"Materialism is not the essence of life, one has to be satisfied with life and realize that we can make a difference in the lives of several children who are like gifts which need to be unwrapped."
- Rishabh Maheswary
Economics, Ex-Student

"The environment as well as the small children have touched my heart. I have learnt how to adjust myself in different circumstances and to face the difficulties positively."
- Aryaman Kejriwal
B.Com (E), Ex-Student

"It has been a very moving experience. The eagerness and endeavor to learn among the children is pretty appreciating and most importantly its quite nice to be a part of such a noble cause"
- Malancha Dasgupta
English, Ex-Student

"It was a great and fantastic experience and felt a great sense of satisfaction to see children smiling at the end of the day."
- Rohan Agarwal
B.Com(M), Student

"This is a great initiative taken by St. Xavier’s College, we will make sure to keep up this initiative and by spreading awareness among the fellow friends and relatives, we want to ignite the same fire that is now burning in us."
- Bibhu Das
B.Com (M), Student
Prayas is an effort aimed at bringing about the overall development of the students, both in the college and in the villages. The primary objective of this movement is to provide continuous support and assistance to the less fortunate children, both academically and materially, and thereby part of the larger attempt to achieve 100% literacy by 2015. This ongoing project was initiated by Rev. Fr. Dr. J. Felix Raj, SJ, Principal, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, in January 2006.

College Students contribute Rs. 1 per day to support the education of these village children. Devipur, Gurap, Jhantipahari, Mirga, Salpukur, Bolorampur, Ghostomat and Bholakhali (AILA affected village) are the villages supported by project Prayas. More than 1000 children have benefitted from this project in the last 5 years.

College students and the village children, both benefit from this project. As the college and village come together there is a overall development of both. For every student it is a challenge to study better and develop a sense of service. The village students are given an exposure to wider realities and motivation to continue their education. It is the progress of this project that makes one believe that someday, every child from a village would go to college and if every college reaches out to at least one village then the millennium goal of 100 percent literacy by 2015 can become a reality.

"If colleges and villages meet, there will be a knowledge revolution," believes Fr. Felix Raj, SJ, the person behind the success of Prayas.