

outreach collaborate youth peace research
justice blog politics community chennai
policy sharing change security collage
reform creativity write rights donate
participation brio curriculum southasia
initiatives connect project **cinema**
resource **rally** identity literacy message
awareness movement **give** scholarship
documentation *achievers* **lecture** india friends
justice **education** archive learning people
partner classroom gender wisdom citizen
support **inclusion** tamilnadu **interview**
theatre communicate *words* human action
teaching network media knowledge
democracy **citizen** volunteer trust **design**
cooperate teaching 16days story record
campaign train freedomfighter **cornerstone**
tolerance **power** poetry representation *study*
manuscript *archive* quiz women together

THE PRAJNYA TRUST
Prajnya Initiatives for
Peace, Justice and
Security



Annual Report
2008-09

2008-2009 PRAJNYA CALENDAR	May-August 2008: PSW Research Internships.	July 21, 2008: First PSW research roundtable presentation.	August 2008: Planning for 16 Days Campaign begins.
August 15, 2008: Internship papers published online.	September 2008: First PSW Research Paper published online, “Women Taking Action.”	September- December 2008: PSW Advocacy Internships.	October 2008: Education for Peace Initiative receives pre- launch grant from Sir Ratan Tata Trust.
October 2008: First Education for Peace pre- launch study commissioned.	November 2008: Prajnaya notified that donations to Trust are now eligible for tax deduction.	November 25 - December 10, 2008: Prajnaya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence.	January 2009: New Trustee joins the Board.
February 2009: Second Education for Peace pre- launch study commissioned.	February- March 2009: First pre- launch study undergoes review process.	March 7, 2009: 2 nd Prajnaya Intercollegiate Quiz on Women in South Asia.	<i>Thank you for your support through this year! We couldn't have made it without you!</i>

Letter from the Managing Trustee



Dear Friends:

This has been a wonderful year, a challenging year and the most unexpected year! Wonderful, because our team of volunteers, partners and donors grew really fast. Challenging, because our activities outpaced the growth of our resource base. Unexpected, because we did more than we could have imagined possible given how small we still are and we learned more than we could have hoped to in one year.

Changes in the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees underwent some changes this year. In the course of the year, the term of the Founding Trustees ended. One Trustee had resigned at the end of the last year, and another elected to leave at the end of her term. We bade farewell to Ratna Mukherjee and Sudha Ramachandran with gratitude. Jaya Menon and Shilpa Anand remain on the Board and are now joined by Dr. D. Jayashree, who is an Ayurvedic physician by profession.

At the end of the last year, in anticipation of these changes and the need for a larger Board, Prajnaya opened discussions with Governance Matters to identify potential Board Members. We have not made much progress. Likewise, the Board's own discussions to expand the Panel of Advisors have been inconclusive.

This year, the Board met—online as usual—on September 6, 2008 and on March 14, 2009.

Networking for Prajnaya

Prajnya's efforts to network and raise funds were successful at one level and unsuccessful at another.

Our networking efforts were successful on two fronts. Our outreach to other organizations was fruitful. The PSW study on Chennai civil society organizations introduced us to potential partners and we shared the data in that study with all of them. We were also able to forge a variety of

partnerships around the 16 Days Campaign. Moreover, the number of people volunteering or wanting to volunteer with Prajnya grew, largely by word of mouth. We were also able to identify people who would help us with particular technical tasks, through friends and Facebook mainly. We created a Facebook group, "Friends of Prajnya," through which our network has grown apace.

Our efforts to connect with Chennai corporates has not been successful. Lack of concerted effort is the main reason for this, though undoubtedly others would ascribe it to the recession. We need a small team whose primary work is this kind of outreach but this has been a non-starter.

Building our Resource Base

Strained human resources, location and lack of resources to travel and lobby have in general limited our fundraising outreach. Our limitations have been offset by the amazing generosity of individuals in our circle. When we started raising funds for the Prajnya 16 Days Campaign, we did not have 80G status and could not promise tax deductions. Nevertheless, we received almost Rs. 50,000/- in personal donations. We truly "get by with a little help from" our friends! This means that we "give" ownership of our campaign against gender violence to individuals and not organisations or foundations, and we at Prajnya love that! Ideally, this is how we want to fund all our outreach activities from now on.

We are very grateful to the Sir Ratan Tata Trust for a grant to carry out three preparatory studies before we launch the Education for Peace Initiative.

In 2009-2010

Notwithstanding our challenges, we still look upon this year with pride. And look forward to a great deal more in the next.

We anticipate launching our second Initiative, Education for Peace, in September 2009.

We hope that work on the PSW Initiative's Resource Centre project will gather momentum and that we will be able to produce our first

documentary in the 'Freedom Generation' series in the second half of this year.

In support of this, the Trust hopes to make much greater headway in its networking and fundraising efforts.

The PSW Team is almost entirely a volunteer team. While we are able to pull together and pull off programmes, our research programme has suffered. It is not possible to conduct research, especially archival research, in the interstices between a full-time job and other life-demands. We need to be able to hire trained, full-time researchers.

The Education for Peace Initiative will run into the same issues once it is launched. So far, the grant from Sir Ratan Tata Trust has permitted us to commission and pay for research projects, but we will also need to raise funds for salaries at the end of the grant period.

Learning, challenge, adventure, success and celebration await us this year as well, with your partnership and support.

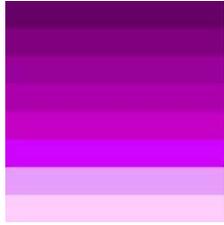
Thank you for a wonderful 2008-2009!

Swarna Rajagopalan
April 1, 2009

Subhashini Selvanathan, Prajnya Administrator, writes:

Prajnya is a new organization and most of its challenges come from that. But day by day, Prajnya was growing, both the accounting part and the development part. Donors and volunteers are growing in number.

Apart from keeping track of accounts, my main objective is to work with the program coordinators so that the right things are available at the right place at the right time. All of the team and Friends of Prajnya were helping me during the campaign and quiz, and made my work easy.



POLITICS, SECURITY AND WOMEN IN SOUTH ASIA

Prajnya's first Initiative to open shop has been very active in the last year on the public educational outreach front. The Prajnya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence and the Intercollegiate Quiz on Women in South Asia were successful beyond our expectations. Our experience with outreach through internships has been mixed.

We offered two internship programmes, research and advocacy, in 2008. The three Research Interns produced short papers covering aspects of women's participation in the political movements of the 1940s in Madras Presidency. The Advocacy Interns were supposed to work on the Prajnya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence, but we had a high drop-out rate in this group. We have realised from these programmes that while there is a great thirst for opportunities for

experiential learning, fueled by college internship requirements and the need to build resumés, college students are not ready for either the learning or the discipline of the work-place. Both the internship programmes may therefore be discontinued.

The comings and goings of an all-volunteer, part-time research team has also slowed down work on our cornerstone project, the Women in Politics and Policy Resource Centre. Our vision is to build a space to compile, house, systematically document and disseminate qualitative, quantitative and primary records about the contribution of women to public policy. Our volunteer researchers are to be commended for their commitment to their projects, but the reality is that research and scholarship are full-time pursuits. Prajnya's first research study was nevertheless completed last September: *Women Taking Action: A Survey of Chennai Women's Organisations* by Sweta Narayanan.

For 2009-10, building the Resource Centre is PSW's top priority. This means finishing completed projects and making progress on our Oral History work. From a long-term point of view, it also means placing Resource Centre salaries and project costs at the heart of Prajnya's fundraising agenda.

The Women's History Roundtable Series, launched on March 14, 2009 is a way of bringing attention back to research as well as gathering a community which will engage with our work.

PSW blogs at <http://keepingcount.wordpress.com> and <http://prajnya16days.blogspot.com>. Read our work at <http://www.prajnya.in/pswpapers.htm>.



Linda Racioppi's presentation, July 21, 2008



Internship "graduation"!
August 15, 2008



Prajnya team and friends at the end of the Prajnya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence, December 10, 2009



Women's History Roundtable featuring Srilata K., March 14, '09



**PRAJNYA 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
GENDER VIOLENCE**

“[Although]...our 'campaign team' was extremely small (at times no more than one and a half persons), fairly inexperienced in Chennai and with a sum total of zero rupees to begin with in the campaign account... pull it off, we did, thanks to all our partners, volunteers and all the others who pitched in in small and big ways.”

– *Nirupama Sarathy*, writing in Campaign Chronicle, the campaign blog.
(<http://prajnya16dayscampaign.blogspot.com>)

Deepak Harichandan designed this striking campaign logo for us. Thank you!

Between November 25, 2008 and December 10, 2008, in partnership with other Chennai civil society organizations, Prajnya organized and coordinated events and activities at venues across the city in order to raise awareness of the different ways in which women in particular are vulnerable to violence, from their homes to zones of conflict.

When we planned the campaign, it was really important to us:

- To draw attention to several kinds of gender violence, placing them in a broad analytical framework;
- To work in partnership with as many other organizations as possible;
- To reach out to as many sectors as possible;
- To use a variety of media.

We were far more successful than we could have imagined.

Our partners in the 2008 campaign: Alliance Française de Madras • Blank Noise • Café Coffee Day • Chennai Live 104.8 FM • Confederation of Indian Industries • International Foundation for Crime Prevention and Victim Care • Internews Network • L.V. Prasad Film and Television Academy • Loyola College • M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women • Nalli • New Indian Express • Odyssey • Okapi • Queen Mary's College • Spencer Plaza • The Marappachi Trust • WE CAN Campaign - TN (PCVC) • Women Lawyers' Association.

Impossible to thank all our friends and resource persons, although we made a feeble attempt online: <http://prajnya16days.blogspot.com/2008/12/and-when-its-done.html>. But special thanks to K. Hariharan, Sudha Ramalingam and Sheela Rani Chunkath, for support beyond the call of solidarity!

Nirupama Sarathy,
2008 Campaign Coordinator,
writes:

The 16 days campaign's growth from an idea to a campaign has been an exciting and inspiring journey. The success and impact of the campaign was as much in the design and process, as in the outcome at the end of the campaign.

We were successful in covering a range of aspects related to gender violence by highlighting its relevance to diverse audiences. Partnerships has also been a key success area.

While we managed to mobilize financial and logistical support from individuals and partner organizations across sectors, the real challenge and sense of achievement came from securing their buy-in and backing for the cause.

Perhaps the campaign could have done better at engaging people in finding ways to address the issue at various levels, but it certainly brought the discourse on gender violence into focus in various circles and in the public domain.



Uma Vangal, PSW team member, writes:

Personally, I found the round table helpful in correlating events, people and ideas in a sort of graph that crosses paths at many junctures. And the quiz was stimulating. With the campaign and the quiz, there is a positive feeling that Prajnya is slowly gaining an identity in the city. The main thing now is to get cracking on fundraising and begin the oral histories soon. Some of the people we want to profile are not getting younger and we need to record and document their stories and memories as well as their knowledge of the events of their time as soon as possible. This year, we should at least make a head start in that direction.



Nandhini Shanmugham, PSW team member, writes:

The two quizzes on women in South Asia along with the 16-day campaign against gender violence, have definitely been our USP so far – our visibility factors.

We've grown significantly as an organisation both in terms of the kind of work we're involved with as well as the people we work with. More productive work in the offing!

Partnership with TNIE during the Prajnya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence: A Sampler
 One of the campaign highlights was our partnership with The New Indian Express, which entailed the publication of 'factboxes' on gender violence; commissioned articles on women human rights activists and an essay competition. Take a look: <http://www.prajnya.in/16d08medianie.htm>.

Against gender violence

EVENT
 The 16-day campaign will include plays, seminars and competitions across colleges and public spaces

Prajnya 16 Days Campaign against gender violence 2008: detailed schedule

Day	Date	Time	Location	Organizing Agency
1	Nov 18	10:00 AM	St. Ann's School, Chennai	St. Ann's School
2	Nov 19	10:00 AM	St. Ann's School, Chennai	St. Ann's School
3	Nov 20	10:00 AM	St. Ann's School, Chennai	St. Ann's School
4	Nov 21	10:00 AM	St. Ann's School, Chennai	St. Ann's School
5	Nov 22	10:00 AM	St. Ann's School, Chennai	St. Ann's School
6	Nov 23	10:00 AM	St. Ann's School, Chennai	St. Ann's School
7	Nov 24	10:00 AM	St. Ann's School, Chennai	St. Ann's School
8	Nov 25	10:00 AM	St. Ann's School, Chennai	St. Ann's School
9	Nov 26	10:00 AM	St. Ann's School, Chennai	St. Ann's School
10	Nov 27	10:00 AM	St. Ann's School, Chennai	St. Ann's School
11	Nov 28	10:00 AM	St. Ann's School, Chennai	St. Ann's School
12	Nov 29	10:00 AM	St. Ann's School, Chennai	St. Ann's School
13	Nov 30	10:00 AM	St. Ann's School, Chennai	St. Ann's School
14	Dec 1	10:00 AM	St. Ann's School, Chennai	St. Ann's School
15	Dec 2	10:00 AM	St. Ann's School, Chennai	St. Ann's School
16	Dec 3	10:00 AM	St. Ann's School, Chennai	St. Ann's School

WITH RHYME AND REASON

ON Friday night I had the privilege to be given an insight into what it means to be a woman in India at one of the recent Prajnya 16-day Campaign Against Gender Violence events hosted by Odyssey bookstores. The poetry reading session and special book exhibit featured well known and respected writers Sakshi Ranil, Vatsala, Sri Lata and Krishangini. They delivered loud and proud messages of recognition, encouragement and hope by sharing with the audience a few of their chosen pieces and further discussing the issue at hand.

The determination and drive behind each of the authors varied and the audience quickly became aware of how personal and individual, writing on the topic is. For one author, it was the responsibility of delivering such an important message; for another, writing was a way to escape—a form of reflection and therapy. One lady emphasised how liberated she felt by just being able to be herself. Campaign coordinator Nirupama Satchari said, "Not many people are willing to talk about this issue, but today has provided a platform for awareness to the public. Poetry and literature play very significant roles in doing this, as an emotional connection. A harsh reality, gender violence is still heavily prevalent in our society. Yet this experience brought reassurance for women to speak up about the issue in whichever form it takes place. The next day after leaving the event that literature of this nature receives a strong reaction bringing together a passion with a purpose and a special connection with the female spirit."

—Express Features

PRAJNYA INITIATIVE

Battling domestic violence

Even now, the pinnacle of a woman's achievement is seen as her being married and having a child

AFTER seeing scores of cases of domestic violence in her 30 years of practice as a lawyer, Sadha Ramalingam, has begun to see changes in the patterns and reactions of those involved. With the breakdown of the joint family system, for more and more women, the only recourse is the law. "While this is a good thing in the way that more women are using the law to put a stop to the abuse they are facing, the absence of the family means the woman does not have the kind of cushioning effect of the support and help of relatives and friends." And often, the law cannot quite provide the kind of help they need. While the Domestic Violence Act is very well crafted to support a woman in distress, the existing infrastructure impedes its full potential. "We need separate courts to deal with the domestic violence cases. We need better legal aid mechanisms to go with the Act and separate personnel to handle it," said Ramalingam, adding that the magistrates who now took care of cases under the Act already had a lot of work and that this just added to it. "It's a wonderful law but unless there is infrastructure to support it, it cannot be used to the extent it should," she said. "Domestic violence cuts across every class and all kinds of economic backgrounds," she said. While more help was on offer for the victim now, attitudes and societal norms hadn't changed, she said. "Even now, the pin-

Essay competition

As part of the 16-day campaign against gender violence, *The New Indian Express* and Prajnya invite you to submit essays on one of the following topics:

- Nothing personal about gender violence
- Who pays for gender violence?
- If gender violence is symptom, what is the cause?
- "Next, it could be me"

The competition will be in English. The essays should be between 500 and 600 words. Include your name, postal address, email address and telephone contact information with your entry. Entries close at noon on December 1. Essays can be sent to essays.16days@gmail.com, or by mail to:

**"16 Days Essay Contest"
 The New Indian Express
 29, II Main Road
 Ambattur Industrial Estate
 Chennai 600 058**

A panel of judges will evaluate the essays and the winning entry will be published in the *New Indian Express* on December 10 — Human Rights Day.

Other good essays will be placed on the 16-day campaign website at <http://prajnya16-days.blogspot.com>

What it means to be a woman in India

Sexual violence and violence in the name of the community haunt women, making life a series of traumas or lucky escapes

Swarna Rajagopalan

THE most chilling news items remind you that you had a narrow escape. "That could be me."

India's declining juvenile sex ratio is a good example. Take the decade I was born. According to the 1981 Census of India, there were 941 girls per 1000 boys and by 1971, this figure had declined to 900. What good fortune made me part of the 941 and 930 rather than the 99 and 70 girls who did not survive?

Most rapists are known to the victim, and a horrendous number (around 75 per cent) are members of the family or its inner circle. Most middle class Indians grow up in large extended families, open households where family and friends come and go. If we did not experience this devastating combination of violence and betrayal of trust, is it what we owe our good fortune?

Marriage is all important in our society; how many parents of brides are able to resist last minute demands for dowry? According to official records, the number of dowry deaths is actually growing from year to year. If we have not been chased by benevolent horns, what did we do to deserve that escape?

"That could be me" comes with two

implications: a debt to repay and the duty of empathy.

Our lucky escapes create a debt to society. How do we make the world as safe for others as it has been for me? How do we show the less fortunate in our circle that we are not blind to their traumas? In a society that cloaks family violence as shame and codes violence against women in the public arena as "provoked", what is the opportunity we make to end our silence?

The second imperative is to acknowledge that there is no difference between those who have been victims and survivors of violence and those who have escaped this fate. Most women anywhere can recall some day, some time, some place, some person, and some trigger that makes them shudder inwardly at what might have been.

"That could be me." And if there is no difference, then your trauma is my trauma and my strength should be yours.

Among activists and scholars in this area, it is a truism to say that violence follows women through their life-cycle. With pre-natal sex selection becoming more and more popular in spite of all the legal measures against it, even birth is a chance affair. Sexual violence, structural violence and violence in the

name of the community haunt their lives, making life a series of traumas or lucky escapes.

Unfortunately, as a society, we trivialise this violence. We are beginning to code sex selection as reproductive choice or family planning. We euphemistically refer to street sexual harassment as eve teasing. We are unflinching in our efforts to reunite battered wives with their abusive spouses and in-laws because we tag their attempt to survive as family disturbance. We have an endless encyclopedia of excuses for abuse — deficiencies in the wife, failure to deliver dowry, frustration at work — that are trotted out in our entertainment media downright as reflections of our culture.

The fact however is: Violence against women is violence. It is not passion. It is not lust. Not provocation. Neither carnal, nor punishment. Just brute force, coercion, violence.

And once we open our minds to this, we know that violence against women is one strand in a larger story. It is related to other forms of violence against those who are powerless — children and sexual minorities, for instance. Thus, linking partner violence and family violence rise with levels of militarisation in a society. In times of

disaster or conflict, levels of violence within the household and in the neighbourhood go up.

Now recognised as a public health crisis, because gender violence routinely affects those with the least power, it does not attract attention. Nevertheless, the cost to society of preventing health care and counselling to victims and the cost to the economy of their lost working days mount, as do levels of violence. Children are brutalised by experiencing and witnessing violence; we are raising a generation prone to violence, desensitised to it and accepting of it as one language of interpersonal and social relationships.

November 25 is the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women. This year in Chennai, Prajnya and partner organisations, including *The New Indian Express*, have put together a full schedule of public education events and activities as part of the Prajnya 16 Days Campaign against Gender Violence. A popular celebration worldwide, the 16 Days Campaign begins on November 25 and culminates on Human Rights Day, December 10.

Remember, this too could be you. Do your part. Speak up against this pervasive social malaise. Because gender violence hurts us all.

Rape commonest mode of violence against women

Seetha Krishnan

A SCENE in Deepa Mehta's controversial film, *Earth* comes to mind every time rape is mentioned. Two children, aged about eight, lean over the walls of their spartan home in Lahore and look out into the refugee camp next door. The precocious girl explains to her friend, "These are Indian women." They beckon a child from the camp over and ask clinically, "He was your mother raped?" The boy nods, not wanting to understand yet uncomprehending.

"He was your mother raped?" I wonder how many children were asked that question in 1947 and the two years of holocaust that followed. The Partition of the Indian Subcontinent that came with independence from British rule, brought with it not only death and carnage but also a heightened violence against women — rape, isolation and kidnapping were rampant, as India and Pakistan were born, could not turn from each other violently at birth.

Through this carnage has ended, the questions it has left behind is not yet erased from our memory. Many of the thousands who had been raped or even merely kidnapped were dispersed by their families and husbands. They had become, to their families, as the child in *Earth* tells us: *Girl*, *Aurat* (fallen women). And to one woman out of those, Domestic rape is an almost unaddressed issue in India. In fact, the idea of a husband "raping" his wife is inconceivable to many, as most 60 per cent according to a UN survey women in



A TNIE - PRAJNYA INITIATIVE

A TNIE - PRAJNYA INITIATIVE

The fact however is: Violence against women is violence. It is not passion. It is not lust. Not provocation. Neither catharsis, nor punishment. Just brute force, coercion, violence

fact that over 50 per cent of the rape cases in the country remain unreported due to — you guessed it — shame.

Though one wishes we had more Mukhtar Masra and Neeta Goswami (both women who fought unresponsive judicial systems following rape, the former in Pakistan and the latter in India) in the subcontinent, the large picture tells us that thousands of women in rural areas suffer rape at the hands of village elites, who are allied with the police and so, untouched by justice. They are burdened with the pointing finger of society and an insensitive judicial system that does not wish to ask demanding questions and further humiliating the victim, while the perpetrator often remains free.

Domestic rape is an almost unaddressed issue in India. In fact, the idea of a husband "raping" his wife is inconceivable to many, as most 60 per cent according to a UN survey women in

Written by seetha.krishnan@gmail.com
 The author is the winner of the 16 Days Essay Competition organised by The New Indian Express and the Prajnya 16 Days Campaign against gender-based violence

**PRAJNYA
INTERCOLLEGIATE QUIZ ON
WOMEN IN SOUTH ASIA 2009**



The Quiz was coordinated by Anupama Srinivasan this year and was held at Madras Terrace House on March 7, 2009-the first Saturday of March being the Quiz date we agreed on. RJ Sano of Chennai Live 104.8 and RJ Deva of Radio Mirchi were quizmasters respectively of the semi-finals and the final round.

This year we had nine teams including two teams of boys, from Presidency and DG Vaishnav Colleges. The five colleges who took part last year came back-Ethiraj, Stella Maris, Women's Christian College, Queen Mary's and MOP Vaishnav. These teams were joined by Anna University's Department of Environmental Sciences and St. Mary's College of Sathyabama University.

We held two semi-final rounds, and the top two teams from each entered the finals. The finalists were Stella Maris, DG Vaishnav, Queen Mary's and MOP Vaishnav. The girls from Queen Mary's and MOP tied, and we had to have a tie-breaker, which MOP won. Very exciting!

This year, Prajnaya invited veteran social worker and freedom-fighter, Sarojini Varadappan to give away the prizes.

BY WOMEN, FOR WOMEN

The intercollege quiz, conducted by Prajnaya, tested the knowledge of students on women in South Asia



POLITICS, security and women in South Asia have been for some time, the core of what Prajnaya has been addressing. The Prajnaya Women in Policy Resource Centre entails the creation of a comprehensive, continually updated, publicly accessible statistical and oral history database on women's participation and access to policy and policy structures. As part of their continued effort, the non-profit centre for research public education and networking has been holding round table series, workshops for col-

lege teachers and inter-collegiate quiz competitions around the city. And the eve of Women's Day saw nine colleges from Chennai take part in a quiz competition held at The Madras Terrace House. With questions pertaining to women of South Asia, the competition lasted for four rounds, with four teams being selected for the finals.

MOP Vaishnav College emerged the winners, followed by Queen Mary's College in the second place. WCC, Stella Maris, St Mary's, Ethiraj College, DG Vaishnav and Anna University also took part.

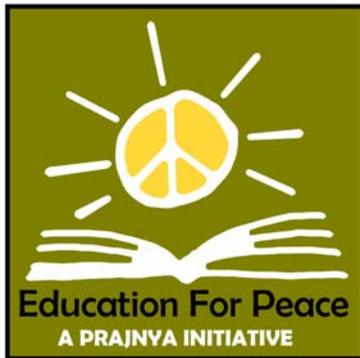
—Express Features
express@express.com

Anupama Srinivasan, 2009 Quiz Coordinator, writes:

Despite the scale of its ambitions, the Prajnaya quiz remains an intimate exercise. Yes, the actual quizzing process was fun and stimulating; but equally important was what went on before. Seeking over a three hundred questions and answers, we stumbled across several unexpected ones along the way.



Personally, I was very pleased that Ms. Sarojini Varadappan's presence underscored our point; she is a living, breathing example of the sheer depth and range of contributions that women in South Asia have made to social change and public policy.



The Education for Peace Initiative (EPI) hosts Prajnya's pedagogically-oriented projects. Its vision is to teach peace by fostering the learning of skills conducive to communication, healing, tolerance, reconciliation and interaction between people with divergent interests and creating capacity for the resolution of conflict and the creation of a sustainable peace.

We hope to launch the Initiative and its cornerstone project, *Teaching Peace*, in September 2009.

Thank you, Gynelle Alves, for designing this logo for us! We love it!

Educational Policy Research

We are grateful to Sir Ratan Tata Trust for giving us a small grant to conduct three pre-launch studies, preparatory to the launch of our Cornerstone Project, *Teaching Peace*, and as a basis for its future engagement with educational policy issues in specific contexts.

1. *Mapping Educational Policy Structures and Processes in Tamil Nadu*. Akila R. undertook this study which charts who makes and how educational policy is implemented in Tamil Nadu. This study is now available on our website.

2. *A Survey of Civil Society Peace Education Programs in South Asia*. Anupama Srinivasan is currently working on this project which surveys the engagement of civil society actors with education and in particular, with peace and conflict resolution education, and describe the nature of their interventions. This study will be available in June 2009.

3. *Agenda to Action: Peace Education Guidelines In The NCERT National Curriculum Framework*. Priyadarshini Rajagopalan, who will direct the Education for Peace Initiative, will explore ways to adapt the peace education guidelines in the National Curriculum Framework prepared by NCERT for classroom use. This study will be ready at the end of August 2009.

All three studies will be available at http://www.prajnya.in/peace_epr.htm.

Proposed Activities

The cornerstone project of this Initiative is *Teaching Peace*, a curriculum support project which will teach skills, develop strategies and create teaching materials to complement the existing curriculum in a school. Prajnya will work with schools and teachers across Chennai to start with, gradually expanding the geographical scope of our work.

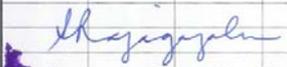
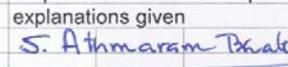
The Education for Peace Initiative will also continue to engage with educational policy issues, through research-informed or research-related activities. We expect to work with other organizations who share our interest in this area.

There is also a plan to start Citizenship Education Summer Camps for schoolchildren, drawing together different kinds of expertise available across Prajnya's Initiatives.

Read about this Initiative:
<http://www.prajnya.in/peace.htm>

Email us:
peace.prajnya@gmail.com

PRAJNYA 2007-08 AUDITED ACCOUNTS

THE PRAJNYA TRUST					
B-402, PRINCE VILLA, NO. 7, RAJAMANNAR STREET					
T. NAGAR, CHENNAI 600017					
R ECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2008					
R E C E I P T S			P A Y M E N T S		
	CASH	BANK Rs. P.		CASH	BANK Rs. P.
To Opening Balance	1001.00		By Fixed Deposit		25000.00
To Donations received			" Cash deposited into bank	30505.00	
Towards Corpus	25001.00	20000.00			
Towards Revenue	25213.00	1001.00			
" Cash deposited		30505.00	" Postage and courier	362.00	
" Loan from Ms. Swarna Rajagopalan	5000.00		" Xerox expenses	789.00	
			" Travelling and conveyance	6845.00	
			" Membership expenses	2100.00	
			" Quiz expenses	9094.00	
			" Web charges	4700.00	
			" Printing and stationery	1820.00	
			" Balance C/d	0.00	26506.00
Total	56215.00	51506.00	Total	56215.00	51506.00
For THE PRAJNYA TRUST  Managing Trustee			As per Books of Account produced and explanations given  Chartered Accountant		



THE PRAJNYA TRUST
 B-402, PRINCE VILLA, NO. 7, RAJAMANNAR STREET
 T. NAGAR, CHENNAI 600017
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31/3/2008

	Rs. P.		Rs. P.
Expenditure		Income	
To Printing & Stationery	1820.00	By Donation	26214.00
" Postage and courier	362.00		
" Travelling and Conveyance	6845.00		
" Web charges	4700.00		
" Xerox expenses	789.00		
" Membership expenses	2100.00		
" Quiz expenses	9094.00		
" Excess of Income over Exp.	504.00		
TOTAL	26214.00	TOTAL	26214.00

BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31/03/2008

LIABILITIES			Rs. P.	ASSETS			Rs. P.
CORPUS FUND			1001.00	Cash at Bank			26506.00
Add:	Corpus Donations	45001.00	46002.00	FD with Bank			25000.00
GENERAL FUND				Cash in Hand			0.00
	Excess of Income over Exp.	504.00	504.00				
Loan from							
	Ms. Swarna Rajagopalan		5000.00				
Total			51506.00	Total			51506.00
							0.00

Place: Chennai	<p style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">FOR THE PRAJNYA TRUST</p> Managing Trustee	As per Books of Account produced and explanations given Chartered Accountant
Dated: 06.09.2008		



What we received in 2008-09

Donations	
Endowment	53003.00
16 Days	97464.00
Quiz	3450.00
General	3307.00
Total	157223.00
Grant	300000.00
TOTAL	457224.00

What we spent in 2008-09

Research	
PSW	6462.00
Ed. for Peace	161728.00
Programmes	
16 Days	107994.09
Quiz	13469.00
Admin/Operations	9372.00
TOTAL	299025.09

What we held, what we hold as on April 1

	2008	2009
Cash	00.00	00.00
Bank	26506.00	146474.91
Fixed Deposits	25000.00	85000.00
TOTAL	51506.00	231474.91

(Endowment donations are placed in Fixed Deposits.)

FRIENDS OF PRAJNYA

We would like to acknowledge here those who have offered us support of any sort in 2008-09.

For gifts of time and expertise

Efex Colour Screens ♦ Muthulakshmi ♦ Gynelle Alves ♦ Deepak Harichandan ♦ Meera Zachariah ♦ Cheryll Pereira ♦ Doris Rao ♦ Pradyuman Maheshwari

For letting us use their space

Crossword Bookstore and Brio Café, Panagal Park ♦ Srinath Mallikarjunan

For helping us pay our bills

Shalini Anand Murthy ♦ Cheryll Pereira ♦ Sarojini Rajaram ♦ V.Subramaniam ♦ Vasantha Ramakrishnan ♦ Sudha Ramachandran ♦ Pattammal Rajagopaul ♦ R. Venkatesh ♦ R.Jaikumar ♦ Malathi Jaikumar ♦ Shilpa Anand ♦ Kumuda ♦ R.Nagadharshini ♦ Nandhini Shanmugam ♦ Sweta Narayanan ♦ P.V.Ramamurthy ♦ V.V.S.R.Hanumantha Rao ♦ P.S.Kumaraswamy ♦ Sucharita Narayanan ♦ Ashwin Krishnan ♦ Nalli Trust ♦ B.Renuka Devi ♦ Lata Mani ♦ Rajmohan Gandhi ♦ Kamatchi ♦ Ranjitha Mary Gunasekaran ♦ Eswari Lending Library ♦ P.C.Mukerji ♦ Chaitanya-The Policy Consultancy ♦ Shyamala Rajagopalan ♦ Swarna Rajagopalan

This is, as they say, an incomplete list of our friends and well-wishers. We know that and we want you to know it too. We do not measure your support in terms of time, money, expertise or connections alone, but value all the encouragement and enthusiasm you send our way.

You are our secret stash of capital, our leverage and the wind beneath our wings. *Thank you!*

Get Involved with Prajnya

Your presence in our community is an asset, no matter you choose to be part of it. We need pretty much whatever you want to share with us: knowledge, network, time and experience. And we probably need whatever you can afford to give: material or financial help.

Volunteer with us

- We need help with research, programmes, fundraising, outreach, communication and even administration.

Support Prajnya financially

- Prajnya can only accept donations from Indian citizens, resident in India.
- Donations to Prajnya now qualify for tax deduction.
- You can send a cheque or DD payable to “The Prajnya Trust” to our registered office address.
- Details for electronic transfer:

Account name: The Prajnya Trust

Bank & branch: HDFC Bank, T.Nagar, Chennai 600 017

Account number: 2062560002557

RTGS/ NEFT IFSC: HDFC0000206

Make a gift in kind

We accept material gifts but request you to consult with us before making the gift.

About Prajnya

Prajnya is a non-profit centre for research, public education and networking on questions related to peace, justice and security.

Our vision

Peace, just and sustainable, which is the basis of a secure and happy life for all humans.

Our mission

To build a centre of scholarly excellence and creativity, known for its engagement with policy and its commitment to collaborative endeavour.

Prajnya Factfile

Prajnya was established as a public charitable trust in January 2006. It was registered under section 12AA of the Income Tax Act 1961 (695/06-07). The Trust launched Prajnya Initiatives for Peace, Justice and Security in September 2007.

Prajnya's work is organized into thematic initiatives, to be launched sequentially, each of which addresses a cluster of issues and is anchored by a cornerstone project that will form its core agenda:

- Politics, Security and Women in South Asia
- Education for Peace
- Regions (future)
- South Asian Security (future)

Prajnya is People

Without people, Prajnya would be a legal fiction. At the moment, almost everyone at Prajnya is a part-timer, working elsewhere full-time.

Board of Trustees 2008-09

Swarna Rajagopalan, Managing Trustee
Shilpa Anand
Jaya Menon
D. Jayashree
Sudha Ramachandran (retired)

Panel of Advisors

Stephen P. Cohen, Rajmohan Gandhi, Ingrid Srinath

Administrator

Subhashini Selvanathan

Politics, Security and Women Initiative

Uma Vangal, Jayalakshmi Gopalan, Nandhini Shanmugham, Sweta Narayanan, Nirupama Sarathy, Anupama Srinivasan, Narasimhan Varadhan
Interns Swati Seshadri, C. Sindhu, Nirmala Iswari, Krithika S.

Education for Peace

Priyadarshini Rajagopalan, Director
Consultants Akila R., Anupama Srinivasan

Others who volunteered with us this year
Seba from Patang (Orissa), Shruti Mukherjee, Anupama Sekhar

Get in touch!

Registered Office:

B-402 Prince Villa
7 Rajamannar Street
Chennai 600017
India

Call us weekday mornings
91-44-2815-2954

Visit our website
<http://www.prajnya.in>

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keepingcount.wordpress.com
prajnya16days.blogspot.com

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prajnyatrust@gmail.com

Join our Facebook group
Friends of Prajnya