



P R E R A N A

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

# CO-FOUNDER'S NOTE

Dear Well-wishers of Prerana,

We entered the financial year 2020-21 in the face of a gigantic wave of the tsunami called COVID-19 that hit the shores of humankind razing down and washing away the very foundations of human existence all over the world. Our biggest challenge and weakness in fighting the evil force was that we did not have the basic information about the virus and its wider repercussions on humanity.

The terror of Corona Virus and the consequent Lockdown started impacting India just a little before this financial year and we tried to catch up with it as much as we could in prevention to mitigation to relief. Next to life and disruption in private and public life the lockdown had a massive destructive impact on the economy with establishments shutting down and mass scale erosion of livelihoods. We had to reprioritize our efforts and address the most urgent problem first.

At the outset, we would like to acknowledge our frontline Corona warriors. We are very proud of our frontline Corona fighters who were engaged in providing emergency and essential services. They took up the challenge without hesitation and in that very act they defeated the spirit of Corona. We are very proud to report to all our well-wishers that realizing that some of our services had become more essential we continued to provide them trying to overcome the enormous obstacles that were posed by the pandemic and the protective lockdown. It was a fight in a dark tunnel with an enemy who was like dark suffocating smoke, not vulnerable to our conventional weapons.

COVID induced lockdown aggravated the need for a community based set up like the NCC, much more than pre COVID times. Although we never entertained the idea of shutting down the NCC even temporarily for some initial time the extreme measures of enclosures of the red-light area (RLA) by the police came in the way of RLA based children accessing the NCC premises. We then intensified our outreach. Soon the obstacles became less severe and the NCC started functioning although with a leaner attendance. The lockdown prevented many of our women and children to take advantage of the services as much as they were used to and they needed. We did not take a day's off in keeping our Children's Home, Naunihal fully functioning.

Our major adaptative management gesture was to reprioritize our interventions and services. The prostituted women, our mothers and their children had lost their income completely and were unable to feed themselves to keep themselves. We diverted our efforts and concentrated them on ensuring food security by taking up and aligning with every available source of food grain assistance.

We distributed the food grains from our own and through a variety of other donors to the women and children and conveyed their needs, suggestions and comments back to the donors and the government. That feedback helped the donors modify and expand their packages of dole appropriately.

Our move to get ration cards to the RLA based victim women had gathered a fresh momentum a little before the lockdown and it became more intensive and paid off. Many women obtained the basic food cards that gave them access to food grains. Our efforts were further strengthened with the Supreme Court asking the governments as to what measures were they taking up to provide cash and kind assistance to the traffic victim women. A larger culture of collaboration gave additional strength to the distribution work and together we reached out to cover practically every woman and every child.

Without waiting for any formal declaration by any authorities we started working for the next important task namely, providing alternate sustainable livelihood to these women and ensuring uninterrupted formal education of children including linking them with online education.

We worked very closely with the Office of the Collector of Mumbai and the Women and Child Development Department to ensure that maximum number of our women in the red-light area received government declared financial assistance and others forms of assistance. Understanding the importance of communication especially against the lockdown background we provided financial assistance on data & phone recharges to the women to offer to them enhanced communicability.

We continued our post rescue and referral interventions with the district child protection system although in a skeletal manner since physical mobility was just impossible and amounting to violating the law. We secured the state's permission to move about and serve humanity. We instantly grabbed every such opportunity when the progressive unlocking started in order to serve our women and children.

Our Sanmaan team working with yet another group of invisible children, the children found in begging intensified its work with the communities in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai and ensured similar reliefs in these communities besides ensuring that in some form or the other the formal education of these children was restored. Along with that we undertook a Rapid Assessment of the situation of all the communities we are working with.

Although we have been adopting the modern communication technology at our own pace even in the pre COVID induced lockdown times, the pandemic forced an expeditious adoption of the online technology on us making Webinars a global key word. We started using the new technology while learning it simultaneously. Various webinars were organized by Prerana on the most important issues throughout the year.

In face of the complete shutdown of public transport, the anti-trafficking center had to inevitably switch over to online work and adopt the Working Out of Home model. Despite countless difficulties we could resume our tasks under the post rescue operations project and have done impressive work on evolving Prerana's yet another ground breaking intervention, the creation and deployment and hand holding of Specialized Social Case Workers (SSCWs). In December 2020 we launched the Hindi extension of our knowledge resource center [fighttrafficking.org](http://fighttrafficking.org). This is once again a new feather in our cap making knowledge and insights available to those who are not comfortable with English.

Some calamities cannot be predicted and can catch us unprepared. They are bound to have an unsettling effect on the civil society organizations. But victory or defeat is determined not by the act of getting blown away by the impact of the blow but whether we have the spirit to gather ourselves and bury our feet in the ground and stand up against the crisis. As they say in a boxing bout you are never declared defeated when you fall, you are declared defeated only if you don't stand up again to fight. We are not alone in this. We the civil society organizations together have passed the test convincingly. We are back on our feet to do what we are committed to do Protecting Rights, Creating Options, Restoring Dignity.

We are grateful to our donors, sponsors, well-wishers, who continued believing in us and to our staff members, children and their mothers who kept the spirit of service to humanity high in the adverse times.

## **PRITI PATKAR AND DR PRAVIN PATKAR**



# QUOTES FROM PARTNERS

“It has been an inspiring experience for us as a team to connect and work with Prerana. Few words that I would use to describe Prerana are - collaborative, mission-focused and a team with deep insights! The Digital Table conversations from 2020 are one of the projects that I would like to highlight here. We see Prerana as an expert with deep insights developed over years of ground-breaking work. Through the Digital Table conversations, Prerana demonstrated true partnership in the way it was organized, building thought leadership in the AHT domain while the country was battling the COVID-19 crisis. Through the 3 editions of the Digital Table, wider and more diverse audiences were drawn closer, bringing a spirit of unity and dialogue among peers in the anti-trafficking space. I have seen Prerana do this well in other projects too - and I would love for this to continue. We are so proud of you for doing that! We as a team have found the [fighttrafficking.org](https://www.fighttrafficking.org) website very insightful and recommend it on our pages as well! We wish Prerana the best and really look forward to those chai and samosas we are going to have when we finally beat this pandemic and get to meet!!”

**SAM KOSHY, DIRECTOR, THE MOVEMENT INDIA**

“Asskam was founded in 1995 to support Prerana’s first night creche in India. What always struck us was Prerana’s dedication and love for the children of the red-light area (Kamathipura). Over the years, Prerana has expanded their work and inspired a wonderful team who spare no effort to cover and improve all aspects of these children’s needs as they grow up. It is a privilege to work with Prerana, their professionalism, transparency and compassion.”

**JANET, ASSKAM**

“Partnering and Working with Prerana leads to new learning every time. Due to the experienced, skilled and enthusiastic staff, all the cases are handled efficiently by each of their respective team members. There is motivation in Prerana’s name itself. I can't imagine working without an NGO like Prerana with so many years of experience. A journey of a thousands miles begin with a single step. We all are fortunate that Prerana is with us.”

**ADV. SEEMA ADATE, MEMBER, CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE – MUMBAI SUBURBAN 1**

Epic Foundation recognised in Prerana a uniquely impactful model, which supports a marginalized and disenfranchised community; those affected by commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking. The rights-based approach adopted by Prerana ensures individuals and communities are fully supported to understand, access and claim their rights. As a result of this approach, Prerana's efforts have been instrumental in supporting victims through the entire cycle from prevention to reintegration within the community. Epic Foundation also recognises Prerana's efficacy in creating change beyond the individuals served by their core programs, by working to capacitate the systems they interact with. This work not only amplifies their reach, it creates sustainable change for generations to come.

**LOUISE BYRNE, PROGRAMS DIRECTOR, EUROPE  
& ASIA, EPIC FOUNDATION**

“When asked about my experience working with Prerana, my mind took me back to a time I first started working in the anti-trafficking sector. Prerana has continued to remain among the oldest most active NGOs in the sector. Their open arms approach to collaborating with organizations and individuals with the slightest passion for justice and vulnerable has always been highly exemplary. Together with Prerana and my team at International Justice Mission, we have quality services for women and children in need. I appreciate your deep commitment to serving communities and bringing about the desired legal, humanitarian, and social change in our society. Your work has continued to inspire the next generation of individuals and organisations to join the fight against trafficking. We've always taken great pleasure to see your enthusiasm for the work you do and wish you success in continuing the good fight. I look forward continued partnership with Perana for years to come! #untilallarefree”

**YESUDAS NAIDU, HEAD, PARTNERSHIPS DEVELOPMENT,  
INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION MUMBAI**

# CASE STUDY

Prantik\*, a 16-year-old child, belongs to a low-income family of Mumbai and is the fourth among nine children in his immediate family. His father has been working as a driver and two elder siblings have been working as domestic workers. Prantik's mother suffers from a mental health disorder. Prantik was referred into the Juvenile Justice system in 2019 as a victim of sexual violence, and was referred to us in March 2019. The Child Welfare Committee had appointed us to conduct a Social Investigation. The team had submitted the Social Investigation Report to the respective CWC in March 2019.

During our interventions over the last 2 years, Prantik\* who was born with male genitalia, expressed that he would prefer to be referred to as a girl and thus would prefer the pronouns she/her. Hence, our team was mindful to be respectful of the child's choice and gradually transitioned to use the pronouns 'she/her' and refer to her by her preferred name Sakshi\*. Between March 2019 and the present time, Sakshi has been transferred to 5 different Child Care Institutions (CCIs) for about 8 times. While there have been different reasons for her transfer each time, one important reason has been the challenges that CCIs face to support children exploring their gender identity. In Sakshi's case, most of these institutions and its staff had never interacted with children who exhibited different gender identities or sexualities and were thus, unable to support her in the best way.

A certain CCI shared their apprehensions that they were worried Sakshi's gender identity would have negative influence on the other children because her manner of expressing her gender was not perceived as 'normal' and she seemed to be sexually interested in her peers. We attempted to sensitize the staff at the CCI but it was a temporary intervention. We interacted with another CCI where the child had been admitted as the staff was relatively better equipped to ensure that she felt accepted. This was because similar experiences before had sensitized the staff.



Our interventions over the last two years with Sakshi focused on understanding her needs and supporting her rehabilitation within institutions. These interventions included providing her with counselling support, helping her plan further education, identifying her areas of interest, understanding her struggles as a child from the LGBTQ community, and acknowledging her gender identity. We also followed up regularly with the police on the legal case of sexual violence against the child. After a year of interventions with Sakshi along with other CSOs, it became clear to all the social workers involved that she was struggling in spite of the support provided to her. With the hope of helping her get additional support, our team identified the need to mobilize a resource person from the LGBTQ community who could support the child in her struggle. We approached an individual who is a well-known Queer Rights activist in Mumbai. The social workers obtained all the prerequisite permissions from the CWC before introducing the resource person to Sakshi.

From the start of their interaction, it was evident that Sakshi felt comfortable around this individual and there was a sense of mutual respect between them. Sakshi openly expressed her feelings and gradually shared intimate details about herself including the abuse she had faced. She had never shared any of these details earlier. This individual was the first person to ask Sakshi what her new name for her new identity was.



The individual also spoke to Sakshi about her sexuality and her gender identity. They discussed about Sakshi's feelings of belonging to a different gender than what was assigned at one's birth, commonly referred to as gender dysphoria. He also discussed with Sakshi about the society's responsibilities for creating safe spaces for people like her who are exploring their gender identities. This helped her understand that she was not at fault if she did not feel safe in her surrounding environment.

Children from the LGBTQ community who are a part of the Juvenile Justice system might face oppression within a system that is expected to support and protect them. On one hand, it is critical to ensure that all stakeholders are sensitive to the needs of children from this community but on the other hand, it is also important to identify when the need arises to involve appropriate resources for better guidance. Children who are oppressed due to their identities might find it difficult to open up to others from outside these identities. This could primarily be because of a lack of trust and feeling that no one will be able to understand what they are going through. In these kinds of situations, involving a resource person from the community will help the child open up and be more receptive. It might also help the child affirm their identities and sexualities.

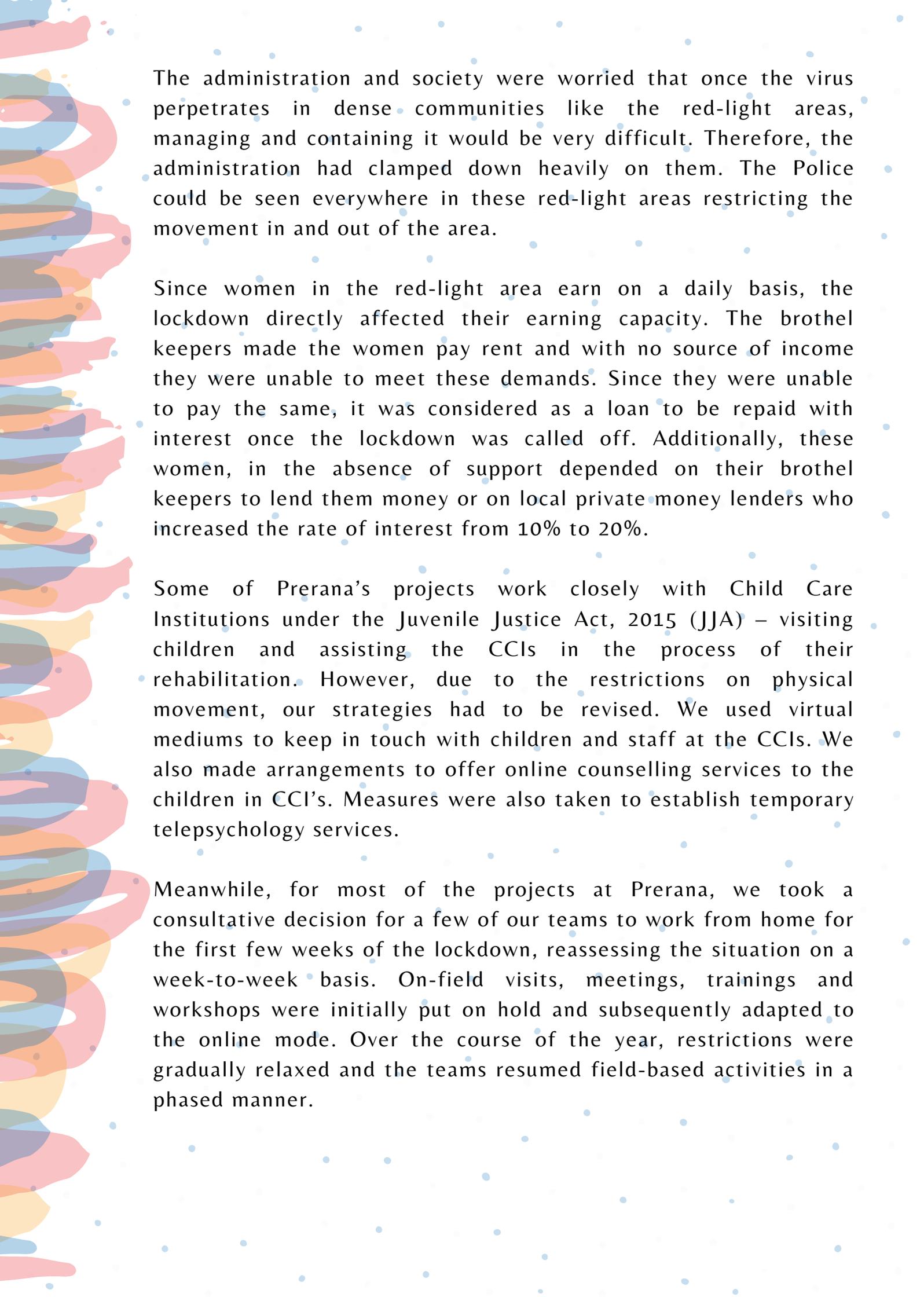


# PRERANA'S WORK DURING COVID-19



The world is facing a severe health crisis in the form of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). On 11th March 2020, WHO declared COVID-19 as a pandemic. Adhering to the advice, various regions across the world put lockdown measures and urged people to stay indoors. On 24th March, the Government of India announced a 21-day nationwide lockdown, limiting the movement of citizens to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Since Prerana runs on ground services like the Night Care Centers, Children's Home for girls, Group Homes for young adult women, our priority was to ensure that they are all well stocked with food supplies and are equipped to respond to any health emergencies.

The situation in the red-light areas especially Kamathipura and Falkland Rd., where Prerana runs the Night Care Centers (NCC) was challenging. The women in the red-light areas were being looked at as a big threat, making them much more vulnerable.



The administration and society were worried that once the virus perpetrates in dense communities like the red-light areas, managing and containing it would be very difficult. Therefore, the administration had clamped down heavily on them. The Police could be seen everywhere in these red-light areas restricting the movement in and out of the area.

Since women in the red-light area earn on a daily basis, the lockdown directly affected their earning capacity. The brothel keepers made the women pay rent and with no source of income they were unable to meet these demands. Since they were unable to pay the same, it was considered as a loan to be repaid with interest once the lockdown was called off. Additionally, these women, in the absence of support depended on their brothel keepers to lend them money or on local private money lenders who increased the rate of interest from 10% to 20%.

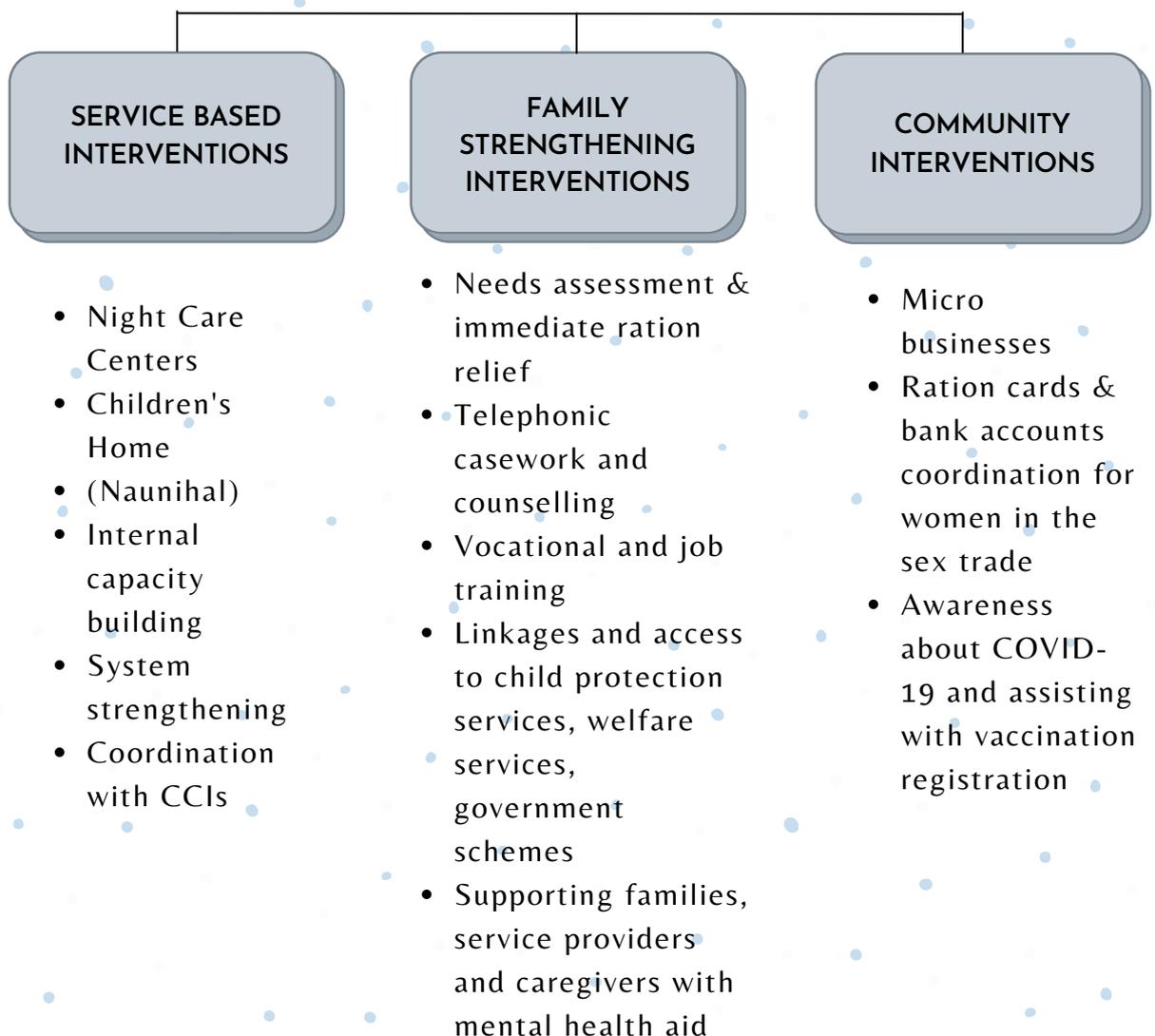
Some of Prerana's projects work closely with Child Care Institutions under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (JJA) – visiting children and assisting the CCIs in the process of their rehabilitation. However, due to the restrictions on physical movement, our strategies had to be revised. We used virtual mediums to keep in touch with children and staff at the CCIs. We also made arrangements to offer online counselling services to the children in CCI's. Measures were also taken to establish temporary telepsychology services.

Meanwhile, for most of the projects at Prerana, we took a consultative decision for a few of our teams to work from home for the first few weeks of the lockdown, reassessing the situation on a week-to-week basis. On-field visits, meetings, trainings and workshops were initially put on hold and subsequently adapted to the online mode. Over the course of the year, restrictions were gradually relaxed and the teams resumed field-based activities in a phased manner.

We would also like to salute our staff at Prerana who have been at the forefront while helping our communities and ensuring safety and well-being of the children we serve. These are unprecedented times and at Prerana we are trying our best to serve our communities and ensuring they are safe, while also keeping our staff safe and finding ways to deal with these challenging circumstances.

We are also truly humbled by the response of organizations, partners and individuals who have approached us to help raise funds for the purpose of helping the marginalized communities. We hope to be able to continue partnering and assisting our communities together.

## INTERVENTIONS BETWEEN MARCH 20 AND MAY 21





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# SANMAAN

Project Sanmaan aims to enable the children found begging on the streets to access their right to wellbeing and dignity and break the intergenerational cycle of backwardness and begging in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. Through the approach of prevention, protection, and advocacy, Sanmaan intends to work with the right holders i.e., the children, adolescents, their families and other duty bearers with a rights-based and development-oriented approach. Early in 2016, the police authorities in Mumbai started a drive wherein children and their families/adult escorts who were found or suspected to be begging were taken into custody. A few children were produced before the Child Welfare Committee set up under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and were admitted to Child Care Institutions. In certain cases, the children were separated from their parents and institutionalized. Being inducted into begging was violating the child's right to dignity and well-being and his/her/their fundamental rights to survival, development, protection, and participation. The Sanmaan Project started as an intervention to help rehabilitation of such children, who are rescued and brought into the Juvenile Justice system. However, the project is also based on the premise that a positive intervention should take place before, rather than after the intervention of the police. As part of the program through its own extensive outreach, Sanmaan currently reaches out regularly to the children in communities where there is concentration of child population who are engaged in alms seeking. The team works closely with the families through outreach by facilitating engagement of the children in developmental activities such as school enrolment, family counselling, school monitoring visits, home visits, networking with other organizations working on child rights for sustained education and overall growth.

Sanmaan started its outreach from January 2018 where it was reaching out to children in Chembur, Ghatkopar and Ghansoli communities. In November 2018, the Ghatkopar community was evicted following which the outreach stopped. Through outreach, the team also tries to work with children and families who are involved in begging but who have not come under the Juvenile Justice System. In 2020, the team also started outreach activities in Sathe Nagar community.

# HIGHLIGHTS

## **MAPPING AND IDENTIFYING NEW COMMUNITIES**

During this reporting period, the team identified 7 communities in the areas of Panvel, Turbhe, Koparkhairane, Sathe Nagar, Bandra, Mahim and Santacruz where there is concentration of child population engaged in alms seeking. The team also shortlisted the community in Sathe Nagar, Mankhurd to begin community level interventions.

The team started working on a semi structured questionnaire to map the communities, post which a pilot mapping exercise was conducted in Chembur and Ghansoli communities. The final mapping exercise in the two existing and one new community (Sathe Nagar) took place in November 2020. The reports for the community mapping will be finalized and disseminated in the next financial year.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

The team conducted regular daily outreach visits to Ghansoli and Chembur communities. Outreach visits were also initiated in the Sathe Nagar community. In Ghansoli and Chembur communities, Sanmaan's center was established in August and October 2020 respectively. This will help the team initiate strong roots and presence in the community and work effectively in addressing issues for holistic development of the children, families and the members of the community. The team also conducted door to door home visits of the children, prepared Individual Care Plans (ICPs), worked on linking the children with Bal Sangopan Yojana, identified the needs of the children and their families so that they can be linked to different welfare schemes, conducted life skill education sessions, leadership and awareness sessions along with some recreational activities like dance class, celebration of festivals like Christmas, etc.

## **LEADERSHIP PROGRAM WITH ADOLESCENTS**

The team conducted 10 leadership sessions for children of Chembur and Ghansoli communities during the year.

In August 2020, the team coordinated with Committee of Resource Organization (CORO) to conduct pilot sessions on leadership with children in the community. Through these sessions attended by 50 children (on an average) from the community, a dialogue was initiated on gender roles, knowing oneself, abuse and importance of communication. The team also began to develop a leadership training module internally.

### **AWARENESS PROGRAMS WITH CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS**

The team conducted awareness sessions in Chembur and Ghansoli community based on the concerns shared by the members of the community during a needs assessment study. The children had shared that they wanted to understand more about the COVID-19 virus and preventive measures that need to be taken. The team, along with the members of the community and in partnership with other organizations conducted sessions addressing these concerns. The team coordinated with Yuva (Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action) to conduct two sessions in Chembur and Ghansoli session on COVID-19 and hand hygiene. In 2021, the team also coordinated with Goonj, to conduct sessions for the women in the communities to encourage them and adolescent girls to discuss their menstrual practices, hygiene and problems associated with them.

### **LIFE SKILL SESSIONS**

During this financial year, the team conducted Life Skill Sessions for children in Chembur and Ghansoli communities. In April 2020, Prerana worked on the Life Skill Education Handbook. The aim of this Handbook is to have a collection of LSE sessions as ready reference for the facilitator. This handbook contains the life skills recognized by the World Health Organization, such as decision making, problem solving, creative thinking, critical thinking, effective communication, interpersonal relationship, etc. This handbook was useful for the Sanmaan staff while conducting activities related to life skills in the communities. The Life Skill Session at Chembur and Ghansoli communities started in November 2020 and a total of 10 sessions were conducted for 25 children in the two communities. The topics covered were team work and communication, time management, money management etc.

## **COLLABORATIONS, NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIP**

During this financial year, the team collaborated and partnered with the following organizations:

- DCPU and ChildLine, in June 2020, for a case of child marriage in Jay Ambe Nagar community, Chembur. The team worked with the family, DCPU and Childline to ensure that the child is not forced into marriage. The team further conducted regular follow-up visits with the child.
- Robinhood to provide sponsorships for higher education of children who passed 10th and 12th standard.
- Yuva Childline and Goonj to conduct awareness sessions in the communities and with New Hope Foundation, who are planning to initiate interventions in the Ghansoli community.
- Pehchan an organization working for housing and land rights in the city of Mumbai, in order to address the issue of eviction faced by people residing in Charni Road.

## **WORK WITH THANE CWC**

The team started to work with Thane CWC for the rehabilitation of children found begging within the Thane district. The team received cases from Thane CWC for follow-up of those children who had been rescued from begging between the year 2018 and 2020. The majority of the children whose cases were referred to the team belong to the Natt Community residing at Trimurti Nagar in Thakurli. After identifying various concerns in the community, the team has been planning to conduct awareness sessions on education, child rights, child safety & protection, child marriage etc. within the community.

## **CPC MEETING**

Prerana in collaboration with a community-based network, CCVC had organized a meeting on 26th May 2020, a follow-up to the meeting organized by CCVC on 20th December 2019 to discuss the implementation of the Ward Level Child Protection Committees.

The main points discussed included the concerns for the out of school children and issues of migration during lockdown, safety of adolescent girls and women during lockdown, reopening of schools, safety of children during the pandemic, activating CPCs, role of CPCs in creating awareness, CBOs for gauging and solving child protection issues and focusing on both physical and mental health of children.

### **NCPCR MEETING**

On 17th March 2021, under the guidance of Mr. Rajiv Nivatkar (District Collector), the Child Friendly Spaces campaign was launched in Mumbai. The campaign is hosted by the National Commission of Child Rights (NCPCR) to create "Child Friendly Spaces" across 50 "Religious Tourism places" across the country. This campaign will be held in collaboration with District Women and Child Development Department (DWCD), Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Special Juvenile Protection Unit (SJPU), Non-Government Organizations (NGO's), etc.

The focus of the 6-month long campaign will be creating awareness on issues such as child labor, child begging, child trafficking and missing children. Prerana, Pratham, ChildLine, Bal Asha Trust, IJM, Vidhayak Bharati, DCPU and JAPU are expected to work with primary stakeholders like parents and children, duty bearers to create awareness through social media.

### **EXPOSURE VISIT TO CORO, PRATHAM, CHILDLINE AND CWC, SATARA**

The team conducted an exposure visit to Satara on 15th and 16th December 2020. The purpose of the visit was to foster cross learning session between the Sanmaan Project and organizations/entities like CORO, Pratham, Childline (run by Lokkalyan Charitable Trust) and Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in Satara. This visit helped the team identify possible areas of linkages and collaboration with these stakeholders and understand the functioning of these organizations within their respective district dynamics.

# TRAININGS, RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION

## **BASELINE ASSESSMENT**

Sanmaan's baseline evaluation was conducted by external consultants Mr. Zaved Nafis Rahman and Ms. Apurva Singh starting September 2020. The baseline evaluation was conducted to establish a basis to compare before and after of the intervention of the team while working with the communities and the child protection system. This would help understand the effectiveness of Sanmaan's work. The final baseline assessment report was shared with Prerana and Educo on 31st December.

## **RAPID ASSESSMENT STUDY**

Prerana's various projects conducted a Rapid Assessment Study to understand the impact of COVID 19 on the communities that they work with. The team reached out to 174 families through a Survey Tool. On 31st August, the findings of this study were released on Prerana's website. A Tweetathon was also hosted to share highlights of the findings.

## **TRAINING WITH POLICE OFFICIALS**

On 10th December 2020, the team organized a Police Training on the amended POCSO Rules 2020 with 37 Child Welfare Police Officers (CWPOs) from Police Stations of Navi Mumbai.

## **CBO NETWORK TRAINING**

The team conducted virtual self-care sessions focusing on self-care practices with the Caregivers of Bal Kalyan Nagri (BKN), Additional Children's Home (ACH), New Children's Home (NCH), and Chembur Children's Home (CCH) on 25th and 26th November respectively.

## **CITIZENSHIP MODEL TRAINING - APNALAYA**

Prerana partnered with Apnalaya to build capacities of staff and the community on rights of citizens through the citizenship module.



The team coordinated with Apnalaya to conduct citizenship model training for the staff and community. This model lays emphasis on making people understand their entitlements as a citizen of the nation. This program helps the community become self-reliant. It also aids the formation of volunteer groups and Civic Action Groups in the community to engage with municipal authorities on issues of common concerns.

The first online virtual training of Apnalaya was conducted on 11th February 2021 with Samaan's team. It was followed by trainings at the Chembur community attended by 24 women from the community on the first day and 22 women on the second day.

## WEBINARS

### **EDUCATION OF MARGINALIZED CHILDREN IN THE FACE OF COVID-19**

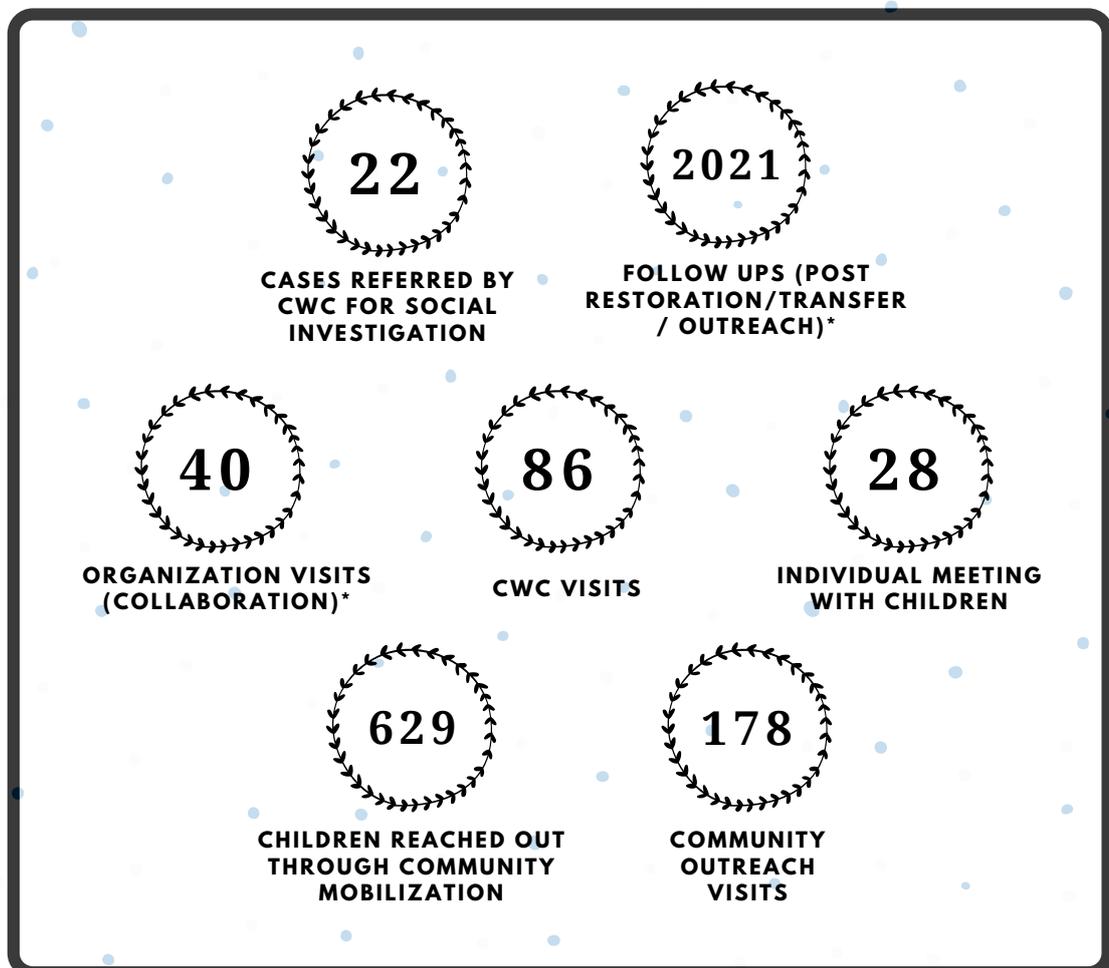
On 15th June 2020, Prerana in Collaboration with Pratham organized a webinar on Education of the Marginalized Children in the Face of COVID-19. It was attended by 41 participants. The major points discussed were education and mental health of children in urban and rural areas, in CCIs and for special children. Ms. Farida Lambay (Pratham), Ms. Hemangi Joshi (RTE Forum Maharashtra), Ms. Priti Patkar (Prerana) and Dr. Samir Dalwai (New Horizons Group) were the speakers.

### **GOVT. POLICIES AND SCHEMES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN:**

On 27th January, the team conducted a Webinar titled 'Understanding and Navigating Government Policies and Schemes for Women and Children - A step towards a better future' in collaboration with DWCD, Mumbai Suburban. The aim of the webinar was to equip the Community Based Organizations with detailed information about different schemes that can help them link children and women from the communities they work in to these welfare services. Through the session, schemes like the Integrated Child Protection Scheme, Bal Sangopan Yojana, Foster Care, Shubh Mangal Yojana, Ujjwala Scheme, etc. were discussed.

# COVID19 RELIEF

COVID19 was a difficult time period for the marginalized communities that the project works with. Hence, efforts were made to mobilize resources in order to assist the families with basic supplies. Dry ration and sanitary products were distributed to the families of Ghansoli and Chembur communities and to other families habiting across different pockets of Mumbai with support from EDUCO, Goonj & Godrej. This distribution acted as an emergency response to the COVID-19 induced lockdown. The team coordinated with BMC and NMMC to distribute cooked food in Chembur and Ghansoli communities respectively and also took help of police whenever required. The team was in constant touch with the Corporator and community leaders of the two communities who helped in gauging the actual needs of the families and helped in relief distribution. Apart from this, the team also coordinated with several organizations, made a resource directory and connected them with the children who are spread over across Mumbai and Navi Mumbai.





# NAUNIHAL

Prerana comes from the belief system that institutional placement should be the last resort to cater to a child's developmental needs. However, in cases of children in need of care and protection seeking safe shelter outside of their families, the only practical immediate option remains that of institutionalized care and protection services.

Given the brutalities a child is vulnerable to face while living in the red-light area, Prerana had to adopt the option of institutional placement to de-link the child from the red-light area and place them in a safe and healthy environment that is conducive to their growth and development. For several years, Prerana kept away from setting up its residential facility. Naunihal became a necessary intervention when conventional institutions were found unable to accommodate girl children from the red-light area, especially in distressed and dangerous circumstances. Thus, Naunihal was started to fulfill this need and aimed at socializing the intervention instead of monopolizing the same. Over a period of time, from being a Home exclusively for red light area-based children, Naunihal today caters to a broader category of girl victims of violence and abuse. Naunihal is a Children's Home registered under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and falls under the jurisdiction of the Child Welfare Committee of Raigad district. This implies that every child admitted to and discharged from Naunihal is as per the orders of the concerned Child Welfare Committee.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## COVID-19 INTERVENTIONS

The purpose of placing a child in a Children's Home (CH) is to facilitate their rehabilitation and ensure care and protection. During the COVID-19 crisis, the rehabilitation processes of the children in Children's Homes has been severely affected due to limitation and restrictions on physical movements & gathering. Children in CH have been thus losing out on opportunities of education and schooling, vocational training, and psycho-social support with limited physical access to these services outside the CH. With regard to education, there was and continues to be a digital divide, which has also percolated into the CHs. The residents of a children's home that used to go to school are now dependent on the internet, and related infrastructural requirements for continuing their education. Lack of some of these resources are affecting the children's Right to Education and thus putting them at a disadvantage over those who have access to online education.

In Naunihal, though there was the infrastructure to facilitate e-learning. There were not enough laptops or computers for all children during the beginning of the pandemic. Their timings for availing e-learning sessions didn't align with each other and that made it challenging to ensure each child gets to access their classes, despite the availability of hardware. Fortunately, Prerana was able to mobilize resources and make the necessary infrastructure available for the children to access education and other activities using the virtual mode.

In order to bring in routine and stability during the lockdown, Naunihal initiated many activities to ensure the wellbeing of the residents amid the pandemic.

- The intake of immunity building food items like lemons, turmeric, etc. was increased.

- The children were also encouraged to do Yoga and Prayanam every day to reduce the stress caused by the pandemic.

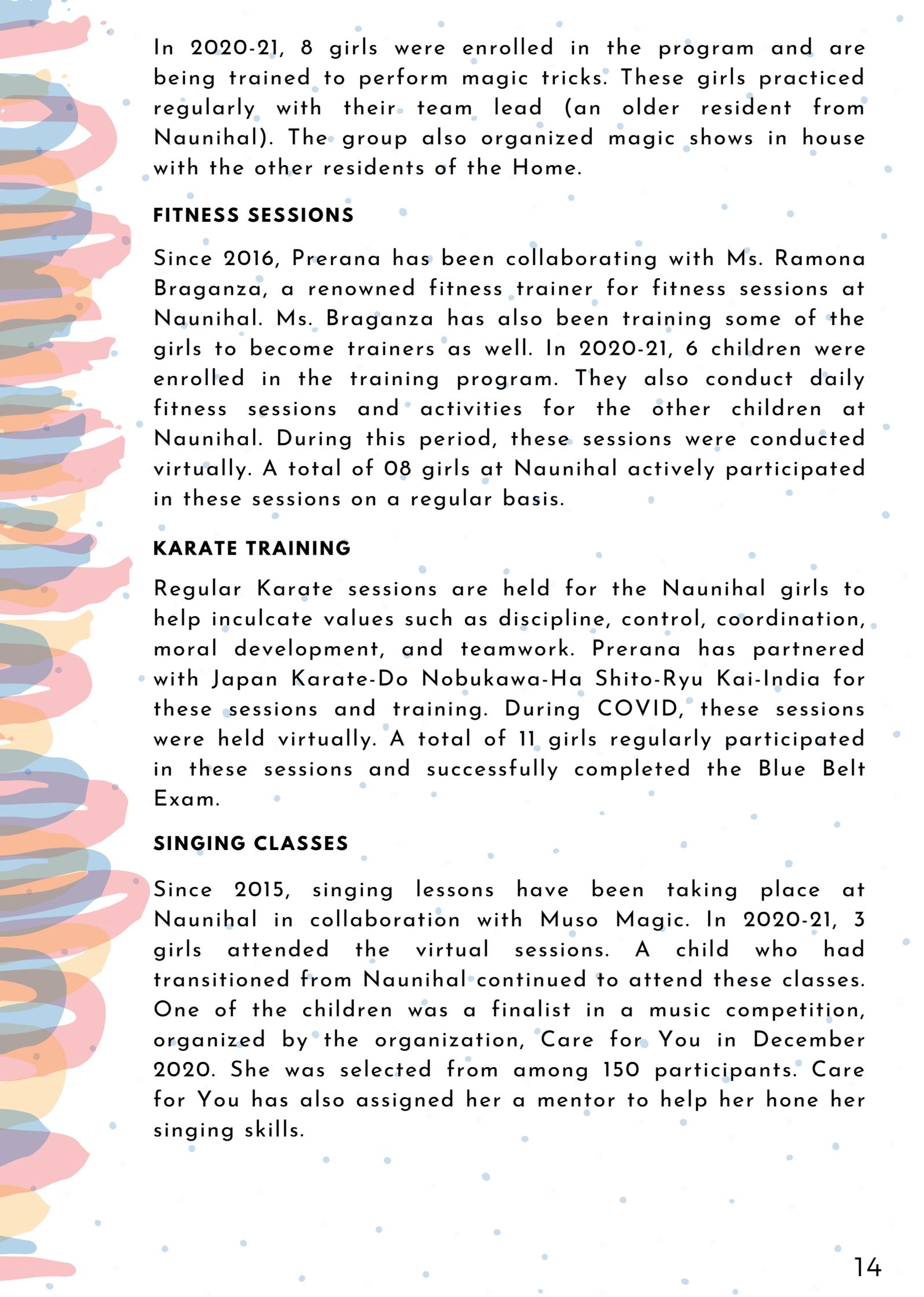
- Various activities, educational as well as recreational were adapted and facilitated virtually. Life Skill Education sessions were held virtually in groups with the residents.
- The Naunihal team also increased the frequency of individual sessions with the girls to address any concerns that they may have due to the uncertainty brought by COVID-19.
- The idea of a 'Peace Room' was also discussed to allow for children to be by themselves if they feel overwhelmed and would require time to process the situation.
- Efforts were made to keep the children in touch with their family/ parents through phone calls, video calls and when possible, in person meetings.
- Naunihal also extended the necessary ration support to 26 families of the children residing at Naunihal during the COVID-19 induced lockdown.

### **OMOYA'S JEWELRY MAKING PROGRAM**

Since 2016, Prerana has partnered with OMOYA, a handmade woven-bead jewelry brand based out of Mumbai to facilitate a jewelry-making program for the girls living at Naunihal. The co-founder of OMOYA, Ms. EeshaGhate works closely with the girls and teaches the girls how to make the intricate pieces. During the COVID-19 lockdown, the sessions were held virtually once a week at Naunihal with 9 girls participating in these sessions. The Jewelry created by the girls is also marketed and sold through OMOYA and a part of the proceeds of the sale is deposited into the bank accounts of the girls. However, due to COVID, the offline exhibitions could not be held during this year.

### **JADUI SHAKTI (NAUNIHAL'S MAGIC CLUB)**

Jadui Shakti, Naunihal's Magic Club that began as a partnership with Magicians without Borders, has continued to be a regular feature at Naunihal in 2020-21. A dedicated room has been set-up in Naunihal where the children can practice their magic tricks.



In 2020-21, 8 girls were enrolled in the program and are being trained to perform magic tricks. These girls practiced regularly with their team lead (an older resident from Naunihal). The group also organized magic shows in house with the other residents of the Home.

### **FITNESS SESSIONS**

Since 2016, Prerana has been collaborating with Ms. Ramona Braganza, a renowned fitness trainer for fitness sessions at Naunihal. Ms. Braganza has also been training some of the girls to become trainers as well. In 2020-21, 6 children were enrolled in the training program. They also conduct daily fitness sessions and activities for the other children at Naunihal. During this period, these sessions were conducted virtually. A total of 08 girls at Naunihal actively participated in these sessions on a regular basis.

### **KARATE TRAINING**

Regular Karate sessions are held for the Naunihal girls to help inculcate values such as discipline, control, coordination, moral development, and teamwork. Prerana has partnered with Japan Karate-Do Nobukawa-Ha Shito-Ryu Kai-India for these sessions and training. During COVID, these sessions were held virtually. A total of 11 girls regularly participated in these sessions and successfully completed the Blue Belt Exam.

### **SINGING CLASSES**

Since 2015, singing lessons have been taking place at Naunihal in collaboration with Muso Magic. In 2020-21, 3 girls attended the virtual sessions. A child who had transitioned from Naunihal continued to attend these classes. One of the children was a finalist in a music competition, organized by the organization, Care for You in December 2020. She was selected from among 150 participants. Care for You has also assigned her a mentor to help her hone her singing skills.

## **COLLABORATION WITH YUVA PARIVARTAN**

During the lockdown, all vocational activities and schools were discontinued. In Naunihal, girls above 17 years are extended the option to explore different vocational training opportunities outside the children's home premise like computer classes, spoken English classes, beauty parlor course, hospitality courses, etc. But due to the pandemic, the girls could not go out and explore these options. Prerana collaborated with Yuva Parivartan's livelihood training program that offered virtual trainings in four sectors namely hospitality, nursing, customer care and food & beverages. This course was followed by placement opportunities. 10 girls from Naunihal benefitted from this training program.

In February 2021, Mehendi classes were initiated at Naunihal in collaboration with Yuva Parivartan. 13 girls were enrolled in the sessions to become trained henna artists. The program had to be temporarily put on hold in March 2021 owing to the COVID-19 situation, as entry of non-residents was restricted into Naunihal.

## **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Indoor and outdoor games were organized for the residents on a day-to-day basis. The residents also enjoyed movie screenings at the Home on a weekly basis. Events like birthdays, religious and cultural festivals were also celebrated at Naunihal by engaging the children in fun activities as well as special food. 70 such activities were celebrated within Naunihal this year with over 50 scrumptious special meals being served to the residents over the year.

## **TRAININGS FOR STAFF**

At Prerana, the staff are encouraged to take up trainings on variety of topics useful and relevant as per the job profile and the workplace. It helps the staff to keep themselves updated about various laws and legal procedures, to be sensitive towards their client and respect ethos of working environment.

Naunihal's staff attended various training programs on child protection, gender, understanding the process of developing an Individual Care Plan, understanding needs of children during COVID, impact of COVID-19 on mental health of children, etc.

### **PARTNERSHIP WITH NAVGURUKAL**

NavGurukul is a non-profit initiative that provides meaningful alternatives to formal college education. Navgurukul offers a one-year residential scholarship course in software program to children from marginalized backgrounds. The course also links the students to placement programs following the completion of the course. In 20 - 21, three girls cleared their entrance exam for this year-long residential computer programming course. The course is being provided free of charges, along with accommodation.

## **STAFF AT NAUNIHAL**

Total 18 staff (including security personnel)	
Residential - 09	
01	Superintendent
02	Full time kitchen staff cum care taker
01	Full time housekeeping staff
01	Part time housekeeping staff
01	Part time kitchen staff
01	Child Welfare Officer
01	Supervisor
01	Part time teacher
Non-residential - 10	
01	Life skills trainer
01	Tuition teacher
01	Counselor
03	Vocational trainers - karate trainer, mehendi class teacher and singing class teacher
01	Visiting Medical Officer (VMO) - available on call

02	Security personnel round the clock
01	Accountant
	Driver is hired need based
Pro Bono basis - 05	
01	Yog teacher
01	Doctor
01	Jewellery class teacher
01	Fitness Trainer
01	Visiting Gardner



**GIRLS WHO HAVE  
AVAILED SERVICES AT  
NAUNIHAL**



**NEW ADMISSIONS**



**GIRLS RESTORED TO  
FAMILIES**



**EXTRACURRICULAR  
ACTIVITIES  
CONDUCTED (VIRTUAL  
& IN PERSON)**



**GIRLS TRANSFERRED  
TO HOME JURISDICTION**



**GIRLS SELF-  
DISCHARGED**



**GIRLS ENROLLED INTO  
FORMAL EDUCATION**

**PSYCHO SOCIAL SUPPORT AND SERVICES**

**624**

**INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS BY  
CASE WORKER**

**426**

**INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING  
SESSIONS BY MENTAL  
HEALTH PROFESSIONAL  
(VIRTUAL)**



**GIRLS RESTORED  
FOLLOWED UP ON**



**MONTHLY  
MEDICAL VISITS**



**SPECIAL MEDICAL  
CAMPS**



**GIRLS WHO  
COMPLETED  
10TH STD**



**GIRLS WHO  
COMPLETED  
12TH STD**

**CHILD RISK**



For parents/legal guardian of 18 years or over  
Section 16(1) Section 17(1)  
अपराध संबंधित बच्ची वयाची मायबाप  
**CONSENT IS INDISPENSIBLE IN SUCH CASES**  
अशा बच्चों व वयस्कृत 16 व 18  
**POCSO सधने सलगी दिसेक आहे**  
(अरी मुल 16 ते 18 वर्षांच्या दरम्यान असेल)



# AARAMBH

Aarambh is a joint initiative that brings together over 30 years of on-ground child protection experiences of Prerana and the international 'Break the Silence' campaign of the Hong Kong-based ADM Capital Foundation. The team follows-up and facilitates short-term and long-term rehabilitation of child victims of sexual offenses in 3 districts. They are also engaged in training various stakeholders in specialized modules on prevention and awareness of child sexual abuse. In collaboration with UNICEF in Mumbai, the team is working on strengthening child protection services and systems of the Government. In 2014, the project launched a website ([www.aarambhindia.org](http://www.aarambhindia.org)) which is an online resource center on child sexual abuse and exploitation.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## THE AARAMBH INDIA REGIONAL ALLIANCE (TARA)

Under the TARA project, Aarambh reached out to more than 3445 stakeholders across 4 states of India largely through awareness sessions, webinars & workshops on mental health, digital wellbeing and in the light of the pandemic and lockdown, best practices in remote case management. This was done in collaboration with other NGOs as well as government systems. The team continued capacity building of network partners through sharing & creation of resources. The team also initiated an audio series on the Shakti Bill (a new legislation introduced in Maharashtra on women and child safety). It turned out to be a highlight and enabled on ground partners to stay updated with the issue even at a policy level.

On 15th June 2020, the team released a Rapid Assessment Report "Bodies at Risk: A report on frontline workers and fieldwork in lockdown" to showcase how frontline field workers in NGOs in Jharkhand, Odisha and Tripura were coping with the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown. It focused on the challenges that they were facing in working at the ground level while also collating their anxieties for present and future.

The team also assisted partner organizations in handling 9 cases of child sexual abuse through the pre-trial, trial and rehabilitation phases.

## THE IDEAL INTERNET PROJECT

On 24th April 2020, Aarambh submitted the first draft of the research report on how Indian children interacted with online spaces to Facebook, who had funded the project.

In June 2020, the team put together the first Consortium group meeting in which the findings of the research were shared with multi-sectoral expert groups from the field of child rights, disability rights, LGBTQI community, women's rights, digital literacy activists, etc.

Following this, it also organized six sub-groups focusing on issues of exploration, access, literacy, leisure, safety and privacy.

In July 2020, Internet Freedom Foundation along with Aarambh India facilitated a webinar on CSAM, encryption, safety and privacy. The panel was moderated by Mr. Siddharth Pillai from the Aarambh India Initiative and the speakers were Jeremy Malcolm, Bishika, Amitabh Kumar and Uma Subramanian.

### **THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER & INTERNET HOTLINE**

In 2020, 1,00,663 unique users accessed the National Resource Centre ([www.aarambhindia.org](http://www.aarambhindia.org)) website. 554 reports were made to the Internet hotline to report child sexual abuse material (CSAM) of which 73 reports were identified as positive CSAM. Prerana's partners Internet Watch Foundation ensured that the images and videos were taken down and the URLs were blocked.

In 2020-21, the team revived their online newsletter, conceiving it as a lockdown project and renamed it - The Coop. It provided information relevant to the rights of the children as well as adults during the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown. Aarambh released 10 editions of The Coop over the year.

**IMPACT:** In June 2020, an issue of The Coop, focused on the issue of Forced Conversion Therapy in which Indian children who identified/came out as queer were being abused under the pretext of therapy by their family in collusion with mental health professionals. An online investigation by Aarambh found that online medical service aggregators based in India openly advertised & offered the controversial therapy. Details of the investigation were published on the Aarambh website which proved to be a basis of a Twitter storm led by queer rights activists, mental health professionals and child rights groups. This eventually led to platforms apologizing and taking down the content.

## STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS IN MAHARASHTRA

The team continued to provide intervention and work on the rehabilitation of 281 child victims of sexual abuse. Further the team was in regular touch with the project partner UNICEF in order to provide updates on the safety and security of not only the child victims of sexual abuse but also their families members.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown, it was necessary to make changes in Aarambh's mode of intervention. Therefore, a Rapid Assessment survey was conducted in the end of March 2020 through phone calls with 120 victims and their families to understand the on-ground situation and their challenges. Based on the data collected from the assessment, the social workers and counsellor strategized and updated their mode of intervention with the children and their families.

Following the rapid assessment, after taking permission from the families, the social workers and counsellors began their intervention virtually (phone calls and video calls). The counsellor extended her services to the other family members and focused on conflict resolution as people were finding it challenging to cope with the pandemic.

The intervention was expanded to include provision of basic dry ration items to the families every month from April 2020 till December 2020, recharging of the mobile phones of some of the families so that children could access online classes, assistance in paying the school or college fees, and providing the children with textbooks, notebooks and stationery items for their academic year.

The data provided by the Rapid Assessment Study was the basis on which Aarambh ran a crowdfunding online campaign. The campaign met & exceeded its goal of Rs. 10,00,000/-. These funds were used to purchase basic essentials, medicines, educational supplies and pay for the school fees of the children as the nationwide lockdown had led to the families being unable to earn their daily wages.



The team distributed 505 essential (ration, medicines) kits to the children and their families and also supported them with school books and other educational requirements.

The second Rapid Assessment Study was administered in May 2020, focusing on understanding the effect of the pandemic and the ensuing lockdown on the health, access to health services, education, employment and household expenses of the beneficiary families.



# SERVICES

## NIGHT CARE CENTER (NCC)

The NCC program was initiated as a response to an expressed need of the women in the sex trade, living in the red-light area. It is a space created to ensure the safety and development of children and where the children can be cared for and protected during the dangerous night hours. The NCC provides services such as - protected shelter, wholesome nutrition, education support, safe play options, safe sanitation options, opportunities for skill development, awareness sessions, and an overall platform for holistic personality development and growth. Prerana has set up four NCCs, which are located in/near the red-light areas of Kamathipura (two NCCs), Falkland Road, and Vashi-Turbhe Stores. The NCCs have a nutrition and health component which adopts a holistic and comprehensive approach with regard to service delivery. Carefully planned nutritious meals are served to children four times a day (six times during Prerana's Day to Day Summer Camp). The health and medical services have a systematic process that includes a complete general health check-up, periodic follow-ups, and end-to-end support for the management of specific medical conditions.



## EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (ESP)

**Educational Support Program:** The ESP is an intervention that caters to the educational needs of children - be it curricular, co-curricular, or extracurricular. The team keeps a track of the progress made by the children at their respective educational institutions by conducting regular follow up visits to their schools and colleges depending on the need and post consultation with the child/ youth. They also actively follow-up with the mothers and keep them updated on the educational progress of their child. The team ensures that mothers are encouraged to participate in their child's educational progress and development. Besides this, the program offers study classes during the evening hours wherein qualified teachers provide support to school/college-going students in their studies and project work. Prerana also collaborates with other donors to provide educational scholarships for students who want to pursue advanced or professional degrees, and to those students who have to pay school/tuition/extra coaching fees. This program is deployed at the Prerana NCCs through a dedicated team of social workers, teachers, and other resource persons.



# DATA

31

**CHILDREN  
AVAILING  
SERVICES (NCC  
AND/OR ESP)**

4

**CHILDREN  
FOLLOWED UP IN  
FORMAL  
EDUCATION**

11

**DOCUMENTS  
PROCURED (IDENTITY  
OR SOCIAL  
ENTITLEMENT  
DOCUMENTS)**

70

**CHILDREN  
ENROLLED IN  
UNDER  
PRERANA'S STUDY  
CLASSES**

2

**CHILDREN  
ENROLLED IN  
SCHOOL**

2

**COUNSELLING  
SESSIONS**

426

**TELEPHONE  
FOLLOW-UPS**

26

**MEDICAL  
INTERVENTIONS**

624

**RELIEF KITS  
PROVIDED**

26

**RLA COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH VISITS**

17

**OUTDOOR  
OUTREACH  
VISITS**

2

**MIGRATION  
VISITS**



# HIGHLIGHTS

## NIGHT CARE CENTER – COVID UPDATES

When the COVID-19 induced lockdown was announced, the Night Care Centers had to be shut, starting 11th April 2020, to ensure the safety of children who were availing its facilities. The NCC-I facility was however kept open for six young adults who are orphans. Soon after the NCC was shut, mothers of some children requested the team if there was any scope for it to reopen. They shared their concerns such as lack of adequate living space in the brothels, the strict clampdown by the police, no income, the risk of exploitation of their children, and the trouble caused by brothel keepers to women who had young daughters.

After discussing their apprehensions about the safety of their children, and interacting with the children too, the team decided to open the NCC as a day and night care facility. After various rounds of participatory discussions with the mothers and children, it was decided to admit children above the age of 10. While admitting children, the team focused on the risk to their safety in the community and the possibility of an exploitative situation that they could be pushed into. A new set of rules and regulations were also drafted taking the COVID-19 situation into consideration, in consultation with the mothers and children. The mothers signed a consent form stating that they were aware, and in support of the new rules. As per the rules, the mothers could visit their children only once a week, maintain social distancing while meeting, bring no items from outside in the facility, etc. Moreover, the team also gave time slots to the mothers when they could come and meet to ensure there is no crowding. The first batch of children started availing the facilities from 14th September 2020.

The NCC staff and the children faced difficulties adapting to the new setup and rules. To help them better understand the situation and handle their stress, counseling sessions were conducted frequently.

All recreational activities were shifted indoors, restricting access of children to any outdoor games. The team also changed the outreach pattern in accordance with COVID-19. To understand the situation of women in the red-light areas the team started to conduct outreach often around evening at 7 or 8 pm instead of afternoon and early evenings.

### **MIGRATION VISITS**

Migration visits are conducted to follow-up with women from the red-light areas who migrate either because they have moved out of the sex trade or have taken up alternative livelihood options besides the sex trade. In some cases, the women are able to move out of the sex trade if the captivity by the brothel keepers/pimps have reduced, or debts may have been cleared or if the woman has aged and the brothel keeper would not be making enough profits off of her soliciting in the sex trade. Prerana follows a protocol to undertake such migration follow up visits at least once in three months. Monthly telephonic follow-ups are also maintained and its frequency varies on case-to-case basis. The objective in conducting these visits is to ensure the wellbeing of the women and their children and to follow-up on the child's care plan. During this reporting period, the team conducted 408 migration visits.

The team faced challenges while conducting migration visits and distributing ration to women residing in farther areas due to restrictions on local travel. In such cases, telephonic follow-ups were conducted. Due to the lockdown, women who had moved out of the sex trade had exhausted their savings and most of them lost their source of income. Due to this, many women faced financial instability during this reporting period and didn't have the resources to recharge their mobile phone. As a result, the team wasn't able to reach them telephonically for as long as a month.

## **OUTDOOR OUTRACH VISITS**

Outreach visits are conducted each month across the red-light areas of Falkland Road, Kamathipura and Vashi Turbhe. Besides, when women move beyond the red-light area but continue to be in the sex trade, outreach visits are conducted to take a follow up on the children and their education. During this reporting period, the team conducted 576 outdoor outreach visits in the community while maintaining all safety protocols such as wearing masks, social distancing etc. The team also planned ration relief distribution activities during such outdoor visits and allotted time slots to the women to ensure that social distancing is maintained. However, the team faced challenges while distributing ration kits in the community as people residing nearby and the police objected to the accumulation of groups.

## **CONNECTING TO THE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (PDS)**

The NCC team conducted regular follow-ups with the women living in Kamathipura, Vashi Turbhe and Falkland Road red-light areas during the lockdown on their safety and well-being. One of the issues that was brought to the team's attention was that women with inactive ration cards faced difficulties during the pandemic as they were unable to procure ration from the Public Distribution System (PDS) allocated shops. Besides, the women in the sex trade don't have the legal status of being tenants in the brothel and the brothel keepers refuse to provide them a no objection certificate to apply for ration cards. The women also shared that they were informed that their ration cards could be activated only after the lockdown was lifted. The team coordinated with Ration Kruti Samiti, MCGM for the reactivation of their ration cards so that they could access food grains through the PDS at the earliest. In June 2020, the MCGM provided ration and the PDS allocated shops were instructed to provide ration to women with inactive ration cards as well. On 7th July, a meeting was held with the Collector in which the Collector ordered that all women be given temporary family ration/food cards without any supporting documents.

The Rationing Commissioner subsequently ordered the ration offices to give 10kg rice to all women who had Aadhar cards under the Shramik Aana Dhania Puravtha Yojna. Prerana's team coordinated with the women from Kamathipura and Falkland Road, the Ration office and the Ration shops and ensured that 455 women received 10 kg of rice, free of cost, from the Public Distribution System (PDS) under the said scheme.

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO WOMEN IN THE RLAS**

A Supreme Court Order was passed on 21st September stating, "We direct the State Governments and the Union Territories to provide dry rations to the sex workers who are identified by National Aids Control Organisation (NACO) without insisting on proof of identity. The District Legal Services Authorities are directed to take active steps in assisting the distribution of dry rations to the sex workers without insisting on proof of identity. The State Governments and Union Territories are directed to file compliance reports within a period of four weeks from today giving details of the distribution of dry rations to the sex workers."

The Government of Maharashtra's Department of Women and Child Development issued a paripatraka (Order) dated 28th September referring to the 135/2010 writ petition filed in the Supreme Court. It directed the formation of a committee to monitor the relief work being carried out for women in the sex trade in order to provide beneficial assistance during the pandemic. The committee constituted under the chairpersonship of the Collector was directed to provide dry ration to the rescued women under the the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act and to the women in the sex trade who support their family till the end of COVID- 19 outbreak. It mentioned that the women should get Rs. 5000/- and an extra Rs. 2500 to those who have school going children, directly from the COVID-19 funds under the jurisdiction of the Collector. The mode of transfer should be direct benefit transfer, without mandating any identity proof.

The NCC team attended the meetings of the committee with the Mumbai District Women and Child Development Office, called by the District Collector. The team shared a list of women along with the required details with the committee and worked with the women to help them gather identity documents such as Aadhar card for the opening of their respective bank accounts. The team had approached 4 nationalized banks to pursue opening of bank accounts for the women in the sex trade. During this reporting period, a total of 2084 women from the red-light areas of Kamathipura, Falkland Road and Vashi Turbe received the financial assistance. Out of these, the NCC team assisted 579 women with filling of forms and issuance of Aadhar card followed by opening of bank accounts. Out of the 579, approximately 90% received the financial assistance during this reporting period.

#### **ASSISTANCE WITH ISSUANCE OF SOCIAL SECURITY DOCUMENTS:**

During this reporting period, the team constantly worked with the women in the red-light areas to help get issued the relevant social security documents, such as bank account, ration card, Aadhar card etc. These documents further helped them access the government welfare schemes announced during the pandemic, such as relief amount and free ration.



**AADHAR CARDS  
ISSUED**



**RATION CARDS  
ISSUED**



**BANK ACCOUNTS  
OPENED**

#### **REHABILITATION EFFORTS & INTERVENTIONS FOR WOMEN IN RED-LIGHT AREAS**

After the COVID-19 induced lockdown was imposed, there was a clampdown on red-light areas (RLA's). It was more severe compared to other areas as they believed that the sex trade would increase the chances of COVID-19 transmission. As an immediate preventive action, the police shut down RLA based sex trade. Entry into, and exit from, the RLA's was guarded.

Due to the absence of customers, there was no earning for the women. They were not allowed to solicit on the streets. The women were facing a serious crisis of survival. They not only had to bear the brunt of the brothel keepers and their pimp, but were also experiencing violence. Women from the red-light areas thus approached the team to discuss about alternative livelihood options for them to manage their basic living expenses. During the year, Prerana engaged in the following rehabilitation activities with the women -

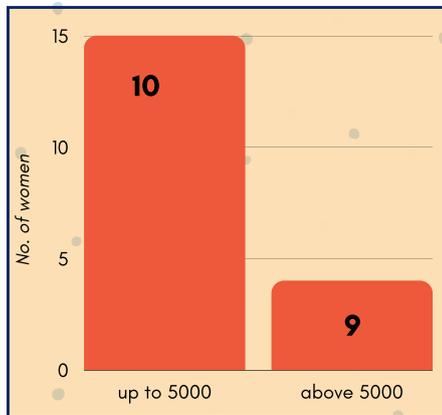
### **1. THE REHABILITATION PROGRAM**

During the regular telephonic follow-ups, some women approached the NCC team sharing that they would like to explore other livelihood options. On further discussions, they expressed the need for financial assistance and other support like opening a bank account to initiate a micro business. After extensive discussion with the women, the work of supporting them with economic rehabilitation options was started in June 2020 in partnership with iPartner India. By the end of August 2020, five women had received micro finance to start their micro businesses. In August, two women were assisted with their identity documents, opening of bank accounts etc. Moreover, seven women received orientation, counselling, and support to develop a business plan. Prerana also collaborated with another organization and by the end of August, thirty-one women from Kamathipura and Falkland Road RLA's had attended an orientation on how to start micro business enterprises.

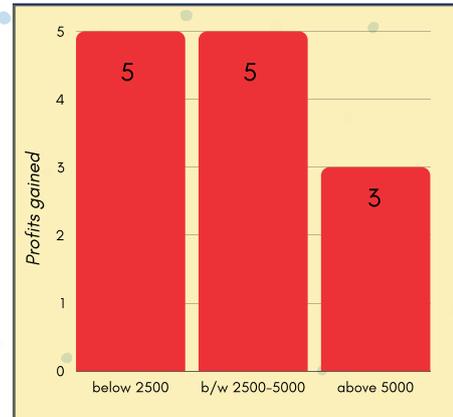
As of March 2021, 13 women have been successfully running their micro businesses. Initially, the women faced several challenges such as not being able to decide the business and being apprehensive about its sustainability. Some women showed interest in selling perishable goods but couldn't do it because of space and storage restrictions. After beginning the business, some women faced the wrath from the existing business-owners as they feared the diversion of clientele. However, the women overcame all challenges and have grown extremely confident about their business.

Over a span of 11 months, 19 women received micro funds from IPartner. Out of these, 17 women have been successfully running the micro business of their choice!

#### AMOUNT OF MICRO GRANT PROVIDED FOR SMALL BUSINESSES



#### AVERAGE PROFITS GAINED BETWEEN THE MONTH OF START TILL MARCH 2021



Each woman will receive a micro grant of **INR 10,000** for her micro business. **7** women have received almost the entire amount.

#### AVENUES OF MICRO BUSINESSES



Many of them have started to save some money and plan to grow their business in future.

## 2. LIFT- SEEFAR

The NCC team coordinated with Seefar, a social enterprise providing opportunities to vulnerable people so that they can advance themselves. Seefar has launched the Livelihoods Initiative for Transformation (LIFT) program in India aimed at supporting female victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) currently being implemented in Mumbai and Kolkata. The focus of the program is to use technology in creating and employing the women. In this program, 14 women from KP and 6 women from FR centers have signed up for the first batch which started from 24th December 2020.

Through this program, CSE victims are provided with adaptive counselling, personal incentive training and employment language training. The aim is to help survivors be able to have growth careers by providing the skills and support needed to access the global economy.

### LIFT PROGRAM CONSISTS OF THREE COMPONENTS:



Cohorts of 20 women are formed for the 3-month training module. 14 out of the 20 from the first cohort completed their training.

“After learning computer, I used to share it with my daughter at home and she would make me practice it.”

**A BENEFICIARY**

“I’m so glad to learn some basic spoken English. If given an opportunity, I would love to learn more”

**A BENEFICIARY**

### **3. VIRTUAL MEETING FOR MOTHERS LIVING IN THE RED- LIGHT AREAS AND SAVE THE CHILDREN INDIA (STCI):**

A meeting was organized with STCI on 27th and 28th August 2020 at Prerana’s KP and FR Center to orient the women on STCI’s Enterprise Development Model Training. The orientation included basics on the setting up and managing of a business.

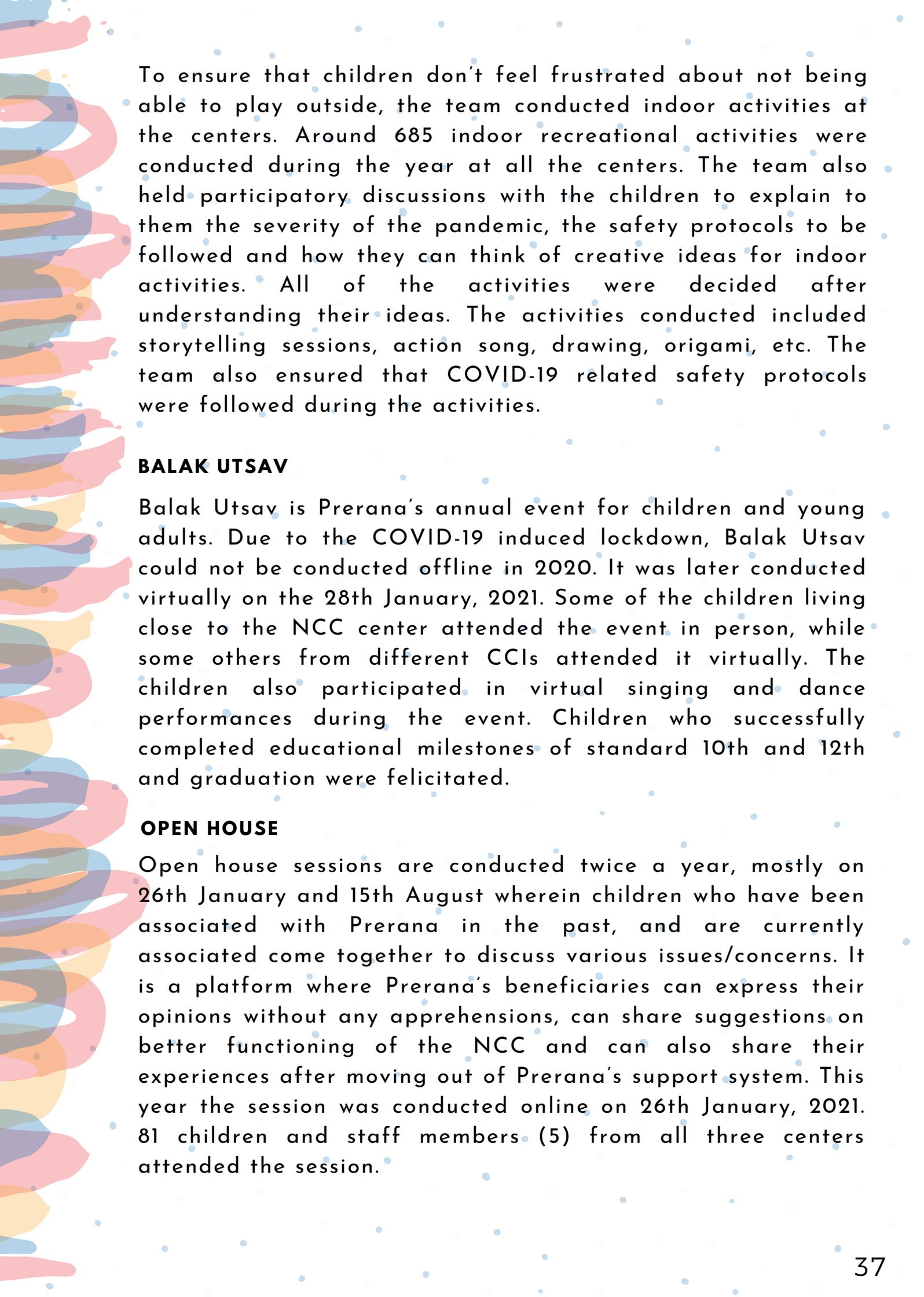
#### **4. COLLABORATION WITH YUVA PARIVARTAN**

Prerana in coordination with YUVA Parivartan also conducted a one-month training program of 100 hours focused on soft skills, personality development and English speaking. It was followed by 3 months on-field training in either hospitality, bedside assistance, customer service executive training or F&B training. 16 girls from the NCC attended training sessions organized by YUVA held between Monday and Sunday for 3 hours. They were also provided with a stipend of minimum Rs. 3000/- per month.

When the COVID-19 induced lockdown was announced, women in the sex trade lost their source of livelihood. With strict clampdown in the red-light areas due to the fear of it turning into a COVID-19 hotspot, there were no customers and the women had also exhausted their meagre savings. During outreach visits, a few women had expressed their willingness for an alternative livelihood options. During this time, YUVA Parivartan reached out to Prerana to initiated livelihood courses to rehabilitate women in the red-light areas. The two-month long course was inaugurated by Ms. Urmila Jadhav (CWC member, Mumbai City-I) on 8th March 2021. The women learnt various Mehndi patterns such as bridal, Ikebana (arrangement of flowers), Indo Arabic and Dubai during the course. 15-20 women had enrolled for the course and had attended it regularly.

#### **RECREATION**

Recreation is an important tool for the emotional, social, cognitive, and physical development of children. However, there is no space available in the red-light areas to conduct these activities. To ensure that the Right to Play accorded to every child under Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is not compromised, Prerana's centers provide the required space to facilitate both indoor and outdoor age-appropriate activities. The COVID-19 induced pandemic caused a hindrance in conducting outdoor recreational activities, causing immense loss to the children.



To ensure that children don't feel frustrated about not being able to play outside, the team conducted indoor activities at the centers. Around 685 indoor recreational activities were conducted during the year at all the centers. The team also held participatory discussions with the children to explain to them the severity of the pandemic, the safety protocols to be followed and how they can think of creative ideas for indoor activities. All of the activities were decided after understanding their ideas. The activities conducted included storytelling sessions, action song, drawing, origami, etc. The team also ensured that COVID-19 related safety protocols were followed during the activities.

### **BALAK UTSAV**

Balak Utsav is Prerana's annual event for children and young adults. Due to the COVID-19 induced lockdown, Balak Utsav could not be conducted offline in 2020. It was later conducted virtually on the 28th January, 2021. Some of the children living close to the NCC center attended the event in person, while some others from different CCI's attended it virtually. The children also participated in virtual singing and dance performances during the event. Children who successfully completed educational milestones of standard 10th and 12th and graduation were felicitated.

### **OPEN HOUSE**

Open house sessions are conducted twice a year, mostly on 26th January and 15th August wherein children who have been associated with Prerana in the past, and are currently associated come together to discuss various issues/concerns. It is a platform where Prerana's beneficiaries can express their opinions without any apprehensions, can share suggestions on better functioning of the NCC and can also share their experiences after moving out of Prerana's support system. This year the session was conducted online on 26th January, 2021. 81 children and staff members (5) from all three centers attended the session.

A major concern shared by the children was the need to reopen the NCCs. However, when the team discussed COVID-19 related concerns with them, they agreed that this may be done in a phased manner/ gradually.

### **MEETINGS OF CHILDREN'S COLLECTIVE**

Ekta Gath is a children's collective wherein children from all three NCCs meet once a month to discuss their concerns, share suggestions on any improvement or additions in the NCC and plan future activities. It also gives children a space to practice problem solving, make decisions and share their opinions without any apprehensions. During this financial year, 27 meetings were conducted. On an average 30 to 32 children participated in these meetings. The points covered in these meetings included discussions on resuming LSE sessions, COVID-19 appropriate behavior, reopening of school, feedback on sessions, NCC rules and regulations, children's committees, how to resolve arguments sensitively, activities at the center, etc.

### **PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT**

Psychological wellbeing of children is an important aspect, and required more attention soon after the COVID-19 induced lockdown was announced. Children residing at NCC 24\*7 had zero access to the outside world. The restrictions limited them from meeting their friends, family and teachers, and that added to their emotional distress. Some children were also apprehensive about their exams and online classes added to their stress levels. Their mothers too were stressed about the safety of their children, and that they couldn't meet them for longer intervals. To help children and mothers cope with stress, uncertainty, anxiety or anything that bothered them, counselling services were provided by a professional counsellor. If required in any case, the child was further referred to a psychiatrist. Since offline sessions could not be held, the team conducted virtual counselling for children and the mothers, April 2020 onwards.

Altogether, 665 sessions were held with children. As the restrictions were eased in January, 2021, offline sessions were resumed in the Falkland Road center. However, online sessions were conducted at Kamathipura due to lack of space, and at Vashi Turbe due to travel restrictions.

### **LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION**

Life Skills Education (LSE) sessions help ensure the holistic development of the children, and allow them to explore their creativity, interests and ideas. These sessions are conducted for different age groups between 7-9 years and 10-14 years across all NCCs. The LSE sessions in 2020 resumed via online mode in October, and 15 of such sessions were conducted. During this year, besides the virtual sessions, 21 offline such sessions were also conducted by the team once restrictions were relaxed. The topics covered through these sessions included assertiveness training, understanding problems and types of problems, actions and their consequences, types of life skills, using art as therapy, confidence building, etc.

### **EDUCATION FOLLOW-UP**

Due to COVID-19, schools were shut down and children were unable to attend classes offline. Amid the lockdown, many schools started providing online classes to ensure that children don't miss out on academics. To be able to attend online classes, the children required access to smartphones and internet connection, and many didn't have it. During follow-ups in the community, the team found that a number of children found it difficult to follow what was being taught when the internet connection was poor. The team provided the mothers with the contact details of the teachers to ensure that the queries raised by children are resolved. For women who didn't have a smartphone, the team connected with another woman who had one.

In order to help children with their studies, the text books for children between standard 1st and 7th were distributed by their schools.

The schools also provided study material as well as dry ration to the children. To further assist children, the team shortlisted 50 children from KP and FR whose mothers didn't have the resources to recharge their smartphones, and the team financially supported their data recharge. The aim was to ensure that children study without any interruptions. At Kamathipura, Falkland Road and Vashi-Turbe centers, the staff collected the worksheets from the school teachers and brought to the centers. The children would then fill these worksheets while the staff would then handover to the school teacher. This further helped children who could not commute to the school during the pandemic.

**10TH STANDARD**



**GIRLS**



**BOYS**



**HIGHEST  
PERCENTAGE**

**12TH STANDARD**



**GIRLS**



**BOYS**



**HIGHEST  
PERCENTAGE**

## **INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENT PROGRAM (IPP)**

The IPP evolved in consultation with mothers who wanted to de-link their children from the traumatizing exposures of RLAs and place them in long-term residential care and protection, as they felt their children were not safe in the RLAs. In such cases, where the child was in need of care and protection and needed to be placed in institutional care, these cases were referred to the IPP team. What began as a need-based placement of children in Child Care Institutions (CCI) is now a structured intervention that involves collaborations with the government mechanisms to ensure successful protection and rehabilitation of vulnerable and at-risk children. These children are presented before the Child Welfare Committees (CWC is a quasi-judicial body set up under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015). The CWC assesses if the children are in need of care and protection and whether they should be referred for institutional care. The team actively follows-up with children who are placed in CCIs through the orders of the CWC. The team initially helps the child adapt to the environment of a CCI. Over the course of time, the team also assists in developing and implementing a rehabilitation plan for these children. The team also engages the mothers of the children in preparing plans and making decisions for the future of the children in institutions.

Prior to the COVID-19 induced lockdown, the team conducted in person-follow ups with the children who were residing at the Child Care Institutions (CCI). However, travel restrictions during the lockdown made it challenging to conduct in-person follow ups. The CCIs too were not allowing any visitors, keeping in mind the safety of children residing there. Initially, the team found it difficult to adapt to the changed scenario. All follow-ups were shifted to telephonic medium or messages. The children were feeling frustrated with not being able to go outside, attend school or meet their friends and family. In some cases, children were being permanently handed over to their mothers at the order of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). Taking immediate note of the situation, the IPP team shared an email with the Mumbai City I and II and Thane CWC with a list of children associated with Prerana residing at respective CCIs.

The team requested the authorities to contact them in case of any concerns related to those children. The team also stayed in constant coordination with the staff of respective CCIs to ensure active representation and participation.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### MOTHER'S MEETING

In the red-light area, a family unit is limited to a child and their mother. In order to ensure that the mothers are actively involved in their child's development process, Prerana introduced the concept of mother's meetings. The objective was to maintain the mother-child link, keep the mothers updated about their child's progress after they're admitted to the CCI, and discuss healthy parenting techniques. The meetings commence with general awareness sessions on issues that contribute to the overall development of the women and their children. During these meetings, the mothers are also informed about relevant laws and updates regarding CWC and CCIs.

During the lockdown, the women in the sex trade lost their source of income and also exhausted the meagre savings they had. Due to this, a lot of them who had smartphones weren't able to get it recharged, and some others weren't comfortable attending an online meeting. Since the mothers were concerned about the well-being of their children residing at CCIs, the team found it imperative to conduct mother's meeting. Therefore, three meetings were conducted offline during this year. All safety precautions were followed by the team and the mothers.

One of these meetings was facilitated by Ms. Urmila Jadhav (Member, Child Welfare Committee, Mumbai City I). An incident of child sexual assault was reported in a brothel in Kamathipura and the mothers were also worried about the safety of their children if they tested positive and were sent to quarantine facility and if they were to die due to COVID.



This led to the mothers being concerned about their children's safety who were staying with them in the red-light areas. They wanted to know who will take the responsibility of their children if something were to happen to them. They did not want their children to be taken away by the perpetrators of the sex trade. When the fears of the women were discussed with the CWC, they offered to meet the women to discuss their concerns. The IPP team thus organized for this meeting. During the discussion, Ms. Jadhav acknowledged the concerns of the mothers and shared with the women the provisions for the care and protection of children in the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015 and educated the mothers on the process of how children as and when requiring protection services for short term or long term will be provided the same.

The other meetings covered various relevant issues such as COVID-19 appropriate behavior, new rules and regulations of the children's homes during pandemic, traveling restrictions, social security documents, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna, etc. More than 80 women attended these sessions.

### **THE LAKSHMI INITIATIVE**

National Award-Winning filmmaker Nagesh Kukunoor directed the film 'Lakshmi' in 2014, a film depicting the harsh realities of human trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation in India. Following the release of the film, the 'Lakshmi' Initiative was launched on 8th March 2015 to commemorate Women's Day. The initiative is an attempt to prevent and protect girls from the threats of trafficking, sexual abuse, and commercial sexual exploitation. It aims to support and empower 'at-risk' girls through prevention, education, and livelihood training to help them access their right to choose a path for themselves and lead a life with dignity. Every year, young women who are availing services through Prerana's various projects receive an educational scholarship through the initiative. This year, 08 girls were awarded the scholarship for further studies. Two of these girls are pursuing higher education at college, while the others are completing their school education.

## **SOCIAL INVESTIGATION AND HOME VISITS**

Social Investigations and Home visits are conducted by the team to assess the safety of children, their environment and surroundings, and to contact the immediate family of the child to seek information. Home visits are also conducted to understand and assess the need to evolve a family strengthening plan. The submission of Social Investigation Reports (SIR) is mandated under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 to enable the Child Welfare Committees to take a decision on the rehabilitation of a child, in his/her/their best interest.

Due to the lockdown restrictions imposed during the reporting period, the team evolved ways to adapt to the situation better. While following all safety precautions, the team conducted Social Investigation and Home visits for rescue cases and new admissions. The process was smooth in the areas of Kamathipura and Falkland Road areas due to less traveling involved. However, for the cases in areas such as Nalasopara, team members residing in those areas conducted the visits to ensure minimum travel amidst the lockdown. The team members at all times ensured the safety of the clients and themselves and followed COVID appropriate protocols. A total of 09 home visits were conducted and the reports for the same were submitted to the respective CWCs.

## **STRESS MANAGEMENT SESSION**

During interactions with children, the team has observed that children go through immense stress while juggling their studies and personal lives. Many of these children belong to vulnerable backgrounds, and have had traumatic experiences in life. To help them articulate their thoughts better and learn to deal with stress, it was deemed important to conduct Stress Management sessions. These sessions are facilitated by the team for both children who are associated with Prerana and those who reside at other shelter homes. The sessions are held for children above the age of 12.

During the pandemic, the unforeseen circumstances had made the children more anxious and stressed. They weren't able to step outside and meet their family and friends. The concept of online classes had also added to their apprehensions about their examinations and grades. Taking into consideration their worries, the IPP team had approached the CHs if online stress management sessions could be conducted. A total of 2 stress management sessions were conducted by Ms. Shruti Chatterjee (Counselor, Prerana) during this reporting period to help the children cope with the circumstances. The children were also oriented on the concept of self-care. Ms. Chatterjee faced some challenges such as non-effective communication in the online medium and inability to conduct activities during these sessions.

### **HOW TO APPLY FOR AN ORPHAN CERTIFICATE – AN INTERACTION WITH YOUTH CARE LEAVERS (YCLS)**

During frequent follow-ups, it had come to the team's notice that some of Prerana's beneficiaries were facing challenges such as time-taking process, lack of clarity on the entire procedure, etc. while applying for an Orphan Certificate (OC). A virtual session was conducted in December 2020 to simplify the application procedure and to resolve the queries of the care leavers. Mrs. Vivian Silver (District Probation Officer) was the speaker of this session and Ms. Prachi Naik (Project Manager, IPP) was the moderator. 28 participants had attended the session and had shared their concerns. The major topics covered included clarity on the OC Scheme, eligibility criteria for applying, process for acquiring the OC, benefits of acquiring the OC, etc. During this financial year, a total of 3 YCLs acquired the OC.

### **CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS AT RED LIGHT AREAS**

When the COVID-19 induced lockdown was announced, some children's homes suggested to the mothers to take their children with them temporarily, with the condition that they would be re-admitted only after the submission of COVID-19 negative report. In a particular case, the children's home denied to re-admit the child. During this reporting period, many mothers grew apprehensive of the safety of their children.

The lockdown situation had compromised on the safety net of the children and had exposed them to the fear of exploitation. Many mothers had come forward with the proposal of keeping their children in a children's home primarily due to safety concerns. Moreover, the lack of any earning had added to their concern. Prioritizing the safety of the children, the CWC suggested to admit children in children's home temporarily.

During this reporting period, the IPP team received information from the women in the red-light areas about children being at the risk of sexual exploitation. The team assisted the police in the rescue of 05 children from the red-light areas of Kamathipura and Falkland Road. Throughout these interventions, the Child Welfare Committees of the respective districts extended their coordination and support and children rescued were placed in Children's Homes as Child in Need of Care and Protection as mandated under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015 by the respective Child Welfare Committee.

### **YOUTH MEETING**

During the COVID-19 induced lockdown, the young adults had been facing troubles in getting employed and wanted quick and accessible options to sustain through the pandemic. A Youth meeting was held at the Falkland Road Center on 20th March 2021 and was attended by 27 young adults. The session was organized to assist the youth get an insight into different career options as per their interest and skills. During the session, Yuva Parivartan's team shared information about the different courses like hospitality, bedside assistance, customer service executive training etc. that they offer. Apart from this, a group of students from the Rotaract Club, SIES College (W) also addressed the participants with possible options on skilling.



**20**

**NEW ADMISSIONS**

**612**

**RLA OUTREACH  
VISITS**

**20**

**MEDICAL  
INTERVENTIONS**

**102**

**CWC VISITS**

**95**

**CHILDREN HOME  
VISITS**

**1369**

**CASE WORK  
INTERVENTIONS**

**09**

**HOME VISITS**

**14**

**OUTDOOR  
OUTREACH  
VISITS**

**03**

**NEW CHILDREN HOME  
IDENTIFIED**



# POST RESCUE OPERATIONS

Prerana has been working with minor victims of commercial sexual exploitation since the last two decades to assist the State in the process of rehabilitation of the victims. There is great emphasis on rescuing victims from sexual exploitation but not much is done to ensure that they are rehabilitated and integrated well into society. As per the current legal structures, a minor victim of commercial sexual exploitation is to be seen as a Child in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP) under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJA). The child is presented before the CWC constituted under the JJA, who may place the child in a Children's Home or restore her/him to the family, depending upon what serves the best interest of the child after considering the findings of the Social Investigation Report (SIR). The PRO team assists the CWCs in this process through conducting a social investigation visit, submitting the report of such visit, and following-up on the child throughout the process of rehabilitation. The team provides extensive assistance in furthering the rehabilitation of the victims, which covers, but is not limited to:

- Production before the Child Welfare Committee (child protection authorities for vulnerable children under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015);
- Conducting local Social Investigation and facilitating interstate visits;
- Psycho-Social counseling;
- Legal intervention;
- Preparing Individual Care Plans; and
- Facilitate rehabilitation and social reintegration of these rescued children into an open society.

The team also actively facilitates and co-facilitates sensitization and training programs on prevalence and seriousness of human trafficking, destination crimes, rule of law and protection of rights, socio-economic analysis, legal awareness, exposure to regional and international instruments, etc.

These sessions are targeted towards law enforcement, judiciary, prosecutors, media representatives as well as service providers.

The team also conducts capacity building programs to enhance the capacities of the staff managing child care institutions (where the victims reside either for a short or long term) and other civil society organizations relating to victim friendliness, rights of the victims, skills, and principles in handling cases, barefoot counseling, trauma-informed client-centered intervention in care, sharing of best practices, use of better management practices.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### **COVID-19 ASSISTANCE**

#### **RATION ASSISTANCE**

The year 2020-21 has been very challenging for the communities that the PRO team works with as many families had no sources of income due to the lockdown. The team provided ration supplies to the children and families, along with facilitating linkages with partners for such assistance. 237 families received help in 2020-21.

### **INTERVENTIONS WITH CHILDREN'S HOMES:**

#### **RESCUE FOUNDATION, BOISAR**

In July 2020, Govt. Special Rehabilitation Home for Girls, Deonar where the team was actively involved in providing victim assistance services was temporarily shut after one of the boundary walls at the institution collapsed, putting the safety of the children at risk. At the time, the team was working with some of these children very closely who were placed at the facility. Subsequently, the children were transferred to the Rescue Foundation, Boisar in Palghar district. Since August 2020, the team has been routinely following up with those children, now placed at Rescue Foundation, Boisar. During this time, Rescue Foundation in coordination with the district CWC has also referred some cases for social case work to Prerana.

These sessions are targeted towards law enforcement, judiciary, prosecutors, media representatives as well as service providers.

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### **WELCOME KITS**

The PRO team has been working with the Government Special Rehabilitation Home for Girls, Ulhasnagar since 2018. As part of their interventions, the team has been providing the residents of the facility with welcome kits featuring basic hygiene items on a need-basis. In 2020-21, 37 such welcome kits were distributed among the children. Welcome kits help a child who is newly admitted into a children's home take care of their immediate needs without having to ask for basic utilities. This provides them the necessary comfort and helps them adjust into the new environment.

The Superintendent of the of two Children's Home the team works with, shared:

“In times of COVID 19 pandemic, we were facing difficulties to travel to places to purchase basic essentials and hygiene supplies for the children at our institution. We also had less staff looking after the children. We are so grateful that these materials were provided by Prerana at our home itself. The children have expressed gratitude.”

**SUPERINTENDENT 1**

“We haven’t been able to take the children out due to the pandemic. The children got to enjoy the rains and run around in the campus due to the raincoats provided in the Welcome kits and we were thrilled to see the joy on their faces”.

## SUPERINTENDENT 2

### **LIFE SKILL EDUCATION SESSIONS AT CHILDREN’S HOMES**

Life Skill Education sessions are an important aspect of Prerana’s interventions in the overall development of the child. The sessions often focus on themes like anger management, critical thinking, building empathy, etc. to equip the children with skills to manage their emotions and develop their personalities. During this year, 23 life skill education sessions were facilitated at the various Children’s Home that the team works with. The sessions focused on discussing the importance of mental and physical wellbeing, anger management, among others.

### **CASE MANAGEMENT MEETINGS – GOVT. SPECIAL REHABILITATION HOME FOR GIRLS, ULHASNAGAR**

Case management meetings are a platform for various stakeholders that work with a Children’s Home to collectively share their concerns and plan their interventions in the best interest of the children. Participants are encouraged to share updates on casework in these meetings of the children referred to them. This year, 11 such meetings took place virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **MODELS OF CARE - RESEARCH**

With over three decades of experience in the anti-human trafficking sector, Prerana has developed extensive knowledge and skills required for working with victims of sexual violence. In the last two decades of working with girl children rescued from CSE&T, Prerana has advocated for a continuum of care for the victims.

It advocates for care and protection to be extended to a child during the immediate and long-term post rescue phases. In an effort to further this objective, the teams at Prerana have put together its learnings in three documents that highlight the organization's best practices on providing care through institutions, restoring a child with their family (restoration-based care) and aftercare services for care leavers, i.e. children who exit institutions.

The team is expecting this document to benefit child protection stakeholders across the States in India who would want to explore such avenues for care and protection of children. Stakeholders, especially from districts with limited resources could benefit from a document like this as a starting point to plan their interventions better.

The team met throughout the year, and worked closely with a consultant to finalize each model as an independent document, and also create a summary document featuring highlights from all the models. The Reports will be disseminated in 2021-22 and will be of significant utility to stakeholders working with victims of commercial sexual exploitation in India.

## MEETINGS AND TRAININGS

### WEBINAR ON UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MENTAL HEALTH

On 23rd June 2020, a webinar was organized by the team on understanding the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of children residing in child care institutions. It was facilitated by the counselors at Prerana - Ms. Priya Ahluwalia, Ms. Trupti Kulsheshtra, Ms. Shruti Chatterjee. The session was attended by Superintendents, Probation Officers and caregivers working in child care institutions in Mumbai, Thane and Raigad districts. The facilitators gave suggestions for practical strategies that could be employed by caregivers for managing the mental health concerns.



Some of the key strategies were, increased flexibility while developing children's routine, communicating with children sensitively, providing factual updates about the current situation in an age-appropriate manner and ending interactions on a positive note using affirmations. Additionally, practical self-care strategies for caregivers to manage their emotional distress were also discussed. 80 individuals attended the webinar.

### **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

On 23rd November 2020, a discussion was organized by the team in coordination with the Child Welfare Committee, Mumbai Suburban on understanding experiences of stakeholders working on issues concerning children in a certain ward of the Mumbai Suburban district. The meeting brought forth concerns over increasing cases of sale of infants, surrogacy, trafficking for sex trade, child sexual abuse and other forms of violence in this area which falls under the jurisdiction of the Mumbai Suburban CWC. Many concerns were raised in the meeting related to the functioning of the law enforcement as well. Subsequently, the participants met with the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone - VI), to present their concerns and discuss the way forward. 21 individuals from across organizations participated in these discussions.

### **MEETING WITH DCP, ZONE VI - MUMBAI**

On 18th January 2021, few organizations working with children in Mumbai Suburban - Majlis, IJM, Yuva Childline, One Stop Center, Special Cell for Women and Children, Prerana along with the Child Welfare Committee, Mumbai Suburban met Mr. Krishnakant Upadhyay, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Zone VI, at his office. This meeting was facilitated after the NGOs had written to the DCP in December 2020, seeking to discuss concerns that children and families had been facing at the hands of the police in a certain ward in his Zone. In the meeting, the DCP was forthcoming and open to collaborating with NGOs to ensure child-friendly procedures are being followed by the police in his jurisdiction. He also agreed to hold quarterly meetings with the NGOs to improvise on the implementation of procedures in the area.



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# CONVERGENCE MEETINGS

Convergence meetings are a platform to bring many stakeholders who work with child protection in the district together to share their concerns/challenges while working on issues of child protection, and collectively strategize for the way forward. They take place once every three to four months and are attended by representatives from NGOs, Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU).

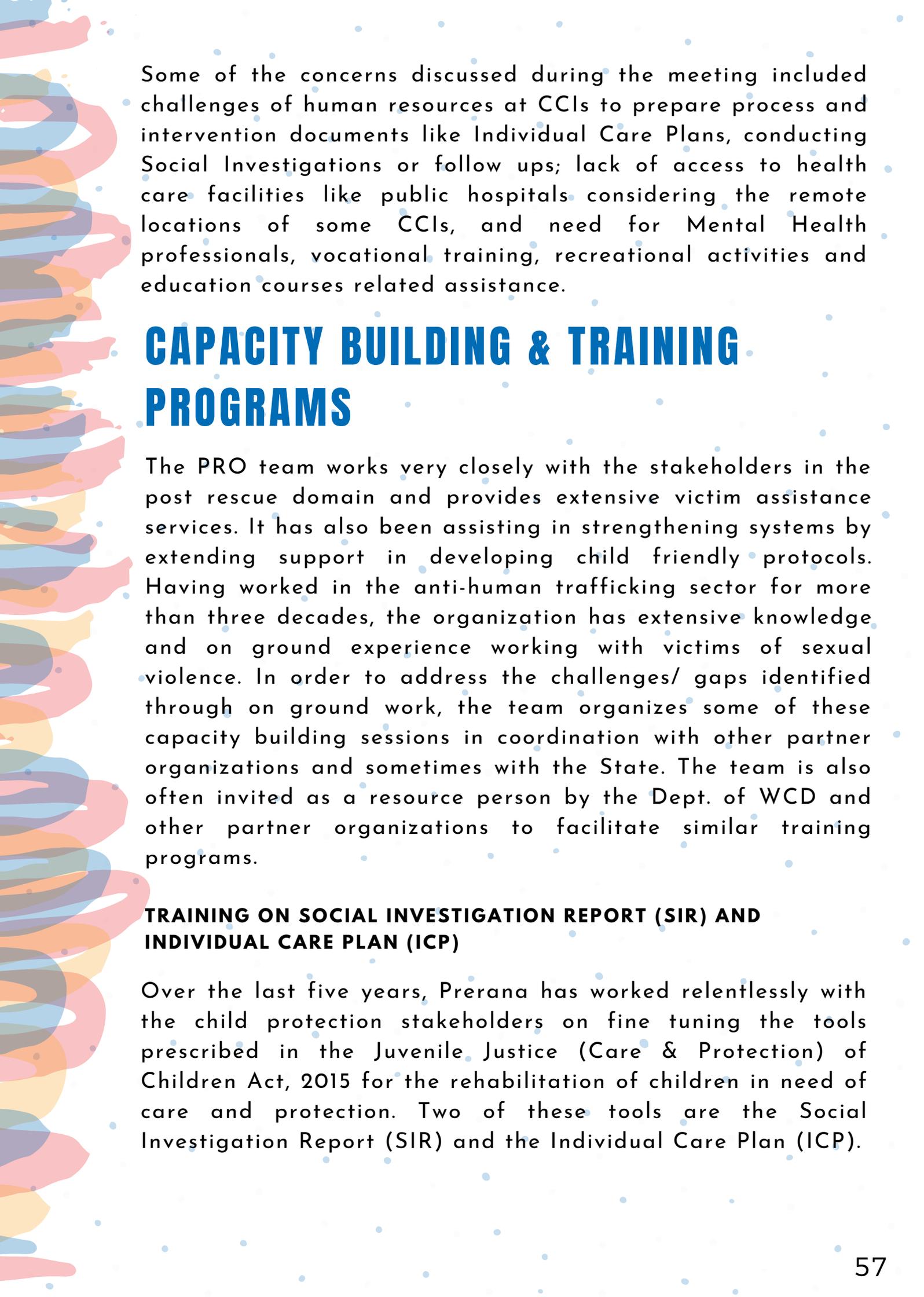
## CONVERGENCE MEETING - MUMBAI SUBURBAN I

On 24th February 2021, Prerana's Sentinel and Sanmaan teams, in collaboration with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) of Mumbai Suburban I, organized a Convergence Meeting in the district. The meeting was held in person and 30 individuals attended the meeting.

Some of the challenges discussed were about the lack of organizations in the Mumbai Suburban district to conduct social investigation visits and provide legal updates in cases where the child is a victim of sexual abuse. It was decided that the CWC would arrange for a meeting with the DCPU and the DLSA to discuss their involvement in child protection & legal assistance. A need to conduct training on Individual Care Plans for the staff of Children's Homes and Social Investigation for certain organizations was raised. Prerana and International Justice Mission took up the responsibility to plan for these training sessions.

## CONVERGENCE MEETING - PALGHAR

In consultation with the CWC Palghar, the team organized a convergence meeting with eleven Child Care Institutions (CCIs), three NGOs, the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and the CWC in December 2020. The meeting was organized to better gauge the needs and challenges faced by the staff at the CCIs while working with children in Need of Care and Protection in the district. This meeting was the first of its kind in the district.



Some of the concerns discussed during the meeting included challenges of human resources at CClIs to prepare process and intervention documents like Individual Care Plans, conducting Social Investigations or follow ups; lack of access to health care facilities like public hospitals considering the remote locations of some CClIs, and need for Mental Health professionals, vocational training, recreational activities and education courses related assistance.

## **CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING PROGRAMS**

The PRO team works very closely with the stakeholders in the post rescue domain and provides extensive victim assistance services. It has also been assisting in strengthening systems by extending support in developing child friendly protocols. Having worked in the anti-human trafficking sector for more than three decades, the organization has extensive knowledge and on ground experience working with victims of sexual violence. In order to address the challenges/ gaps identified through on ground work, the team organizes some of these capacity building sessions in coordination with other partner organizations and sometimes with the State. The team is also often invited as a resource person by the Dept. of WCD and other partner organizations to facilitate similar training programs.

### **TRAINING ON SOCIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT (SIR) AND INDIVIDUAL CARE PLAN (ICP)**

Over the last five years, Prerana has worked relentlessly with the child protection stakeholders on fine tuning the tools prescribed in the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) of Children Act, 2015 for the rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection. Two of these tools are the Social Investigation Report (SIR) and the Individual Care Plan (ICP).



During this year, Prerana organized multiple trainings and was invited as a resource person by various child protection stakeholders to build capacities of frontline workers on conducting social investigations and documenting the visits as well as developing individual care plans. The trainings provided the participants with the conceptual clarity regarding undertaking a social investigation and developing individual care plans. The training also highlighted the various legal provisions, techniques of conducting Social Investigation, and provided other crucial information to be kept in mind, before and after conducting the Social Investigation. The relevance of an ICP, why is it needed, who needs to prepare it and the timelines stated under the Law and Rules are also discussed through these training programs.

- On the 5th June 2020, a virtual training on SIR was facilitated by Ms. Kashina Kareem and Ms. Jyoti Jangir for the Staff Team at Snehalaya, a civil society organization based in Ahmednagar. The training was attended by the eleven members of the Snehalaya Rehabilitation Center and four members of the Family Based Care team at Snehalaya. The participants also shared their on-ground challenges and experiences in conducting the social investigation. The training concluded with discussing the contents of a Social Investigation Report (SIR), and also examining the SIR format followed by Prerana.
- On 24th September 2020, an online training on how to conduct a Social Investigation (under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the process of reporting the same was organized by Childline for the social workers, associated with the Childline implementing agencies in Mumbai. The training was facilitated by Ms. Kashina Kareem, Ms. Rashmi Taylor and Ms. Geetarani Lourembam from Prerana. The training was attended by 76 Childline social workers.

- On the 12th June 2020, a training for Snehalaya was facilitated by Ms. Kashina Kareem and Ms. Jyoti Jangir on developing Individual Care Plans (ICPs) under the Juvenile Justice Act. The training was attended by the eleven team members of the Snehalaya Rehabilitation center and four team members of the Family Based Care Team, Snehalaya.
- The program team conducted a capacity-building training on social investigations and documenting the reports as per the Juvenile Justice Act for the Raigad district in Panvel on 2nd February 2021. A total of 26 participants from the District Child Protection Unit, Childline, NGO representatives, and CCI staff attended the training. The training provided conceptual clarity about SIR and inputs on conducting structured, well-planned, and sensitive social investigation visits.
- On 13th March 2021, Prerana in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development, Raigad district organized a training on how to develop an Individual Care Plan (ICP) under JJA. The training was attended by Child Protection Officers and Superintendents of child care institutions of the district. The training aimed to provide conceptual clarity on the need for an Individual Care Plan, along with inputs on timelines, method of preparation and its implementation. The training was facilitated by Ms. Geetarani Lourembam and Ms. Aaheli Gupta from Prerana. The training was attended by 15 participants.

### **TRAINING WITH DCPU (RAIGAD, PALGHAR) ON UNDERSTANDING TRAUMA CARE**

On 11th December, a virtual training session was facilitated by Ms. Priya Ahluwalia and Ms. Shraddha Pol from Prerana for the DCPUs, Raigad and Palghar. 12 members from the DCPU team joined the discussion. The session aimed at helping the participants develop a basic understanding of trauma, its causes and the different ways it may be manifested in children and adolescents.



The participants actively participated in the discussions by sharing their on-field challenges while working with children residing in child care institutions. The participants also shared their experiences of effectively working with children with experiences of trauma. The importance of making children feel comfortable by using their interests and hobbies was emphasized in the session. The training also featured role-play activities to equip the participants with effective strategies for stabilizing children with experiences of trauma.

### **TRAINING ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, POCSO ACT AND RULES AND ONLINE SAFETY**

On 19th, 20th and 21st November 2020, an online training on understanding child sexual abuse was organized by Childline India Foundation for the directors, center coordinators, counsellors and senior team members from Childline implementing agencies from all the districts across the state of Maharashtra. Prerana was invited as a resource person for this session and Mrs. Priti Patkar, Ms. Kashina Kareem and Ms. Geetarani Lourembam from Prerana facilitated the training. The training focused on building conceptual clarity on child sexual abuse, understanding the provisions of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and Rules 2020. The training also steered to the intervention procedures and protocols, roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders and documentation that was required in casework. The training also engaged the participants in discussions related to the on-ground challenges through case illustrations. This training was attended by 170 participants.

## **DIGITAL TABLES**

### **Online Consultations with Partner Organizations**

The COVID-19 crisis brought in unprecedented challenges for all those working with marginalized communities. The anti-human trafficking initiatives in India also experience a blow due to COVID19 and emerging vulnerabilities.



To engage in a constructive discourse and keep up with the changing trends and needs of the anti-trafficking sector, Prerana in collaboration with The Movement India held three editions of digital roundtables in 2020-21.

- On 19th May 2020, the first edition of the Digital Table was organized - focused on the responses and challenges in anti-human trafficking in the light of the COVID-19 situation in India. Many organizations from Mumbai including International Justice Mission, Rescue Foundation, Purnata, Justice Ventures International, Save The Children India, and Waste Management Society participated in the discussion. 31 representatives from across organizations attended the event. Highlights from the discussions during the digital table can be found [here](#).
- The second Digital Table was hosted on the 7th of July 2020. The objective of the second digital table was to discuss the efforts of organizations working in the anti-trafficking space especially in the source as well as the destination areas. Some of the discussions were on the lines of inaccessibility to essential groceries under the Public Distribution System, provision of relief materials to victims of sexual exploitation and their families, trafficking for labor especially of those belonging to the marginalized communities, impact of the COVID-19 induced lockdown on the victims of commercial sexual exploitation and increased vulnerabilities of families due to their extremely poor financial health. 30 individuals attended the event. Key takeaways from the discussions can be found [here](#).
- The third edition of the Digital Table was held on 6th November 2020, with nearly 30 organizations participating in the discussion. The objective was to understand and discuss the on-ground experience on the implementation of recent State initiatives (in the form of advisories, directives, and orders) in the anti-human trafficking sector in light of COVID19 pandemic.

The Prerana team presented a Desk Review of News articles that covered human trafficking-related news between May 2020 and October 2020. 55 individuals across the states were a part of this discussion. Key takeaways from the discussions can be found here.

### **MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH CHILD PROTECTION STAKEHOLDERS IN NASHIK, PUNE, AHMEDNAGAR, PALGHAR AND RAIGAD**

During this year, the PRO team expanded its work with victims of sexual violence especially victims of CSE to the districts besides Mumbai and Thane. While the interventions in Palghar and Raigad are focused on offering assistance on direct social case work, interventions in Pune, Nashik & Ahmednagar are focused on strengthening systems and supporting case work. Thus, during the initial months, the Program team met with various stakeholders within these districts to consult with them on the implementation of this program.

The stakeholders interacted with include:

- o District Child Welfare Committees
- o District Child Protection Officers
- o District Officers, Department of Women and Child Development
- o Local Civil Society Organisations and Networks working in the area of child protection
- o Asst, Commissioner, Department of Women and Child Development
- o Child Development Protection Officer, Nashik

### **MEETING WITH PUNE, COMMISSIONERATE - DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

The program team visited the Commissionerate office for Women and Child Development in Pune on 23rd March 2021 to meet with Dr. Hrishikesh Yashod, State Commissioner, WCD, Mr. Ravi Patil, Deputy Commissioner, WCD, and Ms. Manisha Biraris, Department Asst. Commissioner, WCD.

However, as Dr. Hrishikesh Yashod and Mr. Ravi Patil were unavailable for personal & medical reasons, the team met with Ms. Biraris to orient her about the Specialised Social Case Work Program.

Ms. Biraris acknowledged the pressing need for local human resources in the selected districts and suggested extending the project to Nagpur and Aurangabad as and when possible, for the Prerana team. She also recommended staff from CCIs and DCPU to be enrolled as participants in the program. The team then shared the on-field challenges encountered in collaborating with the stakeholders. Ms. Biraris assured complete support from the Commissionerate and shared that an acknowledgment letter will be circulated to the child protection functionaries in the respective districts.

## **SPECIALIZED SOCIAL CASE WORK PROGRAM**

### Introduction to the program

In the field of post rescue operation with respect to minor girls rescued from commercial sexual exploitation, the paucity and unaffordability of counselling services is acutely felt which results into considerable wastage of resources, time and efforts. It is not just that, the post rescue operations field and victims need far more than mere counselling, such as comprehensive multidimensional case work services. The conventional counsellors are concentrated in metropolitan areas and are in short supply at district levels. Besides being unaffordable they are not equipped to provide comprehensive services and outreach. To partly overcome this problem Prerana has taken up the creation and deployment of social case workers specialized in the post rescue domain to provide assistance to child victims of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking.

However, as Dr. Hrishikesh Yashod and Mr. Ravi Patil were unavailable for personal & medical reasons, the team met with Ms. Biraris to orient her about the Specialised Social Case Work Program.

Ms. Biraris acknowledged the pressing need for local human resources in the selected districts and suggested extending the project to Nagpur and Aurangabad as and when possible, for the Prerana team. She also recommended staff from CCIs and DCPU to be enrolled knowing their reputation for progressive initiatives the team chose the districts of Pune, Ahmednagar and Nashik to begin with to identify, train, and make available 30 to 40 specialized social case workers (SSCWs) who are being provided with hand holding for some time post the trainings.

The selected participants would go through an extensive, over 50 hours training in social case work which is divided into a 4-day kick start training program, followed by handholding and support through a local Prerana representative and a refresher's training program. The trainings are developed around practical field requirements like how to conduct a social investigation and the process of documenting the same, how to develop an individual care plan, the roles and responsibilities of an individual appointed as a support person in a case of sexual violence against a child, barefoot techniques of counseling, understanding basics of important legal documents like the JJ Act, POCSO Act and ITP Act, etc.

The trained SSCWs would thus be available for any of the stakeholders from state and non-state sectors to provide specific critically important services in the juvenile justice space. With this intervention, the problem of non-availability or shortage of specialized services at the district level can be resolved.

This innovation has been developed through broad based consultation and participation of practically all types of positive stakeholders and Prerana is therefore confident about the relevance and utility of the trained SSCWs. Although for programmatic reasons the SSCWs are termed as specialized in anti-trafficking area they are additionally equipped to provide services in broader child protection areas such as sexual abuse cases (non-commercial in nature), child marriage cases, children rescued from beggary, and missing children etc.

### Development of the Specialized Social Case Work Curriculum

In consultation with the local partners, the team developed a comprehensive social casework curriculum for the implementation of the SSCW program. From April to July 2020, with assistance from an external professional consultant, the team developed a curriculum compendium which is expected to serve as a guide in the training programs. To understand the practical usability of the training module, Prerana also conducted multiple internal and external feedback workshops and consultations with subject matter experts. The feedback was helpful in further improvising on the content of the curriculum compendium.

### **ONBOARDING OF DISTRICT CONSULTANTS**

Understanding the unique characteristics of each district concerning child protection and case work, three district consultants (DCs) have been deployed to carry out the ground work in Ahmednagar, Nashik and Pune. The District Consultants are individuals working in the child protection sector and have been recommended by representatives of local civil society organizations. There was a competitive process in place to shortlist from the pool and select the appropriate candidate for the consulting position.

## Kickstart Workshop:

- Ahmednagar

The first Kickstart Workshop of the Specialized Social Case Work Program (SSCW) was held virtually from 21st to 24th December 2020 in Ahmednagar. A total of 15 candidates were selected to be a part of the cohort from which 13 participants completed the 4-day long Kickstart workshop. The four-day workshop was conducted semi-virtually with arrangements made for the participants to attend the workshop from a training center in Ahmednagar while the facilitators conducted the sessions virtually.

*The decision of conducting the workshop semi-virtually was taken in consultation with the local district consultant and the selected candidates considering the health risk due to the COVID19 pandemic. It was suggested that the candidates attend the workshop from a common venue to overcome the challenges of internet connectivity and so that they get to know each other well. Having the participants together also encouraged interactions and group discussions during the workshop. Along with logistical arrangements at the district level, a residential facility for candidates having to travel long distances to reach the training venue was made available in coordination with the District Consultant.*

The training provided conceptual clarity and orientation on the Juvenile Justice Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, understanding human trafficking & commercial sexual exploitation of children, the principles of social case work, the role of a social case worker, skills of communication and the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act along with relevant IPC provisions on trafficking. It also featured sessions on how to conduct Social Investigations and documenting the reports and the process and techniques of developing Individual Care Plans (ICPs). The workshop concluded with a post session assessment and a focused group discussion (FGD) with the candidates to seek their feedback on the entire 4-day long engagement.

- Nashik

The kick start training program for the first batch of the specialized social case workers was conducted from 10th to 13th February 2021 in Nashik. First batch of the SSCW program received a total of 37 applications. Based on the applications and interviews, 25 were shortlisted for the first batch. Unlike the virtual training conducted in Ahmednagar, the program team worked a hybrid Kickstart training in Nashik. A total of 19 participants completed the 4-day training program. Four were unable to join from the 25 shortlisted participants due to personal reasons and medical emergencies, and two stated to have binding commitments to their organizations.

## HELP DESK

The functioning of the bench of the Child Welfare Committee, Mumbai Suburban I remained restricted during the year due to the precautionary measures related to COVID-19. The Committee continued functioning virtually and through phone calls. The Help Desk team stayed in touch with the Committee through phone calls. The Help Desk team continued to help manage and update an online data sheet of all the verbal Orders issued by the Committee during this period. New cases received, restoration of children, details of the families and police station were all maintained by the Team, in coordination with the CWC clerk.

### *Baby rescued and safe*

*Faiza (name changed) was rescued as a victim of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking in 2015. The team had been following up with Faiza since 2016. In May 2020, Faiza (now 19) gave birth to a baby girl and within two days of giving birth, she sold her infant for Rs. 50,000. Faiza shared that she was facing financial difficulties and felt that she wouldn't be able to take care of the infant, hence decided on selling the infant. The team informed the CWC about the same, coordinated with the local Childline and DCPU, following which the infant was rescued by the police. The infant was placed in a child care institution for care and protection. The team has been following up with the child care institution on the well-being of the child.*



**34**

**NO OF NEW CASES REFERRED**

**16**

**NO OF SOCIAL INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED AND REPORTS PREPARED**

**45**

**NO OF INDIVIDUAL CARE PLANS DEVELOPED**

**23**

**NO OF SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED AT CH**

**37**

**NO OF WELCOME KITS DISTRIBUTED**

**1587**

**NO OF FAMILY BASED FOLLOW-UPS**

**632**

**NO. OF FOLLOW UPS WITH CHS**

**127**

**NO. OF FOLLOWS FOR EDUCATIONAL, VOCATIONAL & HEALTH ASPECTS**

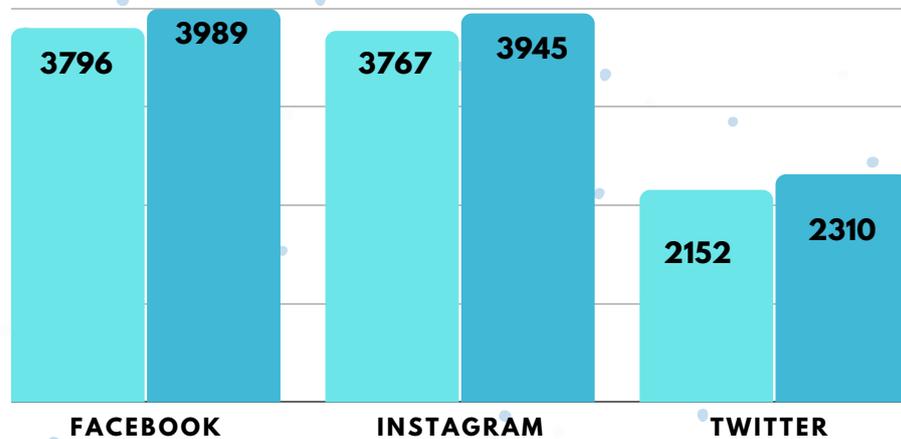
**349**

**NO. OF LEGAL FOLLOW UPS**

# COMMUNICATION & ADVOCACY

## SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

### PAGE FOLLOWERS



TOTAL NO OF  
POSTS (FACEBOOK)



TOTAL NO OF POSTS  
(INSTAGRAM)



TOTAL NO OF  
TWEETS



ENGAGEMENT  
(FACEBOOK)



ENGAGEMENT  
(INSTAGRAM)



ENGAGEMENT  
(TWITTER)



NEW USERS  
(FIGHTTRAFFIC  
KING.ORG)



TOTAL NO OF  
POSTS



Having established work on the field with victims of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, and offering the much-needed services to the women and children, a need to better understand the subject of human trafficking & commercial sexual exploitation was felt. Around the year 2000, with active support from the US State Department, Prerana initiated the Anti-trafficking Center. The primary objective of this intervention was to serve as a think tank for matters relating to anti-trafficking across the South Asia region. The Center began with analyzing and understanding the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, and its implementation on the field to put forth the nuances and shortcomings and better represent the victims at tables where such policy decisions were being made. The Anti-trafficking Center, which served as a one-stop-shop for information on anti-trafficking was converted into an online resource center around the year 2016. Through an online resource center, the organization hopes to disseminate, discuss and engage audiences on best practices in the field, latest news items on Anti-Human Trafficking, publish academic and field research conducted by institutions, etc.

### **Hindi Extension**

#### **Launch of Regional Extension in Hindi:**

Since 2016, Prerana has been running an online resource center, focusing on curating information and resources on human trafficking. It is a one-of-a-kind space where individuals and organizations, social workers, mental health professionals, law enforcement, lawyers, and students passionate about the issue can learn and engage with the issue. Through our resources and data, they can constructively shape the conversations, and work for sustainable and equitable change. Prerana publishes knowledge resources around understanding human trafficking, interventions in the sector, child protection including on-ground learnings, best practices, relevant court judgments, etc. on the online resource center.

While the online resource center has a global reach, the local audiences in the country may be left out of the discourse due to the language barrier (English). Thus, to make this content easily accessible to our regional audience, the Anti-trafficking Center team launched a **regional language extension** on the existing online resource center ([www.fighttrafficking.org](http://www.fighttrafficking.org)) in December 2020 to make locally adapted knowledge resources available in Hindi. The objective is to enable greater access and better reach among those working at the frontline with victims of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking in different parts of the country. Better access and increased use of such resources may directly impact the case management standards leading to better recovery and rehabilitation of child victims of CSE&T.

The Regional Extension in Hindi was launched with the aim of overcoming knowledge resources related barriers caused due to language. In the days preceding the launch, case workers from Prerana shared how knowledge resources being available in local languages can help them function effectively. The team also drew attention to the challenges in accessibility when resources are available only in English. The campaign drew an audience of almost 200 users to the website from diverse locations including Mumbai, Ahmednagar, Patna, Gwalior, Karnal, Faridabad and Raipur. Since the launch, the team has been working towards sharing more content on the Regional Extension. Identification of existing articles that can be translated, generating new relevant content in Hindi have been two key focus areas. Following are some of the key publications on the regional extension -

◦कोविड-19 प्रेरित लॉकडाउन में गहराया बाल विवाह का संकट

This blog is an account of Prerana's social worker Ms. Hasina Shaikh where she shares about her involvement in a case of rescue from child marriage. The blog highlights the increased risk of child marriage during the COVID induced lockdown and the challenges faced by social workers on field.

**News Section:** The team curated relevant news articles in Hindi with the intention of providing pertinent news articles to Prerana's Hindi Audience. The section has been created on the backend and is expected to go live in April.

Prerana's Anti-Trafficking Online Resource Center ([www.fighttrafficking.org](http://www.fighttrafficking.org)) is a knowledge hub, focusing on curating information and resources on human trafficking. The website features research undertaken by Prerana and relevant stakeholders, along with various publications on human trafficking. It is a one-of-a-kind space where individuals and organizations, social workers, mental health professionals, law enforcement, lawyers, and students passionate about the issue can learn and engage with the issue.

The following documents were shared on Prerana's online resource center in year 2020-21:

#### **A. BEST PRACTICES DOCUMENTS:**

##### **i) Life Skill Education Sessions**

Prerana conducts Life Skills Education sessions with all the children in its care. The sessions help to prepare the children for the realities of life by equipping them with a value system. Two such modules were documented in detail -

- Life Skill Education Module: Discrimination
- Life Skill Education Module: Peer Pressure

##### **ii) Mental Health**

Prerana developed various documents sharing its observations and experiences of practical strategies that can be used by relevant stakeholders while working on mental health of children, especially those placed in child care institutions.

- Mental Health at Child Care Institutions during COVID-19
- Communicating Sensitive with Children

#### **B. RESEARCH**

##### **1. COVID-19 Research:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented and unforeseen situation. The subsequent lockdowns were also unmatched in their devastating capacity and were bound also to seriously affect the life and the very survival of the marginalized and vulnerable communities with whom Prerana works. Prerana was keen to know more and understand the impact of COVID 19 on our communities and our work better.

i) **Rapid Assessment Studies**

Prerana instituted a Rapid Assessment Study across projects using a survey tool to interact with our communities. The findings of these studies were released through our online resource center. Three such studies were undertaken by Prerana -

- COVID-19 and the Red-Light Areas: A Rapid Assessment Study
- COVID-19 and Migrant Workers' Families on the streets
- COVID-19 and Families of CSE Victims: A Rapid Assessment Study

ii) COVID-19 and Care leavers: Prerana's Interventions: This document highlights the challenges that care leavers are facing amid the COVID-19 induced lockdown. The support provided by Prerana in the form of immediate ration related assistance; psycho-social support has been shared in the document to draw attention to the realities of care leavers during the pandemic.

iii) The Digital Divide: This document is based on the discussions held with children that the Sanmaan team works with. The opinions of children have been shared to draw attention to the challenges that marginalized students are experiencing because of the digital divide. Children shared their thoughts on online classes, the government's decision to reopen schools, and the precautions that should be taken in case schools decide to reopen.

iv) COVID-19 and Human Trafficking: Desk Review of News Reports on Human Trafficking: To understand the situation of rescues of victims of sex trafficking during the COVID induced lockdown and after, Prerana's Anti Trafficking Center conducted a Desk Review of news articles that reported on rescues between May 2020 - October 2020. This document has an analysis of 46 news reports published during this period across the country.

## 2. Other Research Studies -

i) The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Rules, 2020: A Comparative Look: The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Rules, 2020 came into notification on 9th March 2020, after being published in the official gazette. The notification also brought in the repeal of POCSO Rules, 2012 except as respect to things done or omitted to be done before such repeal. Prerana's Anti-Trafficking Centre compared both sets of Rules along with creating a color-coded document to highlight the additions/amendments/changes in the new Rules, to strengthen the sector's understanding of the changes brought about by the new Rules.

ii) Red Light Area Mapping - Falkland Road and Vashi Turbe: Prerana has witnessed a number of changes in the red-light areas through the course of their work. In 2011, the team began mapping details of the red-light areas to give insights into their structures and realities. Understanding this is crucial for planning welfare and support services for women and children from these areas. This research document is based on the annual mapping that was done in February and March, 2020.

iii) Preliminary Inferences from Primary Data on Girl Child Victims rescued from the Sex Trade in Mumbai: Prerana shared this report based on the data collected over the past five years while working closely with victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Variables like age at the time of rescue, states of origin of the victims, places of rescue, etc. have been analyzed and shared in this report.

## C. BLOGS

### 1. Focus on COVID-19:

i) Voices from the field - COVID Stories: As part of Voices from the Field, Prerana initiated a new series of stories focusing on the COVID-19 pandemic, its effects on the communities Prerana works with and the field observations. Some of the key stories shared during this period are highlighted below -

- Mother's Day without Maa...
- Amplified Risks to Victims of Inter-Generational Prostitution
- Public Toilets... are they free to use?
- Missed Milestones - Stories of Disenfranchised Grief
- Field Work in the time of Covid-19
- One Day at Prerana - Working in the Red-Light Area amid the pandemic
- Reaching Home - The Struggles of a Migrant Family
- Finding psychiatric medicines amidst the lockdown

ii) Education for All? Prerana did a four-part series on the issues related to the education of the marginalized children and the cumulative inequalities that are compounded by the digital divide through the solution of 'online education'.

- The Lockdown and The Invisibles
- Ashram Schools - Missing from the discourse?
- The Other Side of the Divide
- The Many Roles of a School: Beyond Education

iii) Children's Homes and COVID-19: In this two-part series, the team discussed the impact of the lockdown on children and staff at the CCI, especially Children's Homes (recognized under Juvenile Justice [Care and Protection of Children] Act 2015 - JJ Act).

- » Operational Challenges due to COVID-19
- » Healthcare Challenges amidst the pandemic

## 2. Key Blogs

i) Through the Looking Glass with Priti Patkar and Dr. Pravin Patkar: The ATC team initiated a new series from Prerana's Co-Founders, Ms. Priti Patkar and Dr. Pravin Patkar. The objective of this new series is to actively share their learnings and challenges in working with child protection for the past 33 years.

- Attempts at Inclusion of the marginalized
- Mainstreaming the Marginalized
- Using the term 'Survivor': Facilitating conceptual clarity in the anti-trafficking domain
- Through the Looking Glass with Priti Patkar: 8 Questions that explain Prerana's Psycho-social Interventions

ii) Demystifying the Yale Study: Prerana's note on the research presented by scholars from Yale University is an opinion piece which draws attention to the biased and exclusionary study that was circulated widely in the media. The research titled "The effect of extended closure of red-light areas on COVID-19 transmission in India" recommends an extended lockdown in the RLAs to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This blog cross-examines all the claims made in the study and presents the opinions of the organization based on decades of field experience in RLAs.

*Publishing on Youth Ki Awaaz:*

*Prerana began to publish articles and blogs from the Online Resource Center on Youth ki Awaaz to amplify the reach of Prerana and its work.*

## Campaigns:

Prerana often runs online campaigns to further advocacy and policymaking in the context of the broader issues of anti-human trafficking and child protection. The following social media campaigns were run by Prerana covering a range of themes and observances in 2020-21:

1. **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons:** 30th July is observed globally as World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. The observance is directly relevant to Prerana's work in the anti-trafficking domain and is a regular observance for the organization. The details of the campaign are outlined below:

i. **Tweetathon on 'Right to Rehabilitation of Victims of Trafficking':** The Prerana Team came together to tweet about different aspects of rehabilitation including civil, medical, legal and economic aspects. They discussed the gaps in the existing policies and processes and also touched upon how different organizations could address the issues.

ii. **Voices from The Abyss:** Prerana amplified the voices of 10 women from the Red Light Areas. These women spoke about what rehabilitation during COVID-19 means to them and the challenges they were facing due to the lockdown. This campaign was executed on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

iii. **First Responders to Human Trafficking:** In alignment with the Global 2020 theme to focus on acknowledging and providing support to Frontline Workers, Prerana also acknowledged the work done by Prerana's frontline workers in all its programs.

iv. **Tweet Chat in partnership with SafeCity:** Safecity, an organization that works for women's right to access public spaces, conducted a campaign to observe the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. Prerana was invited to take over their Twitter handle @pinthecreep and talk about the challenges in Anti-Human Trafficking work during COVID-19.

V. **Corporate Awareness:** Prerana reached out to their existing partners DSP, Best Alternatives, Godrej and Johnson & Johnson to spread awareness on the issue of human trafficking among their employees. This initiative was executed in partnership with The Movement India.

## 2. 16 Days of Activism

Prerana has been committed to the issue of ending violence against women and children for over three decades now. Every year, the organization shares the voices of communities as a part of the 16 days campaign. This year, Prerana shared stories from the ground on the issues of domestic and emotional violence, and also brought forth its observations of working with victims. 15 stories were shared, discussing experiences of domestic violence among the victims with whom various teams of Prerana work. The campaign concluded with a Twitter Chat on discussing ways to address gender-based violence. Majlis, Breakthrough, Ungender, Save the Children India, and Sayfty were the participating organizations for the Chat held on 10th December 2020.

## 3. Child Rights Week:

International Child Rights Week is observed globally every year from the 14th to the 20th of November with the intention of upholding the rights of children and working towards their welfare. This year, in the spirit of Child Participation, Prerana asked the children from all programs what their dreams for India were. Some of these honest and sincere responses were shared on Prerana's social media channels throughout the week.

Prerana also conducted a Tweetathon on 19th November to speak about the importance of child participation while working with children.

**4. Mera Haq Meri Pehchaan:** During COVID-19, some women from the red light areas shared with us their intention of starting an alternative livelihood. After multiple discussions with these women, Prerana decided to provide them with micro grants to start their own micro businesses. This campaign shared stories of seven women who were provided with these micro funds and how they moved ahead with sheer determination.

**5. National Girl Child Day:** National Girl Child Day is observed on 24th January with the aim of drawing attention to the persistent inequalities that girls continue to face in contemporary times. Every year, Prerana observes this day to have conversations around the rights of girls and the duty of the stakeholders in protecting these rights. This year Prerana interviewed three people who closely work with girl children as part of the campaign. A Twitter Relay was also organized where partner organizations tweeted on a particular theme of working with girl children. The relay lasted 6 hours from 11:00 - 5:00 on 24th January 2020.

**6. International Women's Day:** Prerana's team executed a campaign from 6th March to 8th March with the intention of observing the International Women's Day. The key components of the campaign were -

i) **Women at Prerana:** Prerana appreciated the work that #WomenAtPrerana undertake, and interviewed three employees (Ms. Aruna Katkar, Ms. Mugdha Dandekar and Ms. Prachi Naik) who have been associated with Prerana for over a decade.

i) **WomenAtPrerana:** Interview with Aruna Katkar (Project Manager, Night Care Center)

ii) #WomenAtPrerana: Interview with Prachi Naik (Project Manager, Institutional Placement Program)

iii) #WomenAtPrerana: Interview with Mugdha Dandekar (Project Head, Night Care Center)

ii) Powerful women in anti-trafficking: The campaign shared the challenges of working in the anti-human trafficking space from the lens of three founders of NGOs in different parts of India as the #PowerfulWomenOfAHT. Ms. Hasina Kharbhih (Founder, Impulse NGO Network), Ms. Triveni Acharya (Founder, Rescue Foundation) and Ms. Sunitha Krishnan (Founder, Prajwala) were interviewed.

i) #PowerfulWomenOfAHT: Interview with Hasina Kharbhih (Founder, Impulse NGO Network)

ii) #PowerfulWomenOfAHT: Interview with Triveni Acharya (Founder, Rescue Foundation)

iii) #PowerfulWomenOfAHT: Interview with Sunitha Krishnan (Founder, Prajwala)

iii) He For She

The campaign also highlighted how men can play a crucial role in furthering the rights of women. The team spoke to Mr. Kailas Pagare who is the Controller of Rationing & Director of Civil Supplies for the Government of Maharashtra. Mr Pagare has been instrumental in ensuring access to ration supplies for women in the red-light areas.

He for She: Interview with Mr. Kailas Pagare

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# CREDITS

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**[www.fighttrafficking.org](http://www.fighttrafficking.org)**

*Your trusted knowledge partner in the fight against  
human trafficking*

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