

#### Aug 2023

### President: Alok Agrawal <u>www.globalpragathi.com</u> Global Pragathi globalpragathi@gmail.com

Tax ID 37-1648736 (USA) Matching Grants 1:1

# Donate in US

#### **Pragathi Welfare Society**

(India - 80 G,12 A, FCRA approved)

**DONATE IN INDIA ONLINE:** Pragathi Welfare Society A/C: 50100032120624 IFSC code: HDFC0002826

MAILING CHECK: Plot Number 47, HUDA Heights, MLA Colony, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad—500034, Telangana, India

#### **Poverty Alleviation Through :**

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

#### **Our Core Values :**

- Compassion
- Dignity
- Progress
- Peace

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

# The Philanthropist

Transforming Lives of Rural Women

Global Pragathi (Global Progress) Pragathi Welfare Society (Sister Concern in India) Issue 8

#### Showcasing Few Women Empowerment Programs

### Pragathi Shavkula, A Young Dynamic Lady Shares Her Experiences Over Last Fifteen Years

In a three pages long message, Ms. Pragathi mentions that she was in grade three when she first met Alok Sir. According to her, there were very few toilets in the houses then. Hygiene was poor because of lack of awareness. Most deliveries took place at home. Education facilities were extremely poor. Parents did not support girls higher education and they would often be married off after 10<sup>th</sup> grade. In a long list of activities done by our organization, she says toilets were constructed in high school, classrooms added, computer lab, science lab added. Volunteers were hired. Footwear and uniforms were distributed. In the area of health care, the infrastructure was improved, the health care workers were empowered. As many people did not come forward to construct toilets, over 600 toilets were constructed with additional funds of Rs 4000 per toilet. SMILES preventive health care program covered more than 250 villages. Work was done to take care of pregnant mothers and malnourished children. Amongst other works undertaken now, Pragathi Ambassadors group are being inspired by Alok Sir to develop the villages through weekly zoom calls. She states that as part of Rural Development, Pragathi Welfare Society founder Alok sir, Sumana madam, the staff and volunteers work very hard. Good results have been obtained by changing the rural people and making them knowledgeable. Thanks to Alok sir for giving this opportunity.

#### Village Women Enterprise – Livelihood For Women

(Mere \$ 2 for a sturdy bag, \$ 100 a month for livelihood of a family)

Six village women are receiving employment through the enterprise, a brainchild of Ms Pragathi S. We are incredibly proud of this livelihood generating effort as it is a great example of independent work leading to sustainable development. We often order products and distribute it among the poor villagers. Recently, 1500 bags have been ordered. On the eve of 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of a gentleman, they will be distributed to the poor villagers. We are also supporting the enterprise by helping obtain raw material at low cost and setting up a digital marketing platform. Success also means livelihood for more families.

# Beautician Training For Rural Women – We plan to start this program in August 2023 (For mere \$ 50, one lady can be trained as a beautician)

# Women's Health is Extremely Important – Supporting Non-profit Swastava Cancer Care (\$8 per lady for cancer screening and sending message to thousands of women)

On June 27, 2023, a medical camp was held for the women in the primary health center. A clear message about importance of women's health was spread to several villages covering a population of more than 40,000. About 75 health care workers, mostly women, in the primary health center understood the importance of taking care of women's health. These health care workers take the message to the local population on a daily basis. The Ranga Reddy District Medical Health Officer, Mr Venkateshwar Rao and the Deputy District Medical Health Officer, Dr Jayalakshmi , a gynecologist, graced the occasion and stressed on the importance of preventive health care for women. 135 women underwent screening for oral, breast and cervical cancer. Dr Chaturvedi, PhD, from Swastava Cancer Care, extremely passionate about cancer awareness and prevention was kind enough to organize the medical camp.

#### Menstrual Hygiene Program Has Impacted Over 50,000 Women So Far

#### (For 33 cents providing sanitary pads for one month and education about menstrual hygiene)

In 2018, we started the Sneha menstrual hygiene program. Under this program, we have empowered over 50,000 women with knowledge of menstrual hygiene and other preventive health care issues in Ranga Reddy, Mehboobnagar, Adilabad, Mulugu, Nalgonda, Jagtial districts of Telangana State. More than 1.2 million pads have been distributed to women so far. In the journey, several collaborations have taken place. Dr Swatantara Mitta, Ms Lata, Ms Shyamala and Ms Uma of Mitta Foundation are working with us to distribute 100 ecofriendly sanitary pads, reusable for atleast 3 years. In 2015, we collaborated with Padala Charitable Trust to educate women in and around Burgula about importance of menstrual hygiene.

#### Education of Girls is Extremely Important – Uttar Pradesh, India

#### (\$75 a year provides education for a girl for one year- this is fully funded program)

In 2022, fifty four and in 2023, sixty economically needy girls from 6th to 12th grade were selected to receive annual academic scholarship. These girls are mentored by Dr Santosh Yadav, Ms. Aparna Subramaniam, and Dr. Amit Katiyar of Shiksha Nidhi Organization. Our common mission is to raise awareness of the educational inequities that exist for underprivileged girls living in the rural communities of India and to overcome historical financial barriers that limit access to quality schooling. Well-educated women are the pillars of society, and with an equal opportunity to education, they can offer the best of themselves and families, the communities, and their country. Having supported girls in Telangana also, we are happy to collaborate and guide this passionate young group sending a strong message about importance of girl education in the community.

#### **Digital Empowerment Program**

#### (\$ 25 can help make one village lady digitally literate; cost per person to go down with time)

With a vision of Digitally Empowering Rural India' to accelerate rural development and alleviate poverty, the project kicked off with the Computer Training to the students and Youth in the PRDC Center (Pragathi Rural Development Center). The center currently has been setup with a Computer cum conference lab with 15 computers and an online platform to make experts connect with the beneficiaries. So far, over 50 students, including several women from 3 villages and 7 thandas have utilized this opportunity. The next direction is to upskill them in one or all of the three directions:

- 1. Empower with the relevant technological tools so that they can access the resources directly
- 2. Mentoring / providing direct benefit through skilled volunteers as Global Connect
- 3. Rural livelihood enhancement

We invite and seek partnerships from you to provide support in any of the above, especially with the rural employment opportunity. – Chandra Sekhar P, Head, Digital Empowerment Program

"Gender diversity is not just good for women; it's good for anyone who wants results." Melinda Gates





@Village Women's Enterprise

An initiative to promote "sustainable rural livelihoods and empowering women and youth"

Women Being Trained at our Rural Digital Empowerment Center Ms Pragathi Shavkula Started Village Women Enterprise. We are Happy to Support Her.



Supporting Livelihoods Through Village Women Enterprise.



Ms. Pragathi S With Some of The Products Produced in Village Women Enterprise





Medical Camp For Women Health Care in Burgula

A Beautician Training Program is Being Planned at our Rural Development Center

# **Donor Recognition**

We profusely thank 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.

## Past Issues of 'The Philanthropist'

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

### **View More Photos and Videos**

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

# Pragathi Thanks Advisors, Partners and Supporters of Women Empowerment Programs

Ms. Sumana B, Dr Chaturvedi, PhD, Dr Santhosh Yadav, PhD, Dr Amit Katiyar PhD, Ms.Aparna Subramaniam, Dr Padma Veligeti, Dr Vijaya Guduri, Dr Swatantara Mitta, Dr Lakshmi Madabushi, Dr Rohini Gandhi, Dr Samatha M, Dr Bhuvneswari, Ms. Kavitha Neelapu, Ms. Reena Goyal, Ms. Suman Kejriwal.