

# PRAYAS TEACHING PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS

**Dated:** - 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2016- Till continue

PRAYAS Program aims to enhance the quality of education provided to the local Himachal youth by the local area government schools. In this program, the volunteers of NSS unit IIT Mandi seek to identify opportunities through which they can play a supportive role to the school teachers and administration, and help to motivate the local young boys and girls to aim for excellence by presenting both male and female good role models, and to learn through dedication of the IIT Mandi volunteers and coordinators.

The program has 2 parallel aspects:

1. **Class 10, 11, 12 Teaching Program:** Under this program students from the Government Senior Secondary Schools in Kamand and Kataula come to the IIT Mandi campus on Saturdays and receive coaching in Science, Mathematics, English, Chemistry, Physics, and Biology.
2. **Class 7, 8, 9 Home Work Helpers Program:** Under this program, IIT Mandi volunteers meet with students of the Government Senior Secondary Schools in Kamand after the school day ends and assist them with their homework.



Govt. Senior Secondary School Kataula students with a PRAYAS volunteer and a Visitor

### **Program Highlights**

The PRAYAS program was initiated in November 2014. Given that the program is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of its operation, it suggests that there is enough of a community service spirit at IIT Mandi to sustain such a program on a consistent basis. The Institute administration has also been supportive of the effort by providing transportation support and access to the Institute resources for these programs. Qualitative feedback suggests that a sustained effort of this type can have a beneficial effect for the local area students.

The program normally takes a pause during the final examinations in the area government schools and the school vacations. Consequently, the direct student interactions in this fiscal began April 23, 2016, and ended January 23, 2017. Subsequently, the program is expected to resume again in late April 2017 continuing its service to the local community.

This year, the program had two facets:

1. **Tutoring Classes:** Saturday morning classes at the IIT Mandi Campus (10 AM to 2 PM) for Class 10, 11 and 12 students from the Senior Secondary Schools in Kamand and Kataula. Subjects covered were:  
Class 10: English, Math, Science for both schools;  
Class 11 and 12 Kamand: English  
Class 11 and 12 Kataula: Chemistry, Physics, Math, Biology, and English.
2. **Homework Helper Program:** After-school sessions of about 1 hour for Class 6-9 students from the Govt. Senior Secondary School, Kamand to assist them with their school homework or with any concepts where they might need some help.

### **The Story in Numbers**

**The Tutoring Program:** A total of approximately 75 High School students participated in the Saturday morning tutoring program in which the students come to the IIT Mandi campus. Each class is taught separately so that students from a given school can study with their respective classmates.

<b>School</b>	<b>Class 10</b>	<b>Class 11</b>	<b>Class 12</b>
Govt. Sr. Sec. Kamand	18	30	6
Govt. Sr. Sec. Kataula	5	9	7
Total (75)	23	39	13

**The Homework Helper Program:** This program served Class 6-9 students of the Government School in Kamand. About 15 sessions were conducted during the 2016-17 fiscal year, with typically 6-14 children attending any given session. Students were provided assistance with Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Hindi.

### **Volunteers**

Approximately 53 B.Tech. and Post-Graduate student volunteers from IIT Mandi participated in the above mentioned community service activities (approx. 27 B.Tech. and 26 Post-Graduate). The Post-Graduate students carry the full load when B.Tech. students are not available due to examinations or semester-breaks. Volunteers who were relatively consistent and dedicated in their service were honored at a function in June 2016 (two photos included below).



**Four graduating student volunteers (on the left), and four new volunteers (one the right) being facilitated**



**A student volunteer being facilitated at the annual volunteer recognition function**

### **Effectiveness of the Programs for Nearby Government Schools**

The Board results for Class 10 and 12 for students who appeared in March 2017 have not

been declared as of this report. When available, those results may provide some indication of effectiveness relative to historical results. Although a statistically valid method to test the effectiveness of the program is not available, qualitative feedback from both the high school students and the school principals suggests the program is well received. Overall, we only expect a modest benefit from these programs, given a modest level of voluntary engagement in this work.