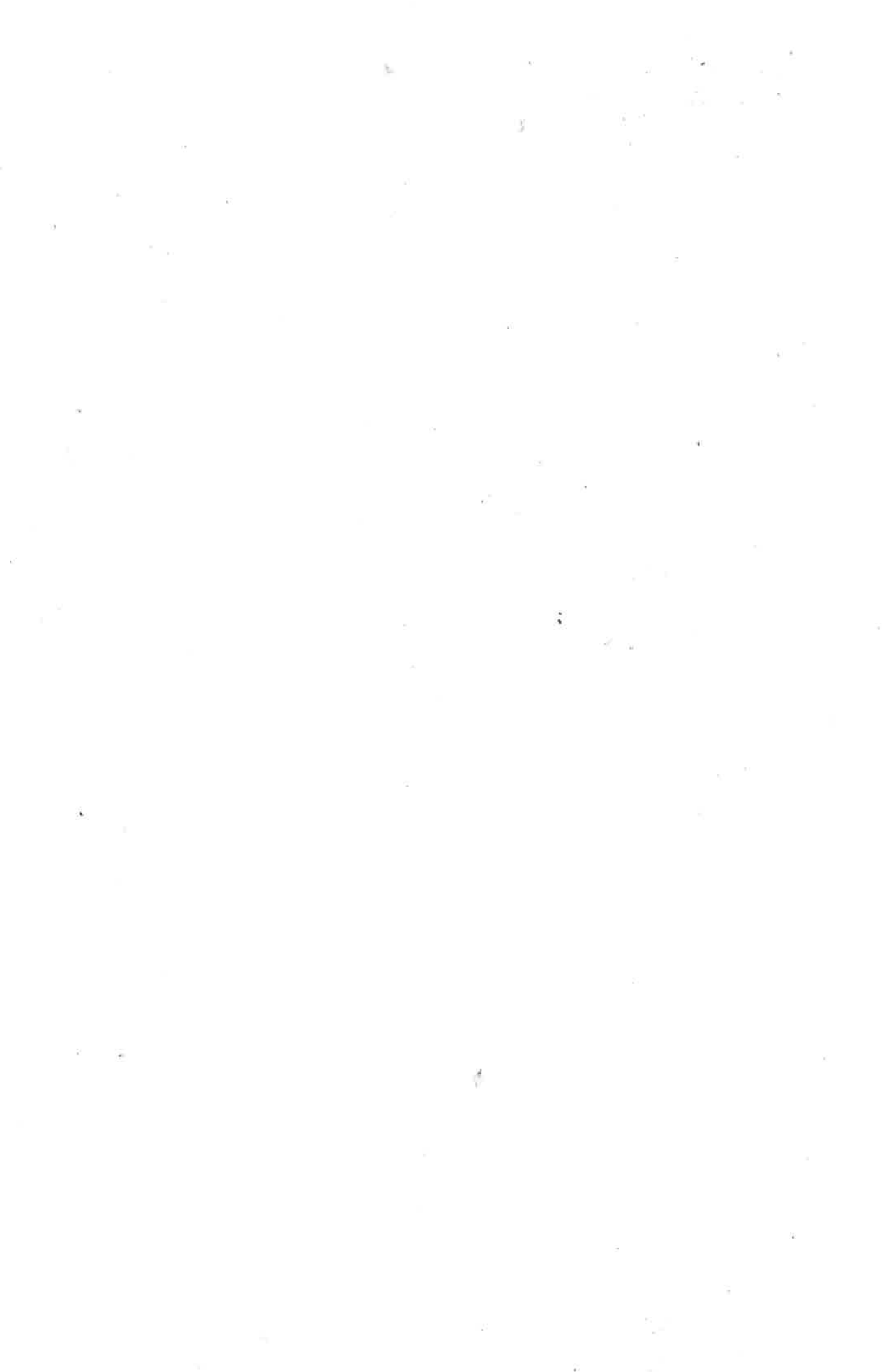


# BIENNIAL REPORT 2008-2010



**PRAYAS**

**SOCIAL WORK IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**



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 Rural Commune, Naringi, Raigad  
 Saathi, Mumbai  
 Saathi, Nepal  
 Sadguru Shopping Centre, Thane  
 Sahara, Mumbra  
 Salaam Balak Trust  
 Sampark, Lonavala  
 Samtol Foundation  
 Samvaad, Kolhapur  
 Sane Guruji Trust  
 Sankalp  
 Sankalp, U.P.  
 Saprem, Kalyan  
 Seva Sai Dham  
 Shanti Avedhana  
 Shanti Sudan  
 Shantivan, Panvel

Shelter Don Bosco  
Shraddha Rehab Centre  
Shramik Sahyog Sanstha  
Shramik Vidyapeeth Worli  
Sir J.J. Dharmashala  
Sncha  
Soubhagya Vastu Bhandar, Dadar  
Spark, Mumbai  
Special Cell for Women (TISS)  
St. Ignoto Church, Nerul, Navi Mumbai  
Sterlite Foundation  
Stree Mukti Sanghatana  
Sukh Shanti  
Support  
Swayam Siddha Old Age Home  
The Banyan, Chennai  
Udaan Trust  
Ugam Gramin Vikas Sanstha, Parbhani  
VARHAD, Amravati  
Vikalp India, Parbhani  
Vikas Sahayog Pratishthan  
Vision in Social Arena  
Way True Life  
Women India Trust  
World Vision  
Yusuf Mcherali Centre,  
YUVA Parivartan, Khar  
YUVA, Mumbai

#### HOSPITALS

J. J. Hospital (Psychiatric ward)  
Jyothis Terminal Centre  
K.F.M. Hospital (Psychiatric ward)  
Maa Hospital, Chembur  
Nair Hospital  
Poddar Hospital  
Ramabai Maternity Hospital, Chembur  
S.D.M. Navi Mumbai  
Sewree T. B. Hospital  
Shatabdi Hospital, Govandi  
Sion Hospital (Psychiatric ward)

#### GOVERNMENT BODIES

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

**ADVOCATES**

Adv. Adesh Patil  
 Adv. Aniruddha Babar  
 Adv. Anuradha Pardesi  
 Adv. B.M.Waghmare  
 Adv. Gajanan Chavan, Bar Association, Thane  
 Adv. Gajanan Lasture  
 Adv. Gajanan Lhasure  
 Adv. Kiran Keni  
 Adv. Kochiwad, Member, DLSA, Thane  
 Adv. Mahesh Pawar  
 Adv. Ms. Muhrakh Adenwalla  
 Adv. Ms. Monika Sakrani  
 Adv. P.M.Patil  
 Adv. Pradnya Keni  
 Adv. Sanghraj Gaikwad  
 Adv. Shalini Patil  
 Adv. Sunil Patankar  
 Adv. Surekha Palekar, Andheri Court

**INDIVIDUALS**

Dr. Anand Nadkarni  
 Dr. Mouleshri Vyas  
 Dr. Paradkar  
 Fr. Anthony J. Fernandes  
 Ms. Asha, Holy Family Hospital  
 Ms. Doris Rao  
 Ms. Karuna Parurekur  
 Ms. Marie Dias, Headmistress Atomic Energy (Central School)  
 Ms. Maya, Sneha, Mahim  
 Ms. Mrinalini Kher, Yuva Parivartan  
 Ms. Ranjana, Project Mainstream  
 Shri Anil Srivastava, New Delhi  
 Shri Arthur Prem, Cross Roads  
 Shri Devendra (Suubhagya Vastu Bhandar)  
 Shri Dhanpal Meshram  
 Shri Divakar Pundlik Warkad, Trainer Teacher, Yusuf Meher Ali Centre  
 Shri Jagannath Kamble, Pragatik Samuh, Chembur  
 Shri Jagdish Ghosalkar, Instructor, Lalji Mehrotra I.T. Institute, Jogeshwari  
 Shri Jagdish Khairaliya, Labour Union, Thane  
 Shri Jitendra Kurve, Executive, Yuva Parivartan  
 Shri Milind Babar, Lok Vikas Samajik Sanstha, Nasik  
 Shri Pravin Ghugale  
 Shri Rasheid J. Taleyarkhan  
 Shri Ravi Vaidya, President, VARHAD  
 Shri S.K. Ravi, New Delhi  
 Shri Sanju Das, Sahara  
 Shri Shashikant Bhalerao, Social Worker, Saathi  
 Shri Shyam Sonar, Social Worker, Avelu Abacus  
 Shri Sudarshan, I.S.S.  
 Shri Sudhir Chavan, Social Worker  
 Shri Suhas Bandekar, Annapurna Caterers  
 Shri Sunyakant Narvekar, Smile Foundation  
 Shri Vasant Sutar, MSW, KEM Hospital



Shri Vijay Jadhav  
 Shri Vikramjit Sinha  
 Shri Arumugam, Chairman, Youth Welfare Association, Dharavi  
 Shri.Sanjay Lokhande  
 Smt Lalabai Babu Iyer  
 Smt. Anagha Kubal, C.C. Shroff Self-help group  
 Smt. Kalpita Patil, Social Worker, Humsafar Trust  
 Smt. Swati Naik, Social Worker, Saathi

**BHARUCH UNIT****GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS****DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**

Ms Arti Kanwar, Former Collector, Bharuch  
 Shri Rupwant Singh, Collector, Bharuch  
 Shri Ajay Bhadu, Former District Development Officer, Bharuch  
 Shri Dharmesh Shah, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Ankaleshwar  
 Shri P.H.Chautaliya, Executive Magistrate, Ankaleshwar  
 Shri R.D. Jadav, Executive Magistrate, Ankaleshwar  
 Shri Mohanbhai Vasava, Dy. Mamlatdar, Bharuch

**JUDICIARY**

Shri A.S. Budhwani, Former District & Sessions Judge, Bharuch  
 Shri B.M.Modi, District & Sessions Judge, Bharuch  
 Shri I. C. Shah, District & Sessions Judge, Bharuch  
 Shri A.S. Saiyed, Former Addl. District Judge, Bharuch  
 Shri B.A.Gadhawi, Former Addl. District Judge, Bharuch  
 Shri C.D. Waghela, Former Senior Civil Judge, Bharuch  
 Ms. B.J. Patel, Former Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bharuch & Chairman, Bharuch Taluka Legal Services Authority  
 Shri R.S. Mehta, Former Addl. Senior Civil Judge, Bharuch  
 Shri M.M. Gamit, Former 3<sup>rd</sup> Addl. Senior Civil Judge, Bharuch & Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Board, Bharuch  
 Shri B.P. Pujara, Former 8<sup>th</sup> Addl. Senior Civil Judge, Bharuch  
 Shri B.D.Pithawa, Former 9<sup>th</sup> Addl. Senior Civil Judge, Bharuch  
 Shri P.M. Soni, Former 3<sup>rd</sup> Addl. Senior Civil Judge, Bharuch  
 Shri C.K. Chauhan, Former 8<sup>th</sup> Addl. Senior Judge & Secy, District Legal Services Authority, Bharuch  
 Shri N.P. Purani, Former Addl. District & Sessions Judge, Bharuch  
 Shri R.S. Mehta, Former Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bharuch  
 Shri D.S. Joshi, Former Addl. Senior Civil Judge, Bharuch  
 Ms. M.S. Pandey, Former 4<sup>th</sup> Addl. Senior Civil Judge, Bharuch  
 Shri A.K. Bhatt, Former 5<sup>th</sup> Addl. Senior Civil Judge, Bharuch

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Shri Rakesh Asthana, I.G. Police, Vadodara Range  
 Shri Siddharth Khatri, Former District Superintendent of Police, Bharuch  
 Shri Subhash G. Trivedi, Former District Superintendent of Police, Bharuch  
 Shri Raghvendra Vatsa, Former District Superintendent of Police, Bharuch  
 Shri Gautam Parmar, District Superintendent of Police, Bharuch  
 Shri Chauhan, Former Dy. Superintendent of Police, Bharuch  
 Shri D.D. Damor, Former Police Inspector, 'A' Div. Police Station, Bharuch  
 Shri M.S. Rana, Former Police Inspector, 'A' Div. Police Station, Bharuch  
 Shri K.N. Patel, Police Inspector, 'A' Div. Police Station, Bharuch

Shri C.K. Chauhan, Former Police Inspector, 'A' Div. Police Station, Bharuch  
 Shri R.M. Chauhan, Police Inspector, Walia Police Station  
 Shri J. I. Palad, Former Police Sub-Inspector, 'A' Div. Police Station, Bharuch  
 Shri J.P. Jadya, Former Police Sub-Inspector, 'A' Div. Police Station, Bharuch  
 Shri T.R. Bhatt, Former Police Sub-Inspector, 'A' Div. Police Station, Bharuch  
 Shri N.D. Parmar, Former Police Sub-Inspector, 'A' Div. Police Station, Bharuch  
 Shri H. J. Chaudhari, Police Sub-Inspector, 'A' Div. Police Station, Bharuch  
 Shri A.J. Baloch, Police Sub-Inspector, 'A' Div. Police Station, Bharuch  
 Shri J.M. Parmar, Police Sub-Inspector, 'A' Div. Police Station, Bharuch  
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 Shri I.G. Vasava, Police Sub-Inspector, 'A' Div. Police Station, Bharuch  
 Shri T.A. Chavda, Police Sub-Inspector, 'A' Div. Police Station, Bharuch  
 Shri D.R. Agrawat, Local Crime Branch, Police Inspector, Bharuch  
 Shri A.M. Parmar, Local Crime Branch, Police Inspector, Bharuch  
 Shri N.V. Katharia, Local Crime Branch, Police Inspector, Bharuch  
 Shri M.P. Bhojani, Local Crime Branch, Police Inspector, Bharuch  
 Ms. Shavaringaben Ramabhai, In-charge, Mahila Police Station, Bharuch  
 Shri K.V. Davera, Resident Sub-Inspector, J.I.O., Bharuch  
 Shri S.M. Mistry, P. A. to District Superintendent of Police, Bharuch  
 Staff of 'A' Div. Police Station, Bharuch  
 Staff of Mahila Police Station, Bharuch

#### **PRISON DEPARTMENT**

Shri O.P. Mathur, Former Addl. I.G. Police and I.G. Prisons  
 Shri P.C. Thakur, Addl. I.G. Police and I.G. Prisons  
 Shri H.T. Patil, Former Superintendent, Bharuch Sub-Jail  
 Shri R.D. Shrinani, Superintendent, Bharuch Sub-Jail  
 Shri R.J. Prajapati, Former Jailor, Bharuch Sub-Jail  
 Staff of Bharuch Sub-Jail

#### **CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE, BHARUCH**

Shri Rajendrabhai Sutaria, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Bharuch

#### **DEPARTMENT OF SAMAJ SURAKSHA AND SAMAJ KALYAN**

Shri Bharatbhai Thakkar, Former Superintendent, Observation Home, Bharuch  
 Shri Bhupesh Mistry, In-charge Superintendent, Observation Home, Bharuch  
 Shri R.N. Trivedi, Samaj Suraksha Adhikari, Bharuch  
 Ms. Renukaben Vasava, In-charge Superintendent, Juvenile Home for Girls, Bharuch  
 Ms. Smitaben Patel, Language teacher, Juvenile Home for Girls, Bharuch  
 Ms. Chayaben Bhatia, In-charge Superintendent, Nari Saurakshan Kendra, Bharuch  
 Shri A.G. Mansoori, Zilla Samaj Kalyan Adhikari, Bharuch

#### **DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTER**

Shri M.J. Chavda, General Manager, District Industries Center, Bharuch  
 Shri M.S. Patel, Project Manager, District Industries Center, Bharuch

#### **DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

Shri N.A. Mansoori, Superintendent, District Legal Services Authority, Bharuch  
 Ms. Khyati Vaishnav, Former Taluka Superintendent, District Legal Services Authority, Bharuch

**BHARUCH NAGARPALIKA**

Ms. Kalpanaben Upadhyay, Project Manager, Urban Basic Services for Poor

**DISTRICT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

Shri V.N. Rajgaur, Zilla Shikshan Adhikari, Bharuch

Ms. Sharifaben, In-charge, Nirantar Shikshan Adhikari, Bharuch

Shri Yusufbhai I.Tai, In-charge Superintendent, District Education Department, Bharuch

**OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

Shri Rameshbhai Vasava, Adivasi Kanya Chhatralaya, Walia

**ADVOCATES**

Adv. Ms. Amisha Mody

Adv. Ms. Heena Desai

Adv. Ms. Nima Parmar

Adv. Ms. Pragyaben Vyas

Adv. Ms. Shrunji Desai

Adv. Shri Bharat A. Surti

Adv. Shri Kaushik Patel

Adv. Shri M.N. Mansoori

Adv. Shri Prakash Beranwala

Adv. Shri Prakash Mody

Adv. Shri Rajagopal

Adv. Shri Rohit Patel

Adv. Shri S.I. Daula

Adv. Shri Y.H. Upadhyay

**FIELD SUPPORT**

**Support for Training**

Ankur Auto-garage, Bharuch

Beauty Myth Beauty Parlor, Bharuch

C-Dac Computer Center, Bharuch

Gopi Creation, Bharuch

I.T.I. Ankaleshwar

Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Bharuch

Krishna Motor Driving Training Center, Bharuch

Mahila Samarthan Shakti Trust, Bharuch

Maruti Driving School, Bharuch

Ms. Alkaben Patel

Ms. Hemangiben Shah

Ms. Mohiniben Mody

Ms. Neekshaben Panchal

Ms. Swatiben Vaidya

Patarawala Driving School, Ankaleshwar

Patarawala Driving School, Bharuch

Prathan, Bharuch

Ruchi Creation, Bharuch

Sagar Tailoring Class, Bharuch

Saurashtra Auto-garage, Ankaleshwar

Shah Institute Mobile Training Center, Bharuch

Square Computers, Bharuch

Umeed, Project of Nagarpalika, Bharuch  
 Vidyadeep Community Center, Bharuch  
 Vivekanand Gramin Technical Kendra, Sewa Rural, Gumandev, Jhagadia

#### NGO SUPPORT

Aneez, Surat  
 Centre for Social Justice, Bharuch  
 Chetna Vysan Mukti Kendra, Bharuch  
 Foram, Bharuch  
 Gharda Foundation, Ankaleshwar  
 Jeevandeep, Bharuch  
 Kalrav, Bharuch  
 Lions Club of Bharuch  
 Mahila Jagruti Kendra, Bharuch  
 Rotary Club, Bharuch  
 Sahiyar, Vadodara  
 Sewa Rural, Bharuch  
 Shramjivi Mahila Kalyan Kendra, Surat  
 Stree Niketan, Bharuch  
 Vadilo nu Ghar, Bharuch

#### MEDICAL SUPPORT

Civil Hospital, Bharuch  
 Divya Jivan Sangh, Bharuch  
 Dr. Rajendrasingh Gohil, Bharuch  
 Dr. Samir Desai, Surat  
 Govardhan Hospital, Bharuch  
 Medical Clinic, Jalaram Trust, Bharuch  
 Patel Welfare Hospital, Bharuch  
 Sewa Rural, Bharuch  
 Sewa Yagna Samiti, Bharuch  
 Sewashram Hospital, Bharuch

#### INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

Shri Abhijeet Sur  
 Shri Ajay Ekka  
 Amit Book Center, Bharuch  
 Dr. Manishaben Shukla  
 Dr. Suketu Dave  
 Kutch Stationery, Bharuch  
 Lucky Stores, Bharuch  
 Ms. Meenalben Dave  
 Patwa Embroidery Store, Bharuch  
 Preetam Kala Vrund, Jadeshwar  
 Rishikesh Prasad Swaminarayan School, Bharuch

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES**

Amity School, Bharuch  
Deevan Dhanjishah High School, Jhagadia  
Department of Social Work, Veer Narmad University, Surat  
Fine Arts College, Bharuch  
I.T.I., Bharuch  
J.P.College of Arts, Bharuch  
Kaushalya Vardhan Kendra, Jadeshwar, Bharuch  
Law College, Bharuch  
M.K. College of Commerce, Bharuch  
Narayan Vidyalaya, Bharuch  
Navjivan High School, Bharuch  
Principal, Rang - Navchetan High School, Walia  
Saraswati College of Social Work, Bharuch  
Shabri Vidyalaya, Bharuch  
St. Xaviers High School, Jhagadia  
Swami Vivekanand Post Graduate College of Social Work, Bhavnagar

## INTRODUCTION

This reporting period was marked by the terrorist attack in Mumbai on 26th November 2008. Two senior police officers, Shri Hemant Karkare, Chief of the Anti-Terrorist Squad and Shri Shashikant Shinde, Senior Inspector, C.S.T. Railway Police Station, who lost their lives during this attack, had provided invaluable support to *Prayas* during the last many years. *Prayas* staff and beneficiaries remain indebted to their unstinting co-operation and guidance, as to those who have contributed to security and protection of life and property during this incident and on other occasions.

In the context of rising crimes of serious nature, questions are often raised about why one should support the cause of rehabilitation of criminals. The general tendency is to club all persons in crime into a homogenous category. *Prayas* reiterates its objective to work towards protecting the fundamental rights and directive principles laid down by the Indian Constitution including equal opportunities; protection in respect of conviction of offenses; protection of life and liberty; protection against arrest and detention; upholding the right against exploitation; principles of justice and free legal aid; right to work and education, just and humane conditions of work, nutrition and health; and facilitating citizen's involvement in performing fundamental duties. Incarcerated and institutionalized or socially excluded individuals and groups are entitled to these, and have a duty to uphold the same. A person susceptible to criminogenic behavior being rehabilitated implies prevention of yet another crime. As far as possible, addressing issues of persons vulnerable to negative support is aimed at separation from anti-social activities. Prevention also brings with it an opportunity to channelize youth energy constructively.

*Prayas* continued its work as in the earlier reporting periods with crime affected persons and their families modified its intervention where necessary and initiated exploration and experimentation in areas where a new direction was visible.

As far as work within protective and penal custodial institutions is concerned, *Prayas* continued its regular intervention with inmates focusing on their legal processing/rights and rehabilitation. It was increasingly felt that *Prayas* needed to address the absence of basic psycho-social and rehabilitative services for custodialised populations and following their release from custody. Attempts were made to partner with the probation services within custody and support the Probation Department by furthering the rehabilitation process post custody. As a result of these efforts, the Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD) has issued a circular instructing all District Women & Child Development Officers to nominate one Probation Officer in each district to act as a Prison Welfare Officer, whose job will be to visit the prison at least once a week, attend to problems faced by women prisoners and their children and arrange for visits between children of prisoners living in the community or in institutions and their parents in prison.

At field level, intervention within the prison system was reviewed, after which efforts were directed towards creating a Forum for NGOs visiting prisons, to collectively address welfare and rehabilitation needs of prisoners. While networking forms an important part of all field initiatives, its significance while working in prison was further evident given the presence of criminalising elements and the possibility of inmates further being influenced by the same. In order to counter negative influences within the system, a consolidated effort through collective intervention of various NGOs was called for. This plan was implemented within the Women's Barrack of Byculla District Prison on a pilot basis.

On the front of the intervention at police stations, two on-going initiatives, namely the longer standing service at the CST Railway Police Station and the much shorter term duration at the Shivaji Nagar Police Station have been withdrawn. Over the years, *Prayas* has recurrently and sufficiently demonstrated the need for police station based social work. From its experience, it has presented the range of interventions possible and necessary. *Prayas* has now decided to focus on the propagation of the need for a social worker at every police station. Efforts are being made to lobby with the State government to examine the possibility of implementing the recommendations of the Police-TISS Committee on Need for Trained Social Workers in Criminal Justice, which had given its report to the Director General of Police (DGP), Maharashtra (in 1993), recommending the creation of a cadre of trained social workers in the criminal justice system. An article appeared on this issue in the DNA newspaper whereby the Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, GoM, was quoted saying that the government is open to such a proposal.

The *Prayas* rehabilitation centers have also been evolving based on changing needs. While the basic programme at the Bjaruch Unit has remained the same, the Mumbai centres have changed in location (the Women's

Development Centre), and in establishing a more proactive link with the NGO sector (Youth Development Centre). The Women's Development Centre (WDC) has shifted from its Mumbai Central location to the Government Women's Institution Campus in Chembur (Female Beggars' Home Complex), thus broadening its base to include institutionalized women living in a range of custodial institutions. The Youth Development Centre (YDC) has changed its centre-based and activity-oriented approach to an exposure orientation whereby trainees are sent for visits to NGOs and basic service centres such as hospitals, rationing office, open school centres, etc.

To take field issues forward, various workshops, seminars and interactive sessions with the Departments concerned were organised from time to time. These facilitated dialogue around field realities and discussions about effecting changes in the current situation. The impact of these efforts became visible on the ground. For example, there has been an increasingly strengthened relationship with the judiciary and the probation wing of the Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD) with a focus on legal rights and rehabilitation. A proposal has been mooted by the Department of Law & Judiciary to increase the honorarium paid to legal aid lawyers and duty counsels visiting custodial institutions. Similarly, the DWCD has agreed in principle, to start anganwadis under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) for children living in prisons with their mothers. All these policy decisions have to be pursued to their logical conclusion, so that the client population benefits from this process of mainstreaming.

At the system level, the need for initiating libraries within prisons in Maharashtra was an area extensively invested in. As a result of these efforts, the Director, State Libraries has issued a circular to all District Librarians to extend their library facilities to the nearest prison in their district. Other issues included exploring outreach of health programmes for institutionalized populations with the Directorate of Health Services; strengthening the functioning of District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committees on Prisoners by visiting and meetings members of the Sub-Committees in various districts of the State; extending legal services to vulnerable persons, and reinforcing the need for a welfare scheme and programmes for released/discharged youth and women from institutions with the Departments concerned.

*Prayas* started a new intervention called the Employment Unit for women living in shelter homes or being released from custody. The objective of this Unit is to explore employment options for women in custody. These services can be availed of by *Prayas* trainees as well as the trainees from different custodial institutions such as Kasturba Mahila Vastigruha, Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha, Females Beggars' Home and other shelter homes such as Sukh Shanti, Bapu Ghar, etc. The programme for training and income generation at the government women's institutions in Mumbai received support from the Department of Women & Child Development, thereby resulting in them issuing a circular wherein *Prayas* was allotted space within the institutional premises for conducting activities. Meanwhile, there were requests from staff of these institutions and other shelter homes for women, to extend the NGO Placement Programme to their beneficiaries.

In the year 2009-10, new initiatives in *Prayas* included:

- Field intervention in the Observation Home, Umerkhadi through work with juveniles in conflict with the law.
- Dialogue with the Directorate of Health Services to extend health awareness programmes inside custody.
- Facilitating creation of Forums for NGOs working in prisons and in the criminal justice.
- Developing a rehabilitation programme for women released from institutions.
- Developing the role of social workers in courts.

A need was identified to work with juveniles in conflict with the law, during the course of visits to the Juvenile Justice Board and Observation Home, Umerkhadi. Hence, a decision was made to extend the rehabilitation services to juveniles in the age group of 16 to 18 years, towards prevention from further drift into negative situations. While cases are being identified and referred by the institution staff and planning for and post-institutional work is on, written permission for the same is in the process of being obtained.

Dialogue with Directorate of Health Services was maintained to link the services in particular that of health education and awareness to custodial and institutional settings in Mumbai and Thane. The process continues and is

fraught with procedural uncertainties.

In the district prisons of Mumbai and Thane, where intervention was extended to women prisoners, the method of work was altered with work undertaken in co-ordination with other NGOs visiting prisons and thereby initiating the formation of a Forum of these NGOs.

The Mentoring Unit directed efforts at developing a Forum for NGOs working in the field of criminal justice, to create a platform for facilitating policy changes within the system. The Forum is named *Forum for Socio-Legal and Rehabilitation Initiatives*. Besides other activities, the Forum would start a newsletter called *Dialogues in Criminal Justice and Rehabilitation*.

In continuation with our past efforts to highlight the need for rehabilitation services following discharge/release from institutions, an exercise was initiated to explore existing rehabilitation measures. The DWCD, CoM, agreed to the idea of jointly organising a seminar for the Superintendents of government run institutions, to discuss and find solutions to the issue. This is expected to take place during the next reporting period.

Efforts towards highlighting the need for social work intervention in courts resulted in permission to *Prayas* social workers to set up base in the offices of Mumbai & Thane District Legal Aid Services Authorities, and directions to all judicial officers of Thane and Mumbai districts to consider cases of under trial prisoners referred by *Prayas* for release on bail or personal bond and for arranging legal aid, and for release on probation. The circular also requests the judiciary to look into issues highlighted by *Prayas* regarding children of prisoners and to refer cases of victims of trafficking to *Prayas* for their rehabilitation.

Interventions towards strengthening the structure, services and advocating the need for legal and developmental services for persons being processed by the criminal justice system, continued by bringing issues for deliberation before the State and District Inter Departmental Committees (IDC), State and District Committees on Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956, meetings between prison and library Departments, and the Guidance & Monitoring Committee for Women's Institutions in Mumbai.

A significant development was a circular issued through the State Inter Departmental Committee with regard to the formation of District Inter Departmental Sub-Committees in all the districts of the state. A GR was passed by the Home Department, providing for membership of one NGO each in the District IDC Sub-Committees. The suggestion by *Prayas* to increase the grant from Rs. 5000/- to Rs.25,000/- as Grant-in-Aid to Released Prisoners is under the consideration of the government and it is proposed to extend this scheme to persons released from all custodial institutions for women, children and Beggars' Homes. To highlight the role of the District Inter Departmental Sub-Committees on Prisoners, meetings with the prison Superintendents and District Judges in different districts were organised by *Prayas*, resulting in the judiciary taking steps to activate this Forum. District Inter Departmental Sub-Committee meetings are now being held in various districts to address field level issues and problems faced by prisoners.

A one day Workshop for officials from the State Libraries Department, prison staff and NGOs was organised by *Prayas* at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). The idea of facilitating library services within prisons in Maharashtra was presented to the personnel of prisons and district libraries. The suggestions arrived at the seminar are being followed upon.

Seminars and awareness programmes were conducted for Probation Officers, judicial officers, and legal aid lawyers on juvenile justice, effective implementation of Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, and effective implementation of the legal aid scheme. Awareness programmes for the public covered issues like rights of workers, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and prevention of crime.

In Mumbai and Thane, rehabilitation services were extended to eight institutions, namely Mumbai Central



Prison, Byculla District Prison, Thane Central Prison, Kalyan District Prison, Observation Home, Umerkhadi, Female Beggars Home, Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha, and Kasturba Mahila Vasatigruha. In prison, services included counseling, information, guidance, family support, income generation activities, plan for post release/discharge, referral of cases to other members of the NGO Forum and providing legal aid and guidance. In women's institutions, services comprised of information and exposure to the NGO and welfare sector, information sessions on a range of issues, income generation activities, family counseling and support, and exposure to the NGO Placement Programme.

In Bharuch, services were extended to three settings including the male and female barracks of Bharuch Sub-Jail, Bharuch 'A' Division Police station and the police lock-up for women and men. The I.C. (Prisons) has stated the need for replicating social work intervention in the other prisons in the state. Services in the Sub-Jail, police station and lock-up included legal information, guidance and aid; family support and counseling; organising sessions on a range of issues; and vocational guidance and training. Work with families of prisoners during this period included training of women family members of convicts.

The project aimed at prevention of crime at Dharavi focused on legal awareness and aid, and sensitization programmes for community youth. As a result of the social worker's presence in this area, the police have shown receptivity towards cases referred by the social worker, victims of crime have been supported and cases of youth vulnerable to deviance have been referred to Prayas' rehabilitation programme.

Rehabilitation services included arrangement of shelter, exposure to the NGO and welfare sector, family support, apprenticeship of clients in the NGO sector (with stipend), facilitating access to welfare schemes, legal advice and follow-up, education and vocational training, facilitating clients to obtain citizenship documents and facilitating self-employment. In Mumbai, a contact-cum-development centre for male youth called the Youth Development Centre is located in a municipal school at Byculla, while the income generation centre for women in government institutions serves as a contact centre for women (at the Female Beggars' Home Complex, Chembur). In Bharuch, a centre for women namely the Women's Development Centre addresses rehabilitation issues.

Two orientations are being explored as far as rehabilitation is concerned - assistance and support to clients through welfare schemes of the government and services provided by the voluntary sector. Follow-up on schemes continued over the period and procedures and delays therein are now visible. The experience indicated limitations, but also some possibilities for increasing access to schemes. This effort is also expected to serve as an exercise for obtaining factual information to further dialogue with the departments concerned. The present focus is on obtaining documentation required for application for the schemes. It is clear that government schemes cannot address emergency situations. Crisis and emergency situations continue to be addressed through the voluntary sector.

Towards facilitating initiatives in the field of criminal justice administration, six Fellowships were granted to individuals initiating work in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Work was initiated by these Fellows with women and male youth under trial prisoners, families of incarcerated individuals, victims of homicide, juveniles in conflict with the law, children of prisoners and persons in need of legal aid services.

Colleges of social work and law were encouraged to place their students for fieldwork in the criminal justice with the long-term goal of either starting full-time projects or for gaining a basic understanding of the situation in their respective district or state.

The income generated through the Production Unit of Prayas was utilized for the salary of one karigar (worker) and client expenses.

As part of staff welfare, a Contributory Provident Fund scheme was initiated for Prayas staff. Sponsorship for pursuing education was also provided to some staff. Many staff members have been pursuing higher education through degree, diploma and certificate courses. Four staff members enrolled for the MSW programme at the Maharashtra Tilak Vidyapeeth, Pune.

## WORK IN PRISON

During the reporting period, work with under trial prisoners continued in the Youth Sections of Mumbai Central Prison, Thane Central Prison and Bharuch Sub-Jail, and the Women Sections of Byculla District Prison, Kalyan District Prison and Bharuch Sub-Jail. Three new workers were appointed for the Male Youth Sections of Mumbai, Thane and Bharuch prisons. With the appointment of these workers, the work with male youth prisoners received a renewed focus. They have been working under the guidance of our experienced team based in Mumbai, Thane and Bharuch. *Prayas* also organised regular sessions for these workers on law, criminal justice and legal aid systems and social work intervention in criminal justice, to strengthen their theoretical base.

### Mumbai Central Prison

In the Male Youth Barrack of Mumbai Central Prison, most prisoners approaching the social worker were found to be accused under section 122, 292, 324, 379, 380, 381 and 420 IPC. These sections pertain to arrest under suspicion, robbery, assault, theft, housebreaking, theft in the employer's place and cheating.

Visits to prison were made with the following objectives:

- Rapport building and communication with jail staff. Weekly meetings were held with the barrack jailor to discuss problems faced by prisoners & cases requiring special attention;
- Counseling and the providing of information about legal aid and *Prayas's* rehabilitation programme;
- Group and individual discussions on youth prisoners' family and socio-economic situation;
- Conducting recreational activities towards helping deal with stress; and
- Follow-up of cases referred from other barracks in prison.

Home visits to families were conducted to establish communication between prisoners and their families, inform the family about services provided by *Prayas*, provide the family with legal information and support; gather information about the prisoner in terms of their age and proof of the same if required, the person's social status in the area and whether previous crime/deviant behaviour was evident in the neighbourhood. Home visits were also made to enquire into the socio-economic condition of the family and provide necessary support.

Court visits were made to follow-up cases with lawyers and enquire about legal procedures, to meet with the judge and judicial clerk (to orient them about the *Prayas* rehabilitation programme and collect legal data about the prisoner). Cases in need of legal aid were referred to the India Centre for Human Rights and Law (ICHRL) and lawyers from the *Prayas* panel. Follow-up on legal matters were maintained with ICHRL and the other lawyers. Police station visits were made to gather information about the client, inform the police about *Prayas's* activities to explore a rehabilitation plan for the client in consultation with the police, and to inform the police about *Prayas's* intervention with the client to avoid legal action on mere suspicion.

Mmors lodged in prison were identified by the *Prayas* worker and referred to the Juvenile Justice Board. Workers then followed up these cases at the Observation Home. Parents were met and informed about the respective legal procedures involved with regard to the Juvenile Justice Board and the assistance available.

Visits to NGOs such as the Don Bosco Shelter, Wadala and Don Bosco Boys Home, Borivali were made towards follow-up of prison clients who were earlier residing on the streets and were in touch with these agencies; and to gather information and ascertain the age of these youths lodged in prison. A dialogue was initiated with the Coordinator, Don Bosco Shelter to ensure that such cases in prison were referred to *Prayas* for necessary guidance. Local NGOs willing to extend their services to the client group have been explored.

In 2009-10, entry into the Mumbai Central Prison was restricted for a few months due to the trial proceedings of the

26/11 blasts case. The thrust of intervention in this year continued to be:

- A) Working on individual cases
- b) Orientation to new prison staff about the *Prayas* rehabilitation programme
- c) Groups sessions with inmates
- d) Post-release follow-up of cases

### **Byculla District Prison**

Regular intervention continued in the Mumbai Central Prison, Thane Central Prison, Byculla District Prison and Kalyan District Prison.

A decision was taken to alter the method of intervention in prisons, on a pilot basis in one prison initially, to facilitate co-ordination between NGOs visiting prison, for sustained and effective intervention. Co-ordination with other NGOs visiting prison was aimed at creating a Forum for enabling effective partnerships between NGOs, towards addressing the needs of prisoners.

This idea was shared at a meeting organized by *Prayas* in collaboration with the D I G, Prisons, Southern Region and the District Women and Child Development Officer of Mumbai on October 20, 2008. Following a positive response from the prison authorities and NGOs visiting the prison, it was decided to start implementation at the Byculla District Prison.

The Superintendent, Byculla Prison, agreed to take the initiative in implementing this plan. A meeting was called in his office on March 7, 2009. Representatives from ten NGOs attended this meeting to share the services provided by them respectively, and thereby work out a method for co-ordination and service delivery. *Prayas* played a co-ordinating role between the NGOs and the prison staff, to facilitate implementation of this idea.

In the year 2009-10, *Prayas* concentrated its efforts towards establishment of the proposed NGO Forum in an effort to coordinate with other NGOs towards greater outreach. This initiative was supported by the NGOs, the Probation wing of the Department of Women & Child Development and the prison administration. Meetings were to be held every month, but a total of six meetings took place during the year. The responsibility for coordinating this activity was shared by the NGOs. The outcome of the NGO Forum initiative was:

- a) NGOs worked jointly on cases
- b) Joint discussions took place between NGOs and the prison administration
- c) NGOs became increasingly aware about the requirements of the client group as understood and shared by other organizations. This resulted in some NGOs agreeing to expand their services to meet with these requirements.

### **Work with Women Prisoners**

In mid 2008-09, *Prayas* withdrew from direct intervention on a case by case basis, to implement the above mentioned plan of working in co-ordination with other NGOs and extending outreach to women prisoners. In attempting to reach out to women without support and those vulnerable to negative influences within and outside prison, individual and group counselling sessions were conducted to help women deal with tension, fear, loneliness, emotions attached to commission of an offence, conflicts with other prisoners, and stress that result from being in confinement.

In custody, socio-legal counselling and information forms an important part of service delivery, particularly in

respect to legal procedures such as court dates, access to medical services inside custody and procedures followed within the criminal justice system. Issues such as child care and development, family problems, factors contributing to problem behaviour situations and incarceration, importance of introducing lifestyle changes and emotions associated with commission of an offence are discussed. For many, having to deal with anxiety, loneliness, and the challenges of custodialization is a source of stress.

Individual and group counseling sessions were conducted to help deal with the prison environment. With the prospect of insecure support following release, information was provided in regard to opportunities available within the legal sector, in terms of shelter, training, child support, legal aid, children's future, property matters and relation with family. These sessions have the effect of creating space and opportunity for further social work intervention, encouraging the person to enroll into the *Prayas* rehabilitation programme and plan the post-release phase.

Home visits were conducted by social workers, to enquire about child welfare, family's social and economic status, their support and response to the prisoner, to inform the family about legal procedures and need for legal assistance and most importantly, explore the possibility of renewing relationships between the family and the prisoner. Where it appeared that the family was in need of assistance, necessary support was provided by way of emergency financial assistance, arrangements for care of neglected children through identification of family members or referral to children's institutions and linking the family with local agencies that could provide assistance.

Visits to police station were conducted to gather legal information about the prisoner, enquire into circumstances of the offence and status of their personal property following their arrest. These services have been aimed at facilitating involvement of persons with weak support in planning post-release programmes conducted by *Prayas* or other NGOs, particularly in the case of women, where it is apparent that she is without support and vulnerable to illegal options.

During this period, attempts were made to identify cases of women prisoners without family support and refer them to shelter homes within Mumbai city or in their home States. Where it appears that the family was willing to support the woman, necessary support was provided to the family to take responsibility. Discussions were held with existing shelter homes in Mumbai to accept cases of women released from prison for provision of emergency shelter. This was to ensure that every woman released from prison and in need of shelter received the required support, even if *Prayas* social workers were not available at the time of their release from prison. While some agencies have shown willingness in this direction, there are others who were reluctant owing to either overload or unwillingness to make an unconditional commitment to admit cases.

In 2009-10, the social worker began visiting the Byculla District Prison once a week. She was referred cases by the prison staff and other NGOs. She also consciously and actively referred cases to other NGOs through the newly formed NGO Forum thus involving and eliciting partnership, and made efforts to strengthen the referral system by following up with other NGOs, keeping in touch with the jailors and preparing a form to facilitate referral. All this was done in an effort to ensure that vulnerable and disadvantaged women inmates were linked to welfare services and that the NGOs networked with each other actively towards the objective of rehabilitation.

*Prayas* focused on cases of:

- a) Mothers who needed help for their minor children who had got separated from them due to the arrest
- b) Women who were released and were without shelter
- c) Women who needed services provided by other NGOs but were not linked to them
- d) Women needing legal assistance.

In an effort to reach out to the maximum number of inmates, *Prayas* also conducted awareness programmes for inmates on topics such as health and shelter.

## Thane Central Prison

In 2008-09, 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 providing services to persons approaching the Thane District and Sessions Court. The social worker based in the Male Youth Section of Kalyan District Prison shifted his base to the Thane District and Sessions Court and made efforts to acquire permission and space in the court premises. This shift was envisaged towards increasing the outreach of *Prayas* towards larger sections that are vulnerable to getting criminalized through criminal justice processing. He met the court and judicial officers to orient them about the work of *Prayas* and was given space to be based at the office of the Thane District Legal Services Authority.

*Prayas* workers from Thane and Kalyan prisons refer cases for legal aid to this worker, who then liaises with the District Legal Services Authority towards arranging legal aid and guidance. He has also been having meetings with judges and Probation Officers to increase referral of cases under the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958. Regular meetings have been held with the magistrate attached to the Juvenile Justice Board under the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000 to sensitize him to refer cases of juveniles in conflict with law to *Prayas* for rehabilitation.

In Thane Central Prison, most cases approaching *Prayas* for assistance were found to be accused under Sections 379, 380, 381, 324, 326, 394, 395, 420, and 122 IPC (theft, assault, robbery, cheating and arrest on suspicion). A dialogue was initiated with the literacy teacher and Superintendent of the Thane Central Prison, to explore the idea of conducting health awareness programmes, (e.g. on HIV/AIDS, ill effects of tobacco, on cancer, etc.) in prison.

Work on cases within the prison has pointed out that there is a shortage of police escorts to accompany under trials to court. This has been a long standing problem that *Prayas* has been raising at various levels. The situation had improved during the past several years, but the problem seems to have resurfaced now. *Prayas* workers have also been regularly identifying cases of juveniles being arrested and housed in prisons, and bringing them to the notice of the judiciary. Several cases of juveniles have been transferred from prison to the Observation Homes through Juvenile Justice Boards under the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000, as a result of these efforts.

In 2009-10, one social worker was based at Thane Central Prison and another in the Thane District Court. The two workers worked in coordination with each other.

The prison based social worker took up cases with a prime focus on:

- a) First time offenders
- b) Inmates from socio-economically weaker sections
- c) Cases of minors being processed by the adult criminal justice system

The Court social worker took up cases of:

- a) Persons in the vicinity of the Thane District Court who approached *Prayas*
- b) Family matters coming to the District Legal Services Authority
- c) Cases referred by police stations in the Thane district

Case intervention comprised individual and family counseling, legal guidance and information, facilitating the transfer of cases to Juvenile Justice Board, assisting clients with case related information from courts, attending court dates, following up on legal matters with lawyers, referring cases to District Legal Services Authority, home visits to enable contact with families, police station visits, recovery of property from the police station, post-release follow-up, dialogue with police towards preventing police harassment in the case of first-time offenders and connecting persons with the *Prayas* rehabilitation programme.

Other forms of intervention comprised:

- A) Arranging a Legal Guidance Workshop in the Thane District Prison.
- b) Presentation before the police on *Prayas* work and correctional laws.
- c) Presentation on Police Manual and procedures for police staff at the request of the police.
- d) Prison police coordination towards enhancing regular production on court dates (around 263 inmates who were not being produced on court dates were identified by the *Prayas* staff).
- e) A study on the profile of cases in the Thane district revealed:
  - There are few cases of youth from outside the district.
  - Majority of the cases are from local areas.
  - Number of minors in crime is low.
  - Number of first-time offenders is high.

### Kalyan District Prison

Intervention at the Women's Section of Kalyan District Prison was mainly focused on short-term training programmes and activities. The activity teacher based in the prison identified cases that required help or support after release and these cases were then referred to the *Prayas* Rehabilitation Unit. The teacher taught the women prisoners skills such as tailoring, hand embroidery, handierafits, knitting, flower-making, greeting card making, jewellery case making, cloth painting, crochet work, etc. On an average, 4-5 women per activity would be attending. The purpose of this activity was two-fold - vocational and/or therapeutic. A number of women in the Kalyan District Prison were arrested in violent offences such as murder of their husbands, or under 498(A) IPC and were from rural/tribal background. It has been observed that long periods of stay in the prison have a negative impact on the mental health. In this context, activities can play a very important role in countering depression and related mental health problems. Keeping this factor in mind, health awareness sessions were also arranged in coordination with the Kalyan and Dombivali Municipal Corporation.

*Prayas* focused its intervention in prison on:

- 1) Minor children of women prisoners who had been separated from their mothers following their arrest
- 2) Arranging legal aid through the Thane District Legal Services Authority
- 3) Support to women prisoners who approached *Prayas* following their release.
- 4) Follow-up of the women released from prison in regard to the following:
  - Arranging vocational training;
  - Working with families to enlist their support in the rehabilitation process;
  - Providing emergency financial assistance after release;
  - Referral to the *Prayas* NGO Placement Programme;
  - Exploring government schemes for starting small business enterprises, housing (under the *Gharukal* scheme) and sponsorship of children's education (under the *Bal Sangopan Yojana*);
  - Arranging for sponsorship of house rent through donors;
  - Networking with agencies to support clients with respect to housing, child care and education;

- Preventing re-arrest of women immediately after their release, by meeting the police to discuss the rehabilitation plan and to obtain their support in the plan

### Challenges

- Where women are still in touch with their past negative associations, the chances of their return to crime are high. They may resist enrolling in the *Prayas* rehabilitation programme, which would distance them from their old acquaintances. There is a need to review the intervention with women who have a deeper involvement in crime.
- Women returning to families have sometimes lost claim to property or are without safe shelter. One concern was that of women without citizenship documents. This issue was discussed with an NGO, Habitat for Humanity. They were willing to explore the possibility of provision of loans for constructing houses if the person had land. Most women approaching *Prayas* for assistance do not own land. Habitat for Humanity was willing to explore other options such as paying for the deposit amount and requested that a proposal be submitted along with a plan for loan recovery. *Prayas* does not have expertise in the area of loan recovery and hence, this initiative has not been taken forward so far.
- Towards improving services for clients living outside Mumbai, local agencies need to be contacted and motivated to follow-up these cases.

### Mumbai Central Prison

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
<b>Total Outreach</b>		126	199
<b>Visits Conducted</b>	Home Visits	75	37
	Visits to Courts	31	26
	Visits to Police Station	11	11
	Visits to NGOs	09	30
	Visits to Prison	41	92
	Visits to O.II./JJB	02	05
	Follow-up Visit	12	29
<b>Case Referrals</b>	Referral for Legal Aid	22	63
<b>Legal Guidance &amp; Assistance</b>	Legal Guidance	126	79
<b>Other Services</b>	Counseling	32	79
	Follow-up with Released Prisoners	09	29

### Byculla District Prison

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
<b>Total Outreach</b>		75	62
<b>Visits Conducted</b>	Home Visits	16	22
	Visits to Courts, Prison and Police Station	12	68
	Visits to NGOs	15	22
	Visits to Shelter Homes	06	04
<b>Case Referrals</b>	Referral for Legal Aid	41	03
	Referral to Children Institutions/Sponsorship Agencies/Shelter Agencies /Other NGOs	01	14
<b>Other Services</b>	Counselling	30	50
	Emergency Help	04	01
	Follow-up with Released Prisoners	09	04

*Thane Central Prison*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
<b>Total Outreach</b>		122	169
<b>Visits Conducted</b>	Home Visits	85	51
	Visits to Courts	28	66
	Visits to Police Station	03	33
	Visits to NGOs	13	20
	Visits to Prison	41	93
	Exposure Visits	02	02
	Emergency and Follow-up Visits	21	20
<b>Case Referrals</b>	Referral for Legal Aid	18	19
<b>Legal guidance &amp; assistance</b>	Providing Legal Guidance	200	145
	Emergency Help	03	02
	Follow-up with Released Prisoners	22	29

*Kalyan District Prison*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10*
<b>Total Outreach</b>		156	13
<b>Visits Conducted</b>	Home Visits	61	16
	Visits to Courts	74	04
	Visits to Police Station	12	02
	Visits to NGOs	62	12
	Visits to Hospitals	05	03
<b>Case Referrals</b>	Referral for Legal Aid	18	---
	Referral for Shelter	02	04
<b>Legal Guidance &amp; Assistance</b>	Applications Written	08	---
<b>Vocational Training</b>	Short-term Training	34	01
	Long-term Training	18	03
<b>Other Services</b>	Counseling	55	13
	Emergency Help	02	03
	Follow-up with Released Prisoners	12	13
	In-depth Counseling	12	08



## PRAYAS REHABILITATION CENTRES, MUMBAI AND BHARUCH

*Prayas* continued to run its three rehabilitation centers at Mumbai and Bharuch for male youth and women.

The structure of the programme at all three centers was similar. Services were provided in the following areas:

- A. **Emergency services:** These services were aimed at stabilizing persons during the crisis situations that 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 their work. Education, training, exposure visits and short-term placements were some of the areas focused on.
- C. **Increasing levels of employability and facilitating employment:** These services followed the preliminary inputs 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 jobs.
- D. **Reconnection with family:** These services were provided keeping the trainees' long-term reintegration in view. They focused on strengthening or re-establishing family ties, through regular home visits, providing financial support to families, counseling, etc.

*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 is based in a municipal school at Byculla. The programme was revitalized and its centre-based programme was substituted with an interaction programme with the NGO sector through regular visits and attendance in welfare sector.

The *Prayas* intervention took place as mentioned below:

1. Women's Development Centre, Mumbai
2. Youth Development Centre, Mumbai
3. Women's Development Centre, Bharuch

### Women's Development Centre, Mumbai

The Mumbai-based Women's Development Centre situated at Mumbai Central, shifted base from its community based location to the premises of the Government Female Beggars' Home Complex at Chembur which currently houses three women's institutions namely:

- A. The Female Beggars' Home
- B. The Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha (Protective Home for Women)
- C. The Kasturba Mahila Vastigruha (Reception Centre for Women)

The motivation behind this step was to be able to target specifically those women who have been displaced from their homes, are excluded by mainstream groups but who face the highest risk of exploitation and marginalization. Furthermore, it also seeks to address the absence of programmes that bridge the gap between the physical separation from society and the need for subsequent reconnection post-release, which is by right due to any citizen, especially a group that has multiple social handicaps (most of which are not visible).

Discussions were held with Dy. Commissioner (Women's Development) of Department of Women & Child Development and the District Women & Child Development Officer of Mumbai, to explore the possibility of having a formal and written understanding with the Department of Women & Child Development. The overall plan of *Prayas* is to establish a bridge service which links institutionalized women with the outside world, and which also provides them with support to settle after they had been discharged. The District Women & Child Development Officer called for a meeting with the Superintendents of the three above mentioned institutions and *Prayas* to work out the modalities of the tie-up. This meeting was very productive and the following understanding was reached between *Prayas* and the Department of Women & Child Development.

- A common space and infrastructure support will be provided in the complex where *Prayas* will carry out an income generation programme and counseling of women residing in these institutions.
- Income generation activities will be carried out by *Prayas* thrice a week. Currently, these activities include embroidery and patch work items, which will be used in making the *Prayas* product line. Women will be trained by *Prayas* and then paid on a piece-rate basis at this Centre.
- Cases will be referred by the three institutions on a regular basis to *Prayas* for counseling, guidance and legal aid.
- Clients referred by the three institutions will also be given exposure to work in the various sections in the institutions – kitchen, gardening, tailoring, office work, etc. whereby they will be paid a monthly stipend by *Prayas* and their progress monitored by *Prayas* and the institutional staff.
- Clients referred by the three institutions will be allowed to go out on a daily basis through the NGO Placement Programme and supervised by *Prayas* towards increasing their employability in the NGO sector.
- The Employment Unit of *Prayas* will liaise with the institutions to find employment options for women coming out of these institutions.
- Security and health will remain the responsibility of the institutions, while they are placed with *Prayas*.

This was a major step towards the Department recognizing the need to create rehabilitation services for institutionalized women. Services provided at this Centre included vocational training, educational support, repatriation, increasing connections with family and the NGO Placement programme. During the reporting period, the Employment Unit for women released from institutions received referrals from Superintendents of women's institutions in Mumbai. There were also requests for enrolling their beneficiaries into the *Prayas* NGO Placement Programme.

## Women's Institution Based Services

### Income Generation Centre

At the *Prayas* Income Generation Centre now housed in the Female Beggars' Home Complex, women were provided with basic skills in handicrafts, after which they were given work for which they were paid on a piece-rate basis. Training was given in flower making, brooch making, texture painting, bandhani work and embroidery. Orders were taken from the *Prayas* Production Centre at Worli. Towards developing the activities of this Unit, production centers run by other NGOs in the city are being explored. Literacy classes and educational guidance for the trainees were conducted with the help of an NGO, Pratham.

The Department's circular is significant in establishing the Income Generation Centre within the institutional premises and extending the outreach of the *Prayas* programme to a larger number of women inside institutions. It also strengthens partnerships with the Department concerned in implementing a programme for planning post discharge services.

However, while it signifies an acceptance of the *Prayas* programme, requests to make this Centre available to women from outside the institutions was not accepted, at least for the time being. This implied that other clients of *Prayas* and other shelter homes had no access to the Centre activities. This also had a direct impact on the *Prayas* NGO Placement Programme, as there was no space for observation and preparation. To meet this gap, short-term placements were arranged in different organizations and institutions. The need for having space close to the Income Generation Centre at Chembur or at a central location remains to be addressed.

Women from Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha have not been attending the Centre as security arrangements have not yet been arranged. A programme facilitating exposure to a range of activities continued in Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha. This involved exposure to medical work, kitchen duties, and administrative tasks under the supervision of the institutional staff. This facility is made available to women detained in the institution ranging from two months to a year. Following this exposure, women have enrolled into training programmes of other

NGOs, or some have returned to their home State. A stipend of Rs. 500/- per month was disbursed to trainees enrolled in this activity. The Navjivan Mahila Vastigruha activities were being conducted independently in their premises and not from the Centre.

In 2009-10, women from Kasturba Mahila Vastigruha and Navjivan Mahila Vastigruha continued to attend the Centre. Training and income generation activities included handicrafts, candle making, rakhi making, jute bag making, painting, making table covers, etc. Trainees were also exposed to the option of enrolling in the *Prayas* NGO Placement Programme. Group sessions were conducted in health and hygiene, stress management, patients' rights and self defense. A total of 91 women attended the activities of the Centre.

Products prepared at the Centre were marketed through sales to institutional staff, an exhibition organized by Concern India Foundation at BPCI, OLPS School, and to general public approaching *Prayas*.

Through its activities and sessions, the Centre aims at creating space for thinking and planning post-release options. Intervention is geared towards helping women make informed choices for future. Following involvement in the activities of the Centre, some women have returned home, some have obtained employment on their own or with the help of the institution, a few were shifted to another shelter, while a few others were referred to the *Prayas* NGO Placement Programme, or pursued training in other agencies.

#### **Some outcomes on the lives of the women**

- Space and time to explore their next step, talents and skills.
- Increased awareness about level of skills and areas that need to be developed.
- Income source that could help post discharge/release.
- Referral to the *Prayas* NGO Placement Programme.
- Decision to return to their families with the support of *Prayas*
- Referral to another shelter home.
- Remaining in contact with *Prayas* after release, for guidance and support.
- Overall development and stability in life.

#### **Work at Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha (Government Protective Home), Chembur**

In-house preparatory exposure for placements and training continued at Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha. Some trainees were placed at Save the Children, India and Prerana, while others continued to reside at Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha. Trainees were exposed to areas such as cooking, medical social work, case work (with Probation Officers in Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha) and tailoring. Trainees placed in agencies also pursued courses in tailoring, beauty care and catering. Besides this, training in phenyl and liquid soap making were extended to all residents of the institution.

#### **Some Outcomes**

Where women were part of the in-house preparatory exposure to placement, they rarely opted for enrollment in the *Prayas* NGO Placement Programme following discharge. However, the inputs received during the exposure period provided scope for increased information about alternative support systems within the NGO and welfare sector, demonstrated that other possibilities were available, prepared for planning entry into the family, increased confidence levels and helped in developing communication skills.

## Counseling and Information Services

In addition to the income generation activity, counseling services and awareness sessions were conducted for women inside institutions. Attempts were made to introduce mental health professionals to the needs of institutionalized women. The students of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences under the guidance of *Prayas* organized an awareness session on mental health issues. Home visits were conducted for women in Kasturba Mahila Vastigruha to enquire about their family's response, provide family support and attempt to reunite the woman with family and community.

## Non-institutional Intervention with Women

### Shelter and Emergency

Follow-up of *Prayas* cases referred to shelter homes and hostels continued. One issue that arose was the shelter and rehabilitation needs of disabled persons. A hearing and speech impaired woman who was found at the station along with her child at the CST Railway Station was referred to the Kasturba Mahila Vastigruha by social workers of *Prayas*. Due to her disability, communication was a problem. Specialized agencies were willing to provide necessary training. However, this required that the woman be escorted to these Centers and back to the shelter home.

An attempt was made to transfer her to a residential institution in Sawantwadi (during the beginning of 2008-09), resulting in her leaving the institution and returning alone to Mumbai, leaving her child in the Sawantwadi institution. It appeared that she felt more secure residing in Kasturba Mahila Vastigruha. Hence, the Superintendent of KMV was convinced to allow her to continue residence here while her child was transferred to a children's institution in Mumbai.

The organization Fellowship for the Physically Handicapped (FPH) was willing to provide training at their Centre and have the institute vehicle pick her up from the KMV every day. However, the Superintendent of KMV resisted the idea on the grounds that the woman's safety during the time she was outside the institution also fell on her. She suggested that *Prayas* take responsibility for the same. The matter was taken up in the Mumbai District Monitoring and Guidance Committee meetings and the State Women Commission meetings. Finally, in the absence of a single agency/authority taking responsibility for the woman, she was referred to another shelter home. An escort has been appointed to accompany her to the training agency. The issue of responsibility arises here. Absence of family support coupled with physical/mental/emotional disturbances affects decision making processes. This is an area that requires to be taken up with authorities concerned.

In 2008-09, besides handling current cases, four women who were earlier in touch with *Prayas* came back for support and help. *Prayas* decided to respond in these cases due to the crises situation in their lives. The intervention comprised individual and family counseling, assistance with shelter, opening a bank account, and re-institutionalizing a child.

Over the last year, it was observed that while options for shelter have increased, procedures for admission continue to cause hurdles especially in the case of emergency situations. In 2009-10, *Prayas* has been in dialogue with the Superintendents of the institutions to explore possibilities for admission with minimum procedures. There are several issues that emerged in regard to admission and discharge procedures and processing of the person while in the institutions that require attention. *Prayas* has been bringing up these issues at various fora and meetings.

## Community Based Services for Women

Given that a significant percentage of women have no/weak family supports, residing in a community indicated certain situations:

- Adjustment problems and disturbed relationships with family;
- Staying in live-in relationships, wherein the woman's property and security is under threat;
- Chances of weak child support and neglect; and
- Residence in high-risk areas, with increased vulnerability to being exploited or engaging in anti-social behaviour.

Thus, work in 2008-09 indicated a need to address the above issues, to prevent further victimization and criminalization. Attempts were made to create linkages with local NGOs that could provide guidance and support to women. In extreme cases where property was under threat, local NGOs were explored to facilitate protection of property. In some cases, the help of NGOs was taken to assess the women's involvement in illegal activities.

## Access to Citizenship Rights and Schemes

Efforts were directed towards helping persons access welfare through schemes like Gurukul Yojana, Jeevan Shree Yojana, Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, in Mumbai and Thane; and Kutumbh Sahay Yojana in Bharuch. Owing to limited documentation, long procedures are followed. While working with persons who have moved away from families, a common issue that comes up is lack of documentation, making it difficult to link them to government schemes.

During this period, a team was constituted, to follow up cases of women and children who could be linked to schemes under the Collector's Office and the Department of Women and Child Development, CoM. Getting documents such as proof of residence, income certificate, school leaving certificate, etc posed a major challenge. There are therefore two simultaneous approaches in operation: Providing support through the voluntary sector, and exploring existing government schemes. In emergency cases, support is provided through *Prayas* services and that of the voluntary sector.

Once again, the need to promote the issue for inclusion of institutionalized populations in policy and procedure arises.

## Work with Children

In 2008-09, information to mothers in regard to child-care, nutrition, and development needs of children were focused upon. Nineteen children were supported through referral to institutions (government and voluntary), preparing documents and referring cases to avail of benefits under the *Bal Sangopan Yojana* and follow-up maintained after the child was referred to an institution. Institutionalization was generally the last resort, where it appeared that the child may be neglected or receive inadequate care and attention. For women having children and desiring to pursue vocational training, children were referred to the Child Welfare Committee for temporary shelter.

Work in 2009-10 involved referral of cases to Child Welfare Committees, follow-up of cases for access to *Bal Sangopan Yojana*, interaction with *Panchayat Samiti* for mobilizing support for the care of children and support in the form of medical aid.

## Legal Aid and Advice

*Prayas* took up cases of women in need of legal intervention for criminal or civil matters. Around fifteen cases were given such assistance in 2008-09. Cases were referred to lawyers or agencies providing legal intervention.

Protecting property rights of women is an area that has required follow-up. Owing to lack of family support, property of single women may be encroached upon, or they may end up forming relationships with persons having vested interests in staking claim over their property.

Intervention takes the form of legal information and counseling, linking the person with local agencies to ensure that the property is not encroached upon and obtaining the necessary documents to protect the woman's rights. For instance, during the past year, *Prayas* has been attempting to reclaim the property of a woman being released after a life sentence. After her arrest, the house was sealed and her children were referred to a children's institution. During her imprisonment, the house was demolished as the area was to be redeveloped under the Slum Redevelopment Act. Having no records, social workers realized that while the house was demolished, the space was encroached upon by her neighbour.

Various methods were applied to verify the information. Since she also claimed to have run a telephone booth and could not recall the number, the MTNL was approached for finding the related documents. However, the MTNL reported that the records were destroyed as documentation dating to the time prior to the arrest of the woman was not maintained. Finally, workers found her name in the Voting List. Since it was listed prior to January'95, this made her eligible for a tenement under the Slum Redevelopment Act. On the basis of this document, she could now be allotted a house in her name.

Workers participated in a meeting organized by the Mumbai District Legal Services Authority in the Family Court, to discuss family (including pre-marital counseling) counseling issues. The *Prayas* social workers participated in the meeting with the intention of building networks with these agencies and NGOs attending the meeting, for strengthening the legal and advisory components of the rehabilitation programme.

Presently, this Unit is in the process of developing the resources in terms of a panel of legal experts and NGOs providing legal assistance.

Work in the year 2009-10 involved:

- a) Meeting police personnel to avoid preventive arrest of released women prisoners;
- b) Obtaining judgment orders to prove completion of case, for obtaining employment;
- c) Follow-up for maintenance from husband and adult children.

Towards making legal advice available to women in institutions, legal awareness sessions were conducted. However, the plan to make available the *Prayas* legal resource person for advice to women in institutions could not be implemented as a structure needs to be created for the same through discussions with the Superintendent. This idea will be pursued with the Superintendent in the near future.

## NGO Placement Programme

Given that this programme is geared towards developing skills of trainees in the social work sector, attempts were made to develop volunteerism within the framework of the programme. In 2008-09, for instance, one trainee escorted a deaf and mute woman from a shelter home to the placement agency and back.

Where women appear ready to return to their home district and/or explore developing relationships with their families, *Prayas* workers have accompanied trainees to the districts concerned, made home-visits and exposure visits and placed the trainees in NGOs in the native districts. Such visits were made to Safala, an NGO located in Thane and other NGOs in Bengaluru, Mysore and Ambe-jogai, Beed.

A two-day exposure visit was also organised to Navjeevan Gramin Vikas Sanstha, Jambhulpada and Khopoli for trainees of the Placement Programme. Twenty eight trainees were present including both Mumbai and Bharuch trainees. They also visited Anand Dham Old Age Home with the following objectives:

- To expose trainees to problems faced by other groups in vulnerable situations and their attempts to deal with the same.
- To organise developmental and recreational sessions e.g. on personality development, financial management, *gajra* making and *mehndi* competition.

Cases are being referred to the NGO Placement Programme and for finding employment from other residential institutions for women in Mumbai. While *Prayas* has accepted individual cases, there have been requests to extend outreach to a larger number of women. The matter is under review, and is subject to manpower and the resources available.

Exposure visits were organised for trainees to explore agencies and conduct sessions on relevant issues. Visits were made to local organisations such as Ashray, Kasturba Mahila Vastigruha, Stree Mukti Sanghatna, Sukh Shanti, Pragatik Vidyarthi Sangh, Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Bahujan Hitaya Samajik Prakalp, Tender Hands, Sahara, Anand Rehabilitation Centre, Women's India Trust, New Durga Old Age Home, Niramay Foundation, Shantivan, and organisations outside Mumbai and Thane districts such as Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Parbhani, Ankur, Ambejogai, Beed and Swami Vivekanand Trust.

Exposure visits appeared to have the following outcomes:

- Helpful to understand the functioning and activities of NGOs in various fields.
- Creation of job opportunities in the agencies/NGOs visited.

Pre-placement planning was done through counseling and guidance, emergency support, child support, reimbursement of travel expenses and stipend and exposure to the NGO sector.

Trainees received an exposure to work in the following sectors: caretaking, cooking, balwadi teaching, tailoring teacher assistant, nursing, assembling work, handicrafts, programme organizer, medical social work, case work (with Probation Officers in Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha). Courses pursued included beauty care, catering, nursing and tailoring.

Trainees were placed in agencies including Manasvini Mahila Prakalp, Lok Navjyothi, Tender Hands, Bahujan Hitaya Samajik Prakalp, YMCA, Kherenoor-e-Islam, Stree Mukti Sanghatna, NASFOH, Sahara, New Durga Old Age Home, Mahila Federation, Niramaya Foundation, Prerana, International Justice Mission, Save the Children, Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha, Anand Rehabilitation Centre, SDW Hospital, Nav Jyoti, Swayam Sidhha Mission, Jyoti's Care Centre and Observation Home, Bharuch.

Some outcomes

- Placement agencies contributed towards the stipend of the trainees.
- An agency co-ordinated with other agencies to arrange the marriage of a trainee.
- Two clients returned back to the community due to an identity change (of being associated with an NGO).

- Trainees enrolled in the *Prayas* NGO Placement Programme were encouraged to open a bank or post office savings accounts.

#### Reasons for drop-out of trainees from the Placement Programme

- Found child-care facilities insufficient in the placement agency.
- Not able to sustain the training due to family conflicts.
- Life partners opposed to the programme.
- Returned to their family/community.
- Obtained job on their own in private sector or NGOs.
- Absorbed by placement agency for training and follow-up.
- Pursuing further education/training.
- Due to health problems
- No information and contact.

#### Employment Unit

A new idea of an Employment Unit which would respond particularly to the needs of groups within shelter homes was initiated in 2008-09. This emerged as a result of the increasing realization about the presence of a subgroup of institutionalized women who were not able to find employment. This appeared so due to a multiplicity of handicaps such as physical and psychological imbalances and an advanced degree of disconnection from family and community.

The objective of starting an Employment Unit was to explore employment options for custodial trainees. These services can be availed by *Prayas* trainees as well as trainees from different custodial institutions. These include Kasturba Mahila Vastigruha, Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha, Females Beggars' Home and shelter homes such as Sukh Shanti, Bapnu Ghar, etc.

In the initial stages, the *Prayas* worker made visits to Mumbai based organizations. These visits have been made in Production and Employment based NGOs. While making visits to different NGOs, information was gathered about vacancies in different organisations and sectors. It was found that vacancies are available for caretakers, catering staff, tailoring teachers, beauticians, handicraft teachers, administrative staff, etc. As and when such information becomes available, it is passed on to *Prayas* trainees and women in custodial institutions. They are also guided how to proceed in obtaining employment. Some of the trainees have obtained jobs through the Employment Unit.



*Kasturba Mahila Vastigruha (Reception Centre)*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
Number of Trainees		77	91
Visits Conducted	Home Visits	19	---
	Visits to CWC and Shelter Institutions	32	---
	Visits to Local and Outstation NGOs	30	13
Activities Conducted	Training in Flower Making	38	---
	Awareness Session on HIV, Health and Mental Health	02	---
	Awareness Session on Self Defense and Stress Management	---	65
	Session on Domestic Violence Act	---	16
	Recreational Activity Programme	03	76
Other services	Arranged Job	03	---
	Given Production Work	16	---
	Transferred to Other Shelter Institutions	---	07
	Repatriation	---	43

*Female Beggars Home*

Broad Services	Specified Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
Number of Trainees	Attending Centre Activities	31	04
	Other Visits	06	16
Other Services	Secured Employment	---	14
	Referred to NGO Placement Programme	---	06

*Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha (Protective Home)*

Broad Services	Specified Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
<b>Number of Trainees</b>	Total Outreach	67	556
<b>Visits Conducted</b>	Home Visits	34	59
	Court and Police Station Visits	11	06
	Visits to NGOs	49	49
<b>Activities Conducted</b>	Training in Phenyl & Liquid Soap	150	515
	Orientation Session on Prayas Placement Programme	5	---
	Recreational Programme	16	---
<b>Other Services</b>	Collaboration with Other NGOs for Rehabilitation	22	07
	Providing Family Support and Repatriation	10	18
	Exposure, Preparation Session and Referral to NGO Placement Programme	15	43

*Shelter and Emergency*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
<b>Total Outreach</b>		20	18
<b>Case Referrals</b>	Referral to Shelter Homes	18	11
	Referral for Transfer to Another Institution	02	07
<b>Follow-up of Ex-clients</b>	Short Term	07	07
	Long Term	13	11
<b>Visits Conducted</b>	Home Visits	09	08
	Visits to Hospital	24	15
	Visits to NGOs	11	71
	Visits to Government Departments	06	20
	Visits to Court	07	03
<b>Other Services</b>	Providing Medical Support	02	07
	Repatriation to Family	---	07
	Counseling	20	18
	Meetings with NGOs	01	04

*Community Based Services for Women*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
<b>Total Number of Cases</b>		18	34
<b>Case Referrals</b>	Referrals to Local NGOs	10	03
	Referrals for Temporary Shelter	07	---
	Referrals to Local Police Station & Social Service Branch	---	01
<b>Visits Conducted</b>	Home Visits	85	47
	Visits to NGOs	41	36
	Visits to Hospitals	07	23
	Visits to Shelter Homes	13	---
	Visits to Court, Police Station and Lawyers	02	06
	Visits to Government Offices	---	24
	Visits to Bank	---	03
	Visits to Rationing Office/Shop	---	04
<b>Other Services</b>	Individual & Family Counseling	18	42
	Exploring Government Schemes	---	15
	Providing Medical Support & Guidance	03	06
	Access to Rations from Local Ration Shop	---	03
	Follow-up on Schemes	---	02

*Work with Children*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
<b>Total Number of Cases</b>		19	62
<b>Case Referrals</b>	Referral to CWC	04	28
	Referral to NGOs	09	07
	Referral for Bal Sangopan Yojana	02	05
<b>Visits Conducted</b>	Home Visits	31	31
	Visits to Children Institutions	02	11
	Visits to CWC	06	41
	Visits to NGOs	14	48
	Visits to Prison and Police Stations	11	17
	Visits to Hospitals and Schools	04	04
	<b>Other Services</b>	Counseling to Family Members	02
	Providing Medical Aid	---	06

*Legal Aid and Advice*

Broad Services	Specific services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
<b>Total Number of Cases</b>		15	37
<b>Visits Conducted</b>	Home Visits	03	05
	Visits to Shelter Homes	25	09
	Visits to Court	14	20
	Visits to NGOs	02	04
	Visits to Government Offices	18	02
<b>Legal Aid &amp; Guidance</b>	Legal Counseling	15	37
	Legal Follow-up of Cases	---	07

*NGO Placement Programme*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
Number of Persons in Placement	Total Number of Persons in Placement	27	71
Case Referrals	For Training	11	04
Visits Conducted	Exposure Visits and NGO Visits for Networking	26	06
	Upcountry Visits	03	01
Other Services	Recreational Activities	01	---
	Trainee Absorbed by Placement Agency for Employment	01	03
	Repatriated to Family/Community	---	15
	Secured job in Private Sector / NGOs	01	09

*Employment Unit*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
Cases referred	Total Number of Cases	24	12
Visits conducted	To NGOs for Exploring Employment Vacancies	35	15
	Exposure Visits with Trainees	18	09
	Follow-up Visits of Cases	23	13
	Follow-up visits of Cases Requiring Medical Support	03	---

**Youth Development Centre, Mumbai**

During 2008-09, the efforts to familiarize and link trainees with the welfare sector continued with motivating results. The objective of starting this activity was to enable direct exposure to the NGO sector. It resulted in a comprehensive understanding of the kinds of services available, personal encounters with welfare sector staff, an understanding of the issues and causes that are being represented, identification with some causes and an introduction to various kinds of interventions.

*Prayas* has often been faced with resistance from youth to take up livelihood options that do not match their self image. Exposure visits have positively impacted perceptions and ideas about the kinds of work that are socially and personally acceptable.

Lack of shelter is still a difficulty faced by *Prayas* trainees, who do not have family support. This has now tied up with Saathi who has extended their group home facility to some of the *Prayas* trainees. *Prayas* is also exploring the possibility of starting a group home for clients who do not have family support in Mumbai. Discussions are on within the team to understand the pros and cons of starting such an initiative.

There is a growing awareness among clients about the need for education. Many of them are pursuing their education through the open schooling and Open University system. The activities of the Youth Development Centre (YDC) are trying to focus the attention of the youth on government schemes and programmes. Exposure visits have helped in building the confidence level and social skills of the client group. They are also beginning to understand job options based on their education and skill levels. Sessions on personality development and health awareness programmes are conducted from time to time keeping the handicaps of this group in mind. Information is also given to the youth on alternative options for shelter in various NGOs and their related rules and regulations. Services provided included counseling, making arrangements for shelter, emergency support, educational activities and exposure visits, NGO Placement and family support.

A new development has been referral of street youth in conflict with the law. Referrals are made to YDC by other NGOs. This group is different from other youth attending the activities of the Centre as compared to those who reside with families or in shelter homes, in terms of their needs and behaviour. The Centre activities had to be altered accordingly. For instance, street youth do not attend on time or maintain basic hygiene, have higher incidence of addiction problems and are not used to attending to a routine. Attendance at the Centre gradually introduces some stability in their lives e.g. they have a bath at the Centre, are not allowed to consume intoxicating substances during the YDC working hours, are encouraged to follow timings, and seek referrals to detoxification and rehabilitation agencies. They are encouraged to obtain documents such as bank accounts and enroll in certified vocational courses. Stipend and tiffin services are extended to this group. Youth residing with their families or in shelter homes have been attempting to assist and guide these youth.

A camp was organised for trainees by the YDC in Karjat. Activities included personality development and leadership games, and street theatre training. The group scripted a street play and performed for the residents of Kondhane village.

YDC is now open on Saturdays as well given that youth are susceptible to drifting into negative company, so it was important to channelize time and energy into constructive activities. Trainees are encouraged to volunteer in local campaigns (e.g. the Right to Education) organised by NGOs to rekindle an attitude of volunteerism and public participation.

In 2009-10, activities of the YDC continued as usual with the Centre serving as a place for contact with clients and for initial observation and development activities. Functional education and computer training was also imparted to the trainees. Trainees have been referred to other training agencies for driving, AC repairs and electrical

works. Exposure visits were conducted to Yuva Parivartan, Avchi Abacus, Samtol Foundation, Apna Anubhav and Alcoholics Anonymous. Arrangements were made for shelter facilities and emergency assistance was also provided.

*Youth Development Centre, Mumbai*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
Number of Trainees	Total Outreach	53	41
Activities Conducted	Participation in Centre Activities	66	144
	Training (Short term and Long Term)	31	33
Visits Conducted	Home Visits	72	26
	Court Visits	28	08
	Police Station Visits	47	20
	Follow-up Visits of Trainees on Placement	32	18
	NGO Exposure Visits	43	41
Other Services	Arranging Shelter	17	28
	Counseling	53	68
	Providing Medical Support	35	22
	Providing Family Support	29	22
	Providing Educational Support	30	22
	Placement in NGO	23	27
	Job placement	06	15
	Repatriation	03	03
	Legal Aid	13	20
Found Employment on their Own	12	14	

## LEGAL AID AND COURT UNIT

## Mumbai Unit

One social worker of *Prayas* is a member of the Mumbai District Legal Services Authority (MDLSA), who also sits in the Esplanade Court towards establishing a relationship with the judiciary and the staff of the MDLSA. *Prayas* aims to activate the legal aid services provided by the State for vulnerable sections of society. Through his continuous interaction with the judiciary and legal aid staff, *Prayas* has been able to sensitize the judicial officers to implementation of correctional laws such as probation and use of pro-poor legislations such as release of accused persons on personal bond. These interactions have also led to improved service delivery as far as the legal aid services are concerned. Given below are some examples of this process handled during 2008-09 (names of individuals have been changed to maintain confidentiality):

## 1. Bindu

Legal aid was given to Bindu and her son who were arrested under Sections 363, 364, 376 and 34 of the IPC. The rationale of taking up their case was that her son was a minor and he had eloped with a minor girl. His mother was not aware about their plan but was framed and falsely implicated in a kidnapping and rape case. She was from an extremely poor socio-economic background and could not understand why she was in prison, as she only assisted the police in bringing both the minor children from her village. The police had shown her son's age as above 18 years and he was thus being tried by the Sessions Court. *Prayas* helped in getting the case transferred to the Juvenile Justice Board and also provided legal aid to Bindu in the case. After the transfer of her son's case to the Juvenile Justice Board, he was acquitted from the charge of Sections 363 & 376 IPC. Her case has been pending before the Sessions Court. She has been given legal aid from the Free Legal Aid scheme of the State and an application to remove the charge of rape w/s 376 is being pursued.

## 2. Samir and Hussain

Samir and Hussain were co-accused and were sentenced for life imprisonment by the Fast Track Court of Sewri Sessions Court, Mumbai. With the help of legal aid from the Legal Services Authority, Samir was ordered to be released by the High Court on the ground of him being a minor. Similarly, legal aid has been requested from the Legal Services Authority to get the same order in the case of Hussain, as he too is a minor. His case is pending for final orders.

## 3. Taufiq

At the time of his initial contact with *Prayas*, he had two cases pending against him in the *Kurla Court*, charged w/s. 324 of the IPC. In an earlier case, he was convicted by the *Dadar Court* and his appeal was pending before the Sewri Sessions Court. The D.C.P. (Zone IV) had also initiated extenuation proceedings against him. He was provided legal aid in the appeal case going on before the Sewri Sessions Court. The interactive seminar organised by *Prayas* on correctional laws for Sessions Court judges in the month of March, 2008, helped him get the benefit of probation. Similarly, when the extenuation order was passed by the DCP, the same was challenged through an appeal filed before the Home Secretary by *Prayas*, on grounds of rehabilitation and the same was upheld.

## 4. Ramesh

His case was referred to *Prayas* through the community. He had two cases against him in the Wadala Police Station. He and his family members were being allegedly harassed by some police officials. He was often arrested and put in the lock-up under the pretext of preventive action. His cases were pending before the Dadar Court. Through the enquiry with his family, the worker came to know that he was a minor at the time of commission of the offences. Immediately, he was given legal aid through *Prayas* and his cases were transferred to the Juvenile Justice Board. In both the cases, he was acquitted by the Board as he was merely implicated by the police without any evidence. He has been attending the rehabilitation programme of *Prayas*.

## 5. Rahimtulla

This was a case of mentally disturbed person arrested by the police for commission of an offence of outraging the modesty of a woman [Sections 354, 502(Part II) IPC]. The *Prayas* worker met him in Thane District Prison. He was found to be in a mentally disturbed state. According to his family, he had been

physically assaulted by the police as the complainants were from an influential background. Due to *Prayas* intervention, his trial was postponed on the grounds of insanity. He had two cases against him in the Kurla Court, but was unaware about the second case in which the court had issued a non-bailable warrant against him. The insanity plea was taken up in the first case and his warrant was cancelled without any fine and both cases have been clubbed together for further trial.

#### 4. Mohammed, Dilip & Atiq

Their cases were referred by the magistrate of the Mazagaon Court and the Esplanade Court, as an outcome of an interactive seminar held with the judicial officers on the issue of probation. Both the accused persons were charged u/s 381 of the IPC and had been imprisoned for a considerable period of time in the prison as there was no one to bail them out. The magistrates summoned the Probation Officers but they did not turn up. Since the offence under which they were charged was a minor one, the worker requested the magistrates to release them under Sec. 3 of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 which does not require the report of a Probation Officer and the accused can be released on admonition.

#### 5. Daniel, Deepak & Ashfaq

They were arrested by the Anti-Narcotics Cell of Mumbai Police u/s. 27 of the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 for consuming drugs. They were imprisoned for eight months when the maximum punishment under this section is only six months. They did not want to plead guilty. The magistrates of the *Mazagaon Court* referred their cases to *Prayas*. With the assistance of free legal aid, they were provided legal aid and finally ordered to be released on Personal Bond of Rs.1000/- each. In their cases, the new amendment to Section 436 of the Cr. P.C. was used to release them on Personal Bond. The new amendment provides that if a person is indigent and remains in custody for more than a week then he should be released on Personal Bond. Yet there was a hesitance from judicial officers to use this section due to a bias that majority of such persons do not turn up for trial when released on PR Bond, instead of surety bail. There is a need to organize interactive sessions with magistrates on the issue of Personal Bond with the sole objective to make it more accessible to the accused persons, who cannot avail the present bail system.

#### Some other interventions

*Case 1:* A woman was arrested for kidnapping and was an under trial prisoner for more than two years. She had no family support to bail her out. Her husband and his family members had disowned her. She had been interacting regularly with the prison workers and wanted to plead guilty due to her prolonged imprisonment. She claimed she was falsely implicated in the case by her husband. Through *Prayas'* legal aid services, she was released on personal bond.

*Case 2:* A man was arrested for theft and was in prison for over 6 months. The police were not able to bring witnesses after repeated warning by the magistrate. He was granted bail by the Magistrate but he had nobody in Mumbai to bail him out. He was assisted in drafting an application requesting to be released on personal bond. In non-bailable cases, the law provides for release on personal bond for prisoners completing fifty percent of maximum sentence.

*Case 3:* Two men were accused of murder charges. In their application to the Legal Services Authority, they alleged that they were falsely implicated in the case by the police and their co-accused. They were from a poor socio-economic background and their families were unable to bail them out or engage a lawyer. The Chairperson of the Legal Services Authority requested *Prayas* to follow up the case with the legal aid lawyer. The legal aid lawyer again recalled the witnesses and reexamined them. *Prayas* workers assisted to obtain a copy of the evidence notes, the charge sheet, judgment copies and maintained a follow-up with the legal aid lawyer. The administrative expenses of the lawyer were borne by *Prayas*. The case was later acquitted.

*Case 4:* A man met the *Prayas* worker at the Esplanade Court Legal Aid office. He was agitating against the injustice done to him by his advocate and employer. He reported that he worked as a watchman with a warehouse company since 1983, during which his services had been terminated on several occasions due to his agitated behaviour. He used to question the company's illegal means of avoiding rules and regulations of labour laws. He had



attempted to form a union of the workers and thus became a victim of his employer's wrath. He got five favorable orders from the Labour Court as well as the Industrial Court against the illegal termination of his service. He alleged that his employer at last resorted to conspiracy with his advocate and made him sign on his resignation (he was unaware of the contents of the letter). He alleged that forgery and cheating had been committed and demanded justice. *Prayas* supported him with legal aid to file a private complaint in the criminal court against his employer and advocate.

*Case 5:* This case was referred by the *Prayas* worker placed at the Thane District Prison. The person had been alleged of committed robbery along with his friends. He was 20 years old and felt guilty as his parents suffered humiliation at the hands of police. Being a first-time offender, it was also important to reduce the chances of his getting acquainted with anti-social elements inside prison. His case was committed to the Fast Track Court at Sewri, and after a due trial he and his friends were acquitted from the charge.

*Case 6:* A man was found crying in the premises of the Mumbai Sessions Court. On enquiring, the worker came to know that he stood surety for his friend's brother in a Sessions Court case around twenty years back, when he was employed with the Bombay Port Trust. He has now retired from service and resides in his village. The court issued a warrant against him and warned him to find the absconding accused or to pay Rs. 2000/- as surety money for discharging his liability. With the help of the police and the court staff, the worker learnt that the absconding accused has actually died, but neither his relatives nor his death certificate were traceable. The worker helped him in drafting an application by stating the above-mentioned facts and the police also supported him. Later, the Sessions Court judge released him without fining him on humanitarian ground.

### **Meeting with JOTI, Nagpur**

A meeting was held with the Director, Judicial Officers' Training Institute (JOTI) at Nagpur, which is the nodal training institution for judicial officers of Maharashtra, with the following objectives:

- To include social legislations such as Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, Borstal Schools Act, 1929 and the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956 in the syllabus of the judicial officers training; and
- To organize legal sensitization seminars for judicial officers in JOTI on the above mentioned topics.

Based on the directions of the Director, the social worker also met Hon'ble Judge Shri Varale, who was on the Syllabus Committee of the Institute. He agreed to include the suggested syllabus proposed by *Prayas* and requested for reference material and resources persons for the same.

### **Various legal awareness programs conducted on Labour Day and on Women's Rights and Law:**

- A legal awareness programme was organized in co-ordination with Kherwadi Social Welfare Association and Mumbai District Legal Services Authority (MDLSA) at Kherwadi. The *Prayas* social worker along with a retired Labour Court judge spoke on the rights of the workers and Free Legal Aid scheme of MDLSA. Nearly 200 workers had attended the programme.
- **Byculla Prison:** A legal awareness program on the rights of woman prisoners was organized in Byculla Prison. The *Prayas* social worker and Smt. Swati Chawan, Metropolitan Magistrate, Mazagaon Court, who was the Chief Guest for the programme, spoke about the legal and civil rights of woman prisoners. The inmates asked questions that mainly pertained to their cases. On behalf of Mumbai District Legal Services Authority, the Superintendent of the Mumbai District Legal Services Authority, Shri Gangurde, assured the woman prisoners of providing legal aid at the expense of the State.
- **Korba Mithagar Slum:** On the eve of Women's day i.e. 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, legal awareness on the issue of Women's Rights & Law was organised at the Korba Mithagar slum, Wadala. More than 300 women attended the programme. Shri Waghmare, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate was the Chief Guest of the programme. Smt. Sawant Waghule, Addl. Chief

Metropolitan Magistrate, Shri Deshpande, Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate & Shri G.O. Agarwal, Shri R. B. Agarwal and Shri Kulkarni, Metropolitan Magistrates of the Dadar Court were also present and spoke about the rights of the women.

- B.D.D. Chawls, Worli: A legal awareness programme on the eve of the Women's day i.e. on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 was organized in the Buddha Vihar, BDD Chawls, Worli, under the banner of *Prayas* and MDLSA. Nearly 300 women from B.D.D. Chawls attended the programme. Shri B.L.Waghmare, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate & Member Secretary of MDLSA was the Chief Guest. Smt. Ghadge, Metropolitan Magistrate, Mazagaon Court, enlightened the women audience regarding the rights of women.
- S.N.D.T. University: A legal awareness program on Women's Rights was organized in SNDT University. Shri B.L.Waghmare, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate & Member Secretary of MDLSA was the Chief Guest. Shri. Faruk Kiliwaja, Metropolitan Magistrate, Bombay Central Railway Court and Smt. Ghadge, Metropolitan Magistrate, Mazagaon Court, spoke about the rights of women. Over 300 students attended the Workshop.
- *Prayas* along with Mumbai District Legal Services Authority (MDLSA) organized an awareness programme on the occasion of Workers' Day for rag pickers in collaboration with Apnalaya. The session focused on the rights of workers, the historical struggle of the workers' movement, the ground realities of the unorganized sector and ways to redress the grievances of the workers.
- On the occasion of Children's Day, i.e. November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009, a legal awareness programme was organized at Observation Home, Umerkhandi by the District Legal Services Authority. Shri.Waghmare, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Board and the *Prayas* workers spoke about the humanitarian approach envisaged in Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act, 2000 and the practical difficulties involved in the implementation of the Act.
- An awareness programme was organized in the premises of the Thane District and Sessions Court by the Thane District Legal Services Authority (TDLSA) and *Prayas* on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and problems faced by the unorganized sector in getting their dues as workers from their employers. This programme was significant as it was attended by people from the community in large numbers.

#### **Seminar on Effective Implementation of Legal Aid Scheme**

A sensitization-cum-legal awareness seminar for judges, magistrates and legal aid panel lawyers was held at the Police Club premises in Mumbai. More than 150 judicial officers from Mumbai Sessions Court and other Metropolitan Courts along with 50 legal aid panel lawyers attended the seminar. Smt. Ranjana Desai, Hon'ble Justice of Mumbai High Court gave the inaugural address. The seminar was a joint venture by *Prayas* and Mumbai District Legal Services Authority. The seminar stressed on the loopholes in the present legal aid schemes and possible solutions to plug the same.

#### **Seminar on the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958**

In a joint venture with the DWCD, Mumbai District Legal Services Authority and Suburban Mumbai District Legal Services Authority, *Prayas* organised a seminar on the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 at the Small Causes Court. The inaugural speech was delivered by Smt. Ranjana Desai, Hon'ble Justice of the Mumbai High Court. Nearly 250 judicial officers from the Sessions Courts, Family Courts, Metropolitan Courts, Co-operative Courts, and Small Causes Courts attended this seminar. The *Prayas* worker spoke on the socio-legal aspects governing the enactment and implementation of the Act, followed by a sharing of experiences by some of the judicial

officers. In the discussions, there was a consensus with regard to application of Section 13(b) & (c) of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1956 under which a voluntary Probation Officer can be nominated in a case in the absence of a government appointed Probation Officer.

### **Follow-up of the Cadre Issue**

*Prayas* initiated a pilot project of placing social workers in the court setting. A project proposal was submitted by *Prayas* and two meetings were conducted with Smt. Ranjana Desai, Hon'ble Justice and Shri J. N. Patel, Hon'ble Justice of the Mumbai High Court. In the second meeting, Justice J.N. Patel who is also the Executive Chairman of the Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority, accepted the proposal and agreed to provide space and the necessary permission to *Prayas* in the premises of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court, the Esplanade Court, the Mumbai Sessions Court and the Thane Sessions Court on an experimental basis.

*Prayas* started work in the Mumbai Sessions Court and the Thane Sessions Court along with the District Legal Aid staff. The three-member Committee of the Mumbai High Court Judges granted written permission to *Prayas* in the last week of February, 2009. As per the permission, *Prayas* workers were given space in the offices of the Mumbai & Thane District Legal Services Authority. Besides this, all the judicial officers of the Mumbai and Thane district were directed to look into cases referred by the *Prayas* workers for release on probation, personal bond, cases under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, cases for legal aid and cases of children of prisoners.

Other developments towards which *Prayas* has contributed:

- **Honorarium to lawyers:** The Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority, under the chairmanship of Shri J.N.Patel, Hon'ble Justice of the Mumbai High Court in a recent meeting, passed a resolution pertaining to raising the honorarium paid to lawyers on par with that of public prosecutors. On implementation of the said resolution, lawyers of the legal aid panel will be entitled to an honorarium of Rs. 1000/- per day.
- **Para-legal training for women:** Preliminary discussions were initiated with Shri M.T.Joshi, Hon'ble principal Judge, Mumbai City Civil and Sessions Court, the representatives from Majlis and Mahila Udyog Society for organizing a Paralegal training in basic family and criminal laws. Shri Joshi accepted the idea and assured that the premises of the Session Courts could be used for counseling in any family dispute cases. Clients of *Prayas* could also have access to this training programme.

### **Permanent Lok Nyayalaya**

- The Mumbai High Court with the help of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has been in the process of starting a permanent Lok Nyayalaya in the Mumbai criminal courts. The Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority (MSLSA) requested *Prayas* to provide the list of workers to act as panel members in the said Lok Nyayalayas. Names of eight *Prayas* social workers have been submitted to establish permanent positions in the judicial set-up and thus achieve the *Prayas*' objective of creating a cadre of social workers within the judicial system. The Mumbai High Court has started its first permanent Lok Nyayalaya at the Ballard Pier Metropolitan Court and the rest are in the formation process.

### **Follow-up of ITPA Cases with Principal Judge, City Civil and Sessions Court, Mumbai**

The Superintendent of the Government Protective Home, and the Special Court set up under the Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956 have repeatedly complained that rescued victims get released on bail by pimps and *gharwalis* using fake identities of relatives in the Sessions Court. The social worker brought this matter to the attention of Shri. Nalawade, Principal Judge, City Civil & Sessions Court.

The recent Mumbai High Court judgment and other relevant material were also submitted. The Sessions Court has now refrained from releasing such victims on bail.

### **Other activities**

#### **Consultation organised by CHRI, Delhi**

*Prayas* worker attended a consultation organized by Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), New Delhi on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 regarding the issues relating to Jail Adalats, Personal Bond and production of under trial prisoners on their court dates through Video Conferencing.

#### **Inclusion of Prayas Staff in MDLSA**

Ms.Sujata Jagtap, *Prayas* social worker has been included as a member of the MDLSA Committee for a period of three years.

The *Prayas* Legal Resource was invited as a guest speaker by the Pune District Judge to speak before its judicial officers on the practical difficulties involved in the implementation of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958. More than 100 judicial officers from the Sessions Courts, Metropolitan and Civil Courts attended the seminar.

### Thane Court Initiative

In 2008-09, 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 providing services in the Thane District Court. The social worker based in the Male Youth Section of Kalyan District Prison shifted his base to the Thane District & Sessions Court and made efforts to acquire permission and space in the court premises. This shift was envisaged towards increasing the outreach of *Prayas* towards larger sections that are vulnerable to getting criminalized by the criminal justice processing. He met the court and judicial officers to orient them about the work of *Prayas*. The worker now sits in the office of the Thane District Legal Services Authority three a week. *Prayas* workers from Thane and Kalyan prisons refer cases for legal aid to this worker, who then liaises with the District Legal Services Authority to get these prisoners legal aid and guidance. He has also been having meetings with judges and Probation Officers to increase referral of cases under the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958. Regular meetings have been held with the magistrate attached to the Juvenile Justice Board under the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000 to sensitize him to refer cases of juveniles in conflict with law to *Prayas* for rehabilitation.

The *Prayas* worker was able to provide services like legal aid to under trial prisoners and family support to cases coming in court. His range of activities includes:

- Meetings with judges, judicial staff, legal aid panel lawyers, Bar Association members and district legal aid staff.
- Follow-up of the meeting held with Thane Law College towards starting a Jail Visits Project by law college students.
- Helping write applications, legal guidance and providing family support to litigants and accused persons approaching the court.

In the year 2009-10, intervention in the Thane Court continued. Services extended included family and individual counseling, identifying cases of persons with weak social and family supports and provision of assistance in regard to legal information, referral for legal services, family support and guidance, referral of youth to the *Prayas* Rehabilitation Programme, and referral of cases to the Probation Officer.

### Thane Court Initiative

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
<b>Total Number of Cases</b>		88	242
<b>Case Referrals</b>	Referral to Probation Officer	04	05
<b>Legal aid &amp; guidance</b>	Legal Counseling to Family	40	78
	Referral to Private Lawyers	19	10
	Referral to Legal Aid Panel Lawyers	12	20
	Follow-up with Private Lawyers	03	07
	Legal Guidance	80	155
	Meetings with Judges	10	12
<b>Visits Conducted</b>	Home Visits	03	40
	Follow-up Visits	08	25
	Visits to Police Station	42	65
	Visits to Prison	07	89
<b>Other Services</b>	Family Counseling with Client	07	11
	Rehabilitation Programme	20	22

## PREVENTION UNIT

A Legal Resource Centre was initiated by *Prayas* in the community to explore the idea of community-based crime prevention. Initially, one social worker was based at the Shivaji Nagar Police Station, to work with the police towards referral of cases of youth and first time offenders to *Prayas*. The worker was able to get a list of young persons who had been processed by the police station for minor offences or who were very young in age. The worker tried to meet these youth by paying home visits and getting in touch with them through local youth groups or *mandals*. However, the effort did not move very far, primarily because the youth essentially saw the worker as an extension of the police and could not trust him.

In 2008-09, *Prayas* set up a Legal Resource Centre in the community to be able to access persons who are vulnerable to legal processing. The area chosen for this project is Indira Nagar, 60 Feet Road, Dharavi, due to the fact that it houses a large migrant and unorganized sector population, has a large network of local groups working with youth or women and has three police stations situated in the area, indicating a very high density of population – the right mix for *Prayas* to initiate the project there. The target group is youth and the *Prayas* social worker has started work with local youth groups including Youth Welfare Association, Andhra Karnataka Dalit Varg Sangh, Vaibha Sanskrutik Kendra, etc.

One such group was identified and legal awareness programmes were organized for them. On 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 an interactive awareness session on Right to Information Act, 2005 was organized at the Youth Welfare Association premises. The session was conducted by Adv. Mohd. Qureshi and it was attended by 200 people. Discussions on environmental protection, secularism and the recent terror attacks in Mumbai were organized within the premises of Youth Welfare Association on December 25, 2008. Besides this, an exhibition was organised for the local residents of the area, disseminating the message of social harmony and national integration. A space for the Centre is also in the process of being located.

The work has started showing results, albeit gradually. In 2008-09, three cases of youth from the community against whom preventive detention orders was initiated were referred to the social worker.

The worker met the Asst. Commissioner of Police concerned and after detailed discussions with him, the preventive detention orders were cancelled. In one case, a warrant had been issued against an accused youth by the court for not attending court dates. The worker took him to court, gave him legal guidance and got his warrant cancelled. In yet another case, a youth's trial in court was nearing completion but he did not have any legal representation. This was brought to the notice of the trial court and a lawyer was appointed for him from the legal aid panel.

In 2009-10, intervention in this area continued largely through a coordination with local NGOs, through casework and organizing programmes for youth, their families and members of the locality, in an effort towards crime prevention.

### *Intervention details*

- Arrangement for legal aid to local youth accused of committing crimes, for victims of crimes and for the families of imprisoned persons who approached *Prayas*.
- Mediation between crime-affected families and the police.
- Referral of cases to the District Legal Services Authority.
- Organising sessions on processes affecting youth such as communalism and negative impact of globalization.
- Conducting sensitization programmes for parents of girl children in an effort to prevent crimes against children.
- Organising discussions for local youth on occasions such as Shivaji Jayanti, Ambedkar Jayanti and Independence Day.

- Organising meetings of community based organisations (CBOs) on issues such as harassment of women by local *gomidas*.
- Orientation of community youth about the *Prayas* rehabilitation programme.
- Organising a legal awareness programme at a location away from the community (fourteen preparatory meetings were held with various youth groups to elicit their participation in the legal awareness programme).

#### *Some outcomes*

- Police reconsidered legal action against some of the youth in the light of their psycho-social situation.
- Victims whose cases were not getting registered at the police station got assistance.
- Some of the youth have started attending the *Prayas* rehabilitation programme.

In relation to youth in conflict with the law with specific focus on those in custodial institutions, *Prayas* attended a meeting called by the Navnirman Yuva Prathisthan (Youth Wing of the Yashwantrao Chawan Pratishthan) to discuss the draft State Youth Policy. *Prayas* expressed the need for drafting of the policy to include youth vulnerable to, or involved in crime. It was observed that the draft stated that youth in conflict with the law should receive help. However, there was no mention of services or infrastructure for addressing this issue.

The worker has been in dialogue with community members including youth, CBOs and NGOs. A note on the handicaps faced by youth in custody and institutions and suggestions, were submitted to the Drafting Committee of the State Youth Policy. In addition, at a meeting organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Youth Development and TISS on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009, the following suggestions were submitted by *Prayas*:

- Under Urban Ceiling Act, the State government had taken possession of 1007 acres of land in the year 2007. Some of this land should be redistributed to nomadic and de-notified tribes for their social and economic rehabilitation.
- The State government and NGOs should establish vigilance groups in communities, schools, and colleges so that timely help is provided to youth vulnerable to deviance and crime.
- The State government should establish a nodal agency in co-ordination with NGOs and the prison department, for help to released prisoners and those in conflict with law.
- The State government should initiate a grant-in-aid scheme for NGOs working towards rehabilitation of youth, women and children of prisoners.

#### *Prevention Unit*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
Discussions/Meetings held	Discussions with NGO Networks	07	05
	Meetings with NGOs/CBOs	07	12
Legal Aid	Cancellation of Chapter Proceedings	03	04
	Cancellation of Warrant	01	---
	Providing Legal Aid for Retrial	01	02

## WORK WITH JUVENILES IN CONFLICT WITH LAW

Intensive efforts were made in 2009-10 by the social worker to establish the need for social work intervention with juveniles in conflict with law. The Superintendent and Probation Officer of Observation Home, Umerkhadi and the Probation Officer of David Sassoon Industrial School started referring cases of male adolescents to *Prayas*.

### Work involved

- Home visits to enquire into the home situation, counsel the families and provide legal guidance.
- JJB visits to follow up on cases referred to *Prayas* and arrange for legal aid wherever required.
- Police station visits to enquire on legal documentation.
- School visits to facilitate enrollment following discharge.
- Referral of cases of released adolescents to the *Prayas* Youth Development Centre.

### The worker observed that

- a) Around 5 per cent of the juveniles that the worker interacted with were between 12-18 years of age, and were repeaters having previous record of residence in the Observation Home, Umerkhadi.
- b) The juveniles were generally accused under Sections 302, 324, 376, 379, 380 of the IPC (murder, assault, rape, theft and housebreaking).
- c) It was observed that most juveniles came from single parent families, or were orphans.
- d) Many juveniles had addictions and had moved out of home.
- e) Juveniles living on the street are prone to get into/continue addictions which deepen disconnection from their families.
- f) There is no support and guidance post release.
- g) Many of the juveniles hail from other States.
- h) A significant number of juveniles in conflict with law plead guilty to the offenses before the JJB.
- i) Following release, many of them are once again arrested for alleged commission of an offense and produced before the Juvenile Justice Board.
- j) There is an absence of psycho-social services following the hearings of the JJB.

The Superintendent of Observation Home, Umerkhadi for girls had requested *Prayas* to accept cases of girls released from the Home, for enrollment in the NGO Placement Programme. *Prayas* agreed to this request. No cases have yet been referred, as the transfer of the Chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Board has affected the case referral.

### *Juveniles in Conflict with Law*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09*	2009-10
<b>Total Outreach</b>	Cases Handled	-	65
<b>Referrals</b>	Referral for After-care	-	08
	Referral for Emergency Assistance	-	06
	Referral for Legal Aid	-	15
<b>Visits</b>	Home Visits	-	53
	Follow-up Visits	-	48
	Visits to Observation Home	-	41
	Visits to Police Station	-	06
	Visits to JJB	-	39
	Visits to Legal Aid Agencies	-	08
	Visits to Educational Institutions	-	10
	Visits to Other NGOs	-	03

\*Work with JJB started in 2009-10



## PROMOTING CADRE OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Since the early years of the *Prayas's* presence in the field, and following several years of intervention at police stations in both Mumbai and Bharuch, *Prayas* has further strengthened its view about the scope and need for psycho-social intervention services at the police stations. These would be specifically beneficial to the large range of vulnerable persons being processed by the police. *Prayas* had taken up the issue and submitted a proposal to the Director General of Police (DGP), Maharashtra in 1992. However, despite a Police-TISS Committee Report on 'The Need for a Cadre of Trained Social Workers in Criminal Justice System' (submitted to the DGP in 1993) recommending the need for such a cadre, no concrete steps have been taken by the Home Department so far.

Now, with additional experience and understanding, and also with the realization that the voluntary sector has its limitations, *Prayas* has decided to resume its efforts towards establishing social work services for persons reaching the police. *Prayas* staff received permission from Dy. Commissioner of Police (DCP) - Zone VI to organize meetings with the police staff at the beat (chowkie) level and police station officials. Meetings were held with the police staff in this regard. The response of the police to the idea has been positive.

*Prayas* has also written to the Addl. Chief Secretary, Home Department asking her to revive the proposal. The issue has also been presented before various fora such as the State Minorities Development Department and the State level Committee on Implementation of the Sachar Committee Report.

### *Cadre of Social Workers in Criminal Justice*

Broad Services	Specific services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10*
<b>Meetings Conducted</b>	At Police Stations	02	---
	With NGOs	06	---
	With Community Based Organisations	05	---
	With Police Staff	03	---
	With Police Inspectors	05	---
<b>Visits Conducted</b>	Visits to NGOs	23	---
	Visits to Community Based Organisations	05	---
	Visits to Police Stations	06	---
	Visits to Home Department	02	---

\*Work on this issue was not continued in 2009-10 due to change of worker's placement

## ACTIVATING PRISON LIBRARIES

The initiative began with planning with regard to the aims and proposed outcomes. *Prayas* requested permission from the Office of the Inspector General of Prisons, Maharashtra to visit all the prisons in the State, so as to acquire an in-depth understanding of the situation with regard to prison libraries. Permission was granted but only for the prisons in the Mumbai and Thane districts.

*Prayas* decided to contact the Directorate of State Libraries to pursue the issue of extension of library facilities to the prisons. In this regard, a meeting was held with the Asst. Director, State Libraries and the Librarian of Mumbai City with no fruitful outcome. This further led to our social workers visiting various prisons - Mumbai Central Prison, Thane Central Prison, Kalyan District Prison, Byculla District Prison, Buldhana District Prison, Dhule District Prison and Jalgaon District Prison to gain a first-hand understanding about the conditions of the library facilities in the various prisons in the State. It was found that all these prisons have library facilities but are not being well maintained. The prison library facilities are accessible only to convict prisoners, and not for under trial prisoners. There is no regular purchase of new books by the prison authorities.

It was found that in Buldhana District Prison, a constable of the prison would regularly visit the District Library to get outdated magazines for the prison library. This was initiated by the Superintendent of Police of Buldhana, who had noticed during one of his visits to the prison that many of the under trial prisoners were idle. Since the District Library is situated opposite his office, he put in efforts to coordinate with the concerned authorities and gain permission to lend outdated magazines to the prison library. This was being continued by the prison authorities, the books were being maintained in a cupboard and a register was being maintained in the prison office of the books issued to the prison inmates.

During *Prayas's* visit to Buldhana, on visiting the District Library, the workers were informed about the 4-C Plan scheme of the Directorate of State Libraries where any library can become a member of the District Library by paying an one time deposit amount of Rs. 500/- and an biennial fee of Rs. 150/-. The library can borrow 25 books at a time from the District Library under this scheme and on return of the same, get another 25 books. It was also informed that this was a good scheme which could be helpful in activating the library facilities in the prison. However, the permission of the Director of State Libraries would need to be needed to extend the scheme in prisons of the State.

A meeting was held with the officials of the State Libraries Department and they agreed in principle to extend their library facilities to prisons and women's institutions, to start with in Mumbai. Following this meeting, a letter has been sent to the D.J.G. Prisons (Southern Region) apprising him of this development and requesting for his cooperation to start such a venture in Mumbai Central Prison and Byculla District Prison. Similarly, the Mumbai District Women & Child Development Officer was apprised of this initiative and he assured his full cooperation to get the library facility started under this scheme in the women's institutions in Chembur.

In the meantime, in November, 2008, the *Prayas* social worker attended a workshop on the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Scheme organized by Nashik District Library. This was to help him gain an understanding about the functioning and maintenance of libraries as well as gain an acquaintance and develop contacts with various library officials. During this workshop, the social worker was able to gather information with regard to the 4-C Plan scheme as well as approach Shri D.S. Chavan, the Director of State Libraries to get permission to extend the scheme to the prisons in all the districts.

In November, 2008 the Indian Library Association in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences had organized an International Conference in the Tata Institute of Social Sciences itself. Our Project Advisor, Dr. Sanobar Sahani had received an invitation for the conference as she is a member of the Indian Library Association. On gaining information about this, we approached the Dr. Parasuraman, Director of Tata Institute of Social Sciences requesting permission to make a paper presentation in the conference. On speaking to the authorities concerned, he was successfully in obtaining the permission for us. So Ms. Penny Tong, Coordinator of *Prayas* made a powerpoint presentation on 'Role of Libraries in Prison'. The presentation and the topic were so good that *Prayas* was given Best Presentation I.A Platinum Jubilee Award by the Indian Library Association at the end of the conference.

In December 2008, a meeting with Shri D. S. Chavan was held to gain permission to extend the benefits of the 4-C Plan scheme to the prisons of all districts in the State. Shri Chavan issued a circular to all District Libraries to extend the benefits of the 4-C Plan scheme to all the prisons in the State. On acquiring a copy of the circular, the same was sent to the D.I.G. Prisons (Southern Region) and the Mumbai District Women & Child Development Officer. Correspondence in this regard was also sent to the Superintendents of all the prisons in the state. Plans were made to conduct a meeting of the State Library Department and prison authorities, and planning a half-day meeting of teachers in prison to discuss their roles and responsibilities vis a vis the prison library issue.

Visits were also made to the district libraries and prisons of Mumbai Central Prison, Thane Central Prison, Kalyan District Prison, Byculla District Prison, Alibag District Prison, Ahmednagar District Prison, Paithan Open Prison and Nasik Central Prison to facilitate coordination between the prison authorities and the district libraries. Efforts were made to link a private library to the Ahmednagar District Prison, but this venture did not sustain for long. Thane Central Prison and Nasik Borstal School have strengthened their libraries under the 4-C Plan scheme by approaching the concerned District Libraries. The Neral District Library authorities have sent the enrollment form to the Superintendent of the Kalyan District Prison, and his response was awaited.

In March 2009, *Prayas* approached the D.I.G. Prisons (Southern Region) to seek permission to organize a workshop on the library issue in the prisons for literacy teachers in prisons of the Southern Region namely, Mumbai, Thane, Ramagiri and Raigad. On acquiring permission from the D.I.G., a one day workshop for representatives of the Library and Prison Departments, *Prayas* staff and NGOs working in prisons, was organized on July 14, 2009 at TISS, to address issues such as significance of libraries, the various library schemes available and the issue of coordination between prison teachers and the district libraries. The workshop was attended by the Assistant Director, State Libraries, retired Librarian of Mumbai University, the Librarian of TISS, librarians and prison literacy teachers from the districts of Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai.

The issues discussed included:

- Modalities to start the collaboration between the Library Department and the Prison Departments,
- Need to involve NGOs in the process,
- Creation of a Library Fund in the Prison Department,
- Appointment of trained staff in prisons to provide library services,
- Training of existing prison staff to maintain prison libraries,
- Need to allocate separate space in prison premises for prison libraries.

The recommendations of the Workshop were forwarded to the D.I.G. Prisons (Southern Region) for his perusal. *Prayas* will follow up on the implementation of the recommendations with the authorities concerned. It will also organise similar meetings in other parts of the State in future.

A dialogue with District Libraries and the prison administration in the following districts was initiated:

- With prison officials at Nasik Borstal School and Nasik Central Prison, Aurangabad Central Prison, Alibag District Prison, Talaja Central Prison, Mumbai Central Prison and Yavatmal District Prison.
- With library officials at Nasik District Library, Mumbai Marathi Granth Sangralaya, State Central

## Library, Alibag District Library and Aurangabad District Library.

The outcome of discussions with prisons Superintendents, teachers and library staff was:

- A circular was issued by Director, State Libraries to all the district libraries, suggesting that library facilities be made available to prisoners. This circular was used as a starting point of the discussions.
- District libraries have extended their facilities to prisons in Nasik, Thane and Alibag.
- Superintendent, Nasik Central Prison has agreed to obtain membership to the Nasik District Library.
- Aurangabad Central Prison, Alibag District Prison and Taloja Central Prison have initiated the procedure for district library membership.
- Prayas paid membership fees for obtaining library membership to Yavatmal District Prison.
- The Superintendent of the Mumbai Central Prison has shown interest in obtaining library membership.
- On a suggestion made to D.I.G. Prisons (Southern Region), a circular was issued to all the prison Superintendents of the Southern Region to report on progress regarding activation of prison libraries.

## STATE AND DISTRICT INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON PRISONERS

As a result of *Prayas'* suggestions submitted in a PIL filed in 1994 (Shabnam Minwala Vs. State of Maharashtra), the Mumbai High Court had ordered the State government to constitute a State level Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) on Prisoners to look into the rights, welfare and rehabilitation of prisoners and released prisoners. Following these orders, a State level Inter-Departmental Committee was set up in which *Prayas* is an invitee member. Subsequently, as a result of another PIL filed in 2005 in which *Prayas* was involved (PUCL Vs. State of Maharashtra), the Home Department was ordered to constitute District Level Inter-Departmental Sub-Committees to decentralize the work of the State IDC. *Prayas* has been making continuous efforts to activate and liaise with these fora so that issues related to legal rights and rehabilitation of prisoners are discussed and policy changes made accordingly.

Visits were made to various districts in the State during the period. Simultaneously, efforts were made by liaising with the Home Department and Department of Law & Judiciary to call the next meeting of the State Inter-Departmental Committee. The Department of Law & Judiciary responded and took the lead in calling the State Inter-Departmental Committee meeting which was called after a gap of two years. It had a positive impact on the related Departments and the necessary action was taken immediately. For example, the Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD) issued circulars to their field staff to appoint women Welfare Officers in districts where there are Women Sections in the prisons. They have drafted a proposal to start anganwadis for the children of women prisoners in the prisons. The Department of Law & Judiciary has taken up the issue of increasing the amount of honorarium paid to legal aid lawyers and duty counsels appointed by the State Legal Services Authority.

A decision was taken in the above meeting to include one local NGO from each district as an invitee member on the District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committees. The G.R. in this regard was subsequently issued by the Home Department along with the terms of reference and the minimum number of meetings of the District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committees to be held in a year, based on suggestions made by *Prayas*. A copy of the G.R. was circulated to all the members of the *Prayas* NGO Forum and they were requested to apply for membership to the Inter-Departmental Sub-Committees in their respective districts.

Other important decisions taken in this meeting included increasing the amount of grant given to released prisoners towards their rehabilitation (under the Grant-in-Aid scheme for Released Prisoners, implemented by the DWCD) from the present Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 25,000/-. A decision to include persons released from custodial institutions for women, children and Beggars' Homes as beneficiaries for the grant-in-aid scheme was also taken. The issue of conducting health education programmes in prisons for the inmates was taken up with the officials of the Health Department, and increasing the honorarium for legal aid lawyers and duty counsels visiting prisons by the Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority (MSLSA).

## District IDC Meetings

The social workers from *Prayas* visited various districts across the State to review the formation of District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committees, their functioning and the issues being discussed in the meetings. *Prayas* workers visited Nasik, Pune, Aurangabad, Osmanabad, Solapur, Akola, Raigad, Chandrapur, Bhandara, Alibag and Talaja for this purpose. District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committees have now been constituted in Solapur, Osmanabad, Latur, Buldhana, Sangli, Satara and Kolhapur. During the visits, *Prayas* staff interacted with the prison Superintendents, District Judges and Probation Officers. The focus of the visits was:

- a) To understand the local realities and learn about the status of co-ordination between the departments concerned.
- b) To advocate the need for formation of District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committees and to activate the Sub-Committees.
- c) To strengthen the implementation of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 and the probation services.

## Some outcomes

- The G.R. regarding formation of District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committees was shared with the prison Superintendents of Solapur and Osmanabad. During these visits, the Principal District and Sessions Judges of these districts undertook the responsibility of pursuing the matter with the prison authorities. The Osmanabad court authorities also requested for a list of NGOs willing to work inside prison and take up the membership on the District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committee. The Principal District & Sessions Judges informed that they would also invite Probation Officers to the District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committee meetings.
- In the Akola District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committee meeting, issues with regard to provision of police escorts for the under trial prisoners and availability of specialized medical staff for the prisoners was discussed. The Superintendent of Police assured that police constables would be deputed to handle the problem of police escorts.
- The Talaja District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committee meeting was conducted at the Talaja Central Prison. Here too, the issue of police escorts was discussed, to which the Dy. Commissioner of Police gave an assurance of providing police escorts for prisoners to be taken to the Alibag Court. The Civil Surgeon assured that bi-weekly visits would be made by doctors as four posts of doctors were vacant in Talaja Central Prison.
- The Sindhudurg District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committee is functioning well.
- Follow-up is being maintained with regard to the meetings of the Ratnagiri District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committee meetings.
- Two meetings of the Chandrapur District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committee were held. Issues such as health status of women prisoners, absence of balwadi, need for clothes for women prisoners, educational and recreational material for children of women prisoners, and overcrowding of the prison were taken up in these meetings. The District Judge had also asked the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad and the District Education Officer to be present, but they were unable to attend due to other commitments. *Prayas* staff met the District Probation Officer who regularly visits the Chandrapur District Prison as the female Welfare Officer. It was learnt that she actively assists women prisoners in obtaining benefits for their children under the Bal Sangopan Yojana of the DWCD.
- *Prayas* staff had been in communication with the District Sessions Judge of Bhandara district, with regard to formation of the District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committee and calling a meeting. He formally took up the initiative with the prison administration. On visiting the District DWCD Office and meeting the District Probation Officer, *Prayas* came to know that the District Probation Officer does not visit the prison due to excessive workload, but takes up the cases referred to him through the court.
- During a visit to the Alibag District Prison, *Prayas* was informed by the prison Superintendent that no District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committee meetings had been held. The Principal District Sessions Judge has insisted on a weekly visit by the Probation Officers to the prison. *Prayas* learned that investigation reports of 70 cases referred to the Probation Officers were submitted in the Alibag District Court. *Prayas* staff met the District Probation Officer and some cases were referred to him for consideration under the Bal Sangopan Yojana.

## ADVOCACY ON ISSUES RELATING TO WOMEN IN CUSTODY

In 2008-09, a need was felt to focus on facilitating developments towards the rehabilitation of residents of government shelter homes. By way of preparation to take up shelter related issues at the system level, a social worker was deputed to attend the Monitoring and Guidance Committee and other related meetings, and visit Byculla District Prison, Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha, and the Kasturba Mahila Vastigruha on a regular basis to identify key issues.

The first task that was identified was the absence of child-care facilities in shelter institutions. The absence of these facilities resulted in the women not being able to go out of the institution for employment or training purposes due to lack of child care services. This also led to reluctance on the part of the shelter homes to admit women with children as they were perceived as a liability. The social worker made visits to the District Office of the Department of Women & Child Development to discuss extension of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) to the shelter homes. She also visited three NGOs that provided child-care services in an effort to explore other options.

The need of services for persons released from institutions – both protective and penal custody – has been indicated through field experiences and research conducted by *Prayas*. While voluntary initiatives form the bulk of services made available to this group, the need for established infrastructure and provisions for all released persons is being asserted. *Prayas* has been in dialogue with the Ministry for Women & Child Development, Govt. of India and the Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD), Govt. of Maharashtra, to highlight the need for a special scheme for women released from institutions. Initial meetings with the District Women & Child Development Officer, Mumbai and Dy. Commissioner, Department of Women & Child Development, Govt. of Maharashtra indicated that the need for such services was acknowledged by the authorities concerned. *Prayas* has attended meetings held by UNICEF and DWCD, GoM, to further highlight related issues. Efforts towards strengthening grounds for a scheme for women and children released from institutions continued.

Visits were made to various shelter homes in an effort to identify issues relevant to rehabilitation of women living in shelter homes and incorporate them in a proposed rehabilitation scheme for persons released from custodial institutions. Visits were also made to the State Women's Commission, the Department of Women & Child Development and to the NIRC to discuss the needs of women in the post-institutionalization phase and the need for a government scheme for their rehabilitation.

Suggestions for amending the Grant-in-Aid Scheme for Released Prisoners were submitted to the Superintendent, Probation Department, DWCD, GoM. These included:

**a) The scheme should apply to the following groups:**

- Persons released from children's institutions under the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000, borstal schools under the Borstal Schools Act, 1929, State Homes/Reception Centres, Nari Niketans and Adhar Kendras run by the government, residential institutions run by the voluntary sector or aided by the government, State Protective Homes under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956
- Persons living in Aftercare Hostels after their release from children's institutions
- Juveniles released under supervision under the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000
- Persons released from Beggars Homes under the Beggars' Act
- Persons detained under the beggary law and released on license
- Released prisoners including convicted and under trial prisoners
- Persons discharged from mental health institutions under the Mental Health Act, 1987.
- Persons released on probation under the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958

**b) Financial assistance:** In *Prayas's* experience, expenses towards helping a person re-enter society amounts to approximately Rs. 45,000.- per annum. This includes stipend, emergency assistance, training expenses and family support.

**c) Disbursal of grants:** The method of disbursal would need consideration in order to ensure maximum benefit towards the goal of fostering re-entry of affected persons in mainstream society.

### ADVOCACY ON ISSUES RELATING TO CHILDREN OF PRISONERS

In 2008-09, attention to the needs of children of prisoners was highlighted by *Prayas* at the Kumarappa Reckless Lecture delivered by Dr. Shantha Sinha, Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) which was organised by Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Following this, a meeting with Dr. Shantha Sinha was held at TISS with regard to the issue of children of prisoners. In response to this meeting, the NCPDR sent a letter to all States and Union Territories asking them to submit relevant data about services being provided by their governments with regard to care, protection, treatment, education and rehabilitation of children of prisoners. In the same letter, the NCPDR asked the Centre for Criminology and Justice (CCJ) at TISS to coordinate this work.

Since this was the outcome of the work of *Prayas*, it was decided in the Centre to work in collaboration with *Prayas* on this issue. Thus, a format for data collection was drafted by the CCJ and *Prayas* and the same was sent to the Secretaries of Department of Women & Child Development and Inspector Generals (Prisons) of fourteen States asking them for the above information. Some of the state governments have sent their responses. *Prayas* played the role of following up with respective States on the issue. Once this data becomes available, it can give a clear picture about the situation and services being provided to children of prisoners in the country and could also lead to a publication on the issue. In 2009-10, replies were received from Rajasthan, Haryana, Mizoram and Maharashtra.

Subsequent to a Supreme Court judgement in the R.D. Upadhyay Vs. State of A.P. & Others case with regard to the provision of *anganwadis* for children of prisoners, *Prayas* has been following up with the Department of Women & Child Development, Govt. of Maharashtra to initiate *anganwadis* for children of prisoners residing with incarcerated mothers, and they have agreed in principle to implement this proposal. Letters have been sent to the Commissioner, DWCD and Commissioner, ICDS asking them to implement the decision taken in this regard in the State Inter-Departmental Committee meeting held in June, 2008. There has been correspondence with the Child Development Project Officers of five districts, namely Pune, Mumbai, Thane, Nashik, and Amravati to facilitate this initiative.

An e-mail has also been sent to Mr. Harsh Mander, Commissioner, Supreme Court Committee on Food Security, requesting him to take up this matter with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, GOI, whereby the Ministry could issue a notification to all States and Union Territories to start *anganwadis* for children living in prisons under the ICDS.

As a result of the continuous liaison with the Probation Superintendent, Department of Women & Child Development, Govt. of Maharashtra, a circular has been issued by him asking female Probation Officers in all districts to make regular visits to the Women Sections of the district and central prisons and look into the welfare and rehabilitation needs of the women prisoners and their children left outside.

The need to translate the book "*Forced Separation: Children of Imprisoned Mothers*" published by *Prayas* in 2002 was felt to highlight the situation of children of prisoners in the State, with CJS functionaries, NGOs, Schools of Social Work and interested citizens. *Prayas* has initiated the translation of this book into Marathi. The translation is in process.



## ADVOCACY WITH REGARD TO PROBATION SERVICES

The *Prayas* team has persevered in its efforts at bringing about improvements in the implementation of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958. Two of our workers in Mumbai and one worker in Thane have taken up the task of networking with Probation Officers and prison staff to increase referral of cases for probation and also to try and revive the system of Probation Officers visiting the prison on a regular basis to do prison welfare work. During the current reporting period, these efforts have met with some positive responses from the courts.

In addition to the regular work inside other prisons, there has been focus on implementation of Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, the Grant-in-Aid Scheme for Released Prisoners and *Bal Sangopan Yojana* for children of prisoners. Follow-up meetings with the District Probation Officer of Mumbai and Thane districts were held for this purpose. Lack of documents forms a major hindrance for access to most welfare schemes, as is the case with this given scheme as well. Attempts at referring individual cases for this purpose are a result of evident needs post-release and requests from Probation Officers to refer cases.

Presently, the percentage of women granted benefit of probation is significantly low. Implementation of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 for women prisoners has formed a vital part of *Prayas'* future direction. *Prayas* decided to explore the option of probation services for women prisoners, and organised a meeting between the Superintendent, Byculla District Prison and Probation Officers of Mumbai District. The meeting was conducted in the office of the Superintendent, Byculla District Prison. Issues such as procedures for increasing Probation Officers' visits to Women Barracks, and referral of cases to Probation Officers were discussed. Following this, the social worker accompanied the Probation Officer on prison visits, and followed up on the decisions taken in regard to strengthening of probation services for prisoners.

### Study of Probation System

*Prayas* undertook a study of the existing probation services. The services of the Probation Officers are generally available for different categories of persons, namely women prisoners, juveniles in conflict with law, children in need of care and protection, women in institutions (such as Female Beggars Home, Protective Home). One social worker of *Prayas* was deputed to study the structure of services provided. Initially, the focus of the study was the Probation system at Observation Home, Umerkhadi, followed by a study of the same in Mumbai District and its suburbs. The study focused on obtaining an understanding about the role, process, gaps and procedure of decision making regarding minor children. Different aspects of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 were explored. Literature on the Probation system in other countries, to understand the principles, policies and objectives behind the implementation of the Act in developed countries, was also studied.

### Implementation of Government Schemes under DWCD

The three schemes of the Department of Women & Child Development that have direct implications on the *Prayas* target group are the *Bal Sangopan Yojana* (a foster-care scheme under which a child in need of support gets a monthly allowance of Rs. 750/-), *Grant-in-Aid* scheme to released prisoners, and the Integrated Child Development Scheme. In order to promote the access of these schemes to prisoners and their children, Probation Officers in Mumbai and Mumbai (Suburban) were met, to explore availing government schemes for women and for children of women in custody. The social workers of *Prayas* were directed to get in touch with NGOs who received funds under the *Bal Sangopan Yojana*. A form has been drafted to be filled up by women prisoners for referral to the *Bal Sangopan Yojana*. A meeting was held in this regard with the Superintendent of Byculla District Prison to work out the modalities. It has been decided that cases will be referred to the Probation Officers by the prison and *Prayas* will follow up the cases. *Prayas* initiated dialogue with the Superintendents of the Byculla District Prison and Kalyan District Prison towards availing benefits under the ICDS for provision of *balwadis* in the prison.

### Training Programme for Probation Officers

*Prayas* conducted a training programme for the Probation Officers deputed to women's institutions. This was done in the light of the fact that there were Probation Officers who had been transferred from other Units within the Department of Women & Child Development and had not been trained for their responsibilities. The training programme was conducted once a week spread over a period of seven weeks. **The objectives of the training were:**

- To help participants identify problems faced in the field and discuss ways to address the same.
- To facilitate a better understanding and upgrade skills with respect to social work practice with residents of women's institutions.
- To enhance understanding about the legal, social and psychological dimensions of work with residents of women's institutions.
- To develop increased knowledge and strategies to work better with vulnerable groups in criminal justice.

Twenty eight Probation Officers were deputed to attend the training. Seventeen Probation Officers attended more than five sessions. Areas in which there was need felt for additional input were identified as repatriation, communication with police and courts, follow-up with police, inter-departmental coordination towards effective rehabilitation.

## HEALTH RIGHTS OF PERSONS IN CUSTODY AND EMERGING ISSUES

Between April-August, 2008, *Prayas* established contact with the Directorate of Health Services, Government of Maharashtra with the aim of raising before them the health issues of *Prayas*' target population. The initial contact was made within the context of proposing the increased participation of the Health Department within custody as well as during the post discharge/release phases. This was done on the basis that physical fitness is a pre-condition to earning/employment (the primary component of the *Prayas* rehabilitation programme) and that lifestyles and absence of/weak social supports render persons to an increased risk of destabilizing health situations. It was therefore, assumed that placements within the health sector would allow for an enhanced ability to access health services without resorting to exploitative elements. Furthermore, the health sector is a vital and widespread one, and job opportunities within this field are available within even the remote rural areas in comparison to other sectors. There is also scope for a wide range of livelihood options ranging from outreach to para-medical work and opportunities for different levels of involvement and participation in both the government and voluntary sectors.

*Specific objectives*

- Eliciting the attention of the Health Department to the situation of persons in custody with an initial focus on women.
- Proposing that the currently running National Health Programmes be extended to custodial institutions.
- Offering suggestions whereby reintegration of inmates could be done through inputs on health to inmates within custody whom *Prayas* could then absorb into its placement programme.
- Exploring the possibility of the Health Department providing training and placement opportunities to persons coming out of various custodial institutions.

These objectives were translated into the following concrete requests:

- A. Conducting awareness programmes within custody by the Health Department.
- B. Arranging short-term trainings within custody.
- C. Assistance to get in contact with NGOs associated with the Health Department.
- D. Collaboration between *Prayas* and the Health Department whereby *Prayas* trainees could avail of an internship opportunity within the Department.

**Other issues presented before the Director, Health Services were:**

- The spread of communicable diseases within custody with specific reference to TB and skin diseases.
- Requesting for free treatment for destitute persons in government hospitals.
- Highlighting the need for mental health services in institutions (for example, there being over 80 mentally ill inmates at the Female Beggars' Home)
- Waiving the requirement of consent form to be signed by social workers/shelter home staff for admission to hospitals, in the case of destitute patients (currently being demanded from social workers/ shelter home staff) in the absence of families.

**In the meetings, the following agreement was reached:**

1. The regular dissemination of health information through the National Health Programmes of the Health Department in the form of available awareness modules of the various programmes.
2. Identification of existing short-term trainings through the available programmes which would equip inmates with some basic skills that would facilitate entry into the health sector for employment.
3. Making available a list of NGOs that are associated with programmes of the Health Services Department and intimating them about the proposed plan so that they can admit trainees in their programmes and services.
4. An internship programme for ten trainees in a year through the Health Department.

*Prayas* followed this meeting up with a letter to the Director, Health Services. The interactions that ensued thereafter were with the Assistant Director. During meetings with him, the operational details of the proposed programme were discussed. The focus of the discussions was:

1. The specific institutions in which the proposed programme would be conducted
2. The specific National Health Programmes that were proposed during the initial phase namely, TB Control Programme, AIDS Control Programme, Maternal & Child Health Programme, Malaria Control Programme and the Mental Health Programme
3. Operational details.
4. Other health issues of persons without family support.

*Prayas* submitted a formal proposal to the Directorate of Health Services. This was accepted and the District Health Officer, Thane Zilla Parishad was identified by the Department to implement the proposed plan of action. However, when *Prayas* followed up with him, he raised issues about jurisdiction and suggested that the Municipal Corporation should be asked to carry out the programme in prisons in Thane district. *Prayas* is in the process of continuing its follow up with the Directorate, Health Services to facilitate the progress of the proposal.

Efforts thus, were focused on the following:

Follow up on the proposal submitted to the Directorate of Health Services for conducting health education/training, in accordance with specified National Health Programmes within custodial institutions.

Following the proposal submitted by *Prayas* to the Directorate of Health Services proposing that the National Health Programmes be extended to inmates of custodial institutions in the form of education and training, the Directorate assigned the matter to a Field Officer for implementation. However, this action evoked issues relating to the role and jurisdiction of the office. Much time was consumed in taking a decision about who was the appropriate authority. *Prayas* had to invest time and efforts in following up on official correspondence between the offices of the Assistant Director, the Zilla Parishad Health Officer and the Deputy Director. Delays were caused by non-availability of officers, correspondence not reaching the person concerned and internal consultation of senior officials. The outcome was that the appropriate authority was finally identified and a decision was taken to refer the matter to the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation.

Furthermore, the four women's institutions, namely, the Byculla District Prison, the Kalyan District Prison, the Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha and the Kasturba Mahila Vastigruha fell within the jurisdictions of two separate municipal corporations. Presently one of the corporations, namely the Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation has consented to conduct the said programmes. *Prayas* has obtained the requisite permissions from the Prison Department.

Written communication was issued by the Directorate of Health Services as well as by the Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC). *Prayas* had been in contact with the KDMC and worked towards facilitating the sessions. The first session took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009 on prevention and care of tuberculosis. The session covered brief details about the National Health Programme, information about TB as an illness, steps to identify symptoms and how it can be determined, treatment, consequences of not taking treatment or stopping treatment, care to be taken for the patient and his/her family members, nutrition, DOT Centers, precautionary measures and job opportunities with specific reference to the positions in the Corporation for non- technical staff such as Health Visitor, Health Attendant and Health Assistant. The prison doctor was also present and contributed further to the information.

In 2009-10, at the initiative of *Prayas*, the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation consented to conducting regular health education programmes at the Kalyan District Prison. Efforts were made to sustain the initiative and a second health session was conducted. The second session was on 'Maternal & Child Health.'

*Prayas* simultaneously focused its attention on enabling a similar process within the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. *Prayas* continued to follow-up on the correspondence that had been initiated with the

Directorate of Health Services towards health education programmes within custodial institutions in Mumbai and Thane. The difficulty confronting them was the absence of a structure that would implement the programme. The matter was therefore, referred to the Deputy Director, Health, Thane and then thereafter to the Mumbai Municipal Corporation and the Directorate, Medical Education and Research (DMER).

While working with persons without family support, *Prayas* has experienced difficulties when admitting a person into the hospital. These difficulties were with regard to demands made by public hospitals who insisted on the patient having a 24 hour escort and that the agency admitting the patient to sign on behalf of the absent family indicating consent for surgery and other such medical procedures. This puts an undue burden on agencies such as NGOs, shelter homes and the police. The requirements entail making financial resources and manpower available. An inability to comply with the requirements could result in the patient being denied the necessary medical treatment. This amounts to the denial of a basic human right of such persons.

The matter was brought up before the Director and Asst. Director, Health Services. They suggested that *Prayas* approach the Municipal Corporation since most of the hospitals in question came under their authority. Hence, *Prayas* contacted the Executive Health Officer who further directed *Prayas* to the Addl. Municipal Commissioner. *Prayas* met the Addl. Municipal Commissioner with a letter outlining the problem and giving suggestions. The matter was referred to the Director, Medical Education and Major Hospitals for their opinion. The request was finally not acceded to on both counts.

*Prayas* has been exploring appropriate ways to take the matter forward. One of the affected parties was the residents of Government Reception Centre. *Prayas* shared the outcome with the Superintendent of Government Reception Centre. A decision was made to examine whether there had been any Government Resolution (G.R.) issued to date which might have addressed the issue in any way. Efforts put in this regard so far have shown that the issue has not yet received any government attention.

*Prayas* simultaneously put up the matter before the State Inter-Departmental Committee on Prisoners. Besides this, a proposal was also submitted to the Joint Director, Medical Education & Research (DMER) who forwarded the proposal to the hospitals falling under its jurisdiction. Eventually, *Prayas* received a copy of the letter from DMER addressed to the Dean, Sir J.J. Hospital directing him to discuss the proposal with *Prayas* and to implement the programme within their rules. The implementation of the proposal appeared to face resistance from the PSM Department, Sir J. J. Hospital, which was identified as the implementing Department. *Prayas* has decided now to take up the matter with the Joint Director, DMER.

### **Need for Para-medical Workers in Shelter Institutions for Women**

In 2008-09, *Prayas* also began an exercise wherein issues concerned with the health of women in custodial institutions were enlisted for the purpose of bringing them to the attention of the health authorities. Some of these issues were: the need for Para-medical workers attached to shelter homes, the difficulties confronting persons without family support in accessing in-patient treatment in government hospitals, facilities for persons with special medical needs (pregnancy, HIV, etc), age verification procedures conducted on female inmates by male doctors, the spread of communicable diseases within custody, mental health issues, etc.

*Prayas* has acquired the contact details of some Health Department officials from where the lists of NGOs associated with, or receiving funding through them can be obtained for future networking.

Destitute persons with mental and physical illnesses face recurrent challenges in obtaining admission to shelter homes. *Prayas* has understood that the reason for this is that institutions do not have the necessary infrastructural supports to respond to the needs of this category. As a step towards addressing this issue in part, *Prayas* decided to bring the issue to the attention of the Department of Women & Child Development. It plans to put forward the suggestion that there should be provisions for an institution to appoint Para-medical workers.

## Mental Health Needs of Custodialized Women

*Prayas* met the Superintendent of the Byculla District Prison to discuss the need for mental health services for women prisoners. With his consent, *Prayas* decided to explore the possibility of encouraging educational institutions to consider student placement as an initial effort. To this end, *Prayas* met and wrote to the Department of Applied Psychology, Mumbai University. *Prayas*, thereafter made a presentation at a National Seminar on 'Psychology in India'. The presentation was on the need for psychological intervention in custodial institutions, with the aim of encouraging psychology professionals to initiate and support work within custody. The University is yet to respond to the issue raised by *Prayas* before them.

*Prayas* has already initiated efforts to encourage educational institutions and mental health professionals to extend their services. The need was established again when there was a request from the Superintendent of Kalyan District Prison that there be regular psychiatric assessment of the inmates. This led *Prayas* to examine the situation of mental health in greater detail during the year and thus exploring the possibility of setting up a service.

Two staff members of *Prayas* started visiting organizations that provide mental health services. Senior professionals of government hospitals such as J.J. Hospital, K.E.M. Hospital and the Thane Mental Hospital were contacted. A plan was worked out whereby it was decided that *Prayas* would organise awareness sessions in women's institutions. Cases would be identified and reached out to. *Prayas* would also try to facilitate access to specialised services.

## Mental Health within Institutions

In 2009-10, for a few months, *Prayas* explored the possibility of extending mental health services within the Criminal Justice System with a view to further support the process of rehabilitation. Three sessions on understanding and dealing with stress were organized and conducted in the women's institutions. *Prayas* also initiated a preliminary and exploratory dialogue with the Head of the Department of Psychiatry, KEM Hospital.

In order to further identify current health concerns within custodial institutions, *Prayas* took the assistance of students from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences who were undergoing fieldwork training. They collected data about health concerns within the Women Section of the Byculla District Prison, the Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha, the Kasturba Mahila Vastigruha and the Female Beggars Home. The report is to be finalized and taken forward for intervention.

## Health Rights of Persons in Custody and Emerging Issues

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09*	2009-10
Awareness Sessions Organized	For Prison Inmates	---	01
	For Prison Staff	---	03
Visits Conducted	Visits to Prison	---	01
	Visits to Kalyan -Dombivali Municipal Corporation	---	01
	Visits to Health Department Offices	---	10
	Visits to Hospitals	---	09
	Visits to Other NGOs	---	04
	Outstation Visit	---	01
Other Services	Counseling	---	13

\*Work on this issue started in 2009-10

## MENTORING UNIT

The Mentoring Unit was conceived in response to the need to encourage and support new developments in the area of criminal justice social work, initiate a forum for sharing of experiences from the field and create a lobby towards law and policy change.

One of the main activities of the Mentoring Unit comprises granting Fellowships to motivated and committed individuals or organisations interested in initiating work in the field of criminal justice. Through a mentoring process, Fellows are provided guidance and assistance in developing and sustaining their work in the field. Besides, the Unit aims to motivate colleges of social work and law to place their students for fieldwork in the criminal justice system with the long-term goal of starting full-time projects or for gaining a basic understanding of issues and problems faced by criminal justice affected citizens in their respective district or state. Efforts are being made to create a NGO Forum of organisations working in the field of criminal justice which could serve as a platform for law and policy change vis a vis the criminal justice system.

### Fellowship Programme

The Fellowship programme of the Unit got a boost in 2009 when *Prayas* received proposals from individuals who desired to start work in custodial institutions. After a scrutiny process, two Fellowships were granted in April 2009. Later, as news spread about the Fellowship programme through word of mouth, many proposals were received from within Maharashtra as well as from outside the State. Workers made field visits to the areas from where proposals were received - from Bharuch, Aurangabad, Akola, Yavatmal, Chandrapur and Nagpur. On the basis of these visits and personal interviews with the applicants, four more Fellowships were granted in July 2009. Thus, six Fellowships were granted for initiating work in the field of criminal justice. The Fellowships were based in:

- 1) Chandrapur, Maharashtra, to work with women and youth offenders and their children (both inside prison and those left outside).
- 2) Amravati, Maharashtra, to explore services for families of homicide victims.
- 3) Akola, Maharashtra, to explore extending the services of the District Legal Services Authority inside the Prison.
- 4) Solapur, Maharashtra to work towards the rehabilitation of juveniles in conflict with the law.
- 5) Bharuch, Gujarat to explore the needs of families of the offenders housed in the Bharuch Sub-Jail and Bharuch 'A' Division Police Station.
- 6) Nagarcot, Tamil Nadu to work with children of prisoners (both inside prison and those left outside).

The Fellows were in regular touch with their mentors from within *Prayas*. The social workers of the Unit have also been in regular touch with the Fellows to help them develop their work and guide them in the course of their work. Regular reports are submitted by the Fellows to *Prayas*.

In the month of January 2010 visits were made to Amravati, Chandrapur and Nagarcot to assess the work of the Fellows. Detailed discussions were held with the Fellows about their work; visits were made to the prisons and the field; interactions with individuals and officials who have been assisting or supporting the Fellows.

The Amravati Fellow initiated his work through a baseline survey of needs of families of homicide victims, with the help of support from the local police authorities. He has also started approaching local donors and funding organisations to sustain his work. The Chandrapur Fellow is planning to approach various industries based in the district for financial support. Initially, she plans to hold a meeting with industries in the area and present before them the concept of social work in criminal justice as well as the work done by her. *Prayas* encouraged this venture and assisted her in developing this concept by contacting the Labour Welfare Officer of Ballarpur Paper Mills. She also plans to avail of a scheme of the Industrial Training Institute, whereby her organization can provide vocational training to prisoners. In the long run this would help the organization in availing of other government schemes for the welfare of prisoners. The Nagarcot Fellow had not gained permission from the Prison Department to initiate work with the children of prisoners inside the prisons. *Prayas* guided him to support children of prisoners left outside, with the help of referrals from the District Probation Officer.

During a visit to the Nagarecoil Fellow, the social workers of *Prayas* also visited the Nagarecoil District Prison, Tirunelveli Central Prison, Coimbatore Central Prison and Vellore Central Prison, as part of gaining further understanding about the local context of prisons, and the facilities and services available to the prison inmates. There are industries set up inside all the Tamil Nadu Central Prisons for the occupational development of the convict prisoners, whereby they gain an opportunity to learn a specific trade as well as earn some money. The District Legal Services extends assistance to under trial prisoners with regard to provision of lawyers, release on personal bond, bail, etc. In each prison, there is a HIV/AIDS Counseling Centers set up by TNSACS with a counselor and a technician for HIV testing (with pre and post testing counselling). In all the prisons, there are posts of welfare officers, but majority of these positions are presently vacant. The prison officials emphasized the need to fill up these positions, as it has a positive impact on the prison environment and from the point of view of rehabilitation.

*Prayas* explored the services available to the convict prisoners after release from the prison. A visit was made to the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society (DPAS), a government supported voluntary organisation, which extends assistance and support to the released prisoners. A need was felt to form a similar organisation in other States as well. The *Prayas* team visited some NGOs working with prisoners and their families, such as SEED, an NGO based in Srperumpudur working towards the welfare of children of prisoners.

*Prayas* also visited colleges of social work such as the Bishop Appaswamy College of Social Work, Coimbatore and the Malankara Catholic College, Kanyakumari to discuss with them the possibility of initiating fieldwork placement in the criminal justice system. There was a positive response from them and *Prayas* assured its support and guidance to them in initiating such placements. Throughout these visits, the Nagarecoil Fellow accompanied the *Prayas* team and gained a good exposure to the field. This proved helpful to him as he was able to interact with prison officials, develop contacts with NGOs, gain information about their activities, etc.

In the month of February 2010, a visit was made to the village in Jhagadia Taluka, where the Bharuch Fellow was based. A detailed discussion was held with the Fellow about his work and how the same could be strengthened.

### Guidance and Support to NGOs

Within the Fellowship program, *Prayas* is also providing guidance and facilitation to other NGOs working in the CJS. In this regard, 2008-09, one of the Unit workers was assigned the task of extending professional guidance and support to Sahyadri, an NGO working in the area of criminal justice in Solapur, Maharashtra. Besides regular guidance to the workers of the organization, the Unit worker arranged a two-day Para-legal Workshop for the newly appointed staff of Sahyadri, which was conducted by Adv. Vijay Hiremath of ICHRL. *Prayas* also assisted Sahyadri in acquiring permission from the Juvenile Justice Board to work with Juveniles in Conflict with Law.

In 2009-10, support and guidance was extended to two NGOs (who had applied for the Fellowship earlier but could not be granted) based in Yavatmal and Aurangabad. The NGO based in Yavatmal has initiated work in the prison through counseling on HIV/AIDS, adult literacy classes and career guidance to youth in prison. The NGO based in Aurangabad has initiated a library project in the prison.

### Organising Training Programmes

A need was felt to organise regular training programmes for the Fellows, given the fact that they were relatively new to the field of criminal justice social work or socio-legal interventions. A three-day training programme was organized for the Fellows in the month of July 2009. The syllabus included orientation about the structure of the criminal justice system namely prison, court and police station; work with women prisoners, youth prisoners, children of prisoners, police station cases; and the basic tenets of criminal and correctional laws (such as IPC, Cr.P.C., Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, etc.). The programme helped in promoting interactions between the Fellows, exposed them to issues in the field of criminal justice and in gaining knowledge and information about the criminal justice interventions.

A five-days training on 'Legal Acts/Information & Documentation' was organised in the month of March, 2010. The Workshop was kept open to all staff of *Prayas* and other NGO staff working in the field of criminal justice.



The topics selected and the resource persons were as follows:

- 1) Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 and its Role in Rehabilitation: Shri Vikas Kadam, Social Worker, Prayas
- 2) Constitutional Rights of Prisoners: Ms. Priti Bharadwaj, Program Coordinator, CHR1, Delhi
- 3) Bombay Police Act, 1951 and Police reforms: Shri Sudhakar Suradkar, Inspector General of Police (Retd.), Mumbai
- 4) Indian Penal Code, 1860 & Rules of Evidence: Adv. Monica Sakhrani
- 5) Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956, Rules & Implementation: Ms. Shobha Shelar, Superintendent, Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha, Chembur
- 6) Right to Information Act, 2005 & Implementation: Mohd. Afzal, Krishnaraj & Smit Ahyu, Social Activists
- 7) Documentation Skills: Dr. Nilima Mehta, Visiting Faculty, Nirmala Niketan
- 8) Juvenile Justice, 2000 & Borstal Schools Act, 1929: Adv. Maharakh Adenwalla
- 9) Personal Laws & Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005: Adv. Veena Gowda
- 10) Bombay Prevention of Beggary Act, 1959 & Rehabilitation: Shri Gautam Arvel, Superintendent, Male Beggars' Home, Mumbai
- 11) Overview of the Criminal Justice System in India & Prison Reforms: Shri Vijay Raghavan, Director, Prayas & Faculty, Tata Institute of Social Sciences
- 12) Criminal Procedure Code & Amendments: Adv. Vijay Hiremath

Since majority of the resource persons are experts in their fields with lot of experience, the sessions were very informative and highly appreciated by all the participants. There were good interactive discussions between the participants and the resource persons. And the Fellows were quite content with the knowledge gained during the Workshop.

### NGO Forum

An NGO Forum meeting was organized in 2008-09 at TISS where six organizations and twelve members came together on a common platform to share their experiences and views on issues relating to working with marginalised groups affected by criminal justice processing and related issues. In this meeting, it was decided that the Forum should meet once every three months to maintain the dialogue and create a lobby for policy change. Some of the issues identified were the need for a rehabilitation policy for prisoners and the need to resist the deputation of police officers to the prison department. The idea of starting a newsletter highlighting work of the organisations, criminal justice reforms as well as preventive work at the community level was discussed in the meeting. The group agreed to start a quarterly newsletter by the November 2009. This meeting was followed by three meetings during the year i.e. on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

The following issues were discussed during these meetings:

### The NGO Forum Newsletter

It was decided that the Forum would be named as *Forum for Socio Legal and Rehabilitation Initiatives*. The members of the Forum are Prayas, Sudhar, VARHAD, Sahyog Trust and Sadyadri. Besides this, it was decided to invite local NGOs of Mumbai who are working in the prisons of Mumbai, Thane and Kalyan.

With regard to initiating a newsletter of the Forum, Prayas took the responsibility of initiating the newsletter for a period of one year and thereafter, other members could carry forward the responsibility. The name of the newsletter was finalized as *Dialogues in Criminal Justice and Rehabilitation*. The logo of the newsletter prepared by one of the Fellows and was unanimously approved by all members of the Forum. It was decided that the newsletter would be tri-lingual i.e. Marathi, Hindi and English, and articles in these languages would be encouraged from Forum members or other actors in the field. A format of the newsletter was presented in the meeting and suggestions were sought from the members.

### Promoting Services for Children of Prisoners

With regard to the issue of children of prisoners, copies of the Supreme Court judgment (R.D. Upadhaya Vs. State of Andhra Pradesh & Others), circulars issued by the Prison Department and the Department for Women & Child Development, GoM were circulated to the members informing them about the changes that need to be brought about inside the prison as well as with regard to facilities for the children of prisoners left outside. Each member was

requested to take up the responsibility to find out whether the implementation of these judicial and administrative orders have taken place in their respective district or State, so as to develop a strategy to work towards the same.

There was a presentation by some member organizations of the Forum with regard to activities conducted by them on Children's Day, such as a workshop on the issues and problems faced by children of prisoners, distributing sports equipment and conducting entertainment activities for children of prisoners, arranging meetings between imprisoned mothers with their children left outside, providing monetary help and publishing of an article on children of prisoners in a local daily.

### **Formation of a Group E-mail of the Forum**

With the help of a social worker from Sudhar, a group e-mail account of the NGO Forum was created.

### **Promoting District IDC Sub-committees**

*Prayas* briefed Forum members about the Inter-Departmental Committee on Prisoners formation of the IDC, membership of the Committee, efforts made by *Prayas* to ensure regularity of meetings and in raising field issues in the meetings. *Prayas* has been successful in getting a circular issued through the Home Department with regard to formation of District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committees in all the districts of the state. A copy of the circular was circulated to the members of the Forum and they were requested to apply for membership on the Sub-Committee to the District Judge of their respective districts.

### **Establishing Contact with Colleges of Social Work**

In 2008-09, three colleges of social work in three districts were approached with the proposal to initiate field work placement in the criminal justice system. They were assisted to apply for permission to place the students in prison. A visit was also conducted to the SRT University College of Social Work, Nanded, to follow-up on the fieldwork placement in prison already initiated by them. The *Prayas* worker interacted with the students placed in the prison for fieldwork and maintained contact with them with regard to the cases being handled by them or problems during the placement.

A dialogue was initiated with the Dean, School of Rural Development, TISS at its Tuljapur Campus in Osmanabad, Maharashtra, to start field work placement in the Osmanabad District Prison. In this regard, *Prayas* assisted the faculty in writing to the D.I.G. Prisons (Central Region) for permission to place students for fieldwork in the Osmanabad District Prison and for an orientation visit of the students to the Prison. The social worker of *Prayas* also assisted the faculty during the orientation visit of the BSW-II students to the Osmanabad District Prison by briefing the students about the need for social work in prisons.

Simultaneously, a plan was initiated in collaboration with the School of Rural Development to organise a consultation with social work colleges, law colleges and NGOs working in the Marathwada region on the issue of social work in criminal justice. A list of colleges and their addresses in the Marathwada region was compiled, as a first step to this process.

In January, 2009 during a visit to Nagpur, contact was established with two colleges of social work, namely Matru Seva Sangh and Tirpude College of Social Work. Prof. Shingnapure of Tirpude College had agreed to assist in organizing a meeting of colleges of social work as well as law where *Prayas* could present its work and discuss possibilities of starting work in the criminal justice system.

### **Student Field Work**

Students of social work, law, media and cultural studies have been placed for regular field work and block placement from College of Social Work Nirmala Niketan, TISS, SNDT University, Indira Gandhi National Open University, MS University, and Bhavnagar College of Social Work. Student placements provide an opportunity for mentoring young minds and create a platform for sharing of new ideas and perspectives. *Prayas* values the association with students as part of their learning curve.

## BHARUCH UNIT

**Training of Bharuch Unit staff**

The social worker of the Mentoring Unit based in Bharuch is mainly responsible for promoting developments in Gujarat. Her work involves coordination of the day-to-day work of the Bharuch Unit of *Prayas*, capacity development of the Bharuch team and coordinating between the Bharuch Unit and other Mumbai and Thane Units of *Prayas*.

With regard to the training needs of the Bharuch Unit team, she took sessions on:

- Principles of case work and counseling
- Role of services delivery in rehabilitation
- Sympathy and empathy
- Use of self in professional work.
- Individual need to help clients vis a vis agency objectives and workers' role in the agency.
- Importance of sharing and reporting amongst the group members.
- Importance of reporting and discussion about the process of work.
- Leadership and working as a group.

There is an on-going discussion with the Unit workers on cases, issues arising out of them, issues arising within the group members and handling the same, maintaining documents and records. Besides this, there are individual discussions with the workers about their strengths and weakness in regard to their growth as professional social workers.

The Unit worker has also conducted meetings with officials along with the Bharuch Unit members. Support has been extended to the Unit social workers with regard to report writing, administration, guidance in their day-to-day activities, new initiatives by the workers, and planning training programmes for the families of prisoners in the community.

A regular follow up has been maintained with the District Legal Services Authority for training of the officials. Team members have been supported to initiate innovative approach to emerging issues in the field. For example, a group of youth was lodged in the Bharuch Sub-jail, sentenced to life imprisonment in a gang rape case. Follow-up with their wives and mothers revealed that these women were facing many problems with regard to their livelihood. To help the women with an alternate source of income, a training programme was initiated for them. During visits in the field, it was observed that there were a large number of cases pending before the Juvenile Justice Board in Bharuch. Many young youth (who had attained majority) were being processed by the Juvenile Justice Board without any legal support. Work was initiated with the Juvenile Justice Board and the Observation Home, Bharuch to reach out to the youth.

Besides this, regular support and guidance has been extended to the *Prayas* Fellow based in Bharuch working with families of persons affected by the criminal justice processing. Support is extended to the Fellow through discussions on work related issues, report writing and guidance with regard strategies.

**Supervision of Students and Motivating Colleges of Social Work**

Efforts are also being directed towards promoting field work placements of social work students in criminal justice. Thus, the worker supervised students placed in *Prayas* from Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad; College of Social Work, Bhavnagar; and Veer Narmad University, Surat. *Prayas* gave an orientation lecture on social work in criminal justice settings for MSW students at the Social Work Department, Veer Narmad University, Surat and BSW students at Saraswati College of Social Work, Bharuch. She has had discussions with the faculty of both colleges and with Swami Vivakanand Post Graduate Academy, P.G. Center of Social Work, Bhavnagar, on initiating field work placement in criminal justice settings. The *Prayas* worker has also been involved in supervising a student on her dissertation on 'Rehabilitation Schemes for Women in Crisis' from Veer Narmad University, Surat. Discussions have been initiated with IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University) for field work placement of their students in the criminal justice and the juvenile justice systems.

### Discussions and Follow-up of New Initiatives in the Field

The Inspector General (Prisons), Gujarat, has shown interest in initiating welfare work for the prisoners in all the prisons of the State and taking the support of *Prayas* in this regard. *Prayas* has corresponded with three Sub-Jails to guide the prison staff about the kind of welfare work they could start in prison. *Prayas* plans to make regular visits to these prisons to explore avenues of starting welfare work in prisons by its staff or through NGOs.

### Other Activities

On 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 i.e. Children's Day, a Workshop on Issues of Children was organized by Sahara Aids Control Society, Yavatmal. During this Workshop, Ms. Devayani Tunna delivered a lecture on the issue of Children of Prisoners. The Workshop was attended by various NGOs, students from MSW colleges, faculty, etc.

In the month of November, at the request of the *Prayas* Fellow based in Akola, Mr. Vikas attended the first IDC Sub-Committee meeting held in Akola. Besides *Prayas*, VARHAD and Sahyog Trust representatives were present. Mr. Kadam explained the role of the IDC and the importance of the NGO representation on the Committee.

Ms. Tunna presented a paper on "Role of Social Work in Correctional Settings" at the '8<sup>th</sup> State Level Seminar on Correctional Administration' organised by the Kerala Prison Department at Thrissur from 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> February, 2010. The participants were prison officials from the various district and central prisons of the State.

**WORK AT BHARUCH UNIT****Male Youth Section, Bharuch Sub-Jail**

In Bharuch Sub-jail, *Prayas* intervenes in both the Male and Female sections. One social worker visits the Male Section. The *Prayas* social worker conducted regular group sessions with the inmates on legal aid, citizenship rights, government schemes and substance abuse. The social worker identifies the group interested in such sessions and then has discussions with them. During these sessions, the *Prayas* worker identifies cases for long term intervention. This strategy was decided as workers were unable to spend long time inside the barracks because of the security reasons. Thus, the strategy of reaching out to groups was planned. As a result of this strategy, a huge number of clients were reached out to, but intensive case work was possible with only a few clients. From the prison inmates who participated in group sessions while in prison, a few of them have contacted *Prayas* social worker on their release from the prison. They were given assistance to avail the benefits of the various government schemes for self-employment.

**Need for Individual and In-depth Work**

Group discussions and awareness sessions were started so as to reach out to more clients at the same time, but the experience has not been as expected. Though, we are able to reach out to more clients, in-depth work is not being possible. Most of the worker's time is spent in identifying inmates for the training, identifying resources, planning and organizing of training and thus in-depth work with the client has suffered in the process. Thus, we have now decided to focus on counseling clients for rehabilitation, legal aid and involving family in the process of rehabilitation. The prison staff also, however, initially had not accepted this strategy of conducting group sessions (especially the old staff who have seen case to case work of *Prayas*) and they feel that *Prayas* should continue their earlier kind of work of case to case handling. But gradually, they are accepting the concept of group discussions. They have also made requests to the *Prayas* staff to organize skill training programmes for the inmates.

In 2009-10, the social worker in the prison setting intervened with the families of youth inmates. The aftercare worker of *Prayas* followed up the cases of released inmates. As three workers are contributing efforts to the prison related work the results are quite visible. The prison staff is also appreciating the work of *Prayas* with regard to the follow-up maintained. Besides this, the worker also focused his work on the following:

**Benefit of Government Schemes**

For families of convicted prisoners, there is the government scheme of Kutumb Sahay Yojana, wherein the families receive a cash support of Rs.5000/- to buy domestic animals. To avail the benefits of this scheme, there is a long process wherein the inmate has to co-ordinate between the family, prison officials, I.G. Office, Samaj Suraksha Department. The family also has to visit the Taluka administrative offices to get various documents required to be submitted to avail the benefits of the scheme. In Central prisons co-ordination is the role of the prison Welfare Officers. But in most prisons, these posts are vacant, *Prayas* has spend some time in gaining understanding of this issue and will follow it up for the convicted prison inmates of Bharuch Sub-jail.

**Legal Guidance and Legal Aid in Prison**

The Male Section worker has focused his efforts on legal guidance, legal aid and writing applications for the prison inmates. The worker has given legal guidance to inmates, followed up their cases with the district and taluka level Legal Aid Boards, written legal applications and whenever required contacted advocates and Magistrates for speedy trial of the cases.

The issue of effective implementation of Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 was also brought to the notice of the District Judge and District Legal Aid Board. A legal awareness session on the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 was organized inside the sub-jail with the co-ordination of the District Legal Aid Board.

**Literacy Programme for Prison Inmates**

To involve the government machinery for literacy activities inside the prison, Sarva Shikshan Abhiyan project office at Bharuch was contacted. Follow-up was also made at Sarva Shikshan Abhiyan office at Gandhinagar. But since their programme did not involve prison inmates, Nirantar Shikshan project was contacted.

They have principally agreed to have a centre of Nirantar Shikshan at Bharuch Sub Jail but since their grant has also not come, they have not been able to start the literacy programme yet in the prison. However, in co-ordination with Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Bharuch literacy kits were provided to the prison inmates. A prison inmate who was teacher by profession was encouraged to teach the interested inmates.

### **Welfare Work at Other Prisons in the State**

The I. G. Prisons, Gujarat, has shown interest in the work of *Prayas* and is interested in initiating similar work in other prisons of Gujarat. The Bharuch Unit of *Prayas* is following up the matter with the prison officials and also with I. G. Prisons. We intend to visit prisons, and discuss with the jail Superintendents, the work of *Prayas* and how we can support them to initiate welfare and rehabilitation work in their respective prisons. The Superintendents of various prisons in Gujarat have been writing to us asking for our support to organize various welfare programmes in their prison. *Prayas* has sent a brief outline to them on the types of activities that can be organized inside the prison along with the names of agencies whose support they can take in organizing these activities.

### **Female Section, Bharuch Sub-Jail**

As planned, in 2008-09, visits were made to the Women's Section of the prison once a week. Cases were taken up for intervention and follow-up visits made. Counseling, legal aid and advice, follow-up in courts and with advocates, support to children outside prison and making contacts with the family was main focus of the work. Home visits were also made to the families where there was need to maintain contact.

### **Training Programmes**

Training programmes were not organized as per plan, as the number of women inmates was very low in 2008-09. During the second year the jail officials did not give permission to hold trainings

### **Work with Children of Prisoners**

There were hardly any children inside prison during this period. Work in this Section focused on providing support to children of women prisoners left outside, by maintaining contact with them and providing them emergency and educational support. Children of some prison inmates were staying with their extended family members which greatly affected their education. The children were not sent to schools and were made to work for daily wages. In these cases, the worker with the consent of prison inmates contacted family members and convinced them to put the children into educational institutions. For this, *Prayas* co-ordinated with the inmates, their family members living in distant villages, Child Welfare Committee, and the institutional staff. Once the children were put into the institutions the worker also managed to hold *mulakats* between inmates and their children and between the siblings living in different institutions.

### **Support for Release of Prisoners on Furlough and Parole**

In 2009-10, the social worker has worked in depth with regard to the facility of furlough for women prisoners which involved intensive coordination between the inmates, jail staff, families of the inmates, police stations and the I.G. office. Most of the families hailed from remote areas. It becomes difficult for the administration to contact the families for official formalities. *Prayas* played a role here by contacting the immediate families, in some cases the extended families, explained to them the procedure, assisted them to acquire the necessary documents and encouraged them to come to Bharuch to receive the inmates being released from prison on furlough

### **Follow-up with District Legal Services Authority**

Worker supported the inmates to write applications to get advocates from the District Legal Aid Boards. She also followed up in the courts so that the women could get a lawyer and then maintained a close follow-up with these lawyers as well as with magistrates whenever necessary and also with the families of the inmates.

**Work with Bangladeshi Women in Bharuch Sub-Jail**

Bangladeshi women were arrested and were in judicial custody as their cases were pending. In many cases, the entire family was taken into custody. Males were in the Male Section, and females were in the Female Section and children were sent to Juvenile Home for boys and girls. Initially, support was given to them to locate their family members and establish contacts with one another. Some of their children were with them inside the prison, while some children were at Observation Home Bharuch and some at Observation home Vadodara. Some women were lodged in Bharuch Sub-jail while some were in Vadodara Central Prison. *Prayas* followed up intensively to co-ordinate between the children institutions, Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board, Bharuch Sub-jail and Vadodara Central Prison's administration for sending children below 6 years of age to their mothers inside the prison and sending the older children to institutions in the same city where their mothers were in custody.

**Work with Women Inmates Temporarily Transferred from Other Prisons in the State**

As there was overcrowding in other prisons of the State, 11 women were transferred to Bharuch Sub-Jail from other prisons in the State. To keep them occupied, the *Prayas* worker gave them training in mehendi. Activities were also conducted for children. *Prayas* also extended support for legal aid in the court of their district. In one case, worker followed up with the advocate and the family to get her bail. In another case, the family in Valsad district was supported to get assistance from a local NGO. Discussions on the issue of reformation and rehabilitation were also initiated. Contacts with local NGOs were made and addresses were given to women so that they can contact them on their release from the prison.

Support to Jail Superintendent to organize welfare programme in prison (for celebration of Swarnim Gujarat Year)

The I.G.(Prisons) has directed the prison Superintendent to plan various welfare programmes inside the prison with the help of NGOs. The social worker has co-ordinated various programmes like Van Mahotsav wherein trees were planted inside the prison in collaboration with the Department of Van Saurakshan., awareness programme on de-addiction etc for the prison inmates. *Prayas* is also following up on the issue of starting a library inside the prison. Worker has contacted individual donors to donate books in the prison. The worker also contacted Sports & Games Department in the district and gained their support to organize sports activities for the prison inmates. A chess competition and a drawing competition were also organized by contacting the Department of Education. By co-ordinating with a musical group, a musical evening was organized for the prison inmates. Follow-up with Jan Shikshan Sansthan for training of women inmates is in progress.

**Intervention with Families of Male Youth in Prison**

*Prayas*, Bharuch Unit had only one worker in the Male Section of Bharuch Sub-jail in 2008-09. Follow-up with the families of youth as well as follow-up for rehabilitation after their release from the prison was difficult. Since workload in the Women's Section was lesser due to lesser number of under trial women, the Women's Section social worker had started contacting families of under trial youth with the following objectives:

- To provide support to the families so that they can sustain themselves in the absence of the earning member
- To get support for the youth inside the prison.
- To prepare the families to accept the clients on their release from prison
- To create conducive environment for client for rehabilitation on release.

The concerned worker contacts the youth inmates inside the prison. After the discussions, if client wishes then the worker contacts the family. Services provided to the family include legal guidance, support in court, encouraging positive relationship with the inmate in prison, medical support, support for education and shelter of children through the district Child Welfare Committee, and also addressing training needs of the family members.

Further, in 2009-10, the social worker did extensive work with the families of youth prisoners with regard to providing shelter and education to the children of the prisoners, in obtaining the police support to resolve tension between the families and the community, and in providing self employment. Due to work with families, relation with prison inmates has improved. We have been able to identify issues faced by the family and thus have worked towards resolving those issues. Concentration is on getting support to the family from the community.

As a new initiative, we have initiated a training programme in the community for 17 women family members of convicted prisoners, as we had identified that they had become vulnerable to crime and prostitution. Most of these women were family members of young boys arrested and convicted for gang rape. It appeared that the women were also suffering as the male family members were convicted for rape. Thus, training in tailoring was started for them to understand their problems, reach out to them, provide them with a skill, and to initiate discussion for their future livelihood source. The two month training showed the following results:

- The women started coming out of their houses without inhibition. Initially, they were very scared of the village community.
- The villagers have started accepting them.
- Training gave them an opportunity to think about themselves and their future as the youth were convicted for a period of 14 years.
- Rapport has been built with the social worker.
- One girl secured employment as a trainer after undergoing the training.
- The confidence and morale level of the women has boosted up, and they are also requesting for training in literacy.
- Worker is working with them with regard to the documents for their citizenship rights and also following up on the Kedi Sahay Yojana.
- Worker has filled up 17 forms of the women under the Manav Kalyan Yojana to avail the benefit of acquiring appliances for self-employment.

### **Work in Police Stations**

During the period from April, 2008 to March, 2010, *Prayas* continued its intervention at police stations. The objective was the prevention of victimization, exploitation, and negative re-socialization of vulnerable groups, especially girls and women whose ties with family and community had been severed. One of the objectives was to pick up cases of youth reaching the police station. The intervention took place at:

- Ankleshwar Railway Police Station, Bharuch
- 'A' Division Police Station, Bharuch

### **Work at Ankaleshwar Railway Police Station**

In 2008-09, the social worker focused on increasing referrals from the Government Railway Police. The cases referred by the police were few, but 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.

The work at Ankaleshwar Railway Police Station was terminated in March'09, as it was becoming difficult for one worker to visit the prison and do the required follow-up, also follow-up with regard to avail the benefits of government schemes for clients and at the same time being present at the Ankaleshwar Railway Police Station.

### **Work at Bharuch City 'A' Division Police Station**

Work at Bharuch City 'A' Division Police Station is the most established work of the Bharuch Unit as it was here that *Prayas* work was initiated. Both the police and the community have accepted the work of *Prayas* at the police station level.



The social worker at the Bharuch City 'A' Division Police Station reaches out to women (accused and victim), children, youth and the mentally disturbed. She supports and guides people reaching the police station in crisis. The Prayas worker visits the police station regularly thrice a week and spends the full day handling various types of cases. She sits in the Station house and takes up cases besides contacting the youth and women offenders in the lock-up. The worker also follows up the cases for legal aid and rehabilitation.

### **Work with Youth at Police Station**

The police station worker contacts the youth lodged in the lock-up with the objective of providing them their rights such as legal right, right to medical treatment, right to contact his family. The worker also discusses the case with the respective police staff whenever necessary. Rehabilitation options are also discussed with the offenders and she extends her role to support them during their custody period in the lock-up. Many a times, the issue of food and cleanliness in the lock-up is also taken up with the police. The worker refers the cases to the prison social worker when the person is given judicial custody. The most crucial role of the police station worker with the youth is to co-ordinate with the police, the client and his family. There have been cases where the youth offenders are detained for a longer period of time. In such a situation, the worker discusses the issue with the concerned police officers and if necessary, senior police officers. The worker also tries to encourage the family to support the clients in the lock-up and gain their support in the legal proceedings.

A new social worker was appointed for aftercare work to assist the police station worker as she could not maintain a follow-up with the cases after their release from police custody. The new worker regularly visits the police station and cases are referred to him both by the police station worker and the police detection staff. The after care worker also follows up cases of persons arrested under prohibition

Initially, the police station worker and the after care worker worked together. The police station worker introduced him to various systems and issues of the criminal justice. To gain a better understanding of the cases, visits were made together to meet the police officers concerned, the families, and to police chowkies and courts.

### **Challenges**

1. While working with the youth offenders in the lock-up, we have realized that it is difficult to maintain a follow-up with youth released from the lock-up as compared to the youth released from prison. The worker gets limited time to build a rapport with the youth during their custody in the lock-up. They also do not easily trust the social worker at the police station. If the client is released on bail, then many a times both the client and the family want to forget the matter temporarily. They do not normally like the social worker visiting their homes, as they feel that this would attract the curiosity of the neighbours and thus give them a bad name. But we feel that we need to maintain a follow-up with these youth as they are the most vulnerable. We are trying different options to reach out to them. Next year, we are also planning to look into the police stations registers for names of youth in crime and maintain a follow-up with them from their rehabilitation point of view.
2. Many women are normally arrested for prohibition cases. The worker tried to intervene initially in these cases by acquiring a list from the police and home visits were conducted. After many visits it was observed that the women were not responsive to the social worker. A few other observations are that these women are most exploited by the community and the system. The health of the women and their children is normally affected. Some of the women are also into prostitution. The male family members and in some cases, the women are also alcoholic. They are also victims of corruption, are exploited by the system. Despite all this, these women do not feel the need for our support. Why? To explore this reason, need for full-time work in the area or a research is being visualized to understand this issue in-depth and find out alternative suggestions.

### **Work with Women in Crisis**

To support women in crisis, the social worker works at various levels

- Counseling and guidance
- Discussing alternatives
- Support for training, education and shelter

- Legal advice and follow-up
- Work and follow-up with police
- Medical support
- Emergency assistance
- Maintaining a co-ordination between the clients, police, legal system, government and non-government resources, and the family members.

To help the women, the worker had to work intensively not only with women but had to coordinate with NGOs which provided legal support, with the District Legal Services Authority, advocates, magistrates, local police station, other police stations, and the district Samaj Suraksha Adhikari. After putting before the clients the option of registering a criminal complaint as well as civil options, the worker supports the client in regard to the decision taken by them. Many women who are in crisis register criminal cases as they are not aware of the social legislations and the civil alternatives available to them. We had observed during our work at the police station that women are hesitant to take civil options as they do not have advocates and the required support system during the process. To overcome this issue, *Prayas* started to encourage women to get advocates from the District Legal Aid Board. As this work was a new initiative, it required a lot of follow-up and co-ordination. To get lawyers for the women from the District Legal Aid Board in cases registered u/s. 125 Cr. P.C., the worker had to make a lot of follow-up with the Board. Once the advocates were given the worker supported the women throughout the process. A lot of discussions were held with the advocates to encourage them to work positively. It was observed that many of our clients were able to get their due maintenance rights after the follow-up.

Another issue which the worker worked intensively on was to register cases under the Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Again, here *Prayas* followed up with the women, their advocates, magistrates, Samaj Suraksha Adhikari (Protection Officer). As this was a new Act, both sensitization and awareness was necessary. Workers themselves got trained by attending various training programmes and also tried to sensitize the system officers.

#### **Work with Children at Police Station**

While at the police station, the worker also intervenes with regard to the effective implementation by the police of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000. The worker reaches out to the children in need for care and protection, works with the families, police and whenever necessary also with the children housed in the institutions.

As far as juveniles in conflict with law are concerned, the worker sees to it that they are rightly processed. Legal guidance is given to the families so that they can get the benefit of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000 for their children. After their release on bail, a follow-up is maintained from the rehabilitation point of view.

Many a times, the Observation Home staff do not give admission to the children of our women clients giving reasons that they are not children of single parent. We have worked intensively on this issue in sensitizing the staff to the fact that though the children have both parents, they fall in the neglected category due to father's behavior. The worker frequently visits the Child Welfare Committee to discuss these issues.

#### **Training of Police Personnel**

##### **Training with regard to the Domestic Violence Act, 2005**

As the Domestic Violence Act, 2005 was being newly implemented *Prayas* intervened at various levels so that the women in crisis approaching the police station could avail the advantage of this Act. Due to the awareness in the media, many women too wanted to register their cases under the Act. The police had a different role to play as per the Act with regard to the protection of women in crisis. So a need was realized to train the police personnel in regard to the effective implementation of the Act. Thus, in co-ordination with the District Legal Aid Board and Sahiyar- an NGO working for women's rights in Vadodara, a training was organized for the police personnel. 56 Police Inspectors, Police Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables attended the training.

In the near future, we plan to organize a similar training for the advocates appointed on the panel of Legal Aid Board.

**Training of Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000**

The ground level police staff had expressed the need for training on Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000. As a result of our continuous discussions with the District Judge and Addl. Senior Civil Judge with regard to the training of police personnel on Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000 as well as the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, a legal training on Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000 was organized for the police personnel in co-ordination with the District Legal Aid Board.

Funds were granted by the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust to the Bharuch Unit to conduct training programmes for the systems officials. While closely working with the District Legal Aid Board, we realized that they too have funds for conducting such training programmes. Thus, we organized training programmes in co-ordination with the District Legal Aid Board, wherein they arranged for the resource persons, and we supported in regard to the training material and other minor expenses. In this manner, we wanted to encourage government boards to utilize the available funds for the training of the system officials.

There is an intense need to train field level police staff working at the taluka level. So we are following up the matter with the District Judge and the District Superintendent of Police.

**Sensitizing police and government shelter home staff for shelter of women and children reaching the police station**

During the reporting year, the worker concentrated on the admission of needy women into the Government Reception Centre (Nari Kendra). The authorities at the Centre did not encourage women in crisis to be there for longer period of time. At the same time, they were reluctant to give admission to the women in crisis. So the worker worked intensively with both the police officers and the Nari Kendra staff so that the admission process could become facilitative both for the women as well as the police.

Continuous sensitization and follow-up with the police officers regarding the issue of shelter for women and children is showing results. We have observed that the police themselves are now taking initiatives to refer women and children to the shelter homes and children institutions respectively. They no longer expect Prayas worker to assist them in the process.

**Need for Regular Presence of Social Worker at Police Station**

The social worker could not visit the police station on a regular basis from June-August'09 due to her ill-health. It was observed that in the absence of the social worker case referrals from police reduced considerably. For effective work at the police station, constant presence of the social worker is very much necessary.

**Documentation**

From June-August'09, the worker concentrated on documenting cases she had intensively worked on. The documentation was done in two ways

- to help the new workers in the field
- to give overall idea of work needed to be done for women in crisis

**Follow-up with police on implementation of Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956**

The worker has done intensive follow-up for effective implementation of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 by the police. The results are also visible as the police have started using the appropriate sections of the Act which can be of support for the rehabilitation of the vulnerable women.

**Work with District Legal Services Authority**

Prayas is constantly working with the District Legal Aid Board so as to get maximum benefit for the women in crisis needing legal support.

Worker also supports the Board to organize various training in the community. Follow-up was being maintained in regard to organizing training on the Domestic Violence Act, 2005 for the panel of advocates of District

Legal Aid Board. The District Judge had accepted the need for such training. But the training did not materialize as the advocates did not feel the need. However, with the intervention of *Prayas*, the lawyers of the Board have started using appropriate sections of the Act followed by the encouragement of the magistrates also in this regard. We have been able to encourage our clients to take the benefit of the Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Maintenance was granted to one of our clients as per the provisions of the Act.

### **Training at Nari Saurakshan Kendra**

We have been observing that the Nari Saurakshan Kendra was not offering any rehabilitation programme for the women in crisis. We refer many cases to the Kendra. Thus, vocational training courses in tailoring and beauty treatment were organized for the inmates of the Kendra and for the inmates of the Juvenile Home for Girls.

### **Acceptance of Prayas Intervention at Police Station**

As result of the continuous work by *Prayas* at the police station, 23 cases (both crisis and crime related) were referred to the *Prayas* worker by the police personnel. This can be seen as an achievement, as the police has been able to understand and accept the work of *Prayas* at the police station level.

To reach out to more women in crisis and youth in crime, we have discussed with the Dy. Superintendent of Police, and convinced him to issue letters to all the police stations in the district, informing them about the work of *Prayas* and to contact us with regard to the rehabilitation of the women and youth. Though many cases are not referred by other police stations, the police definitely recognize and accept *Prayas* workers when they visit other police stations in the District.

### **Aftercare Work with Clients Released from Bharuch Sub-Jail and Police Station**

One new worker was appointed to look into the after-care work of persons released from police station and prison custody. Since the worker was not from the social work background, he spent the initial months in trying to understand issues of the Criminal Justice System and problems faced by the accused. He also visited NGOs and government run training centers to study the training programmes offered by them and to see whether it is possible to fit our client group into these programmes. In the later part of the year, the worker actually began to follow-up on the cases referred by police station and prison workers.

As the worker handled the cases and conducted follow-up visits, three types of client group has clearly emerged

1. The local city youth, mostly arrested for mara mari, and small thefts
2. The rural youth, arrested under sections of murder, loot, industrial thefts, rape and kidnapping (of minor girls)
3. The up-country youth.

Through the visits conducted by the worker, it has been observed that it is very difficult to keep in touch with the clients Since Bharuch, Ankaleshwar and Dahej are industrial areas, the clients are very mobile, regularly in search of jobs or work on daily wages (majoori). Those who have already got jobs or go for daily wages jobs cannot be contacted due to their work timings.

At Bharuch City 'A' Division Police Station, the police have started referring cases. We have also observed that they not only refer cases but they are also interested to know the follow-up details of the cases referred by them.

To work with youth in crime, a new initiative was taken up. The worker contacted the Juvenile Justice Board and the Observation Home for cases of juveniles in conflict with law. The list of the juveniles was obtained, and home visits were conducted. During the visits it was observed that the decisions makers in regard to the juveniles in conflict with law were the respective family members. And it was difficult to follow-up with the family as most of them were regularly out on work. So the follow-up process in these cases is quite slow.

Various training centers, on-the-job training and job placements were identified for the clients.

### **Aftercare services provided in the community to clients released on bail from nearby villages**

While working in prison, the worker had identified a group of 14 clients who were staying in two nearby villages and were taken into custody in a looting case and later released on bail. During visits and discussions, the

clients expressed the need for training and employment. Normally, *Prayas* sends clients for training whenever required. But as these clients belonged to nearby villages, as a new initiative it was decided in the Unit to organize training for them in their village itself. By organizing training in the village, apart from reaching out to the clients, we would be able to understand the issues of crime in the rural community. Another objective was to closely understand issues faced by the family members and also understand the role played by the police. On discussions with the clients, they expressed the need for training in automobile repairing. Jan Shikshan Sansthan was contacted and training was organized for the client group in their village itself.

But we were unable to achieve the objectives with which the training was organized due to many reasons:

- Since the clients were in need of money to pay their lawyers, they would go for daily wages jobs whenever they got higher wages, which thereby resulted in their absence at the training.
- The trainer who was identified by Jan Shikshan Sansthan was also not much interested and sensitive to the problems of the clients.
- As the village was situated in an interior area, regular follow-up visits by the *Prayas* worker during the training were not possible.
- Some of the clients were alcoholics, and they would come drunk for the training programme.
- There was lack of co-ordination between the Jan Shikshan Sansthan office and the trainer.

### **Women's Development Centre, Bharuch**

The activities being conducted on a regular basis at the WDC included literacy, skill training, exposure visits to government offices, banks and hospitals and visits to NGOs for training and job placement. Trainees were also supported in obtaining training in government certified vocational courses. Children of the trainees were provided educational support for fees and books. Wherever necessary, trainees were provided legal and/or medical support. Trainees were helped in opening bank accounts to encourage the savings habit and as a step towards obtaining legal documents. Some of the trainees were given training to join the Production Centre at the WDC, so that they could earn on a piece-rate basis. An exhibition-cum-sale of products made at the WDC was organized in which trainees participated, helping them to gain confidence and skills in marketing. One client was helped in starting her own small business enterprise.

Follow-up of cases in courts and family visits was done and where required, family support was given. Clients were also helped in finding jobs wherever possible.

As most of the trainees were very well trained for tailoring, a 2 month blouse making course was designed for them using outside resources. This specialized course will make them skilled workers in blouse making.

Apart from imparting trainings to the clients at WDC, a lot of work is done with them in regard to their legal and family problems. Support is being extended to the clients families in resolving various problems and for the acceptance of the clients in the community. A process has also been initiated whereby clients coming to WDC can avail the benefit of the various government schemes.

Different training programmes organized at WDC help the women in developing specialized skills. For instance, a bag making training was organized for clients. As a result, one of the clients has trained herself very well in this skill. Though she is not literate, she can identify new patterns and then makes bags for her customers. Other clients who are trained for blouse making and dress making are now also making dresses for customers.

A client was sent for NGO placements to a hospital managed by a Trust, a client took beauty treatment training at a beauty parlour. As a result of this exposure and training, the self-confidence and self-esteem of clients have increased to a large extent

### **Benefit of Government Schemes**

Through the government scheme of Manav Kalyan Yojana, income generation kits are given to individuals who are interested to initiate a business of their own. These kits are useful to clients to be self employed.

*Prayas* supported 13 clients to fill up the forms and avail the benefit under this scheme. As most of our clients do not possess necessary documents required, the workers did intensive follow-up with the District Industries Center, Bharuch. When things did not work out with them, the worker followed up the matter with the District Collector. The main argument was that these are people without any support or resources, and the objective of Manav Kalyan Yojana is to support such groups. The fact that they do not possess any documents itself shows that they are in the need for support. As a result, the Collector followed up with the Commissioner of Small Scale Industries at Gandhinagar. 10 clients out of the 13 applicants got income generation kit (such as sewing machines, hand carts).

### **Bank Loans**

Three of the *Prayas* clients took tailoring training under Swarna Jayanti Rojgar Yojana. The training was conducted by Bharuch Nagarpalika. On completion of the training, these clients were entitled to a bank loan to buy the kit for income generation. One of the clients showed interest in taking loan to buy a sewing machine. The concerned bank was not ready to give the loan stating that the client will not be able to return the loan. *Prayas* worker followed up both with the bank and Bharuch Nagarpalika so that the client gets the loan. Finally, the client got a loan of Rs. 5500/- with 32% subsidy.

### **Training to Clients through Government Resources**

Three clients were sent for computer training under Umeed scheme of Bharuch Nagarpalika. 5 clients were sent for the beautician training and another 2 clients underwent the tailoring course training at Jan Shikshan Sansthan.

### **Saving Accounts in Post Office**

An awareness programme was organized at WDC about the various post office saving schemes. The clients were then supported by the Manager of the Post Office to open savings accounts at the Post Office.

### **Job Placement**

Some of our clients who wanted to take up a job were supported with job placement. 2 of the clients were supported to get job at the Reliance Super Store.

### **Opportunity to Work on Piece-rate Basis**

As most of the clients at the WDC were good at embroidery, an organization was contacted who was willing to give work on piece-rate basis to those clients who were interested in doing it during their free time at home. The organization also gave them training in embroidery. Some of the clients took work from that organization on a piece-rate basis.

### **Specialised Training in Blouse Making**

As most of the trainees were very well trained for tailoring, a 2 month blouse making course was designed for them with the help of outside resources. This specialized course will develop their skill further in blouse making.

### **Legal Support to Clients**

Most of the new clients at WDC had marital problems with pending cases in the courts. *Prayas* supported them intensively in their cases. The support included emotional support and legal guidance to clients, involving and taking support from family members, follow-up at court with advocates and magistrates, whenever necessary meetings with husbands and in laws. Most important support was being with the women throughout their period of crisis and encouraging them to undertake the training for their future self-sustenance.

*Male Youth Section, Bharuch Sub-Jail*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
<b>Individual Outreach</b>		688	1770
<b>Awareness Sessions</b>	On Education & Government Schemes	135	170
	On Citizenship Rights	55	110
	On De-addiction / Health Issues	165	30
	On Vocational Training / Guidance	120	115
	On Legal Aid Awareness	---	60
<b>Group Discussions</b>	On Importance of Education	---	16
<b>Visits</b>	Home Visits	31	28
	Visits to District & Taluka Offices of Legal Aid Services Authority	18	13
	Visits to Social Welfare Office	---	19
<b>Meetings with Jail Personnel</b>	Meetings with Superintendent	82	89
	Meetings with Other Jail Staff	61	66
<b>Applications Written</b>	to Magistrates, for Legal Aid, to Police Stations	55	31
<b>Case Referrals</b>	Referrals to Aftercare Worker	36	19
	Referrals to Legal Aid Services Board	15	13
<b>Legal Aid/Guidance</b>	Meetings with Advocates	10	07
	Providing Legal Guidance/Information	380	215
<b>Other services</b>	Support to Released Inmates to Avail Benefits of Government Schemes	18	---
	Telephone Calls Made	52	85

*Female Section, Bharuch Sub-Jail*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
<b>Total Outreach</b>		49	47
<b>Visits</b>	Home Visits	28	23
	Visits to Courts	49	16
	Visits to Observation Home	08	09
	Visits to D.J.C.	05	15
	Visits to Police Stations	02	---
<b>Meetings with Jail Personnel</b>	Meetings with Superintendent	28	43
	Meetings with Other Jail Staff	27	52
<b>Applications Written</b>		---	04
	Meetings with Free Legal Aid Lawyers	19	30
	Meetings with Magistrates	---	05
<b>Other Services</b>	Providing Educational Support to Children of Women Prisoners	09	08
	Discussions with Families	12	32
	Providing Support to Clients to Avail Loans from D.J.C.	01	---
	Follow-up with Prison Doctor	02	08
	Providing Support to Avail the Facility of Furlough	---	06

*Work in Station House*

Broad Services	Specific services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
<b>Total Outreach</b>		352	139
<b>Case Referrals</b>	Referrals to NGOs	18	14
	Referrals to District Legal Aid Services Authority	06	10
	Referrals to Hospitals	04	04
	Referrals to Government Offices	---	01
<b>Visits</b>	Home Visits	12	33
	Visits to Police Stations	11	12
	Visits to Police Chowkies	22	23
<b>Work with Mentally Ill Cases</b>	Work with Clients	---	07
	Work with Families about Alternative Options	08	12
	Awareness Sessions on Mental Health Issues & Mental Health Act,	05	07
	Discussion & Sensitization Sessions with the Police Personnel	23	20
<b>Other services</b>	Family Counseling	31	26
	Providing Medical Support	03	04
	Writing Applications	05	06
	Getting Support from the Police in Emergencies	05	12



*Rehabilitation of Women Reaching Police Station*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
<b>Cases Handled</b>	Short Term Cases	28	30
	Long Term Cases	33	54
	Follow-up Cases	39	17
	ITPA Cases	---	30
	Follow-up of ITPA Cases	---	11
<b>Case Referrals</b>	Referrals from Community	42	---
	Referrals from Nari Kendra	12	---
	Referrals from the Police	14	32
	Referrals by Legal Aid Board	01	03
	Referrals to WDC	05	07
<b>Visits</b>	Referrals by Other NGOs	04	18
	Home Visits	58	87
	Visits to Police Station	19	10
	Visits to Police Chowkies	27	18
	Visits to Court	08	60
	Visits to Government Offices	38	08
	Visits to Nari Kendra	14	43
	Visits to Observation Home	12	35
	Visits to Hospitals	10	08
	Visits to NGOs	18	25
	Visits to Schools	14	13
	Visits to Training Institutes	31	15
	Visits to Job Placement Agencies	10	17
	Visits to Bank	05	05
<b>Legal Aid/Guidance</b>	Meetings with Magistrates	08	27
	Meetings with advocates	14	54
	Meetings with Legal Aid Board	06	04
<b>Other Services</b>	Coordinating with CJS	20	24
	Providing Educational Support to Children	---	21
	Providing Educational Support	14	08
	Providing Vocational Training	01	---
	Arranging for Shelter	09	08
	Arranging for Job Placement	04	---
	Discussions with NGOs	06	27
	Telephone Calls Made	50	233

*Follow-up of Cases Referred from Railway Police*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10*
<b>Visits Conducted</b>	Visit to GRP Police Station	14	---
	Visit to NGOs/Government Offices	05	---
	---	03	---
<b>Meetings Conducted</b>	Meetings with GRP Staff	10	---
	Meetings with Police Inspectors	01	---
	Meetings with Advocates	04	---
<b>Other Services</b>	Provided Legal Guidance	08	---
	Telephone Calls Made	51	---

\*In the year 2009-2010 the work with railway police was discontinued.

*Rehabilitation of Children*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
Total Number of Cases	New Cases	23	06
	Follow-up Cases	07	04
	Follow-up Cases in Observation Home	---	11
Case Referrals	Referrals to Observation Home	09	06
Visits	Home Visits	29	05
	Visits to Observation Home, Juvenile Home for Girls	12	07
	Visits to Police Chowkies	14	---
	Visits to CWC/JJB	04	05
Legal Aid/Guidance	Guidance to Families	18	05
	Support Provided to Acquire Age Verification Documents	03	---

*Youth in Lock-up*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
Individual Cases		63	56
Case Referrals	Referrals to Prison Worker	12	08
	Referrals to Aftercare Worker	24	10
	Referrals to District Legal Aid Services Authority	05	11
Legal Aid/Guidance	Providing Legal Aid/Guidance	59	44
Visits	Home Visits	19	08
Other Services	Providing General Support to Families	07	09
	Providing Medical Support	04	03
	Family Counseling	13	16
	Telephone Calls Made	08	36

*Women in Lock-up*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
Individual Cases		16	13
Case Referrals	Referrals to Prison Worker	04	04
	Referrals to NGOs	01	01
Legal Aid/Guidance	Providing Legal Aid & Guidance	11	11
Other Services	Providing Family Support	03	04
	Providing Information	10	06
	Providing Medical Support	02	03

*Policy & Advocacy*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
Issues Relating to Implementation of Domestic Violence Act, Mental Health Act, Juvenile Justice Act, 2000, Sec. 498(A) IPC, Legal Aid System	Meetings with D.S.P.	28	23
	Meetings with District Judge	06	11
	Meetings with Police Inspectors	47	76
	Follow-up with Legal Panel Lawyers in Domestic Violence Cases	02	11
	Providing Support to District Legal Aid Services Authority for Organizing Training Workshops	---	06
	Attending Lok Adalats as Conciliator	---	04

*After-care Work with Clients Released from Bharuch Sub-jail & Police station*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
Number of Cases Contacted	Contact Established with Clients	27	49
	Contact Established with Families	39	50
	Could not Establish Contact	12	---
	Follow-up of Old Cases	---	28
Case Referrals	Referred by Prison Social Worker	38	19
	Referred by Police Station Social Worker	17	09
	Referred by Police Personnel	38	30
	Referred from Observation Home	---	108
	Referred by Naresh Vasava (Fellow of Prayas)	---	03
Visits Conducted	Referred for Outside Training	---	07
	Home Visits	13	91
	Visits to Observation Home	---	08
	Visits to Government Offices	12	33
	Visits to Training Institutions	07	16
	Follow-up Visits to Court	---	05
	Visits to Job Placement Agencies	03	04
	Visits to Police Stations	06	21
Other services	Follow-up Visits to Supervise Training of Clients	---	13
	Support Provided in Acquiring Citizenship Documents	03	---
	Support Provided to Families of Clients	25	02

*After-care Services with Clients Released on Bail from nearby Villages*

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09*	2009-10
<b>Total Number of Cases</b>		---	17
<b>Discussions/Meetings Conducted</b>	Discussion with Clients	---	46
	Discussion with Families	---	46
	Meetings with Advocates	---	07
	Meetings with Vataria Sarpanch	---	02
	Meetings with Kharia Sarpanch	---	02
<b>Visits Conducted</b>	Visits to Rationing Office	---	08
	Visits to Training Institutions	---	13
	Visits to Job Placement Agencies	---	11
	Visits to J.S.S.	---	08
	Follow-up Visit to District Court	---	07
	Follow-up visit to Walia Court	---	02
	Visits to Government Offices	---	15
	Visits to Gram Panchayat	---	07
	Visits to PDS shop	---	04
	Visits to Civil Hospitals	---	03
	Visits to Seva Rural	---	04
	Visits to Daili & Walia PHC	---	01
	Visits to Taluka Panchayat	---	02
	Visits to Gram Panchayat	---	03
	Visits to Observation Home	---	03
<b>Other Services</b>	Support Provided for Boarding School Admission	---	03
	Support to Avail Benefit of Mafal Tabibi Sahay	---	01

\*Situation developed in 2009-10

## Women' Development Centre

Broad Services	Specific Services	Statistics	
		2008-09	2009-10
Total Number of Trainees	Number of trainees	10	23
Training Provided	Special Blouse & Dress Making	---	08
	Mehendi Designing	---	08
Case Referrals	For Training in Special Blouse Making	20	02
	For Training in Special Tailoring	02	02
	For Training in Special Dress Making	---	05
	For Training in Beauty Treatment	---	02
	For Training in Nursing	---	01
	For Training in Computer	04	---
	To Other NGOs	11	05
	To Job Placement Agencies	03	---
	For NGO Placement	---	01
	Legal Aid & Guidance	Providing Legal Support	15
Meetings with Magistrates		03	---
Meetings with Advocates		59	46
Visits Conducted for Training/Job Placement/Rehabilitation	Home Visits	38	58
	Visits to Police Stations	---	10
	Visits to Courts	39	47
	Visits to Mamlatdar Office	01	---
	Visits to Nagarpalika	06	---
	Visits to Jan Shikshan Sansthan	05	---
	Visits to Unmed	04	---
	Visits to Bank	06	---
	Visits to DIC	02	---
	Visits to Vidyadeep Community Centre	01	---
	Visits to Government Offices	44	87
	Visits to CWC	06	06
	Follow-up Visits to Railway Police Station	07	07
	Visits to Post Office	04	---
	Visits to Hospital	01	---
	Follow-up Visits to DIC	04	12
	Visits to Training Institutions	23	---
	Visits to Job Placement Agencies	03	03
	Follow-up Visits to Job Placement Agencies	03	11
	Exposure Visits of Clients	21	10
Other Services	Support Provided for Acquiring Citizenship Documents	01	01
	Support Provided for Acquiring Benefit of Government Schemes	13	10
	Support Provided for Acquiring Election Card	02	---
	Support Provided for Acquiring Bank Loan	01	01
	Support Provided to Open Bank Account	02	---
	Support for Medical	09	05
	Support Provided to Open Savings Account in Post Office	12	---
	Conducted Awareness Programmes on Savings Schemes of Post Office	29 client	---
	Support Provided for Acquiring Work on Piece Rate Basis	212	08
	Counseling with Family	44	33
	Counseling Provided for Rehabilitation	41	61
	Provided Job Placement	03	---
	Telephone Calls Made	189	165

## RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION &amp; MEDIA UNIT

**Rehabilitation of Women Released from Institutions**

A study was initiated in 2009 to explore rehabilitation services available for women released from institutions. The purpose of this study was to determine the extent to which post-institutional services are provided, ascertain the need for the same and create a lobby for dialogue and policy change. During this year, institutions for women and children in Mumbai and its suburbs, in the districts of Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Aurangabad, Paithan, Satara, Kolhapur, Sangli, Amravati, Yavatmal, Akola, Buldhana, Washim, Nagpur, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, and Wardha were visited.

The findings so far demonstrate the need for specialised after-care services for women released from institutions. An interim report is in the process of being drafted. Simultaneously, during this period, dialogue continued with the Department of Women & Child Development, Govt. of Maharashtra on this issue. Consequently, it has been decided that four meetings will be held in the coming year for the Superintendents of women institutions constituting of State Homes, Adhar Grihas, Swadhar Homes, Protective Homes, Beggars' Home, Ujawala Homes, and Short Stay Homes. This is expected to be the first forum wherein issues in regard to rehabilitation of women post-institutionalization are to be discussed.

Towards understanding issues in regard to processing of persons within the Criminal Justice System and the available rehabilitation measures, *Prayas* staff visited the districts of Aurangabad, Satara, Sangli, Atapadi, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Yavatmal, and Amravati. The focus of these visits was on:

- Functioning of the prisons, open colonies, district courts, libraries, District Legal Services Authorities, State Homes and Short Stay Homes for Women.
- Identifying issues with regard to rehabilitation.
- After-care facilities for prisoners and women in institutions.

**Media Unit**

In 2008-09, photographs relating to *Prayas's* work taken over the years were scanned and digitized for documentation purposes. Over the years, *Prayas* has gathered data in regard to field experiences, crime and prostitution and interventions. In the forthcoming period, classification and categorization of documents is being planned. It has been decided that relevant material like books and films will also be maintained. A brochure on *Prayas's* work has been designed and under publication.

## PRODUCTION UNIT

The Production Unit of *Prayas* has continued to steadily raise income for project expenses. The Unit has been able to build up a remarkable demand for its products and has started providing work on piece-rate basis to women in nearby areas, as and when the demand exceeds the in-house production capacity.

The Unit has been actively involved in helping establish the Income Generation Unit located within the premises of the government women's institution complex in Chembur, thus tying up with the Income Generation Unit. Women trainees at the Income Generation Unit, Chembur, are trained to produce patchwork items which are used to add value to the *Prayas* products made by the Production Unit. These women earn on a piece-rate basis thus helping them to save money while they are living in the institution. Gradually, the institution staff is opening postal savings accounts for the women, thus helping them create a legal identity.

Exhibitions-cum-sales were organized at Tata Communications, Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, SNDT University, Ruia College, Government Law College, Bandra Gymkhana, Jagruti, Indus International Mela and the Kala Ghoda Festival.

### *Production Unit*

Particulars	Statistics	
	2008-09	2009-10
Orders received	19	179
Outsides sales/exhibitions	5	4
Income from the unit	4,86,316	6,08,467

## STAFF WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT

In the year 2008-09, Prayas organized the following programmes for staff:

- A five-day in-house basic computer training programme.
- Legal training workshops to upgrade knowledge and information base of staff.
- An exposure-cum-orientation visit to Nashik Central Prison for newly appointed staff.
- Visit to Santa Cruz Police Lock-up for Women, to understand issues with regard to women in police custody.
- One-day workshop on individual and family counseling.

### Prayas Re-Visioning Exercise

Dr. Sanober Sahni, Project Advisor, suggested a review be undertaken of Prayas's response to the field, gaps in services and future areas for intervention. It was decided that a series of Staff Development Workshops would be arranged to help arrive at a common vision for Prayas's future. One such workshop was organized with staff at Akxa in February, 2009. The framework for discussion was "Sadhar: Corrections". Staff identified areas for corrections at different levels: individual client, the field, Criminal Justice System, staff structure and welfare. This workshop series over the next one year is expected to arrive at a common agenda for Prayas's future.

**With regard to staff welfare, the following steps were initiated:**

### Contributory Provident Fund

A significant development has been the starting of a Contributory Provident Fund Scheme for staff of Prayas. In consultation with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, a scheme has been designed wherein 12 per cent of salary deductions are met with an equal amount of contribution from the Prayas Staff Welfare Fund. The scheme was implemented from April, 2009.

### Bank Loans for Staff

Since Prayas is a temporary project of the TISS, staff members find it extremely difficult to obtain loans from nationalised banks and financial institutions. As a result, staff has to take loans from private sector banks, at high rates of interest. This matter was discussed with the Branch Manager of State Bank of India, Deonar which maintains majority of the staff members' salary accounts. The Branch Manager agreed to sanction loans upto Rs. 50,000/- to five staff members for a start, and monitor the experience for 6 months. If there were no problems, personal loans for amounts depending on salaries would be extended to any staff having a savings account in SBI, Deonar. Thus, a few staff members have secured personal loans.

In the year 2009-10, nine staff members were supported through educational grants and loans for pursuing further education at graduation and post-graduation levels (in social work, counseling and Arts).

While there is constant effort to develop professionalism and encourage staff to develop skills in that direction, policy and procedures for protection of professional social workers is an issue that needs to be addressed, if social work intervention in the CJS is to continue and develop. A few incidents in 2009-10 reiterated the need for addressing this issue. Incidents involved one Prayas social worker being threatened by anti-social elements, two Prayas social workers being called by the police for interrogation for participation in local community issues, police conducting an enquiry after a complaint was made by agents who wanted custody of a girl housed in a shelter home (following enquiry, the agents were reportedly arrested). The matter was shared with Prof. Parasuraman, the Director of TISS, who suggested that a note be prepared on the issue, for taking up the matter with the authorities concerned. The same was submitted to his office.





**The Prayas Team**

A FIELD ACTION PROJECT OF THE CENTRE FOR CRIMINOLOGY AND JUSTICE,  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK  
**TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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