

Results of the PTDC August Survey

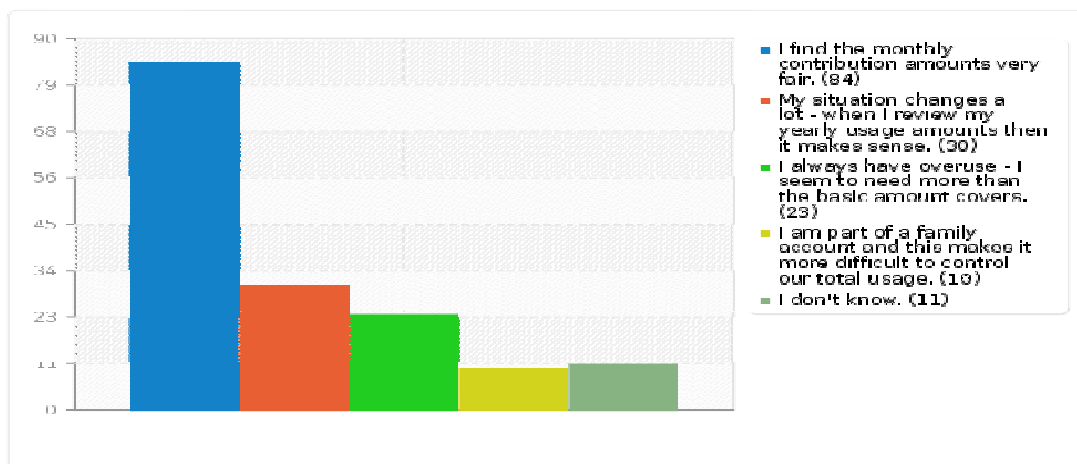
PTDC and Servicelink worked together with Blue Light, from May to August, to create a simple online survey using an Open Source application called Lime Survey. The first survey of this kind to be used by PTDC, it was circulated to all participants having an email ID, with hard copies also available for those with limited computer access. Out of the 329 participants addressed we had 139 responses - a higher than average rate of reply. Many of the questions allowed multiple answers, to allow a range of replies to suit the perceptions of the various respondents.

Below is a summary of the questions and responses.

(The full version of this report can be seen online in the Reports section of the Aurnet)

1. Does the monthly contribution system work for you?

There are a few standard rates of PTDC contribution, for each individual and for families and children. These are "fixed", but may also change with individual circumstances. When actual costs of goods and services increase the standard for these regular contributions may need to be re-evaluated. (multiple choice):



55.26%	I find the monthly contribution amounts very fair
19.74%	My situation changes a lot - when I review my yearly usage amounts then it makes sense
15.13%	I always have overuse - I seem to need more than the basic amount covers
06.58%	I am part of a family account and this makes it more difficult to control our total usage
07.24%	I don't know

2. How are you supported at present? (one choice):

35.53%	I receive a basic maintenance and have no or limited personal reserves
33.55%	I receive a maintenance from the unit/project were I work, and I have some personal reserves
29.61%	I am self-supported
01.32%	No answer

2.a. Answer this question only if you receive a basic maintenance (multiple choice):

15.13%	In-kind support needs to increase (meals, basic support), to cover food and body care items
14.47%	My total basic maintenance amount needs to increase, to cover food & body care items
09.21%	So far I feel the adjustments and rates work out fine – no change needed
03.29%	I don't know

3. How do you feel about PTDC regulating overuse?

Those who are self-supported or can adjust the rate of their maintenance themselves may cover their own overuse at PTDC, while others on a fixed maintenance may have less flexibility (one choice):

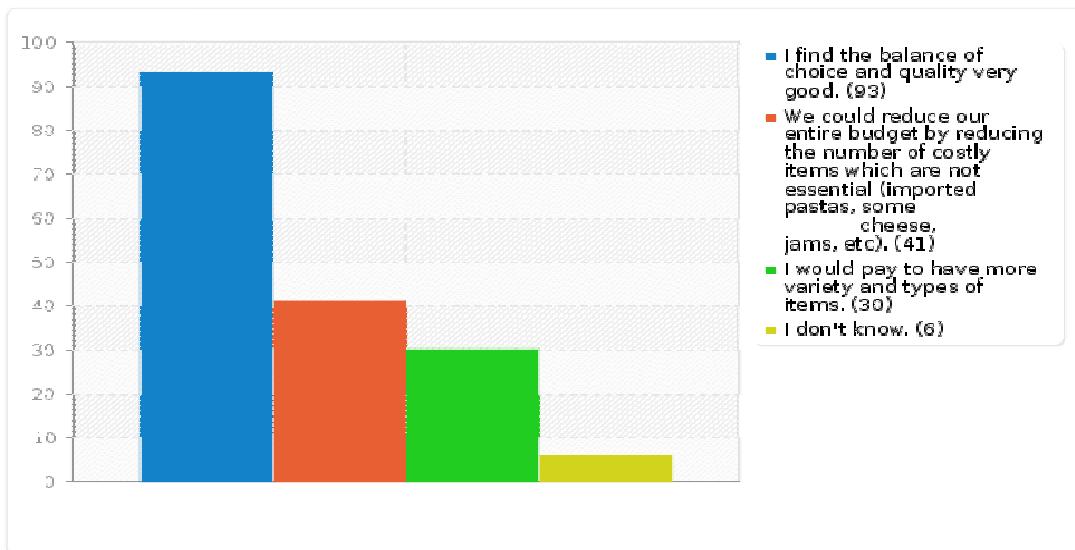
63.82%	I don't mind to be reminded – I like to check in from time to time with PTDC office
18.42%	I am completely self-regulating and never need to be reminded
09.21%	I would prefer my account were automatically deducted monthly to cover any overuse
05.92%	I don't know
01.97%	I would prefer to give a lower contribution and reduce my expenses
00.66%	No answer

4. If you could decide on the best way, how would recurring overuse be covered? (rated response):

- 34.00% People who have more should cover their own overuse through "extra contributions"
- 23.00% People who regularly overuse should not be members
- 21.00% The Central Fund should take care by providing a buffer for people who really need it
- 18.00% People who have more should be ready to give a bit more generally to support services
- 04.00% No answer

5. How do you find the product-variety and range at PTDC?

PTDC does its best to provide a range of food and household products to cover the basic needs of Aurovilians. While respecting personal preferences and individual needs, the aim is always to provide the best quality at the best rates, while avoiding a "marketplace" atmosphere or excessive amount of choice (multiple choice):



- 61.18% I find the balance of choice and quality very good
- 19.74% I would pay to have more variety and types of items
- 06.97% Reduce the budget by reducing the number of costly items which are not essential
- 03.95% I don't know

5. Organic or Not: How much of a priority?

Organic and biological products very often will cost more than those more widely distributed commercially. We have always done our best to stock first Auroville organic products, especially fresh produce in season, and to find a range of the other organic products available at the best possible cost. But we know also that if participants take only biological products that is going to raise the basic monthly participation amounts too (multiple choice):

- 70.39% I support giving preference to Auroville sourced and packaged organic goods
- 67.11% I would prefer mostly Auroville-grown seasonal fruits and vegetables
- 52.63% I like Auroville produce, but always need regular "Pondy" produce, too
- 23.68% I take whichever product is available and looks the best choice at the moment
- 20.39% I would like to get more organic goods but my budget does not allow this
- 19.08% I like being able to get out-of-season "western" produce, such as from Bangalore & Ooty
- 07.24% I only regularly insist on organic when it is a high-contamination risk (example: tea & coffee)
- 03.29% I don't mind – if it is grown in Auroville, or if it is chemical-free, or not, no problem for me

6. PTDC Meals: How does this work for you?

As a part of the Auroville lunch scheme and supporting Mother's wish that collective kitchens would free up Aurovilians to do their work without needing to prepare their own meals, PTDC makes meals available daily, both provided by Visitors Center and prepared in its own kitchen on site. The PTDC meals are prepared entirely by volunteers (multiple choice):

- 37.50% I find the PTDC meals good, and like the daily home-made variety
- 37.50% I eat elsewhere (in other public eating places)
- 32.89% I rather get groceries and do my own cooking much of the time
- 20.39% I think PTDC should have a full-time cook in charge and a more regular menu
- 17.76% I like the Visitors Center meals available at PTDC, as the alternative to PTDC's own selection
- 05.92% I would like to have Solar Kitchen food also available to pick up at PTDC