



## Pragathi's Major Efforts in India at a Glance

We have focused on drawing up low-cost, replicable, scalable, comprehensive models of development in indigent, inaccessible, rural communities by focusing on education, preventive health care, women empowerment, youth employment and human development through involvement of community. **Targeted holistic efforts to develop model villages** with several interventions listed below have resulted in dramatic improvement in erstwhile Burgula panchayat. We started with 10 villages in Burgula area of Telangana, but now have touched more than 500 villages of India with some intervention or the other. Directly, or in collaboration with other credible organizations, we have impacted over 6 lakh people in more than 10 states of India. In 2020–21, we have been at the forefront of COVID-19 relief efforts.

### COVID Relief Efforts

- In 2020–21, we have been at the forefront of COVID-19 relief efforts through a multipronged approach.
- “STOP THE PANDEMIC” – we believe that the pandemic can be halted through prevention – we aggressively increased awareness of masking, distancing, hygiene and vaccination.
- More than 100,000 doses of vaccine given with our team's help in Punjab.
- Food Grains for 6 million meals (60,00,000) was provided to the profoundly affected poor in Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Maharashtra, Orissa and West Bengal.
- 1,00,000 freshly cooked meals provided to the needy.
- Production and free distribution of 10,00,000 cotton fabric masks in 500 villages to about 500,000 indigent villagers in Telangana, AP, Rajasthan, UP, Punjab and Jharkhand.
- Providing livelihood to 140 families during the pandemic.
- 160 Oxygen concentrators provided in partnership with Sewa International.
- 500 pulse oximeters and 500 medical kits donated to the indigent.
- Webinars conducted regularly to increase awareness.
- Isolation Homes Started in partnership with Sewa International in Karnataka and Kerala to support more than 1000 people.
- Hospitalization Support Provided to the poor.

- **PPE and other equipment** donated to different government hospitals

## Pragathi Rural Development Centre (PRDC)

- **PRDC has been developed as a hub for rural transformation** in Burgula, Telangana, to serve neighboring 500 villages and hamlets on three acres' land. There are three meeting rooms, a training hall, and a 5-bedroom two-storey guest-house in this beautiful facility.
- State-of-the-Art 'Rain Water Harvesting' system, electricity conservation system, cost-efficient construction
- Skill Training Center
- Education Center
- Livelihood Generation Center
- Plans to develop digital literacy center to alleviate poverty and accelerate rural development in future

## Health Care

- **Open Defecation Free (ODF) Villages and Tribal Hamlets:** Construction of good-quality 650 toilets with bathing area and persistent education of the villagers to use them led to 10 villages and hamlets being declared ODF by the Government of Telangana.
- **Three Clean Drinking Water Plants:** For > 10,000 people with 24 hours water dispensing through 'Anytime Water Machine', use of effluent water for irrigation and flushing the toilets. Plants are sustained by mere Rs 3.33 for 20 liters, compared to Rs 15 for 20 liters in the market. A great business model has been created with profits being used for village development.
- **Model Primary Health Center:** Improvements in the PHC serving 40,000 people and Sub-center are continuously going on with the intention to make it a model PHC. The sub-center has been renovated. PHC was recognized by central government with NQAS certification.
- **The SMILES Preventive Medicine Program:** A unique, universal, comprehensive preventive medicine program has been developed with the belief that 'Prevention is better than Cure'.
- **The Non-Communicable Chronic Disease Prevention Program** in rural areas.
- **Bharat Bachpan Program:** Focuses on decreasing Infant Mortality Rate, prevention of Child Malnutrition. Through this program, we are ensuring that we get anthropometric measurements in all the children to identify malnutrition, educate the villagers about malnutrition, building capacity of Anganwadi workers and improvement of Anganwadi centers.
- **AMMA Program:** Focuses on decreasing Maternal Mortality Rate and Morbidity.

- **Sneha Menstrual Hygiene Program** to remove taboos around menstruation and distribution of 10,00,000 sanitary pads, while educating around 1,00,000 women as of August 2020.
- **Swachh Burgula Project:** Efforts are on continuously in the areas of community driven village cleaning, planting of over 25,000 trees so far, providing tricycles, personnel for clean-up, decreasing stagnant water, construction of dump yard, solid waste management, conservation of water etc.
- **Health Care Workers:** Capacity building of Asha workers, ANMs, Anganwadi workers and other health care workers is a continuous effort.
- **Alcohol Sale Banned in 4 Villages:** Alcohol sale has been banned in Nerallacheruvu, Burgula, Kashireddyguda and Kundelkunta via a resolution passed in their respective Gram Sabhas presided over by the Sarpanches.
- **Health Education:** Pragathi has educated over 1,00,000 rural folks about preventive measures during the pandemic, such as social distancing, hand hygiene, and the use of cotton mask.

## Education

- **Improvement in eight schools** impacting 1000 government school children who now have auditoria, classrooms, play-grounds, access to library books, science lab, computer lab and a lot of other facilities.
- **Swachh Patshala Award** to Kashireddyguda primary school for cleanest primary school in the state of Telangana, thereby creating a great model.
- **Education Improvement Programs** have been extended from 8 schools to 100 schools supporting 13,000 kids, to improve enrollment, decreasing absenteeism, drop-outs, and improve overall quality of education, with more emphasis on girls.
- **Annual awards for academic achievements in the entire mandal:** These have been designed to improve overall educational experience for children.
- **Scholarships:** Financial help provided to deserving students from the village for higher education.
- **Digital Literacy** emphasis since January 2013 has resulted in thousands of school children becoming comfortable in use of computers. This program has also resulted in majority of village youth and other villagers becoming comfortable in the use of computers. Recognizing that technology plays a huge role in development, we started the program at a time when the villagers were intimidated by computers.
- **Starting libraries in 99 schools** to inculcate good habit of reading. Several other interventions have been made in these schools. Flooding the eight schools in the area with books in November 2019.
- **Providing benches in 14 high schools:** 1000 benches have been provided in the mandal so that kids do not have to sit on the floor.
- **250 Bicycles** distribution to marginalized school students so that they do not have difficulty coming to school.

## Women and Youth Empowerment

- **One lakh women empowerment program:** Our team works closely with women on a daily with the goal of empowering 100,000 women by 2020. We have empowered 60,000 women so far.

- **Through our livelihoods program**, we have trained 500 youth, mostly girls, in different skills. Many have found employment. 90 days camps for stitching training for 75 women have been held.
- **Financing** purchase of livestock and small businesses.
- **300 sewing machines** donated to create self-employment in marginalized women.
- **Providing employment** to about 75 youth from village directly in our organization to date.
- **Cotton Masks Production:** Started the cotton masks production project, whereby nearly 100 families from 10 villages are benefiting during the COVID pandemic. Currently, we are making about 5,500 masks daily. Each lady gets paid Rs. 3 per mask, approximately Rs. 200 per day, after discarding the bad ones. As of November 2020, about 700,000 masks have been produced, and around 400,000 masks have been distributed for free in hundreds of villages across India.

## Infrastructure Development

- **Pragathi Rural Development Center (PRDC)** is a beautiful center developed on three acres' land for serving the indigent
- **Facilitating construction of roads** in collaboration with local village government
- **Facilitation of construction of underground drainages**
- **Street lights** in collaboration with local government
- **School buildings, classrooms construction and campus improvement**
- **Construction of school auditorium**
- **Primary health center & sub center improvement**
- **Water supply systems** have been developed in collaboration with local government
- **Construction of Mahila Mandal Building** – a meeting place for Kashireddyguda women
- **Pragathi Bhavan construction**
- **Placement of a public announcement system** in two villages
- **Construction of a dump-yard** in Burgula

## Community Participation

- **Human Development:** Door-to-door, meetings with SHG, villagers, school teachers, village heads etc. with an effort to unite them. Message of peace, unity, non-violence, co-operation and development is imparted on a daily basis.

- **Providing every possible resource** for the self-help groups, children, youth and village leaders.
- **Best Sarpanch Award in Telangana:** Empowering local village government led to our Sarpanch being bestowed the Best Sarpanch in Telangana award.
- **Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM): Collaboration with other organizations** –continuous process of sharing knowledge of best practices with other organizations and individuals has been a very enriching experience. This has led to replication of the efforts in other states of India. **Collaboration** with National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Bankers Institute of Rural Entrepreneurship Development (BIREN), government & other organizations.
- **Tata Institute of Social Sciences Interns, National Institute of Rural Development fellows, India fellows, Interns from USA etc.** have worked with us.

## Scaling Up Efforts

- **Efforts on in several districts of Telangana State**
- **Collaborative efforts** in UP, Punjab, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Orissa, West Bengal, Kerala, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh
- **Supporting 125 indigent women residents** of an Ashram in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
- **Support provided for construction of school in Maharashtra**
- **Rebuilding of about 350 flood-damaged houses in Kuttambakkam** near Chennai, Tamil Nadu, after January 2015
- **Providing equipment to Gandhi Hospital, Hyderabad, India**
- Providing equipment to Kurnool Medical College, AP
- Providing equipment to Baroda Medical College, Gujarat
- **At least 50 Tribal Schools** sponsored in other states of India
- **Worked in 16 villages** near Hissar in Haryana from 2001 to 2007
- **Mobile Digital Literacy Van** in UP in collaboration with another organization
- **Grameen Resource Center is being developed** in Rajasthan with a group of individuals in the US. This center is on similar lines as Pragathi Rural Development Center

**For More information:**

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