Dear Friend of Pratham,

It gives us great pleasure to send you the second newsletter of PrathamUK. After its successful launch in 2003-04, PrathamUK has witnessed steady growth in 2004-05. This would not have been possible without your continued support. Here is a short update on Pratham in India and the UK. We look forward to hearing your feedback at prathamuk@prathamuk.org.

The PrathamUK Team

Recent Pratham News

Pratham founder joins the National Advisory Council… Dr Madhav Chavan, co-founder of Pratham, has been chosen by the Indian government in June 2004 for implementation of the Common Minimum Programme. At its first meeting, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, announces: “All of us want India to become a knowledge-based economy and society. We cannot realize this dream if the foundation of the knowledge pyramid is weak. If our IITs and Universities are the apex of our knowledge pyramid, the school system that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (facilitation of education for all) will strengthen is the base of the pyramid… We must ensure that every Indian can stand proud and tall as an educated citizen.”

April 2004… Pratham launches Child Labour initiative… A Residential Bridge Course Centre, which will serve as a hostel and a school for child labourers, is established in Surat. To start with, 30 children will be looked after and taught for seven months, following which they will sit an examination. Successful children will be bridged to Class 6 in formal schools.

May-June 2004… Adoption of “Learn to Read” (L2R) across India… Pratham initiates training of teachers in virtually all districts of the state of Madhya Pradesh, reaching out to many more children than would be possible through direct teaching methods. Pratham Delhi volunteers work with the government authorities to train 1580 teachers from 1471 schools with immediate benefit for 30,000 in-school children identified as being unable to read. In 2003, a similar programme for training teachers in Maharashtra enabled Pratham to reach an estimated 4 million children within one year!

October 2004… Major Training Initiative In Bihar… Over 300 Pratham volunteers go to Bihar for two weeks to train more than 5000 teachers in accelerated reading (L2R) techniques.

December 2004… Young Chapters make progress… Pratham Agra, started in December 2003, benefits over 3000 children. 10 libraries catering to 4000 children are established. Pratham Chennai and Pratham Orissa complete one year reaching over 4500 and 1000 children, respectively. Pratham Gurgaon (Haryana) is formed with the initiative of PrathamUK and Pratham Germany volunteers.

March 2005… Bollywood continues its support of Pratham… Gayatri Joshi, the award-winning actress of “Swades” – the Hindi film on rural empowerment - supports the fund-raising gala events for PrathamUSA and visits Pratham projects in Dharavi, Mumbai. Welcome aboard Gayatri!

A Year of Consolidation for PrathamUK

May-September 2004… New Chapters, New Avenues… Pratham volunteers initiate chapters in Harrow, Leeds, Leicester and Germany. Seeds for new chapters are planted during the year in Manchester, Guernsey, Holland and Switzerland. “FlashBack”, a social for young Londoners in July, raises over £1,000 for Pratham. Volunteers at Morgan Stanley raise over £15,000 at talks by Dr. Rukmini Banerji of Pratham India and Rajat Gupta of McKinsey. Pratham is featured in the Asian Achievers’ Awards on September 9th with raffle proceeds of £1,300 donated to PrathamUK.

September 2004… Pratham Charity Ball 2004… A glittering evening is attended by 600 guests at the London Hilton on September 24th. £285,000 is raised resulting in net proceeds of over £215,000, a growth of 40% over the previous year: a resounding success for Ramola Bachchan and Organising Committee! During the same week, Waheeda Rehman also promotes Pratham in Harrow, Leicester, Manchester and Germany.

October 2004… Hands-on Efforts by UK Students… Reva Sharma returns to PrathamUK after an inspiring internship with Pratham India. Vidur Bhatia embarks on a similar internship. Led by a student, Merchant Taylors’ School in London raises £1,600 for Pratham at a cultural event.

January-March 2005… Grants, Awareness, The Beacon… PrathamUK applies to Stemcor Foundation and BASAID for grants supporting the production of Pratham Books. London chapter screens “Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge” and “Kuch Kuch Hota Hai” in February at the West End to pitch Pratham to over 250 attendees. PrathamUK is shortlisted in the final seven for the prestigious Beacon Fellowship.

April 2005… Growing From Strength to Strength… Volunteer strength crosses 200. New members join the Board (Hugh Edmeades, Sunita Hinduja, Roy Martins, Surina Narula). London Executive Committee is formed to lead various PrathamUK activities. A Pan-European Executive Committee is formed to better link the regional chapters of Pratham within UK and Europe.

Upcoming Activities and Events…
- July 3rd 2005… Over 50 runners will participate in the London 10K Run to raise funds for Pratham
- September 24th 2005… Pratham Charity Ball 2005, “Midnight Mantra,” to be held at the Grosvenor House Great Ball Room
- £1 per meal… Efforts initiated to partner with restaurants to raise funds for Pratham via a £1 contribution-per-meal plan
Enrolment Watch

Pratham is now present in twelve states across India with over 10,000 functional units representing contact with nearly 550,000 children every year. Pratham programs are classified into two principal categories: daily class-based programs and non class-based activity such as libraries. Besides these, Pratham also runs ‘catalytic programs’ that use Pratham resources and models to catalyse local institutions and train municipal schoolteachers and other NGOs. An example is the Read India program where Pratham volunteers are working with Government teachers in 31 districts of Bihar, 33 districts of local governments in Maharashtra and 2,000 Village Education Committees in Gujarat.

The figures below provide details of Pratham enrolment in class-based programs and libraries, classified by location and program.

Daily Class-Based Programs and Libraries (March 2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>All India Total</th>
<th>Libraries</th>
<th>Balwadi</th>
<th>L2R</th>
<th>R2L1</th>
<th>R2L2</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>Unit</td>
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<td>Unit</td>
<td>Children</td>
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<td>Children</td>
<td>Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>1,408</td>
<td>36,579</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>11,155</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>13,289</td>
<td>493</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>3,072</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>3,072</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tamilnadu</td>
<td>912</td>
<td>20,307</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>5,299</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>11,617</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
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<td>41,971</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>27,173</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>5,847</td>
<td>170</td>
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<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>23,516</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>18,913</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>1,529</td>
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<td>Bihar</td>
<td>488</td>
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<td>106</td>
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<td>180</td>
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<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>71</td>
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<td>West Bengal</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orissa</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>945</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Maharashtra</td>
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<td>272,804</td>
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<td>204</td>
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<tr>
<td>All India Total</td>
<td>10,036</td>
<td>549,957</td>
<td>2,678</td>
<td>397,067</td>
<td>2,939</td>
<td>60,880</td>
<td>1,615</td>
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</table>

- **Library**: A network of community-based libraries is set up to encourage reading and to sustain a learning environment. Libraries have books from one of the 5 local languages and English, from pre-school level to advanced reading.
- **Balwadi**: Includes pre-school education for 3-5 year old and early reading programs for 4-5 year old children with basic health inputs. Exposure to early childhood education increases the likelihood of first generation learners enrolling in school and learning well in formal schools.
- **Learning to Read (L2R)**: Pratham’s accelerated learning program combines several activities to enable children to read in two months. Besides reading, basic numbers and addition-subtraction is also taught. It is offered to children between the ages 6 to 14 who cannot read fluently.
- **Reading to Learn (R2L1, R2L2)**: Objective of these programs is to teach children, who have been through the L2R programs to read with comprehension, analyze, write based on text and independently, and do next stage of basic arithmetic. It is offered in 2 cycles of 4 months each. It prepares out-of-school children to join regular school and offers remedial help to children who have been in school but are on the verge of dropping out.
- **Other**: Includes computer-assisted learning, Bal (Child) Club and other programmes.

**Picture Gallery: Pratham Charity Ball 2004**

Madhav Chavan (Pratham co-founder) and Waheeda Rehman (Goodwill Ambassador) at the Pratham Charity Ball 2004

Rajat Gupta (Pratham India Board and McKinsey) talks about the importance of children education
UK Interns in India

Reva Sharma who grew up in London had only been to India before on whirlwind tours (as she calls them) with stops at the Taj Mahal and Punjab. She expected her internship with Pratham in the slums of Mumbai to be different and new but little was she prepared for the profound effect it had on her mindset and soul.

“On my first day instead of a gradual induction sifting through files and documents as I had been expecting, I was teamed up with Ujwala, a feisty looking Maharashtrian woman, whose tiny structure contrasted her fierce tongue and authoritative demeanour; this woman commanded respect. She herself was from a slum community and had worked with Pratham as a community teacher until she had been promoted to Supervisor, she told me proudly. I shadowed Ujwala, as she visited the railway platform classes that were held daily at set times throughout the Mumbai train network. The endeavour of these classes was to reach out to the platform children who worked long and tiring hours, making their little money by selling goods on the trains or simply by singing or begging.

What struck me most about these children was their adult-like demeanour, looking at them they were small, under nourished and frail, but the words they spoke and the voices they spoke them with were tough and aggressive coupled with glazed eyes that seemed entirely impenetrable.”

Vidur Bhatia, who grew up in Dubai and is currently working in London, wrote a research paper for Pratham as well as tested achievement levels of children in Government schools as part of a Pratham project

“Working in the Pratham Resource Centre was unique in that there are people of all ages and disciplines. I learnt a lot about the education system and found that Pratham was highly regarded by other organisations in this area. It felt good knowing that the work I was doing was directly related to social issues and it has made me consider being involved in such work in the future on a more permanent basis.

In one of the Pratham classes I visited I asked the children what they wanted to be when they grew up. Pilot, doctor, even Salman Khan were some of the answers but the one that touched the teachers the most was when one girl said 'Didi' (this is what the Pratham teachers from the community are called).”

A Visit to Pratham India

Ajay Sanghani, who grew up in the suburb of Malad in Mumbai has an internet business in London and Mumbai. He heard about PrathamUK in one of his periodic visits to London and decided to see for himself the work of Pratham in Mumbai.

“I have only talked about social work and supported a few causes financially, but never been a witness to such hands-on activities before. Though I have always lived in Mumbai, I was walking through a slum area after many many years, and it became evident to me, how much I have kept away from the harsh realities and challenges of the poor people. My sadness and feeling of despair and gloom was lifted by the spirit and energy of the children, who unlike me cannot turn away from the slums and have to live, work and study there.

One of the classes I visited was experimenting to teach children English with a TV by using an interactive DV-ROM. The children were at ease learning from the computers. Like children everywhere, they obviously love cartoons and music. The class was very crowded with over 40 children filling up the small living room of the teacher's house. The teacher was quick to point, that because of the TV, her classes are running at double capacity. Even very poor parents realize the value of education and are eager to ensure their children learn English. As you read this, many poor mothers (and it is usually the mother) all over India may be going without food today so that their children can have an education.

I would not have believed that even in a prosperous city like Mumbai, there are millions of children crying out for affordable education, love and care. I was amazed to learn that Pratham is responding to this need by quietly operating in thousand such pockets in Mumbai alone.”

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.

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.
**PrathamUK Fund Raising and Utilisation**

**Fund Raising**
During the year ended March 31, 2005, PrathamUK raised c. £325,000 through three major sources:
- Pratham Charity Ball 2004 (c. £285,000)
- Other Events (c. £7,000)
- Corporate, NGO and Individual Donations plus others (c. £33,000)

**Utilisation**
Funds raised have been utilised as follows:
- Funding specific projects in India (c. £200,000)
- Costs, primarily relating to Pratham Charity Ball 2004 (c. £79,000)
- Reserves held with PrathamUK (c. £46,000)

In 2004-05, PrathamUK has contributed £200,000 to finance educational initiatives being run by the following Pratham trusts and programs, amounting to a total contribution of £350,000 since 2003 and including seed funding for projects in Gaurigani and Sultanpur (Uttar Pradesh) and Gurgaon (Haryana).

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Units</td>
<td>Children</td>
<td>Units</td>
<td>Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra (excluding Mumbai)</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>13,811</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>68,995</td>
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<tr>
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<td>25,000</td>
<td>1,117</td>
<td>21,656</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>51,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>4,603</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>9,770</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>382</td>
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<td>540</td>
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<td>22,751</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>791</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>200,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,048</strong></td>
<td><strong>63,424</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,147</strong></td>
<td><strong>156,239</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Please Note: PrathamUK has funded in full the projects in Haryana, and funded in part the projects in other states. The number of children shown is the total number of children per project.)

For a wealth of information about Pratham’s activities, please visit [www.pratham.org](http://www.pratham.org) and [www.prathambooks.org](http://www.prathambooks.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:** £________

If you are a taxpayer in the UK, under the Government's Gift Aid Scheme, PrathamUK can reclaim for every pound you give, an extra 28 pence from the Inland Revenue, increasing your donation at no extra cost to you. 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.

[ ] Yes, I want this donation and all future donations I make to be treated as Gift Aid donations until I notify you otherwise.

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 “PrathamUK 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.

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