Contents

1 Introduction: The Need for a New Psychology of Human Development ........................................ 1
1.1 The Aim ........................................ 1
1.2 The Relevance of Studying Sri Aurobindo and The Mother .... 2
1.3 Understanding Metapsychology ........................................ 3
1.4 Examining the Current Agenda of the Discipline of Human Development: The Limitations and Unanswered Questions ........................................ 4
1.5 Exploring Sri Aurobindo’s Vision of Psychology as a Field of Study ........................................ 7
1.6 Re-examining the Methods of Studying Human Development ........................................ 11
1.7 The Contemporary Crisis and Responsibility of the Psychological Sciences ........................................ 14
1.8 Conclusion ........................................ 15
References ........................................ 16

2 The Process of Individual Evolution: Moving Towards a Gnostic Individuality ........................................ 19
2.1 Introduction ........................................ 19
2.2 Exploring the Nature of the Human Person: The Structure and the Expanse of the Being ........................................ 20
2.2.1 The Parts of the Being ........................................ 20
2.2.2 The Planes of the Being ........................................ 24
2.3 Developmental Implications of Sri Aurobindo’s Perspective on Personality ........................................ 28
2.3.1 A Comprehensive and Complex Understanding of Human Nature and Its Development ........................................ 28
2.3.2 A Developmental Science of Human Subjectivity ........................................ 29
2.3.3 Ascent as a Basis of Descent of Divine Consciousness ........................................ 30
2.3.4 Development Through the Connection of the Spiritual and the Material ........................................ 31
2.3.5 Human Being as the Divine-in-the-Making ........................................ 32
2.4 Moving Towards a Divine or Gnostic Individuality: Developmental Aspects and Dynamics .......................... 32
2.4.1 From Human Individuality to Gnostic Individuality . . . 33
2.5 The Transformation of Consciousness: Methods and Processes ................................................................. 41
2.5.1 The Integral Yoga and the Psychological Levers of Change ................................................................. 42
2.5.2 The Psychicisation of the Being ................................. 45
2.5.3 The Spiritualisation of the Being ............................. 47
2.5.4 The Supramentalisation of Being: The Gnostic Individual and the Life Divine ....................................... 48
2.6 Conclusion .................................................................. 49
References ..................................................................... 49

3 The Process of Social Evolution: The Human Cycle ......... 51
3.1 Introduction ................................................................. 51
3.2 The Psychology of Social Development: The Cycles of Society ................................................................. 52
3.2.1 The Symbolic Stage ................................................ 52
3.2.2 The Typal Stage ...................................................... 53
3.2.3 The Conventional Stage ......................................... 54
3.2.4 The Individualistic Stage ....................................... 54
3.2.5 The Subjective Stage ............................................. 56
3.2.6 The Spiritual Stage ................................................ 59
3.3 The Ideal Law of Social Development ......................... 60
3.4 The Dimensions of Human Perfection: The Relation Between the Individual and the Collective .................. 61
3.5 The Nature of Human Progress .................................. 62
3.6 The Relation Between Progress and Perfection .......... 64
3.7 Conclusion ................................................................ 65
References ..................................................................... 65

4 The Contemporary Discipline of Human Development: The Dominant Metatheories .............................................. 67
4.1 Introduction ................................................................. 67
4.2 Sri Aurobindo on Human Development in Indian and Western Cultures: Implications for Knowing and Being . . . 67
4.2.1 The European Cultural View ................................. 68
4.2.2 The Indian Cultural View ...................................... 69
4.3 Human Development as a Field of Inquiry: A Historical View ..................................................................... 70
4.3.1 The Issues of the Foundational Period ................... 70
4.3.2 The Concept of ‘Development’ and ‘Evolution’ .......... 72
4.3.3 The Contemporary Conceptualisation of Development. . 74
6.2 Creating a New Vision for the Discipline of Human Development .......................................................... 131
6.3 Articulating a New Agenda for Human Development .......... 138
  6.3.1 The Metapsychological Foundations of Human Development ......................................................... 138
  6.3.2 A Blueprint of Human Development: The Key Developmental Dimensions ................................. 141
  6.3.3 The Unfolding of the New Agenda: Bringing Together the Key Themes of Development .......... 142
6.4 The Integral View of Human Development: Contemporary Relevance ................................................. 147
References ................................................................................. 148

7 Applying the New Agenda of Human Development .......... 151
  7.1 Introduction ..................................................................... 151
  7.2 Integral Education .......................................................... 152
  7.3 Conscious Parenting ......................................................... 158
  7.4 Work as a Means of Self-Development ................................. 158
  7.5 Towards New Forms of Relating ........................................ 159
  7.6 New Ways of Psychological Healing ................................. 160
  7.7 Examining the Hidden Curriculum of Modern Life: Proposing an Alternate Integral-Developmental Agenda ...... 161
  7.8 Some Challenges of Using the New Agenda of Human Development ...................................................... 166
References ............................................................................. 166

Appendix A .............................................................................. 169

Appendix B ............................................................................. 175

Glossary ............................................................................... 177
Sri Aurobindo's Vision of Integral Human Development
Designing a Future Discipline of Study
Gupta, M.
2014, XIII, 181 p. 4 illus., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-81-322-1903-3