



Dear Friend of Pratham,

It is with great pleasure that we write to you as we come upto the first anniversary of PrathamUK's launch with an update on Pratham in India and the UK. We look forward to hearing from you with feedback at prathamuk@prathamuk.org.

Your continued support is what keeps Pratham going.

The PrathamUK Team

Recent Pratham News

January 2004...Le Divorce Premier

Pratham organised the premiere of Ismail Merchant's latest film *Le Divorce* in India. The film premiered in Mumbai, New Delhi, and Jaipur. Ismail Merchant, actor Matthew Modine and veteran Indian actor, Shashi Kapoor attended the screenings. The proceeds from the screening will be utilised to further Pratham activities in India.

January 2004...Pratham US Research Conference

In the last week of January, a team from Pratham India participated in the first Pratham Research Conference, held at Texas A&M University. The conference provided a productive platform for bringing together current research partners including academics from MIT and University of California, Berkeley, potential research collaborators as well as donors.

February 2004... Mumbai International Marathon

550 of Pratham's working children – all sporting T-Shirts with the Pratham motto "Every child in school and learning well" – ran in the marathon together with nearly 20,000 other participants. Some were child labourers working up to 16 hours a day in zari factories, some were little rag-pickers from the city's dumping grounds, and others were homeless street children for whom Pratham holds classes on the city pavements.

February 2004...Gauriganj Project Starts

30 young ladies from projects in Allahabad, Lucknow, and Patna arrived in Gauriganj in UP in mid-February. Most had never been to a village before! Within 30 days they had recruited 275 volunteers in 80 villages reaching over 7,500 children in this backward region. When they started, nearly 80% of these children could not read. Mid-tests indicate that most of them will be reading by mid-May.

April 2004...Madhya Pradesh Government Collaboration

The Principal Secretary for Education, Madhya Pradesh met with the Pratham team in Bhopal on April 7th. Plans included Summer Camps programmes for children in slums of Bhopal (c. 200 classes) and in Indore, Jabalpur, and Gwalior (100 classes) covering 6,000 children.

April 2004... Major Boost to the Catalytic Program in Delhi

Pratham has been asked to train 600 government school teachers with the Learning to Read technique during May. These 600 teachers would then conduct the Reading Program with their pupils during July and August. The program can then be replicated across other zones in Delhi. Target for the academic year 2004-05 would be to cover 150,000 children through the catalytic method. A huge step forward for Pratham.

One Year of Pratham in the UK



May 2003...Launch of PrathamUK

PrathamUK is launched with an inaugural function organised under the aegis of the Asian Business Association of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Over 200 guests are present including Mr. N. Vaghul, Chairman, ICICI Bank, Mr. Lakshmi Mittal, Chairman LNM Group, Mr. Ajay Piramal, Chairman, Piramal Enterprises, Sir Edward George, then Governor of the Bank of England and Mr. Subhash Thakrar.

August 2003...Charity Commission Registration

Review by the Charity Commission is complete. Pratham is granted registration number 1099386.

October 2003...Pratham Charity Ball 2003

Over 470 guests attend the Pratham Charity Ball 2003 held at the Grosvenor House Hotel on October 27th. During the evening, £207,000 is raised through a combination of ticket sales, auction participation and brochure advertising, resulting in net proceeds of over £160,000. A fantastic achievement by Ramola Bachchan and the Ball Organising Committee.

January 2004...Tiranga Concert

PrathamUK is associated with the Asia House organised Tiranga concert held at the Royal Festival Hall in London on January 26th featuring Pandit Jasraj, Shiv Kumar Sharma, Ustad Zakir Hussain, Javed Akhtar and Durga Jasraj. This landmark event draws over 2,700 people and increases awareness of Pratham's activities. Many thanks to Asia House for their support.

February to April 2004...PrathamUK News

A Steering Committee of over 30 volunteers is constituted with different groups responsible for various activities including fund raising, donor management, establishment of new UK chapters, treasury, etc. Preparations for the Charity Ball 2004 commence. Sir Edward George, former Governor of the Bank of England, visits Pratham Mumbai.



Enrolment Watch (January 2004)

Pratham is now present in twelve states across India with over 8,608 functional units representing contact with nearly 450,000 children every year. Pratham programmes are classified into two principal categories: daily class-based programs and non class-based activity such as libraries, etc.

The figures below provide details of Pratham enrollment classified by location and Pratham program.

Daily Class-Based Programs (January 2004)

State	Pre-school		Out-of-school		In-school		Total	
	Number of Units	Total Enrollment	Number of Units	Total Enrollment	Number of Units	Total Enrollment	Number of Units	Total Enrollment
Delhi	284	6,685	355	9,122	1,072	24,742	1,711	40,549
Rajasthan	12	288	127	2,866	249	5,930	388	9,084
Bihar	-	-	368	9,255	75	2,008	443	11,263
Uttar Pradesh	61	1,258	318	7,250	155	3,869	534	12,377
Haryana	1	25	-	-	14	270	15	295
Orissa	-	-	4	93	-	-	4	93
West Bengal	22	478	72	1,455	-	-	94	1,933
Maharashtra	796	15,799	969	13,114	1,446	27,943	3,211	56,856
Gujarat	-	-	407	7,936	678	13,383	1,085	21,319
Karnataka	496	8,906	6	144	182	6,428	684	15,478
Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-	200	4,143	200	4,143
Tamilnadu	194	3,835	-	-	45	944	239	4,779
Total	1,866	37,274	2,626	51,235	4,116	89,660	8,608	178,169

- *Pre-School Programmes:* Targets pre-school children in the 3-5 years age group and aims at exposing children from low-income families to early childhood education. Each class has around 18 children with an instructor from the local community and runs for 2-3 hours a day.
- *Out-of-school Programmes:* Targets children in the 6-12 years age group who have never attended school or have dropped out and aims to use informal modes of education, gradually moving towards placing the children in a formal school. Each class has around 15-20 children with a teacher from the local community.
- *In-school Programmes:* Targets municipal school children from Std II - IV identified by their class teachers as lagging behind academically. With a little extra help and encouragement, these children can make substantial progress in basic math and language skills within two months or less. Balsakhis - child's friend- are sent to schools on the request of the head teachers and work under the supervision/guidance of schoolteachers. The Balsakhi normally works with 20-30 children identified by the schoolteachers.

Other Programs (January 2004)

State	Contact with Working Children	Children who borrowed books	Children in contact with Library Activity	Other	Total
Delhi	-	10,490	88,151	4,826	103,467
Rajasthan	-	4,596	40,312	-	44,908
Maharashtra	842	117,581	-	-	118,423
Gujarat	-	-	-	3,323	3,323
Total	842	132,667	128,463	8,149	270,121

- *Contact with Working Children:* The outreach program provides educational opportunities to child laborers, street children, pavement dwellers and children in conflict with law. Teaching and learning happens in places of work, on streets, pavements, railway platforms - wherever children want to learn. The simplest form of this activity is where the child is simply in contact with a Pratham instructor. Other forms of contact include a contact class (where the instructor teaches for thirty minutes), hobby class (the children get together to draw, paint, etc) and a study class (where the instructor teaches children at their place of work).
- *Children who Borrowed Books/ Children who are in contact with Library Activity:* Pratham runs libraries in selected states. In Maharashtra, all children who were in contact with the library activity also borrowed books. This number has not been counted twice and appears only in the "borrowed books" column.
- *Other:* Includes assisted learning, Bal Club and other programmes.



UK Volunteers in India - I

By Anita and Roy Martins

For most of us, it would be hard to imagine a life without an education. It is difficult to believe that education could take a back-seat in any child's life. Yet, for many, that is not a choice. Although we were supporters and volunteers for Pratham before our visit, it was really special to see what Pratham has done for many slum areas, which they have adopted for development, and therefore in turn done for society.

In January 2004 we visited some of Pratham's initiatives in the Dharavi slum area of Mumbai. We were met with such warmth and welcome. We drove into the interiors of the slums where Pratham runs many initiatives for poor, underprivileged children and child-labourers.

The unique thing that sets Pratham apart from other NGO's is that they enter any community with the participation of its residents. Teachers are from the local community themselves and have been trained by Pratham. They work with the community to help them build and sustain themselves. It certainly gives the community a sense of pride and confidence that came across in our interaction with the teachers, volunteers and the children themselves.

We saw classes being conducted where the teachers were very open to adapting their approaches to learning and were teaching with a passion while the children were equally enthusiastic and forthcoming with answers.

What touched us most was that the classes were conducted in the homes of some of the slum teachers themselves. Their homes were dark and cramped rooms with little or no light - in many cases each family's privacy was reduced to mere sheets hanging from string. Even though a single cubicle holds all their lives possessions, extremely humbling was the strong sense of community amongst these children that we as adults can learn from.

We pondered on our return that we all need to accept slums as something more than just a sore background to our skyscrapers - it is a part of our society that needs as much attention as the shiny new ones. If we could all take responsibility in the smallest way to help Pratham's work as much as we can, we will experience not only a sense of fulfillment, but create a better future for ourselves.

Anita, Roy and Sakate have all been involved with PrathamUK's activities in the last year. If you are planning a trip to India, PrathamUK can organise a programme visit so you can see how your funds are being utilised and share your experiences with supporters in the UK.

UK Volunteers in India - II

By Sakate Khaitan

I finally land up in Mumbai and am really excited to see the money raised by us at work. Tanya picks me up at 9:30 am and explains that we will be visiting Pratham outposts at Jijamata Nagar in Worli Naka. I do not know what to expect, I have really never worked with destitute children before and do not know how I will react seeing them. For moral support I ask my Dad and nephew to accompany us.

We reach Jijamata Nagar and I am pleasantly surprised to see that Pratham activities are actually run from a pucca building and the children are well clothed and extremely excited to learn. While my Father an avid social worker is busy questioning Tanya, I take the opportunity to get to know the children better. The task is not easy, they are completely oblivious to our presence and enjoying their daily routines centred around learning.

Tanya is well known to them and I feel like a complete outsider. Seeing the affection that the children have for Tanya is not surprising. She is a graduate from a UK school, however, she prefers dedicating her life to social work in India and is therefore, a full time Pratham person. This revelation is extremely humbling. I think to myself I may be taking out some of my time to volunteer with Pratham which I consider good, but here is a person I should be taking a lesson from in dedication, selflessness and charity.

Suddenly, I find myself standing in front of Supriya who confidently rises and recites a whole poem; this is followed by another girl reading out an excerpt from a story and the class singing a song. The children are confident of their abilities and desire to lead a life that is bettered with education.

It is 11:30 am time to go, my Father sums it up "you are making a real difference to the community, very few charities do or can even claim to do so. This is what actual charity means".



PrathamUK volunteers

If you know anyone - friends, family, work colleagues - who may be interested in volunteering with PrathamUK, please spread the word. We are looking for volunteers to help with a variety of tasks including fund-raising, opening new UK chapters, treasury activities, donor management and event management. All offers of help to be directed to prathamuk@prathamuk.org.



PrathamUK Fund Raising and Utilisation

Fund Raising

During the year ended March 31, 2004, PrathamUK raised c. £216,300 through four major sources:

- Pratham Charity Ball 2003 (c. £206,600)
- Tiranga Concert and Other Events (c. £4,400)
- Private Donations and Other (c. £5,300)

Utilisation

Funds raised have been utilised as follows:

- Funding specific projects in India (c. £150,000)
- Costs, primarily relating to Pratham Charity Ball 2003 (c. £45,500)
- Reserves held with PrathamUK (c. £20,800)

Out of funds raised until December 2003, PrathamUK has contributed £150,000 to finance/part finance educational programmes being run by the following trusts /programmes:

- i. Pratham Mumbai Education Initiative: £46,000 to finance 7,643 units in Municipal Wards A through G in the city of Mumbai. This would aim to cover 224,710 children including 23,040 children in pre-school programmes, 21,550 children in out-of-school programmes, 21,600 children in reading programmes and 158,520 children in contact through the library initiative.



- ii. Pratham Delhi Education Initiative: £14,000 in East Delhi to finance 715 units aimed at covering 17,875 children. This would include 1,500 children in pre-school programmes, 13,550 children in in-school programmes and 2,425 children in out-of-school programmes.
- iii. Akshara Foundation, Bangalore: £25,000 to finance 215 units in the city of Bangalore covering over 3,550 children.
- iv. UP Programme: £21,000 financing 400 units for reading programmes covering 10,000 children in Gauriganj and Sultanpur.

For a wealth of information about Pratham's activities, please visit www.pratham.org. If you are a UK resident and would like to donate to Pratham's activities, please complete and mail the form below. If you would like to volunteer with Pratham in the UK, please contact prathamuk@prathamuk.org.

Amount of Donation: £ _____

Please tick the box below if you would like PrathamUK to reclaim the tax on your gift. To qualify for Gift Aid, what you pay in income tax must at least equal the amount we claim in the tax year.

I want this donation to qualify for Gift Aid.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please either

- send a cheque payable to "PrathamUK Ltd" to PrathamUK, 85 Apsley House, St John's Wood, London NW8 0NZ; or
- pay by wire-transfer to "Pratham UK Ltd", Account number: 51751557, Sort code: 40-04-01, HSBC, 92 Kensington High Street, London W8 4SH.

In either case, please mail this form completed to the PrathamUK address below. If you would like to donate through a payroll scheme please contact us by email at prathamuk@prathamuk.org.