Annual Overview 2014 - 2015
Preamble
PRAYAS is a not-for-profit social development organization working for the welfare of marginal and underprivileged sections of our society. Founded in 1988, PRAYAS has grown into state level agency with operations in two districts of West Bengal. With our core competencies in child labor, tribal empowerment and community based participatory approach to development; we believe that the key to a developed and self-sustained society is in the hands of the people themselves. PRAYAS is a catalyst to that development process, channeling our strengths and resources to build a better future for our children, youth and women.

Vision
PRAYAS envisages a society free from the perils of religion, caste, creed or class, where people live in peaceful coexistence with nature, utilizing nature’s resources to meet only their needs; and where people are healthy, educated and prosperous in physical, mental and materials terms

Mission
PRAYAS shall strive towards providing opportunities for social and economic advancement of the poor and underprivileged sections of the society. The organization shall always strive for the empowerment of women and development of children as guiding forces to build a stronger and self-sufficient society.

Core Values
- Integrity
- Honesty
- Participatory & Cohesive approach
- Team Work

Project Area

State - West Bengal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Block/MC</th>
<th>No. Village/Ward</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Howrah</td>
<td>Shampur – I &amp; II</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bally</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Howrah MC</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alipurduar</td>
<td>Falakata</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legal Status
PRAYAS is registered under the West Bengal Societies Act, XXVI of 1961
Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976
All Donation are exempted under section 80G (5)(vi) of Income Tax Act, 1961.

Auditors:
M/s S. S. LOHIA & CO. Chartered Accountants
27, Brabourne Road,
Narayani Building
7th Floor, Room No. 711
Kolkata – 700 001
Phone (033) 6541-9730
email : sslohiaca@gmail.com
PRAYAS work for people-centered development and policy and their effective implementation. If organizes, sensitizes and empowerment disadvantage communities and people with special needs, namely ST, marginalized, women, children and disable on important development issues for evolving a sustainable and participatory development process.

In the current scenario of development process. It was another eventful and successful year for the PRAYAS. During the year, it moved ahead very systematically and scientifically in order to achieve its well defined objectives. It has demonstrated effective working model of development in some of the most difficult and backward areas suffering from poverty and exploitation. The success of its project has created pressure on other stakeholders and government departments to provide proper cooperation in poverty reduction.

Along with its other programmatic areas, now it is also concentrating dynamically on micro-finance and micro-enterprise development with proper strategic plan because this effort of PRAYAS would provide a support to the rural masses for their sustainable economic development. It would be another substantial experiment in order to improve quality of life of disadvantaged rural people.

PRAYAS being a leading development organization of West Bengal in mobilizing rural masses at large and encouraging people's action for sustainable smile on deprived faces. A concrete glimpse of its development intervention can easily be seen in this report.

We hope that this report, which captures spirit, process and achievements of PRAYAS would inspire other stakeholder for addressing the issues of poverty and under development.

Br. Markus Toppo,
President

Progressive Rural Active Youth Action for Society [PRAYAS] popularly called as PRAYAS is more than two decades of social service. It has remained small, but the work we are doing has brought considerable changes to the lives of hundreds of women and children. It is my privilege to present this report, highlighting our activities during the year 2014-15.

PRAYAS continues to extend its support to poor and vulnerable families in Howrah and tribal villages of Alipurduar, giving emphasis to the development of women and children. Education and women’s empowerment continues to be our pivotal initiatives. During the year, we have been able to link the self help groups and micro finance initiatives to income generating opportunities, giving training to members of SHGs/Farmers club and involving them in productive work. PRAYAS believes that unless the micro enterprises are developed, the development will never reach the grassroots.

Despite our work, various issues including poverty, illiteracy and lack of information in health care, livelihood, environment including ecology and peace and harmony continue to plague the people. We need people participation to donate eye and body after death. While the country is showing impressive development records, the people in the villages seem to be ignored, even forgoing their basic rights as citizens of the country.

It is under this context that we continue to work. We thank all the support and motivation by our friends, partners and various agencies, not to mention the volunteers, visitors and our own people who have supported us all throughout. Do tell us how you find our report and share your feelings without any inhibition.

We will look forward to hear from you.

With best wishes and regards

L. K. Das,
Secretary

Deepest Condolences
PRAYAS Pray Homage to its Vice-president Mrs. Doli Mondal who passed away on 2nd December, 2014
**Annual Overview 2014-2015**

It is a known fact that Education has a key role for a society to develop. So education to children programs were the first initiatives that PRAYAS started in the year 1988 and still it is the priority sector of the organisation. However, it is not just education alone now, whereas we are concerned about the entire gamut of a child’s development, both at physical, mental and emotional level. While we continue to impart education, the all-round development of a child is given importance. Thus, addressing some of the vital issues that plague the development of children has become one of our primary developmental agenda.

Henceforth the no. of children so far PRAYAS reaches a large number of children in the age group of 5-17 years extending non-formal, formal and supplementary education to most deserving children from poor families in the districts of Howrah and Alipurduar. At present the status of elementary education is given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Howrah district</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 villages</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alipurduar district</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CHILDREN</strong></td>
<td><strong>346</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Brick field School**

PRAYAS running brick field schools for last few years. This program is worthy of mentioning because this innovative idea gains achievement. As the parents of the child labors are migrant workers, the babies of these communities roam and stay with them. These small children have no schooling opportunity and in the long run they also become child labor. This process has been repeated generation after generation leaving poor tribal communities at the depressed margin. To prevent this system we resort to this innovation of migrant babies/children education. But this is not sufficient to cover a huge number of migrant labours. At present 137 no. Children are receiving schooling facilities in 3 schools, but the actual need is very high as for 465 brick kilns are existing with thousands of laborers in Howrah districts deserve this facility.

These brick fields are located in Shyampur of Howrah district. But there are many brickfields where thousands of migrant workers mostly belong to tribal community are working at a low wage. It is a seasonal employment opportunity who leaves home with their babies and children having least opportunity of their schooling facility. A labor class is thus generated generations who cannot change their social class but remain like slave. The majority of these people are coming from the tribal belt of Jharkhand and Behar. With the exception of the matter as stated above the following measures needed to be addressed:

a. Negotiation with the middlemen contractors are to be held.

b. Duty hours of the brick kiln workers are to be re-scheduled.

c. A curse of under-age marriage among these workers is to be prevented.

d. Above all, education (mainly elementary in our case) of these children is the main key to prevent all these anomalies as mentioned above. Migrant children are totally deprived of education due to their seemingly nomadic lives. Unless educational intervention is made a reality for these children the tradition of illiteracy will prevail for generations together.

**Special Coaching for poor students**

Class education alone cannot achieve success. As for this PRAYAS believes that proper education is every child’s right and hence it has launched many projects in that area of education. Apart from distribution of books, PRAYAS has been operating Coaching Centers for poor students at Shyampur – I block in Howrah district and Falakata block in Alipurduar district. This is to
help the poor and motivated students to better their knowledge and obtain good results at various examinations so that they can enter into higher education or professional courses. Students of Classes V to X are taught in the coaching centers by 17 teachers. A Chief Coordinator monitors the teaching program regularly, meets the teachers and students to assess various issues and provides support. This additional learning session help many students to develop their skill.

Approximately 381 students receive coaching in each of the coaching centers. To PRAYAS’s credit, nearly 83% of the parents and guardians are now aware of and committed to their children’s education and exclude them from working in the fields and other trades.

**Health Care Programme**

**Health Check-up Camp:**

A weekly health check-up programme is being conducted by us for the beneficiaries at the same time awareness programmes are set to impart knowledge of basic health and prevention at the brick fields under our project cover region.

**Vitamin – A & Albendazole distribution Camp**

As the deficiency diseases are rampant in our area we were scared but it is our great pleasure that we are capable of helping a good number of people to counter deficiency diseases by supplying Vitamin A and Albendazole. Thanks to vitamin Angel USA for helping us by providing those medicines besides the Sitaram Jindal Foundation, New Delhi, Shandasani Foundation, Hongkong and others provided financial assistance for running the program effectively. Last year Vitamin Angel took the responsibility to train our personnel in connection with the project for effectively conducting the activities of the project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>No. of Beneficiary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin – A (100,000iu) for 6-11months</td>
<td>2350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin – A (200,000iu) for 12-59 months</td>
<td>18757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albendazole for 12-59 months</td>
<td>21107</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Blood Donation Camp**

Like past few years PRAYAS organized a blood donation camp in 4th March 2015 in Boragughubesia village in collaboration with Satadal Seva Samity and Life care Blood Bank, Kolkata. A total of 55 persons that includes 18 women donated blood. All the participants were given certificate and blood donation card by the sponsoring authority.

The organization also extends humanitarian support in terms of providing hospitalization support and medication support to highly deserving victims. During the year, the PRAYAS provided cash and medicine assistance to a total of 5 persons.

The project also conducts health education and awareness generation camps for the target people. The camps are conducted in a regular fashion as a preventive measure towards illness and educate the community on health care, hygiene, sanitation and nutrition.

**Low cost latrine** : PRAYAS arranged construction of low cost latrines for the poor people who alone can not afford them selves,
10 such people were gifted with these latrines at sharing of 50/50 with the collaboration with BJKSamity and Rotary Club.

**Environment and Ecology**

Maintaining ecological balance PRAYAS is engaged, every year with varieties of program so that a sense of good will develops through out the society. The event is celebrated like a festival in the area with support from Ministry of Environment and Forests.

During the year under review, PRAYAS participated in the National Environment Awareness Campaign under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India through SFR, Kolkata. The project undertook various activities under the campaign including a workshop and one vermin-composting under the title “Combating Desertification, land degradation and drought”. One workshop were organized on the subject in which, 66 persons participated. Resource and learning materials were published and distributed to people.

**Livelihood**

PRAYAS has main focus on rural development/upliftment in order to change the socio economic status of the rural population so livelihood support is indispensable to be looked after. As such a series of programs are adopted to fulfil this target. Initially farmers clubs and Self Help groups of farmers are to be formed. After that it is planned to train the farmers in organic farming to keep bay chemical farming which is held responsible for mass health hazards. This includes courses like preparation and production of organic manure and vermin compost with their use. Besides farmers will learn IPM (Integrated Pest Management) with schedule dose of bio and organic pesticides like Trico derma viridi, Pseudomonas Florescent etc. Ultimate motto is to keep bay the synthetic insecticides and pesticides. Another important and basic thing is to regenerate the soil heath so far degenerated due to chemical farming, first of all loss of constituents of the soil is to be determined, PH of soil is to be learnt by sending soil samples to the nearby soil testing laboratory and farmers are to be instructed to follow the instruction to be obtained from the laboratory. As such last year we carried out this program the details are given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Program</th>
<th>No. of Beneficiary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organic Farming</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicinal Plant/Herbal</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquaculture</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Under the annual social forestry campaign conducted by PRAYAS, in collaboration with the forest department of the state government, extensive sapling plantation were taken up along the sides of the Baraghughubesia main road as well as in two crematoria in the area.
Awareness, Campaign and Networking

Normally PRAYAS pays a highest priority on raising people awareness on several subjects and issues for long years. The subject of campaign are chosen from the important issues related to the need of present day scenario a detail of undertaken campaigns are given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Program</th>
<th>No. of Beneficiary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zari</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tailoring</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen Gardening</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal husbandry Tr.on</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry and duckery (SHGs)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic covered</th>
<th>No. of Camp/ Workshop</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaria Control programme</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS Prevention</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water &amp; Sanitation</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Safety</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster preparedness</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Right</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace &amp; Harmony</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thalassemia</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Campaign on Organ donation

A Net work programe

Our organization has been running a campaign on Organ Donation for a couple of year. As for this a network of NGOs has been established involving thirteen NGOs. It is well-known that a few organ may be donated after death which will be a valuable gift to someone who badly need so, as for example if we donate our eyes after death a blind person can see with those eyes. Of late news of few important organs donation of brain dead persons have been reported. These are possible if keens of those persons agree. In this way we are trying to motivate people to come forward to donate organs and the mortal remains after death. Below is a statics so far achieved:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Cover</th>
<th>Three Districts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of NGO</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye Collected(up to 31-03-15)</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body collected (up to 31-03-15)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Padayatras 67 KM (participants 252)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycle Rally (67 participants)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgments
- Government of India
- RBI, Kolkata
- Government of West Bengal
- Ministry of Youth and Sports/ Govt. of India
- Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change
- District Social Welfare Officer, Howrah & Alipurduar
- Block Development Officer, Shyampur – I & II
- Bally & Falakata
- Uluberia Municipality
- Nehru Yuva Kendra - Howrah
- Vitamin Angle, USA
- Asha for Education, USA
- Sitaram Jindal Trust, New Delhi
- International Peace Youth Group, Korea
- Guide Star India
- Help your NGO.com
- Shamdasani Foundation, Hong Kong
- West Bengal State IAG
- Agradut
- Amaragori Yuba Sangha
- MTBM
- Brick Field Owner’s Association, Shyampur
- SSS

FRIEND AND WELL WISHER OF PRAYAS
You may please send your Donation to our bank
For Foreign contribution
State Bank of India, Howrah Branch (00091)
19, G.T. Road (South), Howrah – 711 101, West Bengal
Account No. SB 31032319779
SWIFT Code: SBININBB106
IFS Code: SBIN0000091

For Country Contribution
INDIAN BANK, Howrah Branch, 27/2, G.T. Road(S)
Howrah – 711 101, West Bengal
Account No. SB: 868710128
IFS Code: IDIB000H012
OR
Union Bank of India, Falakata Branch, Falakata
District – Alipurduar, West Bengal
Account No. SB 603502010004993
IFS Code: UBIN0560359

North Bengal Unit:
At & P. O.: Falakata, Pin Code: 735 211, Dist. Alipurduar
West Bengal, India

Howrah district project office:
Village: Baraghughubesia, P.O.- Amordaha
Dist.- Howrah – 711 312

Join Us, Join our Movement

PRAYAS is a movement with a goal of ensuring rights for vulnerable children. This movement cannot sustain or succeed without your active support and cooperation. Join us and be a part of this wonderful initiative. You can become a partner to our initiative by supporting our projects, sponsoring activities and events or by becoming our volunteer and be productively involved in capacity building and skill enhancement.

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Mr. L. K. Das, Secretary
Mobile: + 9836509314