



*Update October 2004*

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*Progress through education*

**Pragati Educational Foundation** was set up in mid 2002 with the objective of providing financial and other support to needy children with proven scholastic record, to enable them to pursue education without hindrance. We launched our first program in November 2002 when we undertook to support 9 children studying in classes 8 – 10 in one school in Bangalore. Each of the children received a scholarship to cover their expenses related to school fees, books and uniforms. There were two volunteers looking after all aspects of the Foundation's work including basic mentoring of the children under Pragati's program.

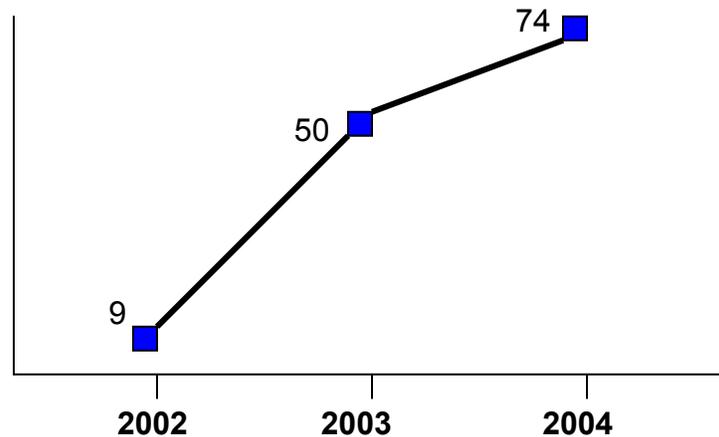
The year 2003 was a period of consolidation during which Pragati's program received a more definitive structure and form. The number of volunteers grew to six, contributions and support trickled in from a wider base of like-minded persons in India and abroad. The number of Pragati scholars grew to 50, spread over class 8 to 12. In addition to the scholarship, the Pragati scholars received serious input in the areas of communication, personality development and mentoring support.

The demand for Pragati's support grew substantially over the next one year. In 2004, 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 included 42 new faces in the program, bringing the number of children under the Pragati support up to 74 (18 exited the program in 2004, having passed out of 12<sup>th</sup> class).



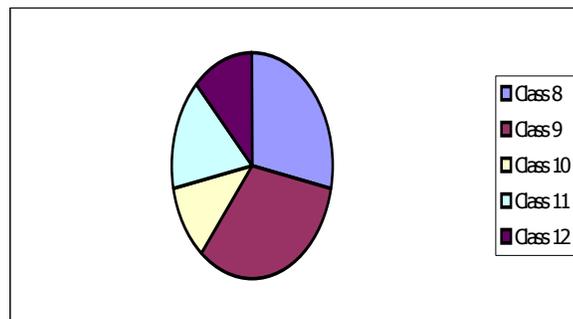
The number of active volunteers grew from 6 to 10 in line with the increased level of activity. Pragati volunteers who are professionals in various fields such as engineering, business management and education use their rich base of knowledge and experience to guide and motivate these hardworking and capable children towards their educational and career goals – they are working to become tomorrow's engineers, doctors, scientists and administrators...

## Number of children under Pragati educational support



These children in class 8 – 12, drawn from more than 25 different schools, on an average scored more than 80% in their previous class examination. They come from families with income less than Rs. 4000 per month and more than two children.

### Distribution among different classes



The parents of these children although not educated themselves (maybe for that very reason), appreciate the importance of education and fully support them in their efforts.

### Financial and other support

Pragati provides each of these students a scholarship of Rs. 3000 per annum (max) to cover educational expenses. By the end of the current academic year, Pragati would have extended financial support in excess of Rs. 4 lakhs to deserving children, since its inception.

In addition to the financial support, the children receive a variety of inputs aimed at making them more confident and determined individuals. Internally conducted developmental programs are supplemented with interesting and educative guest lectures, outside visits etc. to enhance their general awareness and overall motivation.

## **Networking and collaboration**

Pragati works with other similarly focused 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 helps deserving Indian children beyond 10th class all the way to higher education including engineering and medicine. FFE has tied up with Pragati to support 6 of its scholars this year provided they meet FFE's performance and economic criteria.

**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 works with Pragati in meeting its objectives. Pragati and SAFE extend support to six specially deserving students from a school adopted by SAFE.

## **The future**

**Pragati** plans to progressively increase both its reach and depth of its programs. From the number of applications received each year, it is evident that the number of deserving children is huge and growing.

**Pragati** will therefore be trying to

- Provide financial support to more students
- Extend coverage beyond the class 8 – 12 range
- Provide more quality inputs in the area of personal development
- Tie up with more similarly focused organizations to leverage its strengths.

In order to meet this growing challenge, Pragati needs your participation and support – both financial and non-financial. If you identify with Pragati's cause, please contact:

### **Pragati Educational Foundation**

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