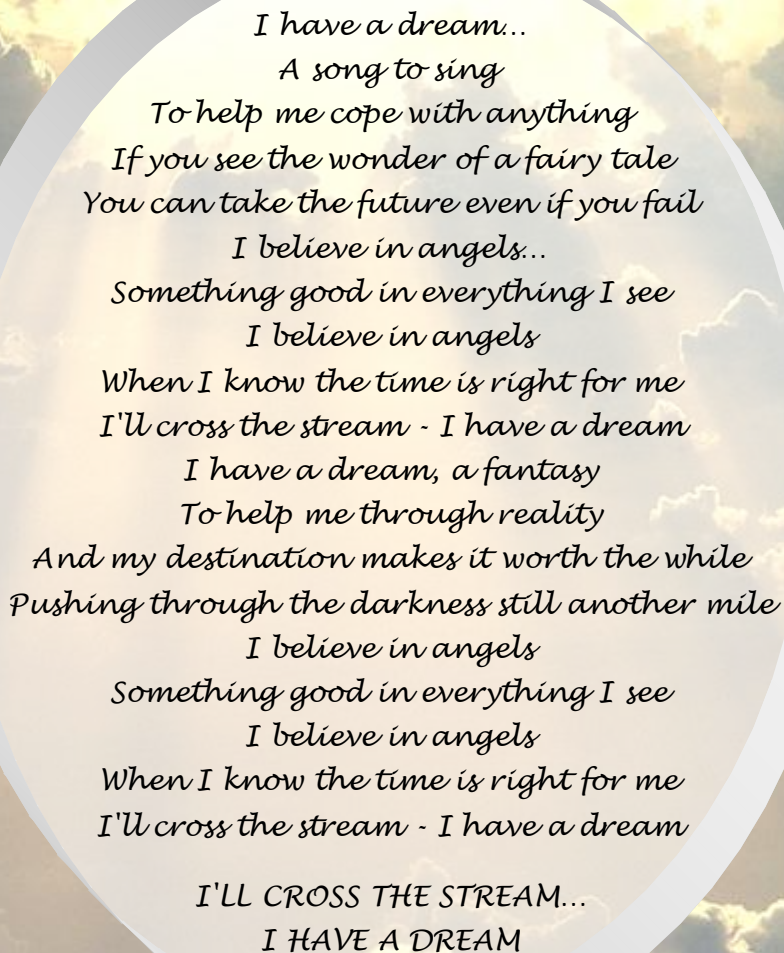




ANNUAL REPORT
2012-2013



*I have a dream...
A song to sing
To help me cope with anything
If you see the wonder of a fairy tale
You can take the future even if you fail
I believe in angels...
Something good in everything I see
I believe in angels
When I know the time is right for me
I'll cross the stream - I have a dream
I have a dream, a fantasy
To help me through reality
And my destination makes it worth the while
Pushing through the darkness still another mile
I believe in angels
Something good in everything I see
I believe in angels
When I know the time is right for me
I'll cross the stream - I have a dream
I'LL CROSS THE STREAM...
I HAVE A DREAM*

This Abba's number was Bro Jose Vetticatil, my co-founder's favourite song. He used to hum it every time he felt either low or high. Today as I hum this number, I do it with overwhelming gratitude. All our dreams... our fantasies of bringing change in the lives of the most marginalized are becoming slowly a reality. Our faith in humanity is reiterated everyday by all of you who have supported and stood by our cause. As the melody of this song reaches your soul... I want to say... thank you... thank you for being part of this reality.

Sunitha Krishnan

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Page No.

1. Foreword.....	03
2. President's Message.....	05
3. Message from the Governing Body.....	06
4. Vision & Mission.....	07
5. Organogram.....	08
6. Governing Body.....	09
7. Prevention.....	10
8. Rescue & Restoration.....	27
9. Rehabilitation.....	37
10. Reintegration.....	70
11. Advocacy.....	76
12. Partners & Collaborators.....	88
13. Accolades.....	90
14. Audit Report.....	92

This year has been a year of extraordinary learning for sustainability and succession. The impact of our interventions was felt in the instigation of community to destroy our grassroots work. The initiative of the same community not only to provide protection to our intervention but also to start a new center gave us a moral boost which no award or recognition can ever give us.



Showcasing our work in Satyamev Jayate with Aamir Khan was a game-changer in more ways than one. We were recognized by the Indian Community worldwide. The significant part of this recognition was that it included the poorest to the richest. We were humbled when daily wagers like vegetable vendors and rickshaw pullers sent in their contributions by Airtel money transfer. The recognition definitely added to the credibility of our work.

On the work front, each department has strived hard to put systems in place which will make their interventions more sustaining. But I think the efforts of the rescue team and the shelter team are worth mentioning.

The path-breaking impact of the Rescue & Restoration team is seen in the conviction rate of traffickers. No time in Indian history have there been 95 convictions in the same year from the same court. After the efforts of the team to get a special court materialized early this year, in the coming months we were able to witness a sea-change in the crime pattern.

The shelter team has to be acknowledged for their extraordinary perseverance in the face of very adverse conditions. There were days when 20-25 victims were admitted, yet they



managed without any complaints. A lot of credit for the victims to testify in the court against the traffickers goes to the Shelter team.

Some new experiments were explored with inter-departmental shuffle of senior leaders. The idea was to prepare senior leaders for all interventions. I must say not all leaders are measuring up to the expectations. The psychological blocks to learning are tough to handle.

We have moved one notch up to create more financial transparency. As much as I feel proud of my Director-Finance, I also have to place on record my deep appreciation to our auditors Gandhi & Gandhi, our donors Catholic Relief Services and Misereor for mentoring us in this process. I cannot say we have reached the desired end, but we are definitely on the way.

As the chief functionary, my life became more comfortable after I got a reliable personal assistant and a very talented and skilled Coordinator for Anti Trafficking Resource Cell. These two people have made my time more focused and productive.

As we complete 17 years of our existence, I bow my head in deep reverence to all our supporters who have had deep faith in our mission and supported us at all times. A word of thanks to our president Dr. Balamba, who has provided medical care to all our girls for over 13 years and now leads the governing body.

To me, my team is an extension of my own self. Sustaining commitment to a cause like this in a consumerist world is challenge in itself. I am proud to lead a team of 200 who believe in the mission as much as I do.

Sunitha Krishnan

General Secretary & Chief Functionary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

It is with great pride and pleasure that I write this message for Prajwala's Annual Report. Let me first congratulate our dynamic secretary Dr. Sunitha Krishnan for receiving innumerable national and international awards. I also congratulate her being for nominated to state women's commission, where I am sure she will contribute a lot for women's empowerment.

There have been lots of lows this year, like losing our school in Old City, but also great achievements like our children excelling in their exams as school toppers. Every low in our work has made us stronger and more committed to our cause.



We will march forward facing all odds and try to prevent Human Trafficking which is our endeavour, and rescue the girls who have been trafficked and try to mainstream them with our best efforts. Let us vow to prevent the demeaning trade of Human Trafficking by mobilizing all the resources we can.

Jai Hind,
Dr. P. Balamba

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNING BODY

It is always a proud moment when a child gets promoted to the next class with good marks and in this case the pleasure is more enhanced because they have passed with flying colors and in first division. And if that is not enough three of the girls have got a double promotion and have moved to a higher class. There is a message in this for all of us. It is a question of who is getting the opportunity and as a board member I am truly happy to say that Prajwala is acting as a conduit between the girls and the opportunities available in life for the girls.

It has always been Sunitha Krishnan's endeavor to make the girls feel at home and she has an able team helping her do that, but constant efforts are needed to keep the friendly atmosphere happening. The recent experiment with 'Sakhi' or friend is working well. The need is to have a friend once you come from a traumatized outside world and that is what a Sakhi will do. She will be the friend, hold hands with the girls till they are able to be on their own and feel at home. Who does not need a friend? All of us do and it is this friend who helps us move from the dark to the light by guiding us, holding our hand and helping us cross those forgettable moments. This exercise should do wonders for the girls at the home. In a world where everything is in a state of flux, Prajwala should remain a safe haven for the girls.



Protection of human rights is a concept we have taken for granted. We think it should come naturally. If man is free he should go about without fear of life or abuse, but tragically abuse is second nature to the human and nothing we say or do is going to change that fact. But at Prajwala the effort is ever on, to lend dignity, to give a 'humanness' to some of the most debased cases, because here we believe that though we are born into this life free, there are other factors that come into play, snatching the freedom of some. We would like people to know that we are here to protect them, take care of them.

We use the word 'mainstream' with great ease for we are there and we enjoy the ability to understand how to be in it. For those who have not had that privilege even a small step towards 'normalcy' is like a huge trek. This must be understood and appreciated by the rest of us. Which is why we at Prajwala are celebrating school results. Results which make us proud and remind us of our privileges and positions.

Lalita Iyer
Treasurer

Vision:

A trafficking free society where no woman or child is sexually exploited and no human being is treated as a commodity.

Mission:

Prajwala works with a conviction that sex trafficking is the worst form of human rights violation and flesh trade the oldest form of sexual slavery. Therefore every effort should be taken to combat these crimes. It believes that only through networking and partnership can its vision be achieved, and therefore aims to partner with all likeminded groups and communities. Prajwala also believes that in order to break the walls of learnt helplessness, a multi-pronged approach is necessary. This approach must be psychologically viable and socially acceptable for a victim who has made the choice to become a survivor.

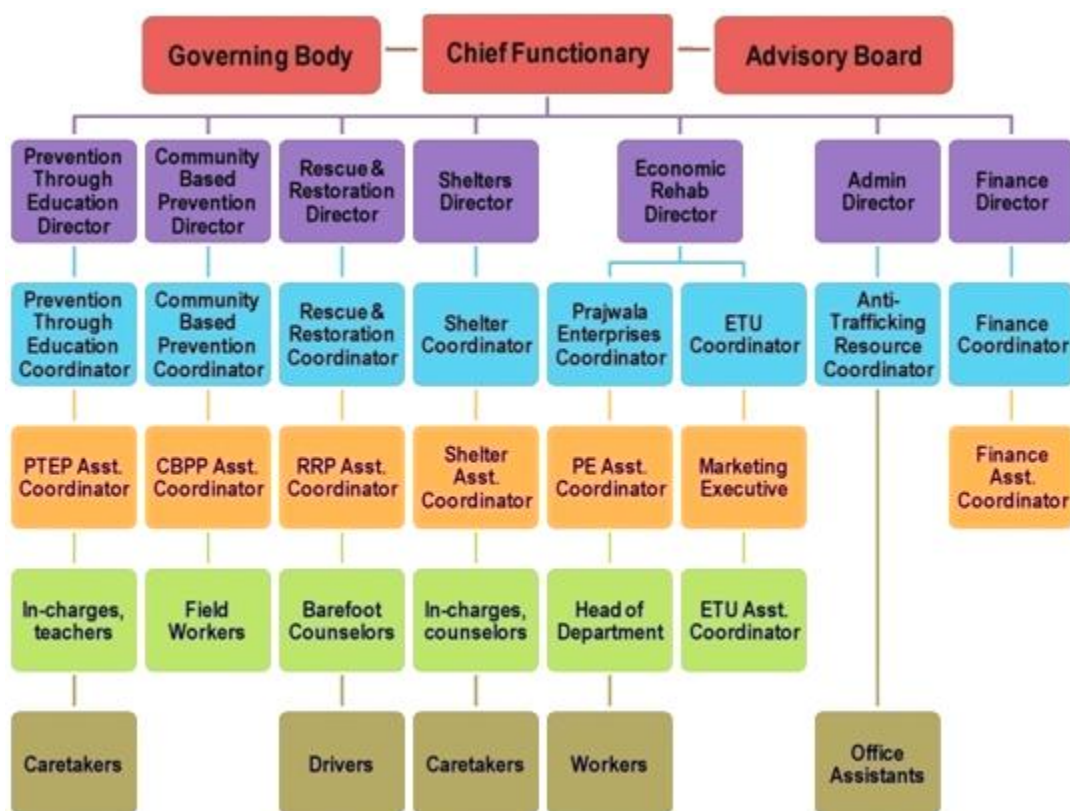


Goal:

Partner with civil society and government bodies on various aspects of prevention, protection and prosecution. The larger goal is to evolve counter trafficking interventions to combat sex trafficking with an aim to demonstrate good field practices for up-scaling, replication and adaptation by state and non-state agencies ensuring systems in place.

ORGANOGRAM

A team of 200 committed staff manage all of Prajwala interventions. Unique about this team is that nearly 70% are survivors themselves. The rest are committed professionals from different walks of life including individuals with MBAs and MSWs. It is the dedication and commitment of this team that makes Prajwala a successful need-based intervention. Prajwala also has a small percentage of very committed volunteers who come regularly to enhance Prajwala interventions.



Prajwala is headed by an active governing body consisting of:



Dr. P. Balamba (President)
Renowned gynecologist, retired as
the superintendent of Hyderabad's
Osmania General Hospital



Dr. Sunitha Krishnan
(General Secretary & Chief Functionary)
Internationally known anti-trafficking
crusader and co-founder of Prajwala



Dr. Madhu Babu (Vice President)
Prominent Skin & VD specialist,
associate professor at Osmania
General Hospital



Ms. Lalitha Iyer (Treasurer)
Chief Correspondent of Week
Magazine and Censor Board of Film
Certification member



Ms. Rekha Abel (member)
Senior education expert in the
development sector, and nodal person
for RTE for the Govt. of AP



Dr. Franky Norohna (Member)
Renowned educationalist, ex-
principal of Little Flower Junior
College in Hyderabad

The Problem:

In the wake of globalization and the resultant marginalization and alienation of large sections of humanity, sex trafficking has become a matter of urgent concern today worldwide. In India alone, over 200 thousand women and children are inducted into the flesh trade every year. The state of Andhra Pradesh is one of the largest suppliers of women and children for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. Economic hardships coupled with the prevailing status of women in society, and changing public attitudes towards sex and morality creates the context for the flourishing of this modern-day form of slavery. An incredibly disturbing fact is that the age of the children is progressively declining to meet the male demand for younger prostitutes. There is a widely held belief that sex with children, especially virgins, will cure sexually transmitted diseases and prevent one from contracting HIV/AIDS. One of every four victims rescued from prostitution is a child, and 60% of these children are HIV positive.

Sonu's family condition was poor, as her parents were daily wage earners. Seeing their daily struggles for survival, she often felt like helping her family. One day she met a lady who offered her a garment factory job in Pune. Without giving a second's thought, she travelled with her to the city, hoping to earn money for her parents. To her shock, upon arrival Sonu was handed over to a brothel where she was forced to do prostitution. Although she was rescued two months later and kept in a government home, she escaped to continue helping her family and returned to prostitution by her own will. She also brought her sister to join her in Pune. Finally they were caught in a raid at a hotel and were sent through court order to Prajwala.

Sonu's story reflects the experience of thousands of young girls from vulnerable circumstances who fall into traps of deception by people (traffickers) who promise them a better life. Yearning to escape dire poverty, debt or domestic abuse, these girls – most of whom come from rural villages with no educational background – are easily lured by the prospects of a stable job and the glamour of seemingly prosperous cities. The traffickers act very nicely, pretending to care for the girls' well-being and offer their support; as a result the girls trust them and believe that they will sincerely help them secure a decent job or career in areas such as modeling, acting, etc. Most girls have no idea they are being trafficked until they reach the brothel where they are sold to a pimp or madam and forced to provide sexual services to 10-15 men per day. Those who refuse

to succumb to the demands of prostitution are beaten, raped and tortured to the point where they have no choice but to surrender.

Sex trafficking not only results in a severe violation of human rights but also causes adverse physical, psychological and moral consequences for the victims. All hopes and dreams of a better life are shattered and over time the girls become penniless, mentally broken and affected with serious or life-threatening illnesses such as HIV/AIDS. The journey of sex trafficking destroys the body, mind and soul of a victim, and fundamentally takes away her capacity to trust herself or anyone around her. The damage done is deep rooted and often irreversible, as the sense of rejection, betrayal and numbness that a trafficked women or girl goes through makes her lose faith in humanity. Skewed identity, poor self-worth and learnt helplessness also make her believe there is no hope for her in the outside world and her destiny is to sell her body.

The Response:

Prajwala holds the conviction that prevention is better than cure, and that addressing the root cause of sex trafficking is the most effective means of eradicating it. As a result, the organization has developed two interventions that strive to eliminate the sources of trafficking. The first is providing education to equip vulnerable children with skills to ensure a bright future, and the second is targeting vulnerable populations to make them aware of the dangers of commercial sexual exploitation.

PREVENTION THROUGH EDUCATION PROGRAM



The Prevention Through Education Program (PTEP) aims to provide children of women in prostitution with the capacities needed to live life with dignity and access meaningful, viable career opportunities for their futures. Prajwala runs 7 transition centers in vulnerable areas throughout Hyderabad where children are at-risk of being trafficked for the purposes of forced prostitution. The centers function as

educational environments which not only foster the overall development of the children, but also equip them with the necessary psychosocial and scholastic skills to ensure a

bright future that breaks the cycles of poverty and social exclusion. After completing 7th class from the Prajwala schools, children subsequently enroll in local private or government schools to complete their 10th standard and beyond. Student committees as well as mothers groups are actively involved in the centre's functioning in order to promote a sense of community ownership and responsibility for the education of their children.

Objectives of the Program:

The goal of the Prevention Through Education Program is to prevent inter-generational prostitution through provision of quality education and mainstreaming. Specifically, the intervention aims:

- a) To use education as a primary tool to prevent children from entering or working in support of the flesh trade.
- b) To provide an environment that is child-friendly, age-appropriate and conducive to the overall development of the child.
- c) To bring about attitudinal and behavioral changes in the local population through involving mothers and local leaders in the process of community-based change.
- d) To provide financial incentives in the form of meritorious scholarships to support students with high economic need.
- e) To affect policy change in government towards second-generation prevention.

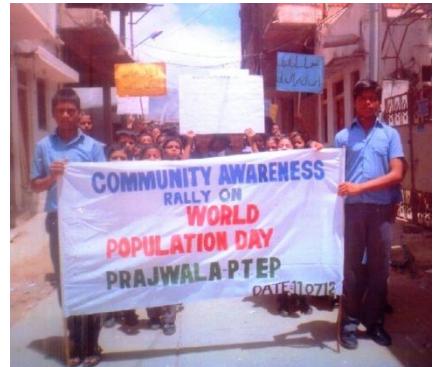


The year 2012-2013:

- Teachers from all centers attended a 10-day training session in which a new curriculum was prepared to make teaching methods easier to understand for students. A 15-day teacher training session was also conducted on classroom management, teaching aids, rhymes and how to use teaching aids for recruited teachers in new centers. The problem-solving, analytical, and critical thinking skills of classroom instructors and participants has improved due to this new system

which no longer relies on rote memorization or repetition of material but rather a deeper comprehension and understanding of the lessons at hand.

- Trauma counseling was provided to students with behavior problems, relationship conflicts or who used abusive language in the classroom setting.
- Computer literacy classes were held at each school, in which students learned basics of MS Office including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Paint, and other programs essential for computer literacy.
- Communal harmony classes were conducted 3 times a week focusing on Hinduism, Christianity and Islam. The internet was used to research different belief systems and festivals related to the religion that were celebrated monthly.
- In July 2012, students conducted an awareness rally on population control on 11th World Population Day in Kalapathar. In this locality, students rallied by riding cycles while speaking slogans on over-population effects such as scarcity of food, water, and other natural resources, in addition to more pollution and toxicity in the environment.
- For Independence Day, 18 girl students went to Bahadurpura police station to sing the national anthem, which was the first time our children participated in police department celebrating Indian independence.
- Our mainstream children took tuition classes voluntarily to poor children who were not going to schools and tuitions, with the motto of “we get help from others, so we should give help to others”. Monthly they gave tuitions to 44 poor students and child laborers in the Kishanbagh community, 50 students in Kalapather and 20 slow learners in the center.
- Meetings with mothers of students were arranged by PTEP staff to give a monthly orientation about the center’s activities. The staff and mothers discussed topics relevant to their children that were



occurring at the specific time period, such as exam preparation and results, changes within the organization, community issues, children’s behavior, academic performance, upcoming events and more.



- In collaboration with Prajwala's Economic Rehabilitation Unit, the livelihood placement process was also initiated with corporate partnerships in jewelry shops, Taj Banjara, shopping malls, and other viable businesses. Some children are even searching for jobs on their own who have completed 10th, intermediate and polytechnic courses.

Challenges:

The most significant challenge for the transition centers in the past year involved Telangana strikes as part of the regional separatist movement in Andhra Pradesh. This series of events caused multiple curfews in the city involving road blocks and lack of bus transportation, during which teachers could not leave their home communities to attend school duties. Other issues, such as Hindu-Muslim conflicts on the eve of Hanuman Jayanthi festival and during Babri Masjid Demolition Day also caused communal tension and disturbances.

In addition, one transition center in Uddangadda was destroyed by the government on 12th July without prior notification. This collapse caused forced relocation of families to over 2km away from center, which then resulted in frequent absence of students from schools. The center was damaged by the M.R.O of the Rajendranagar as the land on which the center was constructed belongs to the government but was rented without permission, a fact which was unknown by the PTEP team. Hence the government started to destroy all the government land on which people had illegally built houses and the school. Fortunately, several teachers reached on time and requested the local leaders to stop the work. They granted a half-hour grace period during which staff took all the equipments, computer notebooks and stationary of the center with the help of the students and their parents. Due to this incident the program faced many problems for searching for an appropriate space to conduct the classes. Yet eventually a new room was rented and the school shifted to this location to begin running smoothly once again.

Achievements:

In October 2012, two more locations for opening new schools were selected and identified, including Assad Baba and Phissal Banda. It had been clearly established that prostitution was happening in these localities, as local leaders confirmed that there was a high HIV/AIDS affected population and children were selling liquor on the streets. These communities comprised of members of the Lambada tribe, who were living in slum areas and were severely economically deprived. Over 100 children are being

benefitted by the new Prajwala center in Assad Baba, and 25-30 children already started school. In Phissal Banda area there were nearly 200 families living in small temporary huts, with that many number of children living on the streets in big crowds. In both places teachers were selected for the schools and have commenced classes.

The Prevention Through Education Program also conducted an eye camp at Kishanbagh through Indus Eye Hospital from Malkpet, in which 243 persons including children, mothers and community people all together got checkups, and two community persons got cataract operations successfully. This effort strove to bring health education to the general public to prevent and treat any sight or visual impairments in the community.

Other achievements in 2012-2013 include:

- Quarterly exam results revealed that there were approximately 96.83% pass rates in all centers together.
- There were **275** new students admitted into Prajwala's schools.
- The transition centers conducted **286** staff meetings, **89** mothers committee meetings and **76** student committee meetings to discuss relevant issues and activities.

Farhana Begum joined our PTEP Kishanbagh 1 center in 2002. She belongs to a very poor and broken family, and her mother did not have a positive character. She did not take care of her children and left to Saudi Arabia with out informing her husband, so Farhana's grandmother cared for Farhana and her brother. Her father married a second time but lived in another other



house, so Farhana's grandmother and her family faced many financial problems. Before these issues, Farhana was a very active, smart, well-learned and disciplined girl. However, due to her family situation she was not coming to school regularly for classes and exams. The PTEP teachers called her grandmother to give counseling sessions to aid in the educational advancement of Farhana. After counseling, the family understood the importance of

schooling for Farhana's future and she subsequently became involved in all center activities. For example, after coming regularly she became the center president, her grandmother took part in her studies by attending meetings at the school, and she was given double promotion to 5th class. Not only did she pass VII class in 1st division, but she also took admission in a mainstream school called Sidra Public School. Now Farhana is completing her Degree 1st year in Nampally Government College with great scholastic success.

A preview of the Prevention Through Education Program's events this year...



Bags and slates were distributed to new students at the Phisal Banda center, and a prayer was conducted during the inauguration ceremony with new students and teachers.



On International Women's Day, an all-faith prayer was recited and Mothers' Committee Members who demonstrated leadership & involvement in their child's education were felicitated by Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) sweepers.



All national holidays, as well as religious celebrations and birthdays were celebrated!

COMMUNITY-BASED PREVENTION PROGRAM

Based on its experience in the anti-trafficking sector, Prajwala has learned that the most sustainable way to end the supply and demand for sex trafficking in India is through



sensitization and awareness-building. The Community-Based Prevention Program was formed to educate the general public about the anti-trafficking movement and create ownership of the program within communities, which ensures that the intervention continues irrespective of the presence or absence of a civil society organization. Sensitization

programs are conducted in high-source areas addressing adolescent

girls, men, and women—creating awareness on how they can play a role in preventing their own from being trafficked. In this process, stakeholders such as police, government officials, college students, and many others are educated about the prevalence and dangers of the sex trade. Prajwala also uses media as a tool to communicate to the masses, through documentary film production and screening.

Objectives of the Program:

- a) To involve communities from all walks of life such as slums, schools/colleges, villages, institutions, and trade unions in the anti-trafficking movement through public sensitization meetings and events.
- b) To use theatre and performing arts to expand the movement against trafficking nationwide.
- c) To increase the number of anti-trafficking partners locally, regionally, nationally and internationally by building capacities of other civil society organizations and government agencies to fight trafficking.

The year 2012-2013:

The CBPP focused intensively on auto stand and anti-demand awareness programs to make the general public vigilant and cautious about the organized crime of sex

trafficking. Auto rickshaw drivers, industrial employees and other migrant laborers were targeted specifically as they not only comprise the major demand sources of prostitution but also play a significant role in transporting prostituted women to clients and brothels. The overall aim of these programs is to sensitize these men to the extent that they develop an absolute zero tolerance level to trafficking of women and children. Through an innovative campaign called Men Against Demand (MAD), the team works with men from all walks of life and makes them agents of social transformation by involving and motivating them to change societal perceptions and patriarchal assumptions about masculinity and femininity, which are the root causes of the flesh trade. By implementing MAD, Prajwala believes that even male perpetrators can become sensitized to change their attitudes and behavior, recognize the dignity of women as equal human beings and not objects, and help prevent violence against women in all of its manifestations.

During the awareness programs, many different innovative techniques are used to attract attention of the public and motivate large crowds to gather together. The CBPP staff explains their message through movies, moving speeches (including survivor testimonies) as well as written

documentation that if there is a demand for prostitution, victims are forced into the flesh trade and over time they normalize their oppressive circumstances with apparent consent to various degrees of torture. Through the CBPP's disseminated message, auto rickshaw drivers learn how traffickers dupe young girls



with promises of love and marriage by trapping and selling them to brothels and sites of prostitution. They also learn that deceived women and girls are also like their sisters, mothers and daughters, but due to prostitution most of them become victims of exploitation and HIV/AIDS, and are subsequently left with very few options and become ostracized by society.

A new development this year was the resolution to conduct programs in every district in Andhra Pradesh, in order to facilitate sensitization across all levels of society, from the highest state authorities to local village leadership. For example, the leaders of village-

level women's groups (100 members) are represented at the *panchayat* (groups of 5-6 villages) level, which are then represented at the *mandal* (30 panchayats with 200 members) level and finally at the district (45-50 mandals) level. By reaching the district level through this organizational structure, it was observed that over 7,500 villages and



could be targeted for anti-trafficking awareness-building purposes. Based on this resolution, the CBPP conducted the first district level special program successfully in Mahaboobnagar district to fight human trafficking in collaboration with ICDS. Other Prajwala departments including the

Rescue and Restoration Program and PTEP supported the program, which sensitized over 600 Integrated Child Development Services staff, Child Development Project Officer Supervisors, Angawadi workers, as well as women and girls about trafficking. An anti-demand pledge was taken by all the participants and the number of program-impacted men was 416, who gave signatures in support of the anti-trafficking movement. During the program, one victim was also given Rs.1 lakh check by District collector.

The CBPP staff also participated in 8 "Mahila Shishu Chaitanyam" programs at Angawadi center level, Panchayati level and Mandal level in Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy Districts. In these programs, the CBPP explained child trafficking and human trafficking issues and played the documentary film *Anamika*, and a total of 1590 women and girls participated. The main purpose of these awareness programs was to conduct camps focusing on nutrition, literacy, at risk mothers and children, empowerment of adolescent girls, social issues etc. and within those social issues the CBPP focused on trafficking of women and children. Due to the high volume of attendance rate and success of sensitization efforts, the programs were widely publicized and published in both English and vernacular news papers.

Challenges:

Despite the successful outcomes of completed programs, the CBPP staff members face a range of issues in the field on a daily basis which affect the department plans as well as

the events themselves. For example, due to monsoon weather conditions, programs were interrupted and stopped due to heavy winds and rain. Social disturbances also affected programs when some participants were consuming liquor and misbehaved due to their drunken condition. Similarly, technical complications such as lack of current and sound problems affected the completion of events. Personnel shortage is an additional issue as the CBPP is planning for more targeted programs by dividing into two teams, but staff is not sufficient to achieve this end.

In January 2013, many scheduled awareness programs were postponed due to the arrest of Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul Muslimeen (MIM) Party Leaders Mr. Akbaruddin Ovisi and Mr. Asaduddin Ovisi in the Old City of Hyderabad, which increased community tensions and caused the police to impose a Section 144 curfew. The Telangana Joint Action Committee (JAC) and Telangana Rashtra Samithi parties also called for strikes for a separate statehood, so programs were also not able to begin on schedule. Additionally, work in February 2013 was disturbed due to Hyderabad bomb blasts in two public crowded areas. In Dilshuk Nagar, nearly 15 members died and 80 persons were injured, which is why the entire city was put on Red Alert. The police department issued an order for the public not to gather in groups, so due to this as well as Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) election codes, the team was not able to conduct many district or Mandal Samakys programs as planned.

Achievements:

In January 2013, the Chief Functionary took the decision to transfer the Community-Based Prevention Program director to the Prevention Through Education Program and vice versa to learn more about their respective departments in an organization-wide internal evaluation procedure. This



process was designed to strengthen existing programs with fresh perspective and enhance inter-departmental understanding, which had the positive effect of increasing the intervention's impact. For instance:

- This year, the team met with **241** auto stands and conducted **145** auto stand programs. Within this targeted audience they collected signatures from **16,526** members, most of whom were truck or rickshaw drivers who signed their names for the MAD petition.
- A total of **185** anti-demand programs were conducted in which **21,443** members participated. Signatures were collected from **20,419** people who were sensitized, and **185** Community Vigilant Groups (CVGs) were formed consisting of **1,266** members. In addition, **158** feedback speeches from participants were covered by video documentation.

Feedback from participants also demonstrates the beneficial results of the CBPP sensitization programs:

At GMRS Auto stand in LB Nagar: Mr. Era Shaker, editor of Pragathi Vada newspaper, felt that these types of programs are necessary in villages in all districts. For in villages, most of the people are illiterate, poor and having superstitions. He also said that in his village most of the people feel sad when a girl child is born, and some even give goats for god to conceive a male child. In one family when the fourth girl was born, the parents threw that girl child into bushes, so in that village health camps should be conducted as well as counseling about gender discrimination.

At IFTU Auto stand: Mr. Charry told that the program was very good and suggested that in addition to conducting sensitization in auto stands, the Community-Based Prevention Program should telecast the program in electronics media and newspapers, so the program could be watched by their family members to take precautions. He also stated that the national law should be equal to all people and should not discriminate in the name of poor, rich, cast religion etc.



At SR Nagar Bus stop: Mr. Raju said that in present society women are forward and developed in all sectors, but crimes against them are gradually increasing. The government is also responsible for this situation, because the national

representatives should ban liquor; otherwise most of the male community consuming liquor and other intoxicants are committing rape, murder, robbery and other offences. Hence we should eradicate these types of social evils, and every person should change their attitude towards women; only then can our country become developed in all aspects.

MEN AGAINST DEMAND PLEDGE:

I will **battle prostitution** because I believe that prostitution will not end until men become part of the solution. I believe that prostitution will not end until men stop demanding services. I know that young girls and boys are bought and sold every day. I understand that commercial demand for sex is a crime against a woman's body, her emotional being and her dignity. I understand that men and women will not be equal until sex trafficking ends. I know that happiness between men and women is difficult in a world where men commit grave offenses against women, both physically and emotionally. I accept my responsibility as a man and, therefore, **I PLEDGE:** I will respect the dignity of women as equal human beings and not objects. I will speak out against flesh trade and all its manifestations. I will influence other men about it and urge them to reject it as well. I will challenge myths about prostitution, pornography, manhood and sexual bravado. I will involve myself in how younger men are brought up and contribute to create a culture where flesh trade and prostitution are not possible. I will support laws that encourage men to take responsibility for ending flesh trade and inhibit demand. I will respond purposefully when I hear a plea for help. I will acknowledge women's identities beyond that of being a victim. I will encourage enabling environments, which help women to be strong and powerful. I will acknowledge and support women's abilities and actions to recognize, resist and report exploitation. I will change my behaviors and actions to create a climate where no woman or child can be bought or sold. I will support men and women working to end trade in human beings. I pledge to end all forms of violence against women and children.

I pledge to stand up and be a "real" man.

A preview of the Community-Based Prevention Program's events this year...



Auto stand anti-trafficking awareness campaigns are conducted in the presence of multiple stakeholders including labor unions, politicians and police.



Sensitization efforts were conducted in schools, colleges and in villages and slums.



After collecting signatures for Prajwala's anti-demand campaign, the program participants provide valuable feedback that informs future intervention initiatives.

PREVENTION VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

Based on decades of experience in the anti-trafficking field, Prajwala has found that sensitizing the general public through community awareness initiatives is highly effective in the short-term, but does not necessarily produce long-lasting change in people's attitudes and mentalities—which are the root causes of why sex trafficking continues to flourish as an illegal industry. Also, the efforts to conduct programs on local grassroots levels are very time-consuming and labor-intensive, as only a certain number of people can be reached with limited resources and during a fixed time period.

Alternative options for preventing sex trafficking through awareness-building have thus been explored to reach the masses more quickly and effectively. Since 2009, Prajwala's Chief Functionary Dr. Sunitha Krishnan has been regularly updating her online blog with posts that educate people about sex trafficking and strive to make them question their own assumptions about gender and abuse in society as well as issues such as prostitution and sexual violence. There are currently **2,645** followers from around the world who actively read and comment on her insightful writings. Yet the actual reach is far higher—as followers frequently re-post her blogs elsewhere on the internet and share them through mass emails reaching six to seven hundred people at a time, causing a ripple effect that significantly increases the visibility of the cause.



On Dr. Sunitha Krishnan's first post, regarding the daily struggles of those fighting sexual slavery and how to create a counter-culture in this kind of hostile environment, one supporter wrote: "My utter ignorance about your organization makes me feel real small. What you've been doing and are striving and struggling to do every day is absolutely wonderful." A few blogs later, in "Power of partnership—19 victims rescued and 5 traffickers arrested" which is a unique testimony of multi-stakeholder partnership in an inter-state rescue, a commenter stated: "This is very moving. I cannot even begin to imagine what kind of power and energy you have inside you."

On a regular basis, people also provide feedback on the emotional power of her words. For instance, people have said that after learning about the facts and statistics she presents about women and children in commercial sexual exploitation, they are either "unable to breathe" due to shock/outrage and describe the feeling as being "struck by a

sledgehammer". This means that Dr. Sunitha Krishnan's posts awaken people to the realities of modern-day slavery and inspire them to make a difference. Just as importantly, many [often anonymous] individuals publically disclose their own experiences of sexual abuse, which not only provides them catharsis but also produces an online forum for dialogue about taboo issues, like when this young lady revealed her heartbreaking story of incest:

"I was abused when I was a kid/rather in my teens by my uncle. Coming from a traditional family, I never dared to even say this to my parents (my uncle was psychopathic in nature and was on drugs) – It was an unfortunate incident and I had no clue why it happened. 10yrs later on, I still fight with the guilt which arose from the fact that I did not raise my voice, the anger that I should have killed him then and there, the lack of courage in that situation. I don't talk to him now and I am trying my level best to concentrate on my life as such. However, this thing comes up, now and then – and majorly the insecure feeling when I am low, the horrible nightmares which are impossible to cope up with... one hell of a life for a day/two. I am considered to be a daring lady etc. (or so everyone thinks), but I have no courage in this issue, which is the reason I didn't mail you –for fear of revealing my mail ID. I know how prevalent incest/other rape incidents are, in Indian households – disguised in the name of joint families/extended relations. But I want to work my way out of this feeling and erase that faint, distinct memory."

A different reader stated, "I too was a victim of child molestation at a very young age, and I'm 19 today, but it still haunts me." One more girl wrote, "My family is well off yet I was molested by two different men (they weren't strangers) who were in their 40's and it happened when I was 8 years. It had such a negative impact in my life. I can imagine what those girls would be going through." Yet it is not only young survivors who share their stories. For example, one man explained: "I am afraid that I was one of these bad men that used the services of prostitutes for 20 years. I was heavily addicted to the services and your article here made me very sad. I am happy to report that getting on top of my inner pain and Jesus has helped me leave that addiction behind 5 years ago. I want to apologize to all those women who have worked in the industry. I was a client and used women sexually, never violent but still doing damage emotionally and spiritually to them."

In addition to facilitating such disclosures, Dr. Sunitha Krishnan concentrates on producing a paradigm shift in the minds of readers. For example, in her blog "Should Prostitution Be Legalized?" she demystifies certain assumptions about the sex industry, provides raw facts and raises the questions: "How is it possible to protect the health of someone whose 'job' means that they will get raped on an average once a day? How can something that is dehumanizing and violating become a dignified choice? How can male



violence be legitimized?" In response, one reader wrote, "I really apologize Sunitha, for I had thought: "why not legalise it?" until I read your post. It was a real eye opener for me. I had hardly cared for things like this as it hardly impacted my day to day life. But not anymore. Thank you very much for your insight on this issue."

People from over 25 countries have written how they are motivated to take action after reading this blog. For instance, a commenter said, "You have inspired me to take action instead of just making speeches on a social issue without doing anything about it. I also as an individual want to do something more for society rather than just be a spectator. There is a lot of suffering in the world right now and I want to do whatever I can to reduce this." Some people offer to work directly for the organization's cause: "While extending my moral support to your noble crusade, I offer my assistance in whatever way I can," while others vow to continue the movement in their own communities. This is the real impact sought by Prajwala—for people to embody the cause, internalize the anti-trafficking mission and light the eternal flame of justice for generations to come.

Then and Now:

Below is some statistical data that illustrate the progressive results of Prajwala's prevention initiatives.

- Over the years, the prevention through education program has educated over **7,000** children who have been successfully reintegrated into mainstream society. In 2012-2013, Prajwala mainstreamed **77** students, bringing the grand total of this initiative to **7,077**.
- Since its inception, the community-based prevention program has successfully sensitized over **1 million people**.
- Prajwala has taken pledges through its anti-demand campaign in which **141,536** people have signed petitions against trafficking. In 2012-2013, signatures were collected from **36,945** more people who were sensitized in our programs.

Every year, Prajwala helps thousands of people gain education and awareness regarding the brutal realities of sex trafficking, as well as information about what they can do in their daily lives to prevent and end this trade in human misery. Sensitization efforts help people empathize with and understand the human dimension of the problem, and provide opportunities to discuss culturally-taboo subjects in an open platform for discussion. Prajwala's efforts have reached people not only in Andhra Pradesh, but also throughout India and throughout the world.



RESCUE & RESTORATION

The Problem:

Geetha hails from Bellary in Karnataka state. Her father expired when she was just 13 years old, and she has 2 elder brothers, 2 elder sisters and 1 younger brother. All are married except her younger brother and sister. Geetha's mother used to run a footpath Hotel and was the bread earner of the family. One day, Geetha fell in love with a married person and started having an affair with him. When her family members came to know of this, Geetha's mother was furious and they had a huge fight. That night, Geetha ran away from home taking an amount of Rs 1000/-. Disheveled and desperate, she arrived at a bus stand where she met a man who lured her in the name of a job and sold her to a brothel house owned by Laxmi aunty. Later she was sold to Mumbai Brothel house, where she was forced to work for 3 years as a prostitute.

Victims of sex trafficking are sold and resold over and over again in a continuous cycle of exploitation. Once a trafficked girl eventually succumbs to her circumstances within prostitution, she is closely watched and her movements and interactions are monitored and restricted. A constant struggle for existence in an exploitative structure of pimps, goondas and brothel-madams makes any escape attempt virtually impossible. Tricked into a hellish nightmare all because of their naive hopes and faith in humanity, these young girls become trapped in prostitution with no option of breaking free.

The multiple traumas faced by girls who are sex trafficked encompass the beginning of a life struggle which is marked by ill-treatment, oppression and indebtedness. The indoctrination of a victim is to make her believe she is a worthless person and that only certain orifices in her body have any use. She begins to view herself as a commodity for sexual purposes and is also prone to develop Stockholm Syndrome – in which strong emotional ties develop between the exploiter and the exploited. Over time, the damage done to the victim is deep rooted and often irreversible, as the sense of rejection, betrayal and numbness that a trafficked women or girl goes through makes her lose faith in humanity. Skewed identity, poor self-worth and learnt helplessness also make her believe there is no hope for her in the outside world and her destiny is to sell her body.

Until several years ago, even police raids were not effective in removing a victim from commercial sexual exploitation. Many law enforcement officials were either ignorant of laws such as the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act (ITPA) or were benefitting from prostitution through bribes and corruption. Also, due to general attitudes of society towards women in the flesh trade, instead of rescuing victims, police would criminalize



them and lock them in jail. There have been many instances of police beating and raping victims as well. After all of this, the victims would become even more broken and would lose all semblance of hope in society or the justice system. After release from jail, owing to the absence of rehabilitative or restorative measures, many victims were sent back to the traffickers themselves and the vicious spiral would continue on, and on, and on.

For this reason, proper rescue and restoration of a victim is paramount to effectively fight human trafficking.

The Response:

After extensive analysis and understanding of the problem, Prajwala developed an intervention to break the cycle of exploitation and end the torment faced by victims of trafficking: the Rescue and Restoration Program.

Objectives of the Program:

The Rescue and Restoration Program (RRP) team at Prajwala fulfils the four-fold objectives of undertaking rescue missions, providing crisis counseling at police stations, conducting home investigations, and supporting the judicial process. The objectives are:

- a) To rescue and provide crisis counseling to victims of commercial sexual exploitation while extending to them the moral, financial, emotional and social support required for their transformation and reintegration.
- b) To strengthen entry and exit strategy for rescue of victims, provide psycho-social support, support judicial recourse, refer for rehabilitation and facilitate reintegration through crisis counseling centers in police stations.
- c) To change the perception about trafficking among policy makers, law enforcement agencies and judiciary through capacity building programs and bringing out victim-friendly legislation.
- d) To build the capacities of the team to replicate all preventative interventions nationwide.
- e) To mobilize and strengthen the survivors movement as a means of partnership with the affected community.

The RRP team is comprised of a director, coordinators and barefoot counsellors, many of whom are survivors of sex trafficking themselves. Having experienced the horrors of the flesh-trade first-hand, they are able to identify the movements and behaviour of both traffickers and victims. They know the places that brothel keepers hide minor victims,

and the deceptive excuses they use to deny access to them. In addition, while interacting with rescued girls, the barefoot counselors are able to empathize with their circumstances and tell their own story, which establishes a level of trust and credibility. The rescue itself is a very dangerous operation which requires extensive planning, communication and collaboration among RRP staff, local police and other government officials. The mission comprises of three important steps:

1. Physically removing the victims from the site of exploitation and separating them from the traffickers. This involves entering the brothels, hotels, lodges and other high-risk areas of commercial sexual exploitation in order to search for minor victims who traffickers often hide behind walls or under beds.
2. Transporting the victim to a safe place and providing trauma care and crisis counseling to make sure she feels cared for and secure. This includes supplying her with food, water and a welcome kit with basic utilities and hygienic essentials.
3. Recovering the victim's belongings (and in some cases children). After the victim is rescued and receives a court order to be sent for rehabilitation, she is counseled extensively for several weeks until she is ready to give the RRP staff a full account of her story.

This unique approach for rescue protocol is the first-ever synergetic effort of all stakeholders in India. At the field level there is police-NGO partnership involved in the rescue operations, and for the post-rescue phase partnership with district administration



and department of Women Development and Child Welfare has been forged. In the past, as it normally took up to fifteen years for girls held in prostitution via debt-bondage to purchase their freedom, through these timely and well-strategized rescues girls are being rescued well before this duration.

After police and/or the Rescue and Restoration Program team conduct rescues, they book the case through First Information Report (FIR) and produce both the victim and the trafficker in the special court designed specifically to handle cases of trafficking. The First Information Report is launched at the police station itself, by officers who record case information such as the date, location and place of offence, complainant/informant profile, and the sections of law that give warrant to the booking (such as sections from the Indian Penal Court, Immoral Trafficking in Persons Act and Juvenile Justice Act for trafficking cases). If the victim herself gives a complaint of rape or forced prostitution, police get a search warrant to inspect the crime scene or details of the accused suspect(s). If any incriminating evidence is found, they arrest the perpetrators and take them as well as the victim to the court for prosecution.

As per the court magistrate, victims can be referred for rehabilitation and the perpetrators can either be acquitted or sent to jail. If victims are referred to Prajwala to stay at the shelter home and receive crisis counseling and trauma care, the Rescue and Restoration Program team begins its role by gathering the victim's case study and recording it in the departmental database. After approximately one week of the victim being in the shelter, the RRP gathers all relevant information regarding her background,



educational status, family details, reason for leaving her home and getting involved in prostitution, among other things. The legal team then prepares the victim to give this statement in court. Yet before the victim is produced in front of the magistrate, the RRP explains how a court operates, what the defense lawyers and judges will question, and how the victim

should tell the truth under all circumstances. Barefoot counselors also give psychological support to help calm her and make her feel comfortable and confident in the formal legal environment, as well as protect her mental and physical integrity by prohibiting family members, traffickers or defense lawyers to talk to the victim (as these people often have vested interests and attempt to threaten her and dissuade her from accusing them in the trafficking case).

After giving her testimony – and during the period when the victim stays in the shelter home – if parents or guardians file a petition to release the victim from rehabilitation, the

court gives the Rescue and Restoration Program an order to conduct the home investigation report (HIR). Before the home investigation is undertaken, the RRP carefully re-examines the victim's case study and gathers additional information from



her such as contact information of the petitioner, and then informs the concerned persons that an HIR will be conducted and that they must be present at the house location during this time. The RRP team then travels to the given area and must first determine whether the home and family information is correct by asking neighbors and

community members about confirmation of directions and whereabouts of these people. They also inquire about the victim regarding her childhood, how she came to the place she was rescued at, and what the family's income source is.

Once the information is gathered from these local sources, the Rescue and Restoration Program visits with the petitioners in their home to determine how much they knew about the victim's involvement in prostitution, and compare their stories with those of the community members. One problem that occurs in this process is that defense lawyers working for petitioners help them craft false statements that distort the truth of the families' activities and connection with trafficking. Yet the victim's testimony – as well as neighbor's accounts – provides a basis for comparison to determine the true story. Overall, this process can take anywhere from 30 minutes to 2 hours depending on the level of probing that needs to be undertaken. Once information is gathered, photos are taken of all members and the Rescue and Restoration Program creates the final home investigation report, which is verified by the department director and approved by Prajwala's Chief Functionary before being submitted to the special court.

When the victim is produced in court, the magistrate asks her information to verify HIR details on record. If the magistrate doubts the safety of the victim's home (given that statements of family, community and victim do not match or clear evidence exists that the parents are either benefiting from her earnings in prostitution or were directly

involved in trafficking), then they recommend that she stays in the shelter home only. But if the home investigation report genuinely reflects a safe home environment for the victim, she is released back to her petitioner through family reintegration or repatriation.

If the victim is referred to stay at Prajwala for a designated time period, the cross-examination process occurs in which defense lawyers ask questions to the victim in an effort to protect their clients who are accused as traffickers. These lawyers claim that the victim is lying or distorting the true occurrences of events. Punch witnesses who observed the crime scene during rescue operations (including members of the Rescue and Restoration Program as well as inspectors who serve as investigation officers in the case) are also cross-examined by the lawyers, which is a process that can last anywhere from 3-5 hours depending on the intensity of argument. The magistrate has judicial discretion to order conviction of the traffickers, which can result in up to 3 years in lower courts and up to life punishment (14 years) in high court.

The year 2012-2013:

- The RRP actively filed cases against parents or guardians who failed to keep their promises of not returning their daughters into prostitution at any cost. If victims were caught by the police or RRP doing prostitution for the 2nd time, the guardians were sent to the magistrate for further punitive legal action.
- In a unique case of inter-state trafficking, Prajwala was responsible in facilitating video-conferencing for recording of evidence between Mumbai and Hyderabad. Thanks to the help of International Justice Mission, the 2 accused in this case were sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment and their brothel was sealed.
- The RRP team members conducted 3 training & awareness programs, which sensitized a total of 81 people. One training program was held in Amberpet Police Training Institute about Anti-human Trafficking to 35 Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors. The team members then participated in a program in collaboration



with the Economic Rehabilitation with 11 MP's House of Lords, who visited from London. The RRP Director also gave a sensitization class about trafficking in Marri Channa Reddy Institute for 35 members from government sectors and other NGOs. After conducting these training programs there has been more cooperation among law enforcement officials and on the judicial level magistrates are now referring the victims to Prajwala's shelter and other NGO homes for rehabilitation.

- At the rescue front, Prajwala is developing a new initiative for the rehabilitation of sex offenders, which will work with rapists and child abusers to reduce offenses against women and children. Plans are being made to start a program for traffickers who are enlisted and work with them in jail so that when come out they will not go back to trafficking.

Challenges:

One challenge that the Rescue and Restoration Program team faces is that most of the defense lawyers, bar association members and traffickers are trying to counteract Prajwala's efforts through threatening actions and demonstrations meant to intimidate. For example, in February 2012 the Banjara Hills police rescued 3 victims who were produced in court and referred to Prajwala. One of the victim's parents filed a petition to release her, and got a Supreme Court advocate involved. The magistrate refused this request because the court case was still under process, yet agreed to let the lawyer and family meet with the victim.

The lawyer thus guided the victim and persuaded her to alter her testimony in favor of returning to her parents, whom the Rescue and Restoration Program team strongly believed were involved in her being trafficked. He then filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court claiming that Prajwala was damaging the victim psychologically and emotionally, necessitating her release. The High Court benches then passed an order to produce the victim, and eventually came to the conclusion that the father was involved in trafficking, and thus referred the victim to Prajwala only. However, after this incident the advocate threatened not only the Rescue and Restoration Program staff but also its partner organization Sanlaap who was conducting the victim's home investigation report. Prajwala is still in the process of giving PIL evidence, which is a very time-consuming process in the High Court.

When conducting the home investigations, another set of complex issues arises for the Rescue and Restoration Program. For example, many times when the home investigation team reaches a house for the safety assessment (after showing the family the court order

and introducing their background from Prajwala), the petitioners come to know that the report findings will influence the court decision to release the victim and offer to give money to prepare a positive versus negative report. The Rescue and Restoration Program team refuses this bribery and explains that corruption is not acceptable in this legal process. Also, what sometimes occurs is that the person who filed the petition is not the victim's legal parent or guardian but rather a pimp or broker who wants to return the girl into prostitution. Out of fear, the victim gives Prajwala a fake address for the home investigation because she does not want her real parents to know that she was involved in commercial sexual exploitation as this would ruin her reputation.

The consequence of this false data is that the home investigation team has immense difficulty finding the actual residency of the parents, as the victims use their boyfriends contact number or another person close to them rather than their actual family members. For instance, in one case a pimp applied for petition and convinced the Rescue and Restoration Program that he was the victim's brother-in-law as he provided "official" certifications from his village secretary. But upon visiting his house and speaking to his mother, she explained that this man and the victim had absolutely no relation—it turned out that the documents were falsified. In other instances, when the Rescue and Restoration Program visits villages, many rural people are unwilling to provide information to the home investigation team as they are very suspicious of outsiders; they question the Rescue and Restoration Program and in an effort to maintain the dignity of the family involved, refuse to divulge details that might tarnish its reputation.

Achievements:

Despite these challenges, groundbreaking progress has been made this year by the RRP team in several important areas, including:

- 35 victims received government welfare benefits in the form of immediate relief funds.
- A total of **124** cases were booked against traffickers. Based on judicial recourse efforts, **288** traffickers were arrested and **253** victims were produced in court as



primary witnesses. The number of arrests and convictions of traffickers who directly sell or exploit the victims has increased significantly this period, given that the victims are being supported and guided in the court process of giving testimony and cross-examination.

- After observing and mapping brothel locations, **138** victims were rescued through Crisis Counseling Centers and **196** victims were rescued in collaboration with local law enforcement authorities—bringing a total of **334** more victims onto the safe side.
- **6** survivors received government-subsidized housing in Hyderabad and **62** more survivors applied for housing loans.
- After conducting home investigation reports in different districts in Andhra Pradesh such as Hyderabad, East Godavari, Warangal, Kammam, Vishakapatnam, Srikakulam, Ananthapur, Kadaput, West Godavari, and Reddy, as well as in the states of Maharastra (Mumbai) and West Bengal (Kolkata), **132** victims were successfully reintegrated with their families.
- In collaboration with international partner NGOs who have connections with foreign embassies (such as STOP in Delhi, Sanlaap in West Bangal and Right Josor in Bangladesh), **19** victims were repatriated to their homes in Nepal, Kazakhstan, and Bangladesh.

Then and Now:

- Since the beginning of the intervention in 1998, Prajwala has successfully rescued and counseled **8200** victims, most of whom have gone on to receive rehabilitation in the organization's shelter home.
- Over the years **205** child recoveries have been undertaken, and during the period of review **1** more child was recovered.

Prajwala's rescue approach is becoming a best practice model nationally and internationally for cross-learning and replication. Nonetheless, rescue is only the beginning of a long struggle to get the victim's life back on track after being subjected to the oppressive conditions of the flesh trade.

A preview of the Rescue and Restoration Program's events this year...



One child recovery was undertaken and sent to a government hostel.



Four Nepali victims were repatriated to their homes in collaboration with our international partner organization, Maiti, Nepal.

The Problem:

Sita came from a very poor family from Andhra Pradesh. Her father expired when she was very small, her older brother left the house when he got married, and her mother was deaf-mute. Sita's mother began doing domestic work in Ranga Reddy district for one NGO founder and put Sita in a government hostel for study purpose. In addition to using her for household labor, the NGO owner frequently took advantage of Sita's mother for sexual purposes. Whenever Sita would get school holidays or vacation she would visit her mother and the owner would take Sita to his home and sexually abuse her as well. The rapes continued for many years, until in 2009 Prajwala received information from the government hostel that Sita was pregnant and requested Prajwala to counsel her and find out the reason for her pregnancy. The hostel warden explained that the NGO owner often picked Sita up to "visit her mother" but they did not know the details; they explained that Sita's stomach was getting large and that she was vomiting. Prajwala talked to Sita directly, who affirmed that she had been raped multiple times and that the NGO owner also took her photograph on his mobile phone and shared it with his colleagues and friends. Both Sita and her mother were referred to Prajwala for rehabilitation.

The experiences of sex-trafficked women and children are heartbreaking. After being rescued, if they are simply released back into society with nowhere to go, chances are extremely high that they will continue working in the only trade they know--either forcibly or willingly returning to prostitution! This is not because they voluntarily choose to sell themselves, but rather because the majority of them are illiterate with no other options to make a living. Such women and girls have no alternative ideas of how to earn a livelihood and feed themselves and their children. Occasionally they become so brainwashed and desensitized that they see nothing wrong with exchanging their bodies to men in return for money. Unless an intervention is made on their behalf in the form of safety and protection, these girls are likely to spend a lifetime in slave-like conditions with no hope for salvation.

The Response:

Prajwala believes that rehabilitation is long-term holistic process, with interconnected approaches that cannot be stand-alone interventions. The first step involves psychological rehabilitation of victims, to ensure that the damage caused by being trafficked for a prolonged period of time is undone, and that their emotional stability and self-confidence is restored. For example, as rescued victims come from very abusive



backgrounds and often exhibit aggressive behaviour patterns, trauma counselling and therapy provide an interpersonal platform for healing and psychosocial readjustment. The next stage of providing economic options ensures that the victim has access to livelihood opportunities that reduce the chances of re-trafficking. Finally, civic support provides the survivors with an identity, financial stability and security in the form of financial aid, subsidized housing, assets etc. that further reduces the risk of re-entry into prostitution. Essentially, the three pillars of Prajwala's rehabilitation strategy include:

1. **Psychological Rehabilitation:** Therapeutic shelter homes
2. **Economic Rehabilitation:** Prajwala Enterprises & Employability Training Unit
3. **Civic Rehabilitation:** identity cards, immediate relief funds and access to government welfare benefits

PSYCHOLOGICAL REHABILITATION

The most vital component in the process of restoring dignity into the life of a severely traumatized victim is to bring back a semblance of normality into her life through psychological rehabilitation. Prajwala has thus built a therapeutic community in the form of a large-scale shelter home to facilitate the process of psychological rehabilitation, which helps address the multiple traumas and mental disorders caused by the hazardous, exploitative and oppressive conditions faced by victims trafficked for forced prostitution. At our shelter, every rescued victim is treated with equal dignity and care. The social and physical environment is completely victim-friendly, with up-to-date housing facilities, personal amenities such as clothing and hygienic items, regular supply clean water, and open spaces for recreation and privacy. There is a dedicated team of **18** staff members, including 1 director, 1 assistant coordinator, 1 counselor, 1 life skill coordinator, 3 life trainers, 3 wing in-charges, 4 cooks and 2 caretakers.

Objectives of the Program:

The shelter home is an environment where vulnerable children and adults rescued from various stages of the trafficking process can heal psychologically, be educationally and economically empowered and have access to effective channels of social reintegration. This safe space consists of a 24-hour, highly structured residential program with a long-term focus on building self-esteem and self-sufficiency. Combined with professional therapeutic techniques from staff and support from care-takers, a healing environment is created for the victim to transform into a survivor. The healing process is a combination of various interventions starting right from the time the victim is removed from the place

of exploitation, leading to the evolution of a strong and dignified person who is confident to live in the mainstream world and abhors sexual slavery.

Once a victim has made the initial decision to rehabilitate, it is the responsibility of the program team to sustain her interest through visual manifestations, giving tangible evidence of feasible, viable options to survive with dignity and re-integrate. For a victim to attain a sense of dignity, she has to develop a lot of her inner self through recovering from her trauma, and asserting herself as a human being with potential and worthy of respect rather than commodity that can be used and thrown. This involves regaining trust in herself, developing healthy and trusting relationships, cherishing self-esteem, identifying strengths and weaknesses in skills, and overcoming learnt helplessness. During their stay at the shelter, the victims learn to understand and assert their human rights, regain their self-worth and make decisions in their lives according to the options they themselves define.



There are five non-negotiable guiding principles and minimum standards of care that are integrated in thought, word and action of every aspect of the safe shelter:

1. All care processes in the home ensure that the basic human rights of the victim are upheld and respected. This includes the rights to dignity, to not be re-traumatized or re-victimized, to informed choices and confidentiality, and to self-determination and participation.
2. The care components are inclusive and able to address the needs of each individual through a continuum of care opportunities for all life domains of victims.
3. All services are accessible to every victim and are designed in a manner that facilitates people who may be facing more vulnerability to have an equal access to services.
4. The care components are gender-friendly and focused on the psychological recovery of the victim. Services recognize gender-based vulnerabilities and risks,

are developmentally appropriate, and ensure that the rehabilitation of the victim is paramount.

5. All aspects of the shelter are accountable and subject to external standardized care process audits.

However, all psychological rehabilitation must cater to the individual needs of the victims, which vary tremendously based on factors like age, health status, and duration in sexual exploitation. In order to effectively address the multi-dimensional needs of rescued girls, Prajwala has created two separate homes on the 10-acre shelter premises: a children's home (Asta Nivas) for girls below 18 years, and an adult home (Asha Nikethan) for women older than 18.

Children's Shelter Home - Asta Nivas

The children's home is an intervention for child victims of sex trafficking (many of whom are HIV positive) and vulnerable minors like daughters of women in prostitution and victims of incest, gang-rape and homelessness, who have been referred to Prajwala



by police, courts, and community vigilance groups after rescue operations. There are currently 77 children in the home. The

overarching strategy of Asta Nivas is to provide a normalizing environment that helps girls integrate and

readjust into a new social atmosphere where they are not only supported and deeply cared for, but are also promoted to enhance their emotional, spiritual, and intellectual growth and development in a myriad of ways. As these children have suffered extremely traumatic conditions leaving both visible and unseen scars, the ultimate aim is to successfully reintegrate them into mainstream society as empowered young women of substance.

The Astha Nivas home is like any other educational hostel, where on the one hand children have to abide by rules and maintain discipline, but on the other have the freedom to engage in the processes of play, school and friendships. The girls are soothed by the ordinary routine home activities, which not only provide a sense of structure to their previously chaotic lives but also help them interact in positive ways among a non-threatening group of people.

Objectives of the program:

A tangible face of dignity for the girls at the shelter is the confidence they gain with education. Prajwala believes that education is not only a fundamental human right, but is also the primary tool to ensure a bright future full of possibilities and prevent children from entering the flesh trade. Residential schooling is thus offered to each child at the shelter until class 5 to help them begin the mainstreaming process into society and develop the necessary academic, psychosocial and interpersonal communication skills



necessary to excel in any educational setting. Normalization and integration of children then occurs by placing older students in private or government schools throughout Hyderabad. After 10th standard, children are given the choice of vocational training, higher education or work opportunities.

In addition to education, special services are provided to all children to ensure they lead safe, healthy and happy lives:

Healthy Diet and Nutrition: A variety of wholesome food is provided for the children in the form of high-protein meals and vitamin-rich snacks throughout the day, with regular items including breads, milk, rice, curd, lentils, chicken/fish, vegetable curries, and fruits. An important practice that the shelter staff members ensure is involving the children as much as possible in evolving the weekly diet plan of the home. As much as their varied tastes are incorporated into the menu, caregivers also ensure that inputs

regarding healthy food are given to the residents at constant intervals so that unhealthy eating habits that a child has acquired in the place of exploitation are slowly unlearned.

Health Care: Mandatory daily checkups are part of the routine home activities. Children are asked to inform caretakers if there are any health issues for themselves or other members. Not only is the health committee of the home very active, but there is also a 24-hour nurse on campus and a doctor that visits on alternate days to provide physical and psychiatric institutional care. Individual health records are maintained to keep track of the child's health status. Caretakers send children for monthly clinical checkups and emergency hospital visits for preventative care and treatment of illnesses.

Trauma Counseling: Throughout the day, both the caretakers and counselors make close observations of the children to determine whether their behavior or moods are out of the ordinary. If there are any indications of problems or distress, the counselor requests to speak with the child confidentially and asks what is wrong. If the child is not open to disclosing information easily, the conversation is geared towards more general topics to increase comfort levels and then slowly start discussing about the problem at hand. The goal is to address the internal root causes of any fear, discomfort, insecurity or



anger through sharing, storytelling and self-expression. This year, major counseling sessions dealt with academic learning issues, health and personal hygiene, personal development, career guidance, problem-solving, behavior modification, motivation, self-confidence, and ventilation of feelings.

Development Classes: The need to promote the overall development and personal improvement of Astha Nivas children is paramount. On a monthly basis, children are divided into 4 different groups according to their age for sessions on a wide range of topics. The shelter counselors facilitate group dialogues through the use of PPT, visual

aids and diagrams, and organized activities to build self-confidence and personal growth in participants. This interactive platform enables children to clear their doubts, make open inquiries and come up with healthy debates. Maximum utilization of the available resources in the shelter is being made to present different themes relevant for children developing into young adults, focusing on 4 dimensions of their persona:

1. Personal/spiritual development aims to help children discover and identify themselves and letting them know the concept of God. Topics include relaxation techniques, meditation, setting a goal, knowledge about different value systems, importance of prayer, learning mantras-bhajans-devotional songs, our purpose of life etc.
2. Psychological development aims at improving their psychological well being, consisting of valid subjects such as self motivation, puberty and growth, adolescent issues, coping with stress, positive attitudes, different types of perception, relationships, etc.
3. Intellectual development aims to cover the common interests of the students in a particular topic in their academics. This strives to enhance their curiosity to know the things around such as our universe, solar system, origin of life, pre historic period, current affairs etc.
4. Soft skills aim to develop communication skills, basic computer literacy, public speaking, presentation skills, writing skills, organizing skills, creative thinking, etc.

Communal Harmony Sessions: Efforts to increase interfaith tolerance are initiated through communal harmony sessions, which are conducted 3 times a week focusing on Hinduism, Christianity and Islam. The internet is used to research different belief systems and festivals that are celebrated in a given month. Presentations by students are given regarding the cultural, historical and social backgrounds of the particular religion and the significance behind associated customs followed.

Extra-Curricular Activities: During the week a variety of recreational events are organized for the children. For example, every day 5-6pm is dedicated to game hour, during which children play outdoor sports such as kabaddi, khokho, football and bat mitten, and have a chance to roam around the beautiful surroundings of the shelter. On Saturdays, cultural programs are held, during which the girls dance to patriotic songs in classical, contemporary and cinematic styles. On Sundays, after cleaning their rooms and helping in the kitchen in the mornings, children enjoy watching age-appropriate TV and movies in the amphitheatre.



Parent/Guardian meetings: As some child survivors have parents and others foster care guardians, we have created a system for them to visit their children twice a month to witness the growth and development and ascertain their actual family situations. The mother is used as a transformative tool to change the child in positive ways and motivate them to succeed in their education and stand on their own feet. Meetings occur every other Sunday of each month, during which parents talk to the staff members and counselors of the home, and get to visit their children for one hour.

Internal Governance of the Home: Children participate in the internal governance of the home in order to bring about a sense of belonging as well as personal responsibility through involvement in important decision-making processes. A Children's Home Committee is organized annually by a self-governed body of children who are selected through a democratic voting process based on certain eligibility criteria. Elected representatives are divided into 5 groups—each having a president, vice president, secretary, general secretary and committee leader—with specific functions and roles:

1. The Health Committee is responsible for daily checkups for illnesses or physical maladies, and monitoring children to see if appropriate medication and diet are being maintained. Meetings are also arranged with students to raise awareness about health-related issues.
2. The Food Committee prepares the monthly food chart and discusses the menu plan for each day. Caretakers are directly involved in the process to make sure cooking can be done within a feasible time frame.
3. The Program Committee prepares and executes any birthday or festival celebrations. Resources such as decorations, food items and other materials are organized for every stage of the event.
4. The Education Committee ensures that academic performance of students is at its best and that children are receiving all necessary assistance to effectively achieve their school work. All notebooks are checked daily to make certain they are neat and complete. Tutors are arranged as needed through peer-mentor partnerships for students with learning difficulties.
5. The Duties Committee reviews whether all rooms are being cleaned, bathrooms washed hygienically and discipline kept up for uniforms, shoes, bathing and other housekeeping tasks.

Sarita was having anger management issues with other Astha Nivas girls who were showing any signs of affection towards her. She told the shelter counselor that she did not trust others who seemed to be displaying kindness and caring for her well-being – yet she did not understand why she was becoming so angry, given that she did have a desire to want to be friends with them.

Through counseling, it was discovered that there was a history of incest in her family, and that her father sexually abused her two older sisters in private throughout their adolescence. However, in public her father showed a great deal of affection to all of his daughters, often stroking their hair, allowing them to sit on his lap or holding their hand. Hence, the counselor explained to Sarita that perhaps her lack of trust and anger that arises when affection is shown to her is due to a deep (and unconscious) resentment and fear of her father, who showed false kindness to her and her sisters who he took advantage of (thus using affection as a tool for manipulation and abuse). After understanding the root cause of her emotions, Sarita was able to be aware of her behavior and slowly open herself up to trusting others.

The Year 2012-2013:

Prajwala's therapeutic community has been recognized as a world-class institution, given that it is equipped with up-to-date facilities such as a residential clinic, transition school, playground, amphitheatre, life skills training unit, and a vast expanse of land used for organic agriculture. Prajwala's shelter is also the largest rehabilitation center for sex trafficked victims in India, as it is capable of accommodating up to 1,200 rescued victims of commercial sexual exploitation at any given time.

In the Astha Nivas children's home, an array of exciting events and activities took place all year round:

- The coordinators prepared a new mental health counseling and case history format to make the therapy process more effective. The children have been divided equally among the 2 counselors available at the home, so that each counselor can focus attention on their specific children. Every day, the counselors mutually shared information and discussed pertinent issues with each other regarding sessions with children. Giving suggestions and keeping record of all children and their individual circumstances helped counselors develop better, more appropriate solutions for administering psychological care and support. As a result, 523 individual counseling sessions and 10 group therapy sessions were held.
- Throughout the year, multiple trips were organized for the children, who were taken to a movie "Cameraman Ranga Tho Rambabu" in a nearby theatre, and





participated in exposure trips to Hyderabad Necklace Road, NTR Gardens and Lumbini Park – all of which they greatly enjoyed. Similarly, 20 children went on an outing to Hyderabad Salarjung Museum and Andhra Pradesh State museum during their holidays.

- Reading and study materials, stationary and college bags were bought for all mainstream, intermediate and degree girls. Shoes and socks were also purchased for all Astha transit school children.
- During parent/guardian meetings, shelter staff spoke to mothers of children about how the long-term implications of their work in the sex trade could detrimentally affect their children's personality and behaviour. The mothers, most of whom are directly involved in prostitution, were offered to join life-skill training sessions and vocational workshops for alternative sustainable economic livelihood opportunities.
- A total of 24 special occasions and festivals were celebrated at Astha Nivas, including national and religious holidays encompassing a diverse range of belief systems and faiths such as Raksha Bandhan, Ramzan, Srikrishnasthami, Independence Day, Vinayaka Chaturthi, Diwali, Republic Day, Eid, Christmas, New Years, Ugadi, and Holi. In addition, all staff and children's birthdays were celebrated, during which they were given gifts and sweets to distribute to each other.
- In terms of healthcare, 23 HIV tests were conducted for children, and for those already diagnosed with HIV, CD4 testing was undertaken, and prescribed ART medications were collected from Nilopher hospital on a monthly basis. Special children were taken monthly to Erragadda mental hospital for EEG scanning reports and routine examinations. In addition, 10 children who were complaining about ophthalmological issues were taken to Asra Hospital and LV Prasad Eye Hospital for checkups. The doctor recommended 7 out of 10 children for spectacles, which were obtained at a low rate.

Challenges:

The primary limitations and challenges currently faced by the shelter team include shortage of professional employees, limited power supply, and significant time constraints. The shelter team is in great need of new qualified staff recruitments – in order to give continuous guidance, training and grooming sessions for children. It is critical that staff remain at the shelter for an extended period of time, so that they can understand the needs of the children and know their background fully, while children can be open with and trust them (which is difficult with new staff).

One issue that has arisen with regards to parent/guardian meetings is that children who are orphans (over 1/3 of the residents) feel excluded as they have no one who comes to visit them on Sundays. Other children who were previously abandoned, forced to roam the streets, or sent to do domestic labor at an early age and have no recollection of their families nor contact information regarding their whereabouts, and also lack a support system to reach out to on parent meeting days. A foster care management program was developed to address this gap, yet is currently not active due to safety concerns and preemption of further emotional breakdowns. Staff members in the home therefore strive to create a familial atmosphere so that all of the children feel loved, cared for and accepted by the caretakers, counselors, coordinators and directors alike; and can hence build strong relationships with them based on mutual trust, concern and support.

In addition, a common difficulty faced throughout the psychological rehabilitation process is that it takes time for the newly admitted children to open up about traumatic experiences, and they often withhold certain details or tell lies to the counselor. Although the counselor can recognize controversies in speech and discrepancies in stories, she does not force or pressure the child to explain anything, and waits until she is ready to divulge additional information. After about 3-4 months in the home, most children voluntarily tell the truth of their past, when they have developed more trust in the counselor.

Achievements:

Nonetheless, such challenges appear miniscule compared to the enablers and strengths that make success the norm at Astha Nivas, including effective cooperation of the children, strong team support, and continuous guidance from management. Some landmark achievements that occurred in the children's home this year include:

- In the beginning of the new academic year, all children were promoted to higher classes with good marks. A total of **14** mainstream ZPGHS students yielded good results, while **4** students wrote 10th class exams and passed. Two mainstream students in 7th and 8th grade topped their classes, and one mainstream girl got a gold and silver medal from the Vande Matharam Foundation for her honorable academic achievements.
- One degree-completed girl got a job for Banjara Hills TVS show room as a sales executive.
- **4** Nepali child victims were repatriated through our partner NGO Maiti - Nepal in West Bengal.

- One child victim received 1 lakh compensation from the district collector through the PD of Women Development and Child Welfare, Mehaboobnagar.
- Special grooming sessions and classes for public exam preparation were implemented for 10th class students, who developed a schedule to make all academic-related subjects well organized. Discussions were held on how to prepare for the finals, how to avoid distractions while studying, healthy eating and sleeping habits and how to improve concentration. Students put in significant efforts for their exams and showed a high level of intrinsic motivation to succeed, and received 100% results with distinction. This was a great landmark as it was the first batch of Astha students who achieved this.
- Mainstream children took active initiative to build a better community by conducting an outreach program about HIV/AIDS and donated books manufactured by Prajwala Enterprises. Around 350 sets consisting of 8 notes were handed over to 18 government schools recommended by the Mandal Education Officer (MEO).
- One Astha Nivas graduate joined the Rescue and Restoration Program department.
- In collaboration with Silver Oaks International Baccalaureate School, a student leadership training program was organized by the student committee members of all centers to improve personality development and leadership qualities of the children. A total of 10 children went to Henry Martin Institute to attend the leadership training program and had the opportunity to interact with students from other mainstream schools.
- A group of Astha students tried to control child marriage in the locality where they study at a local government school, as it was regularly happening in that area. They brought the issue to Prajwala's notice and arranged a community-based awareness program in their school.



One grand accomplishment made by Astha Nivas mainstream students occurred due to an issue that was happening at the back side of their school where they studied during the day. Nearby, there was a hostel where tribal girl students resided. The Astha Nivas

mainstream students became aware that the tribal girls were suffering with a serious security problem, as during midnight men were coming to their dorms and sleeping next to them—a complete violation of hostel protocol. Men were also observing the girls bathing, and recording the scenes on their mobiles. The Astha girls were shocked by these testimonies, and gave a complaint to the warden but no action was taken; it was believed that the warden was also involved and was torturing and punishing the tribal children. This made the tribal children helpless to give any complaint to the warden for justice regarding the men or the bathroom problem at their hostel.

This entire issue was observed by Astha Nivas' mainstream students committee. They thus made a complaint to the District collectors who took immediate action, and sent the welfare department commissioner for proper and confidential enquiry for their justice. He went to the school, interacted with hostel girls, who agreed it was happening, and after inquiries tried to change warden to replace her. They understood the issues and did the groundwork, giving a very convincing and intense presentation of sexual assault to the officials. Such a situation demonstrates that the children in Astha Nivas are becoming true activists, carrying the movement of Prajwala forward to bring change to the next generation.



Adult Shelter Home - Asha Nikethan

The adult residential shelter home not only provides a safe space for rescued women of sex trafficking, but also helps them overcome psychological trauma by providing the tools, skills and opportunities needed to regain stability and lead a normal life. Upon



arrival to our shelter, all adult victims are provided with a welcome kit consisting of personal items, and are given five rounds of counseling sessions including individual and group therapy which help them adjust to the new environment.

The dedicated team of residential staff understand that recovery is not just

about conquering pain and depression, but is also influenced by other factors such as sexually transmitted infections, reproductive tract infections, addictions and chronic illnesses such as HIV/AIDS. This combined with withdrawal symptoms related to substance abuse and addictions force many victims to behave very aggressively with a lot of hostility. Temporary and institutional care is thus required as a primary means of protection of the victim's health and well-being.

There is also a great need for a victim to relearn life-skills which will equip her to cope with life situations better. In order to develop the necessary capabilities to effectively deal with the challenges and demands inherent in daily life, the shelter home offers life-skill training to instill adaptive problem-solving behavior into the victims. Such skills enable the women to become



independent and self-reliant, rather than believe that the trafficker and occupation of prostitution are her only sources of economic sustenance. In this way, the attitude of

learned helplessness and dependency on her abuser is transformed through changing her perspective about her own capacities and empowering her to make healthy life decisions for the future.

Objectives of the program:

Prajwala has developed a myriad of inter-connected programs for adult victims, which consists of three main components: psychological, economic and civic rehabilitation. The shelter is not merely an environment where rescued women get a roof over their head and 4 square meals a day, but is also a place where they receive access to psychosocial support, medical aid, life-skills education, and functional literacy classes. On the same lines as the shelter home for children, the following therapeutic services are provided to all Asha Nikethan residents:

Psychosocial support: A continuum of mental health care, including individual adult and peer-group therapy, are important components of the home and are ongoing processes. Also offered are formal and informal yoga, meditation, and Brahmakumari spiritual sessions to help survivors gain a sense of self, unlearn destructive habits and develop a newfound faith in life, humanity and God. Such interventions provide an effective platform for recovery within a healing community space.

Medical aid: Physical health greatly impacts the mental health of a victim, who may suffer from various ailments-many of which have remained untreated for a long period of time. The clinic at the shelter provides



free medical care for all victims and ensures holistic, non-discriminatory and unbiased access to health diagnosis, prevention and treatment services. A referral network is used to connect victims with services on an as-needed basis including external medical experts and facilities for hospitalization.

Life-skills education: Facilities have been established in the shelter for life skill education regarding simple, non-threatening vocational guidance and training sessions involving tailoring, crop harvesting, computer literacy, spoken English, and more. This



education as well as training in safe and dignified activities helps the victims build self-confidence and feelings of self-worth to eventually empower them to unlearn negative thought patterns and begin the healing process from within. Once the survivors

have graduated from life-skill education they are given vocational training sessions and functional literacy classes, which form the basis of their potential for accessing sustainable livelihood opportunities. Such courses not only increase their employability levels but also help reduce the risk of being re-trafficked into prostitution.

Functional literacy classes: Opportunities to develop functional literacy are offered to each member at the shelter to help them begin the mainstreaming process into society. As sex trafficked victims may come from different educational backgrounds, Prajwala believes is important to evolve both formal and non-formal programs for victims that take special learning needs into account. As an illiterate victim gains skills in functional literacy and numeracy there is a tangible difference in her personality which is manifested in her enhanced self-confidence. For those victims who are already literate or educated, it is imperative to make them recognize the utility and importance of what they already possess and the means by which they can use it for self-growth and development.

The Year 2012-2013:

In light of the increasing number of victims being referred to Prajwala's shelter home for rehabilitation by the courts, police and government agencies, a total of 223 women were admitted into Asha Nikethan this year. With this large influx of new residents, many noteworthy activities and events took place, including:

- 45 pregnancy tests were given in which 25 women were found to be with child. Women who were expected to give birth received monthly medical checkups, and 3 children were born.
- Staff members ensured that adequate drugs, care and support were provided for rescued women and their children, including those who were HIV positive. Registered nurse practitioners also routinely administered appropriate medication for treating any maladies or sexually transmitted infections, while gynecology examinations were conducted with informed consent.
- 3 victims were taken to Osmania General Hospital in collaboration with Goa-based ARZ NGO and Navazeevan Mahila Vasathigrugh regarding the victim's previous medical reports and referral letters.
- As many victims learned the habit of drug use and alcohol to cope with the vulnerabilities and dangers associated with commercial sexual exploitation, de-addiction support and close monitoring was provided to help them manage withdrawal symptoms and achieve sobriety through long-term recuperation.
- 6 escape attempts were recorded of girls who were trying to run away from the shelter home.

Challenges:

The primary factors that pose limitations and constraints on the shelter include unavailability of the doctor in the hospital to attend emergency cases, as well as the distance of the shelter from the other hospitals at times of emergency. There is also a lack of required staff and urgent need to recruit sufficient residential employees to yield the desired therapeutic results. This year, although many new victims adjusted well to the shelter and understood that being rescued was a good thing for them, the staff faced a range of unprecedented challenges in dealing with several adult survivors of sex trafficking--some of whom refused to accept their new life and created full-blown havoc in the shelter.

For example, in one month Asha Nikethan received a batch of 10 girls from Mumbai who showed a great deal of hostility on the staff, other residents and home furniture. Although the staff used all their patience and efforts to minimize the aggressiveness, the victims were not willing to talk or listen to any instructions. One of the victims even locked herself inside the meditation hall, and the window had to be taken apart to enter and release her! The situation turned violent as one victim's head was injured, and 3 residents' legs were fractured. It took eight days to fully control the situation in the home. The rescued women from Mumbai eventually confessed that their traffickers gave



them a set protocol of how to behave, for it was important that they didn't settle down in home—these women were every day hoping they would will be released and sent back to the brokers. Yet after one week after violence became at its highest, the women realized that the traffickers would not rescue them and that the shelter team meant no harm.

In addition to this situation, this year 6 deaths occurred in the shelter home, including 3 women with HIV/AIDS and 2 newborn baby twins. The tragic deaths created a gloomy atmosphere in Asha Nikethan. In one case of a victim's death, an enormous scandal was created as the victim died in the shelter and not in the hospital. Allegations from the victim's mother as well as a group of 25-30 traffickers insisted that Prajwala neglected the girl and was responsible for her untimely death. Media sources were called to the morgue and misrepresented the entire issue, claiming that Prajwala was not facilitating for the girl's recovery and that ever since entering the shelter her health had deteriorated.

The shelter staff clearly showed the media all medical reports and other evidence demonstrating that Prajwala took every precaution necessary to diagnose, treat and assist this woman who had a severely compromised immunity and was in the late stages of HIV/AIDS. Upon announcing that she had died of AIDS, the family members and traffickers disappeared from the scene and no one came to collect the body. The team spent an entire span of days battling media reporters who were under the influence of traffickers with vested interests. Although vernacular Telugu newspapers published the account of what happened, no mainstream or English news sources revealed the scandal and significant efforts were made by the entire shelter team to clarify the doubts and false allegations regarding the death.

Achievements:

Despite these incredibly tense and difficult circumstances, throughout the year the shelter team showed tremendous courage and mutual support during this challenging period. Among other notable accomplishments, the unity of both the shelter staff and residents is testimony to the incredible work they have achieved this year.

- All recently rescued victims accessed trauma care, and 100% of the women were involved in monthly group and individual therapy sessions. Through such counseling, newly admitted victims felt more comfortable in the shelter and began sharing their feelings with the staff.

- Training was provided to survivors on important psychosocial areas such as decision-making, conflict resolution, anger management techniques, and effective communication. The victims also learned critical skills such as maintaining punctuality, discipline, appropriate personal appearance, stable relationships, and good time management.
- Medical staff conducted a campus-wide HIV camp in which **101** women received free HIV tests.
- Functional literacy classes were conducted for **197** members using easily decipherable and participatory methods to enhance writing, reading, speaking and listening skills in English as well as Hindi and Telugu. As a result, 70% of the participants have learned to effectively read and write at a basic level.
- After lots of struggle on the political front, the shelter home received a government license for the shelter until September 2013, which makes Prajwala the only officially legal rehabilitation shelter in Andhra Pradesh.



Then and Now

Over the years, Prajwala has made significant impacts in the area of psychological rehabilitation:

- Since the shelters intervention began in 2002, we have had **4926** admissions into Asha Nikethan and 2007 in Astha Nivas. This year, **223** more admissions were added to Asha Nikethan and 18 to Astha Nivas.
- **185** women have participated in life-skills training sessions on a monthly basis, and **15** members were actively involved in agriculture works.
- **6780** women have been reintegrated into society after staying in Prajwala's shelter home, and **1827** children from Astha Nivas have been mainstreamed.

A preview of the Psychological Rehabilitation Program events this year...



In Astha Nivas, girls danced together in collective celebration of the Bathukamma Flower Festival, and a new victim was admitted into the children's home and provided with a welcome kit consisting of all necessities.



Asha Nikethan residents participate in weekly spiritual sessions as well as annual cultural activities, including Holi (festival of colors), Easter, Diwali and Iftar.



To celebrate New Year's, all survivors enjoyed dancing competitions!

ECONOMIC REHABILITATION

Once their basic needs have been tended to with love and care, the rescued women are encouraged to take the next step on the road to recovery: economic rehabilitation. Two interventions have been designed to give them the livelihood skills and occupational training needed to face the world with a proud smile. These include Prajwala Enterprise and the Employability Training Unit.

Prajwala Enterprises

A key aspect for any survivor in terms of preparedness for social reintegration is the employability factor. After a period of stay in the shelter, when the resident is discharged from the home she needs to be confident about her work potential. This is the most dangerous grey area in all anti-trafficking programs, given that victims who feel they are

unemployable in any sector are much more vulnerable to being re-trafficked. Hence it is necessary to select the kind of livelihood training based on interest and aptitude by assessing the victim as well as market viability of the trade. A potential of the victim that is effectively tapped at Prajwala is her extraordinary inner strength and lack of awkwardness in a male-dominated trade. It has been observed that survivors excel in



trades that are non-conventional and mostly from a male bastion. Livelihood training opportunities in cab driving, security guard, masonry, etc. and other occupations with great demand in the job market are considered non-conventional for women but in truth are most suitable for survivors. For this reason, Prajwala created its own production cum training unit in 2004 called Prajwala Enterprises (PE), which began with support from the International Organization for Migration and Catholic Relief Services.

Objectives of the Program:

The goal of this intervention is to involve more rescued women in safe and dignified economic activities through a sustainable profit-making model. Depending on the

aptitude, health and legal status of survivors, the trades available for on-the-job training at Prajwala Enterprise include welding/fabrication, screen printing, lamination, carpentry and book-binding. During orientation, each trainee spends 1 full day in each of the four available trades to see which was most appropriate for their interests and skill-sets. Then, they spend 3 months gaining real-time work experience in the pre-designated department of their choice. This practical exposure gives them a concrete understanding of job-related discipline, work area protocols and demands related to deliverables. The survivors have a strong incentive to work hard on their skills, because after training is completed they are required to undergo an examination to determine if they are qualified to become a staff member. The survivor is only hired if there is a vacancy, as each production unit has a quota for the number of staff (which is based on orders received).



The Year 2012-2013

Throughout the past 12 months, different batches of girls were undergoing training in Prajwala Enterprises, and several innovative developments occurred with the following outcomes:

- An assessment tool was created to gain a clear understanding of the number of eligible survivors who have the necessary skills for their trade, need further training, or are not suitable to continue work. There was also a need to re-assess *existing* employees in the enterprise to see if they were fully equipped for the trade they were working in. After completing the assessment, many turned out to be misfits in the trade, so we gave them the opportunity to train again, either in their previous occupation or a new one.
- A new financial structure was implemented, aimed at increasing the overall viability of the PE. It was decided that during the 3 month training in a trade of their choice, the trainees would receive no stipend, and have to pay PE a fee during their 3 month training period (Prajwala is currently responsible for

paying this lump sum). Such fees paid for training will go towards salary of the staff/instructor, equipment purchase and maintenance. Once the process is cleared, the business units of PE will get revenue from training in addition to orders for production of manufactured goods. The training opportunity can also be opened up to girls in other shelter homes run by NGOs or the Indian government.

- An economic scheme was developed that pays the women higher wages for working in the more labor-intensive jobs that require greater physical exertion. For example, the monthly salary structure has incorporated new financial incentives by paying employees Rs. 4000 for screen printing, Rs 5000 for bookbinding and stationary, and Rs. 6000 for welding/fabrication and carpentry.
- Whenever a manufacturing order from outside was requested, the PE coordinators met with the administration and finance departments from the headquarters office to determine materials that needed to be purchased and amount of time it would take for production and delivery, while factoring in budgetary allocations, number of staff, and other operational/logistical variables.



Challenges:

One difficulty faced in the area of economic rehabilitation is that some survivor employees stopped attending their duties because of low performance at workplace after the assessment was conducted. Also, some women do not advance in skill acquisition as effectively or quickly as others, which affects the overall production levels of the department. Thus, external roles are sought for the less-skilled women through the employability training unit, and an effort is made to retain the most experienced ones at Prajwala Enterprises.



Another challenge has been to work as a team in a coordinated manner. As the leadership is continuously changing the Head of Departments find it difficult to adjust to newer norms of leadership. This has resulted in poor teamwork, lethargy in execution of tasks and poor quality of results. This challenge is further compounded by the fact that PE is going through a transition phase in terms of separating production and training units. The older team is now expected to take up more professional responsibilities which they are ill equipped to handle. The radical changes are also causing a lot of maladjustments which need to be sorted out strategically over a period of time.

Additionally, many of the survivor staff have recurring health issues, which cause stomach problems, body aches, fatigue, and weakness. Such complications prevent them from working to the fullest of their ability, so they are sometimes given permission to sleep for short periods to relieve their symptoms. However, in the long-run this affects the PE's business productivity and output. Most of the survivors are not attending the training regularly as they have multiple health issues, and this irregular turnout has caused disturbances in the training schedule. Another problem is that the government has made it mandatory to cut power for at least 3 hours every day. This affects all departments that rely upon machines for their manufacture of goods.

Achievements:

A groundbreaking accomplishment within the PE this year was the completion of 22 staff and trainee assessments. Over a period of days, the PE Coordinator and Chief Functionary assessed the survivor's knowledge, attitudes and behavior in their specific trade. The questions looked into core competencies such as personal behavior in the workplace, integrity, efficiency in completing assignments, and commitment to the organization, all of which were measured by different parameters. The specific job competencies were then explored for the relevant department tasks they were engaged in.



The assessments have had a very positive effect on the attitudes of the survivors, who are becoming more motivated and determined to explore alternative livelihood options. For example, there was an

extraordinary impact of the assessment on one woman, who had previously been living in Prajwala's shelter for one month. This girl was brought to court and told the magistrate that she will commit suicide if she had to return Prajwala one more time. After unwillingly being sent back, she participated in the assessment, and upon returning to court again after several weeks, she did not want to leave Prajwala at all! This shows that the process adopted for employability is creating hope, and helping the organization better screen for reintegration purposes.

In addition, the number of orders this year increased tremendously. For example:

- In the bookbinding section, a total of **59** orders were placed, including 500 diaries, 9000 answer sheets, binding for of Mahila Sanatkar bill books, and 5000 examination sheets, among others.
- The carpentry section received **23** orders such as furniture repair work and creation of dual desks, computer tables, cloth stands, stools and more.
- A total of **16** orders were placed for the welding/fabrication unit, as well as 10 more for the screen printing department.
- The current PE marketing executive has created a booklet of all sample PE products which he has distributed to businesses and potential partners in surrounding localities.



It has been established that the PE products are all excellent quality yet have higher prices because they do not supply goods without requiring the 5% government tax from customers. Other businesses in the Hyderabad area strive to reduce their cost of goods by neglecting this tax for the customer and not paying it in their taxes, which makes them more competitive in the market yet illegal by government standards. The PE strives to be a completely honest, genuinely legal business and therefore charges higher costs, which although makes orders difficult to acquire is the safest and most sustainable route in the long-term.

Employability Training Unit

Although the girls employed in the PE are very successful, not all survivors have a desire to work in these trades. Therefore, alternative opportunities are also provided for them to work in other corporate and professional environments outside of Prajwala. Emphasis is made on helping victims secure modern forms of job opportunities, including self-employment and small business ventures to ensure mainstream reintegration. Appropriate institutional partnerships have also been formed, such as governmental agencies and corporations to train victims in sustainable livelihood skills that would increase their economic viability and employability, thus preparing them to enter the job market.



Objectives of the program:

The separate Employability Training Unit (ETU) has recently been developed to empower survivors of sex trafficking with employability skills as well as provide customized training for work in the service sector. Such training aims to increase the women's capacity to access suitable work opportunities in the job market by providing them the right preparation and processes to independently support themselves. The ETU is also now responsible for selecting jobs and placing survivors, as well as developing soft-skill and specialized vocational training for occupations outside the PE. Our partner Catholic Relief Services has helped facilitate the process by bringing in professional staff to create curriculums for each trade.

A unique program has thus been designed to empower survivors to pursue their interests, by training them for jobs, placing them, and monitoring their performance to ensure retention. Through the ETU, survivors are given skills that match with opportunities in market demand. Based on aptitude of the trainee, they are placed with a suitable employer. The goal is for the survivors to do both what they like and what is

viable. If a large enough batch of girls is selected for a job opportunity, the ETU will partner with a corporate agency for training according to what they want or need. Prajwala eventually plans to expand the program for any girls throughout Andhra Pradesh and be replicable across the state.

The year 2012-2013:

The organization decided to explore the possibilities of partnership with security service agencies that could train and recruit the survivors into educational institutions. The ETU



team conducted interviews of 60 survivors for the selection process of the lady security guard training program and placements. A total of 44 were selected to undergo training phases, which involved 2 months of life-skill training sessions, 3.5 months of employability training, and 10 days of security services training. As a result, the employability training program secured placements

for all the women, who gained employment in 44 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) schools throughout 20 districts in Andhra Pradesh.

The 10-day security guard training was undertaken in collaboration with Balaram Security Services, Bangalore. Two retired army officers – Major Prashanth Rai and Major Bhawana Chiranjay – conducted the certificate course, which was intended to train the candidates on basic skills required to enter in to security sector. It also educated and prepared them on the types of opportunities available in the sector, which they could choose from as a self-sustainable livelihood. The experiential learning methods used for this training involved demonstration, group activities, individual role-plays, presentations and mock drills. An array of preparative activities included physical fitness and security exercises, search techniques, prevention of fire and firefighting, examination of identification documents, and first aid basics.

By the end of the training, 44 female security guards became sufficiently prepared to be recruited in any institution, office or hostel. Each woman learned her duties and

responsibilities in ensuring personnel safety, including workplace ethics and how to deal with threats, emotional blackmail and coercion. They have also undergone simulation testing of all required skills and were trained to provide effective security services to any institution with appropriate discipline and decorum.

Challenges:

Despite the effective outcomes of the training, there have been unexpected results after placement such as low retention of employees. Initially, 44 survivors were placed in KGBV schools, and monitoring by phone and visits has indicated that 14 of them were doing well. However, a total of 30 women either escaped from their placements or dropped out of the job due to personal reasons. Some of the survivors returned to red-light areas, and two of them were re-rescued from



prostitution in Bellary and Mumbai and returned to the Asha Niketan shelter in Amangal by Prajwala's RRP team. There were also disciplinary problems with 3-4 women who were neither interested nor motivated to stay at their placements. Monitoring the trainees after they have entered placements has thus been the biggest challenge and uncertainty given that they are employed in many different areas across Andhra Pradesh.

Upon further investigation, it was found that the contributory cause of escapes was primarily related to dissatisfaction with monthly income amount. The teachers of the KGBV schools in which the survivors were situated all had Bachelor of Arts degree qualifications and were earning a monthly minimum of Rs. 8000. The survivors on the other hand, who are mostly illiterate and lacking of technical skills or educational certifications, earn around Rs. 4500. In addition to lack of reading and writing skills, most have no previous work experience and sometimes do not effectively comply with workplace protocol as they are not used to it. Even though they are expertly trained as

guards and can perform above average, they are not satisfied with the salary amount and think it is too low for their work efforts.

Based on this experience, Prajwala has learned that with every fallback comes immense opportunity for learning. The organization therefore decided that in the future, it would only train small batches of girls as security guards in groups of 4-5 to ensure that they are sufficiently prepared to embark upon the journey of working and living independently.

Achievements:

Although retention rates of security guards resulted lower than expected, several significant achievements occurred this year in the employability training unit:

- Four survivors attended a job interview in Hyderabad and were selected; 6 more were recruited as assistants and barefoot counselors in Prajwala's Rescue and Restoration Program team.
- Yashoda Hospitals offered to take 3 girls for janitorial/housekeeping positions at Rs. 4000/- per month with a potential for raise.
- 14 survivor security guards successfully retained their jobs, and were followed up with to determine their placement status as Prajwala began to phase out financially (previously the organization was providing salaries and KGBV schools were paying Prajwala retroactively, and now the schools deposit the salary directly into the girls' bank accounts).

In addition, the ETU is currently in consultation with a group of proprietors managing 5-star hotels, where they are planning to send survivors to work as housekeepers and security guards, and would enable them to earn roughly Rs. 15000 a month. Additional venues for trainee placements include



Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) gas stations and petrol pumps, as well as production plants for indoor aquariums and fish breeding. Plans are in progress



to train small groups of 4-5 survivors in entrepreneurship to develop small business initiatives such as food shops and product stalls, as well as begin next batch of security guard trainings in Bangalore.



Then and Now:

After almost 9 years of operations, the PE is finally beginning to function as a viable business unit that customers can depend on to fulfill product orders and deliveries with quality and efficiency. The process of separating the training and production units of the PE has continued to have positive results as the unit is becoming more streamlined.

- Over the years, **628** victims of sex trafficking have been trained in Prajwala Enterprises and **147** have been taken on payroll. This year, **28** new trainees were admitted and a total of **45** girls are currently enrolled in the PE.
- Since 2012, a total of **319** orders have been completed in record time in the manufacturing unit while maintaining utmost quality and ensuring customer satisfaction.
- From Prajwala's inception to today, over **450** women have gotten jobs outside of the organization.

As illustrated by these outcomes, leaps of progress have been made in reaching out to potential employers to identify venues through which survivors can reintegrate into society. This occupational placement process will become more streamlined as soon as a larger team of staff take the initiative forward in the coming months.

A preview of the Economic Rehabilitation Program's events this year...



The Chief Functionary exhibits Prajwala Enterprises' bookbinding department to a group of visitors from the House of Lords, London. People from all over the world come to witness the organizations' interventions.



In honor of Prajwala's late co-founder Brother Jose Vetticatil, Kutumb Divas (Family Day) is celebrated annually in September at the Economic Rehabilitation Unit.



Post-training, Dr. M.K. Muneer (Honorable Minister of Kerala) bestowed the security guard completion certificates to 44 survivors.

CIVIC REHABILITATION

In spite of being healed psychologically and emotionally and despite being economically independent, the battle of a survivor of sex trafficking is not won unless she has a social identity. Another crucially important step in the process of rehabilitation is thus civic empowerment, which implicates retrieval of her social identity and a societal form of acceptance through the form of electoral cards, ration cards, subsidized housing, etc.

The domain of civic identity is principally a government directive. Some states in India have special schemes and benefits from the government for the welfare of sex trafficked victims. Efforts are continuously made to create channels for the



victim to get access to civic benefits which are rightfully hers, which involve submitting applications for the allocation of a wide range of benefits.

Objectives of the Program:

Prajwala helps provide victims of trafficking with electoral photo identity cards, if they are registered voters of the relevant constituency. Similarly, victims are provided white food ration cards as a separate eligible category as a special case adopting existing income criteria. This card entitles victims to subsidized food such as rice, pulses, milk and other staple dietary items from government shops. Health cards are also given to women and children ensuring free medical treatment, adequate drugs and medication in all Government hospitals. Rescued victims are also provided allocation of house sites to on a priority basis.

The year 2012-2013:

This year, 35 girls got immediate relief funds and have gone to Hyderabad collector to receive the Rs. 10,000/- checks. All newly admitted victims were given assistance with submitting applications for health and ration cards, in addition to being given free medical and legal aid. Prajwala is also currently trying to get minor victims' legal status on par with multiple gang-rapes to receive 2 lakh rupees remuneration, after conviction of traffickers. This is a milestone for the organization as it is ensuring that victims get compensated for what they have been through.

Then and Now:

- Over the years, 515 survivors have been given housing under the weaker section's housing scheme – a subsidized government welfare program. This year, 6 more survivors got housing and an additional 62 applied for housing loans.



The three pillars of rehabilitation—psychological, economic and civic—form the foundation of emotional stability, social inclusion, livelihood acquisition and identity formation, all of which were systematically stripped away during commercial sexual exploitation but which are regained and strengthened during the healing and recovery process. From there, the next step is reintegration into mainstream society through family reunion, marriage or independent living.

REINTEGRATION

Social reintegration is the ultimate aim of all rehabilitation programs. This reintegration could be with the family or with the society. Strategies for reintegration are continuously evolving, and many girls have effectively reunited to their families, found partners for themselves, or are living and working on their own. A reintegrated survivor is able to live in the mainstream world with dignity and pride. Most victims who have come to Prajwala for support are survivors today living and adjusting in the normal mainstream society. Many girls have found partners for themselves, many are living on their own and some of them have been effectively reunited to their families. The process of reintegration is a long and tedious one and filled with a lot of difficulties. Sometimes in spite of all the efforts there have been instances of re-trafficking. Although strategies for reintegration are ever-evolving, Prajwala has explored three primary forms of reintegration: family reunion, marriage and independent living.

FAMILY REUNION

When a rehabilitated girl expresses that she wishes to be reunited with her family, a home investigation is taken up on court request and also for restoration purposes most often with the support of a local partner NGO. It had been observed many times that



members of the family are involved in trafficking, and in these situations it is absolutely a wasted effort if the survivor reunited with her family as she would be immediately reintroduced to prostitution. One important indicator that clearly reveals whether the family

member is a trafficker was their claiming of custody immediately after rescue. Most often than not, these people are directly or indirectly involved in exploiting the victim. If the investigation reveals that the family is not a safe place for the girl, family reunion is

avoided and she is counseled to stay back in the organization. But if the home investigation reports are positive, showing no correlation between the family and trafficking as well as an adequate level of economic stability, then immediate efforts are taken to arrange a home visit for counseling and restoration of the survivor.

A significant number of rescued women, however, are never united with their families. This largely happens due to the following circumstances: 1) a family member is involved in trafficking; 2) parents are earning a living off the victim and are aware of the exploitation; or 3) the family conditions are not conducive for her stay. In many cases of HIV positive victims, the family rejects them or does not accept them into the community due to social stigma.

The reason for such rejection is due to the fact that families fear a loss of reputation or honor in the eyes of other relatives or community members. In villages and small towns where people live in tightly-knit joint and extended families, news of a taboo subject such as HIV spreads very quickly, and it is feared that those who are aware of the truth would silently avoid the victim's family. This means that if the victim had brothers or sisters, it is presumed that no one would want to marry them, and that their lives would be tainted with stigma as well.



This outright rejection is not necessarily the case with victims who are exploited for commercial sexual purposes. If the family benefited from the earnings

of the girl in prostitution, some families are not perturbed with community knowledge of her activities. The victim might even occasionally return home to spend time with her family, given them money on a monthly basis, and take part in a seemingly stable relationship. But if suddenly she falls sick, the family would refuse to pick the girl up for treatment, as they do not want a sick daughter at home. Also, the minute a girl acquires HIV, the family sees no use for her and cuts off all personal ties. After seeing her family's reaction, the victim's sense of guilt, shame and depression intensified, and she usually wants nothing to do with her family.



The Year 2012-2013:

- This year, 132 victims were restored to their families after home investigation reports were conducted. This involved visiting the houses and interacting with the families of victims to ensure their safety and well-being.
- In collaboration with international partner NGOs in India and abroad, 19 victims were repatriated to Nepal, Kazakhstan, and Bangladesh.

MARRIAGE

As survivors who do not have the option of reuniting with their families lack adequate support systems, another form of social mainstreaming which got a lot of community acceptance in the Indian context was marriage. The first type of marriage organized by Prajwala is for survivors who are HIV positive. In this case, Prajwala has a counselor contact through the ARTCC at Osmania Hospital, who comes to Prajwala's office to refer eligible bachelors and fix an alliance through the positive people's network. The boys' biographical data and family information are provided, and if he is found to be suitable, Prajwala invites the boy for a consultation to ask how he got HIV and what the present situation of his family is, and ascertains whether he has a stable job. It has been found that many of the young men had acquired HIV through contact with prostitutes, but they acknowledged that they had made a mistake that would not be repeated; others did not know how they contracted the virus, and attributed it to blood infusions, needles or mother-to-child transmission.

After several men are interviewed, Prajwala calls all the potential brides and grooms together in one room and arranges them into couples according to their personal tastes and preferences. For instance, some men do not like women going for employment and want her to sit in the home, so they request a girl who does not want a job. The criterion for most women survivors, on the other hand, is a man with a good job and who is kind-hearted and willing to take care of her throughout the lifespan. Prajwala then sends each couple to a separate room to talk and share with each other, and if a good feeling ensues, they get engaged with mutual consent.

The second form of marriage Prajwala promotes is based on love. As the survivors become economically empowered and start moving about in the society with self confidence, they often have a good scope to get connected to young men. If they find a potential groom, they bring it to the notice of the organization and express their heartfelt desire to marry them. On conducting a transparent investigation, if the boy's credentials are found to be decent, then marriage to the survivor is organized. Although some

marriages have gone sour, there are many survivors who do get their “happily ever after”.

The year 2012-2013:

In the past 3 years, more than 80 survivors have been married. However, this year no marriages took place in the Prajwala family, although plans are being made for several upcoming weddings in 2013.

INDEPENDENT LIVING

There are a significant number of survivors who neither got married nor wanted to be restored to their families. These girls are emotionally empowered to live on their own through either living in group homes or a working women’s hostel. Many survivors have evolved the concept of collective housing in which two or three girls share a house on rent. In these homes the survivors cook together and develop their own rules and



regulations for peaceful co-existence. If the survivor is not comfortable living alone even with two or three girls, collaborative tie-ups are made with government hostels for unmarried working women.

If any victim wants to stay in Hyderabad, the shelter team conducts a community safety assessment by inquiring about whether the community is suitable,

where she can have a house, and requests the neighbors to take care of her. Many of the young adult survivors after gaining economic independence thus begin living independently in rented accommodation. Living in mainstream society is itself a mark of success as it is an indication of the survival instinct and self-confidence of the girls.

In addition, the survivor's network, called Aparajita, meets once monthly to look into the health status, loan opportunities, and other related matters of members. Religious festivals and cultural events are also organized by leaders through independent fundraising and sponsorship. For example, members of Aparajita have been introduced to the Personal Life Insurance Policy, which inculcates the idea of personal savings and plans for the future. There is also an Employee State Insurance Policy (ESI) scheme that can be provided to survivors, which ensures total medical care in throughout their lifetime.

The year 2012-2013:

In the past 2 years, **115** girls have received subsidized government housing and **30** more are living in group homes. The houses, being in a semi-furnished stage, were completed by Prajwala with sanitation and electrical facilities.



Then and Now:

Despite many challenges in the realm of reintegration, Prajwala has achieved significant progress throughout the years:

- Since Prajwala's inception, over **5081** women were reintegrated with their families and this number went up by **132** in 2013.
- Since the program started, a total of **37** victims have been repatriated to their respective countries.

Thus, these survivors return to mainstream society with a confident smile, as economically empowered women who have developed zero tolerance for sexual exploitation in any of its manifestations.

A preview of the Reintegration Intervention's events this year...



Families are reintegrated in Prajwala's head office, after which they embark back home.



Four Nepali victims were repatriated to their country of origin by the Rescue & Restoration Program team.



Two groups of Bangladeshi survivors were also repatriated this year.

The Problem:

Trafficking is a violation of several human rights - among them, the very right to life, the right to liberty and security of person, the right to freedom from torture or cruelty, inhuman or degrading treatment, the right to a home and family, the right to education and proper employment, the right to health care - everything that makes for a life with dignity. Most victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation go through a journey of betrayal, abuse, torture, and pain. From the initial stage of being trafficked to years of leading live as a slave, and finally of being rescued and subjected a different sort of pain—these victims see it all. Psychosocial interventions thus pose a significant challenge, as on one hand is the healing of pain and the other is undoing all the damages done by stakeholders who were custodians of protection. Throughout the entire rescue-restoration process, the custodial and judicial procedures immediately post-rescue are usually not victim-friendly and make the survivor believe that her journey of victimization is never-ending.

The Response:

Prajwala believes that for any long-term systemic change to happen in the anti-trafficking sector, policy framework and input is necessary—otherwise civil society interventions largely end up as reactionary process without long term impact. It is with this objective in mind that Prajwala got into advocacy work lobbying for policy changes at the state, national and international levels. The organizations' efforts have been fruitful as today the society is much more aware about the crime of human trafficking. Structural changes have also been implemented and executed both within the state and nationally to ensure successful rehabilitation and reintegration of survivors. However, many more laws must be passed and others enforced to protect victims and punish perpetrators. Thus advocacy is one of the most important tasks undertaken in Prajwala.

The advocacy campaigns can be categorized into three categories:

- Policy advocacy
- Legal advocacy
- Media advocacy

The campaigns taken up by the survivor's network "Aparajita" as well as insights into what the world thinks of Prajwala will be dealt with in a separate section.

POLICY ADVOCACY

In the initial years of operation, Prajwala's interventions with rescue and rehabilitation brought to light the need for increased government support in all anti-trafficking sectors, given that the assistance provided through the state mechanism was meager and inadequate in terms of quality and budgetary allocations. The government's general attitude of indifference towards the issue of human trafficking was a serious point of concern for Prajwala. This insensitivity gave a boost to the organized crime of commercial sexual exploitation in society at large. The absence of adequate policies to counter human trafficking was a major setback for all of Prajwala's interventions.



Social activist Sunitha Krishnan at the launch of the anti-sex trafficking campaign 'Men Against Demand' (MAD) in front of the Bevo outlet, at High Court Junction, in Kochi on Sunday | Manu R Mavelil

Over the years, Prajwala has worked relentlessly to bring about a change in the attitude of state government for victim-friendly policies as well as awareness regarding the severe nature and extent of the problem. The team conducted an action research and publication of a document titled "The Shattered Innocence" on inter-state trafficking from Andhra Pradesh to other states, revealing the reality and magnitude of the crime along with a demographic profile of vulnerable communities. Upon submitting this report to the government, a state-level consultation on the need for a multi-sectoral approach to address the issue emerged.

In collaboration with Prajwala, the AP Department of Women and Child Welfare started taking a proactive role in all post-rescue work. Doors were opened for girls from other states and in the process an understanding that the state should commit its financial and other resources for anti-trafficking work became apparent. As a result of Prajwala's lobbying efforts, a high-level state coordination committee was formed with secretaries



of all relevant government departments. Draft guidelines of the state policy to combat trafficking was prepared by Prajwala, and after state-level cabinet member approval, the policy was brought forth as G.O 1/3 on Jan 1, 2003. The order specified state intervention on following anti-trafficking aspects:

1. Provision for allocation of house sites to rescued persons on priority
2. Provision of white ration cards as a separate eligible category as a special case adopting existing income criteria.
3. Provision to victims of trafficking with electoral photo identity cards, if they are registered electors of the relevant constituency
4. Provision of Health Cards to women and child victims ensuring free medical treatment, adequate drugs and medications in all Government Hospitals.

The order focused on state-sponsored civic identity, which was a crucial element for rehabilitation as it symbolized a survivor's publically-endorsed acceptance into civil society. Also developed during this period were victim protection protocols including aspects of pre-rescue, post-rescue and rehabilitation/reintegration. Such groundbreaking achievements propelled Prajwala into full-fledged advocacy for sensitization of police personnel on issues related to human trafficking as well as public interest litigation in the Supreme Court of India.

With the hopes that a trafficking-free society would soon come into being, Prajwala sought solidarity with other like-minded organizations to join the movement for attaining justice for all victims of sexual violence. After extensive lobbying with the Department of Women Development and Child Welfare, a new policy (GO MS 14) was brought out to ensure seats in polytechnic courses for child survivors of trafficking without an entrance test. Order stated that 70% of the seats in Women's Technical Training Institute shall be reserved for complete orphans, destitute including trafficked victims in the "Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh Women Technical Training Institute." Another landmark policy that Prajwala was able to bring out in Andhra Pradesh and was duly acknowledged for the same is the Minimum Standards of Care for all homes for sex trafficked persons.

In the past year, Prajwala has lobbied extensively for an anti-trafficking policy in Kerala called the Nirbhaya Scheme for Women and Children, and Prajwala's Chief Functionary has become the state advisor for this groundbreaking policy. The organization leadership also contributed significantly to India's new Bill on Rape which was passed in Parliament in 2013 to increase punitive measures for sexual violence and assault. Other

policy lobbying is geared towards the US Trafficking Victim Protection Act of 2000 to increase anti-trafficking missions abroad as well as add value to existing advocacy work.

LEGAL ADVOCACY

A primary concern for Prajwala is ensuring that adequate and strong legislations are developed to address the organized crime of trafficking and develop protection for victims. Through writ petitions and public interest litigations in various High Courts in India, victim friendly options such as video conferencing and rehabilitation options have been achieved. For the first time in the country, in the Supreme Court public interest litigation was filed for Victim Protection Act by Prajwala, which has made the Government of India look at the possibility of victim protection protocols at every stage from rescue to reintegration. Prajwala later filed for inclusion of victim compensation on par with multiple victim of a severe form of crime like rape.

This year, Prajwala has intervened in public interest litigation in the Supreme Court for rehabilitation of victims of commercial sexual exploitation and prohibit the usage of the word “sex work”. In another case in Kolkatta High Court, Prajwala filed a counter litigation on an effort of a pro-prostitution group DMSS, demanding the abolishing of the ITTPA and legalizing prostitution.

Substantial progress on the legal front has been achieved due to Prajwala’s training of over 200 senior police and prosecutors from India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in order to equip them with the requisite understanding and skills to appropriately handle cases of human trafficking. The immediate result of this training was that law enforcement officers recognized the broader context of inter-state trafficking as well as the reasons why victims often act hostile and aggressive upon being rescued or brought to police stations. Rather than judge and blame the victims for their behavior, the law enforcers now understand that the rescued women have gone through extremely oppressive sexual conditions to the degree of torture and it is thus necessary to handle their situation in a very sensitive manner that is conducive to their long-term recovery and rehabilitation. Not only do these officials now possess better knowledge on how to deal with the victims upon rescue, but they are also strengthening their efforts to





combat organized crime and efficiently conduct rescues within their respective countries!

Prajwala continued to expand its successful efforts by training **148** judges from Maharashtra and Orissa, and has since been appointed to train all magistrates across the state of Andhra Pradesh. Such training has involved input sessions and exposure visits to the shelter home that created a paradigm shift in the attitude of judges. It helped them experience the reality of rehabilitation if correct systems are in place. Since the sensitization, there has been a marked change in the judgments, and more girls are being referred to Prajwala as part of detention orders for a minimum of 6 months and maximum 2 years. The judges are now able to process cases of trafficking with more effectiveness and expediency, and can ensure that a victim is rehabilitated by passing orders for long-term protective custody.

The judiciary has recognized the paramount importance of the victim's welfare only after Prajwala sensitized and conducted these trainings. For example, Prajwala has made the police, judges and prosecutors understand that many of the victim's family members are directly or indirectly involved in her being sex trafficked or prostituted –for example, by depending on her earnings from the flesh trade; and that petitioners are also sometimes traffickers who re-prostitute the victims upon their release. As a result of this training, the judges are now giving court orders to conduct home verifications as per the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, and many are giving the order to Prajwala to do the assessments because of the genuine and trustworthy results provided. An important outcome is that Prajwala is now recognized as a reliable, authentic and established anti-trafficking organization to conduct home safety assessments before reintegration.

Another significant achievement that has occurred within the past year is the formation of a special court in Hyderabad specifically to handle cases of human trafficking. This new legal procedure was the direct result of Prajwala's efforts of applying to the Chief Justice to sanction the formation of a special court, by explaining how cumbersome it was for the Rescue team to produce the victim before different courts and book cases against the traffickers. The Chief Justice hence understood that the team was facing many problems in the city as different police stations each had a different court, and in a given day victims would be produced in as many as 5 courts to complete all the necessary procedures. Lack of understanding by the city police for proper application of the law also created substantial challenges.

As a result of Prajwala's initiatives there are now 3 special courts in Telangana, Andhra, and Rayalseema, and although the approved special court is currently only in

Hyderabad, the cases are now being undertaken successfully with the new legal process. For the first time in a span of 6 months, the cases are reaching the state of trial and conviction. In this current year close to **94** convictions were seen in this court.

MEDIA ADVOCACY

The Chief Functionary's July 2012 appearance on Bollywood Star Aamir Khan's television show *Satyamev Jayate* was instrumental in not only raising huge funds but also connecting with business owners willing to provide work placements for survivors. In addition, the Chief Functionary sensitized over 3,000 corporate houses through the INK and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TIE) conferences in October 2012, which were widely recognized in online and printed media and press. During her talks, Dr. Krishnan showed the trailer for Prajwala's upcoming film project *Na Bangaru Thalli* (also known as *Ente*), which is expected to be the most powerful tool to create anti-sex trafficking awareness in the country. The public attention she has drawn by speaking publically about her own experience and those of the rescued girls has not only inspired numerous other activists and workers in the field but also garnered significant support from entrepreneurs and businesses around the world.



In January 2013, the citizens of Kerala had the opportunity of witnessing the premier of Prajwala's independently produced film entitled *Ente* in Malayalam. This riveting true story aims to raise awareness about the horrific crime of sex trafficking and spread the cause of a slavery-free world. Produced by Dr. Sunitha Krishnan and directed by world-acclaimed director Rajesh Touchriver, this movie—based on a true incident—leaves the viewer emotionally stunned and even haunted by what they witness. As a “family thriller”, *Ente* not only explores the consequences of sex trafficking that tests the vulnerability of trust in human relations, but also forces people to question how safe

they really are in society, and who is to take responsibility for such social ills. The Chief Minister of Kerala Shri Oomen Chandy, Dr. M.K. Muneer, the Social Welfare & Panchayat Raj Minister along with other distinguished guests attended the debut audio release of Prajwala's film in December in Kochi. Overall, after its release the movie reached a total of 200,000 people.



Prajwala also operates an Anti-Trafficking Resource Cell (ATRC) which actively collects, collates and disseminates information from the field to people worldwide through email updates, narrative donor reports, research publications, documentary films and more. ATRC this year has evolved a monthly newsletter containing department happenings and thought-provoking articles on various issues related to sex trafficking and sexual violence. Every month the newsletter reaches over 5,000 supporters of Prajwala.

In addition, not only is the Chief Functionary's blog followed by thousands for its very powerful writings, but Prajwala is also active on social media websites such as Facebook, Twitter and micro-blogging. Throughout the years, such social media as well as awareness programs and sensitization events have helped Prajwala reach close to **7 million people** in India and throughout the world. With the hopes that a trafficking-free society will soon come into being, Prajwala continues to seek solidarity with other like-minded individuals and organizations to join the global movement for attaining justice for all victims of sexual violence.

APARAJITA - SURVIVOR'S NETWORK

Another irrevocable advocacy tool employed by Prajwala is the Survivor's Network - *Aparajita* (meaning "the one who cannot be defeated"). This survivor's movement was started in 2006 at the National Survivor's Conference, where survivors of trafficking were instrumental in formulating minimum standards of care and protection that the Prajwala shelter homes subscribe to today. The rescue protocols, also part of the recommendations, have become standard operating procedures by Anti-Human Trafficking Units. Also, survivors demanded housing and ration cards, needs which were also met by the government.

The Aparajitas serve as a strong force in advocacy because the recommendations are backed by the voices of survivors themselves, who know all too well the needs of victims before, during and after the phase of rescue. The survivor's network continues to support other survivors for medical care and funeral support.

Develop a culture of intolerance

HYDERABAD • FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2013

THE HINDU

Sunitha Krishnan
Chief functionary,
Prajwala

Patriarchy is a school of thought carried forward by both men and women. We need to treat women's rights as human rights. The day people in Hyderabad light a candle for a victim in the city, change will happen. When the country was protesting following the Delhi gang rape case, a four-year-old victim of gang rape was brought to Niloufer hospital. Her family was running pillar to post for help. There was no protest against this incident here.

To address sexual violence against women, we first need to create a space for the affected person to break her silence. There has to be a support system to ensure a case is booked. The victim needs a safe place to stay and adequate trauma care. It's not



enough to speak; we need to act and break the culture of silence.

Secondly, we need to address this issue at a personal level. People should stop thinking the problem is about 'them' and not 'us'. To be part of

the solution, we must acknowledge we are part of the crime.

Sexuality education, which will deal with femininity and masculinity, if introduced in schools may bring about gender sensitisation.

Above all this, we need to address male abuse to resolve female abuse. Society at large feels male child abuse is non-existent. I've observed that a large number of perpetrators of sexual violence against women have themselves been abused in childhood. The journey of a perpetrator of a crime is also the journey of an abused. Unless this is addressed to, the cycle of violence will not stop.

I've been proposing to have a directory of convicted sex offenders, including eve teasers, made public in all police stations and localities listing out names and photographs of offenders. This naming and shaming will act as a deterrent for others. A victim is victimised by society all through her life. Why not tilt the scale, victimise the perpetrators and develop a culture of intolerance?

HOW THE WORLD SEES PRAJWALA

In the past year, Prajwala has received an overwhelming influx of emails and Facebook messages from people who have been inspired by the organization's anti-trafficking mission. Many felt so connected to the cause and advocacy work that they openly shared their testimonies, searching for an opportunity to become involved directly at Prajwala or looking for advice to begin their own rehabilitation centers and educational outreach campaigns. Below are several feedbacks and emails from people around the world, whose words and life stories touched the hearts of the Prajwala family (all names have been changed for confidentiality purposes). Their letters speak to the degree that Prajwala has impacted them in unforeseen ways, and demonstrates how the international community views and relates to the organization.

"My name is Mi-Yun, and I am an 18 year old girl with many dreams. I currently live in Korea, but have lived the most part of my life (more than 15 years to be exact) in Japan. I was instantly drawn to you after I heard your speech on TED. I could truly sense your passion and your righteous fury, which somewhat reflected my own anger that I had been keeping deep inside of me for many years.

When I was in 4th and 5th grade I was sexually molested (though not raped... I was spared the horror of it by a well timed interference) by a teacher I trusted very much, and the trauma of it really hit me later on in the years. My story is just one of thousands you probably hear each year, and most likely cannot compare to most of what you hear... but it's a story. Each girl or woman who goes through an experience of sexual molestation has a story that might sound similar in its terribleness, but I believe that each person's story is unique according to what she gains from that experience. Yes, I do believe that not all is lost after an experience of rape or sexual harassment.

My own gain can testify to this fact. After 3 to 4 miserable years I spent wishing I was dead, I told my mother about what had happened to me with the teacher. She was quick to act and



Artist Feny Francis dedicated this hand-drawn portrait as a humble tribute to "one of the most powerful personalities of the day," Dr. Sunitha Krishnan.

immediately contacted acquaintances who could help. She asked me, “Mi-Yun, if I said you would have to stand and testify in court, would you do it?” At that time I was in 8th grade, very insecure about my appearance and standing in society and still reeling from the trauma of those days. I was horrified to think I would have to testify in front of people I didn’t know – worse, I did not want to have to see that man ever again. I screamed and begged my mother not to make me testify in court. I told her I was not courageous enough. Even though now I understand that I have nothing to be embarrassed about, I was extremely embarrassed then. I could not help but feel that I should be ashamed for letting such things happen to me. So I said the words I regret to this day. I told my mother, “Why is it me? Why not some other girl? I wish this whole thing had happened to another girl so she can be the one to testify in court!”

My mother’s answer to my question changed my life, and opened my eyes to my dream that I have to this day. She said, “How about you ask yourself ‘Why NOT me?’ You might think that you’ve lost everything in this meaningless mess, but I don’t think so. I think that God gave you this experience for a reason. Maybe your job is to fight for the other girls who are suffering from similar experiences as yours. But if you really don’t want to do it, then don’t. I won’t force you. However, I assure you that you will regret this later in life, when you come to understand.”

After I heard that, I really began to think about what I could do with my life. So I agreed to the trial. The fight lasted for a year. Because the man denied everything, the whole trial was prolonged, until at the final stage my case was taken up to the Supreme Court. That my case even got considered was a huge deal because in Korea, the law is very weak concerning rape and other sexual violence acts. Most of the perpetrators are able to get away with their acts. The victims are usually ignored, mostly ostracized. It was a miracle that my complaint got filed in the police department. It was a miracle that I won my case, which I had less than 1% chance of winning. All the while I sat in that courtroom, my only thought was: “I HAVE to win this. I WILL win this.”

It was this experience that helped me to access a strength I never thought I possessed. And it’s not just me. I believe every girl has this strength in her – and as you said in your TED speech, the girls who were able to overcome their pain have firsthand access to the traits of tenacity and courage. My dream is to help the victims of all forms of sexual violence realize the potential they possess. I am not satisfied with sitting back and merely commenting on the horror of a situation. I want to be directly involved in the action, otherwise I believe I won’t be able to satisfy this anger that I have been keeping inside me for so long. I am but one girl in this world. However, I am determined to reach my goal. People like you who have overcome pain to create something beautiful in this world are my role models.”

~ Mi-Yun (Korea)

“I am a Class 6 Teacher in Fountainhead School, Surat. As a part of our learning unit our class got to see the Satyamev Jayte episode featuring Prajwala's story. Our unit was focusing on the concept of sovereignty. Through Satyamev Jayate video we wanted the students to know how people in their very own simple ways brings about BIG change- The change which aims at attaining equality and justice- the two most fundamental elements of Indian Constitution. That is how we discovered Prajwala. My students were deeply touched by the heart-wrenching incidents



and problems. But the feeling that persisted was admiration and appreciation for you, the women and the children of your community. We salute you all for your brave embarkment. Thank you for making our society a better place to live. Thank you for doing your own bit."

~ Shahnaz (India)

"I have watched TED Talks for years and been moved, educated and had my horizons broadened by some of the speakers that have taken to that famous stage in years gone by. However, no one who has spoken at TED has inspired me to such a degree that it has made me question not just the world around me but myself as an individual in the sense of how I prioritize certain problems that affect society. I was aware that slavery and sex trafficking went on. Due to its very unsavory nature I would not so much turn a blind eye towards it or pretend it didn't exist, I would try and think of something else so as it wouldn't upset me quite so much.

Now, however, after seeing your talk, hearing these women's' tragic stories and being confronted with some of the awful injuries (and worse) sustained by the victims of this awful trade, I have never felt so compelled to contact someone and inform them of how affected by something as I now find myself. For that alone I can only say thank you for being such an inspiration. Your own story that you told at TED was heartbreaking and the way you have gone about living your life, educating and inspiring countless people to show compassion, empathy and love for those around them is quite frankly awe-inspiring. If I may, you and all of those who work for Prajwala are in my eyes at least, living, breathing saints. I can honestly say right now that after seeing your talk, I have never felt more capable of making a difference than I do right now."

~ Brian (United Kingdom)

"I am a 2nd year Btech student from Cochin. I was molested when I was studying in 5th class by a man with a long beard. I was walking back to my home from school and this gentleman asked me the way to the boys high school. I showed him the way and he asked me to accompany him to school. I joined him and we talked about my school, parents, friends and so on. When we reached the school he wanted me to accompany him to the school office. I said OK and joined him to the empty office (the time was around 5.30pm and so the school premises were empty). As we reached the office he started touching my penis and other intimate parts. I started shouting but he slapped and blackmailed me to shut my mouth up. Then he stripped me and had anal sex with me. He kept on slapping my face and buttocks and I was too afraid to shout during the whole process.

That incident shook me. It had a very bad emotional and psychological impact on my mind. But I was too embarrassed to report this to anyone and you are the first person in my life to whom I am sharing my story. I am highly inspired by your work and I would be very happy to work with you. I would love if I could be of any help to this noble cause. I am ready to help you in any way and every way possible to rule out this sinful crime from our country."

~ Kiran (India)

If you would like to reach out to Prajwala, please contact us at praj_2010@yahoo.com.

A preview of the Legal, Political and Media Advocacy events this year...



Prajwala's advocacy efforts are not only widely publicized online, but are also circulated in English and vernacular newspapers, magazines and television channels across India.



Sunitha Krishnan speaking at the platinum jubilee celebrations of Bhagini Samaj at SDM Law College in Mangalore in October 2012 (featured in *The Hindu* newspaper).

PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

Partnership has been the foundation for all Prajwala interventions. Starting with women in prostitution and survivors of sex trafficking as core partners, over time as the organization has evolved, many more stakeholders have collaborated with us to advance our anti-trafficking mission.

Throughout the years Prajwala has received financial support from UNICEF, International Organization for Migration, Government of India, UNIFEM, Volkart Foundation, Catholic Relief Services, Ek Disha Inc, Hilton Foundation, Give India, UNODC, Misereor (Germany), Leger Foundation (Canada), Edukans (The Netherlands), Vital Voices, Global Giving, Reliance Foundation, Philip R. Berlinski, Google, United Way of Mumbai, iPartner and Goldman Gives/Krishna Rao Family Foundation. These agencies have played a crucial role not only by being the financial backbone of the organization but also by consistently mentoring it.

At the field level, our network partners have contributed extensively to the growth of the organization. State-level partners such as Stree, HELP, Sravanti, CARD, RISE, Mahita, Divya Disha and national level partners such as STOP, Legal Services, Prayas, Sanlaap, Prerna, Rescue Foundation, Vanchit Vikas, Open Learning Systems, Snehalaya, Anyay Rahit Zindagi (ARZ), Just Trust, Manav Adhikar Kendra, Jabala Action Research Organization, Childline and Odanadi have played a vital role in evolving a support system to sustain the cause. A number of international partners such as Maiti Nepal, Bangladesh Women's Lawyers Association (BNWLA), Rights Jessore, and Cyprus-Stop Trafficking Today have become functional partners with increasing number of repatriation of victims to these countries.

Also at the international level Friends of Prajwala in the United States, Switzerland, Canada and Australia have played a pivotal role in facilitating a global movement to combat trafficking. The commitment and partnership of wonderful volunteers and friends from across the world have helped strengthen our mission through day-to-day non-monetary support—proving beyond doubt that sustained partnership is possible even from a distance.

At one end of the spectrum partnership with the community and at the other end, partnership with the Government both at the state and central level largely in the

form of Ministry of Women Development & Child Welfare and the Home Ministry, have been reason for the sustenance and existence of the organization.



Due to its pioneering efforts in the anti-trafficking sector, Prajwala has been recognized by a number of national and international bodies like Government of India, World of Children, UNFPA, Ashoka Innovators, among many others. Dr. Sunitha Krishnan has also been recognized for her pioneering efforts in the anti-trafficking sector by various organizations and institutions around the world. In the year 2012-2013:



- The Mahila Thilakam Award was presented by the Chief Minister of Kerala to Dr. Sunitha Krishnan.
- Supported by the Diller-von Furstenberg Family Foundation, the DVF award was bestowed to Dr. Sunitha Krishnan in New York City, USA to celebrate her courage to fight, power to survive and leadership to inspire.
- The Human Symphony Foundation awarded Dr. Sunitha Krishnan the Living Legends Award in USA. This honor was bestowed to 3 individuals who respond to their environment with acts that challenge and seek to change the world.
- Dr. Sunitha Krishnan was honored by India's National Commission for Women as an outstanding woman on the occasion of International Women's Day celebrations. She also received the Bhandu Society Award in Hyderabad this year.



WOMEN IN THE WORLD

150

FEARLESS WOMEN

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AUDIT REPORT



Prajwala (A Society of Poor and Deprived) Hyderabad

Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2013

Particulars	Sch	31.03.2013		31.03.2012	
		Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount
Sources of funds :					
Capital Funds	1		134,452,469		108,503,685
Restricted Funds	2		1,161,588		7,209,433
Liabilities					
Restricted Fund Liability	3		4,001,406		-
For Capital Assets	3		1,323,036		1,808,879
Other Current Liabilities	3		246,944		183,639
			141,185,443		117,705,637
Application of funds :					
Fixed Assets	4		82,210,948		85,078,899
Current Assets, Loans & Advances					
Cash & Bank Balances	5 & 6	9,427,016		11,654,552	
Short Term Fixed Deposits		46,705,532		18,074,185	
Closing Stock		2,441,574		2,575,077	
Other Current Assets	7	400,372		322,924	
			58,974,495		32,626,738
			141,185,443		117,705,637

Accounting Policies 22
Notes to Accounts 23
Schedules referred above forms integral part of accounts.
Subject to our report of even date.

Gandhi & Gandhi
Chartered Accountants

Rama Mohan Giri
Partner
Mem No. 029478
Firm Regn No. 000849S
June 12, 2013



Dr. Sunitha Krishnan
General Secretary

Prajwala
(A Society of Poor and Deprived)

Lalita Iyer
Treasurer

Prajwala (A Society of Poor and Deprived)
Hyderabad

Income & Expenditure Account for the period ended on 31st March 2013

Particulars	Sch	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
Incomes :			
Donations from Indian Donors	8	22,414,587	7,101,078
Donations from International Donors	9	28,193,751	39,231,132
Donation in Kind		434,179	819,898
Economic Rehabilitation Programme Receipts	10	4,272,629	5,044,258
Bank Interest		2,841,950	1,669,925
Other Income	11	562,408	-
		58,719,505	53,866,290
Expenses :			
Prevention - PTEP	12	4,885,313	4,064,299
Prevention - CBPP	13	1,696,024	1,483,393
Rescue and Restoration Program	14	2,294,146	1,523,287
Rehabilitation - Shelters for Victims of Sex Trafficking - Ashaniketan	15	9,161,961	14,167,540
Rehabilitation - Home for HIV Positive Children - Asthanivas	16	5,963,888	5,478,400
Rehabilitation - Brother Jose Memorial Staff Funded Programme	17	78,324	60,000
Rehabilitation - ERP	18	10,188,172	8,162,146
Reintegration - Repatriation & Marriages	19	-	161,614
Advocacy	20	1,849,456	9,479,857
Administrative Expenses	21	2,202,668	903,486
Depreciation	4	498,615	332,889
		38,818,567	45,816,910
Excess of income over expenditure over the year		19,900,938	8,049,380
Accounting Policies	22		
Notes to Accounts	23		

Schedules referred above forms integral part of accounts.

Subject to our report of even date.


Gandhi & Gandhi
Chartered Accountants



Rama Mohan Giri
Partner
Mem No. 029478
Firm Regn No 0008495
June 12, 2013



Prajwala
(A Society of Poor and Deprived)


Dr. Sunitha Krishnan
General Secretary


Laila Iyer
Treasurer

Prajwala (A Society of Poor and Deprived)

Hyderabad

FY 12-13

Statement Showing workings of Capital Funds & Restricted Funds

Schedule 1 : Capital Funds :

Particulars	Amount	Amount
Opening Balance		108,503,685
Add: Surplus of Unrestricted Funds during the year		
Receipts towards Unrestricted Fund	35,333,108	
Less : Expenses	10,372,695	
		24,960,413
Add/(Less) Net Transfers from RF to URF		133,464,099
Transfer from Opening balance of RF	2,647,345	
Transfer from Current year balance of RF	527,552	
Transfer to Current year balance of RF	(2,186,527)	
		988,370
Closing balance of Unrestricted Capital Funds		134,452,469

Schedule 2: Restricted Funds :

Particulars	Amount	Amount
Opening balance of Restricted Funds	7,209,433	
Less: Expenses incurred during the year	3,400,500	
	3,808,933	
Less: Transferred to URF	2,647,345	
Balance (a)		1,161,588
Current Year Restricted Funds		
Funds received during the year	27,387,803	
Less: Unspent amount recognized as liability	4,001,406	
	23,386,397	
Less: Expenses incurred during the year	25,045,372	
Less: Transferred to URF	527,552	
Add: Transferred From URF	2,186,527	
Balance (b)		-
Closing balance of Restricted Capital Funds (a+b)		1,161,588

Prajwala
(A Society of Poor and Deprived)




Dr. Sunitha Krishnan
General Secretary



Lalita Iyer
Treasurer



Prajwala (A Society of Poor and Deprived)
Hyderabad

Schedule 3 : Current Liabilities

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
Restricted Fund Liability			
1	Crs - Grant	636,293	-
2	Grant From Ek-Disha	1,333,879	-
3	Krishna Rao Family Fund / Gold Man Gives	484,457	-
4	Leger - FDN Grant	463,337	-
5	Misereor Tc's Grant	1,032,962	-
6	Bro Jose Memorial - Staff Funded Programm-Rehabilitation	50,478	-
For Capital Assets			
1	Retention Money on Capital Assets	1,323,036	1,808,879
Other Current Liabilities			
1	Net Working Capital of ERP Unit	246,944	183,639
		5,571,386	1,992,518

Schedule 5: Cash Balances

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
1	FCRA General Cash	72,642	20,854
2	Prajwala General Cash	40,630	58,439
		113,272	79,293

Schedule 6: Bank Balances

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
Savings and Current Accounts			
1	Foreign Contributions Receipts Account (FCRA)	7,364,730	4,835,992
2	Prajwala Local Account	310,092	5,371,005
3	Axis Bank - SMJ	154,744	-
4	Syndicate Bank - Autosweep	(29,204)	-
5	UNODC - Rehabilitation	-	6,161
6	Bro. Jose Vetticatil Memorial Staff funded Programme	120,328	157,908
7	Shelter Home Construction	448,481	890,079
8	ERP - 3705	-	105,832
9	ERP - 2145	917,225	203,238
10	Staff Canteen	27,349	5,044
		9,313,744	11,575,259

Schedule 7 : Other Current Assets

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
1	Income Tax Refund Receivable - AY 2013-14	224,147	-
2	Income Tax Refund Receivable - AY 2012-13	154,000	154,000
3	Income Tax Refund Receivable - AY 2011-12	-	146,699
4	Income Tax Refund Receivable - Earlier Years	22,225	22,225
		400,372	322,924



[Signature]
Dr.Sunitha Krishnan
General Secretary

Prajwala
(A society of Poor and Deprived)

[Signature]
Lalita Iyer
Treasurer

Prajwala (A Society of Poor and Deprived)
Hyderabad

Schedule 8 : Donations from Indian Donors

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
1	Unrestricted Donations	19,614,587	7,013,830
2	Restricted Donations		
	Rehabilitation-Bro Jose Memorial - Staff Funded Programme	-	87,248
	Rehabilitation - Child Victims of Sex Trafficking - Volkart	2,800,000	-
		<u>22,414,587</u>	<u>7,101,078</u>

Schedule 9 : Donations from International Donors

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
1	Unrestricted Donations	8,458,617	17,476,011
2	Restricted Donations		
	Grant for sensitization through visual media	1,378,624	-
	RRP - ATA in A.P.	2,819,079	2,593,152
	Rehabilitation - Child Victims of Sex Trafficking	3,144,271	3,069,305
	Rehabilitation - Shelter Support for Survivors of Trafficking	2,343,735	6,397,048
	Rehabilitation - ERP (CRS)	5,402,411	2,621,083
	Prevention - SGPP	3,193,044	6,101,586
	Advocacy - Healthcare	-	972,946
	Fund for Purchase of School Bus	2,305,232	-
	Interest on SB	210,597	-
		<u>29,255,611</u>	<u>39,231,132</u>
	Less: Grants Repaid		
	Advocacy - Healthcare	1,061,860	-
		<u>28,193,751</u>	<u>39,231,132</u>

Schedule 10: Economic Rehabilitation Programme Receipts

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
1	ERP Receipts	4,122,753	4,832,791
2	Miscellaneous Income	128,148	269,919
3	Staff Canteen (Net Income)	21,728	(58,452)
		<u>4,272,629</u>	<u>5,044,258</u>

Schedule 11 : Other Income

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
1	KGBV Services	406,028	-
2	Income From Sale of Life Skills Material	153,459	-
3	Interest on Income tax refund	2,921	-
		<u>562,408</u>	<u>-</u>




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Schedule 12 : Prevention - PTEP

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
1	Staff Salaries	2,617,831	2,888,551
2	School Material	1,059,398	219,505
3	Rent for Premises	458,864	417,208
4	Monitoring Costs	233,051	56,344
5	Teachers training Cost	202,008	234,415
6	Administrative Cost	150,202	150,211
7	Internal Evaluation	91,949	33,005
8	Exposure & Sporting Events	45,187	29,375
9	Depreciation	26,823	35,686
		<u>4,885,313</u>	<u>4,064,299</u>


Schedule 13: Prevention - CBPP - GCEC/ BSS

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
1	Staff Salaries	1,207,354	727,508
2	Sensitization Program	243,576	243,307
3	Office Costs, Documentation, Audit cost, Electricity	110,552	113,016
4	Evaluation	42,490	53,074
5	Rental Charges	40,584	36,601
6	Staff Welfare	17,823	27,061
7	Depreciation	12,747	12,728
8	Administrative Cost	-	121,490
9	Counselling and Support of NGO & Networking	20,898	31,201
10	Travel Charges	-	117,408
		<u>1,696,024</u>	<u>1,483,393</u>


Schedule 14 : Rescue and Restoration Program - (RRP-ATA)

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
1	Staff Salaries	1,216,710	887,418
2	Rescue Costs	360,048	59,000
3	Restoration Expenses	177,929	149,481
4	Office Costs, Documentation, Audit fees & Electricity.	161,856	133,105
5	Welcome Kit	135,493	169,251
6	Legal Costs	85,300	34,739
7	Home investigation	58,655	28,344
8	Rental for Premises	43,800	28,660
9	Staff Welfare	36,839	15,461
10	Evaluation	17,284	17,828
11	Depreciation	232	-
		<u>2,294,146</u>	<u>1,523,287</u>




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Schedule 15 : Rehabilitation - Shelter for victims of Sex Trafficking (Ashaniketan)

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
1	Depreciation	4,860,315	8,053,101
2	Staff Salaries	1,434,751	1,522,456
3	Food & Nutrition Supplements	1,139,612	2,602,874.0
4	Transportation Expenses	395,454	542,372
5	Trainer cost for Life skills training	301,961	185,712
6	Hygiene and Sanitary Material	203,204	139,539
7	Clothing & Linen	212,435	329,098
8	Healthcare & Diagnostics	138,969	140,172
9	Special Services	110,834	80,598
10	Administrative Cost	99,693	94,218
11	Medical Consultation	90,000	69,113
12	Life Skills Training Material	80,925	123,793
13	Maintenance Expenses	51,102	174,276
14	Audit Fees	30,000	31,827
15	Documentation Expenses	12,706	20,392
16	Rent for Premises	-	58,000
		9,161,961	14,167,540

Schedule 16: Rehabilitation - Shelter for HIV Positive Children (Asthanivas)

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
1	Food & Nutrition Supplements	2,799,240	964,752
2	Staff Salaries	1,261,220	1,352,134
3	Educational Supplies for Mainstream Schooling and Undergraduates	579,895	1,188,499
4	Welcome Kit	228,677	253,668
5	Monitoring & Evaluation Staff Cost	190,135	78,152
6	Healthcare & Diagnostics	175,265	271,732
7	Administrative Cost	165,062	20,245
8	Maintenance Expenses	155,970	106,171
9	Special Services	116,960	46,813
10	Hygiene and Sanitary Materials	64,553	150,757
11	Distribution of donation in kind	55,456	282,885
12	Exposure Visit For Orientation	51,850	57,945
13	Special Programmes	48,573	43,854
14	Audit fees	45,000	10,000
15	Documentation Expenses	19,567	-
16	Depreciation	6,465	4,103
17	Developing Care Taker Manual	-	581,000
18	Rent for Premises	-	65,691
		5,963,888	5,478,400




Dr. Sunitha Krishnan
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Schedule 17 : Rehabilitation - Bro Jose Memorial Staff Funded Programme

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
1	Medical Support for HIV+ve Staff	63,750	60,000
2	Special Services (kutumb Divas Programme)	14,574	-
		<u>78,324</u>	<u>60,000</u>

Schedule 18 : Rehabilitation - ERP

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
1	Staff Salaries	4,610,076	3,962,014
2	Material Consumed	3,760,053	2,380,680
3	Rent	1,353,483	859,980
4	Administrative Cost	797,221	1,326,226
5	Training Costs	31,804	2,250
6	Travel Cost for Monitoring	276,060	-
7	Depreciation	88,945	104,087
8	Audit Fee	50,756	-
9	Advertisement Cost	33,949	-
		<u>11,002,347</u>	<u>8,635,237</u>
Less:	Internal Consumption	<u>814,175</u>	<u>473,091</u>
		<u>10,188,172</u>	<u>8,162,146</u>

Schedule 19: Reintegration - Repatriation & Marriages

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
1	Reintegration Expenses	-	10,844
2	Staff Salaries	-	150,770
		<u>-</u>	<u>161,614</u>

Schedule 20 : Advocacy

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
1	Anti Trafficking Campaign	721,076	-
2	Courses, Seminars, Workshops	317,603	415,174
3	Food and Accommodation Expenses	200,911	-
4	Legal Counsel	60,000	60,000
5	Staff Capacity Building	12,420	-
6	Domain Charges	9,000	2,000
7	Administrative Cost	-	141,221
8	Advocacy through visual media	528,446	8,037,885
9	National Survivors Conference	-	596,865
10	Staff Salaries	-	226,712
		<u>1,849,456</u>	<u>9,479,857</u>



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Treasurer

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Schedule 21 : General Administrative Cost

Sl. No	Particulars	31.03.2013	31.03.2012
1	Administration Expenses	458,543	124,430
2	Salary to security staff - KGBV	409,979	-
3	Electricity charges	354,031	50,195
4	Audit Fees	346,157	435,221
5	Staff Welfare - Admin	240,622	-
6	Rent for premises	170,546	151,450
7	Interest on TDS payments	73,273	-
8	Bank Charges	71,124	10,440
9	Special Programme	35,335	-
10	Vehicle Insurance	29,013	4,000
11	Consultancy Charges	14,045	55,150
12	Assets written off	-	72,600
		<u>2,202,668</u>	<u>903,486</u>




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FY 2012-13

Schedule 23: Notes to Accounts

1. Donations:

During the current year, the Society has received both restricted and unrestricted donations from various national and international donors. The restricted donations were exclusively utilized for specified projects/purpose for which they were received.

The List of International Donations received during the year above ₹ 1,00,000 is shown in **Annexure A** of this Schedule.

2. Expenses:

Projects /activities undertaken by the society are as under:

A. **Prevention** - Prevention is a first step to combat sex trafficking. Following are the programmes run by the society as a measure of prevention.


- Prevention through Education Programme (earlier known as Second Generation Prevention Programme) – The society undertakes education program through its transition centers to prevent deprived and vulnerable children from being inducted into prostitution.
- Community based Prevention Programme - The society undertakes sensitization programs in schools,colleges,villages and slums to create community awareness and vigilance to fight sex trafficking.

B. **Rescue -Rescue and Restoration Programme** - The rescue and restoration operations are carried out in collaboration with the state police and other NGO's to rescue women and girl children from places of commercial sexual exploitation.

C. **Rehabilitation** - The rehabilitation Programme comprises psychological, economic and civic interventions. Two shelters homes are run to facilitate psycho-social rehabilitation. The society also runs an economic rehabilitation programme to ensure sustainable employment opportunities for the victims .

- **Shelters for victims of Sex Trafficking** – The society runs a shelter home for adult victims to provide psycho – social rehabilitation. The home gives trauma care, counseling, life skill training, civic options and exposure to alternative economic options. The Home also ensures access to weaker section housing scheme, ration card and immediate relief/compensation.
- **Shelters for HIV positive children** – The society runs a shelter home to cater to the needs of child survivors of sex trafficking. The home gives a normal environment for severely traumatized children and provides a healing environment and holistic care and support for HIV/AIDS.The home also provides access to mainstream education.
- **Brother Jose Memorial Staff Funded Programme** – Contributions are received from the staff of Prajwala on the death anniversary of Bro.Jose, founder member of the Society. These funds are utilized for meeting medical expenses of HIV positive staff and their children.




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PRAJWALA
(A Society of Poor and Deprived)
FY 2012-13

- **Economic Rehabilitation Programme** - The society runs a livelihood training unit imparting skills in the field of book binding, offset printing, screen printing, carpentry, welding and fabrication, home nursing, community mobilization, house-keeping and security.

D. **Reintegration - Restoration, Repatriation & Marriages** – Social reintegration accommodates wide range of activities that will help a survivor go back into society with self confidence and dignity.

E. **Advocacy** – For long term systematic change, policy framework, Prajwala got into advocacy work, legal lobbying for policy changes in the state, national and international levels. Various seminars, conferences, workshops, screening of films are organized to bring out policy level changes.

3. **Change in Accounting Policy:**

During the reporting period, restricted donation received are recognized as income to the extent the donation is utilized. Utilization of opening balance of restricted fund is not recognized as income as the same has already been recognized as income in the earlier years. Unutilized restricted donation is recognized as a liability under the head 'Restricted Funds Liability'. In the previous year, restricted donations were recognized as income on their receipt, irrespective of their utilization.

This amounts to change in accounting policy as per Accounting Standard – 5 "Net Profit or Loss for the Period, Prior Period Items and Changes in Accounting Policies prescribed by ICAI as it results in more appropriate presentation of the financial statements. The effect of change is accounted prospectively. Had the recognition been done for the reporting period as in earlier years, the income would have been higher by ₹ 39,50,928/-, correspondingly liabilities would have been lower by that amount.

4. **Contributions in Kind:**

Contributions received in kind during the year aggregating to ₹ 4,39,179/- were utilized for the projects for which they were received. These contributions are reflected at fair value both under donations as well as respective project expenses and assets.

5. **Government Subsidy:**

During the year, society received a subsidy of ₹ 1,24,008/- from Government of Andhra Pradesh (Ministry of New and Renewable energy), for acquisition and installation of Solar powered equipment, constructed at Asthaniwas & Ashaniketan Transition Centers, Mehboobnagar District, Andhra Pradesh.

The subsidy so received is accounted by way of reduction from the cost of fixed assets, in accordance with "AS 12- Government Grants" & "AS 10 – Accounting for Fixed Assets", prescribed by Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

6. **Fixed Deposits:**

Fixed Deposits include, deposits held in the name of Donor aggregating to ₹ 1,25,000/-, received towards the corpus donations.




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(A Society of Poor and Deprived)
FY 2012-13

7. Cash and Bank Balances:

Cash and Bank Balances includes foreign currency amounting to USD 636/-, equivalent to ₹ 34,591.

8. Provision for Income Tax - Current and Deferred Tax

The Society is registered u/s 12AA of the Income Tax Act and the income of the trust is not liable to Income Tax. Hence, no provision is recognised for current and deferred tax.

9. Current Assets, Loans and Advances:

The Current Assets, Loans and Advances are stated at estimated realizable values in the ordinary course of activities of the Society.

10. Interim Funding:

Temporary usage of Unrestricted fund for restrictively funded programmes due to timing difference of receipt of funds from Sponsors are detailed as under

S. No.	Name of the donor	Amount (₹)
1	Hilton FDN (I-Partner)	282.09
2	Leger Foundation	9,88,678.00
3	Miseror ATA	76,478.72
4	Vital Voices	26,646.00

11. Related parties Disclosures :

During the year, funds of the Society were not utilized for the benefit of the office bearers other than reimbursement of expenses incurred by them.

12. Schedules 1 to 21 and Significant Accounting policies form integral part of the accounts.




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(A Society of Poor and Deprived)
FY 2012-13


List of Abbreviations Used:

CBPP	: Community Based Prevention Programme
CRS	: Catholic Relief Services
BSS	: Balika Sadhikara Sangam
SGPP	: Second Generation Prevention Program
PTEP	: Prevention Through Education Programme
ATA	: Anti Trafficking Activities
ERP	: Economic Rehabilitation Programme
GCEC	: Girl Child Empowerment Clubs
RRP	: Rescue & Restoration Programme

Page 6 of 6

Prajwala
(A Society of Poor and Deprived)




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