

Annual Report 2012 - 2013



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PRAYAS

Progressive Rural Active Youth's Action for Society

We

Progressive Rural Active Youth's Action for Society – PRAYAS is a Bengali word, meaning EFFORT. Affirm our faith on value-based development action which upholds the principles of equity, justice and sustainability.

We Pledge

To uphold spirit of democracy by creating

- a broad based governance system
- a collective decision-making process
- a decentralized, participatory operational mechanism

And

To be transparent and accountable in our action by ensuring

- adherence to the laws of our country and norms of our organization
- documentation of periodic activities, report and proper audited statement of accounts.
- sharing our information, knowledge and experiences with others

Core Values

- Integrity
- Honesty
- Participatory & Cohesive approach
- Team Work

Vision

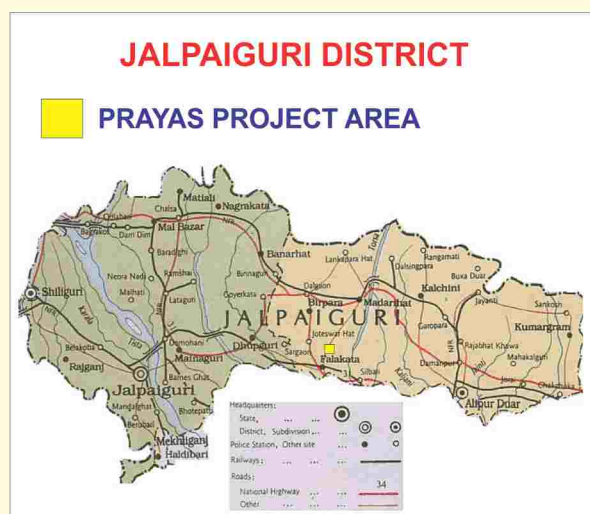
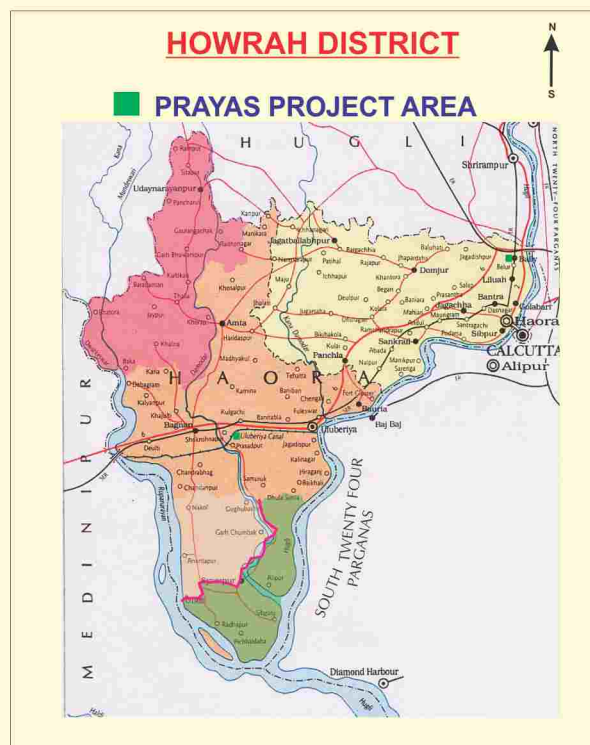
PRAYAS envisages a society free from the perils of religion, caste, creed or class, where people live in peaceful coexistence with nature, utilizing nature's resources to meet only their needs; and where people are healthy, educated and prosperous in physical, mental and materials terms

Mission

PRAYAS shall strive towards providing opportunities for social and economic advancement of the poor and underprivileged sections of the society. The organization shall always strive for the empowerment of women and development of children as guiding forces to build a stronger and self-sufficient society.

Project Area

The activities of PRAYAS are slowly getting consolidated into areas of child development and growth; women's empowerment and advocacy measures to influence policies. PRAYAS has initiated a series of awareness generation camps and educational facilities for rural children 11 villages of Falakata block of Jalpaiguri district and 27 villages of Shyampur – I, three villages of bally bock and two wards of Uluberia M.C. in Howrah district.



PRAYAS is a family of social workers. We consider it our commitment to the society to support the underprivileged and less fortunate. It is a movement. Do join our movement. Let us together make this world a better place to live for our children....

Markus Toppo - President

Secretary's Reflection.....



PRAYAS thanks that the people around us should live in such a way that they should access all basic necessities to lead a normal life. This helps to bring about a radical change and thus we get rid of all differences that reduce enmities between neighbours. We also believe that every organization should make steady progress in our mission of working with underprivileged children and their families and 'guiding them until they can'!

PRAYAS is determined to reach out and bring about positive changes in the lives of as many children and their families as possible, we draw strength from the fact that from a humble beginning in 1988, PRAYAS now directly touches the lives of over 617 vulnerable children and adolescents and their families spread across State in West Bengal of India.

Our hearts swell with pride at being recognized as an effective organization by the various State Governments and other National and International Agencies we have been associated.

Being proud of our achievements, we are seized of the enormity of challenges faced by so many children who are deprived of their basic amenities and rights as citizens of this country. We feel restless and concerned at the somewhat slow progress in realizing the Millennium Development Goals and, in our own humble way, would like to continue contributing towards attaining some of these MDGs.

Our power hails from the fact that we are a family – a family comprising of our grass root fighters the dedicated staff, our well – wishers and ardent supporters, the many volunteers that contribute so much to our work and the many and supporters in India and abroad and the communities we work with for placing their children and their trusts in our abilities and efforts. Our heartfelt thanks to all whose support inspires us in our arduous but fulfilling journey!

L. K. Das



School for migrant children:

Migrant labours mainly belong to ST community of Bihar and Jharkhand are employed at Brick fields in different part of country. This class of labours are very vulnerable and are being exploited heavily. But the most pathetic matter is the plight of their children. These children never get chance to have education due to their parent's nomadic life. So a labour class remain labour for generation. The picture is the same in our area too. Observing this social curse and disparity our organisation took initiative by opening four schools (run three years) of migrant child labour. However more other children still remain unattended due to our limited capacity. We are thankful to Loreto Day School, Kolkata as they supported the project with financial support. Last year we provide support and facilities for these schools are described below:

- Total 157 students were introduced with different elementary course of standard type schools.
- The students learnt basic and elementary education helpful to admit into formal schools.
- Evaluation showed a satisfactory progress in running curriculum in pursuance of the main stream education prevailing elsewhere.
- Immunization covered to those child labour students and periodical health check-up were being conducted.
- Parent's are being convinced about the value of education.

The issues as referred satisfy the MDG and need to address to reach the goals which we desire to be undertaken.



Education to All:

Education and child development programme were the first initiatives that PRAYAS started in the year 1988 and continues as flagship projects even now. PRAYAS reaches more than 460 children in the age group of 5-14 years extending non-formal, formal and supplementary education to most deserving children from poor families. During the year under review, the following initiatives are continued.

Area	Boys	Girls	Total
Howrah, 7 villages	119	128	247
Jalpaiguri, 6 villages	112	101	213



Special Coaching for poor Student in North Bengal

Many dropout students in our North Bengal project area due to financial reason. To continue their studies we have running two coaching centers and served approximately 105 students of North Bengal, in two Gram Panchayat (Falakata G.P. and Kunjanagar G.P) in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal.

However, there is a growing demand for these coaching centers. At present, 4 teachers, which were prompted by sheer poverty and family issues. PRAYAS organized a special coaching programme for the students of coaching centers, appearing for Madhyamik examination. The programme was conducted by an expert teacher's panel consisting of two highly experienced individuals in the field of teaching are guiding them properly.

Each coaching center has two teachers. One coordinator from PRAYAS closely oversees all these centers. Attendance and participation from both students and teachers are very satisfactory for these centers. Results of the students have fairly improved in

comparison to last year with the help of the teachers and planned curriculums.

Health care service and service

Prevention of deficiency diseases and supply of supplementary nutrition

It is our great pleasure that we are capable of helping a good number of people to counter deficiency diseases by supplying Vitamin A and Albendazole. Thanks to vitamin Angel USA for helping us by providing those medicines. Besides supply of drug they also monitor about the progress. Mrs. Amy Steets, Ms. Christne Hote and Dr. Shilpa from Vitamin Angels visited our organization and talked with the beneficiaries and other person related with it. A free camp was organized during their visit where they themselves distributed medicines. Dr. Shilpa who was adequately trained to run this type programme took the responsibility to train our personnel in connection with the project for effectively conducting the activities of the project.

Distribution of drugs in the camps for the last years is given below:



Particulars	No. of Beneficiary
Vitamin – A (100,000iu) for 6-11months	2026
Vitamin – A (200,000iu) for 12-59 months	5071
Albendazole for 12-59 months	5062



Health Check-up Camp:

A weekly health check-up programme is being conducted by us for the beneficiaries at the same time awareness programmes are set to impart knowledge of basic health and prevention at the brick fields under our project cover region.

Blood Donation Camp:

Forty five persons donated blood in the blood donation camp organized in 26th March 2013 in Baraghughesia in collaboration with Satadal Seva Samity and S. S. K. M. Hospital [Blood Bank], Kolkata.

Medical Help:

During the year, the PRAYAS provided cash and material assistance to a total of 41 persons, including two serious cases of children who were provided surgical treatment in Kolkata.

Natural Resource Management

A resource particularly natural is invaluable with respect to life sustaining. Animal or plants can not sustain without these resources. But rampant depletion of resources is causing serious threat to entire earth support system. Mainly human activity is responsible for it. In order to create mass awareness we organized 13 no of awareness camps on this subject.

Women Empowerment

SHG Training for women:

We are interested to form Self Help Groups for poor women. Before doing so we arranged two training for the staff for the up gradation of skill to run the program efficiently. It was two training for two days.

Handicraft training:

Training of few diversified jute products are being imparted to 62 women in this locality. They learnt how to prepare those items and highlighted marketing potentiality.



Youth Welfare programme

Games & Sports:

We organized a games and sports competition on 26th December. Race, 200 mtr. Race, 400 mtr. Relay race, high jump, long jump, shot put and discuss throwing. Successful candidates were rewarded.

Horticulture and Floriculture training:

We organize horticulture and floriculture training for the youths belongs to small and marginal farmers' family. Experienced agriculturist attended to impart training. 50 youths took part to receive training.

Awareness Campaign on Water & Sanitation

People awareness on implications of sanitation project is essential as it leads to social changes and human development. People targeted under this project will devalue the process and underutilize the infrastructure that defeats the whole objective. Therefore at the onset of implementation of this noble and effective programme of Govt. of India, PRAYAS has been creating awareness on Sanitation among stakeholder families. Awareness was created on water on water borne diseases as hepatitis, typhoid, cholera, dysentery, diarrhea etc. for personal hygiene, skin and eye infection the role of water was discussed and IEC materials distributed among people. During the programme the effects of water based projects (including dams and irrigation structures) that inadvertently provide habitats for mosquitoes that is intermediate hosts of parasites that cause malaria, schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis and Japanese encephalitis. Wherever there are cases of high contamination of fluoride, nitrate and arsenic in water special care has been taken in creating awareness among people.

PRAYAS advised and tried on following approaches to address the issue:

- Monitoring the reckless over-consumption and misuse
- Controlling pollution of natural water
- Preventing pollution of under ground water
- Taking measure against depletion of under ground water level

This could help to enhance the knowledge for conservation of fresh water which is a great necessity of human survival. Otherwise tomorrow will be grim, drier and barren to live through. It is worthy of mention that there are a number of steps which can be undertaken to minimize wastage resources and to make more efficient use of available water, attempts were made to educate people on many of those approaches.

Malaria Control Programme:

Every year, malaria claims countless lives in India, especially in North Bengal. Tribal pockets are mostly affected by this menace where superstitions, social stigmas and traditions make people risk prone. The major dossiers of the state often highlight the death cases caused by malaria. Fever, body ache and chill are the main symptoms of this disease. Malaria may precipitate miscarriage, abortion, or stillbirth and may complicated pregnancy by causing severe anemia and low birth-weight infants, and in severe cases, death of the newborn or and its mother. Mosquitoes are the only know vectors responsible for transmitting this disease. Therefore, one of the most important malaria prevention measures is to avoid mosquito bites. Under the pilot programme PRAYAS has been involved in one block in Jalpaiguri district which are mostly infested with malaria problem. PRAYAS has



been continuously working on malaria eradication programme for last three years in very intensive manner. It is a in-house core programme PRAYAS continues without any funding support from external sources. Awareness on malaria among own staff and people in the field is a compulsory programme. Insecticide treated bed nets/mosquito nets were distributed among villagers at subsidized rate in villages to keep off mosquitoes.

In order to eradicate malaria in the rural and tribal pockets of West Bengal and to create a massive consciousness among the rural people PRAYAS provides ITN to all household to cover beds and sleeping areas. As the nets need to be retreated with insecticide chemicals every six months to remain effective against mosquitoes; volunteers from PRAYAS are deputed to retreat nets with insecticide free of cost.

HIV/AIDS Prevention

HIV/AIDS has been the burning issue for the globe. West Bengal has been suffering from this dreaded invincible for last so many decades. PRAYAS has been targeting this disease to prevent and restrict its spread by focusing in the district, where migration of labour and trafficking is high. Thus on regular basis PRAYAS could conduct 15 programme on HIV/AIDS prevention at G.P. level in Falakata, Shyampur – I and Bally block on different occasions. Special classes and training and programmes have been taken in staff induction programmes at PRAYAS in different time.



Road Safety:

With the advance of civilization rout transport system become very important and indispensable. Road, railways, river and civil aviation are the major components of rout communication. Among these four roads is very crucial with respect to direct collision where ordinary people affect. It has been taking place mainly while crossing roads. As such a traffic rule introduced but many times both the passers by and the drivers of vehicles violate this rule consequently disasters are taking place. In order to prevent road accident we organize ten road safety awareness camps this year involving 1777 persons among which 1095 women and children.

Disaster Preparedness

We are always responding people become victim of disaster. Both North Bengal and South part of West Bengal witness disaster mainly causing due to flood. Our volunteer run relief and rehabilitation operation during flood, but we emphasis disaster preparedness because we believe prevention is better than cure. A good number of people prone to flood disaster are being aware how to face emergency during disaster breaks out. In this connection one person from our organization received training conducted by Govt. of West Bengal. It is worthy of mentioning that we are the member of W. B. State IAG.

Consumer Right

This is one of our campaigns in order to protect the interests of the consumers being deceived by cunning sellers. 11 no. of awareness camps were being organized by us last year 1983 no. of people participated in those camps.

Cultural Programme

Our organization has been conducting cultural programme since its inception. We celebrate anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi with adequate respect. Besides annual cultural programme of songs and recitation are also conducted this year a gala musical soiree was organized on 19th October in which local artists and reputed out-sider artists took part to entertain the audience. They were highly pleased with the performance of the artists.

Disability:

Disability is a curse of the society. A good no. of persons is found disabled and among them visually handicapped, orthopedically handicapped, mentally challenged and deaf and dumb remain very vulnerable. We organized camps in last year to provide information regarding rehabilitation available for them in private as well as Govt. centre's

Management & Administration

The highest decision making body of PRAYAS is its Governing Body, comprising seven members, of which three are women. The office bearers are the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasure. The Secretary of PRAYAS is Mr. L. K. Das, who undertakes day to day management as the Chief Functionary of the organization. A team of coordinators assist the secretary in his management functions. The two separate geographic units are headed by senior coordinator, supervisors. Field workers and teachers constitute the project team. There are a total of 42 staff members in PRAYAS, of which 21 are voluntary staff and 17 are part time staff in the field.



Auditors:

M/s D. N. MISRA & Co., Chartered Accountants, 54, Ganesh Chandra Avenue, Kolkata – 700 013

Acknowledgments

- Government of India
- Government of West Bengal
- Ministry of Youth and Sports/ Gol
- Ministry of Environment and Forests/ Govt. of India,
- District Social Welfare Officer, Howrah & Jalpaiguri
- Block Development Officer, Shyampur – I, Bally & Falakata
- Uluberia Municipality
- Nehru Yuva Kendra - Howrah
- Vitamin Angle, USA
- Loreto Day School,
- Guide Star India
- Help your NGO.com
- Shamdasani Foundation, Hong Kong
- West Bengal State IAG
- Agradut
- MTBM
- Brick Field Owner's Association, Bally & Shyampur
- SSS

FRIEND AND WELL WISHER OF PRAYAS

Progressive Rural Active Youth's Action for Society-PRAYAS is a movement to make the world a better place to live to make a society free evils of inequality and poverty. We need your support to continue our work and we shall welcome your support in any form.

PRAYAS is registered under the West Bengal Societies Act, XXVI of 1961 and Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 PRAYAS is also Registration under 12A of Income Tax Act, 1961. All Donation are exempted under section 80G (5)(vi) of Income Tax Act, 1961.

You may please send your Donation to our bank

For Foreign contribution

State Bank of India, Howrah Branch (00091)

19, G.T. Road (South), Howrah – 711 101, West Bengal

Account No. SB 31032319779

SWIFT Code: SBININBB106

IFS Code: SBIN0000091

For Country Contribution

INDIA BANK, Howrah Branch, 27/2, G.T. Road(S)

Howrah – 711 101, West Bengal

Account No. SB: 868710128

IFS Code: IDIB000H012

OR

Union Bank of India, Falakata Branch, Falakata

District – Jalpaiguri, West Bengal

Account No. SB 603502010004993

FFS Code: UBIN0560359



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