

"Pragati Sansthan taught us how to live in a community."

Ms. Rekha, Pragati CBO Member

"We thought we had no one in this world, Aastha Gave us a Family."

Ms. Monica, Pragati CBO Member

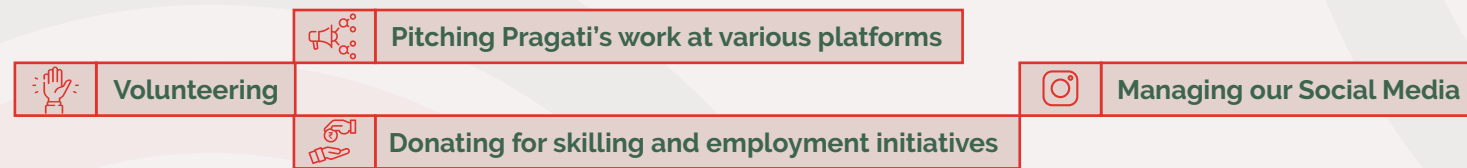
"Pragati Mahila Mandal is working with a very important and unreached group for their rights and hence, this organization is different. During Covid 19, we distributed enough grains for 1 month to FSWs with the help of Pragati."

Ms. Mumtaz Shaikh, Program Director – CORO INDIA

"We are connected with Pragati Mahila Sanstha from the past two years. It is a very esteemed organization. They have supported for dry rationing to our FSWs during the pandemic. Because of their help, the FSWs could survive in that period."

Mr. Deepak Mane, Technical Support – YRG CARE

You Can Help Us By:



Legal Status:

- **The Societies Registration Act 1860: AF/17394/Thane**
- **The Bombay Trust Act 1950: Maha/881/07/Thane**

Contact Us:

 Ramswroop chawl, Gokul Nagar, Behind Jai Mari Mandir, Ghodbunder Road, Thane (W) 400601

 Email ID: pragitimahila@gmail.com

 **Contact Person:**
Ms. Monica Dhoble - 9326501043

Ms. Rita Fernandes - 9769799473

Facebook Id: Pragati Mahila Sanstha
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082822803039>

about us:

Pragati Mahila Sanstha is a non-profit, community based organization registered in 2007 under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and the Bombay Trust Act 1950 with the goal of enabling the social and economic empowerment of female sex workers (FSWs) in Thane district.

Pragati works in Thane District, predominantly in Dombivali, with myriad typologies of female sex workers – street based, bar based, home based on:

- HIV/AIDS Prevention
- Care and Support for HIV Positive FSWs
- Crisis Resolution
- Alternate Livelihood
- Legal and Financial literacy
- Nutrition and Education support for Children of FSWs

Currently, Pragati has 350 registered members.

Pragati has been formed under the Aastha Project, supported and mentored by Sarvajani Mahila Utkarsh Sanstha (SMUS), a registered charitable trust.

Pragati is affiliated to:

- **Aastha Parivaar**, constituted by 9 CBOs and one of the largest federation of 9 female, male and transgender sex workers located across Mumbai and Thane districts of Maharashtra
- **CONNECT** - Network of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in India

Pragati was felicitated by FHI 360 for being a valuable partner and for their meaningful contribution to the Aastha Project.

विज़न:

We are an organization of, by and for the sex worker. We envision a community of sex workers that are healthy, united, and empowered to independently manage their affairs. Each day we strive to ensure our sex worker communities live with self-respect, dignity and pride, free from the discrimination and stigmatization that often accompanies their profession.

लांइइंठन:

- Prevent the spread of HIV through targeted interventions, accessible testing and education
- Manage current PLHIV (People Living with HIV) by providing treatment and counselling
- Encourage and empower sex workers to enter alternative forms of work through educational and vocational training courses
- Facilitate a united and informed community through hosting events and providing legal support
- Empower sex workers to manage their own affairs and plan for a better future through financial literacy and saving
- Break the cycle of poverty through providing education and healthcare to children of sex workers

approach:

- **Community mobilization and ownership**, for better uptake of services and to enhance awareness and promote safe sex practices
- **Networking and advocacy** with Government and non-Government stakeholders for sensitization, thereby creating an enabling environment free from stigma and discrimination
- **Direct service delivery** in the form of condom distribution, STIs and HIV testing and general health camps
- **Counselling services** at drop in centre and crisis intervention, thereby creating a safe space for the community
- **Referrals and linkages** for treatment and care services for PLHIV and management of opportunistic infections
- **Facilitating access** to social entitlements and social protection schemes
- **Facilitating skill building and opportunities** for alternate livelihoods

कहत कहे वेर:

Health:

HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Support in collaboration with Aastha Parivaar and Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society [2014 – Ongoing]

1000 FSWs from Dombivali area in Thane district are receiving basic HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and referral services such as HIV and STI screening, access to condoms, varied forms of counselling and referrals and follow up concerning Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART) Treatment and management of other opportunistic infections such as tuberculosis.
1243 FSWs have benefitted through this project till date. Currently, 39 FSWs living with HIV are receiving ART counselling and treatment services.



Awareness, Access And Availment Of Social Entitlements:



Pragati regularly conducts awareness amongst FSWs concerning various social entitlements and proactively engages with key stakeholders to facilitate their access to ration card, voter ID card, PAN card and Aadhaar card, thereby enabling them to avail various social welfare and protection schemes.
550 FSWs have benefitted from this.

Crisis Management:

Crises response team have been formed in the area to address incidences of physical, mental and sexual violence against FSWs by their partners and by law enforcement agencies. Regular advocacy and sensitization meetings with community members, Government and non-Government health care and law enforcement agencies are conducted to reduce stigma and discrimination.
632 incidences of crises have been resolved till date.

WORK during COVID 19 Pandemic:



- Distributed ration kits to 75 FSWs with support from **CORO India**
- Distributed ration kits to 75 FSWs with support from **Khaana Chahiye Foundation**
- Distributed ration kits to 50 FSWs with support from **Rotary Club of Kalyan**
- Distributed 250 mask kits amongst FSWs with support from **Alliance India.**
- Facilitated 1st and 2nd dose vaccination of 150 FSWs in collaboration with nearby **Government hospitals**
- Facilitated access to COVID relief fund (Rs. 7500 – Rs 15000) for 109 FSWs by advocating with **Thane Municipal Corporation Collector office**

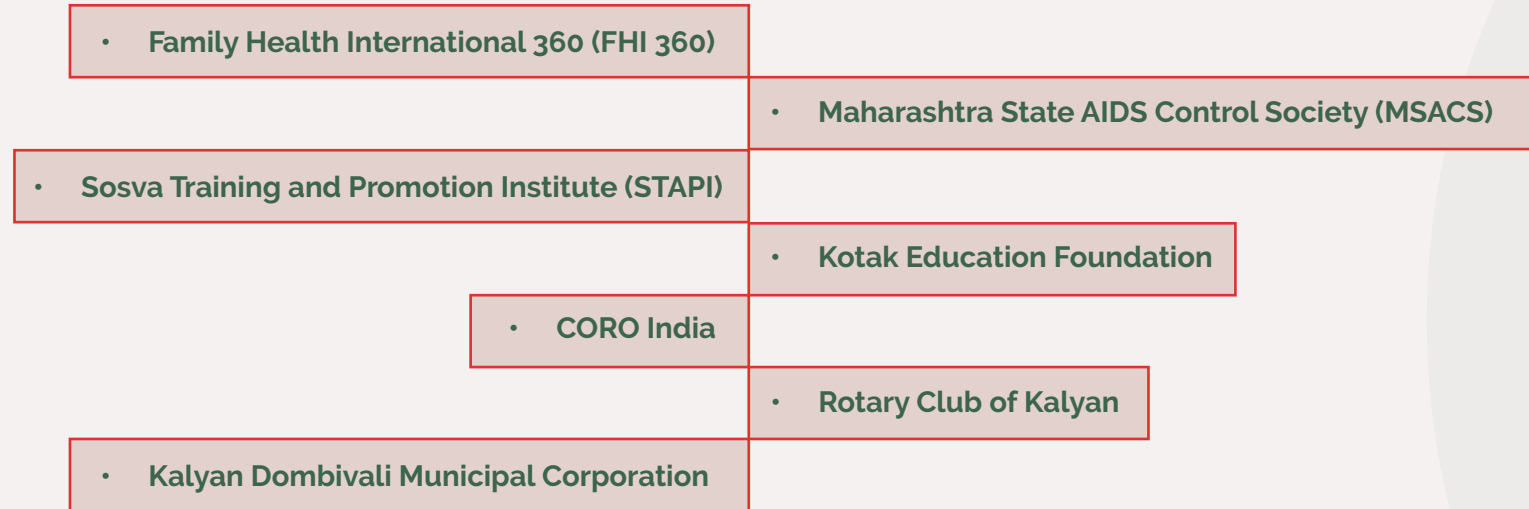
Other Initiatives:

- **Organize general health camp** in the community for FSWs twice a month with support from Kalyan Dombivali Municipal Corporation; average attendance at these camps is 25-30.
- **Provide nutritional support and hygiene kits** to orphan and vulnerable children in collaboration with YRG Care; 350 children have benefitted till date.



- **Facilitate access to vocational training** for adolescent girls and boys with support from Kotak Education Foundation; 50 adolescents have benefitted from this initiative.
- **Organized sensitization trainings and HIV testing** for police personnel.
- **Stated and managed a day care centre (balwadi)** for children of FSWs in 2018-2019 with support from USAID
- **Organized financial literacy training** for FSWs with in collaboration with Rotary Club of Kalyan; 45 women attended the training.

partnerships:



Pragati Mahila Sanstha is being mentored by FHI 360 and STAPI on organizational development under the USAID and PEPFAR supported Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) project [2021 – 2023]