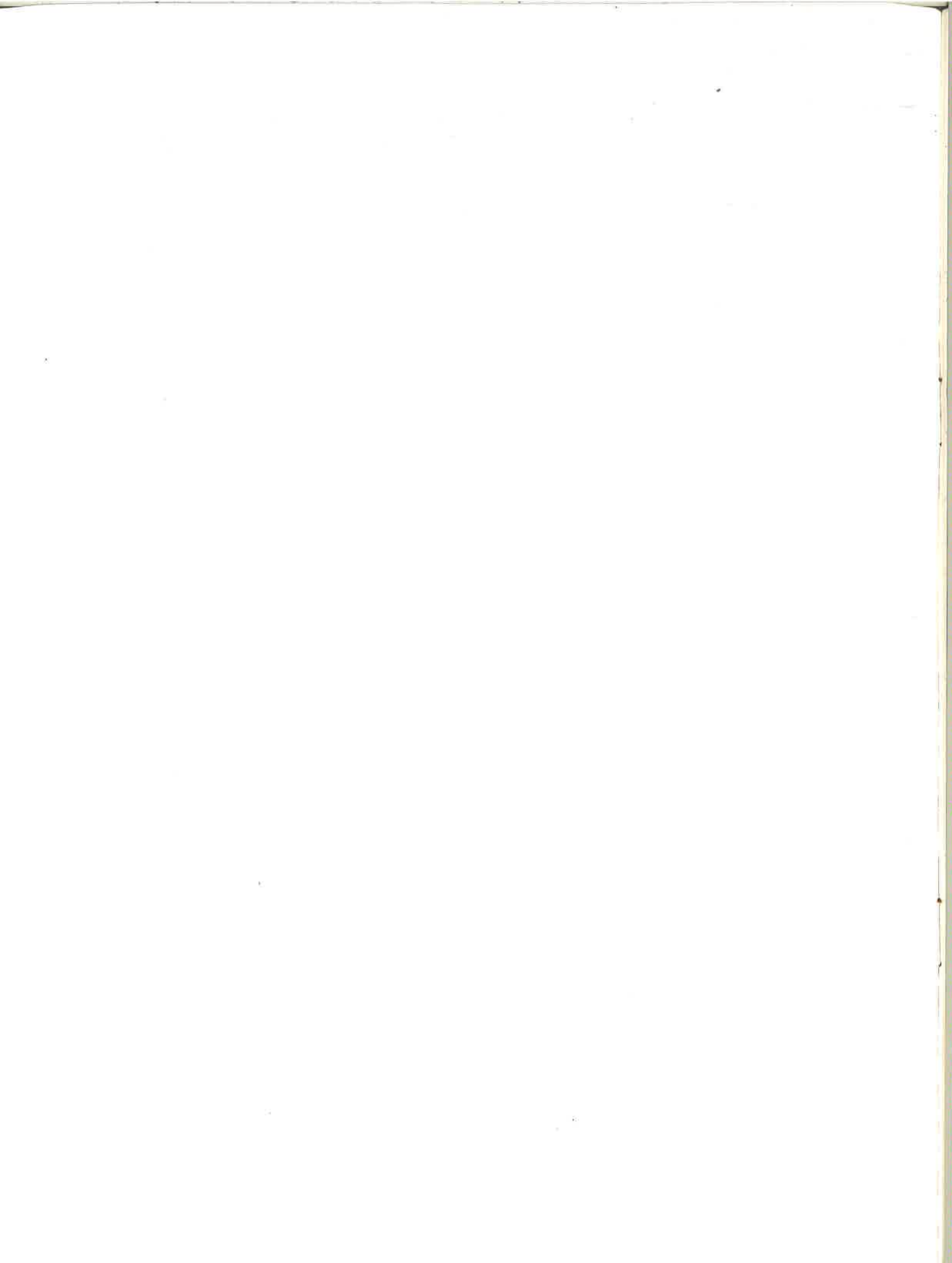


PRAYAS : A DECADE IS OVER...



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PRAYAS: A DECADE GETS OVER...

INTRODUCTION

On February 1, 2000, we completed ten years in the field. During this decade, we have made steady and continuous efforts to introduce and establish the need and role of social workers in the criminal justice system through our intervention in the field. In doing so, we have also tried to arrive at an understanding of the needs of persons vulnerable to crime and prostitution, from the point of view of their re-integration in society.

In the course of this period, our team has grown from one social worker to 28 social workers, teachers and administrative staff. Our placements within the criminal justice system in Mumbai have expanded from one prison in 1990, to three prisons, three city police stations, railway police commissioner's office, criminal courts, and two homes for women and girls (rescued from prostitution). We have an aftercare unit cum rehabilitation workshop at Worli, where clients come for help with regard to their rehabilitation. Besides Mumbai, we are also working in Bharuch in Gujarat, in the police station and the Bharuch Sub-Jail.

We consider it part of our mandate to not only initiate services, but also stimulate, and respond to, developments in the field outside Mumbai and Maharashtra. We have attempted this through interaction (with like-minded government officials, voluntary groups and interested individuals), research, and participation in training programmes – so far in Pune, Nashik, Goa, Delhi, M.P., Orrisa, U.P., Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Nepal.

OUR FIRST STEPS...

The project was conceived in 1989 by Deepa Lakshman, Sanobar Shekar and myself, then working in various capacities in the Department of C.C.A. of TISS. Five years of student field work in the Women's and Young Male Adult Sections of the Mumbai Central Prison had indicated the need for full time social work intervention with under trial prisoners. As students and faculty, our experience had been very positive, and I was interested in joining as a social worker. We, accordingly, formulated a proposal titled "Social Work Intervention with Under Trial Prisoners at Bombay Central Prison", and forwarded it to the Prisons Department, wondering if we would receive permission. Our enthusiasm was rewarded, and within a few months we received a positive reply from the then I.G. of Prisons, Shri Verma. The "Prisons Project", as we called it, was formally cleared by Dr. D.R. Singh, Head, and Shri K.D. Sikka, then Reader in the Department.

We next approached Dr. (Miss) Armaity S. Desai, then Director of TISS, for approval, with some apprehension about the financial position of the project. She assured us saying, "If your work is good, money will come." The unstinting support given by Dr. Desai, when the project was at its fledgling stages, and throughout her tenure at TISS, boosted our morale and helped us stabilize ourselves in the field.

I entered prison as the first social worker in the Young Male Section, on 1st February, 1990, while Sanober Shekar took over as the Project-In-Charge. Deepa Lakshman, then working in the C.C.A. Department's Aftercare Project, and Shri K.D. Sikka (Project-In-Charge, who also helped us in obtaining our present office), worked closely with us while that project continued. After five years, I took over as the Project Coordinator, and later as the Project Director. Sanober continues as Project Advisor.

We are today a team of twenty eight colleagues, but a total of sixty persons have worked in the project since its inception. To reflect our expanding scope of work, we changed our name from "Prisons Project" to "Prayas - Social Work in Criminal Justice".

On behalf of Prayas, I am happy to present our report for the period 1990 to 2000.

WORK IN PRISON

Our first task was to chart out possible areas of intervention with under trial prisoners. The work done by students in the past years had made it easier, and we started first with the issue of legal aid. We found that a large number of prisoners went without legal representation in court and could not communicate with the judge concerned about their problems or their cases, due to lack of legal literacy and confidence.

In response to this problem, we started writing applications on a plain sheet of paper and in simple language to the judge concerned, on behalf of the prisoners. We would listen to the problems, write them down in legible handwriting, read this out to the prisoner concerned, get his signature or thumb impression on it and give it to him. We would then coach the prisoner to present the application before the judge/magistrate on his next date of appearance in court. To our pleasant surprise, we found that the judiciary was taking action in the cases based on the application presented before them.

This taught us the first lesson in the field – that you do not need a lawyer for every thing in court. An accused person could directly communicate with the judge/magistrate, with regard to some his problems. The applications which were of help to the prisoner pertained to bail, expedition of trial, release on personal bond or probation, under trial sentence, return of personal property lying in the police station, production of the charge sheet, etc.

The second point that became clear to us was that legal aid was required at the trial stage in a case. For this purpose, we started identifying lawyers who would be willing to take up cases referred to them on a small token paid to them as honorarium for services rendered. This amount was as small as Rs.100/- per case when we started work. Today it is a modest Rs.1000/- per case in metropolitan courts. Our panel of lawyers in Mumbai numbers over 40-45 today.

After we started work, we approached Justice Kurdukar of the Mumbai High Court, and subsequently, Shri Velkar, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, to explain our work. We were given time by the Hon'ble C.M.M. to present our work before a meeting of all metropolitan magistrates in Mumbai. As a result of this presentation, a circular was issued by the Hon'ble C.M.M., requesting all magistrates to allow workers of Prayas to present psycho-social facts pertaining to a case before them, and accede to their requests to refer a case for probation.

In July 1990, a female worker was appointed to start work in the Women's Section of the prison. By now work was in full swing in areas such as legal guidance and aid, family visits, liaison with prison authorities with regard to facilities for prisoners, recreation and counseling. The first aftercare client of Prayas came after six months of work.

In September, we moved to our office cum contact centre in B.D.D. Chawls, Worli. After a year and half of work, the first para-professional worker was appointed to help the

prison workers in paying visits to the homes of prisoners. By now, we had met the Commissioner of Police, Shri S. Ramamurthy and obtained his permission to work towards the reformation and rehabilitation of released prisoners.

Employment was found for our first client Ravi, in a factory in Deonar, through one of dear friends and a resource person of Prayas, Shri Madhu Rao. Soon Ravi was re-arrested by the police on suspicion due to his past record. This taught us the need to work with the police towards the rehabilitation of first and young offenders, as a crime prevention strategy. We met the D.C.P. of Zone V, Shri Hemant Karkare, and explained our work to him. He understood the problem very quickly, and suggested that we submit a letter to him regarding our efforts to rehabilitate Ravi. He then circulated the letter to all the police stations of Zone V, and requested the police to cooperate with us in the case.

The letter specifically requested the police to allow us to present facts related to the rehabilitation of the case, if and when police took any action against Ravi in future. This process also led to our now established practice of submitting a letter to the local police every time we take a client for reformation and rehabilitation.

We feel sad that by some quirk of fate, both Ravi and Madhu are no more with us. Both passed away under tragic circumstances within a span of two years. They will continue to inspire us to work for the cause they represented.

Thus within two years, the basic skeleton of work in prison and in aftercare was carved out and the areas of work, laid down. It is on this skeleton that we have been adding flesh and muscle in the years that followed.

INTERVENTION AT POLICE STATION

One of the issues that came to light through our work, was the criminalisation of first and young offenders in prison, due to the presence of habituals and criminal gangs. We observed that the presence of a social worker acted as a counter to these negative influences, and helped some persons to decide in favour of leaving a criminal lifestyle.

This made us wonder about what must be going on vis a vis first offenders in police lock-ups. We felt that if we started working in the police stations, the impact of our intervention would be even stronger. We therefore, approached the D.C.P. of Zone IV, Smt. Meera Borwankar to give us permission to place students in Matunga Police Station, which was promptly granted.

After one year in Matunga, with the permission of the D.C.P. Zone V, Shri K. Ramachandran, we placed students in Deonar Police Station, as it was near to TISS and had a wide range of community problems to be handled. This placement led to the starting of full time work at police station level two years later, with the appointment of two female social workers at Deonar Police Station. From here, our students and workers

did very useful work during the Mumbai riots, acting as an effective link between the police and the citizens, who were approaching the police for help or information.

The social workers were given a table and chairs just outside the police station to serve as an information counter. An officer from the Commissioner's office was deputed to work with the social workers on issues like filling up the loss compensation forms, assisting citizens in locating their missing relatives, giving information about the deceased and giving a patient hearing to them. Work done by us during these ten days was well appreciated both by the police and the citizenry. It quickly established the rationale behind social work intervention at police stations.

Our work at the police station has since moved to Chembur Police Station where we have two male workers working full time. This move was effected as Chembur was found to have a large variety of cases across socio-economic classes, and there was a specific request from the then Senior Inspector of Police, Shri R.V. Kurlekar. A large majority of cases being handled by them pertain to women. These include harassment or abuse in the parental or marital home, conflict within the family, neighbourhood disputes, custody of children or 'streedhan', maintenance, rape, sexual assault, inter-community love affair or marriage, runaway cases, problems faced by women working in beer bars, mental disturbance, etc. Apart from these cases, the social workers also intervene in cases of children, substance abusers, psychologically affected persons, senior citizens, etc.

We have started work in Zone II area to stress the need for social workers with respect to rescue and rehabilitation of women and girls in prostitution. The cooperation of Shri Parambir Singh and Dr. Venkatesham, the two D.C.P.s with whom we have interacted so far in Zone II, has been crucial to our functioning. Our worker is based in Nagpada Police Station and moves to D.B. Marg and V.P. Road Police Stations whenever called there by the police. Her role is to help the police and the rescued women/girls with information about community services, rehabilitation policy of the government, and laws related to rescue and rehabilitation, so that referral is made to proper and correct agencies. She also provides moral support to the rescued clients and counsels them with respect to their future options.

For a long time, we have received feed back from the police and others in the community that while there are enough agencies working for the rights of the accused persons, there exist no services for the welfare of the victims of crimes. So, we decided to intervene on this issue, by placing two workers at Mahim Police Station in Zone IV area, solely focussing on the issue of victims. Work has been going on in Mahim for more than six months now.

Similarly, the fate of women and girls running away from home has bothered us for a while. We came across this issue through cases coming to Chembur Police Station. We found that once a girl or a woman leaves her home, she faces rejection from her family and the immediate community. She is forced to chart out her own life, without much positive support, and is forced to turn to dubious elements, who in turn take full advantage of her vulnerability.

We subsequently conducted a study on the situation of women living on or 'off' the railway premises in Mumbai to get a deeper insight into the issue. We found that such women get 'pushed' into professions such as beggary, prostitution, drug addiction and peddling, hawking in railway premises, etc. Since most of these professions fall in the category of criminal acts or illegal activities, they criminalise the women in the long run. We approached Shri S. Chakravarty, Special I.G. Railways, to discuss this issue. His response was very positive and he arranged meetings for us with Shri S.K. Agarwal, Addl. G.M. Central Railways and Shri S.M. Mushrif, C.P. Railways.

We also received the cooperation of the Chief PROs of Western and Central Railways, Shri Tandon and Shri Marwah. As a result of this process, we were able to place two social workers with the Office of the Mumbai Railway Police Commissioner. They are based at C.S.T. Railway Police Station and have been given the mandate by the authorities to intervene in cases of women, both victims as well as offenders, from the point of view of their rehabilitation and re-integration.

SOCIAL WORK IN COURTS

A year after we started full time work in police stations, the experiment of placing social workers in the criminal justice system was extended to the criminal courts, as the logical next step. As had been done in the past, initially student social workers were placed in Esplanade Court (where the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate sits) for two consecutive years. A full time social worker was appointed in 1994.

The role of the social worker in court ranges from helping people find their way around, to legal guidance and aid to litigants/accused persons, referral to community welfare agencies and writing pre-sentence reports of cases referred by the magistrates. He also liaises with the staff of the Mumbai District and Suburban Legal Services Authority, in connection with the functioning of legal aid system and the provision of lawyers for needy accused persons from their panel.

FAMILY SUPPORT UNIT

Our work with women prisoners brought up the issue of the welfare of children of prisoners. Women prisoners are allowed to bring in their children who are below five years of age, into the prison with them. This can be done either at the time of their arrest or at any other time during their imprisonment. Therefore the Women's Section of the prison also has young children living inside, along with their mothers. We felt that there was a need to start a balwadi for these children in prison, which was started with the help of the Child Guidance Clinic attached to the Wadia Hospital, a project of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. This balwadi was later absorbed as a regular unit of Prayas.

We ran the balwadi for five years. Some time back, we submitted a proposal to the government that this facility run by us should be absorbed by them, as it pertains to a basic service of the prison system.

At present, we do not have a regular balwadi teacher taking classes for the children on a daily basis. Instead, our worker dealing with children of women prisoners left outside, interacts and spends some time with the children inside, whenever she visits the prison i.e. at least twice a week.

The need to help children or other dependent family members of a prisoner who are living outside, was felt by us particularly in the Women's Section, after a couple of years of starting work. Accordingly, a full time worker was appointed to only look into the needs of this group. Minors left outside could be in need of a variety of services – moral support, legal guidance, educational sponsorship, emergency financial assistance, contact with parent inside, follow up with school system, etc.

Our worker offers the required services after a proper assessment of the need. The vulnerability of this group of children is invisible to the welfare agencies and the community at large. It has been our effort to bring this group into public focus through research, documentation, dissemination of knowledge and meeting with the authorities concerned.

The Family Support Unit worker also extends her services to the dependent family members of clients referred by any other unit of Prayas. She also accepts cases referred by clients, NGOs or the general public.

WORK IN THE PROTECTIVE HOME AND THE SPECIAL HOME FOR MINOR GIRLS (RESCUED FROM PROSTITUTION)

Around 1994, we decided to start work on the issue of rehabilitation of women and girls in prostitution. Already, student fieldwork was going on in the Government Protective Home in Chembur. We applied for and received permission to start full time work in the Home from the Director of the Department of Women and Child Welfare, Smt. Vandana Khullar. We placed a female worker at the Home to work towards the effective rehabilitation of the inmates, in coordination with the staff there.

There were many problems and issues confronting the Home authorities with regard to the rescue and rehabilitation of women in prostitution at the time of our entry. There was no post of a probation officer and the Superintendent was given the additional responsibility of casework. The literacy teacher was given the additional responsibility of maintaining case records. We found that there were coordination problems between the Protective Home staff and the police over issues such as, the timely provision of escort for taking the women to their native places, retrieval of their personal property from the brothels, rescue of their children or any other relatives, etc.

Our worker started working on the above at two levels. Initially, we worked on a case by case basis to identify the bottlenecks and find practical solutions to the problems faced. After we gained a good grasp of the issues concerned, we approached the higher authorities of the Department of Women and Child Welfare and the police to address the same.

We feel happy to say that as result of this process, a probation officer was appointed, a medical unit was attached, and the tailoring teacher was relieved of her administrative responsibilities in the office and asked to focus on teaching the inmates. Our meetings with the police resulted in a circular being issued by the office of C.P. Mumbai, to all police stations concerned with regard to timely provision of police escort, retrieval of property and rescue of children or relatives. In this entire process we received tremendous cooperation from the Secretary and the Director of the W & C W Department, Smt. Anna Dani and Smt. Shymala Shukla. The police circular would not have been possible without the active support of Shri S. Chakravarty, Addl. C.P. Crime, Mumbai.

We also appointed activity and craft teachers in the Protective Home and the Special Home for Minor Girls (in Deonar). These teachers teach the women and girls various skills such as tailoring, embroidery, painting, hair styling, paper bag making, etc. They also organise short-term courses on relevant vocational skills, with the help institutions like S.N.D.T. University, Project Mainstream, MAVIM and Shramik Vidyapeeth in the Homes, from time to time.

We have been trying to create a network of organisations and individuals in the states from where the women and girls hail. These networks have helped in giving confidence to the inmates that there is someone in or around their native place, to whom they can turn in times of need or crisis. Some of them have been directly sent to these institutions for their future rehabilitation. Our task with regard to networking remains as yet unfinished.

WORKSHOP FOR TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Going back to the issue of aftercare, it was becoming increasingly difficult in the initial years, to find jobs for our clients. We found that our clients were quick to leave jobs, while we had placed them with some difficulty. Their reasons for leaving their jobs ranged from being shouted at by the employer, to getting involved in a quarrel or fight with some co-worker, to allegations of theft in the work place, to simply disliking the work given to them.

We realised that our client group had poor social and technical skills, low self-esteem and frustration tolerance, quick tempers and a history of changing jobs. It was therefore important to help them get used to a work environment and improve their skills to be able to deal with situations that crop up in the work place. They needed a temporary but sheltered place where these issues could be addressed and attended to.

It was around this time that one of our volunteers, who conducted arts and crafts classes in prison, gave an offer to start a workshop to train released prisoners and other clients in making cloth bound stationery items. The product range was so chosen simply because this volunteer was skilled in making them.

Thus, the Prayas Workshop for Training and Employment was set up with one sewing machine donated by the family of one staff member at our office in Worli. It was decided to pay a stipend of Rs.20/- per day to any client who put in eight hours of training time at the workshop. In the first month itself, three clients joined the workshop for training. Soon, we moved into our present place, i.e. an unused shed in the area, which was rented out to TISS by the B.D.D. Chawl authorities.

The workshop now receives trainees from prison, police stations, courts, women's and youth organisations in Mumbai. It gives training in tailoring and making of cloth based stationery items to anyone interested in learning, for a maximum period of six months. The workshop and aftercare staff members also try to identify the interests and hidden potential of the clients, through a process of observation and mutual discussions with them. A plan is worked out with each client with regard to his/her training needs, based on his/her background and interest.

Many of our clients have received training in driving, auto repair, wiring, ac repair, painting, beauty treatment, hair styling, etc. They are paid a stipend of Rs.40/- per day for six months, while undergoing their training. Prayas does not take the responsibility of finding employment opportunities for them, once their training gets over. It is expected that once trained in a relevant skill, they join the existing work force and compete with the rest for jobs.

AFTERCARE

The Aftercare Unit forms the backbone of our work. All our work in the prison, police stations, courts, or the homes for women and girls, finally boils down to a single issue in the eyes of the general public. The question everyone is interested in is – how do we rehabilitate a person coming to us and how many are we able to rehabilitate in a year. Referrals come to the Aftercare Unit through the prison, police stations, courts, ex-clients, members of the community, and organisations working for street or delinquent youth, and women in distress (including those working in the field of prostitution).

Help is given to the clients in areas such as counselling, training in a vocational skill, emergency assistance, medical relief, information about and referral to community agencies and liaising with the police on the issue of re-arrest on suspicion. Whether a person coming to us gets rehabilitated as a result of our intervention, is a tricky question to answer.

Firstly, it depends on the motivation level of the person concerned and the effort he/she makes to change his/her lifestyle. Secondly, it depends on the amount and kind of support

received from the family and the community. Thirdly, the attitude and perception of the police towards the person, is crucial. Lastly, the extent to which the person is already entrenched in a life of crime or prostitution, and whether his/her past negative associations have been left behind, greatly impacts on his/her re-integration.

The moot question here is whether our intervention has made any difference in terms of a positive shift in the person's life. We feel that our entry in their lives definitely has a pro-social influence on their psychological and material existence. The fact that a responsible group in society is willing to back them has a significant effect on the psyche of the clients and on the attitude of the police and society towards them.

Also, the concrete help given by us in terms of financial assistance, training inputs, legal help, family counselling and work with the police has a 'weaning away from crime' effect on the person. It increases his chances of turning over to the straight path and remaining on it. Finally, the relationship formed with the prison or aftercare worker helps in positive bonding and has a moralising influence on the person.

In spite of the above, cases of re-offending or persons turning back to an earlier lifestyle, occur from time to time. These are issues with which we are as much concerned as anybody else. Through a continuous process of reflection, discussion and documentation of cases, events and processes, we are trying to find answers to these.

WORK OUTSIDE MUMBAI

In 1996, one of our ex-workers, who had moved to Bharuch, approached us to start similar work there. She was one of our experienced workers, who had initiated our work at police stations, and demonstrated her capacity to carry it forward. We felt that this would give us an opportunity to study the situation in a new place. We wanted to explore whether there was need for this kind of work in smaller towns or in semi urban areas and that if our intervention proved successful, it would help build our case (for social work intervention in the CJS).

In accordance with this plan, work was initiated at one of the police stations of Bharuch with the permission of the District Superintendent of Police, Shri Sanjay Shrivastava. In the years that have followed, not only has our worker established the need for a social worker at police stations, but she has been able to move into the Bharuch Sub-Jail too, with the kind permission of the Superintendent, Shri C.K.Patel and the Additional D.G.Prisons. She is also called by the staff of the Reception Centre for Women to regularly help out with counseling. The DSP has requested her help to set up and co-ordinate a Women's Cell attached to his office. This year, in view of her increasing workload, a male worker has been appointed to work in the prison.

Last year, another staff member of Prayas moved out of Mumbai and has settled down in Solapur (due to personal reasons). She is currently in the process of finishing a study on rehabilitation of institutionalised girls, which she had undertaken while in Mumbai. It is

planned that after her current project is over, she will start some work in Solapur related to the rehabilitation of women and girls affected by crime, prostitution or destitution.

Prayas will continue to encourage our experienced and reliable staff members to move out and initiate projects elsewhere if they wish to. This will help in spreading work in this field. One of the pre-conditions for supporting such initiatives is that these staff members will have to attain financial and administrative independence from Prayas within a fixed time frame.

RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION

We are aware that being a field agency, we have access to valuable data and knowledge in criminology and corrections. This data gets generated through our work with our client groups and with the system. There has been a systematic effort on our part to document all this from time to time. We bring out an annual report that gives a detailed account of our work each year and includes process issues as well. We are engaged in in-house documentation of cases, issues and problems. Some of this is used to present a perspective before the government through various notes submitted to the Departments of Women and Child Welfare, Prison, Police, and Law and Judiciary.

We have also undertaken research projects on issues of importance such as the situation of children of prisoners, rescue and rehabilitation of women and girls in distress situations, legal aid and so on. Our study on the situation of children of prisoners is based on data collected from Tihar Prison in Delhi, and our work done with this group in Mumbai. Data for the study on prostitution was collected from eight states in the country. We plan to bring out reports of a couple of these studies by the end of this year. These will help generate knowledge and bring into focus, issues that have been neglected so far.

POLICY LEVEL WORK

When we started work in 1990, it was primarily to reach out to vulnerable persons in the CJS and see whether it was possible to translate the concept of rehabilitation into a reality. It was in the course of realising these objectives that it became increasingly clear to us that policy level and systemic issues also needed to be addressed. One level of issues was related to the lacunae in implementation of laws, procedures and rules laid down in the system with regard to persons in custody.

The reasons for these lacunae could be traced in the outdated laws or procedures, the overload and lack of investment in the system, poor feedback mechanisms and information flow from bottom up.

Another set of issues was related to a fundamental one - of responsibility towards the rehabilitation of persons affected by crime or prostitution. We found that no department in government was taking complete responsibility of this issue. Nor was society viewing

this as its problem. As a result, there are no policies or schemes for the welfare and rehabilitation of these groups. Similarly, there are very few groups and NGOs working on this issue in the country. When we started work, we found ourselves raising an issue, which was not on the agenda of either the government or civil society.

It followed that our strategy with regard to these issues had to be worked out. As far as the poor implementation of laws and procedures was concerned, we created a legal aid network and tried to activate the state legal aid system to address it. Some of the issues were taken directly to the implementing agency responsible for them e.g. the issue of non-provision of police escort to prisoners to be taken to court or the hospital, was taken up from time to time with the local police officials.

Similarly, poor implementation of the Probation of Offenders Act was taken up directly with the office of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and the District Probation Officer. Such steps did help alleviate the situation temporarily. However, in no time, the situation would get back to square one.

With regard to the creation of a rehabilitation policy for groups prone or vulnerable to crime and/or prostitution, we realised that our first battle was to make them visible before the public and the government. This could be done, by demonstrating the possibilities in rehabilitation and viewing it as a prevention strategy. We had to first prove that it was indeed possible and viable to rehabilitate a person in crime or prostitution. We also had to make the distinction between persons who had committed themselves to these phenomena, and those who were vulnerable to it, visible to the system. A rationale had to be created for certain groups within the CJS being retrieved and brought back into the mainstream.

Way back in 1992, we made our first major attempt to bring issues to the notice of the administration. We met the then Minister of State for Home in Maharashtra, Shri Babanrao Pachpute and discussed with him the need to call an inter departmental meeting on the issue of criminal justice reform and the rehabilitation of released prisoners. The Hon'ble Minister chaired the meeting, and Justice Dharmadhikari gave the keynote address. Representatives of the Police, Prisons, Social Welfare, Women and Child Welfare, Probation, Law and Judiciary, Education and Health Departments, as well as of NGOs and individuals connected with our work, attended the meeting.

In 1994, our efforts at this level received a boost as a result of a suo moto writ petition in Mumbai High Court that we were involved in, on the situation of under trial prisoners. Prayas was made a party respondent in this petition and the Court asked us to give suggestions to improve the functioning of the CJS. Through this petition, we raised the following five issues:

- ❖ Lack of provision of police escort to prisoners
- ❖ Inability of prisoners to directly communicate with the judge/magistrate
- ❖ Ineffective functioning of the state legal aid board
- ❖ Poor implementation of the probation system
- ❖ Reluctance of the judiciary to use the provision of release on personal bond

One of the suggestions we gave through this petition was the formation of a state level Inter Departmental Committee to deal with the problems confronting the CJS, consisting of the Departments of Law & Judiciary, Prisons, Police, Women & Child Welfare and Health. This was accepted by the Court and included in its final orders. The IDC has given us a forum to bring field issues related to crime and the CJS, before the government at the highest level. So far four meetings have been convened, where crucial issues related to failure of systems, crime prevention and rehabilitation have been discussed and decisions taken with regard to them. We have been striving to keep this Committee activated because of its significance as a structure.

One of the concrete outcomes of this initiative was the decision taken at one of the IDC meetings to allow students of law colleges to do legal guidance work inside prisons for under trial prisoners. As a result of this decision, Prayas approached the Government Law College to send its students to the Mumbai Central Prison for legal guidance work. We are happy that this project has taken off, with the collaboration of the College and the Prison Department. Students visit the prison twice a week and write applications for the prisoners addressed to their judges/magistrates, with regard to their cases in court.

Another outcome of these meetings has been the revision of the scheme for grant-in-aid to societies working for the welfare of prisoners, released prisoners and their dependent family members. This was an old G.R. passed in 1970 by the Home Department which was dug out by us and presented before the Committee. The Committee examined the scheme and expanded its scope as well as the financial assistance available under it.

Our discussions on the state of the legal aid board in the IDC meetings led to a realisation in government to improve its functioning. Recently an Act has been passed called the Maharashtra Legal Services Authority Act (in compliance with the provisions of the National Legal Services Authority Act), which has transferred the responsibility of administration of the legal aid programmes from the executive to the judiciary. The sanctioned staff strength has been increased, and it is hoped that these changes will pave the way for a better service delivery system.

We have played a similarly constructive role in regard to two other writ petitions of the Mumbai High Court, related to prostitution. One was filed suo moto in 1996 on the issue of minors in prostitution and the other was filed in 1999, by a NGO, Prerana, with regard to the condition of the Minor Home for girls rescued from prostitution. The aim of Prayas is to understand field realities, and to create positive forums whereby practical solutions can be found and worked out. In these ten years, both the government and the NGO sector has understood this perspective of ours.

In 1992, we submitted a proposal to the then D.G. of Police, Maharashtra, Shri S. Ramamurthy, regarding the need for trained social workers in the criminal justice system. A Committee was appointed by him to look into this need and report back to him. The Committee was chaired by a senior police officer, Shri T.K. Chowdhary. Three representatives of TISS and three police officers were members of this Committee. Views

on the issue were taken from members of the police, prison, law and judiciary, and probation departments.

The Committee submitted its report in six months, recommending the creation of a cadre of social workers in the CJS, to the D.G., who in turn forwarded it to the Home Department. The matter is since pending with the government.

In 1996, Prayas was requested by the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Human Resource Development, G.O.I., to organise a seminar on 'Youth in Conflict with the Law.' We were one of the twelve organisations in the country selected to conduct seminars on twelve different topics related to youth of our country. The purpose behind these seminars was to formulate a long-term policy for the youth, which the central government was keen on finalising.

We organised the seminar at this same venue i.e. the Mumbai Marathi Granth Sangrahalaya. Participants and experts came from all over the country, and included academicians, educationists, students, youth groups, stigmatised youth, NGOs, lawyers, representatives from the police, prison, judiciary, probation, women and child welfare and social welfare departments and interested individuals.

The seminar was a success in terms of participation, the discussions it elicited and the suggestions that came up. It resulted in the formulation of a report that was both pragmatic and had a long term perspective. It is sad that the government, which had initiated this process, did not last, and the next government shelved the entire report.

SOME PENDING ISSUES

Over the years, there are some systemic and some client issues, that we have been struggling with, with varying degrees of success. As is clear from the earlier discussion, we have been striving to work simultaneously at the field and policy level. It is difficult to maintain a balance between the two. Invariably, the balance tilts in favour of individual cases rather than issue level work.

The latter involves documentation, correspondence, organising and participating in meetings/workshops, lobbying, networking and media campaigning. All this requires time and regular follow up. Field workers are too immersed in the field and in their cases, to find the time for this. Every time the same problem crops up, there is a knee jerk reaction to it – approaching local officials and solving it for the time being. As a result, issues identified remain pending and long term work at this level remains an unfulfilled dream.

However, there is an increasing realisation in the workers of Prayas that unless these pending issues are confronted and dealt with, we will remain caught in a vicious circle of solving individual problems of people. The group approaching us will continue to remain dependent on us for relief. We have to stop reinventing the wheel and work towards

bringing changes in the system to make it user-friendly. Last month, we went through an exercise of listing such issues and identifying the key ones that need to be addressed first.

The list is as follows:

1. Prison:

- a. Overcrowding
- b. Escorting prisoners to court and hospital
- c. Female ward in the prison hospital
- d. Visiting psychiatric care facility
- e. Vocational training and recreation
- f. Implementation of probation system
- g. Legal aid to the needy
- h. Deportation of prisoners of foreign origin after their release from prison
- i. Bail for migrant person (without local roots)
- j. Shelter for released prisoners
- k. Special approach towards women arrested under the N.D.P.S. or I.T.P. Acts
- l. Special approach towards women and male youth
- m. Scheme for rehabilitation of released prisoners
- n. Alternate sentencing policy towards minor offences – hawking, ticketless travelling, petty theft, indecent behaviour in public, etc.

2. Children of Prisoners:

- a. Setting up of balwadis in women's prisons
- b. Arranging 'mulakat' for children in custody with the parent in prison
- c. Responsibility of the police at the time of arrest towards children
- d. Responsibility of the juvenile justice authorities towards prisoners' children
- e. Scheme for the welfare of prisoners' children

3. Police Station:

- a. Shelter for women in distress
- b. Direct admission in Beggars Home
- c. Admission of mentally disturbed to hospitals
- d. Issue of jurisdiction in registering complaints
- e. Response towards substance abusers
- f. Response towards vulnerable children
- g. Response towards hawkers, beer bar girls, prostitutes, etc.

4. Court:

- a. Legal aid & Guidance for the poor and needy
- b. Under use of the probation system
- c. Judiciary's response towards personal bond
- d. Functioning of Lok Adalats
- e. Ways to speedily dispose cases
- f. Issuance of Domicile Certificates

5. Protective and Minor Home

- a. Procedure adopted before sending an inmate to her native state/place
- b. Role of probation officers in the home
- c. Need for networking with other state governments and NGOs
- d. Vocational training and recreation
- e. Production of rescued women before the magistrate
- f. Recovery of property from the brothel
- g. Rescue of children or relatives
- h. Counseling at the time of rescue
- i. Preparation before sending an inmate to her family or relatives
- j. Specification of a minimum and maximum period of stay
- k. Discrimination against HIV+ persons
- l. Policy towards marriage
- m. Refresher courses for the staff
- n. Financial assistance for rehabilitation
- o. Issuance of certificate for training received
- p. Health education
- q. Interaction with the outside world
- r. Transparency in rules and procedures

6. Aftercare:

- a. Shelter
- b. Training for self employment or jobs
- c. Loans for self employment
- d. Police action or re-arrest on suspicion
- e. Need for counseling centres
- f. Emergency assistance on release
- g. Travelling allowance to reach native place

IN CONCLUSION...

We have decided that we as a team, will take up at least two issues in a year and work on them till they reach some logical conclusion. For a start, we have decided to take up the issue of children of prisoners. We are planning to come out with a report on the situation of children of prisoners by May 2000. We will use this opportunity to organise a workshop on this subject with all the relevant government departments and agencies as well as those from the NGO sector and the academia for this purpose. Our aim is draw up a comprehensive policy for this group in due course.

Similarly, we have taken up the issue of police response towards those persons trying to give up crime as a way of life. So far, we have been able to get their cooperation on this issue as long as we remain in the picture. We feel that the police can play a very positive role in the rehabilitation of women offenders, first time and young offenders. These groups can be prevented from getting further criminalised. For this to happen, there has to be a policy shift in the role of the police vis a vis these groups. We plan to initiate a dialogue with them on this very soon. Currently, we are preparing an introductory note on this subject, to start off a discussion.

The issue of shelter for women in distress, released prisoners, and care of the mentally disturbed is also very high on our agenda for lobbying. We need to get other people working for these groups together for this purpose. We need to create working groups on these subjects, which will meet and discuss regularly to arrive at a common understanding of possible solutions. Then pressure will have to be created on the government and society to address the problems in a humane and sensitive manner. On its tenth year, Prayas gives a commitment to keep working with these goals, for the betterment of the vulnerable sections in criminal justice.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our clients, family members of clients, ex-workers of Prayas, officers of the criminal justice system and other government departments, members of NGOs, our resource persons, employers and individuals, with whom we have worked towards our cause. Without their support and encouragement, we would not be where we are today.

(Vijay Raghavan)
Project Director

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

1. ISSUANCE OF DOMICILE CERTIFICATE:

In 1998, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate requested Prayas to help in legal guidance work in connection with the issuance of Domicile certificates to students approaching the courts every year in the months of May and June. This document is required by the students for their college admissions. Since the students do not know the rules and regulations clearly, they are often exploited by touts and have to cough up unreasonable amounts to get their work done. The Honorable C.M.M. wanted a information desk to be set up in every court where domicile certificates were being issued. Prayas agreed to take up this challenge to see how this issue could be tackled and look at a long term solution to the problem.

Five staff members and five volunteers were roped in for this exercise. Information desks were put up outside the office of the Assistant Registrar in five metropolitan courts. The response of this project was overwhelming. Hundreds of students benefitted from this exercise and the need to simplify procedures was very evident.

We submitted a report to the C.M.M. on the completion of this project with our concrete suggestions to simplify the process of issuing domicile certificates.

This exercise has indicated to us the fact that the system is opening up to collaboration with and suggestions from outside groups connected with an issue. It also paves the way for interested organisations to work together with the system in resolving problems/issues. We feel happy that our suggestions regarding the issue of domicile certificates is being taken seriously.

Based on our report, posters are being designed which will be put up in all the court premises. These posters will educate the public about how to get a domicile certificate made. The number of courts issuing these certificates has been increased so that the load on each court reduces. The application form is being revised so that it becomes more user friendly. We thank the past and the present C.M.M.s for reposing faith on us and using our services constructively.

2. WORK ON THE ISSUE OF PROBATION:

This year, we have started a new project to work on the issue of implementation of the Probation of Offenders' Act, 1958. For this we have received the permission of the Director, Women & Child Welfare (who looks after this subject) and the I.G. (Prisons) to work in Thane and Kalyan prisons. A worker has been appointed for this purpose.

Initially, we have been working in close coordination with the District Probation Officer, Thane. Our attempt is to first understand what the current bottlenecks are. In this, we have been receiving excellent cooperation from the D.P.O.'s office. We have also been having meetings with the prison officials and prisoners in the Women's Section and Young Male Adult Section.

We are discovering many field level problems which need to be taken up first before anything is done in the issue of probation. For example, the issue of petty and minor offenders not being taken to court due to lack of police escort. We have had meetings with the judiciary in this regard and have received a very positive response from their end. We also plan to take up some of these issues at the next meeting of the Inter-Departmental Committee.

SOME STATISTICS (OF WORK DONE IN THE LAST TEN YEARS)

Given below are some statistics related to our work collected during the last ten years. We would like to clarify at the outset that all the columns are not filled under each head. This is because data was not collated in a standardised format every year. This led to some items not being covered in certain years. These therefore have been left blank. This does not mean that work of that nature was not carried out in that period. It only means that data under the said heads is not available to us.

PRISON UNIT

	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-99	99-2000
Total cases	30		-	338	537	600	530	387	260
Home visits	220	174	315	217	414	369	616	866	185
Court visits	195	76	300	-	-	-	28	49	44
Police station visits	45	23	60	68	14	53	8	30	16
Telephone calls	-	-	100	-	-	-	192	450	163
Attendance in arts, crafts & literacy	-	-	-	33	326	-	-	-	79
Hospital visits	-		-	-	-	-	16	6	21

FAMILY SUPPORT UNIT

	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-99	99-2000
Total No. of cases	53	23	58	35	35	39
Home Visits	174	20	95	81	80	31
Referral cases	9	16	7	40	1	2
No. of Children in Balwadi	8	45	45	30	23	5
Organisation Visits	-	-	18	37	14	10
Juvenile Board/Court Visits	-	-	56	7	7	8
Emergency Assistance given for children	-	-	-	4	8	2
Children admitted to Institutes	-	-	-	5	3	
Sponsorship for Children (school fees, Uniforms, etc.)	-	-	-	2	1	1

LEGAL AID UNIT

	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-99	99-2000
Court Visits	-	-	-	421	422	270	133	181	70
Legal Aid provided	14	53	90	70	30	27	25	56	17
Prison Visits	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	73	35
Application written in Prison	133	-	-	-	-	1261	662	635	140

CHEMBUR POLICE STATION

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-99	1999-2000
Total No. of cases	53	34	82	76	228	166
Home visits	130	77	168	52	395	306
Court Visits	4	-	13	5	-	-
Organisations Visits	-	-	61	57	97	35
Other Police Station Visit	-	-	33	16	-	12

MAHIM POLICE STATION (1999-2000)

Total cases	42
Phone Calls	160
Agency Visits	39
Institutional Visits	12
Police station visits	5
Home Visits	68
Railway Station	2

RAILWAY POLICE UNIT (April 99 – 2000)

Total cases	14
Police station visits	18
Home visits	6
Hospital visits	9
Organisation & other visits	30

NAGAPADA POLICE STATION (1997 - 2000)

Counselling and Information giving to rescued girls/women (State wise)

Maharashtra	49
Andhra Pradesh	97
Madhya Pradesh	37
West Bangal	176
Nepal	209
Karnataka	51

COURT UNIT

	1994-96	1996-97	1997-99	1999-2000
Total cases	76	66	20	15
Short Term Services	204	88	288	210
Legal Aid	18	-	4	5
Referral from other agencies	68	-	3	-
Clients sent home	1	-	1	-
Police station Visits	-	6	2	-
Home Visits	-	35	10	5
NGOs Visits	-	4	6	2
Workplace Visit	-	8	2	-

PROTECTIVE HOME (1996 - 2000)

Casework

	1996-97	1997-99	1999-2000	TOTAL
Counselling	86	120	81	287
Home Visits	10	-	-	10
Cases referred to Institutions outside Mumbai for long term rehabilitation	2	9	3	14
Visits for Mobilising resources	-	16	30	46
Hospital Visits	-	40	13	53

Activity Classes (1997 - 2000)

	1997-99	1999-2000	Total
Girls who attended the activity Class	137	129	266
Girls who completed the training	107	89	196
Girls given the training kits	18	54	72

Minor Home Activity Classes (1997 - 2000)

	1997-99	1999-2000	Total
Girls who attended the activity Class	163	189	352
Girls who completed the training	85	97	182
Girls given the training kits	25	87	112

WORKSHOP UNIT

	1993-96	1996-97	1997-99	1999-2000
Total Trainees	81	25	81	118
No. of Sales helds	29	10	-	5
Orders received	28	5	-	4
Training given outside	-	-	4	6

AFTERCARE UNIT

	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-99	99-2000
Total cases	21	38	33	22	27	66	74	68
Jobs provided	-	15	13	5	14	-	-	9
Sponsorship for training	-	2	-	-	16	11	-	8
Introduction letters	-	8	16	6	6	1	3	4
Subsistence given to Clients	-	18	36	28	35	-	-	32
Shelter provided to Clients	-	8	7	4	10	17	-	15
Home visits	-	-	125	134	184	99	151	104
Visits for mobilising resources	-	-	85	91	79	108	65	28
Police station visits	-	-	6	21	77	45	55	12
Court visits	-	-	-	-	-	23	45	22

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Shri Murlidhar Jagtap
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Ms. Sucharita and Shri Jamshed Ahamed

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CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of H.R.D.
Department of Women & Child Development, Ministry of H.R.D.
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Department of Culture, Ministry of H.R.D.

NATIONAL BODIES

National Human Rights Commission
National Commission for Women
Central Social Welfare Board
Indian Council for Child Welfare
National Institute of Criminology & Forensic Sciences

MAHARASHTRA

I. G. Prisons and Officers of the Prison Department
Superintendent and Staff of Mumbai Central Prison, Thane Central Prison and Kalyan District Prison
D.G. Police and Officers of Maharashtra Police
Commandant, Officers and Staff of Railway Protection Force, Mumbai
I.G. Railway Police and Officers of Government Railway Police
Commissioner and Officers of Railway Police, Mumbai
Senior Inspector and staff of C.S.T. Railway Police
Commissioner and Officers of Mumbai Police
Senior Inspectors and staff of Deonar, Shivaji Nagar, Chembur, Nagpada and Mahim
Department of Law and Judiciary
Maharashtra Legal Services Authority
Mumbai and Mumbai Suburban Legal Services Authority
Department of Women and Child Welfare
District Probation Officer and staff of Mumbai and Thane
Superintendent and staff of Protective Home, Special Home for Minor Girls and Reception Centre
Chairperson & Members, Juvenile Welfare Board

GUJARAT

District Superintendent of Police, Bharuch
I.G. Prisons, Superintendent and Staff of Bharuch Sub-Jail
Superintendent and Staff of Reception Centre
Department of Social Defense

DELHI

I.G. Prisons, Officers & Staff of Prison Department, Tihar
Chief Probation Officer
Director of Social Welfare & Officers of the Directorate
Commissioner of Police & Officers of Delhi Police

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Chairperson & Secretary, State Social Welfare Advisory Board
Additional D. G. (C.I.D.)
Special Secretary, Finance Department
Secretary-cum-Commissioner, Social Welfare
Deputy Commissioner, Kullu
S. D. M., Baijnath

UTTAR PRADESH

Secretary, Women & Child Welfare
D. G. Police
I. G. Prisons

MADHYA PRADESH

Secretary, Women & Child Welfare
D. G. Police
D.I.G. Prisons

KARNATAKA

Director, Women & Child Welfare
M. D., Women's Development Corporation
D. G. Police
Project Officer, Devdasi Rehabilitation Project, Belgaum & Bijapur

ORISSA

Deputy Secretary, Social Welfare
Prison Department

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Director

Deputy Director

Registrar

Assistant Registrars of Accounts, Personnel & Academic Sections

Staff of Accounts, Personnel, Maintenance, Establishment, Purchase, EDP, Library, Telephone Operators & Security

Faculty & Students

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Mahalaxmi Temple Charities

Peguin Charities

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Dorabji Tata Trust

R. D. Tata Trust

Tata Social Welfare Trust

Concern India Foundation

C. R. Y.

H. D. F. C.

Hotel Subhalaxmi

I.G.S.S.S.

Central Social Welfare Board

Snehasadan

SHCIL Foundation

Indus International

CIBA - GEIGY

Hirdwani Trust

J. J. Nursing Association

Shah Chunilal Motichand Charitable Trust

Goodlass Nerolac Paints Charitable Trust

Seth Petonji F. Davar Charitable Trust

Mahindra & Mahindra

St. Michael's Church

Damania Airways

Transcane Ltd.

Byramjee Foundation

Neksons Exports

Aum Exports

Jairam Securities Pvt. Ltd.

Elizabethans

Softagh

J.P. Industries

Gopal Auto Head Repairing Works

Good Luck Auto Cares

Inner Wheel Public Services Committee

J. R. Mehta Trust

Vishwakarma Constructions

Polynesia International

Ramnklal Mehta Trust

Paragon Charitable Trust

Vicco Laboratories Ltd.

Thampi & Co.

Shri P. D. Kunte

Shri V. V. Chitale

Shri Mahesh Muzumdar

Shri Shrinivas Rao

Shri Prakash
Shri Parikshat Sahni
Shri Vanencio Fernandes
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Shri Homi Sethna
Shri Pashupati K. Advani
Ms. Soumya Chattopadhaya
Ms. G. Lobo
Shri Natarajan Swami
Shri Mohit Jain
Ms. Meena Nomula
Ms. Asha Tuliani

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Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of H.R.D.

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Shri Rajan Mehta
Shri Yogesh Jain
Shri Mahesh Kamble
Ms. Marie Menezes
Ms. S. D'Souza
Shri Shane Alvares
Shri R. K Iyer
Ms. Kiran Shrivastava
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Shri D. P. Singh
British Deputy High Commission

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Justice Shri C. S. Dharmadhikari
Dr. (Miss) Armaity S. Desai

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Dr. Dipak Vyas

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Ms. Vinita Chitale
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Ms. Anjali Dave

Ms. P. Kannegi
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Shri Phangsoo
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Shri R. N. Upadhyaya
Shri Frank & Ms. Lucy Baker
Ms. Sudha
Shri Jerry
Shri Richard
Ms. Kalpana Krishnamurti
Shri Nelson
Ms. Bindu Abraham
Ms. Arlene Rego
Ms. Malati Zaveri
Dr. Varde
Ms. Anjali Gokarn
Shri David
Ms. Carmen Fernadis
Fr. Salvador
Shri Milind Babar
Shri Namdeo Garagewala
Shri Anil Garagewala
Shri Vijay & Prakash
Shri Surendra Gaikwad
Ms. Clema Pinto
Shri Aditya
Prof. (Ms.) Chabra
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Prof. (Ms.) Rao

Prof. Shinde
Dr. Machiswala
Shri Jayadev Hatangadi
Shri Mukund Gurav
Shri Mahadev Mali
Shri Nitin Kirir
Shri M. S. Kalshetty
Ms. Ujawala Bhagwat
Shri K. K. Gupta
Shri Harsh Mandar
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Sister Breeda
Brother Sebastian
Shri P. M. A. Hakim
Ms. Shabnam Minwala
Ms. Maria Abraham
Shri Rajiv Sethi
Ms. Aruna Sheth
Shri Satish Nandgaonkar
Ms. Meena Menon
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Ms. Sangeeta Punekar
Shri Vineet Shrivastava
Prof. B.B. Pande
Prof. (Ms.) P.R. Rao
Shri Venkateshwaran
Shri Jethu Mandal
Dr. Shilpa Marwha

6. ADVOCATES

Over the years, Prayas has built a panel of advocates practicing in the Metropolitan, Sessions & High Court of Mumbai. These lawyers have taken up cases referred by us on a token honourarium paid by us. They have given us legal advice with regard to cases and our work in general, whenever approached by us. We wish to express our gratitude to them.

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Shri K. N. Vaswani
Shri S. Babar

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Shri Iqbal Bora
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Shri P. S. Singh
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Shri P. N. Shetty
Shri Gangadhar Shinde
Shri R. Satyanarayan
Shri N. K. Jagtap
Shri Prasad Iyer

Shri S. K. Sharma
Shri Chetan Bane
Ms. Anita Kewalramani
Ms. Rohini Wagh
Shri Ramakant Yadav
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Ms. Chitra Bagaraka
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Residents of B.D.D. Chawl No. 9
YUVA – Ghar Ho To Aisa
Vatsalya
Amchi Kholi
Bal Asha Trust
Snehasadan – Ashray
Snehasadan – Asmita
Sukh Shanti
Reception Centre
Aftercare Hostel for boys
SPARC
Chetana Ventures
Rotary Club of Bombay West
Inner Wheel Club of Bombay West
Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation
Bal Sakha
Vasavya Mahila Mandal
Shramik Vidyapeeth
MAVIM
S.N.D.T. University
SHED
Maiti Nepal
Swayam Siddha
Himalaya Seva Sangh
Vanchit Vikas

I.P.H.
Ashadeepam
Special Cell for Women and Children
Family Welfare Agency
Child Guidance Clinic (Wadia Hospital)
J. J. Dharamshala
C. P. A. A.
Lovedale
Sneha Jivan Kendra
Vimala Vikas Kendra
Stree Mukti Sanghatana
Rehamani Foundation
Bapnu Ghar
Trupti Nursing Home
Majlis
Samarthan
Drishti
J. J. Nursing Association
Happenings
Knight Frank (I) Pvt. Ltd.
Lowyers Collective
AVEHI
CARAT
Nirmala Niketan
Sakhya

Samay Bharati Trust	Humsafar Trust
Manav Seva Sangh	Saathi
Maze Maher	Shakti
Cross Road Prison Ministry	Nehru Centre
Mukti Sadan Foundation	Star Communications
Shradha Rehabilitation Centre	Anam Prem
Navjivan Mandal	Alka Embroidery
J.J. Hospital	M. H. Computers
K. E. M. Hospital	Shobha Stores
Poddar Hospital	Awaz - E – Niswan
G. T. Hospital	Children's Aid Society
L.T.M.G. Hospital	Apanalaya
Cooper Hospital	A.A.H.
Samaritanas	Women's India Trust
Vinimay Trust	Magna Publications Pvt. Ltd.
Oasis	Thane Mental Hospital
Salvation Army	Human Rights Law Network
Aaraish	Kaleido Graphics
Sahara Day Care Centre	Mahila Samasya Nivaran Kendra
Abhinav Technical Institutes	Y.W.C.A.
St. Catharine's Home	Shriman Visava Sangh
A. D. Bawla Home for Children	Project Mainstream
Asha Daan	C.C.D.T.
Prem Daan	P.S.I.
Seva Dham	Prerana
Sampark	B.M.C. Asha Prakalp
NARC	Rank Travels
Nurture	Kamgar Kalyan Kendra
Faculty of Law, University of Delhi	
Government Law College, Mumbai	
Maharashtra State Probation & Aftercare Association	
Ganpatrao Kadam Marg Muncipal School	
Mumbai Marathi Granth Sangrahalaya	

I. WORKSHOP UNIT



Participating in a 'Sale' of our products organised by SOCIETY magazine.



*On a picnic to Elephanta Caves.
Next to Vijay Raghavan is our
first client Late Shri Ravindra Ingole.*



*Trainees at the
Prayas Workshop*

II. PRINTINGS BY PRAYAS CLIENTS



Giving expression to their thoughts while in prison.

III. STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP



Discussing strategies under the green cover.

IV. SEMINAR ON 'YOUTH IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW'



Deep in thought..... discussing the national perspective plan for youth.

V. LEGAL AWARENESS & GUIDANCE CAMPAIGN.



At the Inaugural Function

From left to right :

Prof. Rao Principal-Govt. Law College,

Dr. Shekar Advisor-Prayas,

Shri Vijay Raghavan Director-Prayas,

Shri Kinninge-DIG (Prisons),

Shri Sawant Superintendent-Mumbai Central Prison &

Shri P. S. Singh Advocate-High Court.



*(Justice) Shri Dharmadhikari
delivering the Keynote address.*



*Students of the Govt. Law College,
Umang Members, Clients of Prayas,
Prayas Staff & Family Members.*

VI. UMANG



Discussing issues related to rehabilitation with the police.



Umang members enacting a skit on rehabilitation.



The Umang group helping to build a member's house.



At an annual get-together.



Enjoying themselves at a picnic.

