

# **PRAYAS TEACHING PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Dated: - 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017- 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 Homework 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.

The PRAYAS program was initiated in November 2013 with 30 girl's students of Government Girls Senior Secondary School Mandi. Given that the program is in the 5<sup>th</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 15, 2017, and ended January 10, 2018. Subsequently, the program is expected to resume again in late April 2018 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. This program served Class 6-9 students of Government School in Kamand. About 20 sessions were conducted during the 2017-18 fiscal year, with typically 11-20 children attending any given session. Students were provided assistance with Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Hindi.



**PRAYAS classes (homework helping programme after school) at government school Kamand.**

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

The Board results for Class 10 and 12 for students who appeared in March 2018 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.