



Auroville

# « Calling the Future » Survey

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## Overview

**Note:** Many quotes have been integrated (fully or partially) in this document. *They are all in italic.*

## Introduction

In May and June 2020, Auroville community was invited to participate in the ‘Calling the Future’ survey. The purpose was to provide an opportunity for Aurovilians, volunteers & Newcomers to reflect and share about their experience of the Covid-19 lockdown by taking their pulse in the very specific period of confinement, finding out how they responded to the lockdown, what changes they felt needed to be made, both in their individual lives and in the organization of the community and finally investigate the preparedness of individuals and the community to make these changes.

This survey was also initiated because we felt that the pandemic was an unprecedented moment in Auroville’s history, so we wanted to see how well the community had responded. As major social disruptions often initiate radical change, we wanted to see if the same was true of Auroville and what those changes would look like.

## Methodology and group evaluation

The chosen methodology was an online questionnaire with 20 questions. There was a mix of closed and open questions (to allow free expression). It was launched in May 2020 and got 245 replies. In this initial survey, we asked for individual’s observations on how they and the Auroville organization responded, on their ideas and support for new initiatives concerning spiritual life, food, economy, organization etc... and on their willingness to change personal habits.

The initial analysis showed that some residents profiles were under represented (youth for example). So a simplified version of the questionnaire was made with the essential questions and sent in July to these under represented segments of Auroville population. This second phase of the survey got 36 answers.

We analyzed the inputs and presented a summary of the results to the community in three postings on Auronet and in the News and Notes. We also presented our findings (via a Powerpoint presentation) to those who had expressed a willingness to help with further steps in manifesting the results of the survey or who were working on new initiatives.

Finally, we helped organize two meetings at which those who had suggested new initiatives were invited to collaborate in driving forward the energy of change.



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In general, it was felt that the survey was successful. We received almost 300 responses and were able to observe general trends regarding the need to improve food sustainability, the Auroville economy, etc... However, we think that there is room for improvement in the way the survey was constructed. There were probably too many questions, some were difficult to answer well, some were too guided, and there were also many 'open' questions and the responses to these are much more difficult to analyze.

The "Slide show" presentations to different audiences went quite well, although aspects of it could have been delivered more dynamically. The follow-up steps, like inviting those who had expressed a wish to help in furthering the findings of the survey, could have been done earlier.

## Summary of the outcomes

### PART A: how people experienced the lockdown (Questions 6 to 12 and 17)

On the personal level, an astonishing 85% said they had positively changed habits due to the lockdown. 21% became more aware about the food they were eating and where it comes from, and how they could make choices that would support local food production. As their lives became radically simplified, people devoted more time to working on themselves – reading Sri Aurobindo and The Mother, meditating, exercising, caring for the environment, living in the present etc. -- and to relationships.

They also realized that what they had viewed before as a 'necessity' (office work, frequent meetings etc.) was no such thing and now they had time to explore more interesting pursuits. They also appreciated the quiet that descended upon an Auroville without tourists and traffic.

Asked to summarize their experience in a few words, respondents mentioned "learning to live with what I have", "gluing more together", "going from 'mine' to 'ours' and 'Hers'", and "reconnecting with the spirit of Auroville".

A quarter of the respondents didn't experience any negative changes personally, but those who did spoke of feeling isolated, separated from others, and of experiencing or witnessing panic, fear.

In answer to the question, "What do you think of Auroville's response to the crisis?" the vast majority (87%) felt there was much to be celebrated. Many praised the mature, disciplined response to the crisis, and the spirit of service displayed in the volunteering, in the way that the essential services kept running, and in the dedicated work of groups like the COVID Task Force, the Working Committee and the Auroville Safety and Security Team. There was a feeling of fraternity and cooperation, reflected in the way that food delivery services were provided for those who needed assistance, as well as in the financial assistance offered by individuals and the Village Action group to the neighboring villages.

However, 62% felt that certain things could have been improved. It was noted that there had been instances of irresponsible behavior, like people hoarding basic supplies, and rebelliousness as in those refusing to observe social distancing or wearing masks. It was pointed out that some essential working groups, like Entry and Housing, failed to provide a minimum service during this time, and



that communication of essential information, particularly regarding health matters, was both inadequate and too functional, conformist, and lacking in the Auroville spirit.

30% noted that the crisis has highlighted many of our existing collective weaknesses. These include inequalities regarding maintenances and income; insufficient support for our farmers; the over-dependency of our economy on tourism; insufficient support for our productive units; and poor internal communication.

Asked what surprised them positively during the lockdown, respondents mentioned the resilience and the solidarity of the community as people took responsibility for caring for each other, the adaptability of Aurovilians, and the realization of how much of the essential work can be done by the residents.

19% reported negative surprises. These included the level of fear and paranoia in the community, and the realization of how much we are dependent upon outside funding, labour and tourism to sustain our present lifestyle and development. There was a growing realization that we need to become much more self-reliant, particularly in terms of food production.

#### **PART B: what needs to change (questions 13 and 14)**

While the lockdown threw up many positives, it also highlighted existing weaknesses and gaps.

Asked in which areas Auroville needs to change, 72% of respondents mentioned the economy, 64% farming and food distribution, 51% water and electricity, 48% social interaction and collective life, and 39% our spiritual life and aspirations. Education, as well as emotional, psychological and physical health were also often mentioned as requiring change or increased support.

Many people felt there needed to be a radical shift in our economy, away from a reliance on tourism and cash-based transactions. 25% supported the idea of a collective support system, like Prosperity and/or a basic income for all, while PTDC was mentioned as one example of the kind of collective service that needs to be encouraged.

Food was also a big issue. In particular, the need for greater food autonomy was emphasized. It was noted that we are not growing enough of our own food, partly because we don't dedicate enough land for food growing and partly because our farmers lack financial support for their work. The fact that too few Aurovilians are involved in food growing and distribution is another concern.

Regarding environmental sustainability, a number of respondents mentioned there is an urgent need to increase consciousness about water usage in the community, along with a drive to reduce our reliance on the TNEB grid.

40% of those who felt that the spiritual life should be strengthened noted that there is an urgent need to follow the spiritual goals of Auroville and for a radical change of consciousness in



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individuals which would lead, among other things, to us treating each other with more love, care and compassion.

Overall, the COVID-19 crisis was seen as a unique opportunity for us to step out of our usual patterns, to reflect deeply upon the purpose of Auroville and to make radical changes both individually and in the community. Comments included we “need to re-calibrate our mission”, to “identify our needs and priorities”, and there is a “need for a better system in Auroville”.

“It’s a chance we cannot lose”, wrote one, “It’s an opening for a new world to emerge”, wrote another.

### **PART C: suggested changes and willingness to participate (questions 13 to 16 and 19)**

Asked in which fields Auroville needs to change, an overwhelming majority of respondents (72%) listed the economy, followed closely by farming/ food distribution (64%) and water and energy supply (51%). Social interaction/collective life (48%) and spiritual life and aspirations (39%) were also frequently mentioned as areas where we need to improve.

Respondents were asked to identify one or two of the most important changes that needed to happen in the areas they identified. Those who identified the present economy said there is a need to rethink it. We should support the basic needs of all residents, possibly through providing a universal basic income, and minimize or eliminate money exchange between residents through some kind of prosperity system for essential goods and services. The PTDC concept should also be developed. Others said far more Aurovilians should work directly for the collective, there is a need to find an alternative to tourism as the mainstay of the economy and, more generally, “move away from the money mind”.

Ways of moving towards food self-sufficiency included providing additional financial support to existing farms, allocating more land for farming, encouraging communities to grow their own food through the cultivation of circle gardens, and encouraging more people to participate in farming. In this context, suggestions included building 50 houses on existing farmland to encourage people to work there, and requiring all residents to work one day a week on farms or in food distribution.

The environment was another area of concern, and suggestions for changes included a more conscious use of our water resources and the need to become independent of the TNEB grid through the widespread adoption of solar power.

Others mentioned the need to strengthen our collective life through better communication, collaboration and participation in collective activities. Strengthening our spiritual life was seen as vital. Respondents emphasized the need to follow the spiritual goals of Auroville and to have a spiritual practice as a means of developing love and compassion and, ultimately, of changing our consciousness.

Some initiatives to effect change were proposed during the lockdown. Many respondents had not read them, but of those who had, 43% supported Solitude Krishna’s proposal to accelerate food sovereignty for Auroville through the creation of circle gardens in communities and eating local



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foods, 35% supported Jasmine's call to improve food security and distribution, while 28% endorsed the Exploring Prosperity proposal which seeks to provide the basic necessities to all Aurovillian residents. Other initiatives which received support included Chandresh's 'Basket of Needs' (25%), David's post-pandemic planning proposal (25%), Noel's action plan for food security (25%), the Aura Platform (19%), detailed suggestions for preparing Auroville for future emergencies from the Deep Adaptation group (19%), and Yves' 'User Manual for a Revolution in Auroville' (16%). Existing proposals, like those for the Birth Centre and the Lotus proposal for re-inventing our economy were also mentioned.

The survey was only the first step. The next step has now begun. Focus groups are forming to promote and materialize change in the different areas identified, with the possibility of integrating them with the 'Prosperity: a Letter to the Divine Mother' concept now being presented regularly to many small groups of Aurovillians. The focus groups also plan to approach other groups working on topics relating to change and development in Auroville.

Hopefully, those who have proposed specific initiatives for change will use the survey as an inspiration and practical help to implement those changes. They will be heartened by the fact that 60% of respondents said they were willing to participate in projects that may emerge, or be given new life, as a result of the survey, particularly those related to the economy, food production, and the environment, while a further 21% said they might be willing to help.



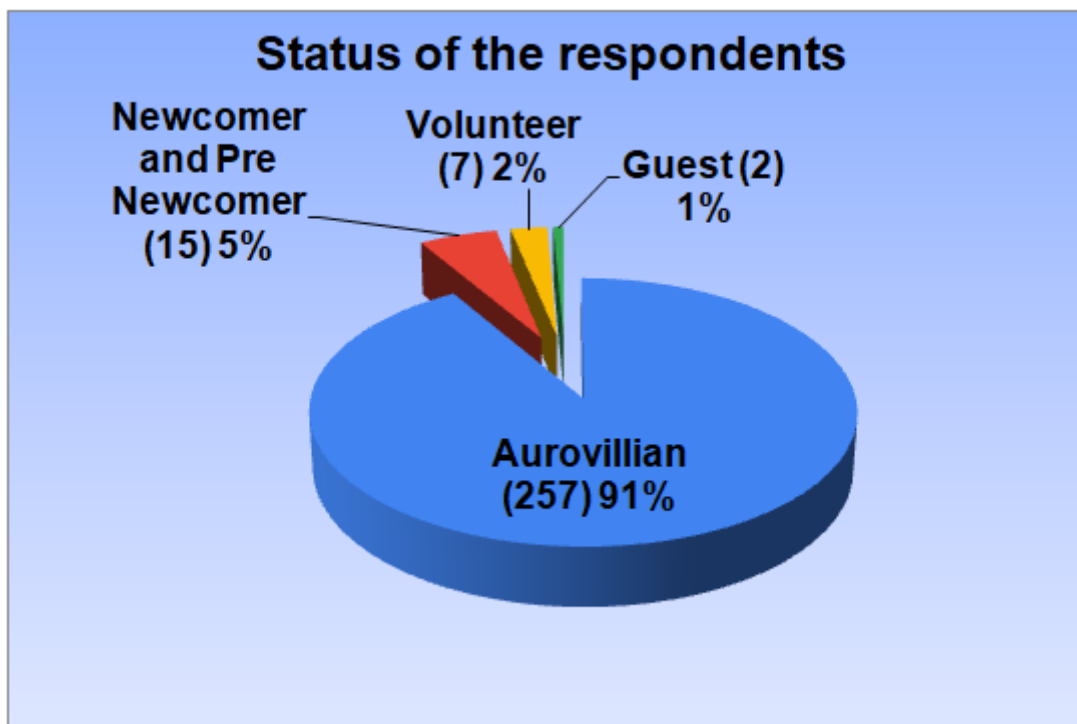
## General Information

### Participation

**245** persons participated in the first phase of this survey (**236 online and 9 by writing on paper form**), **36 more** in the second run dedicated to underrepresented groups of Auroville. In total, the survey reached (for the main questions) **281** persons.

### Status

Aurovillian	Newcomer and Pre Newcomer	Volunteer	Guest	Total
257	15	7	2	281
91%	5%	2%	1%	100%





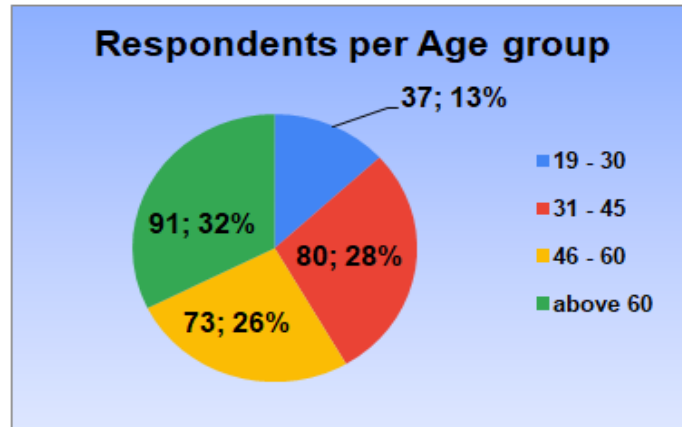
### Age group



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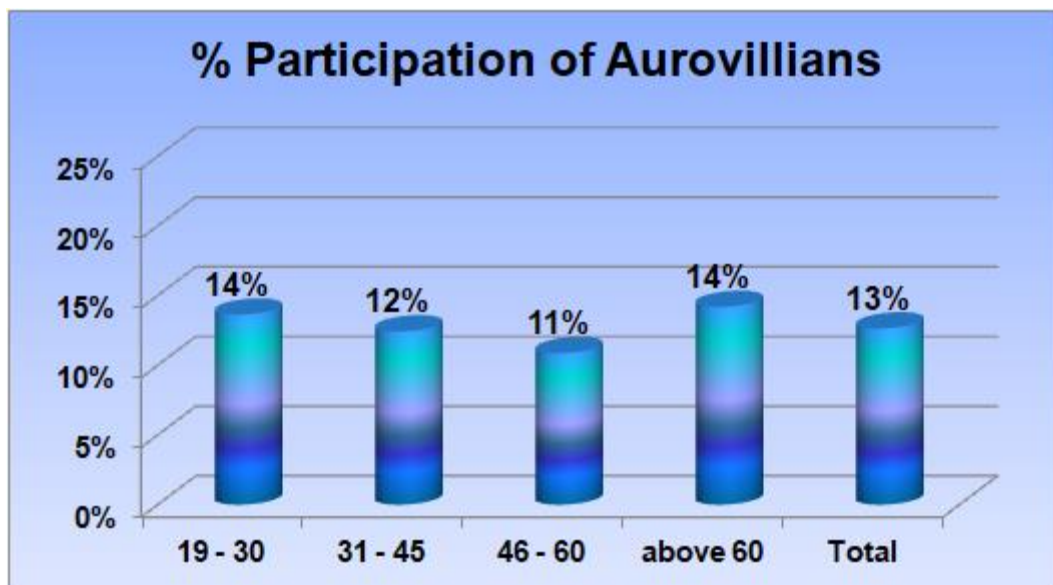
Here is the participation per age group irrespective of the status of the respondent.

19 - 30	31 - 45	46 - 60	above 60	Total
37	80	73	91	281
13%	28%	26%	32%	100%



### Level of participation per age group for Aurovillians only:

Age group	19 - 30	31 - 45	46 - 60	above 60	Total
Total av	242	563	607	620	2032
Responded	33	70	66	88	257
% Participation	14%	12%	11%	14%	13%



The level of participation for each age group is quite similar (between 11% and 14%), thanks to the second survey which made the participation of the age group 19-30 jump from 5% to 14%.



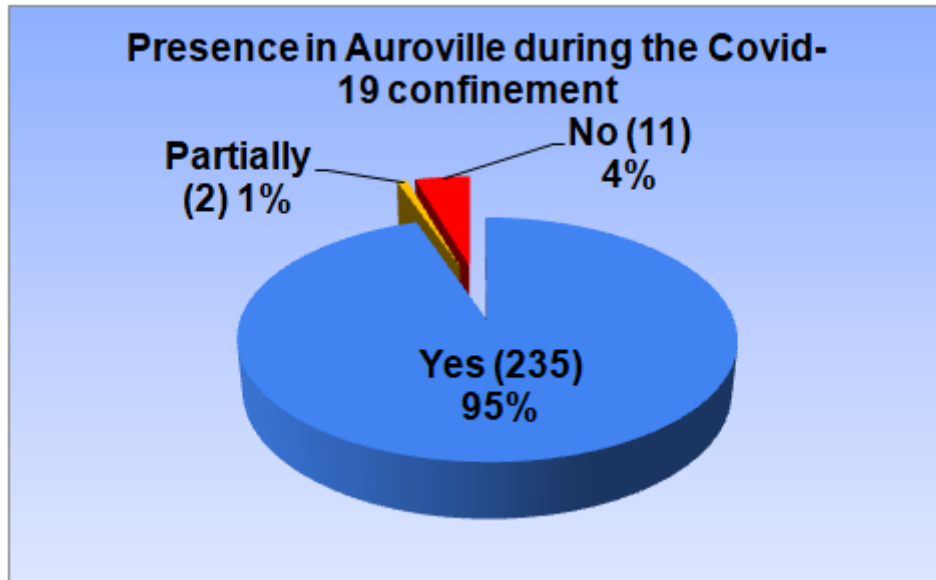


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### Presence during confinement

Were you physically present in Auroville during the Covid-19 confinement so far (March - May 2020)?

Yes	Partially	No	Total
235	2	11	248
95%	1%	4%	100%



A vast majority of the respondents (95%) were present in Auroville during the first period of the confinement (March-May 2020).



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## Details per question

### A-How people experienced the lockdown

#### Auroville's response to the crisis – To celebrate

**Q6-What did you think of Auroville's response so far to this crisis? What is to be celebrated?**

**1. Collective attitudes and individual behaviour**

- a. **Maturity:** a quick, calm, disciplined response to the crisis, not indulging into panic
- b. **Spirit of unity and service:** spontaneously volunteering, showing solidarity and deep sense of community
- c. **Fraternity and cooperation:** Auroville responded with many signs of care for others, helping each other, showing solidarity with bio-region, organizing a good response for basic needs: food distribution, meal production

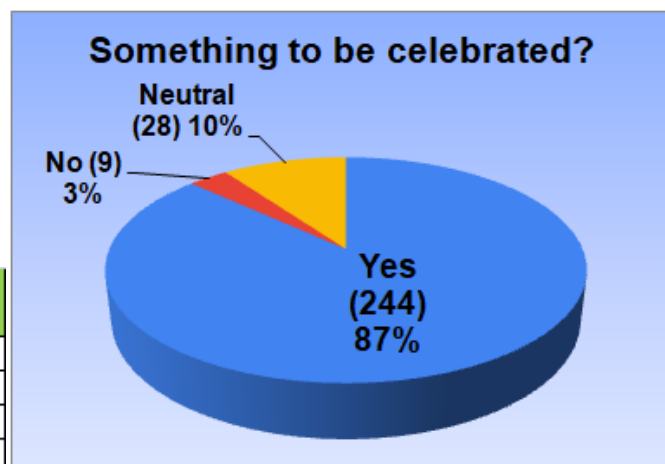
**2. Celebrate our valuable Working Groups**

- a. Covid Task Force
- b. PTDC
- c. Working Committee
- d. Security
- e. Farms
- f. Auroville Village Action Group (AVAG)

**3. Positive consequences already spontaneously happening and to be fostered going forward**

- a. Having more time and will for inner research
- b. New ways of supporting sustainability: local farming, better care for EcoService and waste management
- c. Less guests, less traffic, less entertainment
- d. To count on AV skills and people
- e. Help and fraternity towards villages and workers
- f. Opportunity to anticipate a better response to future crises

Something to be celebrated?	Number	%
Yes	244	87%
No	9	3%
Neutral	28	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>100%</b>

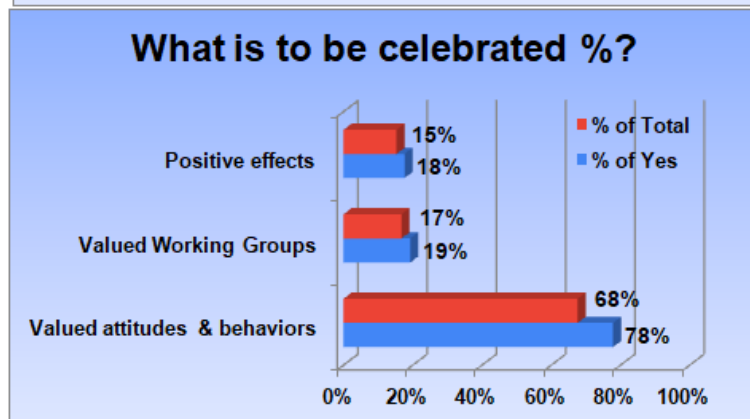
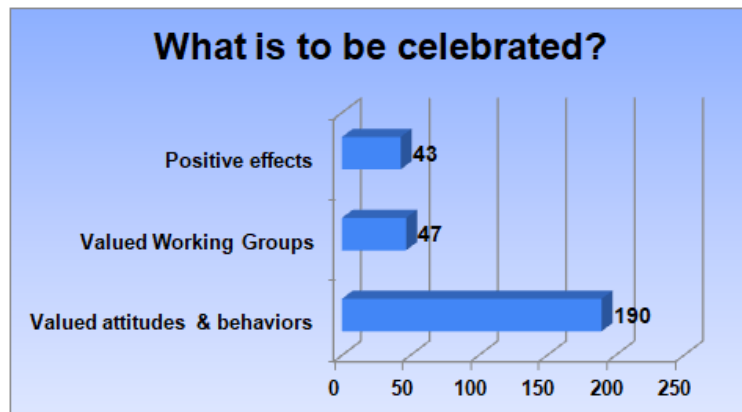
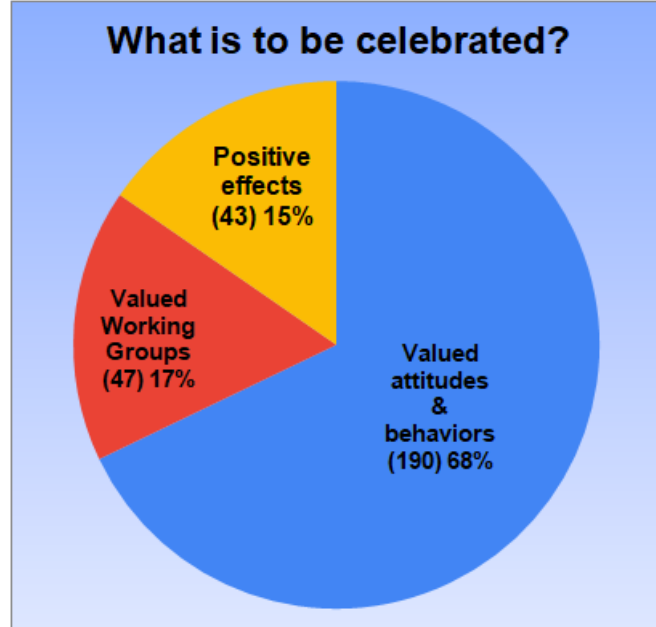




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### What is to be celebrated?

What is to be celebrated?	Number	% of Field	% of Yes	% of Total
Valued attitudes & behaviors	190	68%	78%	68%
Valued Working Groups	47	17%	19%	17%
Positive effects	43	15%	18%	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>100%</b>		



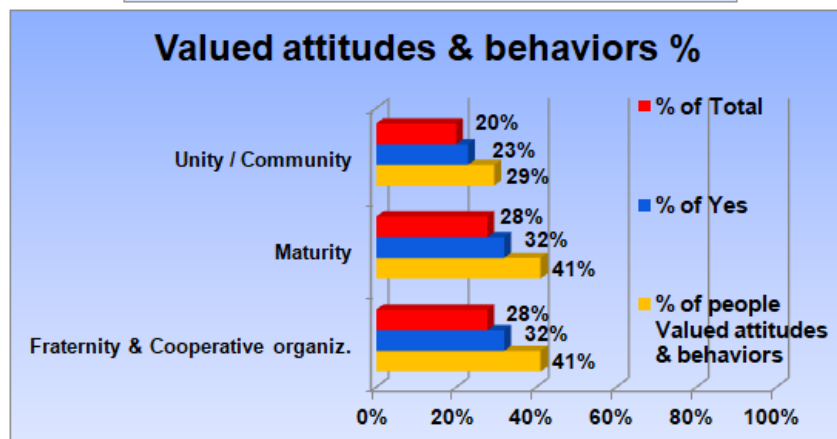
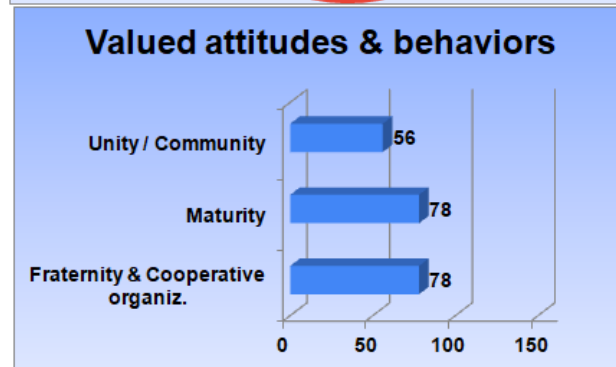
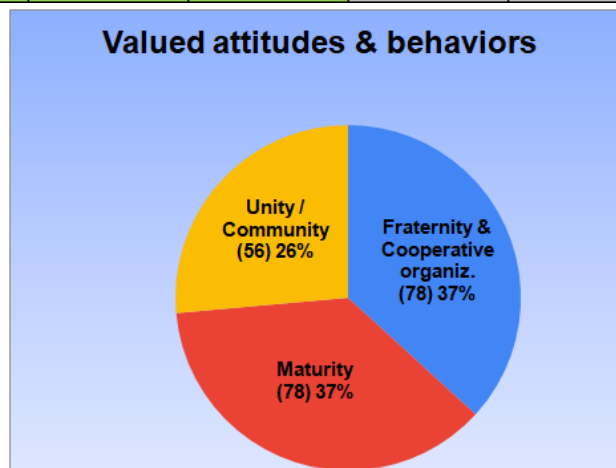


**Notes for the following tables and graphs:**

- “% of answers...” shows the number of answers versus the total number of answers mentioning one “valued attitude or behavior”
- “% of people...” shows the number of answers versus the total number of people who mentioned at least one “valued attitude or behavior”

**“Valued attitudes & behaviors”:**

Valued attitudes & behaviors	Number	% of answers Valued attitudes & behaviors	% of people Valued attitudes & behaviors	% of Yes	% of Total
Fraternity & Cooperative organiz.	78	37%	41%	32%	28%
Maturity	78	37%	41%	32%	28%
Unity / Community	56	26%	29%	23%	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>100%</b>			

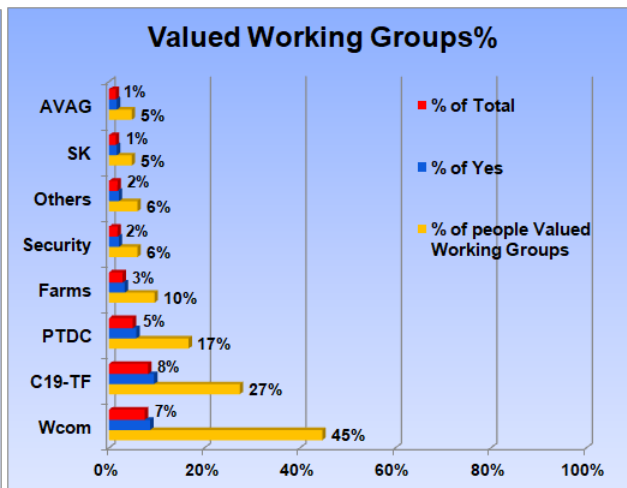
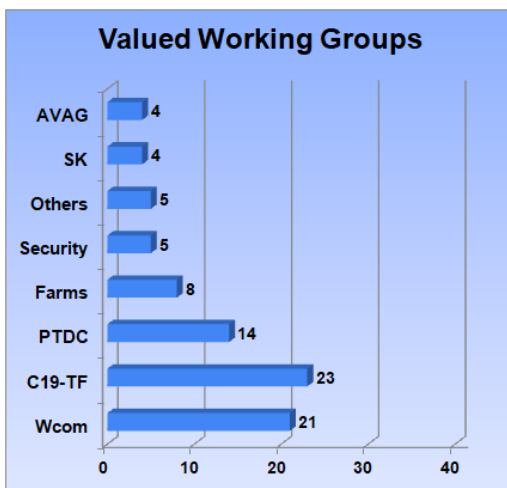
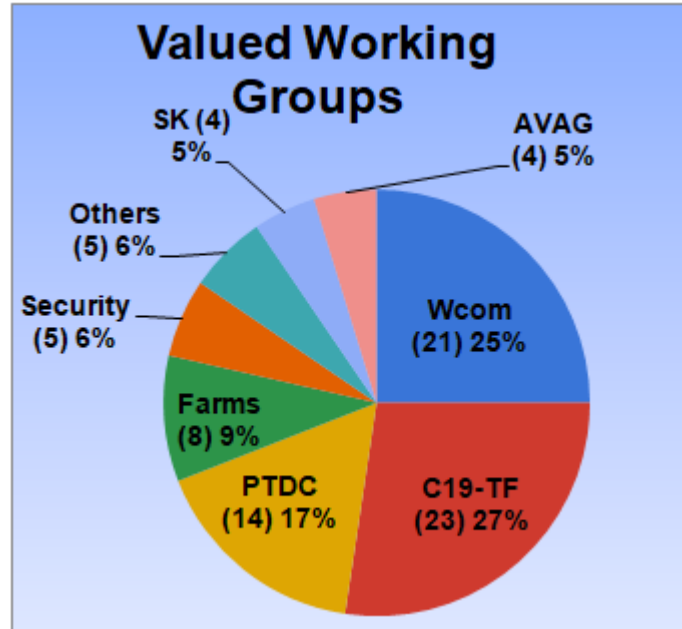




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**“Valued Working Groups”:**

Valued Working Groups	Number	% of answers Valued Working Groups	% of people Valued Working Groups	% of Yes	% of Total
Wcom	21	25%	45%	9%	7%
C19-TF	23	27%	27%	9%	8%
PTDC	14	17%	17%	6%	5%
Farms	8	10%	10%	3%	3%
Security	5	6%	6%	2%	2%
Others	5	6%	6%	2%	2%
SK	4	5%	5%	2%	1%
AVAG	4	5%	5%	2%	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100%</b>			



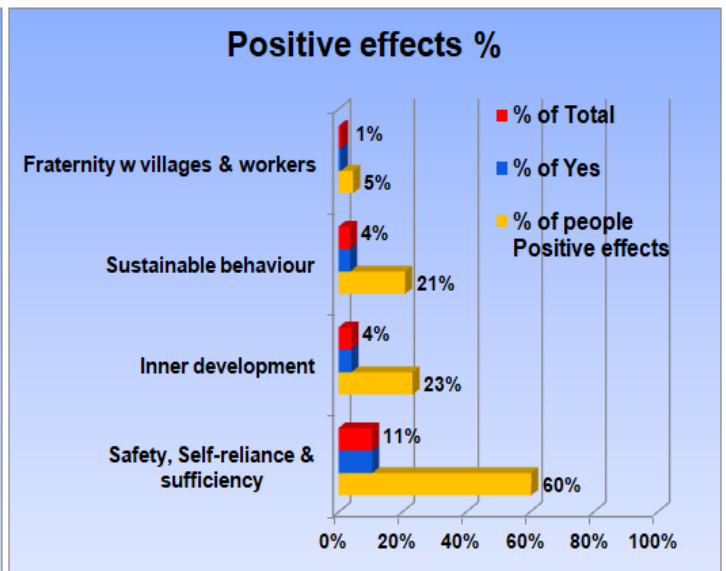
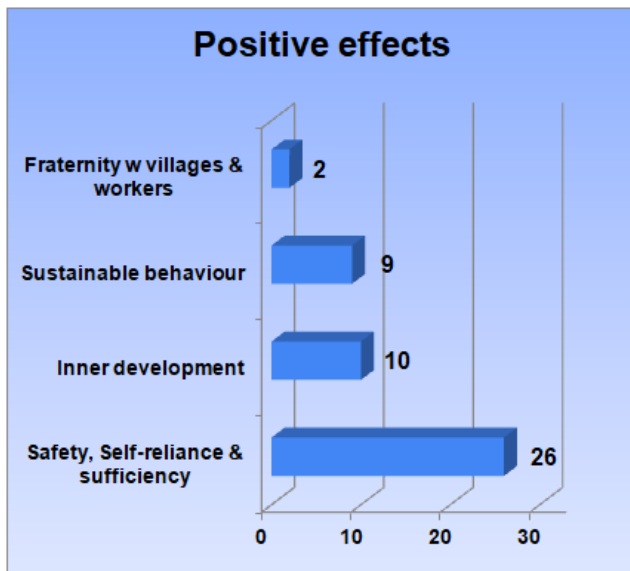
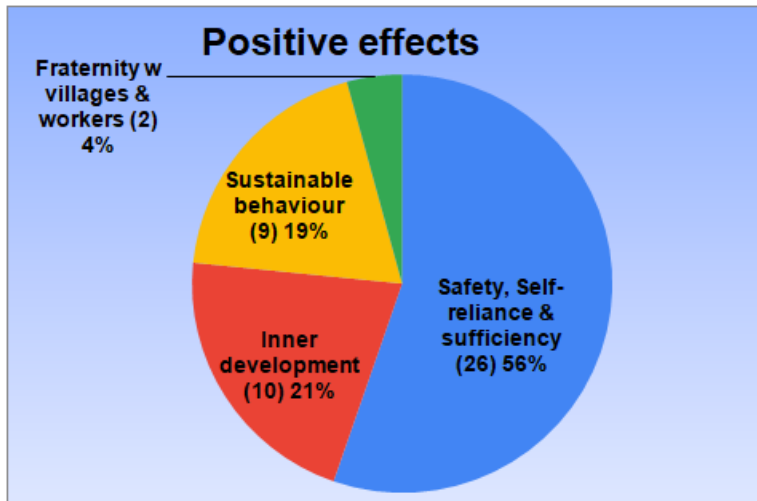
NB: In “Others”, Eco-Service, Savi and PTPS were mentioned



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**“Positive effects”:**

Positive effects	Number	% of answers Positive effects	% of people Positive effects	% of Yes	% of Total
Safety, Self-reliance & sufficiency	26	55%	60%	11%	11%
Inner development	10	21%	23%	4%	4%
Sustainable behaviour	9	19%	21%	4%	4%
Fraternity w villages & workers	2	4%	5%	1%	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100%</b>			





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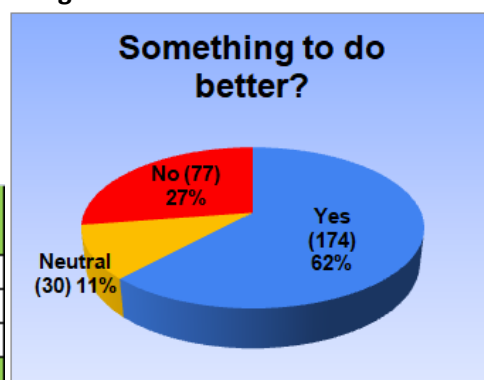
## Auroville's response to the crisis – What can be done better

### Q7-What did you think of Auroville's response so far to this crisis? What could have been done better?

- 1) **Vision:** This crisis calls for a wider sense and deeper reflection: on the future of Auroville and the world evolution, including our founders' references, letting emerge the true Aurovilian way; need to anticipate another crisis, having a new platform to face challenges
- 2) **Attitudes:** it is an invitation to be creative, innovative, stepping out of our usual patterns
  - a) Applying GOI rules with discernment
  - b) finding ways to better coordinate between Working Groups
  - c) refraining from anger, rebellion, irresponsible/selfish behaviour
- 3) **This crisis has highlighted our individual and collective weaknesses:**
  - a) Inequality regarding maintenances and income
  - b) Insufficient support to Units facing challenges and to working people
  - c) Dependence of our economy on external guests and tourists
  - d) Insufficient care/solidarity for farmers: "1 morning every 2 weeks of work in farms for everyone"!
  - e) Inadequate internal communication: it was a conformist, functional communication with no vision for more inclusive & genuine decisions; divisive and violent posts published on AuroNet, too lengthy mass mails from Covid TF & WC, health instructions not specific enough; better Internet connectivity is missing
  - f) Increased gap between residents: those of good will on one hand, and on the other those crystallized with fear, anger and resistance to change
- 4) **Working groups: Can do better**
  - a) FAMC & ABC: lack of adequate response and care for Aurovilians; this is "the time for all administration to change".
  - b) Unquestioning complacency to GOI rules and lack of spiritual inspiration or guidance
  - c) Poor or nonexistent communication especially on health, working in a disconnected way, insufficient coordination to ensure Auroville self sufficiency
  - d) AuroNet: stop verbal vehemence but be a forum for support, and find other ways of global communication (digital notice board? "Zoom meetings" for residents?)
  - e) No minimum service from important services (Housing, Entry, MM gardens); create an essential service to care for people, especially the fragile ones

Let's be conscious about the outcome of this critical 'rehearsal' and prepare ourselves for the next real one, by putting forward our priorities and stating that we'll stand for our values

Something to do better?	Number	%
Yes	174	62%
Neutral	30	11%
No	77	27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>100%</b>

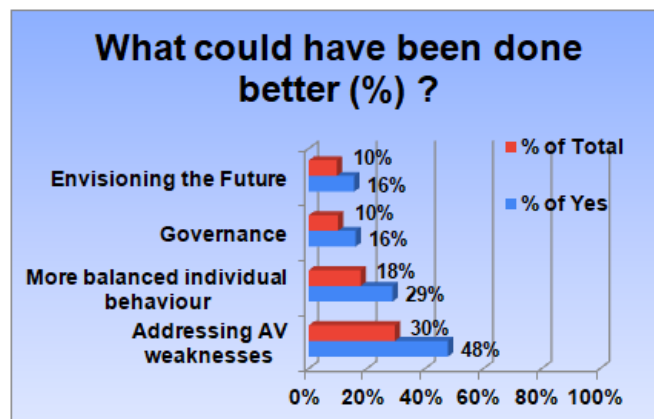
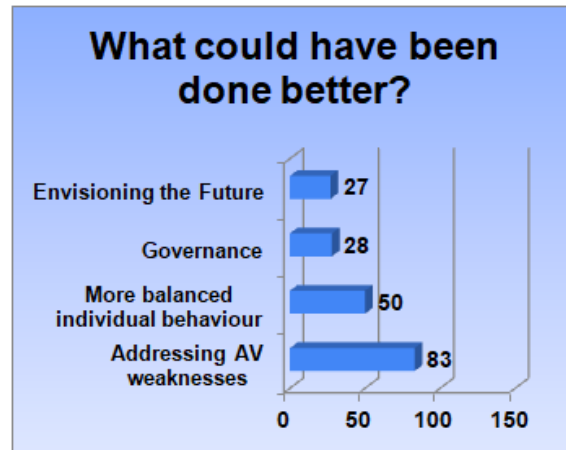
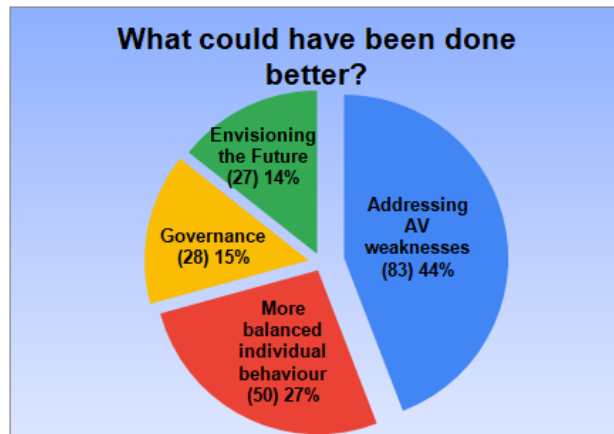




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**“What could have been done better?”:**

What could have been done better?	Number	% of "What could have been done"	% of Yes	% of Total
Addressing AV weaknesses	83	44%	48%	30%
More balanced individual behaviour	50	27%	29%	18%
Governance	28	15%	16%	10%
Envisioning the Future	27	14%	16%	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>100%</b>		



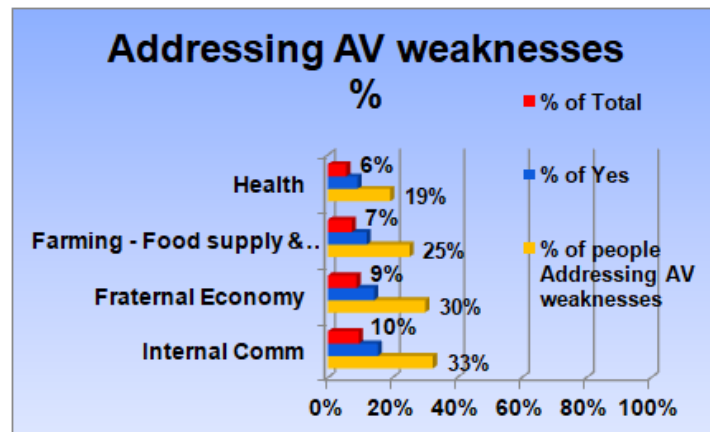
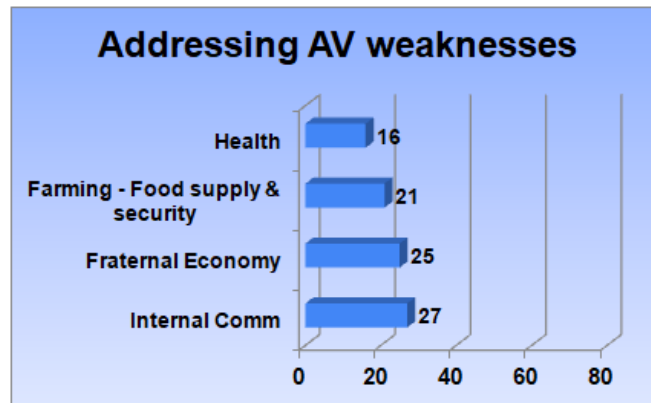
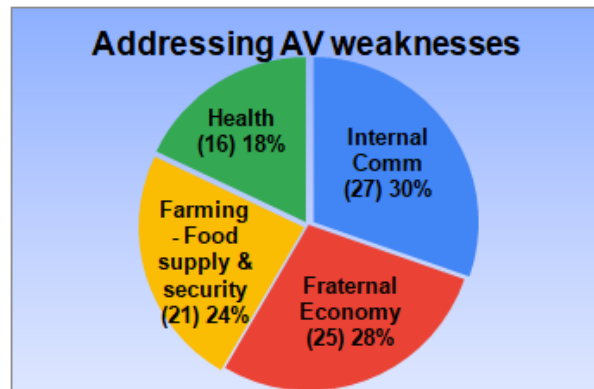




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**“Addressing AV weaknesses”:**

Addressing AV weaknesses	Number	% of answers Addressing AV weaknesses	% of people Addressing AV weaknesses	% of Yes	% of Total
Internal Comm	27	30%	33%	16%	10%
Fraternal Economy	25	28%	30%	14%	9%
Farming - Food supply & security	21	24%	25%	12%	7%
Health	16	18%	19%	9%	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100%</b>			

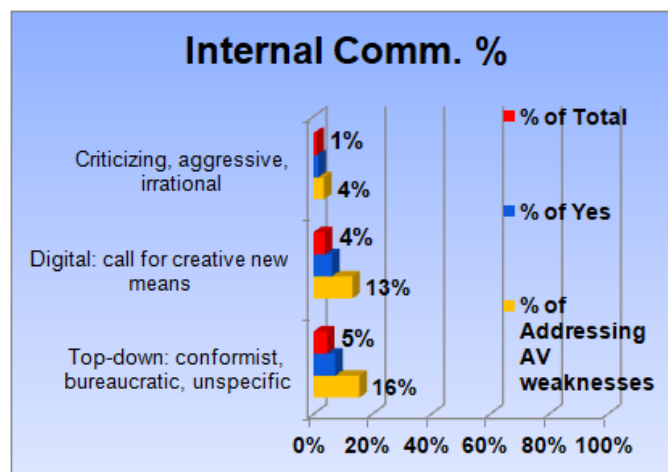
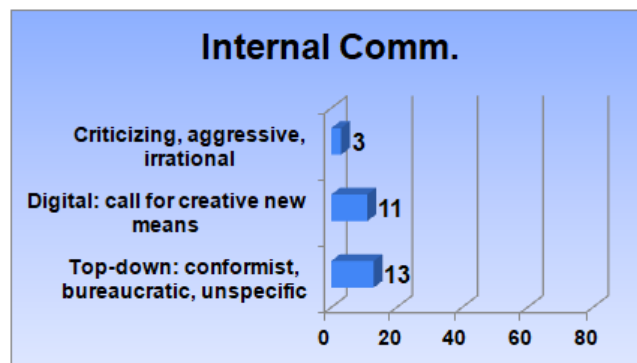
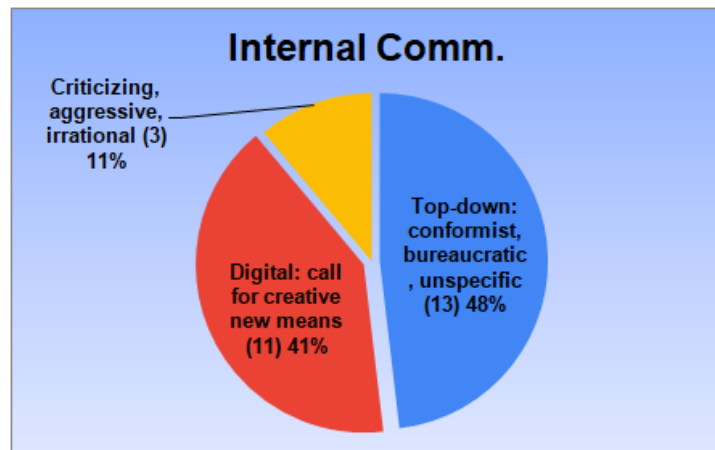




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**“Addressing AV weaknesses – Internal Communication”:**

Internal Comm	Number	% of Internal Comm	% of Addressing AV weaknesses	% of Yes	% of Total
Top-down: conformist, bureaucratic, unspecific	13	48%	16%	7%	5%
Digital: call for creative new means	11	41%	13%	6%	4%
Criticizing, aggressive, irrational	3	11%	4%	2%	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100%</b>			

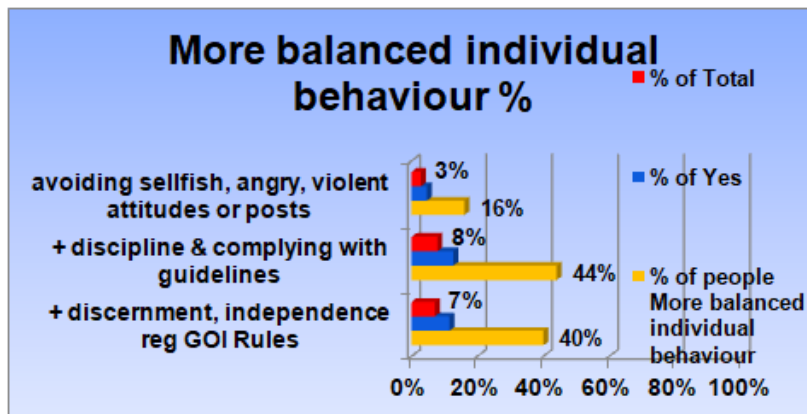
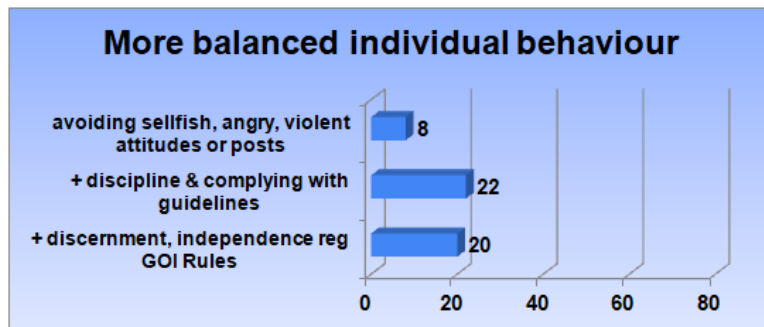
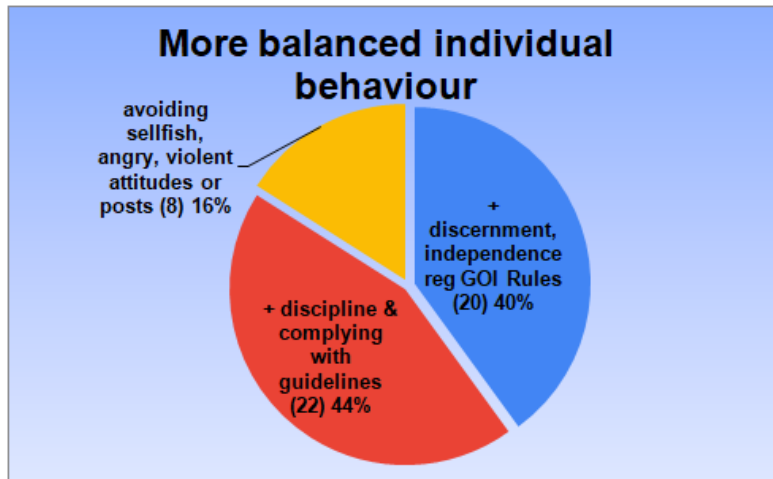




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**“More balanced individual behaviour”:**

More balanced individual behaviour	Number	% of answers More balanced individual behaviour	% of people More balanced individual behaviour	% of Yes	% of Total
+ discernment, independence reg GOI Rules	20	40%	40%	11%	7%
+ discipline & complying with guidelines	22	44%	44%	13%	8%
avoiding selfish, angry, violent attitudes or posts	8	16%	16%	5%	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>			





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### Fields with positive changes

**Q8-In which "fields" (nutrition, relationships, work, spiritual practice, etc.) did you experience positive changes? Give practical examples.**

Most respondents reported positive experiences.

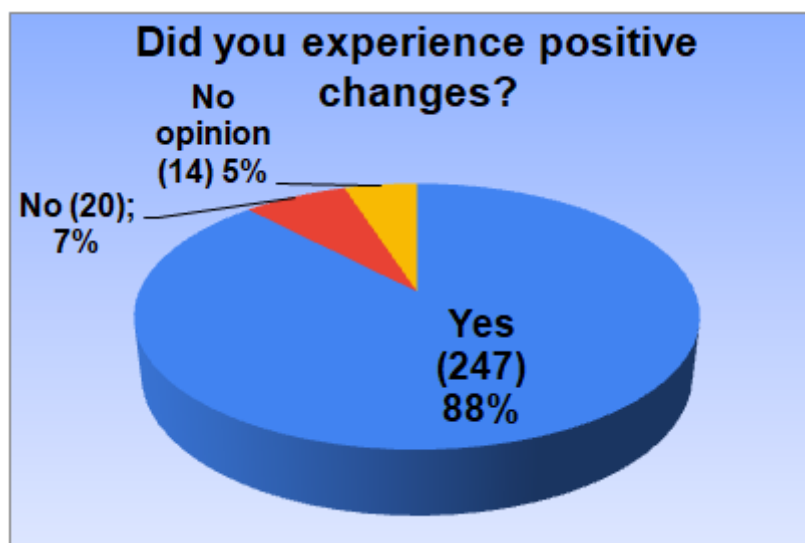
A majority of respondents gave more time to **spiritual practice**, and connecting to inner self by meditating, reading works of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, walking in nature, doing physical yoga practice more regularly. This spiritual practice extended into working closely with neighbours and community to take care of the environment and each other, helping to get food and other necessities. The sense of community was strengthened through these experiences, as well as volunteering, food delivery, online sharing in meditation, virtual learning.

For many there was an increased **sense of community**, of being connected, of slowing down, of focusing on essentials, of caring for each other.

**Nutrition** and **food** were also frequently commented upon. A lot of people became more acutely aware of what they are eating, where the food comes from, how much they have been eating and realized they can make different choices that support more local food consumption.

Also reported: less noise pollution, more time for family and relationships, home cooking and gardening.

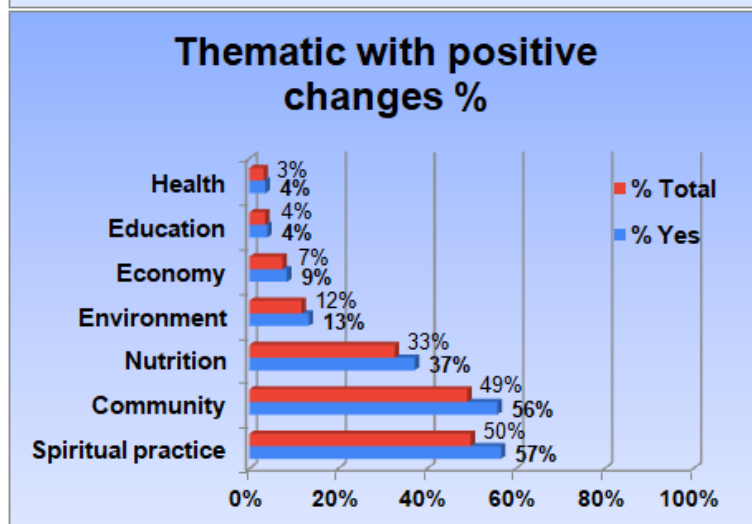
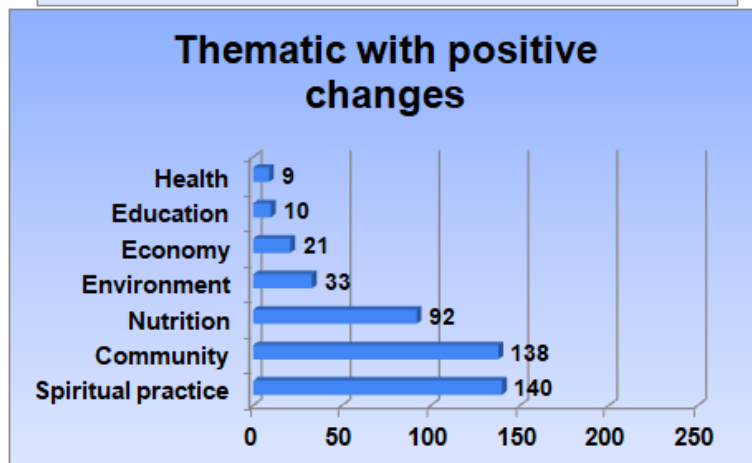
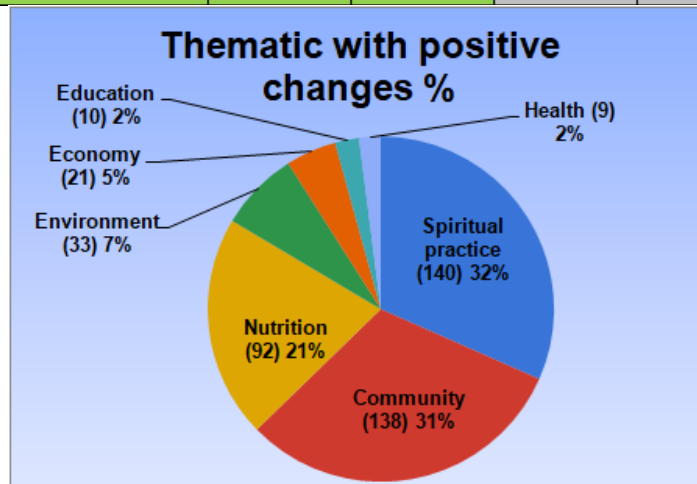
Did you experience positive changes?	Number	% Total
Yes	247	88%
No	20	7%
No opinion	14	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>100%</b>





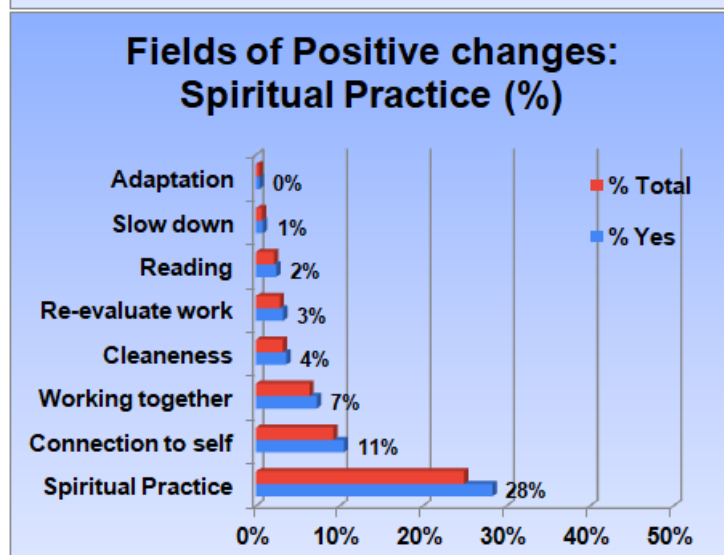
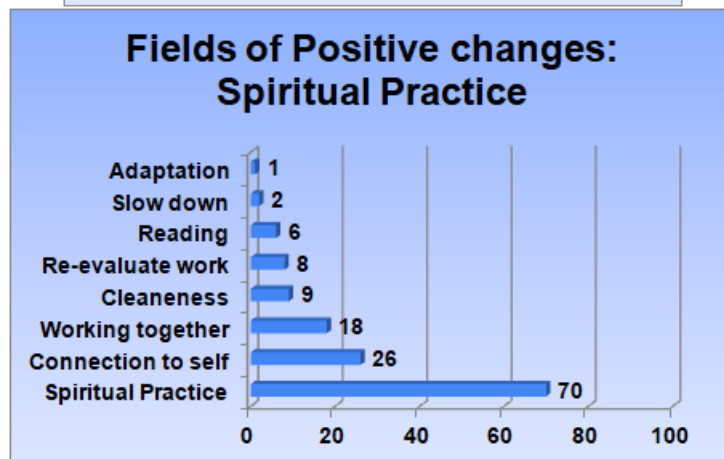
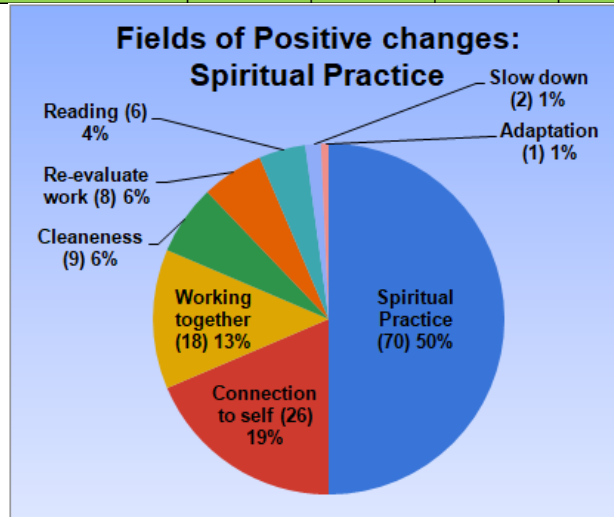
**Summary of Positive changes:**

Thematic	Number	% + answers	% Yes	% Total
Spiritual practice	140	32%	57%	50%
Community	138	31%	56%	49%
Nutrition	92	21%	37%	33%
Environment	33	7%	13%	12%
Economy	21	5%	9%	7%
Education	10	2%	4%	4%
Health	9	2%	4%	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>100%</b>		





Spiritual Practice Fields	Number	% Thematic	% Yes	% Total
Spiritual Practice	70	50%	28%	25%
Connection to self	26	19%	11%	9%
Working together	18	13%	7%	6%
Cleaneness	9	6%	4%	3%
Re-evaluate work	8	6%	3%	3%
Reading	6	4%	2%	2%
Slow down	2	1%	1%	1%
Adaptation	1	1%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>50%</b>



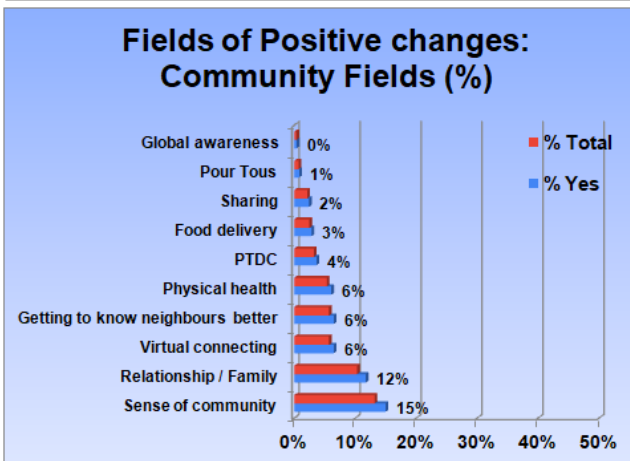
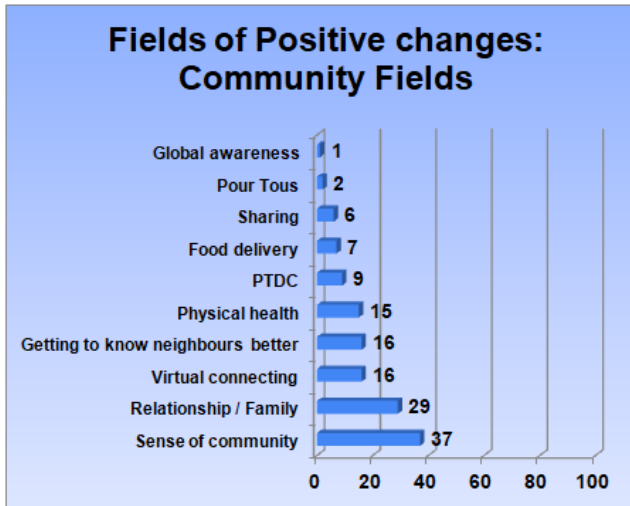
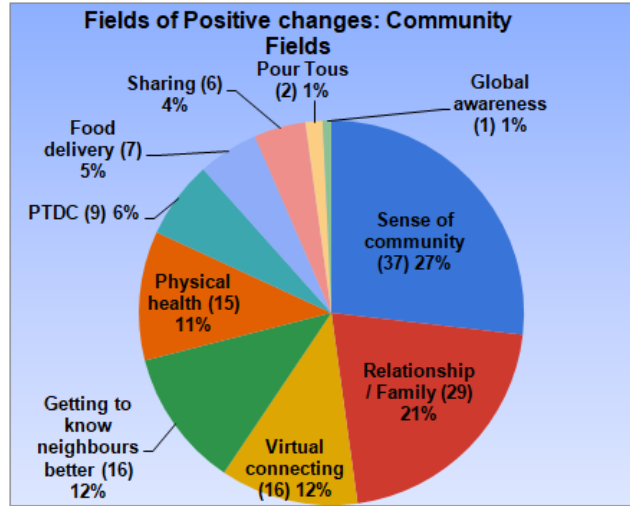


**Community:**



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Community Fields	Number	% Thematic	% Yes	% Total
Sense of community	37	27%	15%	13%
Relationship / Family	29	21%	12%	10%
Virtual connecting	16	12%	6%	6%
Getting to know neighbours better	16	12%	6%	6%
Physical health	15	11%	6%	5%
PTDC	9	7%	4%	3%
Food delivery	7	5%	3%	2%
Sharing	6	4%	2%	2%
Pour Tous	2	1%	1%	1%
Global awareness	1	1%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>49%</b>



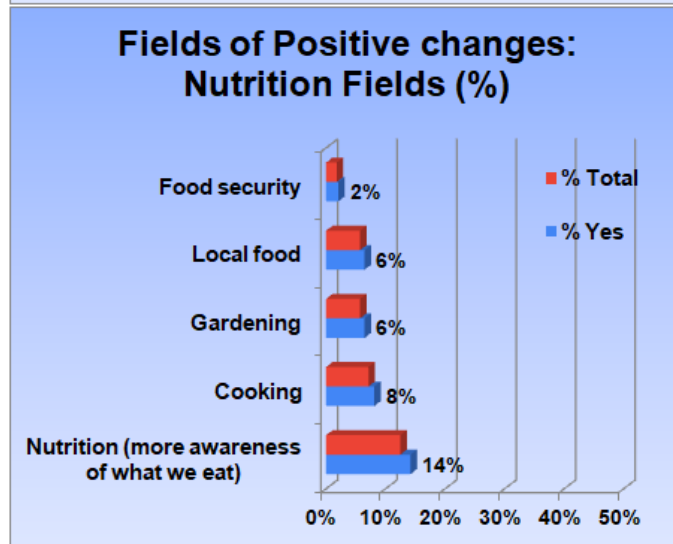
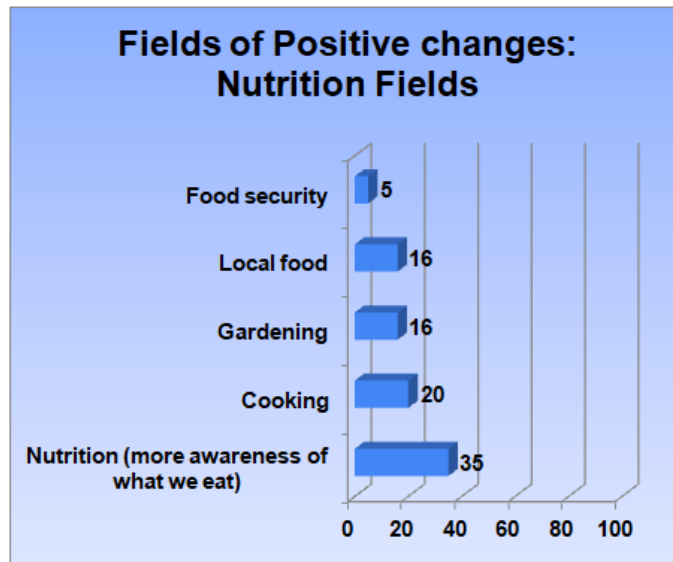
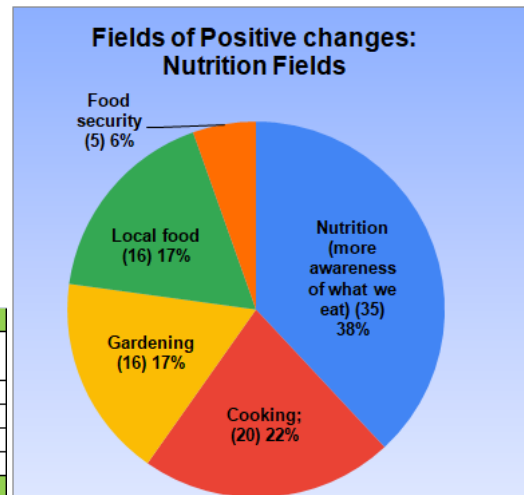


**Nutrition:**



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Nutrition Fields	Number	% Thematic	% Yes	% Total
Nutrition (more awareness of what we eat)	35	38%	14%	12%
Cooking	20	22%	8%	7%
Gardening	16	17%	6%	6%
Local food	16	17%	6%	6%
Food security	5	5%	2%	2%
Total	92	100%	37%	33%







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### Fields with negative changes

**Q9-In which "fields" (nutrition, relationships, work, spiritual practice, etc.) did you experience negative changes? Give practical examples.**

About one third of the respondents didn't experience any negative changes.

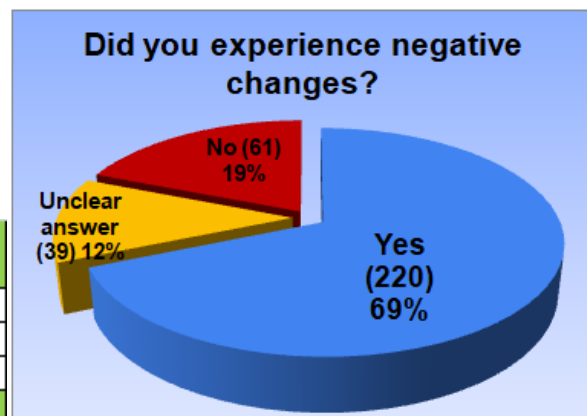
The overarching "negative" experience was due to isolation and distance in relationships. The community aspect of Auroville suffered.

Many cited personal fear or observation of fear and/or panic in others.

Otherwise, there were a lot of different answers: lack of choice, travel & food, missing Matrimandir, inability to do regular exercise, missing regular work (duties and relationships), financial concerns / insecurity, lack of transparency from working groups, Covid-19 'hype' on the Auronet.

Weaknesses and gaps in community life became visible: health care, food security, financial dependency (on tourism for example).

Did you experience negative changes?	Number	% Total
Yes	220	78%
Unclear answer	39	14%
No	61	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>100%</b>

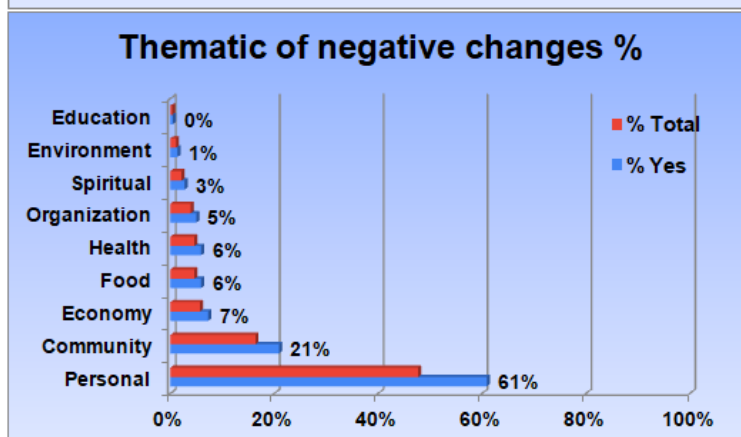
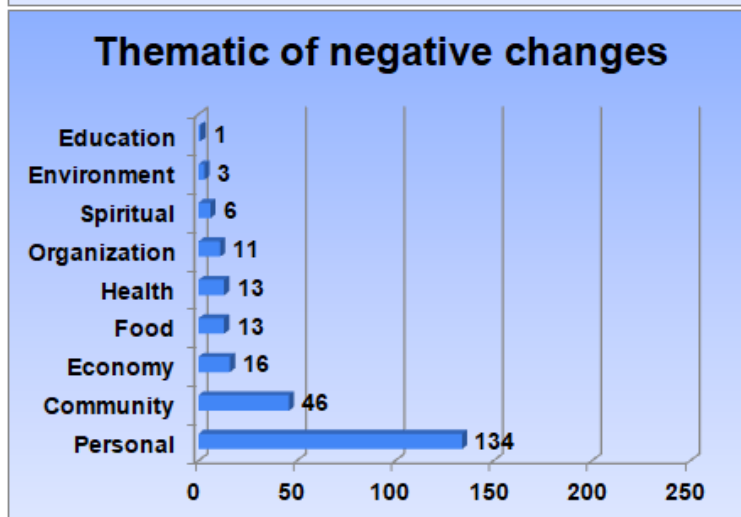
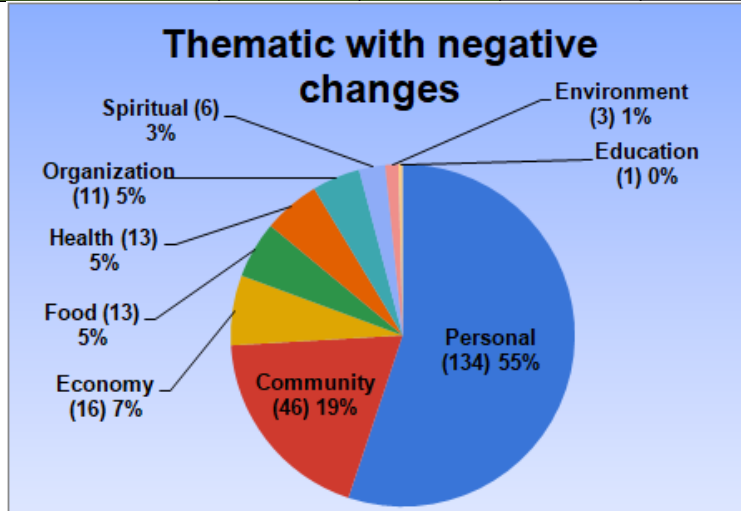




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**Thematic of Negative changes:**

Thematic	Number	% - answers	% Yes	% Total
Personal	134	55%	61%	48%
Community	46	19%	21%	16%
Economy	16	7%	7%	6%
Food	13	5%	6%	5%
Health	13	5%	6%	5%
Organization	11	5%	5%	4%
Spiritual	6	2%	3%	2%
Environment	3	1%	1%	1%
Education	1	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>100%</b>		





## Surprises

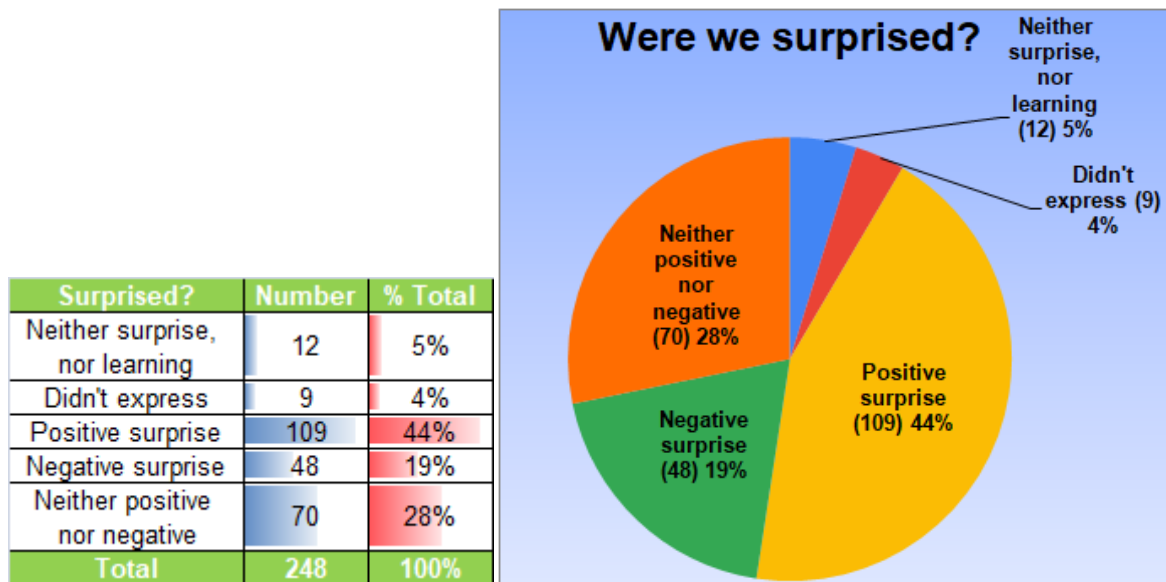


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### Q10-What surprised you and/or what did you learn?

The most commonly noted positive and negative surprises in order of popularity

- Positive surprises
  - The community is resilient and strong (organization, collaboration)
  - Community came together
  - People are adaptable
  - Aurovilians can do much of the work themselves
  - Less is more / don't need as much / live more simply
  - Quiet / no cars
- Negative surprises
  - Level of fear in residents
  - Community needs to “wake up”
  - Reliance on outside funding & tourism
  - Need to be more self-reliant now (ie food)
  - Reliance on outside labour



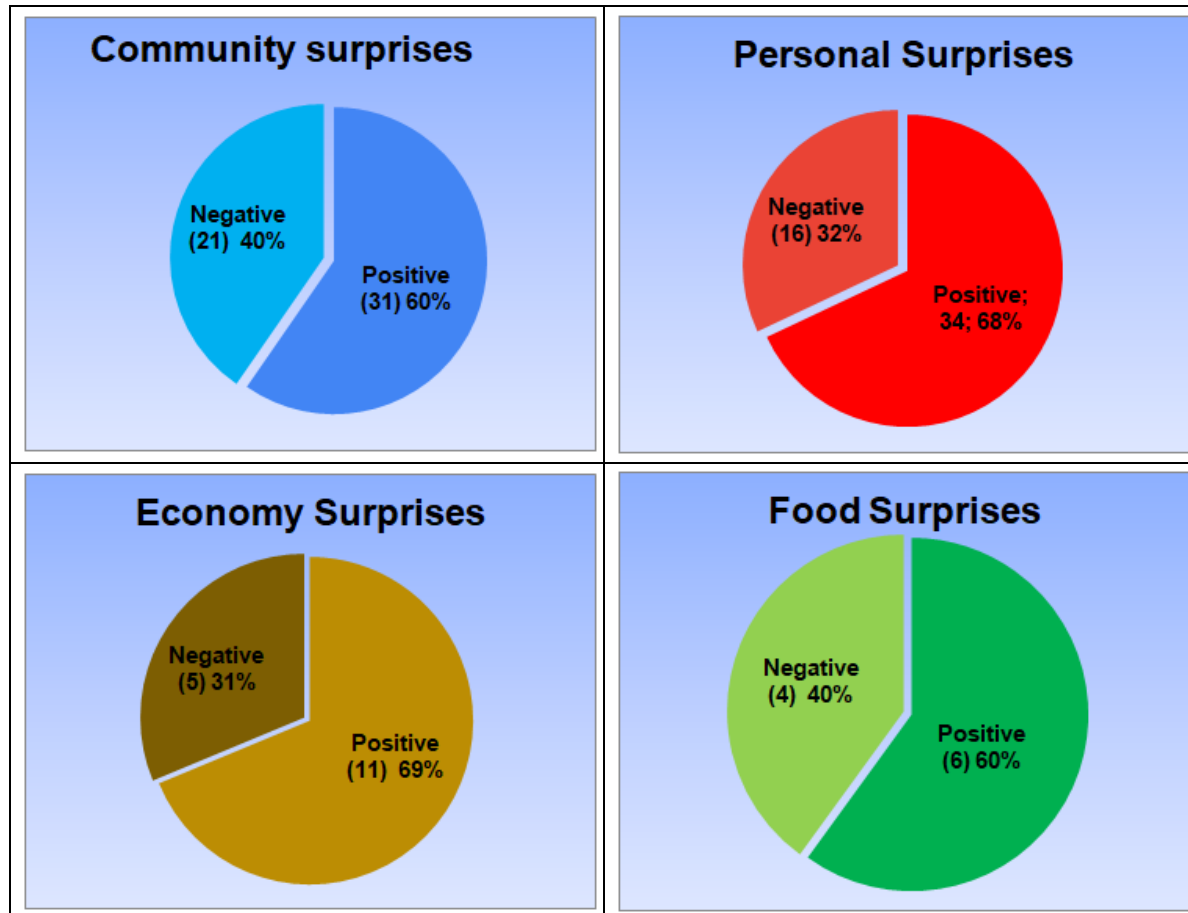
**Note:** the 70 responses which are in the category « Neither positive nor negative » were expressed in such way that we were not able to know if they were expressing a positive or negative surprise. At the same time they were also so unique that we decided to retain them as individual answers.



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It's interesting to note that out of the first 5 main topics, for both "positive" and "negative" surprises, 4 of them are common: Community, Personal, Economy and Food. And the weighting is mostly 2/3 Positive and 1/3 Negative. It is possible that some respondents gave positive and negative surprises for the same thematic, but we didn't analyze that.

Main surprise	Positive	Negative	Total
Community	31	21	52
Personal	34	16	50
Economy	11	5	16
Food	6	4	10

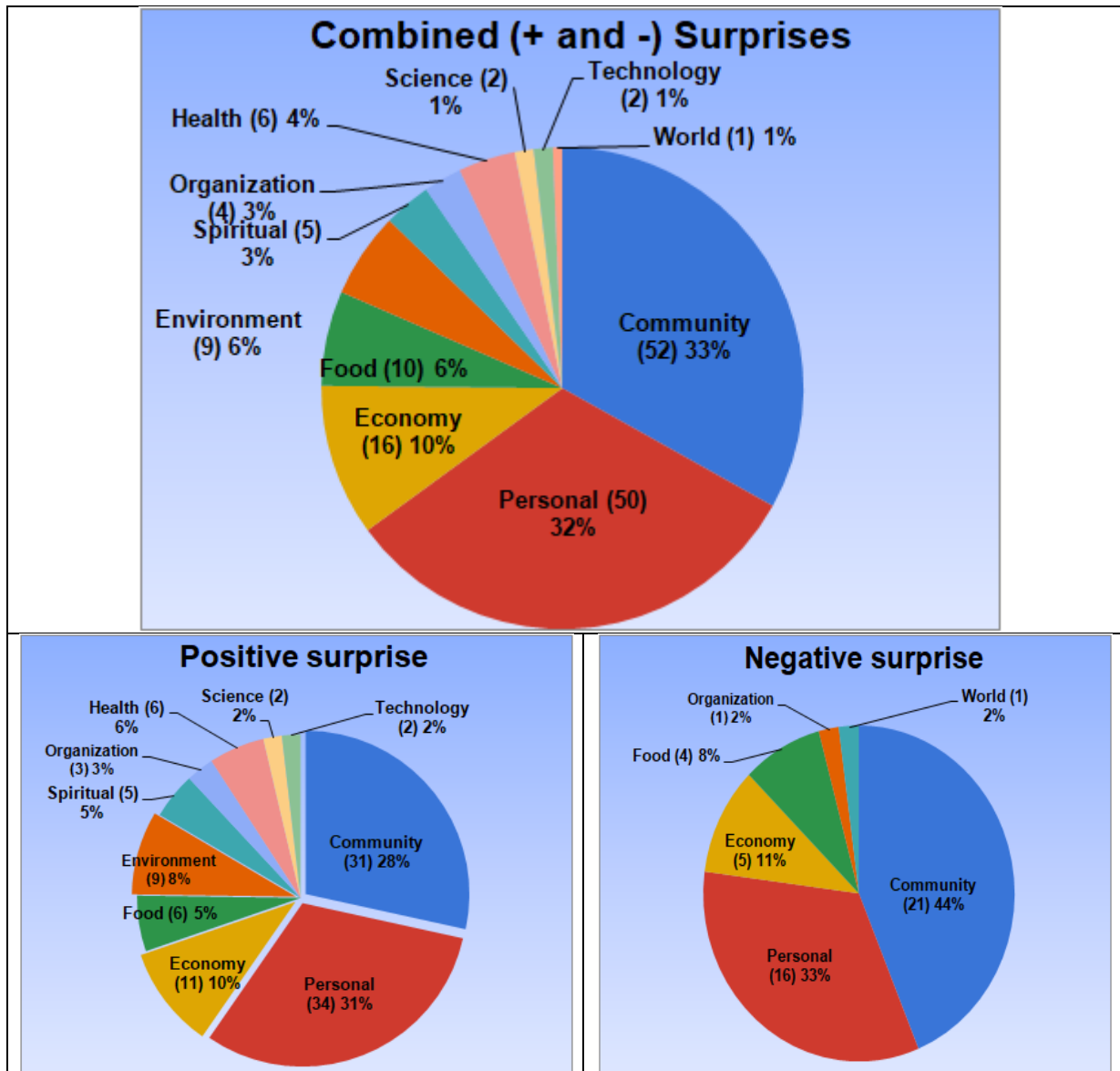




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**Surprises:**

Surprises Thematic	Altogether (+ & -)			Positive			Negative		
	Number	% all Surprises	% Total	Number	% + Surprises	% Total	Number	% - Surprises	% Total
Community	52	33%	21%	31	28%	13%	21	44%	8%
Personal	50	32%	20%	34	31%	14%	16	33%	6%
Economy	16	10%	6%	11	10%	4%	5	10%	2%
Food	10	6%	4%	6	6%	2%	4	8%	2%
Environment	9	6%	4%	9	8%	4%	0	0%	0%
Spiritual	5	3%	2%	5	5%	2%	0	0%	0%
Organization	4	3%	2%	3	3%	1%	1	2%	0%
Health	6	4%	2%	6	6%	2%	0	0%	0%
Science	2	1%	1%	2	2%	1%	0	0%	0%
Technology	2	1%	1%	2	2%	1%	0	0%	0%
World	1	1%	0%	0	0%	0%	1	2%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>19%</b>





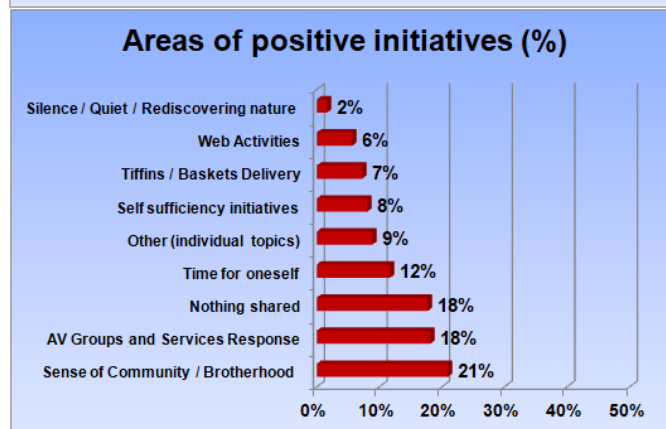
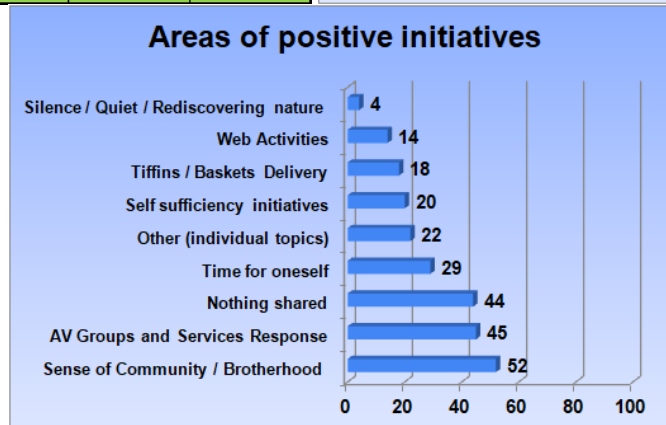
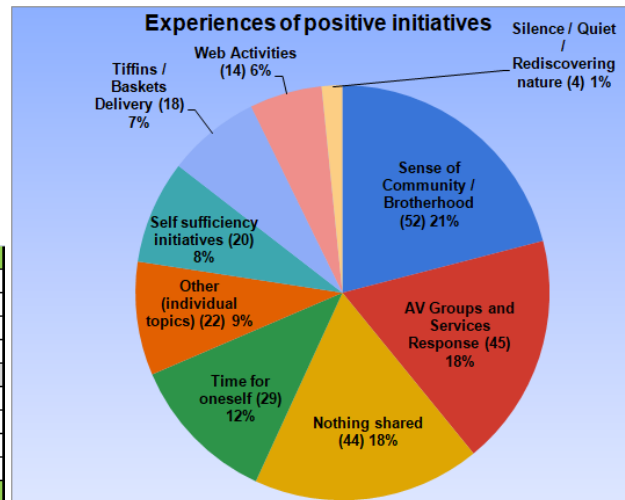
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## Positive initiatives

### Q11-Would you like to share any positive initiative that you experienced?

The lockdown resulted in many changes in community life. There was an increased sense of brotherhood as people supported each other in their communities or volunteered to keep essential services running. The fact that services like PTDC, Solar Kitchen, Electrical and water services continued to operate was much appreciated, as was the continued commitment of the farmers/food producers and those working groups dealing with communication and security.

Theme	Answers	%
Sense of Community / Brotherhood	52	21%
AV Groups and Services Response	45	18%
Nothing shared	44	18%
Time for oneself	29	12%
Other (individual topics)	22	9%
Self sufficiency initiatives	20	8%
Tiffins / Baskets Delivery	18	7%
Web Activities	14	6%
Silence / Quiet / Rediscovering nature	4	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>100%</b>





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## Key words/Statements summarizing experiences

**Q12-Please give 3 key words/short statements that summarize your experience.**

**For most of the respondents, the experience of the Covid confinement is described as:**

<b>A new, interesting experience</b>	Diving into nothingness – Power of the unknown – Amazing - Interesting, wonderful experience – Free time
<b>of solitude and simplicity</b>	stillness – silence – enjoying my company – learning to live with what you have – grounding
<b>of peace, calm and introspection</b>	quiet – rest – slow down – concentration – self reliance reflection – meditation – unity – we are all one
<b>which brings joy,</b>	Love – joy – compassion – offering – happiness – gratitude – gratefulness - goodwill
<b>care for the community,</b>	commitment – generosity – solidarity – empathy – Going from “mine” to “ours” and “HERs” – togetherness – collaboration – “gluing more each other” – courage – sharing – sense of belonging
<b>also faith, awareness,</b>	faith in truth power – faith in Mother’s power – reconnecting with the spirit of Auroville – resetting – focus – global awareness – awakening the Earth-consciousness within us - Presence of Mother – Felt the divine Presence watching over
<b>and opens new possibilities.</b>	a renewed sense of purpose – an opening for a new world to emerge – paradigm shifts to oneness with nature and all beings – new world

**A great hope for a better future has arisen, felt as a chance and a need for:**

<b>Radical changes</b>	certitude of radical change in the world – a chance we cannot lose – need to recalibrate our mission – systematic change for AV – big worries for the future (broken Indian and world economy) – need for a better system in Auroville – identify our needs and priorities – aspiration for a better world
<b>Self-sufficiency</b>	residents replacing paid workers, a chance to reconnect to our true values and vision
<b>Sustainability</b>	make the leap towards a sustainable future
<b>Be more spiritual</b>	need for Trust and Love – progress – resilience – surrender to the Divine – Let’s build the Auroville Mother envisioned

**Yet some other people expressed some suffering:**

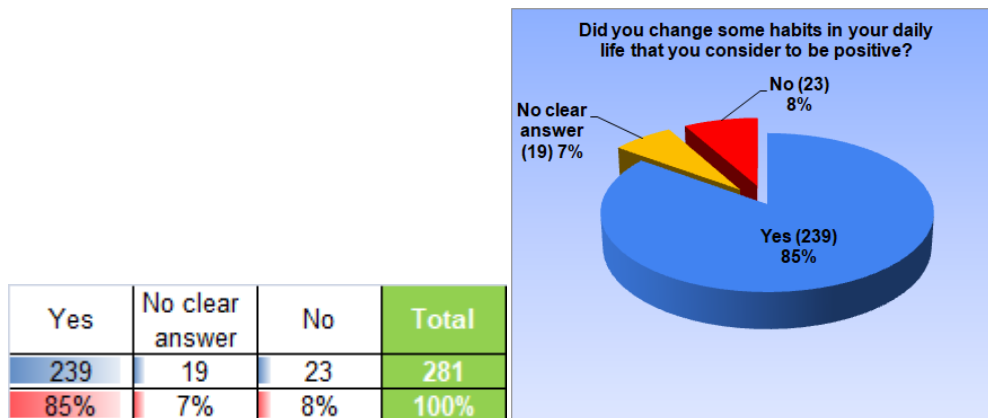
<b>Boredom &amp; loneliness</b>	isolation - irritation – impatient – anger
<b>Helplessness, confusion</b>	disappointment – still don’t understand the full picture
<b>Lack of spiritual coherence and togetherness</b>	



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## Positive change of habits

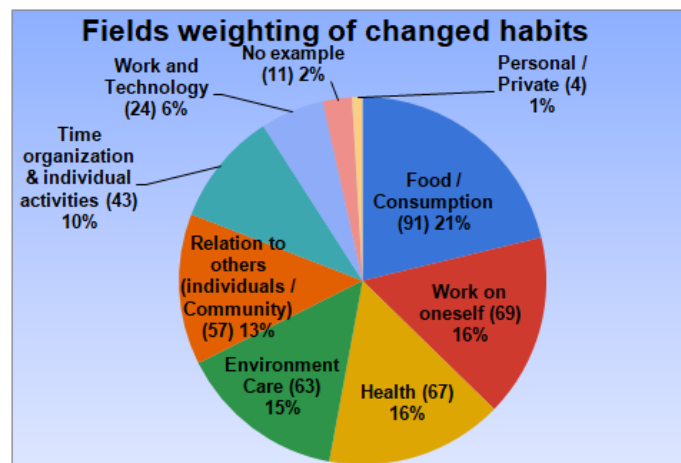
Q17-Did you already change some habits in your daily life that you consider to be positive? Please, give examples.



### Selected general quotes from person who answered "Yes":

- *Let us see if the **changes last after lock down.***
- ***Small increments adds up to become a whole.***
- *Yes, it's one of the reasons why I joined Auroville two years ago. I live or try to live a life where my values and daily actions are allowed to flourish and match. Living a non-individualistic life, valuing our psychic beings, being part of an active and supportive community, living sustainably... are just few of the **big changes that Auroville has offered me and that have become habits in my daily life.***

Changed Habits	Number of persons	% Answers	% Yes	% Total
Food / Consumption	91	21%	38%	32%
Work on oneself	69	16%	29%	25%
Health	67	16%	28%	24%
Environment Care	63	15%	26%	22%
Relation to others (individuals / Community)	57	13%	24%	20%
Time organization & individual activities	43	10%	18%	15%
Work and Technology	24	6%	10%	9%
No example	11	3%	5%	4%
Personal / Private	4	1%	2%	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>100%</b>		



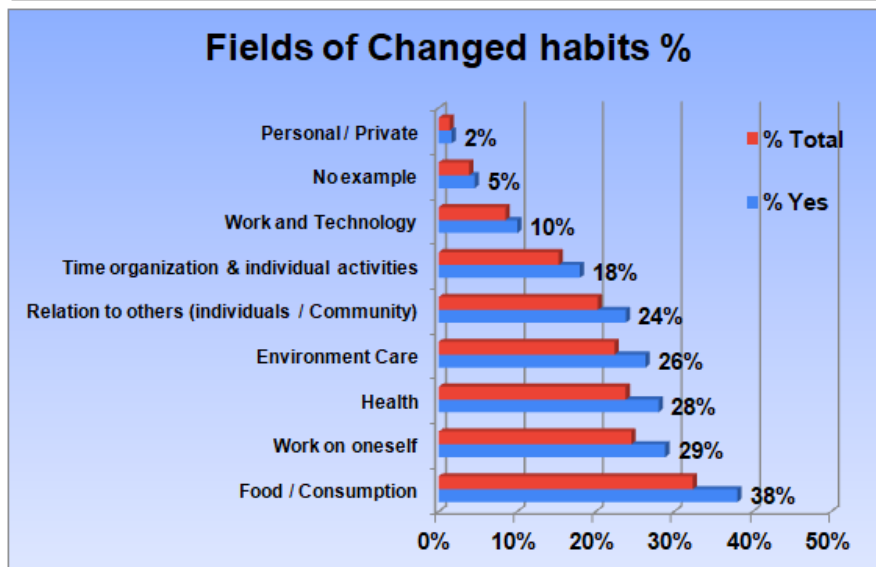
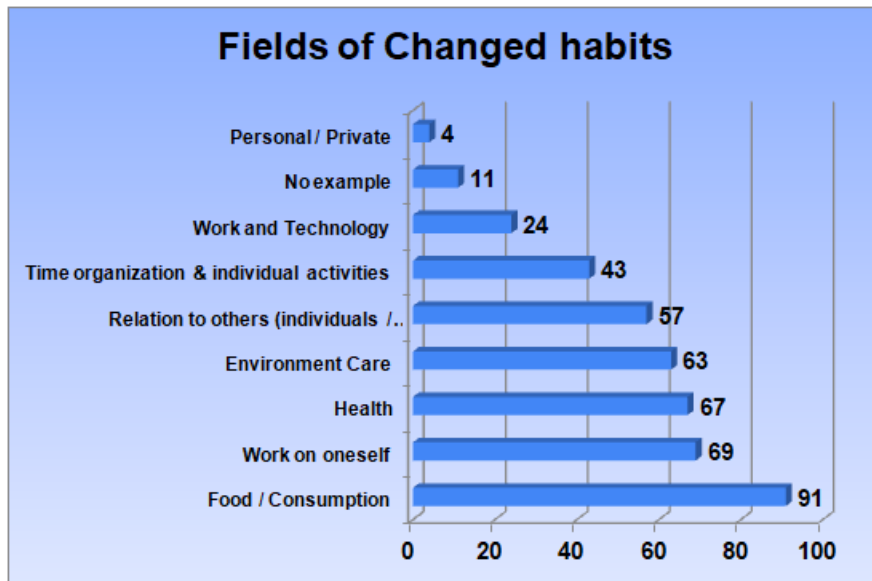




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**General comments:**

Nearly 9 out of 10 of the respondents mentioned that they changed some daily habits and considered them positive. The main fields of changes (Food/Consumption, Work on oneself, Health, Care of the Environment, and Relation to others “individuals/Community”) all got more than 20%.



About 40% of the respondents shared that they changed one daily habit and considered them positive, and 25% changed 2 daily habits in a positive way.



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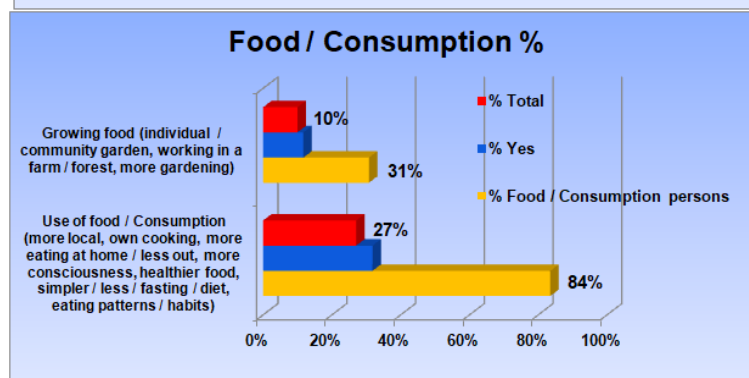
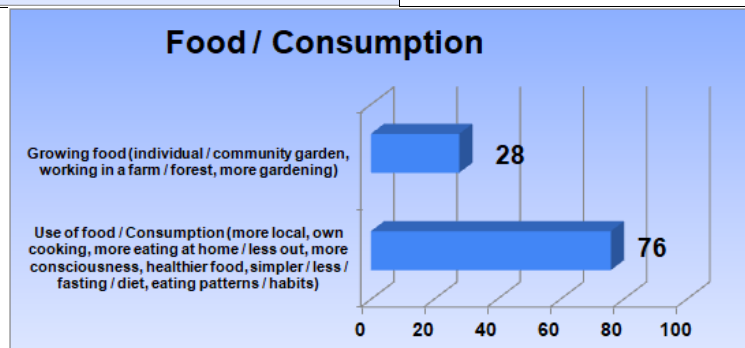
**“Food / Consumption”:**

Food / Consumption	Number of persons	% Food / Consumption answers	% Food / Consumption persons	% Yes	% Total
Use of food / Consumption (more local, own cooking, more eating at home / less out, more consciousness, healthier food, simpler / less / fasting / diet, eating patterns / habits)	76	73%	84%	32%	27%
Growing food (individual / community garden, working in a farm / forest, more gardening)	28	27%	31%	12%	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100%</b>			

### Food / Consumption Weighting

● Growing food (individual / community garden, working in a farm / forest, more gardening) (28) 27%  
● Use of food / Consumption (more local, own cooking, more eating at home / less out, more consciousness, healthier food, simpler / less / fasting / diet, eating patterns / habits) (76) 73%

Nearly **40%** of the respondents mentioned that they changed their **habits related to the “usage of food and/or their general consumption”** (more local, own cooking, more eating at home/less out, more consciousness, healthier food, simpler/less/ fasting/diet, eating patterns/habits), as well as the fact that some of them are now **“Growing their own food”** (individual/community garden, working in a farm /forest, more gardening).



**Selected quotes:**

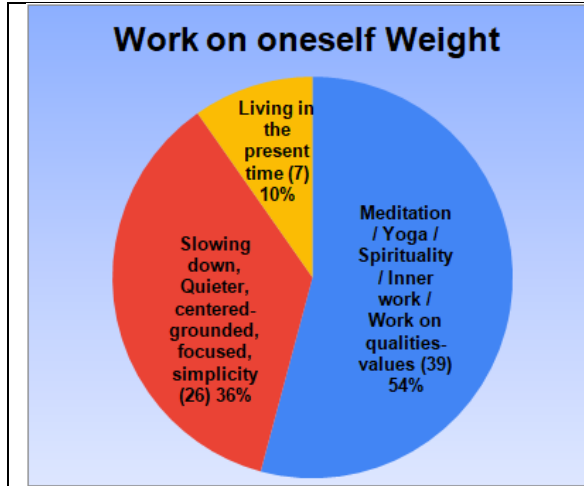
- *Eat more AV foods and learn more about local food and how to prepare*
- *I feel better when I eat simple food that I prepared myself*
- *My nutrition became better and more conscious, life can go on perfectly well with less*
- *I created a circle garden to be less dependent on food supply.*
- *I started working on a farm a few hours 6 mornings a week (also happily resulting in us eating much more local and organic food).*



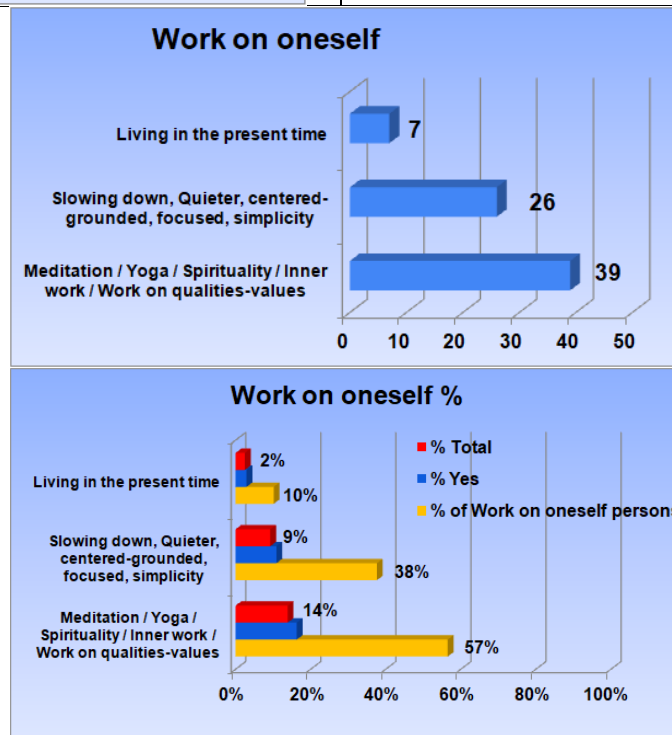
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**“Work on oneself”:**

Work on oneself	Number	% of Work on oneself answers	% of Work on oneself persons	% Yes	% Total
Meditation / Yoga / Spirituality / Inner work / Work on qualities-values	39	54%	57%	16%	14%
Slowing down, Quieter, centered-grounded, focused, simplicity	26	36%	38%	11%	9%
Living in the present time	7	10%	10%	3%	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100%</b>			



About **30%** of the respondents mentioned that they changed their habits to “**work more on themselves**”, meaning **more: Meditation/Yoga/Spirituality/Inner work/Work on qualities-values**”, “**Slowing down, Quieter, centered-grounded, focused, simplicity**”, “**Living in the present time**”.



**Selected quotes:**

- *Well, my meditation practice has certainly become deeper and I hope that will continue.*
- *More Yoga, less blabla, priority actions (for me) means manifestation at a small scale.*
- *Less running around like a headless chicken.*
- *I try to live a life where my values and daily actions are allowed to flourish and match.*
- *Realizing daily life is everything.*
- *Living in the present instead of thinking about the past or future. Staying alive to each moment.*

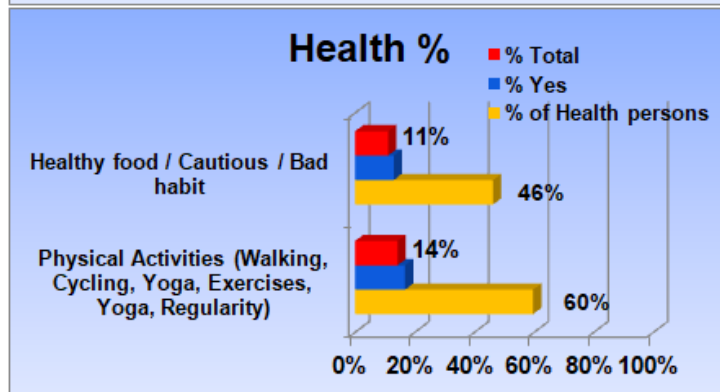
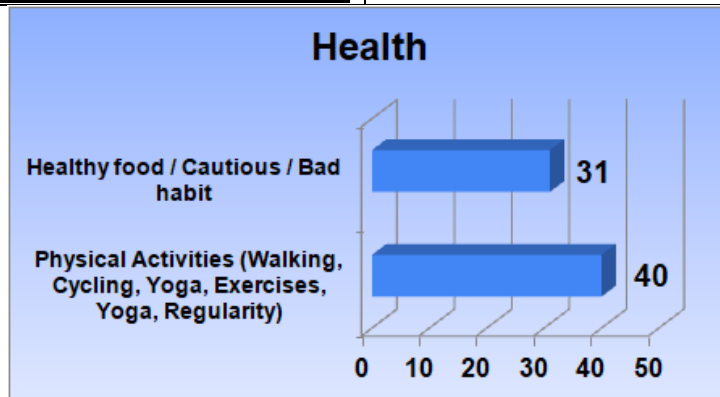
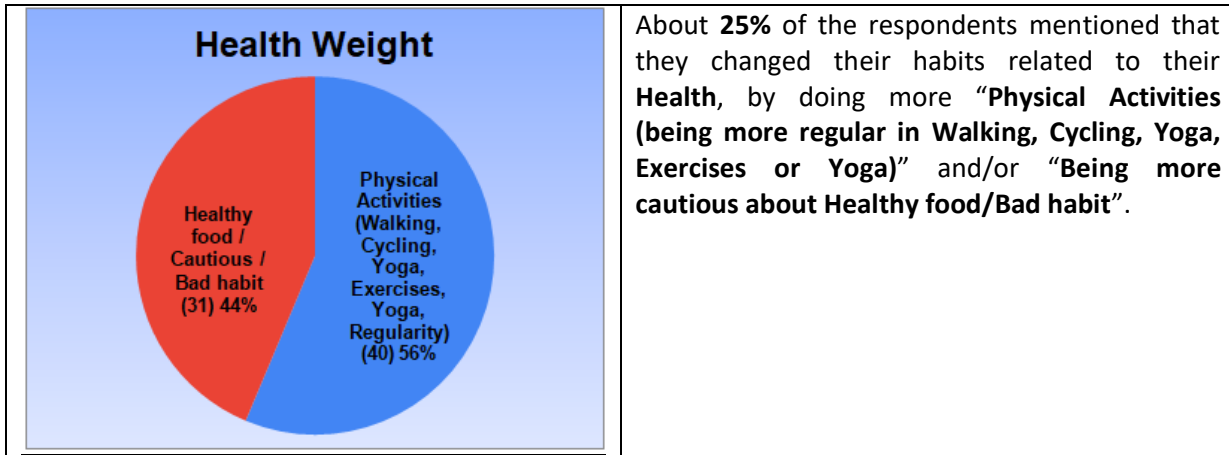


**“Health”:**



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Health	Number	% of Health answers	% of Health persons	% Yes	% Total
Physical Activities (Walking, Cycling, Yoga, Exercises, Yoga, Regularity)	40	56%	60%	17%	14%
Healthy food / Cautious / Bad habit	31	44%	46%	13%	11%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>100%</b>			



Selected quotes:

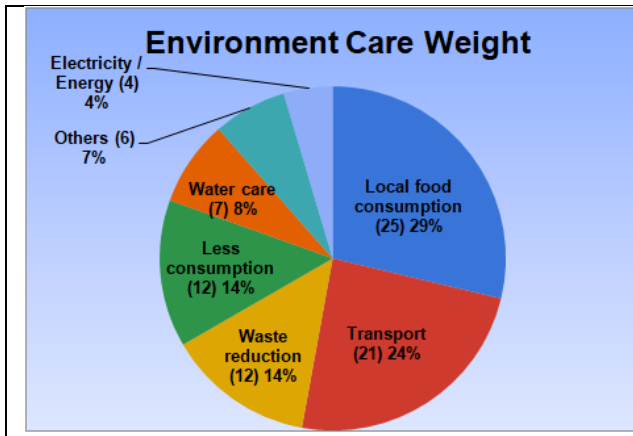
- *We do exercises every day. It changes our life.*
- *Walking every day with a bag to litter waste*
- *Wearing masks and washing hands regularly*



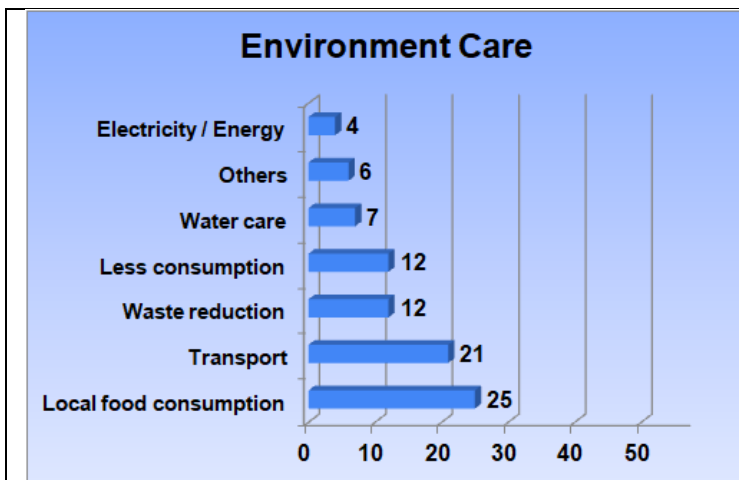
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**“Environment Care”:**

Environment Care	Number	% of Environment care answers	% of Environment care persons	% Yes	% Total
Local food consumption	25	29%	40%	10%	9%
Transport	21	24%	33%	9%	7%
Waste reduction	12	14%	19%	5%	4%
Less consumption	12	14%	19%	5%	4%
Water care	7	8%	11%	3%	2%
Others	6	7%	10%	3%	2%
Electricity / Energy	4	5%	6%	2%	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>100%</b>			

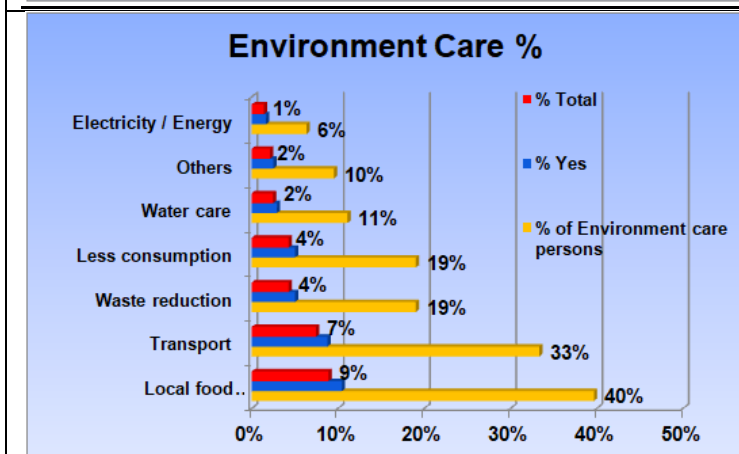


About **25%** of the respondents mentioned that they changed their habits related to the “**Care of the Environment**”, mostly in the following areas (**decreasing order**): **Local food consumption, Transport, Waste reduction, Less consumption, Water care, Electricity/Energy.**



Selected quotes:

- *I created a circle garden to be less dependent on food supply. I’m also consuming as local as possible and according to what’s available because it motivates our own economy and has low carbon Footprint*
- *Use an e-cycle for transport*
- *Replacing plastic by aluminum, wood, coconut, stainless steel*
- *Walking every day and bring a bag to litter waste in our land*
- *Using every little thing that we have to its fullest extent (water used for washing rice and vegetables is being used for watering plants)*
- *Shopping once a week based on a list*





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## Relation to others "individuals/Community"

About **25%** of the respondents mentioned that they changed their habits in **relation to others (on an individual or different community level)**. It includes **working more on Qualities/Values, having more (or less social life), being more involved and present with my family, the community where I live, the full AV Community, as well as caring for animals and helping others financially when needed and possible.**

### Selected quotes:

- *More patience and more listening to others.*
- *Conscious choice to be positive and cooperative but always True.*
- *Finding a right balance between seeing people and enjoying solitude.*
- *I have done much more individual online work, necessary for my job, but I also believe that "office" work, in the presence of colleagues and ideas exchange, is also essential.*
- *Deeper reflection of relationship with Auroville.*
- *I develop and practice an attitude of inclusion and reject any notion of separation, I see the great value of Sincerity and honesty and see how much is compromised to reach some immediate goals by violating values. I'm not accepting and supporting any compromise if it does not serve the manifestation of Auroville.*

## Time organization & individual activities

### Selected quotes:

- **New time organization, effort management, adaptation**
  - *Doing things more according to my own rhythm*
- **More time for: reading, creativity, hobbies, research, study, own practice**
- **Housework / Maintenance**
  - *Rely less on an Indian Amma for the domestic life, in order to be more by myself at home. I have decided to go for a half-time work contract with her, but I am trying to avoid that she suffers from this decision.*

## Work and Technology

### Selected quotes:

- **Work (online, at home, more in tune with myself)**
  - *I have done much more individual online work, necessary for my job, but I also believe that "office" work, in the presence of colleagues and ideas exchange, is also essential.*
  - *I am no longer thinking of the image of my work in terms of "what the world sees"... I am thinking about doing work that fills my heart with joy and brings joy to those who I share my life with. I guess this smaller reach is comforting. It is less abstract and more grounded.*
- **Online activities**
  - *I do more online courses (Somatics, yoga)*



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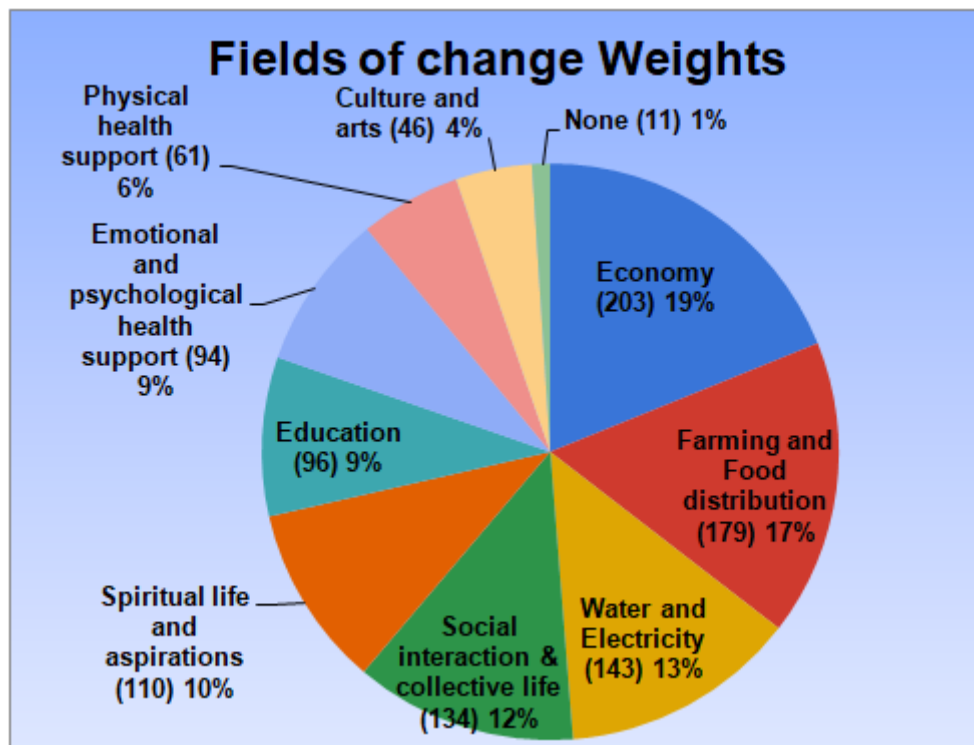
## B-What needs to change

### Fields with needed changes

#### Q13-In which fields do you feel Auroville needs a change?

The lockdown highlighted the fact that in certain areas Auroville needs to make changes. Many people identified the economy as well as the farming/food distribution and water/electricity sectors as areas where we need to come up with new solutions. It was also felt that we need to work on strengthening our collective life, including providing psychological and practical support to those in need, as well as orienting ourselves/living more fully the spiritual aims of Auroville. And education needs to be more aligned with those ideals.

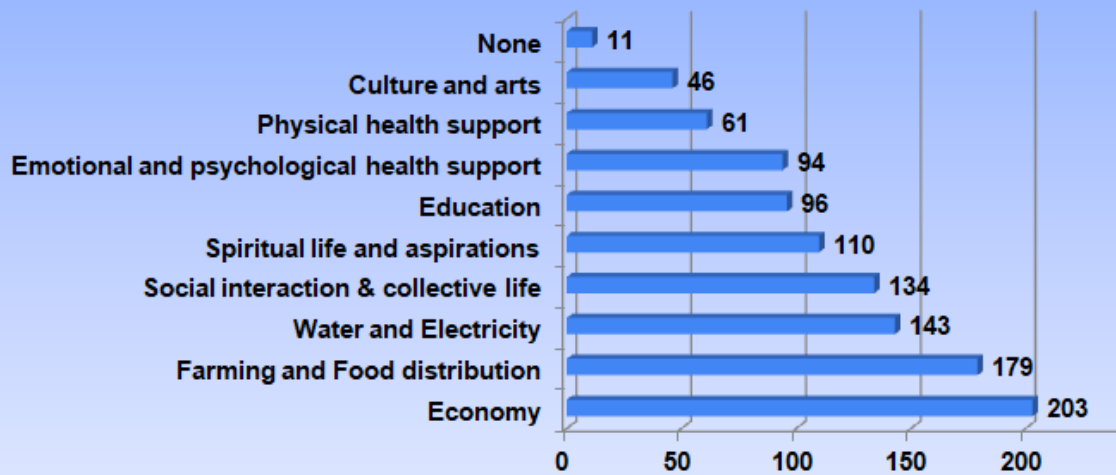
Topic	Needs change	Weight of topic vs. Total number of Answers	% Total
Economy	203	19%	72%
Farming and Food distribution	179	17%	64%
Water and Electricity	143	13%	51%
Social interaction & collective life	134	12%	48%
Spiritual life and aspirations	110	10%	39%
Education	96	9%	34%
Emotional and psychological health support	94	9%	33%
Physical health support	61	6%	22%
Culture and arts	46	4%	16%
None	11	1%	4%
<b>Total answers</b>	<b>1077</b>	<b>100%</b>	



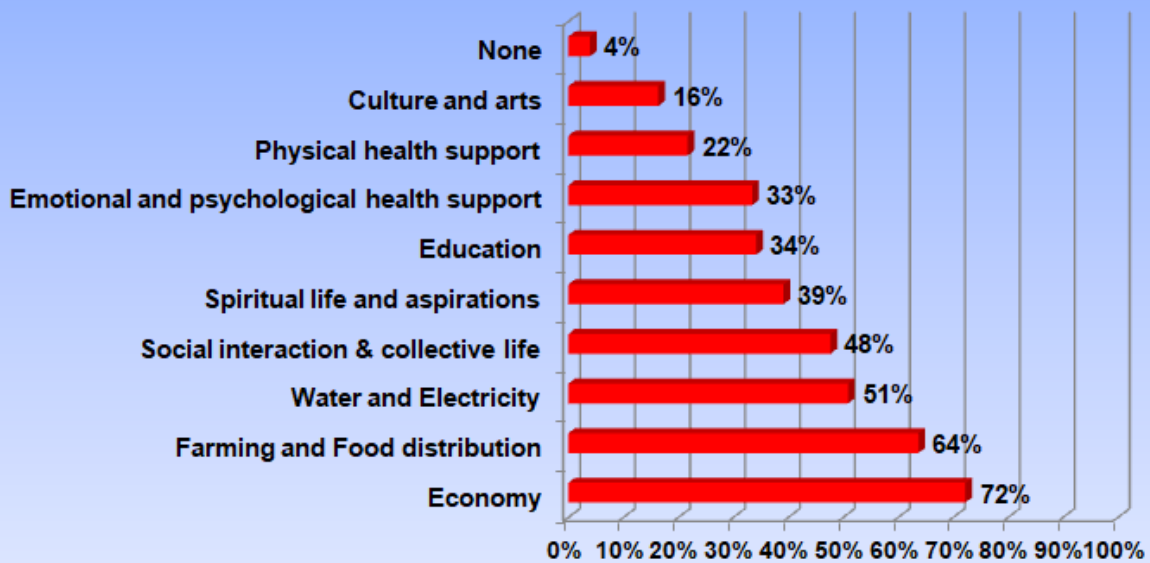


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## Field of change



## Field of change %







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## Fields with most important changes

**Q14-Do you have suggestions for how one or two of the most important changes you identified could be materialized? Would you be willing to be part of this process?**

Farming/food and the economy were identified as the most important areas in which change should take place. It was felt that we need to progress towards food autonomy on a sustainable basis, and that the community should provide extra funding for this to happen. While more Aurovilians should be involved in farm work, individuals and communities should also be encouraged to grow their own food.

There was a sense that our entire economic system needs to be put on a new basis, and that a collective support system needs to be put in place for all Aurovilians. We need to minimise or abolish money transactions and find alternatives to tourism as a major source of community income.

Improving social interaction and strengthening our spiritual life and values were also mentioned as priorities. Improved communication collaboration based upon trust, love and care, is important, while our spiritual life would be strengthened if we intensified our own spiritual practice and tried to follow the goals of Auroville.

Regarding water management and energy generation, we need to become more sustainable. This can involve, among other things, developing solar energy and getting off the TNEB grid, as well as being more conscious in our water usage.

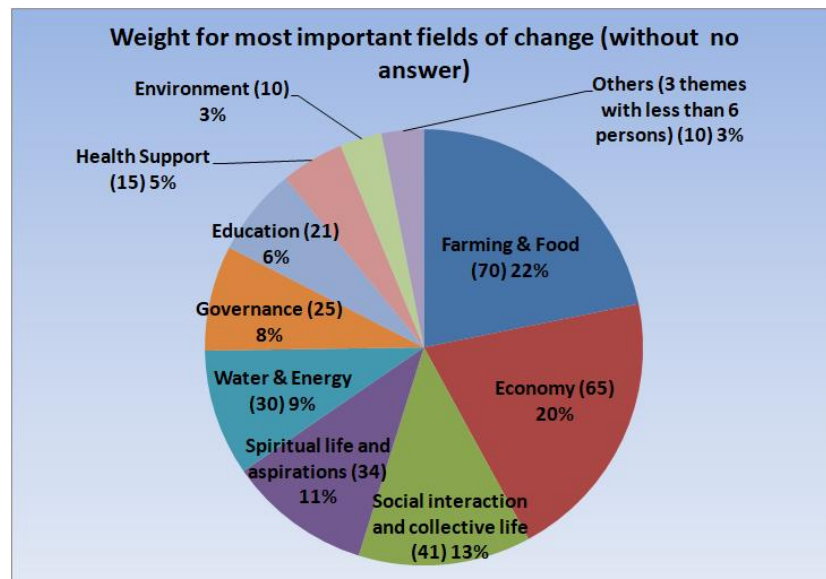
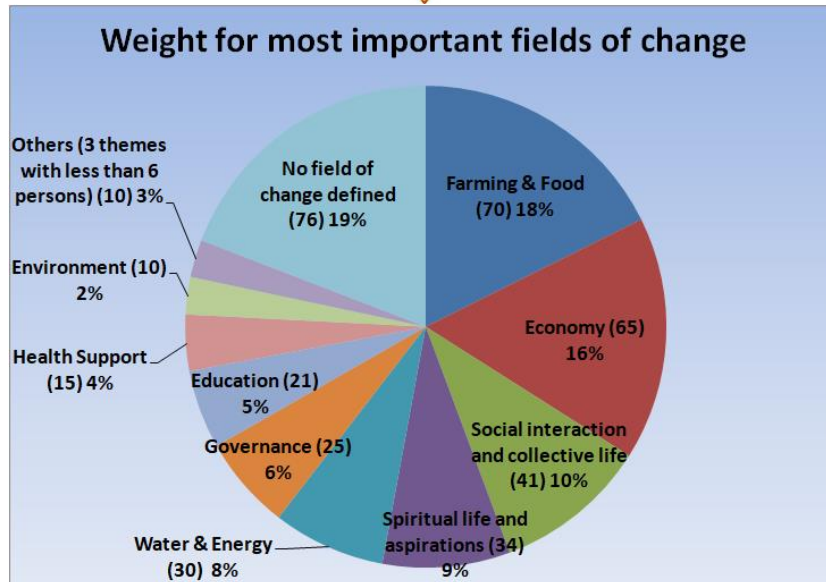
There is also a need to remedy shortcomings in our governance and education systems.

### Overview:

Field of change	Number	% of answers	% of defined fields	% of respondents
Farming & Food	70	18%	22%	25%
Economy	65	16%	20%	23%
Social interaction and collective life	41	10%	13%	15%
Spiritual life and aspirations	34	9%	11%	12%
Water & Energy	30	8%	9%	11%
Governance	25	6%	8%	9%
Education	21	5%	7%	7%
Health Support	15	4%	5%	5%
Environment	10	3%	3%	4%
Others (3 themes with less than 6 persons)	10	3%	3%	4%
No field of change defined	76	19%		27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

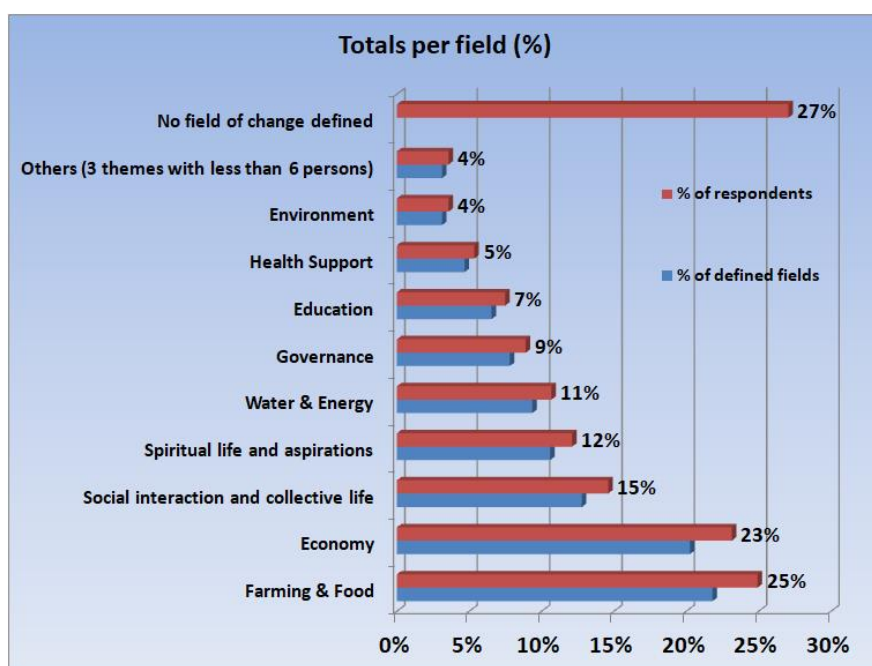
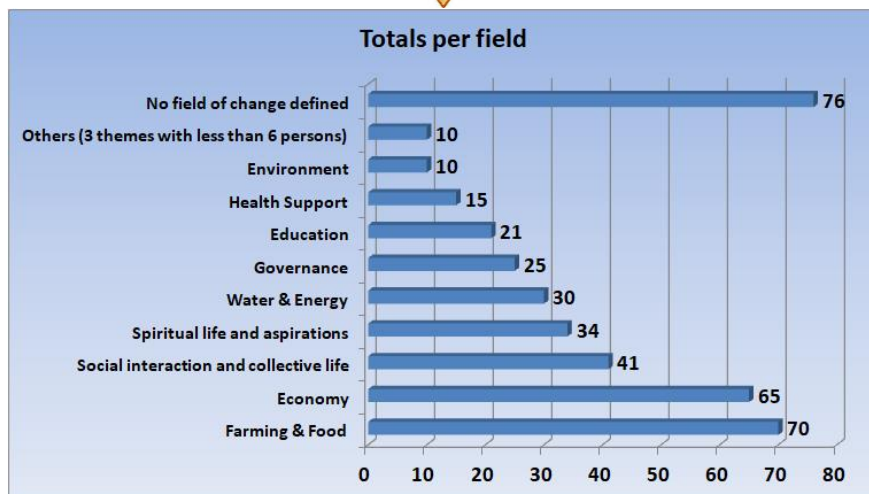


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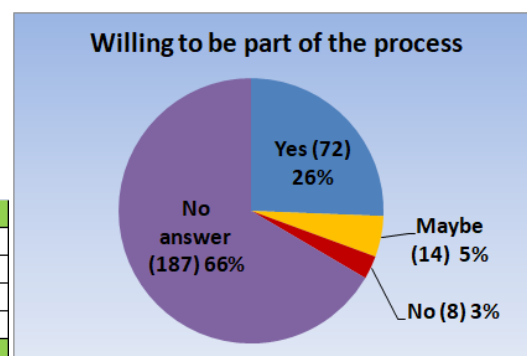




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Willing to be part of the process	Number	% Respondents
Yes	72	26%
Maybe	14	5%
No	8	3%
No answer	187	67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>100%</b>



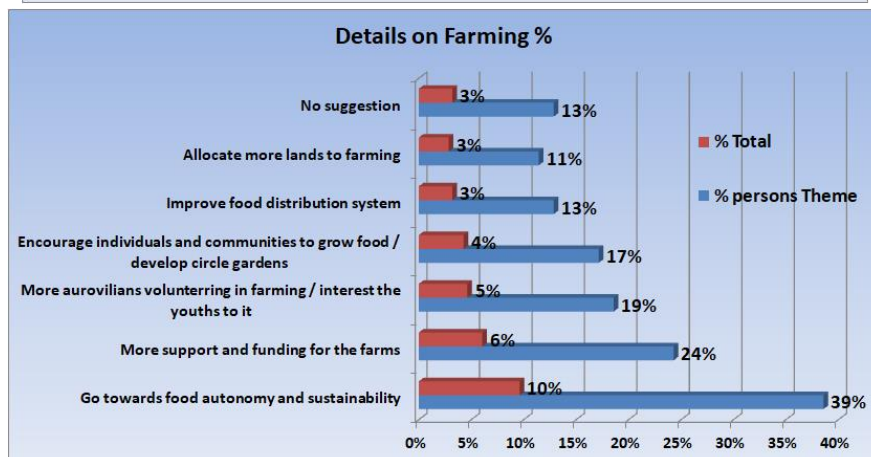
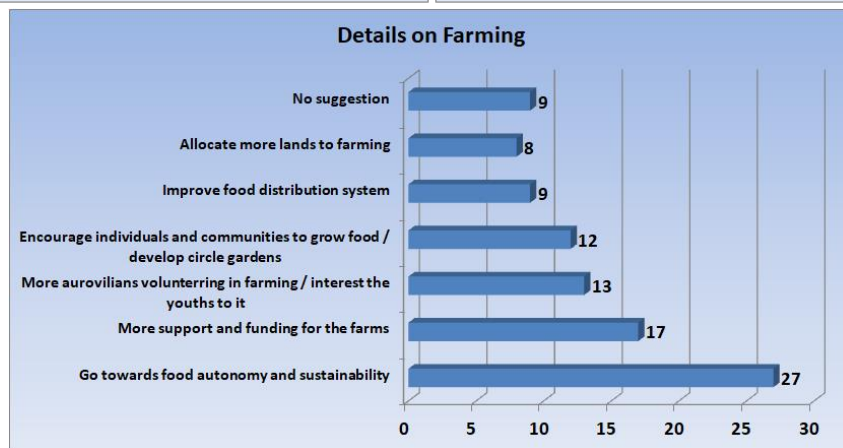
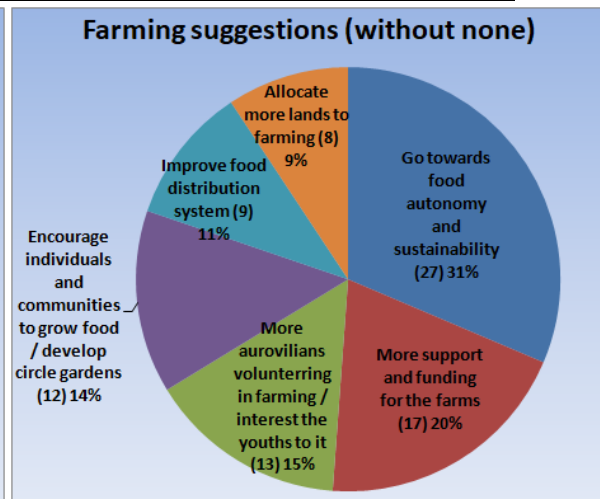
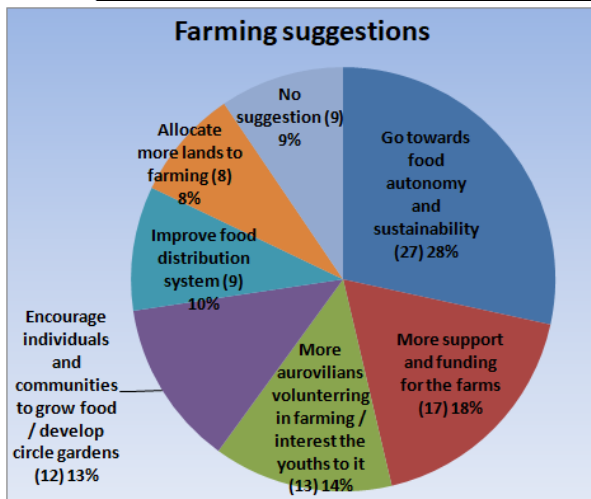
There were 2 questions in 1 (“Do you have suggestions for how one or two of the most important changes you identified could be materialized?” and “Would you be willing to be part of this process”). **Many respondents (66%). didn’t answer the second part of the question**



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**Farming:**

Suggestions	Number	% answers Theme	% suggestions	% persons Theme	% Total
Go towards food autonomy and sustainability	27	28%	31%	39%	10%
More support and funding for the farms	17	18%	20%	24%	6%
More aurovilians volunteering in farming / interest the youths to it	13	14%	15%	19%	5%
Encourage individuals and communities to grow food / develop circle gardens	12	13%	14%	17%	4%
Improve food distribution system	9	9%	10%	13%	3%
Allocate more lands to farming	8	8%	9%	11%	3%
No suggestion	9	9%		13%	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>		

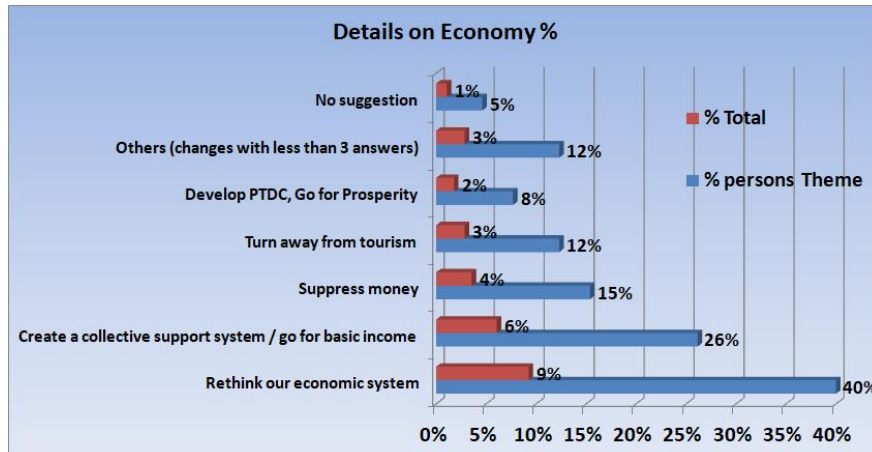
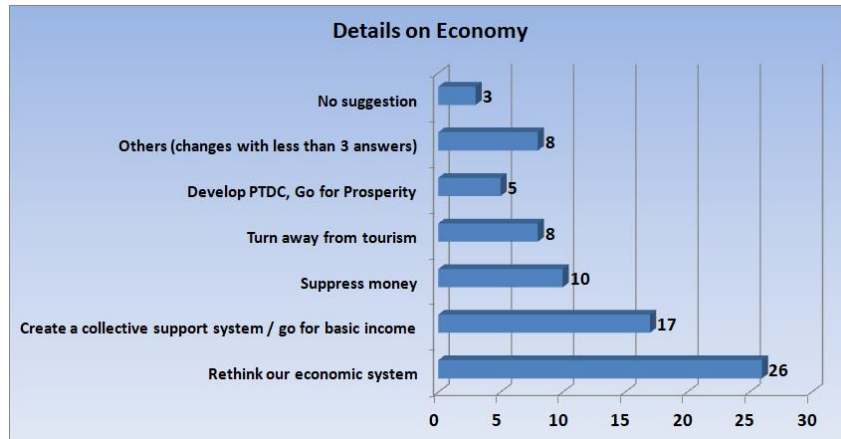
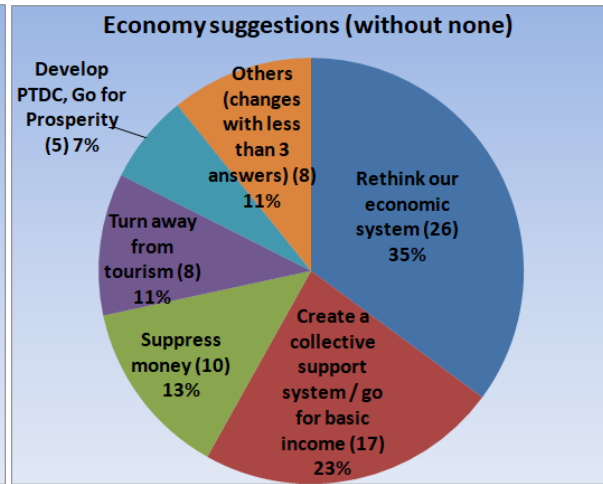
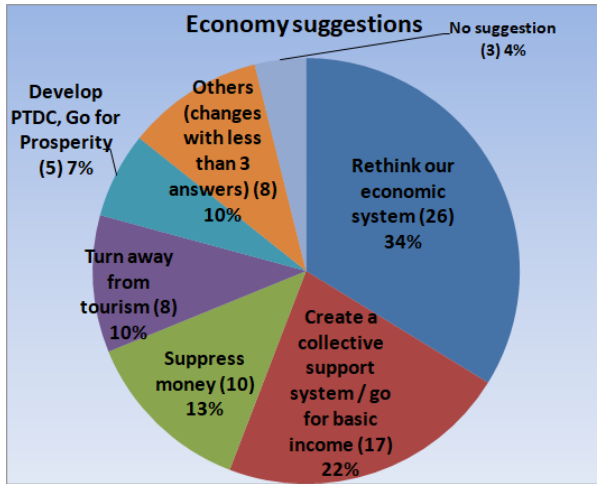




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**Economy:**

Suggestions	Number	% answers Theme	% suggestions	% persons Theme	% Total
Rethink our economic system	26	34%	35%	40%	9%
Create a collective support system / go for basic income	17	22%	23%	26%	6%
Suppress money	10	13%	14%	15%	4%
Turn away from tourism	8	10%	11%	12%	3%
Develop PTDC, Go for Prosperity	5	6%	7%	8%	2%
Others (changes with less than 3 answers)	8	10%	11%	12%	3%
No suggestion	3	4%		5%	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>		



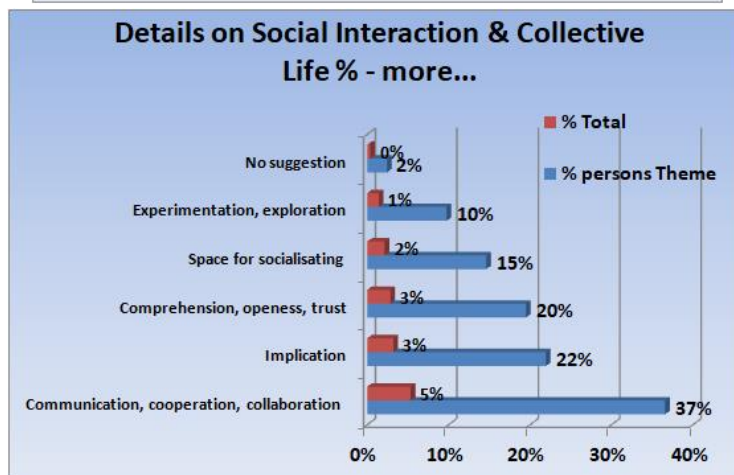
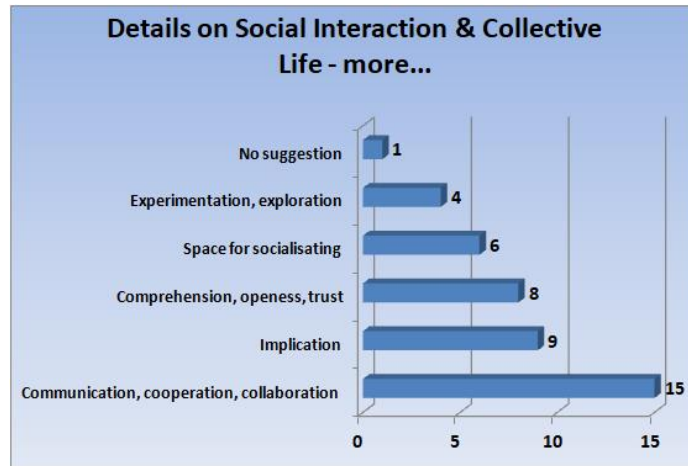
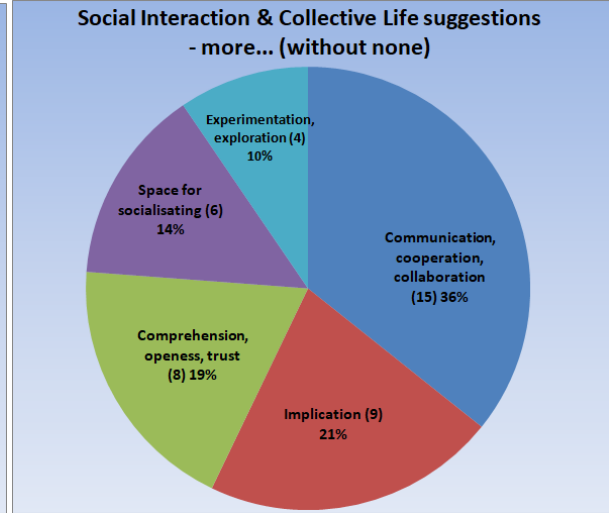
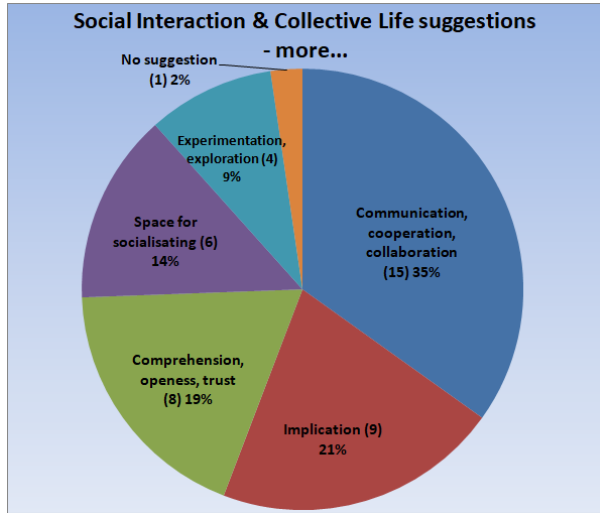




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**Social interaction:**

Suggestions (more...)	Number	% answers Theme	% suggestions	% persons Theme	% Total
Communication, cooperation, collaboration	15	35%	36%	37%	5%
Implication	9	21%	21%	22%	3%
Comprehension, openness, trust	8	19%	19%	20%	3%
Space for socialising	6	14%	14%	15%	2%
Experimentation, exploration	4	9%	10%	10%	1%
No suggestion	1	2%		2%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>		



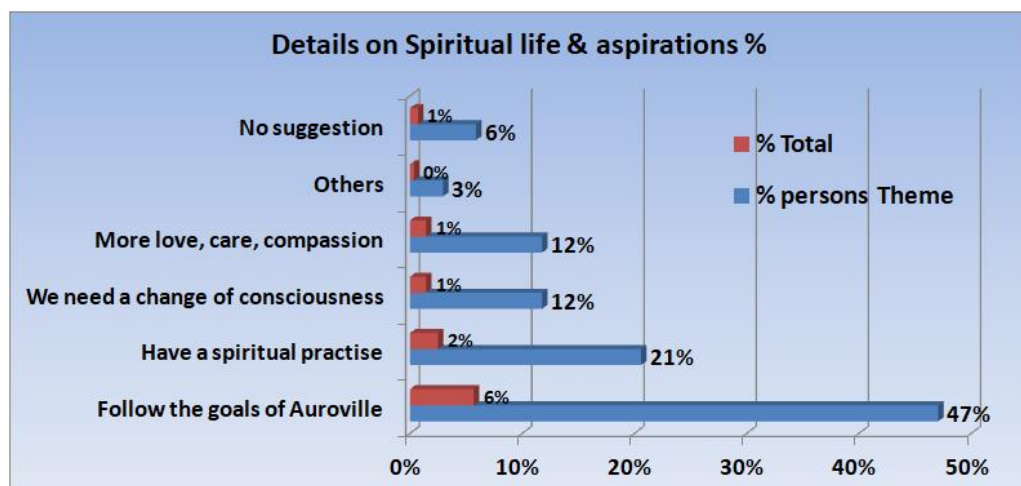
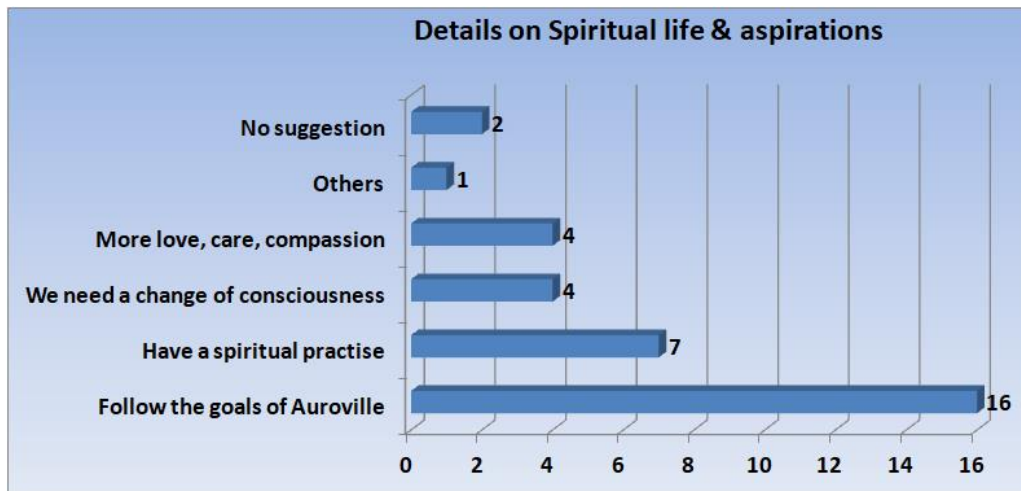
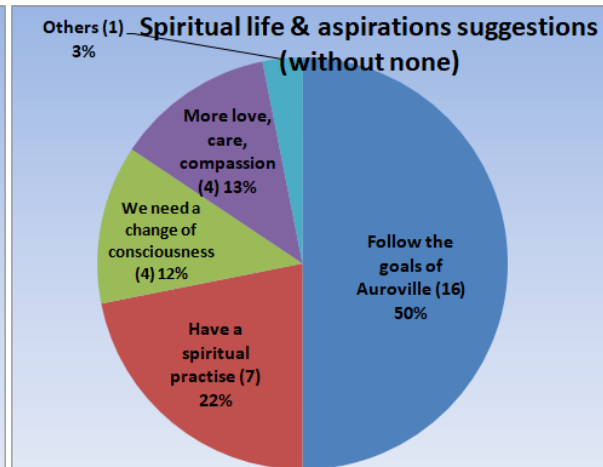
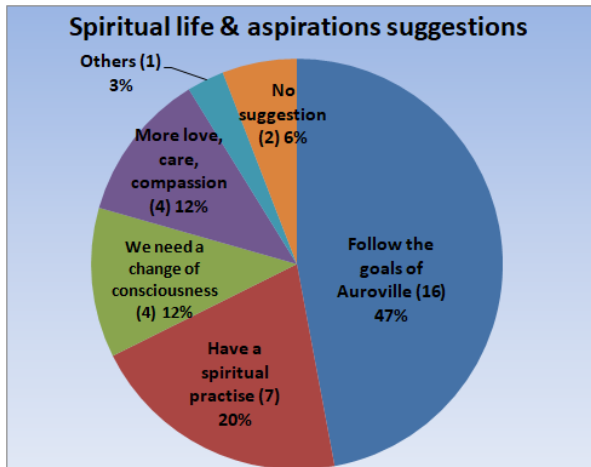


**Spiritual life:**



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Suggestions	Number	% answers Theme	% suggestions	% persons Theme	% Total
Follow the goals of Auroville	16	47%	50%	47%	6%
Have a spiritual practise	7	21%	22%	21%	2%
We need a change of consciousness	4	12%	13%	12%	1%
More love, care, compassion	4	12%	13%	12%	1%
Others	1	3%	3%	3%	0%
No suggestion	2	6%		6%	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>		

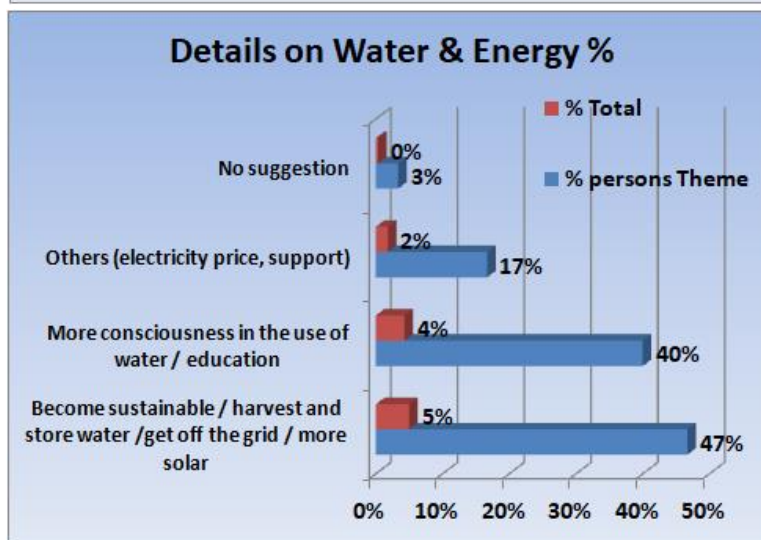
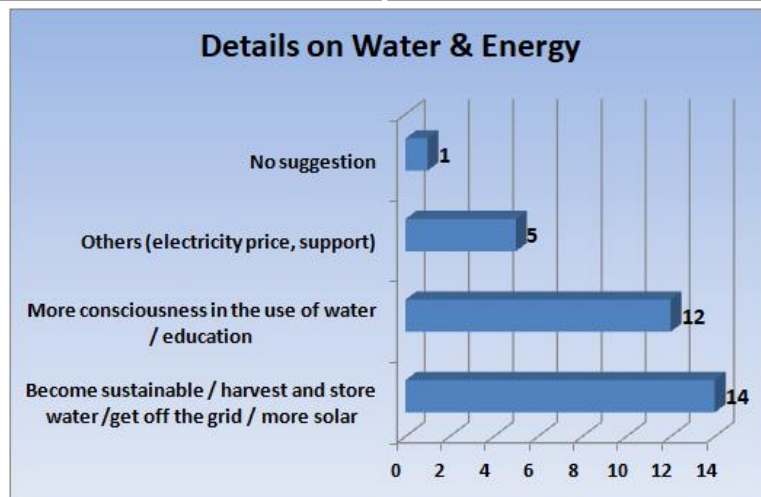
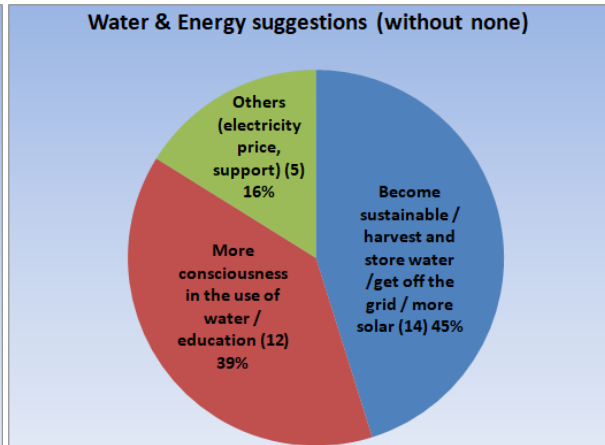
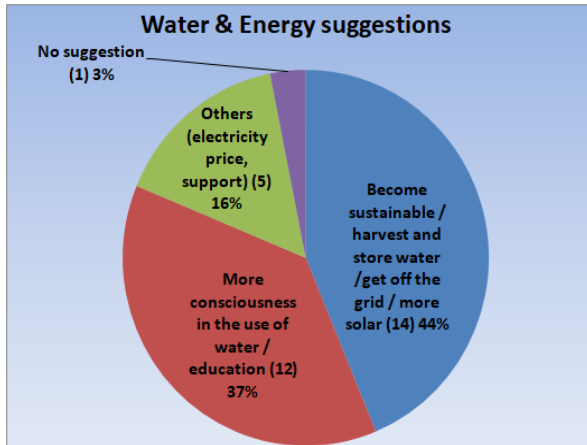




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**Water and Electricity:**

Suggestions	Number	% answers Theme	% suggestions	% persons Theme	% Total
Become sustainable / harvest and store water /get off the grid / more solar	14	44%	45%	47%	5%
More consciousness in the use of water / education	12	38%	39%	40%	4%
Others (electricity price, support)	5	16%	16%	17%	2%
No suggestion	1	3%		3%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>		







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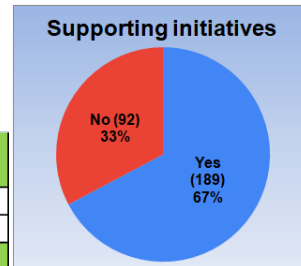
## C-Suggested changes and willingness to participate

### Support & explore further latest initiatives.

Q15-Do you support and/or would you like to explore further the latest initiatives that have been shared on Auronet or anywhere else?

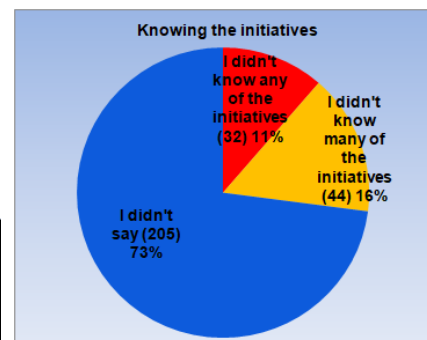
#### Supporting Initiatives:

Supporting at least one initiative	Number	% Total
Yes	189	67%
No	92	33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>100%</b>

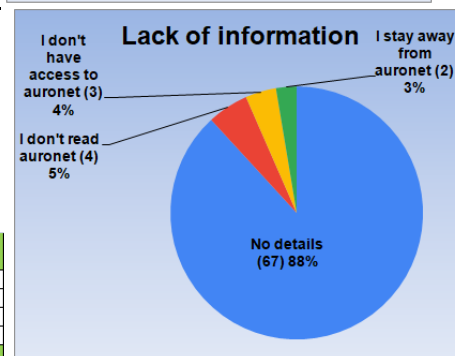


#### Did you know about the initiatives?

Did I know the initiatives?	Number	% Total
I didn't know any of the initiatives	32	11%
I didn't know many of the initiatives	44	16%
I didn't say	205	73%
<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>100%</b>



Did I know the proposed initiatives?	Didn't know any	Didn't know many	Didn't know...	% of Didn't know
No details	24	43	67	88%
I don't read auronet	3	1	4	5%
I don't have access to auronet	3		3	4%
I stay away from auronet	2		2	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100%</b>



There is a clear message that many of us didn't know about any, most, some of the initiatives. Here are some quotes:

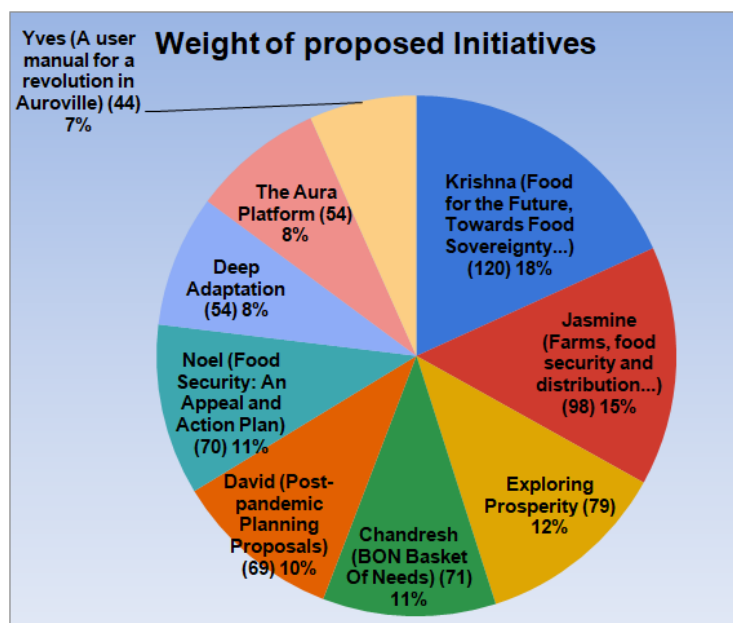
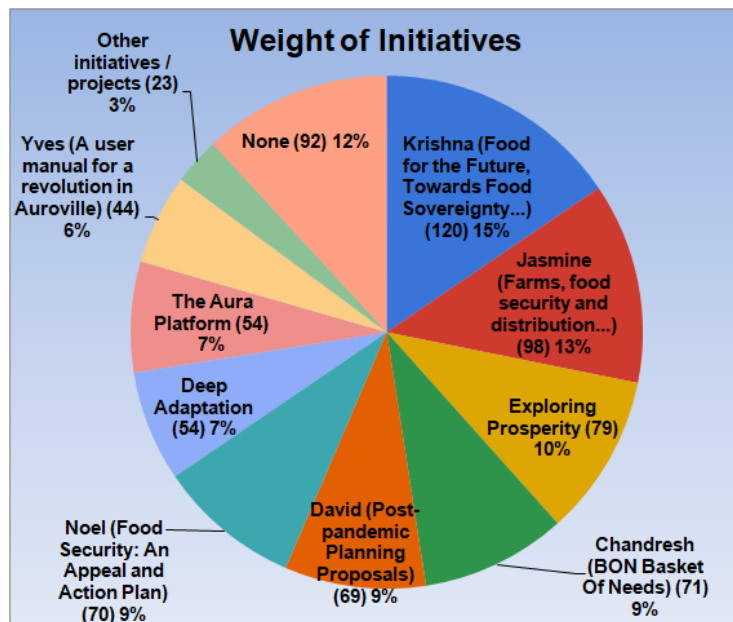
- *This suggests a lack of communication between groups and individuals.*
- *I need emails. I don't like how people talk to each other on Auronet. I need News and Notes for info.*



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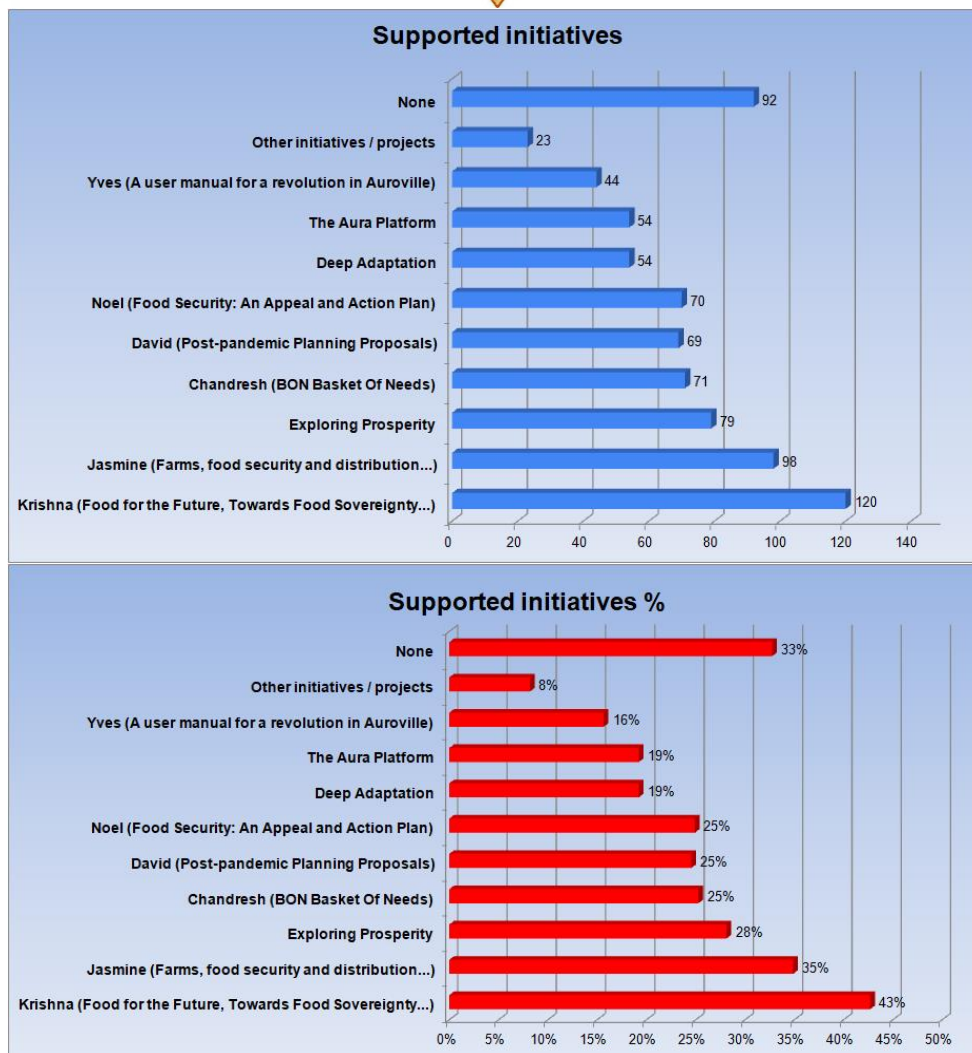
**Supported Initiatives:**

Initiatives	Number	% Answers	% Proposed initiatives	% Total
Krishna (Food for the Future, Towards Food Sovereignty...)	120	16%	18%	43%
Jasmine (Farms, food security and distribution...)	98	13%	15%	35%
Exploring Prosperity	79	10%	12%	28%
Chandresh (BON Basket Of Needs)	71	9%	11%	25%
David (Post-pandemic Planning Proposals)	69	9%	10%	25%
Noel (Food Security: An Appeal and Action Plan)	70	9%	11%	25%
Deep Adaptation	54	7%	8%	19%
The Aura Platform	54	7%	8%	19%
Yves (A user manual for a revolution in Auroville)	44	6%	7%	16%
Other initiatives / projects	23	3%		8%
None	92	12%		33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	





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### General comments:

The initiatives related specifically to “**Farming and Food**” (Krishna, Jasmine and Noel) regrouped altogether 140 different supporters (**50% of all respondents**). The initiatives related specifically to the “**Economy**” (Aura, Yves and Chandresh) regrouped altogether 101 different supporters (36% of all respondents). All the proposed initiatives got between 16% and 43% support from the total number of respondents. There are also a significant number of respondents (92 representing **33%** of the respondents in total) who didn’t support or wouldn’t like to explore further any of the proposed initiatives.

### Selected quotes not related to a specific field/initiative, but more general:

- *Process of **co-drafting initiatives** by degrees, combining 2 at a time (of similar ones), then later again, and again, until we have a **very small selection by theme** - or even just one containing the best of all*
- *Too many different proposals - we **need to synthesize** all this and get **ONE proposal***
- *Stop treating these proposals as individual initiatives and invite everyone to sit together and **make it into one integrated and collaborative initiative** - we will see how many people will even show up for that*



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## **Recommendations/Conditions to move forward and/or giving support:**

Expressed in 16 answers (6% of total answers).

The main inputs are about:

- *A need to regroup initiatives, collaboration, flexibility, sincerity and respect of everyone*
- *To improve vision, decision making, participation, planning scenarios, transparency, attract and employ, as well as brief and control, professionals, this needs a established structure*
- *Things will shape themselves organically, guided from within by the perceived needs for further such times to come. Too much 'organizing' might stifle these natural developments*
- *Stability, grounded, with direct benefits for Auroville*
- *Alignment with Auroville's vision and aspiration*

### **Other inputs:**

**23 inputs (8% of total answers).** Most of them are part of the following fields: **Economy, Farming and Food Distribution, Education, Emotional and psychological health support, Water and Electricity.**

#### **Economy:**

- *Developing social enterprise in our economy*
- *Whole economic model & paper presented by Divya*
- *We need to increase the inflow of money to Auroville 5 fold in next 3 years. Else the rapid development around Auroville will pull out Auroville's human resources: people will work 80% outside of Auroville (online, abroad, in India, in Pondy), as they cannot generate income in Auroville (block to start units, no new maintenances, no housing, no land to build your temporary dwelling, no jobs)*

**Farming and Food distribution:** Basket service, Milk delivery, Support Auroville farms, Support initiatives about food, Food security.

#### **Education:**

- *Youth Development by passing on administrative and commercial duties to the next generation*
- *I believe the main issue is the fact the youth are leaving Auroville... Why? Maybe because they are not part of the "game", never. I would start by giving them at school a day, then a week, then a month to run the school. No adult supervision. Just them. Like to be Desert Island in the Ocean. I believe the day will be a mess, everyone doing nothing. The week of taking in care of the school they will make more steps into the whole process of educating themselves. The month of self-management, in my mind, will be a very a successful experience having them self organizing the courses and school cleanness. Then we'll have youths ready to take the "sits" in our organization and change it...*



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**Others:**

- *Chandresh's proposal for an effective community organisation/ governance.*
- *Birth Centre (Morning Star)*
- *Chandresh's car pool proposal*
- *Lotus group proposal (**combined with Exploring Prosperity**)*
- *Forest Group's proposed Environmental Cell (**related to David's initiative on post-pandemic planning**)*
- *Growth Initiative learnings from Suhasini's research*
- *Retirement fund and care for senior Aurovilians*
- *The movement to transform PTPS to become a purchasing centre for all of Auroville*
- *Alternative to NTDA (New Town Development Authority) for land protection*



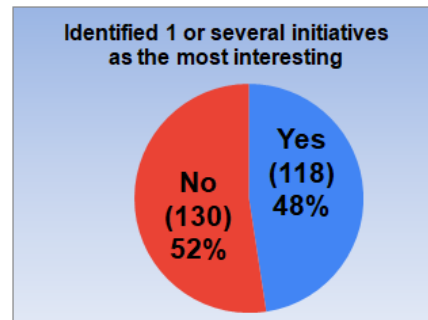
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## Most interesting initiatives and why

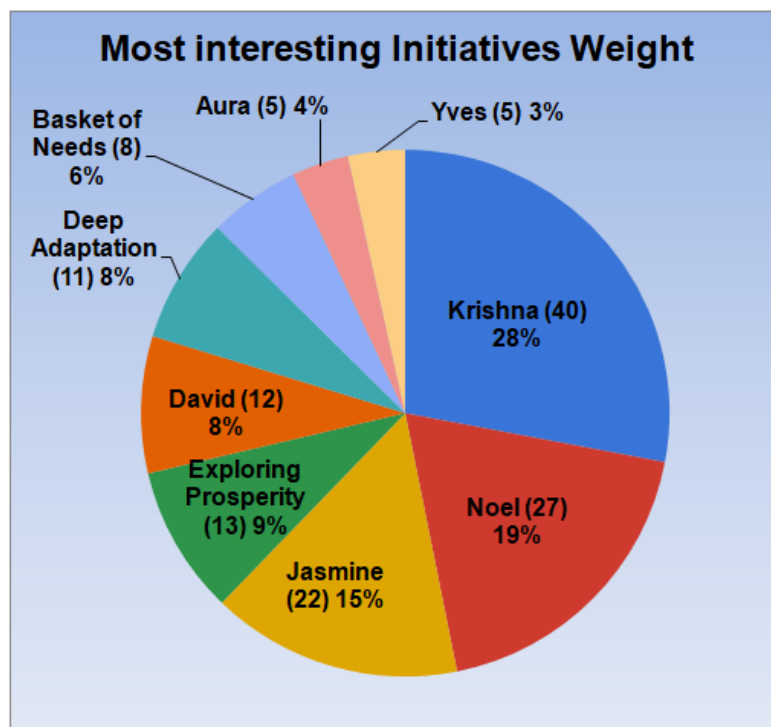
Q16-Which of these initiatives do you find most interesting? Why?

### General overview

Identified 1 or several initiatives as the most interesting	Number	% Answers
Yes	118	48%
No	130	52%
<b>Total</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>100%</b>

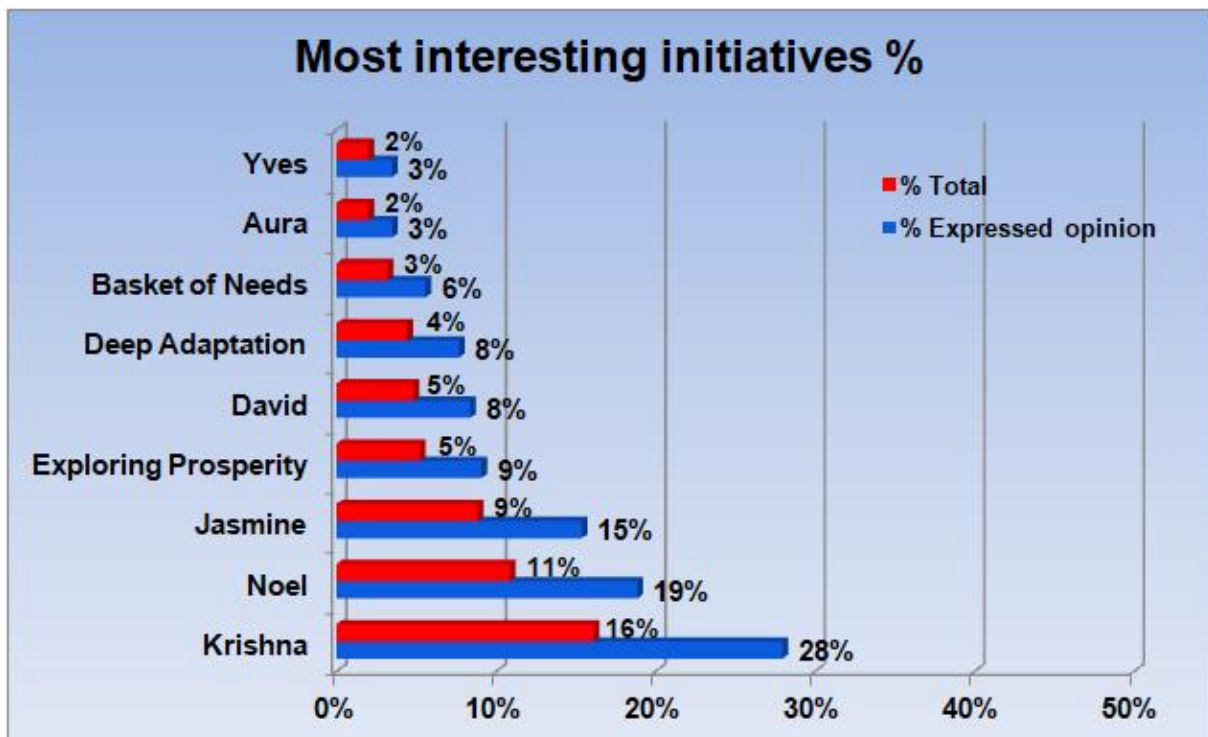
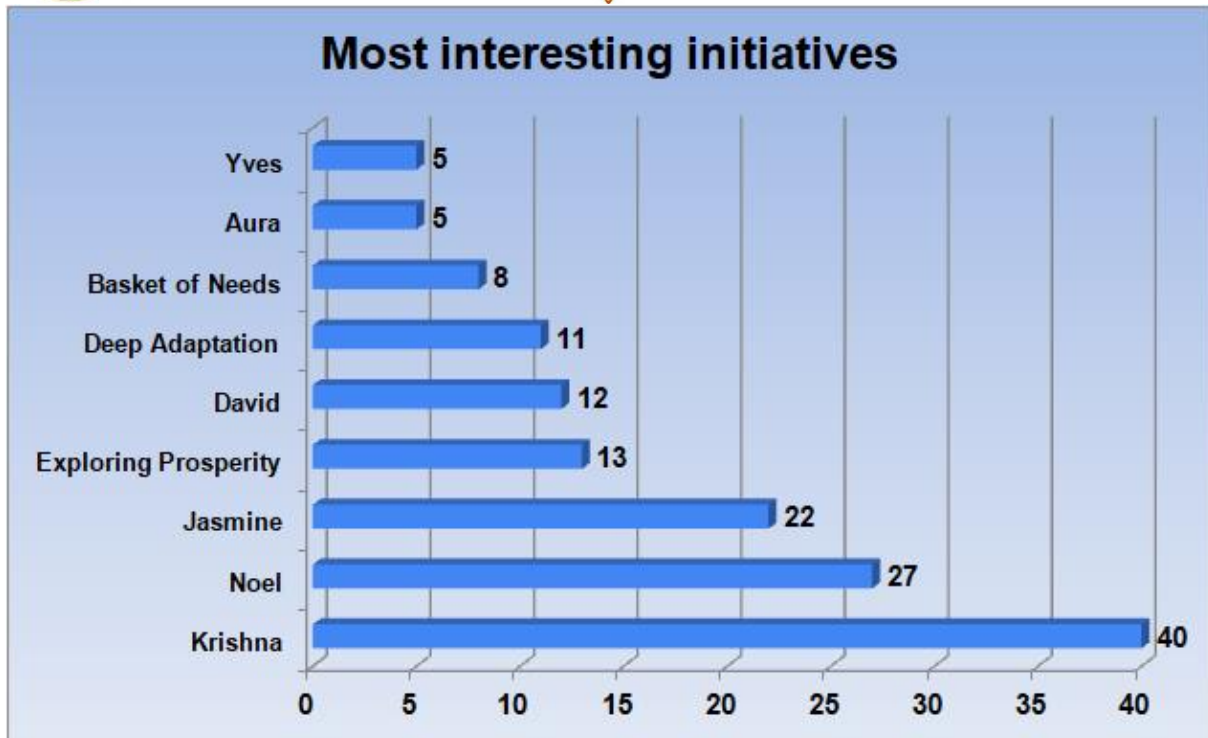


Initiatives	Number	% Expressed opinion	% Total
Krishna	40	28%	16%
Noel	27	19%	11%
Jasmine	22	15%	9%
Exploring Prosperity	13	9%	5%
David	12	8%	5%
Deep Adaptation	11	8%	4%
Basket of Needs	8	6%	3%
Aura	5	3%	2%
Yves	5	3%	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>100%</b>	





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## Selected quotes when not mentioning any initiatives as the most interesting ones

- *I have not read most of them so I cannot reply. I guess many of them have valid points.*
- *There are partial truths in some of them.*
- *Most of them are the same old world in a new package. Something revolutionary new has to emerge that brings Auroville on a new level of interaction. The 5th step in Sri Aurobindo's dream...*
- *Action not words to concentrate on why we are here.*
- *Would have to read them first. But basically I think we have to take a step back, introspect and start to make small steps in a lot of areas focusing on our purpose here, care for our community and address our less wonderful issues. We need more resilience and take care of our resources.*
- *They treat Auroville as a playground. As if everybody has a pension or money from outside. We desperately need initiatives to earn income for the economy and we must stop all cost ineffective services.*
- *I am not interested - but glad people are trying something new.*
- *Let the person coming up with the idea find the means to implement the idea.*
- *All initiatives are good, but need to be implemented, followed*
- *The integrative approach is missing*
- *All these proposals have the same weakness for me: they are nothing new. People have taken their passions and project ideas that they struggle to implement since years and have adapted them to the context of "post-pandemic". I think this is dangerous and much in line with what I wrote in response to question 1. We need real transformation, not old wine in new bottles. This is not to say that the above initiatives are not valuable - I am sure they all are and I think we should do them all! But let's please not pretend they are in any way resembling a relevant shift or transformative development, because it's not. It could be, if we for example stop treating these proposals as individual initiatives and invite everyone to sit together and make it into one integrated and collaborative initiative - we will see how many people will even show up for that.*
- *Too soon to see whether any are really interesting: need to work on them more and get to the stage of actual working on them.*
- *All great ideas, it needs to go through community process.*
- *For me they all go together, food autonomy goes with Prosperity in respect of AV ecosystem.*
- *While I don't know about many of the proposals above, I support all of them. Any efforts to think outside our norms, and pro-actively work for Auroville and all of us to increase our overall sustainability (individual, collective and environmental) are commendable.*
- *Everything that is supporting that we work more consciously and with full engagement towards the purpose of Auroville. Be wise we are not just living anywhere. We have chosen to be in Auroville and do this work.*
- *I am sure all of the above initiatives (some of which I am familiar with) have certain merit which need to be explored to see if and how they take the project of Auroville towards its intended goal. What is not interesting is to sit and talk for hours... I am more interested in practical action towards something concrete.*





Auroville

- *They are all relevant but whatever brings us closer to sustainable circumstances most with the least investment I would consider most important. In this I would probably consider water the most important at this time.*
- *Any that helps us to be more resilient, autonomy towards food and help us to go towards more simplicity and solidarity & that I feel I can be useful (for example, the question of water is essential but I don't feel like the most competent to get involved - I want to get myself informed for sure).*
- *To resume we need to be a maximum auto sufficient for food and encourage the young to create the future of Auroville with a VERY DECENT LIFE without regrets and frustrations.*



## Most interesting initiatives with reasons why

### Yves:

- *Lotus project on economy from Yves will create the base for the support of all the other projects.*

### Aura:

- *The Aura platform, linked with self sufficiency in food. If we can crack this, we will not need to use Rupees. "No Rupees" means no taxation and no accounting! What's not to like? ;)*
- *I don't know all of them, but perhaps the Aura Platform as a more sustainable way of life touching on all the various fields.*
- *The Aura Platform, because it goes toward the direction of a gift economy.*

### Basket of Needs:

- *A return to basics*
- *It reminds me the earlier period of Auroville and it was a wonderful experience with peaceful life*
- *It has to be a whole system, including both production and distribution sides linked together by transparent information system without centralized control. Ideally a distributed network of self-aware nodes dynamically self-regulating. The information system will be a key to balance autonomy and coherence bringing together both producers and consumers in their mutually dependent evolution.*

### Deep Adaptation:

- *It is about such local resilience.*
- *It can cover many of the above aspects...*
- *It is the most comprehensive and sits in a worldwide network of like hearted groups.*
- *It is looking into how to adapt to ecological realities of our time. Most of what old Aurovilians are talking about have to do with how the world was at the time of inauguration of Auroville, and the era in between 1950s to 1970s. The world has changed dramatically since then, and none of what has been envisaged and planned in that era applies to our world today!*
- *It's the one I know most about, because I have been to a few presentations, and I agree with their approach to the current world situation. It is a multi-level approach which allows movement towards adaptation to a rapidly changing environment.*
- *I like Deep Adaptation because I have been part of it and it recognizes the need for deep change.*
- *I've been involved in the Deep Adaptation group and feel this has the potential for being an umbrella or at least a hub for a lot of the other initiatives to connect and cross-fertilize.*



**David:**



Auroville

- *I liked the mind shift proposed by David, thinking at a ""forest with a city within"" rather than a "city with a forest around". This might help bridging the existing differences between sectors of Auroville population, and start building the city together without the blocking polarity existing at the moment.*
- *We need to review and re-new our town planning.*
- *It is more realistic and practical needs at present.*
- *If we don't use this opportunity to finally do some true planning here in Auroville, then anything else we try will just be a sticking plaster - and for this to work it needs the majority of Aurovilians. At the end of the day there is no difference between our planning and our yoga - and the measure of 'success or failure' of one is the direct corollary of the other*
- *It is one of the 2 most integrating agents/elements which is in dire need to be taken on*

### **Exploring Prosperity:**

- *Sharing everything is the first in Auroville. We need prosperity.*
- *It includes all the basics: Food - health – water – electricity.*
- *I believe economy is the hardest domain to shift but a very strong (negative) influencer of Auroville life.*
- *It touches our collective well-being that needs a big change (PTDC was a good step in this direction, but much more is needed to manifest a truer society as envisaged by Mother)*
- *It aims at breaking the economic principle as the governing principle and replaces it with something better, higher, nobler psychic and spiritual principle.*
- *It is one of the most integrating agents/elements which is in dire need to be taken on.*



Auroville

### Food in general (Krishna, Noel, Jasmine):

- *Krishna initiative could be revolutionary -- supported, of course, by Noel and Jasmine's ideas, which would support it on multiple levels.*
- *It has to be a whole system, including both production and distribution sides linked together by transparent information system without centralized control. Ideally a distributed network of self-aware nodes dynamically self-regulating. The information system will be a key to balance autonomy and coherence bringing together both producers and consumers in their mutually dependent evolution.*
- *Farming to improve our autonomy and develop in the same time more connection with mother earth.*
- *It has to do with us securing a basic need internally.*
- *Water & Food, pure and natural is the core. Nature is Ultimate.*

### Jasmine:

- *It supplies organic eggs to the community regularly to the benefits of all.*
- *I relate myself with farming. I want to learn more regarding farms and food security. I organize many trips for children of Udavi School. Mostly, I choose farms and gardens. I want to bring awareness among the kids towards farming and gardening.*

### Noel:

- *We managed this lockdown with community farm products. Self sustainable system is the way to move forward and safe.*
- *If we don't change our way to get food, we become slaves of the money-based outer system.*
- *I am a Farmer - so Noel and Krishna are my most natural resonance.*
- *The most important thing is involving all able-bodied individuals in food production/distribution/cooking etc. at least one day per week. I would be willing to be part of this.*
- *Inviting people to reflect on food security. I don't think that everybody can be a farmer, but I do think that more land can be allotted for farming, and more Aurovilians are needed to work in farms. Though we cannot directly produce in Auroville everything we need, we should reduce our dependency on external sources. Perhaps making good use of Auroville land in other environment (e.g. Kodai) where certain products can grow.*
- *Food security is vital.*
- *It's about realistic and practical needs at present.*
- *It recognizes the need for big change in how we supply enough food to Auroville.*



**Krishna:**



Auroville

- *Sustainability and local farming.*
- *I know Krishna's project is sustainable.*
- *Krishna has been fighting for this for a long time and his knowledge of local foods plus his passion for this topic are impressive.*
- *Krishna wants all of us to become more self sustainable and this I think is a true work simple and rewarding.*
- *To have food gardens in all the gardens in all the communities to grow organic fruits and vegetables.*
- *It is discouraging to have to admit it, but in the absence of maintenance supply and not being able to access for many of us the services provided by PTDC, it is the only way to save to survive.*
- *More relevant for the moment.*
- *It is local, practical and real.*
- *It is more focused on growing and serving local food.*
- *It is easy and simple and high-impact immediately without AV groups needed to rubber stamp.*
- *I think we should all have a vegetable garden in our gardens.*

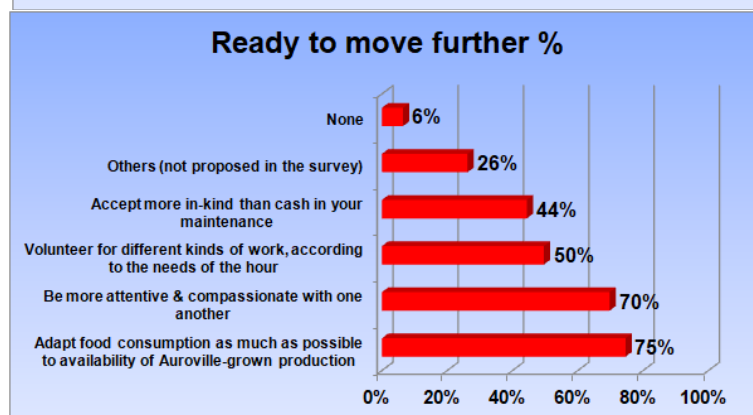
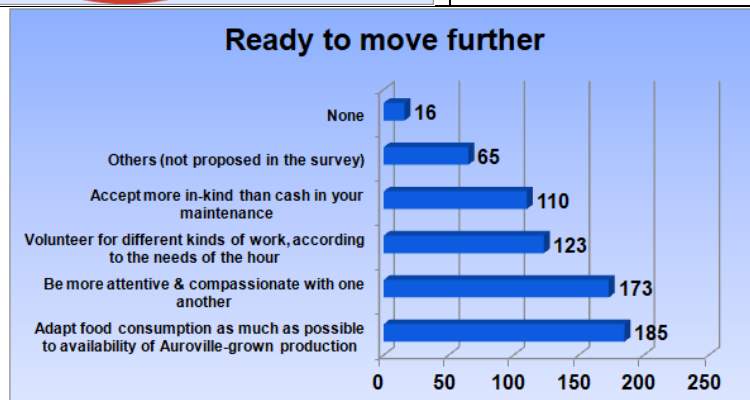
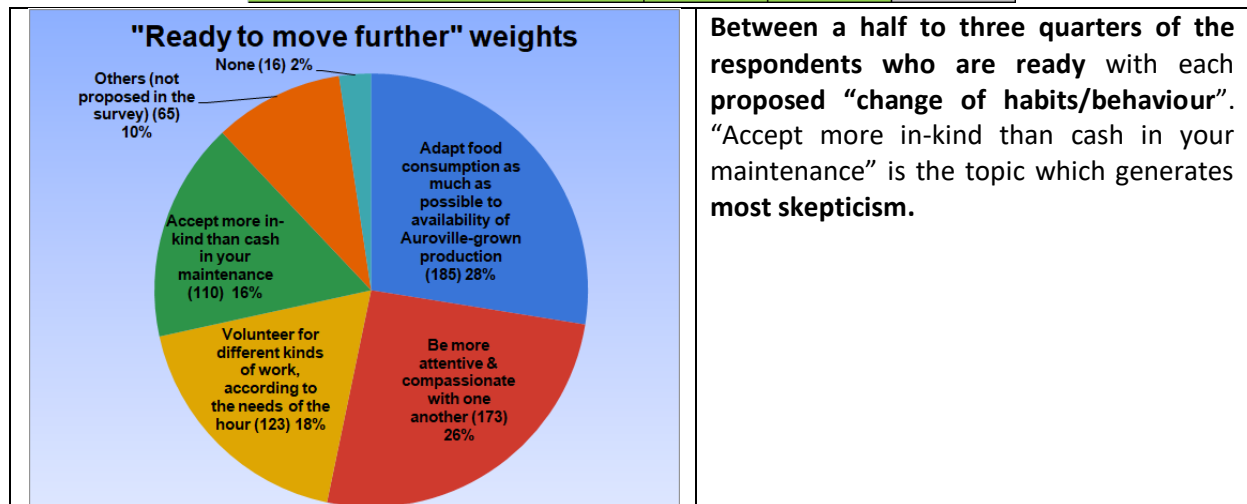


Auroville

## Ready to move further and change habits/behavior?

**Q18-Are you ready to move further and change some of your habits and behaviour? Step out of your 'comfort zone', try new ways of being?**

Topic	Number	% Total answers	% Total Respondents
Adapt food consumption as much as possible to availability of Auroville-grown production	185	28%	75%
Be more attentive & compassionate with one another	173	26%	70%
Volunteer for different kinds of work, according to the needs of the hour	123	18%	50%
Accept more in-kind than cash in your maintenance	110	16%	44%
Others (not proposed in the survey)	65	10%	26%
None	16	2%	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>672</b>	<b>100%</b>	

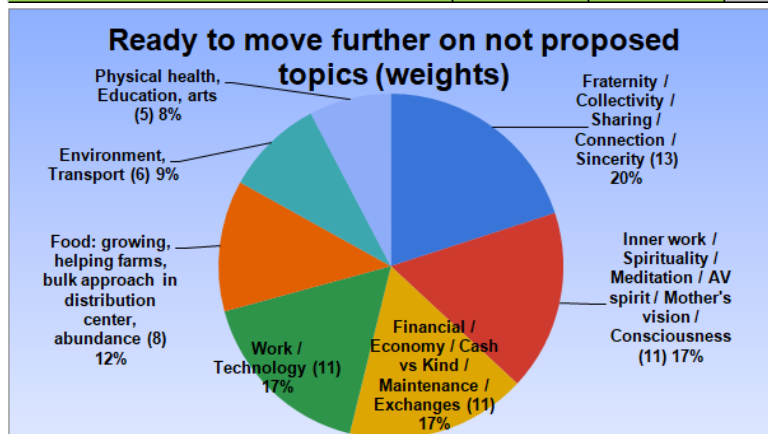


**The main other areas of individual changes shared by the respondents are about:**



Auroville

Other Topics	Number	% of others	% Total
Fraternity / Collectivity / Sharing / Connection / Sincerity	13	20%	5%
Inner work / Spirituality / Meditation / AV spirit / Mother's vision / Consciousness	11	17%	4%
Financial / Economy / Cash vs Kind / Maintenance / Exchanges	11	17%	4%
Work / Technology	11	17%	4%
Food: growing, helping farms, bulk approach in distribution center, abundance	8	12%	3%
Environment, Transport	6	9%	2%
Physical health, Education, arts	5	8%	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100%</b>	



### Selected quotes:

- *We will be forced to change.*
- *I think these things can be (or "not) outcomes of a change of focus.*
- *Work and collaborate more with the villages around of Auroville and further*
- *More time dedicated to reflective spiritual practice (meditation)*
- *Economy to recognize non monetary exchanges or offerings*
- *My FS account is pretty much the only account I have...so I really would appreciate to keep some cash in there (!)*
- *Give 10hrs per week for the collective: work for land, water, housing or human unity (from hands on, to writing articles, to organizing meetings, to making websites)*
- *Be more aware of my waste and how much plastic I am using*



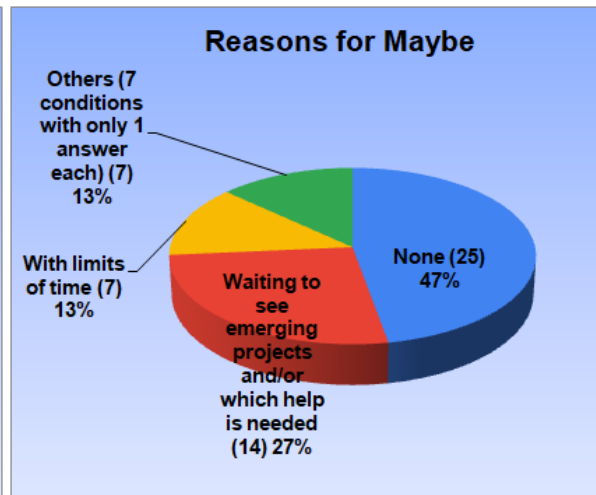
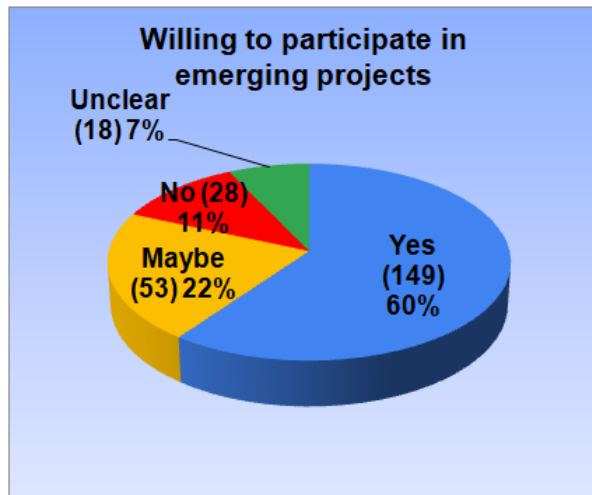
Auroville

### Willing to participate in emerging projects

Q19-The objective of the survey is to identify constructive changes to be undertaken in Auroville and ways to implement these. Would you be, in principle, willing to participate in projects that emerge from this survey? If yes, please, give examples

**Would you be, in principle, willing to participate in projects that emerge from this survey?**

Yes	Maybe	No	Unclear	Total
149	53	28	18	248
60%	21%	11%	7%	100%



Maybe: Reasons / Conditions	Number	% Maybe	% Total
None	25	47%	10%
Waiting to see emerging projects and/or which help is needed	14	26%	6%
With limits of time	7	13%	3%
Others (7 conditions with only 1 answer each)	7	13%	3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>21%</b>

Note: The others reasons/conditions were: If there is a strong inner call, If my support is meaningful, It depends on the project, Depending on my ability, With physical limits, If different than ordinary meetings.

### General comments:

More than half of the respondents were **willing (in principle) to participate in emerging projects**. It went up to more than three quarters when we include the respondents who might, depending upon other considerations.

### Selected quotes:

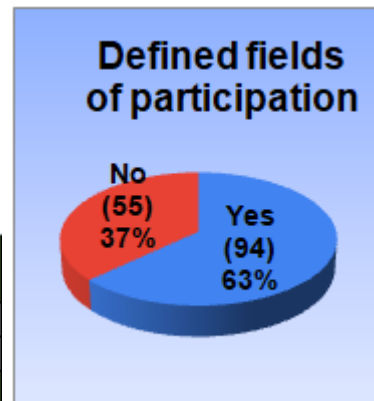
- Anything coming from a deep connection with people involved. Field of work is secondary.
- We can do better if at all we agree on our common goals and priorities.





Auroville

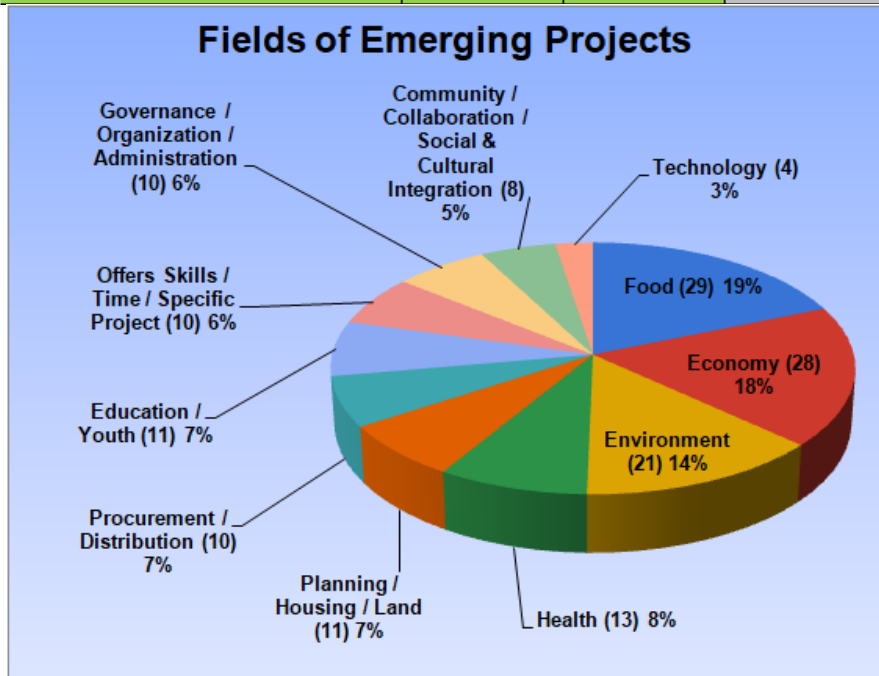
**Fields of participation:**



Defined fields of participation	Number	% of Yes	% Total
Yes	94	63%	38%
No	55	37%	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>60%</b>

**Fields of projects in which people said 'yes' to willing to participate**

Fields of emerging projects	Number	% of answers	% of persons who defined fields	% of Yes	% Total
Food (production, security/sufficiency, raising awareness)	29	19%	31%	19%	12%
Economy	28	18%	30%	19%	11%
Environment: Water, Waste, Mobility, Sustainability/Ecology, Energy, Forest	21	14%	22%	14%	8%
Health: psychological, mental, emotional, nutritional, holistic, birth, parenting, social, animals	13	8%	14%	9%	5%
Planning / Housing / Land	11	7%	12%	7%	4%
Procurement/Distribution for food and other goods	10	6%	11%	7%	4%
Education / Youth	11	7%	12%	7%	4%
Offers Skills / Time / Specific Project	10	6%	11%	7%	4%
Governance / Organization / Administration	10	6%	11%	7%	4%
Community / Collaboration / Social & Cultural Integration	8	5%	9%	5%	3%
Technology	4	3%	4%	3%	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100%</b>			

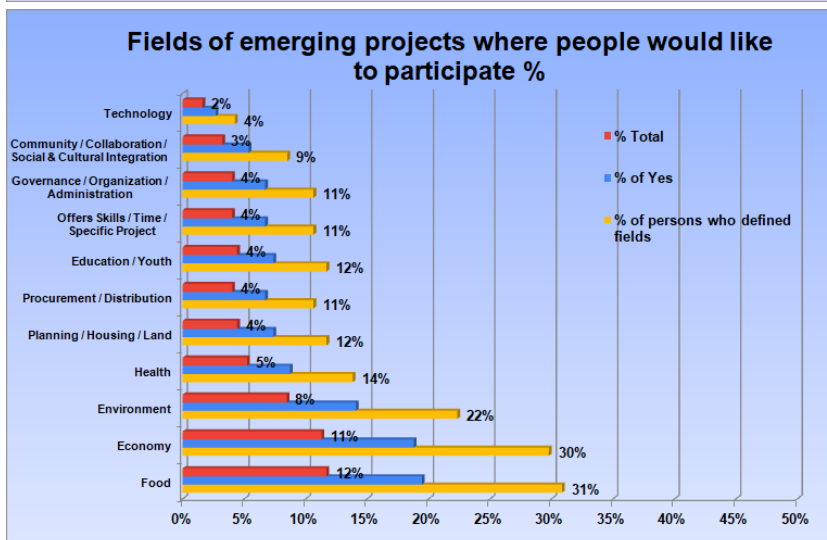
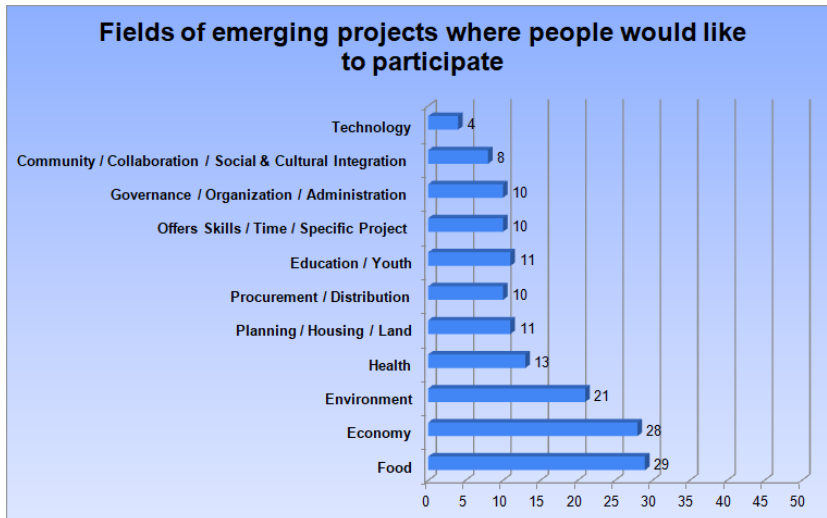




Auroville

### General comments:

About **one third** of the **willing participants didn't mention any specific field or project** they would be willing to be involved in. For the (other) respondents, who mentioned the areas on which they'd like to participate, **more than half of them were willing** to participate in projects related to **Food** or **Economy** or **Environment**.



### Selected quotes:

- *I want to support Krishna's initiative through procuring new seeds and creating circle or terrace gardens in my community.*
- *Work with food production and how we can create food that people enjoy eating.*
- *I feel we won't change anything deeply if we don't change our economy. For the last 20 years many people have studied these topics from Auroville Economy 2000 till the most recent proposals and many of these studied are well done and inspiring. Now is the time to make a synthesis of all these, make ONE proposal and go for ACTION.*
- *Help people to start with permaculture circle gardens, spread of water use awareness, identification of bad (such as detergent contaminating our water or packaging not recyclable) product sold in distribution centers and much more.*
- *Volunteering for farming and waste management.*
- *Any topic related to waste reduction and proper waste segregation in communities, which is often not done properly.*

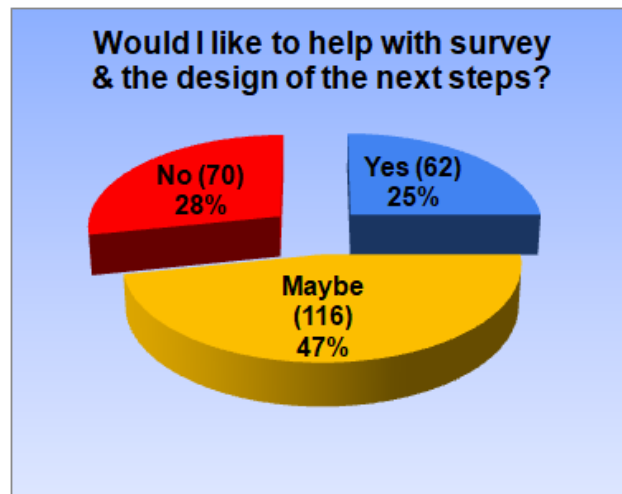


Auroville

## Willing to help with survey and next steps design

Q20-Would you like to help with the follow-up of the survey and the design of the next steps?

Yes	Maybe	No	Total
62	116	70	248
25%	47%	28%	100%



### General Comments:

**One quarter** of the respondents would like to help on the follow-up and/or the design of the next steps.

### Selected quotes:

- *Happy to play a supportive role!*
- *If there is anything that I can contribute.*
- *Next steps are known. What is missing is the collective will to take these next steps.*

### Additional Comments:

Some of the respondents (12), who mentioned “**No**”, gave mainly the reason of availability. Few respondents (8), who mentioned “**Yes**”, formulated some conditions/needs as:

- *Collaboration and connection with the other members involved*
- *Will for implementation of concrete, pragmatic steps and actions*
- *Next step being to work on the important and urgent issues (Land consolidation, Fraternal Economy, the building of the city as per the Master Plan envisioned by the Mother)*
- *Being able to participate even being away*

Few respondents (18), who mentioned “**Maybe**”, formulated some conditions/needs as:

- *Depending on the outcome of the survey*
- *Depending of the group dynamic*
- *Feeling helpful*
- *Knowing more about the effort and time commitment involved*
- *Being able to participate even being away*
- *Being physically able*



Auroville

## APPENDIX ONE

### First survey: the questionnaire

#### Overall intention:

- Invite reflections of how residents lived through the Covid-19 crisis in Auroville so far (March - May), what changed in their lives and perspectives (consumption, habits, work, etc.) and how they foresee the future.
- Collect good initiatives that flourished during the Covid-19 crisis so far, and suggestions for how to move Auroville forward.
- Survey results will be shared and further steps will be proposed for practical implementation.

Email addresses will be used only for the follow-up of the survey.

\* Required

1. Name \*

2/ Status \* Aurovilian / Newcomer / Volunteer / Other:

3/ Community \*

4/ Age group \* under 18 / 19 – 30 / 31- 45 / 46 – 60 / above 60

5/ Are / were you physically present in Auroville during the Covid-19 confinement so far (March - May 2020)? \* Yes / Yes, partially / No / Other:

#### Your feelings & thoughts:

6/ What did you think of Auroville's response so far to this crisis? What is to be celebrated? \*

7/ What did you think of Auroville's response so far to this crisis? What could have been done better? \*

#### Your experience:

8/ In which "fields" (nutrition, relationships, work, spiritual practice, etc.) did you experience positive changes? Give practical examples: \*

9/ In which "fields" (nutrition, relationships, work, spiritual practice, etc.) did you experience negative changes? Give practical examples:

10/ What surprised you and/or what did you learn? \*

11/ Would you like to share any positive initiative that you experienced? \*

12/ Please give 3 key words/short statements that summarize your experience:

Change: Based on your experience of the Covid-19 crisis so far, what are the changes that feel necessary in Auroville on a broader level? For each of the below fields of action, feel free to give concrete examples and steps towards implementing the change.



Auroville

13/ In which fields do you feel Auroville needs a change? \* Water and electricity? / Farming and Food distribution? / Economy? / Social interaction & collective life? / Physical health support? / Emotional and psychological health support? / Education? / Culture and arts? / Spiritual life and aspirations? / Other:

14/ Do you have suggestions for how one or two of the most important changes you identified could be materialised? Would you be willing to be part of this process? \*

15/ Do you support and/or would you like to explore further the latest initiatives that have been shared on Auronet or anywhere else? \* Chandresh (BON Basket Of Needs) / Exploring Prosperity / The Aura Platform (<https://aura-auroville.network/>) / Krishna (Food for the Future, Towards Food Sovereignty for Auroville) / Jasmine (Farms, food security and distribution in Auroville - invitation to reflect and re-imagine...) / Deep Adaptation (<https://deepadaptation.auroville.org/>) / Noel (Food Security: An Appeal and Action Plan for Auroville) / David (Post-pandemic Planning Proposals) / Yves (A user manual for a revolution in Auroville) / I didn't read or do not support any of the above / Other:

16/ Which of these initiatives do you find most interesting? Why? \*

Your commitment to Change: If you feel a change is needed, and now is the perfect moment, in which ways are you willing to participate?

17/ Did you already change some habits in your daily life that you consider to be positive? Please, give examples. \*

18/ Are you ready to move further and change some of your habits and behavior? Step out of your 'comfort zone', try new ways of being? \* Adapt food consumption as much as possible to availability of Auroville-grown production / Accept more in-kind than cash in your maintenance / Volunteer for different kinds of work, according to the needs of the hour / Be more attentive & compassionate with one another / Other:

19/ The objective of the survey is to identify constructive changes to be undertaken in Auroville and ways to implement these. Would you be, in principle, willing to participate in projects that emerge from this survey? If yes, please, give examples. \*

After the survey

20/ Would you like to help with the follow-up of the survey and the design of the next steps? \* Yes / No / Maybe / Other:



Auroville

## Second survey: the questionnaire

### 1. What was your experience with the lockdown? Positive and negative

Positive experiences

.....  
.....

Negative responses

.....  
.....

### 2. What did you think of Auroville's response so far to this crisis?

Positive responses

.....  
.....

Negative responses

.....  
.....

### 3. Did you change your behaviour/habits in any way during the lockdown?

NO  YES

If yes, what did you change in your behaviour, habits?

.....  
.....

### 4. Select the 3 most important areas in which Auroville needs a change

Water and electricity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farming and Food distribution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social interaction & collective life	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical health support	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emotional and psychological health support	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Culture and arts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spiritual life and aspirations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please explain)	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 5a. What is for you the most important area needing a change and how could it happen?

.....  
.....

### 5b. Would you be willing to help make this change happen?

YES  MAYBE  NO



Auroville

**6. Are you aware of the following initiatives? If yes do you support them?**

Initiatives	I know it		I Support it		
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Without opinion <input type="checkbox"/>
Krishna (Food for the Future, Towards Food Sovereignty for Auroville)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Without opinion <input type="checkbox"/>
Jasmine (Farms, food security and distribution in Auroville - invitation to reflect and re-imagine...)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Without opinion <input type="checkbox"/>
Exploring Prosperity	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Without opinion <input type="checkbox"/>
Chandresh (BON Basket Of Needs)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Without opinion <input type="checkbox"/>
David (Post-pandemic Planning Proposals)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Without opinion <input type="checkbox"/>
Noel (Food Security: An Appeal and Action Plan for Auroville)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Without opinion <input type="checkbox"/>
Deep Adaptation	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Without opinion <input type="checkbox"/>
The Aura Platform	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Without opinion <input type="checkbox"/>
Yves (A user manual for a revolution in Auroville)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Without opinion <input type="checkbox"/>

Any other comments you would like to share:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Name

Age

Community



## APPENDIX TWO



Auroville

### The survey team's evaluation of the process and the results.

The responses were made individually, but they seem to represent the general feeling of the team.

#### What were you trying to achieve?

- To provide an opportunity for residents to reflect upon and share their experience of the Covid-19 lockdown.
- To explore what changes people feel need to be made, both personally and in Auroville as a whole.
- To investigate the preparedness of individuals and the community to make these changes.

#### Why? What was this a response to?

- Because we felt the pandemic was an unprecedented moment in Auroville's history, we wanted to see how well the community had responded.
- As major social disruptions often initiate radical change, we wanted to see if the same was true for Auroville and what those changes would look like

#### What steps did you take to achieve your aim?

- We developed a 20-question survey (and later a 6-question survey) asking for individual's observations on how they and the Auroville organization responded, on their ideas and support for new initiatives concerning spiritual life, food, economy, organization..., and on their willingness to change personal habits.
- We analyzed the inputs and presented a summary of the results to the community in three postings on AuroNet and in the News and Notes. (The full survey findings will be made available to everyone in the near future.)
- We presented our findings, via a PowerPoint presentation, to those who had expressed a willingness to help with further steps in manifesting the results of the survey or who were working on new initiatives
- Finally, we helped organize two meetings at which those who had suggested new initiatives were invited to collaborate in driving forward the energy of change

#### Was each step successful? Why or why not?

- In general, it was felt that the survey was successful. We received almost 300 responses and were able to observe general trends regarding the need to improve food sustainability, the Auroville economy, etc.
- However, there was room for improvement in the way the survey was constructed. There were probably too many questions, some were difficult to answer well, some were too guided, but there were also many 'open' questions and the responses to these are much more difficult to analyze.
- Certain sectors of the community, particularly the young and those from the local area, were under-represented in answering the questionnaire.
- The PPT presentations to different audiences went quite well, although aspects of it could have been delivered more dynamically.
- The follow-up steps, like inviting those who had expressed a wish to help in furthering the findings of the survey, could have been done earlier.
- The bringing together of individuals and groups which have new initiatives was not part of the original objective of the survey team, and some of the team stepped back at this point. These meetings are in process.





Auroville

### **If a step (s) was unsuccessful, what did you do about it?**

- When we saw that certain groups were under-represented in responses to the questionnaire, we targeted some people in these groups.
- We constructed a simplified questionnaire for these groups in order to obtain the most important information.

### **Were there any unexpected developments?**

- The difficulty of involving certain groups in participating in the questionnaire.

### **Did these unexpected developments help or hinder achieving the original intention?**

- This is difficult to assess. The additional responses to the simplified questionnaire didn't significantly change the final results.

### **What was the final outcome?**

- The full survey results and PowerPoint summary which will be made available to the whole community.
- There was a general willingness expressed by different groups and individuals to move forward.
- Some of the survey team and the Prosperity team will work together to focus the work of change in one direction.

### **Was the original objective(s) achieved? Why or why not?**

- We definitely heard from the residents. Some of the responses were deeply personal and moving, so our objective of providing a place for people to express themselves was met.
- We succeeded in obtaining a general view of how the community responded to the lockdown, the changes they would like to see take place, and their willingness to participate in these changes.
- While many people expressed a wish to make personal changes or participate in community-wide changes, it is difficult to assess how many of these commitments will actually happen when conditions change.

### **Was a different objective achieved? If so, what was it?**

- It was not an original objective but the survey team, which was a very eclectic group, managed to do a collective work with a lot of joy and pleasure.
- The 'second phase' of the survey, the implementation phase, was not thought much about at the beginning, but to see people coming together to move ideas into action is heartening.

### **What did you learn from this experience?**

- The work in the survey group has been done organically. People naturally took up tasks in the group according to their skills and fields of interest.
- It was a wonderful experience of working in a team with people from different backgrounds. Beside the real and concrete achievement of the goal, this experience shows how people can work together in a calm atmosphere, in which the capacities of each member are used and enriched by a common goal.
- I have a lot to learn about writing and conducting surveys; I don't know how to reach and get meaningful inputs from all the different cultures in Auroville; I realize that follow-up to respondents' answers is just as important as asking the questions.
- We learned that we could obtain a sufficient 'pulse' of the community with fewer questions.
- We need to find different ways of contacting and surveying different sectors and cultures in our community.



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- When we learned that certain sectors were under-represented, we should have tried contacting them with a simplified questionnaire sooner as the lockdown situation had changed by the time the second simplified survey was sent.
- We learned that one cannot simply conduct a survey and not have a plan for follow-up / implementation of some outcomes.
- The follow-up meetings need to be well prepared and facilitated by professionals if the good energy is not to be dissipated.
- I enjoyed meeting new people, sharing my skills and working on topics which are of importance to all Auroville.
- Working as a whole team on the analysis was to me a very interesting process. We managed a collective work under very good conditions.

~ The Calling the Future survey team  
(Alan, Amy, Dan, Dominique, Fred, Laurence)