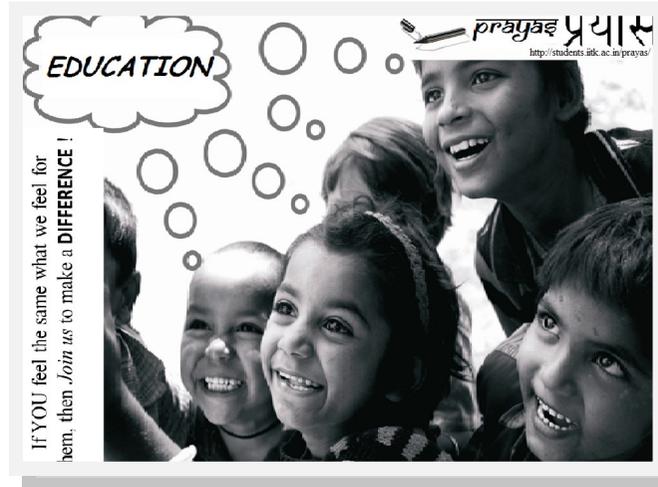


Our Dream!



We all know the condition of the education system in our country and agree that there is an urgent need for drastic changes. In the 10 years of its existence, Prayas has grown and evolved in terms of its philosophy, ideology, infrastructure, coverage, etc. But there are a lot of hindrances which limit our impact. This leaves us with the question—Can we have something 'Bigger and Better'? Can we have a system that allows freedom and lets the kids live their dreams? Can we bring about a change that will attract kids towards education and make teaching an attractive career option? We believe that this is possible. We have a dream. A dream of a changed India. And we believe this change can be brought about by a paradigm shift in the Education System.



Useful Links

Website: <http://students.iitk.ac.in/prayas/>

Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/116684131681406/>

Promotional Videos:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BF3y_a3flto

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wpk2U1RyhLE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkQG2nFPzHw>

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PRAYAS

**A simple effort
can fill colours
in many lives!**



"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

- Mother Teresa

Introduction



Yes, I have a dream. You too have one, and even those little kids have theirs. Why not weave all our dreams together, to create a better society to live in!

True to its hindi literal, 'PRAYAS', an endeavour of IIT Kanpur students,

is mainly focused on providing education to the marginalized kids, at least upto the level where they too can dream big. We try to nurture the zeal of enthusiasm in the kids. Quite understandably, we cherish every moment we spend amidst them. We strive for the overall development of the children, so they can find and follow their own way whenever they want. Every child we have a chance to deal with, has a dormant spark waiting to be kindled. Believing in this philosophy, Prayas was started by some enthusiastic members of the IITK community as an Evening school and was formally incorporated to be Students' Gymkhana in 2001.

The basic objectives of PRAYAS are:

To make quality education accessible to those who are deprived of it.

To inculcate values and provide moral education to the students.

To promote personal development of the students through various co-curricular activities like Music, Sports, Painting, Debates, Dance, Poetry, etc.

To create awareness about Health and Social issues and also about the 'Need of Education' among the students.

To develop a methodology of teaching that would attract the kids towards Education and prevent Drop-outs.

In short, the Aim of PRAYAS is 'to Inspire and Enable'.

Current Activities

PRAYAS operates 6 days in a week (Except Sunday) throughout the year. Major festivals like Diwali, Raksha Bandhan, Republic Day, etc. are celebrated in PRAYAS with all the volunteers and students uniting in joy. Regular classes are carried along on the weekdays with Friday reserved for Sports. Students interested in Music are trained in Classical Music on Saturday. Scientific experiments are also demonstrated to the students to generate interest in Science. Specialized training is also provided to the students for competitive exams like NTSE, Navodaya entrance, Avanti entrance, etc. Health camps and awareness talks by doctors are also organized for the students and their family. Educational trips, annual excursion and occasional trip to places like blind schools, schools for the differently abled, etc. are also organized to help the students evolve using this experience. The volunteers also visit the homes of their students to understand them and their conditions in a better way.

A typical day in PRAYAS follow the following chronology:

4.45 pm - All the students reach PRAYAS

4.50 pm - Assembly begins (Prayer, Recitation, Attendance and talk by Volunteer)

5.15 pm - Commencement of classes

6.45 pm - End of classes

6.50 pm - Concluding Assembly (National Anthem)

7.00 pm - Most of the students go home. Students of higher classes have extra classes till 8.00 pm



The assembly is intended to help the students develop their personality traits like oration, logical thinking, compassion, etc. We also encourage the students to dream big and try to realize their dream by giving them career counseling and helping them on case-to-case basis.

Every kid who studies at Prayas is an achievement. We focus on the holistic development of every kid rather than the academic development of just the bright students

Future Plans

Prayas is moving forward after a modest beginning in terms of infrastructure, facilities, coverage and many other parameters. Still there is a lot of scope for improvement. But there are also a lot of obstacles associated with these changes.

We are striving for improvement and innovation in the teaching methodology by studying various education models and implementing what we find appropriate for our condition. We also need more consistency and professionalism from the volunteers. The main problem is that we have limited time—2 hours a day to achieve something substantial. Another major hindrance is the floating volunteers—the students at IITK are here for a limited period of time. They are not permanent and teaching at Prayas is a voluntary service.

We also plan to have a better understanding of the extra-academic factors affecting the kids' learning and come up with ways to eliminate them. A child's performance depends on various factors like the child's health, the financial and social condition of their home, etc. In order to deal with these factors, we need more financial and human resources.

At Prayas, we teach the kids till class 12. But what after that? We try to help them to get admitted to a Graduation College on case-to-case basis. We aim to be in touch with our students even after class 12 and help them to pursue their career of choice by helping them with college admission and convincing their parents. This would also require additional financial resources.

We want to expand so that we can cover a larger section of our target population. This requires more space, money and dedicated people.

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