

**PRATICHI (INDIA) TRUST**



**FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT  
April 2002 – March 2003**

---

A 708 ANAND LOK ☒ MAYUR VIHAR I ☒ DELHI 110091 ☒ INDIA  
TELEPHONE / FAX: 011-22752375 ☒ EMAIL: [www.pratichi.org](http://www.pratichi.org)

## TRUSTEES

Amartya Sen	Chair	Master, Trinity College, Cambridge, UK
Antara Dev Sen	Managing Trustee	Editor, <i>The Little Magazine</i> , Delhi, India
Dipankar Ghose	Trustee	Solicitor, Kolkata, India

## ADVISORS

Emma Rothschild	Fellow, Kings College, Cambridge, UK
M.S. Swaminathan	Chairman, MS Swaminathan Foundation, Chennai, India
Nabaneeta Dev Sen	Academic and writer, Kolkata, India
Pratik Kanjilal	Publisher, <i>The Little Magazine</i> , Delhi, India
Yashodhara Bagchi	Academic, Kolkata, India

## COORDINATING COMMITTEE (SANTINIKETAN)

Nilanjan Banerjee	Lecturer, Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan, India
Samantak Das	Reader, Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan, India
Sibaditya Sen	Lecturer, Suri Vidyasagar College, Suri, India

## AIMS

- To promote education, with special emphasis on basic and primary education
- To facilitate education and health care for the needy, especially the girl child
- To pursue humanitarian causes and charitable activities, and work towards social equality

## THE YEAR THAT WAS: 2002-2003

It was another eventful year for the Pratchi (India) Trust. Research activities based at Santiniketan, West Bengal, on education and health care delivery, continued to be its centre of activity. Apart from research, humanitarian and charitable activities also remained a priority area. For example, the Pratchi School in Kiada, Orissa, with its mid-day meals has created an encouraging atmosphere of learning not just for children but also for non-literate adults in the village.

It was also a year touched by bereavement, as the Trust lost its Trustee Dipankar Ghose during the latter part of the year. Some time later, Senior Advocate RKP Shankardass, who has been a friend of Pratchi since its inception, was invited to become a Trustee. During the year, social worker and journalist A.J. Philip served as Director.

## I. RESEARCH WORK

Pratichi's research is focused on primary education and basic health care. Its research activities are guided and supervised by the Trust's Chair, Amartya Sen. There are six researchers currently working on Pratichi projects based at Santiniketan in West Bengal. During the year under review, the Trust has made remarkable progress in the research projects undertaken.

i. On 16 August, 2002, at an impressive gathering of press and scholars

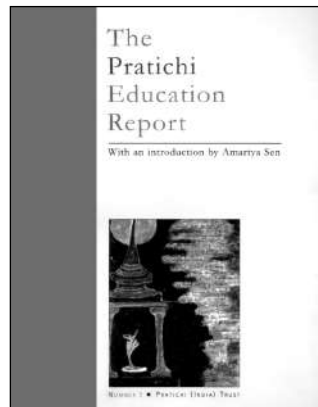


AMARTYA SEN AND OTHERS AT THE RELEASE OF  
THE *PRATICHI EDUCATION REPORT I*

at the Taj Bengal, Kolkata, Amartya Sen released the first *Pratichi Education Report-I* which was titled *Delivery of Primary Education: A study in West Bengal*. The report was based on the study carried out by the Pratichi research team in three districts of West Bengal — Birbhum, Medinipur and Puruliya — and created quite a stir, especially among academics and policy-makers and people involved with education in the state. It also created an environ-

ment for wide ranging debates and discussions in every corner of society. And some of the issues raised by *Pratichi Education Report-I* were churned in the media for more than a month after the publication of the report.

- ii. Following the *Pratichi Education Report-I*, the Pratichi research team extended its study to three other districts of West Bengal — Bardhaman, Murshidabad and Darjeeling. Spanning 20 villages of the three districts, the fieldwork for this study was done by five research associates and further established the points that had been made in the earlier report.
- iii. The research on primary education was then extended to the neighbouring state of Jharkhand, following the same methodology. The researchers collected data from 12 villages of Dumka district for the study, *The Delivery of Primary Education in Jharkhand*.
- iv. The next project was to prepare a comprehensive report based on



the findings of the Trust's research studies in West Bengal (all six districts) and Jharkhand. Along with the second part of the West Bengal education report, the Jharkhand Education report and the comparative summary of the primary education scenario in the two states would form the Pratichi Education Report-II. Titled *Delivery of Primary Education in West Bengal and Jharkhand*, this study is expected to be another landmark in research on primary education in India.

- v. During the year, the Trust decided to extend its research to another important area — health. Focusing on the delivery of basic health services, the study was based on data from Birbhum district in West Bengal and Dumka district in Jharkhand. The study was based on 12 randomly selected villages in each of these two districts. In Dumka, this study was done in the same villages surveyed for the study of primary education. The report is titled *The Delivery of Basic Health Services in West Bengal and Jharkhand: A study in Birbhum and Dumka districts* and is in the process of finalisation.
- vi. Also, in keeping with the Trust's participatory approach to such research studies, the Trust went back to the study villages with the findings. The paper 'Preliminary Findings of the first Pratichi

Education Report' written by Amartya Sen was translated into Bengali and distributed in the study villages. Such an activity was probably the first of its kind — the Trust shared the data directly with the villagers in order to acknowledge the respondents' entitlement over the study, against their time, information and all the support that they had offered the research team during fieldwork.

## **SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS**

During the year under review, Pratchi arranged two important workshops. The first was an international conference on education, with scholars from around the world, which dealt with the larger picture of education within social and global conditions, and with reference to issues of equity and human security. In contrast, the second was a workshop with parents and teachers from villages of West Bengal, where the Trust shared its findings with the respondents of the survey and discussed future possibilities in improving the delivery of primary education, especially in rural areas.

**i. Education, Equity and Human Security** was an international workshop organised in collaboration with the Commission on Human

Security, Global Equity Initiative (Harvard University) and UNICEF at The Taj Bengal, Kolkata (10-12 January, 2003). The findings of the Pratichi studies on primary education done in West Bengal and Jharkhand were discussed at length at this conference, along with other issues that have an impact on education at the primary level, from state policy to parent participation, from mid-day meals to eradicating social bias.

Thirty participants from India, Bangladesh, the UK and USA brainstormed over two days about education in the context of human rights and security. For half of the participants, this workshop was the second in a series following the first in 2002.

In his introduction, Amartya Sen outlined the school education scenario and underscored the challenges, both old and new. Asim Dasgupta, Finance Minister of West Bengal, shared his vision of expanding dramatically the Shishu Siksha Kendras (SSKs), i.e. the low-cost, village-based schools in the state. And, of course, a large segment of the workshop was taken up by the in depth discussion on the data from rural West Bengal presented in the *Pratichi Education Report-I*, as well as the new findings presented by the Pratichi Research Team at the workshop.

**ii. The Role of Parents and Teachers in the Delivery of Primary Education** was held at Santiniketan, West Bengal (6 July, 2002). Parents and teachers from 34 villages of the six districts of West Bengal where



Pratichi had conducted its study took part in this parent-teacher workshop.

Amartya Sen inaugurated the workshop. Among the participants were head teachers and head *sahayikas* of 36 primary schools and 35 Shishu Siksha Kendras and one parent from each of the primary schools and SSKs. A background paper for the workshop was prepared for circulation among the delegates along with the preliminary findings of the first study.

The workshop discussed several issues important for the effective distribution of school education, like ways of fighting the ill effects of discrimination made on the basis of class, caste, religion, gender, and other social evils. Various ways of ensuring the quality of primary education were discussed, and suggestions of parent-teacher com-



AMARTYA SEN'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS ON THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIMARY EDUCATION, AT THE WORKSHOP



AT THE PARENT-TEACHER WORKSHOP IN  
SANTINIKETAN, JULY 2002



mittees, raising children's attendance, proper implementation of incentive schemes and mid-day meal schemes, improving the infrastructure of primary educational institutions, etc. Also, the role of people's organisations, especially the teachers' unions, were emphasised in ensuring that effective primary education is made universal. And the importance of the solidarity between parents and teachers as an essential ingredient of effective education was recognised.

## **PRATICHI BHAVAN**

The Trust's main focus is on research in education, and the Trust has drawn up the blueprint for Pratichi Bhavan, which will function as a Research Institute on Education. The Trust believes that the Institute will play an important role in making school education more effective. The Institute will, needless to say, have an all-India character.

The Trust has acquired a suitable plot of land in Salt Lake, Kolkata, on long-term lease from the West Bengal Government. Located in an institutional area, the plot is considered excellent for the research institute where scholars and research associates can work together in a quiet environment. Over the last year, the preliminary work on documentation and processing of papers for the plot as well as initial planning for the building of the institute has been completed.

## II. SPECIAL PROJECTS

A part from its main activity, research on education, the Pratichi (India) Trust has a wing for other humanitarian and charitable activities. In particular, it seeks to provide support to rebuild the lives of those affected by large-scale disasters, especially natural calamities.

### **ORISSA PROJECT**

The 'super cyclone' that hit coastal Orissa in end-1999 was unprecedented. Thousands of people lost their lives and the surging waters swept away village after village. According to one estimate, more than 10,000 people died and countless livestock perished. With a view to aid the victims of the disaster, the Trust has prepared a comprehensive long-term rehabilitation plan. A study conducted by the Pratichi staff revealed the need for a multipurpose institute, with a school and health care centre, which would also serve as a cyclone shelter. The Orissa government very kindly gave the Trust 1.5 acres of government land in Kiada village, in the worst-affected district of Jagatsingpur, to construct such a centre.

In the year under review, the Trust could expand its activities into the areas of primary education and health care. Pratichi has started a primary school in the area and conducts periodical medical camps.

### **i. The Pratchi School**

The Pratchi School is located at Nagari village in Ersama block and it is temporarily housed in a cyclone shelter constructed by Tata Relief. Once the proposed multipurpose community centre is built, the school and health centre will be shifted to the new premises.

This primary school has thirty students currently on its rolls. The medium of instruction in the school is English. Pratchi provides mid-day





A.J. PHILIP AND MEMBERS OF THE PRATICHI  
TEAM WITH STUDENTS AT THE PRATICHI SCHOOL,  
KIADA VILLAGE, JAGATSINGPUR, ORISSA

meals to the children and arranges for frequent health camps for the benefit of the students.

But free education does not always work in rural India. So, to keep the parents motivated, a tuition fee of Rs 20 is charged per month. There





is also an admission fee of Rs 100. Poorer parents, who may be incapable of paying that amount, need to get special permission for free education for their children. Apart from basic education, the teacher, along with an *ayah*, take good care of each child in that limited time, including nutrition, health care and personal hygiene. Every little detail like nail cutting and providing boiled water for drinking is taken care of.

## ii. Mid-day Meal Scheme

In his introduction to *The Pratichi Education Report I*, Amartya Sen had pointed out several reasons why cooked mid-day meals enhance school education. Among those are the following reasons:

1. Cooked meals contribute greatly to the nutrition of the children
2. It enhances school attendance
3. It also reduces the abuse and corruption typically associated with the distribution of dry ration, which is more easily perishable.

“Nutritional supplementation is not only important in itself (India has a higher incidence of child undernourishment than most other regions in the world, including Sub-Saharan Africa), but it will also effectively complement the effectiveness of school education. Also, the incentive effects of the provision of actual mid-day meals can be quite important for the attendance of children.”



MID-DAY MEALS BEING SERVED AT  
THE PRATICHI SCHOOL



When Pratichi started the school at Nagari village, it therefore decided to provide cooked mid-day meals to the children who come from poor families and may have to survive on one meal a day. The mid-day meal has proved to be a major source of nutrition for the students. The meal consists of rice, dal, green vegetables and non-vegetarian items. It provides prawns and eggs twice a week.

The meal is cooked at the school and served hot to the students. The staff of the school also eat the same meal, so the cooking continues to be clean and nutritious. There is 100 per cent attendance on most days as children are eager to attend school. This enthusiasm can be attributed to the mid-day meal scheme.

### **iii. Parent-Teacher Meetings**

Pratichi (India) Trust's Chair Amartya Sen, in his introduction to *The Pratichi Education Report-I* pointed out that "one way of adding to the incentive system in schooling would be to give more legal power to the parent-teacher committees, even perhaps making the renewal of appropriations conditional on their approval."

*The Pratichi Education Report-I* also makes specific suggestions regarding parent-teacher committees in each school. In tune with that, the Pratichi School decided to form such a committee. It holds meetings

once every month, which is attended by parents, villagers and the Pratiche staff. In this forum, parents discuss and review school activities and seek clarifications from the teacher, just as the school staff give them feedback on the child's performance and suggest ways it can be improved.

Also, Pratiche staff use the occasion of parent-teacher meetings for creating general awareness and motivating the non-literate elders also to learn basic literacy. Consequently, some of the elders have shown interest in attending non-formal schools, which will be started especially for the elders, in the coming year. Moreover, members of the parent-teacher committee assist the staff by volunteering their services in the distribution of mid-day meals and on special occasions.

#### **iv. Health Camps**

Facilities for basic and primary health care are lacking in the project area. So Pratiche offers regular health check-ups and medical care to the local people. The response has been very good, with people coming not just from the locality but even from distant villages to make use of the opportunity.

The beginning was modest, but very focused. It started with organising medical camps in the project area, especially targeting women and children. Slowly the number of people seeking health check-ups grew,

and so did the camps.

The health camps are held at the cyclone shelter in Nagari village. The Trust brings doctors from city hospitals and arranges medical camps every fortnight. Two doctors — a paediatrician and a gynaecologist — from Bhubaneswar and Jagatsinghpur district headquarters have been engaged as regulars for these health camps. There are other visiting doctors as well.



doctors as well.

Pratchi places special emphasis on the health of the mother and child and on preventive measures, although diagnosis and treatment of disease is,

A HEALTH CAMP  
AT PRATICHI  
SCHOOL



naturally, a significant part of the health camp. On an average, 50 patients attend each medical camp. There are two health camps in a month.

## GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE

The Trust assists individuals and small organisations in the facilitation of education and health care through modest grants. The financial assistance is small, and usually one time.

The Trust does not encourage appeals for the hospital treatment of specific individuals. It also discourages grants to larger institutes with access to bigger funds. For example, the grant could be in the form of a scholarship to a deserving and needy student, or in the form of a support or seed grant for a small voluntary organisation. But because the Trust is not really an aid-giving organisation, the numbers and the amount of money given in grants are very small.

## CONCLUSION

The Pratchi (India) Trust, which is still in its infancy, has a long way to go. However, its research activities in education and health care has already made an impact on policy makers and individuals. Other grass-roots interventions — like the Pratchi School in Orissa — have also started making a difference in small but substantial ways. In conclusion, it can be stated that Pratchi (India) Trust is poised to bring about positive change in education and health care in India.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT APRIL 2002-MARCH 2003

Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2003

LIABILITIES	SCHEDULE	CURRENT YEAR AMOUNT
Corpus	A	Rs. 10,000,000.00
Special Fund	B	Rs. 2,698,879.50
Pratichi Bhavan Project	C	Rs. 14,667,745.31
Current Liabilities	D	Rs. 32,240.53
Profit & Loss Account	E	Rs. 634,880.23
Control amount for Fixed Assets of funds		Rs. 134,331.00
		<u>Rs. 28,168,076.57</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Fixed Assets	F	Rs. 18,195.05
Fixed Assets of Funds	G	Rs. 134,331.00
Investments	H	Rs. 26,947,126.63
Deposits & other Current Assets	I	Rs. 202,636.48
Bank & Cash Balances	J	Rs. 865,787.41
		<u>Rs. 28,168,076.57</u>

*As per our separate report of even date for Dinesh Kumar Bhat & Associates Chartered Accountants*

We certify that the above balance sheet is true to the best our knowledge and belief.

Dinesh Kumar

Proprietor, M. No. 95553

9th September 2003



## PRATICHI (INDIA) TRUST

		<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>CORPUS</b>	Schedule-A	
Last year Balance brought forward		Rs. 10,000,000.00
		<u>Rs. 10,000,000.00</u>
<b>SPECIAL FUND</b>	Schedule-B	
Opening Balance	Rs. 2,729,496.10	
Applied during the year for Pratichi School, Nagari	Rs. 30,616.60	Rs. 2,698,879.50
		<u>Rs. 2,698,879.50</u>
<b>PRATICHI BHAVAN PROJECT</b>	Schedule-C	
Opening Balance	Rs. 14,350,092.35	
Other Donations Received during the year	Rs. 100,000.00	
Interest & Dividend Received	Rs. 1,449,789.86	Rs. 15,899,882.21
Applied during the year for fixed Assets	Rs. 119,287.00	
Applied during the year for other expenses	Rs. 1,112,849.90	Rs. 1,232,136.90
		<u>Rs. 14,667,745.31</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	Schedule-D	
Expenses payable		Rs. 7,200.00
Payable to Trustee		Rs. 25,040.53
		<u>Rs. 32,240.53</u>

PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT

Last year's Profit brought forward  
Income Received during the year  
Expenses made during the year

Schedule-E

Rs. 996,689.13  
Rs. 467,784.33

Rs. 1,464,473.46  
Rs. 829,593.23  
Rs. 634,880.23

FIXED ASSETS

Opening Balance  
Add purchased during the year  
Less: Depreciation written off during the year

Schedule-F

Rs. 24,322.61  
Rs. 4,500.00  
Rs. 10,627.56

Rs. 18,195.05  
Rs. 18,195.05

FIXED ASSETS OF FUNDS

Pratichi Bhavan Assets  
Pratichi School Assets

Schedule-G

Rs. 119,287.00  
Rs. 15,044.00  
Rs. 134,331.00

INVESTMENTS

F.D.R with State Bank of India  
Investments in SBI Mutual Fund  
Other Mutual Funds

Schedule-H

Amount  
Rs. 7,200,000.00  
Rs. 12,000,000.00  
Rs. 7,747,126.63  
Rs. 26,947,126.63

DEPOSITS & OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	Schedule-I	
Rent Security		Rs. 25,000.00
Advances and Deposits		Rs. 30,313.75
TDS		Rs. 147,322.73
		<u>Rs. 202,636.48</u>
CASH & BANK BALANCES	Schedule-J	
Balance with State Bank of India		Rs. 853,980.94
Cash in hand		Rs. 11,806.47
		<u>Rs. 865,787.41</u>

*As per our separate report of even date for Dinesh Kumar Bhat & Associates Chartered Accountants*

We certify that the above balance sheet is true to the best our knowledge and belief.

Dinesh Kumar  
Proprietor  
M. No. 95553  
9th September 2003

