The Centre of International Research in Human Unity (CIRHU), located in the international township of Auroville, in South India is an educational research institution that offers itself to the world.

CIRHU, located in the centre of Auroville, is in a unique position to provide an integrated field for experiential study and research that sets it distinctly apart from other institutes of higher learning around the world. For unlike other comparable institutes, CIRHU, being embedded within the “living laboratory” of Auroville, is a centre specifically dedicated to experiential, transformational learning – a place that offers the possibility for designing flexible study programs that combine and synthesise different fields of knowledge with a spiritual foundation and an integral approach that honours multiple ways of learning and knowing. Furthermore, like Auroville, CIRHU has at its core, and completely orientates its activities and programmes around an essential question which must be experientially investigated if the human species is to not only survive but flourish.

“How can we co-operate with and accelerate the evolutionary momentum towards creating a higher level of human consciousness and a new society that reflects that consciousness.”

CIRHU is an open, international platform for conducting and promoting research into this essential question. In its activities and programmes, it draws on the work and inspiration of the founders of Auroville, Sri Aurobindo and The Mother. It also actively seeks collaboration with centres, institutes and foundations from around the world who, in practice, demonstrate a commitment to contributing in a positive way to this evolutionary momentum for an uplifting of human consciousness and thus a life enhancing future for all.

Consistent with one of the aims of Auroville to be a site of unending education and a place for spiritual and material researches, most of the residents of Auroville are directly or indirectly engaged in educational activities. They offer their skills and knowledge as teachers and resources at the service of this aim. In this way, CIRHU is an example of a non-formal organization and its development since it was founded in 1986 has followed a very non-linear path reflecting the interests and capacities of the residents and growing and developing in response to outside forces and invitations.

As Auroville is increasingly recognised internationally as an exceptional learning environment, CIRHU has begun to more actively develop its identity as a pioneering non-formal, higher educational and research institute responsive to the needs of the future instead of simply reacting to the residue of the past.
CIRHU Directions

The following express the activities and lines of development that CIRHU has been following over the last year

1. **Co-ordination of study programs for groups:** CIRHU facilitates study programmes with student groups from within India and abroad and resident students of Auroville. This includes everything from organizing logistics and hosting requirements to arranging and providing specific academic inputs. In the last few years there has been a proliferation of collaborations with universities and institutes from Europe and the USA who have begun to choose Auroville as a site for “living learning” programmes. They bring students and sometimes visiting faculty to Auroville for short or longer term (3 month) programs studying themes related to a synthesis of subjects such as deep ecology, integral spirituality, community development and healing.

2. **Co-ordination of study programs for individuals (students and volunteers)**

Every year approximately 100 independent students and volunteers approach CIRHU for assistance to find a suitable learning environment for their specific field of inquiry. Within Auroville over 25 services, units and specific team based research centres receive and host these visitors and provide individually tailored learning programmes. CIRHU provides this interface, matching learning needs with supervision and providing support and back up to both the volunteer/student and the Aurovilian host.

3. **Support to research scholars:** Increasingly research scholars and post graduate students are coming to Auroville to undertake specific research – approximately 150 academic papers have been written on Auroville on themes such as integral yoga, architecture and town planning, sustainability and society. CIRHU welcomes and provides support to research scholars who choose Auroville as a site for their studies.

4. **International conferences**

The recent UNESCO sponsored conference “Youth for Human Unity – explorations of new values through intercultural and interreligious dialogue” is an example of the kind of conferences that CIRHU is organizing. CIRHU conferences seek to offer something innovative in the combination of lectures and seminars with a lively experiential programme of field trips, artistic expressive activities and interactive cultural programme.

5. **Interactive workshops:** Similarly, the programme of interactive workshops that ran parallel to this conference presenting the work of eminent international scholars and expert facilitators is also an example of the way that CIRHU is working to address the global crisis that humanity is facing. Rather than offering pre-packaged solutions in conferences and workshops, we recognize that there is a field of collective intelligence and seek to provide through workshops the conditions for the emergence of access to this wisdom and elicit creative responses to the current challenges that humanity is facing. In particular we will promote the work of leading consultants around the world whose work is focused on fostering inter cultural dialogue, whole systems decision making, non heirarchical organization, effective communication and unity at the deepest level – skills to help us collectively navigate our current evolutionary crisis.
All these points below have been collected from different documents reflecting the ideas for development of CIRHU. Personally I would not put it in this form but if you feel so, add whatever you want. I think what is above more clearly expresses actual movement of CIRHU and a lot of what is below is covered in the above points.

6. Seek international collaboration and promote the establishment of an assembly of scholars belonging to different countries and cultures, in order to conduct and encourage multisided research in the theme of human unity and in related themes of synthesis of knowledge and culture;
7. Participate, in the establishment of cultural pavilions celebrating the diversity of cultures of the nations of the world with special emphasis on features that would transmit to the students, teachers and scholars, the unique qualities of these cultures in a living, creative and experiential manner;
8. Contribute to the creation of an environment conducive to the progressive development of a learning society – a place where teaching and learning is an integral part of everyone’s lives.
9. Be a point of convergence for social researchers within Auroville and around the world who are studying the above themes.
10. Research and experimentation with alternative economy;
11. Research and experimentation into establishing “ideal” human collective units – e.g. studies into the mechanics or structural conditions that promote resonance and alignment in the face of cultural diversity, studies into the formation of any collective entity (family, social groups, organizations) that share a common aspiration etc.;
12. Develop resource materials and educational tools including curriculum materials pertaining to human unity, evolution and value-education that can be applicable in multi-cultural contexts;
13. Stimulate the development of experiential and experimental methods of research and training by the faculties as well as the elaboration of models that can be replicated in India and the world;
14. Build up an appropriate data base for the elaboration of the above mentioned programmes, experiments and teaching/learning materials;
15. Create a data base of organisations, institutions and individuals around the world who are also examining related themes.
16. Document, promote and disseminate the processes and results of research and experiments conducted at the Centre in Auroville, India and abroad;
17. Evaluation of all the above mentioned research programs;
18. Collaboration with other faculties in exchanging findings.
19. Seek international collaboration and promote the establishment of an assembly of scholars belonging to different countries and cultures, in order to conduct and encourage multisided research in the theme of human unity and in related themes of synthesis of knowledge and culture;
20. Participate, in the establishment of cultural pavilions celebrating the diversity of cultures of the nations of the world with special emphasis on features that would transmit to the students, teachers and scholars, the unique qualities of these cultures in a living, creative and experiential manner;
21. Contribute to the creation of an environment conducive to the progressive
development of a learning society – a place where teaching and learning is an integral part of everyone’s lives.

22. Be a point of convergence for social researchers within Auroville and around the world who are studying the above themes.

23. Conduct research, training programs and studies in fostering trans-cultural communication, decision making, organization and conflict resolution;

24. Research and experimentation with alternative economy;

25. Research and experimentation into establishing “ideal” human collective units – e.g. studies into the mechanics or structural conditions that promote resonance and alignment in the face of cultural diversity, studies into the formation of any collective entity (family, social groups, organizations) that share a common aspiration etc.;

26. Develop resource materials and educational tools including curriculum materials pertaining to human unity, evolution and value-education that can be applicable in multi-cultural contexts;

27. Facilitate exchange programmes with students from within India and abroad and resident students of Auroville into programs of integral studies

28. Stimulate the development of experiential and experimental methods of research and training by the faculties as well as the elaboration of models that can be replicated in India and the world;

29. Build up an appropriate data base for the elaboration of the above mentioned programmes, experiments and teaching/learning materials;

30. Create a data base of organisations, institutions and individuals around the world who are also examining related themes.

31. Document, promote and disseminate the processes and results of research and experiments conducted at the Centre in Auroville, India and abroad;

32. Evaluation of all the above mentioned research programs;

33. Collaboration with other faculties in exchanging findings.