Auroville Women’s health Study

2017

A Summary of Auroville Women’s Health Research

Presented by
Paula Murphy

Research and event are supported by:

Parenting & Birth Awake  S A I I E R  S a n t é  and  ECO Femme
Auroville Women’s health Study
Presentation Outline

Introduction

- History and focus of the Research
- a brief description of the researched Group of Women.

The surveyed areas

- Puberty
- Sexual Health
• Maternity
• Personal Safety

Conclusions of the research

- Conclusions derived from this research translate to the fields of Education, Resources and Services and other areas of possible research.
Introduction

Description of the Women the research was focussed on

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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>4</td>
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![Bar chart showing the distribution of women by age group](chart.png)
Puberty
Puberty

How old were you when you had your first period?

Number of Women

- age group 9-11
- age group 12-14
- age group 15-17
- does not remember
Puberty

How prepared did you feel before your first period?

All Surveyed Women

Prepared 32%
Unprepared 68%
Puberty

How prepared did you feel before your first period?

Women from the AV bio region

- Prepared 6%
- Unprepared 94%
How prepared did you feel before your first period?

Women not from the AV bio region
Puberty

What do girls in Auroville need around periods?

Top Three of Needs

- Talks in schools: 94
- Private toilets: 36
- Free period supplies: 35
Sexual Health

BREAKING TABOOS
Sexual Health

How would you rate sexual health care in Auroville?

- 79%: It meets my needs completely
- 21%: It does not meet my needs

All Surveyed Women
Sexual Health

Are you OK with what you know about sex?

Women from the AV bio region

- I know enough: 42%
- It's difficult to say and I would like to know more: 58%
Sexual Health

Are you OK with what you know about sex?

- 80%: Women not from the AV bio region
- 20%: I know enough
- 20%: It's difficult to say, and I would like to know more
Sexual Health

At what age did you have sex for the first time?

- Under age-below 16: 36
- 16-18: 73
- 19-21: 40
- Over 21: 39

All Surveyed Women
Sexual Health

18 women had underage initiation of sex.
– In this group:

- 12 had an unplanned pregnancy,
- 11 were beaten,
- 9 felt raped
- 4 experienced all of these events.
Sexual Health

Thinking of the first time you had sex, what applied to you?

Women from AV bioregion:
- 37%: I was confident in my decision
- 19%: I gave consent
- 21%: I used birth control other than a condom
- 8%: I used a condom
- 5%: I wanted to get pregnant
- 10%: Did not answer question

Women not from AV bioregion:
- 34%: I was confident in my decision
- 31%: I gave consent
- 22%: I used birth control other than a condom
- 8%: I used a condom
- 4%: I wanted to get pregnant
- 1%: Did not answer question
Sexual Health

Have you ever had an unplanned pregnancy?

- **Women from the AV bio region**
  - Yes: [diagram showing a smaller blue section]
  - No: [diagram showing a larger red section]

- **Women not from the AV bio region**
  - Yes: [diagram showing a larger blue section]
  - No: [diagram showing a smaller red section]
Maternity
Maternity

Do you agree with this statement: ‘Auroville is a welcoming place for pregnant women’
Maternity

Do you currently have children younger than 12 years old?

61 answered Yes.

17 of these babies were born in Auroville,

30 of these babies were born in Pondicherry
Maternity

Were you happy with your birth experience?

Of all births in Auroville and Pondicherry:

– 17 deliveries were from women of the AV bio region.
  – 10 of these women were happy with their experience, 7 were not.

– 18 deliveries were from women not from the AV Bio region.
  – 16 of these women were happy with their experience, 2 were not
Maternity

Human Rights in Childbirth


We're coming for them.

Human Rights in Childbirth India Conference
2-5 February 2017, Mumbai
Maternity

Open question (14): Was anything missing from your pregnancy, birth and post birth care?
Maternity

Did you feel there was enough time for you and your baby?

Women not from the AV bio region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>67%</th>
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<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>33%</td>
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Women from the AV bio region

<table>
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<th>YES</th>
<th>44%</th>
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<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>56%</td>
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Maternity
Maternity

Did you have spiritual education for pregnancy, birth and parenting based on Mother and Sri Aurobindo?

Two out of three women said ‘no’
Personal Safety
Personal Safety

What do you do to stay safe in Auroville?

Here are the top 4 responses:

- I travel in groups
- I have emergency numbers for Auroville security in my Phone
- I Take a safer Route, even if it's longer
- Don’t go out at night
Personal Safety

Have you ever been physically abused or beaten?
Personal Safety

Have you ever been physically abused or beaten?
Personal Safety

Have you ever felt raped?

- **Women from the AV bio region**
  - Yes: 12%
  - No: 82%
  - I do not want to answer: 6%

- **Women not from the AV bio region**
  - Yes: 7%
  - No: 68%
  - I do not want to answer: 25%
Women’s comments regarding Physical Abuse and Rape
Personal Safety

Do you know resources in your area for women's needs?

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<th>From AVBio-Region</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Not from AVBio region</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>110</td>
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Open Comments
Open Comments