

Research in homeopathy: *Harmony and Samata*

A posting by Maggi Lidchi-Grassi in the News and Notes on the beneficial effects of homeopathic remedies prepared from substances originating from the hair of The Mother and the nail-clippings of Sri Aurobindo led to debate on the Auroville's internal Intranet and to a public statement of the Working Committee which termed the posting 'unfortunate'.

“I do not believe the Working Committee knows anything about the topic,” says Sigrid. She is one of Auroville's homeopaths who is researching the remedies and is documenting the seven year old database of Maggi to provide clear information on the effects of the homeopathic remedies *Harmony* and *Samata*.

Maggi, who developed the remedies, was for many years one of The Mother's private secretaries. She is a practising homeopath, and founded Quiet, Auroville's healing centre. She is also a prolific writer of novels and essays.

Maggi had explained in the *News and Notes* the origins of these remedies. “Much of the work of Sri Aurobindo and Mother consisted in attempting to bring the supramental down and establish in the material plane. That work, in so far as we have any understanding of it, required that these energies first be brought into and fixed in their own bodies. ... Might those energies that had been fixed in the cells of their bodies not be releasable by the process of homeopathic potentization? And what would the effect be on someone taking a potentized remedy derived from such material? Being in the possession of some hairs from The Mother's head which Mother had once given to her with the words, ‘All of me is potentially in this’, the remedy called *Harmony* was prepared ... Subsequently, some nail parings of Sri Aurobindo were obtained and the remedy *Samata* (Sanskrit for ‘equanimity’) was prepared from it.

Nearly a hundred people, primarily in Pondicherry and Auroville, have taken one or both of these remedies one or more times. Some individuals who took the remedies were suffering from various ailments including hypertension, migraine headaches and depression. With these people the focus of interest was on the effect the remedies might have upon their existing pathology. Most of them, according to Maggi, reported improvement in their health.

But mostly the individuals taking the remedies were in good health. Their feedback focused on

changes they experienced in their state of consciousness, energy, creativity, dream life, etc. “Only positive effects were experienced, primarily in the form of people having deep experiences,” says Sigrid. “There were no negative responses at all! This is amazing.” For Maggi, these experiences are doorways to increased energy, creativity, and even for the psychic being to come to the front.

Maggi admitted in her posting that proper experimental methodology had not been followed. “There was, for example, no control group; and while none of those taking them knew the actual source of the remedies, most (though not all) were aware that the remedies were ‘special’ and that they were in some way related to Sri Aurobindo and The Mother. Still, the effects reported were so consistently (and often profoundly) positive – not least in some of the cases involving real health issues – that the conclusion that something of Sri Aurobindo's and The Mother's energies are working through these remedies seems not merely justified, but inescapable. Those of us who have been most closely involved in this work, who have experienced the effects of *Harmony* and *Samata* ourselves and read report after report of others experiences are convinced that we are truly witnessing an action of the Grace.”

Maggi gave more information on the remedies in a further letter to the Working Committee. “We have seen that by administering a single drop of ‘*Harmony*’, people are touched by The Mother in the same way as when she was alive: depressions cured, pains alleviated, comprehension widened, the sudden descent of peace and calm, and torment dispelled. Compassion, forgiveness and love take the place of resentment. Many illnesses have been cured.”

She continues, “With *Samata* a great stillness is established, instructions come in dreams, seeming miracles occur. Ariel Browne, a clairvoyant who didn't know what the remedy was, saw that *Harmony* had a ‘transformational power’ and could ‘reposition the cells’. Katia, a French clairvoyant, also saw their evolutionary possibilities.” In a later

email, Maggi stated that “*Harmony* and *Samata* are made available in the belief that peace and compassion of Mother and Sri Aurobindo may infiltrate the consciousness of the human race.”

If these were “glad tidings” to some, others found using relics of the gurus to prepare homeopathic remedies highly objectionable. The Working Committee, concerned about the

ing the masters – an outdated tradition that is inappropriate in Auroville.

But for Sigrid, this discussion showed a misunderstanding of the very basics involved. “This is research on the frontiers of consciousness: these arguments demonstrate a lack of awareness of today's research in homeopathy and healing sciences.

“Homeopathic remedies free subtle energies of a material substance or of living tissue, such as from human body parts, for example *Lac humanum* (Mothers milk), or from DNA, and these have been used therapeutically for many years – just to put things into perspective. By following this line of thought it is clear that – according to homeopathic understanding and philosophy – *Harmony* and *Samata* reveal by means of potentization the energies stored in the bodies of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother, who were working on a establishing a new species.” She invites the critics “to join the research and find out for themselves – either by ingesting the remedies or by doing a focused meditation with them” – rather than uttering preconceived opinions. “Let them experiment with this ‘energetic reminder’ of the work we came to do here – research in consciousness.”

As Maggi states, “This is a serious project with possible worldwide repercussions. Homeopaths in England, America, Italy and Czechoslovakia as well as India have used *Harmony* and *Samata* and prescribed it. ... An article on ‘*Harmony* and *Samata*’ is about to appear in ‘Links’, the international Homeopathic journal that is read in 50 countries ... If Auroville is ever in any way recognized as one of the sites where *Harmony* was first ‘proved’, it will be to her credit.” And she concludes, “Ultimately, if enough people experience something of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother through these essences, it should make a difference for human consciousness as such.”

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For more info on homeopathy in Auroville visit http://www.auroville.org/health/inner_health.htm

SERVICES

In search of the missing donor

Auroville Today's report of the meeting of the Auroville International Centres in Holland in the June-July issue mentioned that an American dentist had promised \$16,000 to the Auroville Dental Clinic for village dental work. Repeated enquiries, however, have failed to discover the donor.

“Maddening!” says Jacques. “We were extremely happy to read this report and asked Auroville International for the contact details of the donor. But nobody knew anything about it, even though they had approved the report that appeared in Auroville Today! Was it just a chimera? We hoped it wasn't, but hope is failing.”

Jacques is one of the early Aurovilians. He has earned respect by not only setting up and running a first-class dental clinic in Auroville, but also creating a dental health care system in the villages that surround Auroville. Both are based on revolutionary concepts.

The Auroville Health Centre works with the so-called ‘Zero Concept’ developed by Dr. Beech. The patient lies flat instead of sitting in a tilting dental chair. “The dentist no longer has to break his back treating a patient,” says Jacques. “Work can be done in a natural position sitting behind the patient's

head. The dentist has minimum body tension and maximum finger control. Back pain is the number one bane of all dentists. I had it for 18 years, but with this system, it completely disappeared.”

“The second advantage is that can be used by our village dental helpers,” says Suriyagandhi. She manages Auroville's Dental Clinic and ADCERRA, the rather unwieldy acronym for Auroville Dental Centre Education Research Rural Action, a programme for the villages. She explains, “Our dental helpers are ordinary village women with no medical or dental background. They have been trained by us to do teeth cleaning for adults and children and provide basic anti-caries treatment in milk teeth. As the patients lie on a flat surface, any table will do, there is no need for an expensive dental chair. This makes the treatment affordable.”

“The women remove early caries and fill the cavities with special cement which releases some fluoride. This halts the decay process,” explains Jacques. “If the dental helper sees something she cannot treat, the patient is referred to the special dental clinic for villagers at Auroville's Health Centre. Treating caries at an early age avoids costly dental care when the person is older. The technique is promoted by the World Health Organisation. It can be used in the most difficult conditions, even when there is no electricity or running water.”



A dental helper at work while children await their turn

PHOTO COURTESY AUROVILLE DENTAL SERVICE

So how many people benefit from ADCERRA?

“In addition to the dental clinic we run ten sub-centres,” says Suriyagandhi. “We employ 14 dental



A time for self-examination

helpers who cover a population of about 25,000 people living in 19 villages within a 15 kilometre radius from Auroville. The programme is very beneficial to them. Most of the 700 million inhabitants of rural India have no access whatsoever to dental facilities!”

Asked for the success rate, Suriyagandhi confirms it is high. “The programme includes regular meetings with village leaders, headmen and women's clubs to increase the awareness of the need for dental hygiene and treatment. The children are regularly checked. As a result, they have far less caries and rarely suffer any acute pain. We started work in the villages about 15 years ago. We now notice that there is substantial less need for root canal treatments, tooth extractions or bridges and implants.”

“We were shocked when we did a survey in the schools of a remote village,” adds Jacques. “There was a very high incidence of caries and lack of hygiene. It showed how much the children in Auroville's surrounding villages benefit from our dental programme. The difference was so huge that it really encouraged us to continue. Our programme could be a role model for underprivileged rural areas and should be implemented all over India!”

PHOTO COURTESY AUROVILLE DENTAL SERVICE

But many dental clinics and colleges have come up in Pondicherry. Is there a need for continuing the programme? “Definitely,” says Suriyagandhi. “The costs of dental treatment in Pondicherry are far higher. We only charge for materials and labour, not overheads or profits. For example, a root canal treatment which costs Rs 3,000 in Pondicherry is done by us for a mere Rs 800. This is affordable for the people from the villages. If they had to pay Rs 3,000, the tooth would go untreated.”

“It's here that the funding requirement comes in,” says Jacques. “ADCERRA aims at self-sufficiency, but with the increase in salaries and material costs, this ideal cannot yet be reached. We estimate that will need to be supported for the next three years. We are experimenting with a kind of ‘dental insurance’ system, where a village family pays Rs 120 a month for basic treatment, but this has not really caught on. We are also exploring an idea to start a scheme of collective micro-credits which aims at every sub-centre becoming financially self-supporting. But this too is a distant dream. That's why we were so happy reading about the American donor! Could anyone with information please contact us at aurodentcentre@auroville.org.in?”

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