences of people from all over the world who have had something that relates to what has happened in Auroville. People could send us information, and we could make it a part of the exhibition in the House. (See preceding letter)

**Aurora**: We also talk about education in Auroville. We come up with some nice ideas. Like every Saturday we now have a bus that takes the young children to the different places in Auroville where they can learn what is going on in a production unit or the green belt or wherever. Especially those kids who are getting ready to finish school.

**Selvaraj**: This is to give these students a sense that there are things in Auroville for them to get involved with, rather than a feeling of there’s nothing here for them once they finish Last School. They sometimes feel like that, and it’s not true. There are a lot of things that are happening around Auroville. You have to see them.

**Aurora**: Now that we have this place the young people feel that when they have a question or want to get in touch with something they can come there. It has to grow naturally. We can add more people to it, but a certain interest is not there yet with the younger children—but it will come.

**Collaboration**: How will they get interested?

**Aurora**: I don’t think it’s a question of the level of your interest. It’s more the level of your own progress. There are young children who ask big questions that they want answered. There are some who only think about things when they grow up and are faced with some experience in Auroville, and then they say, ”Hey, I want to know more about that.”

**Collaboration**: Do you see young people coming in from outside becoming interested in Sri Aurobindo and Mother? Is Auroville a good way for young people to get involved in the Yoga?

**Aurora**: I think it goes slowly. When they get to know about Mother and Sri Aurobindo outside of Auroville that makes a connection. I don’t know about 18 and older, but looking at younger ones between 7 and 12, when they come from outside they just go with it and ask questions and find out about it.

**Selvaraj**: But I don’t see the youth coming from outside so involved with meditation or the Yoga. Youth who are 18 and 20 are mostly interested in different activities, or they relate through work rather than spirituality. That doesn’t mean they aren’t interested. It comes later, I think.

**Aurora**: They have this feeling of really knowing Sri Aurobindo and Mother. They carry it around before it really awakens. Then they get interested.

**Collaboration**: So the House of Mother’s Agenda is a way for there to be something in Auroville for the youth when they want to know.

**Aurora**: It’s for anyone in Auroville who wants to know about the Yoga. It started because of the young people. For the older Aurovilians it’s a wonderful place for them to meet young people. They feel they can offer something by being there, listening and trying to help.