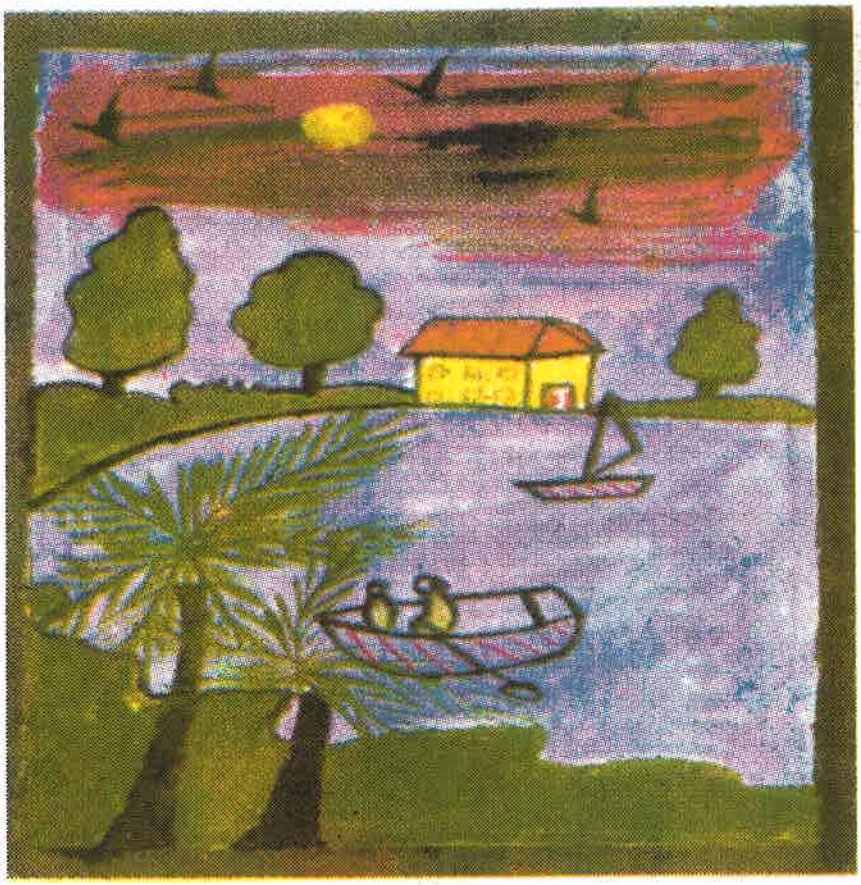
PRAYAS

SOCIAL WORK IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE



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The Tata Institute of Social Sciences

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Mumbai Central Workshop Tel No.300 53 29
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PRAYAS STAFF STRUCTURE

PRISON UNIT

Mumbai Central Prison

Male Section - Sudhakar Babu, Devchand Randive

Female Section - Surekha Sale, Hussana Khan, Aruna Angre

Byculla District Prison

Male Section - Sunil Mhaske

Kalyan District Prison

Male Section - Murlidhar Jagtap

Female Section - Varsha Lad, Salma Naik, Vishakha More

Thane Central Prison

Male Section - Suryakant Mane

Bharuch Sub-Jail (Gujarat)

Male Section - Vithalbhai Solanki

Female Section - Krupa Shah

COURT AND LEGAL AID

Chandrakant Shinde

POLICE STATION UNIT

C. S. T. Railway Police Station – Sangeeta Gawali

Bharuch Police Station (Gujarat) – Krupa Shah

PROSTITUTION UNIT

Protective Home – Babita Salvi

Spl. Juvenile Home – Vasanti Jadhav

Training, Income-Generation & Rehab Centre - Pramila Jadhav, Shobha Shelar, Subhash Tupe, Shankar Pokharkar

AFTERCARE UNIT

Male Section – Vikas Kadam

Female Section - Pradnya Shinde

ADMINISTRATION UNIT

Vijay More, Yallubai Naik

RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION UNIT

T. S. Devayani, Sheron Menezes

POLICY AND ADVOCACY UNIT

Rajesh Ingle, Silvin Kale

NETWORKING AND TRAINING UNIT

Chanda Jadhav, Penelope Tong

PROJECT DIRECTOR

Vijay Raghavan

PROJECT ADVISOR

Dr. Sanober Shekar

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

➢ FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- **Charitable Trusts and Funding Organisations/Groups**

R. D. Tata Trust
Concern India Foundation
Rotary Club of Bombay Mandvi
Roshanlal Aggarwal Foundation
Ammada Trust
Gyanada Education Trust, Bharuch
Globarena, Hyderabad
Bai Freni and Seth Feli Meherji Variala Charitable Trust
His Holiness Dr. Syedna Taher Saifuddin Memorial Foundation

- **Corporate Sector**

H.D.F.C.
Godrej Industries Ltd.

- **Government Support**

Central Social Welfare Board

- **Individuals**

Adv. Ashok Sutrale
Shri S.S. Vaishampaien
Shri. S. N. Balla
Shri Dattatraya V. Shrigiri
Smt. N. Atmaram
Smt. Rita Varma
Smt. Mallamma P. Annaldasula
Smt. Kulkarni

➢ ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Tata Institute of Social Sciences:

- The Director
- The Registrar
- Faculty and students of Social Work Departments
- Accounts, Personnel, Purchase, Stores and Maintenance Sections
- E.D.P., Audio-Visual and Publications Units
- The Library
- Telephone Operators

➢ ADVISORY SUPPORT

Justice Shri C. S. Dharmadhikari (Retd.)

FIELD SUPPORT

- **Government Bodies**

National Human Rights Commission
National Commission for Women
Maharashtra State Women's Commission
Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission
Central Social Welfare Board
Maharashtra State Social Welfare Advisory Board
Juvenile Welfare Board, Mumbai

- **Field Based Organisations: Government and Voluntary**

- **Shelter Homes**

Ashray - Snehasadan
Asha Sadan
Shri Manav Seva Sangh
Sukh Shanti
Vatsalya
Jyothis Terminal Centre
Bapnu Ghar
Nagpada Neighborhood House
St. Catherine Home
Asmita - Snehadadan
Kasturba Mahila Vasatigruh
Saathi, Mumbai
Ghar Ho To Aisa (Yuva)
Bandra East Community Centre
Sneha Jeevan Kendra

- **Information And Guidance**

Avehi
Apnalaya
Sankalp
ACT
Majlis
Suvarna Jayanti Sharari Rojgar Yojana

- **Community Based Services**

Meljol
C.C.D.T.
Childline
Salvation Army REF
Support
CARAT (TISS)
Maitri
Prerana
Samaritans
Family Welfare Agency
Amchi Kholi
Bal Anand
Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation
Special Cell for Women & Children (TISS)
Turbhe Health Project (TISS), Navi Mumbai

- **Vocational Training**

  Apnalaya Para Professional Training
  Abhinav Technical Institute
  Maharashtra Vyavasaya Margadarshan Kendra
  Project Mainstreem
  Spastic Society of India
  Life Learing Experiences

- **Medical Treatment**

  J. J. Hospital (Psychiatric ward)
  K.E.M. Hospital (Psychiatric ward)
  Poddar Hospital
  Sion Hospital (Psychiatric ward)
  Thane Mental Hospital
  Nair Hospital

- **Networking (NGOs, District Officials and Individuals)**

  Saathi, Pune
  Navjeevan Mandal, Pune
  Sanlaap, Calcutta
  STREE, Ananthapura, A.P.
  Dr. M. M. Murtuza, Lucknow
  Ms. Shadab Bano, SADA, M.P.
  Mr. Vincy Albuquer, Freedom Foundation, A.P.
  Ms. Arlene Rego, Bangalore
  Ms. Sushiladevi, RISE, Tirupathi
  Mr. Gopal Krishnamurthy, Acadamy of Gandhian Study, Tirupathi
  Ms. Hema Bedi, Youth India Project, A.P.
  Ms . Renuka Shastri, Deputy Director, National Police Academy, Hyderabad
  Act ion Aid, New Delhi
  Shri Kishor Sarpotdar
  Shri Rajanikant Mishra, DIG, Muradabad Range
  Shri Avinash Chandra, S. P., Mirzapur
  Shri P. K. Joshi, S.P., Uttaranchal
  Ms. Seema Lal, Tha Banyan, Chennai
  Dr. Sunitha, Prajawala, A.P.
  Odanadi Seva Trust, Karnataka
  Ms. Ashahej Patil, Suerintendent, Karnataka State Home
  Ms. Roma Debabrata, President, STOP, Delhi
  Ms. Renu Thakur, ARPAN, Uttaranchal
  Maiti Nepal
  Ms. Salma Ali, Bangaladesh

- **Individuals**

Shri Harish Sadani
Ms. Anjali Gokarn
Shri Satish Shetty
Shri Vikrambhai (Alka Embroidary)
Dr. Machiswala
Prof. Varke
Shir Firoz Irani
Dr. Janki Andharia
Shri Ranjit Kumar
Ms. Jyoti Dutt
Shri Devendra (Saubhaya Vastu Bhandar)
Shri Ludwina Coutinho
Dr. Pragji Vija
Ms. Divya Jain
Shri Suresh Patel (Sonali Matching)
Dr. Nilesh Shah
Shri Abbal Singh
Smt. Bhagwat
Dr. Mouleshri Vyas
Shri Anil Shrivastava,
Shri S.K. Ravi

- **Visitors/Fieldwork/Block Placement with Prayas**

College of Social Work (Extension Centre), Mumbai - 10 students
Institute of Management Research & Technology, Nashik – 30 students
Smt. Maniben M. P. Shah Women's College of Arts & Commerce – 25 students
National Academy of Legal Studies and Research, Hyderabad - 2 students
The Social Service Legal, Mumbai – 2 students
Tata Institute of Social Sciences (MPSW Dept) – 2, (CCA Dept) – 6 students

➢ **GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

Maharashtra Government

- Department of Women and Child Development
Shri Vasudev Gorde, Principal Secretary
Shri Panchbhai, Deputy Secretary
Shri C. Turkar, Under Secretary
Shri N. S. Bhavsar, Probation Superintendent
Smt. Smita Pawanikar, Probation Superintendent
Ms. Mayekar, Superintendent, Protective Home for Women
Ms. Patil, Superintendent, Special Juvenile Home
Shri A. K. Shelar, District Officer, Mumbai
Ms. Asha Mukundan, Project Officer
Shri Thombre, District Probation Officer, Thane
Shri Vichare, District Probation Officer, Mumbai
Probation Officers, Medical Officers, Vocational Instructors, Caretaking and other staff of Protective Home and Special Juvenile Home
Officers and staff of the Probation Department in Mumbai and Thane

- **Department of Social Justice**

  Shri Suresh Kumar, Principal Secretary

- **Department of Law and Judiciary**

  Shri S. R. Dongaonkar, Secretary and Senior Legal Advisor
  Shri Gawai, Deputy Secretary
  Shri Tukrul, Ex-superintendent, Brihanmumbai Legal Services Authority
  Shri Pimple, Field Officer, Brihanmumbai Sub-urban Legal Services Authority
  Shri Lad, Administrative Officer, Brihanmumbai Legal Services Authority
  Shri Tendulkar, Superintendent, Brihanmumbai Legal Services Authority

- **Home Department**

  Shri Asoke Basak, Addl. Chief Secretary
  Shri Mukhopadhyaya, Secretary (Jails and Transport)
  Shri. H.B.Tayade, Deputy Secretary
  Shri. S.S. Supe and Shri.S.M.Mane, Desk officers

- **Maharashtra Police**

  Shri Subhashchandra Malhotra, Director General
  Shri T.K. Chowdhary, Addl. D.G. (Admn)
  Smt. Sridevi Goyal, former D.I.G. (PAW)
  Smt. Meera Borwankar, D.I.G., C.B.I. (EOW)

- **Mumbai Police**

  Shri M. N. Singh, Commissioner
  Shri Ahmed Javed, Joint Commissioner (Law & Order)
  D.C.P.s of Zone II, IV and V
  Officers and staff of Zones II, IV and V
  Shri Ahmed, Sr. P.I., Sion Police Station
  Shri Shirish Inmadar, Sr. P.I. Social Service Branch
  Shri Gundewali, P.I. (Crime), Dadar Police Station
  Senior Inspectors and staff of Nagpada, V.P. Road, D.B. Marg, Mahim, D. N. Nagar and Chembur Police Stations

- **Government Railway Police, Mumbai**

  Shri S. Chakravarty, Special I.G.
  Shri Rakesh Maria, Commissioner
  Shri Khopkar, P. A. to the Commissioner
  Shri R. S. Tadvi, former Senior P.I., C.S.T. Railway Police Station
  Shri R. D. Shinde, Sr. P.I., Kalyan Railway Police Station
  Senior Inspector of Police and staff of C.S.T. Railway Police Station
  Senior Inspector of Police & staff of Central & Western Railway Police Stations.

- **Prison Department**

  Shri T. Singarvel, Additional D.G. and former I.G.
  Shri Rajawade, I. G. Prisons
  Shri Ashok Kinninge, D.I.G. (Southern Region)
  Shri G. Vettikunnel, Research Officer
  Shri Kishore Mahure, Superintendent, Mumbai Central Prison
  Shri Nikam, Sr. Jailor, Mumbai Central Prison
  Shri B. S. Swami, Sr. Jailor, Byculla District Prison
  Ms. Swati Sathe, Superintendent, Byculla District Prison
  Shri Dhamne, Superintendent, Kalyan District Prison
  Shri C. S. Shiwale, Sr. Jailor, Kalyan District Prison
  Shri R.B.Mahale, Superindendent, Thane Central Prison
  Shri Kale, Sr. Jailor, Thane Central Prison
  Shri Bhosle, Deputy Superintendent, Thane
  Ms. Palavi Kadam, Jailor, Yerawada Central Prison (Female Section)
  Jailors, Judicial Section and Guarding staff of Mumbai Central, Byculla District, Kalyan District and Thane Central Prisons.

- **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation**

  Ms. Jyoti Pandya, Chief Community Development Officer
  Shri Rajendra Sonawane, C.D.O.
  Shri Ashok Mohite, C.D.O.

- **Hon'ble Members of the Judiciary, Mumbai**

  Hon'ble Justice Shri A.S.Aguiar, Mumbai High Court
  Hon'ble Shri Abhay Thipsay, Addl. Sessions Judge, City Civil & Sessions Court
  Hon'ble Shri M. L. Tahiliyani, Addl. Sessions Judge, City Civil & Sessions Court
  Hon'ble Shri M. N. Geelani, Additional Registrar, Mumbai High Court
  Hon'ble Shri T.V.Nalawade, former Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Mumbai
  Hon'ble Shri P.M. Bansod, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate
  Hon'ble Shri C.L.Thool, Additional C.M.M., Esplanade Court
  Hon'ble Shri P.J.Shah, Metropolitan Magistrate, Esplanade Court
  Hon'ble Shri M.R. Puranik, Metropolitan Magistrate, Esplanade Court
  Hon'ble Shri Jagiasi, Metropolitan Magistrate Esplanade Court
  Hon'ble Shri S. Pednekar, Registrar, Office of the C.M.M., Esplanade Court
  Hon'ble Shri Taware, Additional C.M.M., Bandra Court
  Hon'ble Shri M.W. Nayak, Metropolitan Magistrate, Borivali Court
  Hon'ble Shri Mhaske, Metropolitan Magistrate, Vikhroli Court
  Hon'ble Shri Borikar, Judge, Palghar Sessions Court
  Hon'ble Shri Pawar, C.J.M., Thane
  Hon'ble Shri Vaishnav, Metropolitan Magistrate, Panvel Court

- **Government Law College, Mumbai**

  Prof. Ms. Parimala Rao, Principal
  Prof. Ms. Chugani, Project In-Charge, Prison Legal Guidance Project
  Shri Kunal Vajani, Student Coordinator
  Ms. Sweta Gabhawala

- **Advocates**

  Shri Ashok Sutrale
  Ms. Amina Iqbal
  Shri R. Satyanarayan
  Ms. Rohini Wagh
  Shri V. S. Joshi
  Shri Gangadhar Shinde
  Shri Ramakant B. Yadav
  Shri N.N. Gawankar
  Shri Rajesh Asmar
  Shri Manoj Mhatre
  Shri Prajapati
  Smt Padma Patil
  Shri Hitendra Mhatre
  Shri Chetan Bane
  Shri Milind R. Deshpande
  Shri Hitendra Mhatre
  Ms. Mahrukh Adenwala
  Ms. Anita Kewalramni
  Shri Prasad Iyer
  Shri Atul Wagh
  Shri Ashok Sahani
  Shri P.S. Singh
  Ms. Chitra Bagarka
  Shri H. R. Hanchate
  Shri Sanjay Kumar
  Shri Sunil Lasure
  Shri Prakash Patil
  Shri M. M. Parkar
  Shri D. M. Patil
  Shri Harshal Patil
  Ms.Shri Sunanda Barve
  Shri Anand B. Mali
  Shri Hahire

Bharuch Unit

- **Government Departments and Officials**

  Shri B.B. Swain, former District Collector

- **Police**

  Shri C.R. Parmar, former District Superintendent
  Shri Natwarsingh Solanki, former District Superintendent
  Shri M.D. Antani, District Superintendent
  Shri G.N. Chavda, former Police Inspector, 'A' Division Police Station
  Shri Aziz Sindi, Police Inspector, 'A' Division Police Station
  All Police Inspectors and staff of City 'A' Division Police Station

- **Prisons**

  Shri R. N. Bhattacharya, I.P.S., DGP and I. G. of Prisons, Gujarat State
  Shri C.K. Patel, Superintendent, Bharuch Sub-Jail
  Shri M.D. Doshi, Jailor
  Shri H.R. Parghi, Senior Clerk
  Staff of Bharuch Sub-Jail

- **Juvenile Justice**

  Shri Bharatbhai Thakkar, Superintendent, Observation Home

- **Judiciary**

  Hon'ble Shri R.D. Kothari, District and Sessions Judge
  District Legal Service Authority

- **Advocates**

  Shri K.R. Joshi
  Ms. Purvi Ghanoa

- **Field Organisations**

  Shri Mohammed Farsiwala, Bharuch Welfare Hospital
  Mahila Kanooni Salah Kendra
  Centre for Social Justice
  Fr. M.V. Joseph, Free Legal Aid Office, Ankleshwar
  Shri Sharma, Manav Seva Kendra, Kandvi

All Clients of Prayas and their Families

Prayas at Glance

- **Membership in Official Committees**

1. Police – TISS Committee on Need for a Cadre of Trained Social Worker in Criminal Justice System
2. Mumbai Inter Department Sub-Committee on Under-trial Prisoners and Rehabilitation of Released Prisoners
3. Maharashtra State Inter Department Committee on Under-trial Prisoners & Rehabilitation of Released Prisoners
4. Guidance & Monitoring Committee of Special Juvenile Home (for rescue minor girls)
5. State Advisory Committee for Rescue and Rehabilitation of Commercially and Sexually Exploited Minors and Women
6. Co-Management Committee on Rescue & Rehabilitation of Women & Children setup by the Maharashtra State Women's Commission
7. Lok – Adalat Committee in Metropolitan Court of Mumbai
8. Mahila Dakshata Samitee of Mumbai Police

- **Prayas Publication**

1. Forced Separation : Children of Imprisoned Mothers

- **Research Projects**

1. Initiatives in Rescue & Rehabilitation of Women in Prostitution (Part sponsored by the National Commission for Women)
2. Follow-up study of Girls Released from Children's Institutions
3. Rehabilitation needs of Women & Children – to be undertaken (Sponsored by the NHRC/DWCD, Govt. of India)

- **Minor Studies**

1. Legal Problems Faced by Women Under-Trial Prisoners in Mumbai and Kalyan (On behalf of Maharashtra IDC)
2. Situation of Women & Girls Staying on Railway Premises in Mumbai
3. Study of Burn Victim Cases in Ghatkoper Police Station
4. Cases Eligible under Probation of Offenders Act and Borstal School Act in Mumbai and Thane Prisons

- **Notes Submitted to Government and Official Bodies**

1. Concept Note on Inter Departmental Committee to Govt. Of Maharashtra
2. Policy Note on Rehabilitation of Youth & Women in Criminal Justice to the Home Department, Government of Maharashtra (for an Inter Departmental Meeting Chair by the Minister of State for Home in 1992)

3. Problems Faced by Women Prisoners & Children of Prisoners to the Maharshtra IDC & the Department of Women & Child Development, GOM
4. Role of Police in Prevention and Rescue of Women and Girls in Prostitution to Mumbai Police
5. Problems Faced by Women & Male Youth Prisoners & Need for a Rehabilitation Policy to Prison Department (for a meeting called in Nagpur by them on 'Challenges before the Prison Ad ministration')
6. Note on Women Prisoners & Children of Prisoners submitted to Secretary Women & Child Development, GOM for State Policy on Women
7. Need for Temporary Shelter Released Prisoners to Department of Women and Child Development

- **Meetings with Official Delegations**

1. National Commission for Women
2. State Commission for Women
3. National Human Rights Commission
4. State Human Rights Commission
5. Parliamentary Committee on Empowerment of Women
6. National Committee on Probation Services

- **Involvement in Public Interest Litigations**

1. Shabnam Minwalla V/s State of Maharashtra (Suo moto writ petition)
2. Public at Large V/s State of Maharashtra (Suo moto writ petition)
3. R. D. Upadhayay V/s State of Andhra Pradesh and Others

CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

The year gone by was in some senses, a continuation of reflection and review that we started in the previous year. As a consequence of this process, some changes have been effected at the field level, along with consolidation of ideas and the emergence of a plan of action for the coming years. This has also been a period where there has been a growing realization about the need to mobilize resources through self-generating avenues in the long run.

In terms of geographical changes, we expanded our work in prison to include the Women's Section of Kalyan District Prison. We restarted our balwadi in Mumbai Central Prison and started a new balwadi in Kalyan. Our collaboration with Government Law College was expanded to include giving legal guidance to under trial prisoners at Byculla Prison. Our Court worker was appointed on the Committee of the Mumbai District Legal Services Authority.

As far as police station work is concerned, we gave a break to our intervention at Chembur and Mahim police station. We shifted our production workshop into the newly started Mumbai Central Women's Centre for Training and Income Generation. We moved two of our senior workers in new positions – one to look into networking and training and the other to identify legal issues within the framework of rehabilitation of persons affected by crime or prostitution, and to create a legal resource centre on correctional laws, judgements relating to under trial prisoners and rescued women/girls from prostitution, etc.

We have been actively participating in the meetings of the Mumbai High Court appointed Guidance and Monitoring Committee for the Special Juvenile Home (for rescued minors) and raising issues related to vocational training and repatriation. We have had several meetings with the staff of Protective Home, officials of the Women and Child Development Department, police and judiciary to tone up the rescue and rehabilitation process of women in prostitution.

The meetings of the Inter-Departmental Committee for Undertrial Prisoners and Released Prisoners at Mantralaya and Mumbai levels have made considerable progress in terms of the issues being taken up through these forums. We may remind readers that these Committees were set up by the Government of Maharashtra in pursuance of the orders of the Mumbai High Court (Suo Moto Writ Petition No 8 of 1994 with No. 1103 of 1994), in which Prayas has been given the status of an invitee member.

We appointed a new worker for documentation and moved two of our workers to consolidate our research on prostitution. We published our first book on the situation of children of prisoners and made an intervention in an on-going Supreme Court petition on the subject (R. D. Upadhyaya V/s State of A. P. and Others, 1994).

We report the sad demise of two of our clients, which has led to a major overhaul of our aftercare process.

II. PRISON UNIT

A. BYCULLA DISTRICT PRISON

The year saw the consolidation of our work in prison. Our intervention in **Byculla District Prison** was to focus on problems of prisoners arrested or convicted for petty offences – ticketless travelling, hawking, railway offences, theft, pickpocketing, etc. One of our senior prison workers was asked to start this work. The situation in Byculla Prison is as follows:

Most prisoners in this prison are under trials arrested under the IPC, Bombay Police Act, Railway Property Unlawful Possession Act and Indian Railway Act. They have been arrested for housebreaking and/or theft, pick-pocketing, chain-snatching, ticketless traveling, hawking on railway premises, possession of stolen property, possession of weapons, behaving in a suspicious manner, etc.

Majority of the prisoners are migrants coming from U.P., Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, etc. and do not have their families living in Mumbai. They do not have a fixed place of residence or a regular employment. They come to Mumbai in search of employment and/or making a better life for themselves. They may possess skills like carpentry, masonry, motor repairing, etc. Some of them were working as casual labour earning daily wages on an irregular basis at the time of their arrest.

Those with local roots live with their families but have relationship problems with their family members. Their socio-economic background ranges from poor to lower-middle class. These youth have higher but unfulfilled aspirations. They lack concrete skills to earn a regular livelihood in Mumbai. The family situation is charecterised by presence of a conflict situation at home, usually with their father, leading to dependance on friends for emotional support.

One group in prison, mostly consisting of repeaters and habitual offenders, has life-style related behaviour problems – addictions, living on streets and railway stations and occasionally resorting to stealing railway property to sustain their addictive behaviour.

Those in prison for ticketless traveling and illegal hawking cannot be termed as 'criminals' – many of them are imprisoned for periods ranging from one week to one month due to their inability to pay the fines imposed in them. Most of them come from the poorer sections of society and their legal processing is a consequence of livelihood issues. They are either casual workers living on railway premises or hawkers who come to the railway premises to sell their wares.

They are part of the unorganized work force in this country and are often forced to view this kind of processing as an occupational hazard. Imprisonment of this group can have serious negative consequences on their lives. They may lose their work or livelihood, and may not have the capital to start all over again. Their support systems being weak, imprisonment and exposure to negative influences in prison could increase their vulnerability to crime. Our workers have come across cases of persons coming in illegal hawking for a few times and later coming for theft related offences to prison. In situations

like this, the role of the criminal justice system in the criminalisation of non-criminal poverty groups comes into question.

There is an urgent need to look into alternative sentencing policies for such groups. The Probation of Offenders Act, which has provisions of release on admonition or a surety bond, could be looked as an option to deal with such offences. This will also decongest the prison and prevent avoidable criminalisation of an essentially working class population.

During the course of work, Prayas took up the issue of sentencing policy of fine-sentence cases. It was found that the magistrate in CST Railway Court was awarding longer periods of sentences to those convicted for ticketless traveling. This was leading to unnecessary over crowding of the prison, apart from the hardship caused to the prisoners concerned. Along with the Government Law College students, we approached the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate to bring this matter to his notice. The C.M.M. took immediate action on it and this led to smaller sentences (of up to one week) being awarded to these offenders.

The real issue here is of persons being tried summarily, with no right to self-defence. These cases come under the purview of petty offences u/s 260 of Cr.P.C. – otherwise known as summary trial matters. In these cases, the trial is held summarily i.e. without a proper trial and the person being charged under the case does not get a chance to defend himself. The fine and sentence in lieu of the fine is decided in an arbitrary manner (on the discretion of the magistrate).

The moot question here is also whether imprisonment in lieu of a fine is the right policy. Such a policy disrupts the person's life and leads to overcrowding of prisons. In England, for example, there is category of offences called non-imprisonable offences, where the sentence is either a fine or community service in lieu of the fine. Such a change in policy would require an amendment in the Cr.P.C. if the railway Board recommends such a change. This an area for further research and study by legal advocacy groups and bodies such as Law Commissions and the Human Rights Commissions.

Byculla Prison also has another category of inmates - those convicted in civil cases for default of matrimonial decrees (maintenance, restitution of conjugal rights), and payment in civil suits. In these cases, the worker has sometimes been requested to contact their families or simply 'listening' to their side of the story. There is little else that the worker can do in such matters.

Type of services

The work in prison consists of providing legal guidance and aid, writing applications, contacting the families through home visits, phone calls and letters, counseling, conducting recreational activities, short-term training programmes and group sessions on addictions.

The first effort of the worker is to convince the prisoners and their families towards mutual rapproachment – if this succeeds, the load on Prayas after their release is

considerably reduced. Counselling and group sessions is focused towards helping the client group realize the futility of leading an addictive lifestyle. The worker tries to motivate the client to take responsibility for his life and acquire a skill helpful in economic sustenance.

Those in for fine-sentence cases are helped to deal with the psychological impact of imprisonment and to contact their families/friends who can pay the fine amount (for their early release).

Various educational cum short training programmes have been arranged in Youth (Baba) Barrack. The objective behind organizing such programmes is to educate and create awareness among the inmates about livelihood options and the same time engage them in constructive activity as a response to their leisure and 'idle' time. This also helps to counter the negative influences in prison and create a positive environment inside.

- Suvarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana

The Community Development Officer of the B.M.C. implementing the central government training and self-emplyment scheme for youth from below poverty line groups (SJSRY) was requested to visit the prison to give information about the said scheme and understand the procedures to access the same. The C.D.O. gave information to the prisoners about the two fold scheme which has provision for free vocational training and a loan component to start a small business enterprise.

- Demonstration on Small Business Enterprise

As a part of training in manufacturing small items like agarbati, candle, chalk making, photo lamination, Neral Business Centre had organised two-day training cum demontration programme inside the Baba Barrack. 40 inmates participated in the training and received certificates for the same.

- Health Awareness Programme

Prayas organised a programme on the effects of tobbaco and 'guthka' chewing on health with the help of AVEHI. The programme consisted of an audio-visual show followed by a discussion on the subject.

Case Illustrations

SV: A resident of a slum near Mahim Station, SV was a painter by profession. Last summer, he went to his village and on coming back, found his hut demolished by the railway authority. Having been rendered homeless, he started sleeping in the station. One night, he was arrested by the railway police on the charge of ticketless travelling. He was awarded Rs. 100/- fine and in default, seven days simple imprisonment. He didn't have the money and so came to prison.

SV simply could not comprehend why the police put him in to the prison, when in his opinion, he had not commited any offence. He expressed his resentment to the other

inmates by saying that if one could land up in prison for no fault of his, it was better to commit a crime. The inmates informed the social worker about his feelings of injustice and how the same could make him potential criminal. The social worker met SV and after regular intervention, helped him to resolve his conflict. He was carrying the feeling of stigma of imprisonment and felt that he would not get the job of painting anymore. He was also having a problem of shelter.

After his release, the social worker assured him temporary shelter. He was admitted to the YUVA-CHILDLINE shelter home (Ghar Ho To Aisa) and he was able to find painting work by himself.

2. Ram C: RC was a seventeen year old boy, arrested under the charge of stealing a motor bike along with his friend. At the time of arrest, he was working in households as a domestic. His elder brother was a autorickshaw driver. According to RC, he had not stolen the bike. He confessed that he used 'pick up' others' bikes for the sheer pleasure and thrill of driving. On contacting his employer, the social worker found that he was willing to bail RC out. However, by then, he had already spent nine months as an undertrial and his case had come up for trial. The social worker requested the magistrate concerned to consider his case for the benefit of probation. Based on the probation officer's report, RC was released on probation. He returned to work after his release.

B. MUMBAI CENTRAL PRISON

YOUNG MALE SECTION

Work in the **Young Male Section of Mumbai Central Prison** was consolidated with the addition of one more worker in the Male Section and the re-starting of the Balwadi in the Women's Section. The addition in the Male Section was done on the basis of analysis of past work with the youth offenders in prison. The analysis indicated that work with youth offenders in prison could be categorized into local and upcountry cases to work in a more focused manner. It also showed that our worker in prison had developed his expertise in building his rapport with upcountry cases and understood their needs better. Therefore, a worker was now appointed to focus only on the local cases. This bifurcation of work has shown the following trends:

Most of the upcountry cases are arrested in serious offences – housebreaking, theft, robbery, attempt to murder, murder, kidnapping, rape, etc. Their families are based in rural areas and small towns of interior Maharashtra, U.P., Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, etc. Some of them have connections with criminal gangs or professional groups. Their arrival in Mumbai was in search for brighter futures and not necessarily poverty at home. Some of them were runaways from home due to conflict with their families. The glamour of Mumbai and the film world was also a major pull factor in a few cases. There seems to be an impression about Mumbai city in small towns that one can get good jobs here.

These aspirations turn sour in no time and a combination of factors finally lead them into prison. Harshness of street-life, refusal to go back because of ego problems with the father, determination to make money, getting involved with friends who spend on eating

and drinking, visiting 'ladies' beer bars regularly – all these factors create the opportunities and lead to the temptation to get involved with criminal elements.

The local youth are mostly involved in theft, housebreaking, assault and robbery cases. They have an 'in-out' relationship with their families and usually have a problem with their fathers. Their education background does not usually stretch beyond the Xth standard. They lack in skills which could fetch them regular employment in the market and they have a history of 'getting into trouble' in the area. Some of them are habitual offenders whereby their families have written them off. Some could be in crime with the knowledge of their families and in a few cases the families could be dependant on their income.

The work with upcountry youth consists of building a rapport and a strong relationship with the client – through counseling, conducting activities like painting, craft-work, writing, acting, singing and sports. The worker attempts to become a 'friend' to gain his confidence and works on him to get an entry into his family. The next phase could be around re-building the family ties so that they come and take him back home.

If the client is unwilling to give his address (due to fear of lowering of his status in the area, as result of his imprisonment becoming known), then the worker focuses on his skills and talents and building his self-esteem. The worker also has to make a conscious attempt to break his circle of friends (who may be with him inside prison) by involving him in a lot of activities. Services such as legal aid and court visits are very important to keep him away from the influence of gangs and habitual groups who are ever ready to help such persons.

Work with local youth has its major focus on re-building strained family relationships. Usually the client either wants or allows the worker to pay a home visit, as people in the area already know about his arrest and imprisonment. The response of the family depends on factors such as the nature of the offence, whether the client is a first-timer or a habitual, whether his arrest has led to a lowering of status of the family, the relationship between the father and the client-son, whether the family itself is dependant on the client's income and how they view the entry of Prayas into the picture.

The worker tries to identify at least one supportive/sympathetic member in the family to begin with. It is very crucial to understand the dynamics within the family and the status of the supportive member within the family structure. Chances of any rapprochement would depend on factors such as whether there is any mutual love left or need for each other in the family. Sometimes the entry of Prayas plays a significant role in altering the dynamics in favour of the client's re-entry. A lot of the worker's effort goes in home visits, phone calls and family counseling – based on the premise that a family re-union would mean better chances of rehabilitation.

Case Illustrations

S, B, P and K were arrested under the charge of murder in a sudden fight without any material gain. The social worker came to know through his interaction with the four boys and their families that the crime occurred when a neighbour of S, a young girl working in

the same company as S, was teased by another youth of the area. He along with his accomplices asked the youth to stop such attempts and threatened him with dire consequences. In response to these threats, the boy brought his friends and assaulted S and his friends. In order to avenge this attack and to teach them a lesson, S and his friends came back with weapons. A fight ensued between the two groups resulting in the death of the youth. This information was also confirmed by the parents and neighbours.

It was a sudden fight of involving young persons. It seemed as if there might not have been an intention to kill anybody. The victim was only son of his parents. His mother could not take the shock and became mentally disturbed. Later, their family shifted from that area.

The boys were juveniles at the time of the offence but due to an error on the part of the police in registering their age correctly, they were sent to prison. After a period of three years, when this fact came to the notice of the social worker, their case was transferred to juvenile court. They were eventually acquitted by the juvenile court.

S – Left school after passing 7th standard as he lost interest in studies and also wanted to contribute in the earning of the family. His father was a vegetable vendor but due to his ill health, he could not continue the business. S took the responsibility of the family and used to work in a factory. He was also talented and known dancer in his area. He had taken part in many dance competition and had won prizes consistently. His other co-accused were part of his dance group. His family consisted parents and two sisters. He was a hard worker and used to work overtime for extra wages.

S' family was supportive to him while he was in the prison. His mother used to come on court dates and bring food, even though their family was under going great difficulties in the absence of a breadwinner. One day his mother received burn injuries while making food and could not seek the medical help, because of shortage of money. His father used home remedies to cure the same.

S was being made offers by criminal gangs inside prison to join them. A candidate like S is an ideal recruit to a criminal gang - hard working, passionate, loyal, daring, demonstrated potential for leadership and arrested for a serious offence. However, S did not succumb to these offers. He was well aware of all the hardship his family was going through because of his mistake. What probably saved him were his strong family ties and his interactions with the social worker.

In prison, S was assigned the job of the 'Jawabdar' (monitor) in the Baba barrack. He got addicted to 'charas' (marijuana) to cope with his tensions and the fear of conviction in his case. But, he also displayed some good qualities. He would help any newcomer in barrack, arranging for his bedding and utensils, giving him information about Prayas, guiding him in his case, etc. He could not bear injustice done to anybody. He even assaulted a prison staff that was beating a mentally retarded prisoner for 'indiscipline'. After his acquittal, S has gone to his village, as per the direction of his parents.

B – An orphan, has a grandmother and an uncle to support him. He too was a hardworking boy and was working in a belt manufacturing company. His grandmother

used to come in the court to meet him, but due to their financial crunch, could not afford to arrange lawyer for him. B was mentally prepared to spend 'time' in prison. The turning point in his case came when he fell seriously ill and had to hospitalised for typhoid and malaria.

During this period, the social worker look diligently followed up his case in the hospital, kept a tab on his medical reports, interacted with medical staff concerned and gave B a feeling that he was not alone during his time of crisis. Due to his continuous intervention, B opened up to the worker and felt embarrassed that he had not earlier responded to worker's efforts. He promised the worker that he would come to Prayas after his release and would opt some training in order to become self-dependent. His grandmother, however, had a different plan for him. She wanted him to 'settle down' in their village. After his acquittal, B went to his village with his grandmother.

P - Had no supports in Mumbai. No one came to meet him either in the prison or court. He used to feel lonely in prison. He was never afraid to pick up a fight with any prisoner, who he felt had 'wronged' him. He was convinced that he would get a conviction in his case. After spending two years in prison, he had learnt how to survive in prison and manipulate things to his advantage. In the absence of family support, he joined one of the criminal gangs housed in prison and was transferred out of the Baba Barrack. His stay in prison became more comfortable, thanks to the support of his gang. But all this came to end when his gang leader (who was outside), got killed in an encounter with the police. P did not contact Prayas after his acquittal and subsequent release from prison.

K - Had studied up to the fourth standard and was the leader of the four. He was aggressive and short tempered. The other boys told the worker that it was he who took the initiative (while in prison), to move out of a violent life-style, as a consequence of the death of the victim in the case. He had only a mother to support him, who was involved in the black-marketeering of cinema tickets in theatres in Kurla. In his area, he was the leader of a local yuvak mandal (youth group).

After their case was committed to the sessions court, K gradually adjusted to prison life. He was also gravitating towards the habitual offenders' group in prison. These developments were triggered by some nagging fears in him. Firstly, the fear of conviction was like a noose around his neck, producing a sense of fatalism in him. Secondly, he feared for his life from the opposite group outside, waiting for his release. Thirdly, due to his poor family background, he knew, he could not go out on bail. So he, along with his friends started toying with the idea of joining some gang. This would increase his support base, help counter his fears from the opposite gang and maybe even get out on bail.

In prison, he played the role of godfather with the co-accused. He however, showed a helping attitude. He told two of his co-accused not to venture into 'gang territory' and warned them against taking any prisoner or gang member's support to bear the court and other expenses in prison.

After his release from prison, he went back to where he was staying before his arrest. He came once to Prayas but did not make any specific requests. We came to know that he got a job in a courier company. Later on, he turned his interest to politics and has joined a

political party. K falls in the category of clients who have a need for status and power in society. Such clients could also turn to social work, or any leadership oriented vocation, if given the right direction and skills through timely intervention.

FEMALE SECTION

Work in the **Women's Section in MCP** was re-organised to include one worker for women and children of prisoners left outside, a balwadi teacher for children in prison and an activity teacher to conduct education and vocational classes. In the process, a separate worker for children of prisoners outside was done away with. The staff released through this re-organisation was shifted to the Women's Section of Kalyan Prison. The groups here mainly consists of:

- Women arrested for murder of their husbands (with or without a male lover-accomplice).
- Women arrested for harassment/murder of their daughter-in-law.
- Women arrested for drug-peddling.
- Women arrested for trafficking of girls/women.
- Women arrested for theft – chain snatching, pick pocketing, theft in the house of the employer, etc.
- Women arrested in cheating cases – bank frauds, saving scams, property scams, etc., usually accompanied with a male accomplice/s.
- Women involved in gang related crimes.
- Women arrested for illegal entry into the country – usually from Bangladesh.
- Women working in beer bars arrested for theft cases.

For the purposes of intervention, the women could be categorized into:

- Those with or without children.
- Those with or without family support.
- Those who see their crimes as part of a profession – drug trafficking, prostitution, etc.
- First timers or habituals.
- Local or upcountry.
- Mentally/emotionally disturbed women.

Those with children and without any family support are most vulnerable to the criminalizing influences of the habitual/professional group in prison. The worker has to build a strong relationship with them based on services such as legal aid, home visits to look into the needs of their children, arrangement for their shelter after their release, counseling and weaning them away from the influence of the habituals through involvement in activities.

In the case of first timers, the effort is to convince their families to accept them back. If this fails, then the pressure on the worker increases to promise support in terms of shelter, training and employment after their release. In upcountry cases, the worker tries to convince the woman to go back to her family/native state, if she has no other support in Mumbai. Some of these women are prone to 'fall into the wrong hands' and therefore the

worker tries her best to 'protect' her from such influences through intensive counseling and relationship building.

Some of the women are found to be emotionally or mentally disturbed. The worker's role in such cases includes providing legal aid and bringing this fact to the notice of the judiciary, working with their families to get them released and send them for treatment, referral to the medical officer inside prison, involving them in activities and building a relationship of trust and caring. The problems of such prisoners get compounded if family support is not available, especially after their release due to the lack of half-way homes for the mentally disturbed.

The one group where Prayas has hardly been able to make any dent is with the habitual and gang related offenders. They see themselves as professionals and the main breadwinners of their families. The alternatives provided by us simply cannot match their needs and they openly challenge us to 'get them' out of crime. Some of these women take part in the classes conducted by us as a means of 'time-pass' in prison.

Those arrested for cheating cases come from educated backgrounds and middle class families. They see themselves as different from the rest of the prison population and see the worker as their equal. Most of them have difficult family backgrounds and have got involved into wrong relationships in life – mostly with men. They are very talented, skilled, multi-faceted personalities and 'smooth talkers'. They demand a lot of time from the workers and have long 'life stories' to tell. They build very good relationships with the prison staff and acquire a position of influence with them.

The only way to work with this group is to focus on their talents and give them a firm message that they cannot manipulate Prayas in their favour. The effort of the worker is also to get them to realize their vulnerability in male relationships, which has landed them in trouble in spite of all their talents.

We have also got government recognized vocational training institutes to conduct short-term courses such as basic tailoring, jewellery designing, artificial flower making, and currently, bag making. These courses have been conducted in the past by Shramik Vidyapeeth, Maharashtra Vyavasaya Margdarshan Kendra and the current course is being conducted by SNDT University. Such courses have given women a sense of confidence and a window to an alternative lifestyle.

Activities And Programmes

Prayas conducts activities and programmes in the women's section through an activity worker who conducts vocation based classes for interested women. The effort is to get the women involved in some positive activity based on their interest and choice. Such activities help the women prisoners to express their feelings and release stress. It also helps in countering negative thoughts and feelings, generated as a consequence of imprisonment. The activities include knitting, crochet, purse making, painting, tailoring, and mehendi designing. Recently the Adult and Continuing Education Department of the S.N.D.T. University conducted a six-month course in apron making. The activities also include adult literacy classed whereby we teach them functional literacy.

For example, one of the Bangladeshi inmates, arrested under the Passports Act, learnt reading and writing in hindi. After her deportation to Bangladesh, she wrote a letter by herself to the activity teacher seeking guidance how to use her tailoring skill to earn money. The worker wrote back to her suggesting that she could take a sewing machine on rent and stitch clothes for the community.

Case Illustration

ZS: Has been in prison since last eight years charged under the N.D.P.S. Act. She has learnt to read and write in hindi and tailoring skills. She confessed to the worker that she was forced by her husband to sell drugs and expressed guilt feelings for the same. She has four daughters and two sons. She further told the worker that she had separated from her husband and would like to do tailoring business in the community. After her release, the worker paid a home visit and found out that she had started the business in her house.

Balwadi classes

The main objective of the Balwadi is to reduce the negative impact of the prison environment on children and to use the idle time of children in the right direction, through recreation.

Nature of work: The Balwadi in prison was re-started from 15th Aug, 2001 with the appointment of a Balwadi teacher. The timings of the balwadi is 10.00 am to 1.00 p.m. Children of the age group of one to five years attend the classes. Initially, children were reluctant to come, as they were not familiar with the concept of a teacher and school. The other reason was their heavy attachment to mothers. The mothers are usually illiterate and tend to neglect the health and hygiene aspects of the children due to the lack of resources and motivation.

The teacher has been using various recreational activities to attract the children to attend Balwadi. She has also used play-way method to make them sit with her for some period. Prayas teaches them with the help of charts, songs, acting and stories about animals, birds, flowers, vegetables, vehicles, weekly days, colors, shapes, etc. Through the use of story-telling, the teacher has tried to improve the self-confidence of the children. Prayas gives the children biscuits and sweets (purchased from the bakery in Thane Prison) as additional nutrition.

The teacher also stresses on healthy habits and value-based education. There is an effort to distinguish between right and wrong, both in terms of thought and action. The Balwadi in prison is quite different from balwadis outside, as the whole environment is not conducive for the development of a child. The medium or teaching has been hindi, due to the varying religious and regional background of the inmates. The daily routine of balwadi gets hampered due to the fluctuating number of children inside, as a result of the women being transferred from one prison to another, or getting released from prison on bail, after discharge, acquittal or completion of sentence. There are no positive male role models in prison and lack of exposure to the real world due to their confinement inside prison.

The teacher has organised a mothers' group to create awareness in them about the importance of the hygiene, health and education of their children. It was not easy to activate such a group and the worker had to really work hard to get it started. After our repeated efforts, there has been a slight improvement in the situation.

Case Illustration

Name: AK
Age: 5 years
Mother arrested under section: 302 of IPC (Murder)

AK has two elder sisters who were staying with their grandmother. He was the only male child and was very fond of his mother. His sisters were not going to school due to their poor family background. His mother had guilt feeling towards her children. She felt that it was because of her mistake that her children could not pursue their studies and she had a desire to put them in the school when she went out.

AK had learnt English from one of the inmates and was not afraid of anyone except his mother. The boy was attracted to Balwadi due to the toys, picture books, songs and games. He was brilliant child and learnt things very easily. He was good at painting, craft work apart from studies. He could pick up good as well as bad things equally fast. The prison environment had a negative impact on him. He was aggressive and used to beat other children. He was very rude to elders. He even did not spare the Balwadi teacher. As a result, his mother was always beating him up. He was restless and would not mix with the other children, except for one girl with him in prison. He seemed attracted to her and his behaviour seemed to be aimed at seeking her attention.

The teacher discussed with his mother about the consequences of use of force and abusive language while disciplining a child. His mother reaction was that AK was even beating his sisters on court dates (even though they showered their affection on him).

He was creating problems in the Balwadi too, and the teacher had to keep him busy through various activities. He had a 'superior' air about him. Sometimes, he would runaway from the Balwadi and provoke other children to do the same. He used speak in female gender. He would often wear female clothing he was not conscious of the sex difference.

At the time of his entry in prison, he was only a year old. His awareness about the outside world was very poor. The concept of a village for him, meant the Yerawada Central Prison in Pune.

After continuous intervention with him and his mother, there has been a considerable improvement in his behavior. He has learnt the alphabets and numbers, and can read and write. His mother was recently released from prison and AK has gone out with her. We plan to follow up on this case.

The work with **Children of Prisoners** could be categorized into those inside and those left outside. For children left outside, the work includes paying home visits, assessing the situation of the children, providing emergency financial assistance, educational sponsorships, arranging for mulakats with their mothers, getting neighbours/relatives to take interest in them and institutionalization of the children, if necessary.

A few cases of children of prisoners left outside prison:

1) The daughter of a released prisoner (in prison for ticketless travel) was in contact with us. She was nervous, as she had failed in 3 subjects at her SSC exams. Regular and timely counselling helped her deal with the situation. She will now be appearing for her SSC exams. She plans to enroll for a nursing course on completing her exams.

2) A young girl whose father was serving prison for a long term, was asked to leave a private institution (in Nanduri, Nashik) she was residing in as she had failed to pay for the fees. We therefore spoke to the principal of the institution. Her case has now been brought before the Juvenile Welfare Board, and she has been committed to the institution, where she will be allowed to stay till she completes 18 years of age. Fees for education have been waived. She is studying in the 7th standard.

3) The son of a person serving a life sentence in prison was referred to Prayas for assistance in education. A school in Aligarh (where the child resides) has been contacted for this purpose.

C. KALYAN DISTRICT PRISON

The population in **Kalyan Prison** comes mostly from rural and interior areas of Thane and Raigad districts. Some of the prisoners are tribals in for petty offences including stealing forest products or simply moving in suspicious circumstances (u/s 122 Cr.P.C.). The problem of non-production of prisoners on their court dates due to lack of police escorts has assumed serious proportions in Kalyan Prison. As a result, under trials have been found to be languishing in prison for months even in petty offences leading to the overcrowding of the prison and a travesty of the justice delivery system.

Prayas has been regularly bringing this situation to the notice of the judiciary and district legal services authority. Our intervention has helped in ameliorating the situation to some extent. The setting up of remand courts in prisons to try petty offences has also helped in this regard.

YOUNG MALE SECTION

Kalyan district prison is distinct in nature because it has houses an under trial population from both rural and urban areas. Cases from Thane, Mumbai and Raigad districts are brought to this prison. The prisoners are from far flung areas such Ulhasnagar, Bhivandi, Dombivili, Badalapur, Murbad, Wada, Khalapur and adjoining rural areas.

The prison is distinct because it has a lesser population than its actual capacity. For example, the capacity of Male Youth Section where we are based (Baba Barrack) is around 90, but during the last year, the average barrack population has varied from 70 to 80. This is at variance from the other three prisons where we have been working, which is beset with the overcrowding problem. One explanation for this could be that the crime rate in rural areas is comparatively lower than that of urban centers.

The prison is distinct because the problem of lack of police escorts to take prisoners to courts or hospitals is extremely grave. There are cases where the under trials who were charged under minor offences were not taken to court for 6 to 10 months, due to shortage of police force and the courts being situated very far away from the prison. Since the prison houses from three districts, the Police Commissionerates of Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai are involved in providing escorts, thus increasing coordination problems for the prison administration.

Unless the government takes this issue seriously and a solution found to deal with the problem, the injustice caused to under trial prisoners will continue. It has to be borne in mind that most of these under trials who are not being taken to court for their dates are arrested for minor cases. One suggestion made by a prison officer to solve this problem permanently is to create a separate escorting police force for each district and this force be permanently attached to the prison/s of the district along with the requisite vehicles for the purpose. This force should be permanently stationed at the prison premises and should not be used for any other purpose.

The prison is distinct because there are very few persons arrested for violent crimes.

The prison is distinct because it has lesser rate of repeaters coming to the prison compared to the other three prisons.

The original objective of starting work in Kalyan prison was on the issue of implementation of Probation of Offenders Act. But since the last year, we have shifted our focus from a specific issue of probation to our overall goal of rehabilitation. The reasons could be difficulties faced by the workers in bringing the spirit and letter of the P.O. Act into practice, as a lot of work needs to be done at three levels.

At the level of the prisoners, they are not fully aware about the objectives of the Act. At the level of judiciary, there is apathy towards the objectives and various provisions of the Act and how it could become a solid instrument in its hands towards rehabilitation and decongestion of our prisons. At the level of probation department, the lack of sufficient staff and resources at their disposal, is a block to implementation. We have been able to touch these issues at various levels but systematic work has to be done to get the desired results. We are currently unable to achieve this due to shortage of man power at our end.

Some Issues:

Escorts Problem: The vast population of under trials are not been taken regularly on their court dates. Prayas during its last two years has approached the police department and the judiciary, but nothing concrete has come out of it because the problem lies in the

system. At the individual level, Prayas has found some temporary solutions - like in cases of those arrested for petty theft under section 379 IPC and the inmates were not taken to court for months, we had meetings with the judiciary to highlight the issue. On our intervention, the judiciary passed an order asking the arresting police station to provide the escort and the cases were disposed off the same day. But the same solution may not be possible in every case.

Implementation of Probation of Offenders Act: Nearly 70% of the population of the Baba Barrack is arrested under sections 379, 380 and 381 (theft and housebreaking), which can be dealt under section 3 of Probation of Offenders Act by the magistrate (release under admonition). Unfortunately this is not happening. We are not suggesting here to release each and every person on probation, but at least those who are languishing in prison due to lack of support and want to give up the crime could be considered under this provision. Although they are not taken to court regularly, at the time of framing of charges, they could be given the benefit of section 3 or section 4 (release on bond of good behaviour) of the Probation Act.

Section 13 of the Act provides for the appointment of voluntary probation officers for a specific case to file a pre-sentence report and supervise the conditions of probation imposed on the probationer on release. The courts could also take the spirit of section 13 of the P.O. Act into consideration and take the help of various NGOs or individuals to act as a probation officer in specific cases, as to counter the problem of lack of sufficient staff in the probation department.

Prison Court: The prison courts set up in various prisons under a Supreme Court order could be used to try a large number of cases in prison itself, to solve the problem of taking prisoners on their court dates. However, it is currently being used as a clearing house for only those cases who have been arrested under minor offences and are ready to plead guilty in their cases. These under trials are then being set free by the prison court (which sits in prison twice a month) in lieu of the period already spent in prison as an under trial.

This practice violates the spirit behind the provisions of our Constitution under Article 21, which ensures a fair trial to arrested persons. This right gets totally denied by the above procedure of the prison court, because the circumstances under which a person pleads guilty, there are very poor chances of 'free consent' being present (while pleading guilty).

This is because the State has failed to take him to court on his court dates regularly and thus forced him to remain in prison for periods more than what the judge may have awarded as a sentence in the case (even though the maximum sentence period may not have elapsed). In many cases, the prisoner may be pleading guilty to the offence even though he/she may not have committed the offence as by pleading guilty, he knows he would be able to go out of prison by getting a set-off sentence.

FEMALE SECTION

Activities Classes

The work in the **Women's Section in Kalyan Prison** has begun to take root. Women arrested and brought to Kalyan come from rural areas and a majority are in for murder and theft cases. They come from poverty stricken backgrounds and have children to look after. There is greater illiteracy and ignorance of legal procedures here, compared to Mumbai. The prison administration is appreciative of our services and the response of the judiciary is positive.

Most of the women coming from rural areas have family backing and therefore, their aftercare needs are limited. The prison population is also less compared to Mumbai and the consequent load on the workers less. However, one feature of work in Kalyan is the long distances that workers have to travel to pay home and court visits .- as far as Palghar, Khalapur, Raigad, Panvel, Dahanu, Vasai, Bhiwandi, etc.

Prayas extended its work to Female Section of Kalyan Prison since April, 2001, through the starting of activity classes. Our teacher began with simple activities like beadwork, knitting and painting. When the inmates showed an interest, she taught them tailoring.

While conducting activities, inmates share their socio-economic and offence background with the teacher. In the absence of a social worker, the activity teacher had to play the role of strengthening the family ties of the client group and giving them legal guidance (with the support of the social worker in the male section). She sometimes had to make phone calls to the family members, pay home visits or visit the court, if the exigency of case demanded.

Due to conviction, acquittal, discharge or bail of the accused in prison, the number of trainees keeps on changing. But there are always an average of ten to twelve inmates at a time during the whole year. As the training progresses, some new inmates also join in. In order to keep the regular trainee interested, in addition to tailoring, we have been introducing new activities such as embroidery, cutting, purse making, flower making, etc.

Balwadi Classes

Prayas started the balwadi in Kalyan Prison in the month of October, 2001. Initially there were 7 children in prison (3 boys and 4 girls). They were in the age group of 1 to 6 years. The teacher had to really work hard in order to attract them to the Balwadi through different activities such as songs, story telling and games. After some time, she came to know about their hobbies and used the same as a tool for education purpose. The practice of giving the children biscuits as a supplementary nutrition (made in Thane Prison), is continued here.

Within one month of starting the balwadi, there was a noticable change in the children's behavior. There was an improvement in their way of talking with elders. The teacher has tried to counter their bad habits and teach them manners. But due to the frequent transfer of the mothers to Yerawada Prison, the process of education has been disrupted.

Adult Literacy Classes

The Balwadi classes have been supplemented with literacy classes for the women prisoners. These were started from the month of December, 2001. In the beginning nineteen inmates give their names for the class. We soon realized that the timings didi not suit the routine of the prisoners, as they were held immediately after the women are made to clean the food grains meant for the day's cooking, leaving them too tired to take interest in the classes. To overcome this problem, we have made changes in our time schedule for the balwadi and literacy classes. Bangladeshi women (arrested under the Passports Act) have shown lot of interest in the literacy classes and that has helped in triggering the interest of the other women.

Case Illustration

Name: JS
Age: 6 years
Mother arrested under: Passports Act
Native Place: Bangladesh

JS was a naughty boy like other children in prison. He was also the quiet type. His mother informed us that he had an interest in drawing. The teacher used this talent for the purpose of teaching him.

JS has good talent in drawing. He applied his talent in 'decorating' the prison walls. This activity helped him to develop an interest in studies. He told the teacher that after their release from prison, he would go to school. His mother too reiterated this when she was being transferred to Yerawada.

Name: RM
Age: 32 years
Arrested under: Passports Act
Native Place: Bangladesh

RM used to come to literacy class to learn hindi since the month of December. She had a desire to speak fluent hindi like us. She showed a lot of interest in learning and today she can read and speak well. She has been a great resource to Prayas as an interpreter for those other Bangladesh inmates. She also encourages other women to learn hindi. Initially she was felt shy to speak in hindi in front of other fearing their ridicule, but today she can read even marathi.

D. THANE CENTRAL PRISON

Most prisoners in **Thane Prison** in the Male Youth Barrack (where we are based) are from the western and central suburbs of Mumbai i.e. those being tried in Borivili, Mulund and Vikhroli Courts. Their profile is similar to those found in the Youth Barrack in Mumbai Central and Byculla Prisons. The work being done therefore, is also along the

same lines. The first few cases in aftercare have started trickling from Thane and Kalyan, indicating that our work is now showing results.

Case Illustration

1. JB: Arrested under the charge of robbery by the Panvel Police Station. Another under trial prisoner referred his case to the social worker. His request was to visit his brother & to see how he was doing and to enquire about his father's health in village. He also wanted to know whether his partner had paid back the instalments for the loan they had taken to purchase an auto rickshaw or not, and to request him to arrange for his bail. He informed the worker that his mother had died in his childhood and his father has been staying in village, who often keeps ill. He was staying with a sister. He had to work in a small-scale industry and learnt driving during his off-shift. He and his partner had purchased the auto rickshaw by taking a bank loan.

As per the worker's observations, JB was a quiet person and did not mix much with other inmates. He kept himself busy by doing prison work (in the kitchen, garden, or in the factory section). These were the signs of his reformation process. The social worker paid the home visit and found all the information given by JB to be correct. He also shared with the worker how he got involved in the offence with his friends.

Thereafter, the worker took greater interest in him. The factor that was most significant to his rehabilitation, in the opinion of the worker, was his hardworking nature. Since childhood he had worked hard to become self-reliant. He did not want to do a job but wanted to be his own boss. He never hesitated to share his negative points. He seemed to be at peace with himself.

After his bail, he came to know about his father death. He felt very lonely, as his only emotional support has gone. The bank confiscated his auto rickshaw as he and his partner had failed to pay the installments. He requested the worker to help him to get his auto rickshaw back by giving him a loan to pay at least a couple of installments. It was a challenging demand that Prayas had never done before.

The worker considered factors such as he had never asked any financial help when he was imprisoned, had never hidden facts from the worker and shown the qualities of self-reliance. As a policy, Prayas spends a certain amount on clients rehabilitation, which includes training, stipend, loan for business, etc. The worker decided to pay of his bank installment as a method to make him self-reliant once again. The amount was given to him as an interest free loan, which he would have to return over a period of time.

JB also collected some amount and paid bank's installment. He helped his brother to get a license and rickshaw batch and both of them are now earning through this venture.

2.SS: Arrested by Malvani Police Station under section 326 IPC (causing grievous hurt). He was 26 years old and his case was referred by the prison staff requesting to pay his home visit as his mother was very ill.

The worker met him and he seemed quite anxious about his mother's health and pressed on the worker to go and visit her. The worker visited his home. His mother looked quite ill. She had been staying in a small and dilapidated house along with his younger brother and sister.

The worker came to know that his mother has been taking treatment in K.E.M. Hospital due to a pain in her chest, but since the breadwinner of the family was imprisoned, there was no money to buy medicines. As an emergency, the worker gave them the money to buy the medicines. The worker shared this situation with SS in prison. SS couldn't control his feelings and burst out crying. He confessed to worker that due to his minor mistake, his family was suffering.

Thereafter, the worker kept him informed about developments at home. He has been discussing about his background, future planning etc. with SS from time to time. He seems to be a person with lot of understanding about issues connected to his life. He shared with the worker that he was very short tempered. The crime occurred because of a fight with his friend, over some taunts his friend made at him. In the ensuing fight, SS broke his friend's leg with a stone.

After a regular intervention with SS, the worker came to know about his socio-eco background. He informed the worker about the various places where he had worked earlier. His father had died when he was very small and as an elder son, the responsibility of the family was on his shoulders. His mother used to do domestic work, which she had to discontinue due to her ill-health.

After some time, when the worker called up his neighbour to enquire about his mother's health, he was informed that she was seriously ill. Immediately, the worker went to his house and admitted her to K.E.M. hospital with the help of neighbours. After fifteen days, she was discharged from the hospital. Meanwhile, the worker on the advise of SS, spoke to his employer to come for a mulakat (prison visit). His employer met him in prison and he helped him to get released on bail. He also gave him employment in his shop.

One thing need to be noted here. Without the employer's help, SS' rehabilitation would not have been easy. Prayas needs the support of such persons who can fill a gap in a person's life.

Another point to be highlighted here is that SS was a family-oriented person, had guilt feelings towards his act, and a high sense of responsibility towards his younger siblings and ailing mother. But the situation may have turned out to be different had there been no social worker and/or employer.

III. LEGAL AID AND COURT UNIT

Prayas intervenes in the courts and the legal aid system is through a team of two workers, who work in collaboration with the prison based social workers (in Mumbai and Thane). This includes placement of one worker in the Esplanade Court (where the Office of the C.M.M. is situated) and the other worker liaising between the prisoners and their lawyers (including those appointed through the government or Prayas panel). The worker based in Esplanade Court sits in the office space given to the Mumbai District Legal Services Authority (MDLSA) and has an active network with the staff deputed there.

The Court based worker does the follow-up required to activate the government legal aid panel through meetings with the officials of the MDLSA and the C.M.M., who is the Member-Secretary of the Authority. He represents Prayas in the MDLSA Committee chaired by the Principal Judge of the City Civil and Sessions Court, Mumbai. Lawyers from the legal aid panel are arranged for cases referred by the prison workers through this office. He also follows up on decisions taken in the meetings of the State level and Mumbai District I.D.C. with the officials concerned.

As a result of our sustained interaction with the system, the government legal aid panel was revised and Duty Counsels were appointed for Mumbai Central and Byculla Prisons. The panel is more active due to case referrals by us. Once a case is referred, our legal aid worker follows up the case with the lawyer appointed through the panel.

We organised a legal awareness camp in the Women's Section of the Mumbai Central prison in collaboration with the MDLSA. It was decided to hold similar camps on a regular basis in prison, as the response to the camp was positive. The prison administration appreciated the initiative and requested the Authority to organize such activities regularly.

The legal guidance project of the Government Law College is now into its third year. It was inaugurated this year by the Hon'ble C.M.M. Shri P.M. Bansod, who urged the students to take active interest and part in the project. The project has now expanded its work to Byculla Prison. Students have written more than 400 applications for prisoners with regard to matters such as bail, reduction of bail, release on personal bond, pleading guilty, etc.

The students also plan to take up a summer project in Byculla Prison focusing on petty offenders. Making this project work has required continuous meetings with the student coordinators and faculty of GLC, prison staff and Prayas workers. Every small irritant in coordination has had to be sorted out through joint meetings whenever necessary.

As a result of all these efforts, the need to appoint lawyers for under trial prisoners through the Prayas panel has been reducing every year. We have now made it a policy that the first effort will be to get a lawyer through the government panel. Only in matters requiring urgent and immediate attention does Prayas appoint a lawyer through its panel.

The follow-up of cases with lawyers – whether appointed through the government appointed or Prayas panel, or private counsels, is done by the legal aid worker. He liaises with the prisoners, the Prayas social workers in prison (who also refer cases to him) and the lawyers. He also writes applications for the prisoners wanting to communicate their matters with their courts on his prison visits.

This unit uses the various forums such the MDLSA Committee, the State and District IDC to discuss and get the support from the departments concerned. Some examples:

- A study was conducted to identify inmates who may be liable to get the benefit of probation in the prison and the findings were submitted to the L&JD department for follow-up with the Hon'ble High Court of Mumbai.

- The Legal Guidance Project in Mumbai Central and Byculla District Prisons - This year, the students of GLC (Government Law College) visited the both of prisons in Mumbai to help the needy inmates. More than 400 were written for the inmates (male youth and women) through this project. The main requests were applications for bail, reduction of bail amount, request for benefit of probation, and for expediting the case in the court. Almost 8-10 students visited the prison twice in the week in both prisons under the guidance of the faculty in-charge, the student co-ordinator from GLC and Prayas workers.

- The State Inter Departmental Committee meetings - Prayas put forward some more issues before the State IDC. These include the issue of shelter for released prisoners, implementation of draft rules of the scheme for released prisoners, implementation of the P.O. Act and formation of District level IDCs in other districts.

- Mumbai IDC - This year two meetings were held and chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM). Various important decisions were taken in these meetings such as the inclusion of railway police in the committee, need for a visiting psychiatrist from governmental hospitals to prison, proposal to start a project of visits by students of the JJ School of Arts to prison, starting of training programmes in prison by the Mumbai Municipal Corporation (under the Swaran Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana), and a proposal to the BMC to consider giving permission to released prisoners to start public telephone booths.

- Case referral by courts - A case was referred by the Hon'ble Sessions Court for a social investigation report of an accused in a case of statutory rape. It was a case of technical rape – the accused and the victim (who was a minor at the time of the incident) had eloped and the accused was brought to book after the victim's family complained to the police. Prayas was asked to investigate the psycho-social facts in the case and explore possibilities of rapproachment between the families. Continuous follow up was done through home visits and a detailed report was submitted to the Hon'ble Court. On the basis of the report, the Court released the accused on bail. The accused and the victim got married with their families' consent, and they are now staying together. The case was followed up by the after care unit of Prayas for six months.

Future plans

- Follow up with the Law and Judiciary Department for the amendment in the domicile certificate form - Prayas had submitted some suggested amendments in the application form to get a domicile certficate, as a consequence of legal awareness campaign it had undertaken in the metropolitan courts of Mumbai in 1998, at the behest of the erstwhile C.M.M. Hon'ble Shri M.N. Geelani. This is being followed up for implementation with the present C.M.M., Hon'ble Shri P.M. Bansod and the Department of Law and Judiciary.

- A plan has been submitted to the MDLSA to conduct a campaign among the student community in and around Mumbai colleges with the help of the NSS unit co-ordinator, Mumbai University, regarding the procedure for issuing of domicile certificates (who need these certificates at the time of college admissions). A suggestion has been made to put up posters in the various metropolitan courts regarding the procedure to obtain the same.

- Follow-up with the government legal aid panel - There are many misgivings and doubts about government appointed pleaders in the minds of the undertrial prisoners. Prisoners are reluctant to take the assistance of lawyers from this panel, as they feel that these lawyers would not fight their case 'properly'. The inmates also regard them as corrupt as some of them demand an extra fee apart from the honourarium they receive from the Legal Services Authority. Their other complaint regarding these lawyers is that they do not appear regularly on their court dates. On the other hand, the government pleaders often complain that the honourarium they receive for their services is a pittance and there are too many formalities involved in getting the payment. They have complaints against inmates that they do not disclose full information. The other problems they have is that they have to bear the expenses for photocopying case papers, typing, or getting important necessary documents and reimbursement of the same takes a long time. Prayas has been raising these issues before the Mumbai Legal Service Authority from time to time. It now plans to take it up at the highest levels for a satisfactory resolution to the problem

Case Illustration

RS: An undertrial prisoner, facing the charge of murder. He informed the worker that he was below 16 years of age. His elder brother was a resident of Mumbai. The worker met him and on his intervention, the brother brought RS' birth certificate from the village. The birth certificate along with school leaving certificate was produced before the Session Court through a Prayas appointed lawyer, but the court held the same as fake and refused to transfer the case to the Juvenile Court. The Sessions Court considered the age verification test done at JJ Hospital as valid and the sole the proof of age.

Now the only option left was to appeal in the High Court. Prayas, as a policy, does not provide legal aid to its clients to go in appeal. This is based on the principle that since it not financially viable for the agency to go in appeal in each and every case, it does not

want to give 'special' services for any particular client. But worker helped the client in this case to write a application to the High Court. On the basis of this application, the High Court admitted the matter. In order to produce the relevant documents before the court and plead the case, a lawyer was required. The worker spoke to a socially minded lawyer to appear without any fees, as the brother of the client was very poor. After going through the documents, the high court set aside the order of the Session Court and transferred his case to Juvenile Court.

IV. WORK IN POLICE STATION

A. CHEMBUR POLICE STATION

The year saw a number of changes with regard to our work in police stations. We moved our worker based in **Chembur Police Station** to our newly set-up Income Generation and Training Centre for Women at Mumbai Central. This was done in continuation with our work that we had started with women working in beer bars at Chembur. Our intervention with these women had shown that at least some of them were able to get out of the profession with timely help, in terms of training and loans for self-employment.

Our worker based in Chembur had been able to make an effective intervention in around 15 such cases. It was therefore decided to use his skills for the Mumbai Central Centre, which had been set-up primarily to cater to the women clientele of Prayas – women in prostitution, released prisoners and those vulnerable to crime/prostitution.

We took this opportunity created as a result of this shift and consequent vacancy in Chembur to review our work there. The work in Chembur was originally started to intervene in cases of first offenders in the lock-up and cases of women and children prone to victimization and crime. Gradually, due to the lack of response of the police system to such cases, our work had become more focused on cases of domestic violence and harassment of women. There are already many organizations in Mumbai, including the Special Cell for Women and Children, who are focusing on such cases. Our rationale behind placement of social workers in police station was not being served through this placement.

B. MAHIM POLICE STATION

Similarly, our placement of a social worker in **Mahim Police Station** was to intervene in cases of crime victims and see what help they required. Here too, very few cases of victims of crimes were being referred to us. Instead, most of the cases referred were of mentally disturbed persons, who required to treatment and follow-up. The lack of half-way homes for this group made our task of rehabilitation of such persons very difficult. Therefore, we decided to shift our worker based at Mahim to CST Railway Police Station, where our work with runaway girls and women in prostitution was taking root.

Case Illustrations

1.PD - This woman came to the Police Station with her complaint about a man who was following her from Mahim towards Worli (her work place). She had a fear that if he continues to follow her, her newly married life may get disrupted. Her husband was based abroad and she was staying with her mother-in-law and brother-in-law.

Police Intervention: Police tried to find out the reason and were ready to help. They decided to call him to the Police Station or make a call in her presence for which she was not ready. She just wanted him not to follow him. She gave the address of the man.

Social Worker's Intervention: The worker provided the victim emotional support and discussed her family situation with her. Home visits were paid to both the parties. When the worker visited the man's home, she realised that they had an affair and now since she was married to some one else, she did not want to meet him. She did not give any reason for rejecting him. The worker could not meet the man but spoke to her elder sister. The woman did not come back to the police station again with her complaint, after this intervention.

2.AR - This case was referred by the duty officer at the station house. According to the officer, it was a family dispute. His presented the case as an 18 year old girl trying to hurt her sister with knife. He gave the address of the family and requested the worker to follow-up the case.

Social Worker's Intervention: When the worker visited the home, she got a very different picture. AR was mentally disturbed. Her mother was very frustrated and their economic condition was not good. She was staying in her nephew's house with her two daughters. Her son was staying separately with his wife and children. He was economically stable as he had a government job.

The nephew and his wife had taken some money from the mother with an agreement that she could stay with them with her daughters. Now, they wanted her to leave the house and stay somewhere else. But they were not willing to give back the money. The uncle had promised to give back the amount but asked AR's mother to it a secret from his son and daughter-in-law. It also appeared that the family was planning to sell of the property. AR's brother, who was earlier helping out with the food expenses of the family, had stopped the arrangement.

The worker realised that the family was beset with so many problems that AR was like a burden for them. The mother was so depressed that she just wanted to get rid of the girl (railway accident/throwing her in gutter/killing at the time of her birth). The worker provided emotional support and counselling inputs to the mother. It was decided to take AR for psychiatric treatment. The worker accompanied the mother and the daughter to the Sion hospital for the first visit. On the advise of the medical staff, an appointment was taken at the hospital for AR's IQ testing.

AR's background revealed that at the age of three, she was trapped between the two buses, leading her into a state of shock. After that incident, her behaviour had changed and she had to drop out of school. After her testing and diagnosis, it was found that she had moderate I.Q. level and was suffering from psychosis. Her condition improved with medication. She was hospitalized for some days. Her violent outbursts gradually stopped.

The worker paid weekly follow-up visits for some time. Financial assistance for purchase of her medicines was given by the worker but not continuously, as she did not want to increase the dependence of the family on the worker. The worker also counseled AR's sister to reduce the conflicts within the family. She also spoke to the doctor to refer AR's case to the medical social worker in the hospital for financial support. Options about sending AR to a day-care centre for mentally disturbed were given to the family. The mother started taking AR with her for doing domestic work.

After some gap the worker visited the family. Her mother was very upset with the hospital staff. According to her, she complained to the doctor that AR was not eating properly. With change of medication, her condition had worsened. One day, the mother felt that AR was dying and they had to take her in taxi to the hospital. The doctor, on examining her threw his hands up in the air and asked them to pray to God. So she started fighting with doctor. Finally, he gave AR an injection and asked them to come again for a check-up.

Pyschatric Social Worker's response's to the case: AR's mother did not have enough money to buy the medicines so she spoke to the social worker in the hospital. Her response was that they could provide medicines for every one, due to lack of resources. According to AR's mother, the social worker was rude and said that they have not opened an 'ashram' (charity home) in the hospital.

The worker continues to follow up the case. She is working with the family to help establish better relations with each other. Her effort has been to help the family deal with issues arising out of the presence of a mentally disturbed member in the family. There has been a noticeable improvement in the family relations as a result of these efforts of the worker

Observations: The social worker has noted that there is an absence of male figure in this family and the entire pressure of running the family is on the mother and AR's sister.

There is a grandmother in the house who is very old and in need of constant care. Her presence has aggravated the situation in the house. There are constant fights between AR's sister and the grandmother.

Efforts were made to convince the mother to take AR to an mental health institution/day care centre, but due to lack of support at home, the idea could not be pursued further.

C. NAGPADA AND C.S.T. RAILWAY POLICE STATIONS

Work at Nagpada and C.S.T. Railway Police Stations is reported in Chapter VI under work carried out the Prostitution Unit. This is being done to streamline the functioning of our work. Most of the work done at these two police stations are related to counseling and rehabilitation of women and girls rescued from prostitution and prevention of new entrants into prostitution.

V. AFTERCARE WORK WITH RELEASED PRISONERS

The aftercare work was split along gender lines this year. There are two workers – one male and female – who look after the aftercare needs of the male and female clients of Prayas. The male worker operates from our Contact Centre at Worli and the female worker is based at the Mumbai Central Centre. The aftercare work was categorized into:

a. Emergency assistance
b. Long-term work

Emergency assistance consists of finding temporary shelter, medical treatment, financial assistance for food subsistence and clothing, traveling expenses, children's education, etc. Long-term work consists of vocational training, job-placement, de-addiction, work with families, counseling, loans for self-employment, increasing knowledge about community resources and government schemes and improving self-esteem levels.

The last two years have seen an intensive process of reflection and analysis of our aftercare work in the past ten years. Inspite of all our efforts, we found that some of the clients had come out crime but gone into addictions, illness, depression and suicidal tendencies. In the last twelve years, six of our clients had passed away – due to illness, addiction, violence or suicide. These developments forced us to take stock of our work and the process has been rewarding, from the point of view of insight gained through it. One of the main insights drawn from this process is a conclusion that there are sub-groups within our client group and one cannot intervene in a uniform manner with all clients. We have identified the sub-categories as:

- Those who want to re-unite with their families.
- Those who want to stand on their own feet.
- Those who are confused about what they want out of life.
- Those who may be still committed to a life of crime.
- Those who are prone to addictions and illnesses.
- Those who are need of rescue from their area.
- Those who need information about community services to move ahead in life.
- Those who need to be referred to other agencies.

In terms of areas of intervention, we identified four major sub-areas:

- Work in the area of residence of the client. This includes work with family and the community.
- Work to help the client become self-reliant economically.
- Understanding the significance of client-worker relationship and working on it.
- Working to deal with consequences of a past criminal life. This includes earlier peer group, police record, pending court cases, lifestyle, addictions, etc.

The personality of the client and the approach of Prayas to clients also play very significant role in the rehabilitation process. We are currently working towards putting all this insight together to work out a guideline for aftercare. An ex-worker of Prayas has been appointed on an assignment basis to work out this guideline.

Some key factors have been identified in the rehabilitation process. These are as follows:

1. Shelter – The place of stay of the client is crucial to rehabilitation. Most of the clients have a tenuous relationship with their families, some of which have reached a point of no return. A vast majority of the client population is from the upcountry, with no family support in the city. Many of them have left home in rather unhappy circumstances and may find it difficult to go back on their own. Those living with their families have strained relationships with significant members of the family e.g. the father, husband, mother or the elder sibling. As a result, a situation arises where one foot is in the home and one foot outside. Those living on their own often are living with friends on the railway platforms, gardens, streets, workplace or moving from one place to another. The place of stay makes a person vulnerable to negative influences and an addictive lifestyle. It is in this context the finding an alternative and safe environment to stay becomes important.

Our worker tries to find accommodation for them in shelter homes, short stay homes, group homes and hostels being run for vulnerable groups in society. It has been our experience that it is more difficult to find shelter for the males as there are very few organizations catering to needs of male youth in society. In the case of women clients, we have tried the option of helping them find a place of their own on rental basis. We have worked out an arrangement in which two women come together to take a place on rent, whereby Prayas pays the deposit amount (of between Rs.5000/- to Rs.10,000/- per home) and the women pay the monthly rentals on their own. This arrangement has worked well in the case of women who have some skill to find employment on their own.

We have been taking up the issue of need for temporary shelters/half-way homes for released prisoners with the government through the Inter Departmental Committee, the Women and Child Development Department and the Maharashtra Probation and Aftercare Association.

2. Income – It is obvious and also borne out from our experience that income source is an important factor in the rehabilitation process. It is not just a question of finding employment. The issue is of finding a space in society to earn a living that gives respectability and is able to counter the stigma of imprisonment. The need for status in clients could be addressed through the discovery of a talent or learning of a skill, which in turn could help improves the self-image of the person.

There are some clients who prefer blue-collar jobs that involve traveling and/or have a 'status' attached to them such as drivers, courier boys, office assistants, sales representatives, security guards, etc. Then there are those who already have a skill and prefer to go back to the earlier vocation such as painting, carpentry, electrician, motor-repairing, domestic help, beautician, etc. There are some who are gravitating to the 'caring' professions such as nursing, social work, teaching, child-care, etc. Lastly, some of them prefer to work on their own – running a small business enterprise such as hawking wares, selling food items, retailing, etc. The aftercare unit tries to identify these areas and provide guidance and financial help according to the identified needs of the

client. In terms of services, it includes identifying a vocation, sponsorship for training, referral to government agencies and small loans for self-employment.

3. Moral Support – This is a very important area of work and helps counter feelings of isolation and the stigma attached to past life. Individual counseling, group sessions and discussions, exposure trips, information giving, crisis support and mediating between the client and his environment are all part of this process.

4. Follow-up support – This includes both maintaining contact through home visits and remaining available to the client via the phone and visits by the client to the contact centre. The idea here is to develop a long-term relationship to help the client build a future perspective about his/her life. Various issues related to relationships, employment, confidence, finding a life partner, tensions at home or the work place, etc. form the focus of this aspect of work. We feel the need to develop partnerships with the family, the police, positive elements/persons in the area, government agencies, NGOs and local groups to help deal with these issues. It is clear from our experience that Prayas alone is not enough to deal with the complex issues arsing out of rehabilitation and mainstreaming of the client group.

Case Illustrations

1. HL - Referred from Kalyan Prison by the prison worker, HL's elder brother is in prison and is a member of a known criminal gang in Mumbai. The client came with his wife to our contact centre at Worli. She was very co-operative and supportive of the client's efforts to come out of crime. HL came with the request that he needed support to convince the police of his intentions to change. He further explained that his entry into the crime was a consequence of his brother's involvement in the gang and sustained suspicion of the police of his association with the gang. Due to their continued pressure on him, he started staying away from home. This led to the police putting pressure on the other family members to reveal his whereabouts. HL's continued absence from home slowly pulled in to crime.

The worker discussed the conditions and rules of Prayas to establish a meaningful relationship and to prove his intentions to police. These included:

- Staying in the house
- Avoiding contact with 'criminal' elements/friends
- Taking up some employment
- Remaining available at home in the evenings
- Maintaining regular contact with Prayas
- Regular attendance at the police station, if required
- Reporting any 'untoward incident' to Prayas/police immediately.

HL agreed to all the conditions laid down by Prayas. We sponsored his driving training as per his request. He found employment with a security agency. We had a meeting with the local police to inform them about his progress and received their assurance to cooperate in his rehabilitation process. We submitted a written application to the Zone and Crime Preventive D.C.P., as per our practice. The police call him regularly to the police station

as and when required and to keep a check on his behaviour. HL is following the instructions and doing well as per his plan of reformation.

2. SK - A young boy of 18 years coming from a disturbed family background, SK came to prison for inflicting assaults against self. He body was full of scars of stab wounds. Unable to deal with his behaviour, his mother approached the police for help. The police could not find any psychiatric symptoms in him and lodged a case of attempt to suicide against him, leading to his arrest and subsequent imprisonment. One day, he made another to hurt himself in the prison, and the prison authorities stopped him in time through use of force. The worker found out that his self-damaging behaviour happened when he went into what seemed like epileptic fits. He received an under trial sentence on pleading guilty to his crime.

After release, his mother brought him to Prayas. She narrated the detailed history of the client, which brought into focus, the need of psychiatric diagnosis and treatment. The worker took him to the BYL Nair hospital. After diagnosis, it came to be known that SK is an epileptic patient and needed constant medication and medical attention. He was admitted to the hospital for two months. The doctor prescribed medicines, which he was asked to continue for the rest of his life to avoid further epileptic attacks.

After his discharge from the hospital, SK was provided with the job in a car-park and arrangement were made for him to stay in a shelter home. This was done as it was felt that his home environment was not conducive to his rehabilitation process. But after a week's stay at the shelter home, the client insisted on going back to his home. Back in his old environment, his friend circle led him to his earlier lifestyle of gambling and drinking in the evening hours. He would pressurize his mother to give him money to gamble and on her refusal, would get very angry. During this phase, he again got an epileptic attack and stabbed himself.

The police registered a new case against him and externed him from the district for two years. Again, the worker talked to him and tried to get a better understanding of his situation. He found that SK was suspicious of his mother's behaviour and felt that she was having affairs with some men in the area, to which he was opposed. He said that his relationship with his father was good but the father had left home because of his mother's behaviour. The worker confronted the mother about this information. She admitted to him that due to the lack of responsibility shown by her husband towards the family, she was forced to enter into liaisons with men in the area to run the house.

SK received a sentence of six months this time for repeating his crime and violating his externment orders. He is currently in prison and we plan to continue working on this case after his release.

3. SM and VK – These two women were arrested in a cheating case, which involved a chit fund scam of workers in a factory where they were working. On their release from prison, they approached Prayas as they could not go back to live in their area. They were able to find home-based packaging work in a factory and Prayas paid the deposit amount to take a room on rent near their work place. After some months and with the continuous efforts of the aftercare worker, their respective families agreed to renew their ties with the

two of them. Regular follow-up is being maintained in this case which involves joint meetings with the family members to gain a gradual entry into their homes.

4. RY – A married woman with children, RY hailed from Nepal and was arrested from her work place as a domestic. In prison, it was clear that she had no support systems and was extremely vulnerable to being sucked into a world of crime. She was being wooed by the habitual and the drug-peddling group, who were assuring her of all support after her release from prison. The worker developed a strong relationship with her and provided the necessary moral support to deal with imprisonment. At the time of her release, the worker made sure that she was waiting outside for her to take her to a shelter home. She also had a five year old daughter with her.

Initially, RY preferred to go to the address given by a prisoner inside as she did not want to stay in an institution. She came to Prayas after a couple of days & agreed to come with the worker to see the institution. She stayed in the shelter home for a few days but later decided to move to a group home of Prayas. The institution made arrangements to put her child in an institution. RY was able to find employment in a nearby factory on her own.

After a few months, she opened up about her family situation and her reason to leave her home. She had an alcoholic husband who was also a wife-beater. She had left him and come back to her parental home with her three children. After staying with her parents for some time, she realized the need to stand on her own feet and came to Mumbai with her youngest daughter through some contact in search of employment. After some struggle, she was able to find a job as a domestic help. It was here that she got arrested in a case of theft, which she claimed was framed by her employer.

After some time, RY expressed a desire to go home to find out the condition of her parents and her children. We contacted an organization in Nepal to help find out her family situation, but due to incomplete address, it could not be done. Finally, Prayas gave her the traveling expense to make a trip to Nepal, due to her increasing anxiety about her children. She went to her native place and came back after one month. Currently, she is working in the same factory and lives with another woman client of Prayas in a group home.

UMANG

Umang is a life enrichment group of male clients released from prison, which has been in existence since the last decade or so. Started as a support group to counter social isolation and stigma, the group has a floating membership with the aftercare worker of Prayas acting as the pivot to organize meetings and activities. The activities of the Umang group are taking the roots and it is growing in a positive manner. The group has got involved in different activities such as sports, street theatre, Umang Patrika and exposure visits. The activities organised through out the year, have benefited the male clients of Prayas.

Cricket Match

A cricket match was organised to bring the clients together. The staff of Prayas and members of Umang played against each other in the match. It was an enjoyable

experience for the members fostering feelings of team spirit and a sense of camaraderie amongst members. The match ended in a tie.

Umang Patrika

The Umang Patrika is one source for the members to express their talents and present their views. Several clients from inside prison keep sending their articles and poems as a contribution for the Patrika. The format of the Patrika has been changed and made more informative, so that it can help clients to develop themselves. The present content of the Patrika includes one article on law, one article on welfare services useful for our group, one on health issues, self-employment and sources of employment, poems and articles by the members etc.

The feed back from the client has been very positive in response to the changed format. The information disseminated is useful for them. It helps to create an awareness among the group.

Street Theatre

The client group has a lot of talent and energy. It is possible to mould this in a positive direction so as to bring the desired output. Street theatre was one of the activities tried out by the group, which gave scope for display of talent and space to perform in public. This activity was used as an instrument to create awareness in the community about the evils of alcoholism. This was a favorite activity of the group members as they got an opportunity to perform in public. The play was written and directed by one of the member. The songs of the play were composed in a group. Activities such as these help clients to increase their confidence, learn discipline and understand social responsibility. The people came forward with questions about the group and the issue being presented after each performance, thus increasing the interaction of the client group with members of society.

Exposure visit

An exposure visit was organised to a rural based organisation in Raigad district near Karjat, the Academy for the Development Science. This organisation works on developing indigenous technology to produce traditional species of rice and other food grains, medicinal plants, food processing and it's marketing. This visit helped the clients to understand about the negative impact of globalisation on local markets and the rural people.

The site was situated on the banks of a river and the members enjoyed the swimming and the visit. These activities help the client group to develop self-confidence, a positive attitude and sporting sprit. They also help in countering feelings of loneliness through a feeling of togetherness.

The next plan of work is to place the members in the NGO sector as volunteers to work with them. Members are planning to write and perform a script on AIDS awareness, and organise a picnic-cum-exposure visit and a sports fete.

VI. WOMEN/GIRLS RESCUED FROM PROSTITUTION

A. WORK AT POLICE STATIONS

Nagpada Police Station

Our work based at **Nagpada Police Station** towards the counselling rescued girls and women underwent a change. Majority of the raids in the area take place during the night. The rescued persons would be kept in a hall in the premises of the police station and the earlier practice of the police was to inform our worker (after a raid had been conducted) the next morning, so that she could counsel the rescued girls/women, before they were sent to the government homes.

As per the provisions of the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, all rescued persons have to be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours. We had a series of meetings with the police to bring this provision of the law to their notice. As a result, the police started producing the rescued persons before the Mazagaon and Girgaum Court magistrates. The new DCP also did away with the practice of keeping the rescued girls/women in the police station premises for one night to avoid any allegations of misuse in police premises.

As per the new practice, all rescued persons are immediately sent to the Government Protective Home and the Special Juvenile Home. They are produced before the magistrate or juvenile welfare board (now called child welfare committee as the JJ Act, 2000). As a result of this changed practice, it was not possible for our worker to counsel the girls at the police station any more.

Therefore, our worker was shifted to our Mumbai Central Workshop to work on cases coming there and to follow-up on the cases being referred by the Protective Home to Prayas. She continues to visit Nagpada Police Station on and off, to maintain a liaison with the staff there. She also attends any meetings called by the DCP on the issue of rescue. She also helps the Protective Home and Special Juvenile Home staff for timely arrangement of police escort for the inmates there and recovery of their personal property from the brothels.

CST Railway Police Station

While being placed at the **CST Railway Police Station**, the worker also operates within and around the premises of the railway station, in an effort to identify cases of young girls and women in prostitution. She also interacts with runaway children residing at the station, as these children are also vulnerable to sexual exploitation and are prone to addictions.

Objective of our work in this area includes:

1) Prevent women and girls new to the city from staying on the station and establishing relationships therein
2) Motivate persons already residing at the station to shift from there

3) At the police station, work towards ensuring that appropriate procedures are being followed while processing women and children in particular.

Where a person is new to the city, arrangements need to be made for alternative shelter on a priority basis. Having done this, issues such as the reason for coming to Mumbai, and problems faced by the person are discussed, depending on which a plan is chalked out jointly by the worker and the person concerned. Working with those already on the station require a different approach, as they have already established networks for emotional, social or financial subsistence at the station. For this group the idea of moving away from the station and residing elsewhere is not conceivable. As a result the attempt here is to gradually motivate the person to move out by offering and building on her experiences outside of the station. Group sessions are conducted for street children and young girls, within and around the station premises. It is through such sessions that the worker gets a chance to approach this group and facilitate her interaction with them.

B. WORK AT PROTECTIVE HOME AND SPECIAL JUVENILE HOME

Significant gains have been made in our intervention with rescued women and girls at **Protective Home and the Special Juvenile Home** (PH and SJH). At the system level, the following developments took place as a result of our intervention:

- The practice of producing rescued persons before a magistrate has been re-started (as per section 16 of ITPA). This has ensured that no rescued woman is handed over to persons of dubious background.

- The report of the probation officer is being called for (as per section 17 of ITPA) by the magistrate before deciding each case.

- Recovery of personal property of the rescued women by the police from the brothel is being done in each case.

- If the woman wants to go back to her native state or to her family, resource persons and NGOs are being identified to help her with re-settling there. Networks have been established in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, U.P., Tamil Nadu and Karnataka towards this end.

- District administration officials like the Collector and district S.P. are being used in tracing the families and assessing the family situation before the rescued person is sent back in some cases.

- If the woman wants to stay back in Mumbai, arrangements have been made with three institutions for shelter and training is being given to them our Mumbai Central Centre.

- The probation officer at the PH and the Prayas social worker work in close collaboration with each other to work out a plan of action in each case.

Regular meetings are being held with the staff of PH, the police and the judiciary to try and make the rescue and rehabilitation process more effective. Towards this end, a workshop was organized by students of TISS who were placed through Prayas, which was attended by the Hon'ble C.M.M., the magistrates of Mazagaon, Girgaon and Mulund Courts, the D.C.P. of Zone II, police officials from Nagpada, D.B. Marg and V.P. Road Police Stations, staff of PH and SJH and Department of Women and Child Development.

At the SJH, Prayas been actively participating in the meetings of the Guidance and Monitoring Committee set up under the orders of the Mumbai High Court to improve the rehabilitation process. Five other NGOs are part of this process - Prerana (which had filed this PIL and is therefore the main constituent of the GMC), CEHAT, CCDT, Shramik Vidyapeeth and Annapurna Mahila Mandal.

At the level of cases, Prayas has made significant strides on the rehabilitation front this year. Our investment in terms of staff and resources has increased. Both at PH and the SJH, regular activities and short training programmes are being organized by our staff for the inmates there. The activities include craftwork, singing, movie shows, awareness camps and group discussions on relevant topics. The training programmes include tailoring, soft toys making, mehendi, beauty care, embroidery, artificial flower making, candle making, agarbatti making, etc. The type of training courses organized is decided on the basis of the number of participants and the interest shown by the inmates for a course. The short duration of stay limits the type of courses we could organize there.

In terms of counseling at PH, the worker interacts with the women to help them think about their options after they go back to their native state, helps them improve their self-esteem and confidence level, prepares them for their post-institutional life and discusses their doubts and dilemmas. There is one group in the PH that is very clear about going back to prostitution. With this group, the worker tries to challenge their thought processes, involves them in the group activities and tries to create a doubt in their minds about their choice. On terms of effectiveness, the worker's role has the most positive results with those who are clear about going home or those who want to start life afresh in their native state or in Mumbai.

Prayas' intervention does not necessarily end with a woman's discharge from the institution. During the last year, there has been work with women after discharge. Women have contacted the worker after returning to their home state, asking for assistance. Being based in Mumbai, it is not feasible for our worker to directly intervene in such cases. Instead, contacts are established with local agencies working in that district, so as to assist the women deal with her situation.

While some of them plan to start afresh in Mumbai there are others who want to return to their hometown, but at a later stage, when they are equipped to fend for themselves, rather than depend on their family. In such cases, magistrates have passed an order for handing over the responsibility for providing rehabilitative to Prayas, after arrangements are made for alternative shelter and a rehabilitative plan is presented to the court. There are also cases where women have returned to their family but have come back to Mumbai due to lack of support and poor conditions in the family.

Some of the reasons for returning to Mumbai or deciding against returning home are as follows:

a) Family is reluctant to accept her due to the stigma attached to persons coming from Mumbai, and suspicion that arises due to her absence from home.
b) Being deserted by her husband and having no other source of income in the village, returning to Mumbai to earn a living is being explored.
c) Desire for pursuing further training and seeking employment. Due to lack of support and opportunities in the native state, a person decides to move back to Mumbai.
d) Family refuses to accept her due to resentment, problems in relationships that existed even prior to her coming to Mumbai
e) A break up in the marriage, compelling her to come to Mumbai, as she is aware of being supported here.
f) Unable to return home to husband as she eloped with the trafficker who brought her to Mumbai
g) Due to long span of time spent in Mumbai, without contact with the family, apprehensive about returning home. Therefore, she now wishes to return to her native state after the family's response is checked out and alternative arrangements are made if difficulties arise.

This is not a smooth process. There are women who have been between Mumbai and their hometown, while trying to explore different options available to them. An important factor here is the extent to which they can visualize support and the possibility of making it outside of the red-light area. The work at Protective home assumes significance in this regard. On being met by negative circumstances once she returns to her native place, coming back to Mumbai may imply either returning to prostitution or elsewhere. For a woman able to continue practicing prostitution, returning to the red light is not very difficult, as she would definitely be absorbed by elements supporting this environment. It is very important therefore, for a person to know that she would be supported even by the outside world.

C. CENTRE FOR TRAINING AND INCOME GENERATION

At our newly set Women's Centre at Mumbai Central (at Guilder lane Municipal School), the objective is to provide an option to those women in prostitution or crime who are thinking of an alternative to their profession. The choice of the geographical location of the Centre was done with this aim in mind – it being walking distance from the prison and the red-light area of Mumbai. Around 16 women are coming to the Centre regularly currently. Most of them are from the nearby red-light area. A few women from CST Railway Station (where our worker is based) and from prison have visited the place but have not yet taken the decision to attend the workshop.

The Centre has three components:

a. A training Centre where the trainees get a daily stipend of Rs. 40/- for six months. They are taught literacy, accounting, tailoring, soft toys making, artificial flower making, embroidery, painting, beauty care, mehendi, etc. They are taken for visits to other workshops and NGOs. Sessions on marketing, savings, insurance policies

are organized regularly. Awareness programmes on health related issues, government schemes, women's rights, etc. are also organized from time to time.

b. An income generation unit where Prayas products (files, folders, bags, pouches, diaries, etc.) are manufactured. Women who want to supplement their income work here on a piece-rate basis and can earn upto Rs. 100/- a day (after they have become skilled in their jobs). The tailoring skill that they learn in the training centre helps them learn the skill in the production unit faster.

c. Counselling and information is provided to those attending the workshop. This centre also serves as a meeting place for those not attending workshop activities to drop in and meet with the social worker there.

Client Group:

a) Women in prostitution, or those rescued from prostitution, those who have been thrown out of the red light area, or those contemplating to leave the red light area
b) Those vulnerable to crime or prostitution
c) Releases prisoners
d) Stigmatised and vulnerable girls at railway stations
e) Women/girls in need, who are referred by neighbouring organizations
f) Cases referred by clients of Prayas
g) Children of women in crime or prostitution

Objectives:

a) To bring about a change in attitude and life pattern of women and girls who have spent time in the red light area, or those who have committed some offense.
b) To convince them about the possibility of earning a living through an alternative lifestyle
c) To instill confidence to help them come to terms with their past and constructively deal with their future
d) Prepare the person for decision making
e) Focus on the person's skills and talents, and help them develop the same
f) To present different options for earning a livelihood
g) Create a platform to discuss problems faced by women and how to deal with the same.

Activities:

Considering the objective of the agency and the nature of the group approaching us, it was decided to have different training programmes rather than settle for one programme.

After approaching the centre for training, a person is kept under observation for a period of 15-20 days, to make an assessment of the person's needs, and also to assess whether the person is genuinely interested in receiving training or in securing a job. A person interested in seeking employment may attend the workshop due to the stipend being paid. After observation, a person continues to receive training after a plan is worked out for her. Where a person has shown interest in employment, workers explore options for employment, based on the person's interests and skills.

Types of training programmes in the Mumbai Central Workshop:

1) Tailoring which includes sewing of women and children's clothing
2) Knitting of handkerchiefs, torans, sweaters,etc
3) Embroidery
4) Flower making (cloth flowers)
5) Cloth bags and purses of various designs
6) Jewellery making, particularly pearl jewellery
7) Basic beautician skills
8) Toy making
9) Literacy

Time Period:

A period ranging from 6 to 9 months has been fixed for receiving training. As education qualification of this group is very poor, most women need to be taught basic literacy. Thus training period extends longer than that of a training course for the general population. Often women/girls do not like engaging in a single activity the whole day. Therefore, during the observation period, an assessment is made about the kind of skills the person already possesses, and material for pursuing that skill is made available. Picking up new skills sometimes takes time. More often than not, the women need to be taught basic literacy.

During training, trainees are given a stipend of Rs. 40/- per day. Where clients receive training outside the workshop, this money is paid towards meeting expenses for the course fees. The worker is required to make follow up visits to training centers outside where clients are referred for training. While being referred to outside agencies for training, clients are given guidance in regard to the conduct expected from them, rules and regulations that need to be followed. They are initially accompanied to the training centre they are required to attend, after which they are left on their own.

Depending on the kind of training being given, information about availability of raw material in wholesale and retail markets are also given. An attempt is made to explore with the trainee ways by which a person can make use of training received.

Special Programmmes:

In addition to skills development, other programmes are also organized:

1) A Mahila Milan programme was organised for all the women at the workshop, and those who were not in the workshop but had been in touch with Prayas.
2) Around 20 to 25 women attended a picnic held at J.J. Nursing Association guest house at Aksa Beach. These included both women who were attending the Prayas workshop and also those who were not, but who had been in touch with Prayas. It was a way of getting to know each other and building friendships.
3) Educational programmes at Mumbai Central Workshop
4) Visits are organized such as:

a) Vocational training centers to expose the clients about the various options available for training.
b) Market centres to show places where training material is available in the market
c) Community welfare services and NGOs to explore different services available in the community
d) Production units of various types to gain knowledge about economic options.
e) Recreational outings to increase their exposure and confidence levels.

Besides this while some women are given training in the workshop, there are others who have been admitted in training courses outside the workshop, in different other fields. Suwarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojna (SJSRY) offers training in various fields. Regular meetings and dialogue with cdpos have resulted in alternative solutions being created for enabling persons to avail of this scheme, inspite of not possessing the required documents.

Client Response:

The response to this Centre has been very encouraging. Women from the age group of 18 to 45 have been coming here. We are helping them to open savings accounts in banks to encourage the habit of saving. We have helped a few of them to take a room on rent in some slum area to move out of the red-light area.

Options for employment are being explored. One woman has under gone para-professional social work training and is currently working in an NGO as a balwadi teacher. Another has found a job in a packing unit. Two women are sharing a room and doing home-based work (from a nearby box-making unit). Another woman has found a job in a factory and is sharing the room with a client. An older woman has been placed through an NGO in a night crèche as a care-taker. One woman has been found a job in an NGO working rescued women in Andhra Pradesh.

Working with such women requires the worker to deal with a range of situations, including dealing with emergency situations such as providing for clothes, food, basic needs, shelter, medical ailments. Timely support and regular guidance is essential.

As such persons are increasingly approaching Prayas for assistance, a major problem faced is that of shelter. Most women do not want to stay in closed institutions, so options have to be explored for a person's stay in a place where she can move out for training and employment. This is particularly important, considering the fact that women approach Prayas with the intention of developing themselves towards being independent. Formal and informal options are being explored for this purpose. For instance, open shelters for women, working women's hostels, paying guest accommodations, taking a room on rent (where Prayas arranges for the deposit amount and the women pay the monthly rent) are used for meeting the needs of the women.

Regular meetings are held with the women (both those attending training activities in the workshop and those who are not) to discuss various issues, some of them being problems

faced by women and possible ways to deal with problem situations, suggestions for improving/altering Prayas' services.

Case Illustrations:

1) Kalyan Police called C.S.T Police Station, asking for the social worker of Prayas to assist in a case of a young girl who was found unconscious at Titwala Railway Station. Even after she receiving treatment, she had not spoken a word to the police.

On going to Kalyan Police Station, the worker learnt from the senior inspector that she had given sleeping pills forcibly. She was from Chikmanglur, Karntaka, where she was engaged in domestic work. A boy told her about a job in Mumbai. He brought her to Mumbai and instead sold her to a brothel keeper. After staying there for two years, she started resisting the brothel keeper and refused to engage in prostitution. She had stopped eating for days, as a result of which the brothel keeper did not want her to continue staying there.

The option of staying in an institution was offered to her. Meanwhile workers contacted an organisation, namely Freedom Foundation, which is situated in Bangalore, and was willing to take responsibility for further rehabilitation once she reached there. She was escorted to Bangalore with the help of Police escorts.

2) SS - Around 40 years of age, SS was staying on the streets in Mumbai. A citizen referred this case to us requesting that we arrange for alternative shelter for her. With great difficulty an organisation willing to offer temporary shelter was identified. After around three weeks of her stay here, she started showing symptoms of mental disturbance, and also had a few physical ailments.

While maintaining regular contact with her in the institution, she was also taken to Sion Hospital for medical treatment. However, the institution staff requested that she be shifted to another shelter home, as they said that the institution could not cater to mentally disturbed persons. Meanwhile offering a protective environment was important so as to avoid her being on the streets, as this could lead to physical and sexual exploitation.

The social worker had to face various difficulties while handling this case, as there was no shelter home for such persons. Therefore, she was finally hospitalized in the psychiatric ward of J.J.Hospital.

After intervention and interaction with her, it was felt that she might have harassed her in–laws. She may have come to Mumbai in the month of August (after Rakhi Bandhan). According to her, she was married and had three sons who were based in Hathi Gate, Amritsar. One of her sons was working in a garment show room and two were studying in college. She gave the incomplete address of her mother.

At J.J. Hospital, the workers were asked to ensure that she had a person attending to her for 24 hrs a day. Therefore, two attendants were appointed to take care of her and had to

be paid on a daily basis. The hospital authorities permitted that SS be allowed to stay in the hospital, after they got to know of the efforts being taken to locate the family.

The social worker contacted the Superintendent of Police of Dehradun and requested that the family be traced. Within a week the police traced her family. SS' mother and son came to Mumbai and took her back home. The social worker helped in getting a train reservation for the family to return home.

Phone calls were made to follow up the case at Amritsar (where her husband and in laws reside). She appeared to be doing well. The family was attending to her medical needs. We were told that she was being given E.C.T, although there seemed to be a shortage of drugs available at that time.

On following up the case further, learnt that she was all right.

3) Railway police brought a woman under section 145(B) (trespassing in railway premises) of the Indian Railway Act, when worker requested to police officer concerned to allow him to talk with the woman. He agreed. When the worker spoke to the woman, she told to worker that she have been living at Kurla. She had four children and her husband had left her. She had taken to prostitution, as she had no other means of survival. The worker asked her whether her children, when they grow older, would like it if they came to know about her profession. He offered her the alternative of Prayas Workshop, but she did not sound convinced. The also worker realized that she was lying to him about many things including details of her residential address.

The worker discussed the case with the police officer and suggested to him not to impose a fine on her and give her a chance. The officer warned her against soliciting on the railway premises. He also promised to help her if she was willing to give up her profession.

4) Contact with MK was established in the Government Protective Home at Chembur, after she was rescued from a red light area by the Nagpada Police. She is approximately 21 years of age. She hails from Nadia district in West Bengal, where her parents and brother reside.

During her stay in Protective home, it was found that she was HIV positive. The worker had special counselling sessions with her so as to provide her with information about her health status and also help her understand the possibility of leading a fruitful life, even after being tested positive. Being with her through this difficult phase helped the worker establish a strong base for social work interaction.

Training activities commenced while she was in the Protective home. While she was interested in pursuing her training, anxieties over her health status made her also explore the option of returning home for support, although she was doubtful about her family's response to her coming back. Yet, staying in Mumbai, without any supports was also difficult. Therefore she made a decision to return to her family.

However, she was met with a negative response on returning home. The local people had got to know about her being in prostitution and were wary of having her with them. They also learnt about her being HIV positive and therefore her decision to stay with the family was not supported by them.

Mona therefore returned to Mumbai and started staying with a woman she knew about. This woman had girls living with her, who were into prostitution. Mona was told that she could stay with her if she was willing to pay a certain amount of money for boarding and lodging. Mona agreed to do so.

Meanwhile, Mona contacted us and informed about her whereabouts. The worker suspected that the woman she was staying with might be planning to make her re-enter prostitution once she ran out of money. This impression was shared with Mona, who at that time felt she was in no danger.

She was presented with the option of pursuing her training in the Mumbai Central workshop while arrangements for alternative shelter could be made. By now Mona had run out of money and the woman she was staying with had now started insisting that she practice prostitution to pay up her debts. She refused to allow Mona to leave the place without paying her debts.

Mona contacted Prayas, informing that she may have a problem leaving and could be in need of rescue. She said she would try to leave on her own, but may need support if that did not work out. Meanwhile the police at Nagpada and Bhayander Police Station were both informed that Mona was in need of rescue. It was decided that they would wait for some time for Mona to try to leave, after which they would assume that she was in trouble and conduct a raid. However, Mona managed to leave the place on her own.

Ever since August 2001, she has been in touch with us. Arrangements for shelter were made at a working women's hostel that is not very far from the Prayas workshop which she attends regularly. She was keen on staying in Mumbai and the idea of returning to West Bengal, even if it was for staying away from her family did not appeal to her. It appeared more like she wanted to start life afresh in a new place. It was therefore decided to work according to her plans. Her main aim was to become a "good person". As she often said, " Mujhe acchi ladki banna hain".

Being placed in a working women's hostel offered her an environment different from that of an institution for women and girls. Here, while she was in a protective environment, she was also interacting with other working girls from different walks of life. This helped in building her confidence and improving her self image too. There was gradually a change in her attitude towards self and also the agency.

During this phase, the worker had to devote several sessions on issues revolving around relationships. Being alone in Mumbai, without any close relationships could make her susceptible to being pulled into negative or exploitative relationships.

Mona completed her training in the workshop. The workers are now trying to create opportunities for employment. In the past, contacts were established with a training

organisation, namely Project Mainstream, where Mona conducted two training programmes, one in flower making and the other in agarbatti making. This helped increase her confidence in this field.

She has now expressed that she would like to work with a social organisation. Therefore, she will shortly be doing a para-professional social work course. Besides this, different options are being explored for employment. Presently, she is invited by a training organisation to conduct short-term training programmes. Besides this, she is presently employed as a teacher in an organisation working with women.

VII. NETWORKING TOWARDS REHABILITATION

Since the last two years, we have been working on the issues specific to rehabilitation of upcountry cases (referred from the Prison, Police Station and Prostitution units, and from other NGOs and individuals in the community). The objective here is to aid reintegration of persons in their local areas.

Common requests for assistance include:

a. Trace the family and contact them to assess their response towards the person's return
b. Help in improving relationships within the family
c. Identifying support for receiving training, finding a job, availing of government schemes
d. Temporary shelter, in the absence or lack of familial support
e. Educational assistance to the person involved, or for family members
f. Economic assistance for the family
g. Medical assistance, particularly where there is mental disturbance
h. Support in crisis situation
i. Legal aid
j. Monetary assistance for returning home, arranging for escorts to accompany them.

Networking involves establishing contacts with individuals/organisations/government officers in respective States. A person going back is given information about supportive resources, after his/her return to the native place. Such resources have been developed in about ten states so far.

Role of NGOs in Rehabilitation and Reintegration

Local NGOs play a significant role in rehabilitation of clients. However, it is important that there is some amount of matching between the framework of the agency and the needs of the client. In some cases, girls directly go to NGOs willing to take responsibility. This is particularly in cases where the family is not willing to accept the person on his/her return. NGOs are contacted for tracing families, visiting them to assess the home situation, and follow up cases. Having local supports in the area, proves beneficial for the concerned person as well as the family.

Role of District Officials

Identifying NGOs in every district has not been possible. Government officials are approached for assistance. Senior officers of the police (such as I.G., D.I.G. and Superintendents of Police), district administration (such as the Collector, District Welfare Officer, B.D.O.) authorities of State Homes and officials of the Women and Child Welfare Departments have been contacted for this purpose. We have learnt that the police are an efficient means for tracing families.

We have received positive responses, from officers who appear to be committed to the cause of rehabilitation of such persons, and who have helped in tracing families, arranging for family counselling, preparing the family for the person's return by motivating them to accept the person and take responsibility, arranging for temporary shelter, etc. All this has been possible because the nodal officer was sensitive to the needs of the group. Special care has been taken in such cases not to reveal the background of the client to the family or the community (as per the wishes of the client). We have requested the police in such situations to do the work discreetly and in plain clothes

Besides this, another important aspect is that of preparing a person for his/her return home, and one that requires intensive inputs. We are attempting to build and improve our expertise in this matter. Experience goes to show that while supports are made available for certain areas such as shelter, employment, training, and medical assistance, problems arise when dealing with day to day functioning within the family.

By working on individual cases, we have now been able to work out a more systematic approach whilst dealing with the issue of repatriation. However, once a person returns home, maintaining contact is not feasible, as this might result in the person becoming visible to the community. Reintegration into the mainstream implies a process by which a person – more often than not identified for having done something outside the realm of normal functioning – moves to a state of anonymity, where he/she is seen as a person functioning 'like any other' in society. A person having to correspond with an agency situated in Mumbai, having visitors from outside agencies visit the home, may result in the community suspecting that there is 'something happening' with the family.

While we are in the process of strengthening our networks, we are constantly faced with new challenges. During the past year, five women have returned from their hometown to Mumbai (after going back home) and contacted Prayas. Since they had a strong and positive relationship with the worker, they immediately contacted the latter, due to which they did not enter a situation where there was a chance of getting exploited again.

Our experience goes to show that repatriation for a boy who has been in crime is relatively easier. A boy is welcomed back home, whereas in the case of a girl/woman, her return is shrouded with doubts, suspicions about her whereabouts, and she is looked at as a liability.

From information we have received, problems faced whilst trying to adjust with the family has been one reason for moving away from the family. In some cases, the reason for coming back has been marriage arranged by the family against her consent. Where the family or the community have learnt about the woman's stay in the red light area, they have resisted the idea of her returning to the family fold. In some cases, the fact that the girl has been accompanied by the police to her home is sufficient to give rise to doubts about her character. In the face of difficult familial relationships, moving out appears to be a better option at that point of time.

Some Observations:

1) In most cases, proper postal addresses are not available.
2) If a person who initially is reluctant to return home, but receives a positive response from the family (by way of a letter or telephone call), there is an immediate change in his/her decision and urgency to go home.
3) Returning home is not a clear and easy decision. One has to discuss several issues, related to a person's family situation, reason for leaving home, possible supports if he/she returns, employment opportunities, chances of marriage etc. Plans to go home keep changing, till a person finally is sure of the decision.
4) Going home with some amount of money, proving to the family that he/she has something to contribute to the family is reported to be of significance with most clients.

Information gathered with respect to resources identified in other districts and states are shared with other NGOS or institutional staff requiring such information.

Future Plans:

1) Preparation of a resource directory of organizations, agencies and individuals supportive to rehabilitation.
2) Studying in depth the situation that persons encounter on returning to their home state, so as to ensure that the networks developed are in tune with the person's needs.
3) Gathering information on the socio-economic situation in vulnerable districts from where persons come o Mumbai.

VIII. BHARUCH UNIT

Work in Bharuch district, Gujarat, was initiated in September 1995. The social worker was placed at Bharuch City 'A' Division Police Station with the objective to understand the need of a social worker at a district level police station. Apart from helping any citizen who reaches police station in crisis, the focus of our work at the police station is on women (offenders and women in difficult situations), children (run away and delinquent), mentally disturbed and young male offenders. Work has also been initiated at the Bharuch Sub-Jail (Male and Female sections).

A. WORK AT 'A' DIV. POLICE STATION

With almost six years of working experience at the police station at the district level, Prayas has established the need for full-time and sustained social work placement at the police station.

At the district level:

- There are very few NGOs working at the district level, and hardly any focusing on women's issues or problems. Most of the agencies are not always responsive to the needs of women from their perspective.
- The issue of rights and vulnerability of children is not understood. The concept is new for the police and the community and they are not sensitive to needs and the problems of the children. For example, if a child is working in the illegal liquor business, he is seen as doing 'mazdoori'. Its many social effects on the children are not understand.
- Certain communities are still looked down as criminal tribes. Both women and children belonging to these tribe are vulnerable to frequent arrests by the police on suspicion and harassment by the community.
- There is a grave problem of alcoholism in the rural areas. This leads to problems on two fronts :

1. Vulnerable women getting into illegal liquor business - In this business, women play a very crucial role. They are ones who make illegal liquor and sell it. The men sit idle and spend their time drinking. Thus, it is the women who face problems related to criminalisation. They are prone to frequent arrests, harrasment, paying lawyers, managing bail, attending court dates, etc. Their children are left to fend for themselves at home, when they are under arrest.

2. Alcoholism in men - This leads to problems like not working, not taking household responsibility, extra martial relations, violence at home and outside and arrests.

- In cases of mentally disturbed, the attitude is of forcing them out from the community, both by the police and the community. There is no attempt at providing for treatment, support, contacting families, etc.
- The worker has come across two cases of women being considered 'Dain' or 'Chudail' (witch-hunting practices). These women were found to be physically,

mentally and sexually harassed by the community. According to the police, there are many such cases in interior tribal areas of the district. These need special attention and intervention.

- Bharuch is a rapidly growing town with many industries being set up. The city is going through transition. It has its own problem of poverty and lack of opportunities, and is also facing problems arising due to urbanization. One consequence of this process is the problem of prostitution, which is rapidly increasing. Women are brought and kept in hotels and lodges to cater to sexual needs of the migrant male population.

Thus in this situation, the placement of a social worker in the police station assumes importance. Over the years the role of social worker at the police station has evolved as follows :

1. To help any citizen who reaches the police station in crisis (especially in cases of women, children and mentally disturbed).
2. To give legal advise to these groups.
3. To give alternatives and provide resources according to the needs expressed by them.
4. To counsel and help them choose from options/resources available.
5. To contact family members, or employers who could help in crisis.
6. To initiate discussion the clients, especially young male and women offenders for their rehabilitation.
7. To have continuous discussion with field level police staff and senior officers regarding needs and problems of vulnerable groups reaching the police station (either as offenders or victims)
8. To contact and co-coordinate with other social work agencies in the field.

The role of Prayas has been accepted and appreciated by the police and community. Prayas has been given a table and a chair at the Police Station. We are also an invitee member of the Mahila Suraksha Samiti, a citizen-centred women's protection body set up by the police. There have been case referrals by lawyers from the District Legal Service Authority and other social work agencies. Often, the social worker is called by other NGOs to give legal guidance and counseling.

B. WORK AT THE BHARUCH SUB-JAIL

Male Section:

Currently, the role of the prison worker is:

1. Establishing contact with prison inmates and their families.
2. Giving legal aid and advise to inmates and their families.
3. Writing applications on behalf of the inmates to the magistrates concerned.
4. Conducting vocational based training programmes for inmates in prison with the help of government recognized training agencies.
5. Contacting families of the inmates to:
   - give them legal advise and explain the legal status of the case.

- encourage and motivate them to bail out the inmates.
- encourage their support for rehabilitation of inmates after their release.

6. Co-ordinating with prison authorities, magistrates, District Legal Services Authority and the inmates towards accessing their their basic legal rights and rehabilitation.

The prison population is increasing ever since the time we started work. The male section is becoming more and more overcrowded. At present, the male section population has touched almost to 430. This overload is causing a lot of strain on the prison system and our services. To prepare for an inmate's rehabilitation, extensive and one to one level work is required. But most of the worker's time goes in writing applications, making phone calls, paying home visits, etc. In such a situation, there is little time left for in-depth counseling, discussions on problems involved in rehabilitation and follow up of cases of released prisoners. In prison there are two categories of clients:

1. Local: Those belonging to Bharuch city and district. They are manly accused for murder, assault, rape, theft and prostitution related offences. Their main demands are contacting their families, giving legal guidance, contacting lawyers, arranging for bail, etc.
2. Upcountry: They have come to Bharcuh in search of employment. They have their families living in their native place. They do not have fixed job or fixed place of residence. They stay in the factory premises or with community members ('Biradiriwallas'). They are mostly arrested under theft, loot or robbery. Their main demand is of contacting their employers, arranging for free legal aid, and expedition of cases.

Most crimes in these areas are the result of the conflicts and tensions between people over property disputes. There are also cases of elopement with minor girls leading to arrest under kidnapping and statutory rape.

We have found that there are very few economic opportunities in rural and tribal areas. There is a serious problem of employment. Agriculture is seasonal and thus the youth leave their native place to industrial towns in search of jobs. Here, they face problems of isolation (being away from their families), exploitation by employers and unstable job situation. Some of them get into crime as a result of these conditions.

The atmosphere in prison is depressing. The inmates see no hope for the future. The locals, after their release, have to face same problems of land fragmentation, lack of employment opportunities and conflicts at home. The upcountry youth, can not go back to their native place (due to the bleak situation back home) and have to survive here in a competitive and unhealthy environment. In such a situation, it is very important in prison to:

- Demonstrate options and possibilities in life.
- Give information about government schemes.
- Help uncover their hidden talents and skills.

Female Section:

There are few accused in female section. The number varies from 8 to 12 women. When we started work six years back, the population used to be 0-3. Most of the women are arrested under section of 498-A IPC (harassment of the daughter-in-law), murder, prohibition (making or sale of illicit liquour), or drug peddling.

The women arrested under the prohibition laws or 498-A IPC, are usually supported by either their employer (in case of prohibition] or their family members (in case of 498-A IPC). The worker's role in such cases is limited to legal advice, sometimes paying a visit or speaking to their lawyers. But in cases of women arrested under murder (section 302 IPC), there is a need to do a lot of work with the family (parental or marital) to get their support, to bail them out, etc.

Most of these women are from poor tribal villages. Their families suffer from extreme poverty. Their economic sustenance is based on agriculture and they have money in their hands only after the harvest. It has been our experience that whenever we pay home visits, the family is not responsive. They do not even have the money to reach to Bharuch Sub-Jail or the court for a mulakat. During the harvesting season, even if they have money to travel, they do not have time to spend an entire day to come for a mulakat. In these situations, it becomes very difficult to garner their support, and the worker has to pay many home visits to convince the family.

An issue that needs to be studied is the situation of the children of these imprisoned mothers. It is very surprising that not many mothers have asked the worker to pay a visit to inquire about her children. Similarly, not many children have inquired about their mothers when the worker has paid a visit to the village, or responded to a question like "do you miss your mother?"

One needs to study whether this situation is the result of

1. rural socialisation, where people are not encouraged to express feelings?
2. survival issues, where people do not have time to think about feelings
3. the harshness life of rural poverty, whereby the children were living in a state of relative neglect even when the mother was at home?
4. the fact that the community takes care of the children in the mother's absence?

In one case, a woman was imprisoned under a prohibition case for quite some time. Nobody had come to meet her or help her get released. The worker asked her if she should pay a visit at home. The woman replied, "I am happy here; at least I get food here." The worker asked, "But what about your children?" She replied, "Why should I care for them? Their father must be looking after them".

The worker paid a home visit. The children comprised a ten year old boy, a six year old girl and a four year girl, staying with their maternal grand parents. On enquiring about them, they told worker that their father had run away immediately after the arrest. The children were staying alone. After a week, the grand parents came to fetch them, and found that they were staying alone. The worker asked the elder boy, "How were you managing?" He replied, "I worked as a cow herd, got paid in the evening, bought some

snack from the nearby village and then used to eat". The situation after the arrival of the grandparents on the scene had not greatly improved. The worker had gone to their house at 5.00 in the evening. At that time, the children were eating lunch.

Nobody to help, nobody to support, nobody to stay with, nobody to comfort, nobody to give answers to the questions arising in their mind...

Activities in the Female Section

Prayas had appointed a volunteer who was conducting embroidery and fabric painting classes for women prisoners. The inmates really enjoyed these sessions. It was wonderful to see those who had never held a chalk in their hands, coming out with such beautiful colours and designs. We have been unable to appoint an activity teacher in prison to continue this work, due to financial limitations.

Case Illustrations:

1. BW - Appeared very disturbed to the worker. Moreover, he looked very old for his age of 35 years. He looked tired and helpless, and his expressions and behaviour attracted the worker's attention. On speaking to him, the worker came to know that along with him, his son and wife were also arrested U/S 302 of IPC.

BW and his family belong to a remote tribal village of Narmada District. One has to walk for around 3 kms to reach his village from the nearest bus-stop. In this remote village, people still believe in ghosts, evil spirits, maili vidya (witchcraft), etc. People in the village believed that M (wife of BW), was responsible for the deaths and illnesses in the village. One day, their neighbours came and picked up fight with M and started beating her up. When BW and his son intervened, there was a violent fight between them. This lead to death of the neighbour on the spot. The police arrested them and they were sent to judicial custody.

BW told the worker that he owned seven goats, two cows, two bullocks and half a dozen hens at home. One day, his sister came to the prison and informed him that the opposite party was not allowing anybody in the village to give water and fodder to the animals. She further told him that when she went to take away animals, he obstructed her and threatened the entire family with dire consequences. BW was very worried that the animals would die of thirst and hunger. He requested worker to help in this situation.

Role of the worker:

BW met the worker on his third day after his arrest. If what he had told the worker was the truth, then the situation was very serious as these animals could stay without food but not without water. So the worker decided to a pay home visit immediately. When worker reached the village, he saw the houses in the village were very scattered and far off from each other. The worker observed that his house was broken and the animals were in a state of distress. One goat had already died. When worker looked around the house, the old mother of BW was around. She could hardly see anything, and was staying in the home alone, since the arrest. A distant relative used to send her food.

The worker then went to meet BW sister to take her support. Her village was another 3 km walk from this village. The worker met his sister who was ready to help but was scared. She requested for police support. The worker went to the police station the next day, along with BW's sister and brother-in-law, and explained to them the situation. They convinced the police to come along with them to protect the cattle. The police went on the same evening and rescued his cattle.

This case throws light on village level problems, and effects of imprisonment related to these situations. In villages, the effects of imprisonment is not only on the person and his family but it is also on his property. In this case, the animals were forced to starve. There are other cases where the crops are burnt, the houses are looted and burnt.

The issue of M being considered as witch (Dakin) will remain alive even after their release from prison. This implies that the family will continue to face similar problems on the release. They will have to continue staying in the same village, as their and agricultural land is in this village.

There needs to be a lot of work done in the village community about their beliefs in witchcraft (Maili Vidya). It is also important to gain police support for this family to help them in emergencies. It is equally important to convince the accused family to take psychiatric treatment as the doctors have identified this as an acute psychiatric problem. As they belong to very interior and remote village, the issue of reaching the psychiatrist remains an unanswered question.

2. PK - Referred by other inmates of the prison, saying that he was mentally ill. The worker tried to speak to him on many different ocassions, but he was unable to give his correct address. All he could say was that he was from Orissa, his father worked in a hospital and that he had run away from home.

Some other inmates in prison told to worker that they had seen PK before his imprisonment in Pardi (Pardi is GIDC area, around 20 kms away from Bharuch). The Worker went to Pardi where migrant workers stay in chawls. The worker searched in chawls to look around for PK's relatives, but could not find anyone.

As PK was arrested under 122 © Cr.P.C. (under suspicion), he was released by the magistrate. PK had nowhere to go and he was not mentally very healthy. So the worker did not want to send him alone. Sending him to the Vadodara Mental Hospital, would reduce his chances of meeting his family again.

Prayas decided to go to Pardi to look for his family. If the family could be found, the worker would take a chance and ask the other Oriya boys to take care of PK till his condition improved. This would give the worker some time to locate his address and contact his family.

It took the worker a lot of effort to convince Oriya boys to look after PK, as they were scared of police and were reluctant to take his responsibility. The worker promised to

keep in regular touch with them through follow up visits and also pay for his maintenance.

This proved to be a successful experience. The boys really took care of him. Even though they were working in the shifts, they would take turns to look after him. They found him a job after some days. The worker paid continuous visits to speak to PK, and decided to start psychiatric treatment for him. When his condition improved, he gave various telephone numbers of Orrisa. Worker tried all the numbers and luckily, we got through one telephone number. It was of his friends. Worker spoke to him, and explained to him the matter and also gave her residence number. PK's family contacted the worker at her residence. They said that they had been looking for Prakash since the past five months. They immediately left from Orissa and reached Bharuch in 2 days. The worker then took them to Pardi. Prakash was very happy to meet them and went to Orissa with them.

3.SM – The worker met SM in police custody. He was standing near the lock up with tears in his eyes. He looked very young and vulnerable. On speaking to him, he said that he would not tell her anything here, as feared that the police will harass his family. He assured her that he would disclose everything after he was sent to prison.

Once SM was sent to judicial custody, the worker met him there. SM said that he was a Kashmiri and was studying in a madarsa near Bharuch. His three sisters were also studying in the madarsa for girls. His father earned a living by collecting donations for madarsas and getting paid for the same. His mother and brothers live in Kashmir. Because of the situation in Kashmir, his father did not want girls to live there. So he had rented a small room in a village in Bharuch, so his daughters could stay there during the vacations. His mother had also come there to meet the children. SM did not like it in the madarsa, so he ran away from there and had come home. During that time, his father had gone to another village. When his father was slated to return, he got scared and ran away from the house. He met a friend, who took him along with him, and in the night they broke open a shoe shop and stole shoes. His friend told SM to wait there and till he came back after hiding the stolen property. Later, police arrived on the scene of the crime and arrested SM. Nobody in the family knew anything about SM.

Worker's intervention:

1. After discussion with SM, paid a visit to his home.
2. Gave the family information about SM, arranged for his Mulakat and gave him legal guidance.
3. Started preparing SM about his plans on release.
4. After SM was released on bail, had discussions with SM and his family, and it was decided to send him for training skill.
5. SM wanted to learn tailoring which could be useful to him even after he goes back to Kashmir. Found a tailor's shop, where the tailoring master was ready to give him on-the-job training. Prayas paid a daily stipend to SM.
6. Encouraged SM to take a certificate course in tailoring. Along with SM, searched for an institute where he could learn as well as work (in a tailoring shop).
7. The institute wanted a residence proof (ration card) and birth certificate. SM had neither. Helped him get an affidavit (in lieu of birth certificate) and a certificate from the sarpanch of the village about the residence character proof.

8. Continuous follow up visit to SM, his employer and his family is going on to support the rehabilitation process.

Future Plans

1. Activity Centre for Bharuch Sub-Jail: When the women inmates were taking keen interest in the embroidery classes, they expressed desire for learn tailoring. After a lot of discussion with them, we have planned an outline for tailoring class in the prison. This will include teaching women things which they require in every day life, like cloth bags, petticoats, saree-falle bidding, nickers for children, etc. Apart from stitching for their own needs, they could also can generate income by taking orders in the village.

2. Workshop for Training and Employment: We want to start a workshop for training and employment for our clients to
   - provide immediate employment to them after their release from prison,
   - acquire a skill for self-employment (using local raw material and for local market), and
   - provide a support structure to clients during their financial emergencies.

   Prayas has already rented a place for the workshop, and sewing machines have been donated by the Bharuch Municipality.

3. Rehabilitation work with released prisoners of rural and tribal areas: Bharuch district has large tribal population. Many of the inmates in prison are tribals who either own a small piece of land or are wage labourers. Their problems arise because they cannot produce enough on their land, and agriculture being a seasonal business, they face an income problem during the off season. If we want to help them settle in their villages, to avoid problems arising due to out-migration, it is very important to train them towards the maximum utilisation of the land they have. For additional income, we have to teach them trades, which can be produced by using local raw material and can be marketed locally. We want to explore this aspect to give maximum help to our client group.

4. Intervention with women and children involved in illicit liquor business: This is the group, which worker has identified since the work started in Bharuch. This is the group which needs urgent intervention as they are vulnerable and exploited not only by their employees but also by the system. They also have to face effects of criminalisation in all aspects of their lives.

5. Research and documentation on:
   - Children who get left behind at home, while their mothers are imprisoned (with focus on rural and tribal families).
   - Scope and possibilities of leaving the profession of illicit liquor and opportunities available to them in rural areas.

6. Expand work in Surat and Vadodara Prisons: The prison authorities have expressed a request to Prayas to start work in Surat and Vadodara Prisons. Surat

being industrial area, there is a sizable migrant population in prison without any support. All the convict women from the State of Gujarat are housed at the Vadodara Central Prison. These women face problems like contacting and meeting families and children. Their feelings of isolation and insecurity about their future leads to a very negative and frustrating environment in prison. They are unable to plan for their future as they are not in contact with the families.

In Conclusion:

The Bharuch Unit is small unit, consisting of only two workers. Between them they manage work at the police station, prison (both male and female section) with population around 340 inmates, coordinating with the system. (going to police stations, meeting magistrates and lawyers, attending courts), handling emergencies of clients, home visits, training programmes, documentation and administration.

After six years of work in the field, there is evident recognition in the field of the need for social work intervention at various levels (as mentioned in future plan). But lack of sufficient staff forces us to continue doing limited work. A vision of our future plan is clear to us and so are our limitations.

IX. RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

The research and documentation unit received a boost last year. Two of our senior workers were shifted to this unit. They have undertaken the task of taking forward on-going research on rehabilitation related issue in crime and prostitution. Data that is continuously being generated through field experiences is discussed and analysed during staff meetings, meetings with clients of Prayas, and other informed persons. Meanwhile an attempt is also being made to also review past documents prepared, so as to identify it's relevance to the present situation.

This unit also aims at enhancing communication and discussion on issues across units. While workers continue intervention in respective placements, it becomes important that issues that arise during the course of a worker's intervention are also communicated and discussed with other persons from the other units, if the issue is to be discussed in totality.

Forums are being created to increase communication with clients so as to check any idea, or understanding that has arisen as a result of our intervention. Similarly problems faced by clients are also discussed in such forums. This has resulted in a more realistic understanding of the situations that a person vulnerable to crime or prostitution face. The purpose of such exercises have mainly been to ensure that services provided are in tune with the needs of the person and his/her situation. Documenting rehabilitation processes within Prayas for further analysis, also forms an important aspect of our work.

One of the workers helped in finalizing our study on children of prisoners. We are happy to report that the book on this issue is finally out – as a Prayas Publication. Its titled "Forced Separation: Children of Imprisoned Mothers" and is priced at Rs. 150/-. We plan to use this publication to draw the attention of the State and the community on the situation of children of prisoners in the country.

We plan to come out with a report soon on the study we conducted on the rehabilitation of institutionalized girls.

Meanwhile information gathered on the types of initiatives available for rehabilitation of women in prostitution, is being organized and processed for further analysis.

We have appointed a documentation worker to help our staff document their on-going work and draw out issue relevant to rehabilitation from the field. There is communication and membership with other documentation centres so as to increase our knowledge base. In the long run, we would like to set-up a documentation centre cum library in Prayas for the benefit of our staff and others in the field.

X. POLICY LEVEL WORK

Our intervention at the policy level is finally bearing significant results:

- Our work with children of prisoners and our efforts to include this group in the list of children in especially difficult circumstances is slowly being recognized. The Maharashtra State Policy on Children has included children of prisoners as vulnerable and in need of protection and care. In a meeting held in Mantralaya under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, the National Initiative on Child Protection has recognized this issue and has decided to identify NGOs in all the prisons of Maharashtra to work with children of prisoners.

- The UNICEF Country Report for the National Plan of Action for 2003-2007 has included this group in the list of children in need of care and protection. The report was the outcome of deliberations in a regional workshop organized by UNICEF at TISS, where Prayas made a presentation on the situation of children of prisoners. We have also intervened in a Supreme Court PIL on under trial prisoners (R.D. Upadhyay Vs States and Union of India), by presenting the findings of our study on children of prisoners.

- The State Inter-Departmental Committee on prisoners and released prisoners has taken up some of the issues brought before their notice by us. One of them is developing a scheme for released prisoners in Maharashtra. We have also conducted a study on the implementation of the Probation of Offenders Act in Mumbai, as an outcome of these meetings. The findings of this study will be presented to the Department of Law and Judiciary for follow-up with the Mumbai High Court.

- As a result of the IDC meetings, the Dept. of L&J has written a letter to the Registrar of Mumbai High Court to priorities cases of women and male youth (16 to 23 age group) in prison as under trials.

- At the initiative of the I.G. Prisons, the Principal Secretary, Home and Justice J.N. Patel of the Nagpur Bench of Mumbai High Court, a one day seminar was organized in Nagpur to work our a policy for better prison administration and rehabilitation of released prisoners. Prayas was asked to present a paper on this subject where it gave detailed recommendations on work with prisoners and released prisoners. We are following up the recommendations of this meeting with the office of the I.G. Prisons and the Home Department.

- The Mumbai IDC has met twice last year under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble C.M.M. Implementation of the P.O. Act and the I.T.P. Act, arrest of persons with past criminal record on suspicion by police, problem of inadequate police escorts to take prisoners to court, need for visiting psychiatrist in prison, starting training programmes in prison under the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana by the B.M.C., allotment of telephone booths to released prisoners and many such very important issues have been taken up in these meetings and minuted for further action. We plan to follow-up each of these issues till they take the shape of a policy initiative.

- Our staff has been working continuously to activate the government legal aid structure through meetings with their staff and notes submitted to relevant authorities. Similar meetings have been held with the judiciary and the police to implement the provisions of the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act.

- At the national level, we have been asked to do a study by the National Human Rights Commission on the rescue and rehabilitation process. The proposal has been submitted to the NHRC and a decision will be taken in this regard in the coming months. We have been actively pursuing issues related to prostitution with Hon'ble Justice Sujata Manohar, Member, NHRC and she has shown a very positive response to our suggestions.

- Prayas is one of the contributors to a training manual being prepared by TISS for social workers in the area of trafficking, sponsored by the Department of Women and Child Development, G.O.I.

- Our staff is regularly being invited to take sessions related to the rehabilitation of persons affected by crime or prostitution in training programmes at state and national level – YASHADA (the state academy for training of government officers), Mahatma Gandhi Training Institute (for staff of the Dept. of Women and Child Development, Maharashtra), National Police Academy, Hyderabad and at TISS.

- We have organized two sessions for police officers of Zone II last year on the implementation of I.T.P.A. and rehabilitation of rescued women. We were also invited to talk about our work at Shivaji Nagar Police Station and the Belapur Bar Association. Our staff has been actively participating in state and national level workshops on issues related to trafficking and prostitution and Prayas has a visible presence in this field. This is demonstrated by the fact that we a member of the Co-Management Committee set by the Maharashtra State Women's Commission on Rescue and Rehabilitation.

XI. FUTURE PLANS

We have reached a phase in our journey, where we feel that we can play a lead role in promoting developments in the field of criminal justice. We are working on a plan of action towards this end. This plan will have three components:

a. Promoting policy level changes at the state and national level.
b. Active networking and collaboration with like-minded individuals and NGOs in the field.
c. Helping groups to start work similar to that of Prayas towards the building of a lobby for rehabilitation in criminal justice.
d. Setting up a Documentation and Research Centre to promote field based research and documentation.

All this would require additional resources – staff, office space, traveling, board and lodging expenses, telephone, fax, email, documentation, etc. Some of the senior workers of Prayas would have to be pulled into this work. As a result, vacancies would get created at the field level that would need to be filled up. The team meetings have shown a readiness in Prayas to take up this challenge and live upto to our expectations.

XII STATISTICS

PRISON UNIT (Male section)

PARTICULAR	MUMBAI CENTRAL PRISON	BYCULLA DISTRICT PRISON	KALYAN DISTRICT PRISON	THANE CENTRAL PRISON
Total Cases	51	144	60	52
Home visits	32	116	89	13
Court visits	22	11	9	9
Police Station visits	1	1	3	2
Telephone Calls	116	102	73	85
NGOs visits	18	3	14	4
Hospital visits	5	0	0	1
Followup visit with SJSRY scheme	13	0	0	0
Training & awarness programmes	2	2	0	0

PRISON UNIT (Female section)

Total cases	27		0
Phone calls	200		103
Court visits	10		9
Home visits	52		14
Police station visits	2		0
Hospital visits	0		1
NGOs visits	15		6
Attendance in Training programmes	47		58
Attendance in Balwadi (inside prison)	56		20
Visits to Juvenile Welfare Board	13		0

POLICE STATION UNIT

PARTICULAR	MAHIM POLICE ST.	NAGPADA POLICE ST.
		(April to Aug-2001)
Information/guidance & counselling	17	29
Marital conflicts and family disputes	1	0
Neighbour hood disputes	6	0
Missing Person's	1	0
Mentally disturbed	4	0
Lock-up cases	2	0
Minors in delinguency, beggary & love affairs	2	0
Home visits	88	15
NGO visits and hospital visits	20	27
Meetings with police	9	8
Court visits	0	3
Job placements/visits	2	7

COURT AND LEGAL AID UNIT

PARTICULAR	COURT UNIT	LEGAL AID UNIT
Court Visits (Esplanede Court)	120	4
Meeting with the Hon'ble Judges and Magistrates	25	4
Court Visits (Session & High Court)	5	38
Other Metropolitan Magistrate court	7	27
Meeting with Govt. officials	20	0
NGOs Visits	8	3
Police Station Visits	2	4
Follow-up for legal aid project of Govt. Law College)	10	2
Inter Dept. Comm. (State/mumbai) meetings	3	0
Follow-up visits for IDC meeting	15	0
Referral to Mumbai Legal Services Authority	10	7
Prison Visits	25	96
Writing legal aid applications	10	321
Home Visits	10	5
Phone calls for clients	15	40
Socio economic report preparation for clients	3	0
Referral from other units	0	5

AFTERCARE

PARTICULAR	MALE SECTION	FEMALE SECTION
A. CASE WORK		
Total cases	38	26
New cases	28	9
Home visits	94	56
Institutional visits	55	39
Letter of introduction to police	1	
Police station visits	12	4
Court visits	3	3
Prison visits	4	5
B. TRAINING FOR ECONOMIC SELF - RELIANCE:		
Training given in workshop	7	
Training given outside	5	2
Visits to NGOs/Training institutions	12	
Business loan given to clients	2	
Job Placement	7	
Loan for shelter		6
Arrangement in shelter homes	8	4

PRODUCTION UNIT

No. of sales held	8
Outside order complited	14

PROSTITUTION UNIT

I. CASE WORK

A. MUMBAI CENTRAL WORKSHOP	
Long term cases	26
Home visits	19
Court visits	4
Institutional visits	35
Police station visits	8
Visits/ Job placement	9

B. PROTECTIVE HOME	
Long term cases	36
Hospital visits	17
Visits for mobilising resources	42
Locating resource person	9
Tracing families	7
Tracing local NGOs	12
Help in repatriation	4
Escort arrangement	1
STD Calls (Avg. per month)	25
Meetings with police	2
Clients sent to institutions	3
Clients sent to family	3

C. C.S.T. RAILWAY POLICE STATION	
Short term cases	12
Runaway cases(girls/boy/women)	43
Referral by police	4

II. ACTIVITY CLASSES (Educational, recreation & information based)

A. PROTECTIVE HOME	
Girls who attended the activity class	831
Girls completed the training	743
Girls given training kit.	293
Awarness Programmes	13
Reacreation activities	3
Job Placement	2

B. MINOR HOME	
Girls who attended the activity class	449
Girls completed the training	263
Girls given training kit.	123
Certificate Course	
Jewellery making	18
Greeting card making	25
Awarness programmes	4
Recreation activities	5

C. MUMBAI CENTRAL WORKSHOP	
Training given in workshop	28
No. of sale held	2
Visit to NGOs working in red-light area	6
Visit to training institution	8
Assistance with repatriation	2
Deposit for housing	2
Employment arranged	2
Awarness programmes	3

NETWORKING (STATEWISE CLASSIFICATION OF THE CASES)

(Cases referred from Protective home, Minor Home, Workshop Unit, Police Station and other NGOs)	
WEST BENGAL	5
ANDRA PRADESH	4
MAHARASHTRA	3
KARNATAKA	3
UTTAR PRADESH	2
DELHI	2
UTTARACHAL	1
MADHYA PRADESH	1
BIHAR	1
TAMIL NADU	1
NEPAL	4

BHARUCH UNIT (GUJARAT)

POLICE STATION

Old cases	8
Home visits regarding new cases	23
New cases	44
Home visits regarding old cases	37
Cases of one time help	31
Long term cases	13

PRISON UNIT

	FEMALE SEC	MALE SEC.
Short term cases	11	17
Long term cases	15	6
Home visits	92	32
Court visits	13	9
Visits to Govt.and other organisations	36	4
Visits to Hospitals	0	3
Visits to Legal Aid Office	0	9
Application for legal matters	0	127
Visits to NGOs and other resources	25	1
Meetings with Criminal Justice Officials	21	0
Meetings with Advocates	11	6
Meetings with Magistrates	0	12
Telephone calls	0	201

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