

Pratham Program Visits: Frequently Asked Questions

What can we expect from the visit?

The purpose of a site visit is to provide interested supporters with the opportunity to witness the impactful work by Pratham in various locations across India. You will have the opportunity to interact with beneficiaries and stakeholders, including students, parents, community members, and Pratham staff.

Depending on the time of your visit, you may also have the chance to observe or participate in any ongoing program activities in the community or in school. Kindly note, the activities in communities are held in various spaces that were chosen on the basis of availability and convenience for the program participants with respect to distance. Such spaces might be local community centers, religious centers, people's homes and even open spaces.

What are some recommended practices for the visit?

Please do:

- Carry essentials such as water bottles to stay hydrated during the visit.
- Wear comfortable clothing appropriate for the weather, taking into account the time of year and current conditions.
- Wear comfortable footwear suitable for walking as you will be required to walk short distances during your visit.

During a program visit, we kindly request that you do not:

Take photos or videos without obtaining written consent from the individuals involved. Respecting privacy and cultural sensitivities is paramount during interactions with beneficiaries and community members.

Offer financial assistance directly to members of the community. We endeavor to ensure that any support to community members is managed respectfully and equitably in a dignified manner through our established programs.

How can I arrange a visit to a Pratham program?

To organize a visit, kindly [complete the form](#) provided on our website. After submitting the form, you will receive a follow-up email from us. This email will contain detailed information about the program and relevant requirements related to your visa information, if applicable.

What information do I need to provide when filling out the site visit form?

In addition to contact information, we will also request details such as:

- Preferred dates and locations for your visit
- Any specific requirements or special accommodations you may need

Can individuals traveling on a tourist visa participate in the program visit?

Unfortunately, due to changes in the policies by the Ministry of External Affairs, individuals traveling on a tourist visa will not be able to participate in our program visits. According to the latest regulations, only individuals with an Indian passport, a business visa, or an OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) card can take part in the site visit. This requirement is in place to ensure compliance with government regulations and to facilitate a smooth visit experience for all participants.

Can I customize my program visit to focus on specific aspects of Pratham's work?

Absolutely! We understand that each visitor may have different interests and priorities. We will work with you to tailor your visit to focus on the aspects of Pratham's work that matter most to you.

What programs can I observe during my visit?

During your visit, you will have the opportunity to observe various Pratham programs such as our Hamara Gaon, early childhood education, vocational training, and Second Chance programs. These programs are designed to address different aspects of education and skill development among children and young people in India.

Can I visit multiple Pratham program locations during one visit?

Depending on the availability of time and resources, it may be possible to arrange visits to multiple Pratham program locations during a single trip. Please indicate your interest in visiting multiple locations when completing the visit request form, and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

What are the site visit options available in and around the major cities of India?

While Pratham programs are present in 20+ states of India, some of the options in and around major cities are listed below:

In and around Mumbai: We have several vocational training centers spread across Mumbai and its vicinity, including Chembur, Panvel (Navi Mumbai), and Dombivli, each offering various courses. Additionally, our center in Navi Mumbai (Panvel) focuses on traditional training courses such as automotive (four-wheeler) and plumbing, while Chembur offers courses in graphic design, healthcare, etc. To observe the Second Chance program, you can visit Pimpri in Pune. You can also explore our flagship program, Hamara Gaon, in Mumbai, Nashik, and Pune.

In and around Delhi: In Delhi, our early childhood education program is running in North Shahdara, while the vocational training center is located in Noida. Additionally, Jaipur, conveniently accessible from New Delhi, offers opportunities to witness our flagship program, Hamara Gaon.

In and around Bangalore: In Bangalore, our flagship education program, Hamara Gaon, operates in Devanahalli, near the airport. We also run an early childhood education program in two blocks of Mysore, namely T Narasipura and Nanjangud. Our state office is situated in Mysore for further inquiries and coordination.

Is there any cost associated with arranging a visit?

Pratham does not impose any charges for arranging program visits. However, any expenses related to your visit, such as transportation or accommodation, will be your responsibility to organize and cover.

Can I bring stationery, toys, or other items for the program beneficiaries?

Yes, you are welcome to bring stationery, toys, or other items for the program beneficiaries. Please coordinate with us prior to your visit if you wish to bring any items for beneficiaries. We can provide you with relevant beneficiary information, like the approximate number of children and their age group. We appreciate your generosity and support.

Can I bring a group for a program visit?

We welcome group visits from families or connections for those interested in learning more about our work. To arrange a visit that suits your needs, please fill out the visit request form at least 2-3 weeks before the planned visit date and specify the size of your group and any specific interests or requirements. We'll work with you to ensure your visit is a success.

How long does a typical program visit last?

The duration of a program visit can vary depending on your interests, the specific programs you wish to observe, and other factors. Generally, visits last anywhere from 3-5 hours to a full day.

Recommended timing for visiting specific programs:

- **Skilling Program:** The best time to visit is around 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- **Learning Camp Visit (Hamara Gaon Program—School Activity):** For observing learning camp activities in schools, the recommended time is 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- **Community Visit (Hamara Gaon Program):** To experience community activities, the ideal time to visit is from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- **Second Chance Program:** To witness the Second Chance program in action, we recommend visiting between 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Are visits available on weekends or holidays?

No, we do not schedule site visits on Sundays or Indian national holidays because the schools are closed and our staff aren't available.

Will transportation be provided for the program visit?

Transportation to and from the program site is not provided as part of the visit. However, we can offer guidance and assistance in arranging transportation if needed. Please let us know if you require assistance with transportation when scheduling your visit, and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

How far in advance should I request a visit?

We suggest that you submit your visit request at least ten days prior to your visit plan. This will allow us enough time to arrange the visit and fulfill any of your specific requirements. In case you reach out to us a few months in advance with the site visit request, we can only send you the confirmation three weeks before the actual date.

How and to whom do I provide feedback for the observations made during the site?

Relevant Pratham staff will be in touch with you to receive your feedback within 15 days after your visit. They will guide you through the process and ensure that your insights and observations are effectively communicated to our team. Your feedback is invaluable to us, and we greatly appreciate your time and input in helping us enhance our initiatives.

Are there any volunteering opportunities with Pratham during or post the site visit?

Yes, there are several ways to be involved with Pratham beyond your program visit, including, volunteering, fundraising, advocacy, and spreading awareness about our work. We welcome your continued support in any capacity that aligns with your interests and abilities. After your visit, you can share your experiences and any material or images obtained during the visit with our team. This helps us showcase the impact of our programs and inspire others to support our cause.

Due to various reasons like language difference, availability of staff and paucity of time, we are unable to offer any volunteering opportunities during site visits. Our current volunteering programs are structured for young adults through the Pratham Youth Summer Program, wherein a selected group of applicants are hosted at Pratham's site location for a 10-day period during the months of July and August. For more information on this program, please [visit our website](#).

Also, any voluntary contributions or donations to support our initiatives are greatly appreciated and help us continue our mission of improving learning outcomes for children and empowering young people across India.

How can I learn more about Pratham's work before arranging a visit?

You can [explore our website](#) to learn more about Pratham's various programs, impact stories, and overall mission. You can also contact us at info@prathamusa.org with any

specific questions or inquiries. We're always happy to provide more information!