

Social Work in Criminal Justice

Newsletter – Volume 1.2 – October – December, 2020.

Prayas is a social work demonstration project of the Centre for Criminology and Justice, School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, established in 1990.

New pathways

Prayas was invited to submit suggestions to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice, on Pre- and Post-Legislation Legislative Impact Assessment Status and the Way Forward.

Ms. Babita Salvi, Prayas Social Worker, was nominated as a representative to the Mahila Shakti Kendra Committee under Collector of Mumbai (Suburban). The Kendra has been set up for the implementation of welfare schemes for women.

A help desk for women, children and senior citizens shall be set up at the Chembur Police Station in collaboration with District Women and Child Development Office, where social workers of Prayas shall be posted.

Contributed to/organised webinars with Government Departments, Social Work and Law colleges

- Legal Aid and Rehabilitation of Prisoners for Prison Officers of Bihar Prisons
- Social Work in Criminal Justice System
- Probation of Offenders' Act
- Role and Scope of Social Worker in Criminal Justice System (CJS)

- Para-legal training and skill development workshop.

Research during the year towards knowledge-building and practice

- Prisoners Contact with Families: Procedures, Practices and Experiences.
- Women Engaged in Illicit Liquor Trade: Challenges in the Rehabilitation Process.

Documentation for advocating procedural change vis-à-vis children of prisoners during the years.

- Situation of children of women prisoners left outside custodial institutions [Submitted to National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)]
- Situation and challenges experienced by children of women prisoners left outside custodial institutions [Submitted to Delhi Commission for protection of Child Rights]
- Suggestions to improve legal aid system [Submitted to Home Department, Maharashtra].

- Suggestions to reduce overcrowding of under trial prisoners [Submitted to Home Department, Maharashtra]
- Family Planning Association of India (FPAI) organised a session on menstrual hygiene for released prisoners.

On-going intervention with released prisoners

- Counselling was provided to 71 released prisoners as well as families of present prisoners.
- Facilitated citizenship rights documents for six released prisoners.
- Medical support was provided to 9 released prisoners along with the families of current prisoners.
- 12 children of prisoners were provided education.
- 5 released prisoners were supported in access benefits of government schemes.
- Assistance was given to 2 family members of prisoners enabling them to acquire vocational training.
- Emergency support was provided to 5 prisoners and their families.
- 53 released prisoners and families of present prisoners were given ratio kits.
- Financial Aid for paying house-rent was given to 3 released prisoners and families of prisoner.
- Distributed 4 sewing machines at Bharuch District Prison for inmates.
- 14 released prisoners were counselled online during the lockdown.

Building Community Partnerships

- The education of 9 children in conflict with law was supported by Nargis Dutt Foundation.
- Tuition fee for 6 students at National Institute of Open Schooling was sponsored by donors.
- Mobile recharge for clients was done through the donations by Tata Motors employees and individual donors.
- Financial aid was provided to 4 clients for medical and essentials.

Livelihood development

- Clients were taught to make cloth-bound folders, towards livelihood development.

Training of Prayas staff

- A training programme was organised by International Association of Facilitators to orient staff on skills pertaining to online sessions.
- A webinar on Sensitization on Convergence of Schemes on Economic Empowerment for functionaries of Civil Society Organizations of Western states was attended by the staff.

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