

VOLUNTARY ACTION FOR REHABILITATION & DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



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PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS

The journey of our organization **VARHAD (वर्हाड)** has been remarkable since its inception as a voluntary organization. We have been working unwaveringly for over 20 years to enable "Access to Justice" to the Poor and Marginalized Prisoners besides their meaningful reformation, rehabilitation and dignified reintegration in the mainstream world. The focus is to not only provide basic rights to prisoners, but to also assist them reform and reintegrate into society with dignity. Our intervention in this unique field has placed us among the few organizations in the country working towards this cause and this has helped us to make a significant impact in the criminal justice system.

At VARHAD, we are privileged to uplift and empower underprivileged youth by providing them with education, skills, and livelihood opportunities. Our mission is to combat poverty and unemployment, which are often the root causes of crime in society. Our flagship initiative, the Samrat Asoka Study Centre, has already paved the way for hundreds of young boys and girls to build successful careers. But we didn't stop there. We have recently expanded our efforts to address other pressing developmental challenges in the areas of Mental Health and Education, Youth Development, Livelihood Opportunities, and Farmer's Empowerment. We place a special focus on women and youth development in the Vidarbha region.

Our team's unwavering efforts have made a real impact in the lives of prisoners, their families, youth, women, and poverty-stricken farmers in underdeveloped regions of Vidarbha, Maharashtra. However, seeking financial support for these critical initiatives has been challenging, particularly in the criminal justice system where prisoners are often seen as undeserving of support or rehabilitation. We hope that our continued efforts will help shift society's perception of prisoners towards a more humane and compassionate approach. We believe that everyone deserves the chance to rebuild their lives and contribute positively to society.

We are grateful for the unwavering support of our believers especially Sir Dorabjee Tata Trust (SDTT), JRD Tata Trust (JRDTT), Usha International Limited, Give India, Global Fund for Women (GFW) and most recently, the Azim Premji Foundation (APF). We know that our steady efforts in the field of criminal justice system and beyond would not be possible without their generous support who share our vision for a better world. We are honoured to have them as partners in our mission. We believe together, we can continue to make a positive impact in our communities and beyond.

RAVINDRA B. VAIDYA
President, VARHAD

OUR BACKGROUND

Voluntary Action for Rehabilitation and Development (VARHAD) is a registered non-profit organization that was established in 2001 by Mr. Ravindra B. Vaidya, an alumnus of prestigious Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. Registered under the Societies Registration Act-1860 and Maharashtra Public Trust Act- 1950, VARHAD operates in the Vidarbha region of Amravati district of Eastern Maharashtra. VARHAD is driven by a fundamental objective to provide "access to justice" in the criminal justice system for underprivileged families of the prisoners in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. With a focus on facilitating emotional bonds between prisoners and their families, the organization strives to promote positive rehabilitation, promising reformation, and healthy social integration. Through its unwavering commitment to justice and rehabilitation, VARHAD serves as a reliable entity for those impacted by crime, offering a pathway to brighter futures.

VARHAD operates with the understanding that criminal behavior is not an inherent trait but is often a result of adverse circumstances, such as growing up in a deleterious environment, experiencing socio-economic deprivation, rejection, and indignity. The organization aims to enable access to justice by acting as a bridge between all law enforcement agencies and prides itself on being the sole organization in the region working to eradicate the breeding of crime at the grassroots level. VARHAD's initial intervention made significant strides in the Criminal Justice System, but we've now expanded our scope to address broader developmental challenges. We prioritize Mental Health and Education, Youth Development, Livelihood Opportunity, and Farmer's Empowerment, alongside our work in the criminal justice system. Our focus on these areas has yielded substantial results, and we'll continue to advance them. VARHAD emphasizes empowering women and youth in Vidarbha and is committed to promoting positive change and improving the lives of underserved communities.

VARHAD's contribution to prison reforms and human rights is widely recognized by government and non-government organizations at different levels. Our initiatives have led to changes in policies that uphold prisoners' and their families' rights. The Balsangopan, BPL ration card, Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana, Shravanbal Yojana, Gharkul Yojana, and Mukta Bandi Yojana are among the government welfare schemes now available to prisoners' families through VARHAD's consistent efforts.

VARHAD has accumulated invaluable experience by continuously collaborating with various departments, enabling them to work towards the welfare of underserved communities. Through the dedication to address a diverse range of issues, VARHAD positively impacts the lives of numerous marginalized individuals. Our greatest asset lies in its unwavering leadership, team, advocates, volunteers, and affiliates, who work tirelessly in various scenarios to achieve the goals.

OUR VISION & MISSION

VISION

The vision of our organization is to continuously adapt and respond to the ever-changing social realities by promoting Access to social justice and addressing the needs of marginalized communities. We aspire to make a positive impact on the lives of underserved populations by focusing on various aspects such as mental health, education, livelihood opportunities, youth development, and farmers' empowerment. Through our unwavering commitment to these areas, we aim to create a more equitable and just society, where every individual has access to the resources and support, they need to thrive. As an organization, we believe that by empowering those who are often overlooked or neglected, we can build a brighter future for all.

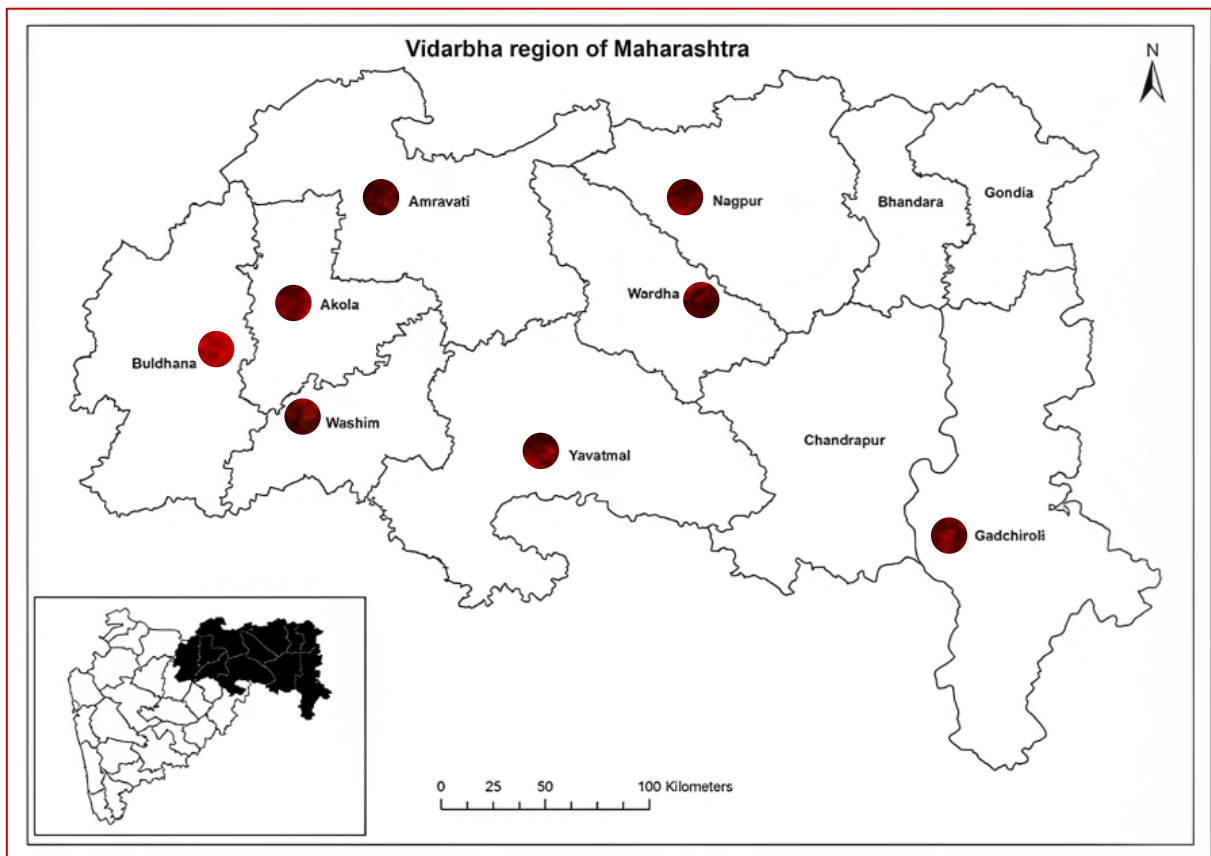
MISSION

VARHAD's mission is to empower marginalized communities by addressing their diverse range of needs and promoting their overall well-being. Through collaboration with various stakeholders and utilizing innovative approaches, VARHAD aims to create a more equitable society where everyone has access to social justice, education, livelihood opportunities, and mental health support. VARHAD is committed to advancing the fundamental rights of prisoners and their families, and ensuring that they receive necessary support for reformation, rehabilitation, and reintegration into the mainstream world. With a special focus on youth, women, and under-served populations, VARHAD strives to create a sustainable and inclusive future for all.

OUR GEOGRAPHIC REACH

The VARHAD organization has made a significant impact on the Criminal Justice System across multiple locations in Maharashtra, India. Its interventions have reached two Central Prisons situated in Nagpur and Amravati, six District Prisons located in Akola, Wardha, Yavatmal, Washim, Buldhana, and Gadchiroli districts, as well as an Open Prison located in Morshi (Amravati District). VARHAD's exceptional contributions in the fields of criminology, justice, prison reforms, and human rights have garnered high praise from various organizations at national and international levels, as well as from the State Government and respective local administrations. VARHAD's visionary work culture and unwavering commitment to its mission have attracted esteemed partnerships with prestigious organizations such as Sir Dorabjee Tata Trust (SDTT), JRD Tata Trust (JRDTT), Give India, Global Fund for Women (GFW), and Ajim Premji Foundation (APF) to collaborate and serve underprivileged communities.

VARHAD's Operational Territory



The dots indicate the operational territories of VARHAD

THE COMMUNITY WE CATER TO

VARHAD's key endeavors are grounded in a focus on the following demographic features:

PROFESSIONAL CRIMINALS OR HABITUAL OFFENDERS: VARHAD is dedicated to reforming offenders for the betterment of civil society. Our efforts leave no room for these individuals to return to a life of crime after their release from custody. We provide consistent training and counseling to ensure that they can earn a dignified living and lead a distinguished life in society.

NON-CRIMINALS OR FIRST-TIME OFFENDERS: VARHAD supports first-time offenders by providing three interventions: (1) We promote literary, cultural, and sports activities in prisons to facilitate reformation. (2) We advocate for reduced sentences to prevent further criminalization. (3) We prioritize facilitating undertrial prisoners to connect with their families, promoting positivity and integration.

UNIMPEACHABLE: VARHAD aims to provide legal aid to those who have been wrongly accused and imprisoned due to a flawed law enforcement system. We believe that everyone deserves a fair chance to defend themselves and seek justice, and we are committed to protecting their rights.

CHILDREN OF PRISONERS: VARHAD supports the educational needs of children of prisoners, who are often neglected and vulnerable. We arrange for free residential educational facilities in collaboration with state-run and socially responsible private institutions to eliminate the adverse impact of parental imprisonment on these children. Our goal is to provide a brighter future for these young individuals.

WOMEN: VARHAD recognizes the challenges faced by vulnerable women, particularly those from underprivileged communities, and seeks to empower them through skill development and vocational training programs. Our aim is to promote gender equality and provide them with meaningful employment opportunities.

UNOCCUPIED YOUTH: VARHAD supports job-seeking youth by providing access to a well-equipped library, comfortable accommodations, and valuable career guidance. Our aim is to equip them with the necessary resources and knowledge to succeed in their job search and stay on the right path.

FARMERS: VARHAD empowers farmers by offering training and support to increase productivity, adopt sustainable practices, and access fair markets. It also provides psycho-social support to those in need, helping to improve overall well-being and livelihoods.

OUTCOME METRICS, 2022-23

29 Children of Prisoners were provided with Educational Support and 16 of them were admitted to the Residential Schools.

EDUCATIONAL
SUPPORT



At least 510 Women were provided with sewing training

VOCATIONAL
TRAINING FOR
WOMEN



At least 40 Women were able to get livelihood opportunity of sewing with the support of VARHAD

LIVELIHOOD
SUPPORT FOR
WOMEN



At least 23 Prisoners got bail in the Session Court and 106 Prisoners were reached out in different prisons. 19 prisoners appealed in the High Court.

SOCIO-LEGAL AID
SUPPORT



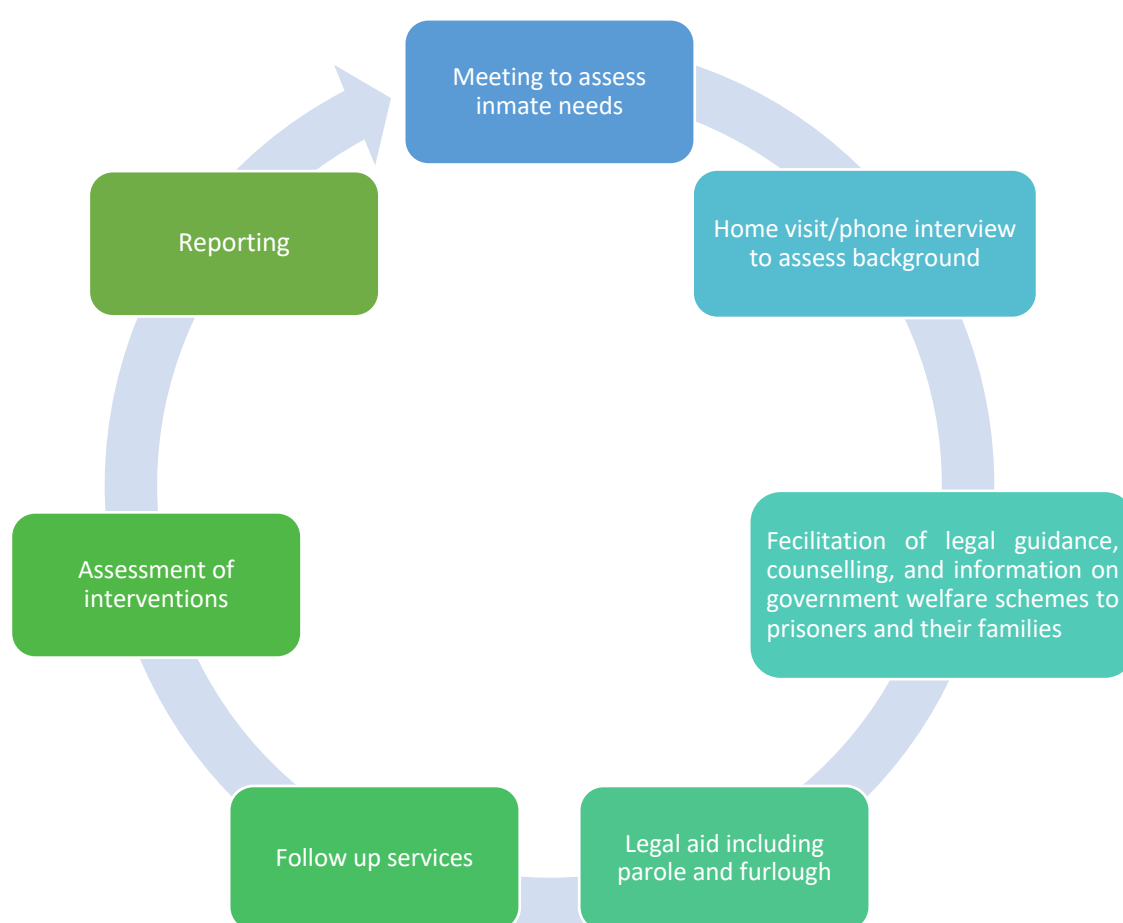
The community kitchen of VARHAD serves free meal to the marginalized, disabled and the extremely needy older adults and it has served nearly 1 lac meals so far.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN



REDEFINING CRIMINAL JUSTICE: THE VARHAD MODEL

The VARHAD model for criminal justice intervention is designed to support impoverished prisoners and their families. The model is an integrated approach that provides access to justice, linking families, especially children, with government welfare schemes. VARHAD works closely with prisoners to help them reintegrate into society and secure gainful employment after their release. The model is shown in the diagram below.



The diagram illustrates how VARHAD's intervention model can provide support throughout the criminal justice system, from assessing the need of an incarcerated person to helping their families navigate to get the legal guidance and address the difficult circumstances during the legal processes.

OPERATIONAL REALM, 2022-2023

Redefining Criminal Justice System: The VARHAD Model

Restoring Dignity: Socio-Legal Aid to Prisoners & their Families

Connecting for Justice: VARHAD's Network of Legal Service Provider

Empowering Prisoners' Children: Education Initiative of VARHAD

Resilience Behind Bars: VARHAD's Support for Women Prisoners

Rebuilding Lives: Rehabilitation Programme for Released Prisoners

Women Empowerment: VARHAD's Endeavours Towards Equality

Building Pathways to Success: Efforts for Unoccupied Youths

Advocacy of VARHAD: Bringing Justice to Prisoner's Families

Nurishing the Needy: VARHAD's Community Kitchen

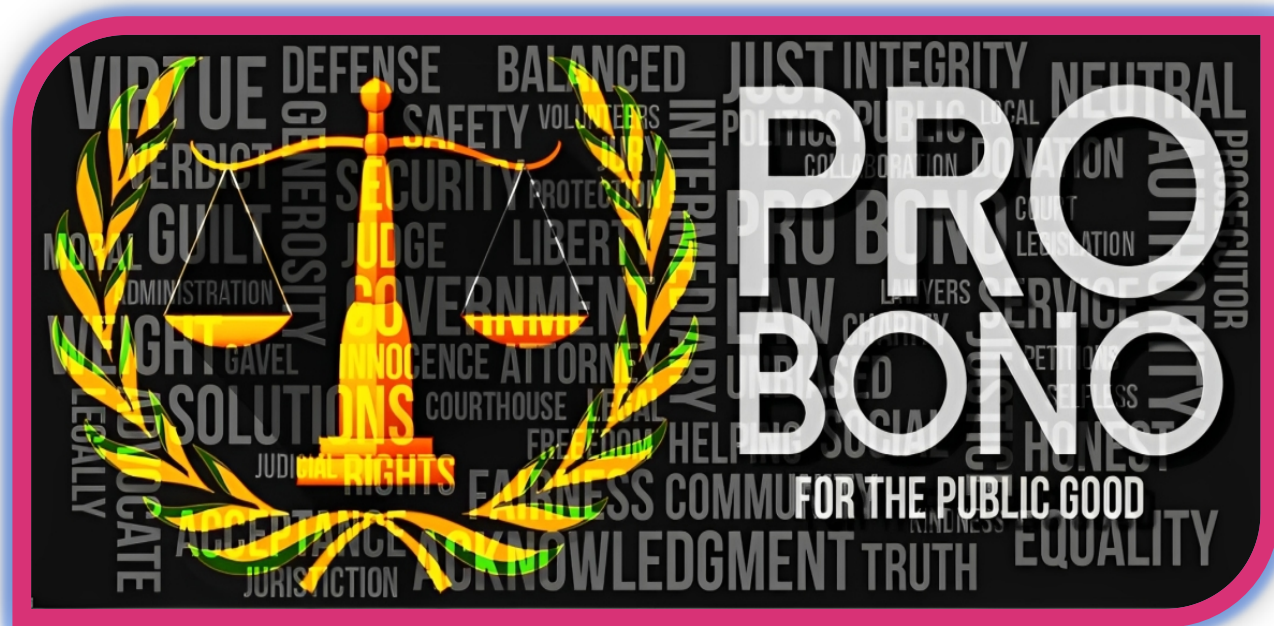
Rising Above: VARHAD's Journey Through Challenges

Transforming Lives: A Varhad Case Study-1,2,3

VARHAD's Media Exposure: An Overview

RESTORING DIGNITY: SOCIO-LEGAL AID TO PRISONERS & THEIR FAMILIES

VARHAD is committed to providing legal assistance to prisoners and their families, ensuring that everyone has access to a fair trial, regardless of their background. Unfortunately, the current state machinery often results in delayed and neglected processes. VARHAD acts as a bridge between prisoners and the criminal justice system, offering legal aid and judicial guidance to those who need it most. The organization also works with prisoners' families to ensure their participation in the reformation and rehabilitation process. Through consultations and involvement with families, VARHAD helps prisoners access their legal rights for bail, trial, and appeal. The organization also assists convicted prisoners in availing themselves of parole and furlough provisions. Overall, VARHAD's approach emphasizes a speedy and fair legal process while supporting prisoners' families and avoiding psychological breakdowns.



In India, a significant portion of the prison population, approximately 75%, still awaits a fair trial in a court of law. This is indicative of the dire situation that accused prisoners without trial face. The root cause of this issue is the unavailability of appropriate legal aid to deserving prisoners. Under Indian law, no prisoner is guilty until proven so in a court of law. However, prisoners, particularly those from poor and marginalized backgrounds, face significant hardships while in custody. The absence of an effective judicial system means that they can remain behind bars for months or even years awaiting justice.

VARHAD's experience over two decades has revealed that a significant number of prisoners in jails are not hardcore criminals but rather petty offenders, first-time offenders, or even innocent. The lack of legal knowledge, illiteracy, and poverty keep many prisoners behind bars for extended periods. The bail system is biased against the poor, as the court typically only considers money or assets as surety. The state's provision of free legal aid to poor prisoners is ineffective, with government lawyers often unmotivated to fight for those who cannot pay. As a result, poor prisoners fear losing their cases and are reluctant to use the State Legal Services Authority for legal aid. VARHAD has developed a network of quality advocates across 11 districts in eastern Maharashtra who are sensitive to the needs of poor prisoners and interested in fighting for their justice.

VARHAD intervenes in the complex legal scenarios faced by underprivileged prisoners by strengthening state legal aid provisions and coordinating with competent advocates to ensure seamless functioning. Our organization has established a network of quality advocates across 11 districts in eastern Maharashtra who are committed to fighting for the rights of poor prisoners. These advocates serve prisoners referred by VARHAD and charge a minimum compensation to cover basic expenses, while VARHAD covers their fees. This network has provided crucial support to prisoners at all levels of the justice system, from lower courts to the highest courts in the country. Each year, we provide legal aid to hundreds of under-trials and convicted prisoners who cannot afford the expenses to appeal in the High Court.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: VARHAD'S WIDE RANGE OF INTERVENTIONS

VARHAD offers comprehensive legal assistance to impoverished prisoners and their families, spanning from initial incarceration to ultimate acquittal.

ENABLING ACCESS TO BAILS: For indigent prisoners, obtaining bail through cash or surety is a critical need, but the associated formalities can be arduous and time-consuming. VARHAD tackles this challenge by extending essential support to fulfill the procedural requirements for obtaining bail.

TRIALS: VARHAD has a committed team of lawyers who provide competent legal aid to the accused at no cost. Their diligent approach involves conducting a thorough investigation of the accused's background, gathering all necessary information, and following up continuously. They ensure that the legal rights of the accused are upheld and present their cases in a well-organized manner.

SEEKING JUSTICE BEYOND LOWER COURTS: VARHAD fills the gap in legal aid that many poor prisoners face, ensuring their cases are presented in a well-documented and argumentative manner in higher courts, including the High Court and Supreme Court.

ENSURING THE PROVISION OF PERSONAL BONDS: VARHAD helps impoverished prisoners access the option of Personal Bonds by assisting them with drafting applications, obtaining necessary documents from various authorities and their families. This legal provision allows for the release of individuals who have committed minor offenses.

IN-HOME CONSULTATIONS: VARHAD is committed to promoting exercises that benefit prisoners, including facilitating communication with their loved ones. Our team regularly visits families and neighborhoods to assess the situation and take appropriate action. This has enabled us to secure the release of over a hundred deserving prisoners each year without surety or an advocate. Our efforts have set a benchmark in Maharashtra for releasing prisoners from various prisons.

COUNCELLING: VARHAD offers counseling sessions to help prisoners and their families cope with the challenges they face. We provide information on legal rights such as parole and furlough, which are outlined in the Prison Manual. Our organization encourages the use of these laws to secure the release of deserving prisoners, working closely with the prisoner's family, prison officials, police, judiciary, and other relevant state agencies.

PAROLE & FURLOUGH: In the Indian criminal justice system, Parole and Furlough serve as vital tools to maintain a convict's connection to society. These options are available to convicts, but many are unaware of their legal rights. Parole refers to a leave or absence from prison granted to a prisoner who is subject to continuous monitoring and compliance with specific terms and conditions. Furlough, on the other hand, is a two-week leave granted to a prisoner without the need for a specific reason. It serves as a bridge between the prisoner and their family, helping to maintain their relationship and support the psychological well-being of the convict.

BRIDGING THE GAP: VARHAD plays a crucial role in connecting prisoners with their families by facilitating communication through letters and messages. By maintaining emotional bonds between prisoners and their families, VARHAD builds trust in the judicial system and discourages prisoners from resorting to illegal means to escape. This approach encourages prisoners to have patience and trust the legal process to secure their release.

VARHAD's intervention model is rooted in the principles of the Social Work profession. The organization's employees identify the needs of prisoners and create a plan for intervention. They engage with all stakeholders to gain firsthand insights and keep family members informed of case progress. Additionally, VARHAD offers emotional support to prisoners by helping them send letters to their families and visiting their homes on their behalf. This fosters a strong bond between prisoners and their families, encouraging trust in the judicial system and deterring prisoners from resorting to illegal and violent means, such as prison escapes.

CONNECTING FOR JUSTICE: VARHAD'S NETWORK OF LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

VARHAD, as an organization working in the Criminal Justice System, recognizes the significance of building a strong network with state legal service authorities. The organization aims to provide assistance to indigent prisoners and their families who are often not able to afford the services of a lawyer.

VARHAD understands that access to justice is a fundamental human right and thus, endeavors to spread awareness among the families of such prisoners about the various legal services available for free. VARHAD's efforts also involve sensitizing these families about the significance of seeking legal assistance for their loved ones who are awaiting justice.

In its pursuit to facilitate access to legal aid, VARHAD provides extensive support to these families in terms of guidance and assistance with documentation. It ensures that the process of seeking legal aid is made easy and the indigent families are not left struggling to understand the legal procedures.

VARHAD recognizes the importance of constant communication with the state legal service authorities and hence, regularly arranges meetings to discuss the scope of services. Its efforts in building a cohesive system for serving the underprivileged have resulted in stronger relationships and better services for the indigent prisoners.

VARHAD understands that there are many indigent families who are not only unable to afford a lawyer but are also ignorant about the process of seeking legal aid. It thus, takes upon itself the responsibility of spreading awareness and empowering these families to exercise their right to seek justice.

In conclusion, VARHAD remains committed to its goal of promoting access to justice as a fundamental human right. Its efforts towards building a strong network of legal service authorities and sensitizing indigent families about the legal services available for free, demonstrate its unwavering commitment towards serving the underprivileged.

EMPOWERING PRISONERS' CHILDREN: EDUCATION INITIATIVE OF VARHAD

VARHAD recognizes the challenges faced by families of prisoners, especially their children who are often neglected and vulnerable due to their parents' incarceration. The absence of a breadwinner or a head of the family can severely impact the family's socio-economic well-being, and the children often suffer setbacks in their education. These children face social ostracism, which adversely affects their mental health, and as a result, their education takes a back seat. The increasing number of dropouts among these children further leads to their development of eccentric behavior in society. VARHAD's education initiative focuses on empowering the children of prisoners and addressing the issues they face to create a better future for them.

Children of Prisoners Learning inside the Prison Balwadi



NCRB statistics reveal a troubling reality - a significant proportion of the prison population in India is illiterate and hails from underprivileged socio-economic backgrounds, with a majority belonging to the SC and ST communities. These prisoners' families face social discrimination, which worsens the children's plight. As a result, the children of prisoners struggle to find meaning in life and grow up with limited opportunities.

VARHAD employs a comprehensive approach to work with children of prisoners, which involves three key components:

PRE-SCHOOLS (BALWADI): VARHAD recognizes the detrimental impact of prison life on the children of convicts, who are exposed to violence, abuse, and fear. To mitigate these risks, VARHAD established Balwadis, or pre-schools, for these vulnerable children within the prison premises. These schools offer a safe and nurturing environment for the children to learn and grow, providing them with basic necessities such as food, clothing, and educational materials.

Not only has VARHAD succeeded in providing a constructive learning environment for the children of prisoners, but it has also extended this opportunity to the children of prison employees. The success of these Balwadis is a testament to the dedicated and well-trained staff who have made a positive impact on the children's lives.

VARHAD firmly believes that it is the state's responsibility to protect the childhood of these innocent children and support their overall development. Through its efforts, VARHAD has successfully opened Balwadis and creches in all eight central prisons in Maharashtra, with the government providing financial support. By investing in the education and well-being of these children, VARHAD is working towards a brighter and more hopeful future for the next generation.

FINANCIAL BACKING FOR LEARNING: Supporting the education of children of prisoners is an essential step towards creating a healthy society. Unfortunately, the impact of imprisonment on children is often negative, especially when entire families are incarcerated. To alleviate this problem, VARHAD has taken the initiative to provide educational assistance to these children. VARHAD works towards providing residential educational facilities to children of prisoners, in collaboration with state-run and socially responsible private educational institutions, free of cost. This initiative has helped many children to receive education in places like Akola, Amravati, Buldana, and Nagpur. VARHAD takes the responsibility of guardianship and provides study materials and school kits to these children. Thanks to this program, more than fifty children have been admitted to such schools every year, giving them a chance to develop and grow in a supportive environment.

EMPOWERING FAMILY REINTEGRATION: When individuals are incarcerated, it is not just their freedom that is taken away - their families and loved ones also bear the brunt of the consequences. Children, in particular, are left vulnerable and without parental guidance and support, and the family unit can be torn apart. At VARHAD, we understand the importance of family and the devastating effects of separation, which is why we have implemented a range of programs aimed at reuniting families and providing them with the necessary support to not only survive, but to thrive.

VARHAD assists in reintegrating the children of prisoners with their families through the following ways.

MASS MEETINGS: In order to reintegrate the children of prisoners with their families, VARHAD works through various programs and initiatives. One such initiative is to facilitate emotional bonding between parents and children by organizing monthly meetings in the prisons. These meetings provide an opportunity for prisoners to spend quality time with their children, engage in cultural activities, and bond over games and picnics. Additionally, VARHAD offers counseling services to help families cope with the challenges of reintegration, and provides vocational training to prisoners to help them develop new skills and increase their employability upon release. Through these efforts, VARHAD strives to support families impacted by imprisonment and create a brighter future for both children and parents.

ONE-TO-ONE MEETING: In addition to monthly meetings, VARHAD goes above and beyond to facilitate direct contact between prisoners and their children. While such contact is typically prohibited within the prison system, VARHAD has worked to make it possible for these families to maintain their bond. This allows children to have a sense of connection with their incarcerated parent and helps prisoners to maintain their parental role despite their confinement. Through these efforts, VARHAD is able to provide much-needed support to families affected by imprisonment, helping them to maintain important relationships and fostering a sense of hope for the future.

RECREATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN OF PRISONERS: VARHAD provides a unique opportunity for the children of prisoners to participate in leisure trips and outings during their school vacations. These events bring together children from different backgrounds and offer a joyful and gratifying experience for both the team and VARHAD. By providing a platform for progress and growth, these outings instill hope, motivation, and encouragement among the children, who often lack confidence for obvious reasons.

ENCOURAGING BALSANGOPAN SCHEME AVAILMENT: In 2008, the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra launched the Balsangopan scheme to support children in need. Originally, each child received a monthly allowance of Rs. 425, but thanks to VARHAD's intervention and collaboration with government agencies, the scheme has been extended to include children of prisoners, with an increased monthly allowance of Rs. 1100 per child. This forward-thinking initiative allows a maximum of two children per family to receive support from the State until they reach the age of 18, providing vital assistance to vulnerable families. VARHAD's efforts in expanding the Balsangopan scheme have set a new standard for community organizations, and it will continue to benefit many children of prisoners until 2025. VARHAD has always been encouraging and assisting the children of prisoners to avail this scheme.

RESILIENCE BEHIND BARS: VARHAD'S SUPPORT FOR WOMEN PRISONERS

In India, women may be revered as goddesses, but in reality, they often face vulnerability and suppression in male-dominated society. This is especially true for women from economically and socially underprivileged communities. The secondary status of women in such a society further stigmatizes them if they are ever imprisoned, exacerbating the already adverse impact on their mental health. Sadly, in many cases, female prisoners break ties with their families to protect the family's reputation or prestige, resulting in lost social security. The trauma of parting ways with loved ones can lead to extreme actions like suicide or violent behavior in challenging times. This worrisome reality underscores the critical need for intervention and support for women prisoners.

VARHAD'S PIONEERING INTERVENTION FOR LASTING IMPACT FOR THE WOMEN PRISONERS

VARHAD recognizes the multifaceted challenges faced by women prisoners, who often feel isolated and lack adequate support both during and after their incarceration. To address this critical issue, VARHAD employs a comprehensive approach to rehabilitation that aims to uplift and empower these women.



Participants of Adult Literacy Programme Learning with the Children of prisoners at the Prison Balwadi

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN PRISONERS: VARHAD's Adult Literacy Programmes (ALP) have been instrumental in empowering incarcerated women through formal education within the prison walls. With the unwavering support of the education department, Government of Maharashtra, VARHAD ensured that 4th standard board examinations were conducted right inside the prison premises. Not only that, VARHAD went a step further and collaborated with the local authorities, such as Municipal Corporations, to establish literacy centres for illiterate female prisoners and their children. Thanks to VARHAD's tireless efforts, numerous success stories abound, where once-illiterate women and children now proudly boast of their newfound literacy skills.

However, VARHAD's intervention extends beyond mere literacy - they also place great emphasis on cultural and sports events, which contribute significantly to the mental and physical well-being of incarcerated women. These events instill a sense of camaraderie and boost morale amongst prisoners, and VARHAD encourages active participation from all. By equipping them with knowledge and confidence, VARHAD aims to help incarcerated women reintegrate into society with dignity and purpose upon their release from prison.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT MECHANISM: VARHAD's Empowerment through Vocational Training: Self-Sustenance and Health Awareness for Women Prisoners is crafting a better future for incarcerated women, VARHAD provides comprehensive vocational training to equip them with skills to sustain themselves upon release. Regardless of age, caste, and class, the program offers sewing, wax making, and incense sticks making courses, empowering women to become self-reliant. In addition, VARHAD imparts valuable knowledge on menstrual hygiene and other health tips for a better quality of life. The six-month sewing course enables participants to master 15-20 types of garments, including embroidery work. The wax making and incense stick making courses are relatively short-term. To create a sense of belonging and togetherness, VARHAD organizes special events for celebrations such as International Women's Day and Rakhi Din.

In addition to providing vocational training, VARHAD also offers livelihood support to the women prisoners by assisting them in finding employment opportunities post their release from the prison. VARHAD's team works tirelessly to identify potential employers who are willing to give a second chance to these women and help them reintegrate into society. The organization also offers micro-loans to those women who want to start their own businesses and become entrepreneurs. This holistic approach towards rehabilitation not only helps the women become financially independent but also boosts their self-esteem and confidence, enabling them to lead a dignified life.

REBUILDING LIVES: REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR RELEASED PRISONER

The rehabilitation process for released prisoners is an oft-neglected area, with many feelings lost and unsure how to navigate life after their release. The societal stigma surrounding their past can lead to difficulty in securing employment and reintegrating into society, exacerbating anxieties and hindering progress towards a normal life. Unfortunately, the negative public perception towards ex-prisoners can further hamper their ability to move forward, leading to discrimination and human rights violations. VARHAD recognizes the gravity of this issue and is committed to investing its time, resources, and support mechanisms to aid in the rehabilitation of released prisoners. Through three distinct programs, VARHAD aims to provide these individuals with the necessary tools and support to rebuild their lives and successfully reintegrate into society.



Glimpse from the VARHAD Rehabilitation Centre

VARHAD'S REHABILITATION FACILITY: VARHAD's Rehabilitation Centre in Amravati is dedicated to the complete transformation of the released prisoners by providing them with vocational training and sustainable livelihood opportunities. The centre is equipped with a farm where activities like dairy farming, vegetable cultivation, and other small-scale enterprises are

carried out. The released prisoners are given the chance to work on a full-time basis in the farming process and receive a monthly stipend, along with food and accommodation. The rehabilitation centre is gender-neutral and provides equal opportunities for both male and female prisoners, without any discrimination. VARHAD has self-established this infrastructure without any substantial sponsorship, which is a matter of great pride for the organization.

The underprivileged released prisoners are taken care of during their rehabilitation process, and the centre ensures that they have access to quality food and accommodation. The centre also provides rehabilitation facilities to habitual offenders, including the extradited prisoners from different cities, for a period of six months. VARHAD's rehabilitation program has become a seamless solution for complete reformation, employment, and long-term intervention for the released prisoners and hardcore offenders.

COLLABORATIONS WITH THE SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES: VARHAD collaborates with small-scale industries to provide employment opportunities for released prisoners. These industries offer vocational training programs that equip prisoners with valuable skills, which have proven to be highly beneficial for many individuals who have completed the program. Through this collaborative effort, VARHAD has been able to help released prisoners find gainful employment and successfully reintegrate back into society.

EMPOWERING THROUGH SELF-HELP GROUP: VARHAD prioritizes women's empowerment and takes special care of women prisoners, striving to enhance their socio-economic status. Through the rehabilitation centre, VARHAD motivates the released female prisoners to form self-help groups to promote financial independence and improve their overall well-being.

FINANCIAL AID: VARHAD extends a helping hand to vulnerable released prisoners by providing monetary aid to start their own small businesses. Some choose to open a vegetable or grocery shop, while others opt for a stationary store, especially women prisoners. VARHAD supports and empowers these individuals on their journey towards self-reliance. VARHAD's monetary assistance program for released prisoners helps foster entrepreneurship and independence. By providing financial support to start small businesses, prisoners can support themselves and their families while contributing to the local economy. This initiative has transformed the lives of many, breaking the cycle of poverty and crime.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: VARHAD'S ENDEAVOURS TOWARDS EQUALITY

VARHAD is committed to tackling crime and empowering marginalized communities, particularly women. To facilitate their integration into society, VARHAD has established several provisions to address their unique needs. Women who are often left behind have the opportunity to receive vocational training in beauty parlour, handicrafts, and mehendi, while also benefitting from computer and yoga classes. The trained women from these classes are now employed in beauty parlours across the state, earning a respectable income. Numerous women have utilized these classes to either start working or change their career path, successfully moving towards a brighter future.



Glimpse from the USHA Sewing Training School

THE USHA SCHOOL INITIATIVE: The USHA School initiative, in partnership with Usha International Limited, is providing a sustainable livelihood opportunity for those seeking decent means of living. This program offers a six-month sewing and embroidery course within the slum community, using brown paper and newspapers as raw materials to provide professional-grade training, considering the unaffordability of original materials for the underprivileged. The classes are open to all, irrespective of age, gender, or education level, with VARHAD covering minimal fees for the economically deprived. These initiatives highlight VARHAD's resolute commitment towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

BUILDING PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS: EFFORTS FOR UNOCCUPIED YOUTH

VARHAD is committed to providing comprehensive support mechanisms for youth beyond its core work. In addition to its regular activities, the organization conducts a variety of events and programs to enhance the well-being of young people and help them develop the skills they need to succeed in their chosen careers. Here are some examples of initiatives aimed at promoting youth empowerment and growth.

THE SAMRAT ASHOKA STUDY CENTRE INITIATIVE: At the Samrat Ashoka Study Centre in Amravati, VARHAD is empowering educated youths by providing them with free access to a well-equipped library and hostel facilities. With a collection of nearly 1000 books, the library is equipped with sound infrastructure and well-furnished facilities. Each year, around at least 100 students from rural and socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds are able to benefit from this facility, with 25 male youths residing in the hostel. The expert guidance provided by VARHAD from various cities has helped hundreds of students to secure job placements in recent years. Plans are underway to extend this facility to even more students in the future.

PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT: VARHAD recognizes the importance of providing career counseling and psychosocial support to young people who may have gone astray. The organization offers a range of services aimed at helping these youth to identify their strengths and interests, and to develop the skills they need to achieve their goals. Through one-on-one counseling sessions, as well as group workshops and mentoring programs, VARHAD's trained professionals provide guidance and support to help young people navigate the challenges they may face.

MOBILIZING URBAN YOUTH TO TACKLE SOCIAL CHALLENGES: VARHAD trains and identifies young leaders to promote social initiatives in educational institutions. Through engaging methods such as street plays, puppet shows, and cultural programs, the organization connects with new students and raises awareness on various issues. This approach has proven to be effective as the youth responds positively to these activities.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES: PREVENTING CRIME AMONG URBAN POOR: VARHAD's research has revealed that vulnerable youth in urban slums are at risk of turning to crime due to a variety of factors, including a troubled family background or negative influences from antisocial peer groups. To combat this issue, youth leaders at VARHAD have devised strategies to keep young people engaged in constructive activities and away from unlawful behavior.

ADVOCACY OF VARHAD: BRINGING JUSTICE TO PRISONERS' FAMILIES

ARHAD's relentless efforts in advocating for the rights of indigent prisoners and their families have earned it widespread recognition and praise from national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations. Its remarkable initiatives and interventions have brought about policy changes that uphold the prisoners' rights and those of their families. As a result of VARHAD's advocacy, several government welfare schemes have been made accessible to the families of prisoners.

BALSANGOPAN SCHEME: In 2008, the Maharashtra government implemented the Balsangopan scheme, which provided Rs. 1,100 per month to those willing to adopt or care for a child. VARHAD linked this scheme to the children of prisoners, setting a precedent and benefiting many of them. The scheme supports a maximum of two children per family until they turn 18.

BPL RATION CARD: VARHAD made sure that eligible families of prisoners receive one of the three types of BPL ration cards available in Maharashtra. This allows families to access subsidized food grains, alleviating the difficulties they face in making ends meet while the breadwinner is incarcerated.

SANJAYA GANDI NIRADHAR YOJANA: VARHAD's consistent effort included families of prisoners in a scheme for destitute individuals below 65, orphans, disabled persons, and those suffering from critical illnesses. This scheme provides Rs. 600 per month for single beneficiaries and Rs. 900 for families with two or more beneficiaries, with an annual income limit of Rs. 21,000.

SHRAVANBAL YOJANA: VARHAD has enabled families of prisoners to benefit from two categories of the state pension scheme for destitute persons aged 65 and above, with different eligibility criteria and payment amounts. Category (A) provides Rs. 600 per month to destitute persons not included in the BPL list, while Category (B) offers Rs. 400 from the state and Rs. 200 from the central government to those in the BPL category.

MUKTA BANDI YOJANA: VARHAD's intervention increased the amount for released prisoners from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 25,000, benefiting many.

REMISSION SUPPORT: VARHAD successfully advocated for remission for convict prisoners in Maharashtra during the celebration of Dr. Ambedkar's birth anniversary. With VARHAD's persistent efforts, the government granted remission for various categories of prisoners, with life-sentenced prisoners receiving up to 90 days. VARHAD continues to lobby for welfare schemes for prisoners and their families.

NOURISHING THE NEEDY: VARHAD'S COMMUNITY KITCHEN

VARHAD's Community Kitchen is a commendable initiative started in Amravati city, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a service that provides free meals to the impoverished people of the city who are unable to afford nutritious food on their own. This initiative is a testament to the organization's commitment to improving the lives of those who are most in need in their community. The Community Kitchen of VARHAD has been providing meals to the needy for a considerable period of time now. It is a testament to the organization's dedication to the cause of serving the underprivileged.



The kitchen has been serving free meals to commuters on the road and many other poor impoverished people in the Amravati city. It still continues to serve the needy and has served over 5lacs of meals till date. The Community Kitchen serves around 80-100 people on a daily basis, providing them with a hot and nutritious meal that they would not be able to afford otherwise. The food is prepared with great care, ensuring that it is hygienic and nutritious. The meals are often accompanied by fresh vegetables, which adds to the nutritional value of the food.

VARHAD's Community Kitchen has been a beacon of hope for many people in Amravati city, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. When many people were unable to access food due to lockdowns and other restrictions, the Community Kitchen continued to provide meals to those in need. This initiative has been possible due to the dedication and hard work of VARHAD's volunteers who have worked tirelessly to ensure that no one goes hungry.

RISING ABOVE: VARHAD'S JOURNEY THROUGH CHALLENGES

VARHAD serves a multitude of noble purposes, with a focus on the Criminal Justice System, prisoners' reformation, human rights, youth development, and women's empowerment. However, achieving these objectives is not without its challenges. One of the primary challenges is ensuring the effective implementation of prisoners' legal rights, such as bail, parole, and furlough. This requires sensitizing and educating prison authorities on these issues through regular orientation and training programs, which can be a daunting task.

Another major challenge is rehabilitating released prisoners by providing them with training and livelihood opportunities in various fields. However, the limited capacity of the Rehabilitation Centre makes it difficult to accommodate a large number of released prisoners simultaneously.

Organizing regular seminars, conferences, and workshops on prison reforms, youth development, and women's empowerment, along with relevant publications, is another challenge that VARHAD faces.

Furthermore, expanding VARHAD's human resources to carry forward its extended objectives effectively is a challenging task due to the limited existing resources.

Finally, working for prisoners' rights can sometimes have an adverse impact on VARHAD's reputation, as it may give the impression that it prioritizes the interests of those charged with crimes. Overcoming these challenges requires a committed and dedicated team that is willing to rise above obstacles to achieve meaningful outcomes in the field of criminal justice and social welfare.

LEADING CHANGE: VARHAD'S PROGRESS IN 2022-23

VARHAD's Reach in 2022-23	
AREAS OF INTERVENTION	NUMBERS
Prison Visit	106
Home visit	103
Children of Prisoner (CoP) Visit	58
Institutional Visit	65
CoP Educational Support	29
Admission in Residential School	16
Balwadi/ CoP Home Visits	48
Parole leave	02
Furlough leave	04
Death Parole	00
Session Court- Visit	86
Bail	23
Trial	
Acquittal	00
High Court -Appeal	19
Bail	00
Acquittal	00
Case status provided to prisoners	139
Case status on Personal Bond	00
Number of women trained in stitching (USHA)	Trained 510 Employed 40

TRANSFORMING LIVES: A VARHAD CASE STUDY-1

RELEASE OF A ROBBERY CASE CONVICT

Ramesh Konkwar, a 50-year-old man from Gokul Nagar ward in the Gadchiroli district of Maharashtra, found himself convicted of robbery and sentenced to three years in prison. This caught the attention of VARHAD. The employee of VARHAD was quite surprised because such cases were rare in their 20 years of experience where a convict of robbery got three years of imprisonment. VARHAD became interested in Ramesh's case and decided to investigate further and reached out to the Akola District Legal Aid Committee, asking them to prioritize Ramesh's situation. They also sent a letter to the Gadchiroli District Legal Aid Committee, requesting their assistance in this matter. Thereafter, a VARHAD employee visited Gadchiroli to meet with the Gadchiroli District Legal Aid Committee. There was a discussion on Ramesh's case and the Gadchiroli District Legal Aid Committee made sure that a lawyer would be appointed promptly to represent him. The Gadchiroli District Legal Aid Committee recognized the urgency and took immediate action. Within just 4-5 days, Ramesh received good news that the court granted him bail. This was a significant step forward in his journey towards justice. However, upon his release, Ramesh faced a new challenge. He didn't have the money to travel back home. Luckily, one of the VARHAD employees who had helped with Ramesh's case happened to be on the same bus. He saw Ramesh is seeking the other passengers for financial help to cover his bus fare. Showing kindness and compassion, the VARHAD employee paid for Ramesh's ticket and made sure he was safe throughout the journey. During the bus ride, the VARHAD employee noticed something concerning. Ramesh repeatedly stated that he is hungry and when the VARHAD employee offered food he refused the offers of food and instead asked for money. This behavior raised suspicions that Ramesh might be someone with a history of being a habitual offender.

Despite these concerns, the VARHAD employee remained committed to helping Ramesh. At every stop, he made sure to find Ramesh and ensure he didn't face any unexpected difficulties due to his vulnerable situation. The VARHAD employee provided Ramesh with money for immediate needs, such as food and the rest of his journey home. When he arrived at his destination, he gave Ramesh the necessary funds and asked him to contact once he reached safely. However, Ramesh didn't keep his promise, which further raised doubts about his intentions and behavior.

This case of Ramesh Konkwar highlights the extraordinary circumstances surrounding his robbery conviction and the legal process that followed. VARHAD's proactive involvement, along with the cooperation of the Akola District Legal Aid Committee and the Gadchiroli District Legal Aid Committee, played a crucial role in expediting Ramesh's case.

TRANSFORMING LIVES: A VARHAD CASE STUDY-2

VARHAD'S SUPPORT IN SECURING BAIL FOR A POCSO CONVICT

In a village called Vastapur, located in the Akola district of Maharashtra, there lived a 22-year-old man named Srinivas Khote (Changed name). Unfortunately, Srinivas got into trouble and was convicted under POCSO act. He had developed feelings for a girl who was younger than him, and they knew each other because their parents worked together and often visited each other's houses. Srinivas took advantage of the situation. Whenever the girl's parents went out for work, he would visit her house and they started spending time together. Over time, their relationship grew closer, and they became physically involved. Nobody knew about their relationship until the girl became pregnant after five months. When her parents found out, they questioned her about who was responsible. At first, she didn't want to reveal the truth, but under pressure, she confessed about their affair. Her parents then called Srinivas' parents to discuss the matter, but they couldn't reach a satisfactory resolution. Therefore, the families decided to involve some villagers in the situation. The villagers determined that Srinivas had to marry the girl, regardless of the circumstances. Both parties agreed to the decision made by the villagers, and Srinivas married the girl. Unfortunately, during the eighth month of her pregnancy, the girl's health deteriorated, and she became anemic. She required hospitalization and was initially taken to a nearby community health center. However, due to her condition and the need for blood, she was referred to the Akola district hospital.

While at the hospital, a doctor discovered that the girl was a minor and immediately informed the police about the situation. Srinivas was subsequently arrested by the Akola police for marrying a minor. He was taken to Akola prison, where he encountered an employee from VARHAD. Srinivas sought help from VARHAD, explaining that he came from a very poor family and couldn't afford legal fees. He also mentioned that his parents were currently away searching for work and were not available in their village.

Understanding Srinivas' challenges, VARHAD arranged a lawyer and sent a legal notice, through the session court judge, to Srinivas' wife, requesting her attendance at a court hearing. Initially, she couldn't attend as she had just given birth to a baby boy. However, she managed to attend the subsequent hearing in court. Finally, the court granted Srinivas bail, but a new challenge arose that Srinivas and his family didn't have the money to pay for the personal bond required for his release. Eventually, they managed to arrange the money, and Srinivas was released from prison. The trial is still ongoing

TRANSFORMING LIVES: A VARHAD CASE STUDY-3

Sourav Bangar, a 33-year-old man from Gujarat, lived in Punda village with his wife Purnima and their two daughters. Unfortunately, Sourav was involved in domestic violence, constantly tormenting and abusing his wife. He blamed her for not bearing a son and was an alcoholic who frequently cheated on his wife with nurses from the hospital where he worked as an ambulance driver.

Unable to endure the abuse any longer, Purnima decided to leave Sourav and seek refuge at her parents' home. However, Sourav's violent behavior persisted, even following her to her father's house. The entire village grew frustrated with Sourav and his actions, especially when he overcharged people for ambulance rides during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Sourav's character took a darker turn as it was discovered that he was involved in human trafficking. He had trafficked two nurses, one of whom he had an affair with. This criminal activity brought him significant financial gain. Sourav had a history of criminal charges in Gujarat, which led him to flee to his uncle's place in Akola.

One day, Sourav's daughter witnessed her mother being mercilessly assaulted and sought help from the local liquor seller. Learning about Sourav's plan to traffic the liquor seller's daughters, the seller became furious and physically attacked Sourav. In the heat of the moment, Sourav lost his life. The liquor seller, in a panic, staged the scene to appear as though Sourav had hanged himself.

When the police arrived to investigate, both Sourav's wife and the liquor seller were arrested. The wife of the liquor seller had already hired a lawyer, but Sourav's wife couldn't afford one. Fortunately, she crossed paths with an employee from VARHAD, who was moved by her horrific story. VARHAD took up her case and convinced the same lawyer hired by the liquor seller to represent Sourav's wife. With VARHAD's support, she was able to secure bail and start rebuilding her life.

This story highlights the cycle of abuse and the importance of organizations like VARHAD that offer support to victims of domestic violence. It also sheds light on the dark side of human trafficking and the lengths some individuals will go to for personal gain.

MAKING DIFFERENCES: TEAM VARHAD

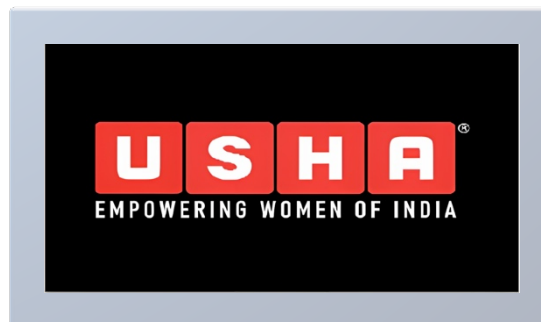
GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

NAME OF THE MEMBER	DESIGNATION
Mr. Ravindra Vaidya	President, VARHAD
Dr. Ravindra D. Kolhe	Vice-President, VARHAD
Mr. Dhananand Nagdive	Secretary, VARHAD
Mrs. Pushpa G. Rangari	Joint-Secretary, VARHAD
Mr. Jayakant Singh	Treasurer, VARHAD
Mr. Pravin Khandpasole	Board Member, VARHAD
Dr. Vijay V. Motghare	Board Member, VARHAD

VARHAD OPERATIONAL TEAM

NAME OF THE MEMBER	DESIGNATION
Mr. Ravindra Vaidya	Chief Executive Officer, Project Director
Mr. Dhananand Nagdive	Project Coordinator
Mrs. Pramila Meshram	Senior Social Worker
Mrs. Vanmala Mahajan	Para Social Worker
Mr. Manoj Gaikwad	Social Worker
Mr. Namdev Sonone	Para Social Worker
Mrs. Jaya Kharade	Para Social Worker
Mrs. Lata Bansod	Office Administrator
Mr. Umesh Diwan	Accountant
Mrs. Veena Varhade	Balwadi Teacher
Mr. Dhananjay Bansod	Rehab Staff
Mr. Sandip Rathod	Office Boy

THE DRIVING FORCE: OUR BELIEVERS



EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S FINDINGS

RATAN SHARMA & CO.

Chartered Accountant's
1st floor, Gulshan Tower

Near Panchashil Talkies, AMRAVATI

Registration No. F-10006/ Amt

Name of the Public Trust : Voluntary Action For Rehabilitation And Development (VARHAD), Amravati

For the year ending 31st March 2023

Report of an auditor relating to accounts audited
Under sub-section (2) of section 33 & 34 and
rule 19 of the Bombay Public Trusts Act.

- | | |
|--|-------|
| (a) Whether account are maintained regularly and in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the rules; | Yes |
| (b) Whether receipt and disbursements are property and correctly shown in the accounts; | Yes |
| (c) Whether the cash balance and vouchers in the custody of the manager or trustee on the date of audit were in agreement with the accounts; | Yes |
| (d) Whether all books, deeds, accounts, vouchers or other documents or records required by the auditor were produced before him; | Yes |
| (e) Whether a register of movable and immovable properties is property maintained, the changes therein are communicated from time to time to the regional office, and the defects and inaccuracies mentioned in the previous audit report have been duly complied with; | No |
| (f) Whether the manager or trustee or any other person required by the auditor to appear before him did so and furnished the necessary information required by him; | Yes |
| (g) Whether any property or funds of the Trust were applied for any object or purpose other than the object or purpose of the Trust; | No |
| (h) The amounts of outstandings for more than one year and amounts written off, if any; | No |
| (i) Whether tenders were invited for repairs or construction involving expenditure exceeding Rs. 5000/-; | No |
| (j) Whether any money of the public trust has been invested contrary to the provisions of Section 35; | No |
| (k) Alienantions, if any, of the immovable property contrary to the provisions of Section 36 which have come to the notice of the auditor; | Nil |
| (l) All cases of irregular, illegular, illegal or improper expenditure, or failure or omission to recover Monies or other property belonging to the public trust or of loss or waste of money or other property thereof, and whether such expenditure, failure, omission, loss or waste was caused in consequence of breach of trust or misapplication or any other misconduct on the part of the trustees or any other person while in the management of the trust; | Nil |
| (m) Whether the budget has been filed in the form provided by rule 16A; | No |
| (n) Whether the maximum and minimum number of the trustees is maintained; | Yes |
| (o) Whether the meetings are held regularly as provided in such instrument; | - " - |
| (p) Whether the minute books of the proceedings of the meeting is maintained; | - " - |
| (q) Whether any of the trustees has any interest in the investment of the trust; | No |
| (r) Whether any of the trustees is a debtor or creditor of the trust; | No |
| (s) Whether the irregularities pointed out by auditors in the accounts of the previous year have been duly complied with by the trustees during the period of audit; | No |
| (t) Any special matter which the auditor may think fit or necessary to bring to the notice of the Deputy or Assistant Charity Commissioner. | Nil |

Date at : 19/06/2023



Chartered Accountants
UDIN: 2306202BGUZJ14958

President
Voluntary Action for Rehabilitation
& Development, Varhad (Amravati)

The Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950 SCHEDULE IX C (Vide Rule 32)		
Statement of income liable to contribution for the year ending : 31st March 2023		
Name of the Public Trust : Voluntary Action For Rehabilitation And Development (VARHAD) , Amravati		
Registered No. F-10006/ Amt		
I. Income as shown in the income and Expenditure Account (Schedule IX)	Rs.	Rs.
II. Items not chargeable to Contribution under Section 58 and Rules 32 :		3406830.00
(i) Donations received from other public Trusts and Dharmadas	3150404.00	
(ii) Grants received from Government and Local authorities		
(iii) Interest on Sinking or Depreciation Fund		
(iv) Amount spent for the purpose of secular education		
(v) Amount spent for the purpose of medical relief		
(vi) Amount spent for the purpose of veterinary treatment of animals		
(vii) Expenditure incurred from donations for relief of distress caused by scarcity, drought, flood, fire or other natural calamity		
(viii) Deductions out of income from lands used for agricultural purposes :-		
(a) Land Revenue and Local Fund Cess		
(b) Rent Payable to superior landlord		
(c) Cost of production, if lands are cultivated by trust		
(ix) Deductions out of income from lands used for non-agricultural purposes :-		
(a) assessment, cesses and other Government or Municipal Taxes		
(b) Ground rent payable to the superior landlord		
(c) Insurance premia		
(d) Repairs at 10 per cent of gross rent of building		
(e) Cost of collection at 4 per cent of gross rent of buildings let out		
(x) Cost of collection of income or receipts from securities, stocks, etc. at 1 per cent of such income		
(xi) Deductions on account of repairs in respect of buildings not rented and yielding no income , at 10 per cent of the estimated gross annual rent		
Gross Annual Income chargeable to contribution Rs.		256426.00
Certified that while claiming deductions admissible under the above Schedule, the Trust has not claimed any amount twice, either wholly or partly, against any of the items mentioned in the Schedule which have the effect of double - deduction.		
Trust Address :	Dated: 9 JUN 2023	Chartered Accountants Auditors

VARHAD
Voluntary Action for Rehabilitation and Development
Yasoda Nagar No.1, Post Rukhnuni Nagar,
AMRAVATI (Maharashtra) India Pin - 444606
Fax - 0721 2566768 ☎ 256785



VOLUNTARY ACTION FOR REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT (VARHAD), AMRAVATI

F-10006/AMT.

(FCRA)

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	PAYMENTS	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
TO, OPENING BALANCES		1936335.50	By, CLOSING BALANCES		1989122.50
Cash in hand	911.00		Cash in hand	911.00	
State Bank Of India	1935424.50		State Bank of India	1988211.50	
" Interest Accrued on Bank A/C Saving		52787.00			
Total		1989122.50	Total		1989122.50

Date : _____ Chartered Accountants Auditors Date : _____

President
Voluntary Action for Rehabilitation & Development, Varhad (Amravati)
TRUSTEE

VOLUNTARY ACTION FOR REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT (VARHAD), AMRAVATI

F-10006/AMT.

(VARHAD SANSTHA)

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

RECEIPTS	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	PAYMENTS	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
To, Opening Balances		441636.26	By, Expenses On Objects		183370.90
Cash in hand	1497.57		" Bank Commission Exps	5.90	
Bank of maharashtra	440138.69		" Electricity Exps	8670.00	
" Rent Recieved		108045.00	" Legal Fees	1000.00	
" Donation Received		34500.00	" Repairs & Maintenance	1900.00	
" Bank Interest		12611.00	" Salary Exps	164000.00	
" Grant Recd in F.Y. 21-22		2409154.00	" Staff Welfare Exps	7795.00	
" Professional Tax		200.00	" Freeze Purchase		13400.00
			" Advance Grant in Aid A/c		2409154.00
			By, Closing Balances		400221.36
			Cash in Hand	127.57	
			Bank of Maharashtra	400093.79	
Total		3006146.26	Total		3006146.26

Date : _____ Chartered Accountants Auditors Date : _____

President
Voluntary Action for Rehabilitation & Development, Varhad (Amravati)
TRUSTEE

F-10006/AMT.

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

FOR THE PERIOD 1ST NOV 2022 TO 31ST MAR 2023

Date : _____Chartered Accountants
Auditors

Date :

President
Voluntary Action for Rehabilitation
& Development, Varhad (Amravati)
TRUSTEE

19 JUN 2023

The Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950


SCHEDULE – IX
[Vide Rule 17 (1)]


Name of the Public Trust : Voluntary Action For Rehabilitation And Development., (VARHAD), Amravati

Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31st March 2023

Registration No.: F-10006/Amt.

EXPENDITURE	RS	RS	INCOME	RS	RS
To, Expenditure in respect of properties :-			(accrued)		
Rents, Taxes , Cesses			By, Rent -----		108045.00
Repairs and maintenance			(realized)	108045.00	
Salaries			(accrued)		
Insurance			By, Interest -----		113881.00
Depreciation(by way of provision of adjustments)		189489.10	(realized)		
Other Expenses			On Securities		
To, Establishment Exps			On Loans		
To, Remuneration to Trustees		183370.90	On Bank Account	113881.00	
To, Remuneration (in the case of a math) to the head of the math, including his household expenditure, if any			By, Dividend		
To, Legal Expenses			By, Donations in Cash or Kind		34500.00
To, Audit Fees			By, Grants		
To, Contribution and Fees			Grant in aid		
To, Amount written off :			APPIPL	3558000.00	3150404.00
(a) Bad Debts			(+) Grant recd in advance F.Y. 21-22	2409154.00	
(b) Loan Scholarship			(-) Grant recd in advance F.Y 23-24	2816750.00	
(c) Irrecoverable Rents					
(d) Other Items					
To, Miscellaneous Expenses					
To, Depreciation					
To, Amount transferred to Reserve Or specific Funds					
To, Expenditure on Objects of the Trust		3498130.64			
a) Religious					
b) Educational					
c) Medical Relief					
d) Relief of Poverty					
e) Other Charitable					
Obiects	3498130.64				
By, Surplus carried over to Balance Sheet			By, Deficit carried over to Balance Sheet		464160.64
Total		3870990.64	Total		3870990.64

Date :  19 JUN 2023

Date : 
President
Voluntary Action for Rehabilitation & Development Varhad (Amravati)
TRUSTEE

The Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950 SCHEDULE - VIII
[Vide Rule 17 (1)]

Name of the Public Trust : **Voluntary Action For Rehabilitation & Development., (VARHAD), Amravati**

Balance Sheet As At : 31st March , 2023 Regi. No. F10006/ Amt.

FUNDS & LIABILITIES		RS	RS	PROPERTY AND ASSETS	RS	RS
Trust Funds or Corpus :-			12214.00	Fixed Assets :-		2727426.00
Balance as per last Balance sheet	12214.00			(As per Schedule)		
Adjustment during the year (give detail)						
Other Earmarked Funds :-			4986029.10	Investments :-		5800.00
(Created under the provisions of the trust deed or scheme or out of the Income)				To others, Telephone deposit	5800.00	
Depreciation fund	1227639.10					
Any other fund (Building Fund)	424223.00			Income Outstanding :- rent		40393.00
Hostel Fund	1734167.00			Interest, Other Income (TDS)	40393.00	
Medical Instrument Fund	1600000.00					
Loan (Secured or Unsecured) :-				Cash & Bank Balances :-		4905249.98
From Trustees			39600.00	a) In Current Account		
Ravindra Vaidya	19800.00			SBI	1988211.50	
Dhanand Vaidya	19800.00			SBI (FCRA)		
				Bank of maharashtra	2512018.12	
Liabilities :-				APPIPL	400093.79	
For Expenses			2000.00	VARHAD Trust		
Advance to Staff	2000.00			b) With the trustee		
				c) With the Manager	4926.57	
Grant in advance for FY 2023-24			2816750.00			
Professional Tax Payable			200.00			
Income and Expenditure Account				Income and Expenditure Account		177924.12
Balance as per last Balance Sheet				Balance as per last Balance Sheet	286236.52	
Less : Appropriation, if any				Less : Appropriation, if any		
Add : Surplus As per income and				Add : Surplus As per income and		
Less : Deficit Expenditure a/c				Less : Deficit Expenditure a/c	464160.64	
Total			7856793.10	Total		7856793.10

Date : _____ Chartered Accountants Auditors Date : _____

President
Voluntary Action for Rehabilitation & Development Trust (Amravati)

19 JUN 2023

VOLUNTARY ACTION FOR REHABILITATION DEVELOPMENT (VARHAD), AMRAVATI										
Fixed Asset Schedule										
For the year ending 31st March 2023										
Particulars	Rate of Dep.	Opening Balance	Depreciation till date	Net Assets	Add during the year	Ded during the year	Total	Depreciation for the year	Total Accumulated Depreciation	Total Assets At Cost
Cattle Shed	10	27855.00	9580.00	18275.00			18275.00	1827.50	11407.50	27855.00
Computer	40	157514.00	102430.00	55084.00			55084.00	22033.60	124463.60	157514.00
Cow	0	140100.00	0.00	140100.00			140100.00	0.00	0.00	140100.00
Dead Stock	10	12680.00	4360.00	8320.00			8320.00	832.00	5192.00	12680.00
Furniture	10	411221.00	123797.00	287424.00			287424.00	28742.40	152539.40	411221.00
Invertor	15	8456.00	4042.00	4414.00			4414.00	662.10	4704.10	8456.00
LCD Projector	15	43651.00	17978.00	25673.00			25673.00	3850.95	21828.95	43651.00
Library Books	0	106549.00	0.00	106549.00			106549.00	0.00	0.00	106549.00
Machinery	15	2753.00	1316.00	1437.00			1437.00	215.55	1531.55	2753.00
Plot	0	166500.00	0.00	166500.00			166500.00	0.00	0.00	166500.00
Surgical Machine	15	160000.00	764790.00	835210.00			835210.00	125281.50	890071.50	1600000.00
Utensils	15	27978.00	5666.00	22312.00			22312.00	3346.80	9012.80	27978.00
Water Pump	15	8769.00	4191.00	4578.00			4578.00	686.70	4877.70	8769.00
Freeze	15	0.00	0.00	0.00	13400.00		13400.00	2010.00	2010.00	13400.00
Grand Total		2714026.00	1038150.00	1675876.00	13400.00	0.00	1689276.00	189489.10	1227639.10	2727426.00

President
Voluntary Action for Rehabilitation
& Development, Varhad (Amravati)
TRUSTEE

Date :



Date: 19 JUN 2023

VOLUNTARY ACTION FOR REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT (VARHAD)

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES & NOTES ON ACCOUNTS

F. Y. 2022 -23

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES :

Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the general accounting principles and assumptions. Mercantile system of accounting is consistently followed by the concern. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance to the auditing standards generally accepted in India. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the management as well as evaluating the overall statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

2. FIXED ASSETS :

The Fixed Assets are valued at cost. Depreciation fund has been created separately.

3. CONTINGENT LIABILITY :

No contingent liability has been provided for in the books of account.

4. GRANTS :

The Grant received is accounted for on accrual basis. The Grant received for the period *pertaining* after the end of financial year is shown as liability in the current year and adjusted in income in next years. The same practice of accounting is followed consistently.

DATE : 19 JUN 2023

PLACE : AMRAVATI



For, Ratan Sharma & Co.
Chartered Accountants

CA Ratan N. Sharma
(Proprietor)

VARHAD's MEDIA EXPOSURE: AN OVERVIEW

TheHitavada

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ehitavada.com

VARHAD helping former convicts resurrect their lives

■ By Vikrant Gajbhiye
NAGPUR, Mar 20

THE perpetrators of any serious crime ought to be punished. But at the same time, there should also be room for remorse, for a course correction, especially if it is a family matter.

Family members of convicts have to go through a lot of hardship while the convict serves the jail term. Thankfully, once free, the former convict can start a new life with the help of family and society, as well as rehabilitation opportunities provided by jail administration and Government.

Ravindra Vaidya, Chief of the NGO VARHAD, informs, "Furlough and parole are two important provisions in this regard. Well-informed people take benefit of these provisions

as per the rules, but poor and illiterate prisoners are deprived of it. Under the provisions, prisoners get the opportunity to share time with family on important occasions like marriage of children, medical emergencies in family, to render family responsibility, to spend some moments with dying parents, funerals, etc. These positive things in the system should reach the most needy prisoners."

He adds, "Generally, prisoners get a concession in jail term for good conduct, passing examinations or for participating in positive activities. Similarly, there is a provision of State remission wherein some days are deducted from the term and prisoners are released on Independence Day or Republic Day.



A convict released on parole during the recent lockdown being taken to his native place in a private vehicle by VARHAD activists.

Thanks to the initiative taken by Vaidya's NGO, many prisoners got relaxation in jail term on the 125th birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar, as the

PART-II

Government celebrated the year as *Samata Varsha* (Year of Equality).

Focusing on the empowerment of prisoners, he states,

"Earlier, there was a Government scheme wherein the prisoner would get Rs 5,000 to do some work after being released from the jail. But today, all of us would agree that it is meagre sum to start any business. We demanded that it be increased to Rs 25,000. Apart from Government aid, VARHAD also extends Rs 10,000 to deserving prisoners on release. We hold regular training for women prisoners and even present them with some equipment. Moreover, we help them in getting jobs."

Our bond with prisoners doesn't end with their release and we remain in touch with them and do whatever is possible for their betterment, Vaidya informs.

The NGO has a small rehabilitation centre where 3-4 families of released prisoners can

live until they get an alternative place to shift. It helps them reunite with their families.

VARHAD did its bit for jail inmates during the pandemic as well. Many prisoners were released on parole during the first wave of COVID-19 in order to prevent spread of the deadly disease. But due to strict lockdown norms and no means of transportation it was next to impossible for the prisoners to reach their homes. In such a situation, VARHAD arranged private vehicles to move the prisoners, including women, from Amravati to other districts of the State with its own funds.

Vaidya recalls that at many places even family members were reluctant to accept the inmates back in home due to loss of source of earning during

(Contd on page 4)

VARHAD helping former...

the pandemic. Therefore, VARHAD gave such families one month's groceries. "We also noticed many labourers/workers walking along the highways to reach their towns with whatever clothes, food and money they had, after lockdown was imposed. The idea of a community kitchen struck our mind and we provided food round-the-clock to such people. We served food to lakhs of people. The community kitchen is still going on in the Mahadev Khori area of Amravati where 70-80 needy elders are fed every day," informed Vaidya.

Though his NGO is working predominantly for needy jail inmates, Vaidya stressed that the intention is to help every needy person. But any kind of social work is a tall order and so he hopes that more and more people come forward and make his team stronger to serve the society as good citizens.

कैद्यांच्या पुनर्वसनाचा मार्ग प्रशस्त !

चांगल्या सुविधा देण्यासाठी कारागृह विभागाचे विविध उपक्रम

का रागृह व्यवस्थेत परिवर्तन घडवून आणण्याच्या उद्देशाने, तसेच कैद्यांची परिस्थिती सुधारण्यासाठी कारागृह विभागाने काही विशेष उपक्रम सुरू केले आहेत. यामध्ये स्मार्ट फोनची तरतूद, पॅरेल अर्जांची सोपी प्रक्रिया, गुणवत्तापूर्ण अन्न यांचा समावेश आहे. या सुधारणा कैद्यांच्या पुनर्वसनासाठीच्या प्रयत्नांचा एक भाग असल्याचे प्रशासनाकडून सांगण्यात येत आहे.

कैदी आणि त्यांच्या कुटुंबीयांमध्ये अधिक चांगला संवाद होण्यासाठी कारागृह विभागाने प्रायोगिक तत्वावर स्मार्ट फोन सुविधा सुरू केली आहे. राज्यातील विविध कारागृहांमध्ये चाळीस स्मार्ट फोन प्रायोगिक तत्वावर बसवण्यात आले आहेत. ज्यामुळे कैद्यांना आता महिन्याला दहा मिनिटांचे

मुलांसाठी सुविधा

अंडरट्रायल महिला कैद्यांच्या मुलांसाठी कारागृह विभागाने, एनजीओच्या सहकार्याने, तुरुंगाच्या भिंतीबाहेर विशेष वर्गाची स्थापना केली आहे. या माध्यमातून महिला कैद्यांच्या मुलांसाठी पोषक वातावरण निर्माण करण्याचा प्रयत्न असून कैद्यांच्या मुलांना इतर मुलांशी संवाद साधता येणार आहे. मुलांच्या सर्वांगीण विकासावर लक्ष केंद्रित असून त्यांच्या भविष्याच्या दृष्टीने हा उपक्रम महत्वाचा आहे.

तीन कॉल करता येणार आहेत. कोविड संसर्गाच्या काळात तुरुंगात फोनची तस्करी होण्याच्या वाढत्या घटनांमुळे हा उपक्रम सुरू करण्यात आला. या सुविधेचा राज्यातील सर्व ५८ तुरुंगांमध्ये विस्तार करण्याची शासनाची योजना आहे.

कैद्यांना भेडसावणारी सर्वात मोठी समस्या म्हणजे तुरुंगात अपुन्या सुविधा आणि राहण्यास अयोग्य परिस्थिती. या समस्या ओळखून सरकारने अत्यावश्यक सुविधा पुरवण्यासाठी पावले उचलली

आहेत. आता ५० वर्षांवरील कैदी आणि आजारी असलेल्या कैद्यांना स्वतःच्या खचने गाढा, उशा आणि आंघोळीसाठी गरम पाणी यांसारख्या सुविधांचा लाभ घेता येईल.

पोषणाचे महत्त्व ओळखून सरकारने तुरुंगातील कॅन्टीनमध्ये दिल्या जाणाऱ्या अन्नाची गुणवत्ता वाढवण्यासाठी कैद्यांकडून सूचना मागवल्या आहेत. हा उपक्रम आरोग्य आणि आहाराच्या गरजा पूर्ण करण्याच्या दृष्टीने करण्यात आला आहे.



तुरुंगात कैद्यांची परिस्थिती हलाखीची असते.

त्यांना मिळणाऱ्या सुविधा अपुन्या असतात. यासंदर्भात शासनाकडे वेळोवेळी सेवानावी संस्थांच्या वतीने तुरुंगातील परिस्थिती सुधारण्याची मागणी केली होती. सरकारने घेतलेल्या या निर्णयाचे आम्ही स्वागत करतो; परंतु या सेवा शंभर टक्के लागू व्हाव्या, एवढी विनंती आहे.

- रवींद्र वैद्य, वहाड सामाजिक संस्था



सुधारणा आणि पुनर्वसन या दृष्टीने शासनाने हे निर्णय घेतले आहेत. कैद्यांसाठी स्मार्ट फोन सुविधा प्रायोगिक तत्वावर राबविण्यात आली आहे. तसेच अन्नाचा दर्जा सुधारण्यातही भर दिला आहे. येत्या काळात अनेक उपक्रम राबविण्यात येणार आहेत.

- नितीन वायचळ, तुरुंग अधीक्षक, आर्थर रोड कारागृह

VARHAD: Ensuring proper legal help to needy accused

■ By Vikrant Gajbiye
NAGPUR, Mar 19

THE structure of the Indian Criminal Justice system is based on certain fundamental maxims and beliefs. One of those is, 'Let a hundred guilty be acquitted, but no innocent person should be convicted'. But there have been numerous instances where in the accused spent months or years in jail only because they could not afford proper legal help. While they languish in jails their families also go through difficult times.



Ravindra Vaidya



VARHAD activists and a lawyer counselling a person seeking legal aid in a court premises.

Ravindra Vaidya, an alumnus of and Development (VARHAD) in Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, has been tirelessly working to support such prisoners and their families and

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to rehabilitate them.

"Around three years back, seven accused in Yavatmal district, all from a financially weak background, were awarded capital punishment in a murder case. As they could not afford a good lawyer to represent them, all were convicted in the case by the lower court. We challenged the verdict in the High Court and helped them in getting acquitted. There are many such examples where the accused got justice with proper representation by qualified lawyers," said Vaidya, while talking to 'The Hitavada'.

"Just like there are specialist doctors for different ailments, you need a specialised lawyer for different cases. A person can be arrested for a crime that he may not have committed if anybody lodges a

(Contd on page 4)

VARHAD: Ensuring proper legal help...

(Contd from page 1)

fake complaint. The court decides whether he/she is guilty or not, but till then he/she has to face hard time in custody. An accused may get jail if the lawyer fails to represent the case properly in the court. Hence we have developed a strong network of qualified lawyers in Vidarbha to represent cases right from lower courts to High Court. They stand for the accused without charging a penny. They are paid honorarium by us. With their help we have succeeded in getting many accused released on bail or even got them acquitted of the charges," Vaidya said with a sense of accomplishment.

Explaining how the role of a lawyer is crucial in any case, Vaidya said, "Although according to the Indian law a person is considered innocent until he/she is proven guilty by the court, the onus falls on the lawyer to prove innocence. Those blessed with resources can avail expert legal help and go to higher courts, but for the poor it is a dead end."

There may be instances when a person accused of stealing Rs 500 can languish in jail for months together while another

person involved in a murder may get released on bail, just because the latter had access to proper legal help, he explained.

VARHAD has not just restricted itself to providing legal assistance. In some cases like dowry deaths, wherein all the family members are imprisoned, children are left to suffer with no one to look after them, the NGO takes responsibility for such kids. "For the first time in Vidarbha, we started the first 'Balwadi' (pre-school) in the jail at Amravati and later on it was shifted outside the jail. The experiment was so successful that the wards of jail inmates and staffers were learning together. After a certain age, children can't live with their mother in jail. In such cases, we admit such students to institutes with hostel facilities and look after their educational needs," said Vaidya.

Commenting on the highly successful 'Gala Bhet' scheme, Vaidya said, "Generally, relatives are not allowed to meet prisoners directly. But we all know how difficult it is for a child to live without parents. Hence we took the initiative of holding direct meetings of children with their parents. On our appeal, children

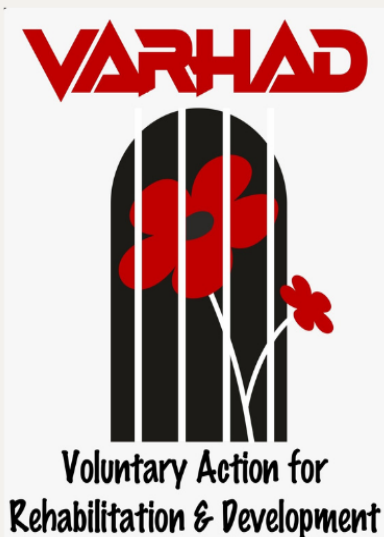
below the age of 16 years were allowed to enter the jail premises and spend some time with their parents."

Vaidya recalls it to be a very emotional moment when parents hugged their kids, made them sit on their lap and fed them biscuits with their own hands. The experiment was so successful that the Jail Department started organising such events in all prisons as 'Gala Bhet'. Now, children from all over the State are taking benefit of this scheme.

VARHAD also strove to avail benefits of Government scheme for the children whose parents are in jail. "Orphaned kids are given aid under *Balsangopan Yojana* of the State Government. But wards of prisoners were not entitled to avail benefit of the scheme. We took efforts and they bore fruit when the demand was fulfilled and such kids also get aid now under the said scheme," added Vaidya.

"As these children grow up without their parents, we take care of them till Class 12 and help them face life's challenges," said Vaidya, hoping that these children come out stronger and lead a meaningful life.

(To be continued...)



VOLUNTARY ACTION FOR REHABILITATION & DEVELOPMENT

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