

# YOUTH LINK

## PROSKILLS: UNENDING INTEGRAL EDUCATION

skills training for youth integration

## COMM4UNITY: COMMUNITY BUILDING EVENTS

bringing generations together

## PROJECTS: YOUTH LED INITIATIVES

empowering youth to get involved



## 1 WORKSHOPS & EVENTS



## 2 YOUTH PROJECTS



## 4 # PROSKILLS



## 3 # COMM4UNITY



## A SERVICE FOR YOUTH INTEGRATION

YouthLink was founded in early 2015, as part of the Auroville Retreat community process. At this event, several hundred Aurovilians looked at the themes of Bioregion, Economy, Education, Governance, Growth, and Town Planning. 'Youth' too was its own theme, but it was recognised as a central aspect of all others. The goals related to youth were defined with milestones related to Housing, Education and Employment. Today, two years later, YouthLink has defined itself as a Service for Auroville. The service is run by 12 youth members, and works with a large number of mentors by 'linking'

to different Auroville working groups, services, and units. The overall goal for YouthLink is to enable youth integration in all areas of the community. YouthLink helps provide information on existing opportunities and works to create new opportunities for youth - workshops, internships, apprenticeships, fellowships, jobs, startup support, exchange programs, career counselling, and life coaching. YouthLink also works to support youth-led projects and organises community events to bring different generations together.



~for the youth, by the youth,  
for Auroville, India, and the World ~

## AUROVILLE YOUTH

YOUTHLINK PLACES THE AUROVILLE CHARTER AT THE CENTER OF ITS WORK, AND EXPLORES THE 12 QUALITIES AS A TOOL FOR INSPIRATION

The team is made up of Aurovilians, Newcomers and some international or bioregional volunteers.

YouthLink is a networking platform, 'linking' to anyone and everyone who strives to embody a "youth that never ages" ... we hope to create spaces for creative solutions and courageous innovative steps to manifest the dream. We hope you will join us !

*"Auroville will be the place of an unending education, of constant progress, and a youth that never ages." The Mother*



# ECOVILLAGE DESIGN EDUCATION, AUROVILLE

In the summer of 2015, YouthLink & Pitchandikulam Forest members visited the Global Ecovillage Network +20 Summit in Findhorn, Scotland. The event also celebrated the 10th anniversary of Gaia Education: a contributor to the UNESCO Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development. Following this event, Pitchandikulam and YouthLink set up a GEN-Auroville Desk, to help welcome and facilitate movement between Auroville and members from intentional communities worldwide.

Many youth from intentional communities are eager to visit Auroville, and likewise, many Auroville youth are eager to visit conscious projects abroad. Therefore the idea was born to design a course, as YouthLink members were keen to understand Auroville better for ourselves as well. In this curriculum we included over 45 Aurovilian facilitators and invited half the participants to join from communities abroad. We had a total of 35 participants, together for 5 weeks from December 2016 - January 2017.

## SOCIAL, ECOLOGY, ECONOMY, WORLDVIEW & DESIGN

YouthLink designed the course under the guidance of the Pitchandikulam team. The experience included a 4 week exploration of Auroville's Social dimension, Ecological landscape, Economical situation and an examination of our personal and collective Worldviews and spirituality.

We added a 5th week for project Design. In this week, we explored design tools and re-worked 2 of YouthLink's central projects, namely:

- The Hive
- Joy of Impermanence

We are deeply grateful to Pitchandikulam for empowering youth and for hosting the course in their magical forest.



## YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Aurovilians have traveled to intentional communities for several decades. However, since 2015, YouthLink has made an effort to make the opportunities for travel more visible for young people. We now have opportunities for youth to visit and experience communities worldwide, and we have identified places in Auroville to host youth from intentional communities who may like to come in exchange.



## JOY OF IMPERMANENCE COMMUNITY PROJECT

The Joy of Impermanence (JOI) project was designed through our 5 week EDE course. JOI is a community building project. It aims at becoming an umbrella under which spaces can be created to experiment with deeper spiritual community life.

JOI is based on five principles:

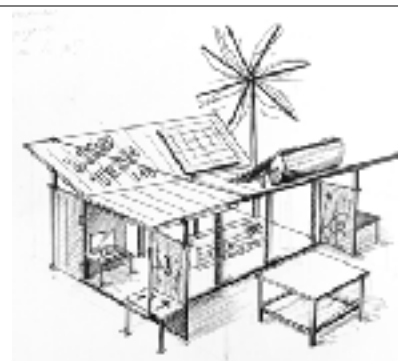
- Impermanence
- Community Spirit
- Self-Sufficiency
- Sustainability
- Do-it-Yourself

Joy of "Impermanence" because we want to embrace the spiritual concept of impermanence as a reality and lifestyle: accepting that everything by nature is impermanent. These principles aim at serving Auroville by focusing on five main missions:

- Preserving Land
- Deepening Relations with Neighbours
- Enriching the Land
- Stimulating Creativity
- Showcasing Solutions



YOUTH JOINING AUROVILLE



JOI aims to exhibit Auroville's research and wisdom. JOI is also reaching out to the world, and is connecting to youth organisations abroad, to encourage a cross pollination of creative solutions for community life. The process of building JOI will invite youth to engage in educational workshops - to learn how to 'do it yourself' - building houses, farming, and designing low-technology solutions for the household and collective spaces.

# PROJECT FOR THE YOUTH, BY THE YOUTH, THE HIVE

The Hive project was initiated in the summer of 2015, when the Visioning Committee called for proposals for Auroville's 50th anniversary. As an integrative outcome of the Auroville retreat, YouthLink felt the need to establish a space for all the emerging activities. During the visioning and design workshops, the Hive was born. The design process engaged youth from the various Auroville high schools, Newcomers and Aurovilians. The space is designed to accommodate:

- YouthLink Service Office
- Co-Working Space for StartUps
- Display Area for Youth Products
- Caretaker Accommodation
- Cooking School
- Youth Hostel

The project has been repeatedly presented to the community, to working groups and to the Governing Board, International Advisory Council and Auroville International. The project has received overwhelming amount of encouragement and has been earmarked GOI funds. It has been named the 'Golden Jubilee' project for Auroville's 50th Anniversary in 2018.



YOUTH DESIGNED, IMPLEMENTED & MANAGED

## YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN AUROVILLE'S DEVELOPMENT

An effective succession planning is crucial for Auroville's future.

Aurovillian youth and Newcomer youth need to be given the space and support to begin actively engaging in all sectors of the community's development.

YouthLink's Hive project works to empower youth in the process of development - by being a youth designed, youth built and youth managed space. The process will include the mentorship of elders but all decisions will be taken by the youth core team.



## JOIN US, FRIENDS & FAMILY

Come for Unity, Community.

YouthLink loves organising events that bring different generations together. We believe that collective spaces are important to build positive relationships and address topics related to the community at large. The event organisation process always includes as many youth as possible to learn organisational skills and display their work. The events are open to everyone.



### INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

21st June

Yoga Day has a specific significance in India, but also in Auroville. Sri Aurobindo's "All Life is Yoga" has inspired us all to live this dream and aspire towards an Integral Yoga. In 2017, YouthLink and the AVSRC helped organised a Yoga Day event at the Matrimandir Amphitheatre, where youth from schools and many Aurovilians gathered for a sun salutation and collective meditation.

### INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

12th August

YouthLink celebrates all youth activities at its annual event on International Youth Day, 12th August. So far we have celebrated it for two years, once at the Bharat Nivas, and once at Unity Pavilion. The events include space for Auroville and bioregional youth to present their projects, perform, exhibit their art, put up stalls and share their dreams and talents with the wider community.

### INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY

21st September

In 2016, YouthLink was presented with the honour of the Peace Flag at the Unity Pavilion Hall of Peace. As ambassadors of peace, we support Auroville's annual Peace Day event and integrate the aspiration in our projects and work. This year YouthLink has chosen Peace & Prosperity as its theme, we hope the community will join us on this exploration.



Auroville has an amazing variety of opportunities for unending integral education. YouthLink is working to make this landscape of opportunities available to youth. Youthlink works with gathering information on existing opportunities: Workshops, Internships, Apprenticeships, Fellowships, Employment, Exchange Programs and also offers Career Counselling.



#### WORKSHOPS & SHORT COURSES

Whenever a need is expressed from the youth themselves, we organise a course. We engage youth in the process of designing the course, and by linking to spaces of expertise in Auroville. This way we ensure that the course is designed in a way that youth will attend, and ensure their learning needs are met. YouthLink has conducted workshops on Project Writing, Leadership, Introduction to the TownHall, Portfolio Building, Public Speaking, Cook and Eat Local Week, etc.



#### COOKING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The Cooking Apprenticeship Program was started is temporarily hosted at PTDC. It supported through PCG, SAIER, YouthLink and many mentors. The course is in its second year, accommodating students in two groups, including several Auroville youth as teachers. The program includes learning new recipes, nutrition, hygiene, event organisation and much more. Several graduates have found employment through their learning and some have applied to joined Cooking Schools abroad.

#### INTERNSHIPS, APPRENTICESHIPS & EMPLOYMENT

Auroville is full of beautiful opportunities for youth. YouthLink maintains a list of all that is available, and helps match the right candidate to the right opportunity according to each unit's specific requirements. YouthLink also works with projects, services and units to design new opportunities for youth by providing feedback regarding youth preferences. As young adults working in YouthLink, we are able to help bridge between the unit's needs and the youth.

# MENTORSHIP

## SUPPORT&GUIDANCE

Many Aurovilians have signed up to mentor youth in Auroville. We maintain a database of what mentors offer and their specific requirements. We then help link the right youth. Some mentors have offered to teach specific skills, support with project incubation, be a career counsellor, or a life coach. This mentor pool is essential to our work, as it actively engages Aurovilians from various sectors in the community and helps train youth to integrate into those spheres of work.



## CAREER COUNSELLING

Omar Rabie has been working with YouthLink to offer information regarding universities abroad and support with application processes. In September 2016 we organised a 4 weekend workshops 'Higher Education: A Gate & A Path' where Omar described the right process to select a right place, how to apply, and offered ongoing consultations for youth who were motivated and committed. This process has involved many mentors who have offered to guide youth as previous alumni from specific universities and countries. Portfolio building is also an essential aspect of our work. YouthLink's database of opportunities and mentorship for within India and abroad is growing.

## LIFE COACHING

Sometimes being young can be tough. Whether it is being a teen or a young adult in their 20s or even 30s. Whether it is a heartbreak, or a conflict with parents. Whether it is an addiction or a loss of a loved one... many young people felt the need to have more support systems and individuals for young people facing challenging situations. So we have set up a mentor pool of individuals in Auroville who have offered such counselling. In YouthLink we also offer informal counselling if a youth would rather first talk to someone closer to their own age. We can help you find the type of support that you are looking for.



# START UP SUPPORT

## #PROSKILLS

In 2016 YouthLink arranged a day's Introduction to Auroville's Economy, with the help from the Integral Entrepreneurship Lab and members of the Commercial and Service groups in Auroville. The questions and challenges facing younger generations were explored in this session, leading to several outcomes to support youth start-ups today.



## STARTUP TOOL-KIT

The StartUp ToolKit is currently being drafted by a YouthLink member in association with the Integral Entrepreneurship Lab. The ToolKit has been supported through the Project Coordination Group from Stichting de Zaaire.

The project aims to study best practices in starting up ethical ventures in Auroville and publish findings in the form of a start up kit. The kit will contain reference material, useful tools and templates, contact details of important groups, resource people and a series of educational videos. The kit hopes to support Aurovilians and Newcomer youth in their start up journey.



## UNIT SUPPORT HUB

YouthLink has hosted a Youth Economy Forum for several months, where various themes relating to economy were explored. We hope to develop a co-working space in Auroville to allow for dynamic, creative solutions to emerge for our community.

As several youth requested support when starting activities and running units, several older youth who run successful units in Auroville have come together to set up a Unit Support Hub. This support group helps answer questions relating to young startups and provides informal mentorship whenever needed.



# JOIN OUR WORK, AS A MEMBER OR MENTOR !

## SUPPORT OUR WORK, FROM NEAR OR FAR

We welcome anyone and everyone to join and support our work.  
Do get in touch if you would like to participate.

In gratitude, the YouthLink Team 🧡

Email: [youthlink@auroville.org.in](mailto:youthlink@auroville.org.in) ~ Website: [www.youthlink.org.in](http://www.youthlink.org.in)

Facebook: YouthLink, Auroville ~ Instagram: [avyouthlink](https://www.instagram.com/avyouthlink)

Financial Service Account: 251048

### PROSKILLS TRAININGS

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#### Support educational workshops

We invite mentors to offer their time and expertise to offer courses for youth in Auroville. We are happy to work with you to design the courses and support logistics and with finding the right youth to join. Any financial contributions for venue rents/materials etc. would be also very valuable.

### FUNDS FOR YOUTH

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#### Support youth initiatives

There are several ways in which your specified contribution would be very valuable to youth. We are in process of setting up a Youth Travel Fund and a Youth Start Up Fund. We hope to support young people to travel for educational experiences and we also hope to support young people to start projects and activities in Auroville.

### INTERNSHIPS & APPRENTICESHIPS

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#### Include youth in your work-sphere

We invite unit holders and executives to work with us to design Internships and Apprenticeships to enable a proper succession planning in Auroville. We also welcome any financial support to increase the number of Apprenticeship maintenances available to youth in Auroville.

