

PRAYAS (Teaching Programme)

Dated: - 18th April, 2015 - 16th January, 2016

The IIT Mandi 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 IIT Mandi volunteers seek to identify opportunities through which they can play a supportive role to the school teachers and administration, and help motivate the local young boys and girls to aim for excellence as they see both male and female good role models, and learn through dedication of the volunteers and coordinators.



Senior Secondary Kamand School students with Prayas volunteers (April 18, 2015)

Program Highlights

April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016

The PRAYAS program was initiated in November 2014. Hence the period covered in this Annual Report was the first full fiscal year for the program, and provided the very first opportunity to see if there is enough of a community service spirit among the IIT Mandi community to sustain such a program over an entire fiscal year, and whether such a sustained

effort 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 summer vacations. Consequently, the direct student interactions in this fiscal began April 18, 2015, and ended January 22, 2016. Subsequently, the program is reactive again effective April 2016, confirming that the IIT Mandi community spirit is indeed capable of a sustained service to the local community development.



PRAYAS Class in-progress (May 22, 2015)

This year, the PRAYAS program had two facets:

- **Coaching 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 are: English, Math, Science for Class 10 (both schools); English for Class 11 and 12 Kamand; and Chemistry, Physics, Math/Biology, English for Class 11 and 12 Kataula.

- **Reading Program:** Periodic visits by student volunteers to the Govt Middle School, Neri and Govt. Senior Secondary School, Kamand to motivate the students to read for the fun of it, and to discuss with their fellow students about what they read. Focus is on Middle school students (Classes 6-8).

The Story in Numbers

PRAYAS COACHING: A total of approximately 52 High School students participated in the Saturday morning coaching 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.

School	Class 10	Class 11	Class 12
Govt. Sr. Sec. Kamand	10	10	12
Govt. Sr. Sec. Kataula	4	6	10
Total (52)	14	16	22

PRAYAS READING PROGRAM: About 20-30 middle school students from the Neri and Kamand schools have participated, respectively, in this program.

Volunteers

The volunteer coaches/tutors are B.Tech. and Post-Graduate students at IIT Mandi for a total of approximately 36 (approx. 17 B.Tech. and 19 Post-Graduate). The Post-Graduate students carry the load when B.Tech. students are not available due to examinations or semester-breaks.



A student volunteer being facilitated (September 12, 2015)

Effectiveness of the Program

Although a statistically valid proof of the effectiveness of the program is not available, feedback from both the high school students and the school principals suggests the program is well received. In an anonymous and written survey of 48 high school students in attendance on October 17, 2015, full 100% of the class 10-12 students answered yes to the question, “Is this initiative helping you?”

The Kamand school results in Class 12 H.P. Board exam were mixed. The student who stood first in school was a participant in PRAYAS and scored 76%, excellent by school’s past history. However, 5 students who participated in PRAYAS failed their Class 12 H.P. Board exam. In Class 10 H.P. Board exam, all the participating students passed, although 3 with a compartment. The students who stood first and second in the Class 10 Board exam (with 83% and 81% marks, respectively) were participants in PRAYAS.

The Kataula school principal wrote that the Class 12 students (in the HP Board results declared in April 2016), created new records when 5 students scored more than 80% marks, and the student who came first in school in the Class 10 HP Board Exam, and was a participant in the PRAYAS program, scored 88.3%, the highest ever in the school’s history.