



A Chronological Account of Auroville's Economic Experiments & Milestones

by Alain

A Joy of Learning presentation

1968 - 75

Prosperity (SAS) in Pondy

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
The Mother	Basic maintenance: Rs 125 per adult. Rs 75 per child Plus soap, clothes and any item of basic necessity This was supported and managed by the SAS

1973

First attempt at AV Central Food distribution

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
Jocelyn & Barbara	Central food distribution begins in the old Amphitheatre workshop, after the 1st ever AV general meeting early September in which calls for self-sufficiency were made due to funds scarcity.

28 Feb. 1974

Pour Tous / For All

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
<p>Clare started and ran it with Surbhi up to early 1975. Christine ran it from 1975 to 1985</p>	<p>Main objective: An effort towards suppression of exchange of money within Auroville. Another objective towards dealing differently with local workers did not materialize. The food distribution soon became centralized at Pour Tous. Individual and community baskets sent thru PT bullock-cart.</p>

1976 - 1978

Pour Tous Fund

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
<p>Jocelyn's proposal. Initially Alain Bernard/ Yusuf, later (mid-77) Charlie, Michael T. join the PT Fund team.</p>	<p>Common account created for Bakery, Laundry, Pour Tous and the big kitchens (Aspiration and Center). Launched on 1-1-1976 with units/services, communities and individual accounts. SAS (Navajata) promised to give prosperity money through PT Fund but no funds came. PT Fund managers appeal to Aurovilians, AV Centers and friends. Good response. Auroville becomes de facto financially independent. End 1976: Experiment of doing away with minuses and 125 Rs limit. Not sustainable. Pb of increasing deficits. PT Fund managers call for special meeting Nov. 78.</p>

Feb. 1978

Auromitra - Friends of Auroville Research Foundation registered

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
Kireet Joshi, Satprem, J.R.D. Tata. Small team of Aurovilians.	<p>Legal channel opened for helping Auroville for receiving funds from the friends of Auroville</p> <p>Created to promote the development of Auroville in the context of its broad research objectives in rural development.</p>

Feb. 1978

Artisana Trust

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
	<p>Artisana trust for legal/financial coordination with AV commercial units.</p>

Nov. 1978 - 85

Envelopes system

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
<p>Proposed by Paul (Maroma) in meeting. Envelopes group meets every Friday. Variable membership. Open meeting.</p>	<p>Adapted from Mother's method. Various envelopes to receive and specify destination of funds. In 1980, 12 envelopes: Food coop, Milk coop, Cash food, Market, Food investment, Community maintenance, Services (PT, Bakery, Abri, etc.), Children, Green work, Matrimandir, Personal (sundries, clothing, etc.), Unspecified.</p>

1982

Nandini

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
	<p>Creation of Nandini, for sundry and linen provisions with free stores, supported by individual contributions and partly by the Envelopes. Outlets in Aspiration and Centre</p>

1982/83

Maintenance System

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
	<p>Economy Survey / Conclusion: Inadequate financial resources. No clear decision about next move.</p> <p>Maintenance and work link system begins.</p> <p>Individualized baskets with specific orders. (Great disparities). More and more maintenances directly taken from commercial units.</p>

1984

SAIER

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
Kireet Joshi, Alain Bernard, Sanjeev, Bhagwanens, Ganga Lakshmi	SAIER. Collective maintenance funds for educational researchers. New substantial financial resources for broad educational development

Sept. 1988

Auroville Foundation Act

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
	<p>Auroville Foundation Act. A legal basis for Auroville is created</p>

1988/89

ABC

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
	<p>Formation of the Auroville Board of Commerce (ABC) for better coordination between commercial units and legal/financial/accounting advices</p>

1989

Central Fund

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
	<p>Creation of the Central Fund. Beginning of computerization of accounts.</p> <p>Rs 200 of monthly voluntary contribution (not flat tax)</p>

1991

Financial Service

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
Otto	Opening of the Financial Service in Aspiration near Pour Tous Store.

1996

Solar Kitchen

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
Gilles, Suhasini	Opening of the Solar Kitchen, a major step towards developing the In-kind economy.

1997

FAMC

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
	<p>Rules of the Foundation required the formation of a Funds and Assets Management Committee which was formed as a representative body of Auroville</p>

1999 - 2002

Circles Experiment

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
	<p>Circles experiment. Many residents form circles aiming at increased sharing of resources. It proves unsustainable despite partial support from the central fund.</p> <p>Circles such as the 'New Dawn Circle' and 'Beyond Prosperity Circle' were in existence.</p>

2001/2002

CIRHU-SAIER Proposal

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
Kireet Joshi, Alain, Kathy and a small team	<p>A large proposal for submission to GOI including all aspects of education.</p> <p>Result : creation of a budgetary line in the Ministry of HRD for Auroville thru which there was a substantial increase in GOI funding.</p>

1st January 2002

Health Fund

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
Carel, Hilde and a small team	Opening of the Health Fund, a new cooperative venture to help towards taking care of the health problems of the participants

2002 - 2014

Consistent efforts towards developing a 'kind' economy

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
	<p>Consistent efforts towards developing a “kind” economy. Residents on maintenance are offered in kind services, especially for food, such as free meals in several Auroville outlets.</p>

2006

Pour Tous Distribution Center

Initiator (Experiment Holders / Managers)	Key Features
Gilles G., Suhasini	<p>Pour Tous Distribution Centre opens. It works like a cooperative. Presently about 1000 participants. Only for Aurovilians and Newcomers. An effort towards simplicity and avoidance of consumerism.</p>