



**THREE DAYS WEBINAR ON
“PRISON AS A CENTRE FOR REHABILITATION”**

Organized by

**Gujarat Institute of Prison and Correctional Administration,
Ahmedabad**

&

**Prayas, a field action project of Tata Institute of Social Sciences,
Mumbai**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bharuch Unit, Prayas is thankful to Dr. K.L.N. Rao, DG Prisons and Correctional Administration, Gujarat and Dr. Vijay Raghavan, Director, Prayas for giving us an opportunity and extending support to organize this webinar.

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Shri. Jagjit Singh, IG Prisons, Haryana
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Shri. I.V. Chaudhari, Prison Superintendent, Bharuch District Prison
Shri. Nasherudin S.L. Prison GIPCA, Ahmedabad
Shri. Amit Vasava, District Child Protection Officer, Vadodara & Chhota Udaipur
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A Three days Webinar on “Prison as a Center for Rehabilitation”

Total Number of Participants: 44 participants comprising Superintendents and Jailors.

Dates of the Webinar: March 22 - 24, 2021

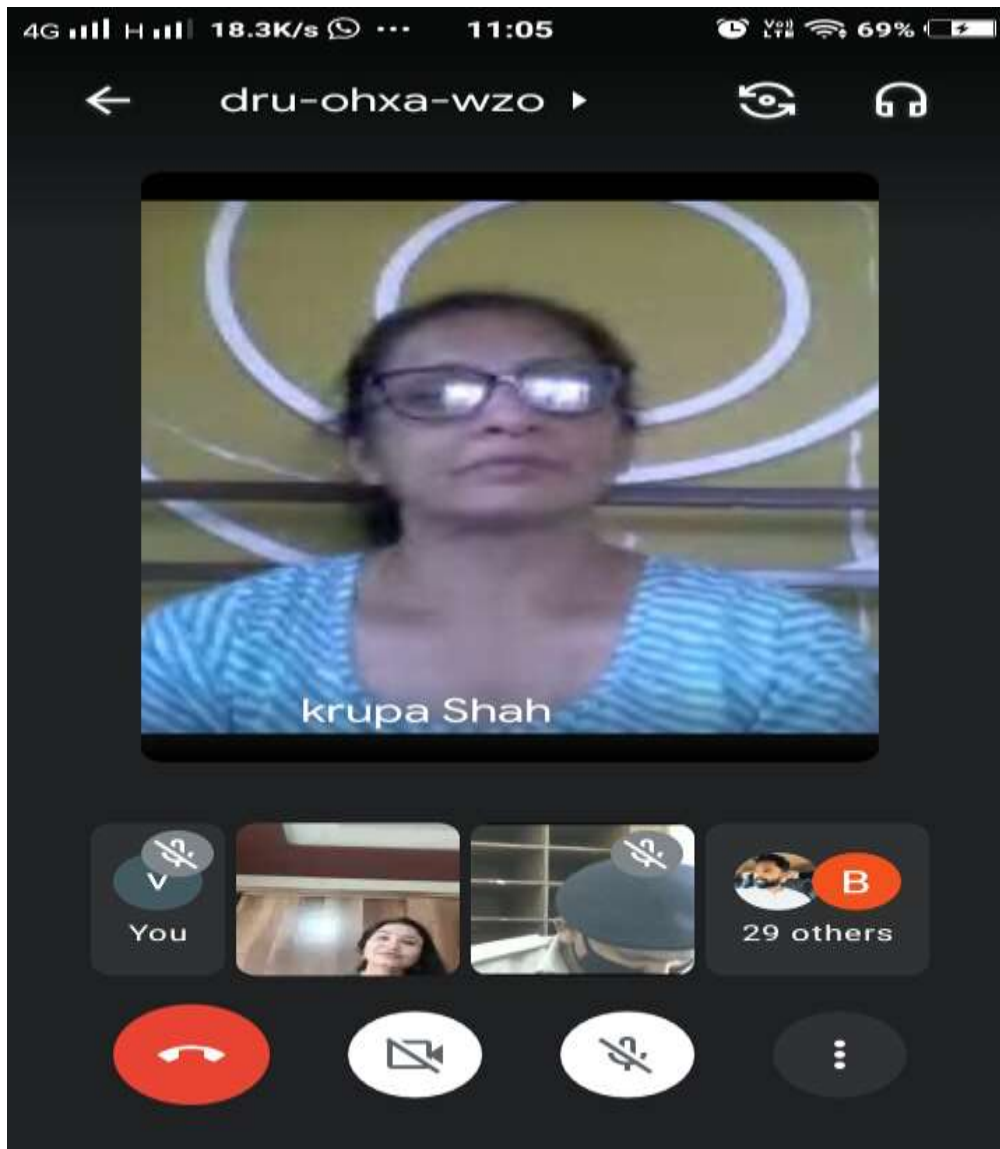
Objectives of the Webinar:

- Orientation of the prison staff with regards to their role in the process of rehabilitation of under trial and convicted prisoners
- To discuss the challenges faced by the prisoners and their families in the process of rehabilitation with the prison officers.
- Sharing of roles and experiences of other allied departments of the government in the process of rehabilitation of prisoners
- Sharing of good practices of other prison departments in the rehabilitation of prisoners.

Day 1 - Monday - March 22, 2021

1. Welcome Address and Introduction to the Webinar

Shri. Y. P. Gohil, Superintendent, Palanpur District Prison welcomed the participants and introduced the concept of rehabilitation of prisoners, discussed the objectives of the webinar and appreciated the efforts taken by Prayas in organizing the webinar which is useful to the prison staff. Thereafter Ms. Krupa Shah, Field Coordinator, Bharuch Unit, Prayas, welcomed the resource persons and participants on behalf of Prayas. She thanked Dr. K. L. N. Rao, DGP Prisons and Correctional Administration, Gujarat for encouraging Prayas and for giving necessary permission for organizing the Webinar. Ms. Shah welcomed Shri Rohan Anand, Superintendent, Central Prison of Ahmedabad and also welcomed Dr. Vijay Raghavan, Director Prayas. Ms. Shah thanked Shri. N. S. Lohar, Principal of Gujarat Institute of Prison and Correctional Administration, Ahmedabad. Shri. A. I. Shaikh, Lecturer and Course Coordinator and Shri. Bipinbhai Patel, Head Constable for coordinating and cooperating with Prayas for organizing the Webinar. Ms. Shah explained the structure and the schedule of the Webinar and concluded the welcome address by wishing successful completion of the webinar.



2. Objectives of the Webinar and Introducing Prison as Rehabilitation Centre

Resource Persons:

- (i) Shri Rohan Anand, Superintendent of Central Prison, Ahmedabad
- (ii) Dr. Vijay Raghavan, Director, Prayas, a Field Action Project of Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Objectives of the webinar were discussed by Shri Rohan Anand, Superintendent of Central Prison, Ahmedabad and Dr. Vijay Raghavan, Director, Prayas. They discussed the context of the webinar and introduced the topic “Prison as a center for rehabilitation”, and explained it methodologically.



(i) **Shri. Rohan Anand, Superintendent of Central Prison, Ahmedabad.**

Shri Anand introduced to the participants the concept of Prison as Rehabilitation Centre

- **Prisons:** Buildings where people are kept as a punishment for a crime they have committed, or while they are waiting for trial.
- **Rehabilitation:** The process of helping somebody to have a normal, useful life again after they have been very ill or in prison for a long time is the act of starting to consider that somebody is good or acceptable after a long period during which they were considered bad or unacceptable.
- **Evolution of Prisons as an Institution**

- Rehabilitation has become an important part of the Criminal Justice System. Today, most of the prison set ups identify themselves as Correctional Administration set ups.
- **Philosophical roots of rehabilitation**
 - Criminal rehabilitation is based on the idea that people aren't inherently bad. This is the classic nature versus nurture argument. This school believes that people choose the wrong path due to the environment they are in.
 - Are people born bad or are they made that way due to poverty, bad parenting or abuse?
 - Studies have shown how nurturing (environmental influence) affects crime rates. The list here shows the most common factors:
 - Alcohol and Drugs
 - Poverty
 - Bad or Absent Parenting
 - Mental Illness
 - Education
- **Rationale of Rehabilitation:**

The rehabilitation model makes sense only if criminal behavior is caused and not merely a free-willed rational choice. If crime was a matter of free choices, then there would be nothing within particular individuals to be 'fixed' or changed. But if involvement in crime is caused by various factors, then logically re-offending can be reduced if correctional interventions are able to alter these factors.
- **Methods of Rehabilitation**

Providing rehabilitation to the inmates offers countless benefits to the individual inmates. The community that the inmate will re-enter upon their release is also vastly affected. The options for rehabilitation for inmates vary by facility, offense and sentence length.

Just like the cause of incarceration varies by inmate, the type of rehabilitation an inmate might respond to can also vary. Different methods of rehabilitation:

 1. Education Rehabilitation for Inmates
 - a) Study centers of IGNOU, BAOU, and IITE.
 - b) Gujarat University affiliated media certification.
 - c) Class 10th and 12th exam centers.

2. Employment Rehabilitation for Inmates

- a) Inmates are assigned work based on their skills and interests. Various skill development and vocational training activities have been undertaken at Gujarat prisons and re-skilling modules are also introduced periodically.
- b) The production process is standardized and is benchmarked against standards viz. ISO, FSSAI, GMP etc. Currently below activities are followed for trainings inside prison:
- c) Carpentry, weaving & handloom, bakery, Snacks, tailoring, masks making, sanitary pads & PPE Kits, chemicals, printing press, book binding, dairy, diamond polishing.
- d) Constant efforts are made to introduce new products and services.

3. Counseling Rehabilitation for Inmates

- a) To offer prison inmates counselling services prison authorities in Gujarat had assessed the need for setting up psychological cells at four central jails in the state.
- b) An exhaustive study was done to assess violent behavior of inmates and a psychological intervention was introduced.
- c) After a year of success at Ahmedabad Central Prison, similar intervention centers have been established in all the central prisons of Gujarat.

4. Wellness Rehabilitation for Inmates

- a) Ahmedabad Central Prison is well equipped in terms of healthcare facilities with a team of 10 doctors, nurses, paramedics, pharmacists etc.
- b) There are OPD units and an in-house hospital with a capacity of 20 beds.
- c) The hospital is provided with facilities like X-Ray, Sonography etc.
- d) Regular outdoor fitness sessions viz. Yoga, sports, meditation etc. are organized.
- e) During the Covid pandemic there has been constant monitoring of health, test & isolation activities to keep the epidemic under control.

5. Community Rehabilitation for Inmates

- a) Community radio services have been launched to enable the prisoners to have meaningful interactions with each other.

- b) Leaves are granted to prisoners periodically as per rules to enable them in continuing their community ties.
- c) Even during the covid pandemic, the inmates were allowed to keep in touch with their families through video calls, e-mulakats etc.
- d) Frequent events and programs are organized to develop a sense of engagement.

- **Aspects of a good rehabilitation programme**

1. Inmates' health is taken care of.
2. Inmates are able to maintain social ties
3. Inmates learn new skills to assist them in employment.
4. Inmates are treated like a 'normal' person rather than as a 'criminal'.
5. Inmates' innate goodness, pride and self-esteem are restored.
6. Inmates are able to receive regular counselling.

(iii) **Dr. Vijay Raghavan, Director, Prayas & Professor, Center for Criminology and Justice, School of Social Work, TISS, Mumbai**



Role of prison in rehabilitation process

Dr. Raghavan began his presentation by explaining various categories of prisoners which could be categorized by age, gender, socio economic background, crime, whether they are undertrial or convicted and so on.

Interventions are done as per the classification of the UN standard rule, 1985. Understanding the situation of their home, family, education, skill, self, socio economic status is vital for rehabilitation.

Prisoners can also be categorized into those who have family support and those who don't have family support. We can check how frequently the family can come and meet for Mulakat and how many family members can visit. Prisoners who do not have family support tend to seek support from the inmates, this results in them being involved in criminal activities for a long time.

In prison only 5% of criminals accept that they have committed the crime 95% of them don't. Initially prisoners are not able to accept that they have committed any crime and they think they have been entrapped into this situation.

When we get into the case and follow up on the prisoners to make them comfortable enough to open up about their situation. This leads us to the root of crime and the actual reason behind the crime. For their minds to be changed we have to rebuild their trust towards the society and this is where the prison officers play an important role. Also, with other supportive hands like Police Officer, judiciary and counsellor. Role of social workers is also very important in making prison a rehabilitation center. It helps in reconnecting socially. Important visits that the social workers have to make are to their homes, police station and courts. According to PO. Act 1948 reports of social workers are taken into consideration.

What the person thinks about themselves is also important as they are going to make the decision about whether they still feel the need to go back to the crime or if they will find better ways to deal with the problem.

Dr. Raghavan concluded his presentation by wishing for the success of the webinar.

Session 1

Profile, Needs and Challenges of prisoners

Resource Persons:

- (i) Shri Vikas Kadam, Senior social worker, Prayas, Mumbai unit
- (ii) Ms. Megha Thakkar, Social Worker, Bharuch Unit, Prayas

(i) Shri Vikas Kadam, Senior Social Worker, Mumbai Unit, Prayas

Profile, needs & challenges of male prisoners

Shri Kadam presented the overview of profile, needs, and challenges faced by the male youth prisoners. When the accused stays more in the jail and has more time to think in the prison environment with other inmates, his mental and financial being goes through a lot. The following aspects that affect an under trial need to be looked into and thought about: effects on prisoners as individual, effects on family, social stigma, visits to courts, problem by police, loans taken for courts expenses, advocate fees, they even have to change their residence, effect on family's education, sometimes they even have to drop out their studies. He emphasized that working with the family is critical to rehabilitation of the prisoners.

Shri Kadam also presented four types of clients (prisoners) and their families, an analysis from the rich ground-level experiences of Prayas

- First times offenders [18 to 21] years of age
- Children of female prisoners
- Mental health affected group
- Migrants

Shri Kadam also discussed the profile of each group reaching prison.

(ii) Ms. Megha Thakkar, Social Worker, Bharuch Unit, Prayas

Profile, needs & challenges of female prisoners

- Victims of physical, mental & sexual abuse.
- Disturbed family relations
- Low level of Education
- Lack of Vocational Skills
- Effects to children due to imprisonment
- Lack of Legal support

Challenges and needs of female prisoners

- Adjusting in prison environment
- Needs for daily requirements
- Need for medical
- Needs for Legal support
- Women and family Unaware about the legal status of the case.
 - Acquiring support from TLSA/DLSA/SLSA
 - Lack of family support
 - Breaking of contacts with family
 - Family unable/unaware to extend support
 - Needs to strengthen family ties so that their support could be obtained
 - Issues related to children (inside and outside prison)

Session 2:

Mental Health Issues of Prisoners

Resource Person: Dr. Penelope Tong, Fieldwork Supervisor, TISS



Dr. Tong began by introducing the session by discussing the reasons for participation in a training focused on mental health issues of prisoners.

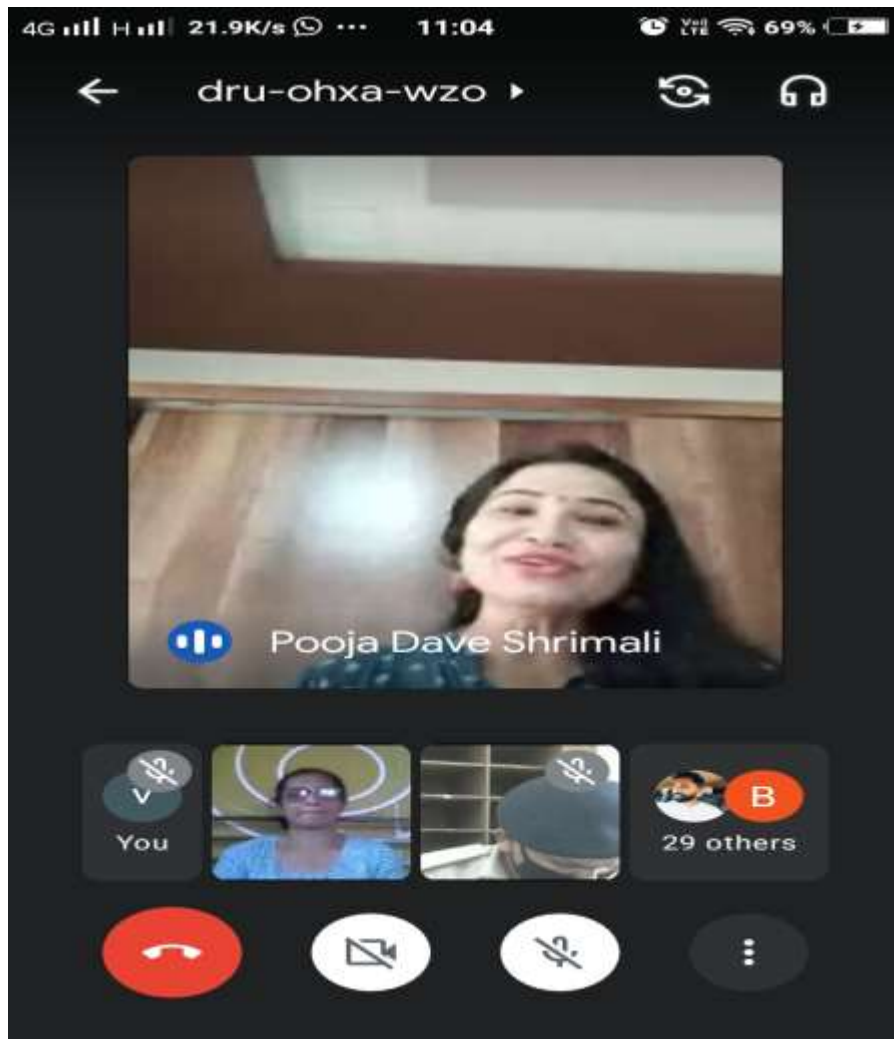
- For addressing mental health issues as part of custodial administration
- Recognition of human rights of persons with mental health conditions
- Believe that prison should be a space for help and healing
- Believe that good mental health is important for reformation and rehabilitation.

Then Dr. Tong continued with her presentation, topics covered were as follows:

- **Importance of addressing mental health issues in prison:**
 - Because mental health conditions have a higher prevalence in prison than in the general population.
 - Because crime and incarceration can be preceded by, or cause mental disturbance.
 - Addressing mental health could reduce some extent of criminality and criminal justice processing

- **Mental health conditions visible in prison and their identification:**
 - Substance abuse, psychoses, depression, suicidal tendencies, personality disorder, stress, anxiety, somatoform disorders and so on.

- **A basic minimum response to mental health in prison:**
 - Staff training for understanding mental health conditions including suicide prevention.
 - Prisoner training for peer support at times of entry, prevention of suicide, other difficult phases.
 - MH status at entry and after – Cognitive, emotional, behavioral, offense, family connection.
 - Referral for psychiatric assessment and treatment
 - De-addiction programmes.
 - Intervention by social workers for individuals with and without family.
 - Group and awareness programmes.
 - Life skills, hobbies, recreation. Mental health support for prison staff.



Day 2 - Session 1: Rehabilitation Services for Male and Female Prisoners: Role of Social Workers

Resource Persons:

- (i) Shri Mahesh Jadav, Senior Social Worker, Mumbai Unit, Prayas
- (ii) Ms. Vaishali Jaiswal, Unit Coordinator, Bharuch Unit, Prayas

(i) Shri Mahesh Jadav initiated the session by sharing the objectives of Prayas for working with undertrial prisoners.

Objectives of Prayas:

- To demonstrate the need for social work intervention in the criminal justice system such as police stations, prison, court & Institutions
- To provide services for rehabilitation and prevent further criminalization of the person in crime.
- To demonstrate the need for social work intervention in the criminal justice system such as police stations, prison, court & Institutions.

- To provide services for rehabilitation and prevent further criminalization of the person in crime.
- To work toward the Legal aid service for inmates through DLSA.
- To improve access to the social & legal rights of prisoners.
- To assist a person in leading a life with dignity and peace.

Further the interventions by the social workers inside prison were presented by Shri Jadhav:

Social workers regularly visit prison to reach out to inmates to guide and give information on the Prayas' Rehabilitation Programme and District Legal Aid Service.

- Social workers counsel inmates for rehabilitation and to overcome their personal problems.
- They arrange sessions for guidance and information on vocational training and education.
- Social workers discuss with the Superintendent, senior jailor, circle jailor, and judicial jailor regarding interventions by Prayas Social workers.

Later on, the interventions of social workers outside the prison were elaborated upon:

- Social Workers contact the inmate's family members.
- They visit their respect court & contact their advocate & arrange for DLSA Lawyer.
- They visit the local police station, so that the client is not wrongly detained because of his previous background / records.
- Social workers work with community resources such as shelters, vocational training institutes etc.
- They pay home visits to understand the family situation, its socio-economic and psychological background and to understand the positive side of the client (inmates) from home.
- After the release of a client, they are connected to Prayas Youth Development Center.
- Counselling of clients (inmate) and parents at the youth development center.
- Providing emergency support to clients and their family. (i.e., travelling, medical, rationing, etc.)
- Visits to court, remains in contact with client's advocates and to arrange DLSA Lawyer if necessary.

Finally, the coordination process between the prison department & social workers of Prayas was explained:

- Weekly meeting and monthly meetings with prison staff to discuss cases handled by social workers.
- Discussion on needs of inmates like for obtaining lawyer, bail, travel and rehabilitation.
- Participation in IDC meetings.

(ii) The session was then continued by Ms. Vaishali Jaiswal. The topic that was focused on was “Rehabilitation services for female inmates”.

Ms. Jaiswal discussed intervention of social workers with women prison inmates:

- Detailed and regular counselling sessions with inmates
- Legal support to inmates
- Follow-up for support to family of inmates
 - Home-visits
 - Coordination with Sarpanch, Talaties for getting local support to families
 - Support for arranging mulakat with inmates in prison
 - Supporting the families’ members towards rehabilitation of the family and providing emergency support if required.
 - Support to children of prisoners
 - Support for education of family/children
 - Support for Vocational Training
 - Medical support
 - Support for Income Generation

She elaborated that female inmate can relax and feel tension free if they know that family is stable due to support provided by social workers and thus inmates participate in rehabilitation activities while in prison.

Session was continued with discussions about role of social worker with regards to prison staff and administration

- Presentation of work and follow-up is done by social workers with Jailor, Prison Superintendents and other Prison staff at least twice a week.
- She mentioned that Intervention of social workers is helpful in reducing the burden of prison staff.
- Maintaining regular contact with the DGP Office.
- Participating in core committee and other committee meetings organized for the rights and rehabilitation of prisoners

Session 2:

Intervention with Children of Prisoners, Judgment of R. D. Upadhyay V/S State of Andhra Pradesh and Government Schemes available for Children of Prisoners.

Resource Persons:

- (i) Ms. Komal Padhtare, Social Worker, Prayas, Mumbai Unit
- (ii) Ms. Devyani Tumma, Sr. Social Worker, Prayas, Mumbai Unit
- (iii) Shri. Amit Vasava, District Child Protection Officer, Vadodara & Chhota Udaipur

The session started with a presentation by Ms. Komal Padhtare, Ms. Padhtare, during her presentation, discussed categories of Children of Prisoners with whom intervention is required, needs of the children while inside prison, effects of being in prison with their mothers, needs of children who are left outside.

- The categories of children of prisoners, with whom intervention is required with
 - Children of Undertrials/Convicts:
 - Children up to the age of 6 years can be with their mothers inside the prison.
 - Children after the age of 6 are left outside either with families, relatives, in institutions, under foster care etc.
- Needs of the Children of Prisoners while inside the Prison:
 - Clothing
 - Health and nutrition -
 - Education
 - Psychological upbringing
- Effects on children of being in prison with their mother:
 - Deprivation of education
 - Effect on the personality development of the children
 - Lack of recreational facilities
 - Lack of contact with outside world
 - Exposure to unhealthy environment of the prison
- Needs of the Children of Prisoners left outside:
 - Care & Protection of the children
 - Shelter
 - Health
 - Education
 - General upbringing of the children

Ms. Padhtare also discussed importance of in person mulakat with imprisoned mothers and children living out. She also discussed about required provisions for children of women inmates who are left outside.

- Required provisions for children left outside.
- To be kept under appropriate care and protection of either family, relatives. Institutionalization should be considered as the last option.
- Meeting of the institutionalized children with the imprisoned mothers should be done once in 15 days.
- The children should avail benefits of government schemes.

(ii) Ms. Devayani Tumma then took over and presented on the Supreme Court's Judgement (case of R.D. Upadhyay V/s. State of A.P) related to children of prisoners.

Supreme Court Judgment in the case of R.D. Upadhyay V/s. State of A.P.

Facilities inside the prison– both for the pregnant and lactating mothers, children from 0-5 years of age.

- Responsibilities of the Prison Department, DWCD
- Special diet for the pregnant and lactating mothers
- Provision of appropriate health facilities inside the prison– regular attendance by doctor, medicines, etc.
- Appropriate vaccination and other medical needs of the child, registration of the child's birth
- Provision of appropriate clothing and bedding for the mother and child

Role of Police

- At the time of arrest, the police should inquire with the women about the status of their children.
- If necessary, take action with regard to the restoration of the child to the mother.
- Refer to the respective Child Welfare Committee for institutionalization of the children left outside.

Role of the Judiciary

- On producing the arrested women, the magistrates should inquire about her children.
- Steps to be taken to restore children to their mother or through CWC institutionalization of the children.
- Through regular visits to the prison, the District Judge can try to ensure that proper facilities are available for the children of prisoners inside the prison.

- Can order the Probation Officers with regard to the arrangement of meetings between the imprisoned mother and the institutionalized children

Role of prison authorities

- Enquire on admission into prison about children left outside
- Referral to either any NGO or the Liaison Officer
- Application to the court for children to be kept with mother inside
- Coordinate with DWCD with regard to children housed in institutions

Role of the Probation Officer (DWCD)

- Regular visits of the Probation Officers to the Female & Male Sections of the prison.
- The Probation Officer should liaison between the imprisoned parent/s and their children left outside.
- The Probation Officer should arrange for the care and protection of the children left outside. (Shelter admission, Scholarship and Medical aid etc.)
- Ensure weekly meetings between the imprisoned parent and institutionalized children.
- Coordinate or network with NGOs with regard to any assistance to the children

Role of Voluntary Organizations

- Assist in the outreach of the children on the information from prison or parents.
- Coordinating/ networking between child/ parent/ prison/ probation officer/ court.
- Assist the family in regard to protection of property such as house and other belongings with the help of the police and court.

Implementation of the Judgment

- Efforts being made to get the children of prisoners to be recognized as a special category of children
- Follow-up with the prison and DWCD departments in regard to the implementation of the judgment
- Efforts to motivate other NGOs working in other districts and States
- Organizing awareness programs, sensitization workshops, etc.

(iii.) Shri Amit Vasava spoke about the government schemes that can be used for children of prisoners.

He gave detailed information about various schemes like Sponsorship scheme, (Central Sponsorship Scheme & State Sponsorship Scheme), Aftercare Scheme,

Foster Care Scheme (Central Foster Care Scheme, State Foster Care Scheme) and Adoption.

Shri. Vasava elaborated on the below mentioned schemes.

Eligibility for Central Government Sponsorship Scheme

- The child should be placed in a children's home for 6 months in the institution for institutional care.
- The child must be under 18 years of age.
- Family members'/guardian's annual income should be less than Rs. 24000/-.
- The mother should be a widow, divorced or abandoned by the family.
- A child whose either parent is imprisoned is eligible for assistance.
- Children whose parents are suffering from serious illnesses such as cancer, leprosy, HIV.
- Due to the accident if the parents are disabled and are unable to take care of children.

Shri Amit Vasava then, in detail, discussed state rules for the same scheme.

Eligibility for State Government Sponsorship Scheme

- The child should continue education; support will be stopped if the child discontinues education.
- The children of widowed, divorced mother or woman abandoned by the family will be eligible for this scheme
- The annual income of both the parents of the child or the mother or father should not exceed Rs. 1,20,000 /- in rural areas and Rs. 1,50,000 in urban areas.
- In cases where both the parents of the child have died or have been disabled due to a serious accident or are mentally disabled and are not able to take care of their children due to inability to earn a living. The benefit of this scheme will be available to their children.
- The benefit of this scheme will be available to the child whose parents are in prison or either of them is in jail and the other has died.
- Children whose parents are suffering from serious illnesses such as cancer, leprosy, HIV, sickle cell, thalassemia etc. could also get benefit of this scheme
- The child will be eligible for the benefit of this scheme only if the child is institutionalized for a minimum of one year in a child care institution.

Financial aid

- Under the Central Government Sponsorship Scheme, financial support of Rs. 2000 is provided
- Under the sponsorship scheme of the state government, Rs. 3000/- per month is paid through DBT in the child's bank account.

Session 3

Creating Pro-rehabilitation Environment in Prison in coordination with Allied departments- Vocational Training and Library

Resource Persons:

- (i.) Shri Aashrey Shah, Sr. Consultant, Gujarat Skill Development Mission, Gandhinagar
- (ii.) Shri Prashant V. Patil, District Library Officer, District Library, Thane, Maharashtra

(i.) Shri Aashrey Shah talked about the skill development opportunities for the prisoners. He then elaborated on the Gujarat Skill Development Mission (GDSM) programme. He also talked about several other skill development schemes and other major skill development projects. He gave detailed information about Kaushalya Vardhan Kendra (KVK). KVK skill development programme is initiated in 10 prisons of Gujarat. Around 15 skill development courses like wood work, industrial sewing machine operator, DTP & print publishing assistant, Art and gas welder, Beauty therapy and hair styling, spoken English and soft skills, Basic electrical model, computer fundamentals, basic electrical, basic tailoring house wiring etc., were started in various prisons according to the needs expressed by prison inmates. Around 2000 prisoners have obtained skill development training under the KVK scheme.

Shri. Shah shared a success story of a Skill development programme undertaken for inmates of Ahmedabad Central Prison. He also discussed the impact of skill development programmes on inmates. He mentioned that inmates are able to plan for their future after getting skill training. Trainers reach out positively, which encourages inmates to learn new skills. It has been observed that better relations are developed between prisoners and prison staff. The inmates have new learning experience and also their jail term is used productively.

He concluded his presentation by mentioning that KVK are modified and new scheme is launched called 'Swa- Saksham'

(ii.) The next presentation was by Shri. Prashant V. Patil. He mainly focused on the library act of 1967 that was implemented in Maharashtra.

He mentioned the importance of libraries for prisoners.

- Books provide psychological motivation to prisoners.

- The purpose of the prison library is to provide recreation, support education, and help with the personal development of inmates.
- Every inmate has the right to access a library and most prisons should have a library.
- Prison Libraries serve both prisoners and the public by helping to educate prisoners, reduce recidivism, and improve family bonds through reading.
- Research shows a correlation between education and reduced recidivism, and libraries play an important role in reducing recidivism.

The Prison libraries also have books provided with Indira Gandhi National Open University. Prisoners can access the outside world by newspapers that are accessible to them through the libraries. The maintenance of the libraries is done through a voluntary group of prisoners.

Day-3: Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Session 1:

Role of Probation Officers & Welfare Officers for Rehabilitation of Prisoners.

Resource Person: Shri Milanbhai Pandit, Probation Officers, Rajkot.

Shri Pandit gave a Presentation on Probation of Offenders' Act, 1958. He also explained provisions of the act under section 3(2), Section 4. He continued his presentation by giving details on Kedi Sahay Yojana.

Some highlights of Kedi Sahay Yojna:

- Economic support to family members of convicted prisoners for the purpose of income generation of the family – support provided up to Rs 25000.
- The jail term of the inmate should be 5 years or more. And support is given only once.
- Support is given for income generation for various activities like sewing work, work of animal husbandry etc.
- The family income should not be more than Income limitation for the benefit in the scheme is 1,50,000 Rs. for urban area residents and 120000 for rural area residents.
- Payment of the scheme is done through digital mode directly in the beneficiary's bank account.
- Application for getting benefit in the scheme is done by prisoners through the jail.

- The home visit report is submitted to the Kedi Sahay Committee where the approval is given by the committee.
- Approval letter sent to Samaj Surakhsha officer and the officer proceeds for digital payment.
- He also discussed “Nasa Mukh Bharat Abhiyan”. Under this programme various awareness programmes are organized for deaddiction. Total 8 districts of Gujarat have been selected under this campaign.

Some Discussions during the session:

- Inmates can apply for the benefit of the Probation of Offenders Act through application to court by his/her advocate. Afterwards the court will do further procedure.
- Probation Officer will follow-up for inmates if released under the Act. They regularly visit their home, neighbor or job for follow-up and to know the behavior of inmates after release. They are constantly in contact with inmates.
- Benefit under this act is only possible when the case is almost at the conviction stage but conviction is not done to the inmate i.e., before the judgment when there are almost chances of conviction.
- Court considers history and any previous judgments if any regarding inmates while giving benefits under the Act.
- Inmates can suggest to their advocate to take benefit under the P.O. Act.

Session-2: Initiatives by State Prison Department for Rehabilitation of Prisoners

Resource Persons:

- (i) Shri Jagjit Singh, I.G. Prison Haryana
- (ii) Shri M.R. Bhaskar, DIG of Prison (HR), Telangana (Retd.)
- (iii) Shri I.V. Chaudhry, Superintendent, Bharuch District Prison, Gujarat.

(I) Presentation of Best Prison Practices of Haryana Prisons by IG of Haryana Prisons Shri Jagjit Singh Sir:



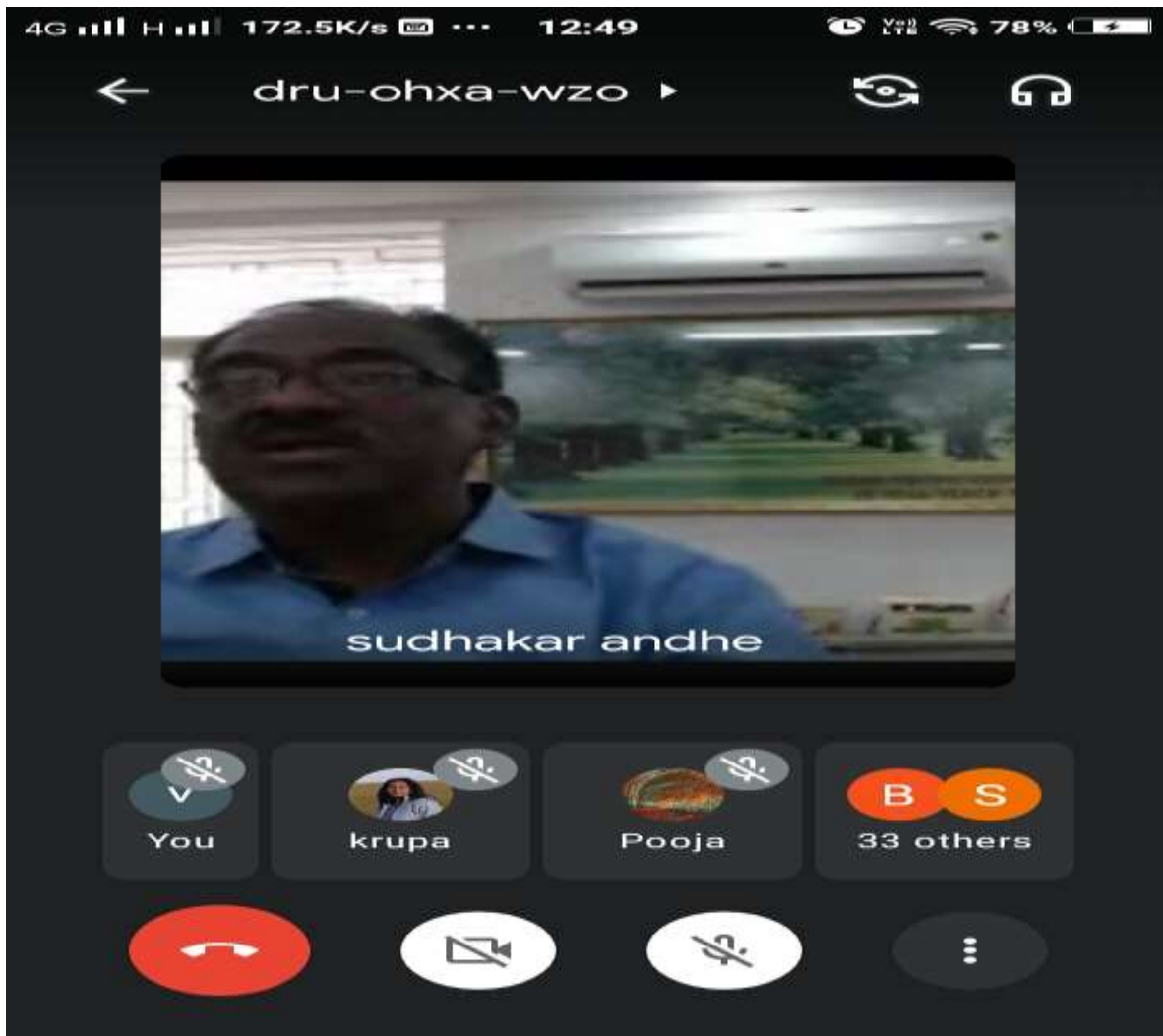
- Prisons are considered as correctional centers. If a released prisoner does not offend again then it is considered as correction.
- Prison as Reformation center- Providing environment of rehabilitation through education, vocational skills, counseling etc.

- Prisons as rehabilitation centers should provide various rehabilitation services.
 - Reintegration may mean coming out of the social stigma & rehabilitation in the society.
 - He later gave information about the process of admission, in the Haryana Prisons.
- Discussions are done with the inmate at the time of his/her admission. His/her health status is checked. Background is discussed. Details of education, vocational skills, case history, family details, economic activity before the arrest is taken by the prison officer.
 - Barracks are allocated to inmates based on crime. Whether repeated offender or first timer. Scientific classification is done. Repeated offenders and first timers are kept separated.
 - He said that Prisons in Haryana are neat and clean, full of gardens and greenery.
 - He mentioned that phone calls to family are allowed and during covid 19, video calling facility with family was also allowed.
 - Canteen facility is also available for the inmates.
 - Prison officers are trained to deal nicely with the inmates.
 - Legal aid services are provided to the inmates
 - Benefit of the legal aid scheme,
 - Meetings with Legal aid advocates,
 - Legal counselling etc.
 - Information about rights and duties of prisoners are mentioned on the walls of the prison.
 - Support to family and children of prisoners
 - Stipend to children of prisoners.
 - Institutionalization of children of prisoners in need
 - Support for education of children
 - Counselling sessions are organized for inmates by
 - the Prison officers
 - Medical officers
 - Barrack in charge
 - Long-term Prisoners.
 - Regular visits by the NGOs in the prison.
 - Separate Radio station of prison.
 - Vocational trainings are organized for the prisoners.
 - Recreational and musical programmes are organized regularly in the prison.
 - Educational facilities for the inmates:
 - Literacy programmes are organized in the prison.

- Inmates are encouraged for higher education
- IGNOU classes are made available
- Degree & Diploma Courses are made available
- Skill development trainings are organized in prison.
- Awareness programmes are organized in the prison.
- Gainful engagement of inmates in:
 - Industries in prison – Employment in prison.
 - Involvement of prisoners in admin & security job of prison- at semi open prison and open prison.
 - Timely release / Payrole / Furlough to inmates.
- Remission to prisoners – inmates with good behavior in prison are benefited for reduction in conviction.

After the presentation, a documentary on Haryana Prison Reforms ‘Ujale Ki Aur’ was screened for participants.

(ii) Presentation of Best Practices in the Prisons of Telangana - by Shri M. R. Bhaskar, DIG Prisons (HR), Telangana (Retd.)



- He mentioned that Prisons should aim for reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners.
- Prison staff should study the reasons of criminal behavior of inmates.
- There is a Prison Development Board at Hyderabad State. Hence Prison department is not dependent on the government.
- Various skill development courses are available for prisoners.
- There are employment opportunities for inmates in prison.
- Also, employment opportunities are provided to release inmates.
- Regular placement programmes are organized for employment of released prisoners.
- Prison staffs are also very cooperative and they work towards rehabilitation of inmates.
- Reformation programmes for prison inmates like literacy programme, education, skill development courses, giving gainful employment etc., are encouraged by the prison department.
- A Hand Sanitizer Unit is initiated at Cherappalli Central Prison.

- There is a petrol pump initiated by the Haryana prison which is completely run by the released women inmates.

(iv.) Presentation of Best Practices in Prisons of Gujarat State: Bharuch District Prison Superintendent Shri I. V. Chaudhari Sir:



Shri Chaudhary presented Reformation and Rehabilitation work carried out in Prisons of Gujarat.

He too presented that the aim of Prisons should be Reformation, Reintegration and Rehabilitation of prisoners. He then in detail presented activities carried out by the prison department for welfare and rehabilitation of prisoners.

- Various industries like Bakery work, Printing work, Bhajiya house, wooden work, tailoring industries are run by the prison. Lately, petrol pumps are also started by the Gujarat Prison.
- Various Short term certified Vocational training courses are organized in the prison by RSETI – Rural Self Employment Training Institutes., PMKVY, Government KVK centers etc.
- Education facility is provided to inmates:
 - Board exam centers in the prison.
 - Degree and Diploma Courses of IGNOU.
- Separate radio station of prison.
- Implementation of guidelines of R.D. Upadhyaya V/S state of Andhra Pradesh Judgment for pregnant women inmates and children inside prison.
- Support for Kedi Sahay Yojana to convicted inmates.
- To deal with issues faced by the inmates, Prison superintendents regularly meet with inmates during the prison visits.
- Regular organization of recreational programmes, games & sports activities and celebration of festivals helps to reduce stress of prisoners.
- E- mulakat through video conference was provided to inmates during the pandemic.
- Around 4000 inmates were released on parole and furlough during the period of Lockdown for 7 to 8 months.
- Legal aid services are available for inmates – Legal aid clinic, Regular visits of PLVs and Legal aid advocates, regular visits by DLSA secretary.
- Psychologists visit regularly to look after the mental health of prisoners.

Open Discussion and Way Forward

Suggestions on the way forward by Shri N.S. Lohar, Principal, Gujarat Institute of Prison and Correctional Administration



- Work is in progress for a new training centre with all the latest facilities.
- The training course for prison staff is also being updated.
- The course is according to the concept of rehabilitation of prisoners, which would also help in changing the mindset of prison staff.

Suggestions for way forward by Dr. Vijay Raghavan:

- Appointment of Probation or Welfare Officers at all District Prisons and Central Prisons. These officers must be trained social workers who are experienced. Preference should be given to those who have experience of work in CJS.
- Suggestions for training academy:
 - The training faculties should be from various branches like Social Work, Psychology and Sociology etc.
 - A MOU could be signed between Prayas and Prison Training Academy for organizing teaching sessions, workshops, research programmes for prison staff.
- Prayas can support the Prison department for conducting various researches. Prayas can support in doing research as well as can provide academic and technical support.
- Opportunities could be created for upgrading prison staff.
 - Inter-Departmental Coordination meetings where different issues of prisoners like legal aid issues, escort issues, health issues etc. are discussed. These meetings could be organized at district and state level on a regular basis, so that the issues of prisoners are resolved.
 - Shri N. S Lohar welcomed suggestions by Dr. Raghavan and said that Training school will be interested in lecturers and resource persons coming in from TISS on regular basis, also conducting small researches will be beneficial.

He also said that presently welfare officers are appointed at only four central prisons in Gujarat. There is a plan for creating more posts of welfare officers so that officers could be appointed at every prison. Also, work is in progress for restructuring of the prison manual. Some of the suggestions which have come from today's webinar are already included in the draft.

Shri Shaikh, Course coordinator and lecturer, GIPCA, mentioned that the Prison Advisory Board Committee which works towards reformation of Gujarat Prisons, involves social workers in the committee.





Vote of Thanks

Shri A. I. Shaikh, Course Coordinator and Lecturer, Gujarat Institute of Prisons and Correctional Administration and Shri Anil Vasava, Sr. Social Worker, Bharuch Unit, Prayas expressed Vote of Thanks. They extended their sincere thanks to DIG Prisons for extending support and giving permission to organize the webinar. They thanked Shri Rohan Anand, Superintendent, Central Prison, Ahmedabad for explaining objectives of the webinar very clearly to the participants. They thanked Dr. Vijay Raghavan, Director, Prayas for giving

valuable inputs to organize the webinar. They further thanked all the resource persons for giving very informative presentations. They thanked all the participants for attending the webinar with great interest and participating actively. They also mentioned that the Webinar became successful because of coordination between Prayas and Gujarat Institute of Prisons and Correctional Administration. Shri. Anil Vasava from Prayas thanked Shri. N. S. Lohar Sir for his initiatives and constant support to make this webinar a success. Shri Shaikh thanked Ms. Pooja Shrimali for coordinating with Gujarat Institute of Prisons and Correctional Administration for planning and organizing this webinar. He also extended his wishes to Team Prayas for their work in Prison settings for rehabilitation of prisoners.

At the end, the participants also thanked the organizers for organizing webinar on such an important subject and expressed need for organizing webinars/seminars/workshops on regular basis.

Annexure
Schedule of the Workshop:

Prayas, a Field Action Project of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

Dates of the Webinar: March 22 - 24, 2021

Time: 11.00 A.M. - 2.00 P.M.

Day1: Monday - March 22, 2021.

Time	Topic	Resource Person
11.00 A.M. - 11.10 A.M.	Welcome	Shri. V. P. Gohil, Superintendent of District Prison, Palanpur. & Ms. Krupa Shah Field Coordinator, Bharuch Unit, Prayas
11.10 A.M. - 12.00 NOON	Objective of the Webinar Introducing Prisoners to Rehabilitation Centre	Shri. Rohan Anand IPS Superintendent of Central Prison, Ahmedabad & Dr. Vijay Raghavan, Director, Prayas & Professor, Center for Criminology and Justice, School of Social Work, TISS, Mumbai
12.00 NOON - 12.30 P.M.	Profile, Needs and Challenges of Male Prisoners	Shri. Vikas Kadam, Senior Social Worker, Mumbai Unit, Prayas
12.30 P.M. - 1.00 P.M.	Profile, Needs and Challenges of Female Prisoners	Ms. Megha Thakkar, Social Worker, Bharuch Unit, Prayas
1.00 P.M. - 1.30 P.M.	Mental Health Issues of Prisoners	Dr. Penny Tong, Field Work Supervisor, TISS
1.30 P.M. – 1.45 P.M.	Open Discussion	Team Prayas Ms. Pooja Shrimali Ms. Krupa Shah

Day2: Tuesday - March 23, 2021

Time	Topic	Resource Person
11.00 A.M. - 11.10 A.M.	Recap of Previous Day's Discussion	Team Prayas Ms. Pooja Shrimali Ms. Krupa Shah
11.10 A.M. - 12.10 PM	Rehabilitation Services for Male and Female Prisoners: Role of Social Worker	1. Shri. Mahesh Jadav, Sr. Social Worker, Mumbai Unit, Prayas 2. Ms. Vaishali Jaiswal, Unit Coordinator, Bharuch Unit, Prayas,
12.10 PM - 1.10 P.M.	Intervention with Children of Prisoners Judgment of R D Upadhyay V/S State of Andhra Pradesh Government Schemes available for Children of Prisoners	1. Ms. Komal Phadtare, Social worker, Prayas, Mumbai 2. Ms. Devyani Tumma, Sr. Social Worker, Prayas, Mumbai 3. Shri. Amit Vasava, District Child Protection Officer.
1.10 P.M. - 1.50 P.M.	Creating Pro-Rehabilitation Environment in Prison in coordination of allied Government Departments - Vocational Training and Library	Sharing of experiences by: 1. Shri. Aashray Shah, Sr. Consultant, Gandhinagar, Gujarat Skill Development Mission 2. Shri. Prashant V. Patil, District Library Officer, District Library, Thane Mumbai, Maharashtra Moderator: Ms. Krupa Shah, Field Coordinator, Bharuch Unit, Prayas
1.50 P.M. - 2.00 P.M.	Open Discussion	Prayas Team Ms. Krupa Shah Ms. Pooja Shrimali

Day3: Wednesday - March 24, 2021

Time	Topic	Resource Person
11.00 A.M. - 11.10 A.M.	Recap of Previous Day's Discussion	Team Prayas Ms. Pooja Shrimali Ms. Krupa Shah
11.10 A.M. - 11.30 A.M.	Role of Probation Officers and Welfare Officers for the Rehabilitation of Prisoners	Shri. Mahesh A. Rathod, Welfare Officer, Central Prison, Vadodara
11.30 A.M - 1.30 P.M.	Initiatives by State Prison Departments for Rehabilitation of prisoners	1. Shri. Jagjit Singh, IG Prisons, Haryana 2. Shri. M. R. Bhaskar, D.I.G. of Prisons (HR), Hyderabad (Retd.) 3. Representative of Department of Prisons and Correctional Services, Madhya Pradesh 4. Shri I. V. Chaudhari, Prison Superintendent, Bharuch District Prison, Gujarat
1.30 P.M. - 1.45 P.M.	Open Discussion & Way Forward	Shri. Rohan Anand, IPS, Superintendent of Central Prison, Ahmedabad & Dr. Vijay Raghavan, Director, Prayas & Professor, Center for Criminology and Justice, School of Social work, TISS, Mumbai.
1.45 P.M. - 2.00 P.M.	Vote of Thanks	Shri. Anil Vasava, Sr. Social Worker, Prayas Bharuch Unit & Shri. A. I. Shaikh