



Sahaara
Charitable
Society



Annual Report
2020-21

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About Sahaara



Mumbai, to many, is known as the City of Dreams. However, among the economically disadvantaged people, few realize their dreams here, with a vast majority relegated to a nightmarish existence. The city is the destination for migrants from other poor parts of the nation who arrive here for a better life that eludes most.

Sahaara Charitable Society was founded in 1994 by a group of concerned citizens with the vision of Fulfilling Dreams of the Vulnerable and Marginalized in Society. Over the last 25 years, Sahaara has developed Core Competencies towards:

- Remedial Education for children in red-light districts and government homes
- Providing holistic care through hostels for at-risk kids
- Reintegrating sex workers and prisoners through alternate livelihoods

What started as a simple initiative of a few volunteers has now grown into an organization with over 60 staff working for seven programmes spread across Mumbai and its surrounding districts. Sahaara is accredited by Credibility Alliance and Guidestar, and its board comprises corporate/NGO leaders and businessmen who are committed towards the transformation of the city.

Sahaara's vision is achieved through these Core Values:

- S – Servant Hearted
- A – Active Teamwork
- H – Honour-based Culture
- A – Aspiring to Excellence
- A – Accountability and Integrity
- R – Relationship-focused
- A – Appreciating Each Other

VISION:
**Fulfilling Dreams of the
Vulnerable and
Marginalized in Society**

Note from the CEO



Dear Friends of Sahaara!

I am writing this note as our nation is gearing up for the second wave of COVID. The two key learning's for us to be relevant through the first wave was "speed of execution" and being "flexible with our service offering". To meet the humanitarian crisis, which unfolded in our areas of influence, we immediately launched the "Sahaara Emergency Family Relief" (SEFR) program. The total lockdown had a devastating effect on the livelihoods of our program participants, as they were daily wage and migrant workers. Our emergency relief services involved providing Food security, COVID behavior awareness and Mental health interventions.

Our education interventions had to move "online" at a lightening pace, this involved investments in up-skilling our teachers with usage of new tools and IT infrastructure up-gradation of all our education centers in the red-light districts and government homes. We also bridged the digital divide by providing mobile phones and data packages to needy children.

Our learnings through the pandemic season resulted in 3 major programmatic changes:

1. Creation of Alternate Livelihoods through Skill building.
2. Emphasis on building Stronger Family and Stronger Children.
3. Building sustainable communities through Education and Leadership development.

We will continue with our resolve to stand with our program participants as we brace for the second wave. I take this opportunity to thank all our friends, partners and stakeholders for your support to the vision of Sahaara.

Xavier Selvan, CEO

April 2021

Year in a glimpse



**6173 direct project
participants served
during Apr '20 - Mar '21**



CORE AREAS:

- Children's Hostel Programs
(since 1999)**
- Children's Education Programs
(since 1994)**
- Reintegration Programs
(since 1997)**

HOSTEL PROGRAMS



Total number of children
in the Hostels:
17 boys and 16 girls



VISION:

To provide a hostel for vulnerable minor children to pursue holistic growth in a safe environment, while working parallelly for the reintegration of their parents so that the children can be reunited in stable and secure families .

Mahima Hostel

**17 boys were
cared for in
Mahima Hostel**



The red-light areas are a harsh place for any child to grow up in. The high level of exposure to risk and lack of opportunities poses a threat to the child's future.

Through our work in the red-light areas, we identify the most high-risk children of female sex workers and admit them in the Sahaara education hostels with the consent of the mother. Here they are provided with safe accommodation, wholesome nutrition, mental wellness and quality English-medium education. This is undertaken with the goal of offering a safe environment for their holistic development through Individual Care Plans (ICPs).

Concurrently, we also work towards reintegrating their parents towards a lifestyle of safety and stability so that the child can ultimately be restored to the family in a 5-year window period. At Sahaara, we believe that reintegrating the whole family will break the cycle of abuse and injustice, and lead to lasting change.

Mahima Story



Amit* is an 18 years old boy who grew up at Mahima Boy's Hostel, run by Sahaara Charitable Society. He was brought to the hostel when he was just 6 years old by a social worker after he was referred by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Ulhasnagar. When Amit and his sister lost their father in 2005, the family found it difficult to sustain themselves. Their mother's terminal illness added to the already existing burden. Eventually, they lost their mother too. As the children lost their parents at a very young age, they had nowhere to go.

After spending a considerable time at Mahima Boy's Hostel, Amit has shown determination and resilience and has successfully completed his schooling. Currently, Amit is pursuing his second year of Diploma in Automobile Engineering from an institute in Mumbai. However, since Amit turned 18 in December 2020, he has to be moved out of Mahima Children's Home as per the order by CWC. Therefore, Sahaara Charitable Society has identified a youth night shelter in Mumbai to ensure rehabilitation and future studies plan for Amit. Additionally, Sahaara Charitable Society will also be supporting his education by financing his Diploma course. Amit dreams to become a successful Automobile Engineer one day. The grit displayed by Amit is inspiring and motivating to many.

*Name changed to protect participant identity.

Anandalay & Krupalay Hostels

**16 girls were
cared for in
Anandalay &
Krupalay Hostels**



The red-light areas are a harsh place for any child, especially girls, to grow up in. The high level of exposure to risk and lack of opportunities poses a threat to the child's future.

Through our work in the red-light areas, we identify the most high-risk children of female sex workers and admit them in the Sahaara education hostels with the consent of the mother. Here they are provided with safe accommodation, wholesome nutrition, mental wellness and quality English-medium education. This is undertaken with the goal of offering a safe environment for their holistic development through Individual Care Plans (ICPs).

Concurrently, we also work towards reintegrating their parents towards a lifestyle of safety and stability so that the child can ultimately be restored to the family in a 5-year window period. At Sahaara, we believe that reintegrating the whole family will break the cycle of abuse and injustice, and lead to lasting transformation.

Anandalay Story



Sneha* is a 17-year-old girl who was born in the Turbhe red-light area of Mumbai. When Sneha was 7 years old, her mother enrolled Sneha in the Anandalay Girl's Hostel (formerly known as Anandalay Girl's Home) at Koparkhairne (now shifted to Naigaon), desiring for holistic care, safe and secure environment. Her mother kept moving around across other cities and was not in touch with Sneha for 5 years due to her profession. Today Sneha shares a good relationship with her mother, who currently lives in Pune with a decent job and is also in touch with her father often over the phone.

Sneha is very creative, intelligent, and passionate about doing craft work, baking, and cooking. During the pandemic, she got the opportunity to explore her creativity in these areas. She would cook and bake new recipes every weekend. Along with that, she has also gotten to spend more time to explore ideas for her career in Management through the National Open School. She studied independently online for her 10th standard with the help of a routine schedule that was given to her. Today, Sneha is equipping herself for a career, as her dream is to be a chef in the hotel industry. Her biggest dream is to look after her mother and give her all the amenities and comforts of life that she had missed during her early age.

*Name changed to protect participant identity.

Krupalay Story



Nisha* is a 9 years old young girl. She was enrolled into Krupalay in June 2021. She grew up in a red-light area and was devoid of access to safe environment and basic necessities. Nisha's mother was a victim of trafficking that forced her into the commercial sex work. Her father left them during the fourth month of her mother's second pregnancy. Her younger sibling is now two years old and lives with their mother. Nisha's mother enrolled to Sahaara's Reintegration program in 2013. After multiple counseling and mentoring sessions, she expressed her wish to enroll Nisha into Krupalay in hope of a better life for her. Nisha herself was eagerly waiting to be admitted to the hostel and get access to quality education. The field team at Sahaara then facilitated the process of admitting Nisha to Krupalay.

After Nisha came to Krupalay, initially she found it difficult to get along with other children. However, she is now learning to listen to others and observe her surroundings. Academically, she finds it difficult to cope with her studies due to low attention span but she is working hard to perform academically well. Her mother is happy to see her child growing in a safe and healthy environment. She is now hopeful and is looking forward to a bright future for her children.

*Name changed to protect participant identity.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Total number of project participants:
516 children and parents



VISION:

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

260 project
participants
served in
Pratham



A study by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has revealed that the children of sex workers face abuse and discrimination, which results in them isolating themselves from society due to the associated stigma. Most of these children attend schools with limited resources, leading to poor learning outcomes, a sense of failure and a frustrated academic journey. Parental neglect and inability, the lack of a responsible father figure and the prevailing anti-social influences in a red-light area negatively impact the worldview and value system of these children that could potentially lead to delinquent behavior.

Hence, these children are extremely vulnerable and experts fear they could either follow their parents into the flesh trade or turn to crime if they remain uneducated and unskilled. Our vision is to facilitate a better and sustainable learning ecosystem for children in red light areas and ensure strong educational foundations, mental and physical well-being, career enhancement and parent and community strengthening.

Pratham Story



Sahil is an intelligent and active 16-year-old boy living in the Turbhe red-light area with his parents and siblings. Sahil learnt about Sahaara's youth mentoring and life skills group through one of the other youth project participants. Sahil enjoyed the sessions and has continued attending the sessions regularly.

During one of these sessions and regular mentoring sessions, Sahil opened up and shared about his difficulties in understanding how to pursue his career and keep up with his passion for Cricket. The mentors at Sahaara helped him streamline his future plans. In order to see him grow in both, his career and his passion, they guided him to set few short-term practical and realistic goals.

After completing the goal setting exercise, Sahil felt a lot less stressed and more confident about his career. He is excited about his future and working hard with dedication to fulfil his dream one day at a time.

Sahil is ambitious and aspires to become a cricketer. He is really passionate about Cricket and considers Indian Cricketer Shikhar Dhawan to be his icon. He has been performing academically well too.

*Name changed to protect participant identity.

256 project
participants
served in Pragati



The Indian government has established its network of childcare institutions (CCIs) to take care of children who are in need of care and protection (CNCP). These children are vulnerable for a variety of reasons such as being orphaned, lost, runaways or victims of child labour, trafficking or abuse. These children who enter the government CCIs at varying ages, possess differing backgrounds and experiences, and are equipped with skill sets and competencies that are rarely common.

As a result, they face educational challenges, identity crisis, emotional stress and behavioral issues arising from their weak performance in school. They also run the risk of becoming delinquent as they are bogged by a sense of failure, which leads to irritation and rebellious behaviour. Project Pragati's vision is to facilitate a better and sustainable learning ecosystem for children in government child care institutions and ensure strong educational foundations through remedial education, mental wellness, career enhancement and institutional strengthening interventions.

Pragati Story



Surya is a child studying in the 9th Grade. He resides in a Government Home in Mumbai and is a part of Sahaara's program – Pragati. Children in government homes belong to varied backgrounds and often need psychological support to help them navigate with their emotions.

Surya was a child observed to be going through something similar. He had no enthusiasm to participate in class. His behavior was rebellious and he would refuse to take notes in class.

Surya's behavior really concerned the teacher. She wanted to understand the underlying issues that Surya was facing and hence asked him to write feedback about the class. Surya took the opportunity and expressed that he felt left out in class because he felt that he was not being paid attention to. The feedback given by Surya really helped the teacher to understand his perspective and the reasons for his behavior. She was then mindful about giving Surya the attention he needed to perform better in class. This change proved to be very fruitful to Surya and his teacher, leading to his regular attendance and excelling well in class tests. Surya is now active and motivated to fulfill his dreams one day.

*Name changed to protect participant identity.

REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS



Total number of project participants:
1184 persons



PARTIVARTAN VISION:
That women in red light areas gain freedom through empowerment to fulfil their dreams

AZAD VISION:
That prisoners are rehabilitated and reintegrated so that they are able to fulfil their dreams and become positive contributors to society.

**866 project
participants served
in Parivartan.**



Thousands of 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 at will through a network of pimps and brothel owners. Most of these women come from extremely poor economical backgrounds and lack basic education and skills required for safe alternate livelihood opportunities.

Sahaara seeks to break this cycle of abuse and injustice by offering these women recovery-based rehabilitation and focused reintegration services. Recovery-based rehabilitation is achieved through relationship and trust building; awareness, mentoring and counselling leading to mindset and behavioral change. In our focused reintegration, we develop and implement focused Individual Reintegration Plans (IRPs) that ensure literacy and educational support, skills building and pre-employment training leading to safe and stable livelihood opportunities.

Parivartan Story



This is the story of a 40-year-old Shama who is a native of Nepal and comes from a large family. Her father passed away when Shama was very young. Her mother had to take care of the children as a single parent.

Shama got married and migrated long ago to Mumbai with her husband in search of a livelihood. After 2 years of marriage, her husband left her with their child. As there were no other means to live, she entered the sex trade to sustain herself. Eventually, she started facing health issues and was diagnosed with HIV. Sahaara has been counselling and supporting Shama for nearly 6 years.

Now, Shama regularly attends training sessions on tailoring, de-addiction, mentoring, and counselling sessions organized by Sahaara. These sessions are helping Shama to manage her finance and savings for her future and to overcome her addictions. Shama also received support in opening a bank account through Sahaara, where she can save her income for her and her children's future. Shama is curious to learn about the prevention of HIV and how she can take care of her health. She has also shown resilience and overcome her addiction. Shama's dream to build her own house is in the process for which she is working hard.

*Name changed to protect participant identity.

**318 project
participants
served in Azad**



One of the invisible and powerless groups of people in the city of Mumbai are the thousands of under-trials languishing in prisons. Many of them do not have the knowledge of legal process or have access to resources to secure their release. In most cases, the families of these petty offenders face social stigma and lack basic provision. Unless issues of resettlement and reintegration are in place, there is high probability of them becoming habitual offenders.

Azad reaches out to these marginalized men and women in prisons and released prisoners with various interventions. Legal Aid Services help secure their timely release. This is followed up by Recovery Based Rehabilitation which includes services such as counselling, mentoring and emergency support. Finally Focused Reintegration develops Individual Reintegration Plans (IRPs) for each individual and ensures education support, skill development and job placement. Families of prisoners are also supported with a view to build stronger families. Project Azad seeks to add value to their lives and thus successfully reintegrate them into society.

Azad Story



Anjana* is a 22-year-old young woman living in Kalyan with her mother and younger sister and two elder brothers. Her mother supports the family by doing some tailoring work. She is ambitious and hard-working, but a few years ago her situation left little hope for her and her family. She was in prison a few years ago accompanied by her sister and mother. A couple of years ago, Sahaara helped them get out on bail and were provided legal aid with their case.

However, even after being released from prison Anjana and her family faced a lot of financial problems. Her brother, the breadwinner of the home was still in prison. Anjana couldn't even enroll herself in school as there was no money to pay the fees. Due to the stigma of their jail time, even the neighbors, relatives and friends turned away when they reached out for educational or even their essential support.

Anjana's need for essentials and education support was identified and Sahaara decided to meet them. She completed her 12th standard successfully and is currently pursuing Bachelor of Commerce. Anjana being calm and hardworking, has been persistent by hanging tough to complete her education. Along with her studies she also assists her mother in her tailoring work. Anjana wants to become a police officer one day and become a positive contributor to society.

*Name changed to protect participant identity.

Sahaara Emergency Family Relief



HIGHLIGHTS:

- Food & Hygiene kits provided to 5592 families (22368 persons)
- 11838 COVID related Awareness sessions
- 5292 COVID related Counselling sessions
- House Rent Support provided to 19 families
- Cooking Fuel Support provided to 15 families
- COVID Protection Gear provided
 - 10700 Masks
 - 360 bottles of Sanitizers
 - 200 PPE kits

FINANCIAL REPORT



Details of Managing Committee Members as on 31/03/2021	
Name	Designation
Rajesh Mathew	Hon. Chairman
Madhur James	Hon. Treasurer
Ignatius Kaitha	Hon. Secretary and Human Resources
Shoba John	Managing Committee Member
Ruby Caleb	Managing Committee Member
V. J. Joseph	Managing Committee Member
Manoj Shirsat	Managing Committee Member

Distribution of Staff according to Salary Levels			
Gross Salary Slab	Male	Female	Total
Less than 5000	0	0	0
5000 – 10000	0	0	0
10000 – 25000	8	23	31
25000 – 50000	5	8	13
50000 – 100000	2	1	3
100000 >	0	0	0
TOTAL STAFF	15	32	47

Amount reimbursed (in INR) to all Board Members in the Financial Year 2020-21 for the following items	
International Travel	0
Domestic travel	0
Local Conveyance	0
Entertainment Expenses	0
Others	0

Total payments made to Consultants	
Total Payments	No. of Consultants
Less than 5000	0
5000 – 10000	0
10000 – 25000	6
25000 – 50000	1
50000 – 100000	0
100000 >	1
TOTAL	8

POSH ANNUAL REPORT: No cases reported during the year 2020-2021

THE MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950 SCHEDULE VIII [Vide Rule 17(1)] SAHAARA CHARITABLE SOCIETY BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2021			
2019-20	Funds And Liabilities	2020-21	2020-21
3,900,000.00	Trusts funds or Corpus -		
	Balance as per last balance sheets	3,900,000.00	
	Addition during the year	-	3,900,000.00
	Other Earmarked Funds		
	(Created under the provisions of the trust deed or scheme or out of the Income)		
	Land and Building Fund		
37,003,129.32	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	57,067,938.32	
20,064,809.00	Additions during the year	-	57,067,938.32
57,067,938.32			
	Gratuity Fund		
114,991.00	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	-	
	Contribution during the year	-	
(114,991.00)	Interest during the year	-	
-	Payment during the year	-	-
	Liabilities		
-	For expenses	-	
85,502.00	For staff EPF Contribution	-	
-	For rent & other deposits	-	
-	For purchase of Immovable property	-	
-	For sundry credit balance	-	-
85,502.00			
	Income & Expenditure account		
15,392,925.64	Balance as per last balance sheet	10,752,654.98	
(4,640,270.66)	Less: Deficit for the year	(4,465,680.08)	6,286,974.90
10,752,654.98			
71,806,095.30	Total		67,254,913.22
Notes to Accounts - Schedule G			
The above balance sheet to the best of my/our belief contains a true account of the Funds and Liabilities and of the Property and Assets of the Trust.			
Hon. Chairman Rajesh Mathew		Hon. Secretary Ignatius Kaitha	
Mumbai, 04th August 2021			

THE MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950 SCHEDULE VIII [Vide Rule 17(1)] SAHAARA CHARITABLE SOCIETY BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2021			
Regd No. F-16965 (MUM)		Amt in INR	
2019-20	Property And Assets	2020-21	2020-21
	Immovable Properties:- (At cost less depreciation) (Refer Schedule A)		
34,180,617.09	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	50,678,071.33	
20,963,701.00	Additions during the year	-	
(4,466,246.76)	Less: Depreciation	5,067,807.13	45,610,264.20
50,678,071.33			
	Intangible Assets		
930,579.00	Sahaara Short Movie	884050.05	
46528.95	Less: Amortise During the year	93058.00	790,992.05
884,050.05			
	Investments		
	Bank Fixed Deposits		
7,383,020.00	Axis Bank (FCRA)	9,553,802.00	
-	Add: Accrued Interest on FD not received during the year	172,583.00	
-		-	9,726,385.00
7,383,020.00			
	Other Assets: (At cost less depreciation) (Refer Schedule B)		
1,817,639.81	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	2,262,137.32	
957,093.00	Additions during the year	1,834,073.00	
-	Less: Deletions / Discarded during the year	7,041.05	-
512,595.49	Less: Depreciation for the period	790,200.64	3,298,968.63
2,262,137.32			
	Advances -		
	To Others		
357,000.00	Deposits (Refer Schedule C)	202,000.00	
440,574.48	Advance for Interior work	-	
797,574.48	TDS	422,949.48	624,949.48
	Cash and Bank balances -		
	Account with-		
8,273,825.33	Axis Bank (FCRA)	4,680,431.90	
-	State Bank of India (FCRA)	10,550.92	
1,495,383.31	Axis bank (Local Funds)	2,479,348.56	
32,033.48	HDFC Bank (Local Funds)	33,022.48	7,203,353.86
9,801,242.12			
71,806,095.30	Total		67,254,913.22
		As per our report of even date For Udeshi Shukla & Associates Chartered Accountants FRN 114886W	
Hon Treasurer Madhur James		Paresh Vijaysinh Udeshi Partner MRN 042082	

THE MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950
SCHEDULE IX [Vide Rule 17(1)]
SAHAARA CHARITABLE SOCIETY
Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2021

2019-20	EXPENDITURE	2020-21	2020-21
	To Expenditure in respect of properties -		
-	Rates, taxes, cesses	-	
-	Repairs and maintainance	-	
-	Salaries	-	
-	Insurance	-	
5,318.16	Depreciation	4,786.35	4,786.35
6,430,480.00	To Establishment expenses (Refer Schedule D)		5,229,620.00
-	To Remuneration to trustees		-
-	To Remuneration (in case of a math)		-
-	To Legal expenses		-
124,466.00	To Audit fees		151,986.00
-	To Contribution and fees		
-	To Amount written off -		
	a) Bad debts		
	b) Other items (Fixed Assets)	7,041.05	7,041.05
-	To Depreciations		5,853,221.42
4,973,524.08	To Amortisation of Intangible Assets		93,058.00
46,528.95	Reserve or specific funds		-
-	To Expenditure on object of the trust		
-	a) Religious	-	
16,762,468.00	b) Educational (Sch. E)	19,049,212.45	
9,847,064.00	c) Rehab & Relief (Sch. F)	12,854,202.58	
-	d) Other charitable objects	-	31,903,415.03
38,189,849.19	TOTAL		43,243,127.85

Notes to Accounts - Schedule G

The above balance sheet to the best of my/our belief contains a true account of the Funds and Liabilities and of the Property and Assets of the Trust.

Hon. Chairman
Rajesh Mathew

Hon. Secretary
Ignatius Kaitha

Hon Treasurer
Madhur James

Mumbai, 04th August 2021

THE MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950 SCHEDULE IX [Vide Rule 17(1)] SAHAARA CHARITABLE SOCIETY Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2021 Registration No: F-16965 (MUM)			
		Amt in INR	
2019-20	INCOME	2020-21	2020-21
503,246.00	By Interest - accrued/realised		
343,987.00	On Investments	452,422.00	
6,274.00	On Bank accounts	291,632.00	
	On Gratuity Fund	-	744,054.00
	By Donations in cash or kind		
9,224,828.14	Local	12,145,519.70	
23,471,243.39	Foreign	25,884,271.07	38,029,790.77
32,696,071.53			
-	By Interest on Income Tax Refund		3,603.00
4,640,270.66	By Deficit carried over to Balance Sheet		4,465,680.08
38,189,849.19	TOTAL		43,243,127.85
As per our report of even date For Udeshi Shukla & Associates Chartered Accountants FRN 114886W Paresh Vijaysinh Udeshi Partner MRN 042082			

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<https://sahaarasociety.org/volunteer/>

CONTACT US:

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Thane District, Maharashtra
Pin Code: 400709



Sahaara Charitable Society



www.guidestarindia.org.in

Ask for our Due Diligence Report for details.

GuideStar India Certifications: Gold FY 2019-20

Subject to validity of registration under IT, FCRA and registration as NPO



Sahaara Leadership team for the Performance Year 2020-2021