

Entry Board meeting with GB and AVF 18.01.2022

The Entry Board was asked to prepare a presentation for the meeting with the GB on the 18th of January 2022. The Board met and agreed to present a small assessment. We took the last GB minutes and tried to answer their concerns and we also showed what challenges are waiting for us if we want to reach 15000 people in the next few years.

On the day of the presentation, after waiting for 3 ½ hours, a member of the Entry Board and a member of the Entry Secretariat eventually joined 3 members of the GB (and some online) and the Secretary of the AVF. We were surprised that no members of the WC were in the room.

A few minutes were allocated for questions and answers. Here are some of the questions that were asked :

Q - Is there a process in taking people in?

A - Yes. The Entry Board follows the Entry Policy ratified by the RA. The process lasts about 1 year.

Q - How do we judge if they are fit to join?

A - We based our decision on their involvement and understanding of Auroville values.

Q - Do you reject people?

A - Yes, about 2 % leave before the end of the process.

Q - Since when is there a group that facilitates admissions in Auroville?

A - There has always been a process in one form or another.

Q - Why is there so much groupism in Auroville?

A- This was beyond our capacity to answer.

Find below the information we shared with the GB.

Sincerely,
The Entry Board

ENTRY BOARD Report on Action-taken

Presentation for the Governing Board,
Auroville Foundation

18th January 2022

Topic: The entry process of Auroville should be more welcoming and the Auroville population should grow to 50,000 as envisaged while ensuring that newcomers understand, and subscribe to, the ideals of Auroville. A population of 15,000 by 2025 may be achieved.

Status: The Entry Board feels that we are welcoming

Proposed action: The Entry Board encourages trial period to explore and understand the purpose of Auroville. Our mandate is not to recruit people but to welcome the people with the right aspiration

Completion target: ongoing and long term

Topic: There could be active engagement with Auroville International Centres and Sri Aurobindo Centres to facilitate the joining of volunteers and interns while maintaining international diversity and commitment to the ideals of Auroville

Status: Those centers are already spreading the message. It is not their duty to assess if someone is eligible to join the community (That's why there is the Admission Committee aka Entry Board)

Proposed action: Give to the Entry Board more flexibility regarding visa and reduce the timeframe to issue Letter of Recommendation

Completion Target: As soon as possible

CHALLENGES

1. Housing, schooling, etc.
2. Financial support (maintenances),
3. Visas issues due to the present pandemic,
4. Understanding of the purpose of Auroville, Mother and Sri Aurobindo,
5. Exit policy.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

1. Housing Board and FAMC to look into point 1,
2. BCC for point 2,
3. AV Foundation or point 3,
4. Aspiration team and the Entry Board to work on how to help educate people for point 4,
5. Resident Assembly to ratify the Exit Policy.

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