

Documentation of “*Sanmaan*” Model

An intervention (Project) of Prerana
for the sustainable rehabilitation of
children found begging

June 2021



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BACKGROUND NOTE

Prerana is a civil society organization which started working in the red-light areas of Mumbai in 1986 with the actual and potential women and children victims of commercial sexual exploitation & trafficking. Prerana takes a 360 degree approach to its efforts in ending commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking through protection, prevention, vigilance, rescue, post rescue operations, victim care services, prosecution, empowerment of victim women, advocacy, legal support, policy level and administrative reforms, rehabilitation and social reintegration, generating social awareness, research and documentation, sensitization and training of special functionaries (like police, judiciary, etc.) and networking and capacity building of fellow organizations.

Sanmaan project is a unique intervention of Prerana which was initiated in the year 2016 for children found in and rescued from begging in Maharashtra. After 5 years of journey of this project, this is an effort to document the 'model', capturing good practices and other important elements that can contribute to the learning on the subject.

Mr. Zaved Nafis Rahman and Ms. Apurva Singh, a team of independent consultants, were engaged by Prerana to carry out the documentation of the Sanmaan model by working closely with the Sanmaan project team. Prerana team viz. Ms. Amrapali Mukherjee, Ms. Deepali Mistry, Ms. Sandhya Katkar, Ms. Hasina Shaikh, Ms. Rahima Mallik, Mr. Mahesh Billu, Ms. Richa Pant, Mr. Snehanshu Shome, Ms. Kashina Kareem and Ms. Priti Patkar participated in the workshops and discussions.

The consultant team also carried out interviews of important stakeholders, i.e. representatives of Child Welfare Committees, Police, Department of Women & Child Development, Ashram School, Religious Institutions, Childline services, other NGOs and Sanmaan's funder & strategic partner, Educo in India.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, field visits to the intervention areas of Sanmaan project could not take place for this project in 2021. However, the consultant team had recently visited the project sites during another assignment (baseline survey of Sanmaan project in December 2020). So, the perspectives of children, families and community members (developed during the field visits) were taken into consideration while documenting this model. Also, selected case studies were taken to explain the various processes involved in sustainable rehabilitation of these children.

HISTORY OF THE 'SANMAAN' INITIATIVE

Prerana has been working closely with law enforcement agencies including the Mumbai police on various cases of abuse and trafficking of women and children since 1986. In year 2016, Ms. Priti Patkar (Co-founder & Executive Director, Prerana) was invited by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Enforcement in Mumbai to attend a meeting involving the police, Childline (1098), Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) and NGOs working with children on the street regarding a 'drive' to rescue children found begging. In this meeting the DCP shared with the participants that they should refer to Prerana's model of 'post rescue work' with sex trafficked victims and try and draw parallels to address post rescue needs of children found begging on the streets and support to be extended to children and their families to prevent re-induction of these children into begging.

Prerana agreed to contribute and decided to look into the situation of children in begging and initiate some action, to begin with hold a consultation with important stakeholders and follow-up with a few cases which also led to meetings with CWCs.

After starting to work, Prerana observed that the children rescued from situation of begging, post rescue were immediately restored to their families if the families produced identity documents like Aadhaar card. There was no procedure of due Inquiry as laid down in the Juvenile Justice Act like conducting home visits or developing of Individual Care Plans (ICPs) in these cases. The CWC members were open and supportive of Prerana's discussion on how they and other NGOs and the police were finding children back on the street post rescue in the absence of a structured rehabilitation plan for the children including lack of family strengthening support services. Prerana suggested, assessing the authenticity of the claimants and if the parents were fit to take charge of the children at that point in time through home visits and making of ICPs instead of resorting to quick restorations as suggested by the Probation Officers. Soon the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015 was implemented, which further supported Prerana's views on post rescue of children's cases (Section 30, 31 and others). As Prerana delved further into the issue, it noticed that there are primarily 2 marginalised tribal communities (Pardhi and Potraj) whose children are seen begging. It was realised that apart from being a protection issue it is also an issue of caste and social vulnerability. Around that time, Educo (one of the funders of Prerana) had a meeting on education of marginalised groups.

In this meeting, Ms. Priti shared how they intervened in the red-light areas and were able to break the inter-generational cycle among children born to women in the sex trade living in the red-light areas and their recent experience of children begging belonging to the socially vulnerable marginalized groups. Educo expressed interest in this piece of work and explored how this experience could be applied to break the inter-generational cycle of begging in certain communities in Mumbai. That is how this Sanmaan came into being.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT OF THE INTERVENTION AND SITUATION OF THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN BEGGING

Prerana's Sanmaan project is being implemented in Mumbai (Mumbai City and Suburban), Raigad and Thane districts of Maharashtra, India.

Mumbai, earlier known as Bombay, is one of the biggest metropolitan cities in India. According to the United Nations, as of 2018, Mumbai is the second-most populous city in the country after Delhi and the seventh-most populous city in the world with a population of roughly 20 million.

Mumbai is also the commercial and entertainment capital of India. Work opportunities in Mumbai attract migrants from all over India.

While Mumbai is among the biggest cities in developing countries, there is widespread poverty and unemployment, poor public services (health, education, etc.) for a large section of the population. Mumbai harbours one of the oldest and most significant ports in India and has a well-established shipping industry. Dharavi, in central Mumbai, which has a large recycling industry, is also considered as one of the biggest slums in the world.

According to the government of India Census 2011, there are 57,416 homeless people in Mumbai. The NGOs working on the issue estimate the figure of homeless people in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai to be over 200,000.

Experiences of various organizations and studies have shown that street children face a number of hardships like atrocities by police and others, sleeping rough (without shelter), exploitation at workplaces, health hazards, sexual abuse, etc. Research done by Save the Children titled- Spotlight on the invisibles (2019), shows 52,535 children in street situations in Mumbai.

There is no accurate figure on the number of children in begging situations on the streets of Mumbai. An ActionAid study/ census on street children in Mumbai in 2012 titled Making Street Children Matter: A census study in Mumbai city, showed a total of 37059 children were found across the 24 Wards and railway station areas and trains during the time of the enumeration. Out of the total, 7.9 % were found to be begging. This indicates that there were 2934 children in begging at that time.

It is believed that the number would be much more than what this study is indicating as these children are highly mobile and often 'invisible'. The plight of these children and families reflects the worst forms of human existence.

BEGGARY, BACKWARD COMMUNITIES AND DE-NOTIFIED TRIBES (DNT) IN MUMBAI

The term 'Denotified Tribes' stands for all those communities which were notified under the several versions of Criminal Tribes Acts enforced during the British rule between 1871 and 1947 throughout the Indian territory and were 'denotified' by the repeal of these Acts in 1951 after India's Independence.

The total Nomadic (SC/ST) population works out to 4,49,59,058 approximately. The total population of Nomadic communities (OBC) without extrapolation as in 1951 works out to 1,71,77,138. Information about 123 Nomadic communities (OBC) is not available.

The denotified communities include ex-criminal, nomadic and wandering tribes, earth diggers, fishermen, boatmen and palanquin bearers, salt makers, washermen, shepherds, barbers, scavengers, basket makers, furriers and tanners, landless agricultural labourers, watermen, toddy tapers, camel-herdsmen, pig-keepers, pack bullock carriers, collectors of forest produce, hunters and fowlers, corn parchers, primitive tribes (not specified as Scheduled Tribes), exterior classes (not specified as Scheduled Castes), and begging communities etc. These very names amply connote their social and educational backwardness.

Pardhi, Wadari, Masan Jogi and Waghri are some of such de-notified tribes. These communities, faced by the lack of work with changing times and excluded from opportunities owing to the stigma attached with their communities, are forced to beg for their livelihood in most cases.

Systematically denied opportunities to engage in any meaningful work, criminalised owing to their legal status during the British era and stigmatised till date, devoid of any opportunities for a different life for their children and future generations, these communities face an ongoing crisis. The children belonging to the above-mentioned communities are the main target groups that the project Sanmaan works with.



BRIEF ON EXISTING CHILD RIGHTS AND PROTECTION SCENARIO IN MUMBAI

The issue of street children has been a major urban poverty issue for many decades in Mumbai. Children in begging are one category of street children who are not just vulnerable to the hardships on the street but face tremendous negativity (stigma) and harsh treatment from authorities and general public.

Laws such as the Habitual Offenders Act 1952 and the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act 1959, state begging as a criminal act. Therefore, it is used to raid and arrest adult individuals found begging and they are put in custodial institutions (jails) upon conviction as criminals. Often during such raids, children are separated from the adult members in their families. This is travesty of justice for the vulnerable families/ communities on the street. Fortunately, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2015, considers children in begging and those found without adult supervision and ostensible means of subsistence as “children in need of care and protection.”

Prior to the initiation of the Sanmaan project, often families were treated harshly (as offenders) by the authorities and booked under various anti-begging laws. Children were often separated from their parents due to this. Although, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 was in force and related child protection mechanisms were in place, the cases of children in begging were not handled in a child-friendly manner.

With the gradual implementation of the JJ Act 2015 and advocacy by Prerana through the Sanmaan project, there was sensitization of important duty bearers and they started playing a positive role for support and rehabilitation of children in begging. The other important legislations related to child rights implemented in the state of Maharashtra were as follows:

- ▶ Right to Education Act, 2009
- ▶ Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016
- ▶ Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012
- ▶ Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006
- ▶ Right to Food Act/ National Food Security Act, 2013
- ▶ Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of atrocities) Act, 1989
- ▶ Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016
- ▶ Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Prohibition and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018

The systems/ agencies that came into being or developed from 2016 to 2020 for ensuring protection to vulnerable children and supporting them to access their rights are as follows:

- Child Welfare Committees at district level (a quasi-judiciary body)
- Juvenile Justice Boards
- District Child Protection Unit
- Department of Women & Child Development
- Department of Social Justice & Empowerment
- Ward/ Village level Child Protection Committees
- Childline (1098, emergency helpline number for children in distress)
- Children's homes (short-term and long-term, government and non-government)
- Open Shelters
- Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) and State Adoption Resource Agency (SARA)
- Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
- Child Help Desk, Child Help Group and Railway Childline at selected railway stations
- Department of Education
- Department of Tribal Affairs, including residential schools for children of marginalized communities (Ashram schools)
- Municipal authorities (BMC and NMMC)

- Police, including Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) and Anti-Human Trafficking Unit
- Hospitals, including children's hospitals
- Shelters for the homeless
- Apart from the above agencies/ facilities created, both the central and state government launched or expanded some schemes for the benefit of vulnerable children/ families such as:
 - Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan (reaching out of school children)
 - Mid-day meal scheme in schools
 - Schemes for girl children
 - Maharashtra Bal Sangopan Yojana (for education support to children of single parents)
 - Various schemes for backward communities like the Mahatma Phule Backward Development Board, Sanitary Mart Yojana, hostels, subsidies, alcoholism and untouchability eradication program, reservation and others.
 - Schemes to support migrant families affected by Covid19 pandemic, e.g. the Maharashtra Khawati Yojana

Despite these mechanisms/facilities/ services, a large number of street children had limited access to or remained excluded from accessing these mechanism or facilities. A significant number of such children and their families were helped due to the outreach of grassroots interventions, like the Sanmaan project.



SANMAAN - AIM AND OBJECTIVES

WHAT DOES IT AIM TO DO?

Project Sanmaan (which means dignity) aims to enable children found begging on the streets of Mumbai to enjoy their rights and be free of exploitation. This project focuses on improving systemic response to children engaged in begging by demonstrating and building capacities for rights-based intervention with children. The project aims to strengthen the families/communities to ensure that children receive appropriate care and protection by families (for instance, are sent to schools and not engaged in begging) and thereby prevent institutionalization by the juvenile justice system.

WHY?

Children found begging on the street are not safe and protected and instead are exposed to harm, neglect and various forms of abuse and exploitation. Early in 2016, police authorities in Mumbai started a drive wherein children found begging were taken into custody and produced before the CWC to be handed over to the claimants immediately without due inquiry or sent to children's institutions for care and protection, following the Juvenile Justice Act. The children were not only being separated from their parents and institutionalized but their fundamental right to education was also being violated especially for those who were accessing the public education system. Though poverty is the root cause of their marginalisation, they face the social discrimination since most of them belong to denotified tribes which have been historically labelled as criminal tribes since the British era (such as Pardhi and Potraj) and their social marginalisation is manifold. This is the primary reason for the communities to flee from their native villages and come to city in search of means of livelihood thus falling in to the trap of invisibility and extreme forms of violation of their basic rights- forcing them and their children to beg for survival.

Overall Objective: *Children found begging enjoy their right to well-being and dignity and break the intergenerational cycle of begging in Mumbai and Thane by 2024*

Specific Objective: *Improve social and political systemic response for the safety and well-being of children found begging in Mumbai and Thane through a child rights-based approach.*

EXPECTED RESULTS

Result 1 (Prevention): *Children at risk are prevented from being inducted or re-inducted in begging in Mumbai and Thane District.*

Result 2 (Protection): *The children found begging are rescued and rehabilitated in child friendly manner by the duty bearers.*

Result 3 (Advocacy): *Government Stakeholders effectively implement existing policies to protect children and incorporate evidence-based practices.*

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS:

- **Right Holders:** The primary beneficiaries of the project are children in the age group of 6 years to 18 years and families engaged in begging at public places including those rescued by the Mumbai police. The Project works towards long term eradication of child beggary by strengthening community mechanisms and enabling the children to access their rights.
- **Duty Bearers:** The actors of the Juvenile Justice System often interpret the Juvenile Justice Act as requiring to “rescue” and institutionalize the children found begging. The actors of the Juvenile Justice System often interpret the Juvenile Justice Act as either handing over the rescued children to their claimants without following the process of Inquiry as mentioned in the Act or institutionalize the children found begging. The actors of the juvenile justice system therefore are the targets of this project. This includes the Mumbai Police (SJPU), Child Welfare Committees, District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) and Institutions for children in need of care and protection (Children’s Homes). In addition to the Juvenile Justice System, the project also works with the local self-government of Mumbai, the State Government of Maharashtra, civil society organizations providing a variety of shelter based and other services for children as well as Mumbai Working group on Child Protection (CCVC- Coordination Committee for Vulnerable Children) are included as allies for ensuring that good practices are followed to ensure safety and wellbeing of children. Apart from these, the project also works with Education Committee and Schools and Department of Tribal Affairs (including Ashram schools) for mainstreaming these children’s education and accessing government schemes.

▶ **APPROACH, STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES OF SANMAAN**

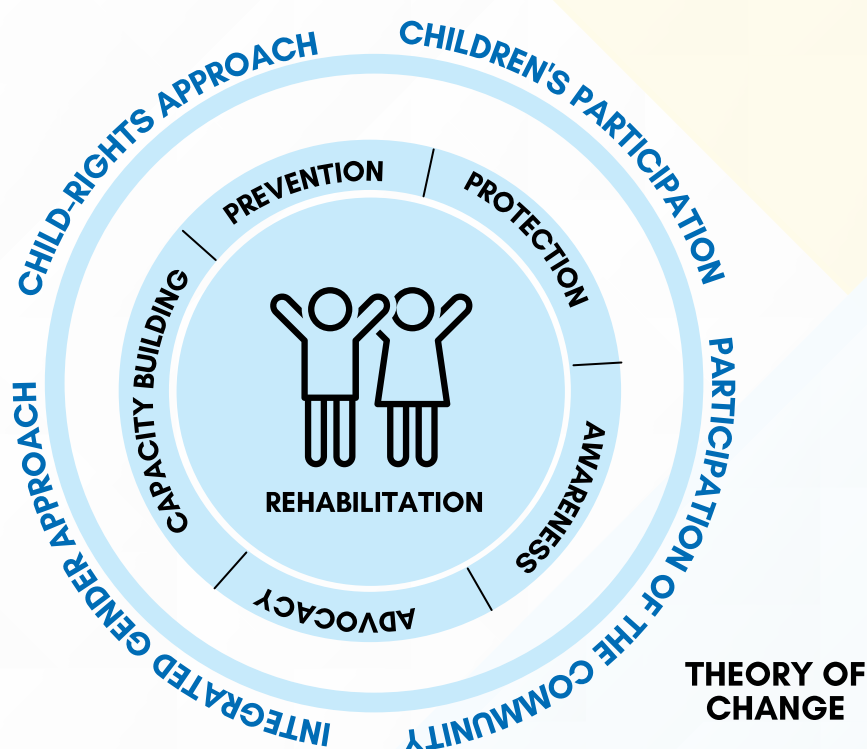
APPROACH OF THE SANMAAN PROJECT

Prerana is an organisation that believes that basic rights of all vulnerable groups of people should be protected and promoted. The primary focus of the Sanmaan project is “children found begging”. Therefore, the approach is to work to ensure that the rights of these children as laid down in the Indian Constitution, various laws and policies and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (to which India is a signatory) are realised. The organisation works with the government systems to bring about lasting change.

Another important aspect of the organisation and this project is its participatory and non-discriminatory approach. Views of children and other stakeholders are taken seriously and incorporated in the programme. Within the organisation, there is a culture of consultation.

Gender is a vital component as well. All aspects of the project (planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, new initiatives, etc.) are seen through a gender lens while making conscious efforts for inclusion of gender minorities and promotion of gender equality.

STRATEGIES



The Sanmaan project has a multi-pronged strategy to handle the issue of children found begging, ensure their sustainable rehabilitation and bring about positive systemic change for the benefit of these marginalized communities.

The broad strategies include: child protection measures, prevention work, awareness generation, capacity building of important actors, and advocacy i.e. working with key stakeholders (JJ authorities, education department, tribal ministry, religious institutions, others.)

ACTIVITIES

Based on consultations with the Sanmaan team members, all activities were grouped under broad components (buckets) as described below:

1. PROTECTION

Activities under this are as follows:

- Needs assessment and community resource mapping prior to starting intervention in communities.
- Engage with duty bearers so that they follow child-friendly procedures: this would include sensitization of relevant duty bearers, especially those in the JJ system, building their knowledge and capacities, seeking or providing support in handling children's cases, etc.
- Outreach activities in communities and take immediate action on issues identified during outreach.
- Work on referral cases issued by the CWC to Sanmaan.
- Facilitating access to basic services for children and families, e.g. toilets, medical care, etc.
- Facilitating access to government facilities and schemes for the welfare of the people in the community
- Dealing with protection issues, e.g. child marriage, abuse, etc.
- Collaborating with other agencies to enhance the protection and support base for these children/ families.
- Building children's centres in communities, safe spaces - to provide a platform for children to participate in developmental activities and enhance protection (via adult supervision and awareness about protection issues).
- Emergency response - support provided to the children and families due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Awareness among children and communities on protection issues.
- Enrolling and reenrolling the children to formal education system.

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2. PREVENTION

- Engagement with children and families in communities, plus referral cases through rigorous outreach with a view to prevent any potential harm to children or their families. For instance, conducting awareness sessions, counselling, sports, meetings with parents, children etc.
- Enrolment of children in schools (Ashram schools, regular govt. schools)
- Follow up with the children, family members, school authorities, community members
- Engagement with duty bearers so that there is no insensitive/ discriminatory behavior towards children/ families in begging, rather they are treated with dignity and follow child-friendly procedures. For instance, constructive engagement with members of CWCs, school authorities, DWCD, Department of Tribal Affairs; sensitization of staff of child care institutions, etc.
- Linking children to informal study classes so that they could be engaged in some productive activities after school rather than being sent for begging pushed into begging.



3. REHABILITATION

- Engaging with children, their families and other stakeholders with a rights-based approach (long term commitment) in the face of social exclusion of these communities.
- Extending need-based services (direct or referrals), family strengthening measures and garnering community-based support.
- Making Social Investigation Reports (SIRs) and developing Individual Care Plans (ICPs, as prescribed under the JJ Act) and ensuring proper implementation of these plans.
- Participation of children and their families is important in the rehabilitation journey. Therefore, ensuring the involvement of children and their families in the entire process.
- Linking the children and their families to government schemes and services is crucial for sustainable rehabilitation.
- Follow up of children who are in schools (Ashram and other schools) - post restoration
- Follow up with children and Children's Home staff/ authorities (Probation Officers/Case Workers and Superintendents of the CCIs and others), if children are being rehabilitated through institutional care
- Facilitating family care for children in CCIs - motivating families to visit their children, facilitating the process at CCI, etc.
- Facilitating convergence amongst various stakeholders working with the children to spur rehabilitation and social reintegration of children rescued from begging.
- Following up with other organisations (informal study classes, vocational training schools etc.) where children are linked.
- Facilitating counselling for mental health requirements of the children



4. AWARENESS GENERATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

- Awareness generation among children, families and communities about issues faced or concerns shared by them, their rights and available facilities/ services.
- Breaking myths, stereotypes and misconceptions on the issue of begging among the general public (community events, use of website and social media platforms)
- Social media campaigns e.g., creating child-friendly spaces
- Informing the public about the Sanmaan project and facilitating the support extended by interested persons.
- Sensitization and capacity building sessions for important stakeholders like care givers/ staff of CCLs, police personnel and others.
- Organizing webinars on the issues related to children/ families in begging.
- Undertaking issue-based research studies, e.g. Inter-sectoral Analysis of the Migrant Backward Communities and Induction of their Children in Beggary in Mumbai & Navi Mumbai (2019-20).
- Conducting baseline, mid-term and end term evaluations
- Capacity building of staff - internal and external trainings/ exposure
- Training and handholding of child protection authorities like the CWCs on pertinent issues concerning children begging on the streets



5. ADVOCACY

- Engaging with concerned stakeholders to prevent harassment/ discrimination of these children/ communities, e.g., police and JJ functionaries.
- Engaging with important stakeholders to push for change in policy or practices to benefit these children/ families, e.g., CWCs, District Collectors, DWCD, municipal bodies, schools, Department of Tribal Affairs, others.
- Advocate with agencies like the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and religious institutions to come up with joint initiatives for supporting these vulnerable children and families.
- Use of research and project experience for advocacy, e.g., consultations
- Developing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on pre and post rescue procedures for police regarding children found begging.
- Influencing/ networking with other organisations to support such children/ families under the Sanmaan project/ Prerana.
- Using social media as one significant advocacy tool - social media campaigns, blogs, experiences of the staff etc.
- Engage with Ashram schools to avail residential school facilities for children associated with the Sanmaan project and engage with the parent body, i.e. the Department of Tribal Affairs to take up issues related to Ashram schools (inadequate number of female teachers and others) and explore schemes for the benefit of marginalised children/ families.



PROCESS OF INTERVENTION THROUGH CASE STUDIES AND DEPICTION THROUGH FLOWCHART/ SERVICE MATRIX

CASE 1

Jatin: Life changing journey from Kerala to Mumbai

On 2nd August 2016, a Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in Mumbai informed Prerana's Sanmaan team about five children who were rescued from begging by the local police in Kerala. Among the five children were twin brothers Jatin and Keshav (10 and 11 years old, names changed) along with their three cousins. On 4th August 2016, the children were transferred to a children's home in Mumbai. The CWC passed an order for Sanmaan's team to conduct a home visit and submit a Social Investigation Report (SIR).

To understand the case better, the team contacted Childline (1098 helpline) who were involved in the rescue of the children, and the children's home (in Kerala) where the children were placed. They informed the team that Jatin, along with the other children, was with his father when they were "picked up" by the police while begging and they were admitted to the children's home in Kerala and were there for almost 2 months. The parents had visited the CWC in Thiruvananthapuram after Jatin was rescued and submitted all the required documents. But the police suspected that it might be a case of trafficking and/or begging, and the parents were not given custody of the children immediately. The police and CWC had asked Jatin about his residence to which he didn't respond well. However, one of the cousins mentioned they were from Mumbai. Based on this, it was decided by the CWC (In Kerala) to transfer this case to a CWC in Mumbai.

Post this, Sanmaan's team member met Jatin and his cousins at the children's home (as the CWC Mumbai had referred the case to Prerana) to interact with them but the children were confused and hesitant to share any information. The team visited the CWC to discuss the case and met Jatin's parents. During the interaction with the mother, she shared that they sell small toys and other things on the roadside for earnings and sometimes work in fun n fair events to earn extra.

It was during a month-long fun n fair event in Thiruvananthapuram when the entire family was present in this event, the children were picked up by the police from this event. She denied that the children were begging, and added they were helping her husband in the sale while she was not around.

In mid-August, Prerana's team conducted a visit to the family's residence opposite to a crematorium in Alibaug (Raigad district of Maharashtra). The family had been living in a poorly constructed structure. However, the family was not present and the team met some neighbors and community members. The team was informed by the members of the community that Jatin's father was alcohol dependent and the major income of the family was through selling small items and begging. The aunt, stepmother, and children would make items like gajra, flags and rakhi, while the children would go out and sell those, and also beg. Ultimately, the team interacted with the paternal aunt, and Jatin's stepmother and found that the family consisted of Jatin and Keshav, their father, aunt, stepmother, and her children. Jatin and Keshav's mother had died 7-8 years ago. Jatin's paternal aunt shared they were barely surviving through whatever they were earning, but she denied that children would beg, contrary to the information provided by the members of the community. The aunt kept requesting the visiting team to restore Jatin to the family, despite the team explaining to her the role of the CWC. She shared that the child's father had been sick since Jatin and Keshav were admitted to the children's home. The team requested the paternal aunt to help them establish contact with the father but even after a few days, that contact was not established. Only the stepmother had been in touch with the team.

While Jatin was at the children's home, the team received updates from the caretaker that he had a substance abuse problem. The team was concerned about his health and felt if he was restored, he wouldn't be able to work towards deaddiction and the family was also not in position to support him through de-addiction. The team submitted the SIR to the CWC and recommended to place Jatin in a children's home until he overcomes substance abuse and starts focusing on his education. The CWC members also interacted with Jatin and passed an order for institutional rehabilitation. The CWC informed Jatin's parents about the same and they requested the CWC to find an Ashram School for him. However, when the team contacted various Ashram Schools (AS), there were no vacancies in some and some AS enrolled children from specific communities/tribes and both Jatin and Keshav did not belong to those communities.

Hence, the team faced difficulty in getting the child enrolled in the AS. During this time, the team received a call from an Ashram School in Jalna. The school authorities informed the team that Jatin was enrolled in their school for 4 years but did not resume after summer vacations i.e., April 2016. A teacher from one of the Municipal Schools in Alibaug also called Prerana's team on the parent's request. The team enquired about Jatin's educational status from the teacher and was informed that he was enrolled in this school in June 2015 but was irregular. She shared that Jatin would visit a cybercafé instead of attending school. She further confirmed that he would beg and sell balloons on the beach, and was dependent on certain substance. The teacher also shared that his parents showed least concern towards his education.

The team presented the information about the child's educational history to the CWC and also shared concerns about the child's dependency on substances. The team also suggested that a decision should be taken for the better rehabilitation of the child in his best interest. At the orders of the CWC, Jatin was transferred to a Children's Home in Mumbai that works with children dependent on substances in September 2017.

Jatin attended various sessions organized at the children's home to overcome substance abuse. A tremendous change has been observed in Jatin over a period and he has recovered from his addiction to substance abuse. Moreover, during follow ups taken by the team from September 2017 till May 2021, they were informed by the children's home staff that Jatin had shown progress in his nutritional requirement, emotional wellbeing and academics. The child shared with the team that if he is restored to his family, he might get re-induced into begging or substance abuse. Jatin shared that he wants to study further for a better future.

In 2020, Jatin's father visited him at the children's home. He was emotional and had asked Jatin to come back home owing to the COVID-19 crisis. He also feared the safety of his children. However, Jatin was firm on not returning because he had managed to set a routine for himself and would study to pursue his ambition. Jatin requested his father to return and take care of himself and his family. He also assured his father that he was safe at the children's home. Today, Jatin is in the 9th grade and aspires to become a police officer.

CASE STUDY - JATIN



Jatin and Keshav, twin brothers, were found begging by police, during a fair event in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



Children were produced at Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Thiruvananthapuram and sent to a Children's Home (and stayed for 2 Months)



Case were transferred to CWC Mumbai after enquiry from the children, and children were placed in Children's Home in Mumbai

2016

CASE REFERRED TO PRERANA

Home Visit was conducted by the Sanmaan team in Alibaug, Raigad District of Maharashtra

Findings during the visit were:

- Jatin and Keshav's family consists of aunt and stepmother
- The family was residing in a dwelling near a crematorium
- Jatin and Keshav's biological mother died 7 years ago
- Jatin's father was suffering from alcohol addiction
- Jatin's paternal aunt and stepmother earned their living by selling small items and begging.



At the Children's Home in Mumbai it was found Jatin and Keshav were suffering from substance use disorder



MONTHLY FOLLOWUPS BY PRERANA



Jatin and Keshav were transferred to Children's Home specializing in working with children suffering from addiction and substance use disorder.



- Changes in Jatin as observed during follow-ups by the team
- Jatin and Keshav recover from substance abuse disorder
 - Improved health (Physical and Mental)
 - Progress in education

2017

MONTHLY FOLLOWUPS BY PRERANA

Jatin's father met Jatin at the Children's Home and asked him to return home. Jatin refused to go home and mentioned to the team that he was committed to his new routine and his studies.



2020

TODAY JATIN IS IN THE 9TH STANDARD AND ASPIRES TO BE A POLICE OFFICER



CASE 2

Ratna: Young girl survives family tragedies and neglect

During a community outreach in Jai Ambe Nagar, Chembur, on 25th November 2020, Prerana's Sanmaan team learnt that a woman in the community had passed away. The team visited her home when the funeral procession was about to begin and found out that she is survived by three children. Among the children, the eldest boy child Sagar was 7 years old, the second child Chetan, a 5-year-old boy and a girl child Ratna was 12 days old. (Names of children have been changed).

The team interacted with the grandmother of the children on 29th November, 2020, about the deceased mother and her family. The team noted that the mother had died due to deterioration in her health after childbirth (delivering the baby girl Ratna). The team also noted that the deceased woman was the biological mother of all the three children but the biological father of Sagar and Chetan was different from that of Ratna.

Sagar and Chetan's biological father has been in a jail at Nashik for 5 years, after being accused in a case of child sexual abuse. The team could not trace any contact to Ratna's biological father initially and it was only in February, 2021 (three months later) that the team, during the community outreach, received information from the child's grandmother that Ratna's father is alive.

The neighbors and other people in the community informed the team that the child's grandmother and her deceased mother used to go out for begging or picking plastics from trash and took the children with them. The team was also informed by the community members that both women were struggling with substance abuse. The grandmother suffered with pain in joints and expressed that she was physically unfit to go and earn anything to support the family.

There was no other source of income for the family and hence, the team reached out to the grandmother, explaining to her how her living conditions would impact the health and nutrition of the children. The team also elaborated about different Child Care Institutions and their functioning and suggested to the grandmother to consider admitting the children to a Child Care Institution (CCI) for their better rehabilitation. The team also informed the grandmother about the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and its role in rehabilitating children so that their future is secured.

Simultaneously, the team briefed the CWC in Mumbai and Childline (1098 helpline) about the case and that the grandmother will be unable to take good care of the children due to financial instability and physical ailment. Ratna's grandmother was not earning anything and her substance abuse problem could lead to negative impact on the children's lives. The grandmother expressed that she wanted to keep Ratna with her until she is 5-6 years old. She felt emotionally connected to Ratna and believed that if God had taken a daughter from her, he had blessed her with another. She was, however, ready to keep Sagar and Chetan in a children's home or get them admitted to an Ashram School. Sagar and Chetan were placed at a child care institution on 18th December 2020, after a Social Investigation Report (SIR) was submitted to the CWC. It was decided that Ratna would stay with her grandmother at their home in the Chembur community. To support the child, the team had assured the grandmother that they would provide milk powder and ration, if required.

During a community outreach conducted on 9th February 2021, members of the community informed the team that Ratna's grandmother is not taking proper care of her. She would either leave Ratna with the neighbors or would take her for begging. She believed she would get more attention if she carries a child during begging. In one such incident, when the grandmother had left Ratna at a neighbor's house before going for begging, there was a power cut and a mouse bit her. During home visits, the team found that the grandmother had consulted a doctor but Ratna had not recovered and was suffering from vomiting and diarrhea. The team also noted that the grandmother was not paying attention to her personal hygiene and this could have had an adverse effect on Ratna's health and her slow recovery might be linked to it. The grandmother was providing the locally available milk to Ratna which is usually mixed with water. Moreover, she diluted the milk by adding more water due to which the child was not getting the required nutrients. The team tried to discuss the necessary nutrition and hygienic practice with the grandmother but she didn't seem to be concerned. She also told the team that Ratna won't lose her life due to diluted milk or lack of nutrition.

On the same day, the team also received information from the community members that Ratna's biological father is alive and he often visits her grandmother to give INR 50 - 200 for taking care of her. Even though Ratna's father was frequently visiting her grandmother, there was no information about his willingness to take her responsibility. The grandmother did not have any contact details of the father so the team suggested contacting him when he turns up again.

When the team member informed CWC about the child's health and her current situation, the authorities passed an order to conduct a home visit along with Childline and to submit a report to the CWC mentioning the details of the visit. Prerana's team, along with the members of Childline, conducted the home visit on 11th February 2021. The team observed that Ratna was still not well and looked very weak. After the visit, the team submitted the report with an observation that the child was in a critical state and was not recovering well. She needed proper care and healthy nutrition and the teams requested the CWC to take custody of the child. The report was submitted on 11th February itself; the child was taken into custody the next day and placed in a child care institution. As the grandmother was not happy with this decision, Prerana's team tried to explain to her that Ratna was in immediate need of proper care and protection and this decision was taken in her best interest.

Prerana's team has been in contact with the staff at the children's home where Ratna has been placed. The doctor has notified the team that she is suffering with severe stomach infection. The staff at the children's home also confirmed that there was lack of nutrients in the child's diet due to which she is so weak. If this pattern would have continued, she may not have survived beyond two months.

By 15th February, under the observation of doctors, Ratna had grown healthier and was on the path of recovery. Prerana's team informed the grandmother about the improvement in Ratna's health, to which she initially responded angrily because she felt Ratna was forcibly taken away from her. She was later pacified after hearing about the improvements. The team informed the CWC of the proceedings about Ratna and the authorities suggested the team to establish contact with her father. The CWC also suggested placing the child for adoption if the father did not want to take care of her.

On 24th February, the team met the grandmother, Ratna's biological father, and his sister (the child's aunt). Her father and his sister expressed that they want to keep the child with them. The Sanmaan team presented a report to the CWC sharing this update. The CWC asked the team to conduct a home visit to the father's residence, submit a report on it and a decision would be taken accordingly. The Sanmaan team conducted the home visit post April 2021 and submitted a report to the CWC. The team has been following up with the child Ratna and family members and working to evolve a safety and rehabilitation plan for Ratna.

CASE STUDY - RATNA



During outreach in the community, the team learned that a woman in the community had died, survived by 3 children. The woman died after giving birth to the child Ratna. The father of the other 2 children Sagar and Chetan had been in prison on charges of child sexual abuse for the last 5 years. Ratna's biological father had been missing.



Ratna's deceased mother and grandmother would make living for the family through rag-picking or begging. Both these women were suffering from substance abuse disorder. After the death of Ratna's mother, the situation became worse. Due to poor health, the grandmother was not able to work.

REGULAR MEETINGS AND COUNSELLING OF THE GRANDMOTHER FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE CHILDREN WAS DONE BY THE SANMAAN TEAM AND THE TEAM APPROACHED THE CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE (CWC) REGARDING THE CASE.



The grandmother agreed to place Sagar and Chetan in a child care institution in December. However, she expressed that she wanted to keep Ratna with her until she is 5-6 years old. Sanmaan team extends support to the grandmother to take care of the girl Ratna (food items, psychosocial support, parenting skills, safety plan for the child etc)

The Sanmaan team however found that the grandmother was not providing proper care to Ratna. In fact, she would take the child with her for begging. Sometimes she left the child at the neighbor's house or left her unattended at home because of which she got rat bites. The team also found that Ratna was not being provided with proper nutrition and she fell ill because of that.



THE TEAM FOUND OUT THAT THE BIOLOGICAL FATHER OF RATNA WOULD MEET THE GRANDMOTHER AND THE CHILD AND ALSO HELP FINANCIALLY.

The Sanmaan team informed the CWC about the situation. The CWC directed for a home visit along with the Childline team to conduct a detailed assessment. The home visit was conducted and reported with Childline on 11th February 2021. Based on the home visit report and interaction with other stakeholders involved in the case the CWC ordered the child to be admitted into a CCI.



ON 24TH FEBRUARY, THE SANMAAN TEAM MET RATNA'S FATHER, HIS SISTER (CHILD'S AUNT) AND THE GRANDMOTHER. THE FATHER AND HIS SISTER EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO KEEP THE CHILD WITH THEM.

In the meantime, there was an improvement in Ratna's Health, while staying at the CCI. The CWC asked the Sanmaan team to conduct a visit to Ratna's father's house. The visit has been done and the report of the same is submitted to the CWC



THE SANMAAN TEAM IS FOLLOWING UP REGULARLY WITH THE CHILD AND THE FAMILY AND WORKING WITH THEM TO EVOLVE A SAFETY AND REHABILITATION PLAN FOR THE CHILD.

2020

2021

CASE 3

Suman: Boy overcomes health issues among other challenges

Suman, a 12-year-old boy, studies in the 6th standard at an Ashram school in Solapur. Prerana's Sanmaan team established contact with Suman in Ghansoli community of Mumbai. Suman attends various activities such as life skills sessions, celebrations and sports related activities at Prerana's centre. Starting March, 2021, football sessions are being conducted for children in the communities Sanmaan works with. During one such session held on 12th March, Suman tripped and injured his left hand. He had no bruises. The social worker from Prerana immediately administered medication from the first aid box kept close-by during such activities. The social worker from Prerana asked the child whether he was in pain, to which he said he wasn't. He was also explained to reach out to Prerana's team, in case he develops pain at a later stage. The team also informed Suman's maternal uncle and aunt, as his mother was at work. During the team's outreach on the same day, the social worker from Prerana was informed by Suman's aunt that his hand was swollen. The social worker asked Suman if he was comfortable visiting the hospital for treatment and he agreed. Permission was also sought from Suman's maternal uncle and aunt, as Suman's mother was at work. The team also asked the family to accompany them to the hospital to which they agreed. Suman was scolded by his family and a few community members for not being responsible and careful while playing. The social worker from Prerana explained to them that it was nobody's fault. The family was also explained about the need to be sensitive and mindful while assisting the child in the treatment procedure.

Suman was immediately taken to nearest Government hospital, where thorough examination was undertaken and it was found that he suffered a hairline fracture in his left arm. He was administered temporary plaster and was asked to report for a follow up after 3 days. The doctor advised that in case of continued swelling, a permanent plaster would be administered. The doctor also informed that Suman has fragile bones, which could lead to fractures even in the smallest of injury. Suman was prescribed some medications to relieve of any pain he experiences and some calcium tablets. The social work department of the hospital was approached to ensure that Suman gets free treatment, especially for X-rays. Until the next visit to hospital, the social worker from Prerana was in touch with Suman, through in-person or telephonic follow up, to ensure his well-being.

He was also informed that he can speak to in-house counselor, if he feels the need. Within a week of this accident, Prerana's staff had a meeting with the coach and steps to avoid such circumstances were discussed. Another meeting was held with children from both the communities, reiterating some basic rules and regulations to be followed, to ensure safety. The children were informed to follow the instructions given by the coach and to not go anywhere without informing the social worker from Prerana or the coach.

On 15th March, the social worker from Prerana accompanied Suman and his mother to Rajmata Jijao Municipal Hospital, Airoli. Suman was administered a permanent plaster on his injured hand. The doctor prescribed medication and calcium enriched nutrition for the child, for his fragile bones and asked to follow up again for treatment after 3 weeks. Suman received some medication from hospital and expenses of remaining medication was borne by Prerana. Suman's mother decided to take him with her to Churchgate, near LIC building, where she was working as a helper in an office. She wasn't sure that his maternal uncle would provide him the required nutrition for recovery. Suman is currently residing with his mother at Churchgate and the social worker has been taking follow up to check on his well-being. His mother informed the social worker that Suman was taking regular medication and had no pain or discomfort. Suman's mother also assured the social worker that she is able to provide for the child's care. The next hospital visit was scheduled for 6th April 2021.

The social worker from Prerana continued to conduct telephonic follow up with Suman, to understand if he required any help. Suman's mother would inform that Suman is well and that he spent his day playing with his cousins. She also shared that Suman takes his medication regularly and does not experience any pain. On 6th April, the social worker from Prerana accompanied Suman and his mother to the hospital for check-up and removal of plaster. As no doctor were available at hospital, they were suggested to visit the MCGM Hospital, Vashi. The doctor at MCGM Hospital suggested to take an X-ray of Suman's hand and post examination, he was informed that the wound hadn't healed. The doctor suggested for Suman to keep his plaster for another 2 weeks. The Sanmaan team has been taking follow ups with Suman, every alternate day. Suman was supposed to be taken to hospital to remove his plaster. However, the mother informed that Suman went to their native village with his maternal aunt for a religious festival.

She hadn't informed the social worker from Prerana previously about Suman's visit to his native place. Suman returned to Mumbai on 14th April 2021. Upon his return, the team along with the child and his mother went for another check up to the hospital a few days later. This time the child's hand showed healing.

Suman has recovered well now.

CASE STUDY - SUMAN



Sanmaan Team's first contact with Suman, a 12-year-old was during their outreach work in the Ghansoli community.



Suman injured his hand during a football game organized by the Sanmaan team. First aid was provided immediately and later the staff accompanied the child to a nearby government hospital for treatment. It was found that there was a hairline fracture on Suman's hand.



The child and the family members were informed about the care that was to be taken for the treatment.

THE TEAM CONDUCTED IN-PERSON AND TELEPHONIC FOLLOW-UPS FOR THE CHILD'S WELL-BEING. THE SERVICE OF THE IN-HOUSE COUNSELLOR WAS ALSO OFFERED TO THE CHILD.



A meeting was held with the coach to take precautions to prevent such injury to children. A session with children was also held on safety during play.



On 15th March, a follow-up visit with the child was made by the team at the hospital. A plaster was put on the child's injured hand and medication along with calcium enriched nutrition was prescribed for 3 weeks. Prerana took care of the medical expenses.

Suman's mother decided to take him with her to Churchgate where she works as a helper in an office because she felt that Suman's nutritional requirements would not be able to be met at home.



Suman's mother informed that Suman has been taking regular medication and has no pain or discomfort. The PSW asked the mother whether she required any kind of support, however, the mother assured the social worker that currently, she is able to provide for the child's care.

The team had been following up with the child regularly. However, in April, the child was sent to his native place along with his aunt for personal work without informing the PSW. He returned on 14th April.



The child complained of pain and discomfort and was then taken to the hospital, where due to unavailability of doctors the child was referred to another hospital in Vashi. The doctor in Vashi recommended an x-ray, where it was found that the child's hand wasn't healed. The medical staff recommended keeping the plaster for another couple of weeks and continue his medication. The team along with the child and his mother went for another hospital visit a few days later when the child's hand showed healing.



SUMAN HAS RECOVERED NOW AND PRERANA TOOK CARE OF THE TREATMENT AND TRAVEL EXPENSES

2021

WHAT MAKES SANMAAN A MODEL INTERVENTION?

REFLECTIONS OF PRERANA MEMBERS ON WHY 'SANMAAN' CAN BE CALLED A MODEL INTERVENTION?

- Need based intervention for some of the most vulnerable groups of children/ families (excluded/ discriminated).
- Intervention with the approach of handling each child (case) in a dignified manner, instead of treating these children/ families as offenders (a paradigm shift)
- Prerana has practically demonstrated child-friendly way of working with children in begging by working closely with the government systems.
- A comprehensive model working at micro, meso and marco levels.
- Well planned and structured interventions.
- Children's participation is ensured. For instance, views of the child are taken seriously for all cases handled and views of all children are taken with regard to the activities conducted in the communities.
- Active engagement with other stakeholders (both government and non-government agencies existing in the intervention areas).
- Inclusive gender policy.
- Elements of learning and sharing are well incorporated.
- Strong documentation and reporting.
- Long-term commitment with children and their families in the project (for sustainable rehabilitation).
- Ongoing capacity building of staff on child rights, human rights, gender sensitivity, mental health needs of children and laws and policies, among others.

PARAMETERS FOR IDENTIFYING/ SELECTING A GOOD PRACTICE:

Over the years of its work with children and their families, communities, various stakeholders including CSOs, governments and law enforcement agencies, Sanmaan has been able to develop some good practices which ensure and build on the quality of the interventions. These practices were identified based on some critical parameters. These parameters are as below:

- **Reliable and consistent:** this means initiatives which have been tried and tested, usually showing positive results for the target audience.
- **Uniqueness:** this means creative or innovate actions that helps in achieving any of the project objectives.

- Capacity building: measures taken for building knowledge and skills of external stakeholders and internal members.
- Participation: practices that provides opportunities for children and other stakeholders to voice their opinions and also contribute in different ways. It also means creating more opportunities for girls and gender minorities in the project.
- Relevant: measures or initiatives which are significant to meet the current issues of the target population.
- Accurate/ need based, timely and measurable
- Efficient, Effective and impactful initiative
- Replicable: initiatives which can be done in the same way in other locations.
- Sustainability: practices that helps in “sustaining” the project even if the organisation withdraws.
- Adherence to laws of the land and international standards.
- Contributes significantly to achieving of the project objectives
- Any intervention/ initiative/ piece of work under the Sanmaan project would be considered a “Good Practice” if it carries fits within at least 50% of the above-mentioned criteria.



GOOD PRACTICES UNDER SANMAAN

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
<p>1. NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION</p>	<p>Sanmaan relies greatly on networking and collaboration for bringing together the efforts by various stakeholders for children in order to amplify the cause.</p> <p>Through CCVC forum, RTE forum Maharashtra, work with SCPCR, consultation with Save the Children among others, Sanmaan has been ensuring convergence of efforts and resources for children.</p> <p>Collaborating with critical stakeholders like schools, Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC), Ashram schools and stakeholders at children's native places, Sanmaan has been able to ensure sensitivity and an improvement in the perspective of these duty bearers and stakeholders towards children found in begging and their rehabilitation.</p> <p>Such convergence plays a critical role in linking the children and their families with various schemes and benefits easily, and for advocacy with regard to any gaps in the process. Through webinars and meetings, Sanmaan has been ensuring conversations with various stakeholders to address the challenges faced by families.</p> <p>Duplication of efforts is also minimized through these collaborations. This leads to optimum resource utilization as well as ensures that the community is not troubled by multiple stakeholders</p>	<p>Association with Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights on the issue of children found in begging outside places of worship: A campaign ensued to ensure the rights of the children found begging outside places of worship across the city of Mumbai. The campaign not only involved working with various stakeholders like SCPCR but also the management/ board of such places of worship, DWCD, police, NGOs, etc.</p> <p>Helpdesk at CWCs to help families through the process: While working with Child Welfare Committee, Mumbai Suburban Prerana realised that families or stakeholders who come to CWC find navigating the CWC a difficult task. Prerana in collaboration with CWC, Mumbai Suburban - I, developed and implemented a Helpdesk in CWC, Mumbai Suburban. The role of the helpdesk is to guide the families so they can easily access the CWC. After successfully collaborating with CWC, Mumbai Suburban, Prerana will be collaborating with CWC, Thane.</p> <p>Quarterly Convergence Meetings with CWCs: Prerana initiated quarterly convergence meetings with CWCs and other child protection stakeholders to discuss the relevant challenges, gradually expanding the scope</p>

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
	<p>approaching them for similar efforts. Sanmaan also actively works with the existing NGOs, voluntary groups in the community and cooperates in their efforts for children's benefit.</p>	<p>of discussions and involving more actors in the field of child protection.</p> <p>Collaboration with other NGOs and service providers for children: Through outreach, Sanmaan focuses on leadership skills, life skills education, awareness sessions and sports. However, at times, children share that they need support in other areas like education. In such cases, Sanmaan partners with other NGOs/ voluntary groups in the areas and links children with them. Similarly for awareness generation on specific issues in the community, the team connects and collaborates with other organisations as well. For eg: Apnalaya's Citizenship Model training: Collaboration with organisation Apnalaya for strengthening capacity of community people to take up their own issues.</p>
<p>2. DOCUMENTATION</p>	<p>Sanmaan emphasises on documentation of every step in the process of working with children. This contributes in learning and resource building for the organisation as well as other stakeholders.</p> <p>From case studies, meeting minutes, follow-up records, datasheets, sessions with children, to internal review processes, discussions, follow-up plans on individual cases, all the steps are documented systematically by designated team members.</p> <p>Sanmaan works independently as well as with the government CCl to develop ICPs and SIRs.</p>	<p>Leadership and Life Skill Education Modules: Sanmaan has a Leadership as well as Life Skill Education module which consists of objectives and lesson plan of the sessions. These lesson plan includes the structure of the session, along with expected outcome of the sessions. The lesson plans help in maintaining uniformity while conducting sessions.</p> <p>Children' records for tracking as well as planning interventions/ follow-ups: Sanmaan has extensive data sheets and case files of children that it works with or has come in contact with.</p>

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
	<p>As a practice, it doesn't advocate for restoration unless the child's SIR is developed, as otherwise there would be no rehabilitation plan in place. Individual Care Plans (ICPs) for effective rehabilitation of children are made for both referral cases as well as outreach cases. Sanmaan believes that it is essential for recording its progress as well as challenges and to also share its learnings with other stakeholders. For ICPs of referral cases, Sanmaan follows the template as given in the JJ State Rules, whereas for outreach cases, it has developed its own format which is in line with the template as in the State Rules but also gives space for elaboration and clarifications.</p> <p>Updating of datasheets is not merely a desk job, but also involves discussions on the cases. This helps remain alert to the steps in follow-up as all team members are aware of the case.</p> <p>Discussions among the team members w.r.t cases also ensures transparency and shared responsibility as any member can take up the follow-up tasks, in the absence of another and thus, the child's wellbeing is ensured.</p> <p>Sanmaan undertakes rigorous individual case documentation. Accuracy and consistency are given due importance in order to develop a document which contributes in planning the future case work interventions.</p>	<p>It also has detailed reports of follow ups conducted in the month for every child. All of these documents help in keeping track of all the children and develop steps to ensure their wellbeing.</p> <p>Sanmaan also prepares detailed checklists while planning any program, which include backward planning steps of execution so that the activity is implemented smoothly. In the same way, Sanmaan, through Educo, has developed Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP), which includes monthly targets along with backward planning for each activity. This is useful in monitoring the overall project, and making sure that the team executes all planned activities.</p> <p>Minutes of every meeting attended are maintained by Sanmaan, capturing details of discussions as well as way forward.</p> <p>Monthly Reports, Half Yearly Reports, Annual Reports of the Project are also generated timely.</p>

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
	<p>It is also used to seek suggestions on case work from different actors in the field of child protection. The documentation is also gender sensitive (captures gender segregated data and uses gender-sensitive language) and inclusive.</p> <p>Sanmaan team emphasises on standardization of the process of documentation by developing formats/ templates to be followed by the team. It reduces the scope for ambiguity and ensures that the essential information/ aspects are captured clearly. This is especially helpful in ensuring quality when there is a new staff undertaking documentation. Such formats are developed after detailed discussions and review process. For stakeholders from outside the organization,</p> <p>Sanmaan develops tools and documents which are relevant and reader friendly. It makes use of flowcharts for the readers to navigate through easily.</p> <p>Key stories and relevant pieces are selected from all reports and documents, to be shared on the organisation's social media channels. Sanmaan also shares important documents for sharing with other organisations and stakeholders as well as amplification, on its website and social media.</p>	

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
<p>3. FOLLOW-UP</p>	<p>One of the major focuses for Sanmaan in its work with children both referred by CWC or in contact through community outreach, is regular and rigorous follow-up. As the rehabilitation plan is clearly laid out in the ICPs, the team clearly plans for linking the child with relevant agencies and follow-up with critical stakeholders like parents, neighbours/ community members, school and CCI in case the child is referred there. The team discusses each case and based on the immediate needs of the child and their best interest, conducts follow-up. It also becomes an important basis for needs assessment.</p> <p>As a part of follow-up and plan for supporting the family in a child's case, Sanmaan also focuses on the other siblings of the child. It assists with linking them with nearby schools or with any other challenges/ issues they might be facing. Similarly, through linking with available schemes and benefits by government, it focuses on improving the family's socio-economic condition, whenever possible.</p> <p>Through follow-ups, the team also gets to know of many issues that the children face in their day to day lives, which might not come up in the needs assessment. Issues like any child marriages taking place in the community, child kidnapping, ration needs etc. come to light during such conversations.</p>	<p>School bus arranged for students: In Jai Ambe Nagar, the school for children was around 1.5 – 2 kilometres away and not safe for children walking to and fro. Sanmaan raised this challenge with BMC and due to regular follow-ups, BMC agreed for providing a school bus for the children. Similarly, in case of health emergencies, the team follows up with police, hospitals and authorities for completing the required paperwork and getting the child the needed healthcare.</p> <p>Bridge classes in school: During a follow-up with a child, Sanmaan team was informed by the child that he found it difficult to understand the syllabus taught at the school. Due to this challenge, the child felt uncomfortable and thus, missed his school often. The team took this up with the school principal, and this resulted in inclusion of bridge classes so that children who need additional help, are provided additional support and are able to cope better.</p> <p>Linking children with learning: Sanmaan, while working with the children in a particular area, realised that children required educational support as the</p>

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<p>3. FOLLOW-UP</p>	<p>One of the major focuses for Sanmaan in its work with children both referred by CWC or in contact through community outreach, is regular and rigorous follow-up. As the rehabilitation plan is clearly laid out in the ICPs, the team clearly plans for linking the child with relevant agencies and follow-up with critical stakeholders like parents, neighbours/ community members, school and CCI in case the child is referred there. The team discusses each case and based on the immediate needs of the child and their best interest, conducts follow-up. It also becomes an important basis for needs assessment.</p> <p>As a part of follow-up and plan for supporting the family in a child's case, Sanmaan also focuses on the other siblings of the child. It assists with linking them with nearby schools or with any other challenges/ issues they might be facing. Similarly, through linking with available schemes and benefits by government, it focuses on improving the family's socio-economic condition, whenever possible.</p> <p>Through follow-ups, the team also gets to know of many issues that the children face in their day to day lives, which might not come up in the needs assessment. Issues like any child marriages taking place in the community, child kidnapping, ration needs etc. come to light during such conversations.</p>	<p>School bus arranged for students: In Jai Ambe Nagar, the school for children was around 1.5 – 2 kilometres away and not safe for children walking to and fro. Sanmaan raised this challenge with BMC and due to regular follow-ups, BMC agreed for providing a school bus for the children. Similarly, in case of health emergencies, the team follows up with police, hospitals and authorities for completing the required paperwork and getting the child the needed healthcare.</p> <p>Bridge classes in school: During a follow-up with a child, Sanmaan team was informed by the child that he found it difficult to understand the syllabus taught at the school. Due to this challenge, the child felt uncomfortable and thus, missed his school often. The team took this up with the school principal, and this resulted in inclusion of bridge classes so that children who need additional help, are provided additional support and are able to cope better.</p> <p>Linking children with learning: Sanmaan, while working with the children in a particular area, realised that children required educational support as the schools were closed due to the pandemic and the children were not able to access online education. Thus, Sanmaan collaborated with Door Step School NGO and facilitated classes in that area. Sanmaan was able to link 15 children with the Door Step School program.</p>

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
		<p>Follow-up on discussions: Sanmaan, after conducting a meeting, also follows up on the way forward as suggested in the meeting. For e.g. during a recent convergence meeting, one of the way forward was that the organizations should have a training on developing ICPs. Sanmaan in collaboration with CWC, Mankhurd, conducted a series of ICP trainings with the staff of CCIs. Thus, follow ups are not just limited with the children, but are also undertaken for other activities .</p> <p>Follow up with other NGOs on children's wellbeing: In Solapur, Salaam Baalak Trust (SBT), an NGO, runs an open shelter which is accessed by many children from the community in Ghansoli where Sanmaan works. Sanmaan team follows up with both SBT and children to ensure their wellbeing and easy access to the shelter.</p> <p>Follow up with Ashram Schools: In an Ashram School, parents were reluctant to send their daughters once they attained menarche, as there was no lady teacher/ staff there. Sanmaan raised this issue with the authorities and also counselled the parents.</p>

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
<p>4. OUTREACH</p>	<p>Sanmaan team conducts rigorous outreach in the community. Outreach in each community (Ghansoli, Chembur and Sathe Nagar) is conducted at least 3 to 4 days in a week.</p> <p>This outreach is an outcome of a well-thought-out strategy. While working with referred cases, Sanmaan came in contact with other children who belong to particular communities who were also struggling in meeting their basic needs, i.e., involvement in begging and limited to no access to education. This compelled the team to reach out to those children too in order to create awareness in the community and to build an environment which actively discouraged such practices.</p> <p>Outreach is conducted with clear plans including objectives and expected outcomes. Monthly plans elaborate these details, which are reviewed, finalized and then implemented in the community.</p> <p>Sanmaan encourages all staff to be aware of the expected outcomes so that the efforts and resources are directed towards it and it reduces ambiguity and confusion among the team as well as communities.</p> <p>The team considers various dynamics which are prevalent in the communities while planning the outreach.</p>	<p>Sanmaan has undertaken extensive work of child protection and prevention of children from begging in both the intervention communities (Ghansoli & Chembur).</p> <p>Prevention of a child marriage: Due to the extensive outreach that Sanmaan conducts in the communities, the children and parents know about its work and efforts for protection and wellbeing of children. Often, Sanmaan receives call from children and any member of the community regarding various child protection issues or other challenges. One such call was from a girl who was about to be married off forcefully by her parents. She was adamant that she didn't want that, and hence, decided to seek help from Sanmaan to stop the marriage. Sanmaan, with help from DCPU and Childline, was able to prevent the child from getting married.</p> <p>Children's participation: Due to the rapport building with children, they now feel more comfortable and involved in the project activities. They themselves volunteer to actively undertake activities as part of the project. For example, in Sathe Nagar, children expressed that they wanted to be a part of the grocery distribution drive as part of Sanmaan's COVID support. Children were a part of planning as well as execution of the recent ration distribution in the community.</p>

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
	<p>For example, festivals are given due consideration while planning outreach. Most of the families are migrant workers and thus, leave for their native places during festivals. Needs assessment and monthly planning of activities with children also provide inputs for the need and objectives of the outreach. These plans are further modified, upon receiving feedback from team, children and parents, in a way that it best addresses their concerns.</p> <p>Ever since learning centres in two communities (Ghansoli and Chembur) have been established by Sanmaan, the rapport with and comfort of the community with the team has improved. The programme is more relatable for them and they are able to share their point of view and concerns easily, which is incorporated into program planning. This outreach helps understand the demographics of the communities and hence, a direct link in understanding the challenges and opportunities, better. Sanmaan conducts yearly mapping of the communities which helps in understanding the available resources and dynamics of the communities better.</p> <p>This outreach helps understand the demographics of the communities and hence, a direct link in understanding the challenges and opportunities, better. Sanmaan conducts yearly mapping of the communities which helps in understanding</p>	<p>Life skills/ leadership sessions: Sanmaan has been conducting LSE/ Leadership sessions in both the communities. One of the children enrolled in these sessions, shared that as he attended LSE sessions, he was able to tell his father to not ask him to buy cigarettes or alcohol for himself as the child didn't like or feel comfortable visiting the shop. The child shared that his father was not convinced. Sanmaan team also stepped in to discuss the child's concerns with his father. The father took time, but has stopped asking the child to buy him cigarettes or alcohol from the shop.</p> <p>Children's participation: Children share about the festivals they want to celebrate and the team conducts activities/ celebrations around those. For the Child-Friendly Spaces campaign, children's views on what a child-friendly Mumbai would look like for them, were taken into account and accordingly incorporated in the social media campaign. There are committees of children on health and discipline which give them the space to make decisions for smooth implementation of activities.</p> <p>Understanding the challenges of the community better: During the Covid-19 lockdown, many families in the communities were given dry ration by government as well as NGOs undertaking relief work.</p>

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
	<p>the available resources and dynamics of the communities better.</p> <p>It gives direct and updated information on child protection concerns in the community. Sanmaan also conducts outreach to identify children who may not have been included under its larger community database and thus plans activities for these children like education, life skills education, etc. Additionally, through discussions with the community, Sanmaan is able to assess the extent to which the families are able to avail the government schemes and other benefits and the problems faced in the process. This forms the basis for Sanmaan's advocacy efforts with various stakeholders. During the outreach, Sanmaan also reaches out to other important agencies in the community like Anganwadi workers, police personnel, Child Protection Committees (CPCs).</p>	<p>However, during Sanmaan's discussions during outreach visits, it was found that many families didn't have fuel to cook the ration they received. Sanmaan then provided many families with cooked food (khichri) instead of dry ration.</p> <p>Awareness generation in the community: Sanmaan worked for spreading awareness among the community members with regard to vaccination by addressing their concerns, busting myths and misconceptions. The team also understood the challenges faced by the community members in this process, like registering online, difficulty in paying for the vaccination, and shared the same with relevant authorities. Awareness sessions, drives and discussions on critical topics like substance abuse, debunking superstitions, child marriage, menstrual health and hygiene etc. have also been undertaken.</p>
<p>5. TOOLS DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>Sanmaan highlights the importance of tool/ resource development for various actors working in the arena of child protection. These resources, by standardizing the process, eliminate scope for ambiguity and thus erroneous actions on part of these stakeholders which could harm children. Through discussions with relevant stakeholders and needs assessments, Sanmaan prioritises the requirements for such tools and develops the same.</p>	<p>Development of SOPs for Police: In 2018, during a rescue operation, Sanmaan felt that there was a need for sensitisation of police and other authorities to ensure that a child is treated with dignity and not further traumatised during the process of rescue. To address this, Sanmaan developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), to ensure child friendly rescue of the children from begging.</p>

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
	<p>Sanmaan actively involves these stakeholders and JJ committees across the country and incorporates their needs and suggestions. It also emphasises on these tools and resources to be useful to the stakeholders, by ensuring that they are reader friendly, easy to navigate and relevant to their work. These are further disseminated through events like seminars, round-tables and online platforms.</p>	<p>The document lays down the steps one should follow or should be implemented to ensure that child is less traumatized during the rescue. These tools are adapted based on the needs of the programme as well as those of the audience/ readers for whom they are intended. For example, the SOPs for police personnel include flowcharts for making those easily understandable and the document easy to navigate through.</p> <p>ICP template for children who come in contact through outreach: Sanmaan has developed an Individual Care Plan template considering the needs of children Sanmaan works with, especially through outreach. This ICP format has been developed keeping in mind the need to elaborate on certain aspects covered in the JJ Act and State Rules. The individual care plan focuses on the educational, health and emotional needs of the children among others.</p> <p>Tools for capturing children's background information and follow-ups: Case study format is also being developed to standardize and capture the crucial details in the most effective manner. Realising the need to ensure sensitive and relevant questions and discussions during telephonic follow-up with children, a format for the same was also developed and is followed.</p>

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
<p>6. SOCIAL MEDIA PRACTICES</p>	<p>Sanmaan relies greatly on its social media platforms for sharing about its interventions with relevant audiences, receiving their feedback and ideas. It makes use of the power this medium holds in raising awareness and accelerating advocacy efforts.</p> <p>For every event, webinar, campaign or any other initiative to further the agenda of children in begging, Sanmaan team plans in advance for its social media strategy and builds momentum through sharing on various platforms like Facebook, Twitter etc. For its campaigns on critical child rights issues like child marriages, building safe spaces for children, it makes use of social media in a big way. This also contributes in advocacy with relevant authorities and in receiving feedback from its partners and other stakeholders to incorporate in the interventions.</p> <p>Sanmaan publishes/ disseminates all its case studies, researches, mapping documents, in suitable forms on its online resource center (fighttrafficking.org) and social media platforms. By sharing its resources on public forums, it contributes to knowledge sharing and shared learnings. Children's feedback and concerns, with their consent, are also shared on social media which plays a great role in transforming public opinion and motivating them to extend their support.</p>	<p>Social media campaigns to raise awareness: Sanmaan uses social media platforms in a big way to highlight the ground realities with an objective to create awareness among masses. In 2018, Sanmaan initiated a social media campaign with Lehar, to bring to the forefront the issues and concerns of children living on streets. The campaign focused on topics like evictions, child labour, child marriage, etc. Sanmaan plans a campaign in every quarter on a relevant topic, to raise awareness about the concerns faced by children forced into begging or their families. Sanmaan recently initiated its Child Friendly City campaign in Mumbai city, where it reached out to children to understand from them how spaces can be made child friendly.</p> <p>Dissemination of report findings: Sanmaan also disseminates their findings from various reports on social media. Recently Sanmaan shared the findings from its community mapping exercise done in three communities, i.e. Jay Ambe Nagar in Chembur, Ekveera Transport in Ghansoli and Karbala Chawl in Sathenagar.</p> <p>Tweetathon: Sanmaan organised a Tweetathon to disseminate the findings of the Rapid Assessment Survey conducted to assess the community needs in the wake of the countrywide lockdown.</p>

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
		<p>Action through online advocacy: Sanmaan initiated an online campaign on Change.org platform and an open letter, asking the State Government to stop charging fees from people staying on the streets, for using public toilets during the first lockdown. It was the time when people were left with no job or income source and many didn't even have food to eat. In such situation, they were being charged with fees for bathing or defecation. A petition was launched on Change.org for the State Government to not charge people staying on the street.</p> <p>Updating about initiatives, events etc.: Sanmaan team shares on its social media platforms about various activities conducted like food distribution, police trainings or convergence meeting. Awareness on supporting children in crisis during the pandemic: Recently, in the light of concerns regarding adoption of children in crisis during the pandemic, Sanmaan posted on its social media about the due procedure to be followed by citizens in case they come across any child in need, the details of CWC proceedings and the legal process of adoption. This was also circulated among Sanmaan's network groups, through which a district collector requested Sanmaan to translate the same from English to Marathi for wider dissemination.</p>

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
<p>7. PLANNING, MONITORING AND LEARNING SYSTEMS</p>	<p>Sanmaan team engages in detailed planning for its programmes and initiatives at all levels – micro, meso and macro. From the stages of developing project proposals to working on detailed implementation plans, the team engages in discussions and deliberations based on the overall objectives of the project. Activities are carefully planned and roles and responsibilities clearly defined, with support mechanisms in place to achieve these. For every initiative like for programme activities, or convergence/ networking meetings or follow-ups, Sanmaan team plans with clear activities, expected outcomes, impact etc. Clear goal behind the same is determined and all efforts are directed in the direction to achieve the goal effectively and efficiently.</p>	<p>Monthly Planning: A monthly plan is prepared by the Sanmaan team, which consists of the tasks which are done on a daily basis, like follow up visits or CWC visits or SIR visits or outreach as well as major tasks which the team needs to follow. This is regularly monitored to ensure that the planned activities are carried out timely and effectively and contribute to quality services for children.</p> <p>Monitoring systems: The project has a monitoring system in place, which comprises regular visits by Senior Project Manager and Project Manager for ensuring quality of interventions and taking corrective measure in case of deviation. Through monthly plans and budgets with clear targets, the team forecasts outcome and discussions with the team and supervisor are held to ensure the same. Monitoring of the programme in order to ensure compliance and alignment with the planned target, takes places regularly. Clear reporting patterns, surprise visits, checking daily tasks accomplished, datasheets, reports etc., ensure smooth execution and timely corrective measures whenever needed.</p>
<p>8. CAPACITY BUILDING</p>	<p>Peer learning and knowledge building through capacity building initiatives comprises a very critical practice under the Sanmaan model. Through sharing of its experiences including learnings, successes and challenges,</p>	<p>For CCIs on ICPs and SIRs, as requested by CWC: Prerana has been approached by CWC to conduct trainings on developing ICPs or SIRs with staff of CCIs across Maharashtra.</p>

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
	<p>Sanmaan ensures that the NGOs, CCLs, Police, CWCs and other actors in the field of child protection, make use of the same and improve upon their interventions and interactions with children. Similarly, through capacity building of various stakeholders, both internal and external, Sanmaan ensures that the quality of services for children is improved and meets the desired standards to ensure their safety and wellbeing. External capacity building initiatives by Sanmaan team include trainings of police personnel, convergence meetings with CWC members, CCLs staff and management members and other NGOs/ VOs.</p> <p>With other NGOs and CCLs, Sanmaan has conducted trainings on topics relevant to case interventions and processes to be followed, like development of ICPs, SIRs, prevention of child marriage, counselling, needs assessment, planning for action and addressing their prejudices.</p>	<p>In the month of May - June 2021, Sanmaan along with Post Rescue Operation's team of Prerana conducted a training series on ICPs and SIRs which were identified as a requirement from CWC during one of the convergence meetings.</p> <p>On laws related to Child Marriages: While working with communities, Sanmaan has come across many cases related to child marriages. The organisations that Sanmaan works with, have also expressed challenges/ lack of knowledge on dealing with such cases. Identifying this as a critical need, Prerana conducted a training on laws related to child marriage.</p> <p>On government schemes and services for communities: During the outreach activities, Sanmaan realised that a lot of families didn't have knowledge about the schemes and services which are there for their benefit. During interactions with organizations working on similar issues, they also shared the same concerns of having lack of knowledge regarding services and schemes by the State Government. As a result, Prerana, in collaboration with DWCD, Mumbai Suburban, began a webinar series starting January 2021, comprising monthly sessions in which officials related to different government schemes spoke about those schemes and clarified doubts related to those. Some of the topics taken up through this initiative are Balsangopan Yojana, Adoption, Foster care, etc.</p>

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
		<p>Internal capacity building: Prerana also conducts internal capacity building trainings for the staff through monthly or bi-monthly sessions on topics like Child Protection and Gender among others.</p> <p>Trainings of Police: Trainings of police have resulted in better sensitization, and now Sanmaan receives calls from them asking how to proceed in cases if there are any confusions. There is better adherence to the JJ provisions and guidelines in their dealings with children. CCI staff members also show sensitivity towards children and Sanmaan has been able to address the prejudice that was there earlier towards the children from Paradhi community, to a great extent. There is a need for continuing such capacity building to further improve the situation.</p>
<p>9. ICP DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>Sanmaan, over the years of its work with children, has realized that a well-planned and detailed Individual Care Plan (ICP) goes a long way in child's proper rehabilitation. Immediately after a child enters the JJ system, Sanmaan starts the collaborative effort of developing the ICP with various stakeholders. Sanmaan takes into consideration the opinions and needs as expressed by the child and conducts a thorough follow-up on the child's background and situations. Usually, every ICP is reviewed quarterly. Such reviews can be more frequent in case of a new child entering the JJ system for the first time.</p>	<p>A detailed and thorough exercise: A challenge faced in developing the ICPs is that rapport building with the child takes time. Initially, the team isn't always able to get a lot of information, but it improves with time as the child gets comfortable and trust is built. Sanmaan team also always informs the child about the process of developing ICP, its purpose and how it intends to assist in ensuring the child's wellbeing.</p> <p>Assisting NGOs and duty-bearers in developing ICPs: It is one of the strengths of Sanmaan as CWC also appreciates the same.</p>

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
	<p>The review is undertaken with the child, case worker, parents of the child and school, if any. In case a CCI is involved, then the review is undertaken with its PO, social worker and superintendent as well. Necessary modifications and additions are made to best suit the child's needs and wellbeing. When an ICP is to be reviewed, recommendations from the previous one is taken and the team discusses with the child to assess her/his needs, talks to the family, assesses the current situation of the child and her/his vocational training/ skill building or any other requirements. For referral cases, Sanmaan follows the ICP format as in the JJ Act. For the outreach cases that it undertakes, Sanmaan has developed its own comprehensive format, building on the format as per the JJ Act and giving scope for detailing out issues as faced by the child, education details and psychological updates and needs with regard to the child.</p>	<p>Many times, CWC is not content with ICPs documented by CCIs and requests the Sanmaan team in assisting the CCI staff in the process of ICP development. Sanmaan also extends trainings to various NGOs on understanding the relevance and importance of ICP, the process to be undertaken while developing the same and documentation of ICP, developing effective ICPs, SIRs, follow-up and including the child's voice in the process. Sanmaan also develops ICPs in consultation with CWCs, POs of CCIs and submits both, including its own. Time taken to develop an ICP and time available for its submission depends from case to case.</p>
<p>10. DATA MANAGEMENT</p>	<p>Sanmaan considers proper data management to be of critical importance, as it not only collates the work done rigorously by the team along with other stakeholders, but also plays a very important role in tracking a child's journey and well-being. Different datasheets, records, SIR sheets, child tracking sheets comprising of monthly individual follow-ups, comments after review and mitigation plan etc., datasheets of follow-up orders, data for monthly CCI or CWC visits - are maintained and stored diligently.</p>	<p>Tracking children is easier: If Sanmaan team is not able to trace any child, they are able to approach the CWC with all the details of the child like their address, native place, history etc., which makes it easy to track the child.</p> <p>Updated follow up Orders maintained: Follow up Order of every child is maintained and renewed on yearly basis. The Sanmaan team only conducts visits of the children with an order of CWC when the child is referred to CWC.</p>

GOOD PRACTICES	WHAT IS UNIQUE IN SANMAAN'S WAY	EXAMPLES OF SANMAAN'S SUCCESSFUL PRACTICES
	<p>Over the years, Sanmaan has focused on maintaining accurate and clean data which feeds into generating critical information and data analysis. With the help of up to date and precise data, generation of reports, trend analysis, researches and drawing inference becomes more effective and impactful. Most importantly, the data is readily available while tracking any child or tracking the progress/ follow-up in case of any child.</p> <p>A dedicated focal person to ensure timely and accurate data management, ensures the review of the data from time to time and its updation and addressing the gaps, if any. Sanmaan's advocacy efforts for the children in begging are backed by the statistical evidences presented by its data. There is a prescribed format which makes it easy to feed the data and thus, ensures its timeliness and accuracy.</p> <p>Information is readily available for all donor reports (quarterly, half yearly and yearly) as well as reports and researches related to the organisation. The data is also gender segregated and is further modified as per the need to make it more diverse and inclusive.</p>	<p>Accurate and updated data available: Sanmaan has a SIR sheet as well as an Outreach sheet where data of every child who has come in contact with Sanmaan is mentioned. Children's basic details like name, age, sex, contact number, address, etc are captured in the sheet. This enables accurate record keeping as well as ensures that whenever there is a sudden need for data analysis, it is possible, e.g. the need for SIR data pertaining to all the children referred by CWC since 2016.</p>



EVOLUTION OF SANMAAN PROJECT: 5 YEARS JOURNEY (2016 – 2020)

KEY MILESTONES OF SANMAAN PROJECT:

- In the year 2016, Prerana was approached by Mumbai Police to work on the rehabilitation of children rescued from begging. Prerana initiated the project Sanmaan, and began its work with Child Welfare Committee, Mumbai suburbs on rehabilitation of children rescued from begging. The project also focused on conducting outreach visits in the areas under the jurisdiction of DB Marg, VP Road, Agripada and Nagpada police stations.
- Prerana's Sanmaan team ensured that at least 90% of the children who were rescued by police were presented before the Child Welfare Committee and that significant decisions on the cases were made only after considering their Social Investigation Reports (SIRs) and Individual Care plans (ICPs).
- In February 2017, the first convergence meeting was conducted by the Sanmaan team along with CWC and other organisations. This marked the beginning of Sanmaan's work with duty bearers like CWC, DWCD, Police officials, etc. to ensure protection of the rights of children forced into begging.
- In the year 2017, Sanmaan team began its association with Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR) on the issue of children in begging outside places of worship. A campaign ensued to ensure the rights of the children found begging outside places of worship. In the year 2019, Prerana in collaboration with the MSCPCR, conducted a round table consultation on "Preventing children from begging outside places of worship and placing them on the path of development".
- In the year 2018, the Sanmaan team began working with 3 communities viz. Jay Ambe Nagar in Chembur, Ekveera Hotel Ghansoli and Ramabai Nagar, Ghatkopar. However, in 2019, the eviction led to displacement of families in Ramabai Nagar across various areas in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai.
- In the year 2018, the Sanmaan team began conducting visits to and working closely with the Ashram schools in Solapur, Beed, Ahmed Nagar and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra.
- In the year 2018, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were developed by Sanmaan for Police, to ensure child friendly rescue of the children found in begging.

- Since the year 2018, the Sanmaan team began posting on social media about its work. Sanmaan organized its first online campaign with Leher on the concerns of children who lived on the streets.
- On 22nd May, 2019, Prerana organized a one-day State Consultation on “Forced Migration and Children in Begging”. Deliberations took place on the subject among important stakeholders from across India and future plans included strengthening and dissemination of the SOPs for handling cases of children in begging and review of performance of the “task force on begging”.
- In the year 2019, research titled “Inter-sectoral analysis of migrant backward communities and induction of their children in beggary in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai” was undertaken.
- In the year 2020, Sanmaan’s first centre was established at Jay Ambe Nagar, Chembur. In the same year, Sanmaan began working with a new community at Karbala Chawl, Sathenagar.
- In the year 2020, Sanmaan extended its work to Thane district, and began working closely with CWC, Thane.

REACH OF SANMAAN PROJECT IN 5 YEARS (JANUARY 2016 TO DECEMBER 2020)

YEAR	NUMBER OF BOYS	NUMBER OF GIRLS	TOTAL NO OF CHILDREN
2016	28	41	69
2017	60	62	122
2018	144	93	237
2019	45	65	110
2020	13	16	29
TOTAL CHILDREN REACHED OUT IN 5 YEARS	290	277	567

SANMAAN MILESTONES

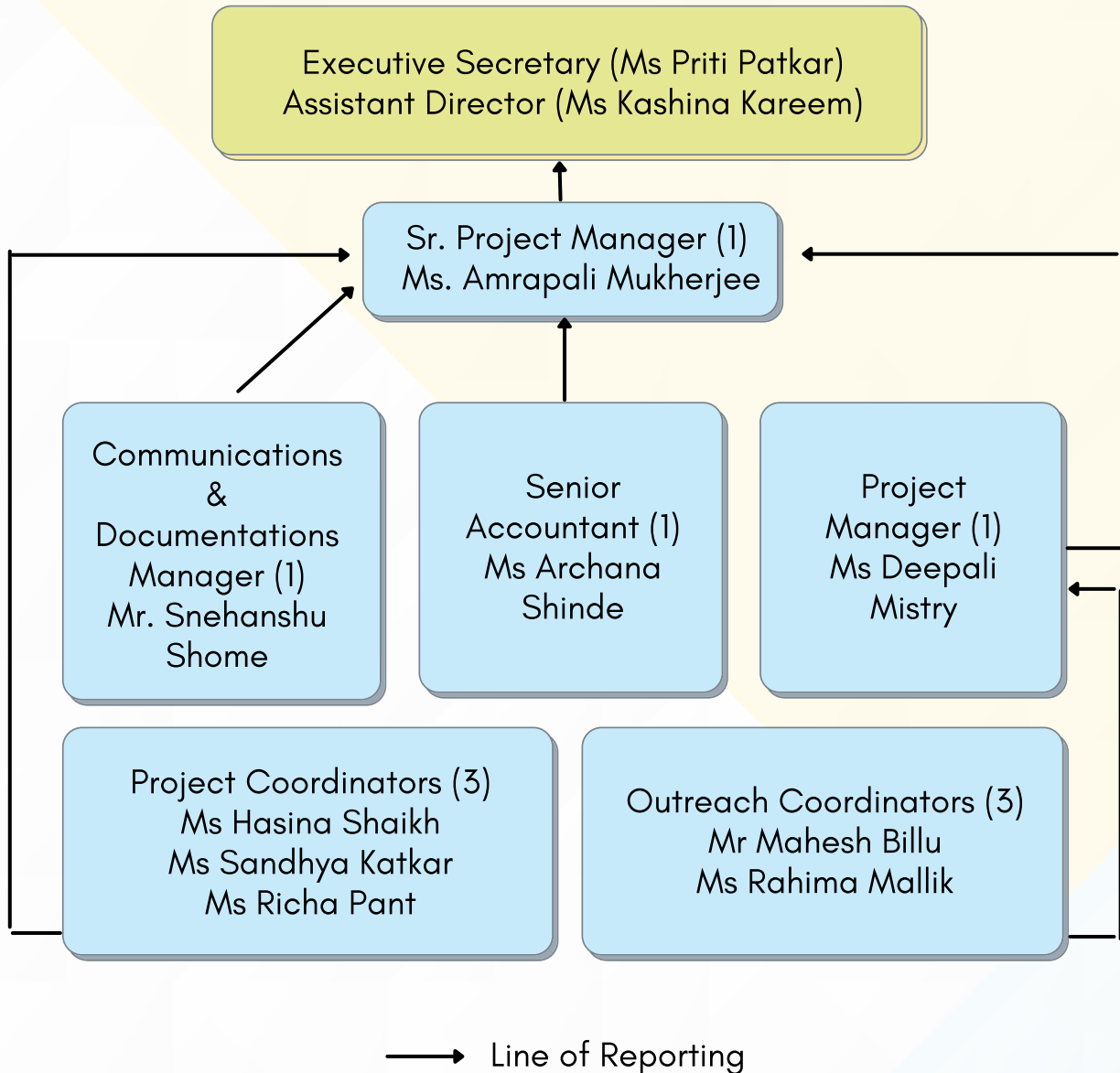
<p>Mumbai Police approached Prerana for the rehabilitation of children rescued from begging.</p>	<p>Social Investigation report (SIRs) and Individual Care Plan (ICPs) prepared for atleast 90% children presented by Police in CWC Mumbai Subarbs</p>	<p>Sanmaan began work with CWC Mumbai Suburbs, Outreach in the areas under the jurisdiction of DB Marg, VP Road, Agripada, Nagpada Police Station</p>	<p>2016</p>	
<p>First Convergence Meeting by Sanmaan in February</p>	<p>Sanmaan's work with duty bearers like CWC, DWCD and police officials began</p>	<p>Sanmaan associated with Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR)</p>	<p>A Campaign initiated for the rights of children begging outside the places of worship.</p>	<p>2017</p>
<p>Sanmaan began work in new communities (Jay Ambe Nagar in Chembur, Ekveera Hotel in Ghansoli and Ramabai Nagar in Ghatkopar)</p>	<p>Work began with Ashram Schools (Solapur, Beed, Ahmednagar, Osmanabad)</p>	<p>Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) developed to ensure child friendly rescues of children found in begging.</p>	<p>First social media campaign with Lehar on the concerns of children living on streets</p>	<p>2018</p>
<p>One day State Consultation on 'Forced Migration and Children in Begging' in May</p>	<p>Research titled "Inter-sectoral analysis of migrant backward communities and induction of their children in beggary in Mumbai and Navi Mumbai" undertaken</p>	<p>Round table consultation on "Preventing children from begging outside places of worship and placing them on a path of development" with MSCPCR</p>	<p>Deliberation among important stakeholders; Planning for strengthening and dissemination of the SOP's Review of performance of the 'task force on begging'</p>	<p>2019</p>
<p>First learning centre established in Jay Ambe Nagar Chembur</p>	<p>Work began in new community Karbala Chawl Sathe Nagar</p>	<p>Work extended to Thane District working closely with CWC Thane</p>	<p>2020</p>	



▶ OTHER IMPORTANT PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ASPECTS

SANMAAN PROJECT MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The management structure of the Sanmaan project is depicted in the following diagram:



MONITORING & EVALUATION SYSTEM

Four internal team meetings of the project are held every month (one meeting per week). And once a month a meeting is held on child tracking. A Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) between Prerana staff and Educo (funder and strategic partner) is held quarterly.

Monthly, quarterly, half yearly and annual reports are done by the team. Also, a report at the end of the project cycle is prepared. Baseline evaluation, mid-term evaluation and end-term evaluation of the project are carried out.

There are feedback meetings of Prerana and Child Welfare Committees and the police and convergence meetings involving other stakeholders as well.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL) PLAN: INTERNAL PROJECT MONITORING PLAN FOR 2021 – SANMAAN

Monitoring	SPM - Amrapali Mukherjee				PM - Deepali Mistry			
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Community 1	1				1			
Community 2	1				1			
Community 3	1				1			
Child Care Institutions	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Surprise Visits (home, school, CWC, helpdesk etc)	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Attendance of the project staff	1				0	0	0	0
External meetings/trainings attended by the project staff	1				0	0	0	0
Data Sheets	1				0	0	0	0
Implementation of Activities	1		1		0	0	0	0
Activity Expenses	1			1				
Lesson Plans	1							
Feedback of learnings and observations during monitoring	1							
CPP and safety audit	0				once in 3 months			
Identifying gender gaps and best practices	1							
Individual meetings with the team	1		1		1		1	

Focal Point for overall monitoring the project	Senior Project Manager from Prerana and Project Specialist (Child Protection) from Educo
Timing	Continuous throughout the project cycle
Scope	Day to day project activities, indicators of progress, regularity of the project staff, involvement of project staff in project activities.
Main Participants	Senior Project Manager and Project Manager, Educo's Staff
Process	Monitoring visits, reviewing data, team meetings, individual meetings, child tracking and case management

LEARNING MECHANISMS

- Internal training – Monthly sessions on issues like gender, Juvenile Justice System, etc.
- Session on child protection – held monthly, wherein there is sharing from every project of the organisation
- Support groups for sessions like Life Skills Education for Prerana's internal staff
- Need based session – on topics like FCRA amendment, amendment in JJ Act, etc.

- Webinars (external)
- Convergence meeting of CWCs and others
- Research
- Exposure visits for the Sanmaan team, e.g. visits to Ashram schools, visits to other organisations working with vulnerable communities.
- In-house learning circles on Workspace Ethos

FINANCES

The Sanmaan project is primarily funded by Educo, a Spanish development agency. The annual budget is approximately Rs. 50 lakhs.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SANMAAN PROJECT

Sanmaan project's design and strategies (protection, prevention and advocacy) imbibe elements to bring about sustainable changes in the lives of the children, communities and systems. For instance, working closely with the Child Welfare Committees to handle cases of children found begging in a sensitive and appropriate manner helps in influencing their perspective and in building awareness for other agencies as well like the police, child care institutions, other NGOs to act positively and sensitively. Capacity building, networking & convergence have the power to build knowledge, capacities and perspectives of important stakeholders on the issue through shared learning.

Working directly with children and their families to see that children are admitted in school, including residential schools (Ashram schools) is also providing a solid platform for children to develop and become self-reliant in the future.

In year 2020, Prerana collaborated with Apnalaya, an organisation working with the urban poor for enabling their access to basic services like health care, education, livelihood, etc. Apnalaya's Citizenship Model aims to create a system of "development collectives" led by enabled community-based youth and adults.

Designed to break intergenerational marginalization, this model supports the community-led change-making processes by supporting the identification of challenges unique to the community, taking ownership and responsibility for the mobilization of community resources and closely collaborating with civil society and government institutions to procure access to basic amenities and opportunities.

Currently the adult members of Chembur and Sathe Nagar communities (under the Sanmaan project) are attending trainings under this initiative so that they become leaders and change makers.

On the other hand, there are efforts made by the Sanmaan team to get support from various government agencies like DWCD and Municipal Corporation, so that issues of the communities are addressed, e.g. provision of toilets, bus service for children going to schools, etc.

The Sanmaan project is associated with over 20 NGOs/ CBOs, local community leaders and administrative officials across Maharashtra for assisting in establishing linkages for various services or facilities for the children. This widens the support base for the children and their families. The association with the main funder, Educo is also more of a strategic partnership. The funding from Educo is now in its second cycle (1st January 2020 to 31st December 2024). Prerana is committed to making need-based plans and would seek support from existing donors (government and non-government) and new donors in future.

MAJOR CHALLENGES FACED AND LESSON LEARNT

- **Historic marginalization of the target communities:** Communities like the Pardhis, Potraj, Wadari, Masan Jogi, Waghris and others have been oppressed and criminalized for centuries and continues to be marginalised and victimized. Despite initiatives like the Sanmaan project, these communities are still excluded from basic rights and are stereotyped. Negative attitudes towards them are still prevalent among the public and duty bearers. Therefore, it is important for the Sanmaan team and its associates to continuously engage with the people, especially important stakeholders like the police and juvenile justice functionaries to bring about systemic change.
- **Breaking the intergenerational cycle of begging:** A large majority of the children that Sanmaan works with are first generation learners and education is not a priority for these families. Therefore, it is a challenge to motivate them to enrol and continue in school or attend educational activities under the project. Therefore, awareness sessions and reinforcements with parents and community members on education, child rights, etc. is a crucial part of the project. Furthermore, involvement of children and their parents is significant in the entire rehabilitation journey.
- **Working with the government systems:** There are a number of challenges of engaging with government officials as often there is lack of awareness about issue, inadequate staffing, rigid rules of institutions and so on. So, it is crucial to establish relationships with officials of all levels and advocate for changes in policies and practices related to the issue.
- **Handling issues in the community:** It has been observed that issues like child marriage and sexual abuse are prevalent in the intervention areas of Sanmaan. While some of these cases have been dealt with appropriately, there is a need to build more awareness in the communities and strengthen capacity of the team to handle such issues that come up.
- **Accessing government facilities and schemes:** The Sanmaan team has the experience of enabling the children and their families to access basic services like public toilets. One major hurdle in this area of work is the lack of identity documents of these community members. Therefore, facilitating the procurement of identity documents and then supporting them to access relevant government schemes would bring about significant change in the lives of these communities.

- Forced evictions & floating population: As experienced in the Ghatkopar area, where the target population was evicted by authorities, it was a big setback to the project. So, it is important to have a contingency plan for such emergencies. It is also common for these communities to shift their residences and go out of touch of the project. It is difficult to follow up with such children and families.
- COVID19 challenges: As witnessed, the COVID19 pandemic halted the project activities for several months and everyone was at risk. Despite measures being taken by the government (vaccination drive, etc.) there are a number of safety protocols that need to be included in functioning of the project and new measures taken to adjust to the rising needs due to the pandemic, e.g. online sessions in schools.

VIEWS OF STAKEHOLDERS ABOUT PRERANA'S SANMAAN PROJECT

Mr. Navnath Kamble, Head - Rescue, Pratham

View on Sanmaan

Prerana has been working on this very important issue (children found begging) for over 5 years. The work is well grounded in research. He feels that Sanmaan project is a model intervention because of the following reasons:

- Significant replicable products like SOP for dealing with children found begging as per the JJ Act.
- Convergence with various agencies viz. the CWC, police, Department of Tribal Affairs and others.
- Rehabilitation of children in source areas, e.g. Amravati, Solapur and other places from where communities like the Pardhi come from.
- Also, due to this project there has been improvement in the way Social Investigation Reports (SIRs) and Individual Care Plans (ICPs) are made for cases of children brought under the JJ system.

Suggestions

- Create more spaces for play and other activities for such children.
- Need to create child friendly spaces in police stations.
- Address negativity towards children/ people in begging in general public.
- There is good potential to expand this work through collaboration with government agencies like the department of women & child development. The DWCD can issue government regulations regarding the issue.

Mr. Milind Bidwai, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Mumbai City I and Assistant Director-Salaam Baalak Trust (SBT), Mumbai

View on Sanmaan

According to Mr. Milind, Prerana and SBT are some of the few organisations in Mumbai working on the issue of children found begging. Through the Sanmaan project, there is good handling of cases, proper documentation and follow-up of cases. Even in the pandemic times, the team reached out to these children and families.

A significant initiative is reaching out to religious places in association with the Maharashtra State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

Other good initiatives under the Sanmaan project are development of SOP for handling cases of children found begging, creating child-friendly spaces and working with District Collectors on the issue.

There have been significant changes in the JJ system due to the engagement of Sanmaan team with the CWCs in Mumbai.

Suggestions

- Replication of the Sanmaan model in other parts of India by engaging with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
- Engage with the Department of Labour as 'children found begging' should be its mandate

Ms. (Dr.) Reena Jogani, Executive Committee Member, ISCKON temple and founder of Bhavyata Foundation, Mumbai

View on Sanmaan

Dr. Reena is of the view that NGO Prerana has taken up a crucial intervention through the Sanmaan project as begging is a major issue in Mumbai, "a racket". Also, the people in begging are poor and need to be supported. According to her Sanmaan is a comprehensive project having important segments viz. protection, prevention and advocacy work.

The engagement with religious institutions is a very good initiative. The meeting with ISCKON temple and other organisations led to a 12-point action plan which included awareness generation through posters outside temples and announcements and sensitization of members associated with the temples. However, due to the COVID19 pandemic and closure of temples, these actions have been postponed.

Suggestions

- Constructive engagement with the Charity Commissioner and authorities of religious institutions.
- Engage with District Collectors who can take a lead in this issue in their respective areas.

Mr. Vijay Kharat, Childline Coordinator, Yuva

View on Sanmaan

Sanmaan is an important initiative undertaken by Prerana, which is working on the complex issue of trafficking for many years. Very few organisations are working on the issue of children/ people in begging. It is a multi-stakeholder intervention involving the CWCs, police, NGOs and others.

Some good features of the Sanmaan project are:

- It is innovative as the team used the online platform appropriately to conduct trainings.
- Linking the children/ families to government schemes.
- Relief work for the vulnerable communities, responding to COVID19 pandemic.

Suggestions

- Prerana can consider working in Sanpada area, where there is a large population of homeless people, including children in begging.
- Link the homeless families to the shelters made for the homeless.
- Work on providing identity documents to these families.

Ms. Seema Adate, Member- Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Mumbai Suburban-I

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Ms. Seema Adate, Member- Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Mumbai Suburban-I

View on Sanmaan

Prerana is working on a neglected group of people through the Sanmaan project. The CWC refers cases of children in begging to Prerana. On the other hand, Prerana who has interventions in the communities (grassroots), also engages with the CWC on cases from the field (begging and others).

Sanmaan is a good example of working with children found begging because:

- It has enhanced knowledge and skills of important stakeholders like the police and CWCs on the issue. Earlier such cases were not handled well. Now, there is a perception change, including her own. There has been capacity building of others as well, e.g. staff of child care institutions.
- Family strengthening efforts.

Suggestions:

- There should be more efforts in the area of rehabilitation of children/ families in begging, particularly the aspect of family strengthening (financial support, support to establish business, etc.)
- The Sanmaan model should be replicated in other parts of India.

Mr. Shankar Jadhav, Chairperson of Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Mumbai Suburban-I

View on Sanmaan

Sanmaan is an initiative for children found begging in Mumbai by Prerana, NGO with expertise on the issue and other relevant issues like trafficking and sexual abuse.

Children who are found begging (belonging to Pardhi and other communities) are rescued (by various agencies like police and Childline) and brought before the CWC. CWC takes support of Prerana in post rescue and rehabilitation of these children. Sanmaan team works closely with this CWC and also facilitates a help-desk in the CWC premises for such cases.

Sanmaan project is a useful intervention because:

- It works with the marginalised communities, especially the Pardhi community who are into alms seeking.
- Networking is good with regard to this work (engaging with various stakeholders)
- Training of duty bearers on following right procedures, e.g. developing SIRs and ICPS
- Long-term commitment/ follow-up even during the COVID19 pandemic.

Suggestions:

- Other organisations, especially working in these communities, should be trained by Prerana on the issue. And through networking Prerana should spread the work in Maharashtra and across the country.
- Stake level initiatives like consultations should be organized with the involvement of bodies like the NCPCR and SCPCR.

Mr. Devkar, Teacher, Sant Maruti Ashram School Osmanabad

View on Sanmaan

This work of Prerana NGO is important as these children/ families are poor and need support. The children are out of school and there is an effort to educate them through this intervention. Another good point is that these children are given an opportunity to avail Ashram Schools, government residential schools for children of backward communities.

Suggestions:

- Associate with other organisations to reach out to more children for admission in Ashram schools.
- Engage with school authorities at important locations for extending support to such children or handling their issues.

**Ms. Shobha Shelar, District Officer (Mumbai Urban) -
Department of Women & Child Development, Mumbai
Suburban**

View on Sanmaan

Mumbai is one major destination area where many people come in search of livelihood. For many underprivileged communities it is life of survival on the streets. Prerana's initiatives like 'Sanmaan' reaches out to such vulnerable children and families. Not only protection is an important component of the project but "Sanmaan" i.e. 'Giving dignity to the target population' is a good feature of this initiative.

The project caters to important aspects of child rights/ development like school admission, etc. At the same time, it also addresses other issues or needs of these children such as access to toilets, identity documents and so on.

The project also has a good component of research work. A collaborative strategy is used to involve important government and non-government actors for realizing the rights of these children. For instance, Prerana played a good role in a district action plan undertaken by the Department of Women & Child Development. Prerana is also generating awareness on accessing government schemes for marginalised children/families like Bal Sangopan Yojna through webinars.

The fact that religious leaders are coming forward to support the cause indicates good efforts of advocacy by the Sanmaan team.

There is also greater awareness among the target communities about the issues related to begging and children's rights. Therefore, they are more open now and also participating in the processes involved in the children's development.

Suggestions

- We can use lessons learnt from the convergence model of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and use it in this work.
- Sanmaan is replicable model and the government should scale this by forming an advisory group, with Prerana playing a significant role in the group.

Ms. Prajakta Desai, District Child Protection Officer, District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Department of Women & Child Development, Mumbai

View on Sanmaan

There is a large number of migrant population in the city of Mumbai. Many children belonging to the migrant families are out of school and they are engaged with various jobs on the street, including begging. Prerana NGO is reaching out to such children through the Sanmaan project.

Sanmaan is a collaborative model of supporting these underprivileged children by involving important government and non-government actors like the CWCs, police, DCPU/ DWCD, NGOs working with children and others.

Suggestions

- Promote the 'good practices' (what has worked well) and replicate the work in other states as well.
- Strengthen family rehabilitation work.

Mr. Sanjay Kupekar, Head Constable, Crime Branch, Mumbai Police and Mr. Arun Pokharkar, Inspector, Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU), Mumbai district, Mumbai Police (Joint Interview)

Both Mr. Kupekar and Mr. Pokharkar have been working with the Mumbai police for many years (since 1991 and 1995 respectively). They are well aware about the situation of street families, including children. They have been involved in rescue of children from labour, begging, etc. for many years. As part of their work, they have arrested people who engaged children in begging, forced labour, etc. Both these policemen knew about the work of Prerana NGO, handling issues of trafficking, abuse, etc. They have been engaging with the staff of Sanmaan project for the last 4 to 5 years. They have received support from Sanmaan staff in dealing with cases of children. And they have participated in workshops or meetings organized by Prerana.

View on Sanmaan

According to them, this project helps the children from marginalised communities like the "Waghri", who are homeless and live on the streets. They are into selling of small items like toys, flower garlands (gajra), etc. The children remain with the parents and often they try to sell these items or beg at the traffic signals.

According to them, children and families have been treated as offenders under various laws in Mumbai. Since the Sanmaan project was initiated, there has been a change in the way these cases are handled.

There is a good working relation between the members of the Sanmaan project and the Mumbai police.

The police officials who are now more aware about the issues of begging and rights of children, engage positively with the families in begging before initiating any legal proceedings under relevant laws like the JJ Act. In case rescue of children is done, these children are produced before the concerned CWC after initial formalities at the local police station.

Due to the Sanmaan project, there is significant support in the rehabilitation of these children, with contributions from probation officers, police and others under the aegis of the CWCs. The development of the SOP on handling cases of children found begging by Prerana is very useful for rehabilitation of these children and ensuring that they do not go back to begging.

A number of capacity building initiatives have been undertaken through the Sanmaan project for police, CWCs, NGOs and others on the issue, including orientation on new amendments in the laws and policies. There has been good change in the attitude of the police force in handling cases of children/people in begging. Now they have a human rights approach, apart from better knowledge of the laws, instead of the previous mandate of 'implementing anti-beggary laws'.

Suggestions

There should be more awareness among these communities regarding the importance of children's well-being (health care, education, etc.) so that parents are more cooperative or better involved in the rehabilitation of these children.

It is important to educate the duty bearers that these families belong to vulnerable communities who resort to begging for survival. There is no large-scale racket of forced begging in Mumbai (as shown in movies, etc.). Therefore, the approach of handling the issues should be of 'supporting these families' instead of treating them as 'criminals'.

There are 10 to 12 major traffic signals/ areas in Mumbai where we find groups of children in begging. We should intervene in these locations. Create child-friendly spaces in selected locations of Mumbai for constructive engagement of children found begging (collaborative effort of police and NGOs already underway).

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