



The Philanthropist

Transforming Lives

March 2023

Global Pragathi (Global Progress)

Issue 3

Pragathi Welfare Society (Sister Concern in India)

www.globalpragathi.com
globalpragathi@gmail.com

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pragathiwelfare6@gmail.com

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

Poverty Alleviation Efforts in Punjab, India

In this edition of the newsletter, we feature the efforts of Mr. Chetan Sharma and Mr. Sukhwinder Singh Bhullar—very kind and gentle souls. With their team of more than 20 volunteers, they champion the cause of the poor in Punjab.

Pragathi's Covid Efforts in Punjab

Pragathi Welfare Society (PWS), Fardikot, Punjab, is a chapter office of PWS, Hyderabad. It was set up 2 years ago under the name Manav Vikas Kendra with a mission to provide free education for poor high school students and other support for the underprivileged people of Punjab. However, due to the government lockdown during COVID-19 in April 2021, the team decided to utilize its resources in the fight against COVID-19. The Punjab team took various initiatives such as the COVID-19 awareness drive, vaccination camps, free ration distribution, counselling, prevention, and curative aspects etc., to help local underprivileged communities, reaching over 8000 needy Below the Poverty Line families in **58 villages and towns** in state of Punjab.

Repairing People's Homes

Our volunteers in Faridkot also took another initiative, namely, repairing the roofs of the homes of underprivileged families. Under this initiative, the team identified nine families whose home roof was very bad with the risk of falling and utilized all the resources to perform the required repairs.

Free Science & Digital Literacy Classes

An old building was rented. New computers and furniture bought. Free coaching classes to high school students since Aug 2022. We have hired very competent teachers to help students in subjects like math, physics, chemistry, and biology. Both basic and advanced (web designing) computer classes are also provided for needy students in Grades 9-12. Over 15,000 books and note books, and other stationery items have been provided to children. The local team is deeply involved in ensuring that these students do well in higher studies.

Giving a Leg Up: Re-Stand India

Under the slogan, Re-stand India, the team has helped 60 people to get employment/jobs. Local shopkeepers helped in that drive, by providing employment to these people. The drive was also successful for self-employment as seven people were able to start their own fruits & vegetable selling business. Sixty students got back to school after a gap of two years with educational support to keep up with their studies. Some needy students were also provided financial support.

Focus on Education Primarily - Keeping Children Warm

Many children miss school because of the cold weather. 1500 warm sweaters and 500 track suits were distributed in winters to needy students in schools as well as to other needy people to protect them from rising cold weather. Over 250 pairs of shoes to children, with more planned in near future.

Free Ration Kits Distribution

The team has been distributed free rations to four thousand people during COVID. Also 100 needy families every month since 2021 are getting the ration. The criteria for selecting these families were (1) Single moms with under-5-year-old kids, (2) Old people who have no family to take care of them, (3) Physically disabled persons who are unable to work, (4) Number of earning members in relation to the number of family members, (5) Job loss due to Covid, (6) Any sick member in the family, and (7) Overall condition of the home. This project has been very successful as thousands of families have benefited from this effort so far. We have also provided protein-rich diet kits for 100 tuberculosis patients every month.

Clean Drinking Water Plant - Our Third One

A Community Water Purification Center in Chahal village, Faridkot district in 2021. More than a few thousand villagers are benefitting from clean drinking water. This was done in collaboration with an organization **Community Pure Water** that has set up water plants in several villages of India.

Expressing Gratitude: Honouring Covid-19 Warriors

Approximately 250 medical staff members, including Doctors, Nurses, Police personnel, were appreciated for their continued support in the fight against COVID-19. The volunteers of our team were also honored.

Helping Every Way: COVID Relief Initiatives - Masks and Pulse Oximeters Donation

A total of 40,000 masks were donated. This was done at vaccination centers and shops. The target population for the mask distribution was below-the-poverty-line people, such as rickshaw pullers, laborers, etc., who could not afford to buy masks. We also provided 200 pulse oximeters to needy COVID patients.

Major Benefactors Dr. Shachi and Mrs. Neelam Rattan's Message

We feel honored to be associated with Pragathi. The organization helps people who are left behind, particularly in the fields of education and health care which is in line with our goals in life. Mr. Praveen Agarwal, Mr. Kotesch and others are helpful in starting the projects and have given time, pertinent advice and guidance for the execution of the plans in Punjab. Pankaj & Sumati Sharma have been asset in coordinating various activities in Faridkot projects. At ground level we are very grateful and fortunate to have Mr. Chetan Sharma and his untiring team which worked day and night to make our vision a reality. They are very dedicated and have worked beyond our expectations to help the poor people on various fronts. We wish Pragathi team well and are looking forward to work on many more projects in future, for making the world a better place for our fellow human beings.

Events in Pictures in Punjab



Free coaching classes



Free warm clothes distribution



Helping vendors to start their own business



Free ration kits distribution for needy



Dedicated Volunteers



Dr & Mrs Rattan (USA) visited Faridkot and recognized the volunteers for their impressive work

Testimonials



Appreciation by Maha Mrityunjaya Mahadev Mandir, Faridkot to acknowledge Pragathi's efforts against COVID-19.

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'

<https://www.globalpragathi.com/media/newsletters/>

Media - Photos, Videos

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

Major Volunteers

Mr. Chetan Sharma, Mr. Sukhwinder Singh, Mr. Pankaj Sharma, Mrs. Sumathi Sharma, , Mr. Rohit Kumar, Mr. Bhagat Singh, Mr. Vishal Monga, Mr. Pardeep Kumar, Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Mr. Nishant Kakkar and Mr. Riaz Preet Singh