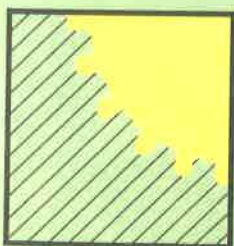


BIENNIAL REPORT 2006-2008



PRAYAS

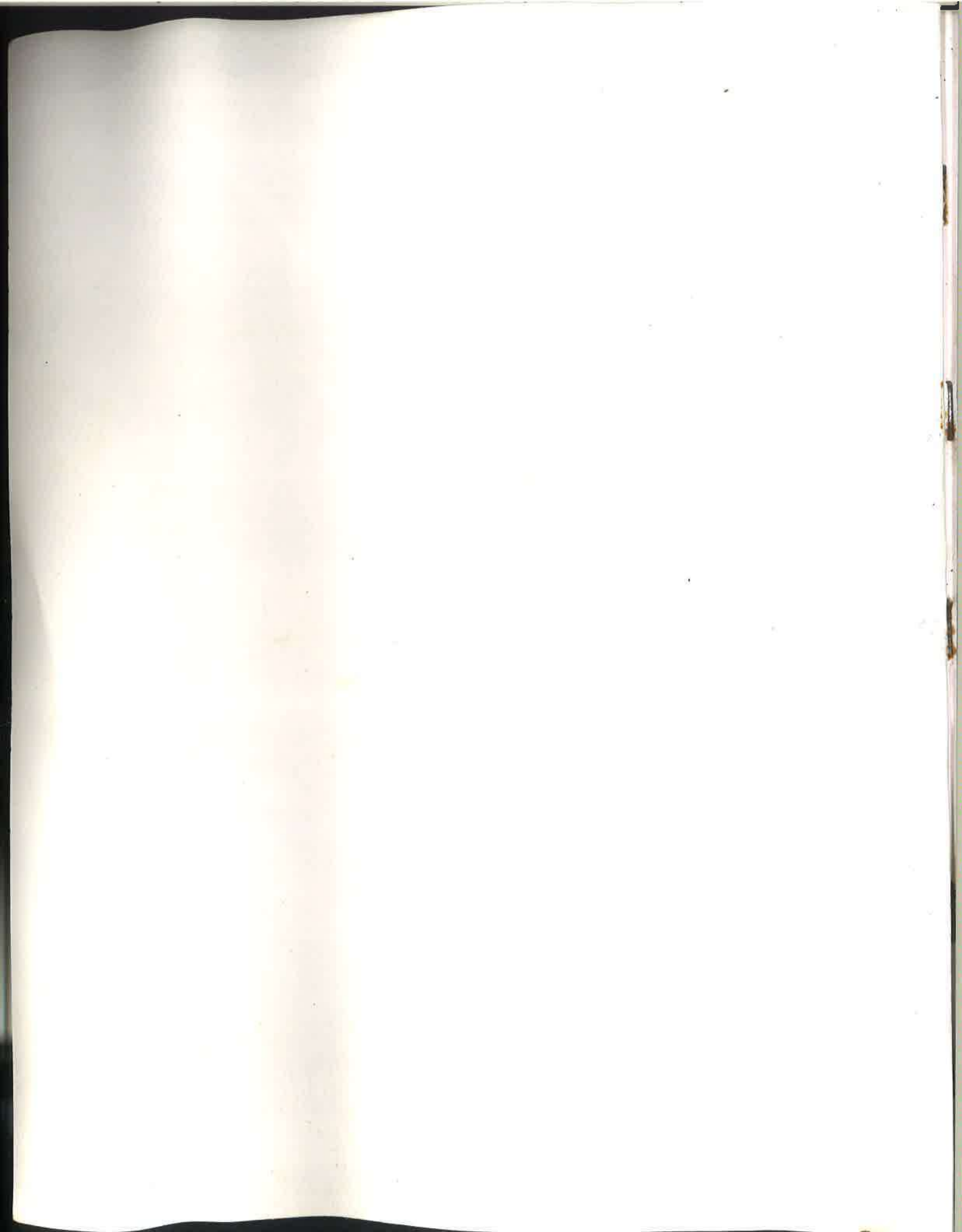
SOCIAL WORK IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

A PROJECT OF THE TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

9/1, B.D.D. Chawls, worli, Mumbai -400 018.

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1. Prayas Staff Structure

PRISON BASED WORK

(Mumbai & Thane)

Vijay Johare
Mulidhar Jagtap
Aruna Nimse
Varsha Lad
Salma Naik

BHARUCH SUB-JAIL (GUJARAT)

Vithalbhai Solanki
Vaishali Jaiswal

WOMEN'S INSTITUTION BASED WORK

**(Navjeevan Mahila Vasti Gruha, Kasturba
Mahila Vasti Gruha & Female Beggars
Home)**

Babita Salvi
Lata Ganage
Jyoti Lokhande
Smita Jadhav

POLICE STATION BASED WORK

(Mumbai & Bharuch)

Devchand Randive
Sangita Gawli
Pooja Shirmali
Vaishali Jaiswal

LEGAL AID AND COURT BASED WORK

Sujata Jagtap
Silvin Kale

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER

(MUMBAI)

Suryakant Mane
Shahanwaz Pathan

WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CENTER

(MUMBAI)

Vishakha Dekhane
Sangita Gawli

PLACEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

Chandrakant Shinde
Vasanti Jadhav
Pramila Madupuri

WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CENTER

(BHARUCH)

Neeta Gajjar
Vaishali Jaiswal

DOCUMENTATION, TRAINING, MEDIA & POLICY ADVOCACY

Sharon Menezes
Chandrani Ganguli
Devayani Tumma
Silvin Kale
Vikas Kadam
Sunil Mhaske
Surekha Sale
Pradnya Shinde
Sudhakar Madupuri

PRODUCTION UNIT

Shankar Pokharkar
Sadanand Dalvi
Vijay More
Geeta Kokkula
Sakshi Desai

ADMINISTRATION UNIT

Shamal Godambe
Bajirao Patil
Yellubai Naik
Kanku Solanki

PROJECT COORDINATOR

(Mumbai & Bharuch)

Penny Tong
Suryakant Mane
Krupa Shah

PROJECT DIRECTOR

Vijay Raghavan

PROJECT ADVISOR

Dr. Sanober Sahni



2. Introduction

Prayas is a field action project of the recently renamed Centre for Criminology and Justice, School of Social Work of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. The intervention conducted by Prayas concentrates on social work services within the Criminal Justice System. Ever since its inception in February 1990, Prayas, which started services at the women and male youth sections of the Mumbai Central Prison, and over the last 18 years, has expanded its reach to a wide range of vulnerable persons who are custodialized in pre-penal, penal and protective custody. In addition, Prayas also reaches out to persons being processed by other agencies of the Criminal Justice System, such as police stations and courts. Since the prime focus of the project has been the prevention of crime and victimization, Prayas has extended its services to persons who seem to be on the fringes of crime and victimization, particularly those who have been processed as potential or established offenders or victims.

During the two years from 2006 to 2008, Prayas set its sights on

- being able to access persons prior to them reaching a point of becoming criminalized or victimized,
- intervening in the cases of custodialized persons who could be encouraged towards pro-social and productive options and means of livelihood,
- developing a post-custodial rehabilitation programme so as to make available, necessary supports and alternatives to persons who are attempting being reintegrated

Simultaneous steps have also been taken to address systemic issues and bottleneck, so as to create an environment conducive towards the rehabilitation of persons who are being processed by the CJS.

The Prayas intervention could be broadly classified into:

1. Field level intervention

This was divided into:

- A. Work with vulnerable groups towards prevention of their entry into crime or criminal exploitation,
- B. Work with groups in penal and protective custody,
- C. Work with persons towards their reintegration, either prior to being custodialized or after being released from custody.

2. Policy level intervention:

This was divided into:

- A. Addressing the gaps and bottlenecks within the system, through association and collaboration with the administration

- B. Encouraging and supporting new initiatives within the field of corrections among the social work fraternity
- C. Supporting educational institutions in the training of students pursuing degrees in social work and law.

As Prayas is a largely self-supporting project of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, a fair amount of time and human resources had to be directed towards the mobilizing of resources for its programmes and administrative expenditure.

Location and reach of Prayas:

Prayas is located in the Mumbai and Thane districts of Maharashtra, and the Bharuch district of Gujarat. It has its administrative office located at 9/1 BDD Chawls, Worli, Mumbai.

It conducted its outreach and programmes at prisons, police stations, government institutions for women, and community based rehabilitation centers.

Prisons:

- A. Mumbai Central Prison – Male youth section
- B. Thane Central Prison – Male youth section
- C. Byculla District Prison - Women's section
- D. Kalyan District Prison – Male Youth and Women's sections
- E. Bharuch Sub Jail –Male and Women's sections

Police Stations:

- A. CST Railway Police Station, Mumbai
- B. Shivaji Nagar Police Station, Mumbai
- C. Ankleshwar Railway Police Station
- D. 'A Division' Police Station, Bharuch

Women's Institutions:

- A. Navjivan Mahila Vastigruh, Mumbai
- B. Kasturba Mahila Vastigruh, Mumbai
- C. Female Beggars Home, Mumbai

Community based Rehabilitation Centers:

- A. Youth Development Center, Mumbai
- B. Women's Development Center, Mumbai
- C. Women's Development Center, Bharuch



3. Acknowledgements

❖ FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Funding organizations and Charitable Trusts

R. D. Tata Trust
Concern India Foundation
Active Citizens Trust
Anusandhan Trust

Arham Yuva Group
Bal Freni & Seth Fali Meherji Variava C.
Trust
Common Wealth Human Rights Initiative

Government Support

Central Social Welfare Board
Ministry of Women and Child
Development, GOI
National Legal Services Authority

United Nations Development Programme &
Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and
Justice, GOI (SAJI - I Project)

Corporate Sector

H.D.F.C. Ltd.
Hinduja Foundation
Trent Limited
TechNet Employees
Indus International

O.N.G.C – Asset, Ankleshwar, Gujarat
System Plus Solutions
Tata Chemicals
Zensar Technologies Ltd

Individual Donars

Mr. Behram Sabawala
Ms. C D'Souza
Mr. N. Baretto
Mr. O.H. Dsouza
Mr. Virendra Singh
Mr. Yogesh Jain
Mr. Zion Dabholkar
Ms. N. Atmaram

Mr. Aashu Calapa
Ms. Amita Shah
Ms. Arundati Singhal
Ms. Chevan Kothari
Ms. Feroza P. Chavda
Ms. Mukul Rastogi
Mr. P. Sundaram
Ms. Sanitha Menon

Ms. Shaiontoni Bose
Ms. Supriya Jaykumar
Mr. Navroz .H. Servai
Mr. Nanarao S. Kharate
Mr. Shrikrishna S. Balla
Ms. Pushpalata Batia
Mr. T.G. Deshmukh

Direct Support to client

Action Aid (Direct sponsorship of women clients for NGO Placement Programme)
Ammada Trust (Shri Arjun Menon)
DAILY FARECLUN TANBA & DHUN DAILY TANBR
HPS National Family Health and Inner Wheel Club, Chembur

Support in kind / other support

C.G.M.- Incharge, Computer and
Technology Cell, RBI

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd.
Gurukrupa Textiles

Mahindra & Mahindra
Inner Wheel Club of South Mumbai
Rotary Club of Ulhasnagar
Toy Foundation

Ms. Rituparna Choudhury
Ms. Prajakta Pawar, Timesgroup
Mr. Nanubhau Nimse

❖ **ADVISORY SUPPORT**

Justice Shri C. S. Dharmadhikari (Retd.)
Smt. M. C. Borwankar, I.P.S.
Dr. Machiswala, Psychiatrist
Shri R.K. Saksena, Retd. Inspector General of Prisons, Rajasthan and Consultant, CHRI
Smt. Amina Yusuf, Advocate
Adv. Monika Sakrani
Ms. Anuradha Maheshwari,
Dr. Meena Galiara, Faculty, NMIMS, Mumbai

❖ **ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

Tata Institute of Social Sciences:
The Director
The Registrar
Faculty and students, School of Social Work
Accounts, Personnel, Purchase, Computer Cell, Stores and Maintenance Sections
The Librarian and staff, Sir Dorabji Tata Memorial Library
Reception and Security staff

Education Officer, MCGM, Mumbai
Principal & Building In charge, Gilder Lane Municipal School, Mumbai Central
Principal & Building In charge, Savitribai Phule Municipal Marathi School, Byculla

❖ **MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY**

Hon'ble Justice Shri J.N.Patel, Executive Chairperson, Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority
Hon'ble Justice Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Chairman, High Court Legal Services Committee
Hon'ble Shri A.P. Bhangale, Principal Judge, Mumbai City Civil and Sessions Court & Chairperson, Brihan Mumbai Legal Services Authority
Hon'ble Shri Dholakia, District and Sessions Judge, Thane & Chairperson, Thane District Legal Services Authority
Hon'ble Shri Nirgude, Additional District and Session Judge, Thane
Hon'ble Shri A. S. Cheema, Principal Judge, City Civil and Sessions Court, Pune
Hon'ble Shri H. Deshmukh, District and Sessions Judge, Thane & Chairperson, Thane District Legal Services Authority
Hon'ble Shri A. R. Joshi, District and Session Judge, & Chairperson, Ratnagiri District Legal Services Authority - District Ratnagiri
Hon'ble Shri Mantri, District and Session Judge, & Chairperson,

Nanded District Legal Services Authority - District Nanded
Hon'ble Shri Abhay Thipsay, Additional Judge, Sessions Court, Mumbai
Hon'ble Shri Deshpande, Additional District and Session Judge, Ratnagiri,
Hon'ble Shri M. H. Belosay, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate & Member Secretary,
Brihan Mumbai Legal Services Authority
Shri Tukrul, Registrar MM Courts, Mumbai & Special Metropolitan Magistrate,
Esplanade Court, Mumbai
Registrar District and Session Court, Ratnagiri District and Sessions Court

❖ **GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

Department of Law and Judiciary, Govt. of Maharashtra

Hon'ble Shri M.N. Gilani, Principal Secretary
Hon'ble Shri Arvind Rohee, Joint Secretary, & Nodal Officer SAJI-I Project, Maharashtra.
Hon'ble Shri V. K. Jadhav, Member-Secretary, Maharashtra Legal Services Authority
Shri Modekar, Under Secretary, Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority
Shri Gangurde, Superintendent, Brihan Mumbai Legal Services Authority
Shri Kale, Office Superintendent, Esplanade Court, Mumbai
Shri Bhate, Superintendent, Thane District Legal Services Authority.
Smt. A. Pandrikar, Court Clerk, Kalyan Rly Court

Prison Department, Govt. of Maharashtra

Shri Satish Mathur, Inspector General, Prisons
Shri S. Savarkar, Ex Inspector General, Prisons
Shri J. S. Naik, Principal JOTS, Pune
Shri Rajendra Dhamane, Superintendent, Yerwada Central Prison, Pune
Smt. Swati Sathe, Superintendent, Mumbai Central Prison
Shri S.N. Chawan, Superintendent, Thane Central Prison
Shri Sadaphule Sr. Jailor, Thane Central Prison
Shri. Ashok Rane, Superintendent, Nasik Road Central Prison.
Shri Dr. Dhole, Sr. Jailor, Nasik Road Central Prison.
Shri Thool, Superintendent, Aurangabad Central Prison
Shri Solanke, Sr. Jailor, Aurangabad Central Prison
Shri U. T. Pawar Superintendent, Kalamba Central Prison, Kolhapur
Shri R. Kamble, Superintendent, Byculla District Prison, Mumbai
Shri V. Bendre, Superintendent, Kalyan District Prison
Shri. Mate, Superintendent, Nanded District Prison
Smt. Pallavi Kadam, Jailor, Women's Section, Yerwada Central Prison, Pune
Shri Vilas Bhoite, Jailor, Kalyan District Prison
Shri M.S. More, Jailor, Kalyan District Prison
Shri S.S. Dusane and Shri D.S. Marathe, Clerk, Kalyan District Prison
Shri Laxman Salve and Shri Gholap, Teacher, Thane Central Prison
Senior Jailor and Staff of Mumbai Central Prison, Thane Central Prison, Byculla District Prison
and Kalyan District Prison

Police Department, Govt. of Maharashtra

Smt. M.C. Borwankar, Jt. Commissioner of Police (Crime), Mumbai
Shri Hemant Karkare, Jt. Commissioner, (Administration), Mumbai
Shri Suresh Khopade, Commissioner, Railways, Mumbai
Shri Naiknavare, DCP, Preventive, Crime Branch, Mumbai
Shri Shivaji Nimhan, Sr. PI, Shivaji Nagar Police Station
Shri Chawan and Shri Thombre, Sr. PI, CST Railway Police Station-
Shri Budgajar, PSI, Preventive Wing, Crime Branch, Mumbai
Shri Suryavanshi, P.S.I. Shahapur Police Station, Thane
Shri Vabale, P.S.I., Shahapur Police Station, Thane
Shri Wakchore, Shahapur Police Station, Thane

Department of Women and Child Development, Govt. of Maharashtra

Shri Sharad Kinkar, Commissioner, Pune
Shri D.V. Marathe, Joint Commissioner, Pune.
Shri Ravi Patil, Dy Commissioner, Women's Development
Shri R.S. Patil, Deputy Commissioner, Training & Principal, Mahatma Gandhi Training
Institute, Pune
Smt. Gaikwad, Superintendent, MGTI, Pune
Dr. Satish Patil, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Kolhapur.
Shri Krishna Rathod, In-charge Superintendent, Probation of Offenders Act, Maharashtra
Shri Dilip Thombre, Statistical Officer, Pune
Shri Aslam Khan, District Probation Officer, Pune
Smt. Renuka Chaudhary, District Probation Officer, Thane
Shri Sonavane, Probation Officer, Thane
Smt. Kalal, Probation Officer, Thane
Shri Joshi, Probation Officer, Mumbai.
Smt. R. R. Sahu, Probation Officer, Pune
Shri B.D. Khatri, Retd. District Probation Officer, Nasik
Smt. Shobha Shelar, Superintendent and staff of Navjeevan Mahila Vasti Gruha
Smt. Indu Pardesi, Superintendent and staff of Kasturba Mahila Vasti Gruha
Smt. Ujjawala Patil, Superintendent and staff of Female Beggar's Home
Smt. Neeru Sharma, Coordinator, Resource Centre on Child Protection, Maharashtra
Shri. Rahul More, District Officer, Mumbai
Shri Vichare, In-charge District Officer, Mumbai
Shri B.M. Kadve, District Officer, Mumbai Suburban
Shri Sanjay Bagul, District Officer, Thane
Shri Suresh Ambore, Clerk, Pune

Panchayat Samiti, Shahapur, Thane

Shri K. T. Kamble
Shri G. Gore
Shri S. P. Patil
Shri N. V. Patil
Shri D. R. More

❖ **FIELD BASED ORGANISATIONS (for support, guidance, placement opportunities and services to client)**

Akkalkot Maharaj Mandir
Aasraa
Aastha
Aangan
ACT
Actionaid, Mumbai
Akshara
Apnalaya
Ashray - Snehasadan
Avehi
Bal Anand
Bal Prafulata
Bandra East Community Centre
Bapnu Ghar
CEHAT
Childline India Foundation
Crossroads Prison Ministry
Dosti
Family Welfare Agency
Freedom Foundation
Ghar Ho To Aisa (YUVA)
Hamaraa Club
Humsafar Trust
ICHR
IPH
J.J. Hospital Nursing Association
KVIC

Lokseva Training Centre
Majlis
Manav Foundation
Media Matters, Ambarnath
Mobile Crèches
Nagpada Neighbourhood
Navjeevan Jambhul pada
NASEOH
Niramaya Foundation
Nirmala Niketen -
(Research Unit)
Oasis India
Pratham
Pratisaad Foundation
Prerana
Project Mainstream
REAP
Rural Commune, Naringi
Saathi, Mumbai
Saathi, Navi Mumbai
Saathi, Pune
Salaam Balak Trust
Sampark
Sankalp
Sevadham, Thane
Shantivan, Panvel
Shraddha Rehab Centre
Shramik Vidyapeth - Worli
Sir J.J. Dharmashala

Sneha
Sterlite foundation
Sahara - Mumbra
Sneha Jeevan Kendra
Spastics Society of India
Special Cell for Women (TISS)
Stree Mukti Sanghatana
Sukh Shanti
Support
Swaimsetu - Ratnagiri
Tata Vision
The Banyan, Chennai
Udaan Trust
VARHAD, Amravati
Vikas Sahayog Pratishthan
Vision in Social Arena
Yusuf Meherali Centre,
Panvel
Women India Trust
World Vision
Madhavji Damodar Trust
Pehal
Rotari Club of Bombay Pier
S. Hiralal & S.Hiribai Mehta
Family C. Trust
St. Joseph Church

▪ **Individuals**

Shri Rasheid J. Taleyarkhan
Shri.Sanjay Lokhande
Smt. Shubha Muzumdar (KVIC)
Shri Devendra (Saubhagya Vastu Bhandar)
Shri Suresh Patel (Sonali Matching)
Saloni Embroideries

Shri Anil Srivastava, New Delhi
Shri S.K. Ravi, New Delhi
Shri. Arjun Menon
Ms. Doris Rao
Dr. Paradkar

❖ **HOSPITALS**

J. J. Hospital (Psychiatric ward)
K.E.M. Hospital (Psychiatric ward)
Sion Hospital (Psychiatric ward)
Sewree T. B. Hospital

Nair Hospital
Poddar Hospital
Jyothis Terminal Centre

❖ GOVERNMENT BODIES

Maharashtra State Women's Commission
Maharashtra State Social Welfare Advisory Board
Child Welfare Committee, Mumbai and Mumbai Suburban
State Level Inter Departmental Committee on Prisoners, Maharashtra
State Advisory Committee on ITPA, Maharashtra
Monitoring and Guidance Committee for Women's Institutions, Mumbai

❖ BHARUCH UNIT

Government Departments

District Administration

Shri S. Murlikrishnan, Former Collector, Bharuch
Ms. Arti Kanwar, Collector, Bharuch
Shri Dharmesh Shah, Sub Divisional; Magistrate, Ankleshwar
Shri P. H. Chautaliya, Executive Magistrate, Ankleshwar

Judiciary

Shri B.M.Modi, Principal District Judge
Shri R. S. Mehta, Principal, Senior Civil Judge
Shri M.M. Gamit, Chief Judicial Magistrate
Shri C.D. Waghela, President, JJB
Shri P.M. Soni, 3rd add. Sr. Civil Judge
Shri.B.P. Pujara, 6th add. Sr. Civil Judge
Shri.N.B. Pithara, 6th add. Sr. Civil Judge
Shri K. D. Parmar, 4th add sr. Civil Judge

Police Department

Shri Siddharth Khatri, DSP, Bharuch
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Ms. Sujata Solanki, Dy. S.P. Bharuch
Shri K. M. Desai, Former P.I. A Div. Police Station
Shri B.D. Wadhyar, P.I. B Div. Police Station
Shri A. S. Shukla, P.I. A Div. police Station
P.S.I. Bharuch A Div. Police Station
Shri S.S. Anand
Shri V.Y. More
Shri A. M. Diwan
Shri B. H. Tabiyal
Shri J.I. Palasth
Shri K. G. Limachiya
Staff of Mahila Police Station
Staff of A div. police station

Prison Department

Shri.O. P. Mathur, Add, I.G. Of Prisons, Gujarat
Shri Tirth Raj, IGP Prisons, Gujarat
Shri H.T. Patil, Jail Superitendent Bharuch Sub Jail
Shri D. M. Nai. Senior Clerk, Bharuch SubJail
Shri Ashokkumar Damor, Senior clerk and staff of Bharuch Sub Jail

Railways**GRPF**

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Shri D. J. Nimbavat, P.I. GRPF, Bharuch
Staff of GRPF, Bharuch

RPF

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Staff of RPF, Ankleshwar, Bharuch

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Ms. Pallaviben Pandya, Supdt. Nari Kendra
Staff of Nari Kendra
Shri Bharatbhai Thakkar, Supdt. Observation Home

District Center for Information

Shri Maheshchandra Katara, Deputy Director of information

Distict Industries Center

Shri M. S. Solanki, Addi. Commissioner Development, Gandhinagar
Shri H. V. Mundawa, Project Manager, DIC, Bharuch
Shri M.N. Shah, Credit Manager
Shri S. I. Dasanti, Manager, Bhartuch

Distict Education Department

Shri K. D. Bagda, DEO, Bharuch
Ms. Bhartiben Rathod

Disriect Legal Services Authority

Shri R. G. Barot, Secretary, DLSA
Shri, N. A. Mansuri, Superintendent, DLSA
Shri. Y. J. Shah, Assistant, TLISA
Shri Shaleshbhai Mistry Assistant, DLSA
Shri S. V. Vimalwala, Assistant. DLSA

Bharuch Nagarpalika

Ms. Kalpanaben Upadyay, Piject Manager, UBSP

Advocates

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Ms. Pragnyaben Vyas
Ms. Amita Modi
Shri Ragagopal

Ms. Shilpa Patel
Ms. Rizwana Pathan
Mr. Sanjay Parmar
Mr. Natubhai Parmar

Mr. Piyush Parmar
Mr. M. M. Surti
Ms. Hema Parmar
Ms. Jyoti Parmar

Legal Support

Shramjivi Mahila Kalyan Trust, Surat
Samajik Nyay Kendra, Bharuch
Mahila Kanuni Salah Kendra

Field Support (Government, NGOs, Corporates)

Jalaram Sewa Trust

G. Pac., Bharuch

IPCL, Dahej, Bharuch

Gacl, Dahej, Bharuch

Wellspun, Dahej, Bharuch

Williambhai, Co ordinator, Free Legal Aid Center

ESIS Benefit Branch, Ankleshwar

Ms. Pramilaben

Sewa Tirth

Sewa Rural

Support for Job Placements

Sahej Departmental Store

Adani Super market

V. Mart

Reliance Super mart

Support for Training

Jan Sikshan Sansthan

Vidhyadeep Community Center

The Women Welfare Trust

Mahila Jagruti Vikas Mandal

Pratham

Nehru Yuva Kendra

Deprymnt Of Horticulture

Ruchi Creation

Center For Entrepreneurship Development

Mahila Arthik Vikas Mandal

Support for NGO Placements

Kalrav and Gharda Foundation

Medical Support

Civil Hospital.

Divya Jivan Sangh

Dr. Samir Desai

Dr. Rajiv Antani

Dr. Rajendrasinh Gohil

Financial Support

ONGC, Ankleshwar

Individual support

Mehuli Shah

Megha Shah

Shwetal Shrimali

Dr. Sunil Nagrani

Alay Shah

Others

Residents of Bldg 9, BDD Chawls, Worli, Mumbai



4. AN OVERVIEW

During the period from 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2008, the prime objective of Prayas was to increase the overall outreach to its target group. This was to be achieved by increased interventions with groups, alongside the individual oriented approach that Prayas had adopted.

Prayas chose to focus on creating a custodial environment that was conducive to reintegration. The method selected was through providing inputs that would bring about awareness and exposure to pro-social alternatives. There was also a focus on developing links between the client group and the NGO/welfare sector, and on building their skills and overall capacities.

Prayas made concerted efforts to meet the set targets, and acquired an enhanced understanding of the practicalities involved. This endeavor met with obstacles such as inappropriate staff-inmate ratio, inability of workers to focus on several aspects of work simultaneously, time-consuming follow-up and resistance to permitting entry to other organizations by the administration (as in Bharuch).

Out of a range of possible interventions, the social workers seemed to get recurrently drawn into one to one interventions. This can be taken as a significant reflection of the inherent weaknesses and need for supports of various kinds, that characterize a large part of the population within custody. Prayas thus focused on processing and rehabilitation.

By the end of the two years, it was increasingly felt that the organization needed to address with emphasis, the absence of basic service delivery by the government machinery for inmates in custody and after their release from custody. Hence, as a first step in the coming year, Prayas plans to attempt to partner with the probation department in service delivery within custody, and to support the department by furthering / designing the rehabilitation programme post-custody. Prayas has been trying to establish the post-custodial component as being vital to the purpose behind custodialization. Also, Prayas has been ceaselessly exploring ideas towards constructively using the time spent in custody and most recently has been working towards identification of prisoners who can be prepared for prompt absorption into the Prayas rehabilitation programme on their release.

Prayas' work has highlighted the absence of social services for criminally processed groups. The absence of these services could indefinitely sustain the recycling of vulnerable persons who have no other recourse. Towards the end of the latter half of the reporting period, Prayas concentrated its attention on the entire range of persons who have undergone short-term or long-term separation/exclusion from mainstream society by virtue of their custodialization. Serious efforts are being made to highlight this reality to the authorities. Prayas is now moving in the direction of locating its rehabilitation programme within shelter-providing institutions so as to extend its reach to persons who have become severely disconnected from familial and social networks. Some concrete steps have been taken in this direction by placing its social workers at the Kasturba Mahila Vastigruh (KMV), which is the government Reception Centre for Women (in distress situations). Efforts are being made to create entry into the Government Aftercare Hostel for male youth. These steps have been taken in an attempt to foster their integration as well as to facilitate their inclusion in services designed for persons in difficult circumstances.

Attempts are also on to establish communication channels between Criminal Justice Agencies and Government welfare services. This will have the requisite effect if the shelter institutions

develop a programme whereby there is movement of services out of the institution. Currently there is no established programme, and inmates have to depend on the personal and individual initiatives of the Superintendents of the institutions. Prayas has started exploring the possibilities of a specialized employment service and a post-custodial scheme which would address the current gaps.

As far as intervention at police stations is concerned, Prayas continued its work at the CST and Ankleshwar Railway and Bharuch 'A Division' Police Stations, and initiated work with youth offenders (16 to 21 age group) at the Shivaji Nagar Police Station. However, by the end of the year, intervention at CST Railway and Shivaji Nagar Police Station were withdrawn, due to different reasons. At CST Railway, it was felt that scope for work with railway police to prevent victimization and sexual exploitation of women and young girls had been amply demonstrated over the last 10 years and the need was to work with the system towards upscaling the intervention. Work at Shivaji Nagar was withdrawn as it was not yielding the desired results in terms of referral of cases from the police to the Prayas rehabilitation programme at the Youth Development Centre at Byculla.

Over the years, Prayas has demonstrated the need for police station based intervention by trained social work personnel. It has presented the range of possible psycho-social interventions with vulnerable groups being processed by the police. Prayas has now decided to concentrate on the propagation of the need for a social worker at every police station. Two of its most experienced workers have been deputed to start a dialogue with the police towards exploring placement of social workers in the system, rather than continuing work at the field level [in an effort to optimally utilize its limited resources].

The Prayas rehabilitation programme at the Youth and Women Development Centers have been evolving and undergoing changes based on analysis of results achieved. While the basic programme at the Bharuch unit has remained the same, the Mumbai centers have undergone changes in location [the Women's Development Centre has shifted from Mumbai Central to the Women's Institutions Complex at Chembur] and content [from organizing education and vocational training activities at the Youth development Centre to organizing exposure visits and awareness sessions for clients]. The Women's Development Centre has also broadened its client-base to include institutionalized women within different circumstances, and the Youth Development Centre is trying to encourage referral of cases from the police and the judiciary, through a process of continuous dialogue. The activities and exposure visits organised through these Centres are now focused to prepare clients for the NGO Placement programme, which is now the flagship rehabilitation programme of Prayas.

At the policy level, Prayas continued to direct its attention towards specific issues such as the utilization of correctional laws, the improved access to provisions such as release of under trial prisoners on personal bond, and the government free legal aid services, that were meant to respond to the needs of socio economically weaker sections. Interventions have been largely in the form of workshops/seminars/interactive sessions with the departments concerned (prisons, legal aid, women and child development and members of the judiciary). These activities have facilitated much dialogue around field realities and promoted discussion about effecting changes in the current situation. Prayas has actively taken up the responsibility of eliciting responses to systemic bottlenecks from implementing functionaries, and examining possible courses of action along with them. The need for an agency to co-ordinate and follow-up on recommendations emerging from workshops/seminars has been visible, and Prayas took proactive steps in this direction.

A Training Unit is underway and intends to respond to a variety of developmental requirements within both the welfare/NGO as well as the government sectors. It also will be focusing on

offering skills to a potential work force that could then be absorbed into the welfare initiatives operating within the Criminal Justice System.

With the field of corrections in view, Prayas explored the formulation of a new unit, namely the Media unit. This effort was made with the objective of converting accumulated material and information, into forms that could be utilized in facilitating outreach, generating awareness among the public, raising relevant issues before Criminal Justice System functionaries, training of social workers and new entrants into the field, etc. The venture is currently focusing on building links with the media towards highlighting issues concerning legal rights and rehabilitation of persons in custody.



5. FIELD INTERVENTIONS

Work in Penal and Protective Custodial Institutions

A. Work in Prisons

During the period from April 2006 to March 2008, intervention with under trial prisoners took place in the youth sections of Mumbai Central Prison, Thane Central Prison, Kalyan District Prison and Bharuch Sub-Jail, and the women sections of Byculla District Prison, Kalyan District Prison and Bharuch Sub-Jail.

The work comprised of regular visits to the prisons. Prayas continued its efforts towards assisting inmates in being able to access their legal rights, and with a view to facilitate their movement towards rehabilitation. Intervention was focused on those whose family support was either absent or too weak to provide any relief. These cases were either self-referred, identified by the social worker, or referred by the prison administration. The social workers made efforts to identify cases who could not furnish bail due to a dearth of resources, and who had no legal representation. Alternatives to bail such as personal bond were explored as an option for disconnected and economically backward prisoners. Families were financially and emotionally supported. Children were also emotionally supported and arrangements for institutionalization were made in cases where non-institutional options were not available. Cases were brought to the notice of the judiciary, who could be considered for release under the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, by social workers after assessing their chances of rehabilitation.

In addition to casework with individual prisoners, Prayas also was able to impact a larger number of inmates through an outreach plan that included organising group sessions on health, legal and citizenship rights. The recognition of the need for the services of a social worker became apparent, through the referrals being made by the prison staff. The social workers have played a significant role in the identification of cases of minors, especially in the Mumbai Central Prison, and ensured that such cases are transferred to the Observation Home under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000. This involved contacting their families, arranging age proof certificates (wherever possible), getting age verification test done, meeting the judge concerned, arranging legal aid and follow-up in court.

In addition to its regular work, where focus is directed at identifying cases for long-term rehabilitation, Prayas also undertook a one year project under the UNDP and the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, G.O.I., called the Strengthened Access to Justice in Initiative Phase-I (SAJI-I) Project. The project period extended from the 15th November 2006 to 14th November 2007, with a three month extension until the 15th February 2008.

The SAJI-I Project sought to facilitate access to justice to under trial prisoners by:

A) Assisting release on bail or personal bond by supporting communication between inmates and their families, providing legal information and guidance to families, encouraging family ties by offering support, establishing dialogue with lawyers, facilitating communication with the courts about socio economic circumstances, and arranging for legal aid.

B] Facilitating adequate legal representation during trial and promoting the use of correctional laws in deserving cases. This was done by arranging for lawyers through agencies providing legal aid, or through legal representation by lawyers who were closely associated with Prayas.

Rehabilitation and post-custodial services have continued to be of prime concern to Prayas. An examination of factors such as reaching the most vulnerable groups in prison, identification of persons who would fit into the Prayas programme of employability and creating a network of referrals is still being worked on.

The work in the male youth section of the Kalyan District Prison was revised on an experimental basis to direct a minor focus on intervention within custody, in favor of a major focus on increasing court-based outreach. Hence the last quarter of the reporting period was spent on planning the new initiative, making efforts to acquire permission and space at the court premises in Thane Sessions Court and meeting the judicial officers to orient them on the nature of the work being planned. Actual intervention has not yet begun as written permission has not yet been received.

As a result of a suggestion from Prayas and a seminar organised in collaboration with the Thane District Legal Services Authority (under the SAJI-I project), the Thane Law College has agreed to start a student fieldwork at the Thane Central Prison. This was done with a view to provide basic minimum legal services such as legal information, communication with the court through applications, and referral of cases requiring legal aid to the District Legal Services Authority. Prayas took on a proactive role in this process with regard to coordinating between the Law College and the prison authorities. It also took up the responsibility of guiding students and supporting the project through its initial phase.

While reviewing the current work taking place within the prison settings, it was felt that efforts needed to be invested into reviving the services of the probation department to under trial prison inmates. Exploration of this possibility and also the better utilization of schemes designed for prisoners were identified as a focus for the coming year. The Prayas team has persevered in its efforts at bringing about the improved utilization of the Probation of Offenders Act. To this end, cases meeting the eligibility requirements continue to be brought to the attention of the judiciary. During the latter half of the reporting period, these efforts have met with some positive responses from the courts. It appears that these results can be clearly attributed to the continuing dialogue and interaction by Prayas with the judiciary. The translation into field responses has been a source of encouragement to Prayas and a measure of the productivity of its efforts.

Mumbai Central Prison: Male Youth Section

Prayas reached out to a total number of 922 youth inmates through its outreach programme during the reporting period. Intervention in the male youth section of Mumbai Central Prison resulted in the social worker interacting with youth at various levels. During these past two years, in addition to the cases that the worker identified, a number of cases came as referrals from the prison administration. These referrals have been of under trial prisoners in sections other than the male youth section. They have been largely cases where there is need for assistance to children and families who have not been able to access any form of support. The group accessed by Prayas has consequently broadened to include inmates from other age groups and barracks. These referrals take place after they are processed by the jailor, and usually require initial assistance such as legal information and aid, as well as for assistance to their families.

An issue that has become recurrently visible is that of juveniles being processed by the adult Criminal Justice System. Other cases were of youth who were either from economically weak families or those who had no contact with their families. In each case, an in-depth assessment was made. This was done after sufficient information had been obtained about the case and an interaction had taken place with the inmate, his family, and the police. The cases were viewed from the point of view of their legal status as well as the psycho-social circumstances. Areas such as need for legal aid, relationship with families, influence of peer group, education/skill levels and behavior within prison were observed, examined and responded to in accordance.

The main objective behind service delivery has been facilitating the youth's movement out of crime. Work in Mumbai Central Prison (MCP) has primarily taken place in the area of support to families for receiving the youth back, and ensuring that every case with whom Prayas is working is legally represented. Regular legal guidance being provided by the social worker led to juveniles being able to draw the attention of the courts to their minor status on their own. The social worker collaborated actively with an NGO, India Centre for Human Rights and Law and was instrumental in obtaining requisite documents from families as proof of age. In many cases, families had to be guided about how to acquire documents such as school leaving certificates. In cases where documents were not available, follow-up was done with the court for an order for an age verification test. However, in spite of age verification tests being done, issues such as the inaccurate results of the age verification tests have been a concern. A total number of 30 cases have got transferred to the Juvenile Justice Board set up under the JJ Act, 2000, as a result of Prayas intervention at MCP.

The Social worker continued maintaining follow-up in these cases especially where a constructive rapport had been built. 5 cases were referred to Prayas for post-release follow-up. The social worker assisted the youth in re-integration with the family, furthering education and developing livelihood skills. In 15 cases, efforts were made by the worker to facilitate the benefit of the Probation of Offenders Act, for youth showing scope for rehabilitation. However, these efforts were not fruitful as the youth could not produce any proof of residence (as they were migrants) - one of the criteria for release under this Act.

Prayas also coordinated with other prisons in Maharashtra, as and when cases were referred or request letters came. A few cases were referred to Prayas by the Court, asking for a social investigation report, prior to a final decision being taken by the judge.

Group sessions took place on topics such as probation, legal rights, health awareness, etc. 20 youth were identified in preparation for the Domestic Wireman ship course that was conducted by Yuva Parivartan, a collaborating NGO.

Byculla District Prison: Women's Section

During the year 2006-08, the Prayas social worker placed at the Women's Section of Byculla District Prison (BDP) was able to reach out to a total of 669 inmates. While the majority of women were under trials, Prayas also reached out to some convicted women who made requests for assistance. Intervention involved responding to the request as a first step towards assessing the scope for further intervention. The social worker made services available such as providing accurate information about legal status and legal procedures, facilitating contact with families and children and support for self-development.

Prayas focused specifically on inmates who were in difficult life situations [weak social and economic supports] and to those who were indicating an inclination towards examining their

current vulnerabilities. The social worker came across women who had become severely disconnected from their families and for this reason were spending more time in prison than they might otherwise have done. Some of the women did not have their families in Mumbai and had come to the city for employment. Addresses and contact details were not available with the women at the time of their arrest. The worker had to make efforts to obtain contact details and had to elicit descriptions of residential locations and contact relatives or organizations for assistance. In other cases, the woman's psychological frame of mind had alienated her from her family. This required the worker to make attempts to increase awareness amongst family members and connect them with alternative sources of support, in order to help them deal better with the woman in her situation.

Reconnecting a woman who has become distanced from her family was seen by Prayas as one way to decrease gravitation towards exploitative sources of support that would take her further into a life of crime and victimization. Families were also supported if this kind of support was seen to reduce the chances of living off illegal means. In cases where the families were in touch with the inmate but were unaware of legal procedure to take any action, Prayas provided legal aid, guidance, emergency subsistence to children and families and connected the family with resources in the community so as to facilitate positive development in the situation of the family.

Counseling on a regular basis continued, both with the women and their families. The social worker visited police stations, courts, families, and NGOs that could be linked to the inmate or the family. She also visited the Child Welfare Committee, hospitals and schools that children of women prisoners were studying in. The District Probation Officer was contacted on a regular basis, in order to try for benefits of schemes to reach families in difficult situations. In the case of women who required post-release support, Prayas made arrangements for shelter, repatriation, and connected them with its rehabilitation programme.

During these two years, instead of only focusing on cases where assistance was requested, Prayas tried to reach out to larger numbers of inmates through group sessions.

There were persons whom the worker was not able to reach out to in an individual capacity, for a variety of reasons. Some of these reasons were that the worker-inmate ratio did not permit in-depth intervention in these cases, inmates are unaware about the role of the various agencies that visit prison, inmates are intimidated by the overall prison environment, may have inhibitions about making requests, or may be unwilling to get out of crime (at the point of the worker's entry into her life).

Prayas felt that increased group sessions could serve to counter these factors. Outreach to larger numbers of inmates took place through information sessions. Topics that were covered were – obtaining citizenship documents, legal awareness on laws such as the Probation of Offenders Act, the Foreigner's and Passports Act (for persons accused as illegal immigrants), legal provisions relating to under trials, etc.

As a result of Prayas' intervention, women under trials were made aware of the rehabilitation programme offered by Prayas. Women who were in need of post-release support were admitted into shelter homes and were worked with towards being reunited with their families and with livelihood options. Families were given legal guidance, and cases were provided legal representation. Indian citizens who had been accused of being illegal immigrants into the country were assisted in obtaining citizenship documents that were in the custody of their families, but not accessible to them due to their imprisonment.

Children and families whose condition had deteriorated to the extent of not being able to meet with their basic needs were assisted, and a nursing infant who had been separated from his mother due to her incarceration was returned to her care.

Prayas made efforts to set up long-term and sustainable channels for vocational training within custody, through networking with a specialized training organization, Yuva Parivartan.

Thane Central Prison: Male Youth Section

In Thane Central Prison (TCP), Prayas was able to reach out to a total number of 979 youth inmates. The social worker worked with the focus of being able to intervene in cases of vulnerable youth in prison and prevent their further criminalization. This was done by providing services such as legal literacy and guidance, counseling and emotional support and facilitating pro-social networks in the life of the youth.

A group that was visible in TCP was persons accused under charges of suspicion under section 122 of the Bombay Police Act. This group comprised largely of migrant youth who have no way of proving their credentials since they were unable to provide any documents of identity or residence. Furthermore, they are not able to access legal defense and often remain in prison for unnecessarily long periods. Prayas has been working towards drawing the attention of the judiciary to this issue by continuing dialogue and furnishing the magistrates with requisite data in collaboration with the prison administration.

Youth voluntarily approached the social worker with requests for assistance. The requests were largely for help in maintaining contact with their families. Many cases had recently got estranged from their families due to their arrest and custodialisation. This was visible during interaction with the inmate as well as when interacting with the family. Prayas was able to contribute considerably towards preventing the rift from increasing. Intervention in 6 cases continued even after the family released the youth on bail so as to sustain their relationship. In a few cases where family was absent due to not being local residents, the Prayas social worker explored the possibility of cementing the connection between the youths and their employers. This was done after making an assessment to ensure that they were pro-social sources of support.

The worker intervened in 7 cases where convicted inmates requested for assistance to their families. These requests included child care issues of children especially where the mother was also absent, assistance to protect their property and assistance to minor children. Prayas made home visits to assess the situation of children, provided guidance to families and made efforts to facilitate the benefit of schemes reaching persons who needed it.

The social worker faced some amount of difficulty in assisting the families requiring the benefit of schemes, as some documents such as domicile and income certificates were difficult to acquire due to the expense and repeated visits that had to be made. Prayas took up cases referred by the District Probation Officer where assistance in acquiring documents was required. However the obstacles recurrently faced in obtaining citizenship documents needs to be brought to the notice of the departments concerned.

In the cases taken up by Prayas, the social worker interacted with:

- I] Families and employers to explore rehabilitation scope,
- II] Police stations to get more input on the criminal past
- III] Courts to follow up on the legal matters.

- IV] Schools to prevent disruption of children's education
- V] Government and non-government organizations for post release supports

Prayas made efforts to organize group sessions and approached the Collector's office, the Tehsildar, government hospitals and NGOs. The social worker also took group sessions with inmates on topics such as personal hygiene [at the request of the prison staff] and on communication skills. During the reporting period, there were an increased number of case referrals to the social worker from the prison staff. Prayas has also established a constructive working relationship with the probation department.

Kalyan District Prison: Male Youth Section

A total number of 647 inmates received services through the Prayas programme in the male youth section of Kalyan District Prison (KDP). This included youth who approached the social worker with a request for help. These were largely those youth whose families did not come to meet them in prison. In many of the cases, the families were not aware that their family member had been arrested. This was often because they were arrested from locations away from their homes, along with their peers. They came from extremely weak economic backgrounds and had families who were struggling for livelihood. Prayas also made concerted efforts to reach out to up country youth, with high marginalization levels due to lack of family supports. Another group of youth came from tribal and migrant families, and had got involved with a criminal peer group.

The Prayas social worker also took up intervention with youth who had got habitually entrenched in crime. This was done by paying regular attention to their situations and providing inputs about options outside a life of crime. In several cases, the worker was able to motivate the inmate into a deeper counseling relationship. Intervention with this group was challenging work. Options offered by the social worker are not seen as suitable and it therefore needs considerable time and rapport. This group initiates contact with the social worker, due to their need for services such as contacting their family, and expediting their cases in courts. The social worker intervened in various direct and indirect ways and attempted a deeper understanding of the root of the criminal behavior. Gradual change in the outlook of the youth was visible through their decreased connection with the peer group, wanting help to reconnect with family, living at home as opposed to being unsettled, and the taking up of employment. In 12 cases, the worker's contribution was to assist youth who had got completely estranged from their families, to review the relationship. This required intense efforts which finally resulted in visits from the family. In one case, display of excessive anger also seemed to have decreased.

A clear objective has been to increase awareness about the Prayas rehabilitation programme and to match the inmate's need for support with requisite services. The social worker provided inmates with information about welfare services while they were in custody. The Prayas social worker provided information and guidance to families of youth. The focus was on improving the economic situation of the family and also on how the youth's relationship with his family could be strengthened.

The social worker gave one-time financial assistance in some cases, based on the need. Visits were made to the police stations, courts, and to the probation department. In cases where intervention had been done, Prayas did follow-up after the youth was released. Networking was done with the District Probation Officer for a convicted prisoner for financial assistance for self-employment. The social worker made serious efforts to increase the number of lawyers who could provide free legal aid.

Prayas reached out to larger groups through organizing awareness sessions on the probation of Offenders Act. It identified candidates for the Wiremanship course, conducted by Yuva Parivartan which commenced during this year.

Kalyan District Prison: Women's Section

During these two years, Prayas was able to reach out and intervene in 513 cases in the women's section of KDP. Apart from women directly approaching the social worker for assistance, the social worker tried to identify women who appeared to be the most vulnerable in terms of their age (young as well as the elderly), levels of isolation, economic situation, psychological disturbances and those with families who were in need of additional supports.

Inmates in KDP comprised largely of women who came from a rural background and had very low levels of legal awareness. Most of their families did not come to visit them in prison as there were long distances to cover and a majority of families were daily wage earners. In addition, women who get arrested face much higher levels of stigma than men in similar situations. This gets further compounded when the woman comes from a rural background where the fact of arrest becomes common knowledge.

In many cases, families were not able to arrange for legal representation. In the cases where families had appointed lawyers, they did not have the resources to pay for the services and so lawyers were not willing to continue extending services. The women were thus often unaware about the status and progress in their cases. Due to weak economic situations, many families were unable to divert their meager earnings towards furnishing bail.

The focus of work was therefore on assisting women to get in touch with their families and to understand whether the family was willing to continue a relationship with the woman. If families were interested and required guidance, then this was provided by the social worker. In cases where families were not able to comprehend legal procedures and feedback from lawyers, the social worker served to bridge the gap. When families were not responsive, the social worker continued exploring the family situation. This was done with an understanding that an ostracized woman will look for alternative sources of support. This becomes a concern for the Prayas social worker who seeks to prevent further criminalization. Counseling to the extent possible took place both with the women and their families with a view to identify areas where Prayas could work in partnership with the families.

The Prayas social worker responded to imprisoned mothers' requests with services for their children. In some cases, the women did not know where their children were, and in other cases there was disruption of children's education due to inability to pay school fees after their incarceration. In yet other cases, women were assisted in maintaining contact with their children. The social worker tried to identify resources for a child with special needs who had to be transferred to a children's home due to him completing the age of six (maximum age allowed for a child with the mother in prison). The social worker through providing information to women about their children helped in decreasing levels of anxiety. Other services provided were legal information and follow up, contact with families via telephone, visits to police stations, visits to courts, and networking with governmental and non governmental organizations towards accessing existing services in the welfare sector. All this was done with a view to increasing the possibility of rehabilitation and reintegration.

As a result of intervention, families, who were unable to deal with the stigma of having an imprisoned family member, and the fear of being ostracized, became willing to take on the responsibility of partnering the agency in the rehabilitation of the woman. For example, one woman, who might have gone in the direction of likely destitution, was reunited with her family. This is of vital significance, as a woman who is distanced from her family stands a high risk of getting further criminalized or exploited.

Prayas took up cases of young women and engaged in extensive counseling with them. The social worker approached their families, and found many of them in difficult circumstances. Support to the women and their families have resulted in changes in thinking and behavior. This was indicated through such visible behavior as the woman making efforts to develop herself and communicating openly about issues and struggles that she was facing. The social worker also saw an increase in helping behaviour on their part towards other prisoners. Prayas facilitated increased awareness about the status of cases, through assisting the maintenance of contact with families and lawyers.

In an effort to assist the settling of a woman after she gets released from long-term imprisonment, the social worker visited her family in a rural area of Maharashtra, to explore the possibility of her returning home. Networking with the local probation officer has resulted in the woman feeling encouraged to examine options within her local area and a confidence to further explore her returning home, after her release.

Prayas continued to follow-up in cases of women who had been released from Kalyan Prison but who were still in the process of being settled.

Short term training sessions were conducted by the Prayas activity teacher in skills such as basic stitching, operating a sewing machine, embroidery, knitting, etc. Networking with the Yuva Parivartan resulted in the starting of vocational training in tailoring in the Women's section and this is expected to continue on a regular basis.

Prayas organized a medical camp with the help of the Rotary Club and the Sindhu Samaj Sansthan. A cultural programme was organized with the help of the Pranjali Mahila Mandal. The social worker conducted group sessions on legal information (relevant to women inmates) and about the Prayas post-custodial programme, along with other informal small group discussions.

Bharuch Sub-Jail: Male Youth Section

The social worker visited the male youth section of the Bharuch Sub Jail (BSJ) and contacted inmates, established a rapport with them, discussed their situations, and responded to requests. He contacted families through letters, telephone, or home visits, encouraged a partnership with the family, contacted the courts and district legal services authority, discussed and planned for post-release programmes, coordinated between inmates, prison administration, courts, police, and the family, gave legal guidance and wrote applications for them.

During the reporting period, in an effort to reach the maximum number of inmates, Prayas decided to target inmates as groups rather than individuals. In the process of working with groups, the social worker identified inmates in need of Prayas services and extended help. Inmates who showed an inclination towards rehabilitation were particularly concentrated on.

Intervention within this section was thus focused on in-depth casework with individual inmates and conducting small group discussions and information sessions.

In addition to cases identified by the social worker, there were also referrals by the jail staff and other inmates. This self-referral and referral of other inmates was enhanced after group sessions were conducted. The extent of outreach that is possible through group sessions is significant, though not reflected in the statistics because of the short-term nature of the intervention. However, both activities i.e., the individual intervention as well as the group sessions, were affected due to the multi-tasking that had to be done by individual staff.

Prayas organized trainings for different groups and on a range of issues. Education and awareness sessions were organized on topics such as health awareness, personality development, awareness on citizenship rights, obtaining of various documents like ration cards, BPL certificates, caste and income certificates etc. The social worker held group discussions with prison inmates on topics like, welfare schemes of the government, savings, training and entrepreneurship, information on the government and non-government shelters for children, etc. Prayas also planned vocational training courses for the inmates, but was not able to implement this because permission from the office of the I. G. Prisons for the entry of outside resource persons was not granted. In response to this situation, the Prayas social worker met the I. G. Prisons in Gandhinagar and explained to him the Prayas objectives. He has orally agreed to issue permission for the entry of outside resource persons for training to under trial prisoners in Bharuch Sub-Jail. The correspondence which had started in January 2007, has now thus resumed.

In addition to working with under trial prisoners, Prayas also intervened in the cases of a few convicted prisoners. The social worker wrote applications for parole and furlough, and followed up on them with the administration. The worker also extended support to prisoners and their families to avail of the Kaidi Sahay Yojna and other government schemes.

The jail staff and Superintendent strongly felt that although trainings are helpful after release, it was more important to change the attitudes of the inmates and their families. They saw this as a step that would take the inmates towards rehabilitation on their release. Also, due to security reasons, the administration was reluctant to give permission for the conducting of different group activities in accordance with the Prayas time schedule. The prison staff was not in agreement with the idea of Prayas interacting with inmates as a group, and preferred the interaction in the form of casework. However over time, they have become accepting of the concept of group discussions. They also made requests to the Prayas staff to organize skill training programmes for the inmates. The Social worker also commenced discussion with the District Samaj Sureksha Adhikari for the implementation of the Probation of Offenders Act.

Bharuch Sub Jail - Women's Section:

Prayas had a female staff member visiting the BSJ once a week, for the purpose of conducting skills training, during the reporting period. However as the number of inmates at this section was low, the worker also took on other responsibilities. She contacted the families of migrant inmates, through local NGOs and police stations and identified cases where families could be worked with. Work was done towards transferring juveniles who were identified to juvenile homes and juvenile courts.

Another area that the worker focused on was legal aid. This was done by maintaining very close co-ordination with the District Legal Services Authority, following up with legal aid lawyers in

court, referring cases for free legal aid and following up with duty counsels who visited the prison. The worker also provided legal guidance to inmates, wrote applications on their behalf, gave information about citizenship rights, visited courts, met advocates and magistrates and referred cases to other agencies.

There were very few children accompanying their mothers into prison. The worker nevertheless extended services to children of women inmates who were outside, in the form of financial and emotional support and also in facilitating contact between children and their mothers in prison. The daughter of one of the prison inmates was in the Government Reception Home. The social worker mediated with the administration of both the institutions so as to enable the mother and daughter to meet each other. The worker's support was instrumental in restoring to a woman inmate her child who was separated from her at the time of her arrest. Visits were also made to schools for children of women prisoners.

In cases where the worker felt that involving the family would give positive results, she referred the cases to the social worker of the Family Support Unit, who then paid a visit to the family and encouraged the family's involvement in the matter.

As there were very few women inmates in the Women's Section, training programmes inviting outside resource persons was not possible and the worker herself conducted some training sessions. These were paper bag making, decorative garland making, mobile phone cover making and pot hangings.



6. WORK IN WOMEN'S INSTITUTIONS

During the period from 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2008, Prayas continued intervention at the Female Beggars' Home Complex, Chembur, that houses the three women's institutions namely;

- A. Government Protective Home - Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh (NMV)
- B. Government Reception Centre for Women - Kasturba Mahila Vastigruh (KMV)
- C. Female Beggars Home

- A. **Navjivan Mahila Vastigruh:** The Government Protective Home is known as Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh. This is a home offering protective custody to adult women who have been victims of trafficking and prostitution. After being rescued by the police, they are then remanded into protective custody by the court until further processing. This processing entails assisting the woman/girl to be reintegrated in to society with the aim of preventing any further sexual exploitation. The duration of the stay in this institution ranges from 3 weeks to 2 years. Options for reintegration are explored, during this time. The woman may either be released if the court is of the opinion that she is in prostitution of her own free will (after due inquiries have been conducted by the probation officers in the NMV) or based on the probation officer's report, reunited with her family or referred to a shelter home/organisation towards her rehabilitation.
- B. **Kasturba Mahila Vastigruh:** This institution provides shelter facilities to women who are in a variety of difficult circumstances such as destitution, marital discord, and conflict in the home, etc. The institution provides shelter and attempts to reconnect these women with their families and/or livelihood options outside.
- C. **The Female Beggars Home:** This institution has in its custody women who have been arrested and are being processed or have been sentenced under the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act.

The Prayas team based at this complex comprised of five social workers and teachers. The team focused on one-to-one intervention, work with groups, vocational training, and developing income generation options. Work was initially located at the NMV, but in the latter half of 2006, Prayas initiated an activity class within the premises of the Female Beggars' Home. This service was offered to the residents of all three institutions. With regard to the Prayas services at the KMV, Prayas workers followed up on cases of women residing at KMV referred by the Superintendent of KMV. The Prayas social workers also maintained follow up on cases that had been referred to KMV for shelter by Prayas workers from its other outreach points – prison, police station, court, railway premises, etc. However, in June 2007, on the request of the Superintendent, the Prayas social worker became based at the institution for two days of the

week to take up cases that the institution required assistance with. This was done keeping the overall reintegration of criminalized and victimized women in mind. This has resulted in Prayas making its outreach broad based to include a range of women in distress situations who could become prone to being drawn into the illegal sector for want of any other visible option. The components of intervention comprised and revolved around individual casework, efforts at linking the resident with her family, increasing their awareness levels and providing vocational skills.

- **One-to-one intervention:** Individual counseling and casework with residents was done at the NMV and the KMV. This kind of intervention at the Female Beggars' home was done by another project of TISS, namely, Koshish (which works on issues related to homelessness, destitution and beggary). Counseling was aimed at assessing and addressing the emotional status, relationship with families, livelihood and social reintegration. If the inmate was a resident of Mumbai or Thane district, and had a family whom she wanted to be reconnected with, the Prayas social worker paid home visits to the residence of the family. The families were worked with through counseling and connecting the family with resources that would strengthen their economic condition, wherever necessary.

The Prayas social worker was requested to take up cases by the KMV where there was resistance from the family to re-absorption and of those who were interested in furthering their education and skill development potential. Prayas spent some amount of time during the last two years addressing the issues of physically disabled destitute women who were found by Prayas workers in railway premises. It was observed that the currently available vocational services for disabled women address the needs of family based women and there is an absence of shelter homes specially catering to them. On the other hand, the shelter homes for physically or mentally 'fit' women are inadequately equipped to provide specialized care, and are thus resistant to admitting such women into their institutions.

- **Work with Groups:** Prayas organized information/awareness/personality development sessions in order to provide additional inputs that would be supportive of reintegration. Residents participated in these sessions in groups. Towards the latter half of the period from April 2006 to March 2008, Prayas made efforts to conduct group sessions for residents of all three institutions. However, this effort met with operational difficulties due to security concerns which restrained the free movement of inmates from the premises of one institution to another, within the same complex. This was in the case of inmates who were detained by orders of the court. Due to these reasons, several programmes had to be held at the Protective Home premises. It was thus not possible for the residents from the Beggars' Home to attend these sessions, although the inmates of the KMV could participate. Prayas thus organized separate sessions for them with their particular needs in view. These sessions aimed at increasing information and awareness levels on subjects such as health and hygiene, education, citizenship documents, legal information, savings, life skills, cultural programmes, and services available within the governmental and voluntary sectors.

- **Vocational Training:** Prayas organized short-term training courses with the objective of exposing the women to livelihood options. These courses ranged from 1 day to 15 days and were on skills such as making of candles, flowers, agarbatti, phenyl, chalk etc. Some women were also trained in skills such as basic stitching, handicrafts, and embroidery. Some of these courses were conducted by the Prayas activity teacher on a daily basis, while other courses were arranged through training organizations. This regular training activity run by Prayas was initially situated within the Beggar's Home. With the progress of the year, this activity shifted to the NMV. This decision was taken after consultation with the Superintendents of all the institutions.

Prayas has now extended the training activity and has started an income generation group. The aim of starting the group was to enable women to earn while they were in custody, as well as to link them with production units within the welfare sector after their release. Through this effort, Prayas sought to establish connections with the work world and livelihood options outside.

The Prayas social worker visited several production units within the welfare sector and obtained work on a piece-rate basis from two organizations. The social worker also worked towards preparing the staff of the institutions to conduct the activity independently. Women who had learned the skills of stitching and embroidery and had acquired the requisite level of skill were encouraged to join the income generation group and to earn on a piece-rate basis during their time in the institution. This group comprised of fifteen women at the outset. During the last few months, income generation activities did not take place because the production units that had been outsourcing to the women's institutions had strict deadlines to adhere to and these could not be met with given the limitations of a mobile population that needed to be developed with regard to their skills. Prayas is still in the process of further developing this activity, in view of the constraints faced.

In continuation of its attempts to equip institutionalized women with livelihood skills, Prayas also organized a four-month duration certificate training programme conducted by the Women's India Trust (WIT). Fifteen women enrolled for the course. Five women received certificates out of the fifteen women who had enrolled. This was due to the population of the institution being mobile and obtaining release depending on the outcomes of court proceedings and orders. These women are now in a position to connect directly with the WIT for home-based work.

Prayas was an active participant on the Monitoring and Guidance Committee that has been instituted by the government to address, review and monitor issues and progress within government residential institutions for women in Mumbai.

Intervention at the Beggars home did not take place during 2007-08, as a working relationship is still being sought to be established. Furthermore, the specific difficulties of the residents of this institution with their levels of physical and mental debilitation seem to require much preliminary intervention prior to providing inputs that would facilitate livelihood skills and reintegration. Nevertheless, Prayas has kept up its efforts at trying to include the residents of the Female Beggars Home in its rehabilitation services.

Prayas made a decision to shift the Women's Development Centre from Mumbai Central to the women's institution complex at Chembur. This was to begin with the setting up of a centre which would be an extension of the Prayas Production Unit. The production unit currently generates funds for the Prayas programme through the sale of its cloth bound files and folders and other hand made products. By setting up a connection between this unit, opportunities to learn and earn could be provided to the women. This is however in its very initial phase. This work is to be located within the premises of the KMV. Formal permissions and the infrastructural details have yet to be worked out and finalized.

In this endeavor, Prayas has been confronted by some obstacles which border around the security constraints of the institutions. Hence, the common rehabilitation centre envisaged by Prayas for the residents of the different institutions may be up against some barriers. Prayas has also visualized the accessibility of this service to women in need following their discharge from the institution, or to women in any other situation of vulnerability, and will be working on it.



7. WORK IN POLICE STATIONS

During the period from April 2006 to March 2008, Prayas, as in earlier years, carried out intervention at police stations. The clear objective was the prevention of victimization, exploitation, and negative resocialization of vulnerable groups especially girls and women whose ties with family and community had been severed. The intervention took place at

- A. Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Railway Police Station (C.S.T.), Mumbai
- B. Ankleshwar Railway Police Station, Bharuch
- C. 'A' Division Police Station, Bharuch

Of the three police stations mentioned above, two police stations were railway police stations and one is a city police station.

Railway Police stations

Railway station premises and termini in particular, have often been used as temporary/longer-term places of shelter by girls/women who have outmigrated to the city. Typically, these girls/women have moved or been forced out of their homes, due to a variety of reasons such as inability to cope with their family situation, conflict within the family, sexual/physical abuse, feelings of unwantedness, etc. On reaching the city (either by train or inter-city or state transport buses), the terminus is the first 'sheltered' place for such women. Being in a strange and unfamiliar location makes them vulnerable to accepting offers of support from exploitative elements that might be damaging to their lives. In the event of absence of appropriate guidance and assistance, these women are either absorbed into the community residing on and around the railway premises, or misguided and processed by an illegal network.

During the last two years, Prayas has continued its efforts to reach out to women who have become temporarily or severely disconnected from parental and/or marital families. Hence, while prevention of gravitation towards the illegal sector was one goal, facilitating the retracing of steps taken in this direction was another.

Women on and around the station premises were found in a variety of circumstances, such as physical illness, mental illness, confronting physical handicaps, resorting to begging, extreme destitution and involvement in exploitative relationships and in occupations wherein they were victimized, such as prostitution.

In collaboration with the railway police, Prayas identified women in these situations, and reached out to women receptive to intervention through services such as medical support, assistance in hospitalization, arranging for immediate shelter, livelihood training, educational support, contacting their families, repatriation with police escort, etc. Prayas also encountered women who were not in a frame of mind to receive help and who resisted intervention by the social worker due to issues such as distrust of the system, becoming habituated to street life, adjustment problems in shelter homes and being unable to move out of exploitative relationships.

Subsequent to reaching out to the various groups of women outlined above, Prayas networked with the police and with governmental and non-governmental organizations, in an attempt to

create openings for them. This is a difficult exercise. Due to their high levels of marginalization, low levels of adaptability to the routine and discipline in shelter homes and their uncertain long-term plans, they are often not received by organizations within this sector positively. Prayas workers have to often negotiate their entry and continuance in the shelter homes by continuously playing a balancing act between the requirements of the homes and the needs of the women.

A. Intervention at the CST Railway Station

Prayas had one social worker based at CST for most of the last two years, and a part-time outreach worker for a short period. The specific efforts by the social worker to reach out to vulnerable girls and women enabled her to identify 86 women who were in situations of vulnerability. Prayas intervened in these cases by initially responding to the immediate situation that was causing the susceptibility.

In addition to women who were separated from social connections due to familial conflict or exploitation, the social worker also encountered cases of women who were in varying degrees of destitution. These included women suffering with addictions, extreme malnutrition [where even minimal movement was not possible], physical handicaps and mental illness

While the main objective of Prayas was to prevent the victimization and /or criminalization of women who are likely to be exploited, cases of physical and mental illness were also taken up because the possibility of further deterioration, abuse and even death were very high. Referral to organizations working on these issues was often difficult, thus drawing heavily on the Prayas resources. This was because welfare services that are available provide mainly day care services, and largely respond to the needs of family-based persons. Residential psychiatric facilities were often full to capacity and only took cases that were in their latter phase. This left women with mild mental disturbances in a situation where they were neither in the category of 'normal women' in regular shelter homes, nor were they in a condition advanced enough to be hospitalized. In cases where mothers and children had been separated due to circumstances where the mother was unable to take care of her child, Prayas also took up the responsibility of ensuring that the relationship between mother and child did not get negatively affected due to the distancing that had taken place. This was done by assisting the mother to visit her child periodically.

The social worker recurrently came across disabled women on the station that shelter homes were reluctant to admit. Social work students placed with Prayas took up an assignment wherein, agencies working with physically handicapped persons were visited. This was done with a view to draw their attention to destitute handicapped persons on the station, to whom resources do not reach.

The social worker did in-depth intervention in 31 cases. In most of these cases, the girls/women were admitted to safe shelters, helped to arrange medical treatment and physical rehabilitation, reconnected with their families and connected with organizations within the welfare sector. Besides the re-directional support given to women who were susceptible to getting criminally exploited, there were several cases where destitution and possible death was prevented. Women were found in severely progressive conditions of mental and physical illness and had to be immediately connected with treatment and shelter options.

The social worker accompanied the police in reunification of some women with their families. This was done in cases where there was some amount of uncertainty about the response of the

family and when there was insufficient information available to the social worker about the local situation of the woman. The social worker accompanied the repatriation team to ensure that the transition was well supported. This has been a concern of Prayas that the re-uniting of the woman with her family should not be superficial but sustainable. This was done with the help of other organizations in the local area who could play a facilitative role.

The birth of children born on and around the railway premises is often not registered. The social worker made efforts to obtain birth certificates in three cases and facilitated the obtaining of one certificate.

The social worker encountered some challenges while intervening in cases in regard to retaining shelter for women with dysfunctional and maladaptive behavioral tendencies. It was either that they were reluctant to reside in shelter homes, or that following their admission into shelter homes were asked to leave in the midst of the intervention process due to their disruptive or un-cooperative behavior.

Following several years of direct outreach from the CST Railway Police Station, Prayas has gained a deeper understanding of the nature of the group, their rehabilitative requirements and the investment involved in setting up a full-fledged programme that is directed at reaching women displaced from their homes and arriving on railway premises.

The group that is found on station premises fall into two broad categories, namely:

- Women who are willing to move into shelter homes and access services provided within the welfare sector
- Women who need to be gradually initiated into a semi-structured programme prior to getting reintegrated.

Furthermore, outreach requires to be solidly followed up with rehabilitation services, which were found to be seriously inadequate. The police/social worker co-ordination and its effectivity as a combination for intervention became increasingly visible. Nevertheless, there has been a simultaneous realization that the number of women reaching railway stations was only a percentage of the total number of women who were displaced from their homes. This situation has been further compounded by the currently applied security measures at railway stations, which focuses on regular 'clean-up' drives and forcibly evicting unauthorized persons found on railway premises. This prevented women 'settling down' at railway premises resulting in their movement to other public places that are more conducive to settling. Currently, there are a number of welfare organizations operating from railway stations, although the services are largely directed at children.

Prayas underwent a process of re-examining the extent to which its resources at the CST Railway Station were being optimally utilized. It was felt that it is unable to provide the range of services necessary for the various sub-groups found on the station, alongside meeting with the vital need for a rehabilitation programme, with its limited resources. Prayas was thus confronted with making a choice between continuing outreach and focusing on post-outreach services. Prayas subsequently made a choice to invest its resources in the post-outreach programme

With a view to ensure the continuation of outreach, Prayas developed an initial phase-out plan which aimed at channelizing outreach through the police and NGO network. The social workers identified NGOs operating at the various termini and visited them in order to obtain an idea of their willingness to partner with Prayas. The social workers also visited railway police stations and discussed with them about the need for the service. During the police meetings, field personnel

were interacted with and they raised several problems that the police face during outreach, primary being admission into shelter homes. In these meetings with the police and the NGOs, a conscious effort has been made to convey the message that cases of women found in railway premises can be directly referred to existing shelter homes with which Prayas has a network, so that Prayas could focus on their rehabilitation needs.

While a concrete partnership has not been worked out, there has been an increased awareness about the services of Prayas among the potential outreach network. Prayas is also investing its resources to support shelter homes by working on the post-institution rehabilitation plan so as to enable shelter homes to address the range of rehabilitation needs of women in difficult circumstances. With a view to using available resources optimally, Prayas has now withdrawn its direct field intervention at CST railway premises. This has been done in favor of focusing on rehabilitation needs of women once they reach shelter homes.

Steps have also been initiated to stimulate developments towards the creation of space within police stations for social work intervention. Having sufficiently demonstrated the need for social work intervention at police stations, it was felt that efforts should now be focused on lobbying with the government and civil society organisations to create a cadre of trained social work personnel within the system – to reach out to a variety of persons in difficult situations. Two Prayas workers who have a vast experience of working with the police, have taken up the task of initiating discussions with NGOs and the police department towards this end. Under this plan, efforts are being made to revive a proposal that was submitted by TISS (in 1993) to Maharashtra Police for creation of a cadre of trained social workers in the criminal justice system.

B. Intervention at the Ankleshwar Railway Station

One social worker carried out intervention at the Ankleshwar railway station, alongside intervention at the Bharuch Sub-jail and the Prayas Women's Development Centre. The social worker visited the station approximately twice a week. She observed people on the station in an attempt to identify vulnerable women. She also invested efforts towards establishing contact with the railway police station staff and in sensitizing them with regard to their response to women in situations of destitution and vulnerability. Prayas also interacted with local vendors and other station staff, in order to make them aware about the work, so that they could refer cases.

The Persons reaching the railway police station/railway premises who Prayas sought to reach out to are:

- Women
 - a. in situations of familial discord
 - b. suffering from mental disturbance
 - c. facing destitution
 - d. living off prostitution

- Children
 - a. involved in begging
 - b. runaways
 - c. living on the station
 - d. employed at the station

- Youth
 - a. groups of young girls and boys who travel in trains and are not stationed at a particular place

While the social worker has encountered all the above groups, she made intense efforts to reach out to women in crisis situations. In these cases, the social worker attempted to initially build rapport with the woman, identified the problem and discussed alternatives with her. When necessary, shelter was arranged with the support of the GRP and follow-up was maintained. In-keeping with Prayas' objective of reintegration with the family as a first option, the social worker tried to contact the families of the women being assisted, whenever scope was visible. Other Prayas services included counseling with the woman and her family, medical support, visits to government agencies for documents, or to link the woman with welfare schemes. The social worker offered the women livelihood options that could be accessed by attending the Prayas Women's Development Centre or through support for self-employment.

As would be expected, the social worker was confronted with cases where inspite of concerted efforts, some women were not ready to go back to their families or to government shelter homes. In these cases they remained on the station and the social worker continued follow-up with them.

Prayas experienced resistance particularly with

- *Women in prostitution* – These women were from nearby villages, who came to Ankleshwar in search of work. Not being able to obtain work for the day often forced them to earn through prostitution. Most of these women came from highly marginalized backgrounds and were found to be addicted to alcohol. They were often in no state whereby the social worker could effectively communicate with them.
- *Young girls of 13-17 years* – It was found that there were groups of girls who traveled together in trains and were involved in begging. Prayas felt that they were exploited and possibly sexually abused. But since they do not have a fixed residence and their timings are not fixed, it was not possible to intervene.
- *Individuals with no place of residence* – On Some occasions, the social worker met individual women at the station who moved from station to station. Since they did not have a family and did not have a contact address, follow-up became difficult.
- *Women in crisis* – The social worker met several women at the station who had left their marital homes and were either going back to their parental families, or were not sure of what they wanted to do. These women were however often reluctant to give their addresses to the worker as they were apprehensive about the reaction of the family to a social worker's intervention.

Intervention at the Ankleshwar railway station took place with some constraints such as the absence of shelter facilities for women, the low number of case referrals from the police and the low inclination of the police to cooperate with the social workers. In spite of several efforts to counter the challenges presented by the situation above, there was no visible improvement. Consequently Prayas had a meeting with the S.P. and requested his intervention. As a result of this, the S.P. issued a letter to the Bharuch Railway Police to respond to cases of vulnerable children and women. The police then started referring cases of women and children, who were referred to shelter institutions and the Prayas social worker then followed up on them. The follow-up in these cases resulted in the establishment of a very positive communication channel between the Government shelter homes and the Government Railway Police. Intervention

focused on assisting women to acquire the benefits of government schemes. Many women have taken the social worker's support and advice in availing of documents and benefit of schemes.

C. Work at the A Division Police Station, Bharuch

In Bharuch, Prayas was based at the A Division Police Station. Through this service, Prayas targeted specifically vulnerable groups that approach the police station for assistance. During the last two years, the groups primarily reached out to were women, children, youth and mentally ill persons. Intervention that was done was both one-time and long-term. In addition to cases identified by the social worker, cases were also referred to Prayas by the police and other NGOs.

- **Work with women**

The Prayas social worker responded to women in crisis situations and it was found that most of these women required help for dealing with marital difficulties. After understanding the specific problem, the social worker discussed a variety of potential options with her. The services that were provided were: eliciting the support of the police whenever necessary and co-coordinating with them, contacting families and dialoguing with them towards a mutually agreed upon settlement, arranging for shelter for the woman and her children whenever necessary, responding to other support needs of children, medical assistance, legal guidance and support, follow up at police chowkies and courts, assisting the acquisition of documents, facilitating the acquisition of citizenship benefits from the government, connecting them with livelihood skills and options and referring them to NGOs that provide the services that they need.

The social worker realized in the course of work that many cases did not reach the main police station where Prayas was based. This was because it was easier for the women to go directly to the local chowkis nearest to their homes. This resulted in a decision by Prayas that the social worker would make regular visits to the chowkis so as to ensure maximum outreach. The increased awareness about services by Prayas caused and increased number of referrals by chowki staff.

The social worker found that many women who reached the police station in crisis situations did not have the resources to deal with their matters legally. This was an obstacle in their availing of their rights with specific reference to maintenance. Prayas brought this situation to the attention of the District Legal Services Authority, and have started referring cases to them.

Prayas concentrated on assisting its clients to become financially independent. Due to familial responsibilities, most women were not in a position to take up full-time employment or time consuming training. The social worker made attempts towards linking clients with certificate training courses [to the extent possible], that takes into consideration their interest, time limitations and family responsibilities. If it was possible, women were encouraged to attend the Prayas Women's Development Programme.

- **Work with children:**

In the course of its work at the police station, Prayas recurrently saw the need to ensure that children were processed under the Juvenile Justice Act. There is reluctance on the part of the police to use this act because of the procedural implications.

The social worker had in-depth and regular discussions with the field police personnel about the rationale of using the J.J.Act in cases of children. There has been a noticeable difference since

then, in terms of the attitude of the police and their willingness to use the Act. The Prayas intervention often began with ensuring that medical attention was given to children who were sometimes brought to the police station by the community in a beaten or abused condition. This was done with the help of the police. When there was no clear age proof available, the social worker also made visits to schools, to get school leaving certificates as age proof documents.

The social worker contacted and counseled families of the children and supported them both legally and emotionally. She remained involved in cases that were presented before the Juvenile Justice Board and the Child Welfare Committee and followed up on them. The social worker maintained contact with cases that were committed to residential institutions and coordinated with families and institution authorities thereafter.

Prayas had regular discussions with the staff of the Juvenile Home for Girls in continuation with the work at the police station. These were conducted in an effort to sensitize the staff about the situations that compel mothers to put their children in government shelter homes. This was done with the aim of improving the quality of custodial care and facilitating receptivity to this group when the police referred cases.

- **Work with youth in the police lock-up**

The social worker made regular visits to the police lock-up and identified cases of youth. After making an assessment of the youth's situation, she contacted families and encouraged them to extend their support, in cases where the youth had become estranged from his family. As and when there was a requirement for legal aid and guidance to the youth and the family, Prayas provided this service. The social worker also assisted inmates of the lock up in obtaining medical aid and invested efforts towards sensitizing the police about issues of human rights violations.

The help of the police was taken by the social worker whenever it was seen as having the potential to effect rehabilitation. The social worker referred cases of youth met in the lock up for continuation of intervention to the prison worker on their being remanded into judicial custody. Prayas also made efforts to create employment options for youth. This was done by contacting and visiting small income generation units to identify jobs, and referred youth involved in petty offences for job placements.

In cases where the youth was arrested under the Prohibition Act, efforts were made to support the family when required and a female member of the family was encouraged to take training at the Women's Development Centre.

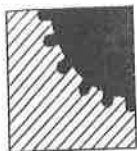
Prayas faced limitations in working with male youth primarily because of the absence of a training centre and shelter facilities for the youth. The intervention scope is not fully addressed as there is only a single social worker at the police station and she had to divide her attention among the various issues at the police station.

- **Work with mentally ill persons**

In response to the cases of mentally ill persons who came /were brought to the police station, Prayas took up individual casework. The main effort was towards the education of families with regards to supporting the medical treatment of the mentally ill person. The social worker also tried to generate awareness among the police personnel about the Mental Health Act, as they are very reluctant to use this legislation. However, this is so because there is no infrastructure to

support the implementation of the Act and presently, Bharuch does not have a mental hospital. All cases therefore have to be sent to the Vadodara Mental Hospital. Moreover the psychiatrist visits Bharuch Civil Hospital only once a week. Consequently the police are apprehensive about taking a mentally ill person into custody for fear of having to wait for the psychiatrist's visiting day.

Prayas has made conscious efforts to work in collaboration with the police. This has been done through ongoing discussions about cases and issues with police staff at both the field level as well as at the senior level. The outcome was increased cooperation and support to some of the vulnerable groups, especially women. The police also referred cases to the Prayas social worker. There was also a productive working relationship that was established with the District Legal Services Authority.



8. PRAYAS REHABILITATION CENTRES

Prayas continued to run its three rehabilitation centers at Mumbai for male youth and at Mumbai and Bharuch for women. The programme conducted at all three centers was similar. Services were provided in the following areas:

A. **Emergency Services:** These services are aimed at stabilizing persons during the crisis situations in their lives. These situations render them vulnerable to crime or victimization, or arise following their criminal processing that has caused a disruption in their lives. Services that may be required are therefore in the areas of medical support, shelter, counseling and facilitating familiarity to the welfare sector.

B. **Preparation for reintegration:** These services are focused on inculcating skills and work habits that would support entry and sustenance in the work world. Education, training, exposure visits and short-term placements were some of the areas focused on here.

C. **Increasing levels of employability and facilitating employment:** These services followed the preliminary input to trainees. The social workers assessed vocational inclinations and provided opportunities for on-the-job training. Prayas then furthered the trainees' employment capacity by providing additional exposure to related work and training courses. The trainees were provided with information about employment and were supported till a strong alternate connection was established with a job.

D. **Reconnection with family:** These services were provided with the trainee's long-term reintegration in view. They focused on strengthening or reestablishing family ties.

Prayas continued its efforts to develop its rehabilitation programme so as to keep it abreast of the reintegration requirements of its target group. The Youth Development Centre was shifted from its location at Worli, to a municipal school at Byculla. The programme was revitalized and its centre based input programme was replaced with an intensive interactive exchange with the welfare sector through regular visits and attendance in welfare sector programmes.

The Women's Development Centre situated at Mumbai Central, Mumbai, shifted base from the premises of a municipal school to the Government Female Beggars' Home Complex at Chembur which currently houses three women's institutions namely the Female Beggars Home, the Navjivan Mahila Vastigruh and the Kasturba Mahila Vastigruh. The motivation behind this step was to be able to target specifically those women who have been displaced from their homes and do not get focused on by mainstream groups, thereby facing the highest risk of exploitation and marginalization. Furthermore, it also seeks to address the absence of a systematic rehabilitation programme for this group. This is by right due to any citizen, especially a group that has multiple social handicaps [most of which are not visible].

The Women's Development Centre at Bharuch continued its regular programme and activities.



9. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The youth that came to the Youth Development Centre (YDC) and participated in the programme were primarily persons who had been under trials at the youth sections of the Mumbai and Thane Central prisons [who had come in contact with the Prayas social worker]. In addition, there were also some youth who had been residents at the observation home, Dongri and youth who had been referred by the police, community and current or ex-beneficiaries.

The above groups fell into two broad categories:

1. Those who could participate in the centre based programme and receive training inputs
2. Those that could not regularly attend the centre based programme, because of being already employed or because of ill health or a personal crisis. This group however required support in staying out of situations involving conflict with the law and possible re-processing.

The objective of the Prayas rehabilitation programme was the eventual employment of the beneficiaries within the legal sector. The youth development centre was thus designed as a place wherein inputs for this purpose were provided. The preparation aimed at bringing about functional literacy, awareness about welfare services, improved personal discipline, livelihood skills and work habits. Initially, this was done through a primarily centre based approach where literacy classes, furthering of education, and information and hobby sessions were used as the medium for preparation.

However, towards the latter half of the last two years, Prayas realized that focusing on education and relying largely on centre based inputs was time consuming. Moreover there was a tendency for the trainees to form sub-groups which could be then inclined towards anti-social or criminal activities. In response to this realization, Prayas reviewed and modified the programme to focus primarily on expediting the connection with the welfare sector. This resulted in a movement away from literacy classes and centre based activities to a programme which provided an intensive exposure to the NGO sector. This was done through regular and daily visits to different NGOs. Trainees were encouraged to participate in a variety of voluntary sector activities. The visits also aided the social workers in assessing compatibility of the youth with the NGO sector and preparedness for placement.

The direct exposure clearly resulted in trainees getting a comprehensive understanding of the kinds of services available, a personal encounter with welfare sector personnel, an understanding of the issues and causes that are being represented, identification with some causes and introduction to persons involved in various kinds of social interventions. Moreover, the exposure visits effected the trainee's perceptions and ideas about the kinds of work that are socially and personally acceptable.

Formal education which earlier constituted a part of the overall programme currently is not a direct component. While Prayas still supports education actively, it is not pursued within the training time and trainees are encouraged to pursue it within their own free time. This required that the trainees take more responsibility and initiative for their own education, while Prayas took the main responsibility for preparing them for livelihood options.

During the last two years, Prayas invested in its trainees in the areas of basic education, exposure to the welfare sector, skill development, and on-the-job training. The social workers focused on facilitating the trainees' recognition of the need for budgeting and savings, the difference between official and informal situations and their behavioral requirements and maintenance of records and accounts. Trainees were encouraged to start savings accounts in banks and post offices and to acquire citizenship documents.

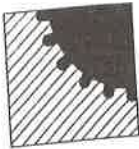
As the extent of instability in an individual situation has an impact on the progress of rehabilitation, the social workers were also required to intervene in individual cases in matters such as medical emergencies and shelter. The Prayas social workers made efforts to function in collaboration with families whenever there was an opportunity to do so. Nevertheless, about fifty percent of the youth attending the YDC and the Prayas rehabilitation programme are up country youth and are not in contact with their families.

Prayas continued to be confronted with the issue of eliciting governmental and non-governmental services for shelterless youth who are at risk. It has been engaging in dialogue with organizations that have a shelter facility. However the scarcity of space and the demand for it remains a difficulty facing youth and welfare organizations working in their interest.

During the past two years, a total of 57 trainees participated in the Prayas rehabilitation programme. The skills that they learnt were motor repairing, domestic wiremanship, driving, para-legal course, counseling and computer skills. Two trainees obtained employment within the voluntary sector.

Prayas planned to make its rehabilitation programme available to youth released from institutions, particularly targeting inmates who have multiple social handicaps. It identified the residents of the Aftercare Hostel for Boys at Chembur as a vulnerable group. This choice was made because youth coming out of institutions are also at risk. Prayas has initiated written communication with the Maharashtra State Probation and Aftercare Association and dialogue on this matter is still in process.

Prayas is exploring the idea of pre-release preparation for rehabilitation while a person is still in prison. This programme will provide inputs that will increase awareness/skills within custody, to enable inmates to participate in government sponsored schemes and programmes [such as programmes of the health department] while still in custody and following release. Efforts are on to tie-up with authorities concerned and NGOs for imparting training to prison inmates so as to sensitize them and enable them to take on placement responsibilities, soon after release.



10. WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

I. WORK AT THE WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, MUMBAI

The trainees who attended the Prayas Women's Development Centre (WDC) during the last two years comprised of those who had been discharged from government institutions, women released from prison, women who have been displaced from their families and communities and have resettled at railway premises and women who are referred by governmental and non-governmental organizations because of a perceived risk of criminalization or victimisation.

The Prayas Women's Development Centre functioned with the objectives of:

- a) Bringing about a change in attitude and lifestyle of women and girls who have been processed by the Criminal Justice System either as victims or accused/convicted persons
- b) Creating possibilities of earning a living in the legal sector
- c) Identifying the person's skills and talents and helping them develop the same
- d) Facilitating the exploration of options for earning a livelihood within the voluntary sector
- e) Building capacities to deal with problems faced by women by increasing their awareness about welfare services

In the pursuit of the above objectives, the Prayas social workers provided a range of services. One set of services was directed at addressing the woman's immediate life situation especially in terms of her vulnerability. These included shelter, medical treatment and counseling and were aimed at providing basic stability to the woman. The other set of services were directly related to her reintegration within society through employment within the legal sector. These services comprised of educational inputs, short-term skill development, literacy, developing the savings habits, exposure to the welfare sector and on-the-job training placements.

In the course of the last two years, the thrust of the programme at the WDC was building the capacities of its trainees with a specific focus on:

- **Education** – Prayas offered basic literacy through an adult literacy programme. It also encouraged its trainees to go through the various levels of primary education designed for an adult population. 5 trainees were assisted in enrolling and appearing for their standard tenth examinations through the National Institute of Open Schooling. Trainees desirous of pursuing further education were introduced to the education programme conducted by the Yashwantrao Chawan Open University. The Prayas social workers supported trainees by giving educational inputs and assistance as well as by connecting them with opportunities for additional coaching.
- **Vocational Skills** – During the last 2 years, the WDC tied up with Sterlite Foundation, an NGO providing computer literacy classes, designed with the educational background of the target group in mind. In order to improve the preparation for movement into the work world, the WDC also arranged for conversational English classes through the services of a volunteer. Trainees were sent for training programmes that would equip/upgrade them with skills required for employment and re-absorption into mainstream society. Some of these

courses were in para-professional social work, nursing, home management, security and beauty treatment skills.

- **Awareness/Information inputs** – During the said reporting period, Prayas focussed its attention on raising levels of awareness among trainees. This was done through group discussions and inputs on topics such as relationship management, savings, teamwork, etc. In addition, Prayas also arranged for inputs by outside resource persons on topics such as health awareness, registration of births and deaths, making of ration card, etc. Prayas sought to generate awareness also through group visits to shelter homes, hospitals and to events organized by welfare sector agencies.
- **Skills Development** – An activity run at the WDC during the first half of the last two years was a daily in-house hobby/skills development class. This activity was run in order to stimulate an interest in developing a skill and also in order to enable the social worker to identify a talent that could be converted into an income generating possibility. Trainees showing an inclination or capacity for acquiring a particular skill were then sent for certificate courses. Tailoring training was conducted at the WDC specializing in women and children's clothing, knitting, embroidery, toran-making, flower making, cloth-bag making, purse making, jewellery designing (particularly pearl jewellery), basic beautician skills and toy making. Depending on the kind of training being given, the activity teacher also provided information about availability of raw material in the wholesale and retail market. An attempt was made to explore ways by which trainees could make use of the training received as an income source.
- **Sponsorship of courses** – Prayas sponsored the course fees of trainees who took training from outside organizations whenever it was required. The social worker maintained records of the trainees' progress by doing regular follow-up visits and being in contact with the training institution.
- **Linking with production units** – Following training inputs, Prayas connected trainees who had acquired a high level of skill with production units in the NGO sector which outsourced orders, thus enabling trainees to earn on a piece-rate basis.
- **Placements for on-the-job training** – Prayas further developed the placement programme that it had started in 2005. This was done with the view that getting and sustaining a job is often difficult, and it becomes necessary to provide exposure to the various possibilities keeping the clients interest and capacity in mind. The process of placement thus commenced with exposure visits to various NGOs. This was done with due consideration to the educational background and observed skills and talents of the trainee. Following the exposure visits, short-term placements were planned. Through this programme, Prayas explored the employment possibilities in a range of sectors and the time frame also ranged from half a day to a month. This was extended if both the client and the organizations found it mutually beneficial.
- **Reconnection with families** – Prayas focused on exploring the scope for reconnecting the trainees with their families. This has been seen as an important factor in the long-term rehabilitation process. The social workers directly dialogued with the families of locally situated trainees. In the case of up-country trainees, Prayas established a link with organizations/individuals in different districts for assisting persons who wish to return to their home state

- **Legal aid, guidance and follow-up** – During the last year, Prayas has deputed one of its social workers to concentrate attention on helping the trainee to access legal rights that are due to her. These were with particular reference to matters such as property and marital rights, maintenance and slum rehabilitation. A number of trainees were assisted through this service.

During the last two years, Prayas found that a bulk of its trainees was from shelter providing institutions and persons referred from welfare organizations. One of the outcomes of the NGO Placement Programme was that trainees were getting employed in voluntary organizations. Furthermore, it appeared that women who returned to their families after their discharge from institutions did not seem to require the assistance of Prayas in getting back into a source of livelihood. In the light of these emerging facts, Prayas made a decision to locate itself within the Government complex for women at Chembur (the Female Beggars' Home Complex). This was done to increase the reach of Prayas' services to the residents of three women's institutions, namely, the Navjivan Mahila Vastigruh (the government protective home), the Kasturba Mahila Vastigruh [the government reception center] and the Female Beggars' Home.

The Prayas WDC thus shifted its location from Mumbai Central to Chembur in March 2008. The overall plan of Prayas was to establish a bridge service which linked institutionalized women with the outside world and which also provided them with support to settle after they had been discharged. All the trainees at the WDC were settled in their respective placement agencies. New trainees were not admitted into the programme during the last quarter of 2008.

Prayas is working on developing a new concept – of an Employment Kendra project. This project is intended to respond particularly to the needs of groups within shelter homes. This emerged as a result of the increasing realization about the presence of a sub-group of institutionalized women, who institutions are not able to rehabilitate. This appears so due to a multiplicity of handicaps such as physical disability, psychological and/or emotional problems and a severe disconnection from family and community. Towards this end, a mapping exercise began with visits to shelter homes and employment providing facilities within the private, government and welfare sectors. The exploration is still in process.

II. WORK AT THE WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, BHARUCH

The WDC at Bharuch addressed the rehabilitation needs of women met at the A Division police station of Bharuch, the Ankleshwar railway station, and women released from the Bharuch Sub-jail. The services were directed at addressing two broad areas that required intervention, namely:

- **Personal factors in the trainee's lives that were obstacles in the rehabilitation process** – The social workers did in-depth casework with trainees and their families in order to assist their rehabilitation. This intervention included responding to crises faced by trainees, medical support, arranging shelter, child support, and intervention in family disputes and facilitating the access of civil and legal rights. Alongside regular counseling, the social worker assisted the trainees in registering complaints with the police, dealing with matters of the custody of minor children, mediating with parental and marital families, following up with advocates, attending matters in court, and meeting magistrates when it was required. The social worker invested efforts and follow up to support the acquisition of citizenship documents. Prayas provided legal information to trainees and their families and assisted them in getting legal aid from the District Legal Services Authority. All this was done in an

effort to reconnect trainees with their families and communities, and also to establish their citizenship. The social workers supported the continuation of the education of trainees' children. This was done through visits to the family, neighbors, teachers, and school authorities. In order to provide families with the support that they need to stabilize, Prayas has also assisted adult children in obtaining employment. This was time consuming work, but it addressed important aspects for the rehabilitation of the trainees. The support to trainees in the above-mentioned areas helped to move them ahead in the process of reintegration.

- **Preparing trainees for reintegration and financial independence** – The Prayas WDC programme focused on literacy, skills development and awareness, job placement and facilitating livelihood options. The social worker conducted group discussions, input and training sessions for the trainees at the WDC, as outlined below:

A. **Literacy** – Non-formal education and literacy skills were provided at the WDC. The WDC staff attempted to enable trainees to read, write, and calculate towards making them functionally literate.

B. **Hobbies and Vocational skills** – The Prayas teacher taught trainees skills such as making woollen products, paper bags, painting, embroidery, making decorative items, making mobile phone covers and herbal mehndi. The teacher gave basic training in tailoring to the trainees at the WDC. They were taught how to stitch children's and women's clothes (such as diapers, frocks, school uniforms, petticoats and salwar kameez), simple and fancy cloth bags and pillow covers. After taking this basic training, interested trainees were sent for specialized training or certified courses. This was done with the objective of enabling the trainee to take up work at home, or take up employment.

C. **Awareness and Capacity building** – Group discussions were held with the trainees on subjects such as making of ration cards, birth and death certificates, election cards, savings, and on health issues. The social workers organized short-term education and awareness trainings on section 125 Cr.P.C., rights of women, etc. The resource persons were advocates and social workers from the Center for Social Justice. A legal awareness programme was organized at the WDC with the support of the District Legal Services Authority. A woman activist spent some time with the trainees at the WDC discussing various problems that they faced in their daily lives like domestic violence, alcoholic husbands, problems with in-laws, need for support in income and various other issues. As part of the programme, trainees were encouraged to do small savings at the center from their stipend money. Once the trainees became consistent in small savings, they were encouraged to open savings accounts in the bank.

D. **Support for Self-employment** – The social workers organized visits for trainees to set up and run businesses. This was done to provide them with an opportunity to understand the intricacies of running one's own business. Trainees who were interested in entrepreneurship were accompanied by the Prayas social worker on visits where they could learn about purchasing and marketing. The social worker guided the process by stimulating discussions, helping the trainees with formulating a plan and supporting them during the initial phase of the business. The trainees who were ready for self-employment were encouraged to apply for benefits under Government Schemes such as the Manav Garima Yojna. The social worker had to regularly follow up with the

Manager, D.I.C., and Bharuch. The outcome of the effort was that trainees received assistance in the form of sewing machines and carts for their businesses. Trainees from the WDC are now running their own tea and home-based businesses.

- E. **Job Placements** – The WDC staff also made efforts to place trainees in jobs and to link them with work on a piece-rate basis. Trainees were also placed at small businesses that were being run by ex-trainees.
- F. **Income generation and public awareness** – Prayas put products made at the WDC at exhibitions-cum-sales 3 times a year:
- ❖ The annual mela at Bharuch in the month of shraavan - During the month of shraavan, an annual mela is organized at the Soneri Mahal, Bharuch. People from Bharuch city and the district visit this mela. Prayas put up a stall at this community mela, where the objective was to generate awareness in the community about its work.
 - ❖ Diwali Sale – During diwali, an exhibition-cum-sale was put up of the decorative diyas made at the WDC. Different locations are selected every year. The sales were put up at the Jilla Panchayat, Nagar Palika, Mahila Cell, Ankleshwar Railway Station, G.I.D.C. area and O.N.G.C. colony.
 - ❖ Exhibition organized by D.I.C. – In the month of March, the District Industries Center, Bharuch organizes an exhibition for organizations working in Bharuch. Prayas is invited every year to be a part of it.

These sales not only created awareness in the community and system about the work of Prayas and the issues of its clients, but also motivated the trainees and helped to raise their self esteem and confidence.

The Bharuch unit has been facing a staff shortage in comparison to the scope for intervention. The social worker who did the casework of trainees at the WDC was also the outreach and case worker at the Bharuch Sub-jail and the Ankleshwar railway station. Similarly, the social worker at the Bharuch A Division police station also handled the family support work of trainees at the WDC.



11. DOCUMENTATION, POLICY AND TRAINING

The extensive field experience gathered by Prayas over the years has been put to constructive use by raising the emerging issues before authorities with a view to effect the functioning on the ground. The specific areas identified and invested in were:

- The situation of children of prisoners
- Governmental free legal aid services
- Coordination between the sub-systems of the Criminal Justice System
- The implementation of correctional laws
- Promoting new initiatives in the field of corrections
- Initiating training for government and non-governmental field personnel

I] Children of Prisoners

Prayas identified issues relating to the situation of children of prisoners soon after its work with under trial women prisoners had commenced. This awareness was translated into an action response by initiating a Balwadi service for children in prison (accompanying their mothers), extending services to minor children of prisoners left outside, a research study on children of prisoners and a publication on this issue entitled *Forced Separation: Children of Imprisoned Mothers*.

In 2004, Prayas took the issue to the Supreme Court and submitted its findings and recommendations in the PIL, *R. D. Upadhyay Versus State of Andhra Pradesh and Others*. Prayas' suggestions were included in the final orders passed by the Supreme Court in 2006. The apex court issued guidelines to be implemented by all State and UT governments in the country with regard to the care, protection, treatment, education and rehabilitation of children living in prisons. The order directed attention to areas such as diet and the nutritional requirements of expectant and nursing mothers and children in prison, and the health, educational and developmental needs of children in prison.

To ensure the implementation of the Supreme Court orders, Prayas organized a State level Workshop in Pune in collaboration with the Office of the I.G. Prisons, Maharashtra, whereby the prison administration, probation department and NGOs working with children of prisoners were brought together to discuss the implementation of the judgment. The Workshop was also used to draw attention to the adverse situations of children who are temporarily orphaned when their parents are arrested and more so their need for services which is not as yet recognized. Prayas forwarded copies of the judgment to governmental and non-governmental agencies so as to generate awareness about the development among concerned parties. The prison department issued guidelines to all prison superintendents in the State to take all necessary steps to implement the Supreme Court directions, as a result of the Workshop.

Prayas is in the process of translating its publication, *Forced Separation: Children of Imprisoned Mothers* into Marathi, so as to make the material accessible to field personnel. Simultaneously, Prayas has maintained its efforts at drawing attention to the larger population of children of

prisoners left outside, who were not included in the perview of the honorable Supreme Court judgment.

Prayas has been making continual efforts to get the children of prisoners as a category in need of care and protection, recognized by the government. In this connection, Prayas identified the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) of the Department of Women and Child Development as a potential scheme to be applied within prison. This was in response to the need for pre-school education facilities for children living in prisons (accompanying their incarcerated mothers). A preliminary note was prepared for the ICDS Commissioner, Maharashtra. On further exploration, Prayas was informed that a process of extending *angan wadis* under the ICDS for children with their mothers in prison had already been initiated. Prayas thus took to following up this process to ensure its implementation.

Simultaneously, Prayas had an opportunity to meet the Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) at TISS in December 2007, to highlight the need to initiate pro-active steps for protection, care and rehabilitation of children of prisoners. The Chairperson asked for a note outlining the issue. This was immediately forwarded to her. The NCPCR has since issued directions to all State and UT governments to inform the Commission about the steps taken by them in this regard. The Commission has also asked the Centre for Criminology and Justice at TISS to maintain liaison with the State and UT governments to ensure that effective steps are taken to address this issue.

II] Government Free Legal Aid Services

Prayas, who was a member on the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) invested intensively to bring about improvements within government free Legal aid services. It raised issues such as the need for legal awareness among inmates of custodial institutions, increasing the honorarium paid to legal aid lawyers towards the facilitation of improved services and the need to sensitize the judiciary towards the utilization of laws designed to foster rehabilitation.

The Prayas social worker regularly attended the monthly meetings of the DLSA and attempted to present field realities before its members. The continual raising of issues and dialogue has led to decisions by the DLSA to process plans to address the above issues.

- Legal awareness among inmates of custodial institutions: Sitting judges were brought into custodial institutions such as prison protective home and children's institutions. Inmates were given information about guidelines on production of under trial prisoners through video conferencing, legal rights of prisoners, provisions of the Probation of Offenders and the Borstal Schools Acts, provisions relating to release of under trial prisoners on personal bond and provisions relating to the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act. These were done in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority, where Prayas provided organizational support and took sessions during the programme.
- Remuneration to legal aid staff and lawyers: The issue of increments to the employees of the DLSA was pursued by Prayas at the meeting of the Brihan Mumbai District Legal Services Authority and a resolution was passed to give additional increments to legal aid staff, whose salaries are not at par with the court staff. There has been an increase in the honorarium given to lawyers on the free legal aid panel. This raise in honorarium was from Rs. 700/- to Rs. 1400/- in the metropolitan courts and from Rs. 900/- to Rs. 1800/- in the sessions court. This is a significant development as the rates paid did not even cover basic expenses that had to be incurred by the lawyers. The low honorarium paid to legal aid lawyers affected the

quality of services provided by them. Prayas has also been focusing on the situation of lawyers representing prison inmates while they are being produced on their court dates before the judiciary through the video conferencing facility. These lawyers are not being given their remuneration on time. This issue is of concern to Prayas as it affects the quality of legal services that get provided to prisoners. Prayas has taken up the matter with the District Legal Services Authority.

- Increased utilization of correctional laws and legal provisions designed for socio-economically backward persons: With a senior Prayas social worker being attached to the DLSA Office, cases that came for legal aid and guidance / those needing legal aid services, were also sometimes taken up. These were cases of minors who were processed and convicted by the adult system, persons undergoing externment proceedings (even after they had been rehabilitated) and under trial prisoners eligible for release on personal bond under the amended section 436 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Prayas was able to facilitate the use of the new amendment with regard to release of under trial prisoners on PR Bond in 5 cases.
- Use of the P.O. Act for petty offenders: It had been observed that in petty matters being heard by the morning court (indecent behaviour in public places, hawking in public places, ticketless traveling, etc.), accused persons were summararily tried and given sentences that were disproportionate to the nature of offences that they were accused of. This was resulting in the unnecessary criminalization of persons who were not tried with proper inquiry and defense. Through continual dialogue with the magistrates of the morning courts, section 3 (release of the accused on admonition) of the Probation of Offenders Act is now being used for persons who have been arrested for the first time. These discussions have involved an examination of the logic [or rather absence of logic] in this kind of processing. The implications of such methods on the lives of individuals who are already at a disadvantage and the futile expenditure incurred by the State was also an issue that required to be analyzed. The courts are now responding and are utilizing the suggested law with a better outcome *vis a vis* avoiding criminalization and impacting overcrowding in prisons.
- Release of prisoners under preventive detention and those arrested under suspicion: Prayas contributed to the State Legal Services Conference by raising the point of persons languishing in prison under preventive detention (Chapter Proceedings under the Cr. P.C.) and those arrested on suspicion (Section 122 of Bombay Police Act). The Executive Chairperson of the Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority directed all the district judges in Maharashtra to examine the situation and take the necessary action to forthwith release such cases.
- Interaction/sensitization of Criminal Justice System officials to provisions designed for economically backward/correctional laws: Prayas saw the need to draw the attention of the judiciary and other Criminal Justice System officials to field realities, in order to adequately effect the situation on the ground. This was done through interactive workshops/seminars/sessions with judicial officers and officials from prison, probation, legal services authority and NGOs. The issues were concentrated on the processing of economically weak groups by the CJS and use of correctional laws.
- ❖ In the Mumbai district, a seminar was held for the Judiciary on the 20th June 2007. It was entitled "Seminar on Poverty and Law" and focused on the situation of weaker sections in prison. The possibility of using provisions of release on personal bond and the use of

correctional laws to address problems faced by these sections were discussed in detail. Recommendations emerging from this seminar were compiled and forwarded to the High Court Legal Services Committee. Prayas is currently following up on the recommendations with a view to convert them into directions for the lower judiciary in the Criminal Manual.

- ❖ This was followed by a district level Seminar in Thane on the 5th October 2007. It was organized in co-ordination with the V.P.M.'s TMC Thane Law College & Thane District Legal Services Authority on "Role of Duty Counsels and Legal Aid Lawyers: Issues and Challenges". It was attended by judicial magistrates & sessions judges from Thane district, prison officials, probation officers, legal aid lawyers and students and faculty of Thane Law College. The seminar was aimed at encouraging judicial officers to refer cases for probation, use of the Personal Bond provision for those who cannot avail of bail, and, to take steps needed to improve the legal aid scheme. As an outcome of the Seminar, the Principal of the V.P.M. Thane Law College has agreed to start a legal guidance and aid project in Thane Central Prison in collaboration with prison officials, judiciary and Prayas. Another outcome of this effort has been a proposal submitted by Prayas to the District and Sessions Judge, Thane for placement of a social worker in the Thane District Legal Services Authority. The seminar reports were finalized and sent to the concerned authorities for their perusal and follow up action. Prayas followed up with the Principal of the Thane Law College about starting the student legal guidance project at Thane Central Prison. The project is expected to start work by the first week of August 2008.
- ❖ A meeting was held in the office of the District and Sessions Judge, Thane, with a proposal to initiate work in Thane District by placing social workers with the Thane District Legal Services Authority. The proposal was accepted in principle by the District Judge and follow-up is in process to work out the details.
- ❖ With the active support of the Member-Secretary of Brihan Mumbai Legal Services Authority, an interaction between departments concerned was held to discuss the issues related to the rescue and rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking. It facilitated dialogue between judicial officers working under the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, Superintendents and probation officers from Special Rehabilitation Home for Minor Girls, Government Protective Home and Reception Centre [including the District Women and Child Development Officer] and NGOs working towards the rescue and rehabilitation of victims of prostitution. This informal meeting was held in the premises of the Government Protective Home on 29th November 2007. The objective behind this informal meeting was to address the problems faced by the authorities while working for rescue and rehabilitation and how the same could be removed by ensuring proper co-ordination. Ground realities were discussed in the meeting and several suggestions emerged for the proper implementation of the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act.
- ❖ In co-ordination with the Brihan Mumbai District Legal Services Authority, Prayas organized a series of interaction sessions in the months of February and March 2008, with judicial officers, probation officers, police, legal aid lawyers and NGO representatives. These interactive sessions were organized at the Mumbai, Sewri and Dindoshi Sessions Courts, and the Esplanade, Dadar, Kurla and Vikhroli Metropolitan Courts. The subjects discussed were, the use of the PO and Borstal Schools Acts, provisions relating to personal bond and the legal rights of children of prisoners.

- ❖ A capacity building session for newly appointed legal aid lawyers of DLSA was conducted during which skill inputs were provided by senior members of the bar.
- ❖ Other legal awareness sessions were also organized in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority. These programmes were for slum dwellers who were being criminally processed for not possessing residence proof documents prior to 1995 at the time of the survey conducted by the Collector under the Slum Rehabilitation Act [100 persons], for slum dwellers on legal provisions of the Slum Rehabilitation Scheme at Wadala [1000 persons], for BMC workers on recovery of loans by money lenders [400 persons] and for youth from Dharavi on legal rights of citizens [50 youth].

III] Coordination between the sub-systems of the Criminal Justice System and Custodial Conditions

Prayas' work with women and male youth under trial prisoners has resulted in the identification of specific areas which if attended to could impact on custodial conditions for persons being processed by the Criminal Justice System. One major area that required addressing was the coordination between the prison department and other government departments that played a role in the lives of under trials.

In 1996 and 2005 respectively, responding to a suggestion made by Prayas in PILs¹, the Hon'ble High Court issued directions for State and District Inter Departmental Committees on Prisoners to reduce coordination problems in the CJS. However as this structure is not functioning as it was intended to, Prayas has been confronted with the task of mobilizing the system. The two years gone by have been spent in following up with the authorities concerned at both the State and district levels to ensure the utilization of this available structure.

The last State IDC meeting took place on 14th march 2005. Prayas has ceaselessly continued to make efforts at mobilizing the system for the subsequent meetings. This was done by being in contact with the Principal Secretary, Home Department [Prisons] through written correspondence, telephonic discussions and meetings. The issues that Prayas sought to raise were the implementation of the order passed by the Mumbai High court on health and nutrition for women and children in prison, sanitation, pre-school and welfare services for children in prison, implementation of the legal aid services for prisoners and shelter for released prisoners. The new Principal Secretary (Prisons) has initiated steps to call for a State IDC meeting. She has asked for information from all the departments about the progress following the decisions in the last meeting.

Prayas has initiated meetings with the District Judges in Maharashtra, within the purview of the District IDC framework. Discussions with them have focused on the role of the district committees towards making them aware of High Court judgement, so that meetings can be called by them. Contacts have been established with the District Probation Officers, Prison Superintendents, local NGOs and Colleges of Social Work in these districts to initiate a process of dialogue between them towards highlighting problems faced by under trial and convicted prisoners.

The Prayas team visited the prisons in Ratnagiri, Alibaug, Savantwadi, Aurangabad, Nashik, and Nanded. They observed that quarterly meetings at the district levels were taking place. The

¹ Shabnam Minwala Vs State of Maharashtra in 1994 and PUCL, Sunil Shinde and Rajendra Bidkar Vs State of Maharashtra in 2005

issues that were raised in these meetings were those related to health problems of prisoners and lack of police escort for the production of under trials in court. Prayas made contributions to the agenda of the committee meetings, as and when it saw the need. It raised the implementation of the PO Act as a tool for rehabilitation in the meetings.

As the concept of District Inter-Departmental Committees was still relatively new, Prayas continued to play the role of clarifying the concept and its potential for solving problems of the prison administration. The Prayas visits to the various prisons were made with the objective of stimulating optimum utilization of this forum, for being able to productively address the several issues that come up as concerns in the processing of under trial prisoners.

As a result of Prayas initiative, a District Inter-Departmental Committee meeting took place in Ratnagiri in December 2007. Prior to this meeting, Prayas was in communication with the Additional District Sessions judge about utilizing the forum of the District IDC to initiate social work services in the Ratnagiri District Prison. This resulted in the calling of a meeting and the commencement of services at the Ratnagiri prison [referred to in the subsequent sections].

The Prayas team also made a visit to the Buldanha District Prison to explore whether District IDC meetings were taking place or not. It was found that the District Sessions Judge and the Prison Superintendent were not aware about the IDC order and did not have a copy of the GR. Prayas furnished them with a copy of the same. A meeting was to be called within a month but this has not yet happened and it is being followed up on.

Prayas collaborated with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative [CHRI], Delhi, in conducting a National Scoping Study on the nature and extent of NGO intervention in prisons all over the country. Prayas took up the responsibility of scoping the situation in the eight states in the Western and Southern regions namely, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala. The data collection was done with the help of NGOs such as VARHAD, Amravati, Sudhar, Bhopal and Sahyadri, Solapur. Through this exercise, Prayas was able to establish links with like minded organizations, with whom a working relationship has been set up to meet with the long-term goal of the rehabilitation of prisoners and the issues relating to custody.

With the culmination of the data collection phase of the project, a National Roundtable was organised by CHRI in Delhi, in January 2008. Prayas participated in the Roundtable and led the session on the Role of the Voluntary Sector in Custody and Rehabilitation of Prisoners. At the meeting, a decision to conduct regional meetings was taken, so as to identify regional issues and take them forward. Other matters discussed were the possibility of forming a National NGO Forum and the reviewing of the Draft National Policy on Prison Reforms and Correctional Administration, prepared by the Bureau of Police Research and Development, Delhi.

IV] Implementation of Correctional laws

Since its inception, Prayas has remained focused on its prime objective which is the rehabilitation of persons processed by the law. Prayas has taken up a proactive position *vis a vis* promoting the utilization of correctional laws. Sustained efforts have been put in over the years, in various forms such as referring cases of prisoners eligible for release on probation to the judiciary, networking with the probation officers to activate the probation services and dialoguing with receptive members of the judiciary to refer cases under the Act, towards increasing the utilization of the PO Act.

Prayas recurrently realized that a coordinated effort between the judiciary and the probation department could lead to the better implementation of the said laws. During the past two years, with the support of the District and Sessions Judge, Prayas organized seminars for the judiciary on the relevance, necessity and constructive utilization of the correctional legislations. Likewise, probation officers were also interacted with to elicit their experiences and views. These interactions were instrumental in enhancing sensitization among judicial officers as well as enabling them to express their views on the use of the Act. Probation officers had their own grievances. Some of these were that cases were not being referred to them by the judiciary, and that there was poor staff strength in the probation department, considering the population eligible for release on probation.

The mutual expectations of the judiciary and the probation department from each other were an issue that required concerted efforts to sort out. In order to address these issues, there was a need for continuous and progressive dialogue between them. To facilitate this process, Prayas worked towards bringing CJS functionaries such as judges, magistrates, probation officers, prison officers and like minded lawyers together onto a common platform, to discuss mutually agreed upon alternatives.

As a part of the overall development of correctional services in the State, Prayas initiated and organized a two-day workshop in collaboration with the department of Social Work, SRT University at Nanded. The workshop aimed at raising before the judiciary issues regarding the utilization and implementation of the Probation of Offenders Act, the Borstal Schools Act, and provisions relating to release on Personal Bond.

Prayas organized a State level Workshop for probation officers, in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development, GoM, in Pune on the 3rd and 4th October 2007, on "Probation Services: Issues and Challenges". The Workshop was attended by officers from the Probation wing and discussions were directed towards addressing operational bottlenecks on the field. The outcomes from the Workshop included the creation of a first-ever discussion forum on ground level issues for Probation Officers, identification of specific bottlenecks at the ground and policy level and an assurance by the Jt. Commissioner, DWCD, GoM, to set up a Committee to examine the recommendations from the Workshop and revise the State Rules under the P.O. Act accordingly.

Furthermore, Prayas has been trying to increase awareness levels among other functionaries such as the registrars, public prosecutors, defense lawyers, and court clerks, as all of them contribute towards the implementation of these laws in their own respective ways. This is right from applying for the benefit of probation to supporting the implementation of the Act. Prayas also met the Probation Officers of the Mumbai, and Mumbai Suburban districts for a field based exchange and discussions about collaboration between Prayas and the field officers in cases that are identified for intervention.

VJ Promoting New Initiatives in the Field of Corrections

A major concern of Prayas during the past years has been the absence of welfare provisions and services within the Criminal Justice sector. Prayas has been able to stimulate a process within the governmental sector wherein custodial issues have started getting addressed in varying degrees and at various levels. Simultaneously, Prayas extended its expertise to developing the voluntary sector. Prayas identified social work colleges as one set of potential partners in this endeavor. It aimed at encouraging social work colleges to initiate student field work placements and field action projects within the Criminal Justice System.

The first initiative took place by involving the Bombay Association of Trained Social Workers (BATSW), before whom the need for developing the field of corrections was presented. Recognizing the need for such developments, the BATSW joined Prayas in organizing a two day State level Workshop to call attention to the issue. The Workshop was arranged as a joint venture by Prayas and BATSW in April 2006. It was attended by colleges of social work, organizations working within the CJS, social work professionals, and Criminal Justice officials. There was a consensus on the need for developments in the field and visible responses for undertaking the work in question. Two follow-up meetings were held after this. However, attendance was affected due to vacations and travel cost difficulties. This resulted in a decision to have region wise meetings with colleges of social work in Maharashtra.

The first results of the Workshop were seen in the response from the Department of Social Work, School of Social Sciences, Swami Ramananda Tirtha Vidyapeeth, Nanded in the Marathwada region. Prayas supported them in initiating student field work in Nanded Prison. The Prayas social workers extended specific inputs to the faculty and also conducted a two-day training programme for students of social work on work in prison. The Department has started placing social work students in the Nanded District Prison from June 2006. A total of three students were placed in the male youth and women's sections. The work has been developing and they have now started student placements at the court and police station.

Prayas has been discussing the initiation of student fieldwork placements in prison with the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Department of Social Work, Aurangabad and the Mahatma Phule College of Social Work, Jalna. They are now considering this new area of fieldwork from 2008.

During the past two years, the organizations working on prisoner's issues came together at the behest of Prayas to discuss issues, share experiences and information and to create a Forum of such organizations to be able to take pertinent concerns forward. Presently 5 organizations along with the Centre for Criminology and Justice, TISS, are a part of this forum. Two meetings of the Forum have taken place so far.

Prayas tapped the District Inter-Departmental Committees to encourage welfare services for prisoners by the voluntary sector. As an outcome of discussions held through the District IDC and with the support of the Additional District Sessions Judge, a meeting of government and non-governmental organisations was called in Ratnagiri in December 2007. Locally situated NGOs and the local law college were among the participants at the meeting. Prayas presented the need for intervention with prison inmates and requested NGOs to consider extending their services. Pratham expressed willingness to start computer literacy classes and the Principal of the Law College made a donation for the purchase of library books.

In February 2008, the services by Pratham at the Ratnagiri District Prison were inaugurated. A review meeting took place in Mumbai thereafter, about the work in Ratnagiri Prison. Pratham is now considering extending their services to four more prisons in Western and Central Maharashtra, for which they have requested for continued inputs from Prayas.

Sahyadri Foundation Trust, Solapur, has continued to receive the full fledged support and guidance of Prayas through the full-time presence of one of its senior social workers. It is still in the process of establishing its services in the Solapur District Prison and improving its financial situation in order to provide the requisite services.

VI] Training and Capacity Building

During the last two years, Prayas utilized the experience gathered through its collective presence in the field of corrections, to introduce specialized training programmes for governmental and non-governmental staff, as well as social work and law students. The objective of this effort was to improve the quality of service within the justice sector by providing/upgrading skills and information. In this endeavor, Prayas combined its own understanding and expertise with those of well established professionals in the field to impart training that was designed in accordance with field requirements.

- **Training for government field staff:**

Prayas organized an in-service training programme for the care-taking staff of the government women's institutions housing persons in difficult situations, namely Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh, Kasturba Mahila Vastigruh, Male and Female Beggars' Homes and the Special Rehabilitation Home for Minors [rescued from trafficking]. This training was organized in collaboration with the Centre for Life Long Learning, TISS. Eleven input sessions and one exposure visit were conducted for twenty caretaking staff. This series of sessions provided inputs about legal aspects concerning their work, blocks encountered in the pursuit of their duties, addressing occupational difficulties, work with clients coming from stigmatized backgrounds, health problems faced by women in custody, rehabilitation of custodialised populations and citizenship rights of persons in custody.

- **Training for field staff from NGOs:**

Prayas organized a five-day legal training programme for the staff of NGOs working within prison settings. It was attended by 14 staff members of organizations in and outside Mumbai. It covered topics such as the Indian Constitution, the structure of the Criminal Justice System, substantive and procedural laws, correctional legislations, and laws relevant for social workers functioning within prisons. The inputs were provided by government officers, advocates, and senior members of Prayas and the NGO fraternity. Discussions were enriched by the experiences of the field workers.

- **Training for Students:**

Prayas provided fieldwork training to 28 students of MA in Social Work, 2 students of MA in Criminology and 4 students of law. The students were from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, SNTD Women's University, Rajgiri College of Social Work, Kerala, Madras University and the Government Law College, Mumbai.



12. POLICY ADVOCACY WORK AT BHARUCH

Issues that emerged from the intervention at the A Division Police Station were taken up with the judiciary, police and social welfare department. Some of the issues taken up and the outcomes of the effort were as follows:

- **Shelter facilities for women:**

Prayas was in continual contact with Nari Kendra (a Government institution for women), while working in individual cases of women in need of shelter. However, on encountering difficulty and resistance repeatedly, Prayas took the matter to the DSP, Bharuch. He took action and sent the Police Inspector - Mahila Cell, to meet with the authorities of Nari Kendra. The Samaj Seva Adhikari also discussed this issue with Nari Kendra. The institution raised difficulties faced by them and a dialogue has now been initiated.

- **Training for better implementation of Social Legislations:**

A. Domestic Violence : While following up cases under the Domestic Violence Act, Prayas observed that there were misunderstandings about the implementation of this Act amongst magistrates, advocates, police and officers of the Samaj Sureksha Department. Prayas has discussed this issue with the District Judge, and has expressed a need for training which will enable the better implementation of this Act.

B. Juvenile Justice Act : Prayas organized training for police personnel on the Juvenile Justice Act. 35 Head Police Constables and 3 Police Sub-Inspectors attended the training. The training was organized in co-ordination with the District Legal Services Authority. To plan and organize the training, Prayas had to follow up with different agencies of the Criminal Justice System. After the initial training on the J.J. Act for police personnel, Prayas discussed with the DSP the possibility of intensive trainings on this issue at the taluka level. The DSP felt that such trainings should be organized at the head office in the presence of senior officers.

- **Legal aid for inmates of the police lock up**

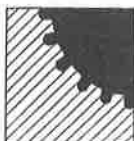
After discussion with Prayas, the Chairperson of the District Legal Services Authority has promised to look in to the matter of visits to lock-up by the legal aid panel.

- **Training facilities for youth**

During the course of work, Prayas has found that there are no skill training courses available for uneducated youth who came in contact with Prayas. This issue was brought by Prayas to the attention of the I.T.I. authorities, Ankleshwar. Consequently, a decision was taken that the social workers would identify youth who need training, find their minimum qualifications and in response, the I.T.I. would help to plan a tailor made programme for them.

- **Training for families of police staff**

Prayas is presently in discussion with the DSP and the Horticulture department to organize vocational training for the wives of police personnel.



13. NEW INITIATIVES IN PRAYAS AND FUNDING

A. New Initiatives in Prayas

- **Setting up of a Media Unit:** Prayas made efforts to set up a Media Unit as an experiment to examine the scope for raising its issues, through the various print and electronic media. The work conducted so far was exploratory in nature. Prayas has interacted with NGOs and professionals with expertise in this area for increased input and guidance. Two short films of the durations of four and six minutes on Prayas and on the rehabilitation issue have been made by students of media who interned with Prayas. Prayas has also been in touch with sensitive journalists who have been covering issues discussed with them in the print media. Some of the articles which have featured the issues around which Prayas works include rehabilitation of trafficked victims, children of prisoners, problems of under trial prisoners, recent judgments of the High Court on prison reforms, etc. These articles have featured in English and Marathi newspapers.
- **Study on Prison Libraries in Maharashtra:** Prayas decided to examine the extent of the presence of libraries within prisons, and the scope for their constructive use for rehabilitation. Permission to visit all the prisons in the State was applied for from the Office of the Inspector General, Prisons, Maharashtra. This was necessary so as to acquire an in-depth understanding about the situation of libraries within prisons. Prayas was granted permission but only for the prisons in the Mumbai and Thane districts. Subsequently, Prayas visited the Mumbai and Thane Central prisons and the Byculla, Kalyan and Buldanha District prisons. Having acquired a sufficient understanding of the situation of libraries in the mentioned districts, Prayas now intends to re-apply for permission to examine the situation in the other parts of the State. Prayas also met the Additional Director of the State Central Library and acquired information on the government schemes that could be applied to prisons.
- **Lobbying for a police-station based cadre of social workers:** Since the early years of the Prayas presence in the field, and following several years of intervention at police stations in both Mumbai and Bharuch, Prayas became only further strengthened in its view about the scope and need for psycho-social intervention services at the police stations. These would be specifically beneficial to a range of vulnerable persons being processed by the police. Prayas (through TISS) had taken up the issue and submitted a proposal to this effect to the DG of Police, Maharashtra in 1992. Subsequently, the DGP set up a Police-TISS Committee on "Need for a Cadre of Trained Social Workers in the Criminal Justice System" to examine the issue. The Committee gave its report to the DGP recommending the creation of such a cadre in 1993. However, in spite of serious efforts made by Prayas to take up the recommendations of the report of the Committee with the Home Department, no concrete response came forth. Now, with its additional experience and understanding, and also with the realization that the voluntary sector has its limitations, Prayas has decided to resume its efforts at lobbying with the government and civil society organisations to press for creation of social work services for persons reaching the police. Prayas' work has demonstrated the need for such services for citizens who are processed by the police, whether as victims or as offenders. As part of this effort, Prayas has begun a process of initiating dialogue with welfare organizations

in order to test whether such a service will be of use to vulnerable sections of society who face socio-legal problems and come in contact with the CJS.

- **Community Legal Resource Centre:** With the objective of reaching out to youth in the community who may be at risk of criminal processing, Prayas placed one of its social workers at the Shivaji Nagar Police Station for six months, since it covers an area where there is a presence of a large migrant population and has a high crime rate. It was felt that by placing a social worker in the area, the police could refer cases of youth vulnerable to crime to Prayas. However, this experiment failed primarily because the youth did not want to associate with a person who came through the police. It was therefore felt that if a legal resource centre were initiated directly in the community with a focus on providing legal guidance to families and youth in the area, it may help in gaining an entry point in the lives of youth who are on the borders of crime. Prayas has now started exploring such an initiative at Dharavi, in order to be able to access persons who have come in contact with the law. During the last six months, the Prayas social worker has started interactions with local youth groups. One such group was identified and a legal awareness programme was organized for them. Prayas has started this experiment with full knowledge that directly reaching out to youth vulnerable to crime is difficult, as such youth may feel stigmatized if approached in the pre-arrest stage, and may therefore avoid contact with any social group.

B. Funding

Prayas conducted its programmes activities through the unstinted support of funding agencies, grants through government schemes, support from the public in the form of donations, and responses to appeals for assistance from the corporate sector. In addition to external sources of financial and non financial assistance, Prayas has made concerted efforts to move towards an extent of self sustenance during the last two years. This was done through the setting up of its own income generation unit.

✓ Institutional funding

A primary source of funding has been the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust which has supported the work of Prayas since 1994. The funding from the Trust was granted to support staff salaries, work on systemic issues, and some client related expenditure.

The Concern India Foundation took major responsibility for the Prayas Women's development Center, which is the rehabilitation unit for women following their discharge from custodial Institutions.

The Amada Trust has been supporting Prayas steadily to respond to beneficiary needs such as financial assistance for health, education and basic subsistence

✓ Grants through government schemes/projects

Prayas received funds under the Innovative Grants Scheme of the Central Social Welfare Board. This grant which has continued since 1999, has supported casework and vocational training activities conducted for women in institutions and post release.

Prayas took up a one year project under the UNDP and the Government of India, Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice. The project entitled Strengthened Access to Justice

Initiative – I, extended for the duration from November 2006 to November 2007, with a no cost extension until February 2008. The project supported legal aid work within the four prisons in the Mumbai and Thane districts.

✓ Self Generated funds

Prayas has been producing cloth bound stationary items such as files, folders, diaries, etc. since 1992. This programme had been initially visualized as a potential earning source for its beneficiaries. For several years thereafter, trainees were taught production skills. However, given the weak social situations of the client group, it was found that the skills could not be translated into the running of a business. The programme was thus subsequently withdrawn from being a client based programme.

Nevertheless, production of the items continued to take place on a small scale, and for a few years thereafter the unit did not have more than one to two workers.

There was however an increasing demand for the products. Prayas thus decided to develop the existing unit into a full fledged production center that could contribute to programme expenditure. The staff strength was increased and the unit was set up in 2006.

Since then, it has taken orders, and actively participated in sales that were organized by NGOs, educational institutes, and the corporate sector. The unit has been able to build up a remarkable demand for the products, and has now started outsourcing so as to increase its output. It primarily produced cloth bound folders, files and jute bags for seminars, workshops and conferences. It has also tried to expand its range of products by making kurtas, mobile covers, wallets, etc.

✓ Individual Donations

Prayas has a number of individual well wishers who have remained committed in their support of the cause and regularly donate towards its programme. It has received the support of Tech Net employees by way of their regular monthly contributions since the last four years.

During the last two years, Prayas has received donations of over two lakh from individual donors.

✓ Corporate Sector funding

Prayas has been fortunate to receive continuing support from the corporate sector over the years. Among these are HDFC and Trent Ltd. which have supported the Prayas cause, regularly making donations to Prayas since the past few years. The Hinduja Foundation has made a financial contribution the Prayas for the second running year.

✓ Non Financial Support

Prayas is grateful for the non-financial support in the form of computers, furniture, and training material from the Tata Consultancy Services, Mahindra and Mahindra and the Inner Wheel Club.

14. STATISTICS

Work in four prisons in the Mumbai and Thane Districts

No.	Name of Prison	Total Outreach	In-depth Intervention	Outreach to Families	Information/Awareness Sessions	Vocational Skills		Application written for legal aid	* Referrals for Legal Aid/Guidance
						Short Term	Long Term		
1.	Mumbai Central Prison Male Youth Section	922	149	153	Sessions by outside resource persons: On Probation Act - 150 inmates Sessions by Prayas Staff a) Health: HIV- 20 inmates, Gen Awareness - 25 inmates b) Law : Legal Rights - 120 inmates, Probation - 25 inmates, 6 Sessions once a month on legal awareness probation and JJ Act (20 inmates), 8 sessions on legal awareness (20inmates per session)		a) Domestic wiremen ship - 20 inmates enrolled (10 completed course) through Yuva Parivartan	109	108
2.	Byculla District Prison Women's Section	669	119	152	Sessions by outside resource persons: a) On obtaining Ration Card (2 sessions) - 100/150 inmates b) On Probation Act - 300 inmates c) On Foreigners Act - 120 inmates. d) On Legal Awareness- 50 inmates		a) 1 day Lantern & Agarbatti making - 15 inmates.	62	100
3.	Thane Central Prison						Efforts to start training through Yuva Parivartan but training did not start due to other courses in barrack	94	40
							Electronic repair course -		

<p>Male Youth Section</p>	<p>979</p>	<p>125</p>	<p>124</p>	<p>Sessions by Prayas Staff: a) On Health & Hygiene (2 sessions) - 179 / 20 inmates b) On legal awareness (6 sessions) - 15 to 20 inmates per session.</p>	<p>Sessions by Prayas Staff: a) On Health & Hygiene (2 sessions) - 179 / 20 inmates b) On legal awareness (6 sessions) - 15 to 20 inmates per session.</p>	<p>20 inmates Through Yuva Parivartan</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>64</p>
<p>4. Kalyan District Prison Women Section</p>	<p>513</p>	<p>88</p>	<p>77</p>	<p>Sessions by outside resource persons: a) General Medical Camp (2) - 80/145 inmates b) On Cultural Programme - 150 inmates</p> <p>Sessions by Prayas Staff: a) On Prayas Services - 30 (Women Section) b) On Training Option - 20 inmates c) On Ration Card - 15 inmates</p> <p>Sessions by outside resource person: -</p> <p>Sessions by Prayas Staff: a) On Prayas Services - 60 inmates b) On Probation Act by Prayas staff and Jailor - 45 inmates c) On Legal Awareness - 45 inmates d) On Railway Act - 35 inmates e) On Govt. Schemes - 30 inmates.</p>	<p>Sessions by outside resource persons: a) General Medical Camp (2) - 80/145 inmates b) On Cultural Programme - 150 inmates</p> <p>Sessions by Prayas Staff: a) On Prayas Services - 30 (Women Section) b) On Training Option - 20 inmates c) On Ration Card - 15 inmates</p> <p>Sessions by outside resource person: -</p> <p>Sessions by Prayas Staff: a) On Prayas Services - 60 inmates b) On Probation Act by Prayas staff and Jailor - 45 inmates c) On Legal Awareness - 45 inmates d) On Railway Act - 35 inmates e) On Govt. Schemes - 30 inmates.</p>	<p>a) 2 month training on Sari petticoat, blouse and baby frock and knitting - (7 inmates) b) 3 months training in stitching - 18 inmates c) 3 month Domestic wiremanship training - 22 inmates through Yuva Parivartan</p>	<p>Paper bag making, Fabric painting, Tailoring, Handicraft, Painting, Greeting Card, Crochet, Operating sewing machine, Crochette, Bags, Knitting, Basic stitches, Blouse cutting, Embroidery, Organdy, Artificiale flowers (Wire roses and aster Stocking flowers and rose bouquette), Crocheted hankerchief, Trainees, sparkling flowers, Crochette</p>	<p></p>

Male Youth Section	647	94	122	On Khadi gram udyog Uyajana - 20 inmates	toran, socks, Baby clothes, Diya painting - (90 trainees acquired one or more of the above skill.)			
Total	3730	575	628				296	312

- Referrals for Legal Aid/Guidance (To ICHRL & private lawyers offering legal aid services to Prayas clients)

Work in Bharuch Sub-Jail

No.	Name of Prisons	Total Outreach	Group Discussion/ Skill Training	Outreach to Families	Visits to Govt. Agencies	Meeting with Jail Staff	Application	Referrals for Legal Aid/ Guidance
1.	Bharuch Sub Jail (Male Section)	438	a) Citizenship /Legal information: Importance of B.P.L. Card - 40 inmates Obtaining BPL Card - 17 inmates Govt. Schemes - 80 inmates Importance of savings - 55 inmates. Right to Legal Aid - 30 inmates Discussions about government schemes - 140 inmates	45	Taluka/Districts Boards Visits (13) Visits to Samaj Surekshi (3) Talati Office (2) Taluka Development Officer (1) Collector (1) District Industries Center (5) Jilla sikshan Adhikari (3) Collector office for parole (6) Jilla rojgar kacheri (5) Mamlatdar (2)	Meeting with Jail Sudd.(78) Meeting with Jail staff-54	120	315 Discussions with advocates- 20 Meetings with Magistrates - 5

		<p>Legal awareness – 25 inmates</p> <p>Discussions on education of children & related problems – 30 inmates</p> <p>Discussion on legal rights and awareness – 60 inmates</p> <p>b) Health:</p> <p>Vysanmukti-150 inmates</p> <p>Health and medical awareness – 105 inmates</p> <p>Personality development – 25 inmates</p> <p>Discussion on land laws-50 inmates</p> <p>Documents on citizenship rights-75 inmates</p> <p>c) Educational/ Vocational Training:</p> <p>Education awareness- 30 inmates</p> <p>Awareness on skill training-25 inmates</p> <p>Group discussion on vocational training-25 inmates</p>	<p>Nehru tyuva Kendra (4)</p> <p>Jilla Vikas Adhahari (1)</p> <p>Meeting with RDC for Parole of convicted prisoners (2)</p> <p>Dist. Legal Aid Board-10 visits (16)</p>		
2.	Bharuch Sub Jail (Women Section)	<p>60</p> <p>Discussion of Prayas services</p> <p>Discussions of WDC options</p> <p>Discussions on need</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Work towards education of children who are outside – 3</p>	<p>Court Visit (29)</p> <p>Visit Dist. Legal Aid Board (7)</p> <p>Meetings with Advocates</p>	<p>14</p> <p>25</p> <p>Informal Meetings with Jail Staff (16)</p> <p>Formal Meetings with Jail Staff (49)</p> <p>Informal meeting with</p> <p>Meeting</p>

		for permanent shelter Paper bag making (06) Garland making - 04 Info. On obtaining ration card - 03 Info. On govt. scheme - 03 Information on charge sheets and legal matters - 04 Mobile cover making-05 Crochet training	children Home Visits (09) Work with family (01) Follow up of released inmates	(14) Visit to Mamlatdar (1) Visit to police station -2 Jiila Udhog Kendra - 4 Visits to govt. reception home 03	jail supdt. (6) Meeting with Jail Supdt. (32) Application for legal aid (03)	with advocates (26) Visits to courts (26)		€ 340
Total	498		75		134			

Work in three Women's institutions in Mumbai

No.	Name of Institution	Total Outreach	Long Term Intervention	Work with Families	Post Institution Follow-up	Awareness session (jointly organised for women's institution residents)	Vocational Training
1.	Protective Home	654	79	54	92	2 sessions on Obtaining Ration Card - 40 /45 inmates 18 sessions on Cancer awareness - 85 inmates Cancer check up - 28 inmates Birth Registration - 30 inmates Personality Development - 40 inmates Personal Hygiene - 40 inmates HIV Awareness - 40 inmates Recreational Programme with games -	Paper bag - 25 inmates Phenyle making - 25 inmates Aggarhatti making - 38 inmates Flower making - 20 inmates Diya painting - 16 inmates Greeting card - 20 inmates Agarbatti - 30 inmates Flower making - 25 inmates

									<p>Wall peace making – 20 inmates</p> <p>Embroidery – 15 inmates</p> <p>Macrame – 19 inmates</p> <p>Operating sewing machine – 32 inmates</p> <p>Crochette – 15 inmates</p> <p>Income generation group - 15/40 inmates</p> <p>Embroidery, Lantern making, WIT practice, Ceramic painting, Paper bag, Flower making, Natural color making, soft toys – inmates</p> <p>Group ranging between 20 to 28 Visits to 6 production units.</p> <p>Orders from 2 production units</p> <p>3 Visits to CC shroff</p> <p>Diya Painting & G. Card for 10 days - 20 inmates</p>					
	All	Food adultration (Grahak Jagruta) – 40 inmates.	Effects of Tobacco and Gutka – 30 inmates.	Health camp - Skin and Gynac disorder – All	Session for 4 days on Life skills model - 32	Mehndi application - 25 inmates	Citizenship Rights - 35 inmates	A Film on Devi Ahilyabai Holkar - 40/32 inmates of Beggars home.	Exposure visit to WIT - 20 inmates	Republic day programme (rangoli, mehndi competition games) - 39 inmates				
2	Kasturba Mahila Vastigruh	48	10	6	4									
3	Female Beggar's Home	35	-	-	-									
	Total	737	89	60	96									

Work in C.S.T. Railway Police Station

No.	Name of Police Station	Total Outreach	In-depth work	Repatriation	Networking with NGOs towards Coordination	Visits to NGOs	Hospital Visits	Visits to Shelter Homes	Government agency visits
1.	C.S.T. Railway Station	143	43 children	6	Through ongoing coordination and meetings with Railway Children, Sathi, BalPrafulta, Sambhav and other station base organisations on emerging issues.	45 (Local & outstation)	126	90	30

Work in Ankaleshwar Railway Police Station

No.	Name of Police Station	Outreach to Individuals	Meetings with CJS Officials	Referral to Shelter Homes	Work with Families
1.	Ankaleshwar Railway Police Station	93	Discussion with Railway Station Staff - 36 Discussion with GRP / P.I.- 14/63 Discussion with RPF - 32 Training with RPF staff - 1	3 Home visits -- 08	17 Home visits (21) Visit to civil hospital (04) Visit to dist. Samaj sureksha (03) Visit to other NGO (09) Visit to Nagarpalika (01) Visit to police station (03) Visit to nari Kendra (03) Case referred to WDC (01) Case referred to nari Kendra (02) Medical support (02) Co ordination with govt. reception home, other NGO, and client (02) Visit to observation home (02) Follow up with Samraj Sureksha Department (02)

Work in the A Division Police Station, Bharuch

No.	Name of Police Station	Discussions with person in the lock up	Outreach to Families	Referral to Prison Worker	Referring medical cases to Police	Outreach to women in distress	Work towards implementation of J.J. Act	Discussion with Police on Mental Health issues	Outreach to persons with behavioral problem
1.	Bharuch Police Station	Male 129 Female 4	50	32	18	134	44 meeting (Meeting with JJB, Meeting with CWC)	74	16

Work through A Division Police Station Bharuch towards rehabilitation

No.	Name of center	Reintegrati on with Families	Networking with NGOs for training & Placement	Training/Placement of Clients	Referral to WDC	Work with women in crisis
1.	Rehabilitation Work	Male 13 Female 21	Discussions with NGOs 36 Visits for training 96 (Male & Female) Visits for job placement 115 (Male & Female)	23 Job - 7	9 Discussion for referral with 66 client	Home visits 235 Court visits 90 Referrals to district legal aid board 18 Discussions with advocates 95 Referring the children to juvenile home 09 Referring to Nari Kendra for shelter 09 Visits to Nari Kendra 48 Visits to observation home 25 Meeting with magistrates concerning cases 18 Helping women to join with the family 11 Visits to government offices 29 Process of Admission of children in school 10

Work on issues emerging through Prayas intervention at A Division Police Station, Bharuch

No.	Meeting with P.I.	Meeting with D.S.P.	Regarding problems of police personnel	Regarding problems of client	Regarding training of J.J. Act
1.	61	40	4	5	3
	Advocacy Work				

Work in the Prayas Youth Development Center, Mumbai

No.	Name of Centre	No. of clients	Outreach to vulnerable groups	Awareness/ Information Sessions	Education	Client visit to NGOs	Placements/ Follow-up	Police Referrals	Training	Arrangement for Shelter
1.	<u>YDC</u>	81 (Including referrals from J.J.B.)	Services offered to Client groups of Yuva. Saathi, Hamara Club and B.E.C.C. Meetings held with Shivaji Nagar, Matunga, Antop Hill, Kalachowky, R.C.F police stations to motivate police to send cases of youth offenders	1. HIV - 5 session 2. General Health - 4 session 3. Mental Health - 5 Sessions. 4. Domestic Violence - 6 trainees	Basic Literacy Classes for all Admission in NOS - 2 Educational support-6 Non formal education -2	63	NGO Placement - 48 Employment obtained - 10	9 youth came to Y.D.C 3 followed up in Community	1. Outside training a) 11 trainees took courses in motor mechanic, Driving, typing etc. b) In house training - Paper Bags & Lantern Making - 15 inmates c) 49 days spent for participation in programmes of other NGOs	Arranging in shelter existing facilities of NGOs - 7 Housing assistance - 3
			Other Activities							
			1. Picnic - 25 trainees 2. News paper reading -daily 3. Group discussion on issues such as gender, housing problem, inflation. 4. Assistance to obtain legal documents, Legal assistance. - 14							

Work in the Prayas Women Development Center, Mumbai

No	Name of Centre	No. of Clients in WDC	Training	Information/ Awareness Sessions	Work with Families	Shelter Homes	NGO Placement
1.	WDC	90	<p>A. Centre based training: Literacy classes, Classes for conversational English, Computer literacy Patch work, Embroidery Painting, Story writing, Knitting, Tailoring, Envelope and paper bag, Agarbatti Making, Finael making, Diya painting, Kandil Making, Jewellery making, Flower making.</p> <p>B. Outside Training: On bread craft - (ITI), Zardosi Embroidery, Tailoring, Beeds Jewellery, Veg cooking, - Jan Shikshan Sansthan (Shramik Vidyapeth), Computer classes (Sterlite Foundation)</p>	<p>A. Information Sessions 1. Self awareness/development - 3 2. Information about shelter services - 2 3. Orientation to First Aid - 2 4. General Knowledge - 5. Budgeting - 3 6. Mental Health - 2 7. Legal Awareness - 3 8. HIV/AIDS awareness - 3 9. Information on Ration Cards - 2 10. Legal First aid and Civil Defense - 1 11. Citizenship right/Document. - 1 12. Team Building - 10 13. Yoga methods - 14. Saving - 7 15. Relationships - 5 16. Film followed by discussions - 17. Cancer Awareness in collaboration with shelter home - 2 session 18. Counseling - on going 19. NGO placement - 3 B. Exposure Visits 1. National Park - 8 2. Mumbai Darshan - 7 3. KVIC Exhibition - 11 4. Esplanade court - 2 (Programme on legal right) C. Cultural/Recreational Activity: 1. Diwali celebration (Games, Rangoli, Mehndi) - All 2. Trip to Alibaug 3 days</p>	52	63	Placement in NGOs - 74 Employment - 9

Work in the Prayas Women's Development Centre, Bharuch

No.	Name of Center	No. of Trainees	Activities/Skill Training	Skill training programme, by outside resources	Awareness programmes	NGO Visits/Placements	Referrals for Outside Training	Work with Families	Other Supports to Clients
1.	WDC- Bharuch	53 1 client makes WDC products from home	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Literacy 2. Basic tailoring 3. Hand embroidery 4. Kathi Resha hand work 5. Woolen products 6. Decorative items 7. Paper bag making 8. Herbal mehandi making 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Mobile cover and pot hanging-4 clients, 4 days b) Training from Horticulture dept, items from fruits and vegetables—44 clients, 6 days c) Mehndi, -9 clients, 12 days d) Basic beautician training-9 clients, 6 days e) Embroidery training- 10 clients, 9 days f) Ceramic pot decoration, 10 clients 3 days g) crochet work, purse, bags, handkerchief, socks, envelops, key chains 10 clients 12 days h) Papad making 7 clients 3 days i) cloth bag 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. D.I. C. For loans-44 trainees by Jan Sikshan Sansthan - 8 trainees 2. Awareness on Domestic Violence Act 9 trainees 3. Awareness on Right To Information Act 9 trainees 4. Awareness prog. On self employment 10 trainees by Nehru Yuva Kendra 5. Awareness prog. On International Women's Day - 10 trainees by Jan Sikshan Sansthan 6. Aids awareness programme 10 clients 	<p>Legal training on Maintenance - 11 trainees.</p> <p>Empowerment programme organized by district legal aid board - 13 client</p> <p>Visits - 11</p> <p>NGO Placement-3 client</p> <p>Job Placements - 1</p> <p>In rocess for getting jobs 02</p>	<p>6</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Computer training 2 trainees 3 months. b) Tailoring training-1 trainee, 1 year course c) Tailoring training by nagarpalika 3 months 3 trainees d) Tailoring training at Jan Shikshan Sansthan 1 year 2 trainees e) Visits to identify training for 18 trainees f) Visits to identify job placement for 07 trainees g) Beauty culture training at Jan Shikshan Sansthan 04 trainees 3 months 	<p>19</p> <p>Job for client's family -16</p> <p>Legal support to clients family - 5</p> <p>Home visits - 24</p> <p>Medical -02</p> <p>Support for hostel accommodation for 5 children of 3 clients in process</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Medical 21 2. Sewing Machine 8 trainees 3. Bank account/ FD -01 - 5 4. Saving account in process- 3 5. Ration Card in Process - 6 6. Birth Certi. - 2 7. Preparing client for self employment 06 8. Support to start self employment- help to purchase material, building of lari, getting support from police- 3 9. Support for house repair - 1 10. Counseling - 4 11. Home visits 50 12. Visit to Jan shikshan sansthan 02 13. Follow up with Nagarpalika to get required documents 06

			making basic 10 clients 10 days jj cloth bag making advanced - 10 clients 10 days	organized by NGO			14. Income certificate for clients 04 15. Court visit 10 16. Ration Card in Process-from APL card to BPL client-03 17. Support to start self Employment-with the help of D.I.C -11 clients process
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Documentation, Training and Policy Unit - Mumbai

No.	Legal Aid/Guidance	Work with CJS Functionaries	Issues of Client Group with System	Support to NGO Initiative in CJS
1.	Legal Awareness for prisoners - 4 sessions - 125 to 200 prisoners per sessions ((Mumbai Central and Byculla Dist Prison)	Workshop with Suptds. - 35 participants (on SC Judgement about Children of Prisoners)	Follow-up on duration of custodialisation of persons arrested on suspicion or through preventive arrests (122 BPA & 41 CRPC) with judiciary	NGO Forum Meeting (NGOs in Maharashtra working within CJS)
2	Awareness for slum dwellers - 2 sessions - 100/1000 participants.	One-day seminars in Mumbai & Nanded on probation for the Judiciary, Prison officers (Nanded) and Probation officers.	Ongoing follow-up for State IDC Meeting (with Principal Secretary, Home)	Follow-up meeting to review progress, post-workshop organised by Prayas for colleges of social work in Maharashtra.
3	BMC workers - 1 session - 50 participants.	Sessions towards Improvement of Custodial condition in 5 Govt. Institution for Women - 6	Ongoing follow-up for District IDC meetings (With district and session judges and prison admin) in 5 districts	Data collection through visits to NGOs in the 7 states of southern and western India for National Scoping Study on NGO intervention in prison with CHRI.
4	Community youth - 1 session - 50 participants.	11 sessions towards improving institutional care for staff of Protective Home	District IDC meeting at Ramagiri	Support to initiate field work to SRT university Nanded.
5		Legal awareness session in Esplanade Court on (discussion between Magistrates and Public	Meeting with district judge and prison superintendent at Buldanha	Efforts to start legal guidance for under trial prisoners through Sr. Law College Students in Nanded.

6	Prosecutors)	Discussion with Dist. Judge Nanded & Thane Dist. On overcrowding issue with an copy of Mumbai high court judgment on personal bond	Identification of resource person for translation of publication of COP into Marathi	One day workshop on Probation Act with Swami Ramanandathirtha Vidyapeeth. (Nanded)	
7		Follow-up with prison administration (Maharashtra Jail) to check implementation of Children of Prisoners judgment.	Follow up on Children of prisoners issue with DWCD and prison department	Support to Pratham for initiating intervention in Ratnagiri Prison	
8		Workshop on Immoral Traffic Prevention Act for police, DWCD and members of District Advisory Committee, Solapur.	Follow up on Anganwadi in prisons with ICDS authorities	Meeting with Aurangabad Social work college	
9		Seminar for Judiciary in Mumbai (75 members) (on Personal Bond/Probation/Borstal Schools Act)	Follow up of draft rules of government shelter homes for women.	Meeting with Jalna Social Work College	
10		Workshop for magistrates (15) in Nanded	Visits (7) to understand situation of prison libraries	Support and guidance to Sahyadri, Solapur	
11		State level Seminar in Pune for Probation Officers	Visits (8) to public libraries.	Legal Information Training Programme conducted for social workers working in CJS- duration 5 days for 20 participants	
12		Seminar in Thane for legal aid lawyers, prison officials and law college students and faculty	Visits (6) to NGOs/police to follow up the issue of cadre of social workers in police stations	Efforts to start legal guidance for under trial prisoners through Sr. Law College Students in Thane	
13		Interactive sessions with Session Judges-3	Follow up of finalizing draft rules of ITPA		
14		Enhancement workshop for legal aid lawyers-1	Follow up with State Advisory Committee on Immoral Trafficking on rescue and rehabilitation of women in commercially sexual exploitation		
15		Referred 24 cases to the Probation Officer			

Some Outcomes:

1. Sensitization of prison staff to issues of children of prisoners and circulars issued by the IG Prisons' Office
2. Attention to the health of children as indicated through prompt action by prison administration (Nanded). Probation officers are also showing interest.
3. District Probation Officer visits Yeravada Central Prison once a week for cases of children left outside.
4. Balwadi started in Nasik Prison. (Outside the women's barrack)
5. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights takes up the issue of rights of children of prisoners with all state governments.
6. The Jt. Sessions Judge (Thane) orders list of prisoners detained for more than three months in minor sections for action to be taken.
7. No cases pending U/s 122, 41D from Thane City area
8. The attention of the Dist Session Judge (Nanded & Thane Dist.) was drawn to issues of inadequate police escort and medical problem in prison.
9. College of Social work (SRT Univ.) has started field work in Nanded District Prison.
10. Data of NGOs working in prisons in the southern and western states of India was compiled and given to CHRI.
11. Assurance from Principal Secretary to call IDC meeting at the earliest.
12. Issues relating to field work placement and field action projects by colleges discussed at State level.
13. The court and probation department deputed officials for the seminars organised by Prayas.
14. Decisions taken by District Legal Services Authority:
 - A) To Conduct legal awareness sessions in Custodial Institutions.
 - B) To conduct sensitization of judiciary through visit to prisons.
15. Honorariums of legal aid lawyers to be increased.
16. Suggestions of Prayas taken into account with regard to draft rules of govt. shelter homes for women
17. Attention of judiciary to implementation of correctional laws
18. Prayas instrumental in finalization of draft rules for ITPA.
19. Direct interaction between crime/legally affected persons and the judiciary.
20. Increased dialogue with CJS authorities.
21. Circulars issued by DWCD, to improve function of role of probation officers in Maharashtra.
22. Thane Law College to initiate student project in Thane Central Prison.
23. NGO services initiated in Ratnagiri Prison.

