

# AUROVILLE PROJECT COORDINATION GROUP

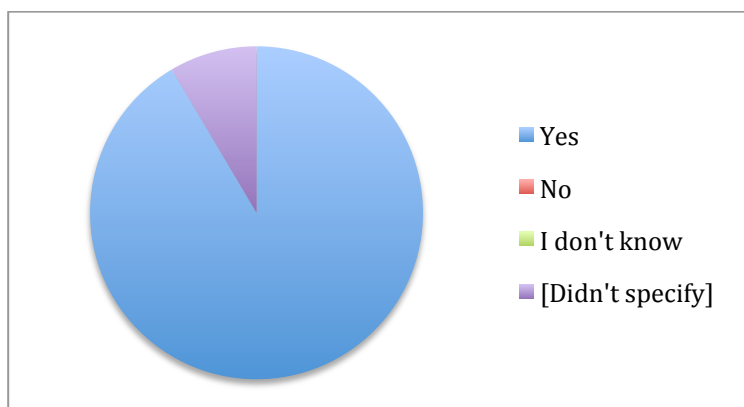
## Project Report Format

### Cross-Cultural Restorative Dialogue

#### ATTACHMENTS

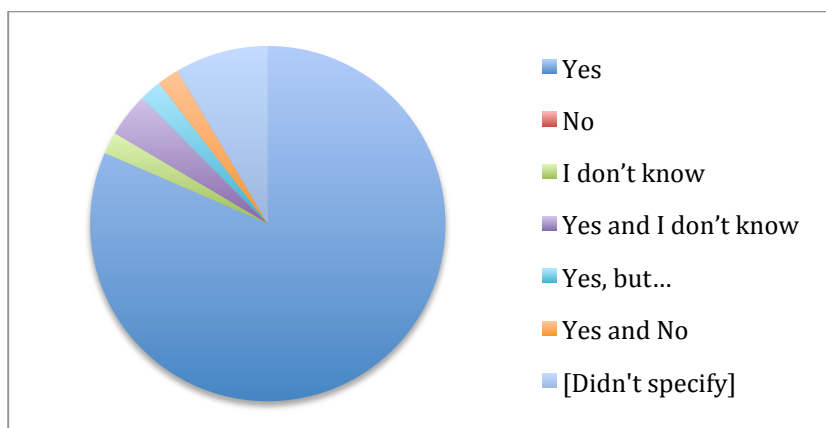
**The feedback form** that we asked participants to fill out at the end of the 3-day Dialogue. Some participants were not in the mood to fill out the form after our intense process together, so this counts for several of the “didn’t specify” responses. Also, we believe that some participants did not realize that there was a 2<sup>nd</sup> page (Questions 3 and 4) to the form, hence the higher number of “didn’t specify” on Questions 3 and 4.

#### 1. Are you pleased that this “Restorative Dialogue across cultures” took place?

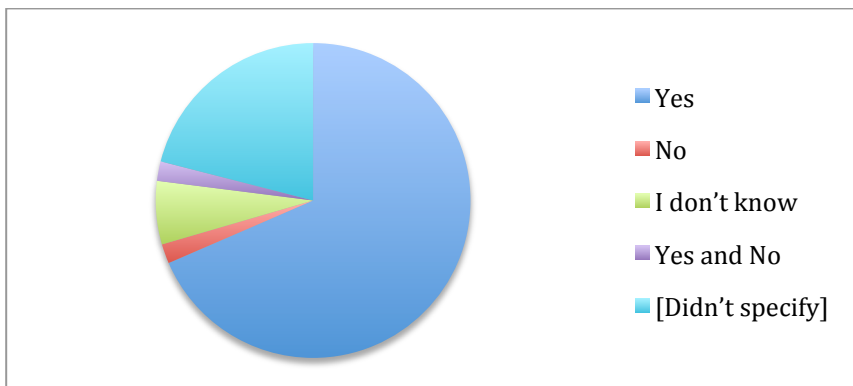


#### 2. Did you appreciate the process?

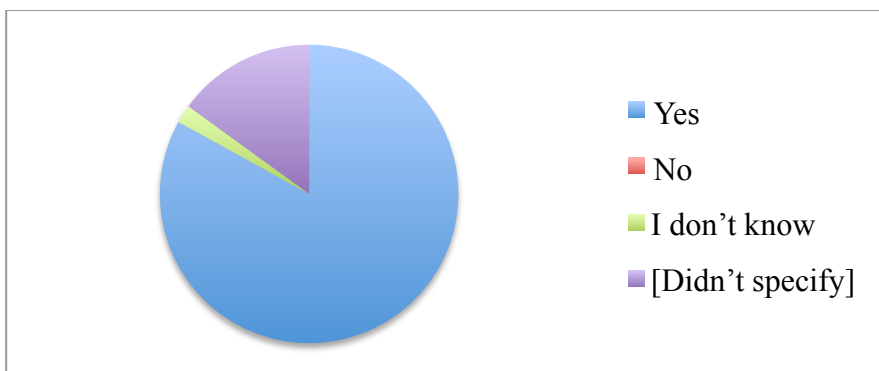
(meeting in smaller groups for the pre-circles, learning to listen and reflect each other in the large group, developing an action plan together, etc)



**3. Have you been touched by anything that happened or that was shared? Do you feel differently now about this subject?**



**4. Do you think this dialogue could contribute to forward movement in Auroville?**



**Actual Responses of the 43 participants** who filled out the form, including their additional comments.

**1. Are you pleased that this “Restorative Dialogue across cultures” took place?**

**Yes – 43/43**

**No**

**I don't know**

**Please explain:**

**Yes – 43/43**

-I greatly appreciate this program, the intention, commitment and sincerity. I see it as a wonderful contribution to Auroville as of date.

- Amazing how much openness there was, the # of people who came and returned. Everyone was open and willing. Such a positive community response.
- It confirmed that through no conscious effort of “mine,” RC is becoming a part of my life. I am proud to have taken the time to do it. I feel more connected.
- Important topic. It was time to talk about it.
- Learning lesson to listen.
- With ranging topics.
- It is a door into many unspoken issues. It will bring bonding and clarity.
- I like this title “Restorative Dialogue across cultures” and it makes sense to me rather than the one that was circulated “Tamil Aurovilian...” This is good for conscious collective growth in the community.
- I had the chance to meet many new people and get to know each other.
- It’s the first of hopefully many to come.
- This is my first meeting/dialogue across cultures. I found it to be effective, but at the same time, I felt that the focus on the topics was not addressed as much as I hoped.
- Expressed a community need and concern.
- Good.
- New experience.
- I was living in a beautiful bubble, not aware of all these feelings existing in the community. Listening to all the people made me aware of issues that people are experiencing and helped me connect at a deeper level with oneness in diverse views.
- It brought me real sense of community, a desire to know each other, to discover their beauty and to feel good with them.
- Initially I thought the divided groups during the pre-circles was a mistake, but it became a springboard.
- A lot got shared. I feel I know some people a lot better.
- I’m happy to be a part of this. After this meeting, I’m feeling confident and comfortable.
- I always enjoy coming together with my Auroville family. I made new relationships, revived old ones.
- Yes, I am happy to be part of this group.
- It was long due.
- Only talking to each other can clarify unheard topics.
- Yes, I am pleased. Anything which can help people understand each other, listen to each other, and speak truly from their heart is for me very precious.
- I think such a dialogue was long overdue because there are lots of misunderstandings on both sides.
- The way it unfolded was beautiful – even though painful at the beginning, because of the unusual format of reflecting each other. Then the magic happened. The action plan makes concrete steps. Yes yes !

## **2. Did you appreciate the process?**

**(meeting in smaller groups for the pre-circles, learning to listen and reflect each other in the large group, developing an action plan together, etc)**

**Yes – 38/43**

**No**

**I don’t know – 1/43**

**Yes and I don’t know – 2/43**

**Yes, but... – 1/43**

**Yes and No – 1/43**

**Please explain:**

**Yes – 38/43**

- I very much appreciate the process, because I understand the explanation about why it was done the way it was.
- I think it's the only way to actually deepen and get to know each other, and to get out the head and trying to solve our issues from the mind.
- Whereas I understand some people's frustration about it and eagerness for action, I basked in the sweetness of going deeper, staying there.
- Deep listening opens hearts and creates connection.
- All positive, despite experience of pain and frustration.
- Great detail was presented.
- As we all saw, there was not enough time.
- As it is first a meeting for me, I would love to deepen and understand more.
- Listening to others and being listened to was very gratifying.
- It allowed for listening and hearing, and not just reacting.
- Very good action plan.
- Yes, and it takes time.
- It helped me to listen and understand the person.
- Yes. I loved the process. I only wish that when a person spoke clearly in the circle, there was not much need to reflect on that part and bring down the energy. A reflection once was enough.
- I love this restorative circle, to learn to hear and to be heard.
- I love the RC process and the emphasis on listening to the other person and finding a deep connection under the words.
- If it's happening with more sessions, that would be very great.
- Yes, I really appreciate this process, because through this we learned a lot and understood clearly much better.
- And maybe next pre-circles can be in alphabetical 3 groups.
- I know the format already. That made it easier to follow.
- But I found this group too big for really finding solutions. Good for the first step.
- Yes, I loved the process. Time becomes our friend when we move slowly, a pause to open all our senses and attention and care for each other, the process seems to me offering a real human dimension in the middle of this modern way to communicate with technology where we believe that we are connected to so many people in the world, but where nothing is really said that makes a difference for our deeper self. We just stop and try to be. And each one is also facing himself, herself, with more sincerity and awareness, so it seems also a help for personal growth.
- Yes, it was good to meet in smaller groups first before meeting as a large group, and hopefully the action plan, which was developed together, will be followed up on.
- But there is a but. I have a deep deep intuitive feeling that it could be improved. I just don't know how. It felt very slow, heavy, and painful the first day. Yes, we reflect but sometimes we reflect and stay on a topic 30 minutes, which is not relevant for the thematic of our gathering.

**Yes and I don't know – 2/43**

- I did appreciate the process, yet if there was more time to go deeper into the topics, I could have given more depth and contributed to that specific topic. Instead the dialogue moved faster from one topic to another.

-The pre-circles were so so. I don't really understand the validity of it. Listen and reflect – yes, yes, yes. But I felt that there would need space for developed dialogue.

**I don't know – 1/43**

-I like the repeating back, but I noted at times that it arrested the flow. I think I would like a process that adapts more to the emerging dynamics of the group.

**3. Have you been touched by anything that happened or that was shared? Do you feel differently now about this subject?**

**Yes – 32/43**

**No – 1/43**

**I don't know – 3/43**

**Yes and No – 1/43**

**Didn't specify – 6/43**

**Please explain:**

**Yes – 32/43**

-The sharing about violence in relationship to women touched me. I thought about it, but hadn't experienced it with such force before.

-I was touched by the local marriage challenges (with Entry and kids being welcomed as Aurovilians or not). I feel concerned about it.

-The pain, fear, anger, joy, connection expressed by others are similar like my own. Empathy.

-Yes, by discrimination and separation in our school system. Also by partner being Aurovilian.

-Listening to deeper stories, some from people I know quite well, and seeing how we all suffer.

-I was very touched by a lot of the sharing. I appreciate that people from many cultures shared.

-I am feeling really like an Aurovilian, and very grateful to everyone.

-I was touched that different people have been through similar and different experiences all along the so-called distinctive groups of people. That these experiences are universal and not specific to a particular segment of our community.

-Yes, I am hopeful that inside us we really want to grow and to be united. I am touched by the beauty and force of people. I am touched by feeling that sense of community so strongly.

-Many things, among which labeling and seeing each other as human beings.

-I'm touched by the action plan.

-Security plan and better to solve problems face-to-face.

-Very touched by our difficulty to reflect and our goodwill and perseverance. Many times. How touching and beautiful it was for me to listen to 2 women and to hear challenges I've never thought of. Wow, a big wow. It makes us vulnerable, real human, and empathic. Beautiful.

-It is a new experience of asking others to reflect what they heard.

-I actually hoped we could move faster, and spend less time on learning to hear each other.

-Many things, and I also cried along with no control.

-Being together...

-I appreciated the expertise of the long-term Aurovilians.

-I'm encouraged by feeling that something is starting that is going to help AV progress.

-I was touched when people were vulnerable (including myself) and grateful for the release of pain and the healing. Not on one specific topic, but in general.

-I was very touched by the sharing of a non-AV kid and many more. Many of my judgements are gone through hearing how the “others” are also in pain and all long for connection.  
-So much openness. A bit irritated by some who shared resistance and who took up so much space. The closing round was phenomenal – 99% of the people were inspired and touched.  
-I’m touched by the fact that it moved me from Day 1, and I feel committed about my contribution to the subject.  
- Touched, especially by one local person who wondered how many of us who come from other places had bothered to find out about the customs of the people already living here; and also touched by how much everyone wants to be seen as an individual, at least as much as (and sometimes more than) simply being a member of this or that group.

**I don’t know – 3/43**

-Because it touched so many subjects/issues.

**Yes and No – 1/43**

-Yes, I feel touched by individuals’ vulnerability and willingness to continue through the 3 days. And no, I don’t feel differently now, because the problems that exist have yet to be explored on a deeper level.

**Didn’t specify – 6/43**

-I feel more clear about what I want.  
-I have been touched and disturbed with all the problems people are facing in Auroville. Being a teenager, I never knew about the existing issues that have occurred in this Circle. And now I really feel responsible for being a good human being.  
-The whole process in any case was to be able to connect the dots to find the elephant in the room, and I did have the opportunity to vaguely see the dots coming together.  
-Whenever there is a collective event where people commit to a process, there is a sense of collective sharing, getting to know each other better, and so it creates collective and individual growth.

**4. Do you think this dialogue could contribute to forward movement in Auroville?**

**Yes – 39/43**

**No**

**I don’t know – 1/43**

**Didn’t specify – 3/43**

**Please explain:**

**Yes – 39/43**

-It is better than doing nothing, so yes we are a step closer.  
-All voices are given space and time to be heard.  
-I generally enjoyed being part of the dialogue.  
-Surely, yes!  
-I think it could be very useful, but feel it should be part of many different ways of coming together, not the sole approaching (which is not intended, I know).  
-Community building.  
-Deepening this “language” can foster our conflict resolution processes and deepen bonding.

-There is a different feeling after this Dialogue – difficult to name.

-The more we hear each other and respect each other, the easier it will be to find solutions to our difficulties.

-But much more work is needed. And commitment.

-In most meetings, it's always a few people that get to talk, and often there is shouting at each other without resolution, because there was no real listening and understanding. This gathering was different.

-Not forward in any specific direction or action, but a subtle shift which could become a huge wave and carry us very far.

-It felt like we were a family and we could share things.

-I hope...

-Oh yes!

-I hope so!

-Very much

-Definitely it could. It brings real connections with people, it opens to deep sharing and understanding.

-I think this dialogue could contribute to forward movement in Auroville in the following ways:

- (i) dialogue within the community
- (ii) specific such dialogues could be conducted within each school – Future, Last, Transition, etc and then with all the teenage schools, to create awareness of oneness in diversity.
- (iii) at a certain part in their journey, this dialogue can be conducted with Newcomers, so that they unburden any feeling of injustice, etc
- (iv) this can be conducted within Working Groups with regard to their mandates and how they are communicating with each other.

-Yes, it contributed for sure! Another tool in our collective bag.

-From what I observed, this dialogue has opened an unspoken need for all and I notice that everyone wants to reach somewhere, and they're not just speaking for the sake of speaking.

-In my experience there are difficulties to really communicate in Auroville, for whatever reasons it is very hard to have a chance to really say what we think, what we feel, etc. So maybe this process can free our tongues and hearts.

-It is an excellent first step, but it will only contribute to forward movement if it is followed up by action plans for the indefinite future.

-Definitely! Because it brings depth and a transformational perspective, and peace and wisdom, trust and light. It is fabulous.

## **5. Anything else you'd like to share with us...?**

-I am last in not knowing how I can be of use to help for the action plan! And are we not addressing this to more of the youth? How can we teenagers be of use in this issue of human unity? We need some guidance for where to put our energy. Thank you very much for this event!

-If this brings change and solutions for any of our problems, I'd be happy.

-Thank you!

-I am good at being patient, but also I look for action plans, so I was happy that it was happening in our session at the end. Also, I feel that I am so much more connected with the many new faces.

-The "learning process" never ends.

-I look forward to join this team and be part of it.

-Keep it up! Thank you so much for your entire team and to Duke also.

-Thank you!

-You might like to consider working in smaller groups, and then coming together to share conclusions reached.

- Thank you, thank you, thank you, L'aura and team, and Duke. I appreciate it!
- I felt there was too much time wasted on discussing the process of RC itself and I wish this time could have been used to go deeper in the topic. There is still so much to be said to restore trust.
- Thanks so much! Thanks for long lunch and tea breaks!
- I'm glad to support this process of connection in Auroville.
- Thank you for organizing it.
- Keep going!
- Keep it up!
- I very much appreciated the organization and care. For me, the group was rather too big for a sustained dive into an important issue, but perhaps this was not the intention.
- Small steps to widen my understanding. Thank you!
- Grateful and impressed!
- There are so many observations. I saw many times people wanted to join the dialogue, but at the same moment another person jumps in, and so those waiting get discouraged. Maybe you could ask the participants to look around before jumping in. The participants would be asked to count to 5 before reflecting, as I observed that the reflection becomes a response. Thank you for the efforts made.
- I have been with [name of partner] for the past 3.5 years, and have even worked within Auroville. I have all the way been deciding if I truly wanted to get into the Auroville process. You guys helped me through this workshop. I am now sure that I would love to begin my process. Thanks a million for having me!
- Thank you!
- It was a unique way to show us how we don't know how to listen to each other. The precision in the Action Plan is very precious for me. I feel so blessed that we have Restorative Circles in AV. So much. May it spread more and more and become natural for all of us to bridge connections and not cathedrals.
- See you next time!
- I am not sure I got the tool totally. Certain questions about the follow-up made me feel rushed. However, I understood the value of deep listening. It accurately pointed out a lot of clarity in my personal life. There were several moments I felt it's worthy to be here. But some people in the way they were reflecting literally made me irritated. I need some space to understand this. But above all, I am personally very grateful. Thanks for the bottom of my heart!
- Many things, L'aura and team! Please keep up the good work!
- Keep on going!
- Keep going! Be patient with all the "disbelievers" and/or criticism.
- It was difficult to reach depth in such a large group in the 2 days we were altogether.

**For photos of this event, and more, please visit  
[www.facebook.com/RestorativeAuroville](https://www.facebook.com/RestorativeAuroville)**