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Field Interventions

Prisons

Mumbai Central Prison

Inputs and interventions

- Legal guidance and information to clients was provided.
- Referrals to Prayas panel of lawyers for legal aid.
- Group sessions on the Prayas rehabilitation programme, personality development, and life skills.
- Visits to police stations, courts, government organizations and NGOs for case related intervention.
- Home/family visits to understand family situation and connect clients to their families.
- Organized a medical check-up and awareness camp on skin diseases for the prison inmates on 9th September, 2013 in co-ordination with Niramaya Health Foundation and the prison doctors.
- Provided emergency support for food, clothing, medicines and travel in some cases.
- Individual counseling.
- Arranging shelter post-release.
- Post-release follow-ups.
- Referrals to Prayas rehabilitation programme after release.
- Provided information about the work of Prayas to the Sewri Sessions Court Judge, Shri K. D. Jadhav who had visited the prison on 27th September, 2013. He suggested that the cases for legal aid should be referred to the Mumbai District Legal Services Authority.
- Client for Exposure visit and placement NGO visit was made to Pabal- Vidnyan Ashram, Khed, Pune with Legal Awareness Programme in prison with Legal Aid Service Authority, Session judge, Advocate and Professor
- Vocational and Career Guidance Awareness Session was conducted in Prison

Outputs and outcomes

- The outreach programme was extended to 154 clients in the prison.
- Legal guidance and information was provided to 115 clients.
- 25 clients were provided legal aid through Prayas panel of lawyers.
- 52 clients were provided counseling by the social worker.
- 7 clients were provided post-release shelter.
- 9 clients were referred to the Prayas rehabilitation programme.
- Follow-up was conducted in 27 cases after release.
- 22 clients were provided with emergency financial support.
- 6 sessions were conducted on the Prayas rehabilitation programme which was attended by a total of 205 inmates.
- 60 inmates attended small group activities like games, personality development activities and so on conducted by the social worker in 7 sessions.
- 85 inmates attended awareness camp and health check-up conducted by Prayas in co-ordination with Niramaya Health Foundation and the prison doctors.
- Client for Exposure visit and placement NGO visit was made to Pabal- Vidnyan Ashram, khed, Pune with Legal Awareness Programme in prison with Legal Aid Service Authority, Session judge, Advocate and Professor
- Vocational and Career Guidance Awareness Session in Prison

**Challenges**

- Designing a rehabilitation programme poses challenges since it is a high security prison.
- Evolving a systematic work procedure is difficult in this prison due to overcrowding of the prison.

**Future plans**

- To organize regular sessions on vocational guidance and training.
- To focus on clients with weak family support.
- Organize Various Vocational and Career Oriented Awareness Session and Educational & Recreational Activity in Prison along with a Social Worker from Byculla Youth Section.
Byculla District Prison (Male Youth Section)

**Inputs and interventions**
- Visits were made to police stations, courts, government offices and NGOs for various interventions.
- Home/family visits in order to understand the family situation and connect clients to their families.
- Legal guidance and information.
- Arranging legal aid through Prayas, based on need assessment.
- Individual Counseling.
- Clients referred to the Prayas rehabilitation programme post their release.
- Follow up of clients after release.
- Emergency support provided according to need.
- Visit to Kolhapur Central Prison on 29th September to follow up with 2 clients who were transferred there from Byculla to discuss possible options for their rehabilitation programme.
- Awareness and information sessions about Prayas rehabilitation programme, vocational training, small scale industry and group activities organized from time to time.

**Outputs and outcomes**
- Support was extended to 337 inmates.
- 82 inmates received legal guidance and information and 26 clients were referred for legal aid.
- 129 clients were provided with counseling.
- 10 clients were referred to Prayas rehabilitation programme.
- Follow up was conducted in 38 cases post release.
- 20 clients were provided with emergency support.
- 7 clients were repatriated at their request.

**NGO visits were conducted in organizations mentioned below**
1. Yuvaparivartan
2. Vidhayak Sansad
3. Vigyan Ashram
4. Samparc, Pune
5. Lalji Meherotra - Training Institute
6. Jivan Aadhar

Awareness and information session were conducted on Vocational Training and Small Scale Industry.
Challenges
- The percentage of repeat offenders is high among clients with weak or no family support.
- Due to lack of documents and poor family support, availing bail for inmates is difficult.

Future plans
- To focus on the early release of petty offenders to avoid further criminalization.
- To identify resources to facilitate bail for clients hailing from other states.
- To conduct more informative sessions like de-addiction etc.
Byculla District Prison (Women’s Section)

**Inputs and interventions**
- Interacting with inmates and providing information and counseling as per need.
- Providing information, guidance and counseling to families of inmates.
- Helping inmates to maintain communication with families through telephonic contact, home visits and calling family members to the Prayas Contact Centre.
- Visiting police stations as part of case interventions.
- Facilitating monthly meetings of under trial prisoners with their minor children who are kept in children’s homes and referring children of under trials to children’s institutions.
- Assisting in the repatriation process of released prisoners to another state.

**Sessions organized**
- Orientation sessions about work of Prayas in prison were attended by 40 women inmates.
- Organized a five day *Gajra* making training programme with the objective of helping them to support for their livelihood, attended by 40 women inmates.
- Organized three month government certificate course on Fabric Painting training programme with the objective of helping the inmates manage and reduce their stress levels, attended by 40 women inmates.
- Organized three month government certificate course on Embroidery Training programme with the objective of helping the inmates manage and reduce their stress levels, attended by 40 women inmates.
- Organized a six day Diya painting training programme, attended by 40 women inmates.

**Outputs and outcomes**
- Prayas responded to a total of 152 inmates.
- 24 families were provided with financial emergency assistance.
- 148 clients were provided counselling, legal guidance and follow up.
- 61 clients were reconnected with their families.
- Assisted in the institutionalization of 6 children on the request of their mothers.

**Challenges**
- The staff changes from time-to-time and their levels of cooperation and receptiveness affect intervention.
- The inmates often conceal facts and narrate different stories to different workers.
• It becomes difficult to locate children of Bangladeshi prison inmates as their whereabouts are not known and they could be kept in any of the children homes.
• It becomes challenging to rehabilitate women after release as many times their release happens at a time when the Prayas worker is not in the prison. Even if the prison department informs the social worker, it is challenging to reach the prison immediately.

**Future plans**
• To focus on single women and women with children without family support.
• To focus on first-time offenders.
• Session on legal awareness once a month.
• Session on foster care will be organized.
Work with Children of Prisoners - Byculla District Prison (Women’s Section)

Inputs and interventions
- Visits to police stations, schools, hospitals, children’s institution, NGO and DWCD.
- Visits to the Child Welfare Committee at Mankhurd and Dongri.
- Contact established with families through telephonic contact and home visits.
- Counseling, emergency support and follow up.
- Rationing, medical and educational support as per need.

Output and outcomes
- Prayas responded to a total of 45 children of prisoners.
- 9 visits were made to the various children’s institutions.
- 38 home visits were made.
- 7 visits were made to Dongri CWC and 4 visits were made to Mankhurd CWC.
- Counseling was provided to 45 children.
- 22 children were provided with emergency assistance and 2 child was provided medical assistance.
- 23 children were provided educational support and 7 families were provided rationing support.
- 2 families were provided with legal guidance.
- Mulakat was arranged for 26 children with their mothers.
Thane

Thane Central Prison

Interventions
- Legal guidance and information.
- Follow up of cases to facilitate bail.
- Visits to courts, police station, NGOs and government offices.
- Cases referred to the District Legal Services Authority.
- Home visits and counseling to families in need.
- Visits to observation home and child welfare committee.
- Repatriation at the request of the client
- Meetings with government officials.
- Exposure visits as part of the aftercare programme for clients.

Outputs and outcomes
- Outreach to 102 clients.
- 19 home visits, 38 court visits and 8 NGO visits.
- 5 visits to the child welfare committee and observation home, in connection with juveniles referred to the JJB from the prison.
- 3 clients repatriated and connected with their families.
- 11 cases followed up for bail.
- 36 families provided counseling.
- 9 clients referred for legal aid to the DLSA.
- 83 clients received legal guidance and information.
- 02 programmes in baba room on 1) legal rights & plea bargening information from DLSA Thane (present- Shree Chandgade, member secretary, Avt. Kochewad, Shree Padgham- PO) 2) various games competition 3) legal awareness n prayas presentation 4) Group session on De-Addiction 5) De- addiction by krupa foundation

- The social worker conducted meetings with the following government officials:
  1. Prison Superintendent - 5
  2. Member Secretary of DLSA - 8.
  3. Probation Officer - 5.
  5. Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojna officer - 2.

These meetings were conducted to understand if there are any policies of their departments that could be of some help to the prisoners.
- In one case prayas social worker provided social investigation report to Shree Abhay Thipse- Judge in Mumbai Sessions court. Now the inmates has been acquainted.

Challenges
- The prisoners are not produced in the court on a regular basis and this leads to a lot of frustration among them and delays the process of justice.
- Re-arrest after release from prison by local police station for chapter case
**Future plans**

- Focus on improving the legal aid system.
- Programme & session on various issues and subject
Kalyan District Prison (Male Youth Section)

**Inputs and interventions**

- Direct outreach to prisoners.
- Home visits to reconnect youth with their families and to facilitate rebuilding relationships wherever possible.
- Support to clients to enable access to legal aid services through free legal aid or through Prayas panel of advocates.
- Discussion about the benefit of Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 towards rehabilitation.
- Visits to police stations and follow-up with the advocates regarding the progress of trial and bail matters and Chapter cases.
- Visit to court and follow up with judiciary staff and officer regarding related client and programmed organised in prison and repo building with them.
- Visit to observation home Bhiwandi, legal aid and client family visit arrange with them and hand over RCJJ (a Project of TISS).
- Follow up and service provide (legal aid, home visit, police station visit, Court visit etc.) refer by prison staff and officer, Doctor, RCJJ (a Project of TISS) and other NGO’s and person
- Awareness/orientation sessions on Prayas’ rehabilitation programme once in a month.
- A one day session organized in the Male Youth Barrack on “Personality Development” on 18th June 2013.
- Eye Camp Organised by Mahatme Hospital, Mulund at Kalyan Prison Male and Female section on 26 July 2013.
- “Opportunity in Distance Education and Available Source” 07 march 2014
- Meeting done with Kalyan prison officer regarding Dental surgery and check up camp organising planning on 27 March 2014.
**Outputs and outcomes**

- The outreach programme was extended to 150 clients in the prison and Kishor Barrack.
- 3 youth from outside Maharashtra were released on bail by contacting their families.
- 30 youth from Maharashtra were released on bail by establishing family contact through legal aid.
- 3 clients attended vocational training at Yuva Parivartan after release from the prison.
- 10 youth from Mumbai, Thane and Kalyan districts were in the prison and their families were unaware of their imprisonment. The families came for mulakat after telephonic contact and home visits conducted by the social worker.
- Cases of 5 juveniles lodged in the Kalyan District Prison were transferred to the Juvenile Justice Board of Bhiwandi. The social worker contacted their families and requested them to get the necessary documents required for the transfer to the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB).
- 40 family members of the inmates in the prison have been in regular contact with the social worker.
- 15 families were provided with emergency assistance.
- Medical support provided to 10 families.
- Educational support provided for 5 clients (post release from prison).
- Legal aid provide in Kalyan court (lawer & session), Kalyan Railway court, Ulhasnagar court, Bhiwandi court, JJB Bhiwandi, Uran court in 25 cases.

**Challenges**

- The prison covers a large geographical area including tribal and rural areas; hence it is time-consuming to make home and court visits and police station visit.
- Families from tribal and rural areas are not able to come for mulakats due to long distances and financial difficulties.
- As the families are from tribal, rural and migrated areas, they are not able to provide lawyers and bail amount also.
- Social worker finds it difficult to arrange awareness programme in the prison due to high security problems.

**Future plans**

- To activate resources of government organizations, educational/vocational training institutions and NGOs to conduct different sessions and activities in the prison.
- To arrange for awareness sessions, vocational and career guidance in the Youth Barrack once in three months.
- To get Membership at Kalyan Taluka Legal Aid Authority, Ulhasnagar Taluka Legal Aid Authority, Bhiwandi Taluka Legal Aid Authority.
- Short term courses arrange at Kishor Vibhag Kalyan Prison.
- Dental surgery and check up camp.
- Health awareness session arrange.
- Once in month orientation about Prayas programme.
- Awareness session on Probation Offenders Act, 1958 in youth barrack.
- Drawing, poet writing, story reading and writing workshop in youth barrack.
Kalyan District Prison (Women’s Section)

Inputs and interventions
- Visits conducted to police stations, government homes, courts, prison and NGOs.
- Contact established with families through home visits and telephonic calls.
- Individual counseling as per need.
- Emergency support wherever necessary.
- Legal guidance and follow-up with the lawyers.
- Post-release rehabilitation where possible.

Outputs and outcomes
- A total of 163 clients were reached due to Prayas programme.
- 56 clients were provided with counseling.
- Rehabilitation process in progress with 26 clients.

Challenges
- The staff in the prison change from time-to-time and their levels of cooperation and receptiveness affects intervention.
- It is challenging for the social workers to reconnect women accused of violence with their families.
- Due to jail rules restricting timings of visits by Prayas staff, it is difficult to do in-depth work.
- The staff shortage in the Department of Women & Child Development hinders repatriation and rehabilitation services, implementation of the Probation of Offender’s Act, 1958 and the other schemes. As a result, Prayas’ efforts at eliciting the involvement of the administration are obstructed.
- The honorarium for legal aid lawyers is too low whereby attending cases is not a priority for them. Due to the absence of lawyers, the clients are unaware about the progress in their case which increases anxiety.

Future plans
- To try and negotiate with the prison department to increase the visit timings.
- To do more intensive work with families of clients.
Work with Children of Prisoners - Kalyan District Prison (Women’s Section)

**Inputs and interventions**
- Visits to police stations, schools, hospitals, children’s institution, NGO and DWCD.
- Visits to the Child Welfare Committee at Bhiwandi, Karjat, Mankhurd and Dongri were made.
- Contact established with families through telephonic contact and home visits.
- Counseling and emergency support.
- Rationing, medical and educational support as per need.

**Outputs and outcomes**
- Prayas responded to a total of 97 children of prisoners.
- 12 visits were made to the various children’s institutions.
- 59 home visits were made.
- 9 visits were made to Bhiwandi CWC, 4 visits were made to Dongri CWC, 4 visits were made to Karjat CWC and 4 visits were made to Mankhurd CWC.
- Counseling was provided to 61 children.
- 7 child was provided with emergency assistance and 4 child was provided medical assistance.
- 10 children were provided educational support and 2 families were provided rationing support.
- Mulakat was arranged for 48 children with their mothers.
Juveniles in Conflict with the Law

Mumbai : Umerkhadi Observation Home

**Inputs and interventions**
Several cases referred to the social worker by the JJB and few cases picked up by the social worker.
- Follow up in several cases as per the requirement.
- Legal aid provided through referrals to the Prayas panel of lawyers and to the District Legal Services Authority.
- Legal guidance in a few cases.
- Submitted the social inquiry reports to the JJB.
- Provided emergency assistance as per the need.
- Visits to NGOs, JJB, observation homes, vocational training institutes, and police stations as per need.
- Home visits to assess the situation of the families and to reconnect families with children.
- Provided stipend and educational support as per the need.

**Outputs and outcomes**
- A total of 383 children were benefited due to the Prayas Programme.
- 130 cases were referred to the social worker by the JJB and 30 cases were taken up by the social worker.
- Legal aid was provided through referral to DLSA in 53 cases and 24 cases were referred to the Prayas panel of lawyers.
- 44 clients were provided with emergency assistance.
- 120 social enquiry reports were submitted to the JJB.
- 383 children were provided with legal guidance
- 20 clients were provided with educational support.
- 11 clients were provided with stipend every month.

**Challenges**
- Working with the habitual offenders who are into addiction is very challenging due to high drop-out rate.

**Future plans**
- Efforts to ensure that child labour cases should not be arrested; instead action should be taken against employers.
- To bring to the notice of the police that the photographs of JCL should not be put on the police station notice boards.
- Minor children below 12 years should be produced before CWC.
Women’s Institutions (Mumbai)

Protective Home (Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha)

Work with cases
Prayas works with women rescued from commercial sexual exploitation and residing at Navajeevan Mahila Vastigruha (Government Protective Home). Initially, the worker interacts with the residents and tries to understand their background and assess their rehabilitation needs. In the case of women from Mumbai or nearby areas, home visits are made to assess the family situation and try and reconnect them with their families, if the worker and the client mutually agree that reintegration within the family is a viable option. In case of women from outside Mumbai, Prayas networks with NGOs from the area where the family is based to work out a rehabilitation plan, which may include repatriation and livelihood generation.

Some cases are referred by the ITPA Special Court magistrate to Prayas when the rescued women express a need for support with regard to training, employment, educational support for their children, emergency financial assistance to family, etc. In these cases, the magistrate passes an order of referral to Prayas with regard to their rehabilitation. Lately, many such cases have been referred by the magistrate who is quite sensitive to this issue. Besides, cases are referred by NGOs, ex-clients, Prayas social workers, etc.

Services provided
Home visits are an important component of our service delivery whereby the social worker is able to gain information about the social and financial condition of the family, the relationship between the family members, their opinion about the client, willingness to accept her and assist in her future rehabilitation.

This is followed by guidance and counselling of the client about the alternatives available for employment and training; legal rights; services available with regard to health, children, shelter, government schemes, etc. If the family is unwilling to accept the client or the family is found to be unsuitable, the client is provided temporary shelter while she is placed for training or employment in an NGO (as per the Prayas NGO Placement Programme).

If the family is willing to accept the client (and the client is willing to return to the family), Prayas works with the family and provides emergency financial assistance (such as provision of rations for a period of six months to 1 year with a minimum amount Rs. 1500/- pm), educational support to the client’s children or siblings (such paying school fees, tuition fees, provision of books, uniforms, bags, bus/train pass, etc), family counselling or any other
support depending on the need. In cases where the clients or any family member is under medical treatment, referral to doctors/hospitals, medical trusts, provision of medicines, nutritious diet, etc. is also extended. In the case of outstation clients, Prayas networks with NGOs in the area towards repatriation, arranges for NGO placement and follows up the case till the person settles down in the area.

**Challenges**

- Most cases referred by the court are local women whereby a home visit is made to assess the family situation. During the home visit, it is sometimes difficult to assess as to whether the members present are truly the women’s family or traffickers / pimps in the guise of the family.
- On visiting the homes of the women, their expectations from Prayas are quite high such as jobs with a monthly remuneration of Rs.7000-10,000/- irrespective of their qualifications and experience. Some of them expect Prayas to arrange loans towards starting small businesses of their own.
- Women with children and no male support expect Prayas to get their children admitted into private schools and bear the expenses for a long period of time.

**Help extended with regard to children**

Help was extended to the clients’ children by paying their tuition fees. For example, a woman was assisted with regard to institutionalization of her two children. Since she was in dire financial crisis, Prayas gave Rs.1000/- for travelling to meet her children in the institution and to take some eatables for them. Later on, she managed these expenses from the stipend which she gets every month from Prayas. Another child studying in the tenth standard was given a bus and train pass, while six children were provided notebooks.
Activities conducted inside Navajeevan Mahila Vastigruha

Information and awareness sessions
In April 2013, Prayas organized a one-week personality development session for 33 inmates of NMV through Nrityanjali, an organisation that conducts personality development sessions through dance and music therapy. The sessions were conducted for 3 hours daily which included story sessions, games, music, voice modulation through music, facial expressions related to dance poses, meditation, self-presentation, etc. Certificates were given to 25 inmates as they had attended for the whole week while a few inmates were present on some days only.

One of the counselors from NMV and the Prayas social worker conducted a session on the NGO Placement concept with the 15-20 inmates in April and May 2013. Besides this, once in a month, Prayas organises an informal interaction on NGO Placement in small groups of 4-5 inmates. In May 2013, Prayas organised a one-week personality development sessions for 38 inmates. Gradually, Nrityanjali now directly liaises with Navjivan Mahila Vastigruha to conduct personality development course. The arrangements of the cultural programmes for the Independence Day celebrations were also solely handled by the institutional authorities. Ms. Swati Chavan, Judge of the Family Court was the Chief Guest for the Independence Day programme.

A session on the issue of friendship was conducted on 17th June 2013 through Sakhya with 18 inmates and another session on love and infatuation was conducted on 28th June 2013 for 24 inmates. The latter session proved cathartic for the inmates and revived painful memories for some of them, which created a disturbed atmosphere in the premises. This led to an internal review of the topics that Prayas should take up for discussion in future.

In the month of July 2013, Prayas conducted recreation sessions with the inmates by playing football, lagori, ring game, and other physical activities. The movie Barfi was screened for the inmates through the help of the student social worker of TISS placed in Navjivan Mahila Vastigruha. During this period, there was a stressful environment in the institution due to the presence of Bangladeshi inmates who were awaiting the court order for repatriation which had been long delayed. On 16th August 2013, a full day session on Disaster Management was conducted for 35 inmates. The resource persons were invited from the Disaster Management Unit of Bombay Municipal Corporation. The inmates actively participated in the sessions by asking many questions. Practical sessions were conducted with regard to fire-fighting, first aid, lifting the body without a stretcher, how to prepare a stretcher with a stick, cloth or in the absence of these how two persons can fold their hands in a particular manner and lift the body, how to protect oneself first during an earthquake and then the property, etc.

Prayas mediated between NMV and Project Mainstream in organizing an orientation session on first aid and another on personality development in the month of September 2013. In the same month, another two-day workshop was organized which included sessions on Prayas rehabilitation programme, women’s health, personality development, and superstitions and rationality, with the help of Kendriya Shramik Mandal, Kurla, in which 40 women inmates actively participated.

Visits to various NGOs and governmental organizations were conducted with the objective of arranging some awareness sessions within the institution and for our rehabilitation group and
also to explore the possibility of placements in the health sector thereby reducing the stress of the inmates who are in custody. The sessions were informative in nature with regard to knowledge about the various schemes, first aid, disaster management, puppet show (story), personality development, friendship, micro finance, Prayas NGO Placement programme, etc. The sessions related to health helped in the preparation of the women for certified training in health sector and for exploration of job opportunities in government hospitals as ASHA workers.

These sessions proved helpful not only for the NGO Placement and training but also in gaining social acceptance by getting library membership, enrolling as a volunteer in an NGO, helping others in emergency, taking benefit of various government schemes, or starting a small business through the income generation activities provided within the institution.

A session on information about the various schemes was organized in December 2014 where the Tehsildar office staff was invited as resource persons. In January 2014, a one week course on Personality Development through Nrityanjali was organized. In the same month, Prayas organized sessions on dance, clay, music therapies with the help of an NGO Khula Aasman, which has been connected directly with the institution.

Prayas organized another one week course through Nrityanjali on Personality Development in February 2014 and a session on First Aid through St. John Ambulance within the institution.

Vaitarna, an NGO, conducted sessions on starting small business with the skills gained through the activities conducted inside the institution, apart from sessions on production, marketing, savings and other issues related to starting one’s business. Three visits were conducted to the NGO to gain information about its activities, to arrange this session in March 2014.

For the released inmates, Prayas organized a First Aid orientation session through Jamshedji Tata Ambulance and a certified training on First Aid through Red Cross Society. Nrityanjali was also connected to our Rehabilitation Unit along with Jamshedji Tata Ambulance.

The result of these visits and sessions was that our women got an opportunity for NGO Placement in government hospitals and received formal training on first aid. Jamshedji Tata Ambulance College of First Aid has agreed to provide courses related to First Aid for our group.

Prayas is venturing in a new area of exploring placement or job opportunities for our client group in the health sector whereby some visits were made to organizations such as Family Planning Association of India, Red Cross, CEHAT, MESCO, Life Supporters, Bihar Foundation, etc. We are also exploring conducting yoga sessions and on government schemes in future. We plan to become a junior volunteer member of Red Cross Society, by organizing various trainings through Jamshedji Tata Ambulance College of First Aid. We plan to also organize orientation sessions on Disaster Management for the clients who are in our rehabilitation programme and connect with TISS for a certified training programme on disaster management. Besides this, we plan to organise legal awareness sessions on a regular basis (monthly/quarterly) and some therapeutic counseling through body movements, etc.
Training activities

In the month of April 2013, a course in stone jewellery making for 20 trainees was conducted by Back to Life during which information was provided about the raw material required, pricing of products, packing, labeling, purchase of raw material, sale of products and precautions to be taken while making the products. The training included four types of earrings, five types of necklaces, three types of bracelets and five types of finger rings.

Another certified course in fancy bag making was conducted for 20 trainees by C. B. Kora Kendra where the inmates learnt how to make cloth bags, back packs, fancy pouches (batwa), and tiffin bags. They also learnt about pricing, raw material required, and information on markets from where the raw material could be purchased.

Crochet and embroidery for 38 trainees was taught by Prayas staff. In this training, information was provided about the types of wool, the number of crochet needles and kanta needles required, the uses of the needles, number of needle used for each crochet item, type of wool for each item, making a budget and pricing of products, and precautions to be taken while making the products.

Prayas provided a kit (consisting of cotton cloth, tracing paper, wool, pencil, embroidery thread, carbon paper, crochet needles, etc.) for 20 trainees who regularly attended the training programme.

In May 2013, Prayas conducted practice sessions of fancy bag making besides other regular sessions in embroidery and crochet. Training was provided to 15 trainees in June 2013 by Prayas of making samosa bags made out of cloth and jute. Another course in basic tailoring was also conducted by Prayas for 20 trainees and C.B Kora Kendra organized a certified course in masala making for 20 trainees.

In August 2013, Prayas conducted training in coffee painting, mehendi design, rakhi making and flower making from tissue paper where 41 inmates participated. The teacher also explained the history of coffee painting art. Prayas workers assisted the Navajivan Home staff to celebrate Independence Day and also to organize an exhibition of the training products in the institution premises. The flowers made during the training were used for the decorations during the Independence Day celebrations. The stalls for the exhibition were decorated by the trainees where they exhibited the samples prepared by them during the various training programmes conducted in the institution. These activities created a positive environment in the institution and helped boost the confidence level of the inmates.

In September 2013, a certified course in fabric painting was conducted for 20 trainees through the Jan Shikshan Sansthan. The trainees were given samples of the fabric painting with which they are now able to draw the designs on tracing paper as well as cloth. Besides this, Prayas imparted the training of flower making and miniature waterfall making from ceramic to 20 inmates, after which they made beautiful flowers from ceramic.

In November 2013, we continued with the training of fabric painting as now the trainees were involved in making samples for filing. Besides this, we also conducted trainings in paper bag, book mark and razai making for 30 trainees. Forms were filled up with details of the trainees by Prayas and Jan Shikshan Sansthan for issuing certificates to them. Prayas organize sale of products made by trainees of Navjeevan Mahila Vastigruha in H.D.F.C. Bank and T.I.S.S.
In December 2013, Prayas organised training of flower making and greeting cards for 25 trainees during which the trainees were taught to make stocking flower, nishigandha stick, leaves, zarbera flower, organdi flower, and settings of the flowers. The trainees were taught how to make greeting cards by painting and by using waste material during a training programme organized on making of greeting cards during which about 20 trainees participated. As part of the continuation of the fabric painting training, Prayas organised tie and die training in which 20 trainees participated with full interest. And the trainees of the fabric painting course completed their file of sampling during this month. With the permission of the Superintendent of NMV, individual photographs of the trainees were taken by Prayas required for the certificates and they were submitted to Jan Shikshan Sansthan.

In January 2014, Prayas organized a training of jewellery making for 20 trainees where they were taught how to make three types of bangles, three types of necklaces, finger rings, ear rings etc. Besides this, training in the various embroidery stitches and making of door mats from wastage cloth (chindhi) for 20 trainees was also conducted. In this month, Prayas initiated giving work to the inmates on piece rate basis where they make small products such as mobile covers, tiffin bags, etc. on which they also made some hand embroidery. Through Jan Shikshan Sansthan, this month we started a new batch of fabric painting training for 20 trainees.

In February 2014, a certified training in home management was organized for 30 trainees which included sessions on health, child care, personality development, cooking, self-care, first aid, etc. 20 trainees participated in a puppet making training organized through Mobile Creches during which they were taught to make puppets from wastage material such as bisleri bottles, balls, cans, cloth, card board etc. Prayas continued with the initiative of giving piece rate work to the inmates and also the basic tailoring in this month.

20 trainees participated in a certified training in fibre moulding conducted by C.B.Kora Kendra, Borivili in the month of March’14. During this training, the trainees were taught how to make moulds, finishing of the moulds, from where to purchase raw material, how to assess the costing of the material, etc. In this month, with the help of Ratna Nidhi Trust, Prayas organised a certified training on money management and a training programme in block printing with the assistance of Jan Shikshan Sansthan. As usual, the tailoring, embroidery courses and giving piece-rate work to the inmates continued.

**Outcomes**

Fancy bag making course was completed actively for which the trainees received government certificates from C.B. Kora Kendra. The trainees were given information about the loan schemes as well.

From the crochet and embroidery training the trainees learnt about the various types of materials to be used, use of tools in crochet, knitting and embroidery.

Prayas provided training kits to the trainees with which inmates made their own designs and items. During the trainings, trainees displayed a lot of patience, which indicated their interest in the trainings. Most of the trainees were able to complete their samples.

In the basic tailoring course, trainees were given information and practical knowledge about how to use the sewing machine, the types of sewing machines, types of needles, threading, types of stitches, oiling and basic repairing of sewing machines.
The trainees actively participated in stone jewellery training where they learnt how to make earrings, necklaces, bracelets and finger rings. One of the trainees made beautiful designs due to her innovative mind.

Trainees learnt to make *dupattas* and bags from wool and also ten different stitches of embroidery.

In masala making training, trainees learnt seven types of masalas such as tea masala, panipuri masala, chole masala, pavbhaji masala, garam masala, sambar masala, chat masala. They learnt how to make panipuri and enjoyed eating it. New girls actively participated in this training.

The fabric painting course was completed with the active participation of 20 trainees who received government certificates from Jan Shikshan Sansthan. As part of the course, the trainees completed their respective sample files also. In connection with the fabric painting course, Prayas organized the tie and dye training as well in which all the trainees participated.

Prayas arranged an exhibition-cum-sale in H.D.F.C. Bank and T.I.S.S.

Prayas also conducted training in paper bag, book mark and quilt-making for 30 trainees who actively participated in this training.

30 trainees completed the certified course in home management. The trainees actively participated in this training by asking questions on health, self hygiene and child care. The session on cooking was highly appreciated by all trainees.

The puppet making training was completed with the participation of 20 trainees where they learnt to make human as well as animal puppets for any puppet show.

20 trainees completed the government certified training of fibre moulding conducted by C.B. Kora Kendra. During the training, Prayas provided moulds, theory material as well as the raw material list to the trainees.

The response of the trainees to the certified training of money management conducted by Ratna Nidhi Trust was very positive.

**Challenges**

The number of trainees is more than the material provided for the training. In the trainings, many of trainees from Bangladesh inquired about the weightage of the certificate received from the training institute in their country.

When women are discharged and go back home or to their home state, the women who are left back get disturbed as their team members are not present in the on-going training.
Court Based Intervention

Mumbai Court

**Inputs and interventions**

Prayas continued its work in the Mumbai Sessions and Magistrates’ courts through the efforts of the Prayas Legal Aid and Court Unit situated in the premises of the City Civil and Sessions Court, Mumbai. The judicial officers from the Sessions Court as well Metropolitan Magistrates’ Courts from different courts across Mumbai have been referring cases to the Prayas worker from time-to-time.

After a meeting with metropolitan magistrates in Mumbai and the Mumbai District Legal Services Authority, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Hon’ble Shri Bage, started a Jail Court project with Prayas as a partner. Under this initiative, cases of under trial prisoners arrested in petty offences are heard in Mumbai Central Prison by a magistrate with the legal support provided by MDLSA staff and Prayas. The objective is to reduce overcrowding of the prison and release under trial prisoners arrested in minor offences at the earliest.

**Case work**

Ramesh is a youth from a poor socio-economic background and his case was referred by a youth group from a slum settlement in Chembur. He was arrested by the police under a cheating case and was charged with using documents of one person for getting a SIM card under his name. Prayas helped him to get bail from the magistrate’s court but the court gave him a surety bail of Rs.50,000/-. Prayas again helped him in modifying the bail order in the Sessions Court. Prayas submitted a copy of the permission letter issued to Prayas by the Maharashtra Legal Services Authority along with the bail application whereby the Hon’ble Judge ordered him to be released on a bail amount of Rs.15,000/-. His responsibility of rehabilitation has been taken by the youth group and they found him a suitable job.

Nandan was convicted by the Sessions Court. Prayas made a plea for release on probation which was rejected by the Sessions Judge. Prayas helped him in filing a revision application in the High Court and in the first hearing, the High Court released him on bail of Rs.10,000/-. Due to his incarceration of about 7 months, he lost his livelihood of selling old clothes on the foot path whereby Prayas is now helping him to restart his business.

Amrut is one of Prayas’s ex-clients. From being a prominent member of an infamous gang, he became a vegetable vendor. He had been successfully rehabilitated and was in regular contact with the workers of Prayas since the past 18 years. He had more than 13 serious cases against him pending in different courts of Mumbai city. He was acquitted in all cases but faced problems in getting a passport. Prayas helped him in collecting all the judgment copies of his acquittals despite the judgments being delivered many years back. Prayas had a discussion with the Passport authorities as well as officers of the Special Branch – I, Mumbai Police, and now his case is under process for getting his passport.

Vithoba was accused in a rioting case of 1992 in Mumbai. He was re-arrested for not attending court dates and sent to prison. He used to work as labourer in his village at

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1 Names changed to protect identity
Kolhapur district and his wife and two children are totally dependent on him for their survival. He was given legal aid through Prayas and helped to get an acquittal in his case. He was also given monetary assistance to settle down in life.

Vicky and Pakya had cross cases registered against them in Wadala Police Station u/s 324 IPC. Both of them were from rival political parties. Prayas had joint meetings with their families and they were ready to settle their dispute as they realized that they were being used by their political leaders. Prayas helped them with legal guidance which led to their cases being acquitted. Now both of them are settled in life and have restrained themselves from political influences.

Nandu was a taxi driver and refused to pay bribe (*hafta*) to the local police and Bombay Port Trust officials. He was assaulted and falsely implicated in a fabricated case. He was helped by Prayas through legal aid and the court released him under Section 3 of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958.

Suhas and Rahul are brothers. Suhas had a criminal record five years back. After coming into contact with Prayas, he cleared all his cases and presently is working in builder’s office. Unfortunately, a year back, a man from his locality was attacked by his old rivals due to verbal fight with his brother Rahul, a day before the incident. The victim falsely accused Suhas of assaulting him with a knife. A case u/s 307 IPC was registered against him in Kandivali Police Station. The Prayas worker met the Sr. Police Inspector and the Investigating Officer of the police station through the mediation of another officer known to Prayas, but the police showed their helplessness as the victim stuck to his testimony. After one year, the worker met the victim and he became ready to compromise provided he was paid Rs.10,000/- to take care of his medical expenses. He gave an affidavit and letter to Kandivali Police saying that Suhas was not his attacker. An anticipatory bail application was filed by Prayas on the basis of the affidavit and letter in the Dindoshi Sessions Court, by annexing the permission letter issued to Prayas by the Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority. Suhas got interim relief from the court and the police was asked to verify the real facts.

**Advocacy work**

**Sensitization seminar on Probation of Offenders’ Act, 1958**

In the month of September 2013, Prayas organized a meeting in co-ordination with the Mumbai District Legal Services Authority for magistrates of Mumbai city at the Esplanade Court under the chairmanship of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Shri Bage, on the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 and how to make the Jail Court effective. The Prayas worker explained the lacunae and loop holes in the existing Jail Court system and suggested ways to improve its functioning. Majority of the magistrates after due deliberations accepted our suggestions and finally a plan was made whereby magistrates, instead of hearing cases pertaining to any of the courts, are now required to hear cases of only those under trial prisoners who are being heard in their respective courts.

Secondly, the magistrates now consider cases for release on Personal Bond, bail or probation or pass orders to detain the convicted youth in the Borstal School (a reformatory institution for youth prisoners). Earlier, the practice was to take up only cases of under trial prisoners
who pleaded guilty and give them set-off sentence under section 428 Cr.P.C. 2 The Prayas worker sits with the Magistrate in the Jail Court and helps him or her to decide cases by keeping in mind the rehabilitation of the accused persons who plead guilty.

**Liaising with the Bar Council**

Due to Prayas’s consistent interaction with the Sessions Court and Metropolitan Courts’ Bar Associations, Prayas has prepared a list of interested lawyers who are willing to take up free legal aid cases under the legal aid scheme of the District Legal Services Authority. In the MDLSA Committee meeting, Prayas raised the issue of reducing legal aid lawyers’ minimum experience to conduct trials from 7 years to 5 years, which was readily accepted because the Committee had also been finding it difficult to get legal aid lawyers with 7 years’ experience.

**Improving the functioning of the Jail Court project by MDLSA and Prayas**

In order to strengthen the Jail Court project, Prayas has donated a printer and the Hon’ble C.M.M. directed the Magistrates to bring their laptops for drafting orders and judgments. Similarly, the Hon’ble C.M.M., after deliberation with Prayas, directed the Chief Public Prosecutor to depute an Assistant Public Prosecutor of each Metropolitan Magistrate’s court to remain present in the jail court so that bail and P.R. Bond applications could be decided after hearing their say.

An interaction meeting of magistrates was held on 25th March, 2014 in Esplanade Court whereby the magistrates shared their experiences including problems and suggestions. The Hon’ble CMM and Prayas addressed the interaction. The Dy. Superintendent of Mumbai Central Prison spoke on the use of the Borstal Schools Act as the Borstal School at Nasik, meant for youth offenders is highly underutilised. Prayas distributed a format for passing orders under the Probation and Borstal Schools Act.

**Increase of honorarium for legal aid lawyers**

Prayas has been continuously following up with MSLSA to increase the honorarium for legal aid lawyers and push the issue through the State Inter-Departmental Committee on Prisoners. We have followed up the issue with the newly appointed Secretary of MSLSA, Smt. S. S. Joshi, and hope for a positive outcome in the near future.

**Formation of the Mumbai District Inter Departmental Sub-Committee**

A letter regarding the formation of the Mumbai District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committee was submitted to the Principal Judge, Mumbai City Civil and Sessions Court. Thereafter, Prayas had meeting with the Principal Judge, Dr. Shalini Phansalkar-Joshi, who showed a positive inclination towards setting up the said Committee, but due to her promotion as the Registrar General of the Bombay High Court, we have to now wait for the new Principal Judge to assume office.

**NALSA Legal Awareness Programs**

2 Awarding a sentence for the period already spent in prison as an under trial and setting them free.
Law Colleges
1. Mithibai Law College
Date: 15/2/2014  
Time: 6.00 to 9.00 pm  
Topics: POCSO Act, Recent amendments in I.P.C., Cr.P.C. and Evidence Act, Globalisation and its impact on youth, Legal Aid Scheme of MDLSA & DLSA.  
Speakers:  
Prof. Harish Gaikwad  
Adv. Shreya Deshpande  
Adv. Vijay Desai  
Adv. Sangharaj Gaikwad  
Adv. Silvin Kale

2. Siddharth Law College
Date: 3/3/2014  
Time: 8.00 am to 10.00am  
Topics: POCSO Act, Recent Amendments in IPC, Cr. P.C and Evidence Act, Globalization and its impact on youth, Legal Aid Scheme of MDLSA & DLSA.  
Speakers:  
Adv. Vijay Desai  
Adv. Shreya Deshpande  
Prof. Harish Gaikawad  
Prof. Para  
Prof. Samina Hasan  
Principal Reddy  
Adv. Silvin Kale

3. G.B.Shah Law College
Date: 11/3/2014  
Time: 8.30 am to 10 .30 am  
Topics: POCSO Act, Recent Amendments in IPC, Cr. PC, Evidence Act, Globalization and its impact on Youth, Legal Aid Scheme of MDLSA & DLSA.  
Speakers:  
Prof. Harish Gaikawad  
Adv. Shreya Deshpande  
Adv. Iqbal Qureshi  
Principal Jethani  
Adv. Silvin Kale

The audience consisted of third year law students. Speakers enlightened the audience on the globalization issue and how the culture of developing world was adversely affected by exposure to western culture and consumerist values; the recent amendments introduced in criminal law and procedures, the reasons behind these amendments and how the laws have become harsher leading to violation of the basic fundamental legal principles; new legislation on child sexual abuse, POCSO Act, by explaining the basic ingredients and later on critically examining the same; a question-answer session; and summing up the topics and explaining about the Free Legal Aid Scheme of the DLSA and MDLSA.  

Community:
4. Triratna Buddh Vihar, Sion-Koliwada  
**Date:** 2/2/2014  
**Time:** 6.00 to 10 pm  
**Topics:** Prevention of Atrocities Against SC/ST Act, Indian Constitution - Rights and Obligations, Legal Aid Scheme of MDLSA.  
**Speakers:**  
Prof. Harish Pawar  
Prof. Arvind Kadam  
Adv. Vasant Gaikawad  
Adv. Silvin Kale  

The programme was organised in the slum community in co-ordination with the community and youth groups. More than 100 youth and women attended the programme. The speakers spoke on the basic structure of the Indian Constitution, the role played by Dr. Ambedkar to include the basic principles of liberty, fraternity, equality and justice while drafting fundamental rights and duties of Indian citizens; roles of government and political parties in running the government and highlighting issues as opposition parties in Parliament; citizens’ rights and how to fight for the same; and services provided by MDLSA and DLSA.

5. Bhimshakti Mitra Mandal, Rahul Nagar, Chunabhatti.  
**Date:** 21/3/2014  
**Time:** 6.00 to 10 pm  
**Topics:** Prevention of Atrocities Against SC/ST Act, SRA Scheme, Indian Constitution - Rights & Obligation, Legal Aid Scheme of MDLSA & DLSA  
**Speakers:**  
Adv. Sudhir Patil  
Adv. Vasant Pawar  
Adv. Haribhau Kharath  
Adv. Nagesh Dhotre  
Adv. Silvin Kale  

The programme was organised in the community in co-ordination with the local youth mandal, Bhimshakti Mitra Mandal. The session began with highlighting Article 23 of the Indian Constitution and explaining the basic provisions of the Atrocities Act; followed by explaining the basic provisions under the S.R.A. Scheme and how the same ends up benefiting builder lobby. This was followed by a session on the Self Development Scheme in the SRA Scheme, whereby people can take up redevelopment without taking help from the builder but in assistance of either the proposed housing society or an NGO working in the housing field. The programme ended with a session on legal aid services provided by MDLSA and DLSA.

6. Ramabai Nagar, Chembur  
**Date:** 9/3/2014  
**Time:** 3 to 6.00 pm  
**Topics:** Rights of women under Indian Laws, SHG Scheme of BMC, Small Scale Business and Legal Aid Scheme.  
**Speakers:**  
Adv. Gajanan Lasure  
Adv. J.Gracy  
Prof. Bhagwan Suryavanshi
The audience comprised of members of self-help groups working in adjoining areas of Chembur under the B.M.C. Scheme. The programme was organized for women activists working with mahila bachat gats from the Chembur and Govandi slums. The programme started with strategies to organize women and to strengthen the group through the medium of bachat gats. This was followed by a session on the various hurdles in organizing bachatgats and the ways to counter the same, the schemes under the BMC, and their eligibility criteria. This was followed by a session on the provisions of the Indian Constitution, the Domestic Violence Act, Section 498-A IPC, Section 125 Cr. PC and matrimonial laws. The programme ended with a session on the legal aid scheme of MSLSA and MDLSA.

7. Kamgar Kalyan Kendra, Wadala
Date: 13/3/2014
Time: 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm
Topics: Rights of women under Indian Laws, SHG Scheme of BMC, Small Scale Business and Legal Aid Scheme.
Speakers:
Adv. Sara Noshin
Adv. Sudhir Naik
Prof. Chitra Lele

This programme was organized as a joint venture of Mahila Swayvikas Utpadak Sansha and Prayas for the Anganwadi workers, Health Workers and members of Bachat Gats from Wadala and Sewree areas. More than 100 of Anganwadi teachers participated in the legal awareness camp. The programme began with the various provision of the law available for women, the provisions of Domestic Violence Act, Section 125 of Cr.P.C., matrimonial laws including Hindu Marriage Act, Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, Muslim Personal Law and Section 498-A IPC. This was followed by a session on the historical struggle of womanhood by giving an account from the famous Chicago movement, the ancient Sindu Culture and women’s kingdom existing in Asia and how the patriarchy led to misuse of family and religious institutions. The programme ended with the need of women’s organization given that 50 percent of the population was women and yet they continued to be scattered, unorganized and vulnerable. Information was also given about the legal aid scheme run by MSLSA and how the participants can get benefit under the same.

8. Anganwadi Teachers & SHG Members, G/South,MCGM,Parel.
Date: 21/2/2014
Time: 3.00 to 6 pm
Speakers:
Adv. Sangraj Gaikawad
Adv. Chitra Gosavi
Prof. Harish Gaikawade
Adv. Suhasini Pandey
The audience consisted of Anganwadi teachers. The sessions included impact of globalization on local cultures of developing countries due to exposure to Western culture and consumerist values; recent amendments introduced in criminal law and procedures, the reasons behind these amendments and how the laws have become harsher violating the basic fundamental legal principles; POCSO Act, its basic ingredients; role of anganwadi teachers in the community as knowledgeable persons and their role in bringing cases of child abuse to the notice of the police and NGOs; and information about the free legal aid scheme of MDLSA and DLSA.

9. NGO: Dayasadan, Dharavi.
   Date: 8/3/2014
   Time: 2.00 to 5.00 pm
   Topics: Rights of women under Indian laws
   Speakers:
   Adv. Sara Noshin
   Adv. Salman Khurshid
   Prof. Anil Sawant.

This programme was organized as a joint venture of Dayasadan, an NGO working for the rights of vulnerable group in Dharavi slum and Prayas. More than 100 women participated in the programme. The programme included sessions on various legal provisions available for women such as the Domestic Violence Act, Section 125 of Cr. PC, matrimonial laws including Hindu Marriage Act, Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, Muslim Personal Law and Section 498-A of IPC; a question-answer session on these laws; the historical struggle of womanhood from the famous Chicago movement to the ancient Sindhu culture and women’s kingdom existing in Asia and how patriarchy exploited women using the family and religious institutions; the need for women’s organizations given that they formed half the populations and continued to remain scattered, unorganized and vulnerable; and information about the legal aid scheme run by the MSLSA and how the participants can get benefit of the same.

10. Workers Union, All India SC/ST/Buddhist Employees union
   Date: 11/3/2014
   Time: 4.30 to 6.30 pm
   Topics: Prevention of Atrocities Against SC/ST Act, Labour laws, Indian Constitution -Rights and Obligations
   Speakers:
   Mr. Sumedh Jadhav
   Adv. Prakash More
   Adv. Shashi Vengurlekar

This programme was organized in the union office in co-ordination with the above-mentioned union. After welcoming the speakers, the session began with a session on Article 27 of the Indian Constitution and basic provisions of Atrocities Act; the Protection of Civil Rights Act; basic provisions of labour laws; and Dr. Ambedkar’s contribution in the field of ‘workers’ rights. The session ended with information on the services provided by MDLSA and DLSA.

Prison:
11. Mumbai Central Prison
   Date: 13/3/2014
Time: 9.30 to 10.30 am  
Topics: Rights of prisoners & rehabilitation, Free Legal Aid Scheme of MDLSA & DLSA.  
Speakers:  
Addl. C.M.M. Shri Deepak Kochhe  
Adv. Sudhir Gaikawad  
Shri Balbir Onkar Singh  
Shri Jeetendra Khade

More than two hundred prisoners attended the programme. The speakers enlightened the participants on the rights of prisoners enshrined in the Indian Constitution and various laws including the Cr.P.C. and answered their queries about their individual cases. This was followed by a session on the spiritual and psychological aspect of human beings and how one can lead and live a respectful and dignified life. Speakers also spoke on the caste and class conflict in the society, the dialectical materialism of have and have-nots leading to criminal behavior. One of the speakers spoke on the various kinds of jobs available in shipping industry and the necessary training required for the same. This was followed by a session on the objectives of organizing such informative sessions and the responsibility of various government department in the process of reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners; the work done by Prayias, the legal aid scheme run by the MSLSA and how the prisoners can get benefit under the same.

12. Byculla Women’s Prison  
Date: 14/3/2014  
Time: 9.30 to 10.30 am  
Topics: Rights of prisoners & Rehabilitation  
Speakers:  
Metropolitan Magistrate, Smt. Shende-Patil Madam  
Adv. Sudhir Gaikawad  
Adv. Chitra Gosavi  
Prof. Samina Hasan  
Adv. Silvin Kale

More than two hundred women prisoners attended the programme. The programme began with a session on the legal rights of women prisoners under the Indian Constitution and various legislations, followed by question-answer session on queries pertaining to individual cases pending in courts. The next session emphasised on the historical perspective of the women’s movement and how women can access their rights through the legal as well as social struggle. This was followed by a session on prisoners’ rights as laid down by the High Court and the Apex Court. Participants were informed about the purpose of organizing the programme and how the same could be help them and their families to overcome their socio-economic situation. They were explained about the legal aid scheme run by the MSLSA and how the prisoners can get benefit under the same.

13. Protective Home:  
Date: 13/3/2014  
Time: 6.00 to 9.30 pm  
Topics: Historical perspective of women’s status in society, Rights of inmates under ITPA & Rehabilitation.  
Speakers:  
Hon’ble Metropolitan Magistrate, Smt. S. B. Mahale Madam
This programme was jointly organized by Protective Home staff and Prayas. The programme began with the history of women’s kingdom that once existed in India, how matriarchy meant led to social equality, the reasons which made women slaves of patriarchy and compulsions relating to selling women’s bodies. This was followed by a session on queries and apprehensions relating to detention in the protective home, and problems faced in rehabilitation of rescued women. The programme ended with a session on the legal aid scheme of MDLSA and how participants can use the services of Prayas.

**Future plans**

1. To study the problems faced in the Jail Court project by MDLSA and Prayas and address the related issues.
2. In the Mumbai District Legal Services Authority Committee, Prayas has raised the issue of reduction of the lawyers’ experience from 7 years to 5 years required for being appointed at legal aid lawyers. Prayas’s suggestion was accepted at the practical level because the committee was also finding it difficult to get lawyers with 7 years’ experience on its panel. Prayas also requested the MDLSA to consider a list of lawyers it has submitted to MDLSA, who have shown interest in taking up legal aid matters in metropolitan court centers at Esplanade, Ballard Pier, Girgaon, Mazgaon, Dadar, Kurla, Bandra, Vikhroli and Mulund. This needs to be followed up with MDLSA.
3. Follow-up with MSLSA to increase the honorarium for legal aid lawyers and push the issue through the State Inter-Departmental Committee on Prisoners.
4. A letter regarding formation of the Mumbai District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committee was submitted to the Principal Judge of Mumbai Sessions Court. Thereafter, Prayas had meeting with the new Principal Judge, Smt. Shalini Phansekar-Joshi who showed a positive inclination towards setting up the said Committee. This issue will be followed up to its logical conclusion.
Thane Court

**Inputs and interventions**
- Held counselling sessions with the family members of the clients, to explore if out-of-court settlements are possible.
- Visits to police stations, government offices, NGOs, courts and prison were conducted.
- Home visits were conducted to understand the situation of the families and to reconnect them with the clients.
- Provided legal guidance and information.
- Provided legal aid through the DLSA.
- Conducted meetings with various government officials.
- Programmes conducted inside prison - group session and information about Prayas and prisoners rights by DLSA - Total outreach from programmes - 155 inmates

**Outputs and outcomes**
- A total of 165 clients benefited thru to the Prayas programme.
- Meetings were conducted with various officials like the officials from the Collector’s Office, Thane Municipal Corporation officials, and Zilla Parishad officials to understand schemes which could be applicable to prisoners or their families and sensitize them to the needs of this group.
- Legal guidance and information was provided in 165 cases.
- 27 clients were provided legal aid through DLSA.
- 3 client was repatriated to his native state, by request.
- Networking with other NGOs – 4 NGOs

**Future plans**
- Focus on improving the legal aid system
- Focus on improving the production of under trial prisoners in courts through the video conferencing system.
Community Based Intervention, Dharavi - Crime Prevention Project and Legal Information Centre

Prayas have been working in Dharavi with the objective of prevention of crime. Majority of the people living here are migrants. It is a bustling slum and a hub of economic activity. Dharavi has its share of social problems like any other community, chief among them being the issue of ‘youth at risk’. The Prayas worker intervenes in cases of family or property disputes, delinquent children, assisting with citizenship documents, providing legal guidance, and health awareness, and information on vocational courses for the youth.

**Inputs and outcomes**

- An ex-client of Prayas was not paid his salary by his employer. After Prayas intervention, the employer agreed to pay 3 months’ salary.
- Another ex-client who was working with a builder since the past 10 years was removed from work as he was diagnosed HIV(+). As per a Supreme Court judgment, Prayas is negotiating with the employer to reinstate him.
- A young couple was involved in a love affair, ending up getting married. The girl’s family was against the relationship. Her brothers are associated with anti-social elements and they have managed to manipulate the local police and register criminal cases against the boy. Prayas has helped the couple move out of the area by contributing toward payment of the deposit for renting a room in Antop Hill. However, conflicts between the couple became quite regular over time resulting in a non-cognisable case being filed against the husband by the wife. Due to the number cases filed against him, there is a chance that police may take further legal action against him, for example externment proceedings under the Bombay Police Act. Prayas has provided him with legal aid by connecting him with a lawyer.
- A youth from the area who was lodged in the Mumbai Central Prison for theft was provided with a lawyer.
- A client was assisted in submission of an application for getting his Domicile Certificate. The client’s sister was helped with in acquiring the Income Certificate.
- Another client was helped in the filing an online application for passport.
- A divorcée youth who is going through a property dispute was provided counselling, as he was in a disturbed state of mind. Prayas assisted him in getting a driving license by paying his fees charged by the motor driving school.
- Prayas organised exposure visits for the youth such as participation in taken to the social demonstrations against the murder of Narendra Dabholkar and accompanying them to watch the Marathi play *Dhandhat Khairlanje*. The objective was to make them aware of the social problems and struggles of the general public.
- A case was referred to Prayas Social Worker stating that his child is missing. The social worker asked the family to register a police complaint at Dharavi 90 Feet Road Police. The father of the girl was asked whether you suspect anyone in this case. Father gave one person’s name and number. The Social worker from Prayas spoke to the person and said them to come to the Police Station to give their statement. The boy and the missing girl had got married. They came to the police station and informed that they are major and they have got married.
- A 23 year old boy from Rajeev Nagar, Dharavi was asked to come to the Vasai Railway Police Station in the theft case of Mobile Nokia C-3 and cash of Rs. 20,000. The theft had taken place in Vasai in the Ladies First Class suburban train compartment. The Prayas social worker accompanied the boy to Vasai Railway Police Station and explained to the Police Inspector that the boy had got the current mobile phone as a second hand
phone. As the theft was carried out in the Ladies First Class compartment, it was highly unlikely that he could have travelled in the Ladies compartment. After a long discussion with the Police Inspector, the boy was released unconditionally.

- Orientation about Prayas was organized at Sant Kakaiya Nagar, Dharavi on February 28, 2014, for 20 youth members from the community. After the orientation, 5 cases approached the Prayas worker for legal aid and guidance.
Prayas Livelihood and Reintegration Programme

Mumbai and Thane (Work with Women)

NGO Placement Programme

Pre-Placement and Exposure Visits to NGOs
The Prayas worker visited a NGO named Annapurna with the objective of developing it as an NGO placement agency for clients. This NGO mainly works for the upliftment of needy women and they also provide loans to women who want to venture into some business enterprise. On getting to know about the background of our clients, the NGO has agreed to provide loans to our clients as well provided the required documents as specified by the NGO are submitted.

Besides this, the social worker visited Asara, Thane, which works with street children to explore the placement of our clients there.

As part of an educational exposure, Prayas has planned to take clients to police stations and hospitals. An exposure visit to a hospital has been completed so far.

NGO Placement (Local)

Inputs and interventions
- Pre-placement exposure and planning of exposure visits
- Identifying placement agencies
- Provide mentoring during placement
- Addressing issues that impede on overall development (e.g. negative relationships, family disturbances, shelter)
- Develop professional skills
- Explore upcountry placement

Outputs and outcomes
- Women are able to live independently as they learn job skills and earn a stipend.
- They are motivated to work and reach a level where they take up job placement.
- They get the confidence that they are able to work and do savings for their future.
- A total of 22 women were enrolled in the placement programme.

Follow-up has been maintained with clients who have been placed in NGOs either for training or for employment. They are regularly paid their monthly stipend besides providing them any other emergency assistance. Two clients had to discontinue their placement as they are suffering from T.B. and the doctor has advised them rest. So we supported them by provided medical assistance with regard to medicines, etc. Another client also discontinued her placement due to a temporary illness of conjunctivitis where again Prayas provided her the necessary medicines, etc. An old client of Prayas who was placed in an agency was quite irregular in her attendance due to which she had to be counseled by the social worker to be regular in her work.
**NGO Placement (Outstation/Upcountry)**

**Inputs and outcomes**
In the month of April 2013, a client released from prison was taken for an exposure visit to Sahyadri Matimand Sanstha (Karjat), Naisargik Shikshan Gram Sanstha (Malavli, Lonavala). And this same client was placed as a caretaker for small children in Naisargik Shikshan Gram Sanstha.

A client from Kasturba Mahila Vasatigruh was placed as an Outreach Worker in Samajik Nyaya Prathisthan, Phaltan in May 2013. Initially, she will be given training for 3 days and then for 15 days she will placed in the field. Another client from NMV was repatriated to her family in Pune through an organization. Prayas maintained telephonic contact with her and with regard to her shelter and placement contacted NGOs such as Maher, Tatapi, Nari Samata Manch, and Sathi. Out of these NGOs, Maher agreed to provide shelter to the client and provide vocational training in tailoring and other activities being conducted in their institution. But the client informed the worker that now since she has been married by her family, the social worker need not be in touch with her.

Another client of NMV was taken for an exposure visit to Mahila Sewa Mandal situated in Mumbai where they work with women from the community and teach them in preparing quilts, pickles, snacks etc. This client was also taken for an exposure visit in July 2013 to Jeevan Adhar Sewa Kendra, Khar, where the organization works on medical issues. During this visit itself, the organization offered the client placement as a helper under their medical worker in August 2013. The client agreed for the placement during the visit but the next day she informed the workers that she would not like to go there as she felt that they may give her lot of work.

In June 2013, Prayas visited the Naisargik Shikshan Gram Sanstha with regard to the problems created by the client who was placed there in the month of April 2013. The client had constant quarrels with the inmates and staff there and finally left the NGO along with 3 of their other staff. The client informed Prayas workers that since there was work overload on her, she left the NGO. But the institution denied this charge. We also had a meeting with the staff of the NGO with regard to continuation of the client’s placement but the client was not willing to stay there despite the institution willing to take her back. The client is not in touch with Prayas as of now.

In the month of July 2013, Prayas had planned to take a mentally challenged client from Kasturba Mahila Vastigruha to Nasik to visit Gharkul Parivartan Sanstha which works for mentally challenged women, but due to heavy rains, the visit had to be postponed. Finally, this visit was conducted in September 2013 and the organization has agreed to provide shelter and necessary care to our client for lifetime which will commence from October 2013. Besides this client, another old client whose husband was in prison and presently has expired due to tuberculosis was also taken to visit the Nasik institution with regard to her placement. From October 2013, she will be undergo training there for a period of two months after which she would be given a job.

An old client of Prayas has been recently admitted to G.T. Hospital for T.B. treatment as she does not have a family to take care of her. Another of our clients acted as a caretaker in the hospital to take care of the hospitalized client. The client worked as a caretaker for 12 days for Rs.350/- per day and now the ailing client has been discharged.
A client released from NMV was kept in Ashray for shelter. Prayas had an apprehension that she may return to prostitution due to her financial troubles. This client was also being helped by an NGO, Navjeevan Centre at Grant Road, Mumbai, with regard to her children. The organization has admitted her children into an institution at Murbad. She had gone home when her husband was unwell and later he expired after which she stayed back in the village for 2-3 months. As there was a debt of more than 2 lakhs to be repaid, she came back to Mumbai to earn money. She was later ‘rescued’ by the police and brought to NMV where she got in touch with Prayas again.

On meeting her at Ashray, she revealed that she did not want to opt for NGO Placement but would rather take up a job which could pay her at least Rs. 8000-10,000/- salary p.m. to help her repay her loan. The Navjeevan Centre had promised her a job and Prayas too promised to help out her out by contacting NGOs in Kolkata. However, these plans were taking time due to practical difficulties and she was getting increasingly frustrated. In August 2013, Prayas workers met her again and discussed with her the options of her job placement, transferring her children to Kolkata and contacting NGOs in Kolkata as her final plans are to settle down there.

Another client of Prayas residing at Kasturba Mahila Vastigruha who hails from Satara was taken to Family Planning Association of India (FPAI) for an exposure visit and will undergo a para-medical training. She is an old client and through continuous interaction and counseling with her, Prayas has been able to grasp her interest areas whereby this placement has been planned out.

A new case was taken up from Kasturba Mahila Vastigruha in the month of August 2013. She had eloped with a boy when she was a minor and they both got married and had stayed together for some months after which the police traced them in Pune, based on the complaint lodged by the girl’s father. Presently, the male youth is in Mumbai Central Prison on charges of kidnapping and rape where our social worker is working with him. Since the girl did not want to go with her parents, she has been housed in Kasturba Mahila Vastigruha, having completed 18 years of age. The girl is being counseled with regard to the anger she has against her parents and family with regard to the case lodged against her boyfriend.

Another old client of Prayas has been able to get a placement as an assistant in a Drop-in Centre with Arz, an organization of Goa, where she will be taken in the coming months.
Citizenship Rights and Information on Schemes

**Inputs and interventions**

**Work done with regard to ration cards**

As part of the work with regard to the citizenship rights of clients, Prayas is a member of the Rationing Kriti Samiti (RKS), a federation of NGOs working on the issue of PDS and food security. There are different types of ration cards – APL cards are white in colour for families having an income of above Rs.1 lakh p.a.; the orange colour ration cards for families with an income of upto Rs. 1 lakh p.a., yellow coloured ration cards for the BPL families with an income below Rs. 15,000/- p.a. and the Antyodaya cards for families who are below the BPL category with income below Rs. 6,000/- p.a. For homeless people, there is a separate ration card which has a photograph of the family head and has to be renewed at regular intervals (every time the entry slips get over). For persons working in the unorganized sector, the ration card has to be renewed every 3 months. The Annapurna ration card is for senior citizens abandoned by their children and living on the streets or alone and they are given 5 kgs rice and 5 kgs wheat once every month totally free.

The Food Security Act will be implemented in the coming months, but as per the Act, Prayas clients may not fit into any of the categories specified in the Act. Prayas approached RKS who advised us to call a meeting of Prayas clients as well as the various institutional authorities to discuss the issue. Prayas approached the DWCD to get a list of the institutions to be invited for the said meeting. Prayas is also preparing a brief note highlighting the problems and issues of institutional populations.

A two-day workshop was organised in May 2013 by RKS which was attended by the worker in which issues discussed included:

- Policy level points for the right to food.
- Changes taking place in the PDS at the national level.
- The importance of cooking gas as compared to kerosene in daily use.
- New GR issued by the Food and Civil Supplies Department with regard to rations.
- The advantages and disadvantages of the Food Security Bill.
- Future plans of RKS.

A Prayas client who was released two years back from prison was helped in getting a ration card of the unorganized sector category which was cancelled due to some misinformation given to the FCS Department by the ration shop owner. She had no other legal documents besides the ration card which proved helpful in her child’s school admission as well. Prayas wrote an application for the client who followed it up with the Rationing Office and after a complaint with the Helpline Service, the Rationing Officer visited her house, renewed her ration card and also got a written acknowledgement from her that her complaint had been satisfactorily attended to.

Another client was guided how to recover back her cancelled ration card.

**Work done with regard to bank accounts**

Bank accounts of few clients were opened. Two clients presently housed in Sukh Shanti were counseled about opening a Recurring Deposit account and explained the advantages the same. Their RD accounts were opened of Rs. 500/- p.m. One of these clients has been an inmate of Navjeevan Mahila Vastigratha while another is an orphan girl who has lived in various institutions since childhood.
**Workshops organized**

A one day workshop on the issue of citizenship rights was organized in TISS on 5th April 2013 for the women clients of Prayas. Two officers from the Collector’s office took sessions regarding Domicile, Caste, and Income certificates. The following information was provided in the workshop:

- The BPL certificate, issued by the Tehsildar in rural areas, is issued by the Health Department or the Ward Officer of BMC in Mumbai.
- Election Card can be obtained by approaching the local Corporator.
- Domicile certificate is issued after proof of ten years of residence in Maharashtra. One can get a Domicile certificate and Income certificate within 15 days while the Caste certificate can be acquired within 30 days.
- For the Income certificate, only the Form 16D has to be filled and there is no need of stating the reason for asking the certificate.

Shri Gorakh Awhad from the RKS explained about the rationing facilities, the corruption involved in the distribution of rations, and the various GRs and rules issued by the government.

Smt. Mala, Manager of Central Bank of India, Deonar Branch, explained about the importance of savings, how to open a bank account, various processes involved in opening a Fixed Deposit account and a Recurring Deposit account. People without any documents can open a Sent Bachat account where they are not given a cheque book and ATM card. They cannot deposit more than Rs. 50,000/- in the account and can withdraw maximum only upto Rs. 3000/- at a time. She informed that in their branch, a bank account can be opened on the referral given by Prayas.

Information about the bank medical scheme was explained where the family has to deposit Rs. 3400/- per year in their bank account and during any serious illness, they can approach any of the hospitals mentioned in the list of hospitals provided by the bank where they can avail of free medical aid.

With regard to housing loans, it was informed that the bank can sanction a house repairs loan. The bank can transfer the account to wherever the client has shifted.

About 28 clients, NGO representatives, workers of Prayas participated in this workshop. Clients were given reference material with regard to Caste certificate, Non-creamy layer certificate, Income certificate, Domicile certificate, information about bank accounts and schemes, documents that can be acquired from the Collector’s office, etc.

A feedback session about the workshop was organised in a meeting called in the Prayas Mumbai Central Contact Centre which was attended by 13 out of the 28 women who had attended the workshop. The women informed that the official language used by officials from the Collector's office was not very comprehensible to them as they were not even aware of the Collector’s office and its role. They were quite clear and understood about the bank procedures and its various schemes whereby they gained a confidence of opening their own accounts as well as helping others in opening the accounts. They liked the sessions on the rationing issue very much but due to lack of time they suggested that another one day workshop could be organized on this issue. They had queries about where to complain, how
to write out applications, whom to approach, what are the actual rates of the grains and do we need to pay the amount quoted by the shop-keeper, etc.

They gave suggestions with regard to organizing of sessions in future related to Domestic Violence Act, 2005 structure of the police department, legal issues, etc. They expressed the need to form a self-help group of their own whereby they could help each other.

**Work with regard to other government schemes**

The worker met the Probation Officers and counselor of NMV and explained to them about the various government schemes and the documents required to avail their benefits and how they can benefit the inmates. Copies of the GRs were given to these officials by the worker. They requested that sessions on these schemes could be conducted in the institution whereby the women could decide on their own as to which scheme they would like to avail of. Prayas plans to organize these sessions in the institution in the near future.

The worker has been trying to avail the benefit of Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana for the inmates of institutions. Presently, Prayas is trying it with regard to our inmates/clients and have met the District Probation Officer and the Superintendent of NMV in this regard and also trying to acquire letters from the respective institutions where the women are presently residing and have resided and avail on this basis in the absence of any other documents by the inmates.

Besides this, the worker has acquired a list of women’s institutions from the DWCD to lobby for the implementation of Food Security Bill and the Rajiv Gandhi Jivandayi Yojana (medical insurance of upto Rs. 2 lacs for persons with income below Rs. 1 lac pa) for institutional populations.

The MAVIM office was visited by the worker to enquire about schemes available for women whereby she was informed that MAVIM caters only to self-help groups of specific areas and not to individual clients or women.

Two clients who want to avail the benefit of Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana were explained about the documents required for the same and in the absence of residence proof the necessary documents required for the Domicile certificate were explained to them. They are yet to contact the worker after collecting the necessary documents which are available with them. Another client from Navajivan was explained about the filling up of the application form to avail the Aadhar Card. A client referred by our worker working with juveniles in conflict with law was explained the procedure for opening a bank accounts. He has been informed to get the necessary documents after which a visit to the bank would be made for opening the account.

**Case illustration**

In a case referred by NMV, since the past 16 years the client’s name was not included in the family ration card. There is a GR of the Rationing office that it is easier to register/include the names of children between 0-14 years but with regard to adults, there is a need to specify the reason for the delay in registering the name. So in this case, Prayas had to get an affidavit made where the reasons for the delay had to be specified. As per the GR, if the person has been staying in the village before this, then there is a letter required from the Gram Panchayat/Tehsildar/Talathi/Gram Sevak informing that the family or person was staying in that specific village and now they have shifted and their name is not there in their village.
records also. After submitting such an affidavit, within 8 days the name is included in the ration card.

But in the case of our client, it took 4 months as the Officer-in-charge also asked for a letter from the local Corporator or MLA. Prayas submitted a letter from the local Corporator specifying that he knows the client. Later, due to the transfer of the earlier officer, a new officer came who insisted on the letter from the MLA mentioning that this letter is being given only for inclusion of name in the ration card. When the Officer insisted on the MLA’s letter and the client’s PAN Card, the Prayas worker complained on the Helpline service of the Rationing Department informing them about the stringent procedures being following by the different officers occupying the same position. She also wrote an application and informed the client to request her school for her School Leaving Certificate.

On getting the School Leaving Certificate, Prayas submitted the same along with a letter from the Corporator and the Affidavit stating that her name is not included in any of the rationing offices’ list. All these documents were once again submitted in the month of May 2013 after calling on the Helpline service. Thereafter, the officer without any further query got her name registered in the rationing list in August’13 within 8 days.

After registering her name, the department insisted on her being issued an APL card. But her family condition was quite poor as her father is a heart patient and working as a driver, while mother is a domestic servant. Her younger sister is studying in Xth Std and Prayas is helping the client with her computer course fees as well as her sister with her educational expenses. Thus, a dialogue is in process with the concerned officer to issue the client a BPL card.
Work with Male Youth

Youth Development Centre (YDC) and NGO Placement (Male)

Inputs and interventions
- Educational, awareness and recreational activities provided at the Youth Development Centre, Mumbai.
- Emergency assistance such as medical support, shelter, police station visit, rationing and legal aid provided, as per need.
- Referrals for short and long term vocational training courses.
- Exposure visits and placement of trainees in NGOs.

Outputs and outcomes
- Total outreach of 68 clients.
- 22 clients supported through short-term and long-term training courses.
- Temporary shelter arranged for 26 clients.
- Counselling provided to 40 clients.
- Medical support arranged for 13 clients.
- Family support provided to 7 clients.
- Educational support arranged for 3 clients.
- NGO placement arranged for 22 clients.
- Job placement arranged for 6 clients.
- Repatriation arranged for 3 clients.
- 8 court visit, legal aid provided for 4 client.
- 7 clients found employment through their own efforts.
- 3 clients found Job through Prayas programme

Challenges
- Lack of man power when we have to respond to emergency situations like shelter, medical and food especially for clients without family support.
- NGOs with residential facilities are less in Mumbai.
- When we deal with cases of addiction, we have to spend lot of time on them resulting in limited focus on placement programme.
- Due to clients addiction problem social worker face problems at the night shelter home.

Future plans
- To explore NGOs that offer residential support to clients without family support
- To reduce the number of emergency situations in the life of clients.
- Personality development through music’s Camp arrangements for YDC clients.
- Arranged to build up cultural activity group.
- To arrange health related sessions for client group and related NGO placement.
Due to the sustained follow-up with the Home Department, GoM, the meeting of the State Inter-Departmental Committee on Prisoners was held on 6th April, 2013 at Mantralaya, chaired by Ms. Medha Gadgil, Principal Secretary, Home Department. The meeting was attended by representatives of the departments of Prisons, Health, Technical & Higher Education and Prayas to discuss issues relating to legal and rehabilitation of prisoners across the State. Many important issues were discussed and decided in this meeting. These include:

a. Increasing the Grant-in-Aid to released prisoners from the current Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 25000/-.  
b. Starting vocational training courses in prisons in collaboration with the Department of Technical & Higher Education.  
c. Appointing prison welfare officers for women prisoners in the State.  
d. Appointing voluntary Probation Officers with the help of NGOs.  
e. Starting Anganwadis for children in prison through the ICDS.  
f. Allowing colleges of social work and law to start field work placement in prisons across the State.  
g. The DGP Maharashtra issuing guidelines (prepared by Prayas) to police across the state to take necessary precautions relating to the care and welfare children of women at the time of their arrest.  
h. Installing PCOs inside the prisons to facilitate communication between the prisoners and their families.  
i. Re-examining the current practice of the Health department charging the Prison department with regard to expenses made for the treatment of prisoners admitted to government hospitals.  
j. Arranging medical treatment of prisoners at Taloja Central Prison at a municipal hospital in Navi Mumbai instead of the current practice of bringing patients from the prison to JJ Hospital in Mumbai.

Many of these important decisions need further follow-up with the respective departments which Prayas has been doing continuously, till the issues reach their logical conclusion.

In June 2013, a follow up visit was made to the Director, Technical & Higher Education, with regard to steps to be taken to start vocational training courses in prisons.

In July 2013, a meeting with the Hon’ble Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Mumbai was held to highlight the issue of need for effective legal aid services for under trial prisoners.

In August 2013, a meeting was held with Ms. Swati Sathe, DIG Prisons (Head Quarters), Pune, to follow up the issue of starting vocational training courses in prisons and follow-up on the decisions taken in the State IDC meeting held in April 2013.

On September 2, 2014, Prayas sent a letter calling for the next State IDC meeting and to maintain a follow-up on the issues discussed in the previous meeting held in April 2013 such as:

- Appointment of a Duty Counsel and Probation Officers to visit the various prisons and identify male and female first time offenders to avail the benefit of probation.  
- Arranging for meetings between the imprisoned mothers and their institutionalized children once in 15 days.
- Children of male and female convict prisoners be given the benefit of Bal Sangopan Yojana.
- Recognition of NGOs as per Rule No 24 of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958
- Establishment of Probation Homes as per Rule No.33 of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958.
- Organizing health awareness programmes in prison through the Health Department.

On September 17, 2013, Prayas wrote a letter to DIG Prisons (HQ), regarding the issues raised in the State IDC meeting held on 6-4-2013:
- Appointment of the DIG Prisons (HQ) as the Nodal Officer to call for meetings with the Department of Technical and High Education and ITIs to discuss the issue of organizing skill development programmes for prisoners.
- Submission of a budget and the required human resources by the Prison Department with regard to starting ITI courses for prisoners inside the prisons and for those released from prisons.
- Coordination of the Prison Department with the DWCD and start Anganwadis inside the prisons through the ICDS.
- Provision of PCO facilities in the prisons to help inmates in contacting their relatives.
- Find out about how many District IDC meetings were held and how many of the issues discussed in the meetings have been implemented.

On 7th January 2014, Prayas again submitted a letter to Principal Secretary, Home, Ms. Medha Gadgil for calling of the next State IDC meeting and to maintain a follow-up on the issues discussed in the previous meeting held in April 2013 such as:

- Appointment of Duty Counsels and Probation Officers to visit the various prisons and identify male and female first-time offenders to avail the benefit of probation.
- Arrange meetings (mulakat) between the imprisoned mothers and their institutionalized children once in 15 days.
- Availing the benefit of the Bal Sangopan Yojana (fostership scheme of the DWCD) to children of male and female convict prisoners.
- Recognition to the NGOs as per Rule 24 of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958
- Establish Probation Homes as per Rule 33 of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958.
- Organizing health awareness programmes in prison through the Health Department.

Prayas continued to visit to the Home Department, Mantralaya on 15th and 27th January, 5th, 12th and 28th February 2014, for the follow up with Home Department in to organize the next State IDC meeting.
District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committee on Prisoners

Prayas attended the meeting of the District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committee on Prisoners at Jalna, chaired by the Principal Judge of Jalna District & Sessions Court on 12th April, 2013 to discuss issues relating to legal aid and rehabilitation of prisoners. Subsequent meetings held at Jalna:

26th September, 2013 - issues discussed:
   a. Preparing a profile of prisoners in the age group of 18-21 years from the point of view of understanding their rehabilitation needs.
   b. Steps to be taken to ensure the timely production of under trial prisoners housed at Aurangabad Central Prison whose cases are being tried at Jalna courts, on their court dates.
   c. Identifying NGOs willing to work towards the welfare of families of prisoners, especially their children’s education.
   d. Steps to be taken to expedite the construction of the prison that is being built at Jalna.
   e. Identifying NGOs willing to provide vocational training for prisoners.
   f. Appointing a female Medical Officer for Aurangabad Central Prison (Women’s Section).

16th January, 2014 – issues discussed:
   1. Lack of police escort to take prisoners on their court dates.
   2. Setting up of balwadi for children of prisoners under the ICDS.
   3. Absence of female doctor to check women prisoners.
   4. Identifying NGOs working in prison.

A visit was made to Aurangabad Central Prison to follow up on the issues discussed and decided in the meeting of the Aurangabad and Jalna District Inter-Department Sub-Committee on Prisoners. In the same month, Prayas workers visited the Kolhapur and Ratnagiri Central Prisons to follow-up the issues discussed and decided in the District Inter-Departmental Sub-Committee meetings.

Prayas attended the meeting of Kolhapur District IDC Sub-Committee in November 2013 to highlight issues such as absence of female visiting doctor to the prison, lack of police escorts to take prisoners to courts on their dates and irregular visits by the probation officer to the prison.

3rd February, 2014 - Visit to Aurangabad District for follow up of District IDC SC meeting.

22nd February 2014 - Visit to Bhandara District and Nagpur District for follow up of District IDC SC meetings.
Prison Libraries

Inputs and outcomes
In April’13, the Prayas worker met the Special I.G. Prisons (Southern Region) and briefed him about the work of Prayas with regard to development of libraries in the various prisons of the state. He also met the Superintendent and Dy. Superintendent of Observation Home, Umerkhadi, and informed them the objectives of Prayas in developing the library facilities in the institution and also about the government scheme of the State Library Department. He maintained a follow-up with the Byculla District Prison authorities with regard to setting up a library there and also has initiated the process of setting up a library in the Women’s Section of Kalyan District Prison.

In the month of June’13, the worker followed up with the authorities of the Juvenile Justice Board with regard to the space and infrastructure need for setting up a library in the institution. To this, the authorities finally responded in July 2013 stating that due to lack of manpower, they would not be able to operate the library. They were willing to provide space, cupboard to stock the library books if Prayas was willing to provide manpower. Prayas provided about 20 books (Hindi and Marathi) to the institution. On the 1st day, the worker himself distributed the books to the inmates who came and sat and read the books during the allotted 3 hours’ time. With regard to managing the library, the worker has suggested of placing one of Prayas clients to operate it as part of the NGO Placement programme. It can also be explored whether SNDT and Mumbai University who run a library course could be approached to place their students in the Observation Home and run the library as part of their practicum.

During one of his visits to the State Central Library, the worker happened to meet the Librarian of the Kalyan District Library and with her help, Prayas was able to start a library in the Women’s Section of Kalyan District Prison.

In 2011, the worker had met then Superintendent of Nasik Central Prison with regarding to starting a library in the prison. Later, the social worker maintained a follow-up in this regard and during a recent visit to the Nasik Central Prison, the worker met the present Superintendent of the prison to pursue the idea. Finally, on 10th October’13, the library was inaugurated at Nasik Central Prison with the support of the Nasik District library.

During our visit to Nasik, Prayas also visited the Nasik Borstal School (an institution for the rehabilitation of youth offenders under the Prisons Department) and met the Superintendent/Principal to discuss about library membership renewal process and vocational training. Prayas was informed that they have already started the process of renewal. The inmates take the benefit of the library and utilize their idle time in reading the books. Prayas also suggested that the institution could approach KVIC for organizing some short-term vocational training courses in the institution which could prove beneficial to the inmates.

In the month of September’13, the worker visited the HELP (Health Education Library for People) Foundation in Mumbai Central. They have audio and video aids on health issues which they lend free of cost. Prayas plans to take advantage of this facility.

The worker met the teachers posted at Mumbai Central Prison to discuss with them about the prison library after which the worker accompanied them to the Worli District Library to get the library activated in the Mumbai Central Prison.
Prayas provided books to Byculla District Prison and Observation Home at Umerkhadi.

**Future plans**

1. Organise prison teacher workshop on library
2. Plan to start library in the following districts - Beed, Buldhana, Ahmadnagar, Latur, Prison.
3. Follow up visit to Kolhapur, Pune, Amravati
Health Issues relating to Prisoners

On 12th August 2013, Prayas met the Dy. Secretary (Hospitals), Mantralaya, to discuss health issues in the prisons, women institutions, organizing of health awareness programmes, etc. Prayas also had a discussion with him with regard to the Rajiv Gandhi Jeevandayi Yojana. A proposal with regard to conducting training programmes for the medical staff of the prisons and institutions and provision of the required medicines to the inmates in time was submitted to this department. We were informed that the proposal would be put up in their next meeting and we would be informed about them. A letter has since been issued by the Dy. Secretary, Health Department to the Director, Health Services with regarding to provision of health facilities in the prison. In this regard Prayas met the Administrative Officer in the Department who informed us that no action has yet been taken as the issue is still under consideration.

In December 2013, Prayas met the Deputy Director, Health Services, Thane in regard to arrange first aid training and awareness programme for jail staff and prisoners. On 8th January 2014, Prayas visited the Health Department for the follow up of this proposal and met the Administrative Officer Mr. Lanjewar. In January 2014, Prayas visited the Health Department to a follow up the proposal on organising health awareness programmes in prisons and met the officials concerned. In March 2014, Prayas visited to Health Department and met the Under Secretary Mrs. Pradnya Mahale to follow up the proposal.
Children of Prisoners

On 22nd August 2013, a meeting was held with the Desk Officer at the DGP Office (Desk No.22) with regard to the issue related to children of prisoners raised in the IDC meeting. A request was put forth before him about issuing a circular to all police stations to enquire about the children while arresting any woman. With regard to the follow-up of the letter sent to DGP Office in the month of August 2013, Prayas was informed that the reply from the IG (Prevention of Atrocities against Women) is awaited. Prayas maintained follow-up with the DGP office with regard to this matter.

Prayas organised a one day workshop for Police Sub-Inspectors on 27th November 2013 on the “Role of Police Vis a Vis Arrested Women regarding their Children”, at TISS. The workshop raised issues relating to the care and protection of children of women arrested by the police in a criminal case. It also raised the issue of lack of guidelines for the police in this matter.

On 13th February 2014 the office of the DGP issued a circular to all police stations in Maharashtra containing guidelines for the police vis vis care and protection of children of arrested women, at the time of their arrest.
Other Efforts to Promote Prisoners’ Rights and Rehabilitation

- Meeting with Probation Superintendent, Pune, on 24th October 2013 regarding proposed workshop on Probation of Offenders Act, 1956 for District Probation Officers and Probation Officers.
- Letter to Principal Secretary, Department of Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection, GoM, on 20th November 2013 regarding issuing Bio-Metric Ration Cards to the custodial populations and those released from custody.
- In response to a letter received from the office of the Addl DGP and IG Prisons, Prayas submitted its views (vide its letter dated 22nd November 2013) regarding appointment of welfare officers in prisons or alternatively appointing accredited NGOs to carry out the work.
- Submitted a letter to the DWCD on 29th November 2013, on the subject of creation of a separate correctional wing to look into issues relating to the implementation of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 and the rehabilitation of prisoners.

Prayas will ensure that the issues discussed and decisions taken are followed up with the authorities concerned over the next few months.
Training, Research and Documentation

**Inputs and outcomes**
In June 2013, Prayas submitted a report on inclusion of issues related to women in prison in the Draft Women’s Policy prepared by the DWCD.

Prayas also prepared a report to include the issues related to children of prisoners and the recommendations suggested in the Supreme Court judgment of the R.D. Upadhyaya v/s. State of A.P. case in the Draft Children’s Policy prepared by the DWCD.

At the request of Justice Dharmadhikari (Retd.), Prayas translated the Interim Reports of the Justice Dharmadhikari Committee on Prevention of Atrocities against Women from Marathi to English. This was done to promote wider circulation of the recommendations of the reports.

Prayas organised a one-day workshop for police officers from three districts of Maharashtra (Mumbai, Thane and Dhule) in November 2013 on guidelines to be followed by the police with regard to children of arrested women at the time of their arrest. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Ahmed Javed, Addl. DGP (Law and Order), Maharashtra and the Valedictory address was given by Ms. Meenar Borwankar, Addl DGP and IG Prisons, Maharashtra. Around 40 police officers participated in the workshop to discuss the guidelines prepared by Prayas and submitted to the DGP office on the subject and get their feedback about the practical aspects relating to the implementation of these guidelines. The participants actively engaged in discussions and gave good feedback to Prayas about the issue. These suggestions will help strengthen the process initiated by Prayas in this regard.

The Marathi version of the *Handbook on Work with Children of Prisoners* was published by Prayas during the reporting period. These handbooks (along with the English version of the *Handbook on Initiating Work in Prisons*) were circulated to all prisons across Maharashtra through the office of the IG Prisons, Pune. These Handbooks have received very positive response from government field staff and NGO representatives. Prayas plans to write a Handbook on the NGO Placement Programme in the coming months.

Prayas has been publishing the newsletter *Dialogues on Criminal Justice and Rehabilitation* from time to time. The last two issues were on probation and juvenile justice system. These issues are uploaded on the TISS website.

A note on ‘Under Trial Women Prisoners – Problems regarding Rehabilitation’ was submitted to the U N Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, Ms. Rashida Manjoo, during a meeting organized by Akshara, an NGO working in Mumbai on issues relating to violence against women. The meeting was held in Yashwantrao Chavan Auditorium on 26th April’13. About 30 NGOs were present for the meeting where issues related to the problems of women were discussed.

Prayas highlighted the following issues related to women under trial prisoners:

- Access to release on bail – While bail is a right in bailable offences, and a matter of judicial discretion in non-bailable offenses, many under trial women prisoners are unable to go out on bail even in minor offenses because they do not have familial support or the resources required. The non-availability of a residential address and...
residential proof documents also often obstruct the granting of release on personal bond resulting in extended periods of pre-trial custodialisation. The absence of structures aimed at enabling pro social connections is likely to result in movement towards dependence on relationships established in prison for resources, bail, emotional support and post release assistance. There is thus need to examine issues related to access to release on bail, the utilization of correctional laws such as the Probation of Offenders Act 1958, and the exploration of the possibility of setting up of bail hostels for women.

- **Free legal aid** – Persons in custody have a right to free legal aid. However, the legal aid system does not have lawyers that are employed by the government and is thus dependent on the good will of lawyers who would like to make available their services for populations in need of free legal aid. Extending this service becomes challenging to volunteering lawyers as the honorarium is insufficient and the procedure for obtaining the honorarium is time consuming. Prayas has been working on providing legal aid to women in need, networking with other organizations in an effort to connect women with other resources, and putting in efforts at supporting and facilitating the strengthening of the legal aid services by ensuring regular visits to prison and following up with lawyers.

- **Support to families and children** – The arrest and incarceration of women often have implications on their families and children. Families and children face social stigma and could be in situations of financial difficulty which effects shelter, basic needs and children’s education. Children are also likely to be without caretakers and emotionally affected. Prayas has been networking with the prison, court, police and child welfare committees towards ensuring that basic services such as benefits through schemes such as the Bal Sangopan Yojana (a foster care scheme), emergency support including institutionalization, continuation of education, and contact with the mother is facilitated. However, the recognition of concerns about children of prisoners and the need for social workers within prisons are issues that continue to need attention.

- **Post custodial programmes/supports** – Custodialisation often serves to further marginalize women who are disconnected from their families and other societal structures. Women are likely to find themselves without shelter, families or livelihoods following their release from prison. There is currently no established system where women are connected to shelters or rehabilitation programmes following their imprisonment. Prisons are short staffed and with no clear mandate regarding post release services, and also often do not have knowledge of shelter or rehabilitation services. Schemes aimed at supporting livelihood initiatives by the government such as the grant in aid scheme for released prisoners are only meant for convicted prisoners with a life sentence and excludes shorter term convicted prisoners and under trials. While governmental as well as non-governmental shelter services do exist for women there are no programmes providing for reintegration into the community or long term rehabilitation. These concerns once again reinforce the need for social workers in prisons. Prayas currently focuses on services to women in prison as well as during the post release period. It arranges for shelter and networks with other NGOs and GOs towards providing training, internship and employment opportunities to women.
• Women should be provided with lawyers from the time of arrest at the police station level.

• Women should be ensured protection of their property while they are in prison.

• There is need to examine the rehabilitation rights of women after their release from custody.

**Workshops on Probation of Offenders Act, 1956**

A workshop on the implementation of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1956 was organised by Prayas in collaboration with the Thane District Legal Services Authority. The workshop was organized towards the sensitizing judicial officers, lawyers attached to the TDLSA, probation officers and prison officers from Thane district on March 2, 2014. About 100 judicial officers, probation officers, prison officials and lawyers participated in this workshop.

A state level workshop for District Probation Officers on the Implementation of the Probation of Offenders’ Act, 1958 and Rehabilitation of Prisoners was organized by Prayas in collaboration with the DWCD on 24th and 25th February 2014. The workshop raised many practical difficulties faced by probation officers and made several recommendations to improve the functioning of the probation wing in the DWCD. Shri Ujjwal Uke, Principal Secretary, DWCD gave the valedictory address and promised to implement the recommendations in a phased manner. He suggested the setting up of a working group with members from Prayas and DWCD to ensure the implementation of the recommendations.
Issues relating to Anti-Human Trafficking, Rehabilitation of Trafficked Victims and Women in Custodial Institutions/Shelter Homes

Inputs and outcomes
Prayas attended and participated in the ITPA State Advisory and District Advisory Committee meetings held in April 2013 and May 2013. Prayas put forth several issues relating to the situation of rescued women at the Navjivan State Home and rehabilitation of rescued women from commercial sexual exploitation. Prayas met the Addl. Chief Secretary (Home) with regard to calling the meeting of the State ITPA Advisory Committee. The Committee meeting was held thereafter in which we raised the following issues:

- Funds to be provided to the police department by the DWCD with regard to provision monetary assistance to the women and girls rescued from prostitution on their release from the institution.
- Appointment of staff on the newly formed cells for prevention of immoral traffic.
- Call for the reports of the District ITPA Advisory Committee meetings and ask the District Collector to monitor the meetings of this Committee.
- Reserve separate space for human trafficking on the Home Department website and update it with the necessary information.
- Take the help of NGOs in preparing drafts for the District ITPA Advisory Committees, the important sections of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 could be highlighted and put up in the next meeting.
- Formation of a Sub-Committee convened by an officer from the DWCD to prepare a Draft State Plan of Action with regards to prevention of human trafficking. The draft could be sent to various government and non-government organizations for their comments.
- Call for information about how many brothels have been closed down and what action was taken by the Home Department.
- Call for a report from the Home Department about the repatriation of Bangladeshi women rescued from commercial sexual exploitation and action taken with regard to FRO clearance.
- Call for a report from the DWCD about how many women’s cases have not been handled as per Section 17(3) of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA)
- Necessary information to be presented about the Government resolution dated 17-7-2012 passed by the Home Department.
- Suggestions to be put forth with regard to the action to be taken by the police as per the Central Government decision taken on 1-5-2012 and 9-9-2003 with regard to filing criminal cases under the Passports Act against immigrant women rescued from commercial sexual exploitation.

During this reporting period attended State Advisory committee one meeting on 5th February 2014, at 30th floor, world trend center, Colaba Under Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department to discuss following issues:

- Discussion about the work done by the anti human trafficking unit
- Review of work of anti human trafficking unit cell established by the police department.
- Discussion on the revised state plan of action to combat human trafficking.
- Review of the meeting held by Unicef and NGOs to prepare awareness material to combat human trafficking.
- Linking up a probation officer with District anti human trafficking unit
Liking up of State advisory committee with 12 anti human trafficking unit.
Training to police officers on the immoral trafficking
To make available a escort for the deportation of rescue women from the commercial sexual exploitation
Increasing daily allowance of the police officers who are on escorting duty.

Prayas participated in the preparation of the Draft State Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking. A meeting to discuss the Draft Plan of Action was held on 23rd April 2013, chaired by the Hon’ble Minister, Women & Child Development. A subsequent meeting was held on 7th September 2013, chaired by the Principal Secretary, DWCD to fine tune the suggestions. A two-day workshop was organised by the DWCD on 11th and 12th March 2014, at Lonavala, to finalise the State Plan of Action on Anti-Human Trafficking and Rehabilitation of Victims. Prayas made useful suggestion on issues relating to the rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking in these meetings.

Prayas is a member of the Justice Dharmadhikari Committee for Prevention of Atrocities against Women, appointed by the GoM. Prayas has submitted a wide range of issues and suggestions relating to the situation of women in prisons and custodial institutions, women rescued from commercial sexual exploitation, rehabilitation of women and children in institutions and children of prisoners, before the Committee. Most of these suggestions have been included in the Interim Reports submitted by the Committee to the government, and several of these recommendations have been accepted by the government. Some of the recommendations made by Prayas accepted by the government include:

- Appointing social workers in prisons.
- Increasing the salaries of social workers appointed in the Special Cells for Women attached to the police at the district and taluka levels.
- Setting up Help-desks for women at all major railway stations and ST Depots across the state.
- Enhancing the honorarium of Duty Counsels and legal aid lawyers.
- Filling up posts of Probation Officers in women's and children's institutions.
- Designing a comprehensive rehabilitation scheme for women and children released from institutions/shelter homes
- Free medical treatment of destitute women (living in institutions or homeless women without support).
- Providing BPL ration cards to women released from shelter homes/institutions.
- Amending the Bombay Prevention of Beggary Act to prevent the criminalisation of poverty.

Prayas attended a meeting under the Chairpersonship of Shri Ujjwal Uke, Principal Secretary, DWCD, on 26th November 2013, to finalise the State Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.

Prajwala, an NGO working in Andhra Pradesh on rescue and rehabilitation of women rescued from prostitution contacted Prayas with regard to assistance for home enquiry and preparing Social Investigation Reports of women hailing from Maharashtra but rescued in Hyderabad. In July 2013, Prayas assisted Prajwala by requesting the social workers of the Special Cell for Women attached to the Jalgaon Police to conduct a home enquiry of a young woman hailing
from this district. After paying the home visit and enquiring details of the family, Prayas extended help to the social worker in preparing the Social Investigation Report as per the format given by Prajwala. Since the mother had shifted to Surat from Jalgaon, help from the Prayas Bharuch Unit was sought in enquiring about the whereabouts of the mother and the family residing there. The social workers of Prayas Bharuch also contacted a local NGO in Surat who could maintain follow-up and assist in the rehabilitation of the woman. On the basis of the Social Investigation Report, the ITPA court passed an order referring the case to Prajwala and to equip her with vocational skills helpful for her rehabilitation.

In November 2013, at the request of Prajwala, Prayas contacted an NGO working in Ahmednagar named Shree Amrutvahini Gram Vikas Mandal to enquire about a woman hailing from that district. In this case too, Prayas assisted the NGO in preparing the Social Investigation Report for submission before the ITPA court in Hyderabad. In this case, the woman was handed over to the care of her mother and the NGO is maintaining follow-up in the case and towards her rehabilitation.

Proposal to recognise Prayas under PO Rules
On 3rd December 2013, Prayas sent a proposal to the DWCD Commissioner with copies to the District Officer Mumbai city and Mumbai suburban for the recognition of Prayas under the Probation offenders Rules, 1966.

Correctional Wing in DWCD
Prayas received a letter from DWCD commissioner on 29th October 2013 for asking information about the need of independent Correctional wing in DWCD. On 16th December 2013 we provide information and suggestions about the need to establish a Correctional Wing at Commissionerate level for the effective implementation of PO Act and other social laws and the rehabilitation of the released prisoners, children of prisoners and orphans. The rationale for setting up this wing is as follows:

- To give benefit of PO Act for the first offenders to prevent criminalisation of young offenders.
- To provide direct benefit of government schemes to prisoners.
- To arrange regular meetings between children of prisoners and their parents in prison.
- To institutionalise appointment of a contact person to go to courts, prisons, and children’s institutions.
- Supervision of the person released on probation with supervision.
- Nodal point for implementing social legislations.
- Organising various central and state government vocational training programmes inside the custody/prison to train the convicted and enable them for the job before release.
- Establish social and psychological counseling for released prisoners and their families.

Issuing ration cards to residents of women’s shelter homes
To make accessible ration cards for residents who are discharged from the residential institutions, Prayas followed up with various government departments at Mantralaya from time to time. During this reporting period, on 18th December 2013, Pryas submitted a letter to the Principal Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department with copies to Justice Dharmadhikari (Retd.) and Principal Secretary, Women and Child
Development Department to issue ration cards to residents while being discharged from institutions.

Prayas received a reply of the letter from the Section Officer, Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department on 25th February 2014, stating that women can get their ration cards made after discharge at the place where she resides. But this reply is not satisfactory as after discharge, women do not have sufficient/proper documents to make a ration card. It is necessary to provide the ration card while going out from the institution. This issue is being followed up with the department concerned.
**Prayas Mentoring Unit**

**Maharashtra**

**Inputs and interventions**

**Newsletter**

Two newsletters of the NGO Forum *Dialogues in Criminal Justice and Rehabilitation* were planned during this period; one is ready for the printing on the issue of citizenship rights. The other issue on rehabilitation of persons in custody is at the conceptual stage.

**NGO Forum meetings**

The meeting of the NGO Forum was planned to be organized at Amravati or Wardha but due to issues relating to logistics, the meeting is delayed. Prayas plans to organize the meeting in the month of January’14 now.

**UID Card for the inmates: Yavatmal**

Prayas shared the idea of UID cards being issued to prison inmates with Sahara Aids Control Society, Yavatmal, one of the NGO Forum members. They have taken the initiative to work towards issuing Aadhar Cards for prisoners. The social worker facilitated the process to help avail Aadhar cards for prisoners. The IG Prisons’ office has issued a circular that prison authorities should make efforts to contact the UID authorities in their districts to initiate the process of issuing Aadhar cards for the prison population in Maharashtra. The superintendent of district prison at Yavatmal has taken lot of effort to issue Aadhar cards for the inmates.

**Presentations/ workshops with students and faculty of social work**

Mentoring unit staff presented the work of Prayas to students of TISS in two sessions. Presentations on Prayas’s work were made before three batches of trainee prison officers from the Academy of Prisons and Correctional Administration (APCA), Vellore, as part of a training programme on Social Work Methods organised by TISS. Prayas made a presentation on Coordination between Voluntary Organization and Prison Department in the Process of Rehabilitation before prison staff in a seminar organised by the Maharashtra Prison Department. The orientation will help them to broaden their views related to NGOs regarding the rehabilitation of inmates.

A one-day workshop was organized on 13th August’13 by Prayas at Department of Social Work, Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, for MSW students on ‘Social Work Intervention in Criminal Justice System’. A team of Prayas social of workers and faculty from the Centre for Criminology and Justice, School of Social, TISS made presentations on various aspects relating to field work in CJS settings, supervision of student field work, recording systems and challenges faced in working in CJS settings. The response from the students was good. The students were motivated to opt for fieldwork placements in police stations and prisons after the workshop. A similar workshop was organized on 8th October’13 in the Nasik College of Social Work.

**Work on Implementation of Probation of Offenders Act, 1958**

Prayas made a presentation about the role of social workers in the rehabilitation of offenders at a workshop organised for probation officers in Maharashtra, organized by Koshish, TISS. A state level workshop on the District Probation Officers in Implementation of the Probation of Offenders’ Act, 1958 and Rehabilitation of Prisoners is being planned to be organised by
Prayas in collaboration with the DWCD, in February’14. The concept note and the programme schedule is currently being drafted.

The seminar on the implementation of Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 with the judiciary at Thane District is being planned to be organised by Prayas in collaboration with the District Probation Office and the District Legal Services Authorities, Thane.

**Challenges**

There is a need for continuity of funding to initiate and sustain projects in criminal justice social work. There are hardly any funding organisations who feel this as an important area of work. The encouraging role played the SDTT in this field therefore becomes critical in sustaining this field of work. The government sees NGOs as service providers in this field, thus the programme needs to be strong and continuity matters.

Entry of new groups is becoming difficult as work in the field of the CJS is very challenging, especially when there is no assurance of funds/resources.

Prayas’s work in the field has opened the doors into the system and the government departments are ready to avail the services of NGOs for the client population. However, they do not share the responsibility of providing resources and infrastructure to sustain the work done by the NGOs. The authorities are not well oriented to critical aspects to sustain the GO-NGO partnership, and there is lack of criteria or guidelines to frame the boundaries of the partnership.

**Future plans**

Policy guidelines need to be framed to sustain GO-NGO partnership in the criminal justice sector. This can be achieved through sustained dialogue between the stakeholders and trust-building exercises such as joint meetings and workshops. Prayas will continue to create platforms whereby such dialogues and trust-building processes can be fostered. The members of NGO Forum need to actively get involved in this process and take responsibility to create a positive environment in the field of criminal justice social work.
Bharuch Unit

Bharuch Sub Jail (Male section)

Inputs and interventions
Prayas social workers reached out to inmates by providing the following services:

- Reaching out to inmates in prison
- Conducting home visits to establish contact with family and extend support to family members
- Legal guidance/advice to prisoners
- Coordination with DLSA
- Writing legal applications for clients
- Follow up in court
- Coordination with inmates, jail administration and doctors from Bharuch Civil Hospital for providing medical support to clients
- Support to gain documents to get benefit of government schemes
- Encouraging education amongst prison inmates
- Coordination with jail Superintendent and community resources for welfare activities for prison inmates
- Sessions with prison inmates on various issues like getting benefit from government schemes, importance of vocational training, and importance of Aadhar Card, etc.

Legal aid and advice
The Male Section worker has focused his efforts on legal guidance, legal aid and writing applications for the prison inmates. The worker provided legal guidance to inmates, followed up their cases with the District/State Legal Services Authority, written legal applications and whenever required contacted advocates and magistrates for speedy trial of the cases.

Encouraging education amongst prisoners
1. Coordination with Department of Samaj Suraksha for educational support for children of prisoners:
   A circular was issued by the Department of Samaj Suraksha to all District Samaj Suraksha officials and District Child Protection Unit personnel to visit prisons and get information about children of prisoners and support the children with the schemes of the Department of Samaj Suraksha.
   Under the Sankalit Bal Suraksha Yojana of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme, sponsorship of Rs.1000/- p.m. is given to a child with single parent. The worker coordinated with the District Child Protection Unit and organized a programme in prison where the District Child Protection Officer conducted an information giving session which was attended by 226 inmates. Information was given about the scheme and the documents required to avail benefit of the scheme.
   As the result of the programme, 30 inmates approached the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) for support to avail benefit of the scheme. A list was prepared of inmates wanting to avail benefit of the scheme. The workers from DCPF conducted home visits in these cases and are maintaining a follow up. One of the requisite of the scheme is that the child should be in institution for at least 6 months, after which he can go back home and avail benefit of this sponsorship scheme. It has been seen that most of the single parents do not want to admit their children into institutions to avail benefit of the scheme.
2. Follow up was done in for a prison inmate to appear for XII exams under Gujarat State Open School. He passed 6 subjects out of the 7 subjects he appeared for. The form is again filled to reappear for the subject he has failed. At present, this client has been released on bail.

3. Since enrollment of prison inmates in distance education learning has been encouraged by I.G. (Prisons), the worker is supporting the Jail Superintendent in this regard by giving information to the inmates about the courses of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University. A consequence of this is that from April 2013 to September 2014, 22 inmates have applied for the BPP course (Bachelors Preparatory Programme), 2 inmates will be appearing for 1st year BA course while 2 inmates filled form for second year BA course. While in the month of December’13, 20 inmates will be appearing for the BPP (Bachelor Preparatory Programme) course, 1 inmate applied for the Certificate for Teaching in English course and 1 student for BA (Bachelor of Arts) course.

4. In February 2013, Indira Gandhi National Open University recognized the Bharuch Sub-Jail as a center. The worker co-ordinated with inmates and jail Superintendent and gave information about the different courses to inmates. Worker also co-ordinated with Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Bharuch so that the appropriate process is explained to inmates and also study material could be properly distributed to the inmates.

5. The Prayas worker followed up with office of Nirantar Shikshan Adhikari so that literacy programmes continue in prison. 34 inmates took literacy training under Sakshar Bharat Karyakram- Saraswati Yatra. They appeared for qualifying test on 25th August, 2013. Nirantar Shikshan Adikari had come to take the exam. Once the result will be declared, the inmates will be given a certificate of passing of III standard. In November 2013, another batch of prison inmates, (34 inmates) appeared for qualifying exam under Sakshar Bharat Karyakram-Saraswati Yatra. And the worker motivated one of the prison inmates to impart literacy training to other inmates who aspired to appear for the exams.

6. In January 2014, the worker contacted families of 17 inmates to support them to obtain documents to appear for Value Education and Spirituality courses run by Brahmakumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya in association with Annamalai Open University.

7. Prayas had followed up and supported an inmate to appear for XIIth examination under Gujarat Open School last year. He has passed XIIth class and now he wants to pursue studies further. Follow-up was maintained with him to appear for the external exams of 1st year B.A. (Veer Narmad South Gujarat University) He appeared for his first semester exams in month of November’13. To appear for the exams, he had made a bail application which was granted by the court. In his pursuit to appear for first semester exams, the inmate was assisted by our worker who extended support by arranging for the study material through contacting colleges and arranging for photo copies of the study material. Further, she also co-ordinated in this regard with the concerned college, family members of the inmate and prison authorities. Prayas also supported the family in arranging the fees required for the inmate’s exams and also during the bail process in the court.

To appear for his second semester exams in the month of March’14, another bail application was made in the court but it was denied by the court. Follow-up is going on with the District Judge in this regard.

Another, inmate was encouraged to continue education in T. Y. B.A. (Veer Narmad South Gujarat University). Follow-up was maintained through filling up the exam form,
extending support to the family for the admission fees, arranging books from the college library, arranging for the Admission Slip to appear for the exams. In this case, when the court denied bail to the student to appear for his exams, the workers met the Magistrate and explained the situation, as a result, of which bail was granted to the inmate to appear for his fifth semester exams. The worker supported this inmate in again filling up the form for his sixth semester exams. The inmate again applied for bail for appearing for the said exams but his bail application was rejected.

Follow up is also going on with one women inmate, who wants to study in Hindi. Follow up and discussions have been initiated in this regard with the prison authorities and the Welfare Officer of Vadodara Central Prison.

Support to inmates for getting benefit of government schemes
Support was extended through co-ordination with Samaj Suraksha Department in cases of 3 inmates for availing benefit of the Kutumb Sahay Yojana.

During the process of allotting Aadhar cards to the jail inmates, majority of the inmates could manage to produce the necessary supporting documents except for 9 female and 15 male inmates. So the worker contacted the family members of these inmates telephonically and by paying home visits, and thus succeeded in supported 3 inmates to obtain the necessary documents where they could apply for the Aadhar card.

Support for parole
The Prayas worker paid visits to Collector office and SP office for follow up of the case of a prison inmate wanting to avail the benefit of parole.

Welfare work in prison
The Prayas worker had supported prison administration to co-ordinate with ONGC to get computers for prison inmates as a donation. Thereby, ONGC has donated Rs. 2,48,000/- to Bharuch Sub Jail for computers, tables and chairs. The Prayas worker co-ordinated with Shri Jalaram Mandir with regard to donation of sarees for the women inmates of Bharuch Sub Jail.

The Prayas worker has contacted various agencies and colleges in Bharuch such as the Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Bharuch, and the Urban Basic Services for the Poor project run by Bharuch Nagarpalika, to organize awareness programmes inside the prison. But since maintenance work is going on inside the prison, the jail Superintendent did not give permission to organize the programmes.

Visit to prisons, DLSAs and NGOs
In the month of March 2014, three Prayas workers from the Prison Unit visited the prisons in the districts of Surat, Navasari, Chota Udaipur and Godhra. During these visits, the workers contacted the District Legal Services Authority and NGOs of the concerned districts. Workers also visited the Department of Samaj Suraksha to gain information regarding the implementation of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 in the respective districts.

Objectives of the visits
1. To visit district prisons and gain information about issues of the inmates of the respective prisons in context of welfare and rehabilitation of prisoners.
2. To understand role of the District Legal Services Authority concerning legal aid to prison inmates.
3. To get information about NGOs working in that prison, and whether the NGOs can be encouraged to extend their scope of work keeping in mind rehabilitation of inmates.
4. To visit NGOs in the district, gather information about their work, discuss with them possibility of initiating work in prison, and co ordinating with them for NGO placement programme of Prayas.
5. To visit District Samaj Suraksha Adhikari, to get information about implementation of Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 in the respective districts.

*From March 3-6, 2014, the workers visited the districts of Surat and Navsari. The following visits were conducted in Surat:*

1. Surat Central Prison
2. Surat District Legal Services Authority
3. Tera Panth Mahila Mandal
4. Akhil Hind Mahila Parishad Kutumb Salah Kendra
5. Jagruti Mahila Mandal
6. Garima
7. Anees

*Visits in Navsari were conducted to:*

1. Navsari Sub Jail
2. Manav Kalyan Trust
3. Karuna Trust
4. Jyoti Samaj
5. Akhil Hind Mahila Parishad
6. Vividh Laksh Mahila Kendra
7. Secretary, District Legal Services Authority

*From 12th-15th March 2014, visits were conducted in Chota Udaipur and Ghodra districts and visits in Chota Udaipur were to:*

1. Chota Udaipur Sub Jail
2. Shroff Foundation
3. Vividhlaksh Mahila Kendra
4. Bhasha Kendra
5. Kutumb Salah Kendra
6. Secretary, District Legal Services Authority
7. District Samaj Suraksha Adhikari

*Visits in Godhra were to:*

1. Godhra Sub Jail
2. Gramin Vikas Trust
3. Al Fazal Education and Charitable Trust
4. Siddhi Sarvajanik Trust
5. Vividhlaksh Mahila Kendra
6. Anandi
7. Secretary, District Legal Services Authority
8. District Samaj Suraksha Adhikari
9. Collector Office, Godhra

Outcome of the visits
1. The Jail Superintendents have shown favorable response to the work of Prayas and have expressed a need to initiate work along the lines of Prayas in their prisons as well.
2. During the prison visits and discussions with inmates, it was observed that there is a definite role of social work emerging in prison setting, especially for co-ordination between inmates and administration, inmates and family and inmates and community.
3. In all districts, District Legal Services Authority extends its activities for prison inmates. There is a need to look at the legal issues faced by prisoners and work accordingly. Free legal aid advocates are provided by the DLSA for trial, but there is also need for advocates to put up bail application of the inmates. There is a need of co-ordination between free legal aid lawyers and inmates.
4. Implementation of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 is in the most neglected state. Though knowing its importance, neither judiciary nor advocates want to make appropriate use of the Act. The Department of Samaj Suraksha also does not have enough staff to work effectively toward the implementation of the Act.
5. Bhasha Kendra in Chota Udaipur, Akhil Hind Mahila Parishad in Navsari and Anandi and Gramya Vikas Trust in Godhra has shown interest for initiating work in prison.
6. Some of the NGOs visited could be helpful for the rehabilitation work of Prayas
Bharuch Sub-Jail (Women’s section)

Worker continued to work in Female Section, Bharuch Sub Jail by reaching out to women inmates in terms of counseling, medical support, family support, follow up with children of women inmates. Worker has extended support to women inmates by contacting family members, support for legal guidance and follow up in courts with advocates. Worker has been able to express problems of women inmates to prison authorities. This co ordination has been very beneficial to women inmates.

Case illustration
A woman inmate was transferred to Vadodara Central Prison on conviction. As none of the maternal family members were visiting her, we tried to follow up to reach out to her brother who lived in Khambhat taluka of Anand District. Worker followed up with Khambhat Police Station, explained to them the case, and need to contact them. The police supported us in contacting the family and gave them our contact numbers. The family has contacted us and now is ready to keep in touch with the sister in prison.
Support was given to women inmates for mulakat with their children inside the prison.

Family support
Worker worked at various levels to extend support to the family of women inmates

1. Encouraging family to come for mulakat which in the long term would help to sustain bonding between the client and his family, and also to obtain family support in terms of legal matter, obtaining support for the children and preparation for receiving the woman post release. This is very necessary and important in cases where women are charged with murder of their spouses. In one such case, where a woman had been arrested for her husband’s murder, the worker tirelessly followed up with her maternal family to obtain their support. As a result, the father is now ready to support the daughter post release.

2. The Prayas worker gives a lot of legal information to the family about the legal process and status of the case. This helps the family to take right decisions and prevents them from getting into the hands of touts or other people who might take advantage of their vulnerable situation. In one such case, the women’s case was already transferred to the Sessions Court, but the advocate at the lower court was asking for Rs. 7500/- from the family to put up her bail application in the lower court. When worker gave them the information, they were cautioned in time in that regard.

3. We have observed that in most of the cases the family members live in distant villages and it becomes very difficult for them to visit prison because of economic reasons and since they are daily wage labourers they have to forgo that day’s wages. When the family members do not visit the women in the prison, besides emotional and psychological problems, the women are unable to get their daily requirements like soap, toothpaste, oil etc. The worker has been discussing this issue with family members and giving them information that they can send money by money order, and from that amount the women can buy necessary provisions from the jail canteen.

Case illustration
A convicted prisoner had expressed need for uniform and books for his son who is studying in XIth class. Worker had followed up the issue with the Welfare Officer from Department of
Samaj Suraksha. He coordinated with the Principal of the child’s school after which the child was given both books and two sets of uniform. Follow up is also going on for obtaining scholarship for the child.

Legal support
Worker visits prison and discusses with women about their pending cases in the court, and gives information about the legal status of their cases. Worker also gives family members legal information about the cases and tries to get them involved in the cases and obtain support for the women. Whenever necessary, worker visits courts and meets concerned advocates and magistrates to bring to their notice problems or legal issues faced by the inmates.

There were many pending cases in one of the taluka courts in Bharuch district. Worker visited the court, discussed with the magistrate due to which the magistrate in turn followed up with the concerned officers and the problem has been resolved.

Case illustration
Poonamben and her husband were in prison under Section 302. As the family was economically weak, they could not afford to appoint a lawyer for the couple. Worker supported the inmate to write an application for a free legal aid lawyer as a result of which an advocate was appointed for the couple. When the worker came to know that despite the advocate being appointed, the case was not going on in the court. On paying a visit to the court, the worker came to know that police were not submitting the Muddemaal, and thus the matter was pending in the court. The worker co ordinated with both magistrate and advocate and also with the police. Finally Muddemaal was produced in the court and the trial continued.

Case illustration
Anitaben along with one of her relatives was arrested by police in the case of theft, and then was sent to judicial custody. When worker met her in prison, worker came to know that Anitaben’s husband was suffering from severe TB, and her three and half years daughter was with her husband. Basically they were homeless migrant rag pickers, and they moved from place to place picking up rags. Option was discussed with her whether

She wanted her daughter with her in the prison. She readily agreed and said that her husband is severely ill, cannot work, and is incapable of taking care of their daughter. Worker tried to locate her husband. Since they didn’t have one place to stay, worker could find him after two days. Meanwhile workers also contacted police who had made the arrest. Once Anitaben’s husband was located, worker discussed with him about the option of handing their daughter to his wife in prison custody to which he readily agreed. Later, the issue of his treatment was also discussed and he was given the option of undergoing treatment in Bharuch Civil Hospital. Anitaben was supported to write an application to the court to get her daughter’s custody.

As her husband could not get admission to Civil Hospital on his own, worker co ordination with an NGO (Sewa Yagna Samiti) in getting him admitted in Civil Hospital. The NGO supported him by providing the special diet to him and also for the travelling expenses. As there was nobody to care for their daughter after his admission into the hospital, the young girl was in the hospital only with her father to which there was severe opposition from the hospital administration.
To expedite the application for the daughter’s custody, the worker visited the court and made necessary follow up. She met the magistrate and explained to him the situation. The magistrate gave nearest date and ordered the husband to be present in the court with the daughter. Meanwhile, the husband had got him discharged from Bharuch Civil Hospital, and got himself admitted into Vadodara Civil Hospital and the daughter was left in the care of relatives. Worker convinced the family members to be present in the court on the given date. Finally, the magistrate passed the order of handing the daughter’s custody to Anitaben. Worker supported Anitaben’s family to reach prison and hand over the daughter to the mother. After 9 days of rigorous follow-up in the case, the mother was able to get the custody of her daughter.

**Medical support**

With regard to medical support, the role of the worker is to bring the women inmates’ medical issues to the notice of the jail Superintendent and Medical Officer of Civil Hospital. Worker discusses cases of women with medical problems with the Superintendent and tries to send the inmates to the hospital for medical follow up.

In one case, the inmate was constantly feeling giddy so the worker brought this to the notice of the Superintendent. On being sent to the Civil Hospital, the inmate’s problem was diagnosed as high blood pressure and necessary treatment was administered.

One of the women inmates was 8 months pregnant and in the Bharuch Sub Jail, there is no provision of women staff at night. So the worker was concerned about any emergency the inmate might be at night. The matter was discussed with jail Superintendent and the concerned magistrate with regard to possibility of release on personal bond. The magistrate denied the possibility. At present, discussion is going on with the jail administration as to whether the inmate could be transferred to Vadodara Central Jail or Surat Central Jail where the required facilities are available.

**Follow up of released prisoners**

Follow up is going in 2 cases where the women have been acquitted in murder cases. In one of the cases, the worker is following up for safe shelter for the women and her brother (both have been acquitted in the case of murder of another brother’s son). As brother’s son was murdered in this case, the brother and the community are not permitting them to stay in the village. The woman’s husband has been convicted in the case and the brother’s wife has left him and remarried. On release, they tried to stay with their sister in another village. But there also the brother and community did not allow them to stay. They tried to stay with another released women inmate; from there also they had to leave in 2-3 days because of pressure of the community. At present, the woman is staying with her previous husband’s daughter while the brother is missing. Worker is following up to support them in getting a safe shelter.

In another case, worker is following up a case where both husband and wife have been acquitted in a murder case. Worker is assisting with regard to the training of the woman and for educational support for their children.
Work at Police Station

**Socio-legal awareness training of SHG Group**
This year, the worker followed up extensively with the State and District Legal Services Authority for co-ordination of legal awareness programmes in the community and our client groups and with SP of Bharuch for placement of social workers at police stations. Thus, few visits were paid to the police station whereby less number of cases were referred by the police. However, the worker followed up with old and new cases referred by the police station in terms of counseling, legal aid and support, training, support to children in terms of shelter and education, co-ordination with shelter homes and police, community resources and advocates both personal and of State Legal Services Authority.

**Co-ordination with State Legal Services Authority**
Prayas, Bharuch Unit organized trainings for women of Self Help Groups during which legal material useful to them was also distributed. Till last year, the material was obtained from State Women’s Commission which they were unable to provide us this year. We co-ordinated and followed up with State Legal Services Authority for permission to photocopy the material prepared by them and distribute it during the trainings.

**Co-ordination with District Legal Services Authority**
With District Legal Services Authority, Prayas co-ordinates at various levels:
- Supporting them to organize legal awareness programmes in the community
- Taking their support to organize training programmes for our client group
- Obtaining advocates from their panel for our client group
- Follow-up with advocates of the panel for cases of our clients.
- Supporting District/Taluka Legal Services Authority to organize Legal Awareness Programme in Community

This year, Prayas worker co-ordinated with DLSA to organize 2 programmes in the community

- Rights of tribal women at Vidhyadeep Community College (a training institute)
- Rights of HIV (+) persons in co-ordination with Bharuch Zilla Kelvani Mandal (an NGO)
  1. Taking support of DLSA to organize legal awareness programme for our client group

Discussions are going on with them to regularly organize legal awareness programmes in the prison. And a follow up is being maintained with them to organize programmes for youth and older children in the community.

2. Obtaining advocates from DLSA/TLSA panel for our client groups

**Cases of women reaching police stations are referred to DLSA for legal aid.**
Worker also follows up with advocates allotted to the clients for better co-ordination between clients and advocates. There is extensive follow up in the courts with the advocates and DLSA/TLSA in cases of our old clients
Follow up with Superintendent of Police for placement of social workers at police stations

Prayas has been working at the police station level in Bharuch since 1995 with the objective of rehabilitation of vulnerable groups reaching the police station. Discussions were going on within Prayas, that if the police in coordination with other NGOs can place social workers at the police station, than Prayas can withdraw from direct field work to train and mentor concerned social workers with our experience in the field. Thus, Prayas can then only focus on training and rehabilitation.

Prayas was following up with previous SPs regarding the concept of placement of social workers at police station level. Meanwhile, under the State Government’s scheme on community policing called the Suraksha Setu, a similar project was started in Surat. Workers gathered information in that regard and discussed with the present SP about starting a similar project in Bharuch. The issue was also discussed with the Bharuch District Collector who informed us to prepare a proposal and meet the SP of Bharuch.

Various discussions were held with the SP, Bharuch about the target group we are looking at, the expectations of the clients, the role of social workers, advantages of such work, financial implications of initiating the project, etc. During this discussion, Prayas had put forward the suggestion that for long term sustainability, it is important that the police system should take over the project and should not be given to an NGO. NGOs like Prayas can support the police system for training and mentoring of workers and for evaluation and growth of the project.

SP asked Prayas to prepare a proposal and submit it to him and the Collector which could help initiate further discussion between the two.

Bharuch district has a mixed population of Hindus, Tribals, Scheduled Castes, and Muslim community. Some specific talukas have specific problems. So it was very important for us to gather information about the profile of each community, to assist us in making effective suggestions. Moreover, Bharuch being an industrial area, it has a large number of migrant population with problems of their own.

Prayas worker visited NGOs who had the experience of working with the various groups and gathered the information. In this regard, Prayas workers visited 5 NGOs in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar who were working with women in crisis. Worker visited:

- Behavioural Science Centre
- Jeevan Tirth
- Sambodh
- Center for Development
- Navsarjan Trust

Worker also discussed with police officers about the kind of cases reaching police station and expectations of the clients from police. Prayas already has experience of working with vulnerable groups at police station of 20 years. Considering above experiences and discussions, profile of the women reaching police station was identified. The proposal also included the appropriate coordination between the social worker and police, role of social worker in the project and the expected outcomes. Prayas workers also supported police to prepare the budget and the proposal has been submitted to the SP. Discussion are in process with the police that social workers intervention with only women will not be enough. Social workers will have to reach out to all vulnerable groups reaching police station, i.e. women, children, young offenders, mentally disturbed and senior citizens.
Once the proposal was submitted, follow up was made with the Collector. SP had shown interest in initiating work at 5 police stations in Bharuch district. As a result of the discussions, 5 Police Station of Bharuch were selected keeping in mind profile of the community living there.

- Bharuch City Police Station: The Mahila police station is situated within its premises
- Ankleshwar Police Station: Migrant population and issues faced due to industrialization
- Jhagadia Police Station: Tribal population
- Jambusar Police Station: Muslim population
- Dahej Police Station: Migrant population and issues faced due to industrialization

An advertisement in the newspapers was given by the police seeking applications from social workers. These workers were to be appointed by Suraksha Setu Society, Bharuch.

SP asked for support from Prayas and another NGO (Aga Khan Rural Support Programme) for conducting interviews of the applicants for the post of Co ordinators and social workers. 15 workers were appointed by Suraksha Setu on 1st March’14. On the first day of their appointment, SP requested Prayas to orient the newly appointed workers about the role of social workers at the police station. Prayas workers conducted a full day orientation programme for the newly appointed social workers. And discussions are going on with the SP for such similar ongoing training of workers.

Since the support of Prayas was requested for the training, Prayas workers visited all the five police stations to meet the Police Inspector in charge, the station house officer and newly appointed social workers to develop better co ordination between them, explaining police the role of social workers, and making social workers comfortable within the police station setting.

But as code of conduct was declared for General Elections of Lok Sabha, all Suraksha Setu activities were terminated for a temporary period. Thus all social worker were informed by the police about the temporary termination of their jobs. Prayas followed up to revive the project after the elections were over.

**Workshop attended**
Police station worker attended a workshop organised by I.G. (Women’s Cell), C.I. D. Crime, Gandhinagar on Human trafficking: Role of police and NGOs. During the workshop, the worker raised the issue about lack of co ordination between police station staff and the personnel of Department of Samaj Sursaeksha and Shelter Home for women and children. As a result of this, a training was organized for the staff of Department of Samaj Suraksha by I. G. (Women’s Cell), C.I.D. crime, Gandhinagar. The worker has observed that the Mahila Police Station staff has started referring cases to government Shelter Home for Women.

**Socio-legal training of Self-Help Groups**
In co ordination with the District Rural Development Authority (DRDA), Prayas organized legal awareness programme for the women of Self Help Groups with following objectives:
- To impart information and knowledge about basic rights and remedies provided under various women related laws to build the capacity of the women to face difficulties in real life situations.
- To make women aware of the various mechanisms of the criminal justice system, the procedure of approaching various channels available for redressal of problems i.e., the police, the courts, the judiciary, NGOs in the field, the role of District Legal Services Authority and free legal aid lawyers.
- To reach out to women in the community with the objective of crime prevention and victimization.
- To gain an understanding about the issues faced by women in the community

Thus, during this year, trainings were organized in six villages of Bharuch district. Apart from giving legal information and discussing issues concerning women, material was also distributed to them regarding laws and legislations concerning women (this material was obtained in coordination with State Legal Services Authority). A laminated note containing the addresses and telephone numbers of government and non-government community resources in Bharuch district where women can contact in need of emergencies was given to the participants.

Training at Kavitha Village: 66 women participated in training

Training at Chavaj Village - Training at Chavaj village was organized in coordination with District Legal Services Authority, Bharuch. The advocates from DLSA also participated as resource persons in the training attended by 31 women.

Training at Haldar Village – 35 women participated in the training

Training at Simalaya village – 45 women participated in training

Training at Thikariya village – 40 women participated in training

Two advocates interested in the cause of empowerment of women accompanied us as resource persons.

Training was organized at NTPC for 27 women with whom they are working as per their CSR initiative. One of the objectives of organizing the training for NTPC was to build relationship with them, give them exposure about our work so that we can approach them later for funds.

DRDA has also approached Prayas to impart legal awareness to women during a seminar organized for women under their Mission Mangalam Scheme. During the training, various issues concerning lives of the women was discussed, information on following subjects was given to the women. Once the information was given there was an open discussion with the participants. The topics covered in the training were:

- A brief understanding of the rights of women as per the Indian Constitution
- Information regarding maintenance
- Stridhan
- Rights of women with regard to custody of children
- Rights of women vis a vis police
- The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
- Acts and sections related to dowry
- Role of District Legal Services Authority
• Information regarding where can women reach at the time of crisis (and roles and responsibilities of each)
  ➢ Police
  ➢ Nari Saurakshan Kendra
  ➢ District Legal Services Authority
  ➢ Community Resources/NGOs

**Outcomes**
1. During this year, we could organize trainings in 6 villages of Bharuch district.
2. Taluka Livelihood Manager (TLM) from DRDA was present in 5 trainings. This gesture was able to establish the fact that such trainings could be part of government programmes.
3. We could involve District Legal Services Authority through the advocates who were resource persons and State Legal Services Authority for material to be distributed to the participants
4. We could involve panchayats, school Principals, anganwadi workers and officers from other systems like (PHCs) as and when possible in the training. Their presence motivated the women. Moreover, after gaining information during the training these officials could be a guiding agency to the women during the crisis.
5. During the training, the women raised various issues concerning their lives, which were addressed as far as possible, while in some cases appropriate references were made.
6. Legal guidance was also sought for by the women in their personal cases after the training

**Socio-legal training of police officers in Bharuch District**
In month of February 2014, a workshop on ‘Role of Police for Women in Crisis’ was organized for the police Head Constables of Bharuch District.

**Objectives**
1. To sensitize police regarding prevalent gender inequalities in the society.
2. To appreciate the need for sensitivity in their roles as police officers dealing with cases of women (either as victims or accused)
3. To give them information about the proper code of conduct while dealing with women as victim or accused.
4. To develop professional skills in dealing with prevention and investigation of cases related to domestic and sexual violence against women

78 police officers attended the workshop. Resource persons were invited from Special Cell for Women-Mumbai, Sahiyar Stree Sangathan-Vadodara, and Prayas workers. The resource material distributed to the participants was obtained from State Legal Services Authority. A few case studies were also given to them highlighting the coordination between the social workers and police for rehabilitation of clients, which would motivate them to work in coordination with social workers. A list of government and non-government organizations working in Bharuch district was also given to the police to assist them in effective case referrals and obtaining support from the community for women in crisis.
The workshop remained very interactive, police officers raised issues related to their work, and got their doubts clarified appropriately instead of making wrong speculations. They could relate the information gained from the workshop to their field experiences.

Outcomes
1. The police officers expressed the need for similar training at regular intervals.
2. The importance of coordination between police and community resources could be discussed with them.
3. They could understand the role of social workers in effective implementation of social legislations.
4. Options could be discussed with them on alternate way of functioning which could be helpful keeping in mind the rights and rehabilitation of clients.
5. The officers could understand the importance of laws especially for vulnerable groups
6. The training remained refreshing for police, as they could get away from their routine pressure and stress

Case illustration
Nimuben (name changed)
Prayas is supporting Nimuben in terms of legal aid, training, continuing education, coordination with family members, counseling and support to help continue her daughter’s education and training.
Nimuben’s case was referred to us by an NGO and over the years Prayas worker have supported Nimuben at various levels:

1. Legal support
Worker supported Nimuben at the police station level and at the Samaj Suraksha Department to register her application under Domestic Violence Act, 2005. Through a regular follow-up in the court, a maintenance order of Rs.2700/-p.m. was passed by the court. The husband paid the maintenance for 2 years after which he stopped. Then the worker supported her to file for recovery of maintenance which was passed by the court but her husband was not still paying maintenance. Since the use of Domestic Violence Act, 2005 was not effective, another case under Sec. 125 Cr.P.C. was filed against her husband.
All through these court matters, worker has supported the client to get advocates from District Legal Services Authority and has maintained continuous follow up. During the court cases, the worker supported the client by following up in court, discussion and follow up with advocates, follow up with magistrate and follow up at police station.

Cases are pending against Nimuben’s husband in court, but the court process is slow and tiring for her. The client had started losing hope in the judiciary and was feeling that her husband should go through the same suffering which she and her daughter are going through. She wanted to register a complaint against him in the police station. Worker discussed with her the pros and cons of registering the complaint. But as client was very sure about doing this worker explained to her the procedure and supported in sending the application to DSP office.

Worker also felt that sending an application to Gujarat State Women’s Commission would also be helpful. The husband may feel deterred if he has to go to Gandhinagar and be answerable to a State agency. Worker discussed this with the client, and client was also
interested in doing so. Thus, information about the procedure was gathered and an application was sent by the client to the State Women’s Commission office which has been registered.

Discussions are also going on with Free Legal Aid advocate regarding the inheritance rights of Nimuben’s daughter in her paternal grandfather’s property, as the grandfather passed away recently.

2. Support in training and education
The client works as a pre-primary teacher in a private school to help her sustain herself and her adolescent daughter but the salary is not enough. Worker has supported her in undergoing some training and continuing her education to help her earn an extra income. At WDC, she was given training in tailoring. Then a special training in dress and blouse making was attended by her at an outside training agency. Prayas worker supported her to fill the form at District Industries Center to get a sewing machine under Manav Kalyan Yojana of D. I. C. After a lot of follow up at D.I. C. a tailoring machine was approved.

With full time work at school and regular visits to court it was not being possible for her to concentrate on tailoring, thus extra earning which was the objective was not being fulfilled. The issue was discussed with her after which it was mutually decided to continue her education to help her gain a better paid job.

She was encouraged to appear for BPP exam (Bachelors Preparatory Course) under Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University She has cleared BPP course and is now pursuing S.Y. B.A. Prayas extends monetary support to the clients for fees and obtaining educational material.

3. Co-ordination with family
Though the client had registered a maintenance case against her husband, the worker had advised her to keep a positive relationship with her father in law. Worker also in turn, paid regular visits to her father-in-law and maintained a relationship with him. As a result of this, the father-in-law supported her with regard to the educational fees of her daughter. The daughter is now studying in IIInd year B. Com. Till the Ist year B. Com, the school, college and tuition fees of the daughter were given by her grandfather which has been discontinued in this year.

4. Education and training of the daughter
As mentioned above the client’s daughter was encouraged by Prayas worker to continue her education as well as undergo a training in Certificate in Computer Concept course (CCC Course). The training supported her to get employment as Data Entry Operator which she has discontinued due to her busy schedule of college and tuitions. Efforts were made by Prayas to raise funds from a private donor for her present year college and tuition fees but we have been able to raise only the tuition fees for the client.

5. Support in employment
Worker encouraged the client to look out for better paid jobs in other schools. She also supported the client by maintaining an intensive follow-up to get appoint the client appointed as a Bal Mitra under the Special Training Programme of Sarva Shikshan Abhiyan. Under this scheme, Bal Mitras are supposed to contact drop-out children of specific schools from a particular area. The Bal Mitra works with these children for one year and tries to mainstream them back into the educational field. For this work, a XIIth pass Bal Mitra is paid Rs.2500/- per month and a graduate Bal Mitra gets Rs. 4500/- per month.
Thus, it was discussed with the Officer-in-Charge at Sarva Shikshan Abhiyan that Juvenile Home for girls and boys are places where the children need support in education. Though it does not fall directly under the Special Training Programme, the decision was taken to appoint Bal Mitras there.

We were hoping and had done follow up so that our client gets a posting as Bal Mitra at Juvenile Home for Girls. On at the last minute, the Officer-in-Charge informed that they cannot appoint Nimuben as Bal Mitra at Juvenile Home for Girls as she is not a graduate.

The client was very disappointed as she herself had put in lot of efforts to get appointed which included visiting the concerned schools, meeting the principals and taking the list of drop-out children, paying home visits to the children’s homes, contacting School Managing Committee to get signature on the list, etc. Client has followed up in 3-4 schools.

Despite the worker following up the matter with Director of Sarva Shikshan Abhiyan and District Education Officer, Bharuch, the plan has not worked out. First of all, Nimuben is not a graduate, secondly she cannot work from 11a.m.-4p.m. as stated in the scheme, and she also does not want to give her present school job, where she has been working since 7-8 years.

After a discussion with the client, it has been decided that presently she can concentrate on her education which will in future help to upgrade her position in the school.
After-care Work with Youth

Prayas continued to follow up cases through home visits referred by prison and police station worker. Though there is extensive follow up from worker, much response is not shown by the clients as there is gap between the time prison worker refers the case and the time when the aftercare worker pays the visit. While in the police station cases, since the cases are referred by the police and the workers have not met the clients directly again there is a gap.

To overcome this problem, it has been decided that the aftercare worker will also visit prison so that he can directly pick up cases from prison. We have obtained permission in this regard from I.G. of Prisons after which from the month of November’13 to March’14, the worker contacted 23 inmates in prison and has followed up in nine cases for rehabilitation.

During this year, the worker followed up the case of a convicted client’s brother whom we have supported for training. In the last report it was mentioned that client is working in a mobile repairing shop but now he has left the job and wishes to open a small mobile repairing ship at an industrial estate near Bharuch.

One of the clients whom we had supported to appear for his XIIth exam last year had failed in two subjects. Prayas workers have supported and encouraged him to reappear for those two subjects in month of March’14. This time, he passed in one subject, and will be reappearing for the remaining subject in the month of July’14.

The worker met clients and their families and discussed issues concerning job and training. 1 client was supported for training in Tally computer course for 3 months after which he has been able to secure a job with the salary of approx. Rs.5,000/-.  

The worker intensively followed up in the case of a released convicted prisoner for initiating self-employment post-release.

**Case illustration**

Babubhai got released from prison after 14 years of conviction. The worker from our Family Support Unit was in contact with the family since some years and had supported the family with regard to:

- Follow-up for parole and furlough
- Support to family for obtaining benefit of Kaidi Sahay Yojana
- The younger daughter who is physically handicapped was helped to get the benefit of Sant Surdas Yojana under which the beneficiary gets a monthly stipend of Rs.400/- and a bus pass for the beneficiary and a guardian. The worker also followed up with the District Samaj Suraksha Adhikari, and supported her to get a lari, weighing scale, and plastic cans for self-employment under the Sant Surdas Yojana of Department of Samaj Suraksha. Under this scheme normally the beneficiaries get musical instruments, but in this case, the worker followed up with the department so that the client could get an income generating kit for self-employment.
- Worker has extended educational assistance with regard to books, for scholarship of the client’s son for both the years of IXth and Xth. After his Xth results, the worker helped the boy in getting admission into a IIT course in a college run by Sewa Rural, Jhagadia. It was an in-house course where the student had to stay in the hostel during the training. But the boy could not stay in the hostel so he discontinued the course. Later, the worker then followed up with his regular old school Principal so that he can continue his education. Now, he is studying in class 11th.
- Prayas supported the client’s elder daughter for a 6 months tailoring course.
- During the marriage of the eldest daughter, the worker supported the family to avail the benefit of the Kumvarbai nu Mamaru scheme according to which a scheduled caste girl gets Rs.10,000/- from the government after her marriage. But the girl eloped after the marriage with some other man whereby she could not avail benefit of the scheme.

- The worker supported the wife of the client for in registering a complaint in the police station about the missing daughter and later maintained a follow-up with the police station.

As Prayas had a good rapport developed with both the client and his family, the client approached us on his release. He was interested in setting up a small stall in his village and sell items of daily use. Prayas workers supported the client in initiating a small business in his village by

- Suggesting to the client that he can use the lari received by his daughter from the District Samaj Suraksha department.
- Exposure visits were made to the whole sale markets with the client
- Accompanying client to buy goods to sell in his stall
- Follow up visits to monitor the clients’ development
- Follow up visit for motivating the client

Legal awareness programmes for school children
While working at the police stations and in the Bharuch Sub-Jail, we had observed that large number of children and youth (15-21 years) are involved in delinquency not knowing that their activity amounts to crime. For e.g. getting involved in mara mari at school or college, not observing traffic rules, love affair with minor girls, etc. Most of the time, they are not aware of the consequences of their acts. The children get pulled into crime due to peer group influence, overtures of habitual offenders, substance abuse, family conflict, lack of positive role models and livelihood opportunities. While working with them we also experienced that children are unaware of their rights and also have insufficient knowledge and capacity to deal with situations which might result in their criminalization or victimization. The above experiences motivated Prayas, Bharuch Unit to organize legal awareness programmes for school children (Students from IXth to XIIth Class) in various schools of Bharuch district.

The objectives of the trainings are as follows:
- To help children to recognize and prevent situations that may make them vulnerable to victimization or delinquency.
- To provide children with the knowledge to help reduce the risks.
- To increase crime prevention awareness and skills in children

In the past year, we had organized such programmes in Jhagadia and Rajpardi talukas of Bharuch district. While this year, we decided to focus on Bharuch and Walia talukas.

Thus, the worker had visited 3 schools of Walia taluka, (Shree Rang Chetan Vidya Mandir-Walia; Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya-Roopnagar, Walia; Shree M.M. Bhagat Vidyalaya-Netrang, Walia) and met the principals of the respective schools and discussed with them the importance of organizing such programmes for their students. But last year during the
monsoons due to heavy rains in Bharuch district, the roads had got flooded and become inaccessible whereby we were not able to organize any of the trainings.

The Principal of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya had requested us to organize a training for girls on the issue of sexual violence. They also asked our support with regard to a training in self defense for their female students. Since Prayas was not acquainted with training in self defense, they were referred the school authorities to a Karate trainer who could assist them in that regard.

We had contacted the District and Taluka Legal Services Authority to involve them as well in these trainings to which they agreed to co ordinate with us so a follow-up is being maintained with them in this regard.

In 2013-14, 7 trainings were organized in the schools where a total of 565 children were reached out.

Worker made 24 visits to schools in Netrang Walia, Moriyana, Roopnagar, Dharoli, Bharuch city, and Hansot to acquire the permission for organizing the programmes and to plan the trainings. Despite having the permission to organize such programmes from the District Education Officer (DEO) of Bharuch, the worker visited the identified schools to discuss with the principals the objectives of Prayas to organize such a programme in their school. In some schools, the Principal would make a specific request with regard to some about kind of awareness he wants to impart to his school children. For e.g. In one school, the Principal requested for a training about sexual violence and strategies to cope with it for the girl students. Thus, we co-ordinated with Sahiyar Stree Sangathan, Vadodara and organized the training.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Name of the School</th>
<th>No. of Students</th>
<th>Resource Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>October’13</td>
<td>R.S. Dalal High School, Bharuch</td>
<td>35 boys</td>
<td>Advocate, Prayas Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>October’13</td>
<td>Shri B. H. Mody Vidyamandir, Vejalpur, Bharuch</td>
<td>35 girls</td>
<td>Advocate from Taluka Legal Services Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>October’13</td>
<td>The Pioneer High School, Bharuch</td>
<td>75 boys</td>
<td>Advocate, Prayas Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>December’13</td>
<td>Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Roopnagar, Walia, Bharuch</td>
<td>122 boys</td>
<td>Advocate, Prayas Workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>January’14</td>
<td>Shri Navrang Vidyamandir, Moriyana, Jhagadia, Bharuch</td>
<td>125 boys</td>
<td>Advocate, Prayas Workers, Field work Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>January’14</td>
<td>Shri M.M. Bhak</td>
<td>78 boys</td>
<td>Advocate, Prayas Workers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
During all the awareness programmes, discussions with the students were held on the various child related legislations.

- Registration of Birth & Death Act, 1969
- Right to Education Act, 2009
- Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986
- Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000
- Motor Vehicle Act, 1988
- Information Technology Act, 2000
- Right to Information Act, 2005
- Child Help Line

Discussions are also about the various circumstances leading to the child’s victimization or criminalization.

In co-ordination with Sahiyar Stree Sangathan, Vadodara an awareness programme on sexual abuse was organized for the 93 girl students of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Roopnagar. Another awareness programme for 65 girl students was organized in Shree Navrang Vidya Mandir, Moriyana, Dist. Bharuch.
Women’s Development Centre

Training for tiffin service and snacks making

Some of our women clients were expressing the need for training which can help them towards self employment. Since there are many industries in and around Bharuch district, and lot of people migrate to Bharuch for employment without families, we were thinking of exploring the idea of arranging a tiffin service and snacks making training for our women clients. The idea was shared with the clients who also expressed the need for it as it would help towards self employment.

Thus, we approached individuals and organizations which can offer this training. Finally, Baroda Swarojgar Sansthan, CSR project of Bank of Baroda supported for the training.

There is RSETI (Rural Self Employment Training Institute) scheme of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Under this scheme, RBI nominates a bank as the Lead Bank in one rural area. The Lead Bank has to organize trainings in collaboration with the District Rural Development Authority. The training expenses of BPL category clients is borne by DRDA.

As the clients of Prayas were both from urban and rural area, it was discussed that Prayas will bear the fees for training and material expenses, and Baroda Swarojgar Sansthan would provide us with institutional support, and other training inputs for self employment.

One month training was organized for 14 clients out of which 8 were regular clients of WDC and 5 women were from Jhagadia village (family members of convicted prisoners) and 1 from Kothi village The initial 15 days training was about tiffin services and the latter 15 days was about snacks making.

The trainer was an experienced lady who was once providing tiffin services and later after gaining experience had started a business of snacks making. She puts up stalls of dry farsan in exhibition-cum-trade fairs organized by government and sometimes during private trade fairs.

During the training, clients were given various inputs by the trainer, officers of Baroda Swarojgar Sansthan, and Prayas workers to develop skills of entrepreneurship such as :

- Clients were given theory lectures on important things to start and sustain in the business of tiffin services and snacks making
- Practical training on preparing tiffins, combination of various menus, different varieties of dry and hot snacks
- Officers of Baroda Swarojgar Sansthan (BSS) gave inputs in terms of lectures, discussions, films on savings, importance of team work and entrepreneurship
- During the training various practical inputs were also given to trainees like the Director of BSS gave the group 2 orders of lunch – one was for 30 persons and another order was for 47 persons. Later an officer of Bank of Baroda placed 3 order for lunch - 2 orders for 20 people and one for 50 people. Thus, a total of 4 orders were given to the group during their training from which the profit earned was equally distributed among all the group members whereby each member earned about Rs.442/-. The 5th order was taken by a group of 6 clients who earned a share profit each of Rs.220/-.  
- After the snacks making training was over, the clients were given a different experience whereby they were divided into 3 groups. Each group was given an equal amount of money and were told to decide on 1 or 2 items to be prepared, get the rawmaterial from the market, prepare the items and sell them either by putting up a stall on the street or by going door to door in office buildings.
- Both the experiences of taking lunch orders and selling of dry snacks helped the women gain some practical knowledge and the profit earning proved very motivational to the women.
- The clients were provided with a recipe book along with a certificate from BSS.

Out of the 14 clients who attended the training, 4 clients were seriously thinking of pursuing this work whereby discussions in that regard with the clients were held. Though the clients were very much interested in initiating the business they were various limitations such as:

- 3 of them are family members of convicted prisoners and thus there is less hope of any support from the community
- The women have very young children so taking care of them is a problem
- Limitations of funds - the option of taking a loan was put forth but due to their acute financial status, there appeared a fear of the consequences on non-repayment of the loan.
- The women do not have much family support

However, Prayas workers continued discussions with them to maintain their motivational level. As a result of this, one clients put up a stall of samosa and masala potato during a local festival with an investment of Rs.150/- and she earned a profit of Rs. 750/- which has motivated her to further pursue the effort.

**Support for education of children of WDC clients**
Last year, financial support was obtained from an individual donor for the annual school fees of 10 children of 8 clients. This year as well, we approached the same donor who gave Rs. 31,355/- for the annual school fees for 7 children.

On following up with the District Child Protection Unit for sponsorship under the Sankalit Bal Suraksha Yojana, one of the clients got benefit of the scheme through which one of her child will receive Rs.1000/- as sponsorship.

**Encouraging education amongst clients**
One of the client who had done a Montessori course and working as a teacher in a school earning Rs.1600/- p.m. was encouraged to pursue further studies. She has completed her Bachelor Preparatory Programme (BPP) course from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University and is now pursuing her 3rd year B.A.

**Encouraging jobs/placements for clients**
One of the WDC clients, who was supported for training in tailoring, has now become self dependent. She has found herself a job in some tuition classes as assistant. She is taking dress making and choli making orders also. Prayas had supported her to get a sewing machine which she is now useful for her sewing orders. The client had undertaken training in tailoring from private classes whereby Prayas encouraged her to take training in tailoring from a government agency, so that she can get a government certificate. The client is presently attending the government training course besides handling her job and tailoring orders at home.

Another WDC client has found a job for herself in a multiplex theater based on the training and motivation received at WDC which helped her to raise her self confidence and thereby in securing a job.
Encouraging clients for self-employment

As mentioned in the above reporting, four of our WDC clients were seriously thinking of initiating self employment by setting up food stalls. Funds was the major limitation with regard to this initiative as each of them required a minimum of Rs.15,000/- capital to start the business. Discussions in this regard were in process with them whereby during the Navratri festival, each one of them was suggested to invest some bare minimum amount and put up a small stall with hot snacks near the Navratri pandals in their respective villages. Prayas supported the clients with a small amount for buying the necessary material for the eatables to be sold. The clients made the necessary preparations, but unfortunately due to heavy rains during Navratri the plan did not work out whereby the clients have lost the motivation and are now back in WDC.

Despite such negative experiences, one of the clients showed interest in starting a chai and snacks stall in an industrial area near her village. Several discussions were held with the client during which we came to know that her 20 year old son is involved in transporting illegal liquor. This information made us give a thought to the idea of starting a chai lari near an industrial area. Our experience has been that bootlegging activity goes on under the pretext of such small businesses near industrial areas (Gujarat is a liquor prohibition State). After some serious discussions with the client, it was decided that she can start her snacks stall near her village school. Due to such variations and obstacles in setting up the business, the client is again feeling demotivated. However discussions are going on with client.

NGO placement

As mentioned above the clients are struggling hard to get self employed. In one such case, a client’s husband who is a life convict informed her not to get involved in any business and only associate with Prayas whereby the client did not want to venture further. Prayas has supported her to get a certificate in computer training after which the option of NGO placement was discussed with her. The client agreed to it and has been placed with an NGO working in the medical field. Her role of work is to assist the administrative staff of the organization. She has completed 2 months of work in the organization.

Clients placed through training agencies

Two types of clients are placed in outside training agencies

- Old WDC clients who wants to pursue specialized training
- Some clients who do not want to come to WDC due to various reasons, but want Prayas’s support for training to move ahead in life. 3 such clients are undergoing tailoring training.

Two of our old WDC clients are pursuing specialized training, one in tailoring and another has joined a 6 months Nursing Attendants’ Course at a Trust run hospital.

Case 1

Nilimaben is our old WDC client who approached Prayas due to some marital conflict. While at WDC, she undertook training in tailoring. As her marital problems were not resolved the client had gone to stay in her parents’ house which is in a distant village. Prayas worker encouraged her to explore for some government training in that area. She found about the Kaushalya Vardhan Kendra in a nearby village is run by ITI and there is also a private established training centre. The 2 months training fees of the ITI course and its material costs are borne by the government. During a visit, the worker gathered proper information and after a discussion with the client it was decided that the client would undertake both the trainings. The training at KVK will help her in getting a government certificate, and the private training will provide her with expert skills.

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Presently, the client has completed the government training course while the private training is still going on. She has completed blouse making and now she is learning designer blouse making.

The client’s family is also very supportive with her brother gifting her a sewing machine to practice at home. The client has started taking personal orders also.

*Case 2*

Prayas had supported Rasilben for training, legal aid and follow up in court, obtaining support from the family and for her daughter’s education. Later, the client found a job for herself and became self-independent. Prayas had continued supporting her in court as she had filed a maintenance case against her husband. Since the issue of her working and earning was proving a hurdle in her court case, she left her job. The court granted her maintenance, but her husband is not abiding by the court orders. She has also filed for recovery of maintenance.

Since she was in need for a job again, she contacted Prayas. During the discussion with her, she expressed a desire for undertaking training in nursing. It was decided that both Prayas and the client would together explore for resources with regard to this training. Until then, it was decided that she could go for a beauty parlour training at Kaushalya Vardhan Kendra as she already has some skill in this vocation and also takes individual orders for the same. It was felt that doing another course will sharpen her skills, and moreover she can get a government certificate which can be useful. She has completed 2 months course at Kaushalya Vardhan Kendra.

Meanwhile it was found out that in Hansot taluka of Bharuch district there is a Trust run hospital which has a nursing attendant course. Initially, the worker and the client visited the hospital to explore the atmosphere and gather information. Once client liked the hospital, at a later date the worker along with the client and her family visited the hospital. As the hospital is around 35-40 kms away from Bharuch and there are no direct connection for transportation, the client would have to travel a lot. Moreover the training timing is from 8.30a.m. to 5p.m.

The client has a small daughter who needs to be attended to. For successful completion of the training, it was very important that the client be convinced of efforts she will have to take, and also the cooperation of her family to take care of her daughter as well as additional household responsibilities because the client will be away from home for long hours.

As both the client and her family were prepared to take the responsibility, the training has started from 18th March’14. The hospital does not take any fees for the course, but the client is being given a stipend and travelling allowance by Prayas.

*Exposure visit for clients*

Exposure visit was organized for clients at Shroff Foundation Trust, Kalali, Dist. Vadodara. 6 clients and Prayas workers visited The Shardadevi Gramudhyog Utpadak Sahakari Mandali Ltd. It is a project initiated by Shroff Foundation Trust. It’s a co-operative wholly owned and managed by tribal women. They have developed a brand “Viveka” which offers a wide range of handicraft products like bags, batwas, accessories, gift articles, corporate gifts etc. The visit proved quite motivating for our clients as they could identify and relate to the issues which the women faced while developing the organization. After visiting the organization, the client also visited Kamati Baug Zoo at Vadodara.
Production activities at WDC

During this year, 34 clients took benefit of WDC activities out of which 7 clients are regular trainees at WDC. We have been observing that gradually the number of WDC clients has been decreasing because reference from the police station has decreased as our worker is not sitting full time at police station. Another reason is the after care clients from Sub jail are not reaching WDC as many of them are from distant places where transportation and communication is a problem.

Thus, it was decided that along with activities at WDC, the activity teacher at WDC can also look at production, which can help Prayas for income generation. Discussions are going on along these lines.

In the process of initiating Production Unit, the worker placed at WDC is exploring various options in terms of products, raw material, designing of the products, marketing etc. Since, Bharuch is an industrial place we have to explore the markets of Vadodara, Surat, Ahmedabad, Saurastra and Kutch for understanding trends in product designing, marketing and related raw material. It was decided that worker will try to gather the necessary information before venturing into starting the production unit.

Thus, 2 workers from Bharuch Unit and 1 worker from Mumbai Production Unit visited Ahmedabad in month of February’14. Gujarat State Handloom & Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd. had organized a National Craft Fair & Summit, 2014 at Ahmedabad, where organizations from all over India had participated and exhibited their products. The workers spent a complete day in exploring various product designs and understand the marketing strategies of these organizations. Discussion with the organizations known to Prayas were held in regard to the pricing of our products and gaining information regarding the markets where raw material could be procured.

Workers also visited National Institute of Design (NID) and met faculty-in-charge of student placement. The objective of this visit was to discuss placement of NID students in the Prayas Production Unit who could help Prayas with new designs and innovation in the products. The faculty agreed to the possibility but she informed that Prayas has to pay stipend plus accommodation to the student, if a student is placed at Prayas.

With the similar objective, workers visited Ms. Alka Karandikar at Valsad who was ex-faculty at National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT). While at NIFT, she was in charge of developing jute products. Since Prayas also manufactures jute products this visit proved quite fruitful. Discussions in regard to consultancy services to Prayas Production Unit were conducted with her.

Workers also visited raw material markets at Ahmedabad and Surat. After paying these initial visits, it was decided that the Bharuch WDC worker will initially try to design and make cloth bags, pouches, and work in coordination with Mumbai Unit to see possibility of marketing these products in Mumbai.

The next plan is to visit organizations in Kutch, who have success history of manufacturing and marketing handicraft products. This visit will also be planned in coordination with the Mumbai Unit.
Fund raising activities at Bharuch

1. The Bharuch Unit has contacted public sector companies like ONGC and NTPC for organizing sale of production unit products.
2. Prayas has approached some corporates for funds and are following up with them.
3. For school fees and books of clients’ children, Prayas has contacted individual donors.
4. Prayas has contacted college principals to get permission to organize sale of Prayas products.
Income Generation Unit / Prayas Production Unit

Orders
This year too, regular customers continued to place their orders for jute and cloth bags, files and folders for seminars, conferences, workshops and as corporate gifts. Bulk orders were received from TISS and Pratham Education Foundation. In order to meet this demand, some part of the orders was outsourced to women’s self-help groups or individuals from the community.

Training to women’s savings groups
Training was provided to women’s self-help groups that wanted to develop their income generating capacities. Following training, the women started taking work from Prayas on a piece-rate basis. This arrangement worked for Prayas, as it helped complete orders.

Emergency support to field expenses
The proceeds of the Unit are invested in field expenses, emergency needs of clients and staff e.g. hospitalization expenses, upcountry visits with clients, client’s house deposit, stipends, etc.

Turnover
Proceeds from sales through individual purchases and exhibition cum sales amounted to Rs. 817624.00
Staff Welfare and Staff Development

Inputs and outcomes
The details of staff members who have completed their further education with Prayas’s support (financial and organisational) are as follows:
- Completed Masters in Social Work = 4 staff members
- Appearing 2nd year Masters in Social Work = 4 staff members
- Appearing LLB (3rd Year) = 1 staff member
- Appearing LLB (1st Year) = 2 staff member
- Appearing 1st year in M.Com - 1 staff member
- Appearing S.Y.B.A - 1 staff member
- Completed Para Professional course - 1 staff member
- Completed NGO Management Course - 2 staff members

Prayas organised a two-day workshop and staff retreat at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Bandra (W), Mumbai, in July’13 to review its work and chalk out strategies to deal with challenges faced in the field. The retreat was also planned to discuss issues facing Prayas in the wake of its registration as an independent legal entity. The agenda of the retreat included:
- Discussion on Prayas Rehabilitation Foundation
- Workers’ Security Vis a Vis the System
- Reconstitution of Committees: Staff Welfare Committee, Programme Committee and Core Committee
- Appointment of Asst. Project Directors (Male and Female Units), and Unit Coordinators

The retreat helped in resolving many pending issues within Prayas and has given a boost to the work being done at the field and policy level.

The on-going work at Prayas is continuously reviewed and strategized at the field and policy levels through the following ways:
- Regular meetings of the staff with the Project Advisor, especially relating to field and programmatic aspects of the work.
- Regular meetings with the Project Directors to take stock of and review work at field and policy levels.
- Fortnightly staff meetings to discuss organisational and policy matters.
- Unit meetings – weekly, fortnightly or monthly, as per need to take stock of day-to-day work and also maintain accountability within the team.

Prayas staff is encouraged to attend and participate in workshops and training programmes organised by various organisations, based on their interest and Prayas’s need. The course fees are shared between the staff member/s and Prayas. Interested members identify such programmes and approach the Staff Welfare Committee which takes a final decision as to whether the member concerned should attend the programme as part of his/her personal development (by bearing the cost of the programme and taking leave) or as part of Prayas’s organisational development (in which case Prayas shares the costs and also sanctions duty leave).