We Work for
Child Protection
Child Rights
Juvenile Justice
Our Vision

A system that protects India's at-risk and vulnerable children and youth, demonstrates a deep respect for child rights and human rights, considers emotional, social, developmental needs and emphasizes rehabilitation and re-integration.
How we work

- Develop replicable models
- Affect policy to work towards a more rational, effective, juvenile justice system
- Emphasize developmentally appropriate programs
- Build data and information on target population and surrounding issues
- Ensure continuum of care for children and youth in the system

Where we work

- Observation homes, Children’s homes and state authorities across 10 states.
- High-Risk Communities (Mumbai): Youth Pathway Drop-in Centers in Antop Hill, Bhiwandi, Govandi and Sangam Nagar

Our partners & networks

- State Departments of Women and Child Development
- Mumbai Police
- Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees
- Local hospitals and schools, Mumbai
- Community based Organisations

Note from the Trustees

Much like the ‘aangan’ or central courtyard in the traditional Indian home, our goal when we started work nine years ago was to create safe protected spaces for children. Traditionally aangans are spaces where children and adults could come together to play, interact, talk, share, celebrate and in the process learn some important life lessons. During 2009 we found that it was time for all of us - the children, our own team, our programs, to move out into new directions armed with experience and learnings so far.

Aangan’s Youth Pathway Prevention Program is in its third year and was put to test when close to 400 at-risk boys and girls stepped out of Youth Centers to design their own community projects. These included insightful newsletters that compared girls’ situations across communities, short films on peer pressure, gang loyalties, addiction. There was a very successful school admission drive, a project to get working children into school, an awareness campaign on the importance of ration cards, and most recently a campaign against child marriage.

Raising Standards of Care in Observation/Children’s Homes - Since 2001 we have worked in children’s institutions and in 2006 we set out to ensure implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act at the ground level, through a process of monitoring and capacity building. By 2009 this program was running across India. We have introduced the program to State Departments of Women and Child Welfare across Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar and continued to work in Homes across Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal and Assam.

As our team traveled to children’s institutions across 107 districts, including some of the states’ least developed districts - Betul, Chhattarpur, (Madhya Pradesh); Keonjhar, Boudh, Ganjam (Orissa) and Azamgarh, Barabanki, Badii (Uttar Pradesh) - we were able to share practical strategies with ground level staff, those used in similarly difficult conditions and limited resources. Also by taking reports back to government authorities, we brought state focus onto ‘priority challenges’ - like building toilets, food/nutrition, staff role clarification and education. During 2010, we will work with State Departments, local agencies and ground-level staff intensively on addressing priority challenges.

Aangan’s Youth Pathway Probation Project works with children in conflict with law. In 2009, an action research (to be published) with children and parents helped us understand risks faced by children when they return to the community, most often to broken-down care and protection systems. Our program ‘Chauraha’ continues in two Observation Homes (Mumbai). But last year we also decided to take the project out into the community and create a Chauraha Community Support Team with local partners to address children's rehabilitation needs (legal, education, vocation, de-addiction, counseling, mentoring, health). During 2010-2011, we will hone this model so that Community Support Teams can be replicated across the state and ultimately the country.

We would like to thank our funders, friends and partners for their rock-solid support: Global Fund for Children, Edelgive Foundation, Edelweiss volunteers, Dasra, EMpower, LGT Venture Philanthropy and UNICEF. Also a big thank you to Ashish Asthana, Sameera Anand, Amrit Vasudeva Trust, Hari and Sonya Nayaham, Madison Cox, Leon and Deborah Black, Chirag Setalvad, Tamsen Ali, Radhika Chopra, Mini Mathur and Tanmoy Bose for contributions, ideas and invaluable volunteer support.

Shailja Mehta

Suparna Gupta
Transforming India's Observation & Children's Homes

Aangan monitors children's institutions. Our effort is to identify challenges and priorities and participate in addressing these through ground level on-site support in Homes.

Why?
- 4.5 million of India's children are institutionalized.
- Children in conflict with law: accused of crimes, awaiting hearings.
- Children in need of care and protection (abandoned orphaned, lost, trafficked, rescued child labor).
- Home conditions are harsh, notoriously prison-like, usually mismanaged.

We Believe:
The child-friendly spirit of India’s Juvenile Justice Act which is currently on paper must translate into action at the ground level and impact the child. To do this we:
- Monitor Observation and Children's Homes (based on India’s Juvenile Justice Act 2000)
- Partner and present reports to State Governments so that policy-makers hear the child’s perspective.
- Capacity build with ground level staff: Towards a rehabilitative child oriented approach.

Impact 2010:
The program has been introduced to State Governments in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal, Assam, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi.
- 15 capacity-building workshops for Institutional staff.
- 200 monitoring visits to Homes this year.
- Impacting more than 25,000 children and staff.
- 35 reports submitted to the State during the year.

Working Towards:
- Introducing the Program in 16 states between 2010-2012.
- Ensuring local civil society organizations take forward the state partnership by taking over regular monitoring and capacity building.

Supported by:
- UNICEF India
- LGT Venture Philanthropy
- Edelweiss volunteers
Youth Pathway Prevention

Reaching high risk children & youth in the community: Preventing dangerous, anti-social, offending and risky behaviour.

We Believe:
- State custody of children in institutions must be the last resort.
- The best place for a child is at home, with family in the community.
- Effective community based prevention programs reduce vulnerability.

Drop-in Youth Centers:
- Building a prevention model for high-risk urban communities.
- Centers in 4 Mumbai neighborhoods - Govandi, Bhiwandi, Dongri and Antop Hill.
- Providing mentoring and safe spaces within a high risk communities.
- Over 1000 drop-ins every month.

Pragati (for boys) and Shakti (for girls) help mobilize youth to affect change for themselves and each other, building peer support networks in the community.

Supported By: Global Fund for Children

“We will change things!” - vulnerable girls find their voice through Shakti, a 40-hour program.

“For boys who slack off on the streets, do drugs and other illicit activities, the drop-in center has proved to be a hang-out that takes your mind off all these things.” - Wasim, 15, a regular at the Dongri drop-in center.

“We get to learn new things at the center in a fun way. I even get help with my studies and career plans.” - Irfan, 16, one of the boys from the Govandi center.

“Becoming a peer facilitator has made me confident. I have also learnt to control my anger to a large extent. I know how to carry myself in the community. I come from a poor family but that will not stop me from pursuing my career now.” - Jalaluddin, 16, peer facilitator who also runs the Bhiwandi center.
Youth Pathway Prevention: Shakti

Shakti is a forty-hour program for girls that builds collectives and develops support networks as the basis for leadership. Shakti sessions culminate in peer-run group community projects around girls’ education, health, safety and rights.

Getting together, moving out:
- 300 girls become change agents, their self-run projects reach over 2000 people in the community.
- Their self designed and community-run projects include ‘Suraksha Kavach’ (Keeping Safe), a puppet show designed to tell girls to speak up about abuse.
- Read Govandi: A school admission program through which community girls ensured over 500 children went into school through two massive Admission Drives in the Govandi area of Mumbai.
- ‘Mazdoori se Taleem Tak’ (Child Laborers Get Educated) motivating working children of Govandi to enroll themselves in school.
- An awareness program of child marriage, still prevalent in the communities the program runs in.
- The Smart Girls group met the Education Officer, Bhiwandi: 12 ‘Smart Girls’ find out what’s really going wrong in Bhiwandi Municipal Schools. They let the Education Officer know the state of municipal schools in the area. The Education Officer set deadlines for schools to improve as per the findings reported by the girls. The girls make periodic visits to these schools to check for improvement and continue to submit their reports to the Education Officer.

Shaheen’s Story:
Eighteen year old Shaheen grew up in Govandi, Mumbai. She and three other friends have recently been trained to run Shakti sessions in their neighborhood. They were the first batch of Shakti Girls to ‘graduate’ from the program. They were selected as peer trainers, participated in an intensive 3-day training and went on to co-facilitate sessions. Today they are planning on building peer support networks through alumni events and projects in Govandi. Shaheen also takes sessions. Her ambitious plans are to reach 50 more girls through Shakti sessions in Govandi the next year and through their community project admit 500 more children into school by the end of this year.

Plans 2010-11:
- Reaching 300 more girls.
- 100 Shakti graduates attended the alumni meet in 2009. This year we are planning more such alumni meets to build Shakti networks within communities, as well as across neighborhoods.
- The Shakti Training Toolkit will be ready this year and will be shared with schools and community based organizations across three states (Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa).

Supported By: Edelgive Foundation
Youth Pathway Prevention: Pragati

Through community events, assignments, activities, and media projects Pragati reached 580 at-risk boys from 4 high risk neighborhoods in Mumbai. These fun activities are designed to create discussion around risky behaviors, decisionmaking, aspirations, gender, “life plans” and other such relevant themes.

Samad from Bhiwandi is a peer facilitator who graduated from Pragati, and now helps run the drop-in center there.

100 Pragati graduates came together for the alumni meet.

50 Pragati boys trace their life plans at Udaan, a Career Mela organized by Don Bosco.

Budding filmmakers... Pragati boys from across 4 drop-in centers have created 9 films on peer pressure, importance of education, and other topics. The boys screen these films in their own neighborhoods and across Centers too.

Plans 2010-11:

- Teamwork and Negotiation: through inter-center contests and challenges.
- Talking about Gender: through group media assignments and screenings with discussions.
- Making life plans: A contest.
- Discussions on decision-making, through rap and qawali contests.
- Leadership: Hands-on training for peer leaders
- Engaging the Community: Community adults assist the captains and encourage public participation.
- Discussions, debates, films.

Supported By: EMpower
Youth Pathway Probation: Chauraha

Creating Community Support Teams for children in conflict with the law. The key aspects of Chauraha are continued mentoring, assessing risk, making rehabilitation plans and connecting the child to local services that will facilitate reintegration.

Who we Work with:
- Children accused of crimes
- Parents/guardians of accused children
- Juvenile Justice Boards
- Probation Officers
- Partners in the community

We Believe:
- Every child in conflict with the law has the right to lead a productive life.
- Ensuring youth/families can access local resources and services is crucial.
- Strengthening the Juvenile Justice Delivery system in India will give Youth Offenders a real opportunity for change in India.
- Data on this population is a gap felt by practitioners all over the country.

So far:
- Working in 2 Observation Homes with 3 Juvenile Justice Boards.
- Working with 200 children in conflict with law and their parents/guardians.
- ‘Exit level’ intervention as children prepare to leave Observation Homes.
- Partnering and co-ordinating with 27 NGOs for a community safety team to provide a holistic intervention when the child returns to the community.
- A model that can be used by Community Support Teams (attached to Juvenile Justice Boards) anywhere in the country.

The Vegetable Garden Project in Observation Home, Umerkhadi:
- Children in conflict with law learn a vocational skill while in the Observation Home
- Huge healing and therapeutic benefits
- Three month module on preparing soil, weeding, germination, re-planting, pest management, vermiculture.
- What a joy to harvest and eat self-grown vegetables! Ladyfinger, brinjal, gourd, tomatoes and chillies.
- A big thank you to Madison Cox for initiating this project. Thank you Leon and Deborah Black, the LGT Employee Donation Program, Jayashree Bhalla, Ajay Rao and his team - for making this a reality. We hope to replicate this in other Observation Homes.
Legal Information

Aangan Trust is registered as a not-for-profit Trust with the Charity Commissioner, Greater Bombay Region, (Reg. No.EW18695, dated November 1, 2000), and with the Director of Income Tax (Exemptions) u/s 80G (Registration No.DIT(E)/MC/ 80G/ 3038/ 2009-10, valid till March 31st 2012.


Aangan Trust Income Tax Permanent Account Number (PAN) is AAATT5502G.

Aangan Trust is registered under section 6 (1) (a) of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 (FCRA Reg. No. 083781091). The Bank account in which Foreign Currency funds are received is with HDFC Bank, Sandoz House Branch, Worli, and Mumbai.

Aangan Trust operates 3 Bank Accounts with HDFC Bank Ltd., Mumbai. Doshi and Khandelwal, Chartered Accounts (409, Niranjan, Marine Drive, Mumbai 400002) are our statutory auditors.

No remuneration, sitting fees, or any other form of compensation has been paid since inception of the Trust to any Board Member or Trustee.

Financial Information

WORKING OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD 1-4-2008 TO 31-03-09

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Board, Directors & Advisors

Ms. Suparna Gupta
Founder / Director
Suparna was elected an Ashoka Fellow in 2009, (Ashoka is a global association of the world’s leading social entrepreneurs). She was also appointed by the state as Member, Selection Panel, State Child Protection Commission, and Maharashtra 2009. Starting seven to eight years in advertising (Lowi, Ogilvy), her volunteer work (mainly with children/youth) led her to move full time into the non-profit sector when she started Aangan (2001). In nine years, Suparna’s effort has been to bring child protection issues into focus with the State Government, through innovative models, advocacy, capacity building. Under her leadership, Aangan’s work has achieved national scale. She has initiated and developed working partnerships with the government in ten states across India where Aangan works on raising standards of care in children’s institutions. Suparna graduated from Sophia College (Psychology) and went on to do a Post Graduate Diploma in Social Communication Media from Sophia Polytechnic. Suparna is currently involved in piloting a new model around creating community support for children in conflict with law.

Ms. Shailja Mehta
Trustee / Director
Since 2002, Shailja has been the force behind Aangan’s expansion. From working in one children’s institution, to institutionalizing Aangan’s work approach in ten states. She has successfully lobbied for ground level demonstration of models (ensuring that Aangan works intensively in Observation and Children’s Homes in Mumbai, Pune, Thane, Nagpur, Gachibowli and Chandrapur). She has also lobbied effectively to affect policy based on this. With a firm belief that ground level staff motivation is crucial to improve children’s institutions, Shailja conceived and demonstrated an innovative Staff Appreciation and Motivation Program (2008-2009) for over 500 ground level staff. This runs in partnership with the state Department of Women and Child Welfare. This Staff Appreciation and Motivation program is likely to be used in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Orissa and most of the states we work with. Shailja has designed the program to be flexible and demonstrated that it can be effective even on a shoestring budget. Her practical approach ensures that the program will be easily replicated within limited resources.

Ms. Atiya Bose
Director
Before Aangan Atiya worked for 7 years as a sentence mitigation consultant in Los Angeles, California, conducting primary research and preparing legal briefs and advocacy reports in criminal cases for submission to the court on behalf of criminal defendants from underprivileged and marginalized communities. During this time she spent considerable time working with youth as well as institutional players including authorities, police, and judges. She also worked as an educational facilitator with “at-risk” youth in the neighborhoods (8-14 year olds) from difficult and often violent family backgrounds who manifest significant levels of social dislocation and emotional distress. She also initiated Aangan’s partnership with UNICEF, India – a first step towards the national level expansion of Aangan’s monitoring program for children’s institutions. She heads Change is Possible (in partnership with UNICEF) with Shailja has designed the program to be flexible and demonstrated that it can be effective even on a shoestring budget. Her practical approach ensures that the program will be easily replicated within limited resources.

Ms. Pereena Lamba
Director
Pereena began working with Aangan in 2005. She has co-written and edited Aangan’s manuals including “Home Away from Home” for staff of Children’s Homes across India; “Let’s Talk” psychosocial toolkits for staff of children’s institutions and more recently developing an innovative best practice graphic novel for adolescent girls in high-risk urban neighborhoods (Based on Aangan’s program for vulnerable girls, Shakti). During 2002-2004 Pereena worked in the local government family placement unit of London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (UK), that deals with adoptions and fostering. Here, she worked on documentation of adoption screening panels and foster screening panels for prospective parents. With a diploma in Social Communication Media, Sophia College, Mumbai - her previous experience includes a ten year stint as Creative Writer in advertising agencies Wunderman Thompson and FCB Ulka. Pereena has over fifteen years of volunteering with child-based organizations including Pavement Club for street Children, Asha Sadan for rescued girls and Akanksha, education for underprivileged children.

Dr. Gayatri A. Menon
Advisor
Currently Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology at Franklin & Marshall College, Pennsylvania, in 2009 Gayatri was the recipient of the prestigious Sagar Patel Award, for the best social action submitted at any American university on the subject of modern India. Previous to this, she was a Post Doctoral Associate at the department of Development Sociology, Cornell University, where she received her PhD from the same department in 2009, as well as her Masters degree in 2001. She has also worked in India for several years on issues related to the livelihoods challenges facing the rural poor in Maharashtra, and on biodiversity and agricultural practices in Garhwa. Gayatri received her BA from Mount Holyoke College in 1992, having designed her own major in Development Studies.

Ms. Suranjana Gupta
Advisor
Suranjana Gupta is Campaign Coordinator, Community Resilience, Huairou Commission with GROOTS International. New York She works on policy, advocacy, promoting grassroots women’s leadership, facilitating grassroots-led practice-transfers, alliance building and action-research. She is involved in developing the Campaign’s Community Disaster Resilience Fund and currently coordinates the Community Practitioners’ Platform for Resilience, a formal networking and advocacy space for community-led disaster risk reduction mandated by UNISDR. She is also a member of the Advisory Panel of the UNISDR’s Making Cities Resilient Campaign. In addition to working for GROOTS and the Huarui Commission, Suranjana taught at The New School University’s Graduate Program of International Affairs from 2002-2004. From 1995-2006, Suranjana worked for Swayar Shikshan Prayog in India, on facilitating and documenting women’s empowerment processes in the context of credit, livelihoods, governance and post-disaster recovery. Suranjana Gupta holds an M.Sc. in Development Studies from the London School of Economics and an M.A. in Sociology from the University of Mumbai.

Mr. Rajnish Dhall
Advisor
After completing his post graduation in Business Administration from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad in 1991, Rajnish worked with the multinational American Express Bank for over 15 years, in a variety of roles across 3 different locations- Mumbai, London and Singapore. In 2006, he relocated to Mumbai and joined Aangan in a full time role looking after finance, administrative, fund raising, legal and accountability matters. In 2008, he set up Micro Housing Finance Corporation (www.mhfcindia.co.in), which provides housing loans to urban low income families (esp those from the informal sector) who typically are excluded by the mainstream financial system. He continues to advise Aangan.

Mr. Madison Cox
Advisor
Madison Cox is Vice President of the Pierre Berge Yves Saint Laurent Foundation based in Paris as well as an Executive member of the Board of Directors of the American Schools of Tangier (Tanger, Morocco). A garden designer by profession, he has worked for the past 25 years in the United States, Europe and Morocco where he is also the director of the Marrakech Foundation, an exotic garden complex in the city of Marrakech - open to the public. Author of three garden books, Madison recently initiated the Garden Project in Observation Homes in the USA, a Vocational program for children in conflict with law and a model that Aangan aims to replicate in other Observation Homes.

Dr. Priyamvada Narayan
Advisor
Dr. Narayan earned her M.D. at McGill University and completed residency training at the New York University Medical Center. She completed fellowship training in Forensic Psychiatry at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Narayan serves as the Medical Director at Rikers Island Correctional Facility and in the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program and Assisted Outpatient Program at the Bellevue Hospital Center, New York, USA. Dr. Narayan serves as the Medical Director at Rikers Island Correctional Facility and in the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program and Assisted Outpatient Program at the Bellevue Hospital Center, New York, USA. Dr. Narayan serves as the Medical Director at Rikers Island Correctional Facility and in the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program and Assisted Outpatient Program at the Bellevue Hospital Center, New York, USA. She is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology at Franklin & Marshall College, Pennsylvania.

Ms. Nilofer Moochhala
Advisor
Nilofer Moochhala is the principal/founder of Nymdesign a graphic design studio committed to creating the highest levels of thoughtfully-conscious design for the past 10 years. Her dedicated work for non-profits ranges from the United Nations Population Fund to Water Thomson and FCB Ulka. In the co-co-creation space, Nilofer has a special knack for number of small startups in Mumbai, including Under The Mango Tree and Green Kettle Consulting.
The Journey Ahead...

Team Shakti

Nirmal and Ajoy, State Associates:
“We look forward to forming Transformation teams in each state which will consist of NGOs/Volunteers and other stakeholders to encourage public-private partnerships that will introduce an outside perspective and provide long term solutions to institutional management.”

Smita, Orissa State Coordinator, on her experiences:
“In Orissa’s context I believe the need of the hour is all-round staff capacity building.”

Sanjeev, Uttar Pradesh State Coordinator:
“The last one year has been extremely fulfilling, especially when I see appreciation from both the children as well the staff on our efforts to translate the child-oriented spirit of the Juvenile Justice Act at the ground level.”

Walesa & Uma

Walesa, Project Associate, Unicef ‘Change is Possible Transforming Children’s Institutions’:
“Aangan through its staff trainings and awareness building workshops has thrown light on the child’s perspective of the institution and has helped staff look at institutional issues from the eyes of the child. Through the use of its ‘Monitoring Tool’ based on the Juvenile Justice Act 2000, Aangan facilitates a process of self assessment, problem identification and organized goal setting resulting in improved standards of care.”

Team Effective Institutions

Nirmal and Ajoy, State Associates:
“We look forward to forming Transformation teams in each state which will consist of NGOs/Volunteers and other stakeholders to encourage public-private partnerships that will introduce an outside perspective and provide long term solutions to institutional management.”

Sanjeev, Uttar Pradesh State Coordinator:
“The last one year has been extremely fulfilling, especially when I see appreciation from both the children as well the staff on our efforts to translate the child-oriented spirit of the Juvenile Justice Act at the ground level.”

Team Pragati

Neeti, Project Director:
“Peer captains are all set to run the community youth centers based on rules and a schedule that captains of all centers had jointly formulated and agreed upon.”

Deepak, Vinod, The Center Managers: “We are super excited about the Pragati event calendar, and look forward to the inter center contest with the point system and the captains running the centers on their own”.

Team Chauraha

Sukumar Ray, Project co-ordinator:
“I see Chauraha giving children in conflict with law choices and helping them make decisions that are right for them.”

Sheetal, Program Associate:
“Chauraha has been, and continues to be a guardian for children in conflict with law, responding to their psychosocial, developmental, educational and other needs, with a view to help them grow and thrive as happy and responsible citizens of the State.”

Team Chauraha

Jyesh, Office assistant: “I think if I were to look back at the happiest moments in my life then the time spent in Aangan would top the list”. What we say about Jyesh: “How would this office run without him!”

Bhavna, the accountant: “Having worked in the for-profit sector for the last 5 years this has been a complete contrast but a good one at that. Doing a cost-benefit analysis per-child is anytime one of the most fulfilling accounting calculations that I have ever worked on.”