





OUR VISION

FULFILLING DREAMS OF THE
VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED IN SOCIETY

NOTE FROM THE CEO



Greetings from Sahaara!

Sahaara Charitable Society was founded in 1994 with an express purpose to reach out to the vulnerable and marginalized living in high risk zones. Places where people don't dare to go and serve. This year we completed 25 years of carrying out that vision and we would not be running this race today but for the unstinted support of our Government Stakeholders, Donor Partners, NGO Partners, Volunteers, Board and the Staff of Sahaara! I also take this opportunity to thank God for His faithfulness over Sahaara in the last 25 years.

This year began, with us re-casting our vision as a Board and it was clear at the end of the exercise that Sahaara will focus in the coming years on "Reintegration" of every beneficiary we touch as an organisation. Secondly we will also consolidate in our core specialisations through development of world class performance management systems for our Programs.

The new vision statement of Sahaara is articulated as - "Fulfilling Dreams of the Vulnerable and Marginalised in Society". We have by the year end developed logical frameworks for all our Programs and girded it with a robust performance management system to monitor operations. We have also invested a lot on leadership training for management staff and technical training for field staff this year. Sahaara is currently on a journey to operationalise the developed performance systems, set up a new shelter home for minor girls in Thane district and kick start the new centralised "Reintegration Program" named as "Umeed". In closing I take this opportunity to salute my staff and stakeholders who have enabled us achieve another great year of exemplary service to the vision of Sahaara.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "K Xavier Selvan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

K Xavier Selvan

OUR STORY

What comes to your mind when you think of Mumbai? For some it is a land of dreams and opportunity; for others, it is a place of brokenness and despair. Many of those who migrate to the city do not experience the popular Mumbai of fashion, food, and opportunity that so many have come to love. Instead they experience a life of poverty in unhygienic slums, harsh exploited working conditions and living a nameless and faceless life of rejection from society. Unseen they become vulnerable, are easily abused and unable to rely on a social safety net and so settle into a life of degradation.

Sahaara Charitable Society exists to serve and equip these marginalized people to transform them to become positive contributors of society. In November 1994, a group of concerned citizens banded together and decided to give themselves to work amongst the most disadvantaged people of Mumbai, pledging to go to the places where very few will go. At Sahaara Charitable Society, we seek to empower people to articulate their dreams and to support and equip them as they work to fulfil these dreams in their lifetime! With this view in mind, Sahaara Charitable Society was formed with the vision to “Fulfil Dreams of the Vulnerable and Marginalised in Society”.

OUR PROGRAMS



CHILDREN'S HOME PROGRAMS

Anandalay
Mahima



CHILDREN'S EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Pratham
Pragati



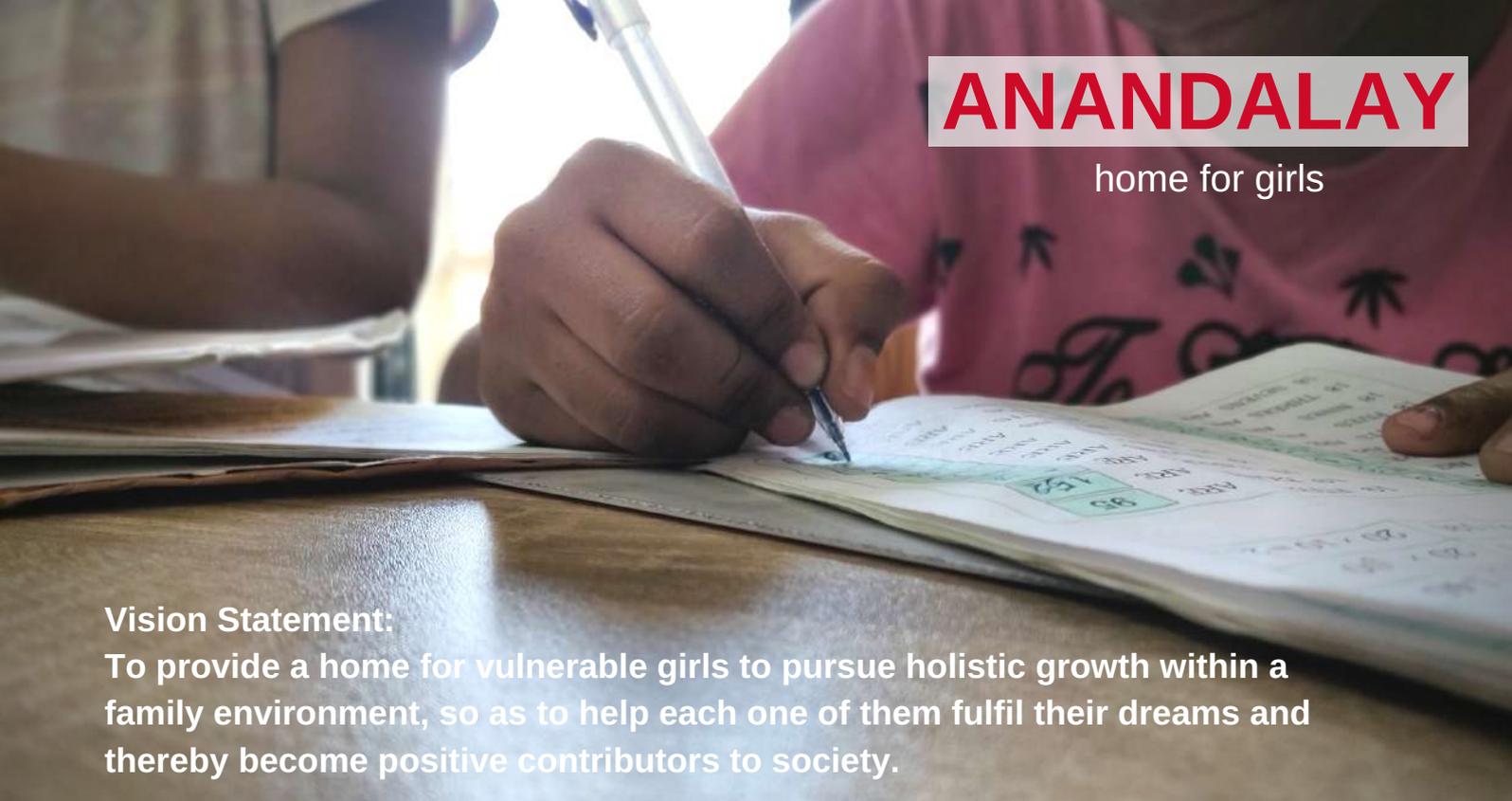
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

Parivartan
Diya



INSTITUTION AND VOLUNTEER RUN PROGRAMS

Azad
Adult Literacy
Work among street children
Work among persons with Hansons disease



ANANDALAY

home for girls

Vision Statement:

To provide a home for vulnerable girls to pursue holistic growth within a family environment, so as to help each one of them fulfil their dreams and thereby become positive contributors to society.

40% children in India are in need of care and protection.

The high level of exposure to abuse and lack of opportunities for children living in high-risk areas poses a threat to their future. In Anandalay, we seek to restore these children to a childhood where they are protected and nurtured in love. It is a home where they receive education, nutrition and accommodation under the committed care of house-parents. Anandalay exists to provide a home for vulnerable girls to pursue holistic growth within a family environment, so as to help each one of them fulfil their dreams and thereby become positive contributors to society.

Presently we care for 15 girls in Anandalay

ANANDALAY STORY

We know Mumbai as the city of dreams. But lot of dreams get shattered here. This is the story of Seema*, a 14 year old girl from Kolkata. When she was a two year old, her father got imprisoned for a murder case. Since there was no one to earn a living for them, this forced them to the streets. Someone helped them financially to move to Mumbai. So Seema and her mother shifted to Mumbai with a dream in their hearts. But her dreams got shattered when her mother got herself into prostitution. One fine day, when she was 5 years old some of her mother's customers sexually abused little Seema. Then her mother enrolled her in Sahaara's Balwadi in that red light area. Seeing the need, urgency and significance of the situation Seema was eventually enrolled in Anandalay - Sahaara's Home for Vulnerable girls. Now Seema is a 14 year old. She studies in one of the good schools in Naigaon. She is really good in studies and also in sports, especially in football. She is her school's sports captain. Among all her dreams, one of Seema's dreams is to set her mother free from sex trade.

*Names changed to protect identity

MAHIMA

home for boys

Vision Statement:

To provide a home for vulnerable boys to pursue holistic growth within a family environment, so as to help each one of them fulfil their dreams and thereby become positive contributors to society.

More than 37,000 children live on the streets of Mumbai.

Children who live off the street face the risks of verbal, physical and sexual abuse. Many of them do not get the opportunity to go to school and are vulnerable to the evils of child labour and addictions. Sahaara saw this need and began the Mahima Boy's Home. The boys are educated at English medium schools, and actively participate in sports and extra-curricular activities. Mahima is a home for vulnerable boys where they find all-round development within a family environment, so that they reach their full potential and realise their dreams, thereby becoming positive contributors to society.

**Presently we
care for 15
boys in
Mahima!**

MAHIMA STORY

This is the story of a young boy who was a victim of domestic violence. Waris* a 6 year old boy who lived with his elder brother, younger sister and his parents in Bhiwandi, Mumbai. One day his life took a drastic change, when an argument between his parents turned into a serious fight where his mother ended up killing his father. After that his mother was confined in a prison. Waris and his siblings moved in with their grandmother. However, due to financial constraints she could not provide those kids with basic needs. But his mother's love for him was not compromised by that incident. She was worried about the upbringing of her children in that locality, which was unsafe for the kids. They approached the Child Welfare Committee through an NGO who then sent Waris and his younger sister to 'Children of the World'. On 14th June 2019, Waris was enrolled in Mahima where he and his elder brother were reunited. Presently Waris is studying in one of the good schools in Naigaon and he is one of the bright kids having a lot of dreams!

*Name changed to protect identity

PRATHAM

Education for Children in Red Light Areas



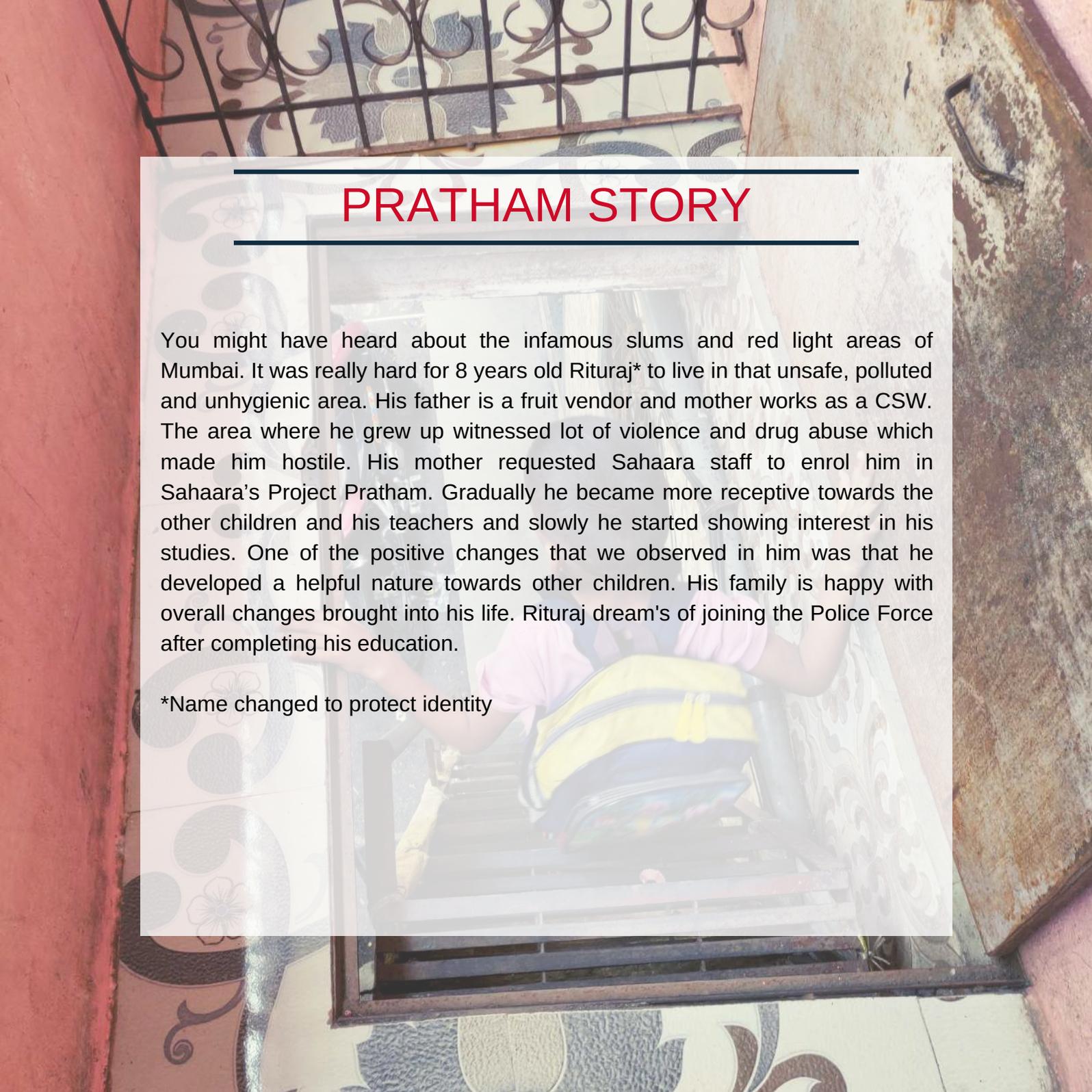
Vision Statement:

That children in red light areas gain academic, vocational and life skills leading them to fulfil their dreams and become positive contributors to the society.

Neglect and abuse has been the portion of the children growing up in red light areas.

These areas are a harsh place for any child, especially girls, to grow up in. Being victims right from birth, the stigma and lack of equal opportunities along with parental neglect have deprived them of an environment conducive for their development. Sahaara attempts to empower these children by providing early childhood education and remedial education. Project Pratham works to ensure that children in red light areas gain academic, vocational and life skills leading them to fulfil their dreams and become positive contributors to society.

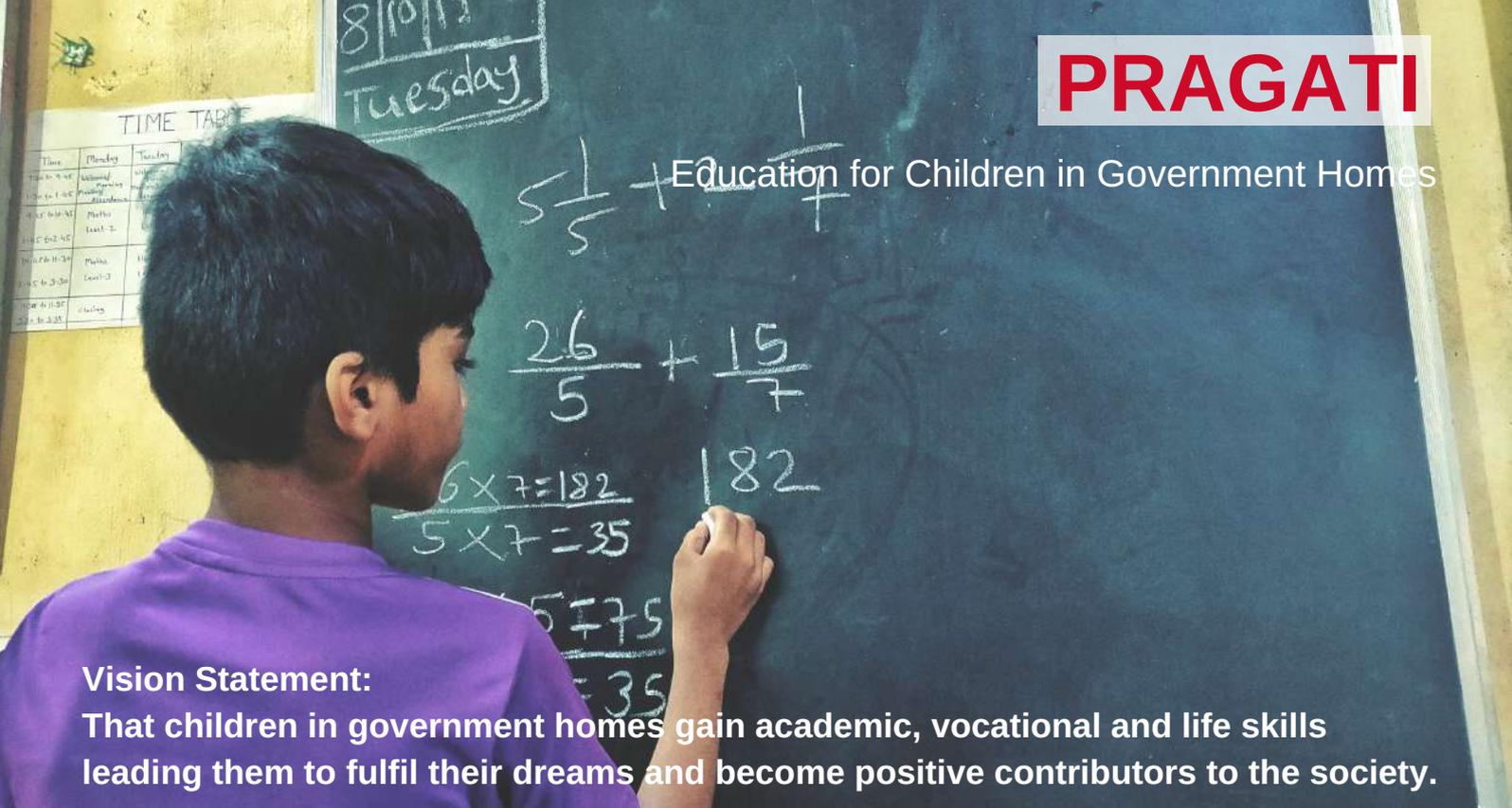
Presently we provide quality education to 120 children in the red light areas of Mumbai.



PRATHAM STORY

You might have heard about the infamous slums and red light areas of Mumbai. It was really hard for 8 years old Rituraj* to live in that unsafe, polluted and unhygienic area. His father is a fruit vendor and mother works as a CSW. The area where he grew up witnessed lot of violence and drug abuse which made him hostile. His mother requested Sahaara staff to enrol him in Sahaara's Project Pratham. Gradually he became more receptive towards the other children and his teachers and slowly he started showing interest in his studies. One of the positive changes that we observed in him was that he developed a helpful nature towards other children. His family is happy with overall changes brought into his life. Rituraj dream's of joining the Police Force after completing his education.

*Name changed to protect identity



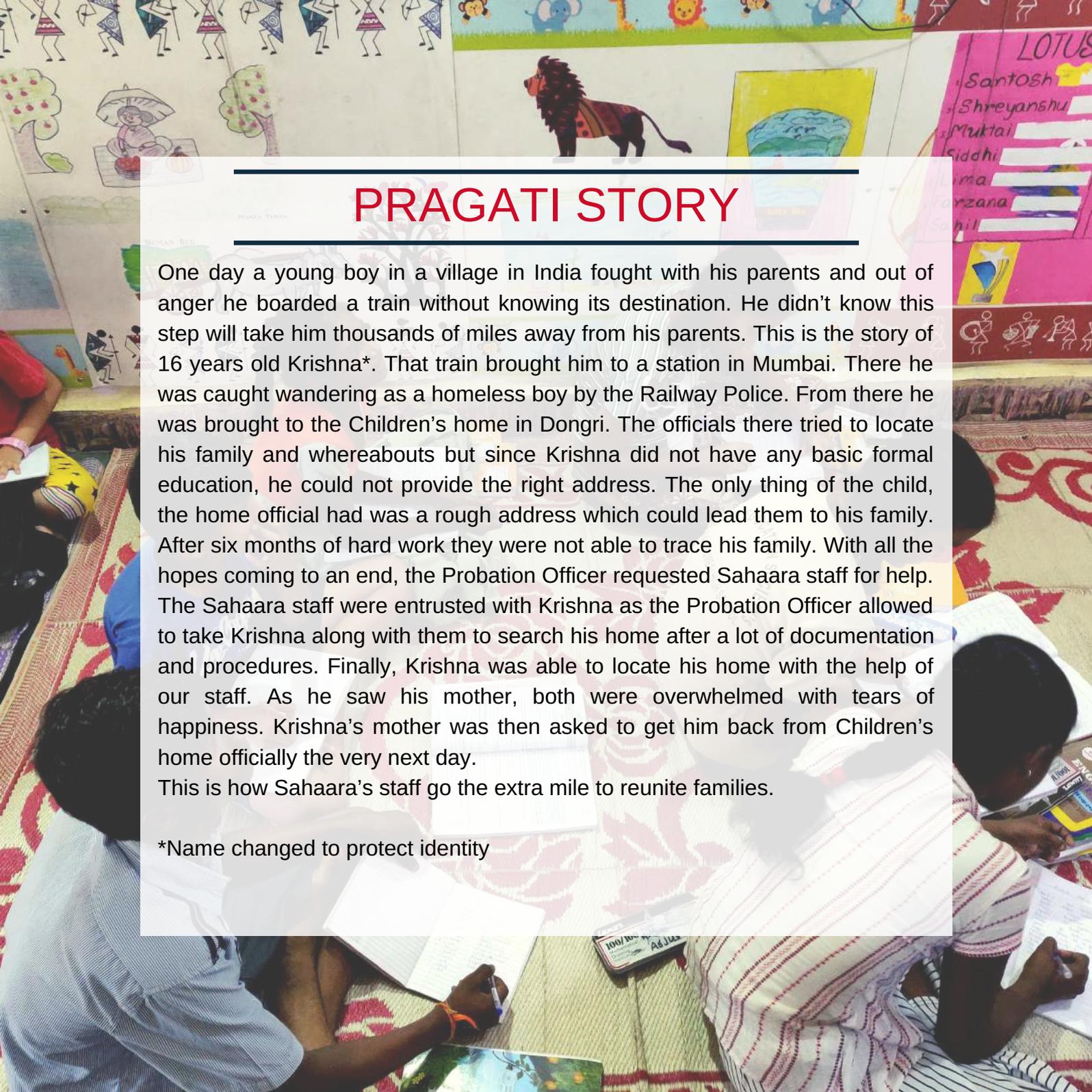
Vision Statement:

That children in government homes gain academic, vocational and life skills leading them to fulfil their dreams and become positive contributors to the society.

More than 50% of underprivileged children drop-out of school in Class IX.

In Mumbai, there are hundreds of underprivileged children who have been taken out of society and institutionalized. Most of these children lack educational foundations and the quality of education provided in schools does not cater to their specific needs. Project Pragati provides remedial education to these children in order to build their grade level competency. Project Pragati helps children in government homes gain academic, vocational and life skills leading them to fulfil their dreams and become positive contributors to society. Presently we provide quality remedial education to 100 children in the government homes of Mumbai.

We also work with the Child Welfare Committee and have reunited about 450 children in 2018-19.



PRAGATI STORY

One day a young boy in a village in India fought with his parents and out of anger he boarded a train without knowing its destination. He didn't know this step will take him thousands of miles away from his parents. This is the story of 16 years old Krishna*. That train brought him to a station in Mumbai. There he was caught wandering as a homeless boy by the Railway Police. From there he was brought to the Children's home in Dongri. The officials there tried to locate his family and whereabouts but since Krishna did not have any basic formal education, he could not provide the right address. The only thing of the child, the home official had was a rough address which could lead them to his family. After six months of hard work they were not able to trace his family. With all the hopes coming to an end, the Probation Officer requested Sahaara staff for help. The Sahaara staff were entrusted with Krishna as the Probation Officer allowed to take Krishna along with them to search his home after a lot of documentation and procedures. Finally, Krishna was able to locate his home with the help of our staff. As he saw his mother, both were overwhelmed with tears of happiness. Krishna's mother was then asked to get him back from Children's home officially the very next day.

This is how Sahaara's staff go the extra mile to reunite families.

*Name changed to protect identity

PARIVARTAN

Empowering sex workers towards a life of freedom



Vision Statement:

That women in red light areas gain freedom through empowerment to fulfil their dreams.

It is estimated that 16 million women are victims of sex trafficking in India a year.

Women who have been deceived and trafficked are shocking examples of modern day slavery. These women are treated as the personal property of individuals and are sold and traded through a network of pimps and brothel owners. Project Parivartan touches the lives of these women through healthcare, community development, vocational training and counseling interventions. Project Parivartan aims that women in red light areas gain freedom through empowerment to fulfil their dreams.

We helped 115 women find freedom and empowerment in 2018-19.



PARIVARTAN STORY

This is a story of Khushi* from West Bengal, who faced betrayal in every phase of her life. First her husband cheated on her for another woman. Then a lady from her locality asked her to move to Mumbai by giving her a hope for a better future. Eventually she moved to Mumbai with her younger daughter leaving the elder one back home. As soon as she moved here she was trapped into sex trafficking. As time passed by Khushi was left with no choice but to accept her fate. She was counselled by Sahaara staff to start a better lifestyle by coming out of the sex trade and get back to her daughters. She was also given required medical assistance, vaccinations and vocational training. With relentless efforts of Sahaara, in July 2019 Khushi left for West Bengal with her daughter to embark on a new journey where she has started to earn and support her family independently.

*Name changed to protect identity



DIYA

Work among women and girls in protection homes and rehabilitation centres, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

Vision Statement:

That trafficked individuals and those vulnerable become overcomers and agents of prevention in the community.

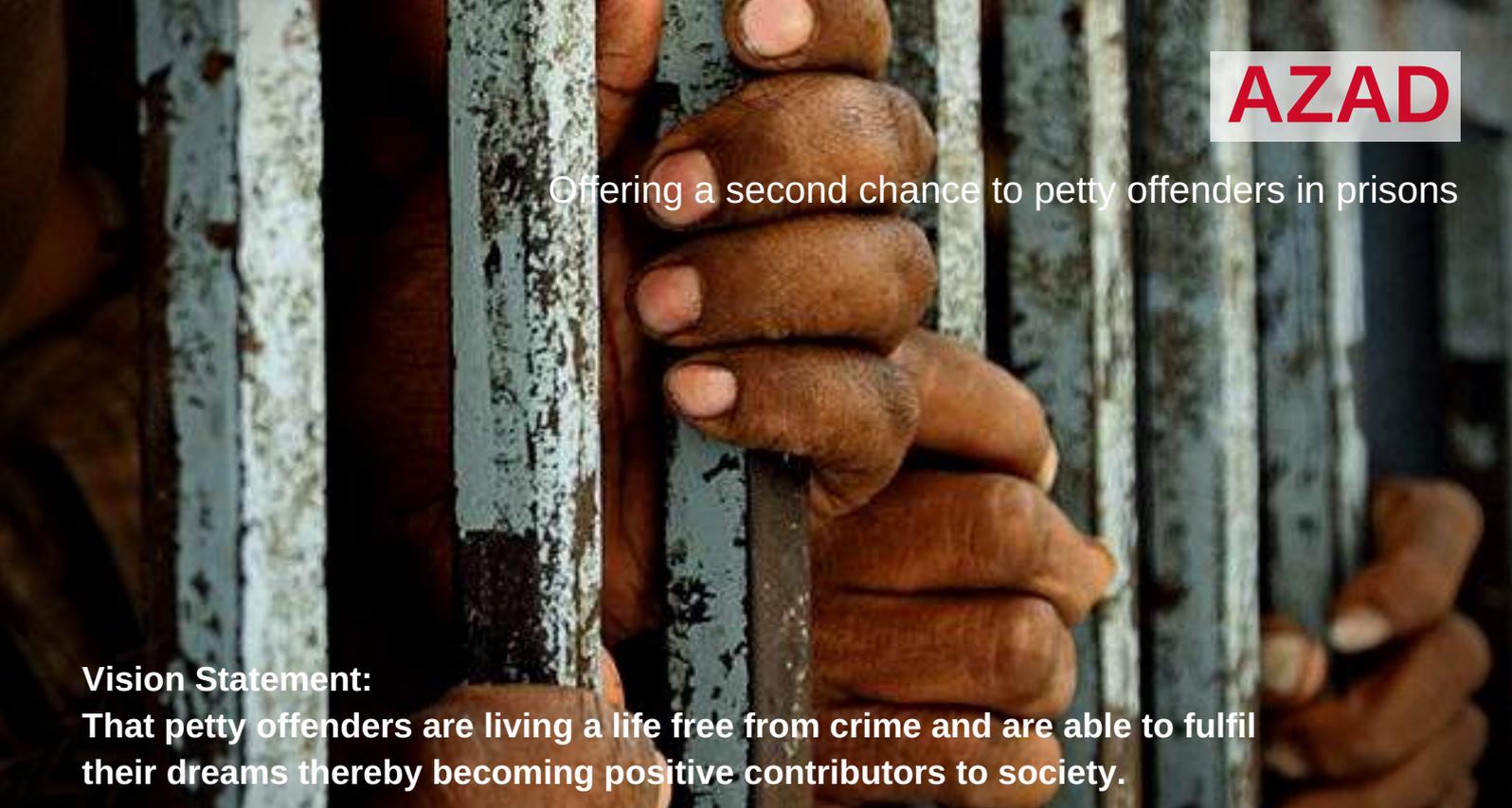
Project Diya works alongside women and children who have been victims of sex trafficking, domestic violence or have been vulnerable to exploitation in one form or another. Project Diya's strategy is encapsulated in five R's: Rescue, Renew, Reintegrate, Restore and Rebuild. Project Diya has seen numerous women and children overcome the pain and trauma, return to homes and become thriving citizens. Many of these overcomers now work alongside Project Diya, bringing light to those that inhabit the dark places that they themselves overcame. Our team of counsellors and social workers work daily with these victims who are placed in government homes, bringing much required support and counselling as these victims work towards overcoming trauma.

168 women and 44 children were served through the Diya project.

DIYA STORY

Precocious and intelligent Amrita* excels at almost everything she puts her mind to! Now 14, Amrita is from Aurangabad but was deserted by her father and stepmother while on a train journey to Chennai. She was found in Cuddalore and was first placed in the Cuddalore Children's home by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) before making her way to the Government Girls' Home in Chennai. She has been in the Girls Home since April 2018. She is a quick learner and can grasp things very fast if she is focused at it, she learned to read and write Tamil within a year. Few months ago things began to untangle a bit. She was reluctant to attend the counselling sessions and classes conducted by Project Diya. With constant encouragement from the caseworker, Amrita was able to overcome her negative thoughts and became more hopeful. Soon she started working on her computer skills and started participating in all the group activities. She also learned to read and write in English. With regular interventions by the caseworker, she has now developed a positive attitude towards life. In Amrita's case a caseworker was able to provide the right impetus to spark hope once again where it might have been lost for good. Amrita wants to finish her studies and help other girls like her in the future. The staff are working to reintegrate Amrita back to her home and community in Aurangabad.

*Names changed to protect identity



AZAD

Offering a second chance to petty offenders in prisons

Vision Statement:

That petty offenders are living a life free from crime and are able to fulfil their dreams thereby becoming positive contributors to society.

67% of prisoners in India's jails undertrials.

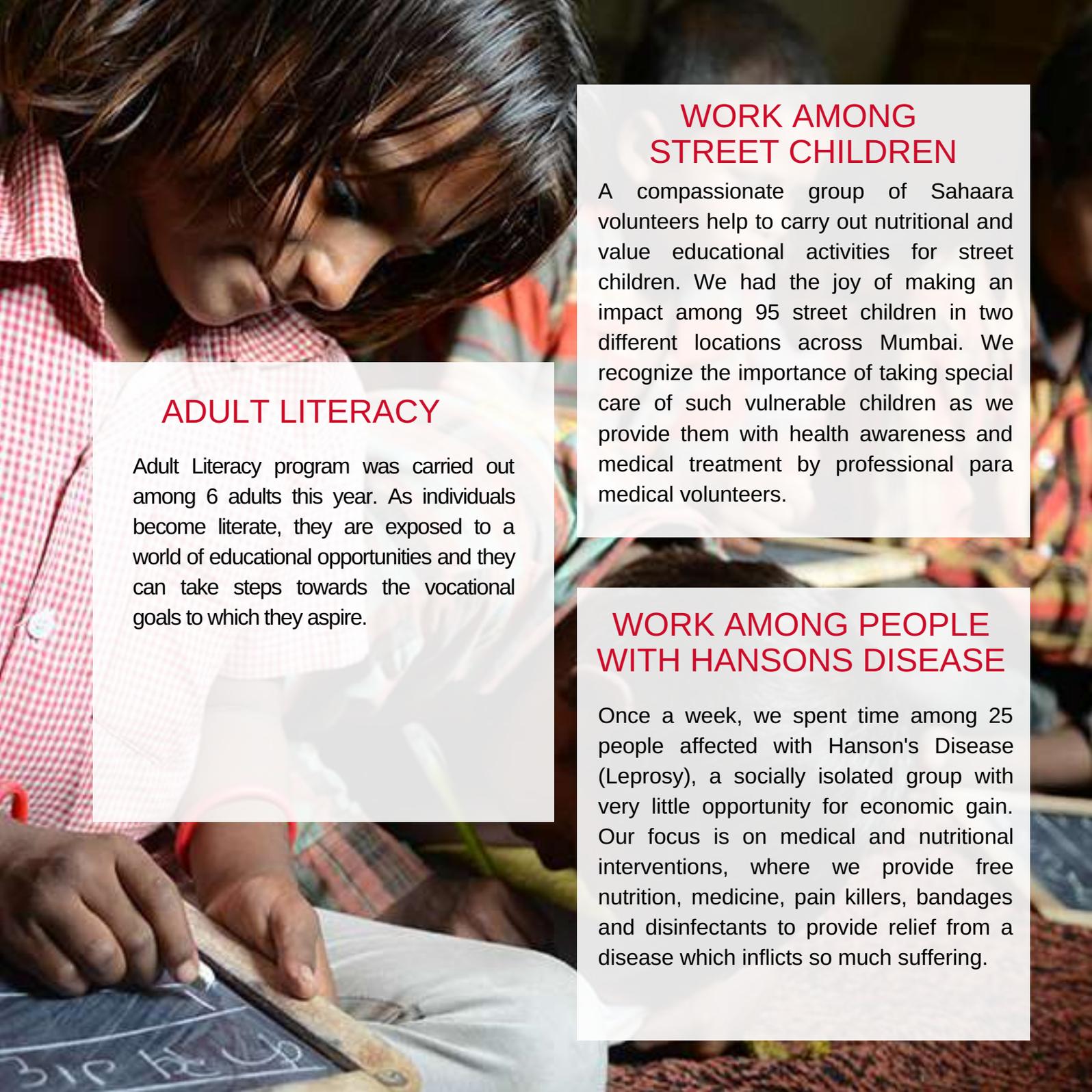
One of the more invisible and powerless group of people in the city of Mumbai are the thousands of undertrials in prisons. Azad reaches out to men, women and children confined in prisons through legal aid and legal case assistance, medical camps and pre-primary education for children of women prisoners. We also offer emergency support to families of prisoners, and long-term reintegration support to released prisoners. Project Azad works to ensure that petty offenders are living a life free from crime and are able to fulfil their dreams thereby becoming positive contributors to society.

1055 men, 500 women and 25 children were served through the Azad project.

AZAD STORY

This is a story of Sangeeta, a 44 years old single mother of three children. She used to work as a maid servant. It was really hard for her to provide the basic needs to her children. There was a need for some finances to pay for her elder daughter's college fees. She approached one of her employers for help but she refused to help her. Out of desperation, one day she took advantage of the absence of the house owner and stole a blank cheque and with that cheque she withdrew Rs.70,000/- from the account. The house owner filed a case against Sangeeta for robbery. During one of the prison visits, Azad staff counselled her and on hearing her story they assisted legally towards her release. Hence she was granted a cash bail of Rs. 10,000/-. Through Sahaara's intervention Sangeeta's family was supported with groceries to meet their basic needs. During the follow-up calls, our staff got to know that her daughter had passed her 10th standard board exams and had no money to pay for her further education. Sahaara provided the necessary fees to support her daughter's education. Later her employer withdrew the case. Today, Sangeeta works as a cook in an organization.

*Name changed to protect identity



WORK AMONG STREET CHILDREN

A compassionate group of Sahaara volunteers help to carry out nutritional and value educational activities for street children. We had the joy of making an impact among 95 street children in two different locations across Mumbai. We recognize the importance of taking special care of such vulnerable children as we provide them with health awareness and medical treatment by professional para medical volunteers.

ADULT LITERACY

Adult Literacy program was carried out among 6 adults this year. As individuals become literate, they are exposed to a world of educational opportunities and they can take steps towards the vocational goals to which they aspire.

WORK AMONG PEOPLE WITH HANSON'S DISEASE

Once a week, we spent time among 25 people affected with Hanson's Disease (Leprosy), a socially isolated group with very little opportunity for economic gain. Our focus is on medical and nutritional interventions, where we provide free nutrition, medicine, pain killers, bandages and disinfectants to provide relief from a disease which inflicts so much suffering.

MEET THE TEAM



ANANDALAY



MAHIMA

MEET THE TEAM



PRATHAM



PRAGATI

MEET THE TEAM



PARIVARTAN



DIYA

MEET THE TEAM



AZAD



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2018-2019



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To Fulfill Dreams of the Vulnerable and Marginalized in Society



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जीत

Palak	→	<u>dreams</u> Cricketer
Aayan	→	Pilot
Samrat	→	Soldier
Saloni	→	Police office
Avinash	→	doctor
Arif	→	Actor

Morning
Name

Saloni
Ayan
Krishna
Khushi
Arif
Joya

live

"Little Kids with Big Dreams grow into Big People
with Big Missions for Life."

- Karen Salmanson



Fulfilling Dreams of the Vulnerable
and Marginalized in Society

