



Education for the underprivileged...



PRAGATI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
Bangalore

Education, the only real solution

School dropout is one of the most serious social problems we are witnessing today.

Thousands of children with substantial potential are forced every year, for want of financial resources, to give up education prematurely and take up work way below their innate potential.



Worse, in most cases, they simply become unemployed, restless youth with no skills or resources to help them pursue a respectable life. Many of these frustrated, highly vulnerable youth predictably degenerate into misguided or criminal behavior and meet tragic ends. Just a little assistance at the right time can prevent this disaster and increase the feasibility of their receiving education more consistent with their potential.

We at Pragati believe that a proper education and a decent life are the birthrights of every child in a civilized society. And it is everyone's duty to see that every child gets them

Pragati Educational Foundation

Pragati Educational Foundation is a registered charitable organization established in 2002 with the objective of providing

*“ financial and non-financial support
to students from Economically weak backgrounds
to enable them to receive education commensurate
with their potential-and become self dependent”*

We supported 12 deserving students during the academic year 2002 - 03
50 & 74 students in 2003 - 04 &
2004 - 05 respectively .



In the academic 2005 - 06, Pragati received more than 150 applications from children with good academic record but inadequate means.

Our selection committees met these bright and eager children along with their parents / guardians and brought up the number of children under Pragati support to 110.

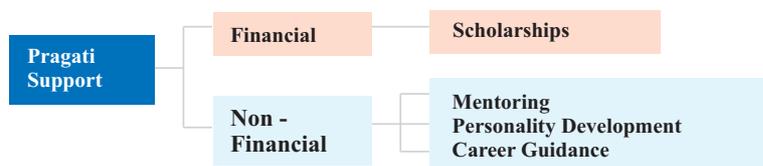
We plan to extend support to 130 needy students in the academic year 2006 - 07.

We are working to reach 300 children through our support programs by 2009.

And with your support we will.

Educational Support Program - beyond finance

We recognize that children from deprived backgrounds not only require financial assistance but also support in terms of encouragement and guidance. Our Educational Support program strives to provide them allround inputs in order to place them on the same footing as their more fortunate counterparts.



Financial Support is provided to selected students in the form of merit cum means scholarships. These scholarships are meant to cover their expenses towards school fees, books, uniforms etc.

The scholarships provide a maximum of Rs. 3000 (about \$ 70) per year per student to cover these expenses. Students are required to maintain a specified level of scholastic performance in order to retain the scholarship.



Mentoring Program

Each Pragati Scholar is attached to a mentor who keeps in regular touch with the scholar and his / her family. The mentor monitors the scholar's academic performance throughout the year, provides encouragement and support, shares ideas to improve their performance and generally guides the scholar in making important decisions related to education and career.

Personality Development Program

Because of their backgrounds, many of these children lack self-confidence and personal skills to hold their own in group situations.



The Pragati Personality Development Program is designed to help them overcome their diffidence and become confident, optimistic individuals. This is achieved by exposing them to a variety of individual and group learning experiences aimed at improving their general knowledge base, communication skills and attitudes. They are put through group discussions, speeches, quizzes etc. designed to help them open up and grow to their natural stature as persons.

Career Guidance Program



There are a wide variety of career choices available today. Our Career Guidance Program maintains a repository of information on possibilities and helps Pragati scholars make informed and practical career decisions taking into account their aptitudes and resources.

The Pragati Scholars

We select Pragati scholars generally in class 8 to class 12, based on the twin criteria of **good academic performance** and **weak financial background**

We identify them both through personal visits to schools and announcements in public media. The children as well as the parents / guardian are rigorously interviewed to make sure that the beneficiaries are truly deserving and in a position to significantly benefit from Pragati's support.



Pragati scholars are generally among the top in their class. In addition, some of them do well in sports while others participate in music and dance. Like other children of their age, they too harbor ambitions to grow up and become doctors, engineers, economists, scientists, IAS officers, professors and chartered accountants...

They come from families managing on extremely meager and often uncertain incomes averaging about Rs. 1500 (\$ 35) per month. Generally, the fathers are street hawkers, casual laborers, technicians or low paid clerical workers and mothers are uneducated housewives. In some cases, the fathers have abandoned the family, leaving the mother with all the responsibilities. Some of these children have lost one or both parents and are being supported by relatives who themselves are in straitened circumstances.

People behind Pragati

Pragati is a private initiative, supported by like-minded individuals from diverse walks of life, in India and abroad.

Our active team at this time consists of:

Avinash R *Software Specialist, Bangalore*
Mrs. Gargi Saraogi *Industrialist, Bangalore*
Mrs. Kalyani Vijay *Lecturer, Bangalore*
Dr. Murali Mantrala *Professor, USA*
Mohan Bulusu *Software Specialist, USA*
Mrs. Rajani Mohan *Software Specialist, USA*
Sudeep Chandran *Educationist, Bangalore*
Dr. (Mrs.) Surya Mantrala *Management Consultant, USA*
Mrs. Sundari Rao *Lecturer, Bangalore*
Surya Rao *Entrepreneur, Bangalore*
Tej Arora *Software Specialist, Bangalore*
Vijay K *Industrialist, Bangalore*
Vinay Saraogi *Industrialist, Bangalore*

We draw continuing inspiration from many others in India and abroad who provide us precious moral and financial support.

Networking and collaboration

Pragati works with other similarly focussed organizations to extend its reach and enhance its effectiveness.

Foundation for Excellence, USA, (FFE), a California based educational support organization set up by US based Indians has tied up with Pragati to support 12 of its eligible scholars every year.

Vikasana, a developmental effort by the students of Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore has joined hands with Pragati. Vikasana contributes financially as well as by way of providing Pragati scholars extra-curricular input.

SAFE, a social development initiative of Tata Elxsi Limited provides financial as well as non-financial support to Pragati.

Rotary Club (Bangalore Cantonment) and **Modern Public School**, Ganganagar support Pragati by permitting the use of their resources for personal development of its scholars.

Pragati Needs You

In order to increase its level of activity and to spread its impact further, Pragati needs your participation and help. If you identify with this cause and wish to help, please let us know. We can together work out how, depending on your interests and time availability.

Financial Contributions

Pragati accepts with gratitude, financial contributions from anyone identifying with its cause. Any amount is welcome - no amount is too small as every bit helps. However, to give an idea, it takes about Rs.3000 (\$ 70) to provide educational support to one child for one year.

We are a registered charitable organization recognized by the Income Tax department of India. Donations to Pragati are exempt from Income Tax under section 80G of IT Act 1961 vide letter No.DIT(E)/80G/249/W-2/04-05 dated 25 January 2005 valid till 31 March 2007 from Director of IT (Exemptions), Bangalore.

Cheques may be drawn in favor of "**Pragati Educational Foundation**"



PRAGATI

PRAGATI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Progress through Education

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