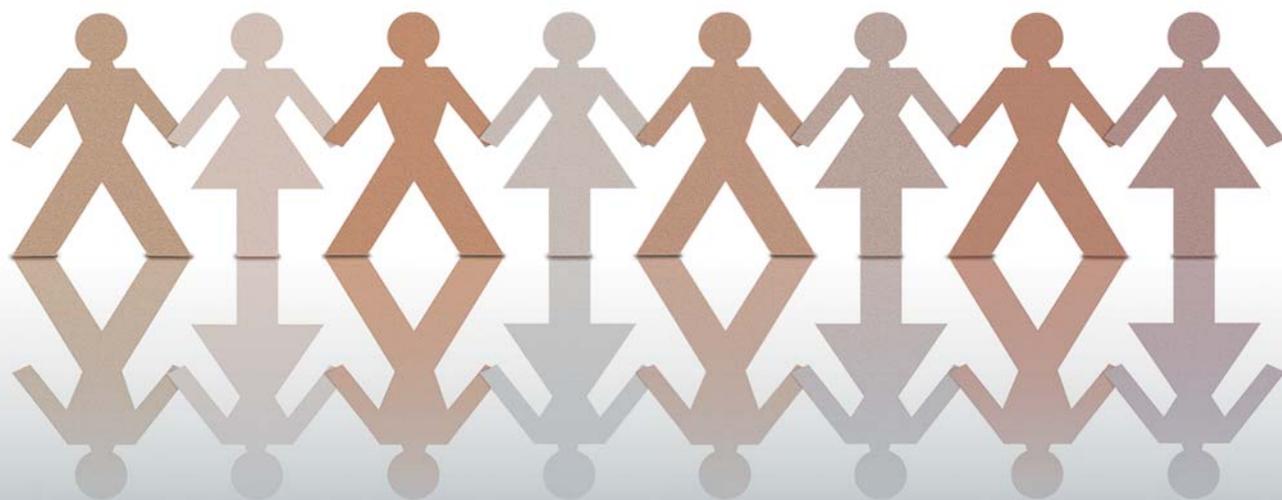


# ● Community Participation in Prisons

*A civil society perspective*



Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

working for the **practical realisation** of human rights in the countries of the Commonwealth

# Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) is an independent, non-partisan, international non-governmental organisation, mandated to ensure the *practical* realisation of human rights in the countries of the Commonwealth. In 1987, several Commonwealth professional associations founded CHRI. They believed that while the Commonwealth provided member countries a shared set of values and legal principles from which to work and provided a forum within which to promote human rights, there was little focus on the issues of human rights within the Commonwealth.

The objectives of CHRI are to promote awareness of and adherence to the Commonwealth Harare Principles, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other internationally recognised human rights instruments, as well as domestic instruments supporting human rights in Commonwealth member states.

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# ● Community Participation **in Prisons**

*A civil society perspective*

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# Foreword

Prison systems always throw up particular problems for reform with legislative majorities and public opinion slow to see the priority and seeing the diversion of funds as better spent elsewhere. However the problems facing our prisons seem especially great. While retributive punishment in penal philosophy has been replaced with ideas of rehabilitation and welfare elsewhere, the security oriented detention of our prison system has continued and fed the current system's obscurity.

Prisons also suffer from the knock-on-effects of problems further down the Criminal Justice System (CJS). Many police detentions are entirely unnecessary and delays in the processing of under-trials create problems of overcrowding that only exacerbate already existing poor conditions. Matters are not made any easier by the demoralisation of those who have the duty of running the prisons and looking after the prisoners. Prison officials should not be accountable beyond that which they have the power to address. Prison reform cannot be successful in isolation, but this cannot be an excuse for not attending to it for decades. A start has to be made somewhere; criticism of a prison service in which criminal justice, police and welfare policy all surface is not enough. There is a need for serious engagement.

Public inattention and apathy to reform the CJS cry out for civil society to give special attention to this neglected area. Individuals and groups who are knowledgeable and give their time and attention out of a concern for humanity, justice and fair-play are uniquely positioned to have a positive impact. Many try to bring relief through humanitarian interventions, while others are concerned to ensure prisoners' rights are safeguarded through provision of legal aid services. Other organisations seek to improve administrative systems through the training of judicial magistrates, or enhance general community participation through wider sensitisation and awareness programmes. Civil society is also best placed to experiment with rehabilitative and vocational training programmes to realise prisoners' rights to work and prepare them for life post release. These types of interventions need to be sustained and more innovative approaches need to be looked at.

The present report highlights the practice of NGOs working in prisons in 14 states across India, attesting to our own tradition of active citizenry. The study identifies many examples of best practice that should be replicated. However, it also identifies sustained rights-based interventions as in the minority, with the majority of community participation operating as charitable, providing relief or conducting recreational, educational, vocational or philanthropic activities.

Supreme Court and High Court judgments have been generous to prisoners. However these judgments are often left unimplemented in practice, or do not reach the lower levels of the judiciary that supervise the prison system. Many of the most pressing problems seen in our prisons: overcrowding; delays in trial; custodial violence; poor implementation of legal guidance and aid services; unnecessary incarcerations; high under-trial populations; and lack of social support and aftercare services result from their lack of implementation. Legal rights are not known about or not fully understood by prisoners, prison authorities or the civil society and so are left unused, such as rights to release of under-trials on personal bond as per section 436 and 436A or visitation rights that are highly underutilised.

Organisations that seek to assist both prisoners and prison administrations can make much greater impact through the promotion of legal standards and sustained rights-

based interventions. This involves increased awareness of the rights of both prisoners and willing NGOs so that both are empowered.

While all community involvement in prisons can be valuable, too many initiatives are sporadic or undertaken in isolation, without reference to, or coordination with, parallel interventions. With knowledge of rights providing a common page from which to read off, there is much virtue in working together to realise the needs and rights of prisoners. Active citizenry should be organised, coordinated and strategized responsibly to maximise its impact. Civil society should emphasize on learning from failures, replicating best practices and sustaining its efforts in providing a long-term solution to prison administration problems.

Reform also requires constructive dialogue between civil society organisations and prison staff. Community involvement in prisons needs to be appreciative of the ground realities that face prison staff (prison populations at twice their capacity or more, a lack of resources and lack of facilities) and of their legitimate concerns and expectations. This is not to excuse their acts of omission and commission but to engage with them to create an environment which privileges honesty, efficiency and the highest standards of administration and custodial care. Community intervention has potential to not only benefit prisoners but through reform of the system to benefit prison staff. Common goals and common ground need to be found on which to build future initiatives.

The present report is a collation of the kinds of work being done in prisons. It is by no means a complete compendium of every organisation working in the field but based rather on information provided voluntarily to the researchers. It provides a key-hole view of the nature of community participation in prisons. The report has allowed the authors to highlight concentrations, overlaps and neglected areas, as well as areas of concern and targets for future intervention. We hope that this will be a foundation for future coordination and dialogue, both amongst civil society organisations themselves and between civil society and those officially tasked with the responsibility and accountability, for the efficient functioning of the system.



Maja Daruwala  
Director, CHRI

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## Introduction

Punishment by imprisonment deprives the offender of his/her most fundamental human right to free movement and freedom of association. Imprisonment seeks to protect the community and to rehabilitate offenders. If the ideal of imprisonment is to rehabilitate the offender as a law-abiding citizen, it is the community (where the prisoner comes from and to which he/she will return after his/her release), which should be actively involved in the treatment during incarceration.

If imprisonment is to serve any function other than punishment, it is crucial to alter the way in which prisoners are treated in prison. A philosophy and practice must be encouraged which both respects the individual's rights and human dignity, and creates opportunities for the development of skills and abilities which will assist the offender to live a crime-free life upon release from prison. The attitude of the prison functionaries needs to be changed and the role of the prison officers needs to be redefined.

Ideally prisons function as a mechanism regulating protection and enforcement of a system of values and norms determined by society by means of a democratic process. Imprisonment teaches prisoners to refrain from their criminal behaviour whilst potential offenders are reminded that there is a price attached to crime. Eventually, prisons have become a place of low visibility, and because of their closed nature and the archaic laws that regulate them, it is getting more and more important to ensure that those subject to these regimes - the prisoners - are not neglected.

Of late, the idea that prison officials serve only to lock and unlock prisoners and to keep them secure, is getting replaced by a more inter-actionist approach. They are being given the responsibility to actively engage with prisoners and participate in their rehabilitation. Prison functionaries, who are conscious of their correctional and welfare roles, have learnt to regard prisoners as individuals and treat them as human beings. This is enough to invoke one to move beyond just a conceptual understanding of community involvement in prisons, to a more in-depth examination of why it is needed and how it will make a difference in the Criminal Justice System (CJS), to be seen as a priority in prison reform. These aims can be achieved only if need-based community involvement is put into practice on a regular basis, and not just left to the confines of a paper.



# Concept of Community Participation in Prisons

International trends have determined that offenders are sentenced to imprisonment for punishment and not as punishment. The aim should not be to punish offenders but to ensure the safety of the public and to reform the offender in preparation for his or her release into society.

Not many who have seen or been held in Indian prisons can seriously maintain the view that prisons are the best places to reform and rehabilitate prisoners. Not only do prisons create an artificial and restrictive regime but the prisoner is also de-humanized by the treatment and conditions experienced while in prison.

The appalling conditions in most prisons, such as severe overcrowding, lack of opportunities for vocational or occupational training, and absence of rehabilitation or family/community re-integration programs determine that most prisoners are unable to improve their prospects for their life after release. In fact, prisoners stand a better chance of improving their criminal skills than they do of increasing their ability to contribute economically to the community.

In spite of the existence of these general maladies in the prison system, it would not be appropriate to totally condemn the whole set-up. Obviously, there are difficulties of man-power, funds, training and right kind of attitude to deal with socially handicapped inmates, but all these ills need to be corrected with the joint effort of the government, the staff manning prison institutions and the people.

Recent developments in the country especially in states like Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Maharashtra have made it possible, albeit on a small scale, for the community to play a role in ensuring that a human rights culture in prisons is maintained and observed by those responsible for the handling and treatment of prisoners.

## What is Community Participation?

Community participation in prisons is a partnership between community, prison officials and the prisoners undergoing punishment, to assess, identify and implement the areas and possibilities of reform in prisons. Community participation in prisons will ensure that the gap between the expectations of community members and that of prison officials can be bridged by bringing the two in close contact and initiating a meaningful dialogue about the mutual problems and concerns. Unless this is done, both community and prison officials will continue to nurture a hostile attitude towards each other.

Examples of sporadic interest of some humane and welfare-minded individuals for the betterment of the life of offenders in prisons could be traced in the history of correctional work. Elizabeth Fry, an enthusiastic social worker of early nineteenth century and perhaps the first non-official person to show interest in the life of those incarcerated, had been persuaded by her companions and co-workers to make her visit to Newgate (prison for women) in Britain. At Christmas 1816 she started with her friends a selfless work for this absolutely neglected section of the society, and did it so well for several years that she is deservedly admired and remembered even today.

She organised regular visits and started a school for the prison children. She gave the women prisoners clothes, food and work.



"She demanded nothing in return but 'a voluntary subordination to the rule of sobriety, cleanliness and decent conversation'...To the surprise of the prison authorities she had her reward. *So sincerely sympathetic, so spontaneously tender, so understanding, and with a Christian outlook so refreshingly and completely without humbug and hypocrisy, she was accepted by most of these women, reduced as previously they had been by cruelty and neglect 'to the level of wild beasts', as a woman they could both respect and love.*"

It was a triumphant achievement but the example she set was followed by only a very few others. She was admired rather than imitated. The ideas of reformers such as Howard and his successor James Neild, the work of Sarah Martin who devoted her life for the welfare of prisoners in Yarmouth Gaol, and the services of Samuel Hoare, Thomas Fowell Buxton and Elizabeth Fry, who had formed the 'Society for the Reformation of Prison Discipline' in 1816, all alike were accorded scant respect by people whose sympathies lay more with Rev Sydney Smith who voiced his opinion unequivocally in the Edinburgh Review.

"Mrs Fry is an amiable excellent woman", he wrote, "...but hers is not the method to stop crimes. In prisons which are really meant to keep the multitude in order, and to be a terror to evil-doers, there must be no sharing of profits, no visiting of friends, no education but religious education, no freedom of diet, no weavers looms or carpenters benches. There must be great deal of solitude; coarse food; a dress of shame; hard incessant, irksome, eternal labour; a planned and regulated and unrelenting exclusion of happiness and comfort."<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, this echoes the voice and opinion of the majority of our society even today.

## Why do we need Community Participation?

Prisons in the country are secluded from the community, both physically and conceptually. The only interface that community has to prisons is through the defunct Prison Visiting System (PVS) or through the very few NGOs that have initiated reform work in prisons, either on a regular basis or on an event-to-event basis. Prisons operate as 'black boxes' or as a complex covert system. The community is aware of the fact that prisons exist and it has its set of expectations from prison officials. They are oblivious of the procedures, efforts and constraints that the prison officials function in. It is when prisons fail to function as expected; we try to make sense of the situation by applying our underlying scepticism towards prison officials and prisoners in general.

Obscurity to society has perhaps been the main reason why it has been so difficult and sluggish to bring about improvement in prison conditions. This obscurity results partly from the basic nature of prison institutions and partly from the predisposition of management combined with the complete disinterest of society in general.

*"On self-examination our society will find itself wanting in many respects, and will realize that there is a need for inculcating in the people at large an attitude of sympathy for the unfortunate members of the society who are socially and economically handicapped."*<sup>2</sup>

Prisons should be considered as an extension of the society. The argument for greater community involvement in prisons is that problems within prisons cannot be addressed in a meaningful way unless the community is involved together with prison administrators in an attempt to solve these problems.



<sup>1</sup> Christopher Hibbert (1963): *The Roots of Evil*; p. 154

<sup>2</sup> Report on the All India Committee of Jail Reforms 1980-1983, p. 255

To bring about sustainable reform in prisons, civil society involvement is imperative. Due to the closed nature of prisons, it has become a breeding ground for human rights violations. Places where prisons are open and accessible to a wide range of groups are more likely to be accountable and maintain international human rights standards. Prisons are less likely to conceal human rights abuses if members of the community are regularly visiting prisons and interacting with prisoners.

For successful community involvement in prisons to occur, both community groups and prison officials have to work together, making joint decisions to achieve a better acceptance of each other. Since in India, 'Prisons' fall under 'State' subject in the Constitution, there is no federal prison policy, and the administration and management of prisons is subject to regional or provincial policies. There is a need for a process of mutual cooperation and coordination between prison administration and community groups, which would see the community in each region involved in deciding the extent of community involvement in correctional processes; and also in creation of accountability of such groups in the process. This would ensure a better working relationship between the prison staff and community, and prevent them from having a hostile attitude towards each other. Increased cooperation may result in improved perception on both sides, with prison administrators being willing and able to relinquish some of their controlling role in favour of welfare activities.

For any non-operational rule or provision under law, prison staff generally assign the responsibility to the lack of resources. Prisons being the lowest priority on the portfolio of the government, inappropriate allocation of resources is a major problem. Community members can help the plight of prison staff by channelising, better allocating human and material resources and suggesting innovative ideas of engaging prisoners for their long-term benefits.

It is therefore the need of the day that prison administration seeks and solicits the services of community to:

- ◆ educate the society about what prisons can or cannot do;
- ◆ make the functioning of prisons transparent;
- ◆ protect, educate and advocate prisoner' rights and duties;
- ◆ adhere to international human rights standards in the treatment of prisoners; and
- ◆ ensure better allocation of resources.

## Prisons & the Community – The Many Forms of Partnership

Creating community support for prisons begins by working closely with structures or groups that normally report on or inspect local prison facilities. These not only look after the rate of imprisonment, victim rehabilitation but also help ameliorate the stigma and exclusion surrounding the event of imprisonment. The need for community involvement was perhaps foreseen by the framers of the Prisons Act a hundred years ago and therefore they slid a provision in the fag end of the Act that include structures such as the Prison Visiting Committees (Non Official Visitors). Civil society NGOs are crucial components of a community involvement philosophy. It is also for this reason that some kind of extra-departmental and social intervention has been sought through the appointment of visitors of prison from outside the prison set-up. Some prisons are an example of the best utilisation of the resources available, and it is educative to see them. Prison visitors of the state should in small batches be given an opportunity to visit such prisons to see how they function and how those conditions can be emulated in other prisons.



The All India Committee on Jail Reforms recommended that public participation in prevention of crime and treatment of offenders must be made a part of our national policy on prisons. However, these recommendations have not been implemented. The Report has meticulously laid down the selection procedure and criteria that should be considered while engaging representatives of the community. Communities need to be involved to extend all possible help and cooperation to the treatment devices and rehabilitation programmes that enable an offender to return to society as a normal citizen.

Community participation in prisons can be two fold, namely collaboration between community members and prison staff and secondly, community based rehabilitation programmes for deviants.

The first form of community participation is direct collaboration between community members and prison staff in such components of prisoners' treatment programme where the security of prisons is not affected. Mutual exchange of information between prison authorities and the community will be the cornerstone of a long-term partnership and assist in clearing biases and assumptions of both concerned. This will also encourage a better acceptance from both sides. Prison officials who have closely interacted with prisoners are powerhouses of tacit knowledge about prisons, prisoners and law governing the two. The knowledge needs to be shared with the community. While building partnership, emphasis should be placed on the needs of the community and that of the prisoners. These interventions include advocating for prisoners' rights, monitoring adherence to human rights standards, educating the prison staff about amendments to existing law, sharing international best practices and innovative success stories with the prison staff and collaborating with other like minded NGOs to ameliorate the reform process.

Prison staff can also collaborate with NGOs to educate the public about the actions being taken to reform prisons and prisoners. This would secure the transparency of the prison system and help the community in understanding the limitations of prison management and the efforts being made by prison staff.

Community based rehabilitation programmes for deviants in prisons can range from humanitarian approaches helping them build a strong foundation for themselves, targeting spiritual development, physical and mental health, education and job placement, and involvement in community services. This involves direct interaction of NGOs with the prisoners. Programs can be customised for children, juveniles, adults and the elderly. NGOs have also involved themselves in providing family counselling, and providing means of easy transition for the prisoner back to the society. This includes performing a need-based assessment of the prisoner, and providing him the appropriate training and skill that might become a sustainable means of livelihood when he reintegrates in the society. NGOs can also educate members of society to make them more accepting of ex-prisoners. The Mulla Committee Report identifies the need for this when it mentions: "The principal objective is that an inmate should be imparted such skills and attitudes as can facilitate his resettlement in society after his release."<sup>3</sup>

The Guiding Notes on Prison Reforms<sup>4</sup>, list the many forms that civil society involvement can take:

- ◆ providing humanitarian aid to prisoners, such as food and medicines;
- ◆ assisting the social reintegration of released prisoners;

<sup>3</sup> Report on the All India Committee of Jail Reforms 1980-1983, p. 143

<sup>4</sup> Guiding Notes on Prison Reforms (2004), compiled by King 's College, London: International Centre for Prison Studies



- ◆ assisting with prison activities such as education and sport;
- ◆ simple befriending;
- ◆ monitoring adherence to human rights standards;
- ◆ using the law to protect prisoners' rights;
- ◆ carrying out non-partisan campaigning; and
- ◆ providing public education.

These interventions need to be incorporated at a statutory level. Community involvement in prison requires the active and voluntary participation of the public, and it requires prison officials to respond in an appropriate way. Unless the prison officials are made aware of the importance of community participation, they will always look upon community involvement as an interference in their work place.

## Need for Community Education about Prisons and Prisoners

The need for community education about prison and prisoners is of utmost importance both to the community and the prisons as the community is unaware of events and programmes happening inside prisons. The community needs to be informed about the purpose of imprisonment, prison programmes, rehabilitation of offenders and efforts made by the institution for the re-integration of prisoners into the community. Some sections of the community have speculative misconceptions about prisoners and prison treatment. Through education the community can change its view about prisons and prisoners.

Even today one could find a significant number of persons working in the criminal justice system, or in the open society, who would endorse the view that the image of a prison must inspire awe and fear in the minds of offenders. They hold the view that life in prisons should be demonstrably torturous to deter a prospective criminal, that reformation of an offender is impossible and that rehabilitation is a hollow imagination of some non-practical persons. In order to generalise their perception they have a few examples to quote. They forget that their views are more sentimental than scientific. Studies in social science have proved beyond doubt that harshness of punishment has never been a deterrent to a prospective lawbreaker. While the continuance of death penalty for murder has not curbed homicide rate, the abolition of this harsh punishment in a large number of federating states in the U.S.A has not increased the number of murders there.

To those who do not believe in improving prison conditions or in the conservation of basic human rights in custody, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru once wrote<sup>5</sup> –

*“Another error which people indulge in is the fear that if gaol (jail) conditions are improved people will flock in! This shows a singular ignorance of human nature. No one wants to go to prison however good the prison might be. To be deprived of liberty and family life and friends and home surroundings is a terrible thing. It is well known that the Indian peasant will prefer to stick to his ancestral soil and starve rather than go elsewhere to better his condition. To improve prison conditions does not mean that prison life should be made soft; it means that it should be made human and sensible.”*

Cruelty does generate cruelty. It undoubtedly has the tendency to squeeze all compassion out of a person and to make him unsocial. Prison conditions must therefore adhere to certain norms in which an inmate could be prevented from being dehumanised. Rules

<sup>5</sup> Jawahar Lal Nehru: *India and the World* – Prison Land, pp.108-129.



have, therefore, been framed and amended from time to time to achieve a minimum level of civility in the management of prisons.

We all know that the society itself plays an important role in inducing some people into deviant behaviour, and that a large number of prisoners do not commit the second crime after their release because they have had the lesson of their life in a single incarceration. In general, community members are unaware of the high representation of under-trial prisoners in prisons and exceptionally low percentage of hard-core habitual offenders. According to the statistics gathered by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), MHA, the number of inmates in prisons who had two or more previous convictions at the end of the year 2005 was only 5.2 per cent of the total convict population in the country. Crime in India (2003) by NCRB quotes a high acquittal rate of 60 per cent in India. This indicates that a major proportion of prisoners languish in prisons without being finally sentenced to imprisonment. The loss of liberty by itself is sufficient to prevent a common man from indulging in violation of rules of the society. Members of the community should be empowered by educating them about prisoners' residuary rights and playing a part in shaping their incarceration environment.

Resources and expertise to local communities should be provided in order to promote assistance in their engagement with the prison authorities. NGOs that are presently working for reform in corrections should assist in this process. Community workshops should be organised whereby local prison officials and the community can be involved in discussing establishment of a working relationship.

## Accountability and Transparency

Transparency and accountability must be seen as cornerstones of an open and democratic society. The public needs to be informed and involved in the process of initiating change within the Department of Prisons. The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) undertaken by the government, which is regarded as the vehicle towards nation building, also underpins the concept of accountability and the role of civil society in influencing government policies and programmes within it (now enforced through the RTI Act in India). Reconstruction should extend also to the upliftment of prisoners' lives as members of the wider society.

For the rights and needs of the prisoners and those of the community to be met, there must be clear, visible accountability of the prisons department. The pre-requisite for more community involvement in prisons is a set of effective mechanisms for ensuring that prisons are more accountable to the community they serve. A responsible prison service is one where its priorities and methods are in agreement with community values.

The Non-Official Prison Visitors System must become operational on a regular and stable basis. This would give content to the principle of transparency and accountability as adopted by the government. Under this scheme, appointed members of the community have free access to conduct unannounced visits through which random checks can be made by independent laypersons. This system coupled with the involvement of the civil society, if implemented sincerely, would take the level of community participation to new heights and would serve to reassure the community about the conditions under which prisoners are held.

## Objective of Scoping Study

CHRI, together with Prayas, undertook a National Scoping Study of NGOs and CBOs working for prison reform from across 14 states. These states include Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Tamil Nadu.



The study highlights examples of best practices ranging from grass roots level, policy framing to law framing level. It is hoped that as a broad and representative view of work currently underway in these states to supplement prison administration, the study will provide a foundation from which to build a collaborative and organised reform programme.

The aim of this Scoping Study is to attempt a description of the current level of community involvement and participation in prisons, which could play a primary role in policy formulation on correctional matters and prison reforms. The functions and duties of existing NGOs working in prisons can be evaluated, highlighting their role in the perspective of the basic custodial character of these institutions. In the past, obstructive policies have kept the issue of prisons and prisoners out of reach of the community. Civil society has never had any say in the running of government institutions.

The main objectives of the Scoping Study that will create a knowledge base to enable and strengthen community participation or involvement in prisons are:

- a. To prepare a list of NGOs/CBOs working and intervening in prisons to help prisoners in some way or other;
- b. To collect and collate information on prison related interventions and issues tackled by such organisations; and
- c. To share information among other players/stakeholders working around prison issues including policy makers, media, civil rights groups, social work/law colleges and donors.

This study will help provide a platform to these NGOs in forming an alliance and working strategically for the rehabilitation of this vulnerable group. It will also strategise the way in which this immense pool of resources can be put to use in a more effective and efficient manner. CHRI intends to widely share the methods that have yielded results with the other civil society groups working across the country. By conducting this study we have scoped who these groups are, where they are located and the parameters of their work. This will serve as an important tool in promoting reform work and bringing momentum to the level of intervention and community participation in prisons.

## Methodology

The study comprises organisations that were involved in prison work in the year 2006-2007 across fourteen states aforementioned. The list was obtained from multiple sources including prisons, the Office of the Inspector General of Prisons of the respective states, some informal sources and word of mouth. The team also obtained information from organisations working in certain prisons aware of other similar organisations. Presently, the study includes 129 NGOs across 14 states. Representatives of CHRI and Prayas travelled across these states and personally interviewed these organisations to understand the nature of their involvement in prisons. The compilation will expand as we are able to reach to more NGOs in these 14 states or when we decide to study other states for this purpose.

An extensive questionnaire (see Annexure D) comprising 27 questions was used to obtain relevant information ranging from grass root level, policy level to law framing level. The study analysed the involvement of these organisations at various levels as well as the types of collaboration that they undergo while working towards their goal. These NGOs were questioned about what “prison reform” means to them, the challenges they face in accomplishing their goals and the type of training that would benefit them in achieving their goals.



## Capacity Building Requirements of NGOs

A significant number of NGOs interviewed acknowledged their lack of understanding of the justice system, penal regulations, prison rules and the policy of prison management. The NGOs expressed their need for further training in certain specific areas. This helped us at CHRI draw out a preliminary TNA (Training Needs Analysis) which would help enhance and strengthen the NGOs role and add more value to prison work.

Some of these needs are:

- ◆ Basic understanding of behavioural psychology;
- ◆ Legal Awareness, knowledge and skills to handle legal issues;
- ◆ Fund raising; managing micro-finance and creating Self Help Groups (SHGs);
- ◆ Knowledge about NOVs;
- ◆ Knowledge of methods and tools of research;
- ◆ Social counselling of women prisoners;
- ◆ Selection of employable skills for prison inmates;
- ◆ Market linkages;
- ◆ Project implementation; and
- ◆ Research methods.

### Strengths of the Study:

At present there is no study on the forms of community participation in correctional work in India that encompasses grassroots, policy making and law framing processes. We believe that this study would be a useful tool in making a need-based assessment on the type of community participation that should be encouraged in prisons in the country. It will serve as an information base about the inherent forms of community participation in prisons. It will encourage NGOs working in isolation, to create cohesiveness with other NGOs through active participation and cooperation. It would also bring forth the types of intervention and best practices being undertaken by prison officials in other states, who otherwise stay aloof. They could collaborate to share and allocate available human and material resources. Collecting and publishing information about prison systems can be an effective strategy to keep prison reforms on the public agenda and build up well informed public and policy makers.

### Limitations of the Study:

It was challenging to approach NGOs for obtaining information from them. Negative attitude and the lack of cooperation from some quarters was a major hindrance to the timely completion of this study. Most of the NGOs were apprehensive about sharing information about their involvement in prisons, to the extent that some of them blatantly refused to be a part of this study. This report is not a comprehensive compendium of NGOs. CHRI will make future additions to this report. Those NGOs that were cooperative did take a long time to respond to our queries. Another time consuming phase came when we took the pain of verifying the data we are publishing about the NGOs.

Due to the inherent subjectivity of the information gathered, and the study being based on qualitative subjective data, it was difficult to collate and classify the data for further analysis, and to generalise the results.



# The Prayas Experience

Prayas was involved in the National Scoping Study, in collaboration with CHRI. Prayas collected data for the study from the eight States in southern and western India – Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. In Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, three other organisations assisted in the data collection process – VARHAD, Sahyadri and Sudhar.

The objective behind this study was to identify the number of NGOs working in prisons in different parts of the country, the type of interventions, the range of services being offered, the nature of staff or personnel involved, regularity of visits, and problems faced by them in doing their work.

The study was also seen as a precursor to create a platform for:

- ◆ Sharing of experiences, ideas and problems;
- ◆ Issue based lobbying for law and policy change;
- ◆ Identification of training needs;
- ◆ Exploring the role of social work intervention in prisons; and
- ◆ Working towards a policy for NGO interventions in prisons and demanding for a Scheme for grant-in-aid to NGOs.

Prayas took this opportunity to get an understanding of the attempts made by organisations and individuals in different states, working in prisons, and to learn from their experiences. The objective of the study was also to understand their opinions and views regarding legal rights of prisoners and learn more about rehabilitation through their experiences. The process for data collection involved initially contacting the I. G. Prisons of the respective state, to get permission for doing the study and to get the contact addresses of the local organisations. Following is the table showing the classification of the organisations according to the services being offered by them:

## The data collected was as follows:

Sr. No	States	Types of organisations							Total
		Moral/spiritual activities	Support to children of	Rehabilitation work & activities	Health & medical support	Education / training	Legal Aid	Generic prison based work	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	1	0	1	2	0	1	7
2.	Goa	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
3.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
4.	Karnataka	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	6
5.	Kerala	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
6.	Madhya Pradesh	2	0	0	0	3	2	1	8
7.	Maharashtra	5	0	0	2	4	1	2	14
8.	Tamil Nadu	0	2	2	1	0	0	2	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>52</b>



It is visible from the above table that the organisations are working on varied issues such as:

- ◆ Moral or spiritual guidance/instruction, such as conducting spiritual discourses, individual preaching and counselling;
- ◆ Children of prisoners with regard to their shelter, health and education, etc;
- ◆ Women and youth rehabilitation activities;
- ◆ Health-related activities such as conducting health camps, remedial health check-ups, etc;
- ◆ Education of inmates, conducting literacy classes, coaching classes for the Open University courses, organising vocational training activities, etc;
- ◆ Legal guidance, referral services and legal aid; and
- ◆ Generic support to prisoners such as occasionally organising lectures, celebrating festivals and attempting one time activities.

### Some Observations:

- ◆ Most organisations are working on providing spiritual/moral guidance, religious preaching and counselling;
- ◆ There are a number of organisations who are involved in organising activities in prisons on festivals (Raksha Bandhan, Diwali, Christmas celebrations, etc) and on occasions such as Independence and Republic Day;
- ◆ Some of the organisations work as per their specialised skills such as medical aid, organising medical camps, etc;
- ◆ The organisations providing support to children of prisoners work on the basis of sympathy towards this group. Very few organisations are working towards a policy for these children;
- ◆ The efforts of NGOs working to bring in the Open University is a milestone in the field of education of convicted inmates; and
- ◆ Most organisations working in this field have no support from the community as well as the government. There is no scheme or the project of the government to support this cause.

### The obstacles we faced:

- ◆ The time available to do this study was not sufficient. It took a long time to establish the database of NGOs working in this field, as their addresses and contact numbers were not available in a systematic manner. Often, it was only after reaching a place that contact was able to be established, leading to delays in data collection and strain on scarce resources;
- ◆ There is no system of feedback about the quality of work done by NGOs with the prison authorities. One had to therefore move from district to district to identify organisations who were working with a serious approach;
- ◆ Coordinating with organisations was difficult as the orientation differs from organisation to organisation. Some of the organisations did not want to participate in the study as they were suspicious of the motive behind doing the study;
- ◆ The understanding of prison reforms or rehabilitation is diffused. It differs from one organisation to another, as per the availability of expertise, scope of their work, and availability of financial resources and manpower. Hence, questions relating to these areas could not be uniformly addressed by the respondents; and
- ◆ The organisations working with the ideology of mental or spiritual renewal do not have a common approach or programme. Therefore, a large number of organisations who were working in this area tended to differ on what constitutes moral or spiritual renewal and its programmatic content. This sometimes made it difficult to put their work under one category.



## Road for the Future

This study has revealed that there is an urgent need to focus on:

- ◆ Legal rights of prisoners;
- ◆ Rehabilitation of prisoners;
- ◆ Care and support for children of prisoners;
- ◆ Regular interaction between civil society organisations in multi-layered, regional, intra and inter-state levels, including case-referral; and
- ◆ Building confidence in each other in a step by step manner, through regular interaction and mutual support, towards building a platform or lobby on common areas of interest.

Concept





# List of States and NGOs

## National Scoping Study: Compendium of NGOs

### Andhra Pradesh (7)

1. Amma Foundation
2. Jan Shikshana Sanstha
3. NACO-DFID Support Grant - PSH Prison Project
4. National Academy of Construction
5. Prison Fellowship India
6. Prison Ministry India
7. Sri Venkateswara Charitable Trust

### Chhattisgarh (9)

1. Abhiyan
2. Bharatiya Jain Sangathan
3. CARE-India
4. Lakshya
5. Rotary Club
6. Sant Sri Asaramji Ashram
7. Satyam Jeevan Vidya Kendra
8. Vasudha Mahila Manch
9. Yuva Chetna Mahila Mandal

### Delhi (32)

1. Aids Awareness Group (AAG)
2. Academy of Tableegh
3. An Association for Scientific Research on Addictions (AASRA)
4. ARMAN
5. Art of Living
6. Asha Ki Kiran
7. Bharati College
8. Community Aid and Sponsorship Programme (CASP)
9. Chetanalaya
10. Civil Defense Delhi
11. Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)
12. Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan
13. Family Vision
14. International Center for Women and Child (ICWC)
15. International Lawyers' Corporation (ILC)
16. India Vision Foundation
17. Kamala Jagriti Manch
18. Lions Club International
19. Mahila Pratiraksha Mandal
20. Prajapati Brahmakumari
21. Prison Fellowship India
22. Prison Ministry India
23. Raj Vidya Kender
24. Sahaj Yoga
25. Scope Plus
26. SHRAM
27. Shri Yoga Vedant Seva Samiti
28. Sawan Kirpal Ruhani Mission



29. Sterlite Foundation
30. Vidyajyoti College of Theology
31. Vipassana Sansthan Sadhna
32. Vishvas Foundation

## Goa (3)

1. Help-n-Help Charitable Trust
2. Prison Ministry India
3. Rishta

## Gujarat (1)

1. Baroda Citizen's Council

## Himachal Pradesh (2)

1. Human Rights Law Network
2. Rotary Club

## Karnataka (6)

1. CSR J.K.Tyres (Mysore)
2. Janodaya
3. Meed Academy and Reform of Oppressed Forum (MAROOF)
4. Prison Ministry India
5. Sneha Jyothi (Sneha Jyothi Rehabilitation Centre)
6. Society Care for Indigent (Socare-Ind)

## Kerala (6)

1. Chinmaya Mission
2. Correctional India and Aswasa Bhawan
3. Jail Evangelism Ministry
4. Jesus Fraternity
5. Prison Fellowship India
6. Prison Gospel Mission

## Madhya Pradesh (11)

1. Abhiyan
2. Gayatri Shaktipeeth
3. Government Women Polytechnic
4. Human Rights Law Network
5. Khushboo Pariyojana 'Prakalp'
6. Learning Resource Development Centre
7. Marg
8. Nehru Yuva Kendra
9. Prison Ministry of India
10. Savigya
11. Sudhar

## Maharashthra (18)

1. India Center for Human Rights & Law (ICHRL)
2. Ideal Relief Committee Trust
3. Indian Social Services Unit of Education
4. Kendra Sayojak Yeshvantrao Mukta Vidyapeth
5. Missionaries A. Charities
6. Navjeevan Mandal
7. Prajapati Brahmakumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalyaya - Thane
8. Prajapati Brahmakumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalyaya - Nanded
9. Pratisad Foundation Ratnagiri



10. Prayas
11. Red Swastik Society
12. Roman Catholic Direction Sansthan
13. Saathi
14. Social, Educational Youth Society (SAHYADRI)
15. Sahyog Trust
16. Sanjivini Sanstha
17. Social Aspiration for Participatory Reforms by Evolved Manpower (SAPREM)
18. Voluntary Action for Rehabilitation and Development (VARHAD)

#### **Rajasthan (12)**

1. Academy for Socio-Legal Studies
2. Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Parivar
3. Indian Association for Prison, Probation and After-Care (IAPPA)
4. Institute of Human Rights Studies
5. Jeevan Jyoti Association
6. Legal Helpline Society
7. National Muslim Women's Welfare Society
8. People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL)
9. Prison Ministry India / Diocese of Ajmer
10. Rajasthan University Women's Association (RUWA)
11. Rotary Club
12. Shilpayan

#### **Tamil Nadu (7)**

1. Akhil Bharatiya Organization for Development Education (ABODE)
2. Bishop Appasamy College of Science
3. Imayam Social Welfare Association (ISWA)
4. Krupa
5. Organization for Rural Development (ORD)
6. Society for the Education and Economic Development (SEED)
7. Sisters of St. Annes

#### **Uttarakhand (11)**

1. Arya Samaj - Haldwani
2. Arya Samaj - Nainital
3. Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan
4. Human Rights Law Network
5. Manav Seva Samiti / Manav Adhikar Sauraksha Parishad
6. Parvatiya Abhirang Natya Academy
7. Pragati Purna Samiti
8. Tell Asia Ministries, Inc.
9. Victory Churches of India
10. State Resource Centre for Adult Education
11. Sterlite Foundation

#### **Uttar Pradesh (4)**

1. Aasha Kiran – Prison Ministry India
2. Nari Sewa Samiti
3. National Council of Women in India
4. Taru Chaya





# Amma Foundation

**Address** : 10-69/1, New Gaddiannaram  
Dilsukhnagar, Hyderabad  
Andhra Pradesh - 500060

**Contact Person** : N. Anil Kumar  
**Designation** : President

**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 040-64515251  
Mobile: +91-9246576070

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Organising cultural events in prisons; and occasionally distributing food among prisoners.

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## **Mission & Aims:**

- ♦ The organisation provides living accommodation and education to orphans and children of surviving single parents;
- ♦ It conducts entertainment programmes and cultural shows in prisons; and
- ♦ On selected occasions, it distributes food, fruits and other legally permissible consumables among prisoners.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

Amma Foundation has been running for the past two years. It admits children between the ages of 12-18 years. Necessary funds for running the home are mainly diverted from the profits accruing the organisers' business or are raised through business contacts. Due to shortage of funds the institution has no attendants. Children manage the institution by sharing the responsibility of cooking, cleaning, washing and other sundry activities necessary for a common living. With this aspect in mind some older children are admitted to handle these tasks.

The organisation conducts cultural programmes for children with the active support of other NGOs who willingly sponsor or help in such activities.

The organisation has conducted marriages of disabled persons living in the society by bearing all the expenses for their wedding.

Courtesy Foundation, an NGO based in Bangalore and having an office in Hyderabad, voluntarily bears all the expenses on food and food supplements of inmates residing in the homes run by this organisation.

The Foundation also distributes carrom boards, soccer balls and other such products to encourage the inmates to be involved in recreational activities. It also provides uniform and educational material to the children of prisoners.

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# Jan Shikshana Sanstha

<b>Address</b>	: UCD Section Adult Education Municipal Corporation Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh
<b>Contact Person</b>	: Pullipatti Durga Rao
<b>Designation</b>	: Municipal Literacy Organiser
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Mobile: +91-9848627711 E-mail: pulipati_aksara@yahoo.co.in

## Key Prison Activities:

Promoting adult education in prisons.

## Mission & Aims:

The aim of this project is to facilitate education of prisoners.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Adult Education is a wing of the State Education Department. Jan Shikshana Sanstha has undertaken the project of adult education to prison inmates with the cooperation and support of the prison department of Andhra Pradesh. The State Education Department started a project Parents Educated by Pupils (PEP) in which 4000 children are participating all over the state. These children are given initial orientation training and some educational material to take up the work of spreading literacy among elderly members of the society. Some of these voluntary workers go to prisons to promote adult education among inmates. The Adult Education section holds regular meetings of these volunteers to review their progress.

## Strategy/Approach:

With the help of volunteers selected from amongst prisoners, some senior class students impart literary skills to the illiterate prisoners. They search for some literate prisoners in the jail and then select some of them as volunteers depending on their length of sentence. These literate prisoners are given basic training on skills to deal with inmates and to handle and teach them. The programme focuses on how to impart minimum reading skills through recognition of alphabets and small words. They are also taught counting, writing names and other small words of day-to-day usage so that they can manage their affairs without depending too much on others.

Department of Education provides necessary educational material such as slates, pencils, books for conducting classes. They also conduct tests and examinations to build confidence of participants and to invoke the spirit of competition. Those obtaining good marks or showing better skills in educational games are suitably rewarded.

To maintain the confidentiality of prisoners and to promote safe implementation of the programme, teachers are prohibited from asking personal case details of prisoners.

The organisation also conducts vocational training programmes for women prisoners.

## Major Achievements:

The organisation has won the Best Municipal Literacy Organiser award from the District Collector of Vijaywada.



**Difficulties at Work:**

Due to the floating nature of under-trial population in prisons, it is difficult to run the programme with such regularity as is needed for a successful teaching activity.



# NACO-DFID Support Grant (PSH Prison Project)

- Address** : PSH Project (Hyderabad)  
State Jail for Women  
Chanchalguda, Hyderabad  
Andhra Pradesh
- Contact Person** : G.Prashanti  
**Designation** : Project Coordinator
- Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 040-24411148  
Mobile: +91-9347595341  
E-mail: prashanti\_sagar143@yahoo.com
- Address** : PSH Project (Vijaywada)  
Vijaywada District Jail  
Gandhi Nagar, Vijaywada 520003  
Andhra Pradesh
- Contact Person** : Srinivas Rao  
**Designation** : Project Coordinator
- Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 0866-2574236
- Address** : PSH Project (Rajamundhary)  
Rajamundhary Central Jail  
Rajamundhary, East Godavari 533103  
Andhra Pradesh
- Contact Person** : C.H.A. Ramana  
**Designation** : Project Coordinator
- Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 0883-2471990  
Mobile: +91-9440950682  
E-mail: achintagunti@rediffmail.com
- Address** : PSH Project (Rajamundhary)  
Rajamundhary Central Jail  
Rajamundhary, East Godavari 533103  
Andhra Pradesh
- Contact Person** : C.H.A. Ramana  
**Designation** : Project Coordinator
- Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 0883-2471990  
Mobile: +91-9440950682  
E-mail: achintagunti@rediffmail.com
- Address** : PSH Project (Rajamundhary)  
State Jail for Women  
Central Jail premises  
Rajamundhary, Andhra Pradesh



**Contact Person** : B. Sunitha  
**Designation** : Social Worker

**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 0833-2471453  
 Mobile: +91-9885628602

**Address** : PSH Project (Vishakhapatnam)  
 Vishakapatnam Central Jail  
 Vishakapatnam  
 Andhra Pradesh

**Contact Person** : Satyanarayana  
**Designation** : Project Coordinator

**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 0891-2794306, 2736988,  
 2738993  
 Mobile: +91-9949716413

**Address** : PSH Project (Hyderabad)  
 Cherlapalli Central Jail, Hyderabad  
 Andhra Pradesh

**Contact Person** : P. Ravi  
**Designation** : Project Coordinator

**Other Contact Details** : Mobile: +91-9885654291

**Key Prison Activities:**

Prevention, control and treatment of AIDS among prison inmates and prison personnel; and creating an acceptance of STD/HIV positive patients in the community.

**Mission & Aims:**

Owing to long separation from family and homogenous living in closed prisons, both convicted and under-trial prisoners are susceptible to sex perversions and consequential sexually transmitted ailments. The presence of drug addicts in jails further complicates this situation and necessitates both counselling to the susceptible and treatment to affected inmates. With the objective of creating awareness among prison inmates on this aspect the NACO-DFID Support Grant – PSH Project works to:

- ◆ Provide health check-ups and medical support to prisoners;
- ◆ Improve living conditions of prisoners;
- ◆ Provide quality sexual health services to prisoners;
- ◆ Help prisoners to positively utilise these sexual health services;
- ◆ Provide literature and educative material for creating awareness about STD and AIDS among the prisoners and counselling them in that regard; and
- ◆ Create an acceptance of STD/HIV positive patients in the community.

**The Organisation & its Work:**

The Partnership for Sexual Health (PSH) Prison Project has been initiated in the state of Andhra Pradesh by the Directorate of Health and Medical Services in collaboration with NACO-DFID (Dept. for Internal Funding) support grant and the Department of Prison. This project was launched in the year 2000 at five prisons – the Rajamundhary Central Prison, Chanchalguda Male Prison, Kurnool Sub Jail, Mehboob Nagar District Prison and Nalgonda District Prison. Encouraged by the success of this project at these places, it was expanded in 2001 to the central prison of Vishakhapatnam and district prisons



of Warangal, Guntur and Vijaywada. Presently the project is in operation in 42 prisons (including some sub jails) of the state.

Each prison provides a separate room for the staff of the project and this unit is named as the AIDS Centre. Each centre has one coordinator and a social worker separately for male and female sections.

### **Strategy/Approach:**

There are four components of the scheme for implementing this project:

#### 1) STD Care & Treatment:

Social workers identify STD cases among prisoners and refer them for treatment to STD specialist visiting the prison thrice a week. Twenty to thirty cases, which include new as well as follow-up cases, are referred to the doctor when he comes to the prison for a check-up.

For the implementation of this project, social workers provide appropriate training to five health volunteers selected from amongst under-trial and convicted inmates, who later work in close cooperation with them.

These volunteers are called peer educators and the project coordinator selects them in consultation with prison functionaries on the basis of antecedents, educational qualifications, period of conviction, and willingness to opt for the work. They are given training about HIV/AIDS, counselling, social work skills and personality development. These peer educators are paid a monthly honorarium from the project fund besides some incentive of additional daily amenities offered by the prison administration. The daily work of peer educators is regulated by a weekly schedule. There are periodic classes, group discussions and review meetings for assessing and monitoring the work of peer educators.

A new inmate is immediately referred to the centre on his/her admission into the prison. Peer educators closely interact with new inmates and in case of any problem or symptom of illness, refer them to the social worker/coordinator who explains to him/her about the project and takes to the doctor for counselling and treatment. Counselling is done through the available written material and a CD presentation in Telugu dialect. Individual face-sheets of the inmates are maintained with details of the counselling done, medicines prescribed, etc.

When family members and/or spouses come to meet the inmates, they are counselled and if necessary, referred for testing and treatment outside in suspicious cases. The project also has provisions for post release follow-up of such inmates.

#### 2) STD Counselling:

This counselling is of two types - Risk Assessment Counselling (RAC) & Risk Reduction Counselling (RRC).

**RAC (Risk Assessment Counselling):**

The social worker/coordinator develops a rapport with the new inmates, listens to their case histories, psychological and health problems and then gradually takes their sexual history. These sessions are sometimes conducted in a group where new inmates are given an introduction about the project. A large number of habitual offenders openly inform the worker about having had sex with multiple partners. The worker tries to concentrate more on such inmates.



RRC (Risk Reduction Counselling):

This is mainly for high-risk groups like women in prostitution. STD and non-STD patients are also given this counselling.

3) Behavioural Change Communication (BCC):

At this stage, there is one-to-one counselling in which peer groups and counsellors make efforts to clarify doubts and misconceptions, and impart moral values.

4) Enabling Environment:

A Local Steering Committee comprising the project coordinator, social worker, prison superintendent, jailor, welfare officer, warders and selected peer educators meet periodically to discuss all the administrative, financial and procedural aspects of the project in order to maintain good relations with prison functionaries. These meetings are conducted once in three months where even NGOs working in the prison, are involved.

Initially, the workers did not get any positive response from the prison staff or the inmates as there was not much understanding among them about the project. It took nearly 2-3 years for the project to prove itself among inmates. Affecting attitudinal change among staff takes time. Therefore, awareness camps were conducted for staff for their appropriate sensitisation to the issue.

### Major Achievements:

Vishakapatnam Central Prison

- ◆ On the initiation of the project coordinator, a bi-monthly newsletter is published about the activities of the centre in this prison;
- ◆ Several NGOs have been networked for organising cultural programmes and sports activities on important festive occasions and national days;
- ◆ Children of prisoners are referred to networked NGOs for educational support; and
- ◆ On the insistence of project functionaries, Janakulam Foundation organised a health camp in the prison for dental, eye, and general check-up and provided spectacles to 64 prisoners.

Vijaywada District Prison

Prison inmates participated in cultural activities and a play performed on World AIDS day.

Rajamundhary Central Prison

- ◆ NGOs, such as Operation Blessing India (Hyderabad), organised cultural activities and health camps in the prison;
- ◆ Cases of released HIV(+) and Tuberculosis patients are referred to local NGOs such as World Vision's Tuberculosis Unit and APSACS for care and support;
- ◆ Cases of women prisoners, who are in flesh trade are referred to CARE-Saksham for its community structural intervention programme;
- ◆ All non-sexual health needs in the prison are handled by the Prison Ministry India;
- ◆ An individual donor donated fans, televisions, and games for the prison; financial help and sewing machines for poor families left unsupported by convicted prisoners; and educational help for their children;
- ◆ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) donated sports material, shoes and books to prison inmates;
- ◆ The Grameen Library of the Department of Education has a unit in prison which is managed by one of the peer educators; and
- ◆ One of the released peer educators, aged about 40 years, who had completed his M.A.(Sociology) during his stay in the prison, was selected as a Voluntary Counselling Testing Centre (VCTC) counsellor.



## State Jail for Women, Hyderabad

- ◆ The Lions Club has donated educational support material for the use of prisoners opting to get adult education;
  - ◆ NGOs (such as, Kamineni College of Nursing and Christian Broadcasting Network-India) organise medical camps in the prison; and
  - ◆ SPUN had donated money to organise a programme on AIDS day.
- 

### Difficulties at Work:

- ◆ There is a severe crisis of escort to take patients to the hospital;
- ◆ There is no salary hike, no additional benefit and no job security to the workers. Since this is not a government job, there are no welfare schemes/facility for the staff and only a consolidated salary is given to them;
- ◆ There is a high risk of getting infected with communicable diseases while on the job;
- ◆ There is a heavy workload on the workers due to shortage of staff. Proper monitoring systems are lacking except for monthly reports, review meetings and training programmes;
- ◆ Peer educators who serve as a help to workers have to adhere to strict rules and regulations of the prison. Only after completing their routine prison duties can they come to the centre to assist the workers. Peer educators need to be sent for professional training outside the prison; and
- ◆ There is no facility of telephone or internet in the cell inside the prison.



# National Academy of Construction

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Hyderabad 500084, Andhra Pradesh

**Contact Person** : F. C. S. Peter  
**Designation** : Director General

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E-mail: info@nac.edu.in  
Website: www.nac.edu.in

## Key Prison Activities:

Imparting vocational training in masonry, plumbing and electrical repairs to prison inmates.

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## Mission & Aims:

- ◆ The basic objective of setting up the trades training facility was to impart training to youth in construction engineering trades so that they are empowered and capable of earning a livelihood; and
- ◆ The secondary objective is to create a pool of well-trained construction technicians to meet the demands of a world-class industry in terms of skill, workmanship and productivity.

The specific objectives are to:

- ◆ Develop a technologically advanced and competitive construction industry which serves India's economic needs;
- ◆ Ensure quality in work, adherence to schedule, to have long lasting aesthetic construction;
- ◆ Improve safety, efficiency, productivity and effectiveness of the Indian construction industry and infrastructure development sector to international standards;
- ◆ Modernise construction methodologies, materials and technologies and encourage their use;
- ◆ Upgrade knowledge and skills of construction engineers, contractors, managers, supervisors and workers and inculcate professionalism; and
- ◆ Ensure the people a better quality of life by increasing their skills and economic betterment, providing pleasant places to live and work and full compliance of statutory regulations.

## The Organisation & its Work:

The National Academy of Construction (NAC) was established by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the holistic development of the construction industry in India. It is registered as a society and a not-for-profit charitable organisation. NAC is managed by a governing body with Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh as the Chairperson and Minister for Roads & Buildings, Government of A.P as the Vice Chairperson. The Academy has nine constituent units. Three of these units are actively involved in imparting high-class training in engineering trades relevant to the construction industry.

Training is imparted at the NAC campus in Hyderabad and also at various other locations. It is organised in such a manner that adequate time and emphasis is given to practical work. The curriculum ensures that knowledge levels and skill levels are both developed.



**Strategy/Approach:**

A project of imparting vocational training to the prisoners in the jails has been initiated by the prison department in collaboration with NAC. Presently, this project is going on in the Cherlapalli prison since the past one year. Three-month durations courses in masonry, plumbing and electrical repairs are conducted. The fourth batch in masonry and plumbing, and the sixth batch in electrical repairs concluded in December 2006.

NAC is conducting these training programmes free of charge. The jail authorities arrange for the practice material.

**Major Achievements:**

Apart from the number of prisoners being imparted professional training related to the construction industry, a small structure inside the Cherlapalli prison has also been constructed by NAC trained inmates within one lakh of rupees, which was significantly less than the estimates given by the PWD.

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# Prison Fellowship India

**Address** : 5-21, Hostel Road, Prasadampadu,  
Vijayawada Rural - 521108  
Andhra Pradesh

**Contact Person** : B.V.R. Rao  
**Designation** : Executive Director

**Other Contact Details** : Mobile: +91-9440893290

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Providing educational facilities, family counselling and vocational training to prisoners; and delivering religious and spiritual discourses.

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## **The Founder:**

Prison Fellowship India (PF India) was founded by its present Chairman, Dr. Kunjumon Chacko, with its registered office at Kottayam, Kerala. The present Executive Director Dr. B.V.R. Rao joined PF India in 1985.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

PF India is a member of Prison Fellowship International (PFI) situated in Washington DC. As an association, PFI provides support services to member organisations through its secretariat offices in Washington DC, Singapore and its liaison offices in Africa, Europe and the Pacific.

PFI member services include organisational and program consultation, communication, leadership training, program development and international representation. As a non-governmental organisation, PFI maintains consultative status (Category II) with the UN Economic and Social Council and is an active participant in the UN Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

## **Work Programmes:**

Depending on the need of prisoners and availability of resources, PF India conducts activities across various prisons. The activities inside the prison include:

- ◆ Moral instruction;
- ◆ Entertainment programs;
- ◆ Literacy drives;
- ◆ Academic assistance;
- ◆ Vocational training;
- ◆ Relief activities;
- ◆ Victim-offender & offender family reconciliation; and
- ◆ Pre-release orientation inside the prison.

Similarly, outside the prison, they actively work towards:

- ◆ Welfare of prisoners' and victims' families;
- ◆ Non-residential education for children of prisoners and victims;
- ◆ Residential facilities for children of the prisoners serving life sentences; and
- ◆ Rehabilitation of released prisoners.

For crime prevention, the organisation runs a Family Counselling Center, where spouses in conflict can come voluntarily or are directed by the police department and receive help and support in terms of counselling for reconciliation.



For economic rehabilitation, they operate a Tailoring Training and Production Centre and a Molded Paper Plates Production and Training Center.

**Strategy/Approach:**

PF India is a Christian NGO working among the prisoners, released prisoners, victims and their families towards their restitution, reconciliation and rehabilitation. Spread in most of the provinces of India, it is governed by a national board.

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# Prison Ministry India

<b>Address</b>	:	(Hyderabad Unit) Rosary Convent, Gunfoundary Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Sr. Lina
<b>Designation</b>	:	State Coordinator
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 040-23232329
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Sr. Marian
<b>Designation</b>	:	Diocesan Coordinator
<b>Address</b>	:	(Vijaywada Unit) C/o. Social Service Centre, 45-1-13 Gundala, Vijaywada – 520 004 Andhra Pradesh
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 0866-2451806 Fax: 0866-2450252 E-mail: sscvja@gmail.com

## Key Prison Activities:

Occasionally distributing food, fruits and other legally permissible consumables; facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners; providing shelter and/or educational support to children of prisoners; providing health check-ups and medical support to prisoners; and providing legal aid and support to long-term convicts, under-trials and women prisoners.

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## Mission & Aims:

PMI is a voluntary service organisation, which aims at the release, renewal and rehabilitation of the prisoners.

## The Organisation & its Work:

The Prison Ministry India (PMI) is a unit of Catholic Bishop's Conference of India (CBCI). This organisation initially began its work in Kerala in 1986 and presently it has spread out to all the states. There is one national coordinator and other state coordinators. Every year annual state gathering and every alternate year regional gatherings are organised. The states are divided into three regions – southern, northern and central. Every third year, a national convention is organised for which a memorandum of rules and regulations are prepared.

PMI works in collaboration with all sections of society. They visit the prisons and develop cordial relations with them in order to spread a ray of hope in their lives. The released prisoners are encouraged to join different rehabilitation centers, which are run with the help of generous people. It tries to integrate the released prisoners with their families and provide jobs for them. Victims' families are also supported by this organisation.

## Work Programmes:

- ♦ Hyderabad Unit:

PMI Hyderabad Unit provides legal aid, education for children and social counselling to the prisoners. It has also set up a rehabilitation centre for women where they seek



temporary shelter and have access to skill training. HIV positive women are also housed in this centre. PMI supports released prisoners by providing them with an autorickshaw, sewing machine, or an income source. It also organises cultural programmes, distributes snacks and food on festive occasions such as Christmas. Prayer sessions are conducted once a week in the prison where spiritual discourses are given along with counselling and other activities such as drawing, games and singing. Children of prisoners are lodged in institutions close to their residence.

◆ **Warangal District Prison:**

This prison has the highest number of prisoners with a naxalite background. Their children are kept in institutions, as their families fear the stigma attached to these children.

As Sr. Lina states, “their bank balance is God’s Providence. Begging is our lifestyle. Society is being educated by collecting funds/donations from them. Society has made the people into criminals, so it is their responsibility and society has to help them out”.

◆ **Vijaywada Unit:**

There are nine sub jails and one district jail in the Krishna district of Vijayawada, A.P. Work in this district began in 2000 with two male priests initiating the work. Now work in all the sub jails has begun. Once a week, 8-9 volunteers visit the prison and conduct sessions for 1-2 hours. No inmate is forced to attend these sessions; only those who are interested come and attend. Counselling, spiritual reading, sharing of problems, relieving tensions, prayer sessions are the highlights of these sessions. The prisoners request the volunteers to pray for them during their court dates. They give their addresses requesting the volunteers to contact their families within or outside the state through letters or phone calls. PMI has donated three televisions, amplifiers, carom boards and other games in the Vijaywada District Prison.

**Strategy/Approach:**

Inside Prison:

- ◆ Moral instructions through personal counselling and speeches;
- ◆ Inculcating hope for a new life and a forgiving attitude towards enemies;
- ◆ Personal letter writing to victims, and understand the healing process of broken hearts;
- ◆ Setting up of library for mental growth and distribution of periodicals;
- ◆ Providing recreational facilities such as puppet shows, music and drama;
- ◆ Vocational training; and
- ◆ Conducting literary and art competitions among the prisoners.

Outside Prison:

Renewal centres are set up by PMI for released prisoners. It looks after the spiritual, psychological, sociological, intellectual, economical and moral needs of men, women and children. Some volunteers visit family members of prisoners. PMI also provides education to the children of prisoners as well as victims. It tries to facilitate a smooth transition for the prisoners back into the society and tries to reintegrate with their family. It also assists them in securing a job and providing medical treatment if needed.

**The Team:**

In the Andhra Pradesh Unit of the Prison Ministry India, there are 250 volunteers. In Hyderabad, there are 35-40 volunteers whereas the Vijaywada Unit has 28 volunteers who are divided into four groups to facilitate continuity of service.

**Major Achievements:**

- ◆ Release of several prisoners by providing the bail amount which they were unable to furnish;



- ◆ Financing the released prisoners to set up a small business by providing them with a cart to sell vegetables or support them in setting up provision stores;
  - ◆ Admitting children of prisoners into municipal and boarding schools; and
  - ◆ Started the 'Friends Club' in 2003 in cooperation with released prisoners. It functioned well for two and a half years, however, it is not functioning presently as many of the prisoners do not have a permanent address and thus it is difficult to contact them.
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#### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

Instead of imprisoning offenders who have committed petty offences, they should be made to do community service.

#### **Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Problem of yearly renewal of the prison access permission. Request for five year permission was rejected; and
- ◆ Money loaned out to the prisoners for their bail is not returned after their release despite them promising to do so.



# Sri Venkateswara Charitable Trust

<b>Address</b>	: Plot no. 9 S.S. Cooperative Housing Society Ltd. Bahadurpally – 500043 Andhra Pradesh
<b>Contact Person</b> <b>Designation</b>	: Krishna Rao : Managing Trustee
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 040-3191163, 301055, 23191163, 23090559 Mobile: +91-9948393922

### Key Prison Activities:

Adopting children of convicts; providing them food and other basic necessities; providing them a shelter and primary education; and reintegrating them back with their parents on their release.

### The Founder:

Registered on 9 July 2008, Sri Venkateswara Charitable Trust (SVCT) was setup by Mr. Krishna Rao, who is a businessman by profession. He invested his profits from his business in buying the land and constructing a building. He started off his philanthropic activities by donation of clothes and rugs to children in need. In 2001, he started a shelter home for senior citizens, for aged couples and single old parents, supported by their children on a monthly payment basis. Later, he was advised by Retd. D.I.G. Prisons, Shri C.K. Naidu to set up a home for children of prisoners.

### Mission & Aims:

The mission of the organisation is to prevent the destitution of children who face social neglect and stigma and to promote complete development of children to become contributing members of society. It aims to provide basic needs, shelter and education facilities to children in need with a focus on children of prisoners. It also aims to motivate prisoners to lead a responsible life after their release from prison.

### Strategy/Approach:

The Trust has recently started a Boarding School for Children of Convicts and the Poor, which is the first of its kind in Andhra Pradesh. The school was inaugurated by Justice A. Lakshmana Rao, former Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court on 8 September 2002 in the presence of a large number of social activists.

As per the prison manual, children of women prisoners are allowed to stay with their mothers till they are six years old. In the absence of adequate support, these children, many of whom are victims of domestic problems, are subjected to social neglect and apathy and more often than not, get pushed into street life, growing up in sub-human conditions, devoid of education or health care. SVCT adopts such children and provides them free food, clothing, shelter and decent primary education. Moreover, the Trust takes necessary steps to restore the children to their mothers, after the latter complete their prison sentence.

On acquiring permission from the Inspector General (I.G) of Prisons, Andhra Pradesh, the organisation approached the prisons of Chanchalguda, Cherlapalli, Warangal and Rajmundhary for referral cases of the prisoners' children. Initially, they did not get a



positive response. They had to counsel the prisoners to get their children admitted into the institution. Over time, they started getting referral to their institution from prisoners and prison officials.

In the month of May, the prison authorities were requested to prepare a list of needy children of prisoners. Later, representatives of the organisation visit prisons, enquire into the cases and then scrutinise them before admitting children in the institution. Presently, there are 25 children in the institution. Their basic needs of shelter, food and clothing are taken care of. They are sent to private schools. A 25 per cent reduction in the school fees is requested for these children. Children are taken to meet their parents monthly or bimonthly. This helps in increasing the interaction between the parent and the child and the parent's motivation to improve increases. Cases are referred by other prisons also in the state, but admission is given only after a thorough enquiry.

**The Team:**

Besides the Managing Trustee and a teacher, the organisation has two helpers to manage the institution.

**Major Achievements:**

The organisation is trying to bring about overall development of children of prisoners. Picnics and outings are arranged for these children. An interaction meeting was held where the parents and the children were brought together to meet each other. This was helpful especially when the two parents were lodged in two separate jails and did not get an opportunity to meet. This meeting seemed very beneficial in bringing the whole family together after a long period of time.

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**Difficulties at Work:**

There are cases of children being taken back home by their parents on their release from the prison, with no guarantee that they would continue the education of these children, due to their financial difficulties. In this regard, Mr. Rao expresses regret saying that all their efforts put in towards the wholesome and educational development of the children go waste. Thus he looks out for children of prisoners who are convicted for life by the High Court.



# Abhiyan

<b>Address</b>	: Rao's House, Link Road Bilaspur – 495001 Chhattisgarh
<b>Contact Person</b>	: Vani Rao
<b>Designation</b>	: President
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 07752-409499 Mobile: +91-9425546132

### Key Prison Activities:

Educating children of prisoners; social counselling of convicted women prisoners; legal counselling; establishing a sickroom for prisoners; providing a fulltime lady doctor; and imparting vocational training to women prisoners.

### Mission & Aims:

Their *Abhiyan* (campaign) is to make sure that women inmates are able to exercise right to justice and to ensure that their children are not deprived of their fundamental rights.

### The Organisation & its Work:

Abhiyan is involved in social issues related to children, womens' empowerment and other facets related to the general well-being of the society. Abhiyan has been working towards bringing about reforms in prisons for the past ten years. The organisation initiated work in prisons to help women and especially women prisoners who, it believes, are completely neglected both by the community and by government agencies. It has also rendered shelter and educational facilities to children of women prisoners who do not have any relatives outside the prison.

Abhiyan educates women prisoners about the importance of a clean environment, hygiene and literacy. It provides psychological counselling by providing them emotional support. It tries to ensure that the basic standards of living are maintained in prisons and that women inmates' basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing are fulfilled.

For the children accompanying women prisoners of Bilaspur Central Prison, Abhiyan constructed a *Jhulaghar* in 1997 to provide them with a proper environment outside the prison to study and socialise. Abhiyan also recruited a permanent teacher for them. It has also worked with jail authorities to ensure that appropriate medical facilities are provided to the prisoners. It conducts monthly medical check-ups to address the health concerns of inmates. It has organised several workshops to impart various skills to inmates such as block printing on fabric, terracotta painting, hand embroidery and stitching.

Abhiyan has also worked with released women prisoners who have not been accepted by their family members and community members. It has assisted in securing a livelihood for these released prisoners. It arranges employment for these women in a silk reeling and spinning centre, which is run by the organisation. Abhiyan tries to identify the skills of these women and tries to get them suitable employment based on those skills.

### Strategy/Approach:

Abhiyan has closely collaborated with the judiciary for the release of prisoners on personal bond. Their efforts have been appreciated by the Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD).



**The Team:**

Approximately 5-6 volunteers represent Abhiyan in prisons, of which two are full-time members, one part-time counsellor, one part-time helper and one full-time assistant to warden.

**Major Achievements:**

Abhiyan recounts *Mukt-Akash* as a major achievement. It is a novel attempt to provide a healthy environment (outside the prison) with some essential recreation, educational facilities and nutritious diet for the proper development of the children of imprisoned mothers.

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**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Reduce overcrowding in prisons across India;
- ◆ Make women more involved in vocational pursuits and bring them out of isolation;
- ◆ Build structurally separate buildings to house women prisoners;
- ◆ Install separate sealed suggestion boxes which should be accessible only to the district magistrate or his surrogate;
- ◆ Introduce a short-stay home for released women prisoners; and
- ◆ Make vocational training wage-oriented so that it serves the purpose of rehabilitating prisoners.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

Legal training with respect to the provisions of law is much needed for NGO functionaries, as it would help them ensure the implementation of rules and regulations.



# Bharatiya Jain Sangathan

<b>Address</b>	:	Saddani Building, Sadar Bazaar Raipur, Chhattisgarh
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	G. C. Jain
<b>Designation</b>	:	National Vice-President
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 0771-2228740, 0771- 2224570 Mobile: +91-9425502011 E-mail: gcjain33@rediffmail.com

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Imparting vocational skills in women's jail; organising events on special social and religious occasions; organising religious discourses; and providing physical vocational facilities in men's prison.

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## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Bharatiya Jain Sangathan, with its headquarter in Pune, facilitates religious and spiritual growth of prisoners. It has constructed a drinking water station and facilities for women visitors outside the prison compound.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

The organisation approaches the head of prison department or the superintendent of the prison to seek permission for rendering services to inmates on event-to-event basis.

## **The Team:**

Approximately 10-15 volunteers of the organisation have been working in Raipur Central Jail for the past three years.

## **Major Achievements:**

The Sangathan constructed a cowshed and installed a bio-gas plant in the prison at Raipur. The bio-gas plant is utilised for cooking food for prison inmates and has been a great help for the prison administration. It is being monitored and maintained by Jain Samaj.

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## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Make politicians and bureaucrats more sensitive to reform work in prisons;
- ◆ Increase community participation in prisons; and
- ◆ Refrain from using security reasons as a pretext for not introducing reforms in prisons.

## **Difficulties at Work:**

Lack of cooperation from prison officials is one of the major hindrances at work.

## **Capacity Building Requirements:**

Orientation with respect to the provisions of law is much desired to build its capacity.



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HIG – 171, Padmanavpur Durg  
Chhattisgarh

**Contact Person** : Sandipta Biswal  
**Designation** : Regional Manager – 'RACHNA'

**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 0788-2344106, 0771-  
2422442, 4053071  
Fax No: 0771-2422529  
E-mail: sbiswal@careindia.org

### **Key Prison Activities:**

Spreading awareness about HIV/AIDS among male and female prisoners; organising training programmes for them; holding drawing competitions for prisoners on special occasions; counselling prisoners; and working towards improving the conditions of prisons by providing feedback to prison authorities.

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### **Mission & Aims:**

CARE seeks a world of hope, tolerance and social justice where poverty has been overcome and people live in dignity and security. CARE's mission in India is to facilitate lasting change in the well-being and social position of vulnerable groups, especially women and girls.

### **The Organisation & its Work:**

CARE's work in India strives to increase women's representation and participation in governance. It works hand-in-hand with vulnerable families, especially women and girls, to help them access their rights. With support from Department of Health & Family Welfare (H&FW), Department of Women & Child Development (DWCD), police, CGSACS, trade unions and other civil society members, CARE's interventions for the high risk behavior groups and youth are carried out in five urban areas namely; Bilai, Durg, Bilaspur, Raipur and Korba. It provides social counselling and health education to prisoners in Durg Central Jail. It also collaborates with other NGOs such as Berojgar and Mahila Seva Samiti. It works towards sensitising police and jail authorities of the issues concerning prisoners, especially women.

### **The Team:**

The organisation has been working in Durg Jail for the past two and half years. It has appointed two full-time welfare officers and two others from their partner NGO.

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### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Overcrowding of prisons; and
- ◆ Ensuring the provision of basic facilities and a hygienic environment to the prisoners.

### **Capacity Building Requirements:**

CARE recognises that lack of knowledge and experience in working with prison and prisoners poses a hindrance in their reform work. Orientation on these issues might be beneficial for them.



# Lakshya

<b>Address</b>	: D2/28, Ravendra Nagar Raipur, Chhattisgarh
<b>Contact Person</b>	: Vaijanti Amravashi
<b>Designation</b>	: President
<b>Residential Address</b>	: Same as mentioned above
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 0771-2882241 Mobile: +91-9827150508

### Key Prison Activities:

Spreading awareness about legal rights of prisoners; providing legal aid to poor and old prisoners; making efforts to release old prisoners; and advocating prisoners' rights and attempting to prevent the misuse of provisions under section 498A of IPC and the Anti-Dowry Act by the society in general and by various bodies of the state government.

### Mission & Aims:

Lakshya has educational, spiritual and vocational development of women and children at its focal point.

### The Organisation & its Work:

Lakshya is actively working with various prisons in Chattisgarh including two prisons in Ambikapur, two prisons in Bilaspur, four district prisons in Durg and one central prison in Raipur. The functionaries of Lakshya visit these prisons and the barracks meant for women inmates specifically to assess the living conditions of the prisoners. During these visits they come across old and infirm female prisoners, some of them ranging from 60 to 75 years of age. Lakshya has appealed to various agencies of the state and central government including the Hon'ble Governor of Chattisgarh and the Hon'ble President of India, for the release of these aged women inmates.

Lakshya has also organised activities in these prisons to celebrate certain social festivities such as *Teej* and *Rakshabandhan*, and has occasionally offered these inmates some gifts to let them feel that they are still a part of the society.

Lakshya provides educational, recreational and health facilities to the families and children of prisoners.

As the name of the organisation suggests, Lakshya aims at ensuring the participation of women for their welfare, upliftment and independence.

### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

Close collaboration between judiciary, lawyers, police and prison officials to address the high under-trial population in Indian prisons.

### Difficulties at Work:

- ◆ The slow process of redress; and
- ◆ Apathy towards prison reforms.



**Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Networking with other NGOs functioning in this field; and
- ◆ Education and knowledge sharing with respect to the provisions of law.



# Rotary Club (Raipur)

<b>Address</b>	: C/o Vyas Travels Shop No. 8, Babla Complex G.E.Road, Raipur, Chhattisgarh
<b>Contact Person</b>	: Kirti Vyas
<b>Designation</b>	: President
<b>Residential Address</b>	: Ratan Sadan, Pila Building Phaphadi, Raipur
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 0771- 4092891, 2561491 Mobile: +91-9425506552

### Key Prison Activities:

Celebrating religious and social festivals with prisoners; arranging surety amount for the bail of prisoners; donating sewing machines and other equipment for capacity building of wage-earning inmates; and distributing medicines to sick inmates and offering sweets during festivals such as *Rakshabandhan* and *Id*.

### The Organisation and its Work:

The foundation stone of Rotary Club – Raipur was laid in 1981 and the club started meeting in its new building from 1983. The Club has been involved in serving the community by holding regular medical camps for eye-sight, polio operation, plastic surgery, cancer detection, and general health check-up. It has also organised vocational training camps for self-employment. The Rotary Club of Raipur has adopted a leper colony for up-keep and has organised various seminars addressing social concerns. It has also sponsored several candidates for a group study exchange programme.

However, the Club's activity in prisons has been limited. It arranges celebrations in jails during special occasion such as *Rakshabandhan* and *Id*. It has also supported prisoners who have not been able to arrange surety amount because of lack of resources.

### The Team:

The Rotary Club team working in prisons comprises of 48 members of which 10 – 15 are volunteers. They have been working in prisons for the past ten years.

### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Educate prisoners to help them become responsible citizens of India; and
- ◆ Provide them avenues to earn a livelihood on their release.

### Capacity Building Requirements:

Rotary Club believes that legal training with respect to the provisions of law is much desired.



# Sant Shri Asaramji Ashram

- Address** : Shri Yoga Vedant Seva Samiti  
Ashoka Lodge, Shubhash Chowk  
Baloda Bazar, Chhattisgarh
- Contact Person** : Chetan Das Nagdev  
**Designation** : Programme Coordinator (Prisons Programme)
- Residential Address** : Same as mentioned above
- Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 07727-222181  
Mobile: +91-9926514981

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Organising events on special occasions; giving spiritual discourses; and distributing religious books and reading material among the prisoners.

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## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Sant Shri Asaramji Ashram organises spiritual events for the prisoners of Baloda Bazar Sub Jail on second Sunday of every month.

## **The Team:**

The organisation has its 20 volunteers from various *Bhajan Mandalis* who participate in singing religious and ethical songs to the inmates of the sub jail at Baloda Bazar.

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# Satyam Jeevan Vidya Kendra

<b>Address</b>	: 27 Nagar Nigam Colony Sanita Main Road Raipur, Chhattisgarh
<b>Contact Person</b> <b>Designation</b>	: Anita Shah : Secretary
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<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: (0771) 2253850 Mobile: +91-9300616633

### Key Prison Activities:

Jeevan Vidya Camps seek to impart an understanding of life values, the environment and nature.

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### The Organisation & its Work:

Satyam Jeevan Vidya Kendra's activities were earlier confined to social counselling and education of the families and children of prisoners, but later included activities for the general welfare of prisoners as well. The organisation works for promotion of internal peace in individuals through remorse, realisation of one's mistakes in life and control of anger.

### Strategy/Approach:

For the attainment of their objectives, volunteers of the organisation interact with prison inmates for two hours daily with the cooperation of the jail authorities. The organisation is also involved in the distribution of clothes and education material to children of women prisoners.

### The Team:

The team comprises of 4-5 volunteers who have been working with the organisation for the past two years.

### Major Achievements:

A positive change in the attitude of women prisoners who regularly attended the camps. The organisation's efforts have been commended even by the prison authorities.

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### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ The jail environment is too closed for free interaction with inmates;
- ◆ Reformation activities are conspicuous by their absence; and
- ◆ Attitude of prison officers is often discouraging.

### Difficulties at Work:

The indifferent attitude of prison officers.

### Capacity Building Requirements:

Workshops and seminars to facilitate exchange of ideas.



# Vasudha Mahila Manch

<b>Address</b>	:	Sakshi, 14-Senior MIG Nehru Nagar Bilaspur – 495001 Chhattisgarh
<b>Contact Person</b> <b>Designation</b>	:	Satyabhama Awathi General Secretary (former NOV at Bilaspur)
<b>Residential Address</b>	:	Same as mentioned above
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 07752-270050 Mobile: +91-9425227650 Fax: 07752-415677 E-mails: humavasudha1999@hotmail.com, satyabhama2000@yahoo.com

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Imparting vocational training to prisoners; making them aware of their legal rights in custodial institutions; and encouraging their family members to visit them.

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## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Vasudha Mahila Manch (VMM) was initiated as a legal aid centre for the counselling of women prisoners. It is involved in social issues related to women empowerment. It has been working towards bringing about reforms in prisons for the past eight years.

It also works towards providing surety to prisoners who cannot afford it and spreads awareness among the prisoners about their legal rights and duties. It got involved in prison reforms due to its objective of helping women and specially women prisoners who are completely neglected. It has also rendered educational facilities to children of women prisoners by sponsoring them in mainstream schools.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

VMM has closely collaborated with members of High Court, Bar Council, District and State Legal Services Authority and has always invited them to workshops organised on prisoners' rights. It has also worked with other organisations such as Lions Club, Rotary Club, Buniyad Samajik Sansthan and Zila Udyog Sangh, and made efforts to change the perception of community members towards prisoners. Vasudha Mahila Manch has also networked with DWCD to assist children of prisoners.

## **The Team:**

The VMM team comprises of 13 volunteers who have been working on prisons project for the past eight years. These volunteers have worked extensively in Bilaspur and Ambikapur Central Jails.

## **Major Achievements:**

- ◆ Vasudha Mahila Manch has lobbied for the construction of toilets for women prisoners at the lock-up in court premises. It had organised legal aid camps for prisoners in which 89 organisations had participated, and it was a big success.
- ◆ It has organised legal aid camps for prisoners in which 89 organisations had participated and it was a big success.



## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Strengthen the Prison Visiting System (PVS);
- ◆ Address the issue of lack of escorts to produce convicts and under-trial prisoners in court;
- ◆ Increase rehabilitation programmes in prisons;
- ◆ Explore income generation avenues for prisoners and market the products made by them;
- ◆ Provide behavioural training and orientation to convicts;
- ◆ Construct short-stay home facility for released women, which should be run by community members and not solely by the government; and
- ◆ Establish a committee to review the pending cases of under-trial prisoners.

## **Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Orientation pertaining to the legal rights of prisoners;
- ◆ Training about the rights and duties of police and prison administration; and
- ◆ Training of NGO officials about the legal provisions relating to bail, bond, shortening of sentences, parole and premature release.

## **Difficulties at Work:**

Lack of community involvement and their distorted perception of prisoners.



# Yuva Chetna Mahila Mandal

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## Key Prison Activities:

Providing legal aid to under-trial prisoners; organising legal aid camps; and imparting vocational training to long-term convicts.

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## The Organisation & its Work:

Yuva Chetna Mahila Mandal (YCMM) provides social counselling and vocational training to prisoners. It organises *bhajans* (religious and ethical songs) for the benefit of inmates in the prison. The Mandal also holds legal aid camps for prisoners with the help of various lawyers associated with it.

## The Team:

Yuva Chetna Mahila Mandal has dedicated its nine volunteers for the past two years for work in Baloda Bazar Sub Jail. Of these, two are working on a part-time basis.

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## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Counselling of prisoners on legal and social issues;
- ◆ Regular and timely legal aid to prisoners;
- ◆ Improving upon the existing slow and sluggish delivery of justice; and
- ◆ Written permission from state authorities accrediting NGOs to work in prisons.

## Difficulties at Work:

Cooperation from jail authorities is largely dependent on individual officers and hence acts as a major impediment in the reform work.

## Capacity Building Requirements:

Legal awareness and knowledge sharing among NGOs on the type of work (along with their success and failure stories) would be beneficial for all concerned parties.



# AIDS Awareness Group (AAG)

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## Key Prison Activities:

Advocating legal rights of prisoners; spreading HIV/AIDS awareness; promoting women's empowerment issues; women's education; public interest litigation for prisoners' rights; forming self-help groups; distributing food and other consumables among HIV positive prisoners; ensuring monthly health check-ups and medical support; facilitating education of adolescents; improving the living conditions of prisoners; providing legal aid and support to under-trial prisoners and long-term convicts; providing legal aid to prisoners; and running a therapeutic community based rehabilitation programme for adolescent drug addicts.

## Mission & Aims:

AAG's mission is to minimise human suffering in the field of health and HIV/AIDS. It considers that enhancing STI/HIV/AIDS awareness is the cheapest, most effective programme for minimising spread of these deadly ailments.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Aids Awareness Group (AAG) was established in 1991 and registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 in April 1994. It has been working in Tihar Prisons for the last twelve years. It has initiated HIV/AIDS awareness and HIV/AIDS counselling programmes at the red light district at G.B. road. In prisons it provides free legal aid and legal literacy, HIV/AIDS awareness, medical treatment for minor ailments and referrals for major medical problems. It also conducts a drug de-addiction programme in jails.

## Strategy/Approach:

To attract the attention of the entire prison population, AAG organises street plays and magic shows in different jails. These shows are often followed by question-answer sessions, which give inmates an opportunity to voice their queries.

AAG's counsellors regularly hold interactive sessions on HIV/AIDS. In addition, they monitor the health and general fitness of HIV positive prisoners lodged in the jail hospital. They frequently collaborate with the medical and welfare officers and have been successful in developing a tool for assessing prisoner's health status.

AAG's lawyer and associates make bimonthly visits to Jail No. 3 and 4 of Tihar. They hold one-to-one as well as group sessions on a rotational basis. They conduct literacy sessions for new entrants, providing them information about some basic legal procedures.



The therapeutic community based rehabilitation programme meant for adolescent drug addicts is run by two counsellors and an educator.

### **The Team:**

The AAG team has one lawyer and six associates.

### **Major Achievements:**

- ♦ AAG's team has secured 20 acquittals and 47 prisoners bailed between December 2005 to November 2006.
- ♦ In 2006, approximately 800 juvenile prisoners benefited from the therapeutic community based rehabilitation programme put into operation in Jail No. 5.
- ♦ AAG's study on the misuse of rape laws and dowry acts states, "We were successful in bringing about concrete evidence, for recognition of the fact, that these laws were being abused, or misused, and misapplied for a variety of reasons, and by a variety of people and agencies."
- ♦ AAG's publications and research papers include:
  - Booklet: *The NDPS Act, Delhi Police Act and Sections 107,149 - 151*;
  - Booklet: *Hepatitis*;
  - Booklets in Hindi and English: *Information on AIDS* (Third Edition);
  - Booklets in Hindi and English: *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*;
  - Booklet: *Basic (Legal) Information for under trials* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) Vols. I and II;
  - Booklet: *Legal Rights and Options Available to Convicts*;
  - Research Paper: *Is Section 376 IPC being misused?*; and
  - Research Paper: *Are Dowry Related Laws being Abused?*

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### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ♦ Prison authorities must encourage more NGOs to be committed towards providing vocational training to enable a living for the prisoners outside the prison premises.
- ♦ Training for the paramedical staff is a priority;
- ♦ Probation facilities remain under-utilised and must be actively implemented, as the law requires;
- ♦ The official visiting system does not work according to the statute. A robust mechanism for the timely appointment of Non-Official Visitors (NOVs) in jails should be implemented;
- ♦ The working of the police, particularly in registering of large numbers of questionable cases that end in acquittal, must be scrutinised. Many innocents are penalised; and
- ♦ There should be a system of paying compensation to prisoners acquitted after having been kept in custody for unreasonably long periods awaiting trial, even going beyond a maximum possible sentence.

### **Difficulties at Work:**

- ♦ Constant turnover of the paramedical staff; and
- ♦ Paucity of funds.



# Academy of Tableegh

Delhi

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## **Key Prison Activities:**

Promoting human-reform; inspiring spiritual and moral growth; social counselling and facilitating meetings with family members of inmates; occasionally providing legal aid to long-term convicts; interacting with inmates post release; distributing food, fruits and other consumables annually during special festivals such as Iftaar and Id; conducting programmes during the holy month of Ramzaan; and distributing clothes to inmates.

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## **The Initial Phase:**

The Academy was invited, in 1993 by the then Director General of Prisons, Delhi, Dr. Kiran Bedi, to contribute towards the moral and spiritual reform of inmates in Tihar Jail.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Academy of Tableegh is an informal association of various volunteer members from the society. It is not a registered organisation. Tableegh volunteers preach three basic principles to bring about human reform, irrespective of caste, creed or status:

- ♦ To identify the universal creator and remember God Almighty;
- ♦ To shun bad company and to adopt company of righteous persons; and
- ♦ To do to others as you would like them to do to you.

## **The Team:**

The organisation is run by volunteers. Approximately ten volunteers visit Jail No. 3 and 4 in Tihar on a weekly basis. For now, the organisation has limited its activities to Delhi's Tihar Jail only.

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## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ♦ Prison functionaries should adopt a more sympathetic approach in dealing with prisoners;
- ♦ Prison staff needs professional reform and correctional training;
- ♦ Prison staff should equally participate and be involved in moral teaching sessions; and
- ♦ The situation of under-trial prisoners languishing in prisons for years needs to be periodically reviewed and pending cases of inmates should be expeditiously disposed on priority based on the length of their stay in the prison.

## **Difficulties at Work:**

Dearth of accreditation passes for the volunteers to access the prison, thus not getting enough avenues to carry out the reform work.



# An Association for Scientific Research on Addictions (AASRA)

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## Key Prison Activities:

Counselling and rehabilitation services for incarcerated drug users; creating peer educators in the field of drug and HIV/AIDS prevention; discussion and debate on issues that pertain to specific segments of the jail population including jail staff; providing support and services towards aftercare or rehabilitation of prisoners and their families; social counselling and facilitating meetings with family members in jail; advocacy on prison issues and human rights; and highlighting prison issues in the media.

## The Initial Phase:

AASRA has always focused on research. Since they found a niche of sample users in the prison population for their research work, they actively participated in reform work at Tihar jail as a part of the drive undertaken by Dr. Kiran Bedi.

## Mission & Aims:

AASRA aims at achieving three goals, namely:

- ♦ **Prevention** – through work in schools and community settings to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS prevention and drug prevention. AASRA organises prevention workshops in schools – a minimum of two sessions separated by at least ten days, and spreads awareness and provides referrals in community settings.
- ♦ **Research** – Taking advantage of the controlled setting in a prison environment, AASRA conducts research through questionnaires and collects data from incarcerated drug users in the drug wards. It obtains indicators on trends and usage patterns and has successfully structured and conducted a survey entitled Drug Abuse in Prison Settings.
- ♦ **Counselling and Rehabilitation** – AASRA has been counselling and rehabilitating prisoners in Tihar Jail. It has provided services of one counsellor per 100 prisoners. Although not an optimal situation, it has been successful in making the programme effective by forming therapeutic communities and peer networks.

## The Organisation & its Work:

AASRA has undertaken the following three major programmes:

- ♦ *Prevention of spread of HIV amongst vulnerable groups in South Asia* (Project RAS/H71) for United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC);

- ◆ *Survey on Drug Use in a Prison Setting* for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and UNODC, which became part of the “National Drug Survey 2004 - on Extents, Patterns and Trends of Drug Use in India”; and
- ◆ Therapeutic community program in Tihar Jail since 1993.

### Strategy/Approach:

AASRA collaborates with other organisations working on issues of prisoners’ rights. It has worked in partnership with UNODC, Human Rights Law Defenders (HRLD) and the Kri Foundation in the following areas:

- ◆ UNODC - This is an ‘HIV Prevention Programme’ among incarcerated drug users. It is a participative programme addressing incarcerated populations as well as prison officials. Prisoners are trained to develop and identify some peer educators within themselves through a complex system of data collection and monitoring built into the system.
- ◆ HRLD – This association is in its early stages and the collaboration presently consists of exchanging ideas and understanding centrally shared issues concerning under-trials and convicts.
- ◆ Kri Foundation – This foundation is working in the development sector through communications, networks and the arts. AASRA’s association with Kri embellishes milestone events such as the World Aids Day and the World Day Against Drugs and Illicit Trafficking.
- ◆ In prisons AASRA continuously collaborates with the management of the prison department, which provides the counsellors some transport allowance from the Prisoners’ Welfare Fund.

AASRA raises funds in kind and cash. Kind normally consists of clothes, toiletry items, stationary, books, leisure activity items, games and vocational tools. It accepts donations as well.

### The Team:

To achieve its goals, AASRA has dedicated five counsellors with experience ranging from a minimum of five years to a maximum of 30 years. Additionally, it recruits many interns annually and has a set of volunteers to depend on. Counsellors visit the prison on a daily basis, while volunteers visit every week.

### Major Achievements:

One of AASRA’s counsellors working in the prison project is a recovered person (sober for 13 years), who himself had undergone counselling and treatment through AASRA’s therapeutic community programme. Today he is a source of much inspiration for AASRA and the participating members.

### Suggestions:

- ◆ A system should be introduced to provide micro-credit to prisoners on their release to support them re-establish themselves in society; and
- ◆ The work of rehabilitation of released prisoners should involve other organisations as a part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

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### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Better and faster access to justice for prisoners, especially under-trials;
- ◆ Focused vocational training for the incarcerated population aimed at enhancing their employment skills and better opportunities of their employment after their release;
- ◆ Drop-in centers for drug users released from prison after detoxification and rehabilitation, to prevent relapse.
- ◆ More avenues should be created for the early release of under-trial prisoners and innovative ways should be found for raising bail money for economically disadvantaged inmates unable to afford bail money; and



- ◆ The prison setting should be made old age friendly as old age creeps in faster in a prison environment.

#### **Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Refresher training in HIV and drugs prevention & rehabilitation;
- ◆ Computer training; and
- ◆ Managing micro-finance and creating self-help groups.

#### **Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Constant flux of prison population and uncertainty about the length of stay of inmates pose a big obstacle in the effectiveness of drug prevention programme run by AASRA;
- ◆ Each ministry needs to be sensitised about the other ministry's issues and concerns; and
- ◆ The existing incongruence in the departments handling prisons (Department of Home) and issues related to drug use (Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment) brings down the efficacy of the programmes.



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**Key Prison Activities:**

Facilitating family counselling, health camps and vocational training; organising exhibitions of jail-made goods; arranging marriages of daughters of life convicts; sponsoring education of children of inmates; and visiting families of women prisoners.

**Mission & Aims:**

Arman is an NGO in the development sector committed to the empowerment of vulnerable sections of society, especially children, youth and women in rural areas.

**The Organisation & its Work:**

Arman is currently working in rural areas of south-west Delhi and in Tihar Jail. It has been working with prisoners of Tihar Jail since the year 2001. Arman has carried out various income generating programmes in prison. One such programme is a 'pickles and candle making project'. All products of income generating programmes are sold through exhibitions with 25 per cent of the proceeds going to the concerned inmates. These exhibitions are organised in collaboration with other NGOs such as Prayas and Navjyoti.

Arman invites members of the local judiciary to address women prisoners on special occasions like Women's Day. It also provides family counselling and free legal aid to women prisoners, in association with Delhi State Legal Authority (DLSA). It works to generate community awareness on issues relating to health and nutrition, legal rights and social concerns like dowry, child abuse, domestic violence, etc.

The organisation's other engagements include:

- ♦ Gender sensitisation among teachers, parents, students and the youth in rural areas on equitable relations within the family and equal access to opportunities for both men and women;
- ♦ Promoting primary health care facilities like vaccination and attending to medical emergencies; and
- ♦ Skill training for rural youth and adolescent girls in computer applications, tailoring, beautician shop and manufacture of handicraft items.

**The Team:**

Arman has 24 volunteers along with one full-time and two part-time employees to work on prisons welfare project. These volunteers visit Tihar Prison on a daily basis, as the branch office is located within the prison boundary near Jail No. 2.



### **Major Achievements:**

As a result of the vocational training provided by Arman in the field of art and painting some prisoners have excelled in creative arts and one of them has become an art instructor in Jail No. 5. Some others have gained employment as professional tailor, electrician, photocopying machine operator and so on. These stories keep inspiring members of Arman to stay committed to the cause of prison and prisoners' reform.

### **Future Plans:**

There are several initiatives that Arman wants to commence upon at a later stage. It includes community libraries, tree plantation, blood donation camps, prevention of beggary, promotion of *mahila panchayats* and a forum for the senior citizens in rural areas to express their views.

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### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Lack of appropriate and committed rehabilitation programmes for prisoners;
- ◆ Lack of acceptance in the society towards people who have served time in prison; and
- ◆ Fast track courts need to be set up to expedite cases of under-trials.

### **Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Diversification and strengthening of vocational training programmes through improved assistance from outside sources; and
- ◆ More means of interaction and networking with other NGOs and agencies to promote the sale of products made by inmates.



# Art of Living

(Registered as Vyakti Vikas Kendra)

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## Key Prison Activities:

Organising self-development workshops in yoga, *pranayam*, meditation and *sudarshan kriya*; promoting practice of clarity of mind; revival of human values; facilitating spiritual growth of inmates; imparting vocational training; and holding rehabilitation workshops.

## Mission & Aims:

His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's mission is to unite "the world into a violence-free global family". Art of Living envisions a world which is violence free, crime free and stress free.

## The Organisation & its Work:

His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar founded The Art of Living Foundation, in 1981. It is an international humanitarian NGO with one of the largest volunteer strengths in the world and has a presence in over 144 countries.

The organisation carries out a specially designed program for jail inmates. It enables prisoners to release all the negativities such as stress and anger so as to help them reintegrate back in society.

More than 24,000 inmates and 600 staff of Delhi's Tihar Jail have attended the course in recent years. Some of the courses are streamlined to impart vocational skills within the prison premises. One such project, SRIJAN, has employed prisoners to make products like paper bags, diaries, notepads, greeting cards, tissue boxes and office stationary, to name a few. This range of 40 products is sold across the Art of Living Centres throughout India. The profits are deposited in the bank account for concerned prisoners and handed over to them upon their release. A SRIJAN unit outside the jail premises inducts needy ex-prisoners providing them with an opportunity to earn a livelihood.

Rehabilitation workshops are conducted every week for a two-month time period, within the prison confines, accommodating 80-100 participants from Jail Nos. 1, 4, and 5. Prisoners are taught vocational skills like calligraphy and screen-printing.

A separate barrack has been earmarked for inmates practicing Art of Living. Here they meditate regularly for two hours in the morning and for an hour in the evening. Attempts are made to revive human values of sharing, caring and belongingness in them. They are made to introspect which helps them become cheerful and relaxed.



Research has been conducted in Jail No. 5 on changes that have occurred in the social and psychological behaviour of prisoners after taking the eight-month course on Art of Living. Three teachers conduct coaching classes in the jail to support the education of adolescents appearing for grade 10 and 12 board examinations.

**Strategy/Approach:**

*Sudarshan Kriya*, adopted by this organisation as a tool for the transformation of offenders, is a powerful breathing technique that gives deeper insight to a person for self-improvement and self-realisation.

**The Team:**

Prison activities in the Delhi region are carried out by a group of 20 volunteers which includes 10 teachers.

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**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ♦ Change of attitude to inculcate values of hygiene, cleanliness and sharing and caring among fellow inmates; and
- ♦ Introduction of wage-earning jobs such as catering activities, food preservation and production of handmade spices.



# Asha Ki Kiran

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### Key Prison Activities:

Providing vocational training in embroidery.

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### The Organisation & its Work:

Asha ki Kiran has been associated with Tihar Jail since 1993. It later expanded its activities to the Rohini Jail as well, where it has been training prisoners for the past one and half years. Two convicts facilitate each training session in which 24 under-trial prisoners are imparted embroidery coaching. After deducting 10 per cent to cover expenses for the raw-material, the balance amount of proceeds is deposited in concerned prisoners' personal account. Volunteers of Asha Ki Kiran schedule daily visits to the prison (five days per week).

### Major Achievements:

One inmate who started his embroidery workshop post release has a profitable business.

### Future Plans:

The organisation plans to invest and install new embroidery machines to train more prisoners.

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### Difficulties at Work:

- ◆ Frequent shifting of inmates from one jail to another acts as a major hurdle in training them. It prevents them from gaining expertise in a particular skill;
- ◆ Due to paucity of funds, the organisation faces rough times when there are more orders and no money to bear the cost of material for embroidery; and
- ◆ Sustainable market for the products is something that Asha Ki Kiran would like to concentrate on.



# Bharati College

(University of Delhi)

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## Key Prison Activities:

Sensitising college students to the problems faced by prison inmates.

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## Mission & Aims:

The institution aims at developing better awareness and sensitivity among women inmates of the prison. It intends to foster a sense of empowerment in the inmates as also a sense of social commitment among the students.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Bharati College has been working with the women inmates of Tihar Jail specifically around their social and psychological issues, actively using theatre as a medium.

The institution has staged two theatre productions with women inmates:

- ◆ The first play was scripted around the lives of the inmates and performed in Jail No. 6; and
- ◆ The second play was a result of several theatre workshops with the inmates and was a joint production.

## Strategy/Approach:

Bharati College utilises media and theatre as a medium to fill the gap between prisoners and the society.

## The Team:

The College has been actively participating in this activity by dedicating two teachers and twelve students for the past three years.

## Major Achievements:

The theatre workshop has surely made the inmates more psychologically empowered as they got a chance to voice their trauma to a packed audience. The College has been successful in sensitising their students and developing a dialogue between inmates and people outside the prison.

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## Capacity Building Requirements:

- ◆ Create more avenues for training in theatre workshops; and
- ◆ Sensitise students towards social issues.



# Community Aid and Sponsorship Programme (CASP)

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## Key Prison Activities:

Arranging shelter and educational support for children of prisoners; health check-ups and health insurance of family members of prisoners; social counselling; and facilitating meetings with family members in jails.

## The Initial Phase:

Community Aid and Sponsorship Programme (CASP) Delhi Unit has been working and supporting children living in slums. During these interventions CASP realised that there were several children living independently without their parents or guardians. Either their parents were in prison or had abandoned them. Most children of women convicts and under-trials are deprived of their basic right to a family, proper education and basic health facilities.

Approximately 25,000 children of prisoners are abandoned and deprived of a family in Delhi. According to existing regulations, children after the age of six are not allowed to stay in the prison with the mothers. CASP identified the needs of these neglected children and administered this project which focuses primarily on women inmates and the rehabilitation of children of these inmates living outside the prison.

## Mission & Aims:

CASP envisions a world in which all children are ensured rights to develop their full potential in society are provided an environment conducive to improved quality of life. It strives to diversify and strengthen its organisational competency to develop strategies and programs to enhance capacities of children, families and communities through participation and advocacy leading towards sustainable development and empowerment.

## The Organisation & its Work:

CASP is a premier national organisation committed to the development of children, family of prisoners and the community. It's programmes are spread across states like Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.



**Strategy/Approach:**

The Tihar Jail Project of CASP presently reaches out to 169 children of prisoners. It provides educational support including books, stationary, tuition fees and uniforms to these children. It also extends educational coaching, personality development activities, exposure training and vocational training to them. It provides financial support to such children in exceptional cases. The 'Nanhi Kali' Project at Tihar Jail initiated by CASP and funded by K.C.Mahindra Educational Trust aims at supporting girl children of women inmates.

**The Team:**

CASP has three full-time and one part-time counsellor who visits Tihar Jail twice a week.

**Major Achievements:**

CASP organises quarterly mother-child meets in prison premises. This gives social workers an opportunity to counsel both of them simultaneously. The parents get to see the development in their children and it is a very moving situation. This project is supported by Enfant-Du-Monde, France and Child Fund India.

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**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

Experimentation should be encouraged with regards to the type of work given to the inmates.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

Most NGOs work in isolation. As a result of this isolated work culture a lot of successful experiences are going unnoticed. CASP believes there needs to be a platform for networking between the NGOs to share their success as well as stories of failure. This will provide an opportunity to learn and grow from others' experience. Workshops could be organised keeping this in mind.



# Chetanalaya

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## **Key Prison Activities:**

Providing basic education in Hindi; setting up eye check-up camps; and providing spectacles to prisoners.

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## **Mission & Aims:**

Chetanalaya envisions a society where equality, justice and peace are achieved and sustained. Their mission is to empower the underprivileged, marginalised and vulnerable sections of society by making them self reliant.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Chetanalaya, established in 1970 has been dedicated towards reforming prisoners and the prison conditions in states of Delhi and Harayana.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

Chetanalaya has been organising and facilitating health check up for the prisoners in the prisons of Delhi and Harayana. It specifically organises eye camps and provides spectacles to prisoners who need it. It organises health camps in collaboration with hospitals. Volunteers of Chetanalaya also believe in imparting education to the prisoners and making their stay in prison a reformatory experience. It also provides stationary material to the prisoners. It facilitates spiritual and religious growth of prisoners.

## **Major Achievements:**

Seeing prisoners read on their own is in itself a big achievement for the volunteers of Chetanalaya.

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## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Procedures need to be adopted in order to address the issue of overcrowding in prisons;
- ◆ Use of incarceration as the last resort to punish people;
- ◆ Segregation of prisoners;
- ◆ Measures to speed up the judicial process;
- ◆ Make lawyers more accountable; and
- ◆ A peace mediation forum that would give a platform to the victims and offenders to come face to face.

## **Capacity Building Requirements:**

Need of more motivated and passionate volunteers.



# Civil Defence Delhi

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## Key Prison Activities:

Moral and spiritual upliftment of prisoners; imparting health related education; scheduling health check-ups; and providing social counselling; and medical support to prisoners.

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## Mission & Aims:

Supporting government efforts to defend and protect the society against natural and man-made disasters through organised civilian action.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Civil Defence Delhi (CDD) was registered on the 10 July 1968. It provides three types of services, which includes providing home guards, casualty services and warden services. For the past several years the organisation has been providing medical relief to victims of natural calamities, spreading awareness about self-help and disaster management, and educating masses about activities undertaken under civil defence. It has been prominently working in states across India.

Civil Defence Delhi specialises in training and readying civilians to face any emergent situation and to help others in such situations. It has taken up initiatives to help masses during natural calamities like the earthquake in Gujarat.

## The Team:

There is just one person, Dr. M.L. Gupta, who is working on the prisons project of Civil Defence Delhi in Tihar Jail Nos. 5 and 7. He visits the prison once a week for an hour and half for training prison inmates in various aspects of civil defence.

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## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Develop herbal gardens in prisons on commercial basis;
- ◆ Idle prison labour should be commercially and constructively utilised. Productive skills should be imparted to them; and
- ◆ Judicial process should be expedited to reduce the number of under-trial prisoners.

## Capacity Building Requirements:

- ◆ The state should make efforts to educate masses across different strata about civil defence;
- ◆ Self-defence training should be added to the present curriculum for school going children, especially girls; and
- ◆ State or civil agencies should offer funds to provide incentives to volunteers.

# Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)

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## Key Prison Activities:

Monitoring prison administration with a view to positive intervention; organising workshops; training prison officials, members of the judiciary and members of civil society on the positive impact of appropriate practices; promoting accountability throughout the system; educating prisoners on their rights; providing a platform for dialogue between all agencies of the criminal justice system at various levels as a prerequisite for their effective coordination; and identifying capacity building requirements of civil society.

## Mission & Aims:

CHRI's objectives are to promote awareness of and adherence to the Harare Commonwealth Declaration, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other internationally recognised human rights instruments, as well as in-country laws and policies that support human rights in member states.

The objectives of the Prison Reforms Programme of CHRI are:

- ♦ To examine the present state of the statutorily mandated PVS and make practical recommendations for improvement: The programme focuses on the process of selecting prison visitors; sets criteria to identify and finalise nominations; provides inputs for improving Non-Official Visitors' (NOVs) understanding of their roles and responsibilities; educates them on rules and laws that govern prisons; helps them to fulfill their duties and functions according to the statutory guidelines and judicial directives; and pressures governments to form Boards of Prison Visitors (BoV) to address prison problems;
- ♦ To bring various agencies of the criminal justice system together at the local level and to sensitise their functionaries to the problems of prisons and prisoners: this includes pursuing police, prosecution, legal service authorities, judiciary and human rights bodies to promote coordination in their day-to-day interactions for improving the justice process. CHRI also constantly collaborates with other civil society members to identify the best practices;

- ♦ To identify angles of intervention that would promptly ameliorate prison conditions across India and implement them.

### **The Organisation & its Work:**

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) is an independent, non-partisan, international non-governmental organisation, mandated to ensure the practical realisation of human rights across the Commonwealth. CHRI has a family of offices - headquarters in New Delhi, India; an Africa Office in Accra, Ghana and a Liaison Office in London.

Having begun in Madhya Pradesh (MP) several years ago the focus of CHRI's Prison Reforms Programme had been expanded to Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and now Andhra Pradesh (AP), Karnataka and Maharashtra.

CHRI's intervention initially targeted the mandated Prison Visiting System (PVS). This is the only officially mandated civilian oversight body for prisons, which are traditionally closed off from all scrutiny. The system has been dysfunctional and near extinct but CHRI believes that if revived, it has potential to improve prison functioning, ensure accountability and ensure better realisation of prisoners' rights and their access to justice. The many demonstrable successes have proved this belief and indicate strong potential for replication. It was later that CHRI became aware of the need to bring together all agencies of the criminal justice system at various levels as a prerequisite for effecting constructive dialogue and coordination. Repeated emphasis on such coordination and the interaction between the functionaries of these agencies at the local level, as well as at policy making level, has put prison reforms on the agenda of criminal justice system.

### **Strategy/Approach:**

CHRI has a visible presence in monitoring prison administration, through visiting, recording and reporting and monitoring of both conditions of detention and the practices followed within prisons throughout India to inform constructive dialogue with government officials, members of the judiciary and civil society to keep reform on the agenda. It works for empowerment and accountability; the empowerment of those at all levels willing to act combined with accountability to encourage best practices. The organisation believes that positive change will best come about through the interaction and efforts of individuals at all levels.

The standard modus operandi is to work under the sponsorship of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) or the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) to gain access through their patronage. We pay study visits to prisons to draw general conclusions; and – following an opportunity for preview by the authorities – publish the report, particularly accenting issues related to civil and political rights of prisoners, as well as prison conditions. These take account of administrative difficulties; comment strongly on the working of the mandated PVS and the legal aid system; lay down who the duty holders are; point out their dereliction of duty; and make recommendations. Using the report as a springboard, we then advocate recommendations be implemented, particularly to: formulate effective visiting and civilian oversight systems, and permit CHRI to train lay visitors and monitor implementation of the law and our recommendations. In this, we bring comparative law practices and provide governments with support in terms of framing new laws or strengthening legal aid systems. We see success as demonstrable when there is buy-in from human rights commissions to monitor jails from our perspective and to call authorities to account. In addition, it is demonstrated by signs of revival of the system and better-trained visitors making effective interventions or changes in legal aid.

### **The Team:**

The program has a core staff of two consultants and two programme officers. RK Saxena, Consultant, (former Director in the All India Commission on Prison Reforms)



monitors the program and is located at Jaipur. Dr. Murali Karnam, who has done his doctorate on prison reforms and prisoners' rights, is based in Hyderabad and focuses on AP and Karnataka. Two programme officers, Priti Bharadwaj and Frederick Piggott are located in the Delhi office and regularly go for field visits. From time to time CHRI has hired others for specific purposes of institutional visits and documentation.

#### Major Achievements:

- ◆ Andhra Pradesh: CHRI's impact includes the setting up of mechanisms by the judiciary and the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) to ensure better communication, which will reduce overcrowding in prisons, and the release of series of circulars issued by the High Court's supervising judge calling for a mechanism for prisoners to directly access the judiciary. The Government issued directions to all concerned authorities to take steps to recast the PVS in line with legislative requirements. The Government extended the system from twenty prisons to all prisons in the state. It is presently in the process of constituting Board of Visitors (BOVs), who will create a rotation system for visiting prisons regularly. These changes sprung from CHRI's advocacy work.
- ◆ Rajasthan: The Home Department appointed visitors to 53 prisons that had not been visited by the board in two years. This followed a workshop facilitated by CHRI in Jaipur in January 2006. State officials from different ministries have requested further such workshops. Following the release of a CHRI report on prison conditions in Rajasthan, which highlighted a lack of sufficient and appropriate staff in jails, the government recruited 250 security warders and 40 assistant jailors, and promoted head warders to fill vacant positions within the prisons system.
- ◆ Chhattisgarh: All 27 prisons have timely and regular appointments of visitors and BOVs have been constituted for each prison, following CHRI advocacy. The quality of appointments has also improved.
- ◆ Madhya Pradesh: All 110 prisons also have timely and regular appointments of visitors and BOVs have been constituted for each prison, following CHRI pressure. The quality of appointments has also improved here.
- ◆ Karnataka: CHRI has been successful in conducting a study on the conditions of prisons. A series of recommendations are presented to the IG of Prisons and he has been very receptive to our recommendations. He has issued circulars to all prison across the state giving directions on the implementations of rules and regulations, based on CHRI recommendations.

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#### Difficulties at Work:

- ◆ Given the closed nature of the penal institution, there is no clear cut road map for prison reforms work;
- ◆ Access to prisons and responses of the officials concerned are not always certain but CHRI seizes every opportunity on its way, pursues each lead and presses each point towards prison reforms;
- ◆ Shortage of staff interested in evidence based prison reforms work is another challenge the organisation faces; and
- ◆ Creation of interest in prison policy advocacy among the potential candidate and civil society organisation is a daunting task before CHRI.



# Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan

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## Key Prison Activities:

De-addiction programme; spiritual counselling; meditation; psychological reformation; imparting moral and spiritual growth of prisoners; distributing daily amenities like clothes, soap and oil; formation of self-help groups; post release social network; and imparting vocational training such as planting herbal gardens and painting.

## Mission & Aims:

The goal of the Sansthan is to make each and every individual blessed with *Brahm-Gyan* Divine Knowledge to make him a powerful citizen of an ideal and practical world. It aims at achieving this by following and promoting the process of awakening, seeing and realising the true self within.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Established by Shri Ashutosh Maharaj Ji, Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan (DJJS) is a spiritual organisation engaged in social welfare activities. Its foundation was laid in Punjab in the year 1983. It is inspired by the ultimate need of humanity – Perpetual Peace and Eternal Bliss.

The Sansthan organises spiritual activities such as discourses based on Holy texts, social activities like free health camps in rural areas, cultural activities such as the establishment of the Divya Jyoti Ved Mandir and prison reformation projects.

The prison project gives inmates an opportunity to transform themselves through self-reflection. During the course of work, they collaborate with other agencies such as Sahitya Kala Parishad, Lalit Kala Academy, the Health Department and College of Arts. The organisation works in other states such as Assam, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal.

## Strategy/Approach:

The methodology adopted for reformation of a prisoner is a well thought out three-step process. Step one is the initial counselling session, in which the counsellors try to clear prisoners' mental blocks by creating sympathetic outlets for their suppressed feelings and emotions. Positive inspiration substitutes negative experiences. Step two consists of spiritual discourses, which focuses on repairing and rejuvenating their damaged psyche before taking them on the path of spirituality. Step three encourages them to be a part



of meditation camps, after they have known the theoretical aspects of spirituality. Each meditation session is followed by group-talks, mutual interaction on socio-spiritual topics. All these exercises have one common objective – by the time the prison inmates move out of the prison, they should be balanced individuals and bid adieu to the world of crime forever.

#### **The Team:**

For the prisons project, the Sansthan has 36 full-time volunteers comprising 18 advocates and 20 social workers. They visit the prison on a daily basis. Their experience has been quite positive. A large number of inmates participate in the spiritual counselling session and, if convinced, later join the 24-hour meditation programme. The organisation is run by its dedicated set of volunteer staff and accepts donations to support its programmes.

#### **Major Achievements:**

DJJS has reformed about 100 prisoners so far and has been interacting with them post release.

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#### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Make efforts for spiritual healing of prisoners to promote their psychological wellbeing;
- ◆ Organise de-addiction programmes for drug users;
- ◆ Conduct HIV/AIDS awareness programmes with special medical attention to HIV positive inmates;
- ◆ Promote educational and vocational training for all inmates to keep them occupied and to make them self-reliant, which would be a long-term asset for them;
- ◆ Train Non-Official Visitors (NOVs) about the penal code and legal framework affecting the rights of prisoners;
- ◆ Regulate NGOs and follow a strict protocol before any NGO is allowed to undertake reform work in the prison; and
- ◆ Jail functionaries need to shift their focus from mere security to reformation.

#### **Capacity Building Requirements:**

DSSJ would like to equip its staff with knowledge of legal issues and provide them knowledge of law.



# Family Vision

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## **Key Prison Activities:**

Human resource development for prison staff; character development and education for prisoners; child development and welfare programmes for children of women prisoners; providing vocational training; and facilitating spiritual growth of inmates.

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## **The Initial Phase:**

Family Vision became aware of the need for training prison staff (mid-junior level) after they initiated counselling, character education and drug-addicts rehabilitation work for prisoners at Tihar Jail in 1993. It expressed interest to the prison authorities in 1999 and was given an opportunity to conduct stress and anger management programmes for the prison staff as part of a human rights training programme. Since then the organisation has availed lots of opportunities to train the staff. However, it would like to encourage the prison officials to make this a consistent built-in feature in prisons.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Family Vision is an organisation of individuals and families who have devoted their lives to serving those in need. It believes that the love of God and mankind holds the key to the complex problems of modern day society and they are committed to making a difference through a variety of social, educational and humanitarian projects. Family Vision is the Delhi chapter of The Family India.

## **Family Vision's activities include:**

- ◆ Personal and family counselling;
- ◆ Child development programmes for the children of women prisoners;
- ◆ Character education for adolescent prisoners;
- ◆ Training seminars and workshops for parents, teachers and high school students;
- ◆ Seminars on human relations and team building for the corporate world;
- ◆ Value-based musical programmes for primary school children;
- ◆ Emotional and practical support to children from broken homes; and
- ◆ Disaster relief and rehabilitation.

Family Vision began working at Tihar Jail in 1993. Their projects are targeted towards youth, children of women prisoners and members of the prison staff. A project named Crossroads which is centred around the youth at risk, incorporates various creative initiatives like theatre workshops for teenagers, value-based-music and drama



presentations, distribution of inspirational literature, personal counselling sessions and quiz competitions. The organisation has touched the lives of 12,000 teenagers over the past eleven years since the inception of this programme.

Between 1999 and 2002, Family Vision conducted stress management and anger management training programmes for nearly 600 prison staff. These were well received and appreciated by all concerned. Family Vision suggests that these training programmes should be made mandatory as that would ensure ongoing training of prison staff and this would equip the staff to face the challenges on a consistent and long-term basis.

The following programmes are conducted by Family Vision in Tihar Jail:

- ◆ Human resource development for the staff – conducted through personal and group coaching, seminars, workshops and dissemination of literature/publications, helping them define and reach their personal, interpersonal, work-related and spiritual goals;
- ◆ Character development and education for prisoners – conducted through personal and group sessions, workshops and seminars, helping them define their problem areas to facilitate personal, interpersonal and spiritual progress; and
- ◆ Children’s development and welfare programmes for children of women prisoners residing in prison and after they are transferred to foster care facilities – conducted through fun school activities combining learning with enjoyment, recreational and educational outings, celebration of events such as birthdays/festivals and providing clothes, uniforms, stationary and other basic needs.

#### **Strategy/Approach:**

- ◆ Art classes;
- ◆ The use of Flash cards and object recognition technique;
- ◆ The use of flannel graph stories;
- ◆ Teaching children simple English phrases;
- ◆ Showing them educational videos;
- ◆ Organising music sessions to teach children action songs so as to help them develop their hand-coordination and motor skills;
- ◆ Providing stationary supplies;
- ◆ Play games with children to develop their co-ordination skills and introduce learning in a fun way;
- ◆ Use of water-colours to do body painting. They also have balloon artists make innumerable animal shapes with inflated balloons;
- ◆ Take children on educational excursions; and
- ◆ Provide school uniforms to children.

#### **The Team:**

Family Vision has had seven staff active for the past 13 years. In recent years, they have more staff focusing on research and development of programmes and creating publications. Now the organisation has 20 people working full-time.

#### **Major Achievements:**

Family Vision has been successful in providing positive input to the prisoners, and the needed inspiration, motivation and courage to view their situation from a learning and positive perspective. It has also provided learning material, educational, recreational and emotional inputs to the children of women inmates on a regular basis.



There are several stories that Family Vision has narrated portraying their achievements in prison welfare. One of them has been cited here:

There are approximately 50 children living with their mothers inside Tihar Jail. Since mothers are prison inmates their children have nowhere else to go. With the assistance of an NGO – Navjyoti – prison authorities have set up a crèche inside the prison where these children play and receive nutritious meals. Family Vision has been conducting educational programmes for these children since 1993. The purpose behind these programmes is to broaden the children’s mental horizon, create in their mind an awareness of the normal world, prepare them for life outside the prison, and, most importantly, to help them grow socially, emotionally and educationally.

As these children are all under the age of five years, Family Vision has adopted the *Edutainment* or the “Have-fun-while-you-learn” approach. It is involved in all kinds of activities involving these children, which a montessori playschool would chalk out for its preschool aged children.

**Future Plans:**

Family Vision would like to make its prison staff programme a consistent and mandatory programme that would benefit the staff in the long run.

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**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Training of prison staff specifically in human relations and upholding human rights of prisoners through stress management programmes;
- ◆ Introduction of character education programmes;
- ◆ Setting up and maintenance of sports and library facilities at all jails;
- ◆ Computer education for prisoners as a vocational training skill;
- ◆ Audiovisual set up at the children’s crèche; and
- ◆ Introduction of counselling after the release of inmates.



# International Centre for Women and Child

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## Key Prison Activities:

Providing vocational training and life-skills to prisoners.

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## Mission & Aims:

ICWC's goal is to eradicate poverty and hunger through the empowerment of women and the improvement of their health, particularly in relation to pre and post natal period. It endeavours to contribute to the collective efforts of the world community to ensure an aura of dignity on the face of every woman, besides enabling every child to grow as a responsible stakeholder of the ongoing process of human development.

## The Organisation & its Work:

The International Centre for Women and Child (ICWC) is a non-profit voluntary organisation. Earlier called the Sulabh International Institute for Rural Development and Training (SIIRD), it was set up in 1994. ICWC was perceived and planned to provide an ideal opportunity for women and children, from both urban and rural areas to participate in the mainstream nation building not only as the key architects of a developed nation, but also as major stakeholders of economic prosperity and social equality.

ICWC is an organisation mainly managed by women, providing the much needed impetus for the holistic development of women and children. It supports various programmes, which help preserve natural resources, promotes education, encourage a healthy lifestyle, emphasize civic involvement and work towards peace and understanding.

## Strategy/Approach:

ICWC proposes to establish vocational training centres along with market linkages to ensure sustainability of their projects.

ICWC provides model programmes and projects encompassing major issues in the area of training and capacity building, welfare and support services, awareness generation and sensitisation. It is working towards bringing about an integrated development of underprivileged women, which includes their health, hygiene and education. It endeavors to achieve this through counselling, income generating programmes, entrepreneurship development and marketing of products they make.

It has completed projects in Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan. It has always emphasized on working for the most vulnerable sections of women such as scavenger women in Alwar, Meo women in Mewat (Haryana) and women prisoners in Tihar. In Tihar Jail, it imparts training in production, packaging



and marketing techniques. They generate money from various sources including donations, contributions and implementation charges from various projects.

**The Team:**

The organisation comprises of five divisions namely: Research & Consultancy; Project Formulation Management and Monitoring; Development & Training; and Documentation and finally International Cooperation & Participatory Development. A total of five staff members are dedicated for the prisons project of ICWC.

**Major Achievements:**

ICWC has been successful in rehabilitating scavenger women and incrementing income of prisoners in Tihar Jail.

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**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ New educational programmes need to be introduced for prisoners;
- ◆ Efforts needed for inmates’ spiritual growth to keep them de-stressed in the prison environment;
- ◆ Vocational training should aim at making prisoners independent after their release;
- ◆ Proper shelter and facilities for the children of inmates; and
- ◆ Free legal aid facilities for under-trial prisoners.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Educational upgradation of the staff; and
- ◆ Health facilities for the employees.

**Difficulties at Work:**

During training sessions it is difficult to mobilise prisoners. This impedes their progress.



# International Lawyers Corporation

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## Key Prison Activities:

Welfare of inmates by expediting their pending cases; attending to general complaints of inmates; discussing trial procedures with key persons of the judicial system in India; apprising senior judges including the Chief Justice of India of shortcomings in prison administration and also ensuring that they visit and do physical verification of prison conditions; providing legal aid in deserving cases; organising health camps and health check ups; organising cultural events in jails; and highlighting prison issues in the media by holding seminars, workshops, debates and talks at all levels.

## Mission & Aims:

Conducting welfare programmes in all the jails of Tihar to make prison life a period of positive transformation so that inmates could become responsible members of society and be rehabilitated after their release.

## The Organisation & its Work:

International Lawyers Corporation (ILC), a multi dimensional law firm of India, has a full fledged wing to organise seminars, workshops, social welfare programmes and to render free legal aid, specifically for the benefit of Tihar inmates. ILC has organised several seminars and specialised programmes for the adolescents, women as well as male prisoners of Tihar. ILC regularly organises different programmes for updating the members of Indian judiciary, bar, jail officials, inmates and NGOs working in Tihar Jail. It has addressed important issues pertaining to the jail inmates before appropriate authorities and the apex court from time to time.

The Chief and senior partner of International Lawyers Corporation (ILC), guides advocates and other functionaries to extend the best possible cooperation to Tihar Jail and its inmates for the protection of their legal and constitutional rights. ILC serves this deprived segment of society through its welfare activities under the banner of Inmates Welfare Programme.

## Strategy/Approach:

ILC has been constantly collaborating with the judiciary as well as some of the other NGOs of Tihar Jail for desired improvement in jail conditions. Besides Tihar, ILC has been in constant touch with the jail conditions and their functioning in other states of India.

Various initiatives taken by ILC for the inmates of Tihar include seminars, conferences and workshops organised within the prison premises in the presence of dignitaries of the CJS and legal luminaries from judiciary. During all these activities the organisation



lays emphasis on improvement of prison conditions, expeditious disposal of the cases of under-trial prisoners and the protection of their residuary rights while in custody.

**The Team:**

ILC has deputed a regular team of about ten lawyers and five other administrative staff towards their participation in prison activities.

**Major Achievements:**

ILC initiated the use of video conferencing in Tihar Jail, which was implemented by the authorities to coordinate with magistrate and sessions judges.

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**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Protection of rights of inmates including under-trials;
- ◆ Attend to the priorities and emergencies of inmates;
- ◆ Appropriate medical facilities;
- ◆ Mental and physical exercise through yoga, meditation and spiritual discourses; and
- ◆ Educational facilities and free legal aid for the inmates.



# India Vision Foundation

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## Key Prison Activities:

Vocational training for women prisoners; education for children of prisoners; day care facility for children below six years of age; health and AIDS awareness in prison; and occasionally distributing fruits and other consumables.

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## Mission & Aims:

The main objective of the Foundation is to 'save the next victim'. It has a preventive approach rather than a reactionary one. It wants to prevent crime and reduce the number of victims resulting from criminal activities.

## The Organisation & its Work:

India Vision Foundation (IVF) always had prison reform in its mandate. It was formed after Dr. Kiran Bedi, a member of Indian Police Services, received the Magsaysay Award in 1994 for her work on prison reform in Delhi.

IVF recognises the need to reform prisoners and the importance of their rehabilitation into the society after their release from prison. It has been collaboratively working with its sister organisation - Navjyoti and has established a bread-making unit along with a crèche for the children of women prisoners.

## The Team:

Ever since its inception in the year 1994, approximately 20 social workers have been representing IVF at Tihar Jail of Delhi.

## Major Achievements:

IVF has placed more than 160 children of prisoners in residential schools and is continuing to support them till they become independent. It has also helped adult inmates in relieving them of their anxieties by providing them work and leisure-time activities.

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## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ♦ Rehabilitation of women prisoners; and
- ♦ Planning higher education for children of prisoners.

## Capacity Building Requirements:

- ♦ Knowledge of market and market analysis strategies; and
- ♦ Increased understanding of the methods and tools of research.



**Difficulties at Work:**

Staying in touch with released prisoners is problematic, as they tend to constantly shift their residence and often provide wrong information about their whereabouts.



# Kamla Jagriti Manch

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## Key Prison Activities:

Advocating human rights of prisoners; and providing them informal education and legal aid.

## The Initial Phase:

Kamala Jagriti Manch (KJM) initiated its welfare work in Tihar Jail in 2003 by providing English language education to the prisoners in Jail No. 3 – the IGNOU ward. It distributed text books, exercise note books and stationary to prisoners. At present it is concentrating on providing legal aid to long-term convicts and under-trial prisoners.

## Mission & Aims:

The goal of the organisation is to achieve equality, freedom, justice and dignity for women as mandated by the constitution of our country. It aims at providing help to the needy in all aspects, irrespective of their caste and religion.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Ms. Vandana Lekhi, the founder of Kamla Jagriti Manch, has been practicing law since 1982. She has been actively involved in social welfare activities. She started Kamla Jagriti Manch in 2002 with a view to work for the protection and empowerment of women. Prison project has been the first major assignment of KJM since its inception.

KJM is working towards the empowerment of women from different strata of the society. It undertakes studies in legal and societal issues to analyse penal and civil laws for providing protection to women. An all round empowerment of women can be achieved only through the channels of economic and political pursuits. KJM imparts vocational skills to women to make them economically independent and politically active.

## The Team:

KJM has a dedicated lawyer, Ms. Anu Narula who, along with her juniors, visits Tihar Jail regularly and provides free legal aid to the prisoners.

## Major Achievements:

Due to its committed approach, several prisoners visit the organisation's branch office when they are on bail or after their acquittal to seek employment because KJM is also working towards providing employment to prisoners post release.



### **Future Plans:**

Presently KJM is active in Delhi region only. It would like to spread its work across other states in India.

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### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Free legal aid provided by government to the prisoners is in a deplorable state. Lawyers are not committed and hence do not follow up on the cases regularly;
- ◆ There is no system of post release follow-up of prisoners; hence a large number of prisoners who do not get employment, are forced to resort to criminal acts;
- ◆ Public awareness is not on the agenda of most agencies working for prisoners' welfare. They should promote the idea that even the smallest of contribution and help to the less fortunate can do wonders for them and make us more responsible; and
- ◆ Young lawyers are generally receptive, hardworking and idealistic. They can be encouraged to provide legal aid to prisoners by giving them good incentives.

### **Capacity Building Requirements:**

Training of volunteers and staff on ethical aspects is essential. They should be passionate about the work and should understand that they are working for a social cause.

### **Difficulties at Work:**

KJM is passionate about the work it does, however, paucity of funds often comes in their way of reform work.



# Lions Club International

<b>Address</b>	: Lions Club Delhi A-One 15 Rajasthali, DDA Market Pitampura, Dehi – 110034
<b>Contact Person</b>	: Vinita Arora
<b>Designation</b>	: President (2007-2008)
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 011- 27027601 Mobile: +91-9312833162 Fax: 011-27027080 E-mail: rajan@ritevalue.org

## Key Prison Activities:

Working for spiritual and moral growth of prisoners by arranging religious discourses and distributing books; providing health check-up camps against such common ailments as anaemia, blood pressure, etc.; distributing free medicines and spectacles; arranging blood donation camps and sports events; and occasionally distributing eatables and taking children of inmates to schools near Dwarka.

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## Mission & Aims:

The objective of Lions Club is to take an active interest in the civic, cultural, moral and social welfare of the community by voluntarily organising physical, financial and moral resources. It strives to promote high ethical standards in commercial, industrial, professional, and private endeavours.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Lions Club Delhi-A is a branch of the Lions Club International and its activities are confined to the Delhi region only. There are several social activities that Lions Club has undertaken. These activities include Sight First Activity to eliminate blindness, blood donation camps, community health check-up camps, AIDS awareness camps, Lions Quest – Skills for Adolescence Programme, environmental issues concerning tree plantations and pollution control and Tihar Jail Inmates' Welfare Programme.

Lions Club Delhi-A has been closely associated with Tihar Jail for the past nine years. There are several projects that they have embarked upon at Tihar. Each project is handled by a team comprising 10 - 15 Lions Club members. The Club also encourages service-minded persons to voluntarily serve their community.

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## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Overcrowding is the key issue of concern. Construction of new jails and speedy disposal of cases of under-trials can help mitigate the dire situation;
- ◆ Dearth of medical facilities in prisons and inadequate number of medical officers working in jails; and
- ◆ To make prisoners self-reliant, additional educational and vocational programmes should be introduced.



# Mahila Pratiraksha Mandal

<b>Address</b>	:	B-58, Lajpat Nagar I New Delhi – 110024
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Shital Sehgal
<b>Designation</b>	:	Founder-General Secretary
<b>Residential Address</b>	:	Same as mentioned above
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 011-29816102 Mobile: +91-9810071206

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Group counselling; writing letters to family members of prisoners; providing condensed educational course at primary level to women prisoners; family counselling; help in securing bail; organising meetings with family members; encouraging family members to meet prisoners; conducting post release counselling sessions with the family members of released prisoners; and providing legal education to women inmates.

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## **The Team:**

The organisation has been working and contributing towards prison reforms for the past 14 years. The team comprises of four counsellors, one typist, and two full-time employed teachers visiting the prison daily to provide primary level education to women prisoners.

## **Major Achievements:**

Due to individual and group counselling provided by volunteers of Mahila Pratiraksha Mandal, conflict between women inmates in Tihar Jail has significantly reduced. Volunteers have been able to encourage family members of inmates to visit them and accept them after release.

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## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Need to establish rehabilitation centres for women prisoners post release;
- ◆ Children of prisoners need quality protection and care services; and
- ◆ Educational facilities for the children of prisoners need to be improved.

# Prajapati Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya

<b>Address</b>	: R-4, Hari Nagar New Delhi – 110064
<b>Contact Person</b>	: B.K.Shukla
<b>Designation</b>	: Director
<b>Residential Address</b>	: Same as mentioned above
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 011-28121080 Fax: 011-28124062 E-mail: bkshukla@vsnl.com

### Key Prison Activities:

Imparting religious teachings and moral values; organising yoga, meditation and introspection sessions; and scheduling 7-day stress management courses.

### Mission & Aims:

Brahma Kumari World Spiritual University's primary objective has always been to impart a practical ethical education so that individuals may transform their own lives by tapping the full reservoir of their potential creative energies and channeling those energies in a positive direction. It believes that this transformation would be valuable for all the individuals and would benefit the society at large.

### The Organisation & its Work:

Prajapati Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya has been working towards psychological, behavioural and spiritual upliftment of prisoners in Tihar Jail for the past 13 years.

### Strategy/Approach:

The university organises courses on stress management in Tihar Jail. This has brought about behavioural changes in the attitude of inmates. Moral teachings and meditation sessions make them psychologically strong and capable of handling any stress situation.

The organisation collaborates with other NGOs such as Vipassana Sadhna Sansthan and Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan in accomplishing its objectives.

### The Team:

While two members of the university make daily visits to the prison at Tihar, a group comprising 8-10 members visits the prison occasionally.

### Major Achievements:

A person undergoing imprisonment for dacoity got inspired and motivated by the Brahma Kumari teachings and was transformed into a completely new individual. His daughter became a Brahma Kumari.

### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

Lack of segregation of different types of prisoners.



# Prison Fellowship India

<b>Address</b>	:	RZ-51 C, Kamal Park Palam Road New Delhi – 110045
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Rajendran Nair
<b>Designation</b>	:	Secretary
<b>Residential Address</b>	:	Same as mentioned above
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 011-25037003, 011- 25038003 Mobile: +91-9810887922 E-mail: kaml@bol.net.in

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Welfare and rehabilitation of prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families; corrections through spiritual and moral teachings based on the Bible; occasionally distributing clothes and writing material to prison inmates; imparting vocational training in useful skills like type-writing and tailoring to prisoners; advocating human rights in custodial institutions; and occasionally providing legal aid to deserving inmates.

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## **The Team:**

Till 2004, the organisation had 35 volunteers contributing towards this cause. At present it has plummeted to ten volunteers, who visit Tihar Jail 2 - 3 times every week. They talk to prisoners in groups of 10 – 50 and sometimes upto 100.

## **Major Achievements:**

The Prison Fellowship India has supported prisoners post release. In one such case it got the prisoner's house repaired and provided him with carpentry tools to start a livelihood.

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## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Hygiene and sanitation conditions need special attention;
- ◆ Regular medical check-ups and follow-ups of the prisoners together with appropriate supply of medicines;
- ◆ Suitable literacy programmes for the prisoners;
- ◆ Procedures to prevent the practice of homosexuality and victimization of vulnerable inmates; and
- ◆ Security protocols to prevent contrabands inside prison.



# Prison Ministry India

<b>Address</b>	: 190-C, AG 1/Vikas Puri New Delhi – 110018
<b>Contact Person</b>	: Fr. Joseph Kavalakkatt
<b>Designation</b>	: Northern Region Coordinator
<b>Residential Address</b>	: Same as mentioned above
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 011-25571044 Mobile: +91-9818194640 Website: ww.prim.org

## Key Prison Activities:

Conducting literacy classes and cultural programmes; providing counselling, legal aid and library facilities to prison inmates; extending financial support to the family of prisoners; and campaigning for the rights of the prisoners by publishing a newsletter named Prison Voice.

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## Mission & Aims:

PMI has based its activities on three self-designed principles:

- ◆ Inconvenience is our convenience – those who come forward to work for prisoners will have to face many inconveniences;
- ◆ Divine providence is our bank – PMI completely relies on God’s providence for its activities; and
- ◆ Begging is our life-style – for all its financial needs PMI depends on the society.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Established in 1986, Prison Ministry India (PMI) is a national level registered voluntary organisation working for the release, renewal and rehabilitation of prisoners. With a total of 18 rehabilitation centres for men, women and children, PMI has rehabilitated hundreds of prisoners during its 17 years of existence.

## Strategy/Approach:

PMI follows its own ‘RRR Theory’ for pursuing its defined objectives:

- ◆ Release: Even though a prisoner is physically released he might not be psychologically free and therefore PMI helps him to shed off this bondage;
- ◆ Renewal: Volunteers of PMI work strategically to renew the prisoners; and
- ◆ Rehabilitation: It works towards rehabilitating the economically disadvantaged prisoners.

The Ministry provides temporary accommodation to prisoners in its Rehabilitation Centre for a period spanning from six months to a year. During this period these prisoners are counselled which is based on the RRR Theory. Post release they are trained to equip themselves with various sustainable skills such as field-plumbing, electrical repairing, cycle repairing, tailoring and driving. Their employment concerns are also taken care of occasionally. They are also invited to join the reunion parties.

## The Team:

PMI is spread across various states in India staffing 4000 volunteers. There are 850 units and each unit consists of 10 – 20 volunteers. In Delhi PMI has 16 volunteers working for the past ten years.

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**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Overcrowding in prisons;
- ◆ Delay in the final disposal of cases of under-trial prisoners;
- ◆ Free legal aid specially for the economically challenged prisoners;
- ◆ Unhealthy living conditions for prisoners;
- ◆ Prisoners unable to meet their family members frequently; and
- ◆ Prisoners' lack of awareness about their basic rights.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Training to volunteers on behavioural psychology; and
- ◆ Legal awareness classes on prison rules and penal laws.

**Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Lack of passes issued to work in the prison; and
- ◆ Lack of cooperation from prison officials.



# Raj Vidya Kender

<b>Address</b>	: Shahurpur, Chattarpur New Delhi – 110074
<b>Contact Person</b>	: H.V.Nagappa
<b>Designation</b>	: General Secretary
<b>Residential Address</b>	: Same as mentioned above
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 011-26654900 Mobile: +91-9810212087 Fax: 011-26654502 E-mails: info@unidelindya.com, palaramlather@yahoo.com Website: www.rajvidyakender.org

## Key Prison Activities:

Promoting human values; facilitating self-realisation and conducting meditation sessions; providing education to prisoners; and organising health camps.

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## Mission & Aims:

The organisation aims at spreading the message of peace and knowledge through its various centres across India.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Raj Vidya Kender established in the year 1977, organises seminars, workshops, conferences, trainings, meetings and events through its centres all over India. The organisation has 3000 centres engaging thousands of volunteers in the pursuit of its goals. They are all committed towards spreading peace and knowledge. To promote its beliefs the Kender uses various modes of communication which includes magazines, audio-video tapes and CDs.

Volunteers of the Kender visit Tihar Jail thrice in a week.

## Major Achievements:

Several released prisoners have successfully reintegrated in the society and are enjoying their life through the practice of teachings propounded by Maharaj Ji, the founder of the Kender. Two released prisoners have become teachers in Shahadra.

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## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

Prisons should have a separate meditation hall for the prisoners.



# Sahaja Yoga Organisation - Life Eternal Trust

<b>Address</b>	:	C-17, Qutab Institutional Area New Delhi - 110016
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Narendra Gupta
<b>Designation</b>	:	Volunteer Coordinator – Prisons Project
<b>Residential Address</b>	:	RZ-55, T-Extension Uttam Nagar New Delhi - 110059
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 011-25342978, 26966652 Mobile: +91-9911169464 Website: <a href="http://www.sahajayoga.org">www.sahajayoga.org</a>

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Facilitating moral and spiritual growth of prisoners.

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## **Mission & Aims:**

The organisation aims to unite every human being with the Almighty. It wants to bring about human reformation through the practice of yoga.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Founded by Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi in 1970, Sahaja Yoga has spread its presence all around the world across 90 countries. Sahaja Yoga is a method of meditation, which brings a breakthrough in the evolution of human awareness. It is a unique method of meditation based on self-realisation that can happen within each individual. Through this process an inner transformation takes place by which one becomes moral, united, integrated and balanced.

Sahaja Yoga was initiated in Tihar Jail on the invitation of the Director General (DG) of Prisons in 1997. The volunteers of Sahaja Yoga visit the jail three times in a week. Their interventions have transformed prisoners into mentally and physically fit individuals.

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## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

Sahaja Yoga interventions should be made mandatory in every prison for the welfare and rehabilitation of the prisoners.

## **Difficulties at Work:**

The interventions and activities of the organisation have been restricted only to Jail No. 5 at Tihar. It would like to be involved with prisoners in other jails as well.



# Society for Creating Opportunity for People Empowerment (Scope Plus)

<b>Address</b>	: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, B-73 Sarojini Nagar New Delhi – 110017
<b>Contact Person</b> <b>Designation</b>	: Seema Malhotra : Founder Chairperson
<b>Residential Address</b>	: 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, B-73 Sarojini Nagar New Delhi – 110017
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 011-26496897 Mobile: +91-9810084354, 9818333200 E-mail: <a href="mailto:scopeplus@hotmail.com">scopeplus@hotmail.com</a> Website: <a href="http://scopeplus.org/">http://scopeplus.org/</a>

## Key Prison Activities:

Imparting education (including computer education) to inmates; providing vocational training; organising awareness talks; occasionally providing legal aid to under-trial and long-term convicted prisoners; and holding health check-up camps.

## Mission & Aims:

Its vision statement is “give a man a fish, you feed him for a day; teach him fishing, you feed him for life”. Instead of providing short-term facilities to individuals and organisations, Scope Plus believes in empowering them and making their future secure.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Scope Plus is a non-profit organisation that has pledged to empower millions with the strength they need to sustain themselves through awareness, education and vocational programmes leading to income generation. It organises training sessions, seminars and network activities in collaboration with other organisations to promote vocational and social activities.

Scope Plus has several ongoing projects. These include projects on promoting adult education, vocational guidance to youth, computer education to school dropouts, promoting awareness by organising sensitisation talks on social issues and providing training to other institutions.

In Tihar Jail, Scope Plus has undertaken income generation activities involving 200 inmates. It has collaborated with CASP to adopt children of prisoners for their education and all round development. It has also started tailoring classes in Jail Nos. 2, 4, 5 and 6 at Tihar.

## The Team:

Scope has a team of twelve volunteer members along with seven board members committed to the prisons project for training 50 under-trial prisoners.



**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Delay in the disposal of trial cases, which denies timely justice;
- ◆ Overcrowding in prisons is a big concern across India. This needs an immediate attention;
- ◆ Lack of proper ventilation and hygienic toilets;
- ◆ Lack of creative and employment oriented ways to keep the prisoners busy; and
- ◆ Insufficient numbers of NGOs working for concerns like AIDS, Drug Prevention and Education.

**Difficulties at Work:**

Scope Plus has a dearth of skilled staff.



# SHRAM

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<b>Contact Person</b>	: Arti Mathur
<b>Designation</b>	: General Secretary
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 011-20539419 Fax: 011-25623503 E-mail: shram_ngo@hotmail.com

### Key Prison Activities:

Counselling family members of prisoners; providing vocational training; organising health camps; and educating children of prisoners.

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### The Organisation & its Work:

SHRAM was formed in 2004 and has been actively working in Tihar - Jail Nos. 6 and 9 since then. It works towards improving the conditions of prisoners and jails in Tihar. It provides educational support to children of prisoners, sets up health camps in collaboration with health department, provides counselling, facilitates meeting with family members, and provides vocational training to prisoners. The prisoners are paid wages for the products they make, which includes incense sticks, and beed work to name a few. Members of SHRAM make daily visits to Tihar.

### Strategy/Approach:

SHRAM collaborates with other government departments and NGOs/CBOs to achieve its objectives. It collaborates with Scope PLUS to provide education to the children of prisoners. STOP is a home for children, an initiative of the social welfare department. SHRAM channels children of prisoners to 'STOP' where they are trained in life-skills such as making of toys and incense sticks. It collaborates with Ritinjali in providing vocational training to prisoners. By paying the prisoners a wage for the effort they put in, SHRAM helps them build their financial capacity to ensure a smooth transition back in the society.

### The Team:

SHRAM has a team of six full-time members and 20 volunteers.

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### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Meetings with family members should be a smooth process and the prisoners should be informed about the welfare of their family members; and
- ◆ Prisoners should be made to financially contribute to the victims and their family members.

### Capacity Building Requirements:

Awareness about the provisions of law and the prison manual.



# Shri Yoga Vedant Seva Samiti

**Address** : C/o Sant Shri Asha Ramji Trust  
House No. 348, Sector 12-A  
Gurgaon

**Contact Person** : Subhash Kaushik  
**Designation** : President

**Residential Address** : Same as mentioned above

**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 0124-6569437,  
2221030  
Mobile: +91-9818133255

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Organising yoga & meditation sessions together with spiritual and moral discourses to facilitate religious and spiritual growth of prisoners; providing basic amenities; organising medical camps for women and children; and occasionally distributing food and other legally permissible consumables.

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## **The Team:**

The organisation has a team of 20-25 volunteers rendering dedicated service to this cause over the past three years.

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## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Lack of incentives and training facilities for the staff;
- ◆ Delay in the disposal of under-trial cases involving petty offences;
- ◆ Lack of recreational facilities/games to keep the prisoners occupied; and
- ◆ Need to segregate gangsters and hardened criminals from other inmates.

## **Capacity Building Requirements:**

Provide some space for daily functions in the jail premises.

Delhi



# Sawan Kirpal Ruhani Mission

<b>Address</b>	: Sant Kirpal Singh Marg Vijay Nagar Delhi - 110009
<b>Contact Person</b>	: R. S. Grover
<b>Residential Address</b>	: Same as mentioned above
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 011-27223333 Mobile: +91-9811420246 Fax: 011-27214040 E-mail: skrm@sos.org, groverrs@gmail.com Website: www.sos.org

## Key Prison Activities:

Organising *Satsang* for promoting religious and spiritual growth of prisoners; and annually distributing sweaters to inmates.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Sawan Kirpal Ruhani Mission (SKRM) is dedicated to spirituality, peace and service to humanity. Founded by Sant Darshan Singh Ji Maharaj, it is now guided by its present spiritual head, Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj. With its headquarters in Delhi, it has more than 1500 centres across 43 countries so that people at large may explore spiritual science and learn the art of meditation. It endorses mysticism and the art of meditation which brings peace and joy and helps create a peaceful world. Service to humanity is a central principle of the Mission. Regular international conferences are organised from time to time to promote peace and unity through this spiritual science. Various service projects undertaken by SKRM include medical and financial relief to victims of natural disasters. The Mission organises blood donations camps, free eye testing and cataract operation camps in collaboration with AIIMS and Red Cross Society of India. Other charitable activities involve provision of free devices to the orthopaedically handicapped members of the society. The publishing branch of the Mission regularly produces and distributes books, literature, videotapes and audiotapes on spiritual subjects. *Satsang* sessions are organised in Delhi Tihar Jail by preachers of SKRM twice in a week.

## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Need to organise more meditation sessions for prisoners in order to de-stress them and give them time for self-reflection. The Mission believes that there needs to be more effort towards promotion of meditation and selfless service among the prison population;
- ◆ Need to provide prisoners lessons in 'Selfless Service' to sensitise them to be compassionate and accommodating towards others;
- ◆ Betterment of educational facilities. Imparting education and providing educational facilities should be on the agenda of prison officials;
- ◆ Vocational training to be reorganised so as to prepare prisoners for their economic rehabilitation after release. Vocational training and development of hobbies will also keep the inmates busy and add to the reform value during their stay in the prison; and
- ◆ Hobby classes to be provided to keep prisoners creatively occupied.

## Difficulties at Work:

Coordinating with the prison staff is a challenge.



# Sterlite Foundation

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<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Manish Mathur
<b>Designation</b>	:	DGM Operations
<b>Residential Address</b>	:	Same as mentioned above
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 011-23551458 Mobile: +91-9312091632 E-mail: delhi@sterlitefoundation.org Website: www.sterlitefoundation.org

## Key Prison Activities:

Organising vocational training in computer operations; tailoring; child care; and working for women empowerment.

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## Mission & Aims:

Sterlite Foundation aims at addressing the need for vocational training to the youth of our society. It was established to help the underprivileged youth in order to keep them away from the vicious circle of poverty, illiteracy and crime.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Sterlite Foundation was established in 1992 to help and keep the underprivileged youth away from poverty and make them confident and independent individuals. It works not only in Tihar Prison but also other prisons in India. It has 200 computer training institutes nationwide, not just in the metropolitan cities but in sub-urban and remote rural regions of the country.

## The Team:

About 1000 staff are working in the country towards achieving the goals of Sterlite Foundation. Members in Delhi visit Tihar Jail on a weekly basis.

## Major Achievements:

On completion of a basic computer course, the Foundation has distributed approximately 1000 certificates to prisoners across 14 different jails.

Some of these prisoners are now working as trainers and providing computer training to their fellow inmates. Here is one such case:

'X' was sentenced to ten years of rigorous imprisonment in a dowry death case. Just when he thought his life had come to a standstill, he got an opportunity in the year 2003 to join the Computer Training Center of Tihar Jail, an initiative of Sterlite Foundation. He got himself enrolled because he wanted to make the best of the situation at hand. After completing his course in the fundamentals of computers he volunteered his services to the legal cell library of the prison. He started helping out his fellow inmates by making criminal appeals, bail applications and other such official documents for under-trial prisoners. Now he feels secure about his future, as he is equipped with skills to work with legal practitioners after his release from the prison. He is confident that he will be able to fetch a decent livelihood for himself and his family's economic sustenance. This indeed has been a big achievement for him as well as for Sterlite Foundation.

**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Initiatives for introducing rehabilitation programmes for the prisoners; and
- ◆ Varied vocational courses on life-skills to secure their livelihood.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Training to the staff in prison rules, regulations and procedures; and
- ◆ Motivating the staff to be passionate about this type of work.



# Vidyajyoti College of Theology

<b>Address</b>	:	4-B, Raj Niwas Marg Delhi – 110054
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Francis Gonsalves
<b>Designation</b>	:	Professor
<b>Residential Address</b>	:	Same as mentioned above
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 011-23943556 Mobile: +91-9868964049 Fax: 011-23943478 E-mail: vjcoldel@bol.net.in, fragons@gmail.com Website: www.vidyajyoti.in

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Meeting prisoners to help them out with their personal problems; social counselling in small groups and facilitating meetings with family members; conducting coaching classes for IGNOU students; attending to the spiritual growth of prisoners; networking with concerned institutions involved in social causes; and celebrating annual Christmas programme by distributing gifts to the prisoners.

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## **The Initial Phase:**

Vidyajyoti College of Theology commenced its counselling services in Tihar Jail in the early 1990s under the guidance of the late Fr. Paddy Meagher, S.J and his team.

## **Mission & Aims:**

The main objective of the College is to provide integral education to their students and to motivate them and train them to take up social causes in a committed way.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

The College observed that many prisoners tend to repent once they are in the prison. They want to change their lives, leave the past behind and start afresh. However, they need guidance and support from someone who they can trust and rely on. Since the students stay in constant touch with the prisoners and their families, and try to help out in every way possible, a bond of trust develops between them. The work done helps the prisoners to see their lives in true perspective and their the family to cope with the situation until the prisoner returns home.

The College encourages its students to commit themselves to the weekly prison visits so as to sensitise and encourage them to get involved in social causes. They identify themselves as 'true friends' or 'brothers' to prisoners and function as a link between the inmates and their families providing them assistance in whichever way they can.

The brothers join Christian inmates in their prayer – many of whom are foreigners. Earlier, through exchange of emails, the brothers have kept in touch with the family and loved ones of these inmates.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

The College is working towards maintaining a symbiotic relationship. The prisoners benefit by getting proper guidance and support while the brothers benefit by understanding the deeper meaning of life and world at large.



**The Team:**

Ten students of Vidyajyoti College visit two prisons (Jail Nos. 1 & 3) on a weekly basis for ten months every year. These students visit every Wednesday afternoon and spend around three hours with the inmates.

**Major Achievements:**

In the year 2006, college brothers had counselled approximately 50 prisoners, which yielded good results in so far as the inmates were positively de-stressed. The presence of brothers in prison and the patient hearing of the traumatic personal experiences of inmates produced good results. It mitigated anxieties of prisoners and helped in their reconciliation with the situation of being incarcerated.

**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Provide better avenues of communication for relatives of prisoners;
- ◆ Create conducive climate for meeting lawyers;
- ◆ Encourage equitable treatment of prisoners irrespective of their socio-economic background; and
- ◆ Improve health and medical facilities.

**Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ As Vidyajyoti College is not involved full-time in this work, they face difficulties in not interacting with the prisoners as much as they would have liked to; and
- ◆ It is not always easy to meet the prison staff. Since the students are seen as 'Christian religious' personnel, there is sometimes prejudice and suspicion on the part of a few prison staff about their work and motivation.



# Vipassana Sadhna Sansthan

<b>Address</b>	:	10 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Hemkunt Towers Nehru Place New Delhi
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	P.L.Dhar
<b>Designation</b>	:	Coordinator – Tihar Jail Vipassana Programme
<b>Residential Address</b>	:	12, West Avenue IIT Campus New Delhi – 110016
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 011-26560537, 26452772 Fax: 011-26470658 E-mails: pldhar@yahoo.com, info@sota.dhamma.org Website: www.sota.dhamma.org

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Teaching *Vipassana* (a Buddhist meditation technique) to the inmates.

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## **Mission & Aims:**

The Sansthan aims at spreading the practice of Vipassana meditation technique as a universal scientific method for purification of human mind.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Vipassana Sadhna Sansthan and its sister organisations are spread over the world. In Delhi and NCR region they teach vipassana to people in different sector of the society, ranging from inmates to police personnel, administrators, executives, school and college students as well as teachers.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

On an average, the Sansthan conducts ten-day Vipassana meditation programmes in Tihar Jail, twice every month. In consultation with prison management a schedule is prepared at the beginning of the year and inmates from various jail blocks are assembled in the centre in Jail No.4 to practice Vipassana. The organisation also conducts one ten-day retreat every alternate month in the women's prison in Jail No.6.

## **Major Achievements:**

Based on real life stories of inmates from prisons in India and the USA, two films "Doing Time Doing Vipassana" and "Changing From Within" have been produced and publicised for the benefit of other inmates who wish to practice this technique.

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Delhi



# Vishvas Foundation

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<b>Designation</b>	: General Secretary
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## Key Prison Activities:

Organising meditation and yoga sessions to facilitate spiritual growth of prisoners.

## Mission & Aims:

The main objective of Vishvas Foundation is to propagate meditation, which is a unique legacy of Indian culture for the complete development of mankind.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Vishvas Foundation is engaged in a number of philanthropic and social welfare programmes such as running orphanages, drug de-addiction programmes, organising blood camps and physiotherapy clinics.

## Strategy/Approach:

The Foundation holds three sessions of meditation and yoga on a weekly basis in different jails of Tihar.

## The Team:

The Foundation has ten volunteers working for the attainment of aforementioned objectives for the past three years.

## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Attention needs to be paid towards proper lodging and boarding of inmates; and
- ◆ More spiritual and religious sessions need to be held on a daily basis for reformatory purposes.



# Help & Help Charitable Trust

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Goa 403601

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**Designation** : Managing Trustee

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Mobile: +91-9822123989  
E-mail: [help@helphelp.org](mailto:help@helphelp.org)  
Web Address: [www.helphelp.org](http://www.helphelp.org)

## Key Prison Activities:

Organising cultural events on special occasions in prisons.

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## Mission & Aims:

- ◆ To provide material, moral and monetary support to institutions such as old age homes, orphanages, hospitals, homes and school for the physically and psychologically challenged, serving the destitute, slum dwellers, and prison inmates, irrespective of their religious or ethnic background;
- ◆ To mobilise resources to meet the needs of the above mentioned groups; and
- ◆ To conduct and organise events and activities in prison.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Help & Help, a non-profit organisation, was registered in 2003 under the Public Trusts Act, 1950. Mr. Savio Fernandes and his like-minded friends, started working as volunteers for local institutions serving the destitutes in Goa. The organisation mobilises resources to support the day-to-day needs expressed by such local institutions. It also organises various cultural events inside the prison, on occasions like Christmas.

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## Capacity Building Requirements:

Orientation for the staff informing them about humane methods of interaction with prison inmates.



# Prison Ministry of India – Goa

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## Key Prison Activities:

Occasionally distributing food, fruits and other legally permissible consumables to inmates; facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners; organising recreational and vocational activities; and providing after-care to released prisoners.

## Mission & Aims:

The vision of PMI – Goa is the holistic development and integral liberation of those behind bars. This involves spiritual renewal; psychological and emotional treatment; reconciliation with self, God, family and society; and complete rehabilitation. The goals of the Ministry are summarised by the three R's - Release, Renewal and Rehabilitation of prisoners, through a variety of activities both inside and outside the prison.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Prison Ministry of India (PMI) – Goa has worked in prisons for a long time. It is the first organisation that opted to work in prisons in the state. It comprises of church-based and church-supported group of volunteers regularly visiting different custodial institutions, working towards the welfare of incarcerated people.

PMI is involved in the following activities:

- ◆ Providing counselling sessions for inmates;
- ◆ Organising recreational and vocational activities in prison;
- ◆ Organising awareness programmes; and
- ◆ Aftercare of released prisoners.

The organisation works to:

- ◆ bring about attitudinal changes in prisoners and to give them hope for leading a positive life;
- ◆ proclaim the good news to prisoners; and
- ◆ transform prisoners into disciplined citizens with respect for self and others.

## Strategy/Approach:

PM India works to bring about mental stability in prisoners and to unearth the inner spiritual strength in them. It conducts yoga, vipasana, and meditation exercises and makes use of slides, skits, role plays, exercises and prayers. According to PMI, yoga and vipasana help create an atmosphere of peace of mind and serenity.

PMI performs inter-religious prayer services for prisoners on different occasions such as, Liberation Day, Independence and Republic Days, Diwali, Christmas, *Ganesh* Festival and *Gandhi Jayanti*. It also conducts vocational training for prisoners in type writing and paper-bag making. Apart from taking up adult literacy classes and recreational activities in the prison, it also holds hobby classes in drawing, painting, guitar, and



thermocolor decorations. PMI encourages prisoners to participate in the National Drawing Competition organised by it.

It carries out released prisoners' programmes, conducts regular meetings with them, assists them financially to stand on their own, and helps them avail different government schemes to secure employment.

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#### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Opportunities should be given to prisoners to place their suggestions/complaints;
- ◆ Prisoners should be allowed the freedom to express views about their subsequent development and growth;
- ◆ Develop a system of timely evaluation of the behaviour of prisoners for assessing and assisting their reformation;
- ◆ An officer to be recruited in the prison department to look after the growth and development of prisoners. The incumbent should be exposed to training in social work and human relations;
- ◆ The prison authorities need to cooperate with and assist community-based organisations working for reform in prisons; and
- ◆ Provide individualised training and vocational programmes to inmates so as to increase their employability.

#### **Capacity Building Requirement:**

- ◆ Sensitising volunteers about the concerns of prisoners and on how to interact with them;
- ◆ Imparting skills in documentation, preparation and presentation of reports, record keeping and computer operation;
- ◆ Orientation about the planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of development activities of the organisation; and
- ◆ Field exposure and field visits.

#### **Difficulties at Work:**

Interference from prison guards in writing applications for prisoners and families.



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**Key Prison Activities:**

HIV/AIDS awareness for women and children.

**Mission & Aims:**

Rishta's major objective is to provide support services to HIV positive inmates and to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS and STIs.

**The Organisation and its Work:**

Rishta (literally meaning relationship) is an organisation registered under Public Trust Act, 1950. Mrs. Sofia Calderia is the Founder Project Manager of the organisation. She, along with one other member, started working with women and youth vulnerable to HIV/AIDS in the community. Rishta initiated this work as a voluntary effort. Later, it started with outreach programmes at Goa Central Prison and continued it in the judicial lock-ups of Goa.

Rishta is involved in:

- ◆ Creating awareness about HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs);
- ◆ Reducing vulnerability of custodial inmates to HIV/AIDS and STIs;
- ◆ Clearing doubts about HIV/AIDS and STIs; and
- ◆ Networking with the Department of Health on issues related to HIV/AIDS and STIs.

**Strategy/Approach:**

The organisation has been given permission to visit the central prison of Goa once a week. Interviews with prisoners are conducted in the presence of prison personnel. Inmates who want to contact the social worker are called out one-by-one and the sessions are conducted in the presence of a Jailor or other staff. Volunteering counsellors build rapport with prisoners on a one-to-one basis for conducting awareness and counselling sessions with them.

The organisation is keen to organise events on awareness on HIV/AIDS and STIs, but they have so far not been given permission to undertake such large-scale events in the prison.

**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Prison staff should be exposed to training on social and human aspects so that they learn to be empathetic towards prisoners; and
- ◆ Vocational training to inmates should be aimed at increasing their employability.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Sensitisation of NGO staff to adopt humane approaches when interacting with the inmates;



- ◆ Promote better understanding of the psychology of prisoners;
- ◆ Exposure to legal knowledge and skills needed to work in custodial setting;
- ◆ Training about the rights of prisoners; and
- ◆ Knowledge and skills about rehabilitation of released prisoners.

**Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Permission for access to prisons and renewal of such permissions;
- ◆ Time limit imposed by the prison;
- ◆ Staff to work in prison is an impediment to correctional process; and
- ◆ Lack of information about rights and legal aid.



# Baroda Citizen's Council

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Website: [www.barodacitizenscouncil.org](http://www.barodacitizenscouncil.org)
- Contact Person of FCC** : Prita Jagdale (Mobile: +91-9825534030)  
(Family Counselling Centre) Ami Parmar (Mobile: +91-9924433054)

## Key Prison Activities:

Counselling women inmates on legal and personal issues; providing support for education and shelter to their children; extending emotional support to women in prison in order to restore their confidence and self-esteem; and legal aid and advice.

## Mission & Aims:

As the organisation works with different disadvantaged groups in the society, its management felt that women in prison are also a disadvantaged group, as no one reaches out to them. In February 2004, they initiated a Family Counselling Centre (FCC), in the women's section of Vadodara Central Prison.

The main objective of the organisation is to work towards community development. BCC works in prison with the objective of counselling women on various issues such as relationship problems with their husbands; children and family members; providing support for education and shelter to their children; providing emotional support to women while they are in prison; legal aid and advice; and developing self-confidence and self-esteem among women inmates.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Baroda Citizen's Council (BCC) was initiated in 1966, by American Friends Service Committee in partnership with the Federation of Gujarat Industries, Vadodara Municipal Corporation and M. S. University, Vadodara.

BCC works with the people living in slums of Vadodara focusing on community health, non-formal education, up-gradation of vocational skills, water, and improvement of shelter. It also works with disadvantaged groups such as disabled persons, street and working children and destitute women. BCC takes up projects like immunisation programmes, networking of slum dwellers, slums relocation, housing projects and child helpline.

## Areas of Intervention:

BCC distributes sweets during some festivals, organises training programmes with the help of other organisations, arranges shelter for children of women inmates in government shelter-homes, keeps contact with their family through letters, and calls family members to office for counselling and problem solving. BCC workers do not pay



home visits to families of prisoners. They give legal guidance to both convicted and under-trial women inmates, and write applications on their behalf. They approach the media informing them about positive interventions in prison, to create a positive impact in the minds of the public about prisoners, and to highlight their problems.

### **Strategy/Approach:**

The workers do not have close relationship with the prison staff. They only discuss important issues of some clients with concerned prison personnel, and the prison staff also sometimes refers cases to them for follow-up of personal and legal issues.

For the purpose of arranging vocational training inside the prison BCC collaborates with other organisations, such as:

- ◆ Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Vadodara;
- ◆ Indian Renal Foundation, Vadodara; and
- ◆ We One, Vadodara.

The organisation takes permission from the Inspector General (IG) of Prisons before launching any training programme. Whenever an outside agency conducts training in collaboration with BCC, a representative of this organisation is always present throughout the duration of training.

In order to keep its workers updated with counselling and behavioral techniques, BCC organises ongoing training sessions for its FCC workers on subjects like time management, programme management, event management and creative counselling.

The organisers do not work for prison reform as such, but they feel that through counselling, they have been able to bring about changes in the prison environment.

### **The Team:**

Two workers from BCC visit the prison's women's section on a regular basis. One worker has been visiting for the last three years while the other has been visiting for the last one and half years. They visit prison six days in a week from Monday to Saturday and their timings are in keeping with the rules of prison management: 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ The main concern of FCC workers is the lack of rehabilitation programmes and dearth of NGOs working towards the rehabilitation of women inmates;
- ◆ The term of life imprisonment for women needs to be shortened. It should not be beyond 14 years in any circumstances. Long-term imprisonment has a very negative impact on women, their families and especially on their children;
- ◆ Programmes for rehabilitation of released women need to be developed and implemented by the government in association with NGOs;
- ◆ There should be an education center within the jail for women prisoners;
- ◆ Women inmates are given *khadi sarees* to wear. The cloth is too thick to wear in summer and also too thick to dry easily during rains; and
- ◆ Early and timely medical treatment should be made available for women inmates.

### **Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Lack of family support to inmates;
- ◆ FCC workers are not able to pay home visits due to constraints of funds;
- ◆ To organise any vocational training sessions, FCC has to take permission from the I.G. of Prison and the process is very time consuming;
- ◆ Lack of rehabilitation programme for women inmates; and
- ◆ Overcrowding of prisons.



# Human Rights Law Network

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## Key Prison Activities:

Providing regular legal aid to women, juveniles, long-term convicts and under-trial prisoners; advocating protection of constitutional and basic human rights of inmates; and campaigning for rights of under-trial prisoners.

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## Mission & Aims:

- ◆ Campaigning for rights of prisoners including under-trials;
- ◆ Advocacy and policy work for protecting residuary rights of prison inmates; and
- ◆ Providing guidance and legal aid to women prisoners and women victims of crime.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) is an organisation of young lawyers and other legal functionaries spread over the country. It works for the protection of human rights of the common men particularly those who are financially or socially deprived and are in conflict with the law or are victims of crime. One of the main objectives of this organisation is to provide justice to women and to spread awareness about their legal rights.

HRLN office in Delhi provides financial resources to the centre in Shimla.

## Strategy/Approach:

As a part of its work strategy, HRLN holds regular consultation and counselling sessions for prisoners. It also organises workshops, trainings and campaigns regularly to spread awareness about the rights of prisoners. Representatives of HRLN constantly interact with the judiciary while providing legal aid to prisoners and filing bail applications and appeals on their behalf.

With the help and permission of appropriate prison officers, the volunteers of HRLN are referred cases of prisoners and also follow-up these cases. They often work in collaboration with other local organisations interested in such legal activities.

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## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Appropriate rules and regulations should be framed to ensure that every prisoner receives free legal aid at the right time, irrespective of his/her economic status; and
- ◆ Increase interaction between various agencies working voluntarily in this field.



**Capacity Building Requirements:**

Encourage more advocates to join HRLN team as consultants and provide legal aid to deserving inmates.

**Difficulties at Work:**

- ♦ Lack of manpower; and
- ♦ Paucity of time to achieve desired results.



# Rotary Club - Shimla

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### Key Prison Activities:

Providing vocational training to prisoners; organising religious and moral discourses for the spiritual upliftment of prisoners; occasionally holding medical camps and distributing free medicines; contributing to the improvement of living conditions in prison by providing such amenities as television sets and sports material; and organising recreational activities such as volleyball, cricket, football and badminton matches for the inmates on special occasions.

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### Mission & Aims:

Service to humanity.

### The Organisation & its Work:

The Rotary Club in Shimla has prison welfare in its mandate of work and services. Until a couple of years back, it had a dedicated team of 30 – 40 volunteers working at the Model Jail at Kanda. But now the number of volunteers has considerably reduced. The focus is on providing vocational training to inmates. One such training undertaken in collaboration with Hotel Management Institute, Kufri, is to prepare them as cooks to enable them to join the hospitality industry.

### Strategy/Approach:

The Club utilises the financial and institutional resources of its own members to render services to the needy. It also collaborates with other NGOs to further its objectives and to help prison inmates in acquiring employable skills.

It accepts donations from public and individuals to fulfil its objectives.

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### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Lack of self-employment schemes for prisoners post their release;
- ◆ Need for sensitisation of public about basic human rights of prisoners to eradicate the stigma attached to incarceration; and
- ◆ Lack of programmes geared towards rehabilitation of inmates.



# CSR JK Tyres

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## Key Prison Activities:

Providing education; health check-ups; and medical support to prisoners.

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## Mission & Aims:

- ◆ Promoting mass education through the adult literacy programmes in prison; and
- ◆ Improving sanitation conditions in prison; and conducting health check-ups for prisoners.
- ◆ Conducting health check-ups for prisoners.

## The Organisation & its Work:

- ◆ Providing or facilitating education of prisoners;
- ◆ Providing health check-ups and medical support to prisoners; and
- ◆ Improving the living conditions of prisoners.

## Strategy/Approach:

This is a CSR initiative of the JK Tyres group. The organisation has deputed three of their personnel on this project, which is in operation for the last six months. They are working in three of the central prisons in the state. One staffer visits each of these prisons once a week – every Tuesday – from 9.00 to 11.00 a.m. He/she coordinates with prison officials and provides support to them in conducting educational activities and organising health camps for the prison population.

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# Janodaya

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<b>Contact Person</b>	: Santosh Vas, Unme Aiyasha
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### Key Prison Activities:

Facilitating access to justice for women; fighting for their rights and giving redress in matters of marital and property disputes; and providing care, support and shelter to children of prisoners and released women prisoners.

### Mission & Aims:

The main aim of the organisation is the empowerment of women and children via self-sustainability and to accomplish this, Janodaya under takes the following activities:

- ◆ Counselling of inmates;
- ◆ Rehabilitation of women prisoners;
- ◆ Providing legal literacy and awareness;
- ◆ Addressing individual cases for reformation;
- ◆ Legal advice to under-trial and convicted prisoners;
- ◆ Holding general literacy programmes; and
- ◆ Running a shelter home for children of prisoners.

### The Organisation & its Work:

Janodaya was registered in 1987 but started work only in 1993-1994. The focus is on women affected by social evils, oppression and social injustice. The issues are addressed by providing access to justice, fighting for their rights and redressal of marital and property disputes. Care, support and shelter are provided for children of prisoners and released women prisoners. The organisation has 17 branches all over Karnataka, but the main focus of that work is on setting up Self-Help Groups (SHG) and creating livelihood options. Work grew from women in need to rural SHG - micro credit, and for youth – skill training and job placement.

Janodaya has its presence in Karnataka prisons in Bijapur, Gulbarga, Bellari, Hubli and Bangalore . In 2001, the organisation ran the NACO- CASAP – HIV / AIDS prevention project in all prisons of Karnataka for one year. It also extended legal help in judicial proceedings, and in some deserving cases arranged for bail payment. A shelter home run by the organisation for about 40 women during 1994 to 2002 was later shut down for various reasons. Janodaya works with children of prisoners and runs a shelter home for 100-120 boys and girls between the age group of 2-18 years. In prisons, it has a counselling room for male prisoners. The full-time staff of Janodaya counsells, imparts education and provides legal aid to the prisoners with the help of a panel of advocates.



**Strategy/Approach:**

The annual budget of the organisation is around 2 - 3 crores. With the belief that community intervention is very crucial, the organisation has set up a strong micro-credit/SHG base of work and is integrating the learning from this into community-based rehabilitation of released prisoners.

There is a children's centre which accommodates 32 children of prisoners. The main focus of work here is the psychological impact of their parent's cases and the situations of insecurity they have to encounter. There is a need to heal the scars and painful memories related to the arrest and imprisonment of their parents.

The nature of service rendered is as follows:

- ◆ Occasionally distributing food, fruits and other legally permissible consumables among prisoners;
- ◆ Facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners;
- ◆ Providing or facilitating education of prisoners;
- ◆ Providing vocational and life-skills training to prisoners;
- ◆ Providing shelter and /or educational support to children of prisoners;
- ◆ Providing health check-ups, medical support and conducting health camps on HIV/AIDS prevention programmes for four prisons;
- ◆ Providing social counselling and facilitating meetings with family members in jails;
- ◆ Highlighting prison issues in the media;
- ◆ Advocacy and policy work for protecting human right of prisoners;
- ◆ Capacity building of NOVs;
- ◆ Providing regular legal aid to under-trial and women prisoners;
- ◆ Providing legal aid to children in conflict with law;
- ◆ Conducting home visits to follow-up on cases;
- ◆ Contacting local police stations, especially for child custody;
- ◆ Children in shelter home are taken to visit parents in prison; and
- ◆ Care for children staying at home, some sponsorship support for education and tuitions.

**The Team:**

Janodaya has a total of about 200 staff of which ten are involved in prison work.

**Future Plans:**

In terms of future plans, the experience has been that women prisoners are generally left out of the reformation process. The vision is that the state should set up a complete women's prison to take care of both custody and rehabilitation including all aspects of work, legal aid and reformation.

The organisation also wishes to focus on the youth population. In this area, it works with both the police and the community. Parole is also explored for certain cases where money is invested and the risk of losing it exists in case of a dropout.

The organisation also wishes to explore the option of supplying work to women in prison. The payment of 50% of the wages for work could be made to the inmate and the remaining to the family. There is a need to explore new models of employment options e.g. women as taxi drivers, in domestic service, as cooks, crèche teachers, night crèche workers, care for working women of corporate sector, and children and geriatric care. One needs to constantly explore new employment opportunities for women.



**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

Community work in prison can be successful only with the support of prison staff and officials. Reformation as defined by the staff is clearing of the heart, soul and mind. It is about the realisation of personal shortcomings and an intent to improve for the rest of one's life. Prison inmates feel a need to process cases outside the judicial system and to resolve at the police station level itself. Janodaya had a proposal to set up a committee comprising of an advocate and a social worker so that cases could be resolved, referred and handled at this stage. Unfortunately it did not get implemented. Following are some of the areas and issues that need attention/reformation:

- ◆ Hygiene in prison, maintenance of cleanliness;
- ◆ Medical assistance to inmates;
- ◆ Counselling – many NGOs are actively working but it needs to be well organised;
- ◆ Legal aid and early settlement of cases;
- ◆ Escorts for court cases;
- ◆ Skill training for inmates is very necessary;
- ◆ Need to set up production centres that will give them some income, which they can send to their families; and
- ◆ Need for residential housing space for couples to meet and stay, once a month both for couples in prison and visiting families. It may avoid other problems arising due to sexual frustration.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Legal information and knowledge input;
- ◆ Skill inputs need to develop a positive attitude and flair for this work;
- ◆ Inputs to develop sensitivity and empathy for this population; and
- ◆ Inputs into reformation concepts.

**Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Since the prison has shifted from within the city limits to the outskirts, project staff have to travel long distances daily. Supervisory staff have curtailed visits once a fortnight because of the distance; and
- ◆ Frequent transfers of prison officials and staff affects work. Social workers have to build rapport again as continuation of previous work is adversely affected.



# MAROOF

## Meed Academy and Reform of Oppressed Forum

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E-mail: uaiysha@yahoo.com

### Key Prison Activities:

Rendering services for the empowerment and self-sustainability of women and children in prisons.

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### The Founder:

Ms Umme Aiysha was working for many years in another NGO (Janodaya) and then felt the need to set up her own organisation. Thus Maroof was registered in the year 2000. For the past six years four people are part of the team, comprising of three full-time and one part-time member. The organisation works only in Bangalore. Muslim women have been responding more actively to the organisation, which works mainly for the children of prisoners.

### Mission & Aims:

The main aim is the empowerment and self-sustainability of women and children in prisons.

### Specific Objectives:

- ◆ To conduct awareness programmes in the community and in prison, focusing on women's empowerment and sustainability;
- ◆ To conduct skill training programmes in prison for women;
- ◆ To provide counselling, legal aid, family contact and processing bail for women prisoners; and
- ◆ To work towards the education and overall development of children.

### Strategy/Approach:

With the focus on empowering women prisoners and providing care to their children the organisation takes up the following activities:

- ◆ Improving the living conditions of prisoners, occasionally distributing food, fruits and other consumables among prisoners;
- ◆ Facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners, especially Muslim women.
- ◆ Setting up coaching classes, children's centres, recreational & personality development activities in the community; and
- ◆ Providing vocational training or life-skills to prisoners e.g. jam preservation, its packing and marketing, making ceramic flowers and wax candles.

### Future Plans:

- ◆ Providing health check-ups and medical support to prisoners;
- ◆ Providing social counselling and facilitating meetings with family members in jails;



- ◆ Providing regular legal aid to under-trial prisoners, including women and children in conflict with law; and
- ◆ Preventive work in the community.

The organisation does not have a shelter home for women though often times released women have been provided shelter in the founder's residence or are referred to other NGOs.

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#### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

Following are some of the areas where reforms would help a great deal in making the lives of women prisoners better:

- ◆ Lady-guard escort for women inmates for their production in court;
- ◆ Employable skills training for women;
- ◆ Counselling facility for women;
- ◆ A production centre especially for women in order to help them generate income; and
- ◆ Introduction of religious based activities as people of different religious backgrounds converge in prisons and religious orientation can help in healing.

#### **Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Inputs for resource mobilisation – especially finance;
- ◆ Training of staff especially field staff in counselling and documentation; and
- ◆ Identification of competent staff for prison work.

#### **Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Lack of funds currently donated by individual donors and the distance the staff has to travel (the new prison shifted to outskirts of Bangalore which is very far and travel costs increased); and
- ◆ Lack of space for the organisation and the fact that prison officials keep changing.



# Prison Ministry India (PMI)

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<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Fr. Sebastian Vadakumpadan
<b>Designation</b>	:	National Coordinator
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 080-25520859, 25523722 Mobile: +91-9880183893 E-mails: national@pmi.org, pmi2005@rediffmail.com prisonministryindia@yahoo.com Website: www.pmin.org

## Key Prison Activities:

Promoting welfare of prisoners and their families; facilitating change; helping prisoners in the process of staying away from drug addictions; establishing family contacts; finding job placements; skill training; making home visits; and sponsoring children's education.

## Mission & Aims:

The main aim of the organisation is the welfare of prisoners and their families which they have accomplished with the help of volunteers who work both inside prisons and in the community since 1994.

The organisation focuses on the following areas:

- ◆ Securing release of under-trial and convict prisoners;
- ◆ Renewal – psychological support, counselling, self acceptance, reconciliation; and
- ◆ Rehabilitation – 6 - 8 months period which involves building rapport, facilitating change, staying away from addictions, establishing family contact, finding job placements, skill training, home visits, and sponsoring children's education.

## The Organisation & its Work:

PMI is a church-supported faith based organisation, belonging to the Passionist Order started in Thrissur Kerala by Fr Varghese Kaliperi. It is a 20-year-old organisation (registered in 1986) with a staff and volunteer strength nationally of about 5000 people. Work in Bangalore started in 1994 and it encompasses all categories of jails. The organisation has an all India presence, with branches in almost all states. The head office is in Bangalore. There are about 21-22 rehabilitation centers all over India. There are eight centres under the Bangalore unit which work in the sub jails of Shimoga, Chikbellapur, Kollar and Tumkur. The Bishops Conference of India for Justice and Penance Commission works in four zones of the country which are subdivided into states, and then further into smaller units.

Because of their regular presence in prisons, the workers of this organisation are able to help inmates communicate with their families. The staff concentrates on the healing process leading to reconciliation amongst families. Since it has ten years of work experience now, the prison administration recognises and respects them and the workers are able to enjoy a certain amount of freedom in their work.



**Strategy/Approach:**

The staff has been visiting the central jail everyday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 3-4 sisters visit both the male and female sections of the prison. They conduct activities for de-addiction, literacy and value education, legal aid, spoken English, counselling and family contact.

Some of the regular activities for the prisoners involve the following:

- ◆ Distributing food, fruits and other legally permissible consumables among prisoners on special occasions;
- ◆ Facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners-religion specific for Catholics in prison. Sunday mass is regularly conducted;
- ◆ Providing or facilitating education;
- ◆ Providing vocational training or life-skills such as candle making;
- ◆ Providing shelter and/or educational support to children of prisoners;
- ◆ Providing health check-ups and medical support;
- ◆ Providing social counselling and facilitating meetings with family members in jails;
- ◆ Improving the living conditions of prisoners by raising their concerns to authorities;
- ◆ Campaign for rights of prisoners and under-trials; through legal aid; and
- ◆ Providing regular legal aid to under-trial prisoners, including women and children in conflict with law.

Apart from the above a car has been provided inside prison for conducting driving classes. The organisation also runs a hobby-cum-vocational training centre for ornament making for the benefit of prison inmates. On release, prisoners are given moulds to encourage them to make products for their economic self-dependence.

**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Legal system – too many delays in processing cases of under-trials;
- ◆ Escorts are not always available for production of under-trial prisoners in courts;
- ◆ Rehabilitation of inmates should be the aim of the system, not just custody and it should start from the prison itself; and
- ◆ Lack of basic amenities and overcrowding in prisons.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Learning how to collaborate with other NGOs;
- ◆ Effective fund raising techniques;
- ◆ Information about government schemes;
- ◆ Counselling techniques; and
- ◆ Basic skills training like developing sensitivity, empathy, a non-judgemental attitude and acceptance of all religions.

**Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Some of the common problems faced by the staff during work includes frequent transfers of jail officials, which affects the continuity of programmes inside the prisons;
- ◆ Where legal aid is concerned, little help is provided from prison administration or practicing lawyers, who are more often than not exploitative; and
- ◆ Corruption among some prison staff especially during family visits makes it difficult to reconcile families.



# Sneha Jyoti Rehabilitation Centre

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Huskar PO, Anekal Taluka  
Bangalore 560099  
Karnataka

**Contact Person** : Fr. Biju  
**Designation** : Director (Resident)

**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 080-57662229  
Mobile: +91-9880183893  
E-mail: snehajyothi@hotmail.com

## Key Prison Activities:

Rehabilitation and reintegration of released male prisoners; providing social counselling; and facilitating meetings with family members in prison.

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## Mission & Aims:

The organisation started working with prisoners with the following aims and objectives:

- ◆ To set up a halfway home for the rehabilitation and reintegration of released male prisoners (mainly convicts in the age group 20-40 years). The period of stay is about 6 – 8 months and cases are identified in the prison itself;
- ◆ To help released prisoners by preparing them to get back to their families and society;
- ◆ To follow-up cases and maintain contact with released prisoners as they settle down;
- ◆ To explore alternatives in skill training, job placement and financial support for self-employment etc, for those with no families; and
- ◆ To provide shelter facilities for children of prisoners.

## The Organisation & its Work:

The organisation, registered in the year 2000, ran a shelter home for two years (2000-2002) in a rented house in Bangalore road. After two years it was shut down and in 2004 the Centre bought its own land and constructed new premises. Presently there are two full-time staff and two maintenance staff as caretakers. Though the work is restricted to Karnataka only, cases get referred from all over India. There are two rehabilitation centres for males in India under the umbrella organisation PMI (Prison Ministry India) – one in Bangalore (Karnataka) and the other in Thrissur (Kerala). The centres have successfully reunited six families and have extended their home to include children of prisoners in some needy cases. It accommodates only 15 people at present.

## Strategy/Approach:

Different kinds of activities are undertaken both inside and outside the prison premises, some of which have been mentioned below:

- ◆ Occasionally food, fruits and other legally permissible consumables are distributed amongst prisoners especially during festivals;
- ◆ Facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners;
- ◆ Providing or facilitating education of prisoners;
- ◆ Providing shelter and/or educational support to children of prisoners through sponsorship and referral;
- ◆ Providing social counselling and facilitating meetings with family members in prison; and
- ◆ Providing aftercare and community based rehabilitation.

**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

Certain areas were identified by the staff as requiring attention to make work in the prisons more effective.

- ◆ The concept of rehabilitation itself needs to be addressed;
- ◆ Very few people are aware of the process involved and how prisoners can benefit from it; and
- ◆ The prison system and authorities could help by addressing the problem of stigma and challenges faced by released prisoners.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

The staff could benefit if they had access to information regarding facilities for a variety of vocational training units, technique of networking with other organisations and for fund raising.

**Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Paucity of funds is a problem the organisation has to face on regular basis;
- ◆ It is difficult to raise funds as this population (prisoners) seldom gets any sympathy from society; and
- ◆ Lack of awareness and apathy amongst public about prisoners and their problems. The centre needs facilities to continue their work in the future.



# Society Care for Indigent (Socare-Ind)

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<b>Contact Person</b> <b>Designation</b>	:	V. R Mani, Raghunath Founder Trustee, Warden Executive Secretary
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 080-23321864, 23520329, 23325926 E-mail: mainsocare@vsnl.com

## Key Prison Activities:

Addressing welfare issues of children of prisoners, both boys and girls of age group 3 - 15 years; and offering a support system for parolees.

## The Founder:

Socare-Ind was started by Mr V.R. Mani and his wife. He had often seen families waiting outside prison to meet their relatives and wondered about their children. The inspiration to work on this issue came from there and post-retirement he dedicated his time and resources for this purpose. Socare-Ind was registered in the year 1998.

## Mission & Aims:

- ◆ To work with children of prisoners – both boys and girls – of age group 3 - 15 years, and address their welfare issues and concerns;
- ◆ To run a shelter home for these children where total care is provided, especially health, education, recreation, extra-curricular activities like karate and dance, and family contact;
- ◆ To give these children a better life; and
- ◆ To offer a support system for parolees which is very crucial and necessary but neglected area.

## Strategy/Approach:

The organisation restricts its work to Bangalore city and runs two shelter homes for children of prisoners, presently with a capacity of 40 and 35 respectively. Ten per cent of the children are siblings. The typical conviction period of their parents is 10-15 years. These children are taken to visit their parents once in three months. A restroom for parolees has been made in Bangalore city where they can rest before their onward journey to their villages or hometowns or when coming back from home to relax with their family. It provides free food and accommodation facility. Socare-Ind usually entertains cases, which are referred from the I.G Prisons office. However about ten per cent of its total cases are of children in need or orphans are referred from an NGO-Sahaya Vani.

## The Team:

Today the organisation has 13 full-time and three part-time staff members.

## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Focus on proper growth and development of children of prisoners; and
- ◆ Educational facilities for children of prisoners.



**Capacity Building Requirements:**

Since the staff are mainly involved in working with the children of prisoners they require inputs for basic care in upbringing of children and some knowledge in child psychology to be able to instil discipline and handle trauma from impact of parents imprisonment.

**Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Difficulty in guiding children properly and helping them face society despite their background;
- ◆ Limited resources is a regular problem faced by the staff; and
- ◆ Catalysing a change in the perspective of the society towards these children is a big challenge.



# Chinmaya Mission

- Address** : 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Royal Height  
Thana, Kannur  
Kerala
- Contact Person** : Swamini Apurva Nandini
- Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 0497-2712626

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Providing support to prisoners for their peace and welfare; offering moral and religious counselling; and providing legal guidance to prisoners and their families.

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## **Mission & Aims:**

- ◆ To work towards education and welfare of society; and
- ◆ To provide support to prisoners, for their peace and welfare.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Chinmaya Mission has been working for education and welfare of society for several years now. The members of this Mission visit the male and female sections of prisons in Kannur.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

Members of the Mission regularly visit both male and female sections of the prison to impart moral and religious counselling to inmates. They also associate with prisoners to celebrate important Hindu festivals inside the prison. Those having an understanding of law and legal procedures provide legal guidance to prisoners and their families.

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# Correctional India

<b>Address</b>	: Kottayam 686502 Kerala
<b>Contact Person</b>	: Joseph Mathew Pampady
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 0481-2507712, 2507012 Fax: 0481-2508812 E-mail: amma@aswasabhavan.org correctionsindia@hotmail.com Website: www.aswasbhavan.org

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Providing shelter to the children of prisoners; organising seminars; and delivering religious and spiritual discourses.

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## **The Founder:**

Correctional India is headed by Mr. Joseph Mathew, a professional chartered accountant with his wife Mrs. Aneena Mathew, a social worker employed in a government department.

## **Mission & Aims:**

- ◆ To endeavour to prevent, control and correct criminal behaviour through moral teachings and rehabilitation activities.
- ◆ To address the needs of children of prisoners.
- ◆ To provide support to released prisoners.
- ◆ To organise seminars and training programme for jail officers.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Correctional India is a non-profit registered organisation, having a shelter home namely Aswasa Bhawan. This project was founded in 1989. The organisation has been working towards the welfare of prisoners and their families for the past twenty years. It provides its services to sub jails, district jails and central jails.

The organisation provides the following voluntary services to prison inmates:

- ◆ Shelter home (Aswasa Bhawan) for children.
- ◆ Basic subsistence, medical support and free education to children of prisoners.
- ◆ Skill-based and computer courses.
- ◆ Facilities for a reading club and sports club.
- ◆ Organising tours and short trips, particularly on holidays.
- ◆ Special coaching in sports, music and painting.
- ◆ Offering children opportunities to perform in public competitions.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

Staff members of the organisation regularly visit prisons to counsel prisoners and to organise seminars. Social workers take up cases referred to them by the prison staff. Presently, they provide support from the resources available to them, and do not explore support from other agencies.

Correctional India has recently established its centres in Tamil Nadu and is planning to expand to other neighbouring states as well. It provides post release support to prison inmates for their rehabilitation. It believes that correctional work cannot be accomplished

without affecting an attitudinal change in the functioning of prison personnel. Therefore it actively organises seminars and training programmes for jail officials.

**The Team:**

The team comprises of nine staff members.

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# Jail Evangelism Ministry

**Address** : Nalanchira  
Thiruvannthapuram  
Kerala

**Contact Person** : Shivadas Mananthala

**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 0471-2531048

**Key Prison Activities:**  
Imparting religious discourses.

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## **The Organisation & its Work:**

This non-registered organisation comprises of a group of ex-prisoners, who engage in religious counselling. They believe in the dictum: "Jesus is great and only He can help us solve our problems."

Mr. Shivadas and his associates visit the Central Prison in Thiruvannthapuram once or twice a month to impart religious teachings to inmates.

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# Jesus Fraternity

(Prison Ministry India: An undertaking of Kerala Catholic Bishops Council)

<b>Address</b>	:	Jesus Fraternity P.O.C, P.B.No.2251 Palarivattom, Kochi-28
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Jose Karekatt
<b>Designation</b>	:	State Director
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 0484-2806669, 2806815 Mobile: 91-944576811, 91-99447576811 E-mail: <a href="mailto:jesusfraternity@dataone.in">jesusfraternity@dataone.in</a> Website: <a href="http://www.jesusfraternity.org">www.jesusfraternity.org</a>

## Key Prison Activities:

Overall welfare and integral development of prisoners and their families as well as of their victims and their families with the hope for a crimeless and peaceful society.

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## Mission & Aims:

The specific goal of this ministry is to see the overall welfare and integral development of prisoners and their families as well as the welfare of victims of crime and their families with the hope for a crimeless and peaceful society, believing that it is a service to God, and it holds high His sacrificial and compassionate love. With this in the perspective the Fraternity offers:

- ◆ To help prisoners in co-operation with the government to realise the mistakes done and accept the period of imprisonment as reparation for the same;
- ◆ To enable them to correct and reform themselves and to follow the norms, customs, cultures and values of the society;
- ◆ To assist them to reintegrate themselves into their family and society as useful, good and responsible people and develop and acquire a good, balanced and mature personality;
- ◆ To help the families of the prisoners, the victims and their families for their rehabilitation, accept the difficulties, pains, shame and loss that have been incurred due to violence and crime; and
- ◆ To help the growing children and youth to learn the values of life and develop a good behaviour and personality and to discard counter behavior and offensive lifestyle.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Jesus Fraternity – a catholic voluntary organisation is the official agency and medium of the Church in Kerala to minister to those who are confined to prisons for various reasons. It directs its efforts for their correction, reformation and rehabilitation. The services of Jesus Fraternity have been growing and picking up momentum year-by-year ever since its foundation in 1985 in cooperation with the state department of prisons. The ministry has achieved better coordination through scientific and systematic approach. It elicits mutual help, cooperation and capacity-building from various peoples who are always active in this sector.

It has a commendable network of 52 local units, 7 seminaries, 14 rehabilitation centres, and 29 dioceses. Through its services, it aims at the integral growth, development and



welfare of those whom it stands for. With this focus it offers various programmes of correction, reformation, rehabilitation, education, spiritual development, recreation, to all categories of persons based on the values of the gospel. Besides innumerable persons in 43 prisons across the state, more than 200 inmates in our centres undergo various levels of education and rehabilitation programmes. Above 20 students – primarily children of prisoners from economically poor background – have been assisted with scholarships for various professional studies. In some cases Jesus Fraternity shoulders the entire expenditure on studies. It helps in the settlement and performance of marriage of released prisoners.

The Fraternity conducts the following programmes in prisons:

- ◆ Regular prison visits
- ◆ Spiritual celebrations in prison
- ◆ Legal aid and assistance for parole
- ◆ Work and counselling programmes
- ◆ Cultural and recreational programmes
- ◆ Aid to families
  - Scholarship to children
  - Insurance coverage
  - Financial and other support
  - Get-togethers

#### **Organisational Structure:**

The Fraternity has a Governing Board, an Executive Board, Zonal and Local Units and Rehabilitation Centres.

#### **Major Achievements:**

- ◆ Settlement of released men and women prisoners into families through marriages;
- ◆ Creating jobs for released prisoners;
- ◆ Educating inmates about professional courses suited to their talents; and
- ◆ Acquiring parole for prison inmates.

#### **Future Plans:**

The Jesus Fraternity contemplates to begin legal services in each prison in Kerala. It plans to organise training programmes for lawyers and volunteers of the organisation in order to build their capacity to take up this work of correction and reformation more scientifically, with a better understanding of law and legal procedures.

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#### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Construction of properly designed modern prison building;
- ◆ Classification of inmates according to their crimes;
- ◆ Classification of inmates according to their age; and
- ◆ Scientific and systematic method for correction of the inmates.



# Prison Fellowship India

**Address** : P.B. 11  
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Kerala

**Contact Person** : Kunjuman Chocko

**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 0481-2571816, 2701288  
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Fax: 0481-2578528  
E-mail: prisonfellowship@gmail.com

## Key Prison Activities:

Counselling prisoners; providing shelter to the children of prisoners; and organising course for volunteers to give them an understanding of prison conditions in India.

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## Mission & Aims:

- ◆ Addressing the needs of children of prisoners;
- ◆ Conducting diploma course for volunteers;
- ◆ Supporting initiatives towards rehabilitation of released prisoners; and
- ◆ Publication of books (on the issue of women and children).

## The Organisation & its Work:

Dr. Kanjuman Chocko is the President of Prison Fellowship India (PFI), a registered organisation, which has been working in prisons in Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh since 1972.

Presently, it works in male and female sections of all prisons (central, district and sub jails) in the above-mentioned states and runs a shelter home for children of prisoners.

Besides services provided to prisoners and their families, the organisation conducts a 10-day diploma course for volunteers desirous of working inside prison. These courses are attended mostly by volunteers from foreign countries such as Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Volunteers visit prisons once a week or once a fortnight.

## Strategy/Approach:

*Family Support:* Families (including children) of prisoners are provided moral, material and financial support. Children of prisoners are provided with services such as educational support, library services and medical assistance. PFI also runs a shelter home for such children and the President of the organisation lives close to the home.

*Services for prisoners:* These comprise of counselling, legal guidance, and interviews arranged between prison inmates and their families.

*Rehabilitation:* PFI runs a Shelter home/Rehabilitation Centre for released prisoners. The home offers opportunities for employment and self-employment to them apart from taking care of their basic needs. The rehabilitation centre provides support to released prisoners and families of prisoners.

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# Prison Gospel Mission

- Address** : Kanayannor  
Chottanikara  
PO Ernakulam 682312  
Kerala
- Contact Person** : Br. Jose Valappad
- Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 0484-2713799  
E-mail: pgms@rediffmail.com

## Key Prison Activities:

Providing aftercare to released prisoners and children of prisoners; providing free education, medical support and shelter to children of prisoners; and counselling and imparting religious discourses.

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## Mission & Aims:

- ◆ To reach out to the families of convicted prisoners through gospel teachings;
- ◆ To care for their social, educational and material needs; and
- ◆ To work towards rehabilitation of prisoners.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Prison Gospel Mission is registered under the Societies Registration Act. It commenced its work on April 5, 1996, from Pujapurra Prison. The organisation is working towards structuring a rehabilitation programme for released prisoners. The committee executing the programme also comprises of released prisoners.

Presently, the organisation has its presence in all prisons of Kerala. It also aims to initiate work in other prisons of India.

## Strategy/Approach:

Mission workers directly visit prisons, offer counselling services to prisoners addicted to drugs and alcohol. It provides shelter facilities to needy released prisoners in the shelter home run by the organisation.

The Prison Gospel Mission team visits families of prisoners, counsels them and supports them by providing food, medical aid and education (formal and non formal). Children of prisoners are given shelter at the Faith Children's Home.

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# Abhiyan

<b>Address</b>	:	8 / 62, Sadar Bazar, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	R.D. Sharma
<b>Designation</b>	:	National President
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 07582- 238539, 223 098 Mobile: +91-9826422018, 9229712858 Fax: 07582-223098 E-mail: sharmard_sgr@yahoo.com

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Vocational training and life-skills to prisoners.

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## **The Founder:**

Shri R. D. Sharma is the Founder President of this organisation. He started his work in Madhya Pradesh. Since the last ten years he is dedicated to issues concerning prisoners.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Abhiyan provides vocational training for the inmates. It does not work on the issues of rights of prisoners. It works in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Delhi.

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## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Need to provide legal aid and assistance to prisoners; and
- ◆ Recreational activities need to be encouraged among the inmates.



# Gayatri Shaktipeeth

<b>Address</b>	: 21-A, Kasturba Nagar Near Chetak Bridge Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
<b>Contact Person</b>	: Shakar Patidar
<b>Designation</b>	: Organiser
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 0755-2711566 Mobile: +91-9425008594

## Key Prison Activities:

Spiritual and religious growth of prisoners.

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## The Founder:

Dr. Shankar Patidar, the organiser of Jan Purohit Training in Haridwar believes in basic goodness of people and feels that a repentant offender should be helped to reform himself.

## Mission & Aims:

The main objective of the organisation is to help the prisoner understand his/her problems and make efforts to improve themselves while integrating back into the society.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Dr. Shankar Patidar believes that spiritual growth of a person would help him to achieve mental peace. Accordingly, occasional training programs on spiritual growth are organised. The organisation works with central and district jails of Chandigarh, Jhansi, Nagpur and Chhattisgarh. Since they do not have a trained person in CJS they do not focus on the rights issues of the inmates.

## Strategy/Approach:

Most of the activities of the organisation are aimed at:

- ◆ Facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoner;
- ◆ Providing vocational training or life-skills to prisoners; and
- ◆ Improving the living condition of prisoners.

Generally the charitable approach is adopted in work, which is limited to women prisoners only. The staff visits all the jails twice a week and work with both male and female under-trials and convicted prisoners.

## Major Achievements:

Some cases recommended for parole got sanctioned which was a great achievement for the organisation.

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## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Proper skill development program should be available for the prisoners;
- ◆ Rehabilitation process should start before prisoner gets released from jail; and
- ◆ Special attention is needed for women inmates.

## Capacity Building Requirements:

The staff needs both social work education and a professional approach to their work in order to produce better results.



# Government Women Polytechnic

**Address** : Jabalpur,  
Madhya Pradesh, India

**Contact Person** : Vivek Chaturvedi  
**Designation** : Deputy Director

**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 0761-2623055  
Mobile: +91-9827087291

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Provides training to women inmates to make them financially independent individuals.

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## **Mission & Aims:**

The main aim of the Polytechnic is to impart vocational training to improve skills of prisoners which can lead to income generation.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

The Deputy Director of Government Women Polytechnic is the visionary who started this project in prisons for the training of women inmates. The organisation believes that economic independence of inmates after release is very important, therefore, they should acquire some skill or training for survival. The program started under the Community Polytechnic Scheme of the Central Government. The focus is not on rights issues or providing any other services for the inmates.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

Since the institute is a government project, and limited to the activities for the inmates, there is good coordination with the prison department.

## **The Team:**

The team comprises of two trainers and one coordinator.

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# Human Rights Law Network (HRLN)

**Address** : E - 6, Arera Colony, Near Sai board  
Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

**Contact Person** : Mohsin Ali Khan

**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 0755- 4202514  
Mobile: +91-9300472146  
E-mail: bhopal@hrln.org

**Key Prison Activities:**  
Providing legal aid to prisoners.

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**Mission & Aims:**

The main aim of the organisation is to protect fundamental rights, and provide free legal aid and legal support to poor prisoners. The focus is on providing justice to women and creating awareness of their legal rights.

**The Organisation & its Work:**

Presently HRLN is working with prisoners and victims of crime (mainly women), towards providing them legal guidance/aid. The Bhopal HRLN is a part of the Human Rights Law Network in Delhi.

**Strategy/Approach:**

HRLN follows-up on cases of prisoners with the help and permission of the jailors. They often work in collaboration with the local organisations.

The work on prisoners and related issues involves the following:

- ◆ Campaigning for rights of prisoners and under-trials;
- ◆ Advocacy and policy work for protecting human rights of prisoners; and
- ◆ Providing legal aid to women prisoners.

**The Team:**

Twelve staff members work on prisoners' rights since 1995 in prisons.

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**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Prisoners should know the status of their case;
- ◆ Prison authorities should familiarise the inmates with the different sections under which they have been detained;
- ◆ Inmates should be regularly produced before the court; and
- ◆ The government's free legal aid lawyers should be prohibited from asking money from the inmates.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ More activist advocates than professional lawyers required; and
- ◆ Strong networking knowledge is required.

**Difficulties at Work:**

Getting sufficient support from the jail administration in following up the cases.



# Khushboo Pariyojana 'Prakalp'

<b>Address</b>	:	M – 220 Shiv Nagar Damoh Naka Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Rajesh Sharma
<b>Designation</b>	:	Coordinator
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## **Key Prison Activities:**

Providing educational facilities and facilitating spiritual growth of prisoners.

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## **Mission & Aims:**

To enhance the employable skills of inmates through education and training.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Khushboo Pariyojana 'Prakalp' works in central and district jails of Jabalpur and Indore. Dr. Rajesh Sharma, associated with Human Rights Law Network in the district looks after the project activities in Jabalpur.

Following are some of the regular activities undertaken by the organisation:

- ◆ Providing computer training;
- ◆ Providing legal guidance and aid;
- ◆ Celebration of festivals;
- ◆ Yoga sessions;
- ◆ Art of Living sessions;
- ◆ Rehabilitation of prisoners after release; and
- ◆ Educational support.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

Since the organisation has good contacts and credibility in the districts it receives good response and cooperation from the prison authorities. It networks and collaborates with the local organisations depending on the issues and the needs of the prisoners. Khushboo Pariyojana 'Prakalp' works in close collaboration with 26 NGOs and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in the district.

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# Learning Resource Development Centre

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## Key Prison Activities:

Organising art and skill-based training programmes for prisoners to ensure their economical independence in the society post release.

## The Initial Phase:

Training programs in prisons earlier conducted under the Community Polytechnic Scheme of MHRD is over now. The present programmes are conducted through the funds provided by Service to Community and Economy Project under Technical Education Quality Improvement Program. Under the World Bank Scheme of assistance for technical education, Learning Resource Development Centre (LRDC) has now taken up a programme to develop the skills of prison inmates with the support of Ministry of Technical Education, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

In the first phase, prisoners of Jabalpur Central Jail were trained for making consumable articles. They were provided skill-based training as a part of "Earn While You Learn" programme, so that they could earn some money in addition to their normal prison wages during incarceration and could become a part of mainstream society after release.

Overall objective of the organisation is to promote and hold employment oriented training programmes for community development. It also takes up activities of research and development of better resources and education techniques to make education and training more communicative and beneficial for prisoners.

## Mission & Aims:

- ♦ Rehabilitation of prisoners by providing employment oriented training so that they become independent and self-reliant; and
- ♦ Providing technical and skill-based knowledge to prisoners to make them competent in the society after release.

## Strateg/Approach:

Social workers engaged by (LRDC) work in collaboration with prison staff in finding out prisoners who willingly offer to be trained in the area of their interest. They enrol them for training on the basis of their basic qualifications and the field in which they desire to gain expertise. Care is taken for the selection of suitable trainers and they are specially oriented and motivated to be patient and sympathetic with prisoners while imparting training.



**Work Program:**

LRDC offers the following training programmes:

- ◆ Jute Art Designing;
- ◆ Textile designing;
- ◆ Automobile repairing;
- ◆ Dress designing;
- ◆ Training in electronics/electrical repairing; and
- ◆ Moral and spiritual education.

**The Team:**

The LRDC team consists of two coordinators and four permanent trainers. For rest of the work, subject guides are specially contracted according to job requirements.

**Major Achievements:**

Nearly 350 male and female prisoners have become experts in some technical skill. Women prisoners who took part in the Jute Art Designing programme held in February 2007 produced quality material in large quantity and earned acclaim both from high officials and the media.

**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ First time offenders who have committed minor offences should be isolated from habitual offenders; and
- ◆ Social workers should be allowed to work freely with prison inmates even in the barracks so that they have an insight in their day-to-day life.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

Training social workers in rules, regulations and laws governing the management of prisons and prisoners.

**Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Often it is difficult to get entry into prisons and quite a lot of time is wasted in seeking access. The presence of social workers is restricted up to auditoriums only;
- ◆ It is difficult to carry training equipment and raw material inside the prison and even more difficult to bring manufactured material outside; and
- ◆ Restricted time-period for interacting with prisoners prohibits analysing their actual requirements.



## Marg

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### **Key Prison Activities:**

Spreading legal awareness and providing legal aid to prisoners.

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### **Mission & Aims:**

Marg's main objectives are to provide legal rights to the prisoners, train judges on human rights issues and impart legal awareness in the society.

### **The Organisation & its Work:**

Marg registered its head office in Delhi in 1993, under the Societies Registration Act, 1958. It has the permission to visit all the prisons in Madhya Pradesh. It works in nine states all over India including Madhya Pradesh. It is working to accomplish constitutional law guidelines given by the Supreme Court in 1983.

All the staff working with Marg provide voluntary services to the organisation. These volunteers work in collaboration with the sub jail and central jail authorities and visit prisons once a month to attend to the needs of the prisoners.

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### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Jail administration should concentrate more on rights based changes; and
- ◆ Ensure exercise of prisoners' rights.



# Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK)

<b>Address</b>	:	Kothi Bazar Hoshangabad Madhya Pradesh
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## **Key Prison Activities:**

Organising cultural activities in the prison.

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## **Mission & Aims:**

The main focus of NYK is to organise cultural activities in the prison.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Nehru Yuva Kendra's national level programme is implemented in all the districts of Madhya Pradesh by the Central Government's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The activities of NYK started in 1993, at the district jail as an extension of their rural project in the district.

The rural based organisation organises three visits and programs in a year without involving itself in any rights based issues of the prisoners. This is because they do not have full-time workers to handle individual concerns of the prisoners.

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# Prison Ministry India (PMI)

**Address** : St. Antony's Church Lane 5,  
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Bhopal 462 010, Madhya Pradesh

**Contact Person** : Fr. Joseph Tannipilly  
**Designation** : Coordinator

**Key Prison Activities:**  
Facilitating spiritual growth of prisoners; vocational training; and education.

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**Mission & Aims:**  
The main aim is to help prisoners live a dignified life.

**The Organisation & its Work:**  
Based in Bhopal, PMI's volunteers provide psychosocial counselling and vocational training to the prisoners in sub jails, district jails and central jails of Madhya Pradesh.

**Strategy/Approach:**  
Activities are undertaken to facilitate the spiritual growth of prisoners. Vocational training like stitching and embroidery is provided to the inmates. Shelter and educational support are extended to the children of prisoners whenever possible. Food, fruits and other legally permitted consumable items are occasionally distributed to the prisoners. Schools and youth groups are involved to present cultural programmes with social messages for the prisoner on various occasions.

PMI organises the following programmes for prisoners:

- ◆ Regular visits and interventions;
- ◆ Facilitating spiritual growth through *Satsangs*;
- ◆ Counselling;
- ◆ Celebration of festivals;
- ◆ Visiting and maintaining regular contacts with the families of prisoners;
- ◆ Vocational training or life-skills;
- ◆ Shelter and /or educational support to children of prisoners; and
- ◆ Health check-ups and medical support.

**The Team:**  
The PMI team comprises of 14 volunteers.

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**Capacity Building Requirements:**  
Constituting a common platform for all the NGOs working on prisoners' issues.



# Saral Vidhi Gyan (SAVIGYA)

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## Key Prison Activities:

Creating awareness among prisoners about their rights, responsibilities and about the legal system; developing an atmosphere of accountability in the prison system; activating and monitoring the functioning of the Legal Services Authority; ensuring the accountability of advocates during the remand and trial period; and ensuring implementation of proper criminal procedure during trial for speedy justice.

## The Initial Phase:

SAVIGYA, a group of persons from different fields (social workers, professors, advocates, law students and businessmen) started with the aim of developing awareness of law and basic rights in the community. It organised legal awareness workshops in both urban and rural areas on issues related to panchayat and right to information. It also conducted such workshops with *Anganwadi* (child care centers) workers of Ratlam district. In order to reach the masses, it conceived, produced and performed *Nukkad Nataks* (road side plays) on social issues. It was a part of a network of organisations in Madhya Pradesh which came together for promoting legal literacy and raising issues of human rights under the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and MARG project.

## Mission & Aims:

SAVIGYA aims to reform the present prison system in the light of Articles 14, 20, 21 and 22 of the Constitution of India and the various directions issued by the Supreme Court. It is working to establish an Alternate Dispute Resolution System and a paralegal cell for creating awareness among people on human rights issues.

## The Organisation & its Work:

SAVIGYA is registered as a research organisation in Madhya Pradesh under the Societies Registration Act, 1973. It acts as a service provider by closely working with a cross-section of people such as jail inmates, unorganised labour, women, anganwadi and balwadi workers, panchayat members, advocates and self help groups.



Some of the work programmes of SAVIGYA include:

- ◆ The jail programme includes prison visits and creating awareness among inmates about their social responsibilities; following up individual cases and a study on psychological impact of incarceration on the prisoners;
- ◆ Legal aid programme;
- ◆ Legal awareness in the community; and
- ◆ Interaction with district court lawyers to strengthen their legal work capacity and to sensitise them to problems of the disadvantaged.

### Specific Tasks Carried Out:

- ◆ Visits to Ratlam Sub Jail once a month (last Sunday of every month) to hold legal awareness sessions with inmates. This started in March 2006 and visits were made in association with MARG, Delhi. The inmates of this jail are under-trials with majority of them under NDPS Act. Issues such as physical non-production of prisoners in court; the rights of juveniles in conflict with the law, right to a lawyer; free legal aid; bail and in particular Section 436A Cr.P.C. were discussed with prisoners and prison functionaries.
- ◆ As a fallout of these visits SAVIGYA helped inmates get lawyers and juveniles bailed out or transferred to observation homes. It helped a couple in jail to locate their seven years old son who was living on the streets and sent him to children home.
- ◆ Film Screening: In October 2006 SAVIGYA was given permission to screen a legal awareness film by Marg, *Bol Basanto* in all the jails in Madhya Pradesh. Workers of SAVIGYA have till date visited 23 jails along with MARG, screening various episodes of *Bol Basanto* and holding discussions on legal problems of prison inmates.

### Strategy/Approach:

SAVIGYA's mission is to promote legal awareness and make people understand the concept of the rule of law. Most of its workers are volunteers from a cross section of the society. It is endeavouring to have better human and financial resources to carry on sustained work and increase its reach.

### The Team:

The team comprises of a president, vice president, secretary, joint secretary, treasurer, members of working committee and voluntary social workers.

### Major Achievements:

- ◆ In several cases during jail visits, juveniles were identified and initiative was taken either to send them to *Bal Sudhar Griha* (children's remand home) or to get them released on bail through concerned courts.
- ◆ During workshops with *Anganwadi* workers, many cases of domestic violence, dowry divorce and maintenance came to light. SAVIGYA sent these cases to legal services authority to provide appropriate remedies.
- ◆ SAVIGYA monitored the implementation of Section 160 Cr.P.C. Violation by the police of the safeguards provided to women and children under this section were highlighted and brought to the notice of senior police officers and the State Commission for Women, Bhopal. This resulted in action against defaulting officials.
- ◆ In many of the cases of remand and interrogation, advocate services were provided to accused. SAVIGYA is providing this facility without any charge.



**Future Plans:**

SAVIGYA would establish sustainable paralegal services in association with other organisations, advocates and senior law students. They hope that other similar organisations will join them voluntarily in promoting community participation in prison reforms and paralegal services.

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**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Improvement in the functioning of the Legal Service Authority in providing legal support to prisoners;
- ◆ The *Mulakat System* (personal interview with family members, lawyers and well-wishers) needs to be reviewed and improved in the light of systems prevalent in different countries;
- ◆ The system of official and non-official visitors needs to be revived and strengthened; and
- ◆ Prison personnel need to be provided periodic motivational training so that they function better and have a correctional approach.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Appropriate orientation training to workers to increase their capabilities of organisational management; and
- ◆ Training to prepare proposals to raise funds and to be able to identify organisations that will support activities of SAVIGYA.

**Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Getting standing permission for prison visits; and
- ◆ Lack of resources for engaging lawyers and full-time staff.



# Sudhar - Social Work in Prison

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**Key Prison Activities:** Socio-legal counselling support to prisoners and their family members; legal aid support to marginalised prisoners; rehabilitation and recreational support to prisoners; educational support to children of prisoners; training workshops for prison functionaries on custodial justice issues; welfare activities with families of prison staff; and advocating for rights of prisoners through awareness workshops.

### The Founder:

Sudhar was initiated by Ms. Surekha Talari, an alumni of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). She initiated this project on basis of her research findings – M.A. thesis ‘Experiences of Women Under-trial Prisoners’ – and field action work done in Betul District Prison.

### The Initial Phase:

A pilot field action work was done in Betul District Prison in Madhya Pradesh with women prisoners in 2000 supported by IGSSS. In 2001, the work was expanded to Bhopal Central Prison on the proposition of Madhya Pradesh Prisons Department. Currently, Sudhar is working in seven prisons in three divisions- Bhopal, Indore and Ujjain.

### Mission & Aims:

Sudhar aims to work towards custodial and gender justice in criminal justice system with the view to explore alternatives to imprisonment, prevention of crime and re-integration of crime-affected people in the society.

### The Organisation & its Work:

Sudhar has been working on issues of prisoners and the prison system since 2001. The role of Sudhar is to reach out to the needs of marginalised prisoners in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) through following activities:

- ◆ Provide psychosocial and legal counselling;
- ◆ Helping them in accessing legal provisions such as bail, legal aid, parole and probation;
- ◆ Coordinating with the lawyers, free legal aid cell authority for legal assistance for marginalised prisoners;
- ◆ Coordinating with criminal justice functionaries for legal provisions;
- ◆ Writing applications and meeting criminal justice functionaries on behalf of prisoners;



- ◆ Home visit the families of the prisoners for support;
- ◆ Arrange family visits to prisons in case of marginalised prisoners;
- ◆ Assessing the situation of children of prisoners and address their immediate needs like food, shelter, clothing and education;
- ◆ Strengthening foster care and providing sponsorship for education for children of prisoners;
- ◆ Providing support to the prisoner's family during emergency situations;
- ◆ Organising vocational and creative activities in the prison (e.g. drawing & painting, wallpaper making, gel candel making, making paper bags);
- ◆ Providing financial support to the released prisoners for shelter, employment and medical purposes;
- ◆ Follow up of released prisoners to assess their situation after release;
- ◆ Forming support groups for released women prisoners and promoting legal and vocational training among them;
- ◆ Developing support groups for women prisoners for prevention of crime and violence against women;
- ◆ Providing aftercare services for rehabilitation;
- ◆ Coordinating with other organisations and individuals on the same issue to bring policy level changes in the system and strengthen the existing structures that are already working in the Criminal Justice System;
- ◆ Organising personality development activities for children in prison;
- ◆ Identifying sponsors for children's education and build support structure for them in the community where they belong;
- ◆ Networking with various NGOs who are working on issues of children for referral to a broad range of other support services;
- ◆ Creating awareness on rights through our magazine for prisoners *Maitrayee*; and
- ◆ Advocating for systemic changes through workshops, meetings and dialogues with non-governmental agencies.

### Strategy/Approach:

The approach of SUDHAR towards prison reforms is through a three-tier intervention structure. The three-tier intervention structure has been adopted to identify the core issues related to prisoners' rights. Firstly, case work program with prisoners and their family members helps in gaining insights on systemic issues. Secondly, training program for criminal justice functionaries supplements to view the issues in holistic mode. Finally, advocacy and research program helps to methodically interact with various agencies (who are potential actors to bring change) on the issue.

### The Team:

Currently we are a team of 15 members who are specialised in social work, law and commerce.

### Major Achievements:

- ◆ Established professional social work intervention approach in prisons;
- ◆ Social services support provided to 1000-1500 prisoners every year;
- ◆ Education sponsorship provided to approximately 125 children of prisoners who were left outside;
- ◆ Awareness created among various government departments to consider (ex) prisoners as the beneficiaries of various social welfare programs; and
- ◆ Stimulated judiciary to revive Probation of Offenders Act in Madhya Pradesh.

### Future Plans:

Along with ongoing programs, Sudhar envisions to encourage more individuals and groups to work on issues of CJS. They would also like to strengthen their research based advocacy efforts in criminal justice.



## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Need for social work interventions in custodialisation process to retain humane touch;
- ◆ Need for bilateral participative approach (which includes prisoners and prison staff) in prison reforms;
- ◆ Coordination of various government and non-government agencies to work for restoring rights of crime-affected people such as rehabilitation support to victim as well as accused; and
- ◆ Punishment must consider aspects of social justice.

## **Capacity Building Requirements:**

Need Hindi (simple) translated books, research reports, training materials and other documents concerning criminal justice which could be used for training local staff.

## **Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Lack of legitimacy to access prisons for social work interventions;
- ◆ Limited support from community, criminal justice functionaries and donors; and
- ◆ Lack of trained correctional social workers and social scientist to take up field action projects or research for advocacy on issues of criminal justice.



# India Centre for Human Rights & Law

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## Key Prison Activities:

Improving prison conditions and protecting prisoners' rights.

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## Mission & Aims:

- ◆ To articulate an alternative constitutional law based not on property but on universal human values;
- ◆ To introduce a broader ideological mooring for legal work as part of an overall process to bring about social change in which legal campaigns and social movements collaborate. Incorporate international human rights principles in Indian law and, in turn, influence constitutional law in foreign jurisdictions through the development of innovative and path-breaking case laws in India;
- ◆ To build close links between legal networks in India and human rights law groups abroad, both in the development of law as well as legal practices;
- ◆ To campaign for wide-ranging reforms of the legal system, particularly with respect to state funded legal aid for the poor, so that the state takes more responsibility for legal services and allocates more resources for legal aid;
- ◆ To bring human rights law education in India into the mainstream;
- ◆ To build alliances between judiciary and rights based initiatives to sensitise the judicial system to a more inclusive understanding of human rights and to an increased awareness of human rights law and practices in different parts of the world; and
- ◆ To constantly work for:
  - Greater access to justice for the poor, disabled, aged, sick, tribal women, *Dalit* juveniles and minorities;
  - Radical reform of legal aid;
  - Repeal of oppressive legislations as such as the Prevention of Terrorism Act, The Armed Forces Special Powers Act, The Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, and other preventive detention laws;
  - Abolition of Death Penalty;
  - Prison reforms and implementation of the Mulla Committee Recommendations;
  - Mass amnesty for special categories of under trial and convict prisoners;
  - Police reform and the elimination of torture, false encounters and disappearances; and
  - Promoting speedy trial and fair procedures.



ICHRL team attends courts and prisons to provide legal aid to under-trial prisoners in Maharashtra. Its member lawyers regularly visit prisons to identify cases that require legal aid and guidance.

### The Organisation & its Work:

India Centre for Human Rights & Law (ICHRL) is a network of organisations working on human rights issues all over India. In Maharashtra, it is working towards the protection of civil rights and the rights of inmates in custody. Organisation's work includes improving prison conditions and the protection of prisoners' rights.

### Strategy/Approach:

ICHRL contacts prison inmates who suffer from lack of legal representation. NGOs such as Prayas, working on the issues of rehabilitation, also refer cases to its member lawyers. Presently, the organisation has permission to visit and work in district jail, Byculla district prison and central jails, Mumbai and Yerwada (Pune) central prison from where member advocates take up cases and represent them in courts for conservation of their legal rights – for availing bail, reduction of bail amount, release on personal bond, trial of cases, etc.

On various facets of legal work, the approach of ICHRL is as follows:

- ◆ Legal Aid
  - Representing prisoners in lower courts for bail/trial;
  - Representing convicted prisoners for appeals in High Court;
  - Public Interest Litigation on the issues relating to prison conditions, non-production of prisoners on court dates, health facilities in prisons, prison diet;
  - Taking up cases of women, *Dalits* and juvenile in conflict with law; and
  - Representing victims of crime such as rape, custodial torture and child sexual abuse and pressing for compensation.
  
- ◆ Legal Education
  - Training on criminal law for grassroots activists;
  - Training for lawyers on Prevention of Atrocities against SCs & STs Act;
  - Training of young lawyers on criminal law;
  - Training on Prevention of Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act;
  - Communications and Outreach (including publications);
  - Publication of posters in different languages;
  - Analysis of death sentence cases in India; and
  - Translation of the Criminal Law Handbook for activists in different languages.
  
- ◆ Campaigns
  - Campaign against death penalty;
  - Campaign against oppressive legislations; and
  - Campaign against custodial deaths and custodial violence.
  
- ◆ Crisis Response
  - Meetings and press conferences;
  - Fact finding missions;
  - Public hearings;
  - Visiting lock-ups across the country to check living conditions and video shooting where possible; and



- In the analysis of death sentence cases, profiling of accused and their families, examining socio-economic status of the accused and also checking whether the lawyer at lower court was a state appointed lawyer.
- ◆ Advocacy and networking; and
- ◆ Research on important aspects of criminal law and CJS.

### The Team:

The organisation consists of five advocates and one social worker.

### Major Achievements:

Public Interest Litigation is undertaken with a view to bring about comprehensive changes in CJS and address issues of prisoner's rights.

- ◆ *India Centre for Human Rights & Law vs. State of Maharashtra and Others* - A letter to the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court written by member of the Criminal Justice Initiative (CJI), a unit of *ICHR*, was converted into a PIL seeking steps to stop custodial death, proper investigation into numerous reported cases of custodial death, prosecution of guilty officers and compensation to the kin of the victims.
- ◆ *India Centre for Human Rights & Law vs. State of Maharashtra and Others* - Under trial prisoners in Mumbai were not being regularly produced in courts for long periods. A CJI member filed a PIL for the regular production of the under-trial prisoners and video conferencing to be restricted only to pre-trial stage. The early release of under-trial prisoners who had already undergone a substantial period of detention pending trial was ordered in this PIL.

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### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ **Legal aid and situation of under-trial prisoners:**
  - Quality of legal aid services should be improved;
  - There should be accountability of legal aid advocates;
  - Introduction of strict criteria of selection for legal aid advocates;
  - Every magistrate should send a report to DLSA about the performance of legal aid advocates every three months;
  - Probation of Offenders Act and section 468 Cr.P.C. should be used more frequently and more effectively;
  - While granting bail to accused receiving free legal aid, surety should not be insisted upon and personal bond should be considered;
  - Enhancement of honorarium for legal aid advocates;
  - The civil society and the NGOs should act as a link between the CJS and the prisoners;
  - Coordination between judiciary, prison, police and advocates should be promoted with Legal Services Authorities as nodal agencies; and
  - Advocates who are willing to provide free legal aid should be given easy accessibility to prison.
- ◆ **Prison Conditions:**
  - There should be a single pattern of prisons all over the country;
  - Prisons even at *Taluka* level should get all facilities as per rules;
  - Renovation of existing prison buildings;
  - Increase in numbers of prisons to remedy overcrowding;
  - Increase the sanctioned strength and recruitment of prison officials; and
  - Proper training should be provided to prison officials.





- ◆ **Training/sensitisation:**
  - Up-gradation in the quality of education of the prisoners;
  - Educated prisoners should be used to educate other prisoners;
  - Education programs should be in collaboration with universities;
  - Prisoners should be trained in life-skills;
  - Recreation facilities should be provided to prisoners;
  - Government and private sectors should collaborate to provide training;
  - Marketing, micro financing and financial skills to be developed among the prisoners;
  - Work should be made mandatory for the under-trial prisoners;
  - Computer literacy should be promoted among prisoners; and
  - Education of children of prisoners should be given highest priority and there should be no compromise with it.
  
- ◆ **Prison Visiting System/mulaqaats:**
  - All NGOs should engage with Prison Visiting System (PVS) in their respective states and get themselves appointed as non official visitors;
  - Insist on the District Collectors to call for Board Meetings;
  - Non-Official Visitors should be well aware of their duties and responsibilities;
  - Removal of wire-mesh system and substituting it with face-to-face meetings between prisoners and their family members;
  - Free access to relatives;
  - Relatives should be given the chance of taking prior appointments for visitation through telephone – telephone numbers should be displayed outside at a proper place;
  - District judges should visit the prisons every two months and the report should be directly submitted to the High Court; and
  - Shelter and other facilities for visitors should be provided e.g. drinking water, etc.
  
- ◆ **Women/children/HIV:**
  - A State wise database should be prepared about the dependants and children of prisoners and thereafter through a national network, a national database should be prepared;
  - Thereafter, inmates accused of petty and bailable offences should be released as far as possible;
  - Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) should take the onus of the care of women prisoners and children of prisoners;
  - Legal Aid Cells should have women advocates;
  - Non-judicial disposal of cases should be promoted;
  - There should be separate jails for women prisoners with facilities for their children;
  - Proper medical assistance should be provided to pregnant prisoners;
  - Women prisoners and children in jails should be protected from sexual abuse through a strict and protective environment;
  - Provide vaccination and immunization program for children;
  - More women should be appointed as prison officials;
  - Promote link with government schemes for the rehabilitation of released prisoners; and
  - Hygiene and sanitation needs of the women prisoners should be taken care of.

# Ideal Relief Committee Trust

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(Sayed Hasan)

## Key Prison Activities:

Facilitating spiritual and religious growth of prisoners and providing educational facilities.

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## Mission & Aims:

The main aim of the organisation is personality development of offenders in order to keep them away from anti-social behaviour in future.

## The Organisation & its Work:

The organisation works with the help of *Antim Satya Probodhan Sanstha*, an NGO. The focus is to work on the spiritual growth of the inmates. The main activities in prison include:

- ◆ Providing support for religious and spiritual growth of prisoners; and
- ◆ Providing educational facilities to prisoners.

## Strategy/Approach:

The organisation works in district jails, and the staff visits these jails once in a month to carry out its programmes in collaboration with other organisations working on similar prison issues.

## The Team:

The organisation has 15 staff members who are responsible for its overall functioning and day-to-day activities.

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## Difficulties at Work:

- ◆ The staff feels that they are not able to work on all issues related to jail inmates as they belong to the minority community;
- ◆ Moreover getting permission to initiate activities can be difficult sometimes; and
- ◆ Communication with inmates has also proved challenging.



# Indian Social Services Unit of Education

<b>Address</b>	: At-Lonara, Post Gumathi Savarmenda road, Taluka Nagpur 441111, Maharashtra
<b>Contact Person</b>	: Rajiv Thorat
<b>Designation</b>	: Director
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 0712-2602698 E-mail: <a href="mailto:issuez@rediffmail.com">issuez@rediffmail.com</a>

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Educational, medical and legal support to prison inmates.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

The organisation was registered in January, 1993. It works on prison and prisoners' issues by providing different kinds of services for their welfare. At present it is not involved in working for prisoners' rights. The work in central jail started in March 2001.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

Work on prisoners and prison related issues includes:

- ◆ Providing educational support and shelter facility to children of prisoners;
- ◆ Providing health check-ups and medical facility through other NGOs;
- ◆ Providing legal aid to women prisoners; and
- ◆ Working for the welfare of children of prisoners.

## **Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Since the organisation is new in this field, long-term plans are yet to be finalised; and
- ◆ The staff often finds it difficult to identify the basic issues, as they are not trained.



# Kendra Sayojak - Yeshvantrao Chavan Mukta Vidyapeeth

<b>Address</b>	:	Study Centre Yeshvantrao Chavan Mukta Vidyapeeth Kolhapur Central Prison, Kolhapur, Maharashtra
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Arun Patil
<b>Designation</b>	:	Centre Coordinator
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 0231- 2324319 Mobile: +91-9822171054

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Providing educational facilities to prisoners.

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## **Mission & Aims:**

The main aim of the organisation is to bring about a positive change in the attitude of prisoners by providing education and moral support so that they do not indulge in criminal activities in future.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

The organisation works on the issue of right to education for prisoners who are dropouts and eager to complete their education. It conducts and runs a distance education centre for the inmates to help them complete their education while they are in prison.

The work of the organisation involves:

- ◆ Providing educational support to prisoners;
- ◆ Providing vocational training and life-skills to willing inmates;
- ◆ Providing health check-ups and medical support to prisoners; and
- ◆ Delivering moral, educational and spiritual discourses to them.

Members of the organisation associate with inmates to celebrate religious and cultural programmes on occasions such as *Raksha Bandhan*, Republic Day, and Independence Day.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

The main programme of the Centre is to conduct graduate, post-graduate classes and supportive study programmes for the inmates. The Vidyapeeth's programme for inmates of central prison, Kolhapur has been continuing since its launch in 2003. More and more youth and grown-up inmates are availing this unique opportunity while serving their sentence.

Since the education program is an extension of university courses for the benefit of prison inmates, it is conducted with the support and cooperation of the prison department and the superintendent of jail. Once or twice a week the coordinator visits the prison to provide information regarding the courses available to the inmates.

## **Major Achievements:**

Some of the successful programmes so far have been the following:

- ◆ Bachelor of Arts
- ◆ Formal Education.

## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Initiation and continuation of educational programmes;
- ◆ Counselling for prisoners in order to understand their problems;
- ◆ Collating information about their family members to provide support; and
- ◆ Providing moral support to the inmates.

## Difficulties at Work:

- ◆ Getting permission from concerned authorities to conduct different activities; and
- ◆ Bringing a change in the attitude of prison officials (overcoming their prejudice against prisoners).



# Missionaries A. Charities (Akola)

**Address** : Station Road, Akola, Maharashtra

**Contact Person** : Sister Juditha  
**Designation** : Superior (In charge)

**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 0724-2437967

**Key Prison Activities:**  
Developing vocational skills of prisoners.

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**Mission & Aims:**  
Missionaries A. Charities (Akola) registered in 1948, is working on prison issues with a focus on developing vocational training and life-skills of prisoners.

**Strategy/Approach:**  
The organisation conducts spiritual preaching sessions in the prison. It does not work on issues related to rights of prisoners or problems associated with prison management. It confines its activities to promotion of employable skills of willing inmates so that they may find it easy to rehabilitate in the society after their release.

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**Difficulties at Work:**  
Lack of trained staff.



# Navjeevan Mandal

- Address** : Plot No. 4 (First Floor)  
Zuruchi Cooperative Housing Society  
Kale path, Bhadarkar Road  
Deccan, Pune, Maharashtra
- Contact person** : Shripad Achayatrapo, Major General Shinde
- Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 020-26817556, 26851952,  
56086325

## Key Prison Activities:

Providing medical and educational support; improving the living conditions of prisoners; providing aid for self-employment; spreading awareness about prisoners in the society; and counselling.

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## The Founder:

The organisation was started jointly by retired government officials from various ministry departments. Social workers and some government officials with interest in prison reforms are members of this NGO.

## Mission & Aims:

The main aim of Navjeevan Mandal is to provide support to released prisoners for their rehabilitation and to protect them from further criminalisation and victimisation. It is believed that this would help to improve the general image of prisoners in society.

## The Organisation & its Work:

The organisation is recognised by the probation department and receives grant-in-aid from the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) through which land and the night shelter were procured. Navjeevan Mandal does not focus on issues pertaining to legal rights of under-trial or convicted prisoners. Prison officials refer cases of prisoners (due for release after completion of their term) to the Advisory Committee of Navjeevan, enlisting their needs of social rehabilitation. On the basis of these requirements the committee decides the kind of assistance and aid that can be provided to such inmates. The main focus is provision of suitable aid to help the inmates generate income after release.

Activities conducted by the organisation generally focus on:

- ◆ Health check-ups and medical support to prisoners;
- ◆ Educational support;
- ◆ Improving the living conditions of prisoners;
- ◆ Providing aid for their self-employment and rehabilitation;
- ◆ Improving the general image of ex-prisoners in society; and
- ◆ Counselling and formal education for inmates.

## Strategy/Approach:

Two volunteers visit the male and female barracks twice a week. They collaborate with other government and non-government agencies in executing programmes.

Some of the successful programmes are as follows:

- ◆ Arrangement of temporary shelter for released prisoners;
- ◆ Starting computer courses in the prison; and



- ◆ Extending assistance to released prisoners for availing loans for self-employment from Central Bank of India.
- 

#### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ The staff of the organisation feels that many of the rules and regulations in the prison manual need to be reviewed and amended; and
- ◆ Young volunteers and social workers should come forward to work in prisons even if they offer to work on an honorarium basis.

#### **Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ The organisation mainly comprises of retired officers habituated to working in a specific protocol and hierarchy, there is little scope for younger work force to initiate new ideas;
- ◆ Prison department is not always supportive. Delay in processing official papers leads to delay in reaching out to inmates;
- ◆ Progress in the work of the organisation depends on the motivation of seniors, hence is unpredictable; and
- ◆ Getting grants on time is one of the main hurdles in the smooth functioning of the organisation.



# Prajapati Bramha Kumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya (Nanded)

<b>Address</b>	:	Prajapita Bramaha Kumari Iswariya Vishwa Vidyalay Sukhshanti Bhavan Kailash Nagar, Nanded, Maharashtra
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Kumari Shivakanya
<b>Designation</b>	:	Director
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 02462- 251649 Mobile: +91-9423138866

## Key Prison Activities:

Promoting spiritual and religious growth of prison inmates.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Prajapati Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya has branches all over the world including one in every district of Maharashtra. It believes in the practice of *Yoga*, which helps to attain peace and develop a healthy body and mind. It does not focus on the legal rights of under-trial or convicted prisoners. The organisation collaborates with other organisations like Jeevan Sadhana Mahila Vikas Kendra, Lions Club and Rotary Club in executing its programmes.

## Strategy/Approach:

The work on prisoners and prison-related issues includes:

- ◆ Occasionally distributing food, fruits and other legally permitted consumables among prisoners in order to break the monotony of prison diet;
- ◆ Facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners;
- ◆ Preaching the practice of *Raj Yoga* as an intervention strategy in the process of reformation of prisoners. A large number of inmates learn this art successfully. Various elevating activities conducted as part of the practice, helps inmates to think and act positively.



# Prajapita Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalyaya (Thane)

**Address** : Padma Niwas, Ram Maruti Road  
Cross Lane-3 Naupada  
Thane (West)  
Maharashtra

**Contact Person** : B.K. Latika  
**Designation** : Incharge

**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 022-25410640  
E-mail: bklatika@vsnl.net

## Key Prison Activities:

Facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners; improving the living conditions of prisoners; and organising programmes on special occasions.

## Mission & Aims:

The main aim of the organisation is to make the inmates spiritually and morally confident.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Prajapati Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalyaya has been actively functioning since 1937 and was registered in Thane in 1980. It is a spiritual organisation that works for the betterment of mankind and has branches all over the world. One of their important projects is conducting activities for the welfare of prisoners. However, the focus is not on prisoners' rights but promoting spiritual growth of inmates.

## Strategy/Approach:

The work on prisoners and prison-related issues includes:

- ◆ Facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners; and
- ◆ Improving the living conditions of prisoners;

Volunteers of this Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalyaya regularly visit prisons to conduct spiritual preaching and promote the practice of *Rajyoga*. Occasionally they organise special programmes on festivals like *Deepawali* and *Raksha Bandhan*.

## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

Rehabilitation of prisoners is an area which requires urgent attention from all concerned.

## Capacity Building Requirements:

- ◆ Health awareness;
- ◆ Spiritual knowledge; and
- ◆ Skills on how to face challenges in life.



# Pratisad Foundation Ratnagiri

**Address** : Sanjivani Chikitsa Kendra  
Varchi aili Ratnagiri  
Maharashtra

**Contact Person** : President (By Designation)

**Key Prison Activities:**

Facilitating spiritual and religious growth and providing medical support to prisoners.

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**Mission & Aims:**

The main aim of the organisation is to protect prisoners from stigmatisation and to provide means of rehabilitation post release.

**The Organisation & its Work:**

Following are some of the regular activities conducted by the Pratisad Foundation Ratnagiri:

- ◆ Occasionally distributing food, fruits and other legally permitted consumables among prisoners especially during festivals;
- ◆ Providing and facilitating education of prisoners;
- ◆ Facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners; and
- ◆ Providing health check-up and medical support to prisoners.

**Strategy/Approach:**

A team of volunteers visits the prisons to conduct its activities. The Foundation does not have a perennial source of funding and hence it pursues its programmes as per the needs of the inmates and availability of resources. Members contribute to make these programmes successful.

Activities are planned and conducted with a focus on:

- ◆ Stigmatised & neglected groups;
  - ◆ Reintegrating inmates with their families;
  - ◆ Preventing further victimisation of inmates; and
  - ◆ Providing rehabilitation after release.
- 

**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Vocational training of inmates; and
- ◆ Awareness of family planning.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

Social work training to enhance skills and upgrade knowledge of the volunteers.

**Difficulties at Work:**

Developing trust and a working relationship with the inmates.



# Prayas

(A field action project of the Center for Criminology and Justice, Tata Institute of Social Sciences)

- Address** : 9/1 B.D.D. Chawls  
Worli, Mumbai 400018  
Maharashtra
- Contact Person** : Vijay Raghavan  
**Designation** : Asst. Professor - Center for Criminology and Justice & Project Director - Prayas
- Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 022-24947156, 24902285  
E-mail: prayas1990@rediffmail.com

## Key Prison Activities:

Legal aid and advice to prisoners and their families; implementation of policies, laws, procedures and practices affecting prisoners' rights; support to children and families of incarcerated persons; and post release rehabilitation of offenders.

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## Mission & Aims:

- ♦ To provide opportunities to persons vulnerable to further criminalisation and commercial sexual exploitation, for facilitating their reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration into mainstream society;
- ♦ To contribute knowledge and insight to the current understanding of aspects of CJS policy and process in India - with specific reference to socio-economically vulnerable and excluded communities, groups and individuals who are at greater risk of being criminalised, or exposed to trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation;
- ♦ To work towards policy change and law reform for extending welfare services to socially excluded groups in need of rehabilitation; and
- ♦ To demonstrate the need for social work intervention within the Welfare Sector (particularly the CJS).

## The Organisation & its Work:

Prayas was initiated as a field action project of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). Dr. Sanober Sahni, (then Reader in the Department of Criminology and Correctional Administration, TISS) and Shri Vijay Raghavan initiated this project in 1990. The project addresses the needs of persons being processed within the Criminal Justice System (CJS), with particular reference to women, youth and their families.

The project focuses on the following areas:

- ♦ Provision of legal aid and advice to prisoners/inmates and their families;
- ♦ Addressing problems relating to the implementation of policies, laws, procedures and practices affecting inmate rights;
- ♦ Advocating adherence to correctional laws (with reference to the Indian Constitution, and related U.N. and other international agreements to which India is a party);
- ♦ Support to families (especially minor children of imprisoned/institutionalised persons); and
- ♦ Post release emergency support and rehabilitation programmes, through both voluntary and government sectors.



The target groups being focused through the project are: women and youth in crime; trafficked women and those forced into prostitution; families of persons affected by crime or prostitution; vulnerable sections in custody or processed by the CJS; released prisoners and/or their families; and children of prisoners.

### Work in Prisons:

The work in prison is currently focused on five prisons in Maharashtra and Gujarat. At these prisons (Mumbai, Byculla, Thane, Kalyan and Bharuch), social workers and activity teachers provide basic services such as legal aid, family visits, running activity centres, counselling, and providing guidance and information to under-trial and convicted prisoners in the women's and young male sections.

Volunteers and social workers of the organisation also provide outreach services to children of prisoners left outside, by giving financial assistance for educational purposes, basic subsistence, medical treatment, maintaining contact with parents inside, emotional support and counselling, and legal guidance where necessary. At the request of the mother inside prison, arrangements are made for temporary shelter for children, in case there is no one else to look after them. Cases have also been referred to Prayas by prison officials and the District Probation Officer.

These services are provided with a view to establish a proactive relationship with the person inside, in order to facilitate his/her rehabilitation. The idea is to give a message to the person that positive supports are available if he/she is willing to get out of a life of crime. If the family links are alive or can be activated, the effort of the social worker is to strengthen those ties, to enable the process of rehabilitation. Family support can at least take care of shelter and basic subsistence after release from the prison. Prayas therefore focuses on improving relationships at home, providing financial support (if necessary) and arranging for training or learning opportunities.

If the person's ties with the family seem non-renewable, then the effort is to focus on the individual arranging for his/her temporary shelter, taking care of post release emergencies, vocational training, basic subsistence and providing emotional support. This becomes a tall order to fulfil and requires considerable investment in manpower and resources.

Prison-based work has led to significant strides in convincing prison officials about the need to create rehabilitation services in the community. Prayas has been able to elicit the cooperation and support of the prison administration in their work and there is an atmosphere of healthy dialogue between social workers of Prayas and prison staff. One indicator of this is that transfer of officials (a regular feature of the administration) does not lead to work getting negatively affected. Another indicator is that field workers rarely call in the project head to sort out differences with prison staff, something that was a regular part of project head's role in the past.

Prayas workers are also involved in regular visits to other prisons in the State as part of their study-cum-outreach work. Last year, workers visited prisons in Sangli, Satara, Kolhapur, Paithan and Atpadi; interacted with prison staff, prisoners, NGOs working in the region and students of social work to promote new developments in the field. Some of the issues raised through these visits have been communicated to higher officials in the prison department e.g. the delay in processing the pre-mature release of prisoners serving life sentences, after their completion of fourteen years.

As a result of persistent dialogue and networking by Prayas, several other agencies have extended their services to those in custody. Students from the Government Law College, for example, visit prison regularly and assist prisoners in writing applications



for requests like grant of personal bond, reduction of bail amounts, pleading guilty, and release on probation. Cases deserving legal aid are referred to the India Centre for Human Rights & Law (ICHRL). Collaboration with agencies such as KVIC and Project Mainstream has facilitated Prayas in organising training programmes inside prison.

In essence, the interventions of Prayas in addressing individual issues in the prison are an initiative aimed at soliciting the support of various social and state structures – be it the family, prison, judiciary, or community – with the objective of creating an environment conducive to a positive change in lifestyle and behaviour of offenders.

### **Strategy/Approach:**

#### *Framework for Services:*

The approach of Prayas is to bring about a shift in the image of offenders from that of a 'social or family liability' to that of a 'community asset'. To achieve this objective, an 'area to area approach' has been adopted by Prayas. This involves moving a person from an area or situation facilitating criminal behaviour or prostitution, to another area promoting socially acceptable behaviour. Prayas does it by establishing networks within the NGO sector, for purposes of shelter, training, and placement for apprenticeship and independence. The idea is to introduce positive experiences in client's life, while motivating him/her to pursue a goal outside of crime/prostitution.

Work strategy of Prayas includes:

- ◆ Outreach to different settings (prisons, police stations, court and women's institutions) to pick up cases for further intervention;
- ◆ Moving the client to a stable area of residence, either family or a shelter home. This is a pre-requisite for any further work, so as to introduce into a person's life a certain level of stability;
- ◆ Providing space for development of self, through exploration of alternatives and alteration of behaviour at the Prayas Development Centres for male (youth) and women;
- ◆ Encouraging the person to open savings account, and obtain documents reinstating his/her rights as a citizen;
- ◆ Placements within the NGO sector for apprenticeship training;
- ◆ Providing vocational training in employable skills; and
- ◆ Offering alternative options for accommodation in group-homes and working women's hostels, when it is ensured that the person is in a position to function in a community setting.

#### *Establishing Networks with Agencies:*

Building network with other agencies to widen the range of services and facilities to this group of persons, forms an important part of the activities of Prayas. This network helps in extending service to needy inmates both at personal level for medical care, shelter, repatriation, training and placement, and for settling them down in community. Regular dialogue with other agencies, in an attempt to obtain their services to the clientele of Prayas, forms an integral part of the intervention strategy.

#### *Policy and Advocacy:*

- ◆ Formulating healthy policies and participating in deliberation for implementation of procedures supportive of a person's basic rights, and rehabilitation;
- ◆ Preparation and submission of notes, reports, draft schemes and rules to relevant authorities and government departments based on learning from the field;
- ◆ Media advocacy to highlight custody and rehabilitation issues;
- ◆ Intervention through PILs on custodial justice and rehabilitation related issues;



- ♦ Organising workshops and meetings on rehabilitation of persons indicted of crime or prostitution; and
  - ♦ Participating and organising training programmes for criminal justice functionaries on issues relating to custodial rights and rehabilitation.
- 

### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ♦ Appointment of Welfare Officers (from amongst trained social workers) inside prison;
- ♦ Provision of regular or visiting psychiatrist or psychologist for district and central prisons;
- ♦ Vocational training programmes for under-trial prisoners;
- ♦ Implementation of available vocational schemes for prisoners inside and introduction of welfare schemes after release;
- ♦ Amendment of prison manual to accommodate training and welfare needs of under-trial prisoners;
- ♦ Need for shelter homes for released prisoners, especially for women and male youth;
- ♦ Need for a scheme for rehabilitation of released prisoners (convicts as well as under-trial prisoners) and a Grant-in-Aid Scheme for voluntary organisations working for prisoners and released prisoners;
- ♦ Improvement in legal services provided to persons in custody; and
- ♦ Effective and purposeful use of the Probation of Offenders Act (POA).



# Red Swastik Society

**Address** : 279, School Patlavakar Nursery  
Samarth Nagar, Aurangabad  
Maharashtra

**Contact Person** : Madhukar Anna Vaidya  
**Designation** : Secretary

**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 02432-2331256, 2332956,  
2330240  
Mobile: +91-9881242856

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Providing medical support to inmates.

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## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Red Swastik Society works to resolve health concerns of prisoners.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

Its activities include:

- ◆ Providing health check-ups and medical support to prisoners. Free health camps are organised inside the prison and medicines distributed to prisoners. Special doctors visit women prisoners to attend to their medical requirements;
  - ◆ The Secretary, who is involved in working on prison issues since last five years, makes at least two visits to the prison; and
  - ◆ In executing programmes, the organisation collaborates with Sushma Shah Giants Groups, Aurangabad.
- 

## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

Review and liberalisation of existing rules in prisons.



# Roman Catholic Direction Sanstha

<b>Address</b>	:	Bishops House Post Amravati Camp District Amravati Maharashtra
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Fr. James
<b>Designation</b>	:	Secretary
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 07152-266317, 0721-2666403 Mobile: +91-9423643763 E-mail: agra_kg@sanjarnet.in

**Key Prison Activities:**

Facilitating spiritual and religious growth of prisoners

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**The Organisation & its Work:**

Roman Catholic Direction Sanstha has a religious orientation and therefore works on the spiritual growth of prisoners. Its officials and members believe that inmates who develop spiritual understanding will find it easier to reform, rehabilitate and reintegrate in the society. With this objective in mind this Sanstha organises prayers in the prisons every week.

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# Saathi

**Address** : Cement Chawl Cotter  
Opp. Male Jail  
Yerwada, Pune 411006  
Maharashtra

**Contact Person** : Minakshi Apte, Puppa Roady

## **Key Prison Activities:**

General welfare of prison inmates by addressing their health and rehabilitation needs.

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## **The Founder:**

Smt. Apte is a retired faculty from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. After her retirement she started working for the children of women prisoners and later included children of male prisoners as well. The program focuses on the health and educational needs of these children.

## **Mission & Aims:**

The objective of Saathi is to provide services for the children of prisoners, to protect them from stigmatisation and vulnerability in the society. It works in the central prison of Pune (better known as Yerwada Jail) and in open jail for men and women. Social workers of the organisation visit these institutions Monday to Saturday to assess needs of inmates and to identify areas of social intervention. All the issues so identified are then effectively and vigorously followed up with appropriate government and non-government agencies.

Saathi collaborates with other service oriented groups working on issues of prisons in Maharashtra. Presently, it is networking with Navjeevan Mandal, World Vision, Freedom Foundation, Care India Medical Foundation and Action-Aid.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Saathi provides assistance to children of prisoners by arranging foster care for them. It is working to rehabilitate and protect the legal rights of inmates.

Saathi organises the following activities in prisons:

- ◆ Health check-ups and medical support to prisoners;
- ◆ Occasionally distributing food, fruits and other legally permitted consumables among prisoners;
- ◆ Entertainment programmes, sports, games, *rangoli*, drama, schemes for baby care and *balwadi*.
- ◆ Education for prisoners and children of prisoners;
- ◆ Vocational training and life-skills to prisoners;
- ◆ Shelter to children of prisoners;
- ◆ Social counselling and facilitating meetings with family members in jails;
- ◆ Advocating and campaigning for the protection of rights of under-trials and convicts; and
- ◆ Legal aid to under-trial prisoners, long-term convicts, women prisoners and children in conflict with law.

## **The Team:**

Saathi team comprises of twelve social workers.



**Major Achievements:**

- ◆ Balwadi classes in the jail have a good response and children of prisoners get access to education and recreation in the jail;
  - ◆ Foster care facility is provided to children; and
  - ◆ Financial support of Rs. 200 is given to family members of students.
- 

**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Workshops to bring about a change in the attitude of prison staff;
- ◆ Delegation of powers to senior prison officers for allowing social interventions;
- ◆ Infrastructure development; and
- ◆ Arrangement of vehicle, police van and ambulance.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

Computer literacy to volunteers and social workers of the organisation.



# SAHYADRI – Social, Educational & Youth Society

**Address** : Flat No. 20, Shri Apts.  
Geeta Nagar, New Paccha Peth  
Solapur 413006, Maharashtra

**Contact Person** : Purushottam Kadam  
**Designation** : President

**Other Contact Details** : Mobile: +91-9923446955

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Providing legal aid to inmates; sustaining their contacts with family and community; equipping prisoners with skills for their future rehabilitation; and counselling and extending material assistance to the needy.

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## **Mission & Aims:**

- ◆ To develop an initial relationship and rapport with the inmates
  - Taking up individual cases from the prison, sub jails, police stations, observation home, and community and attend to their immediate needs;
  - Making home-visits and informing families about the client housed in prison, sub jails or the lockup of the police station; and
  - Counselling of client as well as his/her family with a view to improving their mutual relations.
  
- ◆ To provide legal aid to inmates
  - Informing families of clients about free legal aid services or other related legal services;
  - Assisting families with legal aid either through the free legal aid services or through the organisation's private lawyers;
  - Helping families in negotiating the case fees with the organisation's referred lawyers. As per the needs and requirements of the family/client, arranging for the payment (part or full) of the lawyer's fees; and
  - Monitoring progress of court cases with respective lawyers.
  
- ◆ To equip clients with skills for their future rehabilitation
  - Conducting adult literacy classes and vocational training for male and female under-trials in the district prison and sub jails;
  - Providing recreational, educational and vocational training for the juveniles in conflict with the law during their stay in the observation home; and
  - Providing financial and moral support to inmates to pursue further education or vocational training .
  
- ◆ To assist and support children of prisoners
  - Assisting in the institutionalisation of children of prisoners left outside by referring them to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC);
  - Following-up with the institutions with regard to the arrangement of regular meetings between the institutionalised children and their imprisoned parents;



- Referring cases of children of prisoners through the CWC to avail of the benefit of the *Bal Sangopan Yojana* for foster care of school-going children; and
- Arranging donors for financial assistance to children of prisoners for fees, books and uniforms.
- ◆ To work towards the rehabilitation of offenders:
  - Making home-visits to assess the condition of the family of the client and the possibility of his adjustment after his/her release from the custodial institution;
  - Arranging for shelter and vocational training (where necessary) so as to make him/her financially independent;
  - Close monitoring to track of client's daily activities especially in cases where there is a possibility of re-arrest by the police;
  - Assisting clients in acquiring financial aid either through private sources or government schemes for setting up an enterprise of their own; and
  - Guiding and assisting in the process of acquiring relevant documents to obtain benefit of various government schemes for which the client is eligible.
- ◆ To take up issues at policy level through advocacy and documentation
  - Organising awareness and sensitisation workshops for the prison personnel with regard to rehabilitation of offenders;
  - Conducting workshops and sensitisation programmes with the police and tehsil officials with regard to their roles and duties as per rules;
  - Initiating a process of dialogue at policy level for take-over of revenue sub jails under the administrative control of prisons department;
  - Engaging with police, officials of the Department of Women and Child Development and the judiciary to work for proper functioning of Juvenile Justice Board;
  - Handling cases in close consultation with the Board members;
  - Documenting the work of the organisation for creating a knowledge base for students of social work, academicians and policy makers; and
  - Use of print and visual media to create awareness among general public and interest groups about issues related to the field of criminal justice, with a specific focus on legal rights and rehabilitation of vulnerable groups.

### The Organisation & its Work:

The seeds of the project were sown by a social worker from Prayas, who was based in Solapur, and felt the need to replicate the Prayas experience here. The first step towards this were taken when she approached the Department of Social Work, Walchand College to place first year students in Solapur District Prison, under her supervision. The proposal was accepted and for two consecutive years (2003-04 and 2004-05), students were placed in the women's and men's sections of the prison. In the second year, students were also placed in three police stations of Solapur city.

In continuation of this experience, three ex-students expressed a desire to continue the work on a full-time basis, paving the way for the formation of Sahyadri Foundation Trust, which began its work in prisons of Solapur district in July 2005. There is one district prison and a sub jail each in majority of the *talukas* (block) of the district. While the district prison comes under the administration of the Inspector-General of Prisons, the sub jails are under the jurisdiction of the Revenue Department.



The organisation began its work through the placement of full-time social workers in the male and female sections of Solapur District Prison and one social worker each in the sub jails of Barshi and Pandharpur *taluka* respectively. Presently, it has expanded its work to one more sub jail of Malshiras *taluka*, to the police stations of Barshi at the *taluka* level and the Foujdar Chowdie Police Station at the city level. Besides this, the organisation has started preventive work with the juveniles in conflict with law through its work in the Solapur Observation Home.

### Strategy/Approach:

One of the major activities of the organisation is to develop a rapport with under-trial prisoners to motivate them for rehabilitation. An attempt is made to achieve this by organising literacy classes and vocational training for inmates.

For release on bail or for speedy redressal of their court cases, Sahyadri arranges for lawyers either through the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) or through a panel of lawyers developed by the organisation. It also keeps a close follow-up with the lawyers appointed by the prisoners to monitor progress of the cases. Social workers and volunteers of Sahyadri keep counselling inmates and closely follow-up even after release.

Sahyadri also works with the prisoner's families to improve their interpersonal relationships. Wherever necessary, assistance is given with regard to problems such as illness of relatives and education and institutional treatment of their children. Sensitising programmes for prison officials, police, and judicial functionaries for reformation and rehabilitation of offenders have also been organised.

### The Team:

The organisation has a total of seven social workers and one teacher. Three workers for the sub jails and one worker each in the men and women's section of the Solapur District Prison. A vocational teacher is placed in the female section of the district prison. Besides this, a project advisor from Prayas assists the organisation.

### Major Achievements:

- ◆ Successfully conducting adult literacy classes for male and female inmates in Solapur District Prison and in the two sub jails;
- ◆ Acquiring a sewing machine through a donor agency and starting vocational training in the women section of the Solapur District Prison by appointing a part-time vocational teacher;
- ◆ Setting up a library in the district prison for the prison inmates;
- ◆ Developing rapport and obtaining support of some lawyers in the city of Solapur and in the *talukas* of Barshi, Pandharpur and Malshiras, who now take up cases referred by the organisation;
- ◆ Conducting awareness and educative sessions for prison inmates on various issues such as legal aid, bail, court procedures, Cr.P.C., government schemes, legal issues related to women, AIDS awareness, de-addiction, etc;
- ◆ Organised entertainment programmes during festivals, street play on de-addiction and also an eye-camp in which inmates were given free medicines and eyeglasses;
- ◆ Holding de-addiction sessions twice a week inside the prison for male inmates and follow-up sessions for released inmates; and
- ◆ Through the project advisor who is one of the members of the CWC, the organisation has been able to institutionalise children in need of care and protection.



## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ In order to streamline and improve the management of sub jails it is necessary to bring the administration of sub jails in the state under the purview of the Inspector General, prisons department;
- ◆ Government should take immediate steps to tackle the problem of overcrowding in prisons;
- ◆ Living conditions in prisons such as water, sanitation, etc. need to be improved; and
- ◆ Prison department should start some vocational training activities for under-trial prisoners so as to utilise their stay in the prison in a constructive way.

## **Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Training in paralegal work and knowledge of the functioning of the CJS; and
- ◆ Training in writing project proposals, reports and other documents.

## **Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Uncertainty of funds;
- ◆ Lack of sensitivity among the general public about the need to work with offenders; and
- ◆ Delay and malpractices involved in obtaining government projects and grants.



# Sahyog Trust

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## Key Prison Activities:

Legal aid; paralegal training; and mental rehabilitation through Gandhian Philosophy.

## Missions & Aims:

Sahyog's mission is to:

- ♦ Create an enabling environment for social transformation, growth and development of all sections of humanity using the help of citizens' initiatives.
- ♦ Protect fundamental human rights of all individuals, especially those who belong to marginalized class.

Sahyog advocates:

- ♦ A participatory, value based, people centred policy of education imparting basic skills of understanding;
- ♦ A classless and casteless society rid of superstition, through togetherness and neighbourhood concept having harmonic bindings;
- ♦ The advancement of human rights through equitable social change; and
- ♦ Distributive justice, especially for the marginalized classes focusing on 'Access to Justice'.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Sahyog Trust was registered under the Bombay Public Trust Act and the Societies Registration Act. In the early 1990's by setting up two schools at Yavatmal, Sahyog started its work. Grounded in Gandhian values of non-violence, Sahyog schools focus on developing the child's ability to understand and build perspectives, skills and social values with a holistic and proactive humanist approach, so as to promote self-reliance, hope and awareness for change.

Over the years, through participation in a number of public interest campaigns relating to human rights issues, especially after entering Pune in 1999, Sahyog realised the need for socio-legal advocacy and intervention. Therefore, in 2003 Sahyog set up a legal rights wing under the banner - Human Rights & Law Defenders (HRLD).

## Work Programmes:

- ♦ Legal aid and training to life-convicts to work as paralegals;
- ♦ Education;
- ♦ Health, Yoga & Naturopathy;
- ♦ Social Advocacy;



- ♦ Mental Rehabilitation of prisoners; and
- ♦ Socio-Legal Intervention.

### Strategy/Approach:

Sahyog has various units working under its banner. There are two schools, one a pre-primary and the other is a primary school. These schools are in Waghapur area of Yavatmal, declared as a tribal district. The students who attend these schools are from families that are socially and economically backward. There is always an attempt made at introducing various methods of informal education along with formal education.

Sahyog started a Kasturba Yog and Nisargaupchar Mahavidyalay. It is affiliated to the Kasturba Gandhi Yoga Nisargaupchar University of New Delhi. There are students from all over Maharashtra who appear for Naturopathy Exams from this centre. This venture was started to spread the knowledge and science of Yoga and Naturopathy so that people who cannot afford costly health-care can take care of themselves by using this science. Human Rights and Law Defenders (HRLD), a unit started to work on issues related to human rights, intervenes legally when there is a case of human rights violation. It has been working in Yerawada Prison to give legal aid to the poor and marginalised under-trials.

Sahyog has also started a Legal Guidance Centre for people affected with HIV/AIDS. This centre was started with a vision to help people affected with this epidemic because many legal issues are related with it and the awareness level of affected persons about their rights is very less. Sahyog realised that such people are very vulnerable and are easy victims because of the social stigma attached to them. Sahyog workers follow the strategy of:

- ♦ Constantly engaging with government authorities that have generally not been found to be very supportive, especially so when we talk of prisoners' human rights; and
- ♦ Addressing the problem through continuous interaction and dialogue with prison authorities rather than from a confrontationist position.

### Major Achievements:

Trained 26 paralegals who are working to provide help to prisoners.

### Future Plans:

- ♦ To start working in more jails of Maharashtra;
- ♦ Train more paralegals; and
- ♦ Have a network of lawyers who will take up cases of prisoners on pro-bono basis.

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### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ♦ Prisoners who do not have any support after their release, should be given such training that they are able to lead an independent, economic and social life as contributing citizens;
- ♦ An effective Prisoner Support Program should be introduced through which released prisoners can get immediate economical support at the time of their release;
- ♦ A committee of social organisations should be set up to decide on rights regarding release on furlough and parole. Reports regarding the grant of furlough and parole should be requested from the district probation officer instead of the S.P./Commissioner of Police;
- ♦ *Bandi Panchayats* (Prisoner's Panchayats) should be formed to increase participation of prisoners in prison management;



- ◆ Sensitive trained social workers, specifically oriented to bring about behavioural changes should be appointed in prisons and a uniform system should be adopted for the pre-mature release of prisoners with “good behaviour”;
- ◆ Visiting judges must be trained to work with a rights-perspective instead of asking the under-trial to plead guilty in petty offences. This will stop criminalisation of innocent people; and
- ◆ A Grievance Redressal Committee consisting of committed social activists, a judge, a journalist, officers from social welfare department, a doctor, and a DIG of Prisons should be formed. This committee should open complaint boxes on a regular basis, where the prisoners would be able to drop in their grievances, and enquire into the applications/complaints for necessary action. The keys of the box should be with the judge. The committee should address the grievances with the help of the *Bandi Panchayat* at regular intervals. Confidentiality of the prisoner making the complaint must be ensured. If any officer harasses the prisoner for making the complaint, there must be a presumption that the harassment has happened.

#### **Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Regular and periodic sensitisation training programmes for the workers; and
- ◆ Group discussions on strategies for effective prison reforms.

#### **Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Lack of perspective and hence non-cooperation from authorities; and
- ◆ Ignorance about reformatory jurisprudence and methods.



# Sanjivani Sansthan

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### Key Prison Activities:

Spiritual and religious growth of prisoners.

### Mission & Aims:

The main aim of the organisation is the growth and development of women prisoners and children of prisoners.

### The Organisation & its Work:

Sanjivani Sansthan is a missionary organisation registered in 2004 and presently based in Amravati. The organisation is not working on prisoners' rights. It is involved in the following activities:

- ◆ Occasionally distributing food, fruits and other legally permitted consumables among prisoners;
- ◆ Facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners;
- ◆ Providing medical support to prisoners; and
- ◆ Providing legal aid to women prisoners.

### Strategy/Approach:

The team of Sanjivani Sansthan is working since the last three years and visits the prison every Wednesday. Prison functionaries give a very positive response to these visits. The organisation has been working independently to carry out its mission and has not networked or collaborated with any other agency except the Prison Ministry of Catholic Church.

### The Team:

Sanjivani Sansthan's team comprises of four staff members.

### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Training of female prisoners in vocational and employable skills; and
- ◆ Short stay shelter arrangement for released women prisoners.

### Capacity Building Requirements:

Social workers should be provided specialised training for social workers in psychological and psychiatric counselling.

### Difficulties at Work:

Lack of proper guidance about procedures to access prisons.



# Social Aspiration for Participatory Reforms by Evolved Manpower (SAPREM)

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## **Key Prison Activities:**

Health care; guidance for children of prisoners; de-addiction programmes; and vocational and career guidance.

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## **The Organisation & its Work:**

SAPREM formed and registered by like-minded youth working in the field of social work from different walks of life, focuses on community based development. The prisons project counsels and takes care of under-trial prisoners' issues related to health, of which HIV/AIDS is given priority.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

The main activities of the organisation are as follows:

- ◆ Child Guidance Clinic: tackles behavioural and psychological problems of children;
- ◆ Woman Resource Centre: provides assistance to women by sharing their concern for appropriate redressal;
- ◆ HIV/AIDS Counselling Centre: reduces the incidence and consequences of HIV/AIDS and STDs;
- ◆ General Health Centre: diagnoses and offers treatment to ill prisoners;
- ◆ De-addiction Centre: diagnoses and offers de-addiction treatment to inmates through medical care, counselling and personal follow-up;
- ◆ Vocational & Career Guidance Centre; and
- ◆ Local Youth Development Centre: networks with representatives of community based organisations (CBOs) for leadership development.

SAPREM's work on prisoners involves providing:

- ◆ health check-ups and medical support;
- ◆ education;
- ◆ vocational training or employable life-skills;
- ◆ social counselling and facilitating meetings with family members in jails; and
- ◆ HIV Health Centre for diagnosis and treatment.

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## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Improvement in medical facility to prisoners;



- ♦ Appropriate and effective training of prison staff to make them more empathetic towards prisoners' concerns;
- ♦ Flexibility of time for prisoners to visit the social workers; and
- ♦ Inclusion and participation of all inmates in reformatory processes.

#### **Difficulties at Work:**

- ♦ Time limit assigned by prison officials for NGO sponsored reformatory activities is too short; and
- ♦ Lack of cooperation from the prison staff and their insensitivity about health issues such as HIV.



# Voluntary Action for Rehabilitation And Development (VARHAD)

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## Key Prison Activities:

Promoting education of children accompanying women prisoners and those left outside due to incarceration of either or both the parents; providing income generating vocational training and academic education to women prisoners; offering legal aid and guidance to poor prisoners in lower courts, session courts and the high court; strengthening and improving procedures of parole, furlough, premature release and the Prison Visiting System (PVS); organising educational, recreational, cultural and sports activities in the prison; and rendering aftercare services to released prisoners for their reintegration in the society.

## Mission & Aims:

VARHAD aims to:

- ◆ prevent criminalisation of innocent persons and first time offenders;
- ◆ reform prisoners convicted for crime and antisocial activities;
- ◆ prevent ill-effects of imprisonment on children and families of offenders;
- ◆ improve the functioning of State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) and develop a model of legal aid for poor inmates;
- ◆ improve facilities for granting of parole and premature release of prisoners;
- ◆ provide support to the prisoners for their easy transition back into the society; and
- ◆ liaison between the prisoner, his family, functionaries of the CJS, fellow-prisoners and government agencies to achieve the above objectives.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Having begun in 2001 as a small organisation of two persons voluntarily working for the education of children accompanying women prisoners in Vidharbha region of Maharashtra, VARHAD has now grown into a team of more than 20 workers encompassing almost all prison related issues, except health. Activities of the organisation and the area of its intervention now include: legal guidance and legal aid, parole and furlough, remission of sentences, under-trial prisoners, children of prisoners, vocational training and income generation for prisoners and aftercare services to released prisoners.



VARHAD is also working with police for reformation and rehabilitation of habitual offenders; community based crime prevention; and youth development in Amravati.

Support from the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust has played a crucial role in the development of VARHAD as one of the key NGO's in this sector.

Prominent activities of VARHAD include:

- ◆ A *Balwadi* (Crèche) outside the main prison but within prison campus, for children of women prisoners and for children of prison staff;
- ◆ Social and material support to more than 60 children of prisoners in five districts of western Vidharbha;
- ◆ Formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs) of women prisoners for their economic independence and empowerment;
- ◆ 215 convicted prisoners (highest number in the state) were released on parole and furlough from Amravati Central Prison in the year 2006, with the lowest rate of absconders;
- ◆ 45 writ petitions were filed for release of prisoners on parole and furlough;
- ◆ A network of more than 70 advocates voluntarily assisted 377 poor prisoners pertaining to legal issues in the year 2006;
- ◆ Establishment of a rehabilitation centre (in Amravati) for released women prisoners and for women in distress, offering counselling, emergency shelter, legal guidance and vocational training; and
- ◆ Implementation of PVS in Maharashtra.

### Strategy/Approach:

For the attainment of its objectives VARHAD approaches appropriate authorities in the government to have access to prisons and custodial institutions. It also has functional connectivity with such mandatory bodies as the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), State Commission for Women (SCW) and the State Legal Services Authority (SLSA). It appraises concerned officials about the mandate of the organisation and the schedule of activities that it proposes to take-up. This strategy prevents untimely termination of programme undertaken.

### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

Legal aid and prison facilities like parole, furlough and premature release need to be reviewed for suitable legal and procedural changes to make them more efficacious.

### Capacity Building Requirements:

Training to workers in documentation, reporting and publication work.

### Difficulties at Work:

- ◆ Inadequate support from other organisations (networking); and
- ◆ Shortage of funds.



# Academy for Socio-Legal Studies (ASLS)

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## **Key Prison Activities:**

Providing of legal aid to prison inmates and organising legal awareness and legal training programmes for social workers.

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## **The Initial Phase:**

Academy for Socio-Legal Studies (ASLS) works from a trade unionist background developing programmes for the weaker and vulnerable sections of society, such as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, women, economically and socially backward communities and minorities.

## **Mission & Aims:**

The organisation aims at providing legal aid to protect an individual's rights. It endeavours to combat the feudal mentality prevailing in the administration of prisons and the management of prisoners therein.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

Based in Jaipur, ASLS has its active presence in Udaipur, Ajmer, Bhilwara and Jodhpur where it collaborates with like-minded organisations working on prisoners' rights. In collaboration with HRLN, it works with the judiciary to hold seminars with members of the bench addressing practical aspects of criminal justice system.

## **The Team:**

Five part-time lawyers have been working for the past three years.

## **Major Achievements:**

ASLS along with HRLN, has established a Barefoot Lawyer Training Institute as a legal redress and crisis response mechanism.

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## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ♦ The caste and structural hierarchy among prisoners should be effectively abolished;
- ♦ Vocational training needs of inmates should be addressed;
- ♦ Treatment in prisons should be such as to turn offenders into social workers;
- ♦ Rehabilitation work along with a monitoring mechanism is of prime importance;
- ♦ Active and meaningful involvement of probation officers in the criminal justice system;
- ♦ More responsive attitude of state agencies towards new social initiatives; and



- ◆ Recruitment of motivated lawyers by SLSA with appropriate knowledge-base to represent under-trial prisoners in their respective courts.

### **Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Networking with SLSA for common man's better access to justice; and
- ◆ Support in gaining access to prisons.

### **Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ It is very difficult for social workers and researchers to access jails. This needs rethinking and review of existing rules. The situation should change to make prisons open for constructive participation by the community for correctional work and legal aid to inmates.
- ◆ Social service groups should not be constrained to seek order from the judiciary to work in prisons.
- ◆ The emphasis on security should not be made a pretext for discouraging social interventions for prison reform.
- ◆ Prison functionaries seem to be closed to change. This psyche must give way to acceptance of new and constructive ideas for reform. This can be achieved through appropriate training of prison functionaries and their regular interaction with community groups engaged in legal and institutional reforms.



# Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Parivaar

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## Key Prison Activities:

Facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners.

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## Mission & Aims:

AVGP aims at reforming prisoners by imbuing in them a sense of respect for the cosmic order and a sense of responsibility for the society. They try to infuse some *panditva* (element of real learning) into offenders so that they reintegrate into the society as normal citizens. In the words of its voluntary workers, AVGP tries to channelise the negative energies of offenders into positive ones that facilitates a socially acceptable life. This is possible with the regular practice of *yoga*, *yagya* and *upasana*, which not only purges the individual, but purifies the ambiance in which the individual lives.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Akhil Vishwa Gayatri Parivaar (AVGP) works in various states across India including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. It tries to identify the reasons behind a person's compulsion to commit crime and then attempts to reform him so that he/she refrains from repeating it. Through religious discourses and rituals the organisation tries to inculcate within prisoners a sense of responsibility to contribute to the good of the society. Volunteers of AVGP visit prisons on a weekly basis and make special visits during festivals. On the occasion of *Navratri* festival, they visit prisons for all the nine days of fast and festivity.

## The Team:

A team of four volunteers represents AVGP in prisons.

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## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Address the issue of corruption in prisons;
- ◆ Training of prison officials to make them more empathetic towards prisoners;
- ◆ De-addiction programmes should be encouraged; and
- ◆ The quality of food provided to prisoners needs re-assessment.

## Difficulties at Work:

- ◆ Various NGOs are working in prisons, but they are interested in propagating their own beliefs, instead of having meaningful collaboration and coordination with each other; and
- ◆ Prison administration is unresponsive to new techniques and strategies of managing prisons. They are too comfortable and content with the present system.



# Indian Association for Prison, Probation and After-care (IAPPA)

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## Key Prison Activities:

Overseeing prison management; implementation of Probation of Offenders Act; and organising release facilities for prisoners through community intervention.

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## The Organisation & its Work:

Indian Association for Prison, Probation and After-care (IAPPA) feels rehabilitation requires a double edged approach from government and community intervention. The organisation sees enactment of state prison law and the framing of new jail rules as important for relieving problems at the ground level, as well as establishment of a State Advisory Committee/Board to undertake surprise inspections with mechanism for implementation of its recommendations. IAPPA collaborates with PUCL, Rotary Club, Lions Club, the philanthropic unit of SBBJ, Bank of Baroda and RUWA.

## Strategy/Approach:

IAPPA operates through workshops on correctional issues for functionaries of various agencies of the CJS. It supports correctional work in prisons through community resources including education, sport events, providing books and entertainment material [TV and radio] as and when their services are needed or when requested by the jail administration.

## Major Achievements:

- ◆ Implementation of new 436 (a) provisions through judicial intervention; and
- ◆ Workshops at the state level on correctional issues and sending recommendations to government.

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## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Coordination between various agencies of the criminal justice system;
- ◆ Review of under-trial prisoners;
- ◆ Finding resources and mechanisms to implement the Mulla Commission's recommendations; and
- ◆ Legal aid services need strengthening.



**Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Encouraging youth involvement in correctional work; and
- ◆ Enhanced community participation in prison issues.

**Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Non-cooperative attitude of prison officials; and
- ◆ General averse attitude of the community to prison reforms.



# Institute of Human Rights Studies

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## Key Prison Activities:

Highlighting prison issues in media; campaigning for the rights of prisoners; capacity building of non-official visitors of prison; advocating and protecting human rights of prisoners; developing as a resource centre for human rights law and practices; and preparing case studies of human rights violations in custodial institutions including jails.

## Mission & Aims:

- ♦ To proliferate knowledge of human rights through literature, media, seminars and workshops;
- ♦ To probe into human rights violations especially in custodial institutions such as jails, police stations and protective homes;
- ♦ To look at situations of human rights violations in perspective of established laws, rules, protocols and prescribed procedures in order to detect gaps and suggest remedies to fill them; and
- ♦ To function as a resource and reference centre for human rights concepts, legislations, institutions, issues and concerns.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Institute of Human Rights Studies (IHRS) has been working in the prisons of Rajasthan for the past one year. To achieve its objectives it has made collaborative efforts with other agencies such as Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), State Commission for Women (SCW), Academy for Socio-Legal Studies (ASLS) and People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL). It also has collaborated with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) of Delhi.

## Strategy/Approach:

IHRS collaborates with other NGOs and criminal justice agencies and brings together fact-finding teams on a case-to-case basis. It collaborates with the judiciary to seek specific permission for interviewing individuals and organisations and for collecting information about prisoners for case studies. It also organises seminars and conferences on human rights issues. The organisation was actively involved in holding workshops for 'Barefoot Lawyers' and Non Official Visitors (NOVs) in collaboration with ASLS and the CHRI.

## The Team:

The team comprises of four staff members. It enjoys the cooperation of voluntary workers in the field.



**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Identify cases of custodial violence and initiate a fact-finding procedure;
- ◆ Development of a system of voluntary probation officers for supervision of offenders released on parole, leave or probation. Retired Defence Personnel Welfare Association can be contacted for this purpose to identify voluntary workers among them in rural areas of Rajasthan;
- ◆ Reduction of under-trial prisoners languishing in jails with collaborative efforts by all agencies of the criminal justice system; and
- ◆ Strengthening and improving the quality of free legal aid to ensure equality.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

A platform that could periodically engage all agencies of the CJS to share their thoughts and views particularly on issues related to decongestion of prisons and reformation of prisoners.

**Difficulties at Work:**

Indifferent attitude of government officials both within and outside prisons.



# Jeevan Jyoti Association

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### Key Prison Activities:

Bringing about a positive change in the attitude of government officials and the society toward prisoners; holding literacy and vocational training programmes for convicted prisoners; and organising cultural programmes on national holidays and festivals.

### The Organisation and Its Work:

Jeevan Jyoti Association working in twelve districts of Rajasthan, attempts to transform the perception about prisoners in the community and facilitates their re-assimilation back into society. It aims to bring about a change in the general attitude of government officials and the community, to make them recognise that prisoners are human beings, fallible and in the case of under-trials, potentially innocent. Other activities that the organisation is involved in includes cultural programmes, counselling, de-addiction programmes and sex education for health and hygiene of prisoners.

### Strategy/Approach:

The organisation works by sensitising school children and teachers. The Association involves prison officials in its activities in order to elicit their cooperation.

### The Team:

The team comprising of 3 full-time, 15 part-time and 50 volunteer workers, has been working for the past more than one year.

### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Counselling of prisoners; and
- ◆ Literacy and vocational training.

### Capacity Building Requirements:

- ◆ Seminars on prison related issues; and
- ◆ Workshops with other similar organisations for sharing ideas and skills.



# Legal Helpline Society

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## Key Prison Activities:

Providing legal aid to prisoners and organising legal awareness camps.

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## The Organisation & its Work:

Legal Helpline Society (LHS) as the name suggests provides free legal aid to poor and destitute people. It organises legal awareness camps in collaboration with members of Rajasthan High Court Legal Committee at the district and taluka level. The team visits prisons twice. These visits are conducted in an unstructured manner.

## Strategy/Approach:

LHS collaborates with Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA) in providing legal aid to prisoners. It organises seminars and conferences in collaboration with NGOs like PUCL and IAPPA.

## The Team:

LHS has a dedicated team of ten advocates.

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## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Appropriate vocational and life-skills training to prisoners;
- ◆ Awareness among prisoners about their constitutional rights;
- ◆ Encourage judges to visit prisons on a regular basis; and
- ◆ Increased interaction between police, judiciary and prisons which would accelerate the reform process in prisons.

## Capacity Building Requirements:

- ◆ Training in documentation; and
- ◆ Training about the tools and strategies to organise effective campaigning.

## Difficulties at Work:

- ◆ Unwelcoming attitude of prison staff; and
- ◆ Lack of funds.



# National Muslim Women's Welfare Society

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## Key Prison Activities:

Improving condition of women prisoners; imparting legal awareness; providing social and family counselling to inmates; advocating and lobbying for prisoners' rights; and procuring material assistance for prisoners in need.

## The Initial Phase:

In 1990 when communal violence erupted in the city of Jaipur, Mrs. Nishat Hussain, recognised the need for women of different backgrounds to come together to overcome it, because she realised that it were women folk who suffered most if there were casualties and loss of life and limb even to men folk. On her insistence several other like-minded women stepped forward to support her cause, despite all the challenges they faced. These women formed the National Muslim Women's Welfare Society (NMWWS) in December 1990.

## The Organisation & its Work:

The Society has been working with and for women on issues of domestic health, literacy and public health. They initiated their contact with jails during the period of communal violence. People seeking protection from the rioters were kept in jail premises. The Society provided clothes to the people seeking refuge there. Later, after return of normalcy, government and the community approached the organisation to help these people contact their relatives.

Presently, the members of this organisation provide legal aid and family counselling, specially focusing on women issues. They have been working in central jails across Rajasthan and the Sanganer Open Prison for the past 15 years. They make 10 - 12 visits annually and also closely collaborate with jail officials.

## Strategy/Approach:

The Society regularly collaborates with other like-minded organisations, judiciary and other services of the CJS. It has worked with education and health department of Rajasthan in providing health care, medical check-ups, free education, material support for education of girl children and opening new schools for them. It has also closely and frequently networked with PUCL and the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) in fighting for the rights of women and children particularly those confined to custodial institutions.

## The Team:

NMWWS has nearly 800 members across various parts of Rajasthan. The most active core group consists of 15 women placed in Jaipur. It also involves lawyers on a part-time basis if and when required.



**Major Achievements:**

- ◆ The National Muslim Women Welfare Society intervened in the matter of TADA detainees during the communal riots between 1990 and 1993. There were hundreds of TADA detainees in the central jails of Ajmer, Kota and Jaipur and they were kept in poor conditions. The living conditions of detainees improved after the intervention of the Society. The Governor recognised the efforts of the Society and wrote a letter appreciating its timely involvement;
- ◆ The Society recognised the necessity of counselling women inmates because its members believed that the impact of imprisonment on women detainees was greater than on men. Women prisoners are more traumatised and live like divorcees in jail away from their family members. They discard all the things that symbolise a married woman and are not allowed to use coloured things. This has a major impact on their psychology. With the permission of concerned prison authorities it conducted individual counselling of women prisoners; and
- ◆ The Society also lobbied for appointment of social counsellors.

**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Appointment of social counsellors, particularly for women inmates is a much desired requirement;
- ◆ More stringent measures need to be taken to ensure the implementation of Prison Visiting System (PVS). Regular monitoring is needed to ensure appointment of social service minded Non-Official Visitors (NOVs);
- ◆ Jail officials including lady warders need to be properly trained to promote correctional ambience in prison; and
- ◆ Working conditions of lady warders need to be reviewed and improved.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

Information sharing on penal reform initiatives between NGOs.



# People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL)

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## Key Prison Activities:

All civil liberty and human rights issues specifically in illegal detention; misuse of detention powers; and custodial violence.

## Mission & Aims:

To promote justice through legal and social intervention.

## The Organisation & its Work:

PUCL has been running for the past 25 years; commenting on prison regulations and laws and working in central, district and sub jails, juvenile justice homes, women's remand homes as well as children's homes, providing legal aid to under-trial, women and child prisoners.

## Strategy/Approach:

PUCL works to build public opinion and awareness through public action and media. It works with other organisations in conducting workshops, trainings and forming teams of lawyers. It also collaborates with the Department of Home through bi-monthly meetings. The organisation files writ petitions or PILs on behalf of detainees.

## Major Achievements:

- ♦ Intervened in cases of foreign prisoners held under Cr.P.C provisions after completion of their sentence, seeing 21 prisoners returned to their countries [Afghanistan, Pakistan, UK, Nepal]; and
- ♦ Development of the Rajasthan Prisons Act.

## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ♦ Training of prison visitors;
- ♦ Provision of women staff for women prisoners;
- ♦ Introduction of monitoring and accountability systems for under-trial prisoners transferred to other jails or courts;



- ◆ Removal of Section 109 of Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.P.C);
- ◆ Work with magistrates, lawyers and board members on the Juvenile Justice Act; and
- ◆ Legal aid provision [esp. in Rajasthan].

**Difficulties at Work:**

Sustained intervention from volunteers.



# Prison Ministry India (PMI)

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## Key Prison Activities:

Facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners; rehabilitation of prisoners; visiting prisons for counselling and providing legal aid; imparting vocational training by introducing income generating programmes; de-addiction initiatives; and occasionally distributing food, fruits and other legally permissible consumables among prisoners.

## Mission & Aims:

PMI aims at rehabilitating prisoners so that they have an easy transition back into the society.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Prison Ministry India (PMI) works in various states across India. In Rajasthan, PMI works in Kota, Jodhpur, Abu Road (sub jail), Bhilwara (district jail), Udaipur and Ajmer. It collaborates with SASUIKA, a community based organisation working for the prevention of custodial torture. PMI provides social counselling and educational support to family members and children of prisoners.

## The Strategy/Approach:

PMI believes that a significant attention needs to be given towards reintegration of prisoners back into the society after their jail term. The organisation believes that no one is born criminal and if he/she is accepted by the society after release, he/she would not venture back into any criminal activity.

## The Team:

A team of six nuns have committed themselves for this cause and are working for the past eight years. They have been visiting the prison on a weekly basis.

## Major Achievements:

- ♦ A young offender was supported to complete his Grade 12 from open school and then further encouraged to complete his first year Bachelor of Arts degree while serving his sentence.
- ♦ A prisoner's daughter was admitted into the hostel of PMI and educated for 14 years. She is presently pursuing her Bachelor of Arts degree and is being financially supported for that as well.



**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Appointment of persons committed to prison and prisoners' reforms as Non-Official Visitors (NOVs) in a fair and transparent manner to give shape to the spirit and purpose of the provision;
- ◆ Effective solution of the problem of inability to produce women prisoners at courts due to shortage of women escort staff;
- ◆ Collaborative effort among NGOs visiting the prisoners for various activities; and
- ◆ Services provided by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) are dismal and no awareness programmes are being conducted in prisons considering that a majority of prison population is from rural background.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

Knowledge of laws and rules governing the management of prisons and processing of offenders through the CJS.

**Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Prison authorities are overly concerned about security rather than reform work; and
- ◆ Most of the prison authorities feel that jail is their fiefdom.



# Rajasthan University Women's Association (RUWA)

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### Key Prison Activities:

Providing post release short stay facility to women inmates; providing employment opportunities to released prisoners; and imparting vocational training.

### Mission & Aims:

- ◆ To provide a forum for women in higher education;
- ◆ To ensure non-discrimination of women in the field of education, employment and social structure;
- ◆ To create awareness and environment for social justice;
- ◆ To initiate and support efforts for removal of social evils and conditions that are detrimental to the status, image and dignity of women;
- ◆ To promote women's education and all-round development to enable them to participate in national development;
- ◆ To work for the welfare of deprived and other socially handicapped women such as those under custody;
- ◆ To undertake relief work in times of natural calamities; and
- ◆ To work for the conservation and practical realisation of human rights.

### The Organisation & its Work:

Rajasthan University Women's Association (RUWA) was founded in 1987 and is funded by the Central Social Welfare Board. It is a non-political, non-discriminatory, service-oriented voluntary women's organisation. It provides employment opportunities to released prisoners, and legal aid to under-trial and convicted women prisoners. It also provides aftercare to released women prisoners and their family members. It has a 24-hour help-line for women in the region. RUWA has its presence in central jails of Rajasthan for the past 25 years.

### Strategy/Approach:

RUWA organises seminars for district and high court judges. It has a number of working-cells that are involved in achieving its goals and objectives. It runs an organisation called *Shakti Stambh* which is a short-stay home for women, providing shelter and rehabilitation to women prisoners. The academic cell aims at raising awareness on women's issues. RUWA has a Family Counselling Centre, which helps women clients to regain emotional balance and find inner strength to enable them find alternatives to jumpstart their lives. The Bulletin and Website Cell is involved in disseminating information about RUWA's activities and in raising awareness for women empowerment. The Rehabilitation Cell assists women in making them economically independent by providing training in employable skills.



### **The Team:**

RUWA does not have a dedicated team or a set of full-time officials. It inducts volunteers from amongst working women or women social workers as and when required. Only a few paid workers are engaged to manage *Shakti Stambh* and the counselling centre.

### **Major Achievements:**

- ◆ Establishment of first *Mahila Thana* (Women's Police Station) of Rajasthan at Jaipur in 1989;
  - ◆ Initiated and worked for the establishment of National as well as State Commission for Women;
  - ◆ Acquired sanction for the construction of Working Women's Hostel on the campus; and
  - ◆ Establishment of an independent centre for women studies in the university campus in 1981.
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### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Appropriate training and treatment of offenders for their rehabilitation and re-assimilation in the society;
- ◆ Need to make prison system more transparent and open to community involvement in correctional processes;
- ◆ Lack of jails for women at divisional level;
- ◆ Lack of vocational training for women convicts; and
- ◆ Avoidable difficulties in accessing prisons for study, research and correctional work.

### **Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Orientation and training pertaining to rights of women prisoners; and
- ◆ Short-term course related to penal laws.

### **Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Indifferent attitude of prison officials; and
- ◆ Problems in gaining access to prisons for constructive and correctional work.



# Rotary Club - Jaipur

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### Key Prison Activities:

Working with women prisoners and children of prisoners; organising cultural programmes; and providing creche facilities and educational material.

### Mission & Aims:

- ♦ To prevent children of prisoners from having to turn to crime themselves - providing them other developmental opportunities; and
- ♦ To see prisoners being treated as human beings and as part of the wider community.

### The Organisation and Its Work:

Rotary Club (Jaipur) focuses on general welfare of women prisoners and their children. It provides educational support to inmates as well as their children in prisons.

### Strategy/Approach:

The organisation undertakes 4-5 visits a year, engaging in social interaction with women prisoners.

### The Team:

Rotary Club (Jaipur) has 40-50 club members and has been working for over four years.

### Major Achievements:

Introduction of crèche facilities for children of prisoners in Women's Reformatory, Jaipur.

### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ♦ The government and the community should make collaborative efforts to remove the social stigma attached to women prisoners;
- ♦ Community needs sensitisation to the role it can play in prison reforms;
- ♦ Cooperation between jails and welfare department needs to be strengthened; and
- ♦ The state should come up with a policy on children of prisoners.

### Difficulties at Work:

Indifferent attitude of jail administration toward prisoners and their children.



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### **Key Prison Activities:**

Vocational training for prisoners of open jails; running a counselling centre; and organising exhibition-cum-sale of products made during the project.

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### **The Organisation and Its Work:**

Shilpayan works in open jails to improve the living condition of prisoners by providing meaningful activities for them to engage in. It also imparts vocational training to inmates and their family members. Some of the other services rendered by the organisation include: educational support to the children of prisoners, social counselling, campaigning for the rights of under-trials and working to ensure the prisoners' rehabilitation in the society.

### **Strategy/Approach:**

Voluntary workers of Shilpayan undertake regular (daily) visits to the open jail. In order to achieve its objectives, the organisation collaborates with Jawahar Kala Kendra, the Adult Education Programme and Social Welfare Board.

### **The Team:**

Shilpayan has four full-time staff comprising of two counsellors and two support staff. The work has been underway for the past three years.

### **Major Achievements:**

The organisation has successfully worked for:

- ◆ Getting a government primary school opened in the jail; and
  - ◆ Introducing *Akshay Patra – Bhojan* facilities provided by ISKON-Akshaya Kalewa.
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### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ The open jail housing about 170 families of inmates should have some health care facilities;
- ◆ There should be some provision for games, sports, yoga and recreation for children residing in the campus;
- ◆ The government should introduce some vocations, wage-earning schemes and employment opportunities for inmates and their adult family members, to keep them meaningfully and profitably engaged when they are not in a position to procure a job in the community; and



- ◆ Short stay homes should be introduced as temporary shelter for released women prisoners.

**Difficulties at Work:**

Lack of proper space or work-shed for conducting vocational training and hobby classes.



# Akhil Bhartiya Organisation for Development Education (ABODE)

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## **Key Prison Activities:**

Providing legal assistance to life convicts; meeting with prisoners' family members; counselling prisoners and family members; assisting family members by locating their relatives in prison; and providing shelter to children of prisoners.

## **The Initial Phase:**

ABODE was registered as an organisation in 1990, under the Public Trusts Act, 1950. Shri Irdaraj started volunteering in Madurai Central Prison, with the aim of providing services to the children of inmates. These services included arrangement of care for children left outside by prison inmates as well as for children of prisoners living with their parents in the jail due to be out after they complete six years of age. The good response he received from prison authorities in initial stages of his work encouraged him to work better and he started taking prayer and spiritual teaching sessions for the prisoners. During his sessions, prisoners made requests to help their family members and children abandoned outside and gradually he started responding to these requests.

## **Mission & Aims:**

- ◆ To provide support to prison inmates for their reformation and rehabilitation;
- ◆ To provide support services to families of prisoners, so as to protect them from stigmatisation, victimisation and further criminalisation; and
- ◆ To protect children of prisoners from stigmatisation.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Initially, ABODE admitted children of prisoners in institutions run by the government or by other welfare organisations. But when procedural difficulties prevented availing this facility, ABODE launched its own shelter home, especially for children of persons in custody. Although it admits other children on request, but priority is given to children for whom the shelter home was originally conceived. They also arrange monthly meetings between parents in prison and children living in institutions.

Abode volunteers assist prison inmates by:

- ◆ Writing applications to the families of prisoners to come for *mulaqaat*;
- ◆ Arranging legal assistance for convicted prisoners on request to appeal against conviction;
- ◆ Providing counselling sessions for inmates and their families; and
- ◆ Providing social counselling and facilitating meetings with family members in prison.



- ◆ Helping people to locate their missing family members if lodged in prisons;
- ◆ Running 'May I Help You' centres outside the prison for families of prisoners;
- ◆ Providing regular legal aid and support to long-term convicts; and
- ◆ Admitting prisoners' children (in need of special care and protection) in children's home.

### Strategy/Approach:

ABODE networks and collaborates with other organisations and the government to achieve their objectives. These networks are mainly through personal contacts and are need-based. The organisation seeks services from doctors, lawyers, teachers, bank officials and people working in factories to support the cause of prisoners' reform.

With the permission and support of prison officials ABODE contacts life convicts to find out their problems and issues concerning their children and family members and provides them services accordingly.

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### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ The Tamil Nadu prison manual needs to be amended as it is obsolete and does not cater to present day situations;
- ◆ Prison staff should be trained in social and human aspects, especially in handling human relations;
- ◆ The prison's department needs to draft a policy for coordinating and assisting organisations that work for prisons and prisoners' reform;
- ◆ Training and employment avenues for inmates need to be upgraded so as to increase their employability;
- ◆ Government should encourage the establishment of social rehabilitation and family reintegration camps in the community to raise confidence level of released prisoners;
- ◆ Released prisoners should be assisted through banks and financial institutions to set up income generation projects; and
- ◆ A released prisoners' welfare fund and a monitoring committee with civil society representation should be established in every state.

### Capacity Building Requirements:

- ◆ Humane approach towards prisoners and counselling skills;
- ◆ Understanding and knowledge of child psychology;
- ◆ Preparation and presentation of reports and documentation of work done by the organisation;
- ◆ Planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of development activities;
- ◆ Field exposure and field visits; and
- ◆ Record keeping and computer skills.

### Difficulties at Work:

- ◆ Getting government grants for the work done;
- ◆ Interference from prison guards in writing applications for prisoners and their families;
- ◆ Resistance from parents of women life prisoners in allowing children to get admitted to institutions, in spite of poverty at home; and
- ◆ Financial crunch faced by the organisation to sustain their work.



# Bishop Appasamy College of Science

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## **Key Prison Activities:**

Field experience for students of social work and general welfare activities for prison inmates.

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## **The Initial Phase:**

During his tenure as Deputy Inspector General of Prisons, Shri Ezra was reported to have made efforts to enlist the support of voluntary organisations in Coimbatore, in order to meet the needs of prisoners. The Department of Social Work of Bishop Appasamy College of Science was then contacted for this purpose. The college began prison related work by conducting activities for prisoners housed inside the Coimbatore Central Prison.

## **Mission & Aims:**

Imparting knowledge base and necessary skills to students of social work remains the main objective of the Social Work Department.

The social work project main aims include the following:

- ◆ Welfare of women prisoners in Coimbatore Central Prison;
- ◆ Addressing the needs of children residing with their imprisoned mothers;
- ◆ Providing exposure to students of social work; and
- ◆ Reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

This academic institution is run by a trust comprising of missionaries and is affiliated to the local university. Amongst a varying range of academic courses offered here, there are regular courses in Bachelors and Masters Degree in Social Work. Around three hundred students are being enrolled in these social work degree courses every year.

In order to give its student's practical exposure in the field, the institution conducts field projects. This initiative has been taken in response to a lack of professional social work agencies in the district. The faculty and students conduct one such project inside the Coimbatore Central Prison, with major focus on women prisoners.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

The organisation offers the services of a lady teacher to impart instructions to women prisoners. It runs a *balwadi* for children residing with their imprisoned mothers. Members of the organisation associate with inmates to celebrate Christmas inside prison. The institute shares a good rapport with the prison officials.

The element of prayer is used in counselling techniques. It does not follow an entirely professional approach towards work in the CJS and the initiatives undertaken inside



prison are largely charity oriented. Reformatory work is not undertaken on a systematic or scientific basis and the organisation does not address issues with regard to prisoners' rights. It has no network with other agencies in this regard.

#### **The Team:**

Church volunteers and students of the social work faculty undertake all the welfare activities inside prison.

#### **Future Plans:**

Given that Mr. Ezra, DIG (Prisons) recognises the need for social work intervention inside prison, scope for further development of initiatives appears promising.

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#### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Regular vocational skills training should be conducted to develop earning capacity following release from the prison;
- ◆ Work can be provided on a per piece rate basis after completion of training;
- ◆ The work schedule for prisoners should be complemented by relaxation sessions, meditation programmes and recreational activities; and
- ◆ After release from the prison, women with skills should be provided with financial and material assistance for income generation. For instance, sewing machines to women with required skills could help them secure a livelihood and make them economically independent.

#### **Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Students could be offered block placements in Prayas, to equip them with necessary skills for working in the field of corrections; and
- ◆ A platform to collaborate with agencies such as the Association of Churches of South India, Regional Institute for Correctional Administration (RICA), and the Prison Department.

#### **Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Lack of professional backup to ensure regularity in intervention;
- ◆ Financial support for sustaining interventions;
- ◆ Since many students do not visualise future career prospects within the criminal justice system, they are less forthcoming to selecting such placements for field-work; and
- ◆ Lack of trained and experienced faculty in this field.



# Imayam Social Welfare Association

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**Key Prison Activities:**  
STD/HIV/AIDS awareness programmes for prison inmates.

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**Mission & Aims:**  
ISWA aims to work as a catalyst among the rural and urban poor. The main focus of the organisation is to work for community development.

**The Organisation & its Work:**  
Imayam Social Welfare Association (ISWA) was established on 11 May 1992.

Its activities include:

- ◆ STD/HIV/AIDS awareness programmes for inmates inside prisons and lock-ups;
- ◆ Community based care for people living with HIV/AIDS;
- ◆ Voluntary counselling and testing centres, AIDS prevention and awareness centres;
- ◆ Short stay homes for women; and
- ◆ Offering medical consultancy services to prisoners in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu AIDS Control Society.

**Strategy/Approach:**  
The association conducts various programmes related to community health, with special reference to HIV/AIDS issues. With the approval of prison department it takes up HIV/AIDS awareness programmes for inmates in the prison.

Since the focus is on health issues, ISWA does not address issues of rehabilitation and reformation of prisoners.

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# Krupa

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## Key Prison Activities:

Religious and spiritual growth of prisoners; educational support to children of prisoners; medical support; social counselling; and computer training.

## The Initial Phase:

Krupa has provided its services to the most underprivileged groups in the prison since 1999. Apart from celebrating Christmas with prison inmates, it has organised various welfare activities through volunteers such as medical practitioners, teachers and yoga instructors.

## Mission & Aims:

The objective of the organisation in working with prisoners is to:

- ♦ imbibe in the inmates a sense of responsibility towards the country and the members of the community; and
- ♦ work for the wellbeing of their children and family members.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Krupa initiated its work in the women cell of Chennai Central Prison. In Tamil Nadu, it started its work in 2003 and has gradually extended it to states like Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

Regular programmes inside the prison include:

- ♦ Facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners through prayers and moral discourses;
- ♦ Providing educational support to children of prisoners;
- ♦ Providing medical support;
- ♦ Conducting recreational and sports activities;
- ♦ Providing social counselling and facilitating meetings with family members in jails or facilitating home visits;
- ♦ Spreading awareness on HIV/ AIDS and drug abuse; and
- ♦ Conducting basic computer literacy training programmes for the inmates.

## Strategy/Approach:

The organisation has a team of volunteers who visit prisoners regularly and address their problems. These volunteers do counselling for prison inmates and their families. They pay home visits and after an assessment of the family situation, they provide necessary help to the families and children for their education, health and shelter.

## Areas Identified for the Reform in Prisons:

- ♦ Counselling and training to released young offenders for proper rehabilitation; and
- ♦ Assisting released inmates in finding employment immediately after release so as to prevent them from reverting to crime.



# Organisation for Rural Development

**Address** : Village Murukeri  
Post: Aryur  
District Vellore  
Tamil Nadu

**Contact Person** : Maniyan  
**Designation** : Founder President

**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 0416-2271477  
Mobile: +91-9443627238  
E-mail: ord-vellore@yahoo.com

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Social counselling and facilitating meetings between prisoners and their family members; providing legal aid; and referring released women prisoners to residential institutions.

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## **The Founder:**

Shri. Maniyan, Founder President of Organisation for Rural Development (ORD) started his career as a social worker. He began visiting Vellore Central Prison and initiated welfare activities for male and female prisoners, and their children lodged with them in the prison.

## **Mission & Aims:**

The primary objective of ORD is to provide support to prisoners with a view to preventing their further involvement in crime.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

ORD provides educational facilities and computer training to prisoners. It also provides shelter to children of prisoners suffering from forced separation. ORD has established a residential institution for senior citizens and destitute women where it also shelters released women prisoners on request. It organises recreational activities and sport events inside the prison.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

The organisation takes up cases of prisoners on a regular basis and keeps record of interventions made by its volunteers and counsellors. These workers give a report of the activities undertaken by them to prison officials, with whom they share a cordial relation. ORD has been receiving financial grants from the Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB), for promoting self help groups within the community.

The organisation has established network with other voluntary agencies for the purpose of providing services like shelter and education to children of prisoners. It refers children in need of care to a residential institution run by SEED, which looks after their educational needs as well.

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## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Introduction of group work with prison inmates;
- ◆ Provision for recreational activities; and
- ◆ Training programmes for vocational and employable skills for prisoners.



**Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Training programmes for counsellors;
- ◆ Strategies for implementation of group work and group therapy; and
- ◆ Experience sharing workshops with different agencies working inside prisons.

**Difficulties at Work:**

Since the work focuses on individual prisoners and their families, obtaining a positive response from the inmates during the initial stages of work proves to be a challenging task.



# Society for Education and Economic Development (SEED)

<b>Address</b>	:	Mahatma Gandhi School Shrirangam pillai Chetram Near Nokia Company Opp PWD Inspection Bungalow Shrepempudur, Chennai Tamil Nadu
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	A.R. Palansamy
<b>Designation</b>	:	Founder Secretary
<b>Other contact details</b>	:	Telephone No: 044-27162322 Mobile: +91-9444902322 E-mail: seed4india@yahoo.com Website: www.seedchildren.org

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Supporting children of prisoners, both inside and outside the prison.

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## **The Founder:**

Shri A.R. Palansamy started his work in the Chennai Central Prison, with the aim of providing care and service to the children of inmates both inside and outside the prison who are forced to separate from their parents at six years of age. Shri Palansamy is a member of All India Adi Andhra SC Upliftment Association, an organisation based on Gandhian thoughts and working for the welfare of scavengers and scheduled castes (SC) since 1980.

## **Mission & Aims:**

The main aim of the organisation is to provide support and sponsorship for the upkeep and educational development of children of prison inmates with a view to preventing their victimisation and criminalisation.

## **The Organisation and its Work:**

SEED provides creche and *balwadi* facilities for the children of prisoners. It also provides vocational and employable skills training such as palm farming, basket making, handicrafts etc. to adult prisoners and their children. In order to prevent SC youth from indulging in criminal activities, it started tackling the issue of school drop-outs by counselling them and their parents. In 1981 it was approached by All India Radio for conceiving and projecting a program called "*Prison bars started to tell their stories*" on the problems and issues of inmates in prison. For this program they got permission to visit the Vellore Prison and to meet life convicts. It was during this interaction that inmates came out with the problems of their children left outside without any support. It receives grants from the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Gandhi Peace Foundation and Sarvodaya Nidhi.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

Activists and volunteers of SEED form small groups and pay 2-3 visits to each prison annually. They talk to prison inmates and conduct home visits to meet their children. In exceptional cases they visit the prison when called by the superintendents. These



volunteers contact convicts serving life-term after taking due permission from the prison superintendents and interact with them in the presence of prison personnel. They then make an assessment of the needs of the children for education and shelter, after screening through by making home-visits. If necessary, probation officers also conduct home inquiries for such assessment and refer needy cases to the organisation.

After identifying such children, the organisation provides them with shelter and /or educational support together with social counselling and facilities for meetings with family members in jails.

SEED has established its own shelter home as it was often difficult to get the children of prisoners admitted to homes run by other organisations. The shelter home has a school and an industrial training institute where children of prisoners can get admission. SEED's future plans include the launching of a teachers training school and a nursing institute.

The incarcerated parents of children sheltered with SEED are able to avail parole during *Gandhi Jayanti* (Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary), and can stay together for ten days in the shelter home to observe the functioning of the organisation. The government of Tamil Nadu has now passed an order saying that children of prison inmates should be admitted to SEED hostels.

#### **The Team:**

SEED has a team of 40 volunteers and social workers.

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#### **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Prisoners should be permitted to celebrate important festivals with members of their family in prison during the day;
- ◆ Prison department should provide vocational training to prison inmates under government recognised schemes of technical education and provide certificates, so as to help them find employment after release;
- ◆ Recognised technical training institutes and NGO's should be allowed to conduct full-fledged government approved technical courses in prisons;
- ◆ Convicts serving life-imprisonment for murder (committed under sudden provocation) should be separated from habitual criminals; and
- ◆ Government should improve living conditions and salaries of prison staff.

#### **Capacity Building Requirements:**

Staff of the organisation needs to upgrade its skills and knowledge-base in.

- ◆ Understanding of child psychology;
- ◆ Child rights and the provisions of Juvenile Justice Act;
- ◆ Prison rules regulations pertaining to children;
- ◆ Maintaining accounts; and
- ◆ Record keeping, documentation, computer training.

#### **Difficulties at Work:**

Paucity of funds.



# Sisters of St. Annes

(Madras Society of St. Annes)

**Address** : Mahatma Gandhi School  
Shrirangam pillai Chetram  
Near Nokia Company  
Opp PWD Inspection Bungalow  
Shrepempudur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

**Contact Person** : Sr. Herminie  
**Designation** : Senior Sister

**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 044-24961017  
E-mail: herminx@gmail.com

## Key Prison Activities:

Rehabilitation of released prisoners; and general welfare of inmates and their families.

## Mission & Aims:

The main aim of the organisation is to provide support and sponsorship for the rehabilitation and reformation of prisoners. This work includes -

- ◆ Providing space to discuss their inner dilemma;
- ◆ Motivating and counselling;
- ◆ Providing legal aid and legal guidance to women prisoners;
- ◆ Facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners;
- ◆ Providing vocational training and life-skills training;
- ◆ Providing shelter, health and educational support to children of prisoners; and
- ◆ Providing health check-ups and medical support to prisoners.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Prison Ministry India (PMI) is the parent body of this group. PMI being an international body, faced difficulties obtaining permission to work in prisons. Hence, Sisters of St. Annes was registered as a smaller group to function in the field of social welfare which includes the welfare of prisoners.

## Strategy/Approach:

A batch of four sisters visits each prison on a rotational basis. Monthly meetings are organised by approximately 20 sisters to share their experiences and plan of work. One of the sister's is a law graduate, practicing in Chennai High Court who attends to all the cases of bail and legal aid. These sisters have been visiting prisons for the past twelve years and hence have good reputation and rapport with IG and ADG of Prisons Department.

These sisters collaborate with some like-minded organisations functioning in the area for resource, shelter, education and vocational training to obtain support for the welfare of prisoners. PMI extends monetary and material support for their activities whenever needed.

Sisters conduct home-visits to the family members of inmates for assessment of needs of their dependents. They focus their services on welfare of children, health and education. They have started ARUNIMA - a home for the children of prisoners, which shelters and provides education upto secondary school to 40 children between 7-15 years age group.



Organisation's regular programmes inside the prison include:

- ◆ Educational support to children of prisoners;
  - ◆ Social counselling and facilitating meetings with family members in jails;
  - ◆ Home-visits for needs-based assessment; and
  - ◆ Legal aid and legal guidance to inmates and their families.
- 

**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Introduction of programmes for prisoners that are rehabilitative in nature;
- ◆ Assistance for self-employment of released prisoners; and
- ◆ Effective schemes of legal aid and legal guidance.

**Difficulties at Work:**

Prison rules make it difficult for social workers to interact freely with prison inmates. This makes social intervention for prison reforms a bit difficult.



# Arya Samaj - Haldwani

**Address** : C/o Pant Medicos Agency  
Kala Dhongi Road  
Haldwani, Uttarakhand

**Contact Person** : Harish Chand Pant  
**Designation** : Deputy Minister

**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 05946-221530

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Organising yoga classes and camps for inmates in jail; facilitating religious and spiritual activities for prisoners; and arranging cultural events on religious and social occasions.

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## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Arya Samaj (Haldwani) has been involved in prison reforms for the past three years. It spreads its message of personal improvement through yoga and religious practices among offenders so as to provide them an opportunity for moral resurgence and social reintegration.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

Arya Samaj organises ethical and moral discourses by eminent persons and holds practical classes in yogic exercises for the inmates of prisons. Functionaries of the CJS are invited to attend these events so they have a first hand interaction with offenders about their custodial problems. The organisation accepts personal donations to fulfil its objectives.

## **The Team:**

A team of ten volunteers visits the prison once a year.

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## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Need for more discourses on moral and spiritual issues;
- ◆ Lack of public awareness about the concerns and problems of prisoners; and
- ◆ Lack of awareness about basic rights of prisoners.



# Arya Samaj - Nainital

<b>Address</b>	: Madhupriya Cottage Raj Mahal Hotel Compound Malli tal, Nainital, Uttarakhand
<b>Contact Person</b>	: Madhava Nand Mainali
<b>Designation</b>	: Minister
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 05942-236737 Mobile: +91-9412085008 Fax: 05942-239853 E-mail: devconsul@gmail.com

## Key Prison Activities:

Organising yoga camps and yagya in prisons of Nainital and Dehradun to facilitate spiritual and religious growth of prisoners.

## The Initial Phase:

Arya Samaj (Nainital) has always been taking active part in social reform activities. Its prison programme aims at spreading awareness about the rights of prisoners.

## Mission & Aims:

- ◆ To channelise prisoners' energies in the right direction; and
- ◆ To increase their spiritual understanding.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Arya Samaj (Nainital) registered in 1875, has been involved in prison reforms for the past two years. Volunteers of the Samaj visit prisons annually. They have held five day yoga camps twice in the past two years – one in Dehradun and the other in Nainital District Jail.

## Strategy/Approach:

Local authorities are contacted to make them understand the importance of correctional approach towards offenders and to help facilitate the Samaj in conducting reformatory activities. Jail personnel are also encouraged to actively participate in such activities.

## The Team:

The team comprises of four members – a yoga trainer, a team manager, an assistant and a helper.

## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Cultural and spiritual activities should be organised more often for the prisoners to channel their energies in the right direction;
- ◆ Spread awareness about the rights of prisoners;
- ◆ Training sessions for prison staff should be organised on a regular basis to keep them aware of the needs of the prisoners;
- ◆ Humane treatment and an equitable provision of facilities to the prisoners;
- ◆ Education facilities for the children of prisoners should be undertaken in a more serious and structured manner; and
- ◆ Regular and more frequent visits by medical officers and improvement in the quality of medical facilities to the inmates.



**Capacity Building Requirements:**

Knowledge on sensitive issues pertaining to prison reform and legal rights of prisoners should be shared with the volunteers of the Samaj.

**Difficulties at Work:**

Lack of space for organising yoga camps.



# Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan (DJJS)

<b>Address</b>	: 70, Indira Gandhi Marg Near Satyasheel Gas Godam Niranjanpur, Dehradun – 248001 Uttarakhand
<b>Contact Person</b> <b>Designation</b>	: Lokesha Bharti : Coordinator
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 0135-2625577 Mobile: +91-989727703, 989727703 Website: www.divyajyoti.org

## Key Prison Activities:

Organising cultural activities, *satsangs*, dance programmes, yoga exercises and meditation sessions; facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners; and occasionally distributing food, fruits and other legally permissible consumables.

## Mission & Aims:

The goal of the Sansthan is to make each and every individual, blessed with *Brahm-Gyan* (Divine Knowledge) to make him a powerful citizen of an ideal and practical world. It aims at achieving this by following and promoting the process of awakening, seeing and realising the true self within.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Established by Shri Ashutosh Maharaj Ji, Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan (DJJS) is a spiritual organisation engaged in social welfare activities. Its foundation stone was laid in Punjab in the year 1983. It is inspired by the ultimate need of humanity – perpetual peace and eternal bliss.

DJJS (Dehradun) has been working in the district jail of Dehradun for the past three years. This jail houses only under-trial prisoners as all the long-term convicts are transferred to the prison at Haridwar.

## The Team:

DJJS has a team of 5-10 volunteers working towards reforming prisons and prisoners.

## Difficulties at Work:

- ◆ The Sansthan has difficulties with prison management in involving and visiting prisoners for reformative activities on a regular basis;
- ◆ Lack of space to carry out reformative activities; and
- ◆ Direct and continuous contact with prisoners is generally discouraged.



# Human Rights Law Network (HRLN)

<b>Address</b>	:	Choudhary Kholā, Jakhandevi Almora – 263602 Uttarakhand
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Neetu Kapkoti
<b>Designation</b>	:	Unit Coordinator
<b>Residential Address</b>	:	Same as mentioned above
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 05962-233814 Mobile: +91-9412045433 E-mail: neetukapkoti@hotmail.com

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Implementation of Supreme Court directives on the rights of prisoners; legal awareness in the society; and spreading awareness among the prisoners about their rights.

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## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) is not registered in Uttarakhand but has been active since 2006. It focuses on women rights – female foeticide, women trafficking, domestic violence cases, family and matrimonial cases and any other issue that addresses crime against women. It also advocates child rights, rights of disabled, land rights and lastly, prisoners' rights. It ensures implementation of Supreme Court directives. HRLN promotes legal awareness among society members and also spreads awareness about prisoners' rights. It operates to protect human rights of prisoners.

HRLN advocates visit observation homes to study its present condition. It is actively involved in district jails of Almora as well as observation homes of Dehradun. HRLN visits these prisons biannually.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

HRLN collaborates closely with NGOs/ Community Based Organisations (CBOs), judiciary and state services. It collaborates with the judiciary and organises legal camps in Almora jail. District legal aid committees also help them in this endeavour.

## **The Team:**

HRLN has one full-time staff.

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## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Overcrowding of prisons;
- ◆ Individualised counselling for prisoners;
- ◆ Regular training for prison officials;
- ◆ Formulating a health policy with special consideration to the psychological status of prisoners; and
- ◆ Innovative reformatory strategies should be laid out for prisoners.

## **Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Sharing a knowledge-base on prison issues and best practices in prisons; and
- ◆ Training for prison officers related to the provision of Prison Visiting System (PVS).

## **Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Access to prisons; and
- ◆ Lack of coordination among NGOs working on this issue.



# Manav Seva Samiti

<b>Address</b>	: Ajay Aparajit Bhawan (Bus Station) Dhara Naula Almora - 263601 Uttarakhand
<b>Contact Person</b> <b>Designation</b>	: Hridayesh Kumar Deepali : Convenor
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	: Telephone No: 05962-230832 Mobile: +91-9412092767 Fax: 05962-230832

### Key Prison Activities:

Facilitating spiritual activities in prison; occasionally distributing food, fruits and other legally permissible consumables among prisoners; and promoting legal awareness.

### The Organisation & its Work:

Manav Seva Samiti's volunteers have been visiting Haldwani and Almora District Prisons to counsel prisoners. Apart from providing legal aid they also try to secure employment opportunities for the released prisoners.

### The Team:

The team comprises of 35 volunteers.

### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Provision of appropriate clothing for prisoners depending on the season;
- ◆ Better medical facilities and nutritional diet according to the scales prescribed in the jail manual;
- ◆ Provision of proper facilities for women including toiletries and clean sanitation;
- ◆ Increase awareness of probation and parole provisions among the prison administration to utilise these provisions to their maximum capacity; and
- ◆ Lawyers are mostly less committed towards cases of prisoners of lower economic background. Attention needs to be paid to this aspect for improving the situation.

### Capacity Building Requirements:

- ◆ Training for NGO volunteers to sensitise them of prisoners' rights and issues; and
- ◆ Knowledge sharing between NGOs working in prisons.

### Difficulties at Work:

- ◆ Lack of cooperation from prison management; and
- ◆ Restricted access to prisoners.



# Parvatiya Abhirang Natya Academy

<b>Address</b>	:	79, Dhamawala Mohalla Dehradun, Uttaranchal
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Abhinav Goyal
<b>Designation</b>	:	Joint Secretary
<b>Residential Address</b>	:	Same as mentioned above
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 0135-2656492 Mobile: +91-9897774842 E-mail: avi311283@yahoo.co.in

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Promoting social change and awareness about human rights issues through plays and theatre; and organising cultural programmes.

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## **The Initial Phase:**

Ateeq Ahmed along with some of his friends, worked actively in the field of dramatics since 1970. Finally, Parvatiya Abhirang Natya Academy was established by him on 22 January 1978. It is one of the oldest drama academy of Dehradun and has produced several famous plays, productions and workshops for the benefit of the general public both in this city and in other prominent cities of the country.

## **Mission & Aims:**

The Academy aims at spreading awareness about social concerns in the society through plays and theatre.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Parvatiya Abhirang Natya Academy has been actively involved in prisons of Dehradun for the past six years. Through their plays it has been trying to spread awareness about the social stigma attached to prisoners. It believes that most criminal cases occur in a fit of anger and many a time innocents are arrested just because they were at the wrong place at the wrong time. The society needs to understand that these inmates were a victim of circumstances. The Academy has also been invited by state agencies to give performances on social issues.

For the production of plays the Academy accepts donations from individuals and funds from the Department of Culture, Uttarakhand.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

The Academy has produced various plays on a wide variety of issues such as corruption, child rights, women rights and war. Some of the plays performed in prisons for the inmates were *Good Bye Swami*, *Dikhava*, *Do Kawdi Ka Khel* and *Andha Yug*. After the play, the performers interact with prisoners to comprehend how they perceived the play. They take this initiative to change the behaviour of prisoners in various possible ways.

## **The Team:**

The Academy has a team of 10 – 15 volunteers working together to craft these plays. The artists of this academy have been committed to the philosophy of prison reforms.

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**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Overcrowding of prisons should be taken more seriously;
- ◆ Better medical facilities should be provided to the inmates;
- ◆ The staff members should adopt a more friendly behaviour towards prisoners;
- ◆ Procedures should be adopted to safeguard the facilities meant for prisoners such as food and ration; and
- ◆ Vocational training should be provided to make the prisoners self reliant and independent.

**Difficulties at Work:**

Lack of basic facilities such as an audio system and green room for the artists in prison premises.



# Pragati Prerna Samiti

<b>Address</b>	:	Opposite Shiv Temple Haridwar Road, Mohkampur P.O Nawada Dehradun – 248005 Uttarakhand
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Kavita Sharma
<b>Designation</b>	:	President
<b>Residential Address</b>	:	Family Counselling Centre Rispana Bridge, Shastri Nagar Haridwar Road, Near Pokhriyal Marble Dehradun, Uttarakhand
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 0135-2660942, 2720012 Mobile: +91-9412019897, 9411173659

## Key Prison Activities:

Preparing and documenting case history of women prisoners; offering social counselling to them; contacting them after their release and making home-visits; organising cultural programmes for the inmates; providing legal aid to women prisoners; and imparting vocational training.

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## Mission & Aims:

Pragati Prerna Samiti has always strived to involve itself in social concerns especially those relating to deprived women members of the society. With this in view it started helping out women including women prisoners.

## The Organisation & its Work:

Pragati Prerna Samiti was registered on 18 May 1999. It works towards empowering women, be it in prisons or in the open society. It advocates women rights and spreads legal awareness among community members. It has also been working with street children. In prisons, the Samiti provides social counselling and legal aid to poor inmates. It helps them secure bail by writing their bail applications. The Samiti also organises cultural programmes for the inmates.

In fulfilling its mandate, the Samiti is financially supported by State Social Welfare Board (SSWB). It also accepts donations from individuals.

## The Team:

The Samiti has been working in prisons for the past six months. Two counsellors visit Dehradun District Jail on a daily basis.

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## Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

More programmes should be initiated to provide vocational training to women prisoners.

## Capacity Building Requirements:

- ♦ Workshop for the volunteers on legal rights of prisoners; and
- ♦ A platform to interact with other agencies working with prisons to share their experiences and knowledge.



# State Resource Centre (SRC) - Adult Education

<b>Address</b>	:	68/1 Suryalok Colony Rajpur Road Dehradun – 248001 Uttarakhand
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	R. P. Pathak
<b>Designation</b>	:	Director
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Telephone No: 0135-2745637, 2746538 Fax: 0135-2748276 E-mail: srcddun@sancharnet.in

### Key Prison Activities:

Providing academic and technical support to literacy programmes conducted on experimental basis in the Dehradun jail; donating training kits consisting of primers and other relevant material for volunteers.

---

### The Organisation & its Work:

The State Resource Centre (SRC) is working under the aegis of the National Literacy Mission (NLM), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. It is an autonomous organisation, registered in 2000 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Governing body duly constituted as per the norms of Government of India is looking after its affairs.

SRC is committed to providing academic and technical support to literacy programmes conducted by Zilla Saksharta Samities under the chairmanship of district magistrates. It has established five Continuing Education Centres on experimental basis, in five different districts of Uttarakhand; one such centre is in Dehradun jail. This program is for prison inmates, wherein prisoners falling in the age group of 15 – 35 years are imparted functional literacy, besides improving the awareness level on health, environment etc. The centre focuses on teaching them how to read, write and do arithmetic, as per NLM norms. SRC has also donated to the jail a library consisting of 100 books and other reading material. These efforts of SRC have largely helped prisoners become independent so they are able to do small jobs like opening their bank account or applying for a ration card themselves.

### The Team:

SRC team consists of 13 regular members and eleven prison inmates who have volunteered to become trainers. Of these eleven inmates, one is a female trainer.

### Major Achievements:

- ◆ SRC has successfully trained eleven prisoners (ten males and one female), who now work as volunteers to conduct literacy classes in jail;
- ◆ Three volunteers among the jail inmates have started getting honorarium of Rs. 500 per month; and
- ◆ SRC has made prison inmates aware of issues such as HIV/AIDS, adolescence, and the importance of hygiene.

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### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

Overcrowding is the single greatest concern which if resolved would lead to the resolution of many other problems that inflict prisons in India.



# Sterlite Foundation

<b>Address</b>	:	District Jail Dehradun Dehradun, Uttarakhand
<b>Contact Person</b>	:	Sanjay Sharma
<b>Designation</b>	:	Instructor
<b>Residential Address</b>	:	Same as mentioned above
<b>Other Contact Details</b>	:	Mobile: +91-9897860459 Website: <a href="http://www.sterlitefoundation.org">www.sterlitefoundation.org</a>

## **Key Prison Activities:**

Vocational training and computer education.

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## **Mission & Aims:**

The organisation aims to address the need for vocational training among the youth of our society. It was established to help the underprivileged youth so as to keep them away from the vicious circle of unemployment, poverty and illiteracy.

## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Sterlite Foundation was established in 1992 with an objective to help and keep the underprivileged youth away from poverty and make them confident and independent individuals. The Foundation has its presence in various cities across different states of India. It has established its centres not just in the metropolitan cities but also in sub-urban and remote rural areas of the country. It has 200 computer training institutes nationwide.

The Foundation provides six months diploma course in computer application along with an advanced diploma course to prison inmates. It also provides free stationary and study materials to the inmates pursuing these courses in prison.

A computer instructor has been teaching for the past three and half years. He visits the prison for four hours daily and has rendered service to seven six-month computer courses by now.

## **The Team:**

One instructor of the Foundation trains a batch of five male prisoners at a time at the jail in Dehradun.

## **Major Achievements:**

The Foundation has successfully trained 35 inmates of the prison in computer literacy and computer applications.

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## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

Representatives of Sterlite Foundation are satisfied with the prison conditions in Dehradun District Jail.

## **Difficulties at Work:**

Lack of proper space to conduct training classes.



# Tell Asia Ministries, Inc.

**Address** : NTD Chowk  
Almora Shalom Church  
Almora  
Uttaranchal - 263601

**Contact Person** : Rev. L. David Moses  
**Designation** : Coordinator

**Residential Address** : Same as mentioned above  
**Other Contact Details** : Telephone No: 05962-234743  
Mobile: +91-9412104663  
E-mail: davidgovindi@hotmail.com

### Key Prison Activities:

Occasionally distributing food, fruits and other legally permissible consumables among the prisoners and facilitating spiritual activities for prisoners.

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### The Organisation & its Work:

Tell Asia Ministries, Inc. (TAM) has been working in prisons for the past ten years. The representatives of TAM visit Almora district prison biannually.

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### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Employment oriented vocational training for long-term prisoners; and
- ◆ Lack of community participation in prison reforms.

### Capacity Building Requirements:

- ◆ Training sessions for NGO volunteers and workers informing them about the law and rules affecting prisons and prisoners;
- ◆ Imparting knowledge about the legal rights of prisoners; and
- ◆ Developing skills about how they could work best in a prison environment.

### Difficulties at Work:

- ◆ Uncooperative attitude of prison officials; and
- ◆ Reservations that prison staff have against NGOs involvement in prisons.



# Victory Churches of India (VCI)

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## **Key Prison Activities:**

Organising spiritual and cultural activities for prisoners.

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## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Victory Churches of India (VCI) has been working in central prisons of Almora for the past ten years, facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners. It also provides social counselling to them and facilitates meetings with family members. Representatives of VCI visit prisons three times annually.

## **The Team:**

The team consists of ten volunteers.

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## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Sensitisation of prison administration towards the concerns of prisoners;
- ◆ Encouraging community participation in prisons;
- ◆ Introduction of recreational activities for prisoners, which is non-existent at present; and
- ◆ Orientation for NGOs before they start working in prisons.

## **Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Training NGO workers about prisoners' rights and penal laws;
- ◆ A platform for NGOs to share their experiences; and
- ◆ Promoting the concept of collaborative effort towards prison reform.

## **Difficulties at Work:**

Seeking access to prisons is a big concern. Every time there is a change in prison administration, a fresh application has to be made to get access, which is often not guaranteed.



# Aasha Kiran / Prison Ministry India

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## **Key Prison Activities:**

Organising spiritual, cultural, educational and vocational training programmes; providing free medical help and counselling; extending free legal aid to poor inmates; and visiting families of prisoners.

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## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Aasha Kiran has several ongoing projects in the district jail of Meerut. It provides medical facilities to women prisoners. There is no lady doctor appointed in the prison and often women prisoners feel uncomfortable talking to or revealing their psychological and physical ailments in front of male doctors. Aasha Kiran helps them in such situations by arranging medical assistance through lady doctors and lady para-medical staff.

Aasha Kiran collaborates with Nari Niketan (a local NGO) and provides adult education, counselling and vocational training such as beautician courses to women inmates.

It provides free legal aid to inmates of Meerut District Prison on Saturdays. Prison management is very cooperative in providing around 25 cases each time, and the assistance provided to each one of them is documented by Aasha Kiran's legal representatives. Every third Saturday, Aasha Kiran volunteers undertake initiatives to strengthen the work of lok adalats in local courts. Apart from Meerut District Prison, Aasha Kiran's representatives also organise spiritual, cultural and educational programmes, and provide medical facilities in district prisons of Ghaziabad, Rampur, Moradabad and Dehradun. They also try to secure employment opportunities for released prisoners.

## **Strategy/Approach:**

Aasha Kiran tries to adopt a holistic approach for prison reform and for securing prisoners' rights. It collaborates with various state services and agencies including the police, prisons and the judiciary. Its representatives try to acquaint the local judicial officers regarding pending cases of under-trial prisoners. They meet them and the district magistrate personally to request them to visit prisons regularly.

## **The Team:**

The team comprises of two teachers, six preachers, three counsellors, four advocates, one male doctor, one lady doctor and four nurses.

## **Major Achievements:**

Successful intervention for the release of under-trial prisoners incarcerated for petty offences, who had served a term equal to the highest sentence awardable to them on conviction.



**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Addressing the issue of overcrowding;
- ◆ Restructuring the medical policy for women prisoners; and
- ◆ Segregation of prisoners based on the seriousness of offence committed by them and segregation of habitual offenders from first timers.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ Legal awareness to its volunteers on prison related issues; and
- ◆ Collaborative workshops and seminars on initiatives taken by various organisations on prison reforms.

**Difficulties at Work:**

Financial constraints.



# Nari Sewa Samiti

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## Key Prison Activities:

Social counselling of women prisoners; holding medical camps; providing legal literacy; and imparting vocational and life-skills to inmates.

## The Initial Phase:

Nari Sewa Samiti (NSS) started its prisons programme on invitation by the Prison Department of Uttar Pradesh.

## Mission & Aims:

To work towards reformation and rehabilitation of offenders, and for the release of infirm and ailing inmates.

## The Organisation & its Work:

The Samiti works with women prisoners only in Lucknow Central Jail. Its involvement in the prison is multifaceted. Its counsellors make daily visits to the prison. They hold camps on a variety of issues such as legal literacy, nutrition and health. They also impart vocational training to women prisoners in skills such as tailoring. Prisoners are given an opportunity to add to their savings by stitching uniforms of primary school children on payment of wages.

Needs-based help is also provided to the inmates. NSS extends a helping hand by writing letters on behalf of the prisoners to their family members and encourages the family members to meet them more often. Organising special events on festivals, holding medical camps and providing appropriate medical-care, are some of the other activities in which this organisation is engaged in.

## Strategy/Approach:

Nari Sewa Samiti collaborates with other NGOs like Prajapati Brahma Kumari and People Health Foundation to give effect to its objectives. It also works closely with the Governor of the State for the release of women prisoners under mercy provisions.

## The Team:

NSS team comprises of 10-15 volunteers, including two lawyers, three counsellors, one doctor and one project manager.

## Future Plans:

- ◆ To insist in the release of old and infirm inmates of the prison; and
- ◆ To work for better medical facilities to be provided in jails.



**Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Need for state run short-stay homes for released women prisoners; and
- ◆ Need for fresh assessment of the medical facilities provided to prison inmates.

**Capacity Building Requirements:**

- ◆ A platform to collaborate with like minded NGOs; and
- ◆ Training to volunteers on legal provisions and judicial directives on issues relating to prison management.

**Difficulties at Work:**

- ◆ Lack of cooperation and coordination between NGOs; and
- ◆ Financial constraints.



# National Council of Women in India

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### Key Prison Activities:

Working for women empowerment; organising programmes for the welfare of women and children; extending monetary support to women prisoners for bail; assisting and advocating premature release of women prisoners; distributing food and other legally permissible consumables on special occasions; and facilitating social counselling and meetings with family members.

### The Organisation & its Work:

National Council of Women (NCW) has been working in the Lucknow Women's Prison since 1960. It has its presence across 17 states in India. NCW volunteers make approximately 6 - 7 visits to the prison annually. They also collaborate with other local women organisations, including Nari Seva Samiti for the attainment of its objectives.

### The Team:

NCW team comprises of 20 volunteers.

### Major Achievements:

The volunteers have assisted released prisoners in securing employment. They have also helped released women prisoners in getting married.

### Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:

- ◆ Better avenues should be sought for the social and cultural exposure of the children of women prisoners;
- ◆ Proper sanitation facilities including provision of toiletries;
- ◆ Prison staff should be sensitised to the needs of physically disabled and incorrigibly ill prisoners; and
- ◆ Proper care needs to be taken of criminally charged mentally challenged prisoners.

### Capacity Building Requirements:

- ◆ Legal training of volunteers to make them aware of prisoners' rights; and
- ◆ Better coordination with criminal justice agencies for effective work in prison reforms.



# Taru Chhaya

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## **Key Prison Activities:**

Organising cultural and recreational activities; working for women empowerment; occasionally distributing food and other legally permissible consumables; and holding health camps.

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## **The Organisation & its Work:**

Taru Chhaya has been working in Lucknow central and district jail and women's jail for the past ten years. It organises educational and recreational activities for prisoners. Volunteers visit prison once every three months. The organisation also supports education of children of prisoners.

## **The Team:**

The team of Taru Chhaya is very event oriented and the size fluctuates depending on a particular event. It has approximately 100 volunteers.

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## **Areas Identified for Reform in Prisons:**

- ◆ Accreditation of NGOs working on a regular basis;
- ◆ Opening up of rehabilitation centre for released prisoners; and
- ◆ Introduction of employment oriented avenues for vocational and life-skills training to prisoners.

## **Capacity Building Requirements:**

One common platform for NGOs to share experiences and make collaborative effort towards prison reforms.

## **Difficulties at Work:**

Financial constraints in carrying out the programmes.



## Concluding Remarks

Community participation in correctional work has to be need-based. It requires an assessment of the type of NGO that should be given access for the purpose. NGOs should be involved in a wide variety of programmes and reformatory actions, which should span from legal awareness, human rights protection of prisoners, employable skill development, to spiritually and religiously centred activities.

As of now most of the NGOs/ CBOs are pursuing spiritually oriented activities and only a few are actually involved in providing legal awareness, giving legal assistance, or restoring the residuary rights of the prisoners. Involvement in these important aspects of correctional work requires appropriate training of volunteers and social workers, which, with the cooperation of various stakeholders, can be done by such umbrella organisations as CHRI.

Community involvement in prisons must be a participative process involving both prisons and the community. This participative process means that the community and prison functionaries must work together constantly, not only during crisis situations, but also in ongoing matters of policy and restorative justice. Consultation between these two components of society in all matters involving prisons and prisoners is important for the purposes of maintaining good working relationships and promoting greater community involvement. Because of the isolation from the broader community, which prison administrators experience in India, it is unlikely that community involvement in prisons would be successful if it were centrally imposed. In view of the absence of any national policy for prisons and it being a state subject, it is essential that a wide range of interest-groups be drawn into discussions on community involvement in prisons.

Greater community involvement in prisons would assist prison management by allowing ordinary people from the community to understand more fully the problems which prisons confront. Through a process of inclusive negotiation involving recipients, the community must be able to conceive, implement and take responsibility for projects in a coordinated way, as close to the requirements of reformation as possible. It shall be a great and important step in bringing government closer to the people and thereby ensuring more accountability to the people.



# Roundtable On Community Participation in Prisons

Following this Scoping Study, the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) hosted a one-day roundtable for NGOs/ CBOs, prison officials and others working in prison reforms. The roundtable was organised at the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi on 25 March 2008.

## Context of the Roundtable:

Prison administration in India is governed by the Prisons Act of 1894. Community involvement varies considerably as prisons fall as a state subject under the Constitution of India. The only officially mandated provision for community intervention - the Prison Visiting System (PVS) comprising official and non-official visitors to oversee the running of prisons, has been neglected in many states. While some state governments have been progressive in encouraging civil society, other states have been less so.

The role of civil society is widely considered as an important part of any rehabilitative correctional regime. This has been endorsed both by high level working groups within India and by international agreements to which India is a party.

After having conducted the Scoping Study, CHRI realised that though there are several key players in the field of prison reforms across the nation, there has not been any effort in bringing them together to share their successes or failures, or build a broad lobby group.

## Objectives:

The purpose of the roundtable was to bring together individuals and organisations already working in prisons to hear their particular concerns with a view to creating a more coordinated movement. Civil society needs to re-strategise its intervention in the administration of prisons. These interventions need to be both conducted responsibly and sustained. It was hoped that the roundtable would promote this idea and identify avenues to make it possible. This provided an opportunity to bring together those working in prison administration and non-government organisations from across the country to identify where and how community participation is feasible; reassess allocation of time and resources, and highlight neglected areas to be addressed in the future.

Community participation in prisons can be a two fold process –

- ♦ the community coming into prisons; and
- ♦ prisoners going out in the community.

For the purpose of this report, we have focused only on interventions of the former type, which can be broadly categorised as follows:

- ♦ Bail projects;
- ♦ Legal clinics;
- ♦ Status study of under-trial prisoners – (one time or periodic);
- ♦ Voluntary probation services;
- ♦ Adult education;
- ♦ Medical assistance (diagnostic camps, therapeutic camps);
- ♦ Drug de-addiction;
- ♦ Moral and spiritual discourses and practices;
- ♦ Vocational training in employable skills;



- ◆ Use of prison labour by private entrepreneurs;
- ◆ Community groups visiting prisons;
- ◆ Family support;
- ◆ Religious groups visiting prisons; and
- ◆ Training of prison staff.

*(These categories are not mutually exclusive.)*

Initiatives that see prison inmates going out in the community include:

- ◆ Prisoners' open camps;
- ◆ Prisoners going to social service projects; and
- ◆ Aftercare (Post release short stay homes for men and women).

*(At the time of writing there was no provision for community sentencing, but the national policy currently being drafted does recommend this provision).*

### **Recommendations:**

**Access to prisons:** Prisons are not public places. Some level of security needs to be maintained, hence not every organisation can be granted access for any purpose. However, specialist community interventions should be encouraged to ensure transparency.

It was agreed that any wider community involvement should be well defined and conducted responsibly, with the Additional Director General (D.G) of Police & Inspector General (I.G) of Prisons, Karnataka, Mr. S.T.Ramesh highlighting that prisons are not, and cannot be "freely accessible public places". There needs to be a clear focus among these organisations hoping to work in prisons about their angle of intervention, whether they would be involved at a micro or macro level. Mr. Ramesh emphasised the importance of transparency and its potential to expose, if not solve, many ills. Community involvement can also serve to combat much of the mystery surrounding prisons, fuelled in part by uninformed, misleading negative portrayals by the Hindi film industry. Transparency on the other hand demystifies prisons and reduces exaggerated inferences. Prison officers should understand this and be more receptive towards community interventions. They should be more open in discussing problems faced by them as the solutions can only be derived through mutual understanding and advocacy. However, Mr. Ramesh was equally clear that set procedures, standards and criteria would need to be set out and met for community intervention.

Community intervention was endorsed as 'an opportunity to de-mystify and enhance transparency of the obscure institutions', and 'provide channels for prisoner grievances and address problems faced by prison staff'. Organisations whose work was particularly commended included the Prison Ministry of India (PMI) for their provision of surety for bail, helping to address the overcrowding of prisons and provide albeit temporary relief to the prisoners, and CHRI for their considerable knowledge of applicable legal standards.

Dr. Jayadev Sarangi, Prison Expert of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), who has worked extensively in promoting community participation in prisons across the South Asian region highlighted the need for a shift from the current penal philosophy in India noting that rising crime rates have made the isolation and removal of criminals from society unsustainable. He spoke at length about finding a balance between security and access.

**Accreditation of NGOs:** In the present scenario, other than the PVS which is widely all but defunct, there is no provision for community participation in prisons and no regulation governing intervention. This is left to the discretion of jail superintendents



whose first priority has to be security and who cannot assess the credibility of every NGO seeking access. To heighten the legitimacy of active NGOs in prisons, and to improve access for groups whose services matched the needs of the prisoners and prison administration, the possibility of accreditation was discussed. Key performance indicators need to be identified to assist the prison administration in the decision-making process. Accreditation criteria could range across several factors including knowledge, expertise, performance, track-record, commitment level, availability of funds, and reputation for humanitarian work. Access could be standing permission or on event-to event basis. There is a mushrooming of spiritual and moral activities based organisations in prisons, however, there is a lack of interest-groups intervening for human resource management of prisons, assessing the service and living conditions of prison officers and their families. A needs-based assessment should be done for each prison to recognise the most suited type of community intervention.

**Relevance of legal knowledge among civil society members:** NGOs/ CBOs and individuals working for prison reforms should demonstrate sufficient legal knowledge to frame their own intervention and keep the administration up-to-date with applicable rules and actual practice. Several NGOs genuinely work for the improvement of prisons and prisoners' conditions, however there is often a dearth of legal knowledge among civil society members. NGOs should realise the importance of legal knowledge and proficiency of the jail rules and regulations, with which to frame their own interventions and requests. NGOs need to be proactive in suggesting practical solutions if they want to make a significant impact.

**MoUs between prison officials and NGOs:** A Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between prison officials and individual organisations was suggested which would work to match the needs of the prison officers with the services of the NGO. Both would then have a defined mandate and set expectations. Failure to fulfil the agreement would incur accountability and so promote responsible intervention. The absence of set standards or an agreement providing for access, adversely influences the work of NGOs, increasing the uncertainty by making access dependent on individual prison officers' outlook towards reform.

**Demarcation between NGO's & Government's responsibility:** There needs to be a well-defined demarcation between services and facilities that the government is supposed to provide to prisoners and those that can be provided by NGOs. Often prison officials - due to lack of staff - are over burdened and so fail to notice prisoner requirements inadvertently. Participating community based organisations can bring such issues and concerns to the attention of prison management and act as the eyes and ears of the administration. There needs to be a clear distinction on where the incentive by the government ends and that of NGOs begins. The Government cannot expect to the services done by NGOs as a substitute to their obligations towards the prisoners.

**Public awareness about the state of prisons:** Prisons are considered as social dump yards; once a person is dumped he is easily forgotten. Once a person enters the prison vicinity, he is labelled as an outcast and a threat to the society, which stays with him forever. The general perception in our society is that all prisoners are sadistic, heinous, pleasure seeking hard core criminals. This misrepresents the fact that only five per cent of prisoners in Indian prisons are habitual offenders. It was felt that there was a need for the community based organisations to make efforts towards spreading awareness about the social construct of prisons in India.

The roundtable meeting highlighted the need for an informal 'prison lobby group' akin to women's and dalit groups, and it is hoped the meeting would help build a platform



for future coordination amongst those pushing for prison reforms. The workshop opened avenues to constructively voice the expectations of both the prison administration and NGOs, the hurdles to their realisation; identifying areas of common ground that might serve as a platform on which to build a robust model or path to take up future initiatives. Equally important is identifying areas and underlying causes of disagreement requiring further dialogue. This forum could also assist in the referral of local issues and cases of individual prisoners to other NGOs better placed or resourced to address the particular problem. Due to the vastness of geographical location of the organisations, it was suggested that regional coalitions and networks could be formed to share information, knowledge and experiences on a regular basis.

It is hoped bringing together experts, academicians, senior practitioners and persons key to engendering change in prisons, to exchange knowledge, assess innovation and network with like-minded interested functionaries, will catalyse change from within, creating interfaces conducive to future cooperation and create the kind of momentum which comes from watching and listening to other similarly situated persons from within the profession.

CHRI takes this meeting as the beginning of a long-term collaborative process among prison civil society groups to build their capacity, increase accountability and transparency, to strengthen the administration of prison systems, and catalyse prisons reform across India.



# Access to Prisons

Frederick Piggott

'The making of a good society depends not on the state but on the citizens, acting individually or in free association with one another. The happiness or unhappiness of the society in which we live depends upon ourselves as citizens, not on the instrument of political power which we call the state'<sup>1</sup>.

This paper focuses on the need for development of a policy controlling access for community intervention into prisons and the process by which it might be formed. Such a policy would work against the discretionary, arbitrary nature of access and itself encourage community participation. If access is secure or can be predicted, civil society groups can plan effectively, putting time and resources into projects that will not be frustrated. However, that intervention must also be structured and responsible. Legal knowledge should be emphasised. This paper outlines the benefits of community intervention, highlighting current hurdles in the discretionary nature of access rights and suggesting prisons might better function under a more transparent and open policy.

## Community Intervention

In resource-poor countries where prison administration and reform do not command adequate resources, civil society involvement can be essential in bringing additional administrative resources. The emphasis of reform in these countries will often focus on '...involvement of civil society groups in various aspects of work to help prisoners and generate resources.'<sup>2</sup> Even where resources are available with the state, they are not adequately allocated to prison management as public opinion is against it or wrong priorities are set. Civil society involvement can mobilise public opinion in favor of reforms or right the wrong priorities, however they must appreciate that security concerns and the interests of the prisoners themselves can qualify the free access to prisons by NGOs for certain reasons. If access is to be afforded that must be exploited with the fullest legal knowledge and responsible intervention.

The prisoner's quality of life while incarcerated is an essential element to the dignity and humanity of his detention. Minimum standards reinforced by our Supreme Court applicable for the treatment of prisoners, see the prisoner's hygiene, food, medical and activity provision, education and external social relations all as basic requirements<sup>3</sup>. If prisons are to be reformatory, rehabilitative institutions partnerships with willing civil society and educational organisations should be developed and the considerable resource pool they represent should be exploited. While community participation can be effective to bring in resources and shoulder some of the burden, it is important that the burden or responsibility should not shift; accountability must lie ultimately with the state.

Mistrust characteristic of the traditional relationships between prison officers and NGOs needs to be worked on through constructive, appreciative dialogue. This should focus on the long-term interests of those who run prisons in supporting the efforts of groups that publicise bad prison working conditions, demand more resources and training, fewer prisoners and see a degree of normalisation in the working environment of these officials through the presence of outside groups and civil society<sup>4</sup>. Rights-based criticism often will appear confrontational and a source of antagonism as being distanced from ground realities and potentially lending disruptive prisoners support. That discourse should be replaced by one emphasising common ground.



## Forms of Intervention

### 1. Prisoners' Rights Intervention

Effective legal aid provision is essential in remedying the overcrowding in prisons. Yet NGOs have recorded provision for legal aid as one of the main issues to be targeted for reform.<sup>5</sup> Prompt access to a lawyer is a not a practical reality for most prisoners - especially for poor prisoners who are often sidelined creating their double marginalization of both being incarcerated and further forgotten. Examples from Malawi and Kenya have seen the introduction of para-legal aid clinics empowering prisoners through legal literacy programmes, teaching law and procedure through forum theatre and interactive learning techniques to enable prisoners to apply the law in their own case. To improve legal aid resources, the *Lilongwe Plan for Accessing Legal Aid in the Criminal Justice System in Africa*<sup>6</sup> recommended '...diversification] of legal aid delivery systems' and 'service providers', adopting an inclusive approach'; the promotion of partnerships '...with NGOs, CBOs, faith-based groups and, where appropriate, local councils'; and, recognition that the effectiveness of this would demand '...access to prisons for responsible NGOs, CBOs and faith-based groups is not subject to unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles'.<sup>7</sup>

'[In Malawi] paralegals have enabled hundreds of people to gain their release [on bail] and to persuade the court to pass a lesser sentence or obtain their own acquittal at trial. The effect - in Malawi at least - has been to reduce the remand population from a mean of 35-40% prior to 2000 to a constant mean of less than 25% in 2004-7 - one of the lowest prison remand rates on the African continent'.<sup>8</sup>

Legal aid under the Lilongwe plan is defined 'as broadly as possible to include legal advice, assistance, representation, education, and mechanisms for alternative dispute resolution; and to include a wide range of stakeholders, such as non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, religious and non-religious charitable organisations, professional bodies and associations, and academic institutions'.<sup>9</sup>

### 2. Profit/Industry Intervention

Gainful employment is an essential facet of correctional regime, but is open to abuse and exploitation. Competition and profit margins see cheap prison labor - justified as rehabilitative and correctional - as one source of competitiveness, exploited as a non-unionized and politically powerless workforce. A more appropriate model for civil society intervention would be one emphasizing the imparting of skills to prisoners and the payment of real wages rather than profit making. A company in the UK, 'Fine Cell Work'<sup>10</sup>, has engaged prisoners in embroidery; exhibiting and selling tapestries and cushions made by inmates. The prisoners do the work when they are locked in their cells, and the earnings give them hope, skills and independence. Savings are said to reduce the likelihood of offenders returning to crime. Prisoners often send the money they earn from Fine Cell Work to their children and families, or use it to pay debts or for accommodation upon release. This sees prisoners develop skills, and undertake meaningful rehabilitative work and also fulfils the prisoners' right to work where that right cannot be fulfilled by the prison administration.

Article 23(1) of the Constitution prohibits forced labor. Clause (a) of article 39 lays down the principle that the citizens should have a right to adequate means to livelihood. Under article 41 of the Constitution the state has an obligation to make effective provision for securing the right to work. Within the limits of state's capacity Article 42 imposes an obligation on the state to secure just and humane conditions of work. Article 43 envisages the duty of the state to endeavor to secure by suitable legislation or economic organisation to all workers a living wage, and conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life.



These provisions are equally applicable to prisoners, who, while they are incarcerated, do not forfeit enjoyment of other fundamental rights.

If these rights are to be realised, prison administrators have to play multiple roles including entrepreneur, industrialist and marketer. Civil society involvement can contribute through marketing, distribution, generating interest through exhibiting prisoners work etc.

### 3. *Rehabilitative Intervention*

'A rehabilitated prisoner is not one who learns to survive well in prison but one who succeeds in the world outside on release'<sup>11</sup> yet the prison environment is one conducive to social and physical deterioration. Community access can foster a more rehabilitative environment, where the dislocation effect of isolation is minimized. Prison should be pro-social; 'the way prison is organised and the way prisoners treated should emphasize values of responsibility and mutual respect so that prisoners are not unfitted by the spell in prison for life in society afterwards.'<sup>12</sup> These are sentiments echoed in the Mulla Committee report of a quarter of a century ago: '*The entire atmosphere of prisons, including the behavior of prison personnel, should be surcharged with positive values and the inmates should be exposed to a wholesome environment in which they can retrospect and reform themselves. Such a congenial atmosphere is an essential prerequisite for the execution of any reformatory treatment,*'<sup>13</sup> recommending that 'continuity of contacts of prisoners with their...community should be maintained [and] community participation in treatment programmes should be encouraged'.<sup>14</sup>

This is one area where reform does not have to take the form of expensive development. Instead it can focus on the more efficient allocation of resources and the recruitment of willing civil society. This can see more innovative solutions advocated instead of a situation in which progress in prison reform is measured by budget and spending. In terms of ideas, the ability of civil society to experiment with issues of rehabilitation and reformation of offenders has more potential than the state. Recently NACRO<sup>15</sup> [a London based crime reduction charity] suggested taking the 8,000 people in prison for less than a year (where they receive no rehabilitation or support from probation when they leave) and placing them in a civil society led programme funded through the money otherwise spent on prison; offering a way of developing community involvement in rehabilitation programmes.

In the US, since 2000, a massive reduction in prison spending coincided with massive falls in the crime rate as alternatives to prison had to be pursued, suggesting that re-adjustment of financial priorities towards supporting independent organisations that work with ex-offenders, and those likely to offend, is more likely to achieve crime reduction than increased spending<sup>16</sup>. More innovative approaches are needed.

In the US in 2001, the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights (EBCHR) launched the Books Not Bars campaign to challenge increasing youth incarceration and redirect California's resources towards youth opportunities. The campaign engages in grassroots campaigns using media and policy advocacy, grassroots organising, and alliance building to fight against over-incarceration for a shift in government focus away from punishment to rehabilitation and education. The campaign advocates for (i) the reallocation of prison spending to funding for education; (ii) the removal of profit incentive for industry involved in prisons; and (iii) the implementation of systems of restorative justice rather than furthering the present model of retribution.<sup>17</sup>

### 4. *Monitoring/Research*

Monitoring can similarly serve a 'bridging' function and catalyst to reform through enhanced public awareness of conditions for both working officials and inmates. The



closed and segregated nature of prison lends itself to a neglect which community involvement can help to overcome.

Monitoring is currently overseen by the National and State Human Rights Commissions and lower levels of the judiciary, as well as through ex-officio and non-official visitors schemes, though these have become neglected in many states. The former (the Human Rights Commissions and the judiciary) also provide a route for civil society research to further public awareness; partnerships which are particularly valuable and mutually reinforcing because many commissions cannot reach out to all prisons, civil society groups acting in tandem with Commissions can act as the eyes and ears of the Commission; though there is a need for reports to be widely disseminated. There is of course a need to ensure that there are criteria laid down for the kinds of partnerships forged, capable of safeguarding the integrity of joint endeavors even providing broad and representative participation.

### Access

Access to prisons is restricted, informed by an inherited colonial administration that not only informs the security orientated structures of laws themselves [the heavily restricted visitors system etc.], but also the hurdles to reform of the administrative organisation itself. Creating conditions conducive to change requires not only symptomatic but *systemic* change. The apathy to reform and marginalization of the prison population characteristic of the Indian prison system falls behind even developments in waste management that see recycling and waste *management* as the responsibility of the wider community<sup>18</sup>.

Even where prison access is provided for it is heavily regulated and circumscribed. State provision for non-official visitors regulates depth and level of access and conditions that access providing for restriction on e.g. media communication<sup>19</sup>. The regime is further limited by the prevailing attitude of discrimination and apathy. Even *ex-officio* visitors see heavily regulated admission. This restricted access militates against community involvement and its potential benefit.

'Any attempt by voluntary agencies to extend their services for the welfare of prisoners is looked upon with suspicion by prison personnel. They construe such attempt as intrusion in the administration of prisons and are afraid that involvement of voluntary organisations in prison programmes might expose their mismanagement and weakness.'<sup>20</sup>

Access is understandably subject to restriction and cannot be unqualified. Prisoners' interests in a routine and structured time and other legitimate security concerns militate against free-open access for all. However retributive objectives [since rejected in mainstream opinion] and social welfare objectives are often seen as mutually exclusive. Security has to be a priority of prison administration, but a balance needs to be struck so that '*secure* management [does not]...slip...into *obscure* management; once transparency is shadowed, accountability becomes a farce'<sup>21</sup>. This balance is not only desirable but imminently necessary if reformation is one of the essential elements of prison regime - a philosophy India has endorsed through accession to the ICCPR<sup>22</sup> and has incorporated into a draft national policy on prison reform and correctional administration<sup>23</sup>.

### Who has Access to Prisons?

#### 1. The Judiciary

As the agency responsible for the lawful deprivation of an offender's liberty, the judiciary exercises supervisory jurisdiction over prison administration, through (i) District Court



oversight as ex-officio visitors, and (ii) interventions resulting from petitions filed on behalf of prisoners addressing grievances concerning administration or treatment.

In the U.S. the impact of judicial intervention has been credited with ‘...chang[ing] the climate from one of an insular network of corrections administrators working with very little judicial of public scrutiny to one in which judicial oversight is a ubiquitous characteristic of administration [where] just a few cases decided in the 1960’s unleashed a flood of litigation brought by inmates and public law advocates, completely transforming the bureaucratic environment of prison administration’.<sup>24</sup>

While the Indian judiciary has been sympathetic to prisoner’s rights and reform, delivering scores of judgments in their favor from 1970s onwards, their spirit has never percolated to the cutting edge of justice delivery system at the lower level supervising the prisons. For instance see the following comment:

In the sensitive area of prison justice, the judicial members have special responsibilities and they must act as wholly independent overseers and not as ceremonial panelists. The judges are guardians of prisoners’ rights because they have duty to secure the execution of the sentence without excess and to sustain personal liberties of prisoners without violence or violation of inmates’ personality. Moreover when a wrong is done inside the jail the judicial visitor is virtually a peripatetic tribunal and sentinel, at once intramural and extramural – observer, receiver and adjudicator of grievances<sup>25</sup>.

## 2. National & State Human Rights Commissions

NHRC & SHRCs have supervisory powers over prisons, empowered *not only* to ‘visit under intimation to the state government, any jail or any other institution under the control of the state government, where persons are detained or lodged for purposes of treatment, reformation or protection to study the living conditions of the inmates and make recommendations thereon’<sup>26</sup>, but to exercise ‘...such other functions as it may consider necessary for the protection of human rights...’<sup>27</sup>. Human Rights Commissions [HRC] also have specific powers to ‘...encourage the efforts of non-governmental organisations and institutions working in the field of human rights...’<sup>28</sup> The HRC’s have significant powers under these two headings to encourage community participation.

The National Commission for Women also has the power to ‘...inspect or cause to inspected a jail, remand home, women’s institution or other place of custody where women are kept as prisoners or otherwise and take up with the concerned authorities for remedial action, if found necessary...’<sup>29</sup>

CHRI has worked under the ‘sponsorship’ of the National and State Human Rights Commissions to gain access through their patronage, and other organisations should be encouraged to seek similar access for their projects through Commission ‘accreditation’.

## 3. Other Ex-officio and non-official visitors

The Prisons Act of 1894 mandates state governments to make rules ‘for the appointment and guidance of visitors of prisons’ [section 59, sub-section 25]. Present provision for official and nonofficial visitors in State Prison Manuals is the result of this section. This Section however only provides that ‘state governments may make rules consistent with’<sup>30</sup> the Act in the fields listed, of which sub-section 25 and the appointment and guidance of visitors is one; appearing as an *authorizing* provision, not an obligation.



This is the only officially mandated civilian oversight body for prisons and the Prison Visitors system is itself a considerable target for reform. CHRI has been actively, and with some success, campaigning to see it revived.

The above exhausts the provision for outside oversight of prisons and community involvement. Beyond these three bodies to oversee prison administration, access to prisons is regulated at the discretion of the Superintendent, as falling within the Superintendent's competence to 'manage the prison in all matters relating to discipline, labor, expenditure, punishment and control'<sup>31</sup>.

### Policy Formation

'It is important to consult as widely as possible when drawing up a community involvement policy; the greater the input, the more workable the policy will be. Similarly the greater the involvement of staff, voluntary sector organisations and volunteers (including prisoner volunteers), the more enthusiastic they will be to ensure its success. Prison staff may not have learned about volunteer involvement in their training, nor have any personal experience of working with volunteers, so their involvement in the planning process will help clarify the role of volunteers and ensure they do not perceive volunteers as threats...'<sup>32</sup>

As noted, the formulation of a policy to regulate access could militate against the discretionary nature of access permission and foster enhanced community participation. Policy formation must be inclusive and take the form of appreciative, constructive dialogue with all stakeholders. This would be best served through open discussion, of the sort at a round table or workshop, where concerns and expectations can be aired and progress made toward finding compromise and consensus on which to build future initiatives and partnerships.

Community participation must always be relevant, structured and based on identified needs within the prison. The Mulla Committee, while fully endorsing community participation in prisons, recorded that that 'is not to be random participation by laymen. It has to be systematic and planned participation in which the role and functions of voluntary groups and individuals should be well defined...'<sup>33</sup> Suitable opportunities should therefore be identified in advance rather than simply accepting offers from willing volunteers. This will see recruitment match the organisation to the need rather than the need being adapted to the organisation. This would require umbrella coordination of NGO activities to achieve maximum efficiency through targeted resource allocation.

'...there should be needs based assessments of the type of NGOs that should be given access...liaison committees must be set up to discuss the needs of prisons and prisoners as perceived by the community. The composition of these liaison committees must be based on the local dynamics of that particular area...[and] look at how best to deal with problems and which problems the community considered most urgent for the implementation of community involvement in prisons.'<sup>34</sup>

*Commissioning* is practiced to coordinate third sector involvement in provision of correctional services and offender management in other countries. This involves targeted resource allocation so as to best support the administration of individual institutions, taking decisions concerning 'who is best placed to deliver' so as to maximize outcomes and increase efficiencies. Commissioning will occur wherever best value is achieved, whether locally, regionally or nationally, but with a presumption for devolution as locally as possible.<sup>35</sup> A similar scheme could be developed to monitor NGO participation and access to prisons across India at the state level.



This would take the form of a Liaison Committee, Citizens Advice Committee or other committee representative of local dynamics. These would be best placed to assess local needs and allocate resources (in the form of willing NGOs) accordingly. Civil society needs to reform the way it engages itself in prisons.



# Endnotes

- Researched and written for the CHRI hosted workshop 'Community Participation in Prisons: Lessons Learnt & The Way Forward' New Delhi, 25 March 2008
- <sup>1</sup> Beveridge 1948 quoted in HMT Third Sector Review (UK) available at [https://www.acevo.org.uk/UserFiles/File/acevo\\_-\\_HM\\_Treasury\\_Transforming\\_our\\_Public\\_Services\\_Through\\_the\\_Third\\_Sector.pdf](https://www.acevo.org.uk/UserFiles/File/acevo_-_HM_Treasury_Transforming_our_Public_Services_Through_the_Third_Sector.pdf)
- <sup>2</sup> Kings Guidance Note 1 on Prison Reforms at 7.
- <sup>3</sup> See also, *Standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners*, Adopted 30 Aug 1955. While the prisoners' right to free movement has been suspended they should, as far as possible, continue to enjoy other rights equivalent to those enjoyed outside
- <sup>4</sup> Kings Guidance note 12 on Prison Reform at pg 4 and 3
- <sup>5</sup> See CHRI community participation scoping study.
- <sup>6</sup> Lilongwe Plan of Action for Accessing Legal Aid in the Criminal Justice System in Africa
- <sup>7</sup> Ibid
- <sup>8</sup> Penal Reform International, *Paralegal Aid* at 25
- <sup>9</sup> Lilongwe Plan of Action for Accessing Legal Aid in the Criminal Justice System in Africa
- <sup>10</sup> [www.finecellwork.co.uk](http://www.finecellwork.co.uk)
- <sup>11</sup> Andrew Coyle *A Human Rights Approach to Prison Management: Handbook for Prison Staff* 2002 at 84
- <sup>12</sup> Guidance note 9 on Prison Reform, at pg 3
- <sup>13</sup> Mulla Committee report at pg 127 10.1
- <sup>14</sup> recommendation 10.28.42, and recommendation 10.28.50
- <sup>15</sup> [www.nacro.org.uk](http://www.nacro.org.uk)
- <sup>16</sup> HMP service (UK) Third Sector Review, February 2007 - [www.acevo.org.uk/UserFiles/File/acevo\\_-\\_HM\\_Treasury\\_Transforming\\_our\\_Public\\_Services\\_Through\\_the\\_Third\\_Sector.pdf](http://www.acevo.org.uk/UserFiles/File/acevo_-_HM_Treasury_Transforming_our_Public_Services_Through_the_Third_Sector.pdf)
- <sup>17</sup> <http://ellabakercenter.org/page.php?pageid=1>
- <sup>18</sup> Thanks to Mr. R. K. Saxena for the analogy
- <sup>19</sup> So that visitors retaining their official connections with the jail, are precluded from giving publicity in the press or otherwise to matters connected with its administration. Visitors provided for under the Rajasthan manual are required to visit the jail periodically but cannot visit the prison on Sunday, on Public Holidays, or at night; they cannot meet prisoners on hunger-strike or prisoners separated on disciplinary and medical grounds or those detained under preventive laws. They also cannot make surprise inspections. See speech delivered by Hon'ble Chairperson Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission on 6<sup>th</sup> sept. , 2003 in the workshop on Prison Reforms in Rajasthan
- <sup>20</sup> Committee report at pg 24 3.39
- <sup>21</sup> *Prison Visiting System in India* by R.K. Saxena (community intervention into prisons)
- <sup>22</sup> 10 April 1979, article.10 (3) providing '...The penitentiary system shall comprise treatment of prisoners the essential aim of which shall be their reformation and social rehabilitation...'
- <sup>23</sup> the draft of the policy was being finalized as this went to print
- <sup>24</sup> Stephen Powers & Stanley Rothman *The Least Dangerous Branch?: Consequences of Judicial Activism*, Praeger Publishers 2002 at 96
- <sup>25</sup> *Sunil Batra (II) Vs Delhi Administration*, Reported in (1980) 3 Supreme Court Cases 488
- <sup>26</sup> Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 Art 12 (c). The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2006 also provides for the NHRC to visit any jail or other institution without prior intimation to the state government concerned. This will enable the Commission to make surprise visits to prisons.
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid Art. 12 (i)
- <sup>28</sup> Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 Art 12 (i)
- <sup>29</sup> Section 10 National Commission for Women Act, 1990, 1(k)
- <sup>30</sup> emphasis added
- <sup>31</sup> Prisons Act 1894 Article 11
- <sup>32</sup> National Offender Management Service *Volunteering: A Guide to Good Practice for Prisons* - HMP service (UK) Sept 2006 available at: [http://noms.justice.gov.uk/news-publications-events/publications/guidance/Volunteering\\_Guide\\_for\\_prisons?view=Binary](http://noms.justice.gov.uk/news-publications-events/publications/guidance/Volunteering_Guide_for_prisons?view=Binary)
- <sup>33</sup> Mulla Committee report at 21.9 256
- <sup>34</sup> CHRI Scoping Study Report
- <sup>35</sup> *Commissioning*, National Offender Management Service, HMP service (UK)



# Best Interventions in Prisons

## Made in Jail (Italy)

[www.madeinjail.com](http://www.madeinjail.com)

Made-in-Jail is a \$250,000 a year business started by ex-prisoners and employing prisoners in Italy selling its logo'd products throughout the country. Made in Jail label produces a wide range of products from logo T-shirts to handbags, sold through shops in downtown Rome and at roadside restaurants across the country.

The concept was developed in 1980 while the founder was himself in prison. This is a fully established business that has been running for 20 years. Three times a week, small group of inmates work together to come up with new slogans or clever graphics, while approximately 30 ex-prisoners assist in the marketing and distribution of Made in Jail products.

The project gives prisoners a chance to engage in rehabilitative productive activity, a chance to laugh and provides prospects on release and raises awareness of prison life, including the challenges and stigma faced on release.

## Paralegal Advisory Service (Malawi)

[www.mps.gov.mw/paralegal.htm](http://www.mps.gov.mw/paralegal.htm)

The Paralegal Advisory Service (PAS) started in Malawi as a joint venture between civil society groups and Malawi Prison Service in May 2000. Paralegals from various NGOs were given one month training on elements of law conducted by resource persons from criminal justice agencies and the NGOs sponsoring the project. The coordination was undertaken by NGO legal officers. They are guided by an Advisory Council and their Code of Conduct which regulates their operations while inside or outside prison walls. The Advisory Council consists of the Chief Commissioner of Prisons, The Chairman of Prisons Inspectorate (retired Judge), the Chairman of the Core Group on Criminal Justice Reform, the Director of Public Prosecutions, a representative from the Legal Aid Department and Head of Prosecutions in the Police.

The paralegals are engaged in two main projects - establishing legal aid clinics in prisons for remand prisoners and assisting remand prisoners imprisoned for bailable offences in filing bail applications. In the clinics remand prisoners are informed of their rights and court procedures. They are also taught how to conduct themselves in court, and pursue the stages of a trial. This enables prisoners to argue their own case in court which leads to their release and in turn addresses the issue of overcrowding of prisons.

The Human Rights Commission of Malawi has described the country's criminal justice system as weak, citing justice is compromised because of too many archaic laws on the statute books and denial of justice due to lack of legal representation for the indigent, with as many as fifty per cent being remand prisoners awaiting trial. Some of them have stayed more than seven years in prison without having their cases heard in court. The diversification of legal aid personnel due to PAS has enabled the release of hundreds of remand prisoners (on bail) and assisted in persuading the courts to pass a lesser sentence or obtain acquittal during trial. This has immensely reduced the remand population from an average of 35-40% prior to 2000 to less than 25% in 2004-2007 - one of the lowest prison remand rates on the African continent.



**Delancey Street Foundation (USA)**<http://www.delanceystreetfoundation.org>

In 1971 Delancey Street began with four residents, a thousand dollar loan, and a dream to develop a new model to turn around the lives of people in poverty - substance abusers, former felons, and others who have hit bottom - *by empowering the people with the problems to become the solution. It is based on an extended family model. Initially, those who could work did traditional jobs and contributed their salaries.* They all pooled in their talents and funds to get it to where Delancey Street stands today. An average resident ranges from 18 to 68 years of age, is a hard-core drug addict for ten years, been to prison atleast four times and many are gang members. The Foundation has successfully developed over 20 enterprises run completely by formerly unskilled people using the each-one-teach-one philosophy. They have pooled their resources so that the enterprises provide about 60% of the funding and growth for the organisation. It is the only self-built, self-managed, self-help complex in USA.

**Prison Art (Washington, U.S.A)**<http://www.prisonart.org/>

*"We artists are indestructible; even in a prison, or in a concentration camp, I would be almighty in my own world of art, even if I had to paint my pictures with my wet tongue on the dusty floor of my cell."*

— Pablo Picasso

Prison Art website was created by Ed Mead, a former political prisoner, in 2001. He came up with the idea of providing progressive prisoners with the means to sell their crafts and artwork on the Internet. His thinking was that they would make things that raised the political consciousness of folks on the outside and at the same time make themselves a few bucks. But as it turned out political prisoners did not have much interest in doing artwork or crafts. The surprise was the huge demand for such an outlet from social prisoners (those not incarcerated for overtly political offenses). So he has been providing this service to regular prisoners, mostly for free.

What Can Be Sold: Any hobby, craft, painting, music, or other form of artwork produced by prisoners and that is readily capable of being handled for sale may be sold on the website.

This is a small-time operation. The website runs on a server located in his apartment. Most of his time and money is spent scanning, posting art work, maintaining and running the website. He also publishes the Prison Art Newsletter and is the president of California Prison Focus.

Once the buyer selects an item, the prisoner is then instructed to ship the object to Prison Art. Prison Art ships the piece of Art to the buyer and charges him/her. Unless specifically instructed to do so by the purchaser, the prisoner is not informed of the name, or any other information about, the person buying his or her artwork. The prisoner artist receives all of his / her asking price less ten percent (which goes to Prison Art). Prison Art does not price art work or craft; it is done by prisoner artists.

**North Devon College/Dartmoor Prison partnership (UK)**

[http://www.esf.gov.uk/archive/2000\\_2006\\_esf\\_programme/case\\_studies/case\\_studies\\_-\\_south\\_west/north\\_devon\\_college\\_and\\_dartmoor\\_prison\\_positive\\_support\\_for\\_rehabilitation.asp](http://www.esf.gov.uk/archive/2000_2006_esf_programme/case_studies/case_studies_-_south_west/north_devon_college_and_dartmoor_prison_positive_support_for_rehabilitation.asp)

Training for Employment Positive Support for Rehabilitation is a partnership project between North Devon College and Her Majesty's prison service providing vocational



training and employment opportunities for prisoners, both within prison grounds and on licensed release.

In early 2003, North Devon College started to deliver construction training at Her Majesty's Prison (HMP) Dartmoor. That training now comprises four programme areas: wood; trowel and decorative occupations; plumbing; and mechanical engineering services.

Along with providing employment opportunities for released prisoners within the construction industry, this project has helped to meet skills shortages within the construction industry by increasing the supply of qualified workers. The 2004 HMP Dartmoor annual report recorded that "...since the opening of the workshops there has been a substantial fall in prisoner unemployment to almost nil. Consequently this has vastly improved the atmosphere in the prison".

Having successfully completed a certificated qualification, 17 prisoners from this current project, found employment with local construction companies post release and are enrolled in a one-day release programme with education providers in the South West.

### **Prison Phoenix Trust (UK)**

[www.prisonphoenixtrust.org](http://www.prisonphoenixtrust.org)

The Prison Phoenix Trust (PPT) founded in 1988, encourages prisoners in the development of their spiritual lives through the practice of meditation and yoga. They offer individualised support to prisoners and prison staff through teaching, correspondence, books and newsletters. The Trust finds and trains qualified yoga teachers for prison work and currently 112 classes are being taught in 80 prisons throughout the UK and Ireland, together with 14 classes for prison staff. PPT Scottish and Irish Links have been set up and run by local coordinators to promote the Trust's work in these countries. It has been operating for 20 years and sending over 9000 quarterly newsletters to prisoners and members of the prison community, and a separate quarterly is sent out to support prison yoga teachers.

### **Fine Cell Work (UK)**

[www.finecellwork.co.uk](http://www.finecellwork.co.uk)

Fine Cell Work is a registered charity that teaches needlework to prison inmates, exhibits their work and sells their products. Anne Tree - a prison visitor for twenty-five years, a prison entertainments officer and prison inspector - founded the company in the 1960s to develop the skills of prisoners, engage them in meaningful work and foster a rehabilitative environment.

Volunteers visit 22 prisons in England and Scotland, and help almost 300 women and men prisoners to create exquisite cushions, rugs and quilts, which sell for considerable sums of money. These savings reduce the likelihood of offenders returning to crime and provides independence. The work is done during lock-up time and prisoners often send the money they earn to their children and families, use it to pay debts or save for accommodation upon release.

The inmates are all taught by volunteers from the Embroiderers Guild, the Royal School of Needlework and the World of Professional Design. Once trained, they are responsible for difficult commissions done to deadlines, and support other inmates who are still learning.

- ♦ In 2005, Fine Cell Workers hand-stitched a total of 1538 cushions, 18 rugs and 52 quilts; and 290 inmates earned a total of £34,000;
- ♦ The organisation currently employs 295 inmates and 37 volunteer instructors across 22 prisons in England and Scotland.



State: \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Detailed information on NGO/CBO working on prisons and/or prisoners' rights

**Objectives:**

- a. To prepare a list of NGOs/CBOs working and intervening in prisons to help prisoners in some way or other;
- b. To collect and collate information on prison related interventions and issues tackled by such organisations; and
- c. To share information among other players/stakeholders working around prison issues including policy makers, media, civil rights groups, social work/law colleges and donors.

**Output:**

- a. A factual publication, as far as possible covering entire India, about NGOs/CBOs working towards providing relief, service delivery, the protection and promotion of human rights and rehabilitation of prisoners (including families/children of prisoners). This compilation will provide a profile on such NGOs/CBOs, their activities and concerns.
- b. In the long-term, to facilitate building capacities of such NGOs/CBOs through training, legal awareness and sharing of experiences.
- c. Create a platform for exchange of ideas/work strategies and building a lobby for change.

Name of the Organisation:.....

Mailing Address: .....

Year of Registration (if any):.....

Phone Numbers: (STD codes)..... Fax:.....

E-mail: .....

Web Address (if any): .....

Contact Person: .....

Designation: .....

Address of Contact Person (if different from above):

.....

.....

Phone Numbers: (including STD codes) .....

Mobile: .....

E-mail: .....

I agree to allow the use of the above mentioned details for the purpose of enlisting, printing and publishing to Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, New Delhi.



1. What are the issues around which the organisation is working?  
.....  
.....  
.....

- Specific issues and programmes/projects handled.  
.....  
.....  
.....

2. Does the organisation work in more than one state? If yes, please fill separate form(s). This form can be photocopied and used.  
.....  
.....  
.....

3. How would you describe your work in prisons and related issues: [check the relevant box(es)]. Please explain in detail how you work/deliver any of the following services you are providing:
- a. Occasionally distributing food, fruits and other consumables among prisoners
  - b. Facilitating religious and spiritual growth of prisoners
  - c. Providing or facilitating education of prisoners
  - d. Providing vocational training or life-skills to prisoners
  - e. Providing shelter and/or educational support to children of prisoners
  - f. Providing health check-ups and medical support to prisoners
  - g. Providing social counselling and facilitating meetings with family members in jails
  - h. Improving the living conditions of prisoners
  - i. Highlighting prison issues in the media
  - j. Campaigning for rights of convict and under-trial prisoners
  - k. Advocacy and policy work for protecting human rights of prisoners
  - l. Capacity building of non-official prison visitors
  - m. Providing regular legal aid and support to long-term convicts
  - n. Providing regular legal aid to under-trial prisoners
  - o. Providing legal aid to women prisoners
  - p. Providing legal aid to children in conflict with law
  - q. Providing services/support towards aftercare or rehabilitation of prisoners/their families (including their children inside/left outside)
  - r. Other, please specify .....

4. State the main aim(s) of the organisation and discuss how you are trying to achieve or accomplish them. Provide Brochure or information booklet.  
.....  
.....

5. In your organisation, how many people are working towards achieving the above objectives / issues and for how long?  
.....  
.....

6. Do you work in collaboration with -  
1. Sub Jails:                      Yes                      No



- 2. District Jails:                    Yes                    No
- 3. Central Jails:                    Yes                    No
- 4. Other jails, please specify .....

If yes, explain briefly your working relationship. (how many visits, type of response and strategies)

.....  
.....

- 7. In executing programmes, do you network/collaborate/help other organisations working on issues related to prison or prisoners' rights?  
Yes                    No

If yes, please state your strategies and activities. Also provide the name and address of such organisation(s). *Attach additional sheets, if desired.*

.....  
.....  
.....

- 8. Do you network/collaborate/approach the judiciary to provide help to convict / under-trial prisoners?  
Yes                    No

If yes, please state your strategies and activities. *Attach additional sheets, if desired.*

.....  
.....  
.....

- 9. Do you network/collaborate/ with any state services and agencies in course of your work?  
Yes                    No

If yes, please state your strategies and activities. *Attach additional sheets, if desired.*

.....  
.....  
.....

- 10. Any successful intervention, reform activity undertaken that you would like to mention.

.....  
.....  
.....

- 11. State five priority areas in prison reforms that your organisation thinks should be addressed immediately.

.....  
.....  
.....

- 12. State five priority areas that would enhance skills, upgrade knowledge and build capacities of your organisation.

.....  
.....  
.....



- 13. State main problems that you face in your work.  
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.....
- 14. What is your understanding about rehabilitation of inmates after release? Whether any efforts have been undertaken in this direction?  
.....  
.....  
.....
- 15. What kind of help do you render to families/children of prisoners or think can be rendered to them?  
.....  
.....  
.....
- 16. Did you choose to work on prisons, prisoners' rights, rehabilitation issues or modified your aims/objectives later? Please explain, how and why?  
.....  
.....  
.....
- 17. How do you raise your resources in kind or money?  
.....  
.....  
.....
- 18. Does your organisation have any sustainable planning to continue the work in future?  
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.....
- 19. Are there any issues based on difficulties faced at ground level, which you have taken up or would like to take up at the policy level?  
.....  
.....  
.....
- 20. Do you have any suggestions about how this process of policy change can be brought about? Any examples of your efforts that you would like to share?  
.....  
.....  
.....
- 21. Any other information that you would like to share.  
.....  
.....  
.....
- 22. Any success stories/accomplishments/failures/struggles that you would like to particularly share.  
.....  
.....  
.....



23. Your organisation's single most contribution?  
.....  
.....  
.....

24. Is it possible to collaborate with state agencies? With whom (police/prison/  
judiciary/women and child development) and how?  
.....  
.....  
.....

25. Are you aware of implementation status of correctional laws in your state/district  
such as the Probation of Offenders Act or the Borstal Schools Act?  
Yes                      No

If yes, can you share with us about your understanding of problems in implementation  
of such acts and suggestions to deal with the same?  
.....  
.....  
.....

26. What is the situation of services of the State/ District Legal Services Authority?  
What are the problems in the implementation of legal aid services? Is there any  
scope for collaboration with them?  
.....  
.....  
.....



# Prayas

Prayas is a field action project of the Centre for Criminology and Justice, School of Social Work at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, working in the Criminal Justice System towards the rehabilitation of youth and women in crime or prostitution. One of the areas of intervention of the project is to for prisoners, released prisoners and children of prisoners towards their rehabilitation. This work is currently based in Mumbai Central, Byculla District, Thane Central and Kalyan District Prisons focusing on the rehabilitation needs of male youth and women in prison.

The social workers of Prayas are engaged in providing a range of services for prisoners, especially male and women under trial prisoners, such as legal guidance and aid, counselling, family support, services for children of prisoners left outside, organising activities with the help of collateral agencies and post release support (with regard to arrangement of shelter, family counselling, emergency assistance, vocational guidance/training and placement, and liaison with the police and the courts).

Prayas has also been working at the policy level towards protection of legal rights and implementation of correctional laws, as well as policies which enable rehabilitation of custodialised populations. It has been actively networking with other organisations – both government and voluntary – to create a platform for dialogue and discussion on common issues and problems relating to custodialised populations. Prayas has also been associated with public interest litigations on prisoners' rights and rehabilitation in the past, and such involvement has helped bring about important changes in implementation of laws and policies which affect vulnerable sections in criminal justice.



## Prayas

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Worli, Mumbai 400018  
Maharashtra

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Prison administration in India is still governed by the archaic Prisons Act of 1894. Systemic reforms in prisons in India are long overdue. Defenders of prisoners' rights and those working on prison reforms are few and scattered over various disciplines across India. Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) along with Prayas (Mumbai) realised that though there are several key players in the field of prison reforms across India, there has not been any effort in bringing them together to share their successes or failures, or build a broad lobby group. Concerned over the lack of collective civil society movement to precipitate prison reforms, it was decided to harness and further strengthen existing human resources on prison related issues.

This book *Community Participation in Prisons – A Civil Society Perspective* is an effort to initiate and achieve sustained systemic prison reforms. This one of its kind compendium attempts to document the resource pool of NGOs, faith based groups, and associations like rotary but it does not include individuals or state authorities or those created by the state such as human rights commissions or legal aid bodies It accounts the institutions specific concerns, strategies, capacity building requirements, and achievements on prison reform and prisoner's rights. The compendium describes the factors that have influenced their evolution, patterns of growth, problems and constraints as well as gaps, challenges and opportunities

We believe that, identifying the persons/organisations key to engendering change in prisons, and collecting information on their skills and capacities, will not only catalyse change and collaborative action but more importantly create momentum needed to address the ailing Criminal Justice System of India.



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