

PRAYAS

Newsletter May 2024 to August 2024



The Gift of Books to Mumbai Central Prison

In the month of May 2024, the Directorate of State Libraries, Government of Maharashtra, made a significant contribution by donating 860 books in English, Hindi, and Marathi to the Mumbai Central Prison. This initiative is a product of a collaborative effort with Prayas, aiming to enrich the educational resources available to prisoners. By providing access to a diverse range of literature, the initiative not only fosters a culture of learning but also inspires personal growth and rehabilitation among prisoners. The books serve as vital tools for education, offering prisoners opportunities to expand their knowledge and engage with new ideas. Such efforts are crucial in promoting positive transformation within the prison community, highlighting the importance of support systems in facilitating change and reintegration into society.

Personality Development Session for Youth at TISS, Mumbai.

On May 8, 2024, Prayas Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) Unit organized a session on personality development and life skills at the TISS campus, specifically for released Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) and aftercare hostel youth. The session was conducted by Ms. Lakshmi Iyer from GenNext Strategy Advisors. The session aimed to empower individuals with essential tools for personal growth, success, and a fulfilling life. They learned about how to navigate through various situations with confidence, empathy, and resilience. Life skills, on the other hand, encompass practical abilities such as effective communication, problem-solving, decision-making, and interpersonal relationships. 73 beneficiaries actively engaged in the session. The program was sponsored by Tata Motors.



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Celebrating Collaborative Rehabilitation Efforts: Recognition and Impact across Latur, Nagpur and Nashik Prisons

Pravin Mehar’s Impact at Nashik Central Prison

On May 1, 2024, Pravin Mehar, a social worker with Prayas, received an appreciation letter from the Superintendent of Nashik Central Prison, acknowledging his contributions to the rehabilitation of prisoners. His unwavering dedication and hard work have left a lasting impact on the lives of those within the prison community, showcasing his commitment to excellence in his field. Pravin’s efforts not only support individual growth among prisoners but also foster a more positive environment for rehabilitation. This recognition highlights the vital role social workers play in transforming lives and emphasizes the importance of their work in promoting social reintegration.



Prayas Social Workers Recognized at Nagpur Central Prison

On June 29, 2024, Nagpur Central Prison held a special ceremony to honor three outstanding social workers from Prayas—Mr. Dhanpal Meshram, Ms. Meena Latkar, and Mr. Krishna Padvi. Superintendent Mr. Vaibhav Agae honored them with certificates of appreciation, acknowledging their exceptional contributions and unwavering commitment to promoting positive change within the correctional facility. This recognition not only celebrated their hard work but also served as a source of motivation for the social workers to continue their impactful efforts in supporting the prisoners and fostering a rehabilitative environment. Their dedication highlights the vital role of social work in the prison system and the importance of collaboration between NGOs and prison administration.



Collaborative Efforts in Rehabilitation: Meeting with the Superintendent of Police, Latur

Prayas Latur Unit met with the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Latur to express gratitude for the workshop on the rehabilitation of offenders, which was jointly organized by Prayas and the Latur Police on August 25, 2024. During the meeting, discussions centered around the ongoing rehabilitation efforts for first-time offenders. The SP shared his plans to refer 30-40 on-record first offenders to the Prayas unit for rehabilitation purposes, indicating a commitment to supporting individuals in their reintegration into society. Additionally, the authorities expressed their intention to provide an appreciation letter to the Prayas Unit, recognizing their valuable contributions to this important initiative. This collaboration highlights a shared dedication to fostering positive change and supporting offenders on their path to rehabilitation.



From Incarceration to Independence: Released Prisoner Starts Furniture Business with Grant Support

After completing a five-year sentence, a convict was released from Nagpur Central Prison on 15th August 2023. During his time in prison, he honed his carpentry skills as part of the rehabilitation program. Upon his release, with the assistance of a Prayas social worker, he successfully navigated the paperwork and follow-ups required to receive a ₹25,000 grant under the grant-in-aid scheme for released prisoners. With this support, he purchased equipment to start his own furniture business, marking a fresh start toward self-reliance and reintegration into society.



Reuniting Hearts: The "Galabhet" Program and Strengthening Bonds at Nagpur and Kalyan District Prisons

On May 4, 2024, under the guidance of Mr. Vaibhav Aagey, Superintendent of Nagpur Central Prison, the "Galabhet" program provided a heartwarming opportunity for prisoners to reconnect with their children. A total of 197 children of 109 convicts participated, spending 30 precious minutes in face-to-face interaction with their incarcerated parents. The social workers of Prayas played a crucial role in assisting the prison administration in organizing this meaningful event. Emotions ran high as families reunited, highlighting the importance of maintaining these vital connections even amidst challenging circumstances. The program not only fostered bonding but also served as a powerful reminder of love and resilience within the prison community.

"Galabhet" Program at Nagpur Central Prison



लोकमत

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First Video Conference "Mulakat" at Dongri Children's Home with Children with Arthur Road Prison Parents.



Reuniting Hearts and Strengthening Bonds

A heartwarming initiative at Kalyan District Prison, offering prisoners a rare opportunity to reconnect with their children. True to its meaning, "meeting of hearts," Galabhet reunited families, allowing incarcerated parents to embrace their children and rekindle emotional bonds. This special event was more than just a visit — it was a chance for families to share precious moments, creating cherished memories that brought comfort and hope. By bridging the physical and emotional distance, Galabhet aimed to strengthen family ties, promote rehabilitation, and remind prisoners of their place within a supportive family unit.

On May 6, 2024, the Prayas Juvenile Justice Board Unit (JJB) organized the "Mulakat" program via video conference, allowing children to connect with their fathers and brothers incarcerated in Arthur Road Prison after seven months of separation. This groundbreaking initiative was made possible through the dedicated efforts of Prayas Legal Fellow Adv. Deepak Pawar and Social Worker Mr. Vijay Johare. Hosted in Prayas' office within the Children's Home, in the presence of JJB members, the Prayas team, and Probation Officer Mr. Amar, creating a supportive environment for these conversations. The video conference marked a significant step in maintaining familial bonds and promoting emotional well-being among children of incarcerated individuals.

Empowering Culinary Entrepreneurs: Training Programs in Fast Food, Pickle-Making, and Wafer & Chips Production

Fast Food and Pickle-Making Training in Bharuch

In the month of May 2024, the Bharuch Unit of Prayas organized a 2-day training session for 19 women, equipping them with skills to prepare delicious fast food and pickles. The training focused on fostering entrepreneurial abilities, enabling participants to explore home-based business opportunities with minimal startup costs. By honing their culinary talents, these women are empowered to break stereotypes and promote self-reliance. The participants showcased their creativity by crafting and sharing sample pouches of their homemade pickles, taking the first step toward sustainable livelihoods within their communities.



Celebrating International Yoga Day: Promoting Well-Being at Kalyan District Prison and Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh



On June 21, 2024, International Yoga Day was observed in Kalyan District Prison and Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh, where participants engaged in enriching yoga sessions. Trainers emphasized the vital role of yoga in enhancing physical and mental well-being, showcasing its numerous benefits, such as stress reduction and improved overall health. By integrating yoga into their routines, the participants took a positive step towards holistic and personal health, marking the day as a meaningful celebration of well-being and mindfulness.



Successful 3-Day Training Program on Wafer & Chips Making



A transformative 3-days training program on wafers and chips making was successfully held at the Kishore Reformatory in Nashik, organized in collaboration with Shree Shubashree Multi-Purpose Organization and Hot Chips Corner, Nashik Road. This initiative aimed to empower and rehabilitate young male adults by equipping them with essential skills in the food industry, specifically focusing on creating various flavors of chips, such as banana, potato, tomato, and more. The program combined informative demonstrations with hands-on experience, allowing participants and staff to engage deeply in the learning process. After the training, certificates were distributed by the principal, who also honoured the Prayas social worker with flowers, recognizing their invaluable contribution to the program's success and the positive impact it had on the participants.



Crafting Empowerment: Innovative Designs and Functional Creations by Women Prisoners

Handcrafted Creativity: A Unique Twist on Cloth Bag Design

One of talented clients from Prayas' production unit brings a fresh perspective to cloth bag design, weaving her own distinctive patterns into every creation. Her passion for the craft shines through as she takes a hands-on approach, carefully selecting fabrics and crafting each bag with precision. The result is more than just a functional accessory — each bag tells a story of personal ingenuity and artistic expression. By fusing traditional skills with her unique style, she adds a touch of originality to every piece, making them truly one-of-a-kind creations.



Empowerment Through Craft: Women Prisoners Collaboratively Created 500 Paper Bags



Introducing the Exquisite Makeup Pouch: A Perfect Blend of Style and Functionality

Crafted with reusable and sustainable cloth material, make-up pouches made by Prayas Income Generation Unit ensure durability and a touch of elegance. Its spacious inside offers ample space for beauty essentials, while the compact design makes it easy to carry in any handbag. The vibrant colours and cloth patterns add a splash of color to the buyer's daily routine. Ideal for travel or everyday use. Something can occasionally become everything



In an inspiring initiative at Kalyan District Prison, ten women prisoners came together to craft 500 paper bags, showcasing the power of teamwork and dedication. Each bag, meticulously made and valued at ₹5, symbolizing both sustainability and the women's determination to build a dignified livelihood. This collective effort not only supports environmental consciousness but also empowers these women, offering them a chance to contribute meaningfully within the correctional facility while fostering a sense of purpose and camaraderie.

Celebrating Tradition: Lippan Art Workshop at Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh

A Lippan art workshop at Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh introduced 18 participants to the traditional mural craft of Kutch, Gujarat. This intricate art form, made using clay, camel dung, and natural dyes, reflects motifs inspired by nature, folk tales, and religious symbols. The workshop allowed participants to engage with this rich cultural heritage and brought vibrant, decorative elements to their creative expressions. Through this initiative, Prayas continues to promote the preservation of age-old crafts while empowering individuals through hands-on learning experiences.



Community Support: Lions Club Donates educational stationery to Dongri Children's Home

On July 4, 2024, the Lions Club of Mumbai generously donated essential school supplies, at Dongri Campus, including notebooks, pens, and geometry boxes, to the released children in conflict with the law (CCL) who had passed and been promoted. This thoughtful gesture comes at a crucial time, as the Dongri Children's Home has been undergoing renovations for over eight months, prompting the Prayas office to relocate to a small temporary shelter. Meetings have been held outside under a banyan tree, which posed challenges during the summer heat and is creating difficulties with the onset of the rainy season. In recognition of these challenges, the Lions Club also provided a heavy-duty tarpaulin sheet, helping to create a more conducive environment for the ongoing work at Prayas.



Brewing Creativity: Coffee Painting Workshop at Kasturba Mahila Vastigruh



On May 22, 2024, Prayas organized a unique coffee painting workshop at Kasturba Mahila Vastigruh, introducing participants to an eco-friendly and aromatic art form. In this creative technique, coffee replaces traditional paints, offering artists a versatile medium to explore and express their creativity. From delicate landscapes to intricate portraits, the workshop showcased the endless possibilities of coffee painting, blending artistry with sustainability in a refreshing way.

Empowering Women through Sustainable Menstrual Care at Shanti Sadan Mahila Vastigruh



In the month of May 2024, a meaningful training session was organized at Shanti Sadan Mahila Vastigruh, where women learned to make biodegradable sanitary pads from cotton cloth. These eco-friendly menstrual products provide a sustainable alternative to conventional pads, promoting both personal and environmental well-being. The initiative not only equipped participants with valuable skills but also raised awareness about the importance of sustainable menstrual care. By creating these pads, the women contribute to reducing waste while addressing a critical health need in an environmentally conscious way.

Traditional Pheta-Making Workshop at Thane Central Prison

In a heartening display of skill and creativity, 15 women prisoners at Thane Central Prison gathered to craft traditional phetas (turbans) under the guidance of Prayas staff on August 22, 2024. This innovative initiative not only highlighted the prisoners' talent and creativity but also provided them with a profound sense of purpose and empowerment. By participating in this workshop, the women learned a new skill, collaborated with one another, and took pride in their unique creations. The event underscored the transformative power of offering opportunities for personal growth and development within the prison system, demonstrating that with the right support, individuals can harness their potential and foster a positive change in their lives.



Celebrating Creativity and Environmental Awareness at Shanti Sadan Mahila Vastigruh

World Environment Day Celebration at Shanti Sadan Mahila Vastigruh: A Call for Conservation

On June 5th, 2024, Prayas celebrated World Environment Day with a focus on the critical role individuals play in preserving the environment in the premises of Shanti Sadan Mahila Vastigruh.. The event aimed to raise awareness among the residents about the importance of environmental protection, with tree planting and conservation efforts taking center stage. This initiative served as a reminder of the collective responsibility we all share in safeguarding our planet for future generations.



Celebrating Creativity: Women Prisoners Introduce Rainy Season Bags



Women prisoners from the Thane Central Prison Women's Section are proudly unveiling their beautiful rainy season bags, a creative initiative developed under the guidance of Prayas Income Generation Unit trainer, Ms. Uma kokkula. This project has blossomed into a productive endeavor, showcasing the women's craftsmanship and their ability to work collaboratively. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with post-release clients reaching out to express their admiration for the products. This initiative not only highlights the skill and creativity of the women but also strengthens the connection between them and the Prayas IG Unit.

Simultaneously, Prayas organized a vibrant jewelry-making workshop at Shanti Sadan mahila Vastigruh, where participants explored the art of transforming leftover fabric and silk thread into beautiful accessories. Guided by expert artisans, attendees learned intricate techniques of weaving, sewing, and embellishing to create elegant earrings and colorful bracelets. Each piece, a fusion of tradition and innovation, became a symbol of self-expression. Through this workshop, participants discovered how creativity and craftsmanship can bring serenity, turning ordinary materials into wearable art.



Journey to Justice: Prayas' Role in Rescuing Thai Women in India

Two Thai women, initially seeking job opportunities in India, found themselves trapped in difficult circumstances, working in massage parlors in Rajasthan. Later, both moved to Mumbai during the pandemic, where they allegedly engaged in prostitution to survive. Rescued by the police, they were sent to a protective home and later transferred to prison under the Foreigners Act and Passport Act. Prayas stepped in, collaborating with the Thai Consulate to arrange legal assistance, securing emergency travel documents, and facilitate their release. The women were ultimately deported back to Thailand, with confirmation of their safe arrival.



This significant story was published in the "Sakal" Marathi newspaper on 1st June,2024, highlighting the challenges faced by trafficking victims and the importance of advocacy and support.

Celebrating Success: Felicitation Program for Board Exam Graduates at Dongri Children's Home



On June 10, 2024, the JJB Unit of Prayas hosted an inspiring felicitation program at Dongri Children's Home to honour students who had completed their 10th and 12th board exams. The event was graced by notable figures, including the Mumbai Suburban Principal Magistrate of the Juvenile Justice Board, the Principal Magistrate of Mumbai City JJB, and the Superintendent of the Children's Home. Their presence underscored the importance of education and the support these students have received. In a heartfelt segment, several students shared their personal journeys, highlighting the transformative role that Prayas has played in their lives. This celebration not only recognized their hard work and determination but also served as a reminder of the potential that lies within every young individual.

Celebrating Academic Achievement: Felicitation Ceremony at Nagpur Central Prison



On 29th June 2024, a felicitation ceremony was organized at Nagpur Central Prison for the children of convicts who have passed and been promoted.



This event celebrated their remarkable achievements, showcasing how these children have defied odds and challenged stereotypes through their hard work and determination. These students excelled in various examinations, bringing pride to their families and educators. The ceremony underscored the message that despite challenging circumstances, potential knows no bounds, reinforcing the importance of rehabilitation efforts in supporting the next generation. The same was published in the Times of India on June 30, 2024.

A Day of Learning and Joy at the Women's Development Centre

On August 12, 2024, the Women's Development Centre (WDC) in Mankhurd organized a day filled with activities aimed at fostering learning and creativity. The morning kicked off with a literacy class where 11 enthusiastic trainees practiced writing and reading their personal information, a session particularly impactful for those still mastering these skills. Later, students from TISS captivated the audience with a thought-provoking short film highlighting the importance of education, leading to a lively discussion among the attendees. The afternoon featured creative expression as trainees participated in free drawing, showcasing their artistic talents. The day culminated in a joyful evening of dancing and entertaining activities, leaving everyone with smiles and a sense of community.



Promoting Civic Engagement: Election and Voter ID Camps at Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh and Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Election Camp at Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh

On July 31, 2024, Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh hosted a vibrant election camp, marking a significant milestone in community engagement. The event saw the active participation of 31 women from the protective home, each contributing unique perspectives to discussions about the electoral process, voter rights, and the importance of their voices in shaping democratic outcomes. This gathering underscored a collective commitment to civic responsibility and empowerment, fostering a sense of inclusion and purpose among the participants.



Facilitated by Election Officers Mr. Umesh Pawar and Mr. Sunil Pawaskar, along with Prayas social workers, the camp highlighted the essential role of community-based initiatives in strengthening democratic participation and encouraging active citizenship.

Voter ID Camp at Tata Institute of Social Sciences



On August 13, 2024, Prayas organized a voter ID camp at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), aimed at empowering citizens through the voter registration process. The event promoted electoral participation and strengthened democracy by providing an accessible platform for individuals to register or update their voter IDs. With enthusiastic participation from 70 students and faculty members, alongside 10 staff members from Prayas, the camp fostered a sense of community and civic responsibility. Prayas' initiative not only facilitated the completion of essential voter ID applications but also underscored its commitment to enhancing civic engagement among participants.

Empowering Knowledge: Identity Documents and Welfare Schemes Session at Kalyan District Prison

On June 21, 2024, a session was conducted in Kalyan District Prison where Ms. Chandrakala Bhojane from Prayas provided valuable information about various identity documents and welfare schemes. This session addressed the frequent queries from women prisoners regarding Aadhaar cards and PAN cards. Ms. Bhojane's informative session was met with an enthusiastic response from the women, who actively participated and had many of their doubts clarified. The initiative proved highly beneficial, empowering the women with essential knowledge about obtaining and utilizing important identification documents.

On 21st June 2024, Aadhaar Card Camp was organized for prisoners at Taloja Central Prison through Prayas Sanstha and Alibaug District Office.



A Day of Learning and Play: Joyful Experiences at the Women's Development Centre and Dongri Children's Home

Breaking Barriers Through Play: A Fun Activity at Dongri Children's Home

On June 28, 2024, a lively fun and game activity took place at Dongri Children's Home, organized by internship students in collaboration with the staff from the JJB Unit of Prayas. Divided into two groups, the first group consisted of 8 children from Somalia, apprehended by the Indian Navy for piracy, while the second group included 12 children from the de-addiction center, inside Dongri Children's Home.

Despite facing language barriers — most Somali children only understood their native language, with only one boy able to translate some English — the activity proved to be an effective medium for engagement. The participants displayed remarkable enthusiasm and willingness to take part, demonstrating key values such as attentiveness and empathy. This event highlighted the power of play in breaking down communication barriers and fostering a sense of community among children from diverse backgrounds.



Enhancing Rehabilitation: District Empowered Committee Meeting in Latur



On June 27, 2024, the District Empowered Committee meeting, chaired by the District Collector, Latur, focused on the Government of India's scheme to provide cash bail support to indigent prisoners and inaugurated the jail Restaurant managed by prisoners. The District Collector recognized Prayas for its impactful efforts in raising legal awareness among prisoners, highlighted by informative posters displayed within the prison. Prayas actively participated in the meeting as a committee member, contributing to discussions on improving support for impoverished prisoners and promoting rehabilitation initiatives within the district. This collaborative effort underscores the importance of community involvement in fostering a more supportive environment for those in the prison system.

Promoting Safety and Justice: Dilasa's Empowering Session at Prayas Youth Development Centre

On June 27, 2024, social workers from Dilasa, an NGO dedicated to combating violence against women, conducted an impactful session at the Prayas Youth Development Centre.

Led by Ms. Dhanshree Bendake and Ms. Sangita Bhisen, shared expertise on handling domestic and sexual violence cases. The presentation aimed to educate 27 trainees, including Self-Help Group (SHG) members, ex-offenders, and NGO placement trainees. The session emphasized the importance of supporting victims, understanding legal implications, and approaching these sensitive issues with care and empathy. The trainees engaged actively, showcasing their eagerness to promote safety and justice within their communities. Dilasa's contributions were recognized as invaluable resources, fostering a deeper awareness and empowering participants to take action against violence.



Vapasi: The Return

“Vapasi: The Return” a documentary film made by Prayas was released on 9th July 2024, at TISS Campus, Mumbai in the presence of Shri Sanjay Prakash, CEO and MD, SBI Foundation, Prof. Shankar Das, Pro Vice Chancellor, TISS, Prof. Bipin Jojo, Dean, School of Social Work, TISS, Mumbai, Prof. Vijay Raghavan, Project Leader, Prayas, TISS, Dr. Sharon Menezes, Co-Project Leader, Prayas, TISS, Dr. Asha Mukundan, Chairperson, CCJ, faculty, field work supervisors and students from TISS, government officials, NGO representatives, donors, and many others.

The film “Vapasi”, means a return to society and yet to a fresh start, delves deep into the narratives of societal reintegration. Through compelling storytelling and interviews, it explores the journeys of individuals reclaiming their lives after incarceration. The film shows the challenges social workers face in rehabilitation, including various steps involved in it. Watch the film to know more about the work of Prayas through the following link.

https://youtu.be/Y_gww5VDHRU?si=qJlS-Glv8f2SkhmzH



Unleashing Creativity: Gift-Wrapping Training at Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh



In the mid-week of July 2024, Prayas organized a gift-wrapping training session at Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh, bringing together 9 enthusiastic trainees. The session was a vibrant blend of creativity, learning, and fun as participants explored various gift-wrapping techniques. Each trainee had the opportunity to showcase their unique skills, adding personal touches to their beautifully wrapped gifts. Prayas takes immense pride in the effort and enthusiasm demonstrated by everyone involved. This training not only enhanced their wrapping skills but also spread smiles and joy among the participants, fostering a sense of accomplishment and creativity.

Empowerment Through Knowledge: Legal Awareness and Skill Development at Shanti Sadan Mahila Vastigruh



On June 10, 2024, Shanti Sadan Mahila Vastigruh hosted a crucial legal awareness session led by Adv. Trupti Patil, aimed at empowering residents with essential knowledge about legal issues. The session provided valuable insights, equipping attendees with information that could aid them in navigating legal challenges. The presence of the Probation Officer further emphasized the importance of support and guidance in their journeys. In a celebration of accomplishment, certificates were also awarded to participants who successfully completed a three-month fashion jewelry course, marking a significant step towards skill development and self-sufficiency. This dual focus on legal education and practical skills underscored the holistic approach taken to uplift and empower the women at the institution.

Celebrating Creativity and Unity: Flag-Making and Festive Activities at Women's Development Centre and Kasturba Mahila Vastigruh

Creative Flag-Making Activity at the Women's Development Centre

On August 14, 2024, the Women's Development Centre (WDC) in Mankhurd hosted a creative flag-making activity in the afternoon, which saw enthusiastic participation from 12 trainees. With colours, fabrics, and imagination, the trainees crafted their unique flags, symbolizing freedom, unity, and empowerment. The session was filled with laughter, chatter, and creative energy as the trainees expressed their artistic skills and showcased their patriotic spirit.

The flag-making activity not only promoted teamwork and self-expression but also fostered a sense of pride and celebration ahead of India's Independence Day.



Creative Celebrations at Kasturba Mahila Vastigruh



On August 14, 2024, Prayas organized a fun-filled afternoon at Kasturba Mahila Vastigruh, with a flag-making activity and Rakhi-making activity, engaging the residents in a creative and festive celebration. The flag-making activity saw enthusiastic participation as the residents crafted the flags, symbolizing freedom and patriotism.

Simultaneously, the Rakhi-making activity brought out the artistic skills of the residents, as they crafted beautiful Rakhis, filling the air with a sense of love, care, and bonding. Both activities brought joy, laughter, and a sense of community, making the day truly special and memorable.

Celebrating Tradition: Rakhi and Mehendi Workshop at Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh, Shanti Sadan Mahila Vastigruh and Kalyan Prison

On August 16, 17 & 19, 2024, the vibrant atmosphere at Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh was alive with the spirit of celebration as Prayas' workers initiated a special workshop for the women residents. In the festive mood of Raksha Bandhan, 23 enthusiastic women from Navjeevan, 17 women from Shanti Sadan and 43 women from Kalyan District prison gathered in their respective places to create colourful Rakhis, each showcasing their unique flair and creativity. They designed intricate patterns and adorned their threads with an array of colorful beads and decorations, reflecting their artistic skills while embodying the spirit of unity and tradition. This activity added to the festive spirit and allowed the women to bond and celebrate the special relationship. The handmade Rakhi made the festival even more special and meaningful.



At the same time, 32 participants immersed themselves in the rich cultural tradition of Mehendi art, an intricate form of body decoration that has held cultural significance in India for centuries. As laughter and conversation filled the air, skilled hands applied elaborate henna designs on eager palms, ranging from delicate floral motifs to geometric shapes. Beyond its aesthetic beauty, Mehendi symbolizes good fortune, prosperity, and happiness, with its soothing properties making it a favored choice for special occasions. This event not only highlighted the camaraderie among the women but also celebrated their cultural heritage. With each Rakhi crafted and each Mehendi design completed, they embraced the essence of togetherness and tradition, making the upcoming Raksha Bandhan truly memorable for all involved.

Observing World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

On July 30th, Prakriti NGO commemorated “World Day Against Trafficking in Persons” at Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh, bringing together key stakeholders in the fight against trafficking. Esteemed magistrates S.D. Panjwani and P.V. Hingane participated in the event, engaging with various NGOs to learn about their rehabilitation efforts. The women from Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh displayed an array of handmade products, including beautifully crafted quilts, which captivated the magistrates. Following the event, the magistrates purchased several items and recommended that these products be exhibited at the court premises, fostering a spirit of collaboration and increasing awareness of the rehabilitation efforts in place. Prayas’s initiatives are instrumental in promoting reintegration and economic empowerment for survivors, reflecting a commitment to transforming lives and communities.



Celebrating Independence Day: Joyous Festivities at Shanti Sadan Mahila Vastigruh and Kalyan District Prison



On Independence Day, a vibrant celebration took place at Shanti Sadan Mahila Vastigruh and Kalyan District Prison, featuring various games organized exclusively for women. The event was a resounding success, drawing enthusiastic participation from all attendees. To heighten the excitement, winners of the games were awarded pens and notebooks, which added a special touch to the day and made it memorable for everyone involved.

At Kalyan District Prison, 10 women, along with children of prisoners, also joined in the festivities, enhancing the sense of community. One of the participants took on the role of anchor for the event, further fostering a sense of belonging. Superintendent Mr. Jagtap presented the pens and notebooks to the women, while the children received gifts as well. The celebration not only highlighted the joy of togetherness but also promoted camaraderie among the women, creating a wonderful atmosphere to commemorate India's independence.



Cultivating Creativity: Wall Painting Course and Drawing Competition at Arthur Road Prison

On August 16, 2024, a significant event took place at Arthur Road Prison, marking the examination of the Akzonobel CSR wall painting course for trainees. This course, designed to enhance skills and foster creativity, culminated in a practical exam where prisoners had the opportunity to showcase their wall painting abilities. Additionally, a drawing competition was held, featuring a collection of the prisoners' drawings. These initiatives provided a vital avenue for self-expression and personal growth, contributing to the rehabilitation process by promoting artistic talent and offering a constructive outlet for creativity. The events underscore Prayas's commitment to education and rehabilitation, equipping prisoners with valuable skills and fostering opportunities for positive transformation within their lives.



Empowering Women Through Self-Help Groups: Training Workshop for Recently Released Prisoners



On August 29, 2024, a one-day training workshop focused on self-help groups was organized for women recently released from Thane and Kalyan District Prison, in collaboration with Pratham and Prayas. The workshop attracted 18 women who eagerly participated in interactive sessions led by resource persons Mr. Jagdish Bhagat and Mr. Praveen Bansode, who discussed the importance of savings and different types of saving strategies. The women engaged enthusiastically in the activities, sharing positive feedback and expressing feelings of refreshment and hope for their futures.

Although some women faced challenges attending due to work, court, or family commitments, those present actively participated, making the effort a valuable step in their rehabilitation process, equipping participants with essential skills and fostering a supportive community that empowers them toward a brighter future.

Promoting Social Initiatives: Exhibition at Rajshree Shahu Maharaj Vidyalyaya

On August 26, 2024, an exhibition was organized at Rajshree Shahu Maharaj Vidyalyaya in Navi Mumbai by the Thane District Legal Services Authority (DLSA). The event was chaired by Hon'ble Shri Parag Sane, District Judge I Belapur, under the guidance of the DLSA Secretary. It brought together representatives from various NGOs, government offices—including the District Collector's Office, Women and Child Development Office, Labor Commissioner's Office, and Social Justice Office—along with the Principal of the Law College and officials from the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation.



Prayas actively participated in the exhibition, setting up a stall to showcase and sell cloth and jute products made by Prayas' clients.

This initiative not only highlighted the craftsmanship of the Prayas clients but also emphasized the collaborative efforts of various institutions in promoting social welfare and empowerment within the community.

Enhancing Legal Awareness: Para Legal Volunteer Training at Thane Central Prison



On August 22, 2024, Prayas, in collaboration with the Thane District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), organized a Para Legal Volunteer (PLV) training program inside Thane Central Prison. This initiative aimed to equip selected prisoners with essential knowledge and skills to provide legal assistance and support to their fellow prisoners. During the training, participants gained a deeper understanding of legal rights and procedures, empowering them to facilitate access to justice within the prison walls. By fostering this legal awareness, the program not only enhances the prisoners' understanding of their rights but also promotes a supportive environment where inmates can assist one another in navigating the complexities of the legal system.

Rehabilitation Workshop Organized by District Police, Latur



दिव्य मराठी विशेष • जिल्हा पोलीस दलाच्या वतीने परिवर्तन कार्यशाळेत पुनर्वसनावर भर गुन्हेगारांना परिवर्तनासाठी वैचारिकतेचे धडे

गुन्हेगार व विनाशकारी बळीतून मुक्त होण्यासाठी पुनर्वसन ही एक महत्त्वाची बाब आहे. जिल्हा पोलीस दलाच्या वतीने पुनर्वसन कार्यशाळा आयोजित करण्यात आली आहे. या कार्यशाळेत 40 गुन्हेगार व 100 पोलीस कनिष्ठ, यांच्यासह सहभाग घ्यायला मिळाले. या कार्यशाळेत गुन्हेगारांना परिवर्तनासाठी वैचारिकतेचे धडे देण्यात आले. या कार्यशाळेत गुन्हेगारांना परिवर्तनासाठी वैचारिकतेचे धडे देण्यात आले. या कार्यशाळेत गुन्हेगारांना परिवर्तनासाठी वैचारिकतेचे धडे देण्यात आले.



गुन्हेगारांसाठी परिवर्तन घडवून आणणे हा प्रयत्न ही एक महत्त्वाची बाब आहे. जिल्हा पोलीस दलाच्या वतीने पुनर्वसन कार्यशाळा आयोजित करण्यात आली आहे. या कार्यशाळेत 40 गुन्हेगार व 100 पोलीस कनिष्ठ, यांच्यासह सहभाग घ्यायला मिळाले. या कार्यशाळेत गुन्हेगारांना परिवर्तनासाठी वैचारिकतेचे धडे देण्यात आले. या कार्यशाळेत गुन्हेगारांना परिवर्तनासाठी वैचारिकतेचे धडे देण्यात आले.

ध्यांच्या पुनर्वसनासाठी परिवर्तन कार्य

पोलिसांकडून ल पहिला प्रयोग

काँग्रेसीयल व सवयीच्या रुत करून त्याचे परिवर्तन करण्यासाठी जिल्हा पोलीस द्याने दिवसीय कार्यशाळेचे यात आले आहे. पहिल्या दि (दि.६) येथील भालचंद्र ागवहात या कार्यशाळेचे सा आधीसक सोमय मुंडे रण्यात आले. काँग्रेसीयल अशा प्रकारची परिवर्तन व हाव्या घेण्याचा हा सण्यात आहे. केशवराज काम करणारी टाटा ान संस्था, मुंबई संघलित



प्रयास सामाजिक संस्थेच्या सहकार्याने ही कार्यशाळा आयोजित करण्यात आली आहे. याशिवाय सोसायटी फॉर बेल बॅरिंग अवेअरनेस अँड रिहॅबिलिटेशन लतूर, आचार फाउंडेशन व स्वयंसेवक ग्रेटातील प्रथम संस्था, किल्लारी यांनीही यात सहभाग नोंदविला आहे. उद्घाटन कार्यक्रमास जिल्हा कारागृह अधीक्षक पी. के. जाधव, प्रयास

पराध्यांच्या पुनर्वसनासाठी...

गुन्हेगारांच्या प्रतिबंधासह गुन्हेगारांमध्ये परिवर्तन घडवून आणणे याची गरज बनली आहे, असे प्रतिपादन सोमय मुंडे यांनी केले. कार्यशाळेचा शुभारंभ शिवशाहीर संतोष साळुंके या देशभक्तीपर गायनाने झाला. यावेळी डॉ. मिलिंद पोतदार, हनवाझ पठाण यांनी उपस्थितांना मार्गदर्शन केले. कार्यशाळेत माजिक संस्थांच्या मदतीने सवयीच्या अपराध्यांना रोजगाराचे ाक्षण देऊन रोजगाराच्या संधी उपलब्ध करून देण्याचा प्रयत्न ाण्यात येत आहे. अपराध्यांची मानसिक स्थिती बदलून त्यांच्यात र्त्तन होण्यासाठी विविध क्षेत्रातील मार्गदर्शकांकडून समुपदेशन ाण्यात येत आहे. यावेळी विपसना मेडिटेशन, विविध सांस्कृतिक मनोरंजनात्मक कार्यक्रमांचेही आयोजन करण्यात आले आहे.

Through open discussions and interactive sessions, participants shared their experiences, challenges, and insights, creating a sense of community and offering a transformative platform for dialogue. This workshop exemplified the importance of collaboration between law enforcement and social organizations in promoting rehabilitation and fostering positive societal change.

Himmat Self-Help Group Celebrates Milestone and Friendship Day



On August 10, 2024, the Himmat Self-Help Group (SHG) of Prayas convened at the Prayas Women's Development Centre on reviewing their progress. A significant achievement for the group was their objective to open a bank account, which presented initial challenges, creation of a Customer Information File (CIF) number. However, through diligent follow-up and perseverance, the group successfully opened an account with the State Bank of India in Chembur.

To celebrate this important milestone, the members collectively gathered funds and planned to deposit them into their new account on the upcoming days. In addition to their financial accomplishment, the group marked Friendship Day, which not only commemorated their success but also strengthened their bond and camaraderie. This gathering exemplified the spirit of collaboration and support within the Himmat SHG, reinforcing their commitment to empowerment and collective growth.

Unleashing Creativity: Puppet-Making Workshop at Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh

On August 12, 2024, Prayas, in collaboration with Mumbai Mobile Crèches, organized an engaging puppet-making workshop at Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruh, attracting the enthusiastic participation of 32 women. This workshop provided a unique platform for the women to learn the art of puppet making while exploring their creativity in a supportive environment. Under the guidance of skilled instructors, participants crafted an array of colorful puppets, immersing themselves in the joyful process of creation.



The workshop culminated in a delightful themed puppet show, where the women showcased their newly made puppets in a performance that brought their imaginative stories to life. The event was a resounding success, allowing the women not only to tap into their artistic talents but also to bond and share laughter in a nurturing atmosphere. Through this experience, they celebrated their creativity and ingenuity, making lasting memories while having a wonderful time together.

Fun-Filled Pearl Bangle-Making Workshop at Dongri Children's Home



On August 1st and 2nd, 2024, Prayas organized an engaging pearl bangle-making workshop for the girls and a vibrant drawing and games session at Dongri Children's Home. 10 enthusiastic participants took part in this creative activity, immersing themselves in the art of traditional bangle-making. With colorful threads and an array of beads, each girl crafted her own unique pieces, showcasing their creativity and individual styles. The workshop aimed to foster creativity, skill-building, and confidence among the young participants, providing them with a valuable learning experience. The atmosphere was filled with joy and excitement as the girls explored their artistic abilities, making it a memorable event for everyone involved.



Acknowledgement

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our valued partners and donors for their unwavering support. The generosity and trust shown by them in our mission have made a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve. Together, we are creating lasting impact and empowering individuals to reach their full potential. We deeply appreciate the commitment shown by the sponsors and donors to our shared vision and looking forward to continued sponsorships, driving positive change and transforming lives for the better. Thanks to the sponsors and donors for being instrumental in our journey towards creating a brighter future.