



The Philanthropist

Transforming Lives

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Global Pragathi (Global Progress)

Issue 7

Pragathi Welfare Society (Sister Concern in India)

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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
- ❖ Progress
- ❖ Peace

Beyond Race, Caste, Religious, Gender,
Political, Regional, Linguistic and Socio-
Cultural Divides

V Shirisha – Pursuing her Dream to Become an Engineer

My name is Shirisha, currently pursuing 2nd year B.Tech. I am from a small village, Gandhipalem in Mahbubnagar district. We are five members in family. Recently, my mother expired. My father was a daily laborer. When I was in 10th standard, I came to Alok Agrawal sir, who was tremendously working for development of Burgula village, and most importantly towards education in our school. Apart from this sir also improved women empowerment, sanitation facilities in Burgula. Built library in our school, provided computer training classes for us. I wanted to become an engineer and shared with Alok sir. Sir was encouraging always to study hard to change my family situation, school and village. When I finished intermediate, I wanted to go to B tech college. But my family was not in a position to afford money for my studies. Sir came ahead and finally I was able to go to Btech college. I cracked EAMCET and could secure a seat in GNIT college. Not only me, sir has helped many people. Sir is providing my college and hostel fee for 4 years. I am always thankful for Alok sir efforts towards Burgula and our education.

Digital Empowerment Program (DEP) – Accelerating Development

It's been over a decade of integrated development work in Burgula and the surrounding villages. The advancements of technology & accessibility to mobiles with internet connectivity is rapidly increasing and becoming cheaper. At Pragathi, we believe it's an excellent opportunity to maximize the social impact on the ground using relevant tools and build a model of positively impacting the rural household at Burgula. Scaling can occur by '**Digitally Empowering Rural India**' to accelerate rural development and alleviate poverty. Our key objectives are:

1. Empower people at the grassroots with the relevant technological tools so that they can access the resources directly
2. **Global Connect** to connect the motivated volunteers across the globe to give an opportunity to contribute to relevant development programs
3. Rural livelihood enhancement

In the days to come, we would be creating **Digital pathways** to communicate and interact so as to enable even the people in the remotest regions to get the right opportunity. Recently, we shared and refined our vision by meeting various people including Shri Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary for Information Technology, Telangana, Shri Srikanth Sinha, CEO of TASK, Shri Suneel Reddy, CEO of CSC, Telangana, Shri Aseem Prakash, Deputy Director of TISS, Hyderabad, Mr Vijay Rangineni, Mr Murali B ex-President of TIE, Mr Osama Manzar of Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF).

Supporting Special Newborn Care Unit, Nalgonda, Telangana since 2019

Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) is a holistic and humanized approach to saving Preterm and Low Birth Weight (LBW) babies. The survival chances of newborns are inversely proportional to gestational age and birth weight. In India, there are 25 million births and 0.8 million deaths within 28 days of life annually, accounting for 20% of global births and 30% of global deaths. Across the country, premature births account for 15% and low birth weight babies account for 27%. The Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) in India is very high. The NMR in Telangana is 16 per 1000 live Births. The high NMR is primarily due to the prevalence of preterm and LBW births. Sick Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) Nalgonda is 20 bedded with an average admission rate of 1600 per annum. The Preterm Birth rate of 28% and LBW Births of 45% is much higher than the national average. Dr Damera Yadaiah and team have implemented various interventions to improve preterm birth outcomes. KMC is a single intervention that has shown to save more babies than all other interventions combined. The 10-bedded KMC ward lacked nurses to provide care for the babies admitted. This issue was discussed with Dr. BVN Reddy and Dr Sangeeta Agrawal. Pragathi took the responsibility of supporting 3 staff nurses to scale up implementation of 24/7 KMC services since 2019. The effective implementation of KMC has allowed us to successfully discharge babies weighing less than 1800 grams at birth. We ensure good follow up care of our discharged babies through home based newborn care. In the past 4 years, we have discharged 1650 babies and have improved the survival rate of babies weighing less than 1800 grams from 65% in 2019 to 79% in 2022. Our early initiation of breastfeeding rate has reached 70%, surpassing the national average of 42%. Sepsis rate has been reduced to 2% from 10%, and the readmission rate has decreased to 3% from 7%. In conclusion, Pragathi has made a significant impact on the delivery of our KMC services, resulting in improved survival, referral, and follow up services. SNCU Nalgonda is considered a model unit in the country. We are very grateful for Pragathi's support in helping us reach this goal.

- Dr Damera Yadaiah

Poor Patients Comfortable at Rehab Center in Maharashtra

Shri Chakrapani Mahanubhav Rehabilitation Center was built during the pandemic to assist COVID patients. Subsequently, it evolved to take care of indigent patients post hospitalization for physical conditioning. The 20 bedded rehabilitation center spanning over an area of 4,000 square feet is served entirely by dedicated volunteers. Praveen and Anju Chawla worked hard to ensure this center had a permanent ceiling, so the patients could be comfortable and escape from the blistering heat.

Supporting Child Care Program in Punjab

At Guru Gobind Singh Medical College in Faridkot, the inpatient ward with 60 beds providing free services to the poor children needed improvements. Due to temperatures above 45°C (113° F), children would not stay there. Also, drinking water was not available. Dr. Varun Kaul requested us to help in installation of 10 air conditioners and 3 water coolers for poor patient. Mr Chetan Sharma and Rattans from Pragathi team swung into action promptly and ensured that the children and families are comfortable during stay. Thousands will benefit over time.

Gift of Hearing Provided Since 2017

The Meenakshi Venkatraman Foundation (MVF) has partnered with Pragathi since 2017. MVF provides testing free of cost to below poverty line underprivileged families in hospitals, slums and villages. Since October 2013, Screening, Diagnosis, Auditory, Verbal Therapy & Rehabilitation of born deaf children has impacted 180,000. MVF has done demonstrations and awareness talks in Burgula village several times. Free hearing tests for school children and elders at Burgula as part of mega medical camp was done in January 2020. Pragathi in 2023 ensured that MVF could obtain instruments for newborn hearing testing and diagnostics worth \$ 15,000 (Rs 12,00,000). Dr Agrawal and other Pragathi members are in close touch and visit our center regularly.

A humanitarian is a person who prevents and alleviates human suffering wherever it may be found. They encourage mutual understanding, respect, and friendship - Red Cross



Supporting model SNCU in Nalgonda, Telangana set up by Dr Damera Yadaiah



Premature baby - Delivered at 28 weeks, Weighed 800 grams. Picture taken on 100th day



Permanent ceiling in the 20 bedded rehab facility installed in Maharashtra - courtesy Mrs Anju and Dr Praveen Chawla



Mr. Chetan Sharma ensured that small children admitted to 60 bedded unit were comfortable in temperatures as high as 45 °C (113 °F)



Orientation for Digital Empowerment Program Trainees in Pragathi Rural Development Center, Burgula



Digital Empowerment Program in Pragathi Rural Development Center in Burgula, Telangana

Donor Recognition

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

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Pragathi Thanks Advisors, Partners and Supporters

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