

PRAYAS Mid-Term Report 2011-12

Coordinators: Chaturbhuja Sambharia
Ratnakar

Team Size: 25 Volunteers

PRAYAS was started in 2001 with a vision to help the kids in and around the campus, who do not have access to quality schools, in their studies. Centered around this theme, the vision has steadily evolved to encompass the idea of overall development of the kids which may not be possible in the environment which they come from. To realize this vision, in addition to regular teaching on 5 days a week, PRAYAS has various daily/weekly/ yearly activities in its schedule, like daily assembly to inculcate speaking and listening skills in the kids, 'play day' on Fridays, organizing in-house drawing competitions as well as encouraging and arranging their participation in various competitions in the district.

The major highlights of the achievements/activities so far are as follows:

- 1. Paper Craft Workshop:** A paper craft workshop was conducted in April 2011. A professional paper craft artist based in Kanpur was hired to teach the kids various paper crafts like paper bag etc.
- 2. Special English Classes during Summer Vacations:** Besides the regular classes in the evening, special classes were conducted in morning for English for Class IX and XI.
- 3. Out of 13 Dr. V N Kulkarni scholarships, 5 secured by PRAYAS students:** In a scholarship exam conducted by Shiksha Sopan, out of total 13 scholarships 5 were secured by the students of PRAYAS.
- 4. Special Navodaya Vidyalaya entrance exam classes:** Considering the financial status of the kids studying in PRAYAS, Navodaya Vidyalaya is a very good option if they get into it. Special classes are being conducted since May 2011 for the students of Class 5 to prepare them well for its entrance exam.
- 5. Rakshabandhan Celebration:** Among the various festivals that we collectively celebrate at PRAYAS, Rakshabandhan holds a special place. Like previous years, this year too, Rakhi was celebrated with much festivity with Rakhis and sweets.
- 6. 10th Annual Function of PRAYAS:** The biggest of celebrations at PRAYAS, its annual function- where the kids get a platform to display their talents in dance, music, drama, fine arts etc.- was all the more special this year as we completed 10 years of being a Gymkhana Club this year. This time, it was a grand affair with many PRAYAS alumni starting from the pioneer volunteers to those of Y4 batch attending the programme.
- 7. Annual Excursion - A Trip to Shobhan Temple:** Conforming to our vision of ensuring all around development of kids and help them become aware citizens, we hold annual excursion trip which we missed last year. This year we took the kids to the famous Shobhan Temple in October 2011 where the kids saw the whole temple premises, had a picnic and then an in-house treat at Old SAC.
- 8. Diwali Celebration:** The festival of light, Diwali was celebrated with much zeal and vigour, candles and sweets. The expenses for the celebration came from Volunteers Contributory Fund (VCF) i.e from the contribution from the volunteers.
- 9. 9 Students of Class 8 took NTSE Pre :** 9 kids from class 8th appeared in NTSE Pre this year with financial and coaching assistance from PRAYAS.
- 10. Comics Making Workshop:** A comics making workshop was conducted by PRAYAS in association with the Centre for Creative Writing and Publication (CCWP) IIT Kanpur in which Mr Sharad Sharma from the reputed organization World Comics India taught about comics

journalism and the power of comics as a tool of social campaigning and making such comics.

Budget Status: Till date, about Rs. 40,000 of our budget of Rs 45,000 have already been spent, plus Rs. 10,705 has been used from Senator Seed Fund for the Excursion and the Comics Workshop.