

Amagargh Report

Prayas has dedicated itself to the service of the specially able, orphans and the deprived sections of the community for the past 12 years. There has been a continuous effort to help such members of our community to achieve self reliance and confidence in their ability to be full and active contributors to our society. Prayas has associated itself with various institutions in order to achieve this goal. The following is a summary of our activities and achievements within the community associated with our school in the Amagargh. The Inclusive school is situated in Amagrah, a predominantly minority dominated area with total population of 35, 000, spread over area of one kilometer.



Amagargh School

The total number of students in Amagargh is 116 and the classes range from nursery to 5th class. This is a fully integrated school that includes all categories of children with Special Needs. There are a total of 16 such children including 12 MR, 2 Cerebral Palsy, one autistic, one physically disabled and 13 slow learner up to 5th class. The remaining 87 children attending this school are either normal or average learners.



Amagargh Break Down of Students in 08-09 session -116

<i>Class</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>MR</i>	3	9	12
<i>CP + MR</i>	1	1	2
<i>Autistic</i>	0	2	2
<i>Slow Learner</i>	7	6	13
<i>Nursery</i>	10	9	19
<i>Prep</i>	9	10	19
<i>I</i>	13	4	17
<i>II</i>	4	9	13
<i>III</i>	2	8	10
<i>IV</i>	4	1	5
<i>V</i>	0	4	4
<i>Total</i>	53	63	116

Programmes running in Amagargh

The community programmes currently running are health education, vocational training and work done in children's homes.

Pregnant Women: To avoid disabilities and to identify children with disabilities, regular surveys are held in the community and pregnant women and regular follow-up is done for the proper care of the pregnant woman and new born child

During the session 35 pregnant were indentify out of which 22 woman delivered where as 13 are pregnant 12 baby boys and 10 girls were born in last six months, one girl child past away.

The Prayas team provides regular medical health checks, health and child care advice and family planning counseling which supplements the work of the government ANM who comes to Amagargh every third Monday to check on pregnant women and children. This ANM clinic is also supported by the Prayas team to ensure continuity of care in those instances when the ANM is unable to come or is late.

During last six months 117 birth certificates were made with the co-operation of Nagar Nigam – out of this, 50 children are studying in Prayas where as 67 children are the residents of the slums.

Vaccinations: The Prayas community team sends children for vaccination to a satellite hospital in Sethi Colony. In addition, every Thursday an ANM is sent by the government to vaccinate mothers and their babies.

Community Welfare Work:

The Prayas team wrote a letter to the Commissioner on the 6th August 2008, demanding proper sewerage lines and this work was done in due course.

Prayas runs a small school in the neighbouring Shakti Colony. While this colony exists 'unofficially' Prayas was still able to persuade the authorities to lay sewerage lines there too. A meeting is held in this predominantly Muslim community once a month to discuss problems related to health and education.

They are told how to look out for dangerous diseases such as TB and advised about the importance of seeking medical help. As a result, many more people attend for regular health checks and the Prayas team has gained the respect and confidence of the community. We are also trying to get electricity connection in this area.

Education:

Within the predominantly Muslim community in Amagargh, very few children are school attenders due to poverty and the need to pay school fees. The Prayas School could not possibly accommodate all of these children. After discussion with a private school in the community, Prayas has been able to negotiate a reduced fee for children coming from this community and many children are now attending. The Prayas team has also established a “**Sabal Adhiker Manch**” in this community in order to help disabled children. 117 Certificates of disability have been issued in order that these older children can get consideration and concessions in gaining employment. The team is also involving Nagar Nigam to provide birth certificates and disability certificates to those who need them. Nagar Nigam previously charged 50/- for this service, but now it is done free of charge. The community is gradually becoming aware of their statutory rights, with the help of Prayas and is working towards independence in seeking their rights.



Vocational Training:

Prayas is also working towards the empowerment of women by providing 131 female candidates with vocational training. We are very encouraged by the results so far. After training, 8 women are earning 2000/- working in various export companies, 25 women are earning 3000/- and some 20 women are earning 1500/- by teaching, sewing and tailoring in their own homes. While the remainder is not yet in paid employment, their training has enabled them to save money e.g. by repairing their own children's clothes.

The vocational training course is for six months duration. This year 33 women were trained.

Home Base Programme:

Prayas also currently supports 47 children through our Home Base Programme. Special Educators and a physiotherapist visit the more profoundly disabled children in their own homes twice weekly to provide therapy and to train parents for their care. In certain cases supportive devices are also provided to aid neck control and sit independently. Regular exercises improve the condition of the child which in turn makes their care easier for parents. When improvement leads to the child being able to sit, stand and walk, then the child can be admitted to the Jhalana Special School.

Health Centre:

On 17th June 2005, a health centre was established serving the communities of Shakti Colony, Vedpuri and Ghategate.



Achievement:

The work and efforts of the Prayas team has resulted in a tangible shift of thinking and attitude within this community towards health, education and vocational training. Now, even the housewife is aware of the benefits of education and vocational training. The most important development has been the raising of awareness to their human and statutory rights, helping them to achieve a level of independence and dignity that we at Prayas intend to further nurture and support.