

PRAYAS



JOURNEY OF PRAYAS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE

60021
8891
8891
8891



**PRAYAS
INSTITUTE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

59 Tughlakabad Institutional Area,
New Delhi – 110 062, India
Tel/Fax: 91-11-29955505, 29956244

Email: prayas@del6.vsnl.net.in

Visit us: <http://www.prayaschildren.org>

PRAYAS IS BORN.....

- 1988 – Devastating fire in Jahangirpuri Re-settlement slums (north Delhi – now north West) – Thousands destitute, including children on streets
- Amod K. Kanth, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) on the spot - investigation turned into Rehabilitation program for the neglected & destitute children
- Crime Branch Delhi Police Contact Centre, a unit of Missing Persons Squad focused on children, run by a Lady Inspector & a Team of socially spirited junior police functionaries
- 1989 – ‘Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre Society’ registered to help the neglected, vagrant & delinquent juveniles, missing & no-where children
- The Centre converted into a collaborative partnership of Delhi Police, Delhi School of Social Work (DSSW) & Shramik Vidyapeeth (SVP).
- Beginning of journey 25 (to 50,000) children in two room Low Income Group (LIG) flat. Jointly run by the policewomen / men & DSSW student / trainees
- Developing programs of joyful learning, counselling, child protection, restoration & rehabilitation.

JUVENILE JUSTICE – THE FOCUS OF PRAYAS

- ❖ Genesis of Juvenile Justice & Police – Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre, comparable to Juvenile Aid Police Unit (JAPU) of Mumbai Police
- ❖ Adopted the legal concept of care, protection, treatment, development & rehabilitation of neglected & delinquent juveniles under Juvenile Justice Act, 1986
- ❖ Prayas JAC centre, first ever integrated partnership project between police & social workers – a nucleus for juvenile justice
- ❖ Joint Team led by successive lady Inspectors, Praveen Dutt, Asha Thakur, Sudesh Kumari with DSSW trainees & SVP Vocational Instructors
- ❖ (Prof.) R. N. Yadav, first Project Manager → UGC Research Scholar on street children transplanted from DSSW to Jahangirpuri centre
- ❖ Expanding charter of activities responding to children's needs in the community setting
- ❖ Dynamics → of police & social work, conflicts on resolution course → the developing model of juvenile justice.

DELHI POLICE & JUVENILE JUSTICE CONVENTIONAL VS. PRO-ACTIVE APPROACHES

- 1990-1992 – Transfer of Amod Kanth & the initial attempt to institutionalize JAC
- Tutelage of Delhi Police – power-centric approach found to be non-functional – the very relevance of Prayas JAC society for Delhi Police challenged
- Changes in the Constitution & collaborative partnership amongst Delhi Police, DSSW & SVP – Resolution mechanism for governmental & non-governmental conflicts
- Defined roles within the larger perspective of Juvenile Justice – Delhi Police for the protection & just treatment of juveniles / children, DSSW to provide the concept of social work & SVP for vocational rehabilitation
- A developing model of holistic care through the integrated team of Police, Social Worker / Counsellor & Vocational Instructors – Swapping the roles
- Growing programs & activities within the flexible, legal & administrative structure
- Association of eminent experts from Social Work, Education, Vocational Education & Health – Profs. R. M. Varma, R. R. Singh & C. J. Daswani, Drs. D. N. Mathur, K. S. Sachdeva: Multiple governmental & non-governmental partnerships
- 1992/93 – National Workshop on Juvenile Justice, participation of stakeholders - all known practitioners, experts & academicians, policy makers & administrators, Ministers & opinion leaders to formulate a national policy & action plan
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, UNICEF support: publication of 'Neglected Child: Changing Perspectives' – Prayas Road Map to Juvenile Justice.

PRAYAS: A HOLISTIC JOURNEY TOWARDS JUVENILE JUSTICE

- 1993-1996 – Holistic care – Responding to the growing Needs & the basic Rights of Children’s Protection, Survival, Development & Participation in terms of United Nations Convention of Rights of Child -1989 & the crystallizing juvenile justice philosophy of Prayas.
- Coverage from 500 to 5000 neglected children - Increasing number of Non -formal Education (NFE) & Vocational Training Centers
- Programs for child protection, care & maintenance, development, restoration & rehabilitation – Expanding coverage through centers
- Provision of clothing & shoes, basic nutrition, mid-day meals & health care, counselling & recreation – Each activity being pre-requisites for the fulfillment of the rights of children in terms of their basic needs
- Growing national concerns for the neglected children, reflected more in the voluntary than the governmental sector
- Issues like child labour, juvenile neglect & delinquency, trafficking, abuse & exploitation of children – Catching popular imagination
- Serious problems of the shelter -less, destitute & street children – Need for shelters with multiple care, protection & development programs
- Prayas, an attempt to convert & coalesce the entire range of juvenile/ children, neglect & disadvantaged into a legal, policy & administrative commitment
- Concretizing the concept of juvenile justice – Fulfillment of needs & rights of protection & care, education, health, recreation & shelter, just & fair treatment, exclusive to the criminal justice system

NEED FOR DEEPER EXPERIMENTS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



- Common components of the juvenile justice system for the Neglected & Delinquent Juveniles under the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986
- Police as the 'Prime Mover': The first point of contact & induction for all juvenile delinquents & 95% neglected children
- Juvenile Courts functioning like the normal adult courts & Juvenile Welfare Boards functioning like the Courts
- All Custodial Homes i.e., Observation Homes for delinquent / neglected, Children's Homes for neglected & Special Homes for delinquents – Identical character & programs, poor classifications & educational / vocational / rehab. programs.
- Prayas JAC experiment, a model for police intervention in juvenile care & protection.
- **Towards direct participation in other areas of juvenile justice, namely, custodial & non-custodial, institutional & non-institutional, family & community-based interventions**
- Programs focused upon the children & in their best interests honestly fulfilling in practice the commitments & requirements of JJ Act, UNCRC & Beijing Rules for Minimum Standards.
- Neglected & Delinquent children essentially being the products of societal inadequacies: Scrutiny & remedies.
- Help in formulating & participating in the strategic areas of JJ system.

HARDCORE JJ EXPERIMENTS

- 1996 – Escape of 75 children from the Majnu Ka Tila Government Remand Home & the brutal killing of the missing & neglected 13 year old child ‘Rohit’ at Lajpat Nagar juvenile Home
- Major media uproar against the inhuman conditions of JJ Homes – Constitution of a High Powered Committee & Prayas’ lead participation in preparing the most horrifying government report ever documented
- Findings of brutality & serious mis-management, inevitable conclusion & recommendation to transfer / management -participation of NGOs .
- 2nd October 1996: All NGOs reluctant, Prayas’ association in government Observation Homes for Boys, Ferozshah Kotla
- Joint management of programs – Education, vocational training & recreation with Prayas; custodial care, protection & rehabilitation programs with government.
- Conflict of Approaches & Interests – Security obsessed non -trusting government functionaries pitted against child -friendly NGO Employees
- 1st July 1997 to 1st July 2003: Prayas’ experiment in short- term custodial care, treatment & rehabilitation of the neglected juveniles / children in need of care & protection
- Admitted 4,871 children – 70% restored, rehabilitated or socially re-integrated.

Challenges & Opportunities

- The first-ever complete management transfer of a custodial home (Prayas OHB, Ferozshah Kotla) inevitably created serious upheaval in the established JJ system.
- Complete non-acceptance of the change among the government functionaries despite an altered political & administrative will result in the historic decision .
- Motivated public interest litigation (PIL) against the transfer in Delhi High Court – Prayas’ victory in the legal battle, establishing a new model of exclusive management & experiments to run a government Home under JJ Act.
- Child-friendly programs, activities & experiments in the Home giving them fullest opportunities to learn & develop, feel comfortable & happy in Home-like environment.
- Extraordinary care to restore physical & mental health of the traumatized children.
- Activities relating to alternative & innovative education, vocational training, recreation & outings alongwith other children, enquiries & counselling to children & families resulting in restoration & rehabilitation.
- Adoption of best practices like, Sadan system from SOS for family - like child care & round the clock presence, caring & sharing of life by the staff – bhaiyas & didis.
- Complete transparency & free entry of the interested visitors, including the media, resulting in major improvements & change in Home culture.
- Transformation of ‘Dilli Gate Jail for Children’ into India’s best known child-friendly Remand Home

RE-ENACTMENT OF LAW

NEW CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Prayas' participation in re-drafting of Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000 – a unique opportunity to help shaping the law & system in the light of experiments.
- Age for children / juveniles upto 18 years in terms of UNCRC, resulting in dramatic increase of the number of juveniles in conflict with law (delinquents) – hundreds of children in Tihar jail, like in the jails all over the country.
- An opportunity for the un-friendly government officials to convert Prayas OHB for the children in need of care & protection into the OHB for juveniles in conflict with law.
- Sincere efforts made to create additional facilities for children / juveniles failed, Conversion of Ferozshah Kotla Home into the OHB for juveniles w.e.f. 1st July 2003.
- A new challenge & opportunity for Prayas to entirely deal with the delinquent juveniles including heinous crimes, like no other institution in the country.
- Experience of running OHB – I Ferozshah Kotla (402 cases disposed: released on bail-147, transferred to other institutions (Prayas)-14, undergone cases-02, acquitted cases-18, released-29) juveniles from Report submitted to the Government.
- Except for security (restored) all experiments in progress despite the walk outs & remorseful return of 10 juveniles, mostly above 16 years of age & involved in heinous offences like, murder, attempt to murder, robbery & rape.

RE-ENACTMENT OF LAW NEW CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Programs & activities like improved alternative education & vocational training, more thorough & better case management & counselling, intensive personal care & sharing, counselling & efforts for Rehabilitation & Social Re-integration continue...
- Daily routine: balanced diet, recreation, health activities, combined with careful & protective production & proceedings in the Juvenile Justice Board
- Major experiments continue in association with the pro-active Juvenile Justice Board to resort to various dispositions u/s 15 of the JJ Act of 2000, such as, release with warning & reprimand, under probation service or under placement with Prayas Children's Home, Jahangirpuri - a 'Fit Institution'
- Transparency & permitting visits to outsiders including the media continues like before except the legal prohibition to disclose the identity of the juveniles creating stigma
- New Homes & Shelters of Prayas – under JJ Act – OHB – I for juveniles in conflict with law, Ferozshah Kotla (capacity 150-200), Children's Home for Boys (cap. 200), Children's Home for Girls (cap. 50)
- Other Shelters run by Prayas – Drop-in-centre at Hanuman Mandir (cap. 30-40), Nabi Karim Shelter (cap. 50)
- Prayas as a founder & Nodal Agency of Child Helpline (1098) creating significant networking & programs for the children in urgent need of care & protection.

TRAVELING FURTHER MILESTONES (DELHI, BIHAR & GUJARAT)



- 1999 - Prayas Institute of Juvenile Justice (IJJ), an apex unit with the support of NORAD (Government of Norway) – only institution of its kind in the country.
- The IJJ having units like Juvenile Justice, Resource & Finance, Research & Documentation & Library, Alternative Education, Information, Education & Communication, Childline, Anti-Trafficking & CIC. The Institute also houses centres for alternative education, vocational training, sales outlet run by rehabilitated girls at the Head Office of the organization
- January 26, 2001 – devastating earthquake in Gujarat. Prayas responded to the disaster, relief rehabilitation & juvenile justice – regular project Sneh Prayas in 36 Bhuj villages & slums in Ahmedabad
- 2002, Ministry of HRD, GOI, Jan Shikshan Sansthan project for vocational training, continuing education & economic empowerment – all linked with Children Homes / shelters under JJ system
- CIDA sponsored action research project on Juvenile Justice & the Rights of the Child in the States of Bihar & NCT Delhi
- 2002-03- Five Juvenile Justice projects set-up in the districts of Samastipur, Nalanda, East Champaran (Motihari), Darbhanga & Bagaha of Bihar
- Special Juvenile Police Units created in nine districts & Railway Police in Delhi & the five districts of Bihar. Being expanded in Gujarat, UP & other States
- Bihar Voluntary Coordinating Agency (BVCA), the only statutory body (Supreme Court orders) for promotion & regulation of adoptions under JJ Act 2000 / HAMA, being run in the states of Bihar & Jharkhand.

RELATED SERVICES RUN BY PRAYAS UNDER JJ SYSTEM

- Observation Homes for juveniles in conflict with law
- Shelter Homes & Drop-in-centres for Boys & Girls
- Alternative & Innovative Education programs under Education Guarantee Scheme (Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan)
- Vocational Training & Placement Services
- Sponsorship & Social Re-integration Programs
- Health Services
- Counselling
- Community-based non-institutional services
- Rehabilitation & Restoration
- Mid Day Meal & Nutrition Program
- Childline...1098
- Anti -Trafficking Programme & Crisis Interventions Centre
- Self-Help Groups & Entrepreneurship program
- Training / Workshops / Seminars / Consultations / Meets relating to Juvenile Justice system

THEMATIC AREAS OF WORK

- **JUVENILE JUSTICE & CHILD PROTECTION**
- **CHILD TRAFFICKING & CRISIS INTERVENTION**
- **CHILD ABUSE**
- **CHILD LABOUR**
- **EDUCATION FOR MARGINALIZED CHILDREN IN ALTERNATIVE MODES**
- **HEALTH & NUTRITION FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE & PROTECTION**
- **VOCATIONAL TRAINING & LIFE SKILLS FOR JUVENILES / CHILDREN, & ADOLESCENTS ABOVE 14 YEARS**
- **ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR JUVENILES / CHILDREN, & ADOLESCENTS ABOVE 14 YEARS**
- **SELF HELP GROUPS, MICRO CREDIT & INCOME GENERATION PROGRAM**
- **VOLUNTARY SECTOR & JUVENILE JUSTICE – AS A COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMME & AS AN ALTERNATIVE**

OUR PARTNERS

INTERNATIONAL

- NORAD
- CIDA
- Action Aid
- Children's Hope, USA
- British Police
- UNIFEM
- Rotary International
- CRS
- UNICEF
- AUSAID
- IPEC-ILO
- TDH, Germany
- UNESCO
- CARE-India
- PRI
- IOM

NATIONAL

- MoSJ&E
- MHRD
- MY&S
- MH&FW
- Ministry of Labour
- Dept. of Social Welfare, NCT, Delhi
- DSACS, NCT, Delhi
- Dept. of Education
- MoSJ&E, Govt. of Gujarat
- Dept. of SW, Govt. of Bihar
- Dept. of Mass Edu, Bihar
- Tata Trust
- CSWB

INSTITUTIONAL

- NIPCCD
- NLI
- NCW
- DCW
- DSSW
- JMI
- SP Jain Inst.
- TISS
- Delhi Police
- CAF
- Credibility Alliance

PRAYAS RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION



- A full-fledged unit of Research & Documentation besides Juvenile Justice Unit (JJU) under the Institute of Juvenile Justice Prayas
- Two documentaries, namely, 'UDAY' a training film on JJ system based on true life story & 'Little Step, Big Leaps' – a story of Prayas produced with the support of NORAD.
- Regular publications of Annual Activity Report, Prayas Reflections, Newsletters (Parivartan), brochures & leaflets.

List of Important Articles & Publications

- i. Neglected Child: published
- ii. Child Watch India: published
- iii. Cradle of Hope: published
- iv. Institutionalized Children: under publication
- v. Child as Offender, Victim & Witness: under publication
- vi. Juvenile Justice & Rights of the Child: under publication

PRAYAS' IMPACT ON POLICIES

- **Community action based & targeted intervention of Prayas create a unique capacity for policy intervention.**
- **Contribution in drafting the re-enacted Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act, 2000.**
- **Formulation of the draft bill of National Commission for Children.**
- **Formulation of the draft bill of National Charter for Children with the Department of Women & Child Development, Ministry of HRD, Government of India.**
- **The commission, once created, shall be the apex statutory body which will take a holistic overview of all children.**
- **The commission will also monitor & evaluate the status of safeguards provided to children, constitutionally, legally or otherwise.**
- **Made valuable suggestions in the light of the new legal changes & juvenile justice system requirements, many of which have been incorporated in the draft bill.**
- **National Policy & Scheme for Adolescents in Difficult Circumstances.**
- **Alternative Education – Member of the State level Govt. Society of SSA in Delhi**
- **National Umbrella Scheme for Children in need of care & protection, MoSJ&E**
- **Child Labour- Member of the Governing Body of State level Society in Delhi**

PRAYAS TODAY



COVERAGE

- Prayas is today running three institutional as well as 11 non-institutional projects with more than 100 community-based centres
- Prayas caters to the needs of more than 50,000 children / juveniles.
- It has opened chapters in UK, USA & Germany

LEGAL STATUS

- Prayas is a registered 'society' under the Societies' Registration Act, XXI of 1860 No. S-20291 dated August 29, 1989
- Jan Shikshan Sansthan registered under the Indian Societies Act, 1860 vide Registration No. 37213 of 2000
- Prayas has been given recognition under Section-6(I) of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, Registration No. 231650677 for receiving foreign contributions
- It has been granted registration under section-80 (G) (5)(vi) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 & Section 35 AC (100% tax exemption).



We believe :

***‘The Rights & Needs
of the Child are
synonymous’***