

How Students Feel

Surjeet an ex student of Prayas successfully cleared 5th standard with Prayas. A brilliant student, he topped from all the centers. He is presently studying in 8th standard at Saraswati Shishu Sadan, Ballabgarh. He feels Prayas has changed his destiny and he wants to study as much as any one else can.

Seema is a class 5th student at present. She wants to study upto 12th Standard. She feels that the standard of education is as good as at any regular public school. Hence she has been cajoling children from her neighbourhood to join studies at prayas. After completing her studies she wants to teach children of her village free of cost.

Krishan Bhandari another student of class 5th wants to become a scientist now that Prayas has provided him with the opportunity to study.

Prayas is becoming popular in the district.

Recently Lioness club of Faridabad invited students of prayas to stage a play "Sewa ka hath sabke sath" at their function at Gymkhana Club.



Working Committee

- Chairman - M L Gupta**
(Founder of the society)
- President - Jagat Madan**
(Director Vikas Nigam)
- General Secretary - P.K.Gupta**
(Director - D.C. Model School)
- Treasurer - M.R. Singla**
(Executive Agrasain Samaj)

Vice Presidents -

- **S S Gosain** Principal, Divine Public School
- **Suresh Chander** Director, A D Public School
- **R K Arya** President, Banwasi Kalyan Ashram
- **Arun Bajaj** M D, B L Containers (P) Ltd and President Manav Seva Samiti

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- **H C Wadhwa** (Funds and Accounts) Chartered Accountants
- **H S Malik** (Education) Director, Faridabad Model School
- **B D Sharma** (Education) Principal, Taksh-shila Model Sr Sec School
- **Mrs Vidhu Grover** (Edu & Liaison with Service clubs) Sr Coordinator, Eicher School
- **Asstt General Secretary -**
- **D K Gupta** Secretary, Vradhavas Society
- **Executive Members -**
- Dr Akhil Mahajan ■ M L Chatrath
- Mrs Indu Verma ■ Ashok Virmani
- Ajay Kumar Kapoor

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Y.K. Maheshwari
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VISION

Prayas

Social Welfare Society (Regd.)



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How it all started

As this is the first news letter of Prayas Social Welfare Society, it is desirable that a brief history is put in place.

After his retirement as Aast. General Manager from bank, Sh. M.L. Gupta started leading a usual normal retired life of taking strolls in the mornings and evenings and passing time during day reading newspapers and books etc. But he was not made for the normal routines in life. One fine morning while coming from his morning outing he noticed a few children just loitering around. He told himself that at this time they should be in a school. He walked up to them. While getting a bit closer he realised that they apparently belonged to lower strata of society. But he asked the question which had been haunting him for the last many years, "Why are you not at a school?" Pat came the answer, "paise nahin hain". His next question, "will you join a school if you don't have to pay anything even for books etc too"? The answer was a spontaneous yes.

It was in his mind for several years that lack of education is the root cause of social evils in the society. And education is panacea for removal of social ills from the society.

And this incident prompted him to think that he should do something for education of the deprived. During these days he shared his thoughts with an old friend Mr B D Bajaj. And the friend in Mr Bajaj took Mr Gupta to Mr Pawan Kumar Gupta Director, DC Model school, Faridabad.

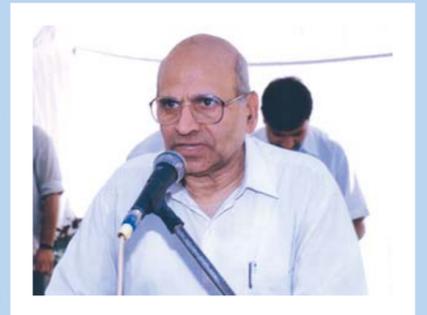
And the old saying "where there is a will there is a way" was coming true. Mr Pawan Gupta immediately offered his school premises for educating poorest of the poor children of the society. The idea was to provide education to the poor children free of cost. And a major hurdle of premises was solved with the enthusiastic offer of Mr P K Gupta.

At this stage Mr M L Gupta and Mr. P K Gupta made a humble beginning, on 20th Sept 1999, with 15 students from the nearby jhuggi jhompries. Now the number of students has gone upto around 2000.

Prayas is now imparting free education from 11 centers in Faridabad district. In addition to education, vocational training is being provided to poor women at Seven centers.

Chairman's Message

Dear Friends
I am immensely pleased to learn that Prayas SWS is bringing out first Issue of its Newsletter and I take this opportunity to congratulate the Editor and his associates. I wish them all the success in their maiden attempt.



I am of the firm view that illiteracy is a curse, which Prayas Social Welfare Society a registered Non Government Organisation is resolute to eliminate.

I stand committed to educate the poor children, poor ladies and to make them self sustainable by imparting them free vocational training courses. I am also committed to take care of health of these 'Have nots' and 'Deprived ones'. I seek blessings of all our present and prospective member-donors and supporters for achieving our goal.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Mr Pawan Gupta, Director DC Model School, Mr SS Gussain, Director Divine Public School, Dr Subhash Chander, Principal AD Sr Sec School, Mr Suresh Chandra, Director AD Public School, Mr BD Sharma, Principal Taksh-shila Model Sr Sec School, Mrs Sudha Chaube, Principal Rotary Public School including the members of the club, Sh HS Malik, Director Faridabad Model School, Ms Ritu Kohli, Principal Eicher School, Mr YK Maheshwari, Director & Smt Kamlesh Maheshwari, Principal Sarswati Shishu Sadan, Ballabgarh and Tigaon and Sh Pawan Aggarwal, Director Dharam Public School, Palwal for their making available space and furniture etc free of any cost. They are also providing us their valuable guidance and support. The programmes would not have taken shape at all, had they not been so generous and supportive.

Friends, task ahead is to expand our programmes far and wide at least within NCR. This is a stupendous job but not impossible since your magnanimous support and guidance will make the path easier.

Please make a clarion call that education to all "prayas ka hai yahi prayas ho shiksha ka sab or prakash"
I wish all of you best of luck.

ML Gupta

Prayas... an Effort to Enlighten the Street Children



Events

■ Functions



Every year regular functions are held for distribution of free study material with school bags, uniforms, Sweaters, shoes etc.

Respectable dignitaries, from government, business, Industry, professionals grace the occasions.

■ Free Sewing Machines



From this year all the successful women will be provided a sewing machine. This will help them to earn something with the knowledge they have gained here from the skilled faculty.

■ Teacher's day



Every year on Teacher's Day 7 teachers from different centres are honoured alongwith one Instructor from vocational wing. In addition the best centre Incharge is given a memento and a gift in recognition of her contribution to Prayas.

■ Sh. Anil Shastri



Former Union Minister and Sec. AICC was the chief guest on the occasion of book distribution function on 09-04-2005. The function was dedicated to the celebration of the birth centenary year of his father and Ex- Prime Minister Late. Sh. Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Activities -



■ Free Education

Prayas is now imparting free education from 11 centers in Faridabad district. Children from poorest of the poor are provided free education irrespective of caste, creed and class. They are also given books, stationery, school bag, uniform, shoes, socks and sweaters free of cost.



■ Adult Education for women

On 2n Oct 2004, another milestone was achieved by Prayas. On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Prayas started adult education exclusively for women from the poor strata of society. In addition to making them literate, they are being counseled on personal hygiene, Food preservation, nutrition, child rearing etc regularly.



■ Charitable medical centres by Prayas

Prayas is running two Allopathic dispensaries at Sector 9, (since 2001) and Sector 29 Faridabad (since 2004) providing consultancy & free medicines to deprived sections of Society. Both the dispensaries are being headed by experienced/qualified doctors.



■ Vocational training

Prayas is providing vocational training to women, who can't even think of gaining skills to earn something. These women are being trained at seven centers in stitching, knitting, embroidery etc. Best amongst them are being awarded a sewing machine each so that they can add to the family income.

■ Future Planning

To start with Prayas intends to initiate short term and long term vocational courses in the near future. Activities like Carpentry, Soap making, TV repairing, plumbing, Durrie weaving etc will be started to begin with. Our students after completing their education with Prayas will be given vocational training. With this, after becoming literates with the effort of Prayas, they will be able to earn a living and become productive educated members of the society.

A Japanese delegation visited Prayas

Representatives of NGO, Shinnyoen Buddhist Center, Grand Holy Temple, Tokyo, Japan, visited Prayas this year. They were on a study tour to assess the role of institutions in India providing education to the backward people in the country. They really appreciated the efforts of Prayas social welfare society towards complementing Government of India's drive for total literacy in the coming years.



Prayas visits President of India.

On 1st January, 2006 a delegation from Prayas met the President of India at New Delhi. A group of around 10 people led by Mr PK Gupta, General Secretary and Mr Jagat Madan, President along with two teachers and students of Prayas spent sometime with the honourable President of India Sh APJ Abdul Kalam. It was a great experience for the students as well as other members of the group. The President of India appreciated the efforts of Prayas and encouraged the students to make the best use of this opportunity to become educated part of society.



Comments of visiting dignitaries

- Shri Anil Shastri Former Union Minister and Sec. AICC commended the programme of free education to the street children.
- Shri Joginder Singh Ex. Director CBI advised children to get rid of inferiority complex.
- Shri Arun Kumar DC Faridabad : "Excellent Prayas".
- Shri Anil Malik DC Faridabad : "Excellent and commendable effort".
- Shri Pushpinder Singh Chauhan SDM Fariabad : "Today I have seen the new rising".
- Shri J N Gehlot Secy. Indian Red cross society : "Prayas' contribution is a unique source for the children who were deprived of education".
- Kojiro Katu from Japan : "Children are given good place, good teachers. So I hope they will become good persons".

Glimpses

