



Women's Day Celebration by Prayas, a field action project of the Centre for Criminology and Justice, School of Social Work, TISS.

Green Room, Convention Centre, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, New Campus, Deonar,
Mumbai 400088
March 6, 2020

Prayas organized a half-day programme for women who had been part of Prayas' intervention programme in Mumbai and Thane districts. These included women who were released/discharged from prisons, protective homes for women exploited for commercial sex, and shelter homes for women in distress. Eight-five women who were part of Prayas' rehabilitation programme and eighteen staff members attended this programme.

The main objective of the programme was to facilitate discussion on how women developed capacities, faced struggles, and claimed power. Chris Shenoy Mathew, Programme head of Child Help Foundation was invited to deliver a lecture on women's empowerment and confidence, and the history of recognising March 8th as women's day. Besides the lecture, the programme comprised on an exchange between women about their attempts to meet struggles, screening of the film and space for women to express themselves through songs. A few children who were present spoke about their experiences of being separated from mothers. The exchange amongst women was marked with a few emotional and happy moments.

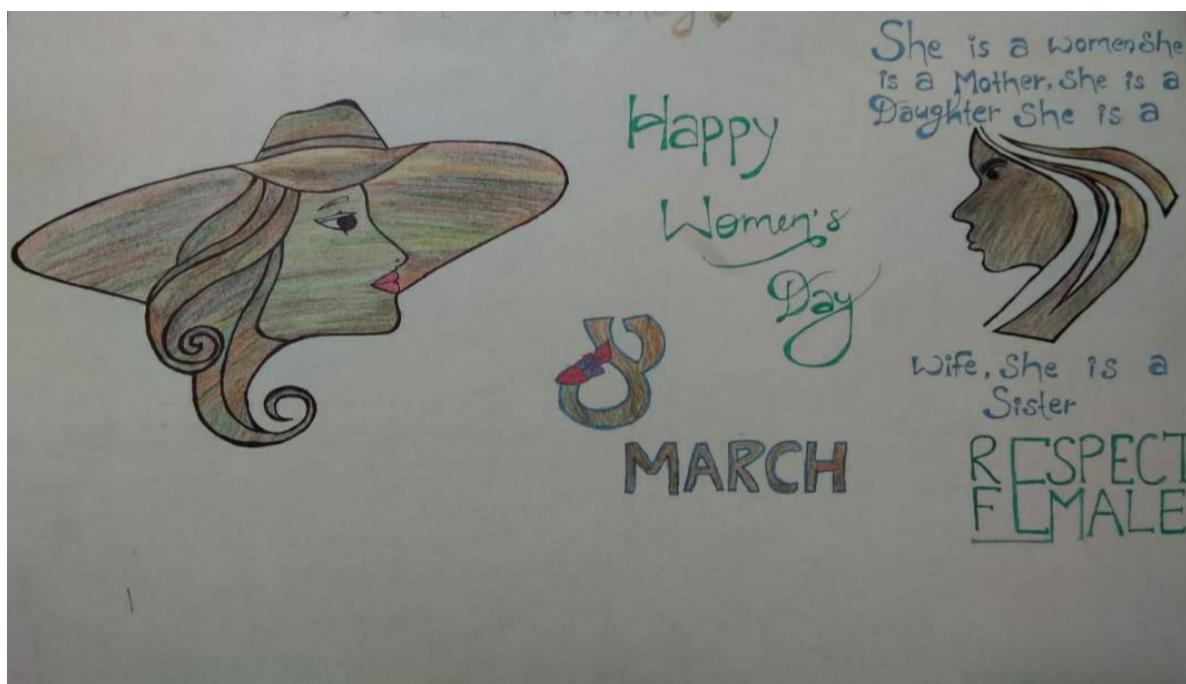
Women reflected on their empowering journeys with Prayas, and thanked Prayas social workers for their relentless support in helping them identify their strengths, re-building their self confidence to fight battles, transforming their lives as well encouraging them to empower lives of other women; and this gave the women and Prayas' staff an opportunity to reflect on areas where the project helped women reconstruct their lives.

"Maine apne aap main bahot badlaav dekha hai.. aaj main akele raat ke train se gao jaati hu , khud ka jaati ka dhaakla nikala aur main bahut khush hoon aur Prayas didi ka shukriya karti hoon ki unhone mujhe hamesha aage badhne ke liye protstahit kiya"

(Today I have reached a point in my life where I feel empowered to travel overnight by train to my village, I removed caste certificate all by myself and I am very happy and I thank Prayas social worker to always encouraged me)

“Jab main jail main thi, mera bachha 4 saal ka tha, main umeed chhod di thi aur mujhe laga mera bachha padhaai nahi kar payega... lekin aaj mera bachha graduation ki padhaai kar raha hai.. aur yeh sirf Prayas ke didi ke wajah se mumkin hua ..”

(When I was in prison, my child was 4 years old, I had lost all hopes that my child will get education but today my child is doing graduation and I owe it to social workers of Prayas for providing educational support in my absence)



*Drawing done by Child of Prayas Client