

*“Knowledge shall bring into the aspirant Thought
A high proximity to Truth and God.”*

-Savitri, Book XI, Canto I

April 2008 Seminar

Snapshots from the sessions on Integral Education

We continue with our coverage of the academic sessions from the April seminar at SACAR. We focus this time on the various sessions organized under the theme of Integral Education on April 22 and 23, 2008.

Explorations in Integral Education – Chali Grinell from the Future School at Auroville shared several real-life examples of implementing the ideals and objectives of Integral Education. The presentation highlighted some of the practical aspects as well as the challenges of applying integral approaches to teaching and learning.



Psychic Education – Neeltje Huppel from Sri Aurobindo International Centre for Education (SAICE) shed some light on the role of the evolving soul or psychic in Integral Education, which is aimed at: care for the discovery of the soul, and equal attention to the development of the mental, affective and physical instruments.



Participants also watched a video-lecture by Ananda Reddy on ‘Fundamentals of Integral Education.’

For the concluding session of the day, Chali and Neeltje participate in a joint session where they discussed – from their unique perspectives of

teaching at SAICE & Auroville - some key challenges in the practice of Integral Education. This session involved much interaction with the audience.

Integral Education and Society – Jean-Yves Lung & Deepti Tewari culled insights from their years of experience in educational programmes at Auroville. Jean-Yves opened the presentation with some thoughts on ‘Education for Changing Times.’ The key points were elaborated upon by Deepti in her talk titled ‘Education in Auroville: Past, Present and Future.’



Integral Education at SAICE: Student & Teacher Perspective – Vikas Kothari, a former student and currently a teacher of physics and mathematics at SAICE, gave a general overview of how Integral Education is practiced at SAICE, and highlighted some defining educational experiences that shaped his attitudes as a student as well as a teacher.



A beautiful documentary giving a comprehensive picture about SAICE was also shown. This documentary was filmed as part of the 60th anniversary celebrations of SAICE and also incorporated interviews with students and teachers.



“Every idea contains
a little of the truth or
one aspect of the
truth. But no idea is
absolutely true in
itself.”

The Mother



Available at SACAR:
**Sri Aurobindo's Essays
 on the Gita, Chapters 1-8**
 Talks by Ananda Reddy



An eight-CD set available
 in MP3 format
 For information and
 purchase, email:
sacarmiresh@gmail.com

How Does Our Mind Work? – In this session, Deepshikha Reddy focused on one important aspect of Integral Education – training of the mind. She highlighted and discussed with the help of real-life examples some of the advice given by the Mother and Sri Aurobindo on developing mental faculties such as observation, concentration, analysis, quietening the mind, controlling its movements, and harmonizing contradictions.



Group-deliberations on Integral Education

The two-day-session on Integral Education came to a conclusion with a group-activity in which the participants discussed among themselves the following four questions:

1. What are some of the basics required to apply Integral Education in schools outside of Ashram and Auroville?
2. What are some of the new insights you have gained about education?
3. What is the difference between some of the approaches being used in contemporary elite schools and Integral Education?
4. What have you learned about the application of ideals of Integral Education for individual integral human development in adults?



Each of the four groups took up one question and after the group deliberations presented the summary of their discussions. Lively and fruitful exchange of ideas and reflections followed the group presentations, making the learning experience more enriching for everyone.

Meet Our Learners

We are happy to present brief profiles of two more members of our learning community:

Narendra Joshi, a doctoral student, with background in Engineering and Management, is interested in exploring how the consciousness approach of Sri Aurobindo's Integral Vision may be applied to radically transform organizations by facilitating the individual transformation of the people involved in these organizations.

Menaka Deorah – A former student of SAICE, Menaka had been exposed to much of the thought and works of Sri Aurobindo during her school and college years. However, it was a strong inner feeling to know and comprehend more thoroughly and more deeply Sri Aurobindo's vision and work that brought her to SACAR to pursue her doctoral studies.

The beautiful image on the first page, sourced from the Internet, is a creation of a Canadian artist and photographer, Gregory Colbert. For further information, see:
<http://www.ashesandsnow.org/en/portfolio/>
<http://www.ashesandsnow.org/>

Contact: Beloo Mehra
Phone: 0413-2348067
beloome@gmail.com
sacar@auromail.net

ASSOCIATION OF INTEGRAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS

After the success of the workshops on the 'Need for Integral Education' conducted at Deeksha High School, Hanamkonda, Warangal from April 28- May 3, 2008, the management of various schools at Warangal became interested in initiating some aspects of Integral Education at their schools. On their request, a two day seminar was held at Institute of Human Study (I.H.S.), Hyderabad on May 25-26, 2008.

Dr. Ananda Reddy Chairman of I.H.S. addressed the seminar. Various issues and challenges in the successful implementation of Integral Education in mainstream schools were discussed at length. After the deliberations, it was resolved to form an 'Association of Integral Educational Schools' (AIES). The following schools became the founder members of the Association:

Schools from Warangal

Deeksha High School	Viswa Shanti High School
Shantiniketan High School	Standard High School
Rishi High School	St. Peters High School
Sharada High School	Indian High School
Altitude IIT Foundation School	

Schools from Hyderabad

Sri Aurobindo International School (SAIS)

Smt Kanakavalli of SAIS was elected as the convener of the Association, and Sri Sampath Reddy of Viswa Shanti High School was elected as the Coordinator of Warangal Chapter.

FARMERS' CAMP AT CHAMPAK HILLS

Matridarshan Trust conducted a one-day Farmers' Camp at Champak Hills, Jangaon on May 18, 2008; about seventy farmers from the surrounding villages attended the camp. Agricultural scientists and experts in non-chemical fertilizers and pesticides addressed the farmers and advised on organic farming. The need for rearing cows in the context of organic farming was also emphasized.

WORKSHOP ON SCIENCE OF INTEGRAL LIVING

The Institute of Human Study conducted a two-day workshop on 'Science of Integral Living' at the Nrupatunga Degree College, Hyderabad on June 24-25, 2008. Sri IMKS Raju led the program in which about 50 students participated.

Online Programme in Introduction to Sri Aurobindo Studies Starts August 15th

An overview of Sri Aurobindo's insights on Indian Culture,
Social Evolution, Integral Philosophy and Integral Yoga

Registration has begun! For information and application,
Visit – www.sacar.in or email at: sacar@auromail.net

We invoke the Grace and Blessings of our beloved Mother and Sri Aurobindo through our reference to MĀ and SA. MĀSA is also a Sanskrit word which means month – appropriate for this monthly publication.

Coming up in the next issue: A brief review of the section on 'Social-political Thought of Sri Aurobindo' from the April 2008 seminar.