

Vikas  
4-Translations

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2004-2005**

**PRAYAS**  
**SOCIAL WORK IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
(A Field Action Project of Tata Institute of Social Sciences)

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## 1. Prayas Staff Structure

### PRISON UNIT

#### Mumbai Central Prison

Male Section - Sudhakar Babu  
Shankar Pokharkar

#### Byculla District Prison

Male Section - Vijay Johare  
Female Section - Aruna Angre,  
Surekha Sale  
\*Smita Jadhav

#### Kalyan District Prison

Male Section - Murlidhar Jagtap  
Female Section - Varsha Lad,  
Salma Naik

Children of  
prisoners - Vishakha More

#### Thane Central Prison

Male Section - Shahnawaz Pathan

#### Bharuch Sub-Jail (Gujarat)

Male Section - Vithalbhai Solanki  
Female Section - Vaishali Jaiswal

### COURT AND LEGAL AID UNIT

Silvin Kale

### POLICE STATION UNIT

**C. S. T. Railway Police Station**  
Sangeeta Gawali, \*Vishalakshi Nathan

#### Bharuch Police Station (Gujarat)

Krupa Shah, Pooja Shirmali

### PROSTITUTION UNIT

**Protective Home**  
Babita Salvi, \*Sheetal Godambe

#### Follow-up

Babita Salvi

\* indicates part-time volunteers who are paid an honorarium for their services such as conducting vocational or educational activities, attending to medical emergencies, etc.

### REHABILITATION UNIT

Male Section - Devchand Randive

Female Section- Pradnya Shinde

#### Education, Training & Placement

\*Shyamal Godambe, Pramila Jadhav,  
Vasanti Jadhav, Chandrakant Shinde

#### Activity Teacher

\*Smita Jadhav

#### Counselling

Penny Tong

#### Shelter & Emergencies

Sangita Malshe, \*Jyoti Lokhande

#### Networking

Sangita Malshe

#### Production Unit

Sadanand Dalvi

### ADMINISTRATION UNIT

Vijay More, Yellubai Naik, Kesar

### RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION UNIT

T. S. Devayani, Sharon Menezes, B.K Patil

### POLICY AND ADVOCACY UNIT

Silvin Kale, Vikas Kadam, Shobha Shelar,  
Sunil Mhaske, Chandrani Ganguli

### PROJECT DIRECTOR

Vijay Raghavan

### PROJECT ADVISOR

Dr. Sanober Sahni



## 2. Introduction

### Introduction

As Prayas completes fifteen years in the field, the year gone by bears testimony to the maturation of issues we have been working with over the years. Broadly, the developments of last year could be categorized into two clusters – custodial and rehabilitation related issues. As far as custodial issues are concerned, Prayas continued its efforts to work with persons in protective or penal custody and work with the administration to improve the situation of persons in custody, especially from the point of view of their rehabilitation. On the rehabilitation front, Prayas has developed greater conceptual clarity on the mechanics of rehabilitation, based on its work in this area.

The year was marked by significant steps being taken to bring changes in policy and law, with special reference to custodial justice and rehabilitation. A national workshop was organized in collaboration with the NHRC to review laws related to trafficking towards evolving better practices in the rescue and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking. This workshop was attended by eleven states and participants included police officials, members of the judiciary, staff from custodial and rehabilitation agencies, academicians, lawyers and NGOs working in the field. Prayas was invited as a member involved in a public interest petition filed by the Peoples Union for Civil Liberties at the Mumbai High Court on prison conditions in the State and gave several suggestions to ameliorate the situation, many of which found place in the interim orders of the Hon'ble Court. The matter is sub-judice and it is expected that many more important areas would get addressed through this petition

A meeting was held in Mantralaya which was chaired by the Home Minister, on the issue of situation of minors and women trapped in the prostitution trade, which was attended by the departments of women and child development, law and judiciary, police, social justice, health, directorate of technical education, academicians, NGOs and members from the press. The meeting was called by the Minister at the request of Prayas and was facilitated by Justice Dharmadhikari (Retd.). The meeting took a policy decision that Government of Maharashtra will not take any steps to legalise prostitution in the State (as had been suggested by the Governor through a letter to the CM) and resolved to take all steps necessary to combat the menace of trafficking of women and children and make all possible efforts to rehabilitate victims of trafficking. A decision was taken to form a State level Advisory Committee on Immoral Traffic chaired by the Home Department. Accordingly, A GR has been issued by the Home Department constituting such a Committee chaired by the Addl. Chief Secretary (Home). Prayas and a few other NGOs working in the field are members of this Committee. This forum has given a space to Prayas and others working in this field to raise issues relevant to rescue, rehabilitation and trafficking with the government.

Prayas has been asked by the Commissionerate of Women and Child Development, Maharashtra to prepare the draft State Rules for the Immoral traffic Prevention Act. Work in this respect is on in full swing and will be presented to the government soon.

Prayas is a member of the Central Advisory Committee to Combat trafficking of Women and Children and is a member of the sub-committee on rehabilitation. The sub-committee has been constituted to prepare a rehabilitation scheme for victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

We received a grant from the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of India of Rs. 4.7 lacs for the work Prayas is doing towards the rehabilitation of women and minors in prostitution. This is in addition to the annual grant of Rs. 2.5 lacs from the Central Social Welfare Board that we have been receiving for our work with women and children.

An initiative has been taken by the Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime), Mumbai at the request of Prayas to constitute a forum of NGOs and government departments/agencies, which would work in collaboration with Mumbai Police towards the rehabilitation of youth offenders. A Youth Offenders Rehabilitation Cell would be constituted within the Crime Prevention Wing at the Commissioner's Office, whereby a system for referral of cases of youth in the age group of 16 to 21 years by local police stations would be worked out.

On the rehabilitation front, Prayas is continuously strengthening its base by working on concepts developed from the field. Its NGO Placement programme, started two years back, is showing encouraging results. Under this programme, clients are placed through the NGO sector for shelter, training, occupational therapy, and development of social and technical skills to increase their employability. Clients are placed for periods ranging from a six months to two years on a monthly stipend of Rs. 1500/- plus TA and supervised during the programme jointly by Prayas and the placement agency. A few clients have already found jobs in the NGO sector through this programme. This programme has been found to be useful in the re-integration of those clients who lack family or community supports. It also provides space and time to Prayas to work with a client in detail in addressing handicaps such as weak social skills and work ethics, and developing the educational and information base and talents of the person.

Prayas' efforts to network with NGO partners and bring new players in this field is showing gradual results. It is providing valuable inputs to new groups working in prisons, though experience sharing, such as Sudhar in Bhopal and VARHAD in Amravati. It has also started encouraging schools of social work in Maharashtra to place students for fieldwork. Such initiatives have been started in Solapur and on the anvil in Pune and Jalgaon. It has proposed a two-day workshop for schools of social work in the State in the month of September, 2005 in collaboration with the Bombay Association of Trained Social Workers, TISS and NN *Jinnah + Niketan college of social work.*

As we enter the third year of the current financial cycle of the grant given by the Tata trust, we reiterate our resolve to continue to work for the rehabilitation of persons affected by crime or prostitution and bring policy level changes in the criminal justice system to make it rehabilitation friendly.



### 3. Acknowledgements

#### ❖ **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

##### ▪ **Charitable Trusts and Funding Organisations/Groups**

R. D. Tata Trust  
Concern India Foundation  
Ation Aid - Secunderabad  
Jani Sales Pvt. Ltd.  
Priya Jaikishan - Branch Manager , Concern India Foundation  
Smt. M. C. Borwankar  
Central Co-op Bank Ltd.  
R. K. Maheshwari, Treasurer- Jhagadia Industries Association, Gujarat  
Ms. Pushpaben A. Patel  
Mrs. Freny R. Gandhi  
Shri Hari Padmanabhan, Treasurer, Active Citizen Trust  
Adv. Navroz H. Seervai  
Shri Gaurav Agarval  
Rahul Rishabh Janhit Nidhi, New Delhi

Computers / Furniture and Raw Materials (Cloth):  
C.G.M., Incharge, RBI, Computer and Technology Cell  
Tata Consultancy Services Ltd.  
Gurukrupa Textiles

Action Aid (Direct sponsorship of women clients for NGO placement programme)

##### ▪ **Corporate Sector**

H.D.F.C.  
Trent Limited

TechNet Employees

##### ▪ **Government Support**

Central Social Welfare Board  
Department of Women and Child Development

##### ▪ **Individuals**

Smt. Clare D'souza

#### ❖ **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
- The Library
- Telephone Operators

❖ **ADVISORY SUPPORT**

Justice Shri C. S. Dharmadhikari (Retd.)  
Smt. M. C. Borwankar, I.P.S.  
Dr. Machiswala, Psychiatrist  
Smt. Amina Yusuf, Advocate

❖ **FIELD SUPPORT**

▪ **Government Bodies**

Hon'ble Lokayukt, Maharashtra State  
National Human Rights Commission  
Maharashtra State Women's Commission  
Maharashtra State Social Welfare Advisory Board  
Child Welfare Committee, Mumbai  
Education Officer, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation  
Principal & Building In charge, Gilder Lane Municipal School, Mumbai Central

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

• **Shelter Homes**

Ashray - Snehasadan  
Kasturba Mahila Vasatigruh  
Sukh Shanti  
Saathi, Mumbai  
Jyothis Terminal Centre  
Bandra East Community Centre  
Bapnu Ghar  
*Wing pada + neighborhood.*

Sneha Jeevan Kendra  
Shanti Ghar  
Aasraa - placement  
Support  
Bal Prafulata  
Salaam Balak Trust  
Bal Anand

• **Information and Guidance**

Avehi  
ACT  
Majlis  
Sampark  
Sankalp

Suvarna Jayanti Sharari Rojgar  
Yojana  
IPH  
Rationing Kriti Samiti  
ICHRL

• **Community Based Services**

Aastha  
Prerana  
Pratham  
Special Cell for Women (TISS)  
Turbhe Health Project (TISS) ??  
Apnalaya  
Humsafar Trust  
Akshara ??  
Amdli Kholi  
Amdli  
Bapu Trust, Pune

X TASH Foundation  
X The J.J. Hospital Nursing  
Association  
Yusuf Meherali Centre, Panvel  
Shantivan, Panvel  
Sevadham, Thane  
X Media Matters, Thane  
Child Line India Foundation  
IAPA

• **NGO Placements**

- X Actionaid, Mumbai
- Childline India Foundation
- Samaritans
- Support
- Ghar Ho To Aisa (YUVA)
- Aasraa
- Bal Prafulata
- Salaam Balak Trust
- Vikas Sahayog Pratishthan
- Hamaraa Club
- Prerana
- Sir J.J. Dharmashala
- Seva Sadan
- Saathi, Navi Mumbai
- Saathi, Mumbai
- REAP

- Aastha
- Family Welfare Agency
- Project Mainstream
- Dosti
- ACT
- Pratham
- Seva Sadan Society
- Stree Mukti Sanghatana
- Kausar Beauty Parlour
- NASEOH
- ICHRL
- FORCE
- Lok Vikas Samajik Sansthan, Nasik
- VARHAD, Amravati
- Active Friends Circle, Sindhudurg

• **Vocational Training**

- Apnalaya
- Project Mainstream
- Spastics Society of India
- Life Learning Experiences
- KVIC

- Social Service League
- Mobile Crèches
- Lokseva Training Centre
- REAP

• **Medical Treatment**

- J. J. Hospital (Psychiatric ward)
- Sion Hospital (Psychiatric ward)
- K.E.M. Hospital (Psychiatric ward)
- Poddar Hospital
- Nair Hospital, Rajawade Hosp
- Shraddha Rehab Centre, St. George, Chhatrapati Hosp, G.T. Karna.

- D.Y. Padal Hospital
- Ma Hospital
- X Jain Health Clinic
- Sewree T. B. Hospital
- X Sneha, Nivarmaya Niketan
- Samaritans
- X People's Mobile Hospital

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

- Saathi, Pune, Samlaag, Kolkata.
- Lok Vikas Samajik Sanstha, Nashik
- Sadhna, Bharat, Jawhal, Amravati, Mumbai, Bharat, Sanchal, Hosangabad,

- X The Banyan, Chennai
- RHDC, Kolkata, STAP, Delhi

• **Individuals**

- Shri Rasheid J. Taleyarkhan
- Smt. Shubha Muzumdar (KVIC)
- Smt. Divya Jain, ~~REAP~~
- Shri Devendra (Saubhagya Vastu Bhandar) Nilima Mehta

- X Dr. Nilesh Shah
- X Shri Venkateshwaran
- X Shri R.K. Singh, TC, Kalyan Railway
- Shri Anil Srivastava, New Delhi
- Shri S.K. Ravi, New Delhi
- Shri Ratan Sarkar, Kolkata

- Shri Suresh Patel (Sonali Matching)
- Saloni Embroideries
- D.P. Singh, Ranjit Kumar, Vishal Kounnab Deshmukh

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

- Nirmala Niketen College of Social Work
- Tata Institute of Social Sciences

X REAP

- X AMRAE - Childline
- FMRT, Nashik, Kame Institute, Pune
- Govt. Law College, K.C. College



District Legal Services Authority Mumbai  
Shri R.P. Waccha, Principal Judge, City Civil & Sessions Court,  
A.P. Gate, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Maharashtra & M.S.

## ❖ GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

### Maharashtra Government

- Bot*
- **Home Department** Ashok Basal, Addl. Chief Secretary, *Neela Satyanarayan, Suresh (Jails)*  
Shri U. K. Mukhopadhyaya, Addl. Chief Secretary  
Shri B.P. Pandey, Principal Secretary (Jails)  
Shri R. N. Mali, Desk officer
  - **Department of Law and Judiciary**  
**Shri S. R. Dongaonkar, Secretary and Senior Legal Advisor**  
Smt. Shradha Wagal, Administrative Officer, Brihan Mumbai Legal Services Authority  
*Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority*
  - **Prison Department** *Shri. A. P. Shah, Ex-Chairman, Shri. Parraj Dora*  
Shri D.T. Nghinglova, I.G. *member post, Shri. Pathan, Dy. Secy,*  
Shri Prabhakar Ranjan, I.G. *Shri. Jirnikant Sawant, I.G.*  
Shri Ashok Kinninge, D.I.G. (Southern Region) *Shri. D.J. Chowdhary, D.I.G. H.R.*  
Shri D. N. Dawane, D.I.G. (Eastern Region)  
Shri D. G. Choudhary, D.I.G. (Central Region)  
Shri G. Vettikunnel, Research Officer  
Smt. Swati Sathe, Superintendent, Mumbai Central Prison  
Shri Ramesh Kamble, Superintendent, Byculla District Prison  
Shri D.K. Bangar, Superintendent, Kalyan District Prison  
Shri Rajendra Dhamne, Superintendent, Thane Central Prison  
Shri Bendre, Superintendent, Yerwada Central Prison, Pune  
Shri Yogesh Desai, Principal, Jail Officers' Training College, Pune  
Shri K.P. Jadhav, Principal, Borstal School, Nasik  
Shri Suryavanshi, Superintendent and Shri. Pawar, Sr. Jailor, Nasik Road Central Prison  
Shri Kamble, Superintendent and Shri Sale, Sr. Jailor, Dhule District Prison  
Shri Pawar, Superintendent, Jalgaon District Prison  
Dy. Superintendents, Sr. Jailors, Jailors, Staff of Judicial Sections and Guarding staff  
of Mumbai Central, Byculla District, Kalyan District and Thane Central Prisons.  
*Shri. Kishor Malum, Principal, Borstal school, Nashik.*
  - **Department of Women and Child Development**  
Shri S.S. Dodd, Principal Secretary, *Smt. Vandana Krishna, Principal Secy.*  
Shri C. Turkar, Deputy Secretary  
Smt. Charusheela Choudhary, Desk Officer  
Shri Dilip Hivrale, Superintendent, Protective Home, Chembur  
Shri Sawant, Superintendent, Special Juvenile Home, Deonar *Prasad*  
Smt. Suradkar, Superintendent, Reception Centre, Chembur  
Shri Thombre, District Probation Officer, Mumbai Suburban  
Shri Vichare, District Probation Officer, Mumbai  
Shri Saitwal, Probation Officer, Dhule  
Shri Borse, District Probation Officer, Jalgaon  
Shri Patil, Probation Officer, Jalgaon  
Shri Jadhav, Probation Officer, Nasik  
Smt. Vaishali Jadhav, Probation Officer, Protective Home *Waghmare & Ashwini Diga.*  
Smt. Niru Sharma, Probation Officer, Special Juvenile Home  
Smt. Kude, Probation Officer, Reception Centre  
Staff of Protective Home, Special Juvenile Home, Reception Centre  
Probation Officers of Mumbai and Thane  
*Shri. Ashwini Kulkarni, Ravi Patil, Mr. Pansnikar,*  
*Smt. Shweta Pansnikar*
- Shri. Sonamau, Nidhi, Renuka Choudhary, Shri. Sonamau.*  
*Smt. Savollaya, Vardik.*

▪ **Maharashtra Police**

Shri Prabhat Ranjan, D.I.G. (PAW)

▪ **Mumbai Police** - *Shri Nalikaun*

Shri Ahmed Javed, Joint Commissioner (Law & Order)

Shri Sandeep Bishnoi, Dy. Comm. Of Police, Crime Branch (Preventive)

*Amrtaabh Gupta, D.P.P. Crime Branch (Preventive)*  
*Sr. P.I. Dist. St. M.C.D. Police Stn. Bhiwandi & Khandivale*

▪ **Government Railway Police, Mumbai**

Shri Shrikant Savarkar, Commissioner

Shri Chopkar, P. A. to the Commissioner

Senior Inspector of Police and staff of C.S.T. Railway Police Station

Senior Inspector of Police & staff of Central & Western Railway Police Stations.

Smt. Mulani and Shri Gaikwad, Constables, C.S.T. Railway Police

*Sr. P.I. C.S.T. Shri. Sidlam, Chief security officer, RPF*

▪ **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation**

Smt. Jyoti Pandya, Chief Community Development Officer

Shri Ashok Mohite, C.D.O.

Shri Salim Patel, C.D.O.

Shri Rajendra Bade, C.D.O.

▪ **Juvenile Justice Authorities**

Smt. Neelima Mehta, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Mumbai

Smt. Anjali Gokarn, Member, CWC, Mumbai

Shri Gorad, Superintendent, Observation Home, Umarchhadi

*Dr. Shalaja Mahale, Mumbai, C.D.O.*

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

Hon'ble Shri Abhay Thipsay, Addl. Sessions Judge, City Civil & Sessions Court

Hon'ble Shri R.D. Gate, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate

Hon'ble Shri D. K. Sonawane, Metropolitan Magistrate, Esplanade Court

Hon'ble Shri V.P. Taware, Esplanade Court.

Hon'ble Shri Tukrul, Registrar, Office of the C.M.M., Esplanade Court

Hon'ble Shri Pawar, C.J.M., Thane

Hon'ble Shri Dhobe, Kalyan Court *Shri. Bhakt + Magistrate*

Hon'ble Shri Bhakt, Kalyan Railway Court

Hon'ble Shri Amle, Bhiwandi Metropolitan Court

Shri V.S. Dhawale, Judicial Clerk, Bhiwandi Court *Thane*

Shri Dabekar, Judicial Clerk, Bhiwandi Court

Shri Jadhav, Judicial Clerk, Bhiwandi Court

Shri Khirnar, Judicial Clerk, Bhiwandi Court

▪ **Government Law College, Mumbai**

Prof. Smt. Parimala Rao, Principal

Prof. Smt. Chugani, Project In-Charge, Prison Legal Guidance Project

Shri Vishal Kanade, Student Coordinator

*Smt. Smuti, Student Coordinator*

*Dr. Pt Chandrani. Principal K.C. Law. Collge  
 Chandrani*

▪ **Advocates**

Smt. Anita Kewalramani  
 Smt. Amina Iqbal  
 Shri H. R. Hanchate  
 Shri Atul Wagh  
 Shri Chetan Agrawal  
 Shri Ramakant B. Yadav  
 Smt. Monica Sakhrani  
 Shri Chetan Bane  
 Smt. Mahrukh Adenwala  
 Shri Sanjay Kurane  
 Shri S.G. Randive  
 Shri Mahesh S. Pawar  
 Shri Vishal Mendhe

ICHR - Rebecca Gousaviles  
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 Shri Siddharth Bhoir Nisha, Ryan Gousaviles  
 Shri Harshad Patil Pratibha Deepika  
 Shri G.A. Fakih Shri Shirke  
 Shri Jaysingh Bangar  
 Shri P.M. Patil  
 Shri Manoj Mhatre  
 Shri S.R. Srivastava  
 Shri Yug Choudhary  
 Shri P.N. Shetty  
 Shri Ravindra Bhatkar  
 Shri Sanjay Sonawane  
 Shri Rajesh Asmar  
 Shri Parkar

Shri. Jabali, Bamode, Nishikant Pathak, Kamini Shaikha, Rati Aundolia,  
 BHARUCH UNIT Yasmin K., Navroz, Seemal, Anit

❖ **Government Departments and Officials**

▪ **Police**

Shri A.B. Wasawa, Former District Superintendent of Police  
 Shri G.S. Malek, District Superintendent of Police  
 Shri P.J. Sarang, Former Police Inspector, 'A' Division Police Station  
 Smt. Liliben Kelawala, P.S.I., Mahila Cell,  
 Shri G.M. Singh, Former P.S.I. 'A' Division Police Station  
 Shri B.M. Rathwa, Former P.S.I. 'A' Division Police Station  
 Shri V.J. Fernandes, Former P.S.I. 'A' Division Police Station  
 Shri B.V. Jadav, Former P.S.I. 'A' Division Police Station  
 Shri R.B. Baria, Former P.S.I. 'A' Division Police Station  
 Smt. K. Mini Joseph, Former P.S.I. 'A' Division Police Station  
 Shri G.S. Baria, Former P.S.I. 'A' Division Police Station  
 Shri R.P. Pawar, Former P.S.I. 'A' Division Police Station  
 All staff of 'A' Division Police Station

▪ **Prisons**

Shri H.R. Gehlot, IPS, D.G.P. and I.G. of Prisons, Gujarat State  
 Shri Upendrasingh, IPS, Addl. I.G. of Police (Jail), Gujarat State  
 Shri C.K. Patel, Former Superintendent, Bharuch Sub-Jail  
 Shri R.S. Garasia, Jailer, Bharuch Sub-Jail  
 Shri D.M. Nai, Senior Clerk, Bharuch Sub-Jail

▪ **Juvenile Justice**

Shri Bharatbhai Thakkar, Superintendent, Observation Home

▪ **Judiciary**

Hon'ble Shri A. G. Urezi, Former District and Sessions Judge  
 Shri A. J. Patel, Superintendent, District Legal Service Authority  
 Chairman and Secretaries of District and Taluka Legal Service Authority

▪ **Advocates**

Shri K.R. Joshi

▪ **Field Organisations**

Shri Mohammed Farsiwala, Bharuch Welfare Hospital  
Mahila Kanooni Salah Kendra  
Centre for Social Justice  
Shri Williambhai, Free Legal Aid Office, Bharuch  
Father Mathew Kalanthil, Chhota Udepur

▪ **Support during visit by Prayas staff - in Maharashtra**

Shri S. R. Pawar, District Collector, Kolhapur  
Shri S. B. Patil, District Collector, Satara  
Smt. Manisha Varma, District Collector, Sangali  
Shri Uttam Patil, Prant Officer, Sangali  
Shri Ajit Deshmukh, Tahsildar, Islampur-sangali  
Shri Vikas Khurat, Tahsildar, Atpadi-Sangali  
Shri Sameer Shingte, Tahsildar, Panhala, Kolhapur  
Shri Vaibhav Kamble, Superintendent, Kolhapur Central Prison  
Shri D. B. Shingte, Superintendent, Satara District Prison  
Shri S. M. Kadam, Jailor, Satara District Prison  
Shri S. T. Markadm Superintendent, Sangali District Prison  
Shri R. B. Pawar, Superintendent, Kolhapur District Prison  
Shri Sharad Jadhav, Residencial Deputy Collector, Satara  
Shri Ashok Jadhav, Residencial Deputy Collector, Sangali  
Shri Shinde, Residencial Deputy Collector, Kolhapur

Shri T. V. Nalawade, District Session Judge, Sangali  
Shri Despande, District Session Judge, Satara

Shri Barge, Incharge, Sub-Jail, Karad  
Shri Bhagwan Patil, Incharge, Sub-Jail, Islampur  
Shri Vaishali Naik, Incharge, Sub-Jail, Panhala.

Shri S. Y. Bhagat - District Probation Officer - Satara  
Shri Dhotre, District Probation Officer, Sangali

Shri Gaikwad, Senior Jailor, Kolhapur Central Prison  
Shri Bardeshkar, Probation Officer, Kolhapur

**Support during visit by Prayas staff - Outside Maharashtra**

**All Clients of Prayas and their Families**



## 4. Prison Based Work

### Prison Based Work

The work in prison is currently focused on five prisons in Maharashtra and Gujarat. At these prisons (Mumbai, Byculla, Thane, Kalyan and Bharuch), our social workers and activity teachers provide basic services such as legal aid, family visits, running activity centres, counseling, and providing guidance and information to under trial and convicted prisoners in the women's and young male sections. We also provide outreach services to children of prisoners left outside by giving financial assistance for educational purposes, basic subsistence, medical treatment, maintaining contact with the parent inside, emotional support and counseling, and legal guidance if necessary. At the request of the mother inside, arrangements are also made for temporary shelter for the children, if there is no one to look after them.

These services are provided with a view to establish a proactive relationship with the person inside, towards his/her rehabilitation. The idea is to give a message to the person that positive supports are available if he/she is interested in getting out of a life of crime. If the family links are alive or can be activated, the effort of the social worker is to strengthen those ties, to enable the process of rehabilitation. Family support can at least take care of shelter and basic subsistence. Prayas then focuses on improving relationships at home, providing financial support (if necessary) and arranging for training or learning opportunities.

If the person's ties with the family seem non-renewable, then the effort is to focus on the individual - arranging for his/her temporary shelter, taking care of post-release emergencies, vocational training, basic subsistence and providing emotional support. This becomes a tall order to fulfil and requires considerable investment in manpower and resources.

Prison based work has led to significant strides in convincing the prison officials about the need to create rehabilitation services in the community. We are able to elicit the cooperation and support of the prison administration in our work and there is an atmosphere of healthy dialogue between us. One indicator of this is that transfer of officials (a regular feature of working with the administration) does not lead to our work getting negatively affected. Another indicator is that field workers rarely call in the project head to sort out differences with prison staff, something which was a regular part of project head's role in the past.

Prison workers are also involved in regular visits to other prisons in the State as part of their study-cum-outreach work. Last year, workers visited prisons in Sangli, Satara, Kolhapur, Paithan and Atpadi. They interacted with prison staff, prisoners, NGOs working in the region and colleges of social work to promote developments in the field. The team studied the functioning of the libraries in Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur prisons, with a view to share the learning with the prison staff in Mumbai and Thane. Some of the issues raised through these visits have been communicated to the higher officials in the prison department e.g. the delay in processing the pre-mature release of prisoners serving life sentences, after their completion of fourteen years.

### **Work Done at Mumbai Central and Byculla District Prisons**

Presently, Prayas has one social worker and one activity teacher who together handle the workload of Kishore Vibhag of Mumbai Central and Byculla District Prisons.

While interacting with the young adult male under trials, there are several requests for assistance with regard to legal aid. Prayas has been referring such requests to the India Centre for Human Rights Law (ICHRL), an NGO that provides legal aid to under trials. Prior to making the referral to ICHRL, a home visit is paid by the Prayas social worker to assess the financial condition of the family. This is one of the reasons for making home visits to the families of under trial prisoners. Furthermore, another reason for making contact with the family is to assess the potential for reintegration with the family as well as counselling of the family to accept the prisoner back after release.

In some cases, the under trial prisoner is the main earning member in the family. The prisoner in such cases expresses his concern about the situation of the family in his absence. On making a home visit, the social worker makes an assessment about the need for any financial assistance. This is done towards basic subsistence, medical expenses (if any) and educational support for children. Help in cash or kind is then extended by the worker and attempts are made to help the family tide over the emergency situation.

In the case of persons requiring legal aid, after proper assessment of the need and making home visit, the social worker refers the cases to ICHRL. He then keeps a regular follow-up with the lawyer appointed by ICHRL in the case and if necessary visits the court on the court dates.

The Prayas worker also helps with writing applications to the courts for inmates who are not able to write themselves, or whose applications have not been written by the students of the Government Law College, or any other literate inmate. These applications are for requests like grant of personal bond, reduction of bail amounts, pleading guilty, release on probation, etc.

In cases where the prisoner shows a positive response to rehabilitation, several services such as legal aid, financial assistance to family, counselling, etc are provided to help the process of his rehabilitation. But the results of these efforts are not known if the prisoner does not contact Prayas after his release from prison (either on bail, or discharge of the case or completion of sentence) In such situations, the social worker from Prayas pays a visit to the person's house to assess the situation. In the above cases during the period mentioned, all the youth seemed to be settled, and have not got into further crimes and were not in need of any services.

Prayas was part of the Bandi Panchayat Committee chaired by Superintendent to air and address grievances of inmates in prison at Mumbai Central Prison.

The Superintendent of MCP, Ms. Swati Sathe, visited Prayas to understand the rehabilitation programme of Prayas for released prisoners. During this visit, she interacted with the released prisoners and got a first hand account of how they were making efforts to live a crime-free life. Such visits are helpful in getting the cooperation of the prison administration vis-à-vis the work of Prayas in prison.

### **Work in Byculla District Prison (Women's Section)**

The overall objective of Prayas within the women's section of the Byculla District Prison is to reach out to the under trial women, their families and children, in an attempt to help a person come out of a life of crime. In this process it becomes necessary to also address alongside, several other pressing issues such as issues connected to their status as under trials, the lack of awareness and education with regard to the law, problems arising in the course of processing, difficult economic situations of families of the women, etc. We therefore offer a variety of services such as legal information, liaison with families, advocates, and the prison administration, short-term training and activities, counselling and other services supportive of the rehabilitation process.

#### **The Process of Intervention:**

While Prayas' services are available to any woman in need, we try to focus more on persons who are willing to relook at their way of life. This assessment is made by the worker on the spot. In some cases the initiative may come from the client. In other cases the worker may see scope for intervention. And yet in other cases, the worker may find that a client who is at risk of getting into further crime and would need to intervene. Some women could be identified as emotionally or mentally disturbed and hence the necessary action would require to be taken. Nevertheless in all the cases a rapport needs to be built and an assessment has to be made about the future course of intervention. Needless to say, it is a process that takes varying periods of time. This is further compounded by other factors like the women's family situation, her current priorities, occupation, her willingness to consider other options and the other influences within the prison. Indicators such as a person's openness with the Prayas worker, her receptivity to the programme, the concerns that she expresses about her life etc. help the worker to make the further necessary assessments.

#### **Prayas staff structure in the Women's Section:**

Prayas currently has two social workers and one activity teacher. The balwadi and literacy classes for which Prayas was taking responsibility, has now been handed over to another NGO, Pratham, which works on functional and pre-primary education.

#### **Short-term cases:**

Short-term cases consist of the cases which have been reached out to by the Prayas worker through one or more of the services that are offered by Prayas as has been mentioned above.

#### **Long-term cases:**

These are the cases where Prayas has moved beyond the preliminary services and has become engaged in work at a deeper level of involvement with the women, her family and her situation. In the last three months, the focus of work has been that in all nine cases, the women have maintained regular contact with the Prayas worker and planning about the post release possibilities. Several women are without family support. Some of them seem vulnerable to the influences of habitual offenders and the Prayas worker feels that sufficient input in these cases could counter a movement towards criminalization. Considerable focus is also on the children of these women outside and attempts are being made to help the mothers maintain contact with their children and minimize the disruptions caused by the incarceration on the children. Furthermore, these women have been responding to the Prayas programme.

*please?*

### **Home visits for children:**

Some of the above visits have been to find out about the condition of the children who are at home. In some cases the mothers have not received information about their children. These have been especially in cases where there is a severe conflict situation between the imprisoned mother and the family members at home. Work in these cases has shown that the children have been the victims in this struggle. In one case, a visit showed that a 5 years old child was all by himself after the arrest of his mother. Institutionalization was the intervention in this case. Early identification of children getting in to patterns of delinquency due to neglect has also been possible.

### **Visits to Police Stations:**

Police stations have been visited for the follow up of a court order permitting a child to be allowed to meet her mother. The other visits have been made to obtain a rounded perspective in cases of women who could be moving in the direction of rehabilitation. These visits are made with the consent of the women.

### **Child Welfare Committee visits:**

Since the mothers are in prison and sometimes the children have had to be institutionalized, there is need to go through the Child Welfare Committee who is the authority concerned for this process under the Juvenile Justice Act. More than one visit has had to be made since there is a process that follows the referral. The purpose of these visits has been concerning the institutionalization of 2 children as well as to arrange visits between institutionalized children and their imprisoned mothers.

### **Visits to voluntary organizations:**

This visit has been made to the organization with whom we have been coordinating on the balwadi and literacy class services i.e. Pratham.

### **Referral for legal Aid:**

Since Prayas does not have legal aid as a primary service, we have played the role of referring cases in need of this service to the agencies concerned such as the India Centre for Human Rights Law.

*Prayas*



### **Work Done in Thane Central and Kalyan District Prisons:**

Presently, Prayas has two male social workers dividing time between the Kishore Vibhags of Thane and Kalyan Prisons. These workers also handle the work done with released prisoners who are in need of assistance. Since a large part of the population comes from rural areas, there is a large geographical area that has to be covered. Phone calls made to families of prisoners

A major service of Prayas is to help the inmate remain in touch with his family. However a home visit is not always possible and phone calls are made wherever possible for informing the family about the arrest of the person, informing about court date, requesting them to come for 'mulakat' in prison, enquiring about legal details, etc.

#### **Home visits to families:**

Home visits are made to assess the family situation, guide the family about legal matters, extend financial assistance to the family for subsistence, educational needs of children, rations, house repairs (if necessary), etc. and to make an assessment for long-term rehabilitation needs of the prisoner.

#### **Referrals by prison staff from other barracks:**

In one case, a man did not have any family. The request was to arrange for his money to be transferred from his bank account to the prison for his daily and legal aid expenses. Since Prayas did not have any legal authority to do this work, contact was made with the District Probation Officer. Since the District Probation Officer was also not in a position to under take the task case was referred back to the Superintendent due to the amount of money to be transferred. The other four cases were of mentally ill inmates whose families were not in touch with them. Their families were visited and requested to remain in touch with the prisoner.

#### **Legal Aid:**

In the above three cases, legal aid was given since in all three cases the persons were absolutely without family support and seemed to be moving in the direction of rehabilitation. The legal aid given was through lawyers known to Prayas, who were paid an honourarium by Prayas for their services. It can be noticed that the number of cases who have been provided with legal aid is small compared to the number of such cases provided legal aid in Mumbai. The main reason for this is the presence of an organisation in Mumbai specially focusing on giving legal aid to undertrials (ICHRL). Since the service is available, Prayas workers are able to easily refer such cases to ICHRL. In contrast, in Thane and Kalyan Prisons, there is no such organisation focusing on providing legal aid. Therefore, Prayas worker are providing legal aid in Thane and Kalyan Prisons only when there are cases requiring urgent attention or for persons who have no family or social support. The legal aid is provided by appointing lawyers willing to take up cases for a small honorarium that is provided by Prayas.

#### **Police Station Visits:**

In cases that workers have identified as potential for rehabilitation, as well as in the case of persons in contact with Prayas after their release, there is a need to consult the police and take their support to prevent police action based on past record alone.

### **Court Visits:**

In some cases, particularly where the prisoner is responding to rehabilitation, court visits have been necessary to supplement information about the status of the cases both for the understanding of the worker as well as the client. During these visits, information about the status of the case is sought from the lawyer concerned, or the court staff. Sometimes the worker meets the magistrate concerned to inform him about the psycho-social aspects of the case.

### **Visits to the District Probation Office:**

Three cases were referred to the DPO to help the released prisoners to avail financial assistance under the government scheme for this group called Mukht bandi Kalyankari Yojana, implemented by the Dept of Woman and Child Development. In one case help was rendered in order to obtain all the necessary documents to get a grant for goat keeping ('bakri palan'). One case was referred to the DPO by the magistrate which was then referred to Prayas for assistance. The DPO has asked Prayas for support with regard to financial assistance and follow-up available within the Prayas programme.

### **Visits to Other Prisons outside:**

The above visits have been made in the cases of transfers of prisoners after their conviction. These visits were specifically made when the social worker saw scope for long-term work with the prisoner after his release.

### **Work in Kalyan District Prison (Women's Section)**

⊗ In prison, Prayas placed a female social worker for casework-cum-activity classes. The women were disturbed with their family and economical background. Social worker made counselling and find out the information about their background and children. Worker has been given the right way of life and guide them that how they will live after release. She also was taking literacy classes. Social worker was organized training programme. There are different types of training like tailoring, woolen work, painting, flower making and jewellery making etc.

In February 2005, Social worker was organized outside training in collaboration with Project Mainstream like making of paper bag, envelope, agarbatti, greeting cards, jewellery making, purse, rose flower, crochet work and paper painting etc.

Women were interested in the training programme. They were actively taking initiative in activity classes. With help of this training, some released women fetching their basic needs of life and her children are also taking education properly.

Worker also trying to give new and different training to women in prison. She is giving the legal guidance and information. There is need of escort with prisoners to take them in court. She has been given the help, guidance to women who released on bail or acquittal for prevention re-crime. With the help of community, worker has try to place then for employment or business.



## 5. Rehabilitation Work with Women / Girls from Prostitution

### Work at Protective Home and Special Rehabilitation Home for Minors

Vocational training activities form the base of Prayas' work with rescued women and minors housed in the two government institutions for rescued victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Our part-time teacher conducts activities such as soft toys making, jewellery designing, mehendi designing, beauty care classes, glass painting, embroidery, etc. with the women/girls. One social worker visits these homes to keep in touch with the staff there and with our teacher with twin objectives - to take up problems faced by field staff with senior officers in the Department of Women and Child Development and to invite referrals from them of clients who would like to join the rehabilitation programme of Prayas.

Cases are referred to Prayas through these visits, after getting an order from the court (under whose jurisdiction the case falls). These women are then transferred to a shelter home either by Prayas or by the home authorities. They are then given the option of coming to our training-cum-rehabilitation centre at Mumbai Central on a daily stipend of Rs. 50/-. In case a woman wants to return to her family or to her native State or district, arrangements are made by Prayas with the help of NGOs in that State or district, willing to take the responsibility of her rehabilitation or to give her guidance, counseling, training or information, as per her requirements.

One of the issues taken up with the authorities concerned was the vacancy of the post of the probation officer in protective home. This post was filled up after repeated attempts were made bringing this problem to the notice of the Commissionerate of Women and Child Development. Similar efforts were made to address the problem of water shortage in the home with positive results. A proposal to start vocational training courses with the help of Khadi and Village Industries Commission was accepted and the processing of this proposal is currently under way.

At the Special Rehabilitation Home for Minors, the role of Prayas is limited to providing vocational and recreational activities to the rescued minors. This is because, these minors are under the protective custody of the child welfare committee under the Juvenile Justice Act, and are not allowed to go out without escort for training or educational purposes. These girls are either sent back to their parents/families (if found fit) or are committed to children's institutions in the State or outside till they complete the age of 18 years. However, if there are any borderline cases on the verge of completing 18 years at the time of rescue and if the girl is willing to join the rehabilitation programme of Prayas, the probation officer of the home refers such cases to Prayas.

In the past, women have been approaching our social workers / teachers for assistance, after they have been discharged from the home. Further training is offered at the Women's Development Centre at Mumbai Central. In the past, one-year, cases have been referred to the Prayas Centre for the following services:

- a) Training at the Women's Development Centre at Mumbai Central
- b) Emergency assistance such as medical aid, rations for the family
- c) Assistance to family in terms of information and guidance.



## 6. Work at Police Station

### Work at CST Railway Police Station

Our project with runaway girls and destitute women found in railway premises has entered its fifth year and is showing very encouraging results. The social worker works in collaboration with the railway police to identify cases of destitute women, mentally disturbed women, women coming to the station for the purposes of prostitution, runaway girls, missing or lost cases, etc. Once identified, the social worker provides services such as counseling, guidance and information about welfare sector and shelter homes, referral to NGOs, motivation to get out of negative life options, and outings and picnics with a view to accept the rehabilitation programme of Prayas. Increasing number of girls have started using our services based at the Contact-cum-Rehabilitation centre at Mumbai Central. In case of minors, the police send them to the Observation Home under the Juvenile Justice Act, after the social worker has intervened in the case through counseling or guidance.

This year, the I.G. Railway Protection Force asked us to make a presentation of our work before police officials from Sub-inspector to DCP rank. The presentation was well received and was followed by a healthy round of discussions about the scope for collaboration between Prayas and the police. The I.G. has promised to look into our request of issuing a permission letter to sit in the police station and get the support of the RPF (Railway Protection Force) in our work. This is in addition to the permission letter we already have from the Commissioner of Police (Railways) which is in charge of the GRP (Government Railway Police).

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## 6. Court Unit and Legal Aid Unit

### Work at the Court and with the Government Legal Aid System

Our worker based at Esplanade Court actively liaises with the Legal Services Authority and the Office of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate to increase the access of citizens to the legal aid system, particularly for those in custody. Prayas is a member of the Mumbai District Legal Services Authority, and our worker regularly attends its meetings to activate the system. With our inputs, legal aid camps were organized in the community and in the prison and protective home this year.

Students of the Government Law College and K.C. Law College visit prisons and the courts to provide legal guidance to prisoners and litigants. The K.C. Law College collaboration was started this year in addition to the GLC initiative that has been going on for the last four years. We have approached the department of Law and Judiciary to issue a circular to all law colleges in the State to initiate similar initiatives in the various prisons of Maharashtra, and our request has met with a favourable response. The Principal Secretary, Department of Law and Judiciary has asked us to prepare a draft circular, which has been submitted to him for perusal.

20 This unit has also drafted the State rules under the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (mentioned earlier), and is perusing the PIL filed in the Supreme Court on the situation of children of prisoners. A workshop for members of the judiciary on the Probation of Offenders Act is also being planned in collaboration with the Department of Law and Judiciary.

#### Lok Adalat:

20 Prayas workers are regularly invited to participate Lok Adalats as jury members to settle compoundable matters and arrive at out-of-court settlements with the consent of both parties. Our social worker working on legal matters has had meetings with the Judicial Panel of Judges and Magistrates to improve the functioning of the Lok Adalats.

#### 20 Questionnaire circulated by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):

In order to improve the functions of the free legal service system of the legal services authority, a questionnaire sent by the National Legal Services Authority was filled and submitted to the Mumbai District Legal Services Authority. Through this questionnaire, Prayas was able to point out the deficiencies and ground realities of the legal aid system with a view to improve the same.

Block placement of students of law colleges



## 7. Rehabilitation Based Services

### Rehabilitation Based Services:

The rehabilitation work at Prayas is divided into a women's unit based at Mumbai central and a male unit at Worli. The contact-cum-activity centre for male youth was re-started this year after a gap (due to space problems) at a shed between chawl nos 15 and 16 at BDD Chawls. This centre has filled the gap in our programme, as it becoming very difficult to do direct placement of clients without any observation. With the starting of this centre, the rehabilitation programme is now a unified one for both sexes, as follows:

Entry into the programme can be through referrals from the 'pick-up points' of Prayas - Prison, Protective Home, Minor Home, or CST Railway Station. It can also be through referrals by prison or police officials, or the judiciary, clients, ex-clients, NGOs working in this field, women's organizations, community groups or the public at large.

Once a person enters the programme, four types of intervention become possible. The family support unit focuses on improving relationship with and within the family, including providing financial support, help with education of children, medical treatment, etc. The effort here is to connect the person with the family as effectively as possible, so that re-integration happens through the family.

The shelter worker's role is to find temporary shelter for the client (if family as an option is not available or feasible) and to keep in regular touch with the shelter giving agencies for effective follow-up. Any medical emergencies, behavioural problems, discipline issues are addresses by this worker. The work of this unit is aimed at smoothening the teething problems faced by clients when shifted to a shelter giving agency and to find the right match between the client's needs and the agency's client profile.

Once shelter issues and emergencies are taken care of (either through the family resources or with the help of shelter giving agencies), the person is encouraged to start coming to the contact-cum-activity centre. However, in cases where the family is taking greater responsibility towards the re-integration of the person, it is encouraged by providing area based guidance and counseling services and by maintaining contact through letters, phone calls or home visits.

Those coming to the contact centre are paid a daily stipend of Rs. 50/- for eight hours of attendance. The workers at the centre a mix of social work and teaching staff - literacy-cum-education teachers, activity teachers, social workers, counselors and resource persons (on a visiting basis). The effort at the centre is to focus on four areas - discipline, social skills, information base/education and talent/skill development. Through a sustained period of observation and inputs to improve the above, a client/trainee is prepared for entry into the NGO sector or re-entry into the family. The centre based workers are in close touch with the area/family, shelter and placement workers on a case-by-case basis. Case supervisors and field coordinators have been appointed to fill in on gaps in information and coordinate the work of the sub-units.

The next stage in the rehabilitation programme is the NGO placement programme. Clients are placed in the NGO sector for exposure, training and finally creation or development of employable skills. The effort here is to match the NGO profile with the skill, personality and talents of the clients. The process is closely monitored by a social worker and an attempt is made to 'mentor' the person by a social worker in the placement agency. It is expected that sustained inputs through the NGO sector will reduce isolation, improve social skills, increase skill base and help in the re-integration of the person via this sector. This programme was developed keeping in mind the handicaps of our client group, whereby repeated attempts by us to place the group directly in the private sector proved unsuccessful in the past. The least expected outcome of this programme is occupational therapy and improvement of relationships with the family and image in the area, and the best expected outcome is absorption in the NGO or private sector (in the long run).

#### **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE AT WORLI:**

##### **Family Based Work:**

There were 33 clients for family follow-up. Out of this, clients with local family support were 21. Most of the clients were found to be from socio-economically weak families. Some clients came from single parent families. This has a negative affect on social control vis-à-vis the client. Some of the clients came from poor family relationships or conflict-ridden family backgrounds.

No major problems were found in other clients' families. These clients had not experienced conflict between their parents or specific problems in terms of alcoholism, gambling, broken marriages, etc. These clients had probably got into trouble with the law due to over indulgence by either or both parents, influence of the environment or 'accidental' situations leading to arrest. In these cases, parents usually agree to accept and support the client's resolve to get out of crime, especially with the additional support of Prayas.

##### **Work with Police:**

There is vulnerability of re-arrest or legal action by the police due to past record of the client after release. In this connection, the social worker meets with Police Inspector - Community, to discuss the current rehabilitation plans of the client with Prayas. In the past year, there were five cases of clients with a serious offence background. All these cases required regular interactions with the PI - Community to receive their support and cooperation to avoid re-arrest due to suspicion or past criminal record.

In cases where there are no behaviour problems in the family, but the client has behaviour problems such as addiction or wasting away money, the family usually accepts the client on condition that Prayas is willing to support and supervise the person. Due to the positive support offered by the family in such cases, it usually has a positive effect on the results. On the other hand, when there behaviour problems in the family and client, the worker has to put in efforts on both sides work for a positive result in the case. It is important in such cases to get to the root of the symptomatic problems and address intra-personal issues which caused the conflict in the family relationships. In these cases, there is usually absence family support, making it extremely difficult for the social worker to attain a long-term result.

### **Work with the Police regarding cases involving Serious Offenders:**

The legal aid unit along with the family worker of the rehabilitation unit of Prayas liaises with the Preventive Wing and local police stations of Mumbai Police to elicit their support and cooperation with regard to cases referred from prison or the community involving serious offenders belong to erstwhile criminal gangs. Such cases are regularly being referred by prison workers, ex-clients and through self-referral. Because of their past criminal record and the serious nature of the crimes they were involved in, these persons are prone to preventive and routine arrests by the police, in the absence of credible information about their present activities and lifestyle.

After a thorough process of observation and checking involving regular home visits, meetings with the person and his family members, counseling and asking the person to attend the Prayas Youth Centre (on a daily basis), Prayas approaches the police with a social investigation report of the person and formally requests the Preventive Wing (Crime Branch) to cooperate in the rehabilitation of the person. The police, after taking into consideration the merits of each individual case and discussions with the Prayas workers, informs the local police about Prayas' involvement in the case with a request to keep the social workers of Prayas informed in case of any legal action being contemplated against the person concerned.

This system has fallen into place after a sustained process of liaising, interaction and formal and informal processes with the police over the last five years.

#### **Apprenticeship Training in the NGO Sector:**

Youth who come to the Prayas contact-cum-development centre are released prisoners or misguided youth, fearful of police action against them, often unskilled for employment in the legal sector, coming from an environment which continues to lure them into negative activities and therefore, have high chances of re-entry in crime. Finding employment in the private sector would imply standing up to competition, along with education and experience. These clients are unable to find work in the private sector due to absence of education, technical skills, experience and lack of social supports. It is thus difficult for Prayas to find employment opportunities for them.

As per our observation, clients have different skills which can be improved through a closely monitored and guided experience. Since the private sector is not the ideal learning environment for such experimentation, it was decided by Prayas that they could be given this experience by placing them in NGO Sector for a period ranging from one to three years, as on-the-job apprenticeship training. After release from prison, Prayas has to initially work with clients to address their immediate problems like emotional support, medical emergencies, subsistence, shelter, protection from police pressure, etc.

After this initial phase, Prayas makes plans as per client's interests and skills towards his future development. Clients are encouraged to attend and participate in the activities organized at the Development Centre on a daily basis for a period ranging from three to six months. The rehabilitation unit arranges exposure visits for clients to get information about NGOs. They are given a daily stipend and T.A. during this training period.



A trained worker in the NGO where the client is placed observes and mentors the client's training and experiences. The Prayas worker is in touch with this worker to monitor the client's development. The objective of this programme that clients learn discipline, social & communication skills, and gain information and work experience. Prayas makes placements in different organizations working on issues such as education, environment, health, human rights, rehabilitation etc. and with groups such as children, women and youth.

#### **Driving Training under SJSRY Scheme:**

Clients have undergone training on motor driving leading to a driver's license, at their request through the Central Government sponsored Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana. Apart from learning a skill which may be helpful towards finding employment, the license acquired acts as a proof of citizenship for many clients, specially those coming from upcountry areas of the country.

#### **WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CENTER AT MUMBAI CENTRAL:**

The focus has been on encouraging trainees to develop basic literacy skills and pursue higher education. On admitting a person to the center, an assessment is made during the initial phase, with regard to the educational standard and skills she already acquires. Accordingly, she is prepared to appear for the next educational level, under the National Open School.

Besides literacy and educational activities, short-term activities (such as embroidery, jewellery making, soft toys, flower making, and other handicrafts) are conducted to orient the trainees a learning and training environment. It is during this time that the social workers and the training instructors have an opportunity to observe the trainee to identify her aptitude, skills (vocational and social) and behaviour.

While education and vocational activities are focused on, an attempt is made to help the person alter her self-image from that of victim, to that of a student/trainee. This is the first attempt at reintegration with mainstream society and creation of a socially approved role for oneself.

After a period, which could range from 6 months to a year and a half (depending on her level of education, social and vocational skills, emotional maturity), the trainee is placed in an organization that is willing to offer her exposure to the field of interest identified. For instance, a person showing an aptitude and interest in the care of sick persons may be placed in a hospice where she is given the necessary exposure. This is an opportunity to also check if interest is sustained in the given area. On the basis of this experience, a decision can then be taken about whether a person needs to pursue training courses outside Prayas, to develop her skills in a given area.

A trainee is paid a stipend of Rs. 50/- per day, and travel expenses to and from the Centre.

### **Savings and Citizenship Documents:**

Most clients are not able to save as their lifestyle and the mindset is focussed on living for the day. They are initially not geared towards planning for the future.

Efforts are made to motivate them to open bank accounts. This requires proof of residence and documents like ration card and voting card. Similarly, to apply for govt. schemes, it requires documents like age proof, school leaving certificate, caste certificate etc. For this purpose, visits have been to the offices concerned to understand the procedure of getting the necessary certificates. After getting required certificates, clients can be to access govt. schemes and move towards citizenship. As a temporary measure, working arrangements have been made with a local branches of a few nationalized banks to allow clients to open accounts in their names based on a letter of introduction given by Prayas. This has helped clients to start savings from the stipend or salaries they are earning.

### **Rehabilitation in a Rural Setting - Kalyan Prison**

A significant number of women in Kalyan prison hail from rural areas in Thane and Raigad District (Thane to Karjat/Kasara; and Vashi to Pen/Panvel/Alibaug, Andheri to Palghar and Pune). Women approaching Prayas have been charged with murder, dowry harassment, theft (particularly theft of railway property or in railway premises), illegal immigration, offenses under the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, cheating, and kidnapping.

Visits are made to all women with whom a relationship was established when inside. In some cases, women themselves approach the worker following release. Our experience goes to show that most of the women approaching Prayas in prison are those with weak social and economic supports.

During incarceration, while a rapport is being developed with the inmate and the family, an assessment is made by the workers in regard to her socio economic situation, coping strategies, familial and social support - all setting a base for intervention post release.

Fearing that the workers represent the police, the families sometimes do not respond to the worker. As a result, the worker is required to invest in developing a strong rapport with the family, before any work can be initiated.

After release, home visits are made with the intention of assessing the woman's circumstances. Many of the women have already developed contacts inside prison- which may be facilitative or exploitative. Often, after discharge, she falls back on these supports for help. Therefore, a visit is made after discharge to offer support; to ensure that she does not necessarily have to fall back on negative supports. Besides this, an assessment is made in regard to the family's capacity to help the woman, the family and individual's needs, relationship patterns within the family, and options for helping the person get back on her feet keeping in mind the skills she possesses.

The client group comprises of women with either of the familial backgrounds:

- a) Those residing with families
- b) Runaway girls who have got into crime.
- c) Women had moved away from the home years before coming to prison, and who have no contact with the family.

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Social work intervention may be required on a regular basis in some cases, while with others initial assistance is given after which the client is able to fend for herself. Generally, an attempt to integrate in to the same community she lived in prior to arrest, or in one that is in close proximity. Our observations point to the fact that reintegration is easier in such areas rather than a completely different area.

Intervention includes the following:

- a) Family counseling to reunite the family is generally the first step. (Where the family is still resistant to provide support, the woman generally makes arrangements for her stay with relatives or friends on her own. This group is resistant to come to the Prayas centre or shift to shelter homes.)
- b) Help a person tide over family problematic relationships that arise now and then, till a situation where she is stable enough to deal with her problems.
- c) Attempts are made to enroll children who have dropped out of school following the mother's arrest, through financial assistance fees and other educational expenses and dialogue with school authorities.
- d) Where a woman has done some business prior to coming to prison, and shows an aptitude in the worker provides guidance – besides financial help – to re start the business.
- e) The woman and the family are given legal assistance, and assistance in obtaining legal documents. The worker maintains contact with the lawyers, to get information about the case, discuss how can the case be sorted out that the earliest, and ensure that the woman is appropriately informed about proceedings in the case.
- f) Financial assistance for a house deposit
- g) Emergency assistance for rations, house repair, medical assistance to the woman or the family members
- h) Help a person "clear her name" and develop confidence in starting afresh.
- i) Individual Counseling
- j) Training activities at the Prayas Women's Development Centre are offered to the woman or female members of the family.
- k) Help a person get documents such as ration card.
- l) Link the individual and her family with other agencies for assistance. For instance, referral to another agency for medical assistance and legal aid.

Over the last year, one has observed an increase in the number of runaway young girls who were residing in or around railway station premises prior to their arrest; and accused of offenses such as theft, dacoity, and theft during rag picking. The incidence of solution addiction is high amongst this group. Post imprisonment, they return to the station, or live elsewhere. An attempt is now being made to explore work with this group.

During the course of our work, the worker has been met with a range of responses from the community. In most cases, our client group does not fit into the target group of the other organizations. The kind of support this group requires is lacking, from both the government and voluntary agencies.

#### Suggestions:

- a) An Inter Departmental Committee needs to be established in Thane district (as per the orders of the Mumbai High Court in a recent PIL filed by PUCL, in which Prayas' suggestions were invited by the Hon'ble Court), to address pertinent issues in regard to processing of persons within the criminal justice apparatus, and their **rehabilitation**.
- b) Effective implementation of the State free legal services would go a long way in meeting the needs to women and families who are unable to obtain legal assistance and who may be dependent on other sources for loans to meet financial demands in this regard. Presently, there are **several gaps** in implementing this scheme.

#### Future plans:

- a) Establish a contact centre **outside prison** - in an area where it is convenient for this group to approach our workers. Presently most find the Prayas Centre at Mumbai Central inconvenient.
- b) Initiate a production unit inside prison and outside. This idea is in the process of being developed. Women can then be given work and paid on a piece rate basis. For inmates (who comprise of mostly undertrials), work would be given on a piece rate basis, so at the time of discharge she has something to fall back on. A Production unit for released prisoners is also being explored.
- c) Our workers are to be based in the mulakat shed on a daily basis (during the time inmates are allowed to meet visitors), so that when the family comes to meet the person, we are able to meet the family, and guide them accordingly.
- d) An attempt to start the NGO Placement programme in Thane District.
- e) With an increase in upcountry cases, efforts to be directed towards linking a person with organizations in her home state.



## 8. Policy and Advocacy Work

### Landmark Judgement of the Mumbai High Court with regard to Women Prisoners

The writ petition filed by PUCL about situation of women prisoners at Byculla District Prison in Mumbai High Court, led to the formation of a Committee which gave several far reaching recommendations to improve the situation of women prisoners and their children. Prayas was a member of this committee appointed by the Hon'ble High Court. Based on the report of the Committee, the Hon'ble High Court passed the following directions:

1. Setting up of a balwadi outside the prison premises for children inside prison, to be run by Pratham which would be funded by the Government of Maharashtra.
2. Upscaling the diet of pregnant and nursing mothers and children inside prison, based on the recommendations of a diet committee.
3. Upscaling articles of personal hygiene for prisoners and their children like soap, oil, sanitary napkins, etc.
4. Setting up of a panel of visiting doctors from JJ Hospital consisting of a gynecologist, a pediatrician, a skin specialist and psychiatrist to visit the prison once a week.
5. Appointment of a full time lady doctor for the Women's Section
6. Appointment of welfare officers to look into the needs of women prisoners and their children
7. Suggesting measures to improve the situation of lack of police escort for taking prisoners to court on their dates of appearance.

This matter is part heard and it is hoped that the directions will be extended to all other prisons of Maharashtra in due course. The HC had asked the State to submit data of all under trial prisoners in Maharashtra, to verify whether there are any UT prisoners who have spent more than the maximum sentence that could be awarded to them under the charge for which they have been arrested. The said data of more than 25,000 UT prisoners was submitted to the Court by the prison department and was subsequently verified by Prayas, at the request of the Court. A list of prisoners was then submitted to the Court, after examination, based on which two under trial prisoners were identified who had exceeded their maximum sentence, both of whom were from Kalyan District Prison. These prisoners were immediately set free by the Court and the government was ordered to pay a compensation of Rs. 75,000/- and Rs. 50,000/- to each of them.

Prayas also submitted a list of UT prisoners who have completed more than one-third, more than 50% and more than two-thirds of the maximum sentence as under trials (in cases where the maximum sentence was less than ten years), praying that they may be released on personal bond. Accordingly, such prisoners were set free on personal bond.

Based on our recommendation, the Court has passed general directions to the effect that any under trial prisoner, who is arrested in a case where the maximum sentence is less than three years, and the prisoners has spent more than six months from the date bail was granted to him/her, the UT should be released on personal bond. Similarly, if

7 \* Programs  
\* Policy Decisions

an under trial prisoner is arrested in a case where the maximum sentence is less than seven years and the prisoner has spent more than one year as an under trial from the date that bail was granted to him/her, the prisoner should be immediately released on personal bond by the magistrate/judge in the said case.

### **Production of Under Trial Prisoners in their trial courts through Videoconferencing**

In a related PIL (Rajendra Bidkar and Sunil Shinde Vs. State of Maharashtra) on non-production of UT prisoners on their court dates, the HC has asked the State to examine the feasibility of producing UTPs through the videoconferencing facility, instead of physically producing them in court, during the remand stage i.e. before the actual trials start in their cases in courts. Prayas sent a team of its workers to Andhra Pradesh to study the implementation of the videoconferencing facility there. The team visited and interacted with the staff and inmates of prisons in Hyderabad and Shri Ranga Reddy Districts to gain learnings from the functioning of the video-linkage system of production of under trials in court. Based on the findings of the team, a report has been submitted to the HC, giving suggestions about the precautions to be taken if this facility is to be started in Maharashtra. The HC has asked the Advocate General of Maharashtra to examine these suggestions and file his report, after consulting the Registrar-General of the High Court in the matter. The matter is sub-judice.

### **National Workshop on Laws Relating to Trafficking**

The report of the National Workshop on Laws relating to Trafficking, organized by Prayas in collaboration with the NHRC on 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> February, 2004, was released at a formal function by the Chairperson of the NHRC in New Delhi on 24<sup>th</sup> August, in the presence of the members of the Commission, government officials, NGOs and the media. The Commission has adopted the recommendations of the report and forwarded the same to the Department of Women Child Development, GOI for its consideration.

Prayas is pursuing the recommendations with the DWCD, GOI and GOM, towards introducing policy level changes on the issue of rescue and rehabilitation of women and minors being trafficked in the country. We have submitted our suggestions to amend the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, based on the recommendations of the National Workshop to the DWCD, GOI.

### **Meeting with the Home Minister, GOM**

The Governor of Maharashtra had written to the Chief Minister asking him to examine a proposal to legalise prostitution in the State. In response to this letter, Prayas requested Justice Dharmadhikari (retd.) to call a meeting with the GOM to oppose the move. In our view, legalisation of the trade would lead to increased trafficking of women and children and would sound a death knell to all efforts at rescue and rehabilitation of this exploited section of the population. At our request, Justice Dharmadhikari wrote to the Home Minister, Shri R.R. Patil who convened an Inter Departmental meeting on this issue at Mantralaya on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July, 2004. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the departments of Home, Women and Child Development, Law and Judiciary, Technical Education, Commissioner of Police, Mumbai, NGOs, and members of the press.

State  
Advisory  
Committee  
its knowledge  
trafficking

In the meeting, issues related to trafficking, rescue and rehabilitation of women and children in prostitution were discussed in detail. The Government took a policy decision to oppose any move to legalise prostitution, and took a decision to constitute a State level Inter Departmental Committee to review laws, policies and procedures relating to the issue of trafficking, rescue and rehabilitation of women and children. Prayas followed up this issue with the government. A GR has now been passed to constitute the said Committee. The meeting was widely reported in the marathi press and had the desired effect to counter any move to legalise the trade. As a result of this meeting, the Mumbai Police Commissioner undertook a major initiative to carry out sustained raids on beer bars, massage parlours, hotels, lodges and red-light areas to rescue minor girls and women forced into this trade.

The increasing numbers in the rescue homes has led to increased attention on custodial conditions and put weight behind Prayas' efforts to improve the staff position in these homes. The Commissioner, DWCD, GOM has had two meetings at the Protective Home in Mumbai to review the situation of the Home and agreed to improve the same, based on our suggestions. A new probation officer has been forthwith appointed, as the post was lying vacant for sometime. Prayas has been promised financial support for the vocational training activities it conducts with the rescued inmates in the Home.

#### **The State Inter-Departmental Committee for Prisoners**

The State IDC, in which we are a member, has issued a GR constituting District IDCs in all districts under the chairmanship of the district judge to monitor problems of prisoners at the district level. We have suggested that NGOs working on prison issues should be included in these committees to increase transparency and bring field level problems to the notice of the authorities concerned. The Principal Secretary (Jails), has requested Prayas to identify organizations in the districts who could be involved in this process.

Visits were made to Satara, Sangli, Atpadi and Kolhapur districts in connection with the functioning of the district IDCs recently formed there and also interact with the prison officials, police, probation officers, judiciary and others concerned with the criminal justice administration.

#### **Meeting with Joint Commissioner, Crime, Mumbai Police**

A meeting was held with the Jt. C.P. (Crime), Mumbai Police, Smt. Meera Borwankar to discuss the rehabilitation of youth offenders. A suggestion was made by Smt. Borwankar in the meeting that the Crime Prevention Branch of Mumbai Police and Prayas, along with other agencies, should enter into a formal collaboration to rehabilitate youth in crime. She has assured her full cooperation to Prayas on this issue. The next step in this process is a proposed meeting with the Crime Prevention Wing to discuss the modalities of the said collaboration.

## Other Developments

- Prayas has been made a member of the Central Advisory Committee to Combat trafficking of Women and Children, by the DWCD, GOI. We have attended two meetings called by the central government on this issue and given our inputs. A sub-committee has been formed, in which Prayas is a member, which will present a rehabilitation scheme for victims of commercial sexual exploitation in the next meeting.

We are also a member of the State level Monitoring and Guidance Committee formed on the orders of the Mumbai High Court to look into the needs rescued women and minors.

We have given detailed suggestions to the State Government towards a draft State Policy on Rescue and Rehabilitation of Trafficked Women and Children. We have also drafted the State Rules for the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act and submitted them to the DWCD, GOM. We plan to pursue the same with the authorities concerned.

- Two meetings are held
- <sup>schemes for</sup> ~~high~~ - as - Rescue, Prevention & Rehabilitation
- M & G Committee
- Forming Drafting Rules ITPA 1956





## 9. Bharuch Unit

### Work in Bharuch Unit

This year, Prayas-Bharuch Unit feels a sense of satisfaction while presenting its annual report. During its continuous work in the field for the last ten years, it has identified many issues and problems relating to system, clients and the process of rehabilitation. It has also established a very strong base in the field, but the lack of sufficient staff in the field has been hampering the speed with which the unit could take the initiative forward. This has definitely affected the development of the work, and the process of rehabilitation. This need for more staff and a workshop-cum-rehabilitation centre for women led this year, to major development both in terms of work and workers. Though workshop was already initiated in the last year, it started functioning on a full time basis from July 2004.

A major restructuring of the staff also took place:

- The worker who had joined last year for paying home visits, from June 2004, started working at the Bharuch City 'A Div.' Police Station.
- A teacher was appointed to teach skills to trainees coming to the workshop from July 2004.
- The prison activity teacher (women's section) continued visiting prison twice a week, and initiated work at the Ankleshwar railway station since the march 2004.
- The prison worker (male section) continued working in the prison.
- The social worker based at the police station, who had initiated the work at Bharuch Unit, due to her increasing responsibilities for the growth and development of the Unit, was finally withdrawn from the field to assume overall coordination of the work of the Unit.

Bharuch Unit was also a part of the rehabilitation framework discussed in the Mumbai office on the 'Area to Area approach'. Looking at our experiences in the field, it was felt that this approach will aid the process of rehabilitation. Accordingly, workers are being encouraged to specialise as per the emerging needs, based on the 'Area to Area approach' framework. But since there is limitation of staff, workers have accepted dual responsibilities. All the workers are pick-up workers as well as they are taking on other roles too.

- The pick-up worker at the police station has extended her role as family support worker.
- The activity teacher at the prison, and the pick-up worker at the railway station is also taking responsibilities as education and training worker.
- The prison worker is also specialising in govt. schemes available for clients.
- The worker who is taking overall responsibilities is also trying to look into NGO placement for our clients.

### **The Process ....**

Our workers are placed at the 'A Div' Police Station, Bharuch Sub-jail and Ankleshwar Railway Station. The objective to work here is to contact persons involved into or vulnerable to crime and prostitution and motivate them to explore other options. Our workers and teachers discuss with them various options available to them. During this process, methods like counseling, contacting families and employers, meetings with concerned police officers, magistrates, paying visits to their homes, different activities at the pick up points etc. are used to motivate clients to opt for the rehabilitation programme of Prayas.

Sometimes with our continuous interaction, counseling, and discussions with the family and the client, the family decides to take on the responsibility of helping in the clients' problems. Once families take on responsibility, Prayas' role becomes supportive. We believe that reintegration with the family is one major step forward towards reintegration in the society. This is true for local cases where Prayas or other NGOs can do the follow up.

Bharuch unit works in the industrial belt, thus many of the clients come from upcountry areas. Bharuch district is a comparatively poverty-stricken backward area, and apart from industrial jobs, opportunities are very limited. The problem of unemployment is severe. The question which keeps coming to mind is that though Bharuch district has jobs on offer in the industrial belt, yet, the unemployment level is high; then what about the employment situation in states from where people migrate to Bharuch? During home visits, workers have seen that people eat once in a day or two days. In such poverty situations, where survival is at stake, is it easy for family members to support the client, if repatriation takes place?

At present we have been only able to work with the clients who have families to support them at least to a limited extent, like offering shelter in the family home or clients who have shelter of their own.

We are not able to help our clients with their need for shelter as apart from offering temporary shelter at the Nari Kendra, Bharuch, which is a closed institution and hardly any rehabilitation programme to offer. The district does not have any other shelter homes. In emergency situations, we have provided shelter to our clients at the local Gurudwara, Musafirkhana, other clients' homes, or by taking help from the community. But for long term help, the only available shelter for women is Nari Kendra. In Nari Kendra, the inmates are not allowed out for training or employment.

One major work the unit has to follow up on is to open the gates of Nari Kendra for those inmates who want to take training, to help them rehabilitate.

Major strength of Prayas-Bharuch unit is our workshop for training. Though most of our clients are staying with the family, and either they themselves or their families are into crime or prostitution. In some cases, families themselves are not able to help the person for rehabilitation. These clients are encouraged to come to the workshop to give them experience of living a pro-social life, giving them stability and security. In the initial few weeks, the clients are encouraged to participate in different activities, to boost up their confidence and to demonstrate that they have the capacity to learn skills to lead them away from anti-social activities.

Slowly, from five to six activities a day, clients are encouraged to do an activity a day. In the process our activity teacher observes the skills, talents and aptitudes of the client and then encourages her to take training in courses run by government agencies, or other institutes. In the workshop, the process is slow, without any pressure on the client to 'reform' and is continuously monitored.

While at workshop, the client faces many emergencies like health problems, education of children, negative relationships, financial requirements, problems with families, addiction, slipping back into crime, lack of shelter, etc. The family worker and the worker looking after education and training, work towards countering negative effects of the above mentioned problems.

Literacy, education and information, is an important part of our program. The clients are encouraged to always move a step forward to know more, to build their information base.

While Bharuch unit is committed to the process of rehabilitation, the unit faces the problems related to working in a small place. Just as there are benefits of working in a smaller place, it has its limitations too. There are hardly any NGOs to support the clients, fewer opportunities for training and jobs, non availability of shelter, closed minds of the community, non availability of medical assistance (govt. and for long term), politicised system, environment of 'everybody knows everything', etc. This environment sometimes works negatively for our clients. Our workers continuously work towards changing these limitations into the strengths.

### **Work with the System**

Prayas Bharuch unit is also interacting with the system to bring about changes in government policies and programs:

1. Meeting with Addl. Director General of Police and Inspector General of Prisons Shri. H. R. Ghelot in his office at the Jail Bhavan, Sabarmati: In the meeting various issues related to prison reform and rehabilitation were discussed. Shri Ghelot was interested that Prayas starts work in Vadodara Central Prison in the Women's Section and also in other prisons in the State. Prayas gave a proposal that if NGOs are identified by the prison department, then Prayas was ready to train them on prison based work. Since post of welfare officers are not there in all the prisons, Prayas also offered to train Jail officers for welfare work.
2. Meeting with the Collector: In a case of a convicted prisoner, he did not have a home to go on his release. Three brothers and a father were arrested and convicted for life in a murder case. The families of all brothers are at present staying with their parental families. Their land was acquired by the G.I.D.C. Since these people were in prison while the land was acquired, they did not get any compensation. The prison worker has discussed this issue with the collector, to get their rights for housing and compensation for their land.
3. During the year, we had eleven meetings with the Dist. Supdt. of Police to discuss various issues relating to work at the police station. The worker at the police station identified the non-implementation of J. J. Act at the police station as a major concern.

This issue was discussed with The D. S. P. many times during the meetings. As a result of the meetings, the D. S. P. has agreed to have a training of J. J. Act for the field level staff. Another issue discussed was about mentally disturbed women and their treatment. The D. S. P. was very sympathetic towards the problems of these women. He was responsive to the idea of police taking custody of mentally disturbed women and sending them to the govt. hospitals for treatment.

4. Prayas was asked to hold the training of J. J. Act and ITPA, for the railway police by the S. P. Railways. In the training, staff was called from all the railway police stations in Gujarat, and included officers of the rank of Inspector, Head Constable, Woman Police Constable from all police stations. The training was followed by discussions on the practical aspects of implementation by the police. Many doubts were cleared, and the police confessed that these acts are not as difficult to follow as are felt by them. In the end, there was an agreement to follow the provisions of the J. J. Act. Though sensitivity towards women in prostitution was created, the police was not thoroughly convinced about why shouldn't arrest women in prostitution under local acts (for indecent behaviour). The agreement was then reached that the police will work at least for 3 months keeping in mind the provisions of ITPA, and then a follow up meeting will be organised.

#### **WORK AT BHARUCH SUB JAIL**

##### **Male Section:**

The population of Bharuch Sub Jail is approx. 250 to 275, out of which 17 are convicted and remaining are under trials. There are 8 barracks in the sub jail. There is no special barrack for young offenders. Due to our continuous follow up and discussion, young accused were housed separately for some months, but after some time due to administrative problems, they were again housed along with other prisoners, as before.

The prison worker (male section) visits prison 3 days in the week. In the prison he takes up following roles:

1. Establishing contacts with prison inmates.
2. Establishing contacts with families of prison inmates - Giving them legal guidance, and working with the families so that both inmate and the family begins to take interest in each other with the objective of reunion with the family.
3. Writing various applications for prison inmates, on their behalf.
4. Making phone calls to concerned police stations for charge sheets, and also to advocates and the family members of the inmates.
5. Counseling and discussions with prison inmates with objective of rehabilitation with special focus on govt. schemes.
6. Co-ordination with prison authorities, magistrates, Dist. Legal Services Authority and the inmates towards accessing their basic legal rights and rehabilitation.

### **Female Section:**

In the female section of Bharuch Sub Jail, our activity teacher visits twice in a week. The activity teacher conducts activities for the women inmates, builds rapport with the women, gives legal guidance, visits their families, identifies cases where involvement of family is possible, writes post cards on behalf of the inmates to their families, writes applications, visits hospitals when inmates or the children are admitted, visits courts and magistrates concerned, and meets the district administration regarding issues faced by the women.

The activities in prison:

- Embroidery
- Mehndi design
- Products made from wool (decorative items)
- Door mats made from Kathi
- Decorative flower pots
- Games

Discussions are also on with Jan Sikshan Sansthan, to start a permanent training center at the Bharuch Sub-Jail.

### **Some Issues**

#### **1. Cases arrested under Prohibition Act:**

Under This category 3 categories of persons are arrested,

- A) Those who are into making and selling illicit liquor: Most of the time, they are poor, illiterate, unemployed people, who are doing this out of necessity and due to lack of any other option. Once they come to prison, the family is in dire straits. Sometimes, bootleggers (for whom they are working) help them to get released, and at other times, no one comes to help them, as their families are neither aware nor can they afford the bail amounts. The problem before the social worker in such cases is how to help this group and their families, while they are in prison, and how can one work towards their rehabilitation?
- B) Alcoholics: The alcoholics, who are arrested under the Prohibition Act, are habitual. Every time they reach the Sub-Jail, they make promises to the worker that they want to change and they will not drink again, and once they are out of the prison, they get back to the drinking habit, and many a times get re-arrested. Rehabilitation is possible only if they decide to leave the habit of alcoholism. We are trying to contact groups working for de addiction, who themselves can come and work in the prison or can guide us.
- C) Alcoholics who harass their families and are arrested on complaints of children, wife or family members: In this category, they drink so heavily that the family members are tired of them and they register complaints. In these cases, sometimes the wife herself helps for bail, or sometimes the family helps him. On getting released on bail, the harassment of the family starts again. In these cases counseling is also not possible, and the vicious cycle goes on.

2. Cases of physically handicapped persons: When a physically handicapped person is arrested, the prison system is not designed to cater to his needs. In cases where the family is ready to support or can be convinced to support, they can be released on bail. In cases where families are not convinced, then they face a lot of problems in prison doing their daily chores. In these cases, work has to be done with the judiciary to get support for them to get them released on personal bond.
3. Cases of inmates for the recovery of maintenance: In these cases, there are two sides to the coin. Many a time, there are men who can afford to pay maintenance but only to harass the wife they do not pay. In prison, we have come across cases where the men are in no position to pay the maintenance, they are poverty stricken and are sent to prison for non-payment of the maintenance. In these cases, it really becomes difficult for worker to work objectively.

### **WORK AT THE BHARUCH CITY 'A' DIV. POLICE STATION**

Work at Bharuch was started at the Bharuch 'A' Div. Police station, and then expanded to other areas. As the work of the Unit expanded over the years, the police station worker was not able to spend enough time at the police station, thus negatively affecting the quality of work. This year, since June 2004, a worker was appointed to work at the police station. At the police station, her role is to counsel and offer services to people reaching police station in crisis situation. For a new worker to establish her base at the police station, it is important to win the trust of the police. This is possible only through one's work. The police always observe how one works, how one talks to clients, whether one is complaining about them to senior officers, whether one is criticising them, etc. The worker has to in initial stages, really prove herself. Once this is done, the support is available. Now that the initial period is over, the support from the police towards our work is there.

#### **Role of the worker at the police station:**

In police station, the social worker intervenes in the cases of women (accused and victims), children (neglected and delinquents), young offenders and mentally disturbed. The worker also tries to help citizens who reach police station with needs and problems by giving legal guidance and information. Police personnel themselves sometimes have problems in the family. Police station being an authoritarian setting, the police officials can not discuss personal problems within themselves, and thus tend come to the social worker to seek advice for their problems, or just to vent out their feelings. The police also expect the social worker to share these problems with senior officers like the D. S. P.

#### **The procedure of work at the police station:**

The social worker has a table next to the station house officer. The worker listens to the victims who reach the police station, when necessary explains her role, and offers support, counseling, and options. Sometimes the station house officer or the investigation officers refers the case to her. When necessary, the social worker follows up the case, visits the home, and meets concerned parties. Sometimes once the applications are sent to chowkies (beats), the social worker along with the chowki in-charge follows up the case. At the police station, the worker also visits the lock-up and tries to see whether she can intervene in cases of young offenders, from the social and rehabilitative point of view. When women are arrested, the social worker discusses the "why" of her indulgence into anti social activities, and offers her alternatives.

### **Cases of women and children arrested under the Prohibition Act:**

The majority of women are arrested under the prohibition act. In the Bharuch district, entire neighbourhoods and villages are involved in making and selling of illicit liquor. Most of the time, women and children are involved in it. In the city limits, there are bootleggers and women work for them, while some also sell individually. In villages, women manufacture and sell liquor in the village itself or transport it to Bharuch city. Here again women and children work as carriers. The reasons why women and children are involved could be many:

- a) The men are alcoholics and unemployed, or they do not want to work.
- b) Labor for unskilled work is not available
- c) Agricultural labor is seasonal
- d) Since men do not work, women have to take up family responsibilities
- e) The administration and the system is softer towards women and children, hence they get used to promote this trade.
- f) The migrant population from other districts are involved into this business.

The worker tries to discuss with them the reasons of their involvement in crime. Most of the time, the reasons are one of the above mentioned. At the police station, the women say that this is the last time they are involved, and soon they are going to get out of it, but once they are out, they are again involved into the business. They can not break the vicious cycle of: poverty - no majoori - easy route to liquor business available - arrest - money on interest from shroff or bootlegger to get out from prison - after release to repay the loan taken - again into liquor business.

With our experience of working with this group, it is important that they break this cycle and start coming to our rehab centre, then it is easier to convince them about the benefits of rehabilitation. With only counseling at the police station, and home visits, it is difficult for them to visualise getting out of the trade or looking for alternate options.

**Cases of Juveniles:** In cases of juveniles, the police expect a dual role from social worker. When the police are convinced that the child is into delinquency due to some family problems, they refer the case to social worker to help the child, but when they are convinced that the child is involved in anti-social activities, they do not allow social worker to intervene. The social worker continues to struggle with the police for effective implementation of J. J. Act. E.g. children are put into lock-ups, their ages are written more than the actual age, etc. The police are not aware of the provisions of the J. J. Act, and that do not want to use the Act, as they find it tedious. The need is to give them training on provisions of the J.J. Act.

### **Observations of the Worker:**

- The social worker can play an important role to help citizens who reach police station with psycho-social problems.
- Though the police want to intervene in cases from social point of view, they are not trained to do so. Thus social worker can play effective role here.
- Presence of social worker in the police station softens the atmosphere in the police station.

- To effectively work at the police station, the support of the field level police is essential.
- Sometimes there is conflict of understanding and approach between worker and the police, over the issue of rehabilitation -which client can be rehabilitated, which case needs to be registered as a criminal case, and which case can be settled out of court.

#### **Response of the Police:**

- When the police feel that compromise between the disputing parties is possible, they refer the case to social worker (in cases of family disputes and neighbourhood disputes)
- Police refer cases of juveniles to the social worker when they feel that the child and the family need support, but in cases where they feel that the child is undeserving of help or sympathy, they try to discourage the worker from intervening in the case.
- Police immediately try to contact the social worker, when any woman who is already attending the rehabilitation programme of Prayas, is arrested or brought to the police station for some reason.
- The social worker gets the support of senior officers when there are some problems or difficult issues being faced at the field.
- There are staff who have negative attitude towards rehabilitation, causing problems for the social worker.
- The field level police staff has accepted the role of social worker at the police station.

#### **Response of the community**

Response of the community is very positive. Both the victims and accused feel that the social worker can support them and understand the problem better. As there is negative impression of police in the community, people can trust the social worker easily, and thus in the process can trust the police. The visitors (advocates, reporters, citizens etc.), appreciate the role social worker plays, and suggests that this type of work should be initiated at other police stations too.

#### **Development of work at the Police station:**

With the experience of working at the police station in Bharuch, we feel that the work at the police station should be developed at other police stations in Gujarat. At present we have experience of working at the district level, and we should move in the direction of working at an urban police station.

#### **FAMILY SUPPORT UNIT**

There is a need to work with the families, as it could result in the client going back to or reuniting with the family, which is the first major step towards re integration in the society. Visits to the family are made with the following objectives:

- a) Giving information to the family about client and conveying the feelings of the client towards the family.
- b) Giving legal guidance to the family, and helping the family to deal with legal problems.



- c) Assessing the situation in the family and helping the family to cope with the effects of imprisonment or arrest of the client.
- d) Encouraging the family to take interest in the client, with a view of rehabilitation (before and after release).

During the family visits, workers have observed absolute poverty in the villages, and more so in the families of the client. We have observed that though the client's family is interested in his/her welfare, they can not help him/her due to their economic situation. It is difficult to even visit the client in prison or court for the family members. We have also observed that families of some arrested persons are also into anti-social activities, or they get into crime or prostitution after arrest of the breadwinner.

It is equally important to work at both the ends – with the inmate and with the family. Due to overload on the pick up worker in the prison, it is being not possible to follow up with the inmates in the custody after their release. There is frustration that though the family was encouraged to participate in the process of rehabilitation, the client loses touch with Prayas. To avoid this situation, there is an urgent need for a worker in the prison who is also constantly following up the cases for rehabilitation.

As we have mentioned earlier, there are economic problems in the community. The question we are facing is whether it is possible to create employment (by training, self-employment or helping to get regular work) to at least one member of the family of the inmate? In the coming year, the family support worker and the worker for training and education will look into this issue.

#### **WORK AT THE ANKLESHWAR RAILWAY STATION**

Work At the railway station was initiated in March 2004. In the past year, it has developed a lot with placement of worker three days a week.

Initially the worker spent a lot of time at the railway station focusing on the following issues:

Who are the people living on or near the railway stations?

- Women:

- a) Women living off prostitution on their own  
Women living off prostitution through pimps  
Women involved in liquor or sex trade  
Women commuting by trains for work
- b) Mentally disturbed women: These women are vulnerable and are sexually exploited
- c) Women in difficult situations who have run away from home or left their marital home and going to parental home.

- Children:

- a) Runaway children
- b) Children involved in begging (by the family/by professionals)
- c) Children living on the station.

- Young boys
  - a) Run away and have come to industrial estate for work
  - b) Young offenders who are operating around the station
- Poor people in search of employment, ignorant of the law and arrested by the railway police on suspicion or for ticketless travelling.
- Sadhus living on the station: Some of them cheat people, and some of them who are living on the station are aware of all happenings on the station.
- There is group of people who spend time or live on the station because of many reasons:
  - a) Sick without any support
  - b) Old people without any support
  - c) Migrant labor who have still not managed a place to stay
  - d) Mentally disturbed persons
- There is a group of women (age: 35 - 40 yrs.) involved in prostitution near the station. Most of them are from nearby villages, and live off daily majoori. We have also observed women who, if they do not get majoori, get involved in prostitution for that day.

With these observations, we met the SP, Railways (Western Region, Gujarat). He showed immediate interest in kind of work we were doing, and listened to all our observations. On the same day, he gave us the permission to work at the station and extended his support. A meeting was fixed for the next month, to discuss the experiences of work.

As soon as work started at the railway station, the worker's presence at the station created a lot of curiosity. The worker continuously interacted with the railway magistrate, GRP staff, RPF staff, railway staff, stall owners and workers, sweepers etc. and explained to them our role. Ankleshwar railway station is not very busy railway station, thus everything is easily identified. The worker can observe all the happenings and at the same time the worker can be also easily observed by the anti- social elements.

The group with whom we have been able to work:

- Women
  - a) Counseling and support to women who have run away from home.
  - b) Helping women for shelter in Nari Kendra
  - c) Work with mentally disturbed women: contacting their families, encouraging their participation in the treatment.
  - d) Making contacts and initiating discussions with women involved in prostitution.
- Children who have dropped out of the school, and loitering on the station. Work has been done with their families too.
- Women or children found at the station needing immediate medical treatment .
- Persons needing legal guidance, when they are produced before the railway court in minor offences.

### **The group with which we have not been able to work:**

- 1) Mentally disturbed: Though some intervention has been done with a few women, there is need for long-term intervention in these cases, as these women on the station are exploited sexually and also vulnerable to prostitution. The discussions have been made with the S. P. railways to take custody of women under the Mental Health Act, and send them for treatment, it has not been implemented at the field level. We are also looking at the option for involving other NGOs working on similar issues, and encouraging them to work at the station.
- 2) Children: This group also needs full time intervention. They are involved in begging, theft, addiction, and alcoholism, or working as pimps. Many of them show behavioral problems requiring psycho-social and long-term intervention. We have been able to intervene in a limited manner with this group and we need support of an NGO which has understanding and experience of working with this group.

### **Impact of the work:**

Based on our observations on the categories of persons needing psycho-social intervention at the railway station, and the type of work we have been able to do with them so far, it is clear that the setting is complex, involving dynamics and thus long time intervention for required results.

The co-ordination between the railway police, the magistrate and the social worker is needed. The social worker can play effective role in helping clients move out of the station and take better control of their lives in a pro-social manner. For this, building rapport with them is very important. As they are used to street life, it is not easy to get them 'off' the streets. With sustained intervention and discussions of options with them, they can be gradually convinced to come to our rehabilitation centre.

Once they start coming to centre, the challenge is with activity teacher to sustain their interest. Our centre is at Bharuch, and railway station is at Ankleshwar. Thus it is not an easy task to get them to workshop at Bharuch. We feel the need for an activity-cum-drop-in centre at Ankleshwar. The women can drop in at any time they wish, making it easier to motivate them come to the rehabilitation centre at Bharuch.

That working in the railway station is fraught with dangers is also becoming obvious to us. Our worker has experienced the feeling of 'being observed' by pimps and persons involved in the flesh trade. There has been an attempt to malign the reputation of the worker (without clearly mentioning names) through a local publication of dubious repute brought out in the local language. But since we did not react to this, and continued working, nothing happened later.

### **WORKSHOP FOR TRAINING AND REHABILITATION FOR WOMEN**

Prayas, Bharuch unit set up a workshop for women and girls since October 2003. As the activity teacher was visiting the workshop only 3 days a week, the client group was also coming to workshop irregularly. One full time activity teacher has joined since July 2004. The objective of the workshop is to give exposure to clients of living in pro-social manner, to build up their confidence and self-esteem to live an alternate way of life, to give them education and build up their information base, and to give them training to prepare them for economic independence after observing clients skills, training and aptitudes..

## ACTIVITIES IN THE WORKSHOP

Activities in the workshop are planned, keeping in mind the clients' background.

- a. Women coming out of prostitution
- b. Women involved in the sale of illicit liquor
- c. Women suffering from mental disturbance
- d. Girls referred by an organisation working for HIV-AIDS whose mothers are involved in prostitution
- e. Women in difficult situations

Our observations about the women bears out the fact that most of them are used to street life - working only when they want to, habit of spending, eating out, watching movies, taking short-term decisions, independent way of working, alcoholism etc.

When new clients come to the workshop, they find it difficult to sit and do one activity, and their interest level fluctuates. They get bored sitting in the centre, keep taking breaks for water, want to eat or drink tea, sleep etc. Initially, they are encouraged to do activities of their choice. The worker helps them to select activities which could get over in half an hour's time. This helps maintain their interest and on seeing finished products, their confidence boosts up. The worker encourages the client to take the finished products home to show it to their family, friends and neighbors. Slowly, the client is taken towards an activity a day. During this time, worker observes social and vocational skills, aptitudes and talents, discipline, and information of the client.

### Activities:

- Woolen products: Torans, Door curtains, Telephone mats, Pooja thali covers, Table cloths, Dolls, Caps, Mobile covers, etc.
- Letter Boxes made out of nets
- Decorative flower pots
- Imitation jewelry
- Tailoring
- Artificial flowers
- Beautician course

When clients are participating in activities, our activity teacher works with them very closely in a step by step manner, monitoring their progress.

Once the client becomes regular and stable, she shows interest towards specialised training, or income generation. The client is gradually shifted to vocational based courses run by organisations both private and government. In the month of March the whole group went to Jan Sikshan Sansthan for a training in products made of 'Kathi and Resha'

### Literacy and Information:

All most all clients at the workshop are illiterate. Literacy was slowly introduced as an activity. Initially Small targets were given to them. Most of them used to put thumb impression on the vouchers. The first mutually discussed target was that they will learn to sign on the vouchers. When this was achieved, there was no looking back. All the clients are now learning to read and write. The clients learn from the activity teacher, they learn from each other, they learn from the children of the clients. Only one 50-

year-old tribal women from Panchmahal district can not sign, but she is learning. The most interesting observation is that the elder clients are keener towards learning. They spend almost 2-3 hours a day in learning and practicing.

At present the volunteer for activity takes care of literacy, but there is a need to appoint a literacy teacher, who then can not only look into literacy but also develop information base of the clients.

#### **Savings:**

Many discussions were held with clients to encourage savings. Initially, clients used to take their stipend daily. Gradually, they were encouraged to take their stipend on a weekly basis. Since the January 2004, clients are taking their stipend on a monthly basis. The savings were initially kept at the workshop. They used to save small amounts and keep it at the workshop. Then, the idea of opening bank accounts was discussed with them and their families. Once they agreed, meetings were initiated with the bank officials. Initially, they refused to open bank accounts without ration cards and reference of an account holder of the bank, but later were convinced to open accounts with reference letter from Prayas.

Six clients have opened accounts in the bank. Once they started taking monthly stipend, it became easier for them to save. Those who can not save in the bank still continue to do small savings in the centre.

#### **Diwali Sale:**

Bharuch unit does not have production unit. The products made by the clients are sold informally by referrals. This year during Diwali, we had planned to make decorative Divas and put up an exhibition-cum-sale. The decision to convert the centre into a production unit for about a month was done with following objectives:

1. To build confidence and self esteem of the clients by demonstrating that products made by them are marketable.
2. To learn a new skill of making decorative diyas.
3. To help them learn marketing skills.
4. To give a message to the community that 'rehabilitation is possible'

Whenever we visit government offices for work related to our clients, though they cooperate with us, many of them are not convinced that rehabilitation is possible with our client group. Thus we decided to put up our exhibitions at the government offices. The offices selected were Police Lines at the 'A' Div. Police station, DSP's office, Zilla Panchayat Office, Telephone Exchange, S.T. Depot, Jalaram Mandir, and in the village Jhagadia.

#### **Experiences during the Sale:**

- (a) All clients were excited to be part of the sale.
- (b) They showed confidence to sell the products and distribute pamphlets.
- (c) There was no absence during the days of production, and sale. They were ready to come early and go late.
- (d) They felt proud to go to Police Lines for the sale.
- (e) The sale boosted their self-esteem, as it gave them 'ijjat' when people bought their products.

### Other activities in the centre

1. Meetings in the centre to discuss problems, progress and future plans for the clients.
2. Discussions with the client groups about issues regarding their training, rehabilitation, and reintegration.
3. Visits organised for clients:
  - a. Visit to temple for a picnic.
  - b. Shuklatirth mela
  - c. Visit to the Bank
  - d. Visit to Jan Sikshan Sansthan.
  - e. A Mela organised by District administration for women's groups working in the district.

### Issues emerging:

NGO placement: We are convinced that placement of clients in NGO sector is important before clients get reintegrated in the community. There are very few NGOs working in Bharuch and Ankleshwar city. There are some organisations working in the rural areas of the district but the as their focus is on development work and issues relating to agriculture, and our client group is not comfortable staying in rural areas. We are observing that our focus is slowly shifting to training to become self employed. As there is employment problem, we will have to build up our capacity to help clients get self-employed.

Issues of girls/women in illicit liquor business: Six girls and a woman coming to our centre are involved in the illicit liquor business. Five of them come from the same neighborhood. They are the migrants from the Panchmahals district, and the whole community is involved in getting English liquor from Daman. All of them have many cases pending against them. At present, though some of the girls are not involved, their families still sell liquor from home and girls are pressured to sell them. There are chances that they might get arrested. In the case of one of the clients, the father is an alcoholic, and she has to support her parents and her seven other siblings. Her parents send her to Daman to get liquor on holidays. Moreover, the girls themselves miss the fun they used to have while they used to go to get liquor, so sometimes they go as an outing. As these are not individual but problems related to the livelihood of an entire community, the approach towards rehabilitation too has to be community based, requiring an entirely different strategy.

Mixed group: At the centre, a mixed group comes for the training, leading to problems. Those in crime or prostitution feel that their problems are more acute than problems of women in difficult situations (police station cases). Since there are no organisations working for mentally disturbed cases, initially, our clients who were showing behavioral problems and mental disturbance were also coming to workshop. But after working with four such cases, we realised that it was very difficult to work with them without a specialize approach and training. Since there are no organisations working with this group, we are not in a position to refer them. We are trying to develop some resources so that this problem is looked into.