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A fight for human dignity !





From the Executive Desk:

This has been an interesting and inspirational year for Prayas!

It brings with it a realization that it is not easy to carry forward a legacy - a legacy driven by a determined heart, a strong will and the unwavering optimism to enrich and transform lives of the specially-abled angels associated with Prayas! Prayas not only creates a dignified and nurturing environment for the children to thrive and blossom in, but also provides growth opportunities to underprivileged children, through academic and vocational empowerment.

When we look at the plethora of milestones we have crossed in our journey, we have a lot to be proud of this year - recovering from the Covid setback, introducing the digital platform, introducing free mid-day meals for all children, grassroot working, women empowerment, scaling new vocational initiatives (soap making and bakery products), empowerment in Disability Management through Teachers Versatility program, to name a few.

The expected game changer this year is our plan to start the B ED Degree course of RCI in Special Education (Intellectual Development), which is going to be the harbinger to our dream of seeing Prayas at the zenith in the Disability sector. Aspirations apart, it takes more than a dream to make things come true. Starting and sustaining an NGO is as challenging as operating any other enterprise. Seeing things through to their culmination, without compromising on ethos and principles, calls for a lot of solution finding and innovative use of resources. We have consolidated our schools, optimised use of resources by running double shifts and with a collective focus, taken up the biggest of challenges - of building, creating and reclaiming extra space needed for the new programs.

Over the coming year, the focus will be to continue the journey in the same spirit of sensitivity, social inclusion and genuineness in working. I am grateful to all members of the Governing Council and the Executive Board for their selfless engagement and all the staff members of Prayas for their dedicated services.

It will be unpardonable for me, if I do not take this opportunity to acknowledge the whole hearted and sincere contribution of all our donors in India and overseas, who have reposed their faith in Prayas and supported us all through our arduous journey.

We promise that we shall not let you down!

**Manoj Bhatt,
Chairperson, PRAYAS**



**Late Miss Jatinder Arora
Founder, Prayas.**

A Fight for Human Dignity

Prayas was founded by late Ms. Jatinder Arora, whose deep commitment led her to dedicate her time to the service of differently abled children. This commitment took shape in the form of Prayas, which began its journey with just 5 differently abled children and a staff of 2, in 1996 in Raja Park, Jaipur. The initial challenges were significant, as Prayas embarked on the task of integrating disabled children with their typically developing peers, while also fostering harmony among the diverse communities these children came from. Over the years, these children became the ambassadors of Prayas, embodying its message and mission. The overarching objective was not solely centred on imparting literacy or basic writing skills, but to instil value-based education. The goal extended to nurturing analytical abilities, fostering discernment between right and wrong, and nurturing these children to grow into compassionate and responsible individuals.

Vision

Equal opportunities for all

Mission

Our mission is the integration of children, with and without special needs, into mainstream schooling and society by providing education to enable their growth and development towards becoming self-sufficient individuals who can live with dignity.

Objectives

- Provide Inclusive Education (Education for all).
- Enhance skills of CWSN and develop a positive attitude towards self-reliance.
- Provide income generating projects to enable differently-abled to become economically self-sufficient.
- To develop strategies for marketing the products made by the physically and mentally challenged so that their income can be ensured.
- To advocate and network with governmental and non-governmental institutes for child rights.
- Women empowerment.
- Community participation in child education.
- To develop a resource centre in accordance with special needs in changing environment.
- To run professional courses under the accreditation of RCI.
- To facilitate inclusion in government run schools in slums of Jaipur.
- To pursue and help children to continue education for secondary and higher secondary certificates for placement.
- To provide computer science knowledge for better placement.

About Prayas

PRAYAS is dedicated to empowering even the most marginalized children, facilitating the development of their unique identities, nurturing their talents, and fostering inspiration for others. This organization focuses on three main areas: Disability Support, Integrated Education, and the promotion of Inclusive Education, which are carried out through various initiatives in the school and community projects. PRAYAS adopts a comprehensive approach to child intervention, education, and vocational training, encompassing not only the children

themselves but also involving parents, families, and the broader community in this transformative journey.

PRAYAS holds a firm belief in 'Education for All'. Recognizing education as a potent instrument of empowerment, societal balance, and catalyst for both social and economic advancement. PRAYAS is committed to ensuring access to education for all strata of society.

Since its inception in 1996, PRAYAS has been dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) as well as underprivileged children residing in slum areas. What initially began as a pioneering endeavour to introduce inclusive and integrated education has evolved into a trail blazing model of forward-looking education. These schools cater to students hailing from the Kutchi bustees of Jaipur. Our primary aim remains steadfast - to extend our outreach to maximum number of disadvantaged children, promoting inclusivity and providing them with transformative opportunities.

Prayas Initiatives:

PRAYAS Centre for Special Education & Vocational Training

Running under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India, this centre serves as a hub of comprehensive support for children with special needs. It is designed to cater to the diverse and unique learning



requirements of each individual. The enrolment stands at approximately 100 + Children with Special Needs (CWSN), representing a range of categories including Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disability, Hearing Impairment, and Cerebral Palsy. The school uses tailored interventions to address the specific needs of each child.

For children having academic aptitude, the centre encourages them to pursue education through open schooling programs. Concurrently, children who lack the academic aptitude are equipped with valuable vocational skills. These skills encompass a diverse array of crafts such as tie and dye, papier-mâché, candle making, embroidery, sewing machine stitching, as well as involvement in culinary activities like cooking and participating in the PRAYAS Tiffin Centre and bakery initiatives. This approach is designed to transform these children into financially contributing members of their families, in later life.

PRAYAS Integrated School

The school stands as a testament to collaborative efforts for comprehensive education. This institution receives financial support from both Wipro Cares and Asha in Education USA, solidifying a commitment to holistic learning. The school offers education up to Class VIII and holds recognition from the Board of Secondary Education, Rajasthan. With an enrolment of approximately 178 students, the school accommodates a diverse student body, including 42 Children with Special Needs (CWSN). These children are educated within specialized classrooms or, if deemed appropriate, integrated into mainstream classes, particularly in borderline cases.



PRAYAS Government Primary School Intervention

This initiative demonstrates a strategic approach to inclusive education. Recognizing the constraints of external funding, the limitations of available resources, and the imperative need to expand our impact, PRAYAS has undertaken the task of facilitating inclusive education in 12 government-operated primary schools in the slums of Jaipur. This initiative, initiated in July 2010, involves deploying our specialized educators to these schools. The project is supported by Wipro Cares.



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Community Outreach

The program stands as a cornerstone of PRAYAS's holistic educational philosophy. Going beyond the classroom, PRAYAS recognizes the integral role families and communities play in a child's development. This comprehensive engagement extends to various dimensions, including education, documentation, facilitating access to government schemes, healthcare, hygiene, women empowerment and skill enhancement. PRAYAS is committed to bridging gaps between the community and government initiatives, ensuring that the benefits of these programs reach those who need them most.



Home-Based Program

PRAYAS Home-Based Program is designed specifically for profoundly disabled children, who are confined to their homes due to their physical limitations. This initiative serves as a lifeline for these children by providing essential support within the confines of their own residences. A dedicated team comprising special educators, physiotherapists, and psychologists undertake regular visits to these homes. During these visits, they administer therapy sessions, offer guidance to other family members, and work towards unravelling the underlying factors contributing to behavioural patterns and developmental delays.



Resource Centre

The PRAYAS Resource Centre: PRAYAS Institute for Special Education and Research, serves as a crucial response to the scarcity of trained special educators to cater to Children with Special Needs (CWSN). To address this gap, in 2014, PRAYAS has started conducting a two-year diploma course in Special Education, specializing in Mental Retardation, now renamed as Intellectual Developmental Disability. This program operates under the aegis of Rehabilitation Council of India in New Delhi



and the National Institute of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai (NIEPMD). 289 specialized educators, after completing the course, are now actively engaged in diverse capacities to support children with special needs. RCI recognized CRE (Continued Rehabilitation Education) Workshops are regularly conducted by Prayas through Specialists of the field from across India and In-house experts, for reiteration and up-dation on new developments in the field.

Highlights of Activities and Achievements conducted in the year 2022-23

The projects, initiatives, and activities undertaken in the past year were all to promote sustainable development.

Raja Dulhe Rai Award: Prayas was awarded the Raja Dulhe Rai award for its outstanding contribution to society. The



event was sponsored by the royal family of Jaipur in a ceremony organized in the City palace, Jaipur.

Mid - Day Meal: To address the need for sustained nutrition for its students, Prayas started Mid day meals for all the students of its schools and collaborated with Akshay Patra for the supply of the fresh meals every day.



Special Educator Training: Regular Teachers were equipped with specialized skills to effectively serve as special educators, enhancing their capacity to support children with diverse learning needs. A Teacher Versatility program was also initiated, but it is in its infancy.

Youth Empowerment: Two unemployed individuals from the community underwent training and secured placements with prestigious organizations such as Shri Ram Finance and ITC Group.

Community Surveys: Over 10,000 families were surveyed, enabling a comprehensive understanding of the community's needs and aspirations.

Pankh: This community women empowerment initiative was initiated to train women in the community to make biodegradable sanitary napkins. A group of members from Prayas was sent to Delhi to learn this skill hands on. However, the project has not yet taken off due to logistic issues.



Infrastructure Development: The school building is getting expanded, and plans were set in motion to introduce a Bachelor's of Special Education program pending approval.

Bakery Unit: A vocational training initiative in the form of a Bakery Unit is in the making, aimed at fostering financial independence for Children with Special Needs (CWSN). Four members of staff will be sent for training in the Institute of Hotel Management and these trained teachers will be providing culinary training to Children with special needs.

Story Telling Session: Prayas in collaboration with Jaipur Literature festival and Team Works Arts, organised storytelling sessions in Prayas schools and the Government schools, where Prayas is working. The sessions left all the students mesmerized. This event was followed by a Workshop at Prayas for our staff members, by the same team to explain the art story-telling. This has now been made a part of the regular school curriculum.



Skill Training: Teachers were trained in vocational skills like soap and liquid hand wash making, which were subsequently imparted to CWSN. Now students are working hands on in this under their teacher's guidance.



Continued Education Program: Students who have completed their education till class VIII in Prayas are supported financially for their higher education as well. During this academic year, four students are receiving financial support from Prayas to continue their education in Geeta Bajaj School, Jaipur in grade IX.

Foundation Day Celebrations 17th July 2022: What is normally a modest Inhouse celebration was celebrated on a grand scale this year, in an effort to give the students a wider platform and exposure. Prayas celebrated its 26th Foundation day as part of 'Amritotsav', celebrating India's 75 Years of Independence, at Rangayan Auditorium in collaboration with Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur. The event was graced by esteemed guests, parents and students of Prayas. Students prepared a beautiful cultural show with the help of teachers and mesmerized the audience with the stage performances. The best students were awarded with certificates, trophies and cash prizes.



Enhanced Parent Involvement: Through a series of engaging activities within and outside the school, parents' participation and commitment to shaping their children's future were notably amplified. 'MILAAP' is a platform specifically for parents of CWSN where they all can come together to discuss, advise and share their experience while raising a child with special needs. Milaap is proving to be a radical instrument in building trust and confidence of these parents. Two programs for Milaap were organized in this year.



Facility Enhancement: The library and computer lab were restructured to provide better facilities for students, enhancing their learning experience.

Workshop: Continued Rehabilitation Education (CRE) workshop on the topic 'Pre-Vocational Skills' was organised in November 2022 and over 40 special educators from Prayas, Govt schools and Private schools were trained by the guest faculty invited by Prayas.



Promotion of Vocational Crafts: Efforts were made to promote the vocational crafts produced by children with special needs, showcasing their talents and skills. Roadside stalls were organised in Jhalana Institutional area and exhibition stalls in Jawahar Kala Kendra. An overwhelming response and appreciation from everyone was very encouraging.



Participation in Special Olympics: 11 PRAYAS CWSN actively participated in Special Olympics Bharat, securing medals across various sports, demonstrating their prowess. The selection and training was tough, but our children had the grit and determination to face it and emerge as winners.



These activities exemplify PRAYAS's dynamic and holistic approach to education, empowerment, skill development, and fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for children with special needs.

Some Statistics:

Name of Centre	Current Students Strength
Prayas Integrated School	178
Prayas Special School	100+

No. of Children with special needs and Slow Learners					
Category	Integrated School	Special School	Govt. Schools	Home based Program	Total
CWSN (Intellectually Disabled, Multiple Disabled, Hearing Impaired, Cerebral Palsy, Learning Disability)	38	100	62	30	227
Slow Learners	4	-	28	-	32
Total CWSN					259

Statistics related to community benefitting initiatives of Prayas	Total No.
CWSN Admitted to Govt School	9
Total CWSN in 12 Govt schools where Prayas is working	62
CWSN enrolled in Home Based Rehabilitation program	30
Escort Allowance	56
Minority Scholarships	39
Regular Children Admitted to schools	31
Adhaar Cards	63
Janaadhaar Cards	108
Pension Forms Submitted	29
Birth Certificate Applications	7
Paalanhaar Yojna	7
Disability Certificates	317
New Bank Account Opened	16
Domicile Certificates	22
PAN Cards	15
UID	488
Astha Cards	2
Caste Certificates	9
Income Certificates	19
Aids for Disability	24

The Path Ahead :

Sustainability measures for Prayas as an organization, creating more work opportunities for our future adults, through various models and approaching the state authorities for more meaningful engagement will be the areas we intend focusing upon in the coming year.

- Increase Fund Raising Activities to sustain and scale our initiatives. Acknowledge and leverage the selfless time and expertise given by well-wishers, volunteers, friends and others to support the growing organization.
- Optimize the use of our self-owned premises by creating space and infrastructural support for our consolidation and growth plans.
- Replace the dilapidated lift with a state of art disability friendly elevator.
- Run RCI Degree level Special Education courses (B ED Degree course of RCI in Special Education (Intellectual Development), not only to make better special educators, but also help in nation building by preparing them to fill the void of special educator vacancies spread all over India.
- Build a strong inhouse Senior Team for recognition of collective wisdom and complementary efforts. Different opinions foster more clarity, and team spirit inculcates patience and adds focus.
- Encourage the Prayas Team overcome the techno phobia and adapt to the use of Technology and the School Easy Application
- Scale the Teachers Versatility program to make every teacher a disability manager.
- In this transition phase, engage the youth power of the community to carry on our work with human sensitivity for their collective upliftment.
- Increased Family Participation in the form of knowledge building through training programs for parents to support the child in his vocational engagement in adult life.
- Focus and scale on Government Teacher Disability knowledge dissemination
- Impress upon the state government, to sensitize medical doctors, as they are the first point of contact for parents with children having disability.
- Advocacy for setting up govt. supported work centres for self-employment, open employment opportunities for cwsn
- Focus on Sports, Yoga, Music and give more exposure and talent display space to our children.

PRAYAS is Registered Under

Prayas has had the privilege of getting support from various national and international alliances in the course of its journey so far.

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, New Delhi
- Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)
- Societies Registration Act, 1958 (Soc. Reg. No. 165/JPR/96-97)
- Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976 Amended in 2010 (Reg. No 125560127)
- National Institute of Open Schooling
- Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education
- National Institute of Mentally Handicapped (NIMH), Secunderabad
- National Institute of Empowerment of persons with Disability (NIEMPD), Chennai

Our Guiding Beacons

Justice N K Jain (R)	Retd. CJ Karnataka, Tamil Nadu High Courts	PATRON
Justice Jainendra Ranka (R)	Retd. Judge of Rajasthan High Court, Jaipur	PATRON
Mr. N.K.Gupta	Chairperson, Manglam Build Developers Ltd	PATRON
Dr. Manoj Bhatt, IPS (R)	Retd. Director General of Police (Rajasthan)	CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Desh Deepak Goel IRS (R)	Retd. Director General of Income Tax, Govt. of India.	VICE CHAIR PERSON
Mr. Devesh Kumar Bansal	Senior Advocate	SECRETARY
Mr. Gurminder Singh Puri	Corporate Entity, Business & Digitalization Consultant	JOINT SECRETARY
Mr. Sanjay Jain	Businessman, Social Worker	TREASURER
Dr. Shail Choyal	Professor (R) Artist, Printmaker	FOUNDER MEMBER
Ms. Seema Singh	Social Worker, Educationist	MEMBER
Ms. Rashmi Chandra	Social Worker, Corporate Entity	MEMBER

Hands That Are Helping Us : Wipro Cares, ASHA For Education, U.S.A., WIPRO Cares, Bangalore, Genpact, Jaipur, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India, New Delhi, India, Deutsche Bank, Jaipur, India, Mr. Sachit Dhawan, New Delhi, India, Mr. Subhash Oberoi and Mr. Roshan, New Delhi, India, Many other individual local donors like Justice Jainendra Ranka, Justice N. K. Jain, Shri N. K. Gupta of Manglam Realty, Shri Krishnan Parameswaran, Shri Atin Agarwal of Automech, Shri Ravindra Raniwala, Shri Pradeep Jain, Ms. Leela M Kumaran, Shri O.P. Agarwal of JECRC, Ms. Tanvi Goel and Goel Family.

Hands That Have Helped Us : Child Rights and You (C.R.Y.), India, Jamshedji Tata Trust, Mumbai, Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai, Vibha, U.S.A., Government of Japan (New Delhi Embassy), Government of Rajasthan Education Trust, New Delhi, Mr. John and Mrs. Liz Robbins, U.K., Avtar Virdi Charitable Foundation, U.K., Genpact, Global Fund For Children, Save The Children Fund, SBI Life Insurance.

Supporting Prayas

We are extremely thankful to all those who have supported the children of Prayas in cash, kind and spirit in the past and present. You can support the children in many ways. You can mail us at support@prayasjaipur.com for more details (Modes of support and bank details for Domestic and

International Bank Transfers). Donations to Prayas are covered under 80G Exemption of Income Tax for Indian donors.

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