

## **Praj Foundation Green Scholarship Awards for environmentally-conscious girl students**

- *Praj Foundation has been recognizing efforts of girl students from M. E. S Rani Laxmibai Mulinchi Sainiki Shala towards environment conservation for the last five years*
- *Praj Foundation's "Green Scholarships and Awards" provide greater encouragement to the green movement, help it take deeper roots and synergize these concepts into the students' daily lives*

**Pune, June 27, 2014:** In a continuous endeavor to nurture young minds to think of environmentally-correct practices and engage them in such activities right from their young age, Praj Foundation has established 'Green Scholarship Awards' in association with the M. E. S Rani Laxmibai Mulinchi Sainiki Shala. Five deserving girl students received the 'Green Scholarships' on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 at the fifth edition of the ceremony by the chief guests, Dr Arun Firodia, Chairman, Kinetic Group and Dr Jayashree Firodia and Ms. Parimal Chaudhari, the Managing Trustee, Praj Foundation.

As part of its organizational commitment to Social Responsibility, Praj Foundation has been jointly implementing "Environment Awareness & Conservation" programme with the M. E. S's Rani Laxmibai Mulinchi Sainiki Shala for last 5 years. Rani Laxmibai Mulinchi Sainiki Shala, a residential school at Kasar Amboli, Mulshi Taluka, has more than 500 girl students. Praj Foundation instituted the Praj Foundation Green Scholarships in 2010 to recognize efforts of the most-environment friendly students.

Round the year, performance of the students in environment conservation activities is documented and finalists are selected on the basis of the final interviews conducted jointly by members of Praj Foundation and school staff.

For the year 2013-14, Dhamdhare Priya Avinash of class 9th achieved the first position receiving a scholarship of Rs. 30,000, followed by Bhamare Chanchal Vijay, Karamalakar Srushti Tushar, Shirke Rutuja Chandrashekhar and Kulakarni Madhhavi Ajay. The total scholarship amount is Rs. 1,00,000.

Various other 'Green initiatives' are undertaken throughout the year by the students of the Rani Laxmibai Mulinchi Sainiki Shala to qualify for the Praj awards. Some of the green activities conducted by the girl students include:

- Converting the biodegradable waste from the hostel mess into the compost and use it for organic vegetable gardening for the use in the hostel kitchen

- Planting and nurturing more than 500 trees under the ‘One-Tree-One-Student’ programme
- Competitive activities such as the ‘Best from Waste’; slogans writing; drawing competitions etc.
- Carry out cleanliness drive around the school campus and instill environment awareness among the students & residents of the nearby villages

Announcing the scholarships, **Ms. Parimal Chaudhari, Managing Trustee, Praj Foundation**, said, *“I am happy that we at Praj Foundation are able to encourage young students by way of the ‘Green Scholarship Awards’. Youth is the future of our country and by sensitizing them towards environmental conservation, we can assure a better tomorrow for generations to come. In the last few years, we have seen that the enthusiasm amongst the students towards green environment is growing, which is certainly a positive indicator. Through Praj Foundation we motivate not only the youth but also the citizens at large to instill a progressive change in the society.”*

**About Praj Foundation:**

Praj Foundation was established in 2004 to give expression to the sensitivities of Praj employees and family members towards societal responsibilities. While this was already happening in the Company, Praj Foundation helped put all its social impact activities under one roof with a clearly stated objective. The idea was to create areas of focus within the ambit of its social activities that would best reflect the strengths of the company.

MsParimalChaudhari, Managing Trustee, Praj Foundation, acknowledges that it is the combined effort of all concerned and interested members of the organization who worked on social projects even before she took over the role of the Managing Trustee.

Praj Foundation conceives innovative projects that serves the Foundation’s objectives and implements these projects with the help of voluntary agencies and other organizations. Praj Foundation also works towards setting protocols and monitoring of projects and carries out impact analysis of all the projects.

For more information, visit <http://www.praj.net/praj-foundation.html>

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