

Pragati Educational Foundation

Since 2002

Progress through Education...

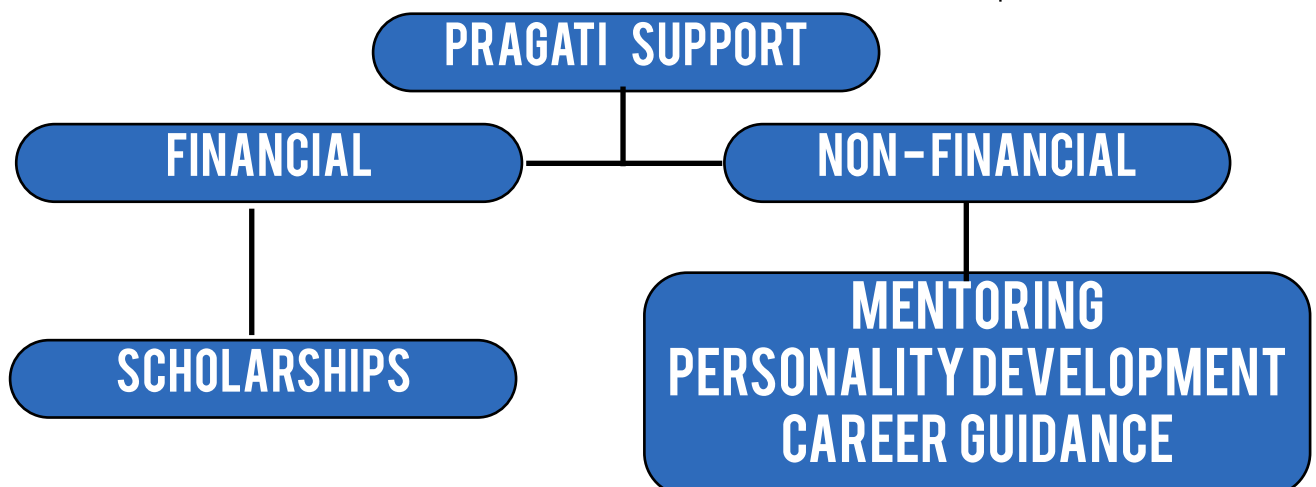


OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

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



FOREWORD

Tej Arora , Trustee

It is that time of the year when we at Pragati stop to smell the roses. We reflect on the year that passed, celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of scholars and mentors, and enjoy some time together as a family.

You will see a good panorama of the year in this newsletter. The Pragati family reminds me of an orchestra, where different people with a variety of unique skills work together to create something beautiful. There's the written music (our guiding principles), there are conductors (mentors) and there are musicians who each play their part and practice diligently (scholars). Then there's the final event when the entire orchestra plays together - the Pragati Annual Day.



Furthering the education of those at risk of straying away from it, is very central to all we do. But we believe that education is not limited to the classroom alone. Our mentors provide the much-needed support to the scholars that goes beyond textbooks

and exams. The mentors are there as a guiding friend, listener, and advisor. They seek to improve not only the marks & grades, but also the self-confidence and all-round development of the scholars. They strive to nurture whatever talents the scholars have by encouraging them to express those talents, whatever they may be.

"The Pragati family reminds me of an orchestra, where different people with a variety of unique skills work together to create something beautiful."

Each year, Pragati organizes programs that expose scholars to different interests, with the hope that it may kindle some dreams and passions.

One anchor in Pragati's calendar is the annual trip to IIM Bangalore campus early in the year. In Jan 2018, we were all ferried by yellow IIM buses for a fun day on campus. The IIM students gave career guidance to the scholars, took them on a campus tour, organized games and arranged a special lunch in the cafeteria.

In October 2018, a never-before program was conducted – a hands-on Robotics workshop. It was run by Robomations – an enthusiastic team that aims to spread the knowledge about Robotics among school children. In the 4 hour workshop, the students together built 2 devices, and got a small kit to take home to tinker with later.

They were visibly excited about building cool gadgets with their own hands. We felt good about exposing the students to latest in technology.

Another significant event in the Pragati calendar is the Selection Day where we induct new scholars into the family, as some scholars graduate out of our scholarship program. We were happy to welcome 24 new students in 2018!

We are grateful to have had a good 2018, and we look forward to a fun & productive 2019. With generous support from our well-wishers, we take confident steps forward.



Nayana S, Sri Vani Girls School

GROWING UP TODAY

Vijay . K , Trustee

There's a school just a block from my house and I sometimes stand and watch the children going to school in the morning. I think back to the time, over 50 years ago, when I would similarly have been entering my school. I wonder if the feeling I then had, of excitement at meeting my school friends, of dread at the thought of an impending exam, of anticipation waiting for the games period or lunchtime, has changed. I guess not. Feelings and emotions don't change much, but then the world in which today's children grow up has certainly changed dramatically from my times.



What has changed the world most is Technology. Probably the greatest changes are invention of the personal computer and the internet. These have probably driven most other changes that have taken place subsequently – in fact only in the last 20 years.

Add to that the popularization of Satellite communication and today's indispensable device – the smartphone. So what are the changes that I see, from the point of view of a today's school going child?

Abundance of information and easy access to it is probably one of the foremost. Where once I would have to go to a library and hunt through several books for some information, you can now merely type in a key word into Google and you can get ample references from the search. It's literally knowledge at your fingertips! Hence there is greater awareness of the world around and a greater social consciousness and sense of responsibility in today's children for what is happening around them and what they can do to make the world a better place.

The second is communication. In my time, I would have had to travel, sometimes long distances, to get to meet my friend or family. Now they have been virtually brought to our living room through the mobile, Skype, WhatsApp, Facebook and other Social media.

A third change is entertainment and other leisure activities. I had a coin collection and my brother collected stamps as hobbies. There would be great excitement at home if my father booked tickets for a movie – perhaps once in few months. Now there are video games on the mobile, movies on television or even livestreaming on demand and platforms like YouTube can be a constant source of entertainment.

Technology has even entered the classroom – there are online courses, online tutors and I don't know what else. Technology has also opened many new career choices that didn't exist when I was looking at colleges. The usual choice then was among becoming an Engineer, doctor, lawyer or accountant.

Information technology, IT enabled services, e-commerce, financial services and so many more opportunities have now opened up that the youth are spoiled for choices.

In short, Technology has completely altered the way we live and the way we relate to our surroundings and to others. But we must never forget – technology is double edged sword that can harm us as easily as it can benefit us.

For instance, there is so much gossip, propaganda and harmful material on the net that it can damage innocent minds without them even realizing it. Social media like twitter also gets used to spread rumors about people even friends. Social media or videogames can be addictive and not just distract us from our main purpose of being engaged with our studies – it can even dull our minds and leave us uninterested in the real world around us.

**"I HAD COIN
COLLECTION AS
HOBBY"**

Becoming too addicted to the smartphone, internet or social media may even make us inactive and less likely to be outdoors, with friends, playing a sport or engaging in a hobby. Obesity and other health issues are a real danger with such a lifestyle. These health risks can be compounded by excessive indulgence to the easily available fast foods and fizzy drinks.

In short, children today are virtually growing up online and growing up faster than ever before. They are exposed to so many temptations that it is easy to succumb to them especially under peer pressure that is so prevalent today. What these harmful effects must tell our children is that while technology can serve us well and give us great benefits, it can become a very harmful master if we are not careful and moderate in our use of the marvels that modern technology has given us.

Children must remain ever vigilant and use technology and all the benefits it gives us with care and in moderation.

It is for parents, teachers but finally the children themselves to be mindful in such matters and make the right choices .

SELECTIONS – 2018

Extending the Family..

Selection process is that time of the year when Pragati family grows bigger in strength. It is that time when new students full of aspirations and dreams are shown the path to progress and brought under one umbrella - called Pragati.

The path, however, is not laden with roses. To get under this umbrella, the students have to be able to work hard, excel not just in their academics but in other activities as well and prove that they need the assistance.

125
TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOLARS

24
NEW ADDITIONS – 2018

Rs 9,21,000
TOTAL AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP

And the means of selecting the most deserving ones among these set of students is through our carefully crafted selection process. Ours is a two-pronged approach. A meticulously crafted written test - followed by a rigorous interview - the interview is not only with the student but also with their parents to understand the holistic situation.

On 24th of June, students along with their parents had assembled at the Rotary, Malleshwaram. Students were eager to sit for the test, the mentors were equally anxious enough to be able to oversee the process without any glitches.

Around 118 students gave the written test which lasted about an hour.

Shortlisted candidates were then called for interviews by the mentor team which was split to parallelize the process.



Selection process is in a way a test to the mentors as well - a test of their ability to carefully prepare the question paper, control the huge gathering at the venue, conduct unbiased interviews and display unwavering temperament.

After shortlisting the students from written test, mentors started the interviews where they diligently understood the students academics, interests, career choices and last but not the least - financial situation.

At the end of the day, 24 new members joined the Pragati family.

It is not just the financial help that is deemed important for the upcoming scholar but what makes this Pragati association special is the bonding that builds over the course of their career - providing guidance, mentoring and becoming a turnstile to their career development.



VISIT TO IIM-BENGALURU

As if it has become a customary process every year, this year too, Pragati scholars were treated with the experience of visiting IIM-Bengaluru, one of the premier institutes of learning in the country. Indeed, it was a fun filled experience with loads of learning to take home.

The bright Sunday began with students getting picked up by IIMB buses (thanks IIMB!) from different locations in the city. The lush green campus greeted the students with a big smile - students soaked themselves in the abode of learning of the highest quality.

After having assembled in a conference room, there were some lively discussions among the students, mentors and IIMB core team. Students shot questions on career choices ranging from journalist, athlete, CA, Law and of course MBA - all of which were eloquently answered by the IIM team.

Our scholars proved to be nothing less as they came up with a quick talent show on the fly! This included some foot-tapping dance numbers and songs (including couple of mentors too!)

A sumptuous food at the cafeteria - followed by walk around the beautiful campus - completed the rest of the eventful day.



The founding principles of Pragati are based on providing financial assistance towards students' education while incurring minimal operating costs. Absolute transparency and maximum efficiency form the bedrock of Pragati's operations.

We take pride in the fact that we have near-zero operating cost and the entire monetary pool is directed towards scholars' benefits.

**MINIMUM SPENDING
MAXIMUM IMPACT**

ROBOTICS WORKSHOP!

Curiosity Rekindled...

This was one of the most interesting events we have had till date.

Robot - the buzzword which creates that spark of curiosity and excitement among students!

What does it take to build a robot? How intelligent is this robot? Can it do all my work? What if it takes over my place, my stuff? These are the questions that will pop-up in the minds of students when they hear about robots.



THE JOY WAS PALPABLE ON THE FACE OF EVERY STUDENT WHEN THEY SAW THE AUTOMATED ROBOTIC CAR PICKING UP SPEED ON THE GROUND

To quench a little bit of this robotic interest, we organized a robotics workshop with the help of Robomations, a startup aiming to spread the knowledge of robotics among student communities.

Of course, every sophisticated product begins with a simple prototype. Likewise, the introduction on robotics to students began with basic electrical engineering principles. Every student was provided with a breadboard on which they built small circuit with resistors, LEDs, battery and also buzzer.

Later the students teamed up to build automated car which involved understanding the physics of motor, resistors, gears and wheels. They also tried soldering for the first time.

There were some entrepreneurship lessons as well and directions for choosing one's passion.

This was one of those events which was intense, yet fun-filled and a fulfilling experience for the students. This event for sure would have inspired some of them to go explore the world of technology and choose it as their career in the future.



PRAGATI ANNUAL DAY 2017

Coming Together...



By the time everyone left after having snacks, it seemed like a perfect ode to the spirit of Pragati and its efforts.

**MRS SHUKLA
BOSE – FOUNDER OF
PARIKRAMA, GRACED
THE OCCASSION AS
CHIEF GUEST**



Annual Day is a festival of Pragati. It is a culmination of the year-long efforts by the students and mentors alike. A fun time to get together, to get ourselves entertained and also to highlight the achievements of scholars in that academic year. This is the time where everything comes together, one last time in the year, showcasing the talent to outside world.

This year's annual day was held at Rotary Club, Malleshwaram on 10th of December 2017. Mentors had carefully planned out the entire event and held the fort together.

The hall was filled with students and their families by the time proceedings started.

Chief Guest for the evening was Mrs. Shukla Bose, Founder and CEO of Parikrama Humanity Foundation. She gave us some wonderful insights into the world of education and learning during her speech.

There were some wonderful performances from the students - it was a treat to watch them perform!

Some scholars who did exceptionally well in academics and extra-curricular activities were awarded trophies and certificates. The bar is getting higher every year..



MENTORING ALL THE WAY...

Every Pragati scholar is assigned a mentor and is given individual attention and care.

Mentoring includes but not limited to -

Performance tracking and helping with target setting.

Building self-assurance, confidence and communication skills.

Co-develop realistic career options and positively direct child towards them.

Students from below schools have been constantly involved with Pragati scholarship and mentoring program.

Management of each of these schools has played a crucial role in achieving this successful association by facilitating us with student interactions at their campuses and acting as mediator in selecting deserving students.



Darshan C , Modern Public English School

If you are interested in mentoring students and share the same vision as Pragati, we will be happy to have you join us and help more scholars to have a brighter future.

Below are the schools in no particular order:

DECCAN ENGLISH SCHOOL

MAHILA SEVA SAMAJA

MODERN PUBLIC SCHOOL

SANDEEPANI VIDYA BHAVAN

SRI VANI GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

SVES ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL

There is also a big chunk of scholars from various other schools and colleges in and around Bangalore.

From,
Ujjwala G.,
9th Standard,
Sri Vani Girls High School,
Rajajinagar.

To,
Pragathi Foundation.

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making this scholarship possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and I am deeply appreciative for your support.

I am currently majoring in Early Childhood Education with hopes of becoming a doctor. The financial assistance you are providing will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying.

I believe I desire to be selected for one of your foundation's scholarship because as a hardworking student, I commit myself to effectively take advantage of the opportunity that the scholarships will provide me. Besides, I am a student that does not only persistently work hard academically, but also I constantly try to improve my own community's quality of life.

I believe education is the key to success, and I try to connect my passion for education with the desire of helping others. Thankyou again for your generosity and support. I promise you that I will work very hard. I am hopeful to become one of your foundation's scholarship recipients, so that I can continue on my pathway to become a doctor.

PRAGATI SCHOLARS SPEAK...

Sagar CS

My association with Pragati began in 2012 and I have been immensely fortunate to be part of this wonderful journey ever since.

I joined Pragati when I was studying in my tenth standard in 2012. Being a Pragati scholar opened a whole lot of opportunities to me in terms of knowing accomplished team members/mentors and learning from their experience, meeting other like-minded scholars with whom I could share the passion for improving and overall a motivation and encouragement to succeed to be like one of them in the future. It is more than anything one could ask for in that stage to groom oneself.

**"PRAGATI HELPED
ME COMPLETE MY
ENGINEERING"**

With once-a-month meeting program, I would share my progress with my mentor and also get to listen to other scholars about their development. Being able to discuss doubts and receive insights about them from your mentor was an engaging learning experience.

Outing with all of Pragati scholars and members to various places like museums, educational institutions etc and engaging seminars kept us informed and updated in enjoyable ways. In a way, Pragati took care of everything required for one's growth in every dimension.

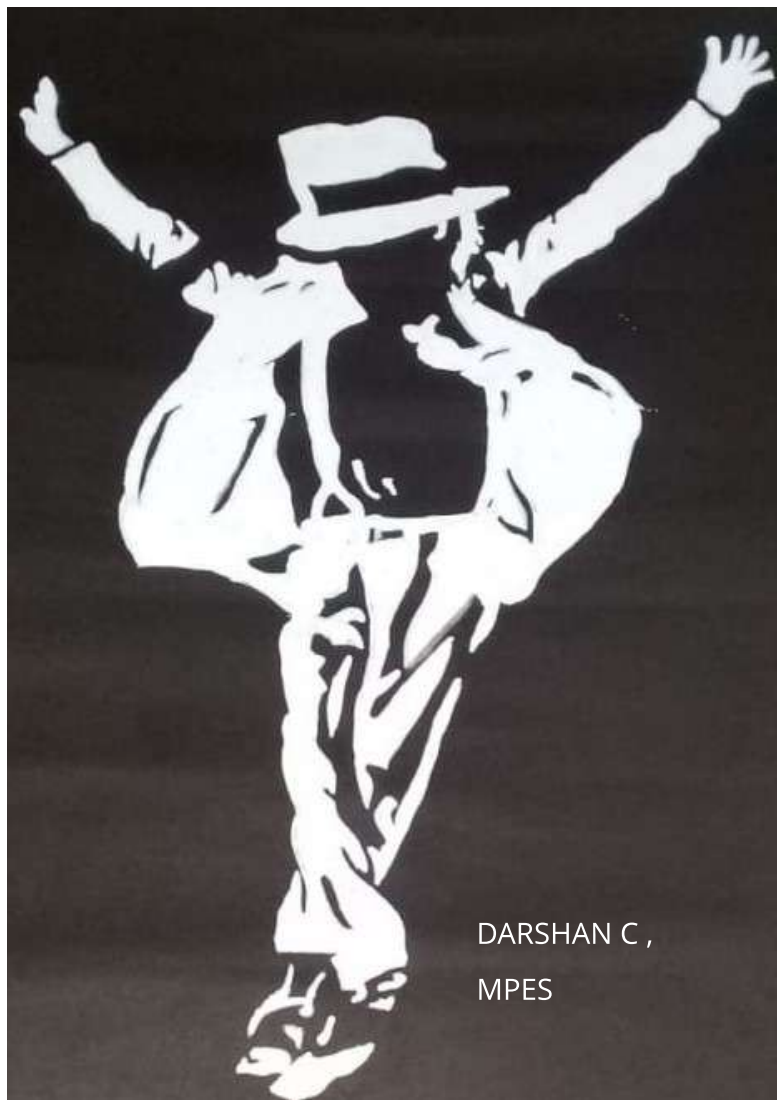
With their financial assistance and active encouragement throughout all these years, I am pursuing Engineering in Computer Science at UVCE and about to graduate this year. Besides that, Pragati helped me in the all-round development as an



Nayana S, Sri Vani Girls School

individual. Witnessing myself, the path of progress I and many other scholars from Pragati have been able to follow and succeed, I can whole-heartedly vouch for the vision 'Pragati' lives for.

I convey my deepest gratitude to Pragati for helping hundreds of bright students with financial assistance and filling them with motivation to pursue their dreams. I can't thank enough all the team members and mentors for providing a great platform to develop myself and for the selflessness of their philanthropic work.



DARSHAN C ,
MPES

Vedashree B C

Hello everyone! I'm Vedashree B C. I'm currently studying M.Sc Mathematics. I have been in Pragati for almost 8 years. The events as well as the workshops conducted helps all the students. Since there are students from different streams everyone will get exposure to all kinds of activities. For students who want to pursue higher education or in any other field, Pragati is good platform. So I want to thank all the mentors of Pragati who helped us a lot.

MENTORING ALL THE WAY...

Kavitha LM



“Sometimes, all we need is a helping hand” and Pragati has been that for us.

I am sure many of you must have heard us mentors talk about how we were Pragati scholars once! Most of us had joined Pragati during our high school. We had fortunately seen an advertisement in the newspapers where Pragati was looking to support students with strong academic performance but struggling from weak economic standing. Most of us were struggling to continue our studies because of our financial situation. The shortlisted students after the initial screening went through a written test, followed by a personal interview with Parents to assess the financial situation.

Once we were part of the Pragati Family, our lives changed! I remember among the many things, the regular 1-1 sessions with our mentors, Industrial visits, talks from influential people, exposure to organizations focused on higher studies, personality development exercises, different informative experiences from variety of events, outings, games and just plain networking and making new friends.

With the additional support that we received at each step of being with Pragati, be it the motivation to study better, guidance to make right and suitable choices in our educational journey, encouragement to pursue our other co-curricular interests and passions or the financial support, we have become more capable and better human beings today.

All of us, now have successful careers and well settled lives. We are with Pragati as mentors and volunteers. We work together as a team to add new deserving students every year, mentor the scholars on various aspects of life and strive to organize enriching events to provide new and educating experiences to them.

We wish to see more scholars re-joining us as mentors and continuing this effort of helping students in need through Pragati.

**“ONE OF THE BIGGEST
TAKE AWAYS FROM
THIS JOURNEY HAS
BEEN THAT OF
COMPASSION AND
GRATITUDE”**

THANK YOU...

There are many people behind Pragati's smooth operation and its success.

Our Board of trustees includes Mr. Vijay, Mr. Tej Arora, Mr. Santosh Nedungadi and Mr. Surya Rao who have been the north star for Pragati.

We extend our special thanks to all the sponsors of Pragati. Their contribution has enabled the organization to help many students in need.

We are grateful to all the mentors and volunteers all through the years who have extended their support both financially and by putting in their time and energy for Pragati activities.

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.

Rotary Club (Bangalore West) , Rotary House of Learning (Coles Park) and Modern Public English School , Ganganagar support Pragati by permitting the use of their resources for various Pragati activities.



PRAGATI FAMILY



Join hands with us :



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