



# The Philanthropist

Transforming Lives

February 2023

Global Pragathi (Global Progress)

Issue 2

Pragathi Welfare Society (Sister Concern in India)

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Matching Grants 1:1

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### POVERTY ALLEVIATION THROUGH:

- Education Improvement
- Women Empowerment
- Youth Employment
- Preventive Health Care
- Community Involvement
- Infrastructure Improvement

### OUR CORE VALUES:

Compassion, Dignity, Peace, and  
Progress beyond Race, Caste, Religious,  
Gender, Political, and Socio-Cultural  
Divides

## Heartwarming Success of an Engineering Student Supported by Pragathi

“My name is Shilpa and I'm currently pursuing B.Tech 4th year in Gurunanank Institute of Technology. My father is a farmer and mother is homemaker. My family was not financially well off. Pragathi Welfare Society (PWS) and Alok sir always inspired and motivated me. Alok sir helped me financially by paying my B.Tech college fees for 4 years and my 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade fees. He helped my sister in NEET Coaching, who eventually got admitted in MBBS. PWS is working not only towards students empowerment, but also towards the empowerment of women and village in all aspects. Now my family is in good condition as I am doing paid internship at TECHNOVERT and my sisters are studying in government colleges. My future plan is to get a job in an MNC.”

## Celebrating Sankranti (Pongal) - Community Participation

Community Participation is crucial for sustainable development. Sankranti festival program was held at our beautiful Pragathi Rural Development Center (PRDC) with awareness session to Tailoring trainees and village women who stitched masks and muggu design competition (colours were provided). Prizes were given to the winners - 1st Prize - Rs 2500; 2nd Prize - Rs 2000; 3rd Prize - Rs 1500. Later, we distributed one bedsheet and two sanitary napkin packets to each participant to encourage them. Snacks were given to the participants. Bags made by village women were also given to the judges. Ms. Pragathi S organized the program.

## Our Efforts in Maharashtra

### a. Ashram Projects

We have supplied food grains for 550,000 meals in the last four years to the home to 125 abused women, aged from 1 to 96. This is yet another of our continuing efforts to empower women in all respects. Mrs. Anju and Dr. Praveen Chawla have been at the forefront, visiting the Ashram, motivating the women, and providing all kinds of support.

### b. Shirdhon Projects

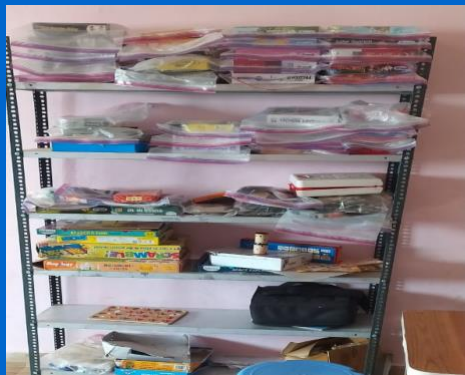
In the last 3 years, we have supported many different projects

## Shirdhon Projects

### Desk Project



### Library Project



### Smart Sakhi Project - Mushroom Shed



Editor: Dr. D. Samarender Reddy

Co-Editor: Mr. Ajay Jindal

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at Shirdhon village in Maharashtra. Mrs. Usha Bhaskar, a humanitarian, visited from the USA, funded, planned, and implemented the four projects mentioned below to support the indigent and underserved. Without her involvement, it would not have happened.

- a. **Library project** – Focuses on the overall development of students and elders who visit the library and includes Computer classes (a volunteer teacher from the USA also conducts classes on weekly basis). Many different competitions are held and 13 different clubs are being run by kids. Neighbouring villagers have participated from other villages in Vachnalay (library) activities.
- b. **Desk Project** – USKIDS4Water is an organization whose mission is to sow a seed of EMPATHY in every child's mind. One of the initiatives is to teach Spoken English to village kids. In collaboration, we have provided study desks to needy students and have connected with more than 800 students from villages in India.
- c. **Smart Sakhi Women Empowerment Project** – Under the Smart Sakhi group, we empower women farmers who need supplementary income to run their homes. These women are extremely hard-working and trustworthy. We have started vermicompost and Mushroom projects, which will not only generate supplementary income but also promote soil health and organic farming.
- d. **School Building Construction** – We have helped construct portions of the building, infusing funds from time to time.

## Listening to the Hearing Impaired

The seventeenth-century English poet John Milton wrote plaintively on his blindness, “Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?” I guess pretty much the same thing can be asked by those hearing impaired. So, it is a pleasure to be partnering with the Delhi-based NGO Suniye in teaching speech & language to the marginalized hearing impaired to boost their skills & confidence, and thus infuse new life into them and give them a new direction. For the last five years, we have also been partnering With Meenakshi Venkatraman Foundation in Hyderabad. Mrs Kusum and Dr S Goel of Maryland, USA were at the forefront of project execution.

## PiT Count in Dayton, Ohio, USA

A Point-in-Time (PiT) Count provides an estimate of homelessness in a community done annually on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in January. The Global Pragathi team has been actively involved. Dr Alok Agrawal has been going out at 3. 30 am with local teams studying the situation. A collaborative effort to address the issue has been taking shape. In 2022, 1,000 blankets through our local physician group (MVAPI), and 1,000 packets of non-perishable food good for 15,000 meals through the local Hindu Temple (HCO) were provided.

## Pragathi Events in Pictures



The program of meals for only Rs. 10, started by Mr Suresh, is run by about 50 teachers. 120 hot meals are served daily to the poor. Dr Alok Agrawal was happy to donate for a day's meal for one year.



Rural Development Champions being developed. Capacity Building and Instilling Confidence persistently has been our focus all along.



Sankranthi festival program, to commemorate the fresh harvest arrival, was held at PRDC (see the description in this newsletter). This is a great example of how we involve **the community** in sustainable rural development.

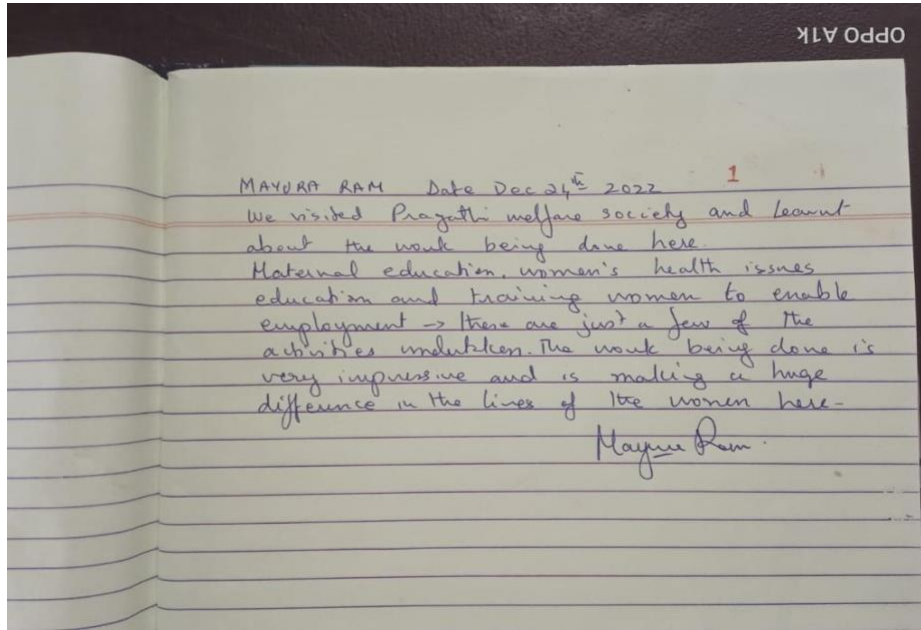


Shilpa, the BTech Student supported by Pragathi and mentioned in the beginning of this newsletter.



Sneha Program of menstrual hygiene with distribution of Sanitary Pads in the school

## Testimonials



### Mayura Ram's comments in the Visitors Book at PWS on December 24, 2022

"We visited Pragathi Welfare Society and learnt about the work being done here. Maternal education, women's health issues education and training women to enable employment. These are just a few of the activities undertaken. The work being done is very impressive and making a huge difference in the lives of the women here."

## Donor Recognition

<https://www.globalpragathi.com/patrons/>

Pragathi thanks profusely all the donors and well-wishers, without whose timely and generous help it would have been well-nigh impossible to carry on our work of helping the poor.

## Past Issues of 'The Philanthropist'

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## Media - Photos, Videos

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