

# 'Let's Talk to One Another: a cross-sectoral approach for children with a parent in prison'

13th June 2024

Festsaal der Berliner Stadtmission

Berlin

## Parent support

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## Three Key Points

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1. Nanhe Kadam Creches – Equalizing, Shared Spaces
2. The Parent Pod – Psychosocial support
3. Family room- Layered Vulnerability

## 1

# Inclusive Growth: Nurturing Without Stigma: Nanhe Kadam Crèche Initiative

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First-ever crèche in Maharashtra established in January 23 in compliance with the Supreme Court mandate of 2006.

- Now 4 Prison creches

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## Inclusive Growth: Nurturing Without Stigma: Nanhe Kadam Crèche Initiative

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### Statistics:

**19,000** children worldwide, **1,867 (9.82%)** in India, living in prison with their mothers as of December 2022.

## 1

# Inclusive Growth: Nurturing Without Stigma: Nanhe Kadam Crèche Initiative

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## Approach:

trauma-informed care, experiential learning, and the use of music, drama, and storytelling. Children of incarcerated mothers and children of guards attending creche together, supported by mom volunteers and others as part of a public-private partnership.

### Demographics:

**36.11%** of incarcerated women are young mothers (19-30).

**57%** are sole earners and single parents.

### Enrollment:

**172** children enrolled in **4** prison crèches (56 children of incarcerated mothers , **116** guards' children).

### Impact:

- Personal hygiene improvement: **20% to 55%**.
- Social-emotional interaction improvement: **10% to 30%**.
- Agreement with the Prison Department to activate crèches in all **13 prisons** in the state.

## Shared Spaces: Creches for Children of Incarcerated Mothers and Guards.

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## Voices from the Ground



**Kamna**  
Volunteer Mom

"Initially the children were confused and unsettled, now they eagerly wait for us and show patience."

"Their lifestyle has changed significantly, children have become more independent and confident."



**Mr. Rahul More**  
Guard parent

### Feedback:

- Children have adapted to structured activities and better routine.
- Integrating children from diverse background has fostered sense of community and respect.

## 2

## Parent Pod: Psychosocial Support to developed community

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### Model:

Inspired by **whale pods**, promoting collective child-rearing in prisons based on the JJ Act 2015 and Model Prison Manual 2016, aligned with UNCRC and Bangkok Rules.

1. Crèche run by mother volunteers in a public-private partnership.
2. Close-knit mutual support in the prison barrack.



## Challenges:

- ***At the time of arrest - 85%*** of incarcerated women lack time for safe childcare planning .
- ***34% haven't met children;*** nearly half await trial over a year.
- ***Where are Children?*** **6.76%** in prison with their mothers, **20.84%** uncertain living arrangements, **12.81%** are in shelter homes.
- ***Where are fathers?*** **52.78%** unavailable, **20.83%** in prison, **18.06%** helping women

## Realities: Listening to 144 Incarcerated Mother

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### Activities:

Psychosocial workshops on psychoeducation, coping techniques, resilience, positive parenting, strengthening mother-child bonds through bedtime stories and music, letter-writing, and building a supportive comradeship.

### Progress:

Significant improvement in children's social and communication skills from **25% to 65%** in creche.

"Enhanced parenting skills lead to calmer, more attentive behavior and improved interactive language with children."

## Structured Support and Collaborative Care

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# 3

## Family Room: Bridging the Gap

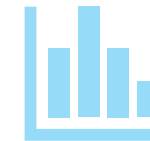
Base on Model Prison Manual, 2016,  
National Policy for Children, 2013 India

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### Focus:

- "Supporting **Family Well-being** for Co-Parenting"
- "Special Focus on Incarcerated Migrant **Bangladeshi Women**".



### Statistics:

- Nearly **9%** of incarcerated women are from Bangladesh due to unauthorized entry.

## Information and Support :

- **Family Helpdesk** - Pre and post-visit preparations with family and children, regular communication with children via phone, video calls, in-person meetings, and home visits to understand family and children's status for support.

## Tailored Programs:

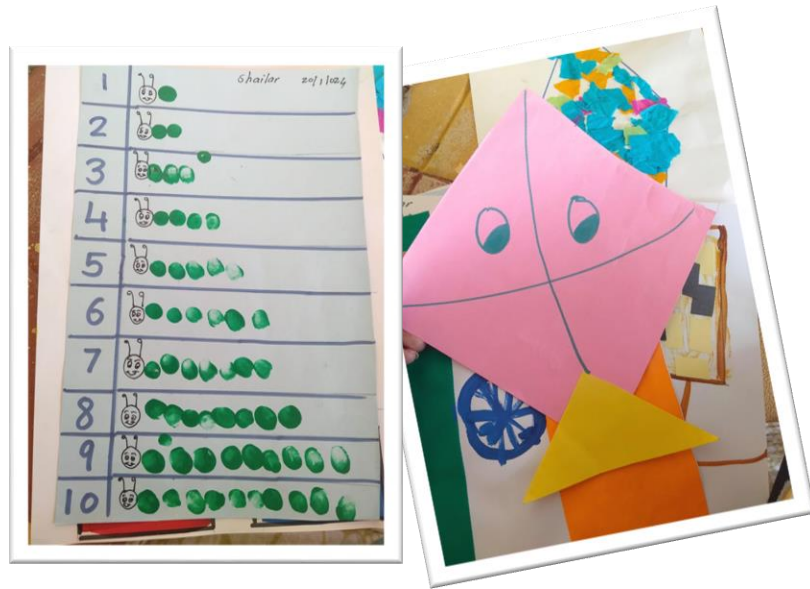
- Addressing the unique challenges faced by Bangladeshi migrants through **culturally and linguistically** appropriate engagement and support.

# Engagement Strategies

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## The Stories

### Case Studies: (Names Changed)



“Shailar 3yr from Pune” adapting to the crèche environment.



Vandana 40 yr- Improved behavior and emotional well-being.

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# Thank you!

## Contact details