

SAHAARA CHARITABLE SOCIETY



SAHAARA
FULFILLING DREAMS

Since 1994

Annual Report 2022 – 2023

Fulfilling Dreams of the
Vulnerable and Marginalised
in Society.



Education



Hostels



Reintegration





3931
Direct Beneficiaries
Served
Apr '22 – Mar '23



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Chairman's Message

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It brings me immense pride and joy to share the remarkable strides and impactful endeavours of Sahaara Charitable Society over the past year. We stand tall today, reflecting on our unwavering commitment to restoring dignity, offering rehabilitation, and facilitating reintegration for the marginalized communities of Mumbai.

The heart of our mission lies in extending hope, support, and opportunities to those often overlooked or forgotten—the vulnerable and marginalised in Society, individuals emerging from incarceration and those residing in and around the red-light areas. Through our collective efforts, we've witnessed lives transform, dreams rekindle, and futures filled with promise.

None of this would have been possible without the benevolence of our domestic and overseas donors. Your generosity has been the cornerstone of our success, enabling us to make a tangible difference in the lives of our beneficiaries. Your unwavering support has not just funded projects but has breathed life into aspirations and ambitions.

A heartfelt appreciation is due to our Managing Committee members whose visionary guidance and unwavering support have steered us through challenges and triumphs alike. Their dedication and commitment to our cause have been pivotal in propelling Sahaara's mission forward.

Additionally, our dedicated staff members have been the true driving force behind our accomplishments. Their selfless dedication, tireless efforts, and unwavering passion have been instrumental in turning our vision into reality. Their compassion and commitment have touched countless lives, fostering hope where it was needed most.

As we look ahead, let us continue to stand united in our resolve to serve the most vulnerable communities of Mumbai. Together, we will strive to amplify our impact, touch more lives, and create a future where every individual feels valued and empowered.

Thank you for being an integral part of this incredible journey. Your unwavering support fuels our determination to continue serving with compassion and dedication.

Rajesh Kumar

Chairman – Sahaara Charitable Society



CEO's Message

Dear Friends of Sahaara,

Looking back on this year fills us with immense joy and gratitude for the collective progress made in navigating the post-COVID era and a leadership transition at Sahaara. Your steadfast support has been instrumental, and we sincerely thank you for standing with us during this transformative period.

Inspired by the caterpillar-to-butterfly metaphor, our journey mirrors phases of change. Internal transformations occur in our program participants, akin to the caterpillar, thanks to each of our interventions. Patient waiting yields remarkable accomplishments, symbolised by the emergence of a butterfly, as reflected in the stories of transformation we witnessed in our participants.

A tremendous source of joy stems from observing three trafficked women graduate from our vocational training center within a year of its launch. Notably, two have secured successful placements in an export company, rescuing them from the exploitative sex trade and offering dignified, gainful employment. These stories strongly underscore the transformative impact of education and skill development, fuelling our dedication to empowering women. While we successfully encouraged 71 women into alternate livelihoods, with 19 directly placed by our organization, we find special pride in the achievements of these two women. Their success is particularly noteworthy as we provided them with skills in our in-house facility, and they excelled in their learning, ultimately securing positions in an export company.

In the Anandalay hostel, devoted to the education of girl children of women from trafficked backgrounds, three students achieved outstanding results in their 10th-grade exams. One earned distinction, while the other two secured first-class honours, upholding the high standards set by the inaugural students who appeared for the 10th-grade exams the previous year since the inception of the hostel. This success is a testament to our students' dedication and the nurturing environment provided by the hostel, vividly illustrating the positive impact of our educational initiatives.

Within the Azad Project, two under-trial women are now pursuing legal education with Sahaara's support, embodying incredible transformations where empowerment intersects with advocacy. The contrast is profound – from being under-trials to aspiring lawyers, echoing the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly.

Our success thrives on pivotal partnerships with like-minded city organizations, boosting operational efficiency and fostering collaboration. In this mutual exchange, we not only reap the benefits but also invest in each other's skills. An illustrative example is our teachers training government home educators, contributing to the enrichment of the broader education ecosystem.

We extend profound gratitude to our donors, the bedrock of our resilience, empowering us to navigate challenges and pursue our mission. Their unswerving belief fuels our determination to create a better tomorrow.

Sincere appreciation to each board member for their steadfast commitment and invaluable contributions during a crucial leadership transition. Their efforts provided stability and laid the foundation for our continued success.

Finally, heartfelt gratitude to our staff for their unwavering commitment, epitomizing the true spirit of our mission by beautifying and restoring lives.

As we wrap up this transformative year, I extend profound gratitude to our friends for their resolute support. Together, we've achieved significant milestones, and we eagerly look forward to continuing this journey of positive change in the years ahead.

Rajesh Mathew

CEO – Sahaara Charitable Society



About Us

Mumbai, often dubbed the City of Dreams, contrasts sharply for the economically disadvantaged, where the dream of a better life often turns into a nightmarish reality.

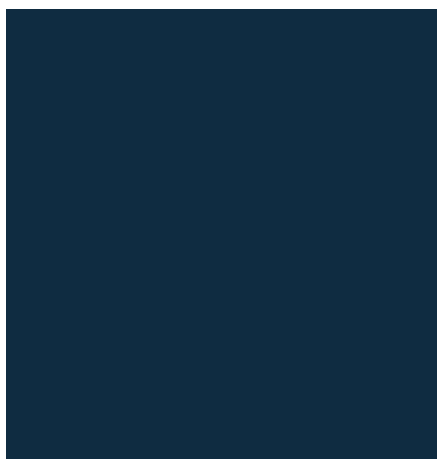
In this city, migrants from impoverished regions arrive with hopes of a brighter future, but many find themselves ensnared in the flesh trade, in prison, or trapped in the harsh conditions of slum life.

Established in 1994 by concerned citizens, Sahaara Charitable Society envisions **“Fulfilling Dreams of the Vulnerable and Marginalised in Society”**. We empower the underprivileged to realize their dreams.

Over the last 29 years, Sahaara has honed Core Competencies in:

- **Providing Educational and Life Competencies to children in red-light districts and government homes.**
- **Offering Holistic care through Education Hostels for at-risk children from red light districts.**
- **Reintegrating sex workers and prisoners into society.**

From a modest initiative led by a handful of volunteers, Sahaara has blossomed into an organization with over 60 staff members running seven impactful programs across Mumbai and its neighbouring districts. Accredited by Credibility Alliance, Charities Aid Foundation, and Give, Sahaara is governed by a board of committed corporate and NGO leaders and businessmen. Together, they are dedicated to catalysing positive transformation within the city.



Education Hostel Program

Mahima Boys' Education Hostel
Anandalay Girls' Education Hostel
Krupalay Girls' Education Hostel

Goal: Children of sex workers develop holistically in a safe and nurturing environment as their parent progress towards sustainable alternate livelihoods so that the cycle of trafficking is broken and families can be reunited.

In Mumbai, thousands of children face the harsh reality of growing up on the streets, particularly in red-light areas. Exposed to elevated risks and lacking opportunities, these children confront a precarious future due to factors such as poverty, stressful events, and limited access to quality education, hindering their development. Living amid daily violence and alcoholism, the offspring of commercial sex workers bear societal stigma, impeding their escape from a challenging environment that hampers physical and psychological development. Nutritional deficiencies and minimal access to healthcare further compound their difficulties, making them vulnerable to unethical employment, including involvement in the sex trade or illegal businesses.

Sahaara intervenes in red-light districts, identifying high-risk children of sex workers and placing them in Sahaara education hostels. The organization provides safe accommodation, nutrition, mental wellness, and quality education, aiming for holistic development through Individual Care Plans (ICPs). Simultaneously, efforts focus on reintegrating parents into safe and stable lifestyles through Individual Reintegration Plans (IRPs), targeting literacy, educational support, skills development, and mind-set and behavioural change.

These children, embraced in a nurturing family atmosphere of our Education Hostels, are raised to believe that once-distant dreams are now within reach.



At-Risk Children
20 Boys
31 Girls
Served

Impact Story: Mahima Boys' Education Hostel

Ajay*

Age: 12, Gender: M, Location: Mahima Boys' Education Hostel

Brushstrokes of resilience on the canvas of life: Ajay's journey inspires us to paint our own narratives of triumph.

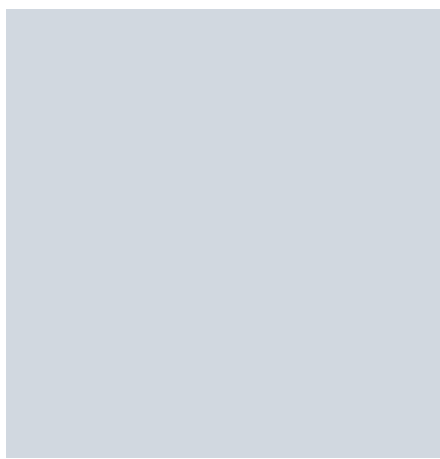
Two years ago, Ajay*, hailing from the Turbhe red-light district in Mumbai, encountered a lifeline that would alter the course of his life—the Mahima Boys Hostel. The backdrop of his story was painted with the harsh strokes of poverty, further intensified by the unforgiving impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. When his mother who works as a sex worker and father who works as a daily wage labourer lost their jobs, their income abruptly ceased, forcing Ajay to drop out of school, an unplanned hiatus from education that stretched over a year.

Yet, amid these challenges, Ajay stood tall. At the behest of his parents, Ajay was admitted to Mahima Boys Hostel. Here Sahaara played a pivotal role in supporting him academically. With Sahaara's assistance, Ajay not only managed to re-enter the academic realm but excelled, achieving an impressive 67% score. Sahaara's support went beyond academics, playing a crucial role in uncovering Ajay's passion for the arts. With the team's guidance, he discovered talents he might not have explored otherwise. Sahaara's assistance helped him overcome educational obstacles and nurtured his artistic potential, contributing significantly to his overall growth and success.

Now, Ajay represents his school in various Arts competitions, showcasing his artistic talents. His dedication and skill have not gone unnoticed, as he has been selected to participate in the prestigious Vasai-Virar Inter-School event—an accomplishment that speaks volumes about his journey from hardship to success.

At Sahaara's Education Hostels, we empower children to showcase their unique talents, fostering confidence and self-discovery. With unwavering love and support, we inspire them to embrace their potential and soar to new heights. Ajay's story serves as a powerful source of inspiration, reminding us that steadfast commitment can empower individuals to triumph over adversities and shape a brighter future.

**Name changed to protect participant identity.*



Impact Story:

Anandalay Girls' Education Hostel

Rachana*

Age: 17, Gender: F, Location: Anandalay Girls' Education Hostel

Rachana: A Shining Star

Rachana's* journey is an incredible tribute to her determination, and unwavering spirit. Born into challenging circumstances in the red-light area of Ghatkopar, with her mother working as a sex worker, she faced adversity from a very young age. The absence of her father and her mother's demanding profession left her to shoulder responsibilities beyond her years, caring for her younger brother and helping with household chores.

Despite these hardships, Rachana displayed remarkable intelligence and a thirst for knowledge. Her resolve to attend the Sahaara Education Centre, even from a very young age, shows her drive to overcome her circumstances and seek an education. This early initiative eventually led to her introduction to Sahaara, which was a turning point in her life. Sahaara's field staff observed Rachana's determination and convinced her mother to release her into Sahaara's care for a chance at a promising future.

At Sahaara's Anandalay Education Hostel, she discovered a nurturing environment that inspired a positive outlook and fuelled her dreams. Our holistic approach was instrumental in Rachana's achievements, from adapting to living in a hostel to excelling academically by finishing Grade 10 with First Class, are truly remarkable. In Grade 11, she strategically chose social sciences and languages, a thoughtful step aligning perfectly with her dream of becoming a journalist. Her passion for writing and advocacy for the voiceless accentuate her commitment to making a meaningful impact through her words.

Rachana's achievements in football, representing her school and State in important matches, highlight her tenacity and strong teamwork skills. Her passion for sketching and painting showcases her creativity and ability to find solace through art.

Her story is not just a personal triumph but also highlights the transformative power of education and the support of organizations like Sahaara. Rachana's bright future, fuelled by her purpose and diverse talents, proves the potential for change and success despite challenging beginnings. We are confident she will continue to excel and inspire others, serving as a reminder that with the right opportunities and determination, one can overcome adversity and reach for the stars.

**Name changed to protect participant identity.*



Impact Story:

Krupalay Girls' Education Hostel

Sanna*

Age: 9, Gender: F, Location: Krupalay Girls' Education Hostel

A Triumph of Hope: Sanna's* Journey from Turbhe's Shadows to Police Inspector Dreams

In the heart of Turbhe, where the echoes of hardship and struggle often drown out the sound of hope, there shines a remarkable story of fortitude. Meet Sanna*, a 9-year-old girl who has overcome unimaginable challenges. Sanna's life was far from typical. Raised in the turbulent surroundings of the Turbhe red light area, she faced a childhood filled with hardships. Her father's abuse cast a shadow over her formative years, and her mother, Shoba*, was forced to turn to sex work to provide for the family. The challenges Sanna faced in her early years were intense.

The Sahaara field executives met with Shoba and educated her about the potential risks to her daughter. They also presented the option of admitting Sanna to Sahaara's Education Hostel for her safety and better future. She agreed to admit Sanna to Krupalay Girls Hostel, recognizing the life-changing potential of such an opportunity. This decision marked a significant turning point in their lives. Sanna's journey to the hostel was not without challenges, with the initial struggle of adjusting to a new environment and the emotional turmoil of being separated from her mother for the first time. Sanna began to thrive, thanks to the love and care coupled with the academic support, life skills, talent development, and mentorship provided by the hostel's dedicated staff.

With the support of her mother and the Krupalay Girls Hostel staff, Sanna embraced new habits and responsibilities, learning values of sharing and responsibility. Academically, she excelled, and her artistic talents flourished through her passion for drawing and painting. To ensure a solid educational foundation, Sanna attends tuition classes and self-study sessions conducted by Krupalay staff. Additionally, she benefits from mentoring, counselling, and life skills sessions designed to equip her for the future.

Expressing gratitude, Sanna says, *"Thank you, Sahaara, for the best education and loving support I receive from the staff. I am grateful to you."* Sanna aspires to become a police inspector, an indication of her resolve to rise up and overcome past challenges.

**Name changed to protect participant identity.*





Mahima Boys' Education Hostel Team



Krupalay Girls' Education Hostel Team



Anandalay Girls' Education Hostel Team

Education Programs: Project Pratham

Goal: Children in and around red-light areas develop educational and life competencies in a supportive eco-system and become positive contributors to society

Children in and around red-light areas, especially those born to commercial sex workers or from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, endure abuse and discrimination. This leads to their self-isolation from mainstream society due to associated stigma. Many attend under-resourced schools, resulting in subpar learning outcomes and a challenging academic journey. Living near red-light areas exposes these children to factors like poverty, stressful life events, and limited access to quality education. They suffer from nutritional deficiencies, limited healthcare access, and basic needs, exacerbating their challenges. More importantly they also face a constant risk of trafficking, the daily exposure to violence and alcoholism complicates their ability to navigate life healthily.

Children without a consistent father figure may experience abuse from their mothers' partners, leading to strained relationships and psychological distress. Limited educational and economic support adds to their challenges, making it difficult to form healthy relationships. Additionally, they are vulnerable to engaging in unethical activities, such as assisting in the sex trade or participating in illegal businesses in their area.

To thrive, these children urgently need love, acceptance, positive guidance, and protection from caring adults to realize their full potential. Project Pratham seeks to establish a more robust and sustainable learning environment for these children, emphasizing strong educational foundations, mental and physical well-being, career development, and the empowerment of parents and the community.



**332 CHILDREN
AND
85 PARENTS
SERVED**



Impact Story: Project Pratham

Karan*

Age: 12, Gender: M, Location: Turbhe

Karan's Inspiring Educational Journey

Karan*, a 12-year-old with a unique blend of qualities, stands out in his class. Calm, composed, and exceptionally alert, he's dedicated to his education despite grappling with an introverted personality and an occasional stutter. However, Karan defies expectations, surprising everyone with quick, insightful responses. Karan's journey is an inspiring example of what can be achieved with support and determination despite facing challenges.

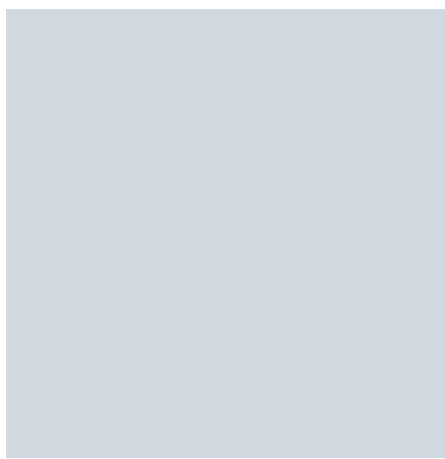
Born to Manoj*, an auto driver, and Pooja*, his devoted mother, Karan is the middle child in a loving family of five. During the pandemic, they faced daunting challenges, stranded in their hometown for two years with limited access to education and financial difficulties.

Last June, the family turned to Sahaara Education Centre at Turbhe known for its commitment to educational empowerment. Sahaara provided Karan with supplementary education support in challenging subjects like Math and English, along with crucial counselling sessions for both Karan and his parents.

Sahaara's Education Centres go beyond traditional academics; they prioritize holistic development for each child. This includes age-appropriate life skills workshops and awareness sessions, ensuring a comprehensive approach to education. Karan Thrived in this environment and with support from Sahaara and his family, he excelled in subjects like Math and English Grammar. His transformation extended beyond academics as he opened up, becoming punctual and consistent in his studies and attendance.

Today, Karan dreams of a comprehensive education, supporting his family, and breaking free from past limitations. Karan's story affirms that with the right support, even the quietest voices will be heard.

**Name changed to protect participant identity.*



Education Programs: Project Pragati

Goal: Children in government homes develop educational and life competencies in a supportive eco-system and become positive contributors in society.

India is home to an astounding 444 million children, constituting approximately 40 percent of our nation's population. However, within this demographic, there exists a silent community of children in Mumbai, tucked away from mainstream society, residing in Observation Homes or Children's Homes. These young souls seek care, guidance, and protection due to harrowing reasons such as abuse, abandonment, runaways, or the consequences of child labour and trafficking. Amidst these challenges, they yearn for care, guidance, and protection during their formative years.

Established childcare institutions play a pivotal role in supporting these vulnerable children, contributing significantly to their holistic development. However, providing individual attention to each student becomes a daunting task due to issues such as overcrowding and the diverse demographics within these institutions.

Recognizing the need for innovative solutions, Project Pragati aims to enhance the educational experience for these children. It creates an environment fostering personalized learning, helping students overcome hurdles, develop a strong sense of identity, manage emotional well-being, and cultivate positive behaviour. The goal is to steer them towards success and reduce the risk of setbacks.

Since 2005, Sahaara has partnered with the Children's Aid Society for transformative impact. Project Pragati focuses on boys at Chembur Children's Home and girls at Bal Kalyan Nagari, providing tailored support from Grade 1 to 10 and Grade 1 to 5, respectively. Envisioning a holistic ecosystem for children in government homes to develop educational and life competencies.

Project Pragati addresses diverse needs by offering remedial education, strengthening academic foundations in math and languages. The program also provides life skills training, equipping children with essential tools for life's challenges. For those inclined towards vocational skill building, the project extends crucial support through scholarships. Sahaara's commitment to individualized growth underscores its mission to help these children achieve dreams in academics or vocational pursuits. Despite challenging beginnings, every child is given the chance to dream and aspire towards a brighter future.



**150 CHILDREN
SERVED**

Impact Story: Project Pragati

Shoaib*

Age: 8, Gender: M, Location: Chembur

Transforming Lives: Sahaara's Impact on Young Shoaib*

At the tender age of 8, Shoaib*, a third-grade student at Chembur Children's Home, a government facility for boys in Mumbai, has encountered challenges surpassing those typically experienced by children his age. Bereaved of his father at an early age, he found himself placed in a government home due to his mother's difficulties in providing for him and his siblings. His journey became even more complex as he spent six months being transferred between Children's Homes.

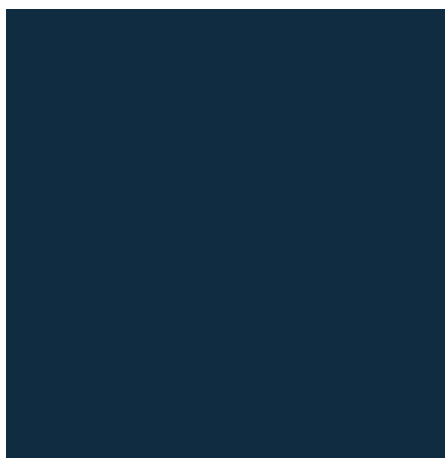
A positive turn occurred when Shoaib found a stable residence at Chembur Children's Home. Placed in the Sahaara class in July 2022, Shoaib's challenges became apparent. Diagnosed with ADHD, he struggled to focus, and his restlessness often led to fights. Undeterred, the Sahaara team took a holistic approach to support him, recommending dietary changes and introducing engaging activities before study sessions.

Within a week, Shoaib's progress was remarkable. From a restless student, he transformed into the class monitor, showcasing responsibility and maturity. Engaging activities and tailored approaches helped him overcome ADHD challenges. Flashcards and games made English learning enjoyable, leading to rapid progress in reading.

Shoaib's newfound respect for teachers and eagerness to learn, demonstrate the success of the Sahaara team's tailored approach. His family, supportive but limited in capacity, found solace in the resources and support provided by the Government home and Sahaara.

Shoaib aspires to become a police inspector and with ongoing guidance from the Sahaara staff, the love of his family, and his unyielding spirit, Shoaib's journey embodies hope and promise. Celebrating Shoaib's achievements, his story emphasizes that dreams can thrive even in the face of adversity.

**Name changed to protect participant identity.*





Project Pratham and Pragati Team

Reintegration Programs: Project Parivartan

Goal: Sex workers from red-light areas will have freedom from sexual exploitation and be empowered for sustainable alternate livelihoods in a safe and supportive ecosystem.

In Mumbai, a city celebrated for its vibrant pursuit of dreams, a harsh reality persists for economically disadvantaged women trapped in the city's sex trade. Despite being hailed as the City of Dreams, Mumbai transforms into a nightmare for those trafficked into its brothels from across the nation and neighbouring countries. The commercial sex industry in Mumbai weaves a tragic tale of victimization, struggle, and the muted voices of countless women.

Trafficked into brothels, these women face immense challenges. Sold into a shadowy world, they begin in bondage, indebted to brothel owners. Enduring sexual, physical, and emotional abuse leaves deep trauma, seemingly rendering them powerless against captors' pressures. Lack of education and skills amplifies their struggles. Deceptive narratives about their worth perpetuate a belief that they are good for nothing else. Illiteracy hinders informed decisions, leading many to become traffickers as their income from the trade dwindles.

Recognizing the need for comprehensive intervention, Sahaara undertakes the mission to restore dignity. The organization educates these women on health-related issues, empowering them to maintain hygienic environments and understand the dire consequences of their livelihood on both health and earnings. This education serves as a powerful deterrent, potentially reducing the spread of sexually transmitted infections.

Acknowledging that many women aspire to break free from the trade, Sahaara works towards their rehabilitation through tailor-made interventions, in the form of Individual Reintegration Plans (IRPs). These plans include access to Adult Literacy, Life Skills, counselling, mentoring, skill building, entrepreneurship training, etc. To realize the ultimate goal of restoring dignity, Sahaara operates a vocational training center where these women acquire valuable skills fostering self-esteem and opening doors to meaningful employment. This empowerment enables them to escape the exploitative trade, breaking free from the confines of the red-light district and forging a path towards a life of dignity and purpose.

Project Parivartan serves as a window of opportunity for women in red-light areas, offering them a chance to choose freedom from slavery and embrace an alternate lifestyle and livelihood. It is a transformative journey of breaking chains and rebuilding lives, one empowered woman at a time.



**1004
PARTICIPANTS
SERVED**

Impact Story: Project Parivartan

Asma*

Age: 31, Gender: F, Location: Turbhe

From Darkness to Light: Asma's* Journey of Empowerment

Asma's story began at 13 with a school picnic turning into an ordeal involving trafficking, abuse, and exploitation. Trafficked to Mumbai with three other girls, she ended up in Pune's brothels. Authorities intervened, placing her in judicial custody until her 18th birthday. Upon reaching the age of 18, she gained her freedom, only to fall prey to a brothel keeper in Mumbai's infamous Turbhe area. Coerced into sex work, her harrowing ordeal continued.

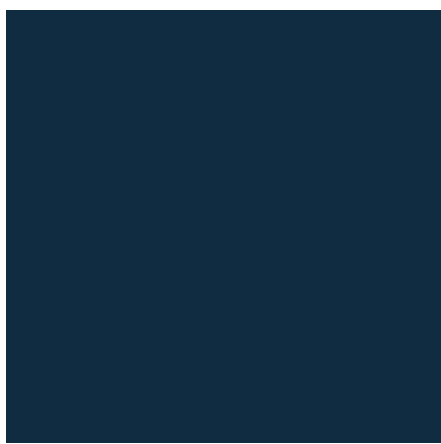
Sahaara, during a field visit, encountered Asma and her husband, Hamza, marking a turning point. Recognizing the need to address both their challenges, Sahaara empowered the couple and supported Hamza in establishing a small fruit vending business, improving their financial situation and his self-esteem.

Beyond traditional boundaries, the team focused on empowering both Asma and Hamza. Asma underwent adult literacy classes and micro-entrepreneurship training. The impact was profound – Asma gained self-confidence and independence, she no longer felt helpless. Sahaara helped her launch her cosmetics business venture, Asma was not only providing for her family but also realizing her dreams of financial stability and self-reliance.

Expressing gratitude, Asma said, *"Sahaara changed my life. They helped my husband in his business, and he's doing really well now. I completed my micro-entrepreneurship training, and it has allowed me to start my own cosmetics business."* Her hope is simple – to educate her children and live a happy life with her husband.

As Asma equips herself to leave the sex trade and embark on a new chapter for her and her family, her transition from darkness to light accentuates the potency of the human spirit, reaching for hope and transformative growth.

**Name changed to protect participant identity.*



Reintegration Programs: Project Azad

Goal: Prisoners & released prisoners are free from a life of crime and are successfully reintegrated into the society.

In Mumbai, a hidden and vulnerable population exists – the thousands of under-trials trapped in prisons, detached from loved ones and often losing hope of a normal life. Rooted in complex societal issues, petty offenses, the catalyst for many incarcerations, stem from poverty, limited education, scarce vocational skills, and a lack of employment opportunities. Factors such as violence in homes, dysfunctional families, emotional challenges, and mental instability contribute to the cycle of offenses, often pushing individuals towards crime due to bad company.

Inside prisons, many petty offenders lack legal knowledge and family connections, leading to prolonged confinement and exposure to criminal influences. Overcrowding exacerbates their struggles, resulting in prevalent health challenges like skin infections. Families endure their own hardships, grappling with social stigma and deprivation if the incarcerated member was the sole breadwinner.

Project Azad addresses these multifaceted issues comprehensively. Legal aid interventions provide crucial support in navigating the complex legal system, ensuring fair chances at justice. Rehabilitation efforts focus on breaking the cycle of crime by addressing root causes such as poverty and lack of education.

Reintegration interventions play a pivotal role in restoring individuals to society. Emergency support to families of prisoners and long-term assistance to released individuals counter social stigma, ensuring a smoother transition to normal life. Medical interventions, including on-site medical camps within prisons, address health challenges, while initiatives like Adult Literacy Courses, Vocational Training, Stress Management, and mentorship support under-trials and their families.

Azad's holistic vision recognizes that lasting transformation requires addressing legal, social, and health dimensions. Their efforts exemplify a commitment to positive change, reaching out to confined individuals and offering a lifeline through legal aid, rehabilitation, and reintegration. Azad is rewriting the narrative for under-trials, providing a chance at redemption and a path toward becoming contributing members of society.



**2184
PARTICIPANTS
AND
125 PRISON STAFF
SERVED**

Impact Story: Project Azad

Fatima*

Age: 33, Gender – F, Prison: Byculla Prison

From prison walls to law school halls: Fatima's* journey, fuelled by resilience and support, proves that dreams can overcome adversity.

In Thane, 33-year-old Fatima*, the sole provider for her mother and grandmother, faced an unexpected legal dispute with neighbours. Accused of robbery and causing physical harm she along with her mother and grandmother were imprisoned. In December 2018, within Byculla prison, she encountered the Azad team during a crucial intervention. Fatima, her mother, and grandmother received legal support from the Sahaara team to face the charges, leading to their release in January 2019.

Sahaara's involvement extended beyond legal matters. Recognizing Fatima's ambition, the team committed to realizing her dream of becoming a lawyer. Assisting her in preparing for the LLB entrance exam became a priority, alongside securing job placements for financial support. Through determination and guidance, Fatima scored 53/150 in her entrance exam, earning admission to a Law College in Mumbai with Sahaara's support.

Fatima's first year of LLB studies showcased her commitment, earning an impressive 70%. With continued support, she has now completed her fourth year, illustrating that dreams can become reality with perseverance and guidance.

Sahaara remains deeply invested in Fatima's educational journey, providing ongoing support for her overall well-being. The organization is proud to witness Fatima thrive in her LLB studies, showing that a second chance, coupled with timely support, empowers individuals to overcome adversity and pursue their dreams.

For Fatima, this journey signifies more than academic success; it symbolizes the triumph of hope, resilience, and the transformative power of support. As she envisions a promising future, Fatima expresses gratitude for Sahaara's invaluable assistance, turning shattered dreams into a narrative of inspiration and achievement.

**Name changed to protect participant identity.*





Project Parivartan Bhiwandi- VTC- DIC Team



Project Parivartan Team



Project Azad Team

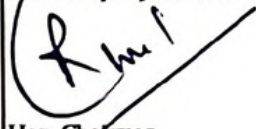
Financial Statements

THE MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950 SCHEDULE VIII [VIDE RULE 17(1)] SAHAARA CHARITABLE SOCIETY BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2023

2021-22	Funds And Liabilities	2022-23	2022-23
	Trusts funds or Corpus -		
39,00,000.00	Balance as per last balance sheets	39,00,000.00	
	Addition during the year		39,00,000.00
	Other Earmarked Funds		
	(Created under the provisions of the trust deed or scheme or out of the Income)		
	Land and Building Fund		
5,70,67,938.32	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	5,70,67,938.32	
-	Additions during the year	2,90,27,521.00	8,60,95,459.32
5,70,67,938.32			
	Gratuity Fund		
-	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	-	
-	Additions during the year	4,08,653.00	4,08,653.00
	Income & Expenditure account		
62,86,974.90	Balance as per last balance sheet	1,57,82,030.78	
94,95,055.88	Less: Deficit for the year	(96,07,125.42)	61,74,904.86
1,57,82,030.78	Add: Surplus for the year		
7,67,49,969.10	Total		9,65,79,017.18

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 Kumar



Hon. Secretary
Kumaresk Pekayare


Mumbai, 24th August 2023

THE MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950
SCHEDULE VIII [VIDE RULE 17(1)]
SAHAARA CHARITABLE SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2023

Regd No. F-16965 (MUM)		Amt in INR	
2021-22	Property And Assets	2022-23	2022-23
	Immovable Properties:- (At cost less depreciation) (Refer Schedule A)		
4,56,10,264.20	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	4,10,49,237.78	
-	Additions during the year	2,90,16,000.00	
45,61,026.42	Less: Depreciation	55,55,723.78	6,45,09,514.00
4,10,49,237.78			
	Intangible Assets		
7,90,992.05	Sahaara Short Movie	697934.05	
93,058.00	Less: Amortise During the year	93058.00	6,04,876.05
6,97,934.05			
	Investments		
	Bank Fixed Deposits		
97,26,385.00	Axis Bank (FCRA)	1,01,47,180.00	
4,20,795.00	Add: Accrued Interest on FD not received during the year	4,60,520.00	
-		-	1,06,07,700.00
1,01,47,180.00			
	Other Assets: (At cost less depreciation) (Refer Schedule B)		
32,98,968.63	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	43,57,177.05	
21,17,196.00	Additions during the year	13,80,465.00	
-	Less: Deletions / Discarded during the year		
10,58,987.56	Less: Depreciation for the period	9,72,748.57	47,64,893.48
43,57,177.07			
	Advances -		
	To Others		
4,57,000.00	Deposits (Refer Schedule C)	4,36,900.00	
	Staff Gratuity Scheme with LIC	4,08,653.00	
4,22,709.48	TDS	4,27,138.00	12,72,691.00
8,79,709.48			
	Cash and Bank balances -		
	Account with-		
41,59,167.70	Axis Bank (FCRA)	36,06,318.46	
1,15,55,089.24	State Bank of India (FCRA)	75,59,080.30	
18,40,190.75	Axis bank (Local)	13,76,219.10	
1,41,344.48	HDFC Bank (Local)	2,83,010.48	
19,22,938.55	SBI Bank (Local)	19,94,714.31	1,48,19,342.65
1,96,18,730.72			
7,67,49,969.10	Total		9,65,79,017.18

Madhur James

Hon Treasurer
Madhur James



As per our report of even date
For Udeshi Shukla & Associates
Chartered Accountants
FRN 114886W

Paresh Vijaysinh Udeshi

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 2023

Registration No:F-16965 (MUM)

2021-22	EXPENDITURE	2022-23	2022-23
	To Expenditure in respect of properties -		
-	Rates, taxes, cesses	-	
-	Repairs and maintainance	-	
-	Salaries	-	
-	Insurance	-	
-	Depreciation		-
62,81,991.80	To Establishment expenses (Refer Schedule D)		79,38,026.04
-	To Remuneration to trustees		-
-	To Remuneration (in case of a math)		-
-	To Legal expenses		-
2,68,730.00	To Audit fees		2,42,738.00
	To Gratuity of staff		4,08,653.00
-	To Amount written off -		
-	a) Bad debts		
-	b) Other items (Fixed Assets)		-
56,20,013.98	To Depreciations		65,28,472.35
93,058.00	To Amortisation of Intangible Assets		93,058.00
-	Reserve or specific funds		-
-	To Expenditure on object of the trust		
-	a) Religious	-	
1,91,05,917.28	b) Educational (Sch. E)	2,45,09,635.82	
2,09,40,828.54	c) Rehab & Relief (Sch. F)	1,47,18,305.24	
580.00	d) Other charitable objects	-	3,92,27,941.06
94,95,055.88	To Surplus carried over to Balance sheet		
6,18,06,175.48	TOTAL		5,44,38,888.45

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 Kumar



Hon. Secretary
Kumaresh Pekayare

Mumbai, 24th August 2023


THE MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950
SCHEDULE IX [VIDE RULE 17(1)]
SAHAARA CHARITABLE SOCIETY
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
For The Year Ended 31ST March 2023

Registration No: F-16965 (MUM)		Amt in INR	
2021-22	INCOME	2022-23	2022-23
4,67,535.00	By Interest - accrued/realised	5,11,689.00	
1,71,818.00	On Investments	2,82,109.00	
-	On Bank accounts	-	7,93,798.00
	On Gratuity Fund		
2,09,44,124.19	By Donations in cash or kind	1,79,55,749.35	
4,02,22,698.29	Local	2,59,19,995.68	4,38,75,745.03
6,11,66,822.48	Foreign		
	Other Income	1,59,650.00	1,59,650.00
-	By Interest on Income Tax Refund		2,570.00
-	By Deficit carried over to Balance Sheet		96,07,125.42
6,18,06,175.48	TOTAL		5,44,38,888.45

As per our report of even date
For Udeshi Shukla & Associates
Chartered Accountants
FRN 114886W

Madhur James
Hon Treasurer
Madhur James

Paresh Vijaysinh Udeshi
Paresh Vijaysinh Udeshi
Partner
MRN 042082



Details of Managing Committee Members as on 31/03/2023

Name	Designation
Rajesh Kumar	Hon. Chairman
Kumaresh Pekayare	Hon. Secretary
Madhur James	Hon. Treasurer
Suresh Mathew	Managing Committee Member
V. J. Joseph	Managing Committee Member
Ruby Caleb	Managing Committee Member
Sushmitha Philipose	Managing Committee Member

Amount reimbursed (in INR) to all Board Members in the Financial Year 2022-23 for the following items

International Travel	0
Domestic travel	0
Local Conveyance	0
Entertainment Expenses	0
Others	0

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	07	24	31
25000 – 50000	08	11	19
50000 – 100000	01	02	03
100000 >	01	00	01
TOTAL STAFF	17	37	54

Total payments made to Consultants	
Total Payments	No. of Consultants
Less than 5000	0
5000 – 10000	0
10000 – 25000	11
25000 – 50000	0
50000 – 100000	0
100000 >	0
Total	11

**POSH ANNUAL REPORT: No cases reported during the year
2022-2023**

Awards & Recognition

give Gold Certified 2022-23



Our Team



Rajesh Mathew
Chief Executive Officer



Rahul Thomas
Chief Operating Officer



Greeshma Sivankutty
Sr. Manager - Finance &
Administration



Meenal D'Lima
Manager - Guest Relations &
Secretarial Administration



Dnyaneshwari H. Tandy
Program Manager - Hostels and
Mental Health



Sheba Mathew
Program Manager- Education &
Training



Irin Sharmy Prasad
Asst. Program Manager -
Reintegration
Project Parivartan



Sheldon D'souza
Team Manager - Reintegration
Project Azad

Support Us

*"Not all of us can do great things,
but we can do small things with great love".*

— Mother Teresa

In a world where every act of kindness counts, we invite you to be a catalyst for change with Sahaara Charitable Society.

Our vision is – "Fulfilling Dreams of the Vulnerable and Marginalized in Society". Together, we can create a brighter future for those in need.



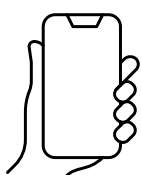
Donate

www.sahaarasociety.org/donate



Volunteer

www.sahaarasociety.org/volunteer

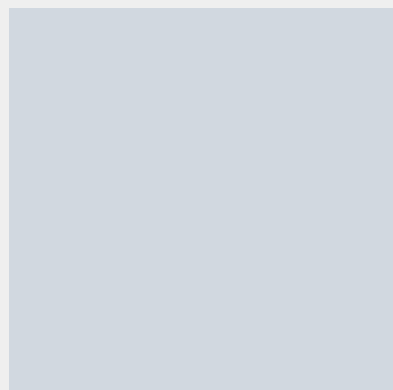


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Sahaara Charitable Society

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URL: www.sahaarasociety.org

ACCREDITED BY

