INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

"AUROVILLE".

When Dr. Radhakrishnan was President of India, he had mooted an idea for a world university, which will bring about a dialogue between different cultures of the world. Government of India also had some correspondence with UNESCO in this connection.

Later on it was proposed that since the whole town of Auroville is an educational and research project and is commended by U.N.E.S.C.O., this university can be established there. The Mother accepted this proposal. In fact the whole of Auroville is conceived as a living and true world university. We are making a beginning this year with a multi-lingual education with various facilities, including languages, humanities, sciences, architecture, agriculture, etc. It will increase and complete itself.
INTRODUCTION.

The aim is to develop a system of education which will give full scope to each student to realise his highest and widest possibilities. The education will be living and progressive. It will increase and complete itself according to circumstances and feasibility. In Auroville the endeavour is to make available, in one place and with all up-to-date facilities, the best in education in all its branches. This will attract the best teaching staff. Under the free progress system envisaged in Auroville, the best possible education will be provided to the students.

A World University:

Since the aim is to develop Auroville as a World University which will fulfill the true needs of not only the present day education but also of the future society, the education is planned in a comprehensive manner free from the first stages. The whole of Auroville and its life is envisaged as a comprehensive living University.

Free Progress System:

The courses will cover the education imparted from nursery school and kindergarten level to the most advanced level (normally called post-graduate and doctorate). But the pursuit of the courses will be done through the "free-progress" system. In this system, which has already been experimented for several years in the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education in Pondicherry, the student is permitted to study any subject or project of his choice, at any given time, (the normal system of classes and period, is abolished). He is given, therefore, the possibility to progress at his own pace, the stress being
on the discovery of the guiding principles and on relating the subjects of study to the needs of the growth of his personality, instead of the routine pursuit of a pre-fixed syllabus through exposure to set lectures and uniform system of examinations.

Thus, the pace of progress will depend on the ability and interests of the student. If properly guided, the interests of the student in one subject would automatically stimulate his interest in other subjects. Unless the student wants to specialise in a particular subject, he will be imparted only such information as will equip him for an integral progress.

To know oneself is of first importance, so that the inner truth manifests itself freely. So, until a certain age, the way of doing things through a natural development of innate faculties is much more important than what is done.

Auroville will offer the best in modern education but also something which is generally missing in present-day systems. Modern education has not yet synthesised all knowledge in each subject nor has it covered spiritual education - without which no education can be complete. This integral approach will constitute the originality of Auroville System of Education.

Individual and Interdisciplinary Courses:

Courses will not be pre-fixed but will be grouped or made ready and suggested to each student according to his specific needs, taking into consideration his abilities, aptitudes, and interests. Let us take a student who wants to take a course in business management. His course will cover the following elements, which will be studied under the faculties mentioned against each item:

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<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>FACULTIES</th>
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<td>Languages</td>
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<td>Publicity</td>
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<td>Commercial:</td>
<td>Public and Business Administration</td>
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<td>Marketing</td>
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<td>Correspondence &amp; filing</td>
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<td>Financial</td>
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<td>Mercantile Law</td>
<td>Social habits of different countries</td>
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<td>Personal efficiency and leadership</td>
<td>Production efficiency</td>
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<td>Role of business in the design of integrated living</td>
<td>etc. etc.</td>
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The courses will be short or long, primary or post-graduate according to the need of each student.

Subject-wise Houses and Centres of Education:

It is intended to erect and furnish "Houses" for each line of studies with its appropriate architecture, decor, paintings, photographs, library, lecture spots, gardens, etc., in a manner that will enthuse the interest of the student in its various aspects. These "Houses" will be places of permanent exhibits and store-rooms of materials pertaining to their particular subjects.

In the "History House" for instance, there will be available all the materials necessary for students to reconstitute a given period of history; costumes, weapons, scripts,
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paintings, documents, etc. But care will be taken to see that these "Houses" do not become merely the monuments representing the PAST but become instead the embodiments of the DREAMS OF THE FUTURE. The students who visit these "Houses" should feel that they are witnessing a procession of a vision leading and opening to a new FUTURE. The "Houses" will not be the actual rooms for learning because learning has to be done by doing and not merely by seeing. To make this practical, the centres of education (the school buildings separated from these different "Houses") will provide among other things such facilities and arrangements as are appropriate to the Free Progress System, viz: a large hall and a workshop where students can work on any practical work or project of their choice, a room of silence etc. For their preparation, however, for obtaining or collecting materials of all kinds, they will use the subject-wise "Houses". These houses could also become permanent exhibits of the results of students projects.

International Cultural Pavilions:

Cultural Pavilions of all nations of the world and States of India will be valuable avenues of education in Auroville. They will foster a true spirit of unity in diversity by helping the students to become conscious of the genius and culture of their country, while appreciating by a living contact the genius and cultures of other countries. These pavilions will also facilitate the study of language, literature, arts, history, geography, etc. of the various countries represented.
Research:

(a) It will carry out research in all domains, particularly in the development of latent faculties and capacities of man, especially those beyond the mind, thus helping to bring something new into his life and activities. What is more important is that the Auroville sponsors maintain that the earth is a field of evolution in which humanity is only one of the steps. Auroville education will also address itself to the process by which man could hasten his evolution, thus making evolution a dynamic objective of the whole human race and helping it to transcend its present limitations.

(b) The whole programme is undertaken in a spirit of applied research and the groupings and methods will change according to the need.

(c) Auroville will develop a pattern of life-long integral education, opening new vistas to human progress.

(d) Auroville education will carry out research and synthesise knowledge in each field.

(e) It will carry out research in the design of integrated living, and all-round improvement of man, thus covering all aspects of life in a living manner.

Special Projects:

The special projects are planned to cover what are normally termed post-graduate studies and researches. To begin with, these projects will mainly cover the subjects of psychology, philosophy, sociology, English and French Literature, area studies etc. Gradually other subjects space, research, for instance, will be added.
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Medium of Education:

The medium of education will be English and as many languages as possible, depending on the need of the students.

Evaluation:

The evaluation of progress done by the student in each subject will be made by the Dean of that subject and a certificate of standard of ability, with all details of proficiency, will be issued by him.

Boarding and Fees:

Boarding facilities for students will be provided and will form part of the educational programme. The students will meet their boarding and lodging charges. There will be no tuition fees in Auroville.

Full Time Education:

A variety of facilities will be provided for full occupation of students' time and attention for progress.

Teachers:

Teachers from all over the world are joining for research and education in Auroville, and are willing and ready to give extra time and equip themselves to meet the needs of the ideals envisaged.

Teachers' Training:

It is the intention of Auroville System of Education to make available to the world at large, the result of its research through a progressive training course, for teachers.
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Teachers' Training continued: programming of computers etc.

In order to help bridge the gap between scientists and teachers it is envisaged that the scientists will provide guidance in the subject in which they specialise, and that there will be a special training course for teachers. Thus the advance in knowledge in each subject will be immediately available to the student.

Special Courses:

Special courses will be arranged for personnel of International organisations and foreign services of different countries.

Life-long Integral Education:

The function of this department will be to study the needs, aptitude and interest of students, help in the planning of their education and keep a contact with them even when they have taken work elsewhere. It will provide the know-how of self-education in each subject and promote in the students the aspiration for integral and continuous progress. This department will develop methods of life-long integral education through computers, films, television, publications, tape recordings, correspondence courses, radio talks, summer institutes, youth camps, etc., and will be responsible for the training of teachers, for evolving new training methods for each subject, for the co-ordination of teaching of different subjects, contact with other institutions etc.
Education Starts Before Birth:

Provision is also made for pre-natal education, which must form part of an integrated programme of education. Medical and other researches are showing that the consciousness of the parents and the environment, influence the body, features and consciousness of the child in the womb.

Parents' Education:

Parents' education is essential if education is to fulfill its true role of improving the quality of human beings. The pattern of parents' education in Auroville will be comprehensive and will include pre-natal education.

General Education:

A general education will cover several very short courses.

Adult Education:

All the facilities developed by the Auroville System of Education will also be available for adult and functional education.

Mass Education:

An attempt will be made to provide facilities for mass education through the means of:

(a) Audio-visual Education
(b) Centres of Integration.
(c) Publications
(d) Radio and Television.
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Space Research:

The world is expanding. Auroville is the town of the future, and a Space Research Programme is an integral part of its life.

The Indian Education Commission 1964-1966:

In its Report, the Commission has made many useful suggestions for reforms in education. Almost all of these are incorporated in the planning of the Auroville system of education as they are in line with its own aims, and we trust that the quality and dedication of teachers selected will help to fulfill them properly.

Conclusion:

A new and great future awaits mankind. The Auroville system of education will foster all research to prepare mankind for it.