Funding Proposal:

Organization Name: Prayas Vocational Institute for Mentally Handicapped

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Basic Project Information

* Issue: Children
* Differently Able
* Non School Going
* Drop Outs

Beneficiary Profile

* Child Labour
* Slum Children
* Girl Child

Cause

* Education
* Vocational Skill Training

Project Status

* Planned
* State: Rajasthan, District: Jaipur

**ABOUT PRAYAS**

Please see attached files - Prayas at a Glance

Why and How of this Proposal

**PRAYAS INTEGRATED SCHOOL, COMMUNITY OUTREACH & HOME BASE PROGRAM**

Prayas has been running 4 schools - 3 Integrated (of which 2 were primary and one was secondary level) and 1 Special School, in different slums in the city of Jaipur, covering 50+ under served communities from 1996 to 2021.

The Integrated Schools follow the curriculum of the Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education. The non-school going as well as special needs children are identified through annual surveys and brought to school. Special Needs Children (Mild and Borderline) study in the Integrated Classrooms and are given extra learning support according to their requirement.

For the Children with Special Needs, who cannot cope with regular academics. We have Special classrooms for them. Their Individual Education Plan (IEP) is prepared by the Special Educator, Physiotherapist and Psychologist depending on their level, and they are taught according to the IEP, which is reviewed on a quarterly basis to map the child’s progress.

Children with academic aptitude can even opt for NIOS. Vocational training is imparted to the cwsn and regular children to prepare them for livelihood opportunities in adult life.

The three Integrated schools have over the last two decades been funded by CRY (Child Rights and You) Sir Jamshedji Tata Trust, Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Vibha in Education, Asha in Education, USA and Wipro Trust, Wipro Cares. Some of the Funding Partners have even funded us beyond their time out period. Our biggest challenge is that of self- sustainability, which in our project model is challenging. At present Asha in Education, Illinois is funding this project partially.

Prayas Special School is run under the DDRS scheme of the Central Government Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The pandemic brought forth many challenges in online teaching, which we overcame partially and are making up for the learning gaps now.

On the financial front, we faced financial challenges due to Grant Discontinuity and Grant Reduction from funding partners.

In order to overcome this, we have gone in for Consolidation, school mergers, cost reduction, running two shifts in same premises and increasing income generating courses and ventures, that fall within our realm of working.

**PRESENT STATUS:** The three Integrated schools have been merged and shifted to the self owned premises of Prayas in Jhalana Institutional Area. Now we are making optimal use of our school by running the school in two shifts. The playgroup children were assisted and admitted to government schools near their homes, additional school buses were deployed and the Integrated school runs in the morning shift and the Special School in the afternoon shift.

* We have created more space by building an additional floor in the existing building. We are also in the process of sorting out allotment formalities for the adjacent plot to our current school, and acquire it at concessional rates to increase our work space and sphere.
* In order to reduce dependence on Funding partners and Government agencies, we wish to and have started the courses (D Ed., B ED), recognized by RCI.
* We have started more Vocational Courses, like Bakery, Soap and Handwash, scaling our Kitchen Tiffin Centre products, etc., to prepare children with special needs (cwsn) for independent living and skill training for high school dropouts.
* Making efforts to increase our visibility on social media to bring in contribution and support from philanthropic organizations and individuals.
* We are increasing participation in fairs and exhibitions for increasing Vocational promotion.

FUNDING: The Integrated School upto Class VIII presently has 175+ children of which 29 are children with special needs. Asha in Education USA and Wipro Cares has been funding our Integrated School, Community Project, Govt. School project and Home Base program since 2014. From 2022 onwards Wipro Cares has also reduced their funding and have agreed to support our project expenses partially, upto 31st March 25

We have also found some individual sponsors and are clubbing their contributions for partially sponsoring the Mid Day Meal.

Support Needed: Partial Funding of Integrated School and Community Outreach, Home Base program

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|   | **Project: Recurring** | **Funding Amount** |
| 2 | Integrated School upto Class VIII running in self owned premises : 175+ students (Cost of education), Home Base program with 32+ children, Facilitating Inclusive Education in 12 government schools. | Partial Funding needed Detailed Budget will be provided as per partner's budget. |
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