

PRAYAS FAQ

Q1) Why in and around campus only?

Ans. The problem with the education system in India is ubiquitous. But we have to choose a starting point. What better starting point than our own locality? We believe that it is our moral obligation to contribute back to the people who have been serving us for so long. Also proximity factor plays a pivotal role.

Q2) Why do we focus on every kid rather than emphasizing on bright kids?

Ans. We cannot bring about a change by selectively helping a small section. The bright kids always get opportunities to excel while the average lot remains neglected, especially in the low income groups. And these are the kids who need special attention. This does not mean that we exclude the bright kids who come to us.

Q3) How is PRAYAS associated with Opportunity School?

Ans. We share the same vision viz. helping the underprivileged kids associated with the Institute get a proper education. Opportunity School is a proper school with regular 6 hours teaching period, while PRAYAS is an informal system trying to supplement the educational deficits of the schools. Many kids from Opportunity School come to PRAYAS in the evening.

Q4) Why is expanding Opportunity School necessary?

Ans. Currently only around 350 kids are enrolled in Opportunity School and the school is up to class 8 only, while it is accredited only up to class 5. According to our estimate there are at least 800 kids in campus who study/should be studying in class range 1 to 12. Expanding the school in terms of classes, getting proper accreditation and affiliation will be very helpful. Most of the nearby schools are just dummies with no accreditation and teachers. Improving an existing school will be easier and a good solution to this problem.

Q5) What are the restricting factors in expansion of Opportunity School?

Ans. At present, with its current plans and functioning, funds are not an issue for Opportunity School. Space is one of the major constraints which has not been solved till yet due to Institute's administrative reluctance and indifference. A visit to the school would reveal that the space that it is working in currently is not sufficient for even the basic needs. The school does not even have a playground. Alumni support can play a critical role in rectifying these problems.

Q6) Why does PRAYAS need extra funding from the alumni?

Ans. The club fund provided by Students' Gymkhana is not sufficient for our sustenance. Our modest future plans ask for more funds. Financial support from alumni will be necessary for us. Refer to the table at the end of the file for detailed current and planned budget of PRAYAS.

Q7) How is PRAYAS linked with other NGOs – Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti?

Ans. Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti is an NGO working in the field of education and has its roots in IIT K. PRAYAS has been closely linked with Jagriti for many years in various ways like teaching the kids covered by the NGO, training their teachers, volunteering in various activities of Jagriti. In fact, people like Mrs. Vijaya Ramachandran (Incharge of Migrant Labourer Project of Jagriti) initiated the Evening School at her residence which later on evolved to become PRAYAS.

Q8) Why is addressing health issues important?

Ans. As we all know, proper physical, mental and social well being are important prerequisites for good learning. Of all these, physical health is the easiest to take care of. We have experienced that many of the kids in PRAYAS suffer from various ailments, a few having really serious problems which generally go unnoticed due to ignorance or are deliberately overlooked due to financial constraints. So, unless we address this aspect too, we can not educate kids properly.

Q9) Why are we planning to help the kids get higher education / jobs?

Ans. We believe that higher education gives a life changing exposure and is therefore necessary whether one goes for a job or not. In absence of continued support, the kids generally drop out after 12th and might feel that what they had dreamed under conducive patronage of PRAYAS are unrealizable and it might shatter their very faith in education. To preserve this faith so that they can serve as a strong base for their future generation, it is necessary to help them till college education.

Q10) What do we plan for the kids' higher education?

Ans. Along with regular counseling, encouragement, and help, financial support in form of book grant, partial fee payment, is imperative for helping the kids through college. In case of extremely poor financial condition, we plan to contribute a section of the college fee from PRAYAS.

Q11) Why do we need a corpus fund?

Ans. Since most of our activities / plans are regular, not just one time investments, we need to have a constant source of income. Hence we plan a corpus fund.

Q12) What are our current sources of funds?

Ans. Our primary source is the Students' Gymkhana. Our budget for the current fiscal was Rs. 55k only. This is insufficient for catering to all our activities/plans. This year being the Golden Jubilee of the Students' Gymkhana, we received one time amount of Rs. 92k. This fund was utilized to gift our kids with study lamps, portable tables, alarm clocks and dictionaries. A health is also scheduled to be conducted using this fund. Apart from this, we had received one time amount of Rs 50k from the Antaragni Team in the year 2009. We used this fund to establish our laboratories. Also we get generous

contribution from the Senators' Seed Fund for organizing some of our festivals. But this fund is subjected to the will of the senators and can be used only for consumable items.

Q13) What kind of workshops do we plan to organize and why?

Ans. We believe in the holistic development of our kids' personality. It is important to expose the kids to various skills and train them in their field of interest. Many workshops have been organized for the kids at PRAYAS in the recent past. Some of these are for charcoal sketching, mime, comics making, etc. Most of these events are serendipitous and unplanned. These events expose the kids towards many skills which can help them in their future. Also it provides a refreshing break for the kids from their routine life.

Q14) Why are we investing in organizing trips to blind schools, schools for the differently abled and excursion?

Ans. We believe that making the kids aware and sensitive to social issues is an integral part of their education. Hence organizing trips to place like blind schools, schools for differently-abled, etc. will help them to evolve as human beings and appreciate these kids. These trips also serve to motivate our kids to learn from their experience and try to overcome the obstacles they face in life. We believe that constant motivation is vital for the kids to excel.

Q15) Why do we celebrate major festivals at PRAYAS?

Ans. Generally our kids do not get to celebrate these festivals at home due to financial and social constraints. So here at PRAYAS we try to give them a joy, love and affection of these festivities by celebrating together and distributing sweets. This also helps in nurturing a loving relationship between the kids and the volunteers.

Q16) What is the need of the Annual Function?

Ans. The Annual Function is the only opportunity our kids get to showcase their cultural talents. We believe that this is an integral part of their education. This event marks the annual highlight of PRAYAS and serves as a common platform for the interaction of the kids, their parents, the volunteers and the other campus residents. It helps the kids to boost their confidence and that of the parents in their kids.

Q17) Why are we concerned about the workers' condition in the campus?

Ans. Being sensitive to the apathy of the people who serve us day in and day out in the campus is quite natural for sane human beings. Apart from this, most of our kids are the ward of the workers and improving their condition will automatically take care of most of our concerns mentioned above.

Q18) How can the alumni help in improving the Worker's condition in the campus?

Ans. As you must be aware, most of the problems related to the workers' condition in the campus are due to the Institute's negligence, indifference and reluctance. It is only by sustained persuasion and

persistence by the well wishers of the Institute like the concerned alumni that this problem can be solved.

Head	Current investment	Needed Investment	Comments
Games and Sports Items	4000	10000	for replacing damaged items and adding new ones
New Books	5000	20000	To add newer versions, books for changed syllabus, increasing number of copies for increasing strength
Xerox	3000	10000	for study materials, books, hand-outs, question papers, tests etc.
Stationary	3000	5000	chalk, duster, papers, markers, etc.
Computer Maintenance	1000	5000	
Mattress/mats/sheets	2000	5000	
Exam Fee	7000	10000	for NTSE, Navodaya entrance, JEE etc. form for deserving kids
Media and Publicity	2000	5000	For creating awareness among campus residents
Lab Maintenance and Expansion	6000	10000	To make up for used/broken items
Vocational Training & Workshops	5000	10000	for Kids
Teachers' Training	3000	5000	for Volunteers
Annual Excursion	12500	20000	
Annual Function	12500	20000	
Festivals	5000	5000	sweets etc. for festivals like Diwali, Rakhi, 26th Jan, 15th Aug
Once-a-sem Health Check-up of Kids	15000	20000	Doctors' fee + medicines
Surveys	2000	5000	of Nearby Schools, Clinincs, Localities
Scholarships and Prizes	12000	15000	for encouraging meritorious kids in form of School fee, books etc.
Future plans			
Higher Education	nil	50000	For kids passing class 12th
Medical Emergency Fund	nil	20000	For urgent health needs of kids
Gifts (Study lamps, Portable tables, dictionary, bicycles, etc.)		50000	To tackle electricity problem and constraints of other resources
	Total	300000	For proper functioning