

**Pragati Educational Foundation, Bangalore**  
2002 - 2010



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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.

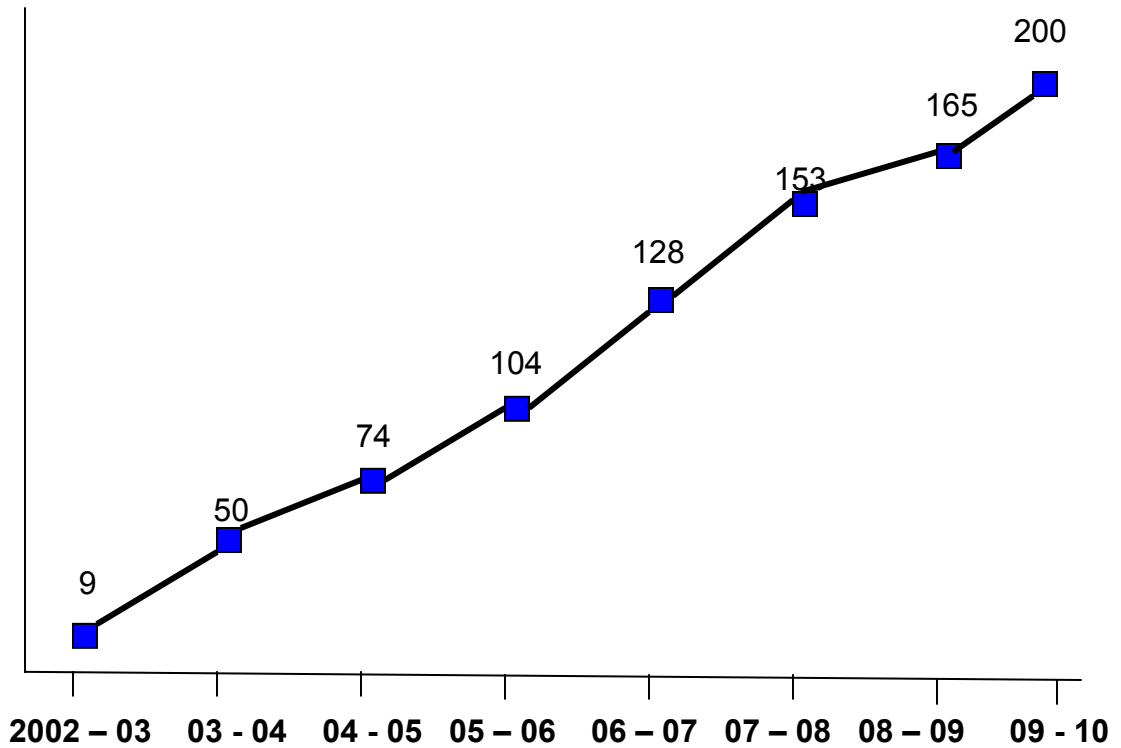
The demand for Pragati's support grew substantially thereafter as seen in the number of applications received each year from children with good academic record but inadequate means.



(Selection interviews)

Our selectors committees meet these bright and eager children along with their parents / guardians to assess need as well as scholastic potential and induct new scholars into the program.

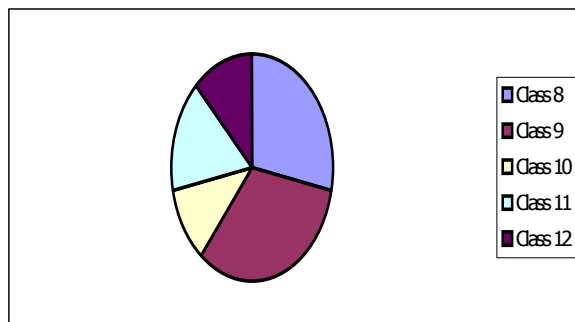
The number of children under the Pragati support has grown to 200 in 2009 - 10.



**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. 6000 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 support

Right since inception in 2003 till 2009, Pragati provided each student in class 8 – 12, a scholarship of Rs. 3000 per annum (max) to cover educational expenses. In 2007, Pragati introduced a scholarship of Rs. 10,000 to selected Pragati scholars who obtained free seats in engineering. By the end of the academic year 2008 – 09, Pragati had extended financial support in excess of Rs. 17 lakhs to deserving children, since its inception.

## Revision of Scholarship Amount

In March 2009, we undertook a review of the schooling expenditure in Bangalore and increased our scholarship amounts from 2009 – 10 onwards as follows:

- Class 8 and 9 in private schools – Rs. 3,000 + Rs. 1,000 as additional support, if required at the discretion of the Foundation in case of real need
- Class 10 in private schools – Rs. 4,000 + Rs. 1,000 as additional support, if required at the discretion of the Foundation in case of real need
- Class 11 and 12 in private schools – Rs. 5,000 + Rs. 1,000 as additional support, if required at the discretion of the Foundation in case of real need
- Government schools – Rs. 1500 ( students do not need to pay fees in these schools)

Scholarship amount for engineering degree courses was retained at Rs. 10,000/= per year and for other degree courses at Rs. 5,000/=.

## Developmental support

The number of active volunteers has grown to 20 in line with the increased level of activity. Pragati volunteers are professionals in various fields such as engineering, business management and education.



(Mentors meetings in progress)

They use their rich base of knowledge and experience to **mentor** these hardworking and capable children by guiding and motivating them towards their educational and career goals – they are working to become tomorrow's engineers, doctors, scientists and administrators...

The children receive a variety of mentoring, personality development and career guidance 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.

### **Web based system**

In April 2009, Pragati implemented a web based system for decentralized capture and maintenance of operational data such as scholar particulars, mentoring information, scholarship payment information etc. This will greatly enhance our operational effectiveness by providing ready access to current information.

### **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 26 of its scholars 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.



(Pragati scholars' visit to the IIMB campus)

**SAFE**, a social development initiative of **Tata Elxsi Limited** works with Pragati in meeting its objectives. In addition to generous financial support, a team of highly dedicated SAFE volunteers helps Pragati in its various educational support activities.

The **CIT** (Community Involvement Team) of the **Philips Innovation Campus**, Bangalore has decided to join hands with Pragati in its efforts. Their support both by way of finances and direct involvement by their young and committed executives has energized Pragati significantly.

**Rotary Club (Bangalore Cantonment)** supports Pragati's activities in the field of education by permitting the use of its resources at concessional rates for the activities.

**Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited** provided educational accessory kits to all Pragati scholars during the academic year 2008 – 09. Each kit valued at about Rs. 2500/= contained a school bag, a lunch box, a water bottle, a raincoat, a geometry box and assorted note books, pens and pencils, all of the best quality available in the market.

**Bharti Airtel Limited** became a corporate patron in 2008 – 09 by providing financial support as well as motivating some of their young executives to assist in the mentoring process.

## **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 to more courses
- 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 the growing challenge, Pragati needs your participation and support – both financial and non-financial.

If you identify with Pragati's cause, please contact:

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