

## **Site Visit Report - PRAYAS**

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Organization: PRAYAS VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED

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### **Objective of Visit:**

1. To interact with the students, teachers and PRAYAS team.
2. To assess the Integrated school and overall programs and activities of Prayas organization
3. To understand the challenges at work and future vision of the organization.

### **1. Overview**

#### **ABOUT PRAYAS:**

Prayas, a fight for human dignity began in 1996 with a goal to reach out to the parents of mentally challenged children, emphasising the importance of education, proper health care and nutrition and a supportive home environment for their children. PRAYAS provides education to underprivileged - regular & special needs children, and prepares them for mainstream living.

The three cornerstones of Prayas are Disability, Integration and Inclusion. It aims at Equal opportunities for all. Its objectives are as follows:

- 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-able needs adults 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 fight for child rights.
- 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 certificate for placement.
- To provide computer science knowledge for better placement.

Prayas has its own 3 storey building in J5A, Jhalana Institutional Area, where it runs its Special School and its Integrated school. The schools are for children with special needs and

also for those who are socially and economically deprived, because they belong to the strata of life where they are completely ignored and do not get level opportunities. The approach is holistic and they are involved in community outreach and empowerment programs also.

- Prayas works in 55 communities of Jaipur and conduct surveys every year to identify children with special needs and other non-going school children and bring them to school.
- They also intervene in 12 government run primary schools to facilitate Inclusive Education
- They have a home based program for severe category of disabled children
- They also run a RCI recognized two year diploma course in Special Education, Mental Retardation (Now known as Intellectual and Developmental Disability) to train special educators.
- Advocating for the rights of disabled children is another cornerstone of Prayas' strategy and this has been influential in policy changes.

Today Prayas has credibility as an authoritative voice on the issue of Disability among the community, the NGO community and the Government.

Prayas's association began with ASHA for Education, or ASHA Urbana Campaign in August 2007. Impressed by the concept of Integrated Education, ASHA over the years has been funding a Prayas Integrated primary branch in the Sanganer Area where the printing industry of Rajasthan thrives. However, escalating costs, govt. and private schools coming up, and the Covid pandemic clubbed with shrinking funding made them replan their approach. Consolidation was the need of the time and the Sanganer branch was merged with the main Prayas Integrated school branch at Jhalana Institutional area, and it was ensured that all children were admitted in a neighbourhood school or brought to Prayas.

PRAYAS Integrated School, is up to Class VIII and recognized by Board of Secondary Education, Rajasthan. It is funded partially by Wipro Cares, and partially by Asha in Education USA and balance by individual donations. There are about 175+ children here, 29 of whom are Children with Special Needs (CWSN), studying in the special classroom or the mainstream class (if it is a borderline case). After Class VIII, these children are supported financially by Prayas under the Continued Education program to encourage them for higher studies.

It was observed that the Teachers and Staff at Prayas were very committed in their working and apart from academics, a lot of focus was given on skill development to ensure that these skills will help children in their later adult life. Children had access to Computers, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy. A well equipped Resource Room is also there.

It was heartening to see the evolution of an organization from 5 Special Needs Children to a reach of 7000 + (Community and families) in just about 3 decades. Prayas is known as a pioneer in Integrated and Inclusive Education. Its holistic approach to 'EDUCATION FOR ALL' has transformed hundreds of lives.

## ONGOING AND FUTURE VISION OF PRAYAS

- Working with a progressive outlook and leveraging technology
  - Consolidation for Cost cutting, improving Quality and optimizing use of resources by merging schools and running two schools in different shifts in the same premises (Integrated School with Rajasthan board curriculum upto Class VIII & Special School with children with special needs)
  - Move gradually towards Sustainability and creating job opportunities for special educators by introducing RCI B Ed course
  - Introduce new Vocational Initiatives and reinventing the existing ones
- Revamping Tiffin Centre
  - Starting a Bakery
  - Introducing new crafts and saleable items like soaps, hand washes, detergents apart from tie and dye, bandhej, paper mache, carry bags.
  - Introduce new techniques for students betterment like - Regular Yog practices, Naad Yog, Music Therapy
  - Empowerment of Regular Prayas teachers (capsule course on Spl. Edu for including children with special needs in class room environment)
  - Making space for new programs and working on acquiring an adjacent plot of land to provide more facilities and scope for growth

### STATISTICS :

Areas of Intervention	1996	2022-23
Children with special Needs	5	700+
Under privileged Children Connected to Education (Door to door survey identification)	0	500+
Home base Therapy to Children	0	30+
Community Outreach	0	7000+
Community Support, Documentation, Empowerment Camps, Health camps, Rallies,	0	20000+

Women empowerment		
Mainstreaming of Children with Special Needs	0	100+
Trained Special Educators through RCI courses	0	300+

### **PATRONS & Executive Board of PRAYAS**

<b>Justice N K Jain (R)</b>	(Retd. CJ Karnataka, Tamil Nadu High Courts & Ex Chairman Rajasthan Human Rights Commission)	PATRON
<b>Justice Jainendra Ranka (R)</b>	Retired as Judge of Rajasthan High Court, Jaipur	PATRON
<b>Mr. N.K.Gupta</b>	Chairperson, Manglam Build Developers Ltd. & Manglam Plus Medicity Hospital, State President Rajasthan Vaish Federation	PATRON
<b>Dr. Manoj Bhatt, IPS (R)</b>	Retired as Director General of Police (Rajasthan)	CHAIRPERSON
<b>Mr. Desh Deepak Goel IRS (R)</b>	Retired as Director General of Income Tax, Government of India	VICE CHAIR PERSON
<b>Mr Devesh Kumar Bansal</b>	Senior Advocate	SECRETARY
<b>Mr. Gurminder Singh Puri</b>	Corporate Consultant and Digitalization	JT.SECRETARY
<b>Mr. Sanjay Jain</b>	Businessman and Social Worker	TREASURER
<b>Dr. Shail Choyal</b>	Professor (R) Sukhadia University, Udaipur, Intl. Artist	FOUNDER MEMBER
<b>Ms. Seema Singh</b>	Social Worker and activist	MEMBER
<b>Ms. Rashmi</b>	Social Worker and activist	MEMBER

### 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











