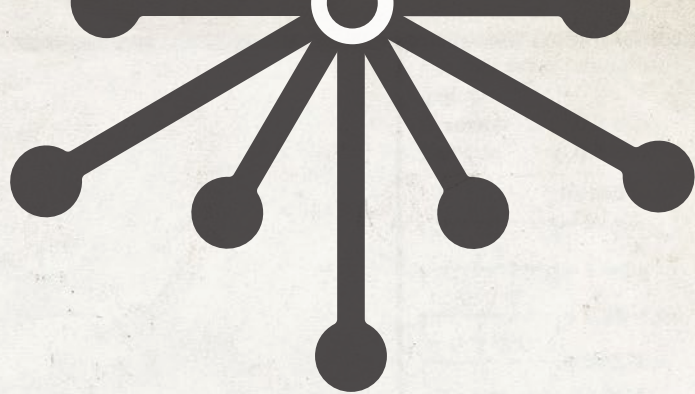


YOUTH PAPER



August 2018 – August 2019

n°1

Youth link Auroville to the future





YOUTH PAPER

1st edition

August 2018-2019

Auroville, India

YouthLink is registered as a Service Unit under the Service Trust
and as an Educational Activity under LEADs, under the Auroville Foundation.

Photography Credit:

Eugenie Dumont, Vinay Elumalai, Madhu Jayamurthy, Ivan Avakian



YouthLink is launching its first newspaper!

What is the YouthPaper?

This first edition mainly provides information about YouthLink, what we are doing and how you can join us. Future editions shall include more voices of youth from the community at large. We thank you for your interest and support!

Who are 'the youth' in Auroville?

'Youth' is a vague term, sometimes classifying a specific age group of people, or sometimes a spirit. In the Auroville charter, The Mother defines the spirit of youthfulness as, *"Auroville will be the place of an unending education, of constant progress, and a youth that never ages."*

This is what we hold at the heart of our work, the spirit of **a youth that never ages**.

Auroville has been facing difficulties to understand and support the 'young adult' population for several decades. These are some of the questions in the air that have been circulating for a long time:

"Who are the youth of Auroville?"

"What do they do?"

"What do they aspire for?"

"How can we get more youth to join?"

The youth in Auroville are not easy to classify or define. They represent a wide diversity of nationality, cultural backgrounds, interest groups, and cliques; a wide demographic that fluctuates continuously.

Auroville has several statuses defined for its population such as Volunteers, Newcomers, Aurovilians and the Bioregional residents. If and when this framework is helpful, we also observe youth through these categories. There are several hundred youth that pass through Auroville every year who come here to volunteer. Newcomers are those who choose to begin the process of joining the community,

and bioregional youth are those who grew up in neighboring villages. Auroville youth are those who were born or brought up by Aurovillian parents. What many of these youth have in common is the need to explore and understand Auroville, and the need for a space to reflect, find their purpose, and eventually perhaps make the conscious choice to commit to The Dream.

Many young adults living in Auroville, or coming here from elsewhere, find it challenging to integrate themselves and settle down. Many do not yet have any inheritance, and have not worked long enough to have accumulated significant savings. Many are still studying, or have graduated and are searching for new experiences.

When coming from a more conventional setting, changing one's life to move into an intentional community like Auroville brings up many challenges. Building one's home, covering basics like food and clothing, adjusting culturally, etc. can be challenging. Hence, **YouthLink** was founded as a platform for young adults to support themselves and to find solutions to problems they have in common.



Auroville already has established educational spaces up to the high school level.

Thus, YouthLink chose to focus its scope to those between 18 and 35 years of age, with the flexibility of extending until 40 if they are still struggling. This is the age defined for joining the Core Team. YouthLink, however, works with Mentors beyond that age, sometimes even Adolescents through its projects.

Auroville is a place for experimentation and evolution. YouthLink therefore was supported as a relevant initiative in the context of today's needs. However, if this platform ceases to play a valuable role in the future, we hope that it will dissolve or evolve to take a new shape according to the needs and realities of the future.

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WHAT IS YOUTHLINK?



"YouthLink is a collective space for youth to progress in the Auroville spirit of service and evolution of consciousness"

March 2015



During an Auroville Retreat in 2015 (a large collective gathering to reflect on the future of the township) a clear need was felt by the community to make space for the next generation. YouthLink was created by the few young adults who attended the Retreat with the intention to create a service unit that would be led by the youth and for the youth.

September 2017



At our two-year review, we realised that we as a team at YouthLink have our strengths in Education and Networking, and decided to concentrate our efforts by using this aptitude to empower and link young adults within and outside Auroville.

April 2018



YouthLink turned down a significant Government of India grant (a few crores) for its central hub called 'The Hive'. We made this choice owing to difficulties in finding suitable land without having objections from the neighbors, and due to differences in opinions between Foresters and Town Planners regarding which area would be most suitable. We also had a very limited amount of time within which we had to re-design and execute the project. In the process we learnt a lot about how to take a stand and pursue projects without compromising our ideals.

August 2018

After a one-week retreat to reflect and restructure ourselves, we came up with YouthLink's revised vision statement and four main areas of work, grounding ourselves furthermore using tools for collective intelligence.



May 2019

YouthLink had its annual Team Retreat, where we evaluated our work and our efforts together. Through this, we gained clarity regarding our achievements, challenges and strategy for the upcoming year(s). With a solid grounding, we are now ready to take on a larger team, which will join us in September 2019, the beginning of a new YouthLink year.



ORGANISATION & STRUCTURE

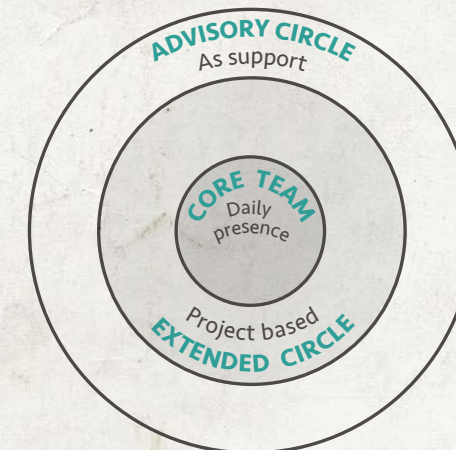
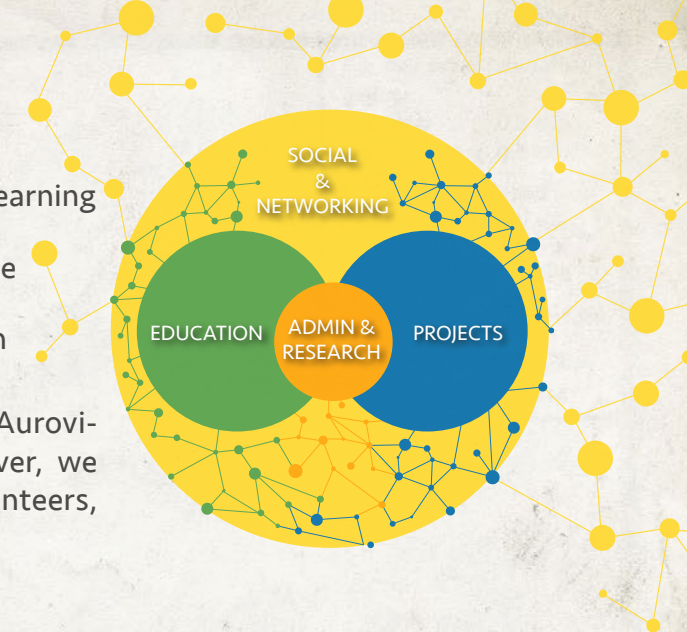
Social: Co-create a space to be yourself

Education: Explore oneself through collective learning

Projects: Manifest in the spirit of offering service

Admin: Seek transformation through innovation

Our primary beneficiaries are Newcomer and Aurovillian young adults aged 18-40 years old. However, we have always been open to involvement from Volunteers, Bioregional and International young adults.



In YouthLink we have:

- a **Core team** of an average ~12 members that works with us full time.
- an **Extended** circle of ~20 members that link to us through projects.
- an **Advisory** circle of ~9 members who keep in touch to provide us a fresh perspective from a distance.

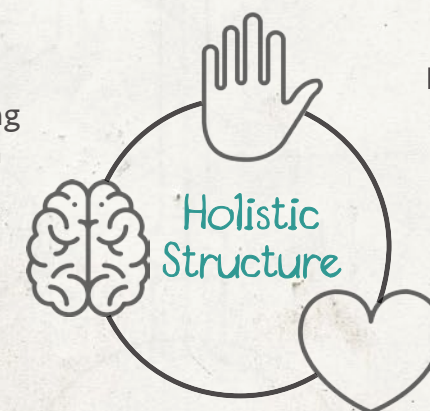
We try to ensure that all members represent a wide diversity of the population - from status Volunteer/Newcomer/Aurovillian/Bioregional, or in terms of gender and nationality.

Since 2015, we have had 55 youth work with us! We are heartened that 8 volunteers working with us started their Newcomer process, and 16 Newcomers who have worked with us became Aurovillians! We are also proud that young people who come through our platform have chosen to commit to this community.

When a member of the team feels integrated in Auroville, they will naturally "graduate out" of the platform. Ideally we see these young adults becoming 'mentors' to the next batch; to help train them in the management of the service, and to remain a support at a distance.

HEAD - Think

Head refers to engaging the cognitive domain through admin, background work to sustain YouthLink in its activities.



HANDS - Do

Hands refer to the enactment of the psychomotor domain for learning practical skill development and physical work such as building, farming, painting...

HEART - Feel

Heart refers to enablement of the affective domain in forming values and attitudes that are translated into behaviours through an exploration of what attract us such as non violent communication, alternative economy...



SOCIAL

Co-create a Space to be Yourself

- YouthLink's Social domain includes a variety of initiatives, such as public events to engage a diverse group of youth and help bridge generations. However, our social aspect is also related to our internal team dynamics and building a network of 'family' through our projects that connect to different Auroville activities and units.

YouthLink's annual event has been celebrated on the UN's International Youth Day annually since 2015. The first events were organized at venues like Bharat Nivas, Unity Pavilion, Mahalakshmi Park, Town Hall and Sri Ma. Usually they include space for the public to see YouthLink's initiatives through an open house, along with stalls for any other youth initiative around

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY



Auroville to highlight their work. It also includes space for creative expression through presentations, performances, music, food and games.

This year for International Youth Day 2019 the youth have chosen to conduct a Human Library event to share the stories of younger generations, and to launch the "Part-Time Parent Initiative".

HUMAN LIBRARY FOR 'HUMAN UNITY'

"Don't judge a book by its cover"

YouthLink has conducted a couple of successful Human Library events in Auroville. We are grateful to all the Human books as well as the readers for manifesting this positive framework of conversations that can challenge stereotypes and prejudices through dialogue. Auroville is an excellent library of diverse stories!

www.humanlibrary.org



AUROVILLE 50TH ANNIVERSARY WATER CEREMONY

Auroville was inaugurated in 1968, with youth from 124 different nations and 23 Indian states bringing soil to Auroville which was collected in an urn at the opening ceremony.

Fifty years later, Auroville celebrated again, with water from ~300 sources globally being poured by the youth of Auroville and the bioregion into a golden disk. The ceremony took place early

morning at the Matrimandir amphitheatre with several thousand people gathering together in silence as the bonfire burned and the sun rose. Once the sun had risen, the youth formed a line and walked in pairs, carrying the name board of the source of water, and the water towards a central disk that collected the water as one.

This symbolic ceremony reflects the Auroville ideal of 'Human Unity in Diversity' and the dream that Auroville belongs to humanity as a whole. We are grateful to have had YouthLink members part of this auspicious event.



HUMANSAPES HALL INAUGURATION

On the 15th of August 2019 we organized an event to inaugurate the Humanscapes Campus' First Phase of completion, which is a model of environmentally sustainable, accommodation for young adults. It was an auspicious day with Sri Aurobindo's Birthday and India's Independence Day to express our gratitude to the Housing Service as project holders, and to the design and construction team who have manifested this beautiful space for young adults in Auroville.

This Multifunctional Hall built on campus was a ideal fit for a Service Unit like YouthLink. Since then we have used the space to conduct educational workshops, and meaningful events for a diverse range of youth and older generations. We also use the space on a daily basis as a co-working hub, and we allow other youth groups to schedule their activities when it is available.

YouthLink has become known as the 'nomads' of Auroville, and for good reason. We have been moving since the beginning, from a desk at SAIIR, to a hall at Bharat Nivas, to an office at Progress, to a co-working space at Auromode, and finally to Humanscapes.

This campus has been located on the crown road, ideal for our work to incubate 'service oriented initiatives'. In the coming year we hope to work with the Auroville Service Link mentors and youth who are inspired by service to start more service units in Auroville - just to name a few, the Makers Lab, a second PTDC, and perhaps one day a Stationary or Bakery Outlet! For anyone interested in exploring the service sector of Auroville, we warmly invite you to join us.

NETWORKING

YouthLink members have been invited over the years to travel with meaning, either to attend educational workshops or conferences. It has been very meaningful for our members to engage in such trips, as it brings back new ideas and creates connections to India and the world which help us broaden our perspective.



GEN + 20 Summit Conference, Findhorn, Scotland

In 2015 our first YouthLink member traveled to make contact with the Global Ecovillage Network. Since then we have become part of this larger global family, having exchanges for workshops, gatherings and conferences. YouthLink members are also recognized in this network initially as Ambassadors, but have now also been empowered as Educators and Consultants in the field of 'community building'.

Re-Imagining Education, Swaraj, Udaipur, Rajasthan

In May 2018 two YouthLink members visited a gathering of alternative educators from all over India. It was an incredible co-creative workshop where all participants deepened their understanding of alternative education, by hearing of one another's initiatives across the country.

Journey of Auroville, MSU Baroda, India

In October 2018, a YouthLink member represented our work as part of Auroville's 50th journey through India - holding a workshop for university students in Baroda. The workshop had an amazing response, where many students were very inspired and did not want to leave the room once the session was finished!

GEN Europe Conference, Angsbaka, Sweden

In 2017, another YouthLink member was invited to visit a couple of alternative communities in Sweden, and also got to take part in a festival and conference in Angsbaka. Again, deepening our connection to youth from the world, while simultaneously sharing Auroville's solutions. Each time a YouthLink member travels abroad we carry leaflets, and samples of our favorite Auroville products to be an ambassador for the great work being done at home.

Ecoversities Alliance Global Gathering, Swaraj University, Rajasthan, India

In October 2018, a YouthLink member attended a gathering that brought together individuals leading alternative higher education initiatives globally. It was a fantastic experience to see so many excellent examples of successful alternative learning spaces thriving - sharing our stories and inspiring one another.



IMA Gathering, Deer Park Institute, Bir, Himachal, India

In May 2019 two members of YouthLink attended the Indian Multiversity Alliance Gathering hosted at the Deer Park Institute. Around fifty people from all across India attended representing a wide range of alternative educational spaces. It was a big inspiration to see such a movement in India which could provide a great opportunity for youth from Auroville to visit and create regional collaborations.

LSUC at Centurion University, Orissa, India

One YouthLink member attended the Learning Societies UnConference in January 2019, where about a thousand alternative souls gathered to co-create spaces for learning and shared experiences. It was incredible to take part in such an alternative and inspirational gathering, one that gives hope that a new world is possible.

GENOA Conference, Wongsanit Ashram, Thailand

In December 2018, four YouthLink members flew to Thailand for a Global Ecovillage Network Oceania & Asia gathering. It was a great experience to connect to many like-minded individuals who were representing alternative villages/organizations/networks from all over Asia and Oceania. YouthLink members helped organize the gathering and learnt a lot about alternative initiatives in this part of the world!



OPEN SPACE: WEEKLY FRIDAYS

We have initiated a weekly Open Space at YouthLink every Friday where anyone and everyone is welcome to come meet us and ask questions or share ideas. In the mornings we often cook something simple together, like a smoothie or healthy snack, which we serve freely to whoever drops by that afternoon.

Would you like to know us better?

Then Friday is the best time to drop by!



In the melting pot of Auroville culture, we love our potlucks and conduct them often spontaneously whenever we feel the need to come together. The laughter and connection built over a table of colourful food representing the world's cuisine is a luxury we enjoy very much. We have conducted potlucks with the Humanscapes Residents, French Volunteers, YouthLink Extended & Advisory Circles, and a quarterly gathering with the Auroville Peer Education Network... just to name a few.



Sumit is a wonderful example of a young volunteer who initiated a beautiful series of events for Auroville through YouthLink. He was very inspired by the "Human Library" concept that is practiced worldwide, so he brought this to us. The event



went beautifully, allowing for a variety of real stories in our community to be heard in an ambient atmosphere where deep listening could take place. We received a lot of excellent feedback and gratitude from both those who stepped up to be 'books' and those who attended as 'readers'. We thank Sumit for his contribution and invite anyone else who is inspired by this concept to come help us organize the next one.





EDUCATION

Explore Oneself through Collective Learning

YouthLink creates space for collective youth-designed alternative education. It is important to us that we provide the menu of what is available, and then allow the youth to design their own workshops and curriculum. It is crucial to us that education continues to be a call from within, a desire to learn that is then supported and nourished. Thus, no two educational programs conducted through YouthLink look alike, every course is re-designed from scratch, involving the youth who participated previously to help design the next programs.



An invitation to come-for-unity and explore community with us!

A 4-5 week immersive, integral, Community Building course in Auroville. Certified by Gaia Education and recognized by UNESCO's Global Action Program in Education for Sustainable Development.

Followed by, **Global Ecovillage Network: Training of Trainers:**

YouthLink also invited facilitators from the Global Ecovillage Network to conduct a training of trainers in Auroville. This helped us become empowered to conduct more trainings for those wanting to become facilitators and consultants in the field of community building.

"I joined the course seeking to understand the deeper levels of community and human interactions as well as the general aspects of community creation. And the overall experience was mind-blowing. I came out with much more than I had expected! It was beautiful and filled with growth on various different levels."

Mitia

"For the aspiring true Aurovillians, Comm4unity is just a beautifully designed course curated with unconditioning experiences. It will help one understand oneself and one's role in a community and then on broader scale of eco-village. A 'must do' for the ones who are in transition from consumerist lifestyle to alternative community lifestyle."

Lavanya



"Comm4unity is an experiential learning journey for change-makers to shape themselves towards transformation... I would encourage for the youth seeking for real change. If you are looking for change in this conventional world, it is not something which is in the air outside, it is everything which we should be looking for deep inside. So, this learning journey gave me a space to realise who I am and discover what I am capable of."

Vignesh

www.gaiaeducation.org

Comm4unity Integration
9th September 2019
4 weeks

Target audience: Auroville, Newcomer, Indian, International youth wishing to engage with YouthLink.

Comm4unity Exploration
16th December 2019
4 weeks

Target audience: Indian and International youth wishing to experience alternative life in Auroville.

AUROVILLE PEER EDUCATION TRAINING

A network of currently 34 members and growing!

Auroville Peer Education Trainings (APET) are part of a global network initiated by the UNFPA, using the 'YPEER' training methodology which we have adapted to the Auroville context.

Through one week Auroville Peer Education Trainings (APET) we create an Auroville Peer Education Network (APEN) for peer-peer awareness and support on difficult topics such as drugs, gender, depression, taboo topics, etc. with the support of a larger network of professional experts in Auroville.



Target audience: 16 to 33 years old, resident - Auroville and bioregional youth.

Followed by, **APEN: Training of Trainers:**

When we have enough active peer educators we will conduct an additional one week training for those who wish to become APET Facilitators - these young adults could then be invited to global Y-PEER gatherings!

"The APET workshop was an amazing experience, giving the participants an opportunity to bond over common values and explore sensitive topics in a safe space. I learnt a lot about myself and my peers, and about how one can contribute to others' well-being in different ways, be it by becoming a facilitator and creating sessions or simply by embodying certain values and sharing them with one's peers."

Valentine

"The APET program was enriching experience on several levels. It was a platform for learning about oneself, topics that are otherwise unaddressed and acquiring skills that contribute in subtle but powerful ways in supporting peers. I look back fondly, to the bonds I created within the group and the sense of togetherness and trust that lasts well past the time spent together."

Pranjal

Upcoming:

APET #3

23rd-30th September 2019

www.y-peer.org

AMBASSADOR TRAINING

Auroville & Newcomer youth

Training youth in presentation, communications, confidence and empowerment to be able to tell their unique story – in relation to their education, work and Auroville.

Kodaikanal International School

In October 2018, ~50 students from a high school in Kodaikanal had a workshop conducted by YouthLink. This group visits Auroville with their 9th grade fieldtrip every year, and wanted them to see the community through the eyes of a younger generation.. It was an interesting experience, to see how adolescents see Auroville and challenge ourselves to answer difficult questions simply.



French Volunteers Day

In November 2018, YouthLink was invited to design a workshop in collaboration with France Volontaires, at the Alliance Française, for a gathering of all the French Volunteers in India; as part of the "Journée Du Volontariat Français" event. We conducted the workshop based on the theme of community building, giving space for each volunteer to share their stories about what brought them to India and where they currently work. Exploring the different dimensions of volunteering and cross pollinating experiences and ideas was very energizing for us all. The event included an invitation for socializing at the French Consulate.



HIGHER EDUCATION: A GATE & A PATH

Several Auroville youth, adolescents or even those in 20s/30s who wish to explore higher studies in India/abroad can get support for exploring options, preparing application process and portfolios.

Target audience: Auroville, Newcomer, Bioregional youth between 16-35 years old.

Outside Student Groups

When outside student groups visit Auroville through YouthLink, we work with young adults so that they can empower themselves to help guide the groups. We practice facilitation skills and work together to take care of the logistics of the site visits. The basic communication and organizational skills learnt through these experiences have really empowered many youth to feel they can then take on larger projects.

ESSEC Business School

In November 2018, ~45 students from Singapore came to explore Auroville's social enterprises through YouthLink. The feedback we received from the students was especially touching as they felt they could understand and connect easier to Auroville by seeing it through the eyes of the youth. This year, four are coming back to visit us again!

THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

Exploring Auroville!

Our custom design workshops can range from 1-2 day experience, or up to 1-4 weeks on any topic in Auroville related to Ecology, Social, Economy or Worldview. On request, we can support the design of short/long term workshops for Auroville youth and/or youth groups from India or abroad.

Thematic Workshops

In the last years we have conducted many thematic workshops that have emerged from spontaneous requests. To name a few we have had an Introduction to Auroville's Economy, an Introduction to the Town Hall, an Eat Local Week, a Project Writing workshop, and a couple of Leadership Workshops. In the last year 2018, we have coordinated workshops on Kitchen Gardening, Human Permaculture, a couple of Massage workshops, and a couple of introduction to First Aid.



We want to extend our immense gratitude to all the expert Aurovilian and international facilitators who have offered their knowledge cost-free to the youth.



Team Building Retreats

We have found that it is absolutely essential to focus on team building before initiating any other work. Without a strong team 'glue', we know we cannot move forward. Thus, YouthLink has taken the time to create space for team retreats, usually 1-2 days or a week long. In these retreats we evaluate and celebrate our work. We also create time for deep sharing and play together!

In the last year we have also facilitated such a retreat for two other youth groups, namely Anitya team, and the Youth Center team. Who knows, perhaps with a bit more practice, we could soon also offer other Auroville working groups our 'retreat facilitation'!



To Anwar, coming to Auroville meant starting from scratch. He had left behind his old world with its old rules and was ready to begin fresh. His participation in the Comm4unity course offered building blocks for a new foundation. Starting from the basics, he began to unlearn and rediscover who he is, as an individual and in the collective. Slowly a specific area drew his interest: he began experiencing and exploring a concept foreign to him: space holding. Over the course of several Comm4unities, first as a participant, then participant-facilitator, he gradually began to build his own definition of space holding and understand its importance. Currently he feels empowered to and aspires to co-create safe spaces in Auroville.



Manifest in the Spirit of Offering Service

- From 'dreaming' to 'planning' to 'doing'... young people coming through YouthLink have several different ways in which they work to integrate themselves in Auroville. We call these "offerings" or "life projects". They can be small or larger initiatives depending on the capacity of the youth. When projects are initiated under the YouthLink umbrella, they are provided with mentorship to develop their proposals and support to understand Auroville ideals and context.

COMMUNITY INCUBATOR

Joy of Impermanence (JOI)

With the experience of the first batch building on the land, and the connections through YouthLink to experts within Auroville and through the Global Ecovillage Network, we have been developing JOI as a 'community incubator'. The idea is to build on ground experience, together with tools used worldwide to help develop new temporary communities on land within the Auroville master plan that need regeneration and protection.

www.joyofimpermanence.wordpress.com



Anitya

The first temporary community building project in the spirit of 'joy of impermanence', with eight core team members and space for volunteer accommodation. Located between Edyanchavadi, Aurodam, and Sacred Groves. Come visit! You will find an eclectic playground with a Bamboo Dome, an Earth Bag Dome, a Container Workshop, a Yurt, a Geodesic Dome, and Ecological Toilets... just to name a few.

SERVICE INCUBATOR

Exploring what 'service' means to us has been a big part of our team's interest in the last few years. We are aware that the Mother has defined 'service' in a different way for Auroville, and we are still trying to grasp how to manifest this. In 2018 we first coined the term 'service incubator,' when we set an intention to deepen our understanding and help revive our existing service economy. This year we will begin incubating a few new service initiatives through YouthLink but will also work towards involving more youth to support existing services in Auroville.

Maker's Lab

Makers' Lab aim to be a co-creative space for 'dreamers' to become 'makers'. It is an open workshop for Aurovilians, newcomers, and volunteers to use tools and material at cost price in exchange of a small membership contribution. We plan to have a team of experts and helpers to support dreamers to realise their ideas in the matter.

The first year we aim at building tiny houses, for which we already have a pilot design, for those who need housing in Auroville. It will be a co-creative process where the initiator is the person in need and willing to do her/his house her/himself with the help of others. We aim at tiny houses of 20-30m² for budget of 1-2 Lakhs.

PTDC #2

About half of our team is a PTDC member, and half not. We began to notice that the 'waiting list' to join PTDC was growing, and that especially young volunteers and Newcomers were very eager to experience this cooperative. One of our members in YouthLink was very touched by the spirit of the PTDC area, as it carries a certain community vibe. YouthLink recognized his wish to connect to PTDC and he has been volunteering some of his time there. Recently, together with existing PTDC members, we have been developing a PTDC #2 proposal!



Many of you may have heard of a certain 'Michael' in Auroville. With his lion's mane, this Petit Prince has been working hard to manifest his dreams in the physical matter. Michael came to Auroville with the intention to change his life completely, diving in the deep end and working relentlessly on himself and with anyone who wanted to try. Michael has initiated the "Joy of Impermanence" spirit, with his dream to create an umbrella to nurse (~ incubate) communities. He found his family with Anitya, a team of eight who have already begun building the first temporary community. In order for communities to remain impermanent, he felt there was a need to begin looking for new potential sites and create a "Makers Lab". The Makers Lab is a space to co-create design and small construction projects for tiny houses and low-tech furniture and household equipment. The first prototype tiny house frame has already been built!



ADMIN

Seek Transformation through Innovation

Every Core Team member in YouthLink helps with running the organization by taking up an administrative task. This helps young people learn new skills related to basic communications, databasing and accounting. The Aurovilians on the team take up the signatory responsibility for the service, but also make an effort to include other status' in the decision-making process. So even if it appears to have a hierarchy, we bring topics to the circle to include our Newcomers and Volunteers in the dialogue - this involvement increases their understanding of how Auroville functions and their interest in taking up the management of the unit in the future.

Good
to
know!

We clean our office, kitchen, bathroom ourselves and take care of our garden.
We do believe it is important for every member to take care of the space. We do also think it's a nice way to spend time together and connect!



While offering their skills to the YouthLink admin domain, Quentin and Mathilde realised they could expand the reach of their support: after spending a year volunteering in Auroville, they, along with Marie and Santhosh discovered there was a need for Communication and Design support in Auroville. For the four volunteers, this presented itself as a chance to give back after receiving so much from this place! They have come together to create a Project under YouthLink, to offer support related to general Communication and Design, which includes Website Creation, Graphic Design and Communication Strategy. As a team with complimentary individual expertise, they believe that they are in a good position to offer support to train young adults in these skills and to support other Auroville units who need this service.

YOUTHLINK MEMBERS

YouthLink Executives

Michael was born in France, and was a Tax Lawyer and Human Resources in his previous life. Having left that world, he has now lived in Auroville many years working in places such as French Pavilion, Alternative Economy Group, Savi, Quiet Healing Center, and YouthLink. He is also part of a team that is building a new community in Auroville called Anitya - in the spirit of 'Joy of Impermanence', and is currently working on the 'Maker's Lab' project. Michael has worked with YouthLink since 2016 and has taken leadership in the Projects domain of YouthLink. Michael loves to give big back-rubbing hugs to anyone who visits us!

Aurovilians



Kavitha is Dutch and Indian by nationality, born and brought up as a third generation Aurovilian. She attended Auroville schools and then went to university in the Netherlands. She returned to Auroville in 2013 and has worked since in the Entry Service, New Era Secondary School, Auroville Today Magazine and Pitchandikulam Forest. Kavitha co-founded YouthLink in 2015 and has worked since worked mostly on the Educational domain of YouthLink, creating space for youth to design their own learning. Kavitha loves to listen deeply and talk to anyone dropping by our office!

YouthLink Managers

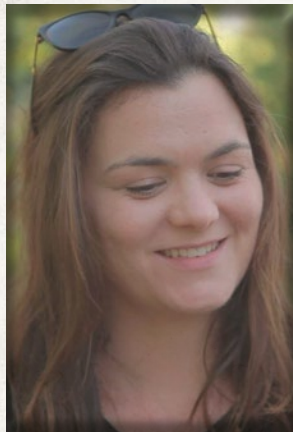
Arul is Indian and was born and brought up in the Auroville bioregion, with his family in the neighboring Edeyanchavadi village, he attended Auroville Outreach Schools at a young age. Arul then studied at the Sri Aravinder Arts and Science College and has since worked in several Auroville units including Auromode Campus Management, To be Two Clothing, PTDC and has supported various units with hardware/software support. Arul has worked with YouthLink for approximately two years, primarily in the accounts and administrative aspects. Arul loves to spend time chatting with Alexa (a digital assistant) and laughing with people at YouthLink!



Sathish is Indian and was born and brought up in the Auroville bioregion, with many family members in Auroville, he attended Auroville schools at a young age. He then studied at Nitte Institute of Banking and Finance, in Mangalore, and then worked briefly at a bank. Since he gave up that job, he has worked in several Auroville units, including the Visitors Center, and the Sustainable Livelihood Institute. Sathish has worked with YouthLink since its founding in 2015. His main role has been to support with logistical aspects, such as food, maintenance of the space, accommodation and taking care of the well-being of our team members and course participants. Sathish loves to feed us good food and ensure we are well stocked on coffee!

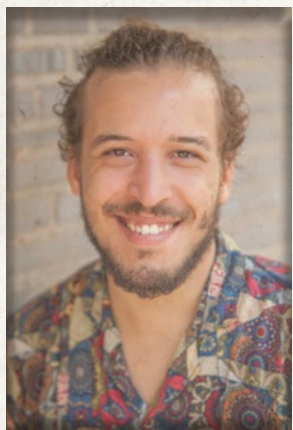
Newcomer

Anwar comes from Indonesia where he “used to eat people for a living” as a former Businessman. Anyone who has seen Anwar in the two years he has been in Auroville will find it difficult to relate to his former persona: with his warm smile and warmer hug, he is the perfect person for taking care of the well-being of participants and colleagues. Anwar is exploring “Space Holding”, Healing, Service and Love through his work in the Education team. It is unofficially and unanimously agreed upon that Anwar has the loveliest hair in Auroville!



Mathilde comes from France and has a Communication and Media background. She has been transforming YouthLink’s design and communication for a year now and is all set to reach out to Auroville at large for this coming year. She is an incredible graphic designer and a perfectionist at her work. Yet it is her warm, “kapha” personality that makes her stand apart. If you are looking for a bear hug, an understanding ear or relieving massage, she’s the person to look out for!

Sudipta grew up in the Ashram in Pondicherry, with a background in Lit & Social Science studies. She is now part of YouthLink’s Education domain, and connects to Auroville’s Governance by volunteering with the Study Group, and as a resource person for the Auroville Council. She is specifically interested in governance and in sustainable community-living. Having a beautiful organized mind like hers, and with her love for writing and cheerful spirit our office atmosphere becomes more efficient and a joy to work alongside her!



Quentin is from France and has a formation in Management Techniques and Marketing, Management of Business Units as well as E-commerce/Digital Strategy. He has been putting this knowledge to use over the year as he quietly rebuilt YouthLink’s website and communication strategy, dramatically increasing our internet presence. Now as he prepares himself to reach out to Auroville at large, we have no doubt of his success. Responsive, responsible and efficient, he knows how to get the work done well!

Melodie comes from France and has been trained as a Light Technician and when it comes to light, creating an atmosphere in a space, she is a magician! She is the type of person interested in action and manifestation. She came to Auroville to explore another lifestyle and attended our first Comm4Unity workshop where she got attracted by Non-Violent-Communication, a more conscious way of relating to one another. It seems that the experience touched something deep within her, because six months later here she is, volunteering for one year with us at YouthLink... and who knows, next step might be Newcomer!



Volunteers



A JOURNEY THROUGH YOUTHLINK

~ SOCIAL

~ EDUCATION

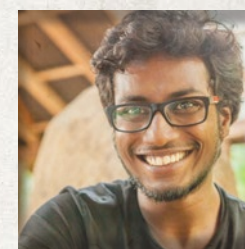
~ PROJECTS

~ ADMINISTRATIVE

~ GRADUATING OUT

YouthLink has noticed a natural process through which its members have joined and then left the platform. Usually an individual’s first contact will be through one of our public events, where they will get a feeling of the spirit in which we work. This often leads to an interest to join one of our courses, either by designing a new workshop or joining an existing course. Then many feel interested in helping with some of the administrative tasks, eg. communications/accounts, and slowly we empower them towards management of the unit. We are also working towards ensuring a more frequent ‘succession’ in the management of YouthLink. Ideally our executives will change every handful of years, to ensure that the platform continues to rejuvenate with new energy and new ideas.

Many members of YouthLink have ‘graduated’ from the platform, sometimes after a period of several months or over a couple of years. Here are just a few examples:



Vignesh is from Tamil Nadu, a young architect who then explored construction and living on the gift economy within Auroville. When he came to us, he joined the Comm4unity 5-week course, as he wanted to deepen his understanding of complex-community development so that he could take the best of Auroville into the bioregion and Tamil Nadu. His intention was clear from the beginning, and he worked on the land as part of the Anitya community to understand the real-life challenges of building community as well. He has now graduated, and became an “Extended member” of YouthLink by shifting to *Thamarai*. There, he is working with youth from the bioregional villages to co-create an educational campus.



Madhu was born in Sanjeevinar, a village neighboring Auroville, and joined Auroville through Mohanam cultural activities. His love for local instruments and handicrafts are reflected in his work on a daily basis. He had contributed to YouthLink by offering his photography and graphic design skills, and helped us organize many events over the first years. Madhu then wished to explore more of Auroville so he graduated out to work for *Auroville Village Action Group* to continue to explore his love of Tamil Culture. Recently Madhu, as a personal challenge and a strong aspiration, applied for a Master in ‘Leadership in the Creative Industries’ in Germany. YouthLink supported him in his application process, visa request and travel cost to study abroad. It has been a success.



Lavanya came to Auroville as a young architect and soon fell in love with the Dream and started her Newcomer process. She worked with several different architecture studios before deciding to try something else by joining YouthLink. She supported our research and databasing work with some graphic design work. She participated in our Comm4unity 5-week course and then was inspired to explore other aspects of the community as well. She is now working in *Quiet Healing Center* as part of their administrative team and exploring her artistic talents through sketching and painting.



Serena came to Auroville once and then returned for the Ecovillage Design Education program in 2016, where she offered to make a video on the course. Following the course she decided to start her Newcomer process. She had traveled ecovillages globally, and her experiences were a very valuable inspiration. She helped create the Joy of Impermanence project through the course, which is now in the process of manifesting physically. She worked with YouthLink for some time supporting us with video documentation. Simultaneously she worked through *Outreach Media*, shooting countless short reportage on Auroville's most significant events and projects, She continues to engage with YouthLink as an 'Extended member' through the Anitya Community and by assisting us with videos occasionally.



Ramanan was born in Edyanchavadi, grew up studying at Udavi school, and later studied Business Administration at the Thiruvalluvar University. Once back, he worked in various places but found his passion at *Pitchandikulam Forest*, deepening his knowledge of local biodiversity, TDEF reforestation and watershed management. He played a key role in designing and implementing the first 'Ecovillage Design Education' 5-weeks course that we organized between YouthLink and Pitchandikulam. He then left to work at *AuroOrchard*, Auroville's largest regenerative organic farm. Ramanan lives there now and plays a key role in the management team. He is still very connected to YouthLink as he continues to facilitate sessions for our groups relating to the topics of forestry and agriculture.



Join Our Team

Join us for a full-time commitment as part of our Core Team, our new year starts in September.

Join the Family

As a part-time Grandparent / Parent: to offer youth guidance and support.

As a part-time Brother / Sister: to be a buddy and friend to help guide new youth.

Support our Work

Social Fund: Support us to organize events to bring different statuses and generations together.

Education Fund: To support youth to design and implement their own learning programs.

Project Fund: To help manifest youth dreams in the physical matter.

Maintenance Fund: To support youth to work in YouthLink service, to provide members with in-kind stipend that helps cover basics needs like lunch-scheme/contribution/health fund/rent/e-cycle transport.

For Transfers WITHIN AUROVILLE

Financial Service Account:

#251048 YouthLink Service

For Transfers WITHIN INDIA

STATE BANK OF INDIA AUROVILLE TOWNSHIP

IFS Code – SBIN0003160

Account Name – AUROVILLE UNITY FUND

Account Number – 10237876031

For Transfers FROM ABROAD

STATE BANK OF INDIA AUROVILLE TOWNSHIP

Branch Code – 03160

Swift Code – SBININBB474

Account Name – AUROVILLE UNITY FUND

Account Number – 10237876508

Please Add Description: YouthLink * Fund**

Example: YouthLink Education Fund

Please Send an Email at youthlink@auroville.org.in so that we can track & receive your donation



YouthLink, since August 2018 it's had



301
workshop
participants

109
workshop
days

49
days of events
hosted by YouthLink

960
events
attendees



9 YouthLink ambassadors attended
5 conferences in India and abroad

YouthLink

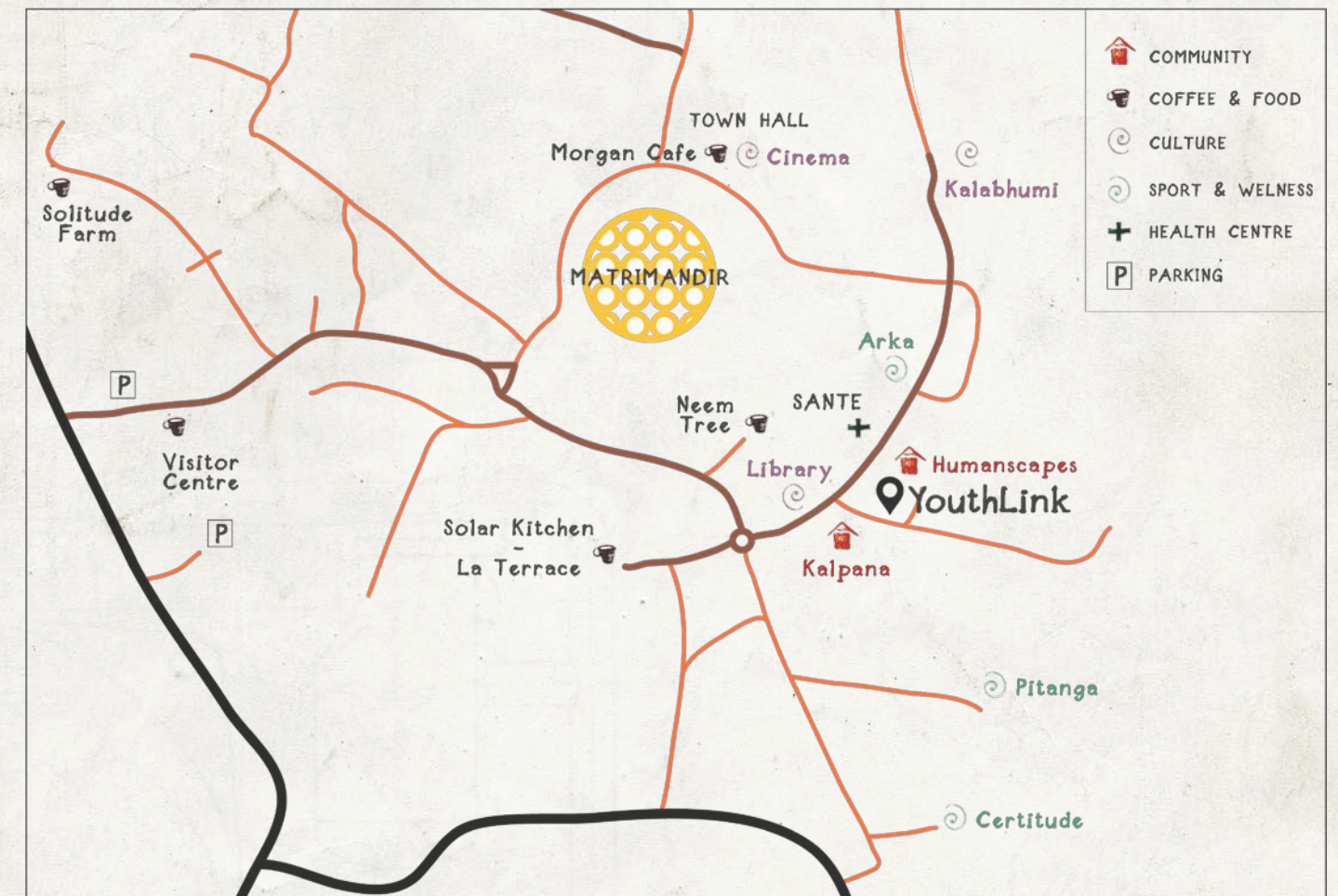
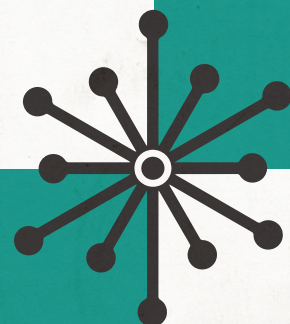
an entry door to Auroville since its creation in 2015

55 +
people worked
with YouthLink

146
Volunteers applied
to join YouthLink

8
Volunteers became
Newcomers

16
Newcomers became
Aurovillians



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