Vidhayak Bharti

A Child Rights Advocacy Initiative

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25





Director's Note

Vidhayak Bharti is a Maharashtra-based nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering inclusive development by addressing the intersecting issues of education, child protection, gender justice, and public health. Over the last decade, the organization has worked extensively in tribal, urban, and peri-urban communities, focusing on the most vulnerable children and women to ensure they access their rights to safety, education, and wellbeing

The year 2024–25 has been one of learning, resilience, and meaningful progress for **Vidhayak Bharti.** As we reflect on the year, we are encouraged by the positive changes witnessed across communities and systems, and we remain deeply committed to strengthening child protection mechanisms and advancing children's rights.

Children across Maharashtra continue to face multiple vulnerabilities—poverty, migration, child labour, early marriage, abuse, and limited access to education and essential services. In response, Vidhayak Bharti focused on reinforcing **community-based prevention** while working closely with **state systems** to ensure timely, child-friendly, and rights-based interventions.

Key milestones achieved this year span across geographies—from the tribal villages of Nandurbar and Palghar to the urban corridors of Mumbai and the semi-urban pockets of Mahad. The organization implemented five core programs addressing issues like school dropout, child marriage, child labour, juvenile justice, reproductive health, and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) in schools.

Our work in **Dhadgaon block, Nandurbar**, supported by **CRY**, demonstrated the strength of community participation in child protection. Through sustained engagement with families, community leaders, women's groups, and schools, we were able to prevent **99% of identified high-risk child marriages**, reduce school dropout, address child labour, and empower adolescents—especially girls—through life skills education and access to government schemes.

At the systems level, with the support of the **Azim Premji Foundation** and other partners, our **case management and Child Safety Net initiatives** in Mumbai and Palghar strengthened institutional responses to children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law. Structured documentation systems, MIS tools, and continuous capacity-building of police, Child Care Institutions, Childline teams, and Probation Officers improved coordination, accountability, and child-friendly practices across the juvenile justice system.

Women's health and agency remained a key focus this year. Through our **SRH and family planning initiative in Mahad**, supported by **SAMHITA (CGF)**, thousands of young women were reached with accurate information and access to services. Frontline health workers and women champions were trained to support informed decision-making, contributing to healthier families and communities.

We also strengthened the learning environment for children through our **WASH programme in schools**, implemented in partnership with **Eureka Forbes.** Improved access to safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, and menstrual hygiene infrastructure enhanced health, dignity, and school attendance—particularly for adolescent girls.

Mr. Santosh Shinde
Director of
Vidhayak Bharti



We Contribute Towards

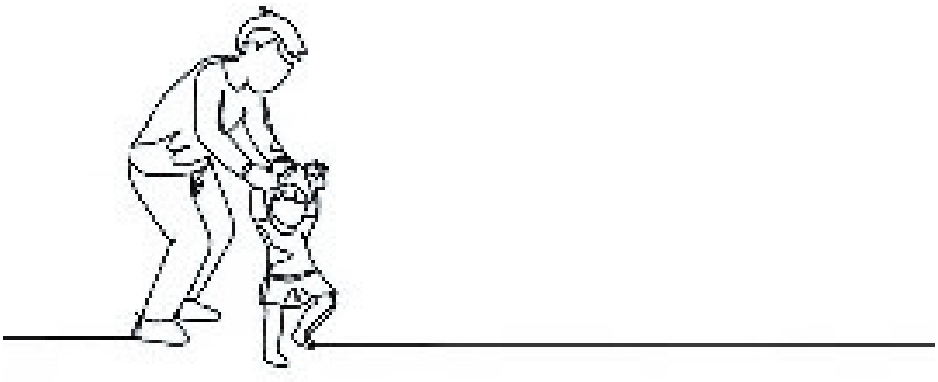
Vidhayak Bharti is committed to building a society where children are protected, empowered, and given equal opportunities to thrive. We strive to ensure **no violation of child rights** and work towards achieving **zero violence against children** through awareness, prevention, and responsive support systems. Our child protection initiatives strengthen both community and institutional mechanisms so that children are safeguarded from neglect, abuse, and exploitation at every level.

Education remains central to our mission. We advocate for every child's **right to education and quality learning**, working to prevent dropouts and promote safe, inclusive, and child-friendly schools. Alongside this, we advance **gender equality**, ensuring that girls and boys have equal opportunities while also empowering women and adolescent girls to lead change in their communities.

In both rural and urban contexts, we focus on creating **safe cities and child-friendly spaces**, where children can grow without fear and enjoy their rights with dignity. We believe that **institutional care must always be the last resort**, and therefore prioritize family- and community-based care systems. At the same time, we uphold the principle that **every child deserves a fresh start**, with access to rehabilitation, reintegration, and second chances in life.

Our work is grounded in **partnerships for a child-friendly society**, bringing together government agencies, civil society, and local communities to build collective responsibility for children's well-being. Through **capacity building and handholding**, we empower frontline workers, Child Care Institutions, schools, and local governance bodies to adopt and sustain child-sensitive practices.

Finally, we engage in **policy intervention and advocacy** to influence systemic reforms, ensuring that child protection, education, and gender equality remain priorities at the state and national level. In doing so, Vidhayak Bharti contributes to a holistic vision of a safe, just, and inclusive society where every child can live, learn, and grow with dignity.



Our Presence



Vidhayak Bharti has a strong presence across Maharashtra, working at both grassroots and systemic levels. Its interventions span urban and rural regions, including **Nandurbar District (Dhadgao Taluka), Palghar, Raigad, Thane, Mumbai**, and **Suburban Mumbai**, ensuring outreach to marginalized communities, children, and women in diverse socio-economic contexts.

Where we are seeing the change

Social change work is never easy to quantify and everyone involved in such work are aware of the slow process it truly is due to the very nature of the work. We feel Vidhayak Bharti's interventions have contributed to meaningful change at both the individual and community level (micro) and the systemic and institutional level (macro). By combining direct case work, community participation, and system strengthening, the organization has helped create sustainable improvements in child protection outcomes.

Micro level changes in children, family, and community

- Improved safety and protection of children, with timely identification of children at risk and prevention of abuse, exploitation, child marriage, and child labour.
- Increased access to education, as children engaged in labour or at risk of dropout were mainstreamed into schools and supported through follow-up and family counselling.
- ·Empowered adolescents, particularly girls, who developed life skills such as decision-making, communication, self-confidence, and awareness of their rights, enabling them to make informed choices.
- ·Strengthened families, with vulnerable households linked to social security, livelihood, and education schemes, reducing economic pressures that lead to child rights violations.

- Greater community ownership of child protection, with parents, Mahila Mandals, VCPCs, and SMCs actively monitoring risks, preventing child marriage, and promoting education.
- Enhanced psychosocial well-being of children, especially those in contact with the juvenile justice system, through consistent case management, counselling, and follow-up support.
- Changing conversations with police of all ranks
- Changes in language use: self-correction by police
- Changes in content of Police Didi; parent's meetings
- Viewing child protection beyond POCSO & Child labour
- Child friendly patrolling concept being accepted

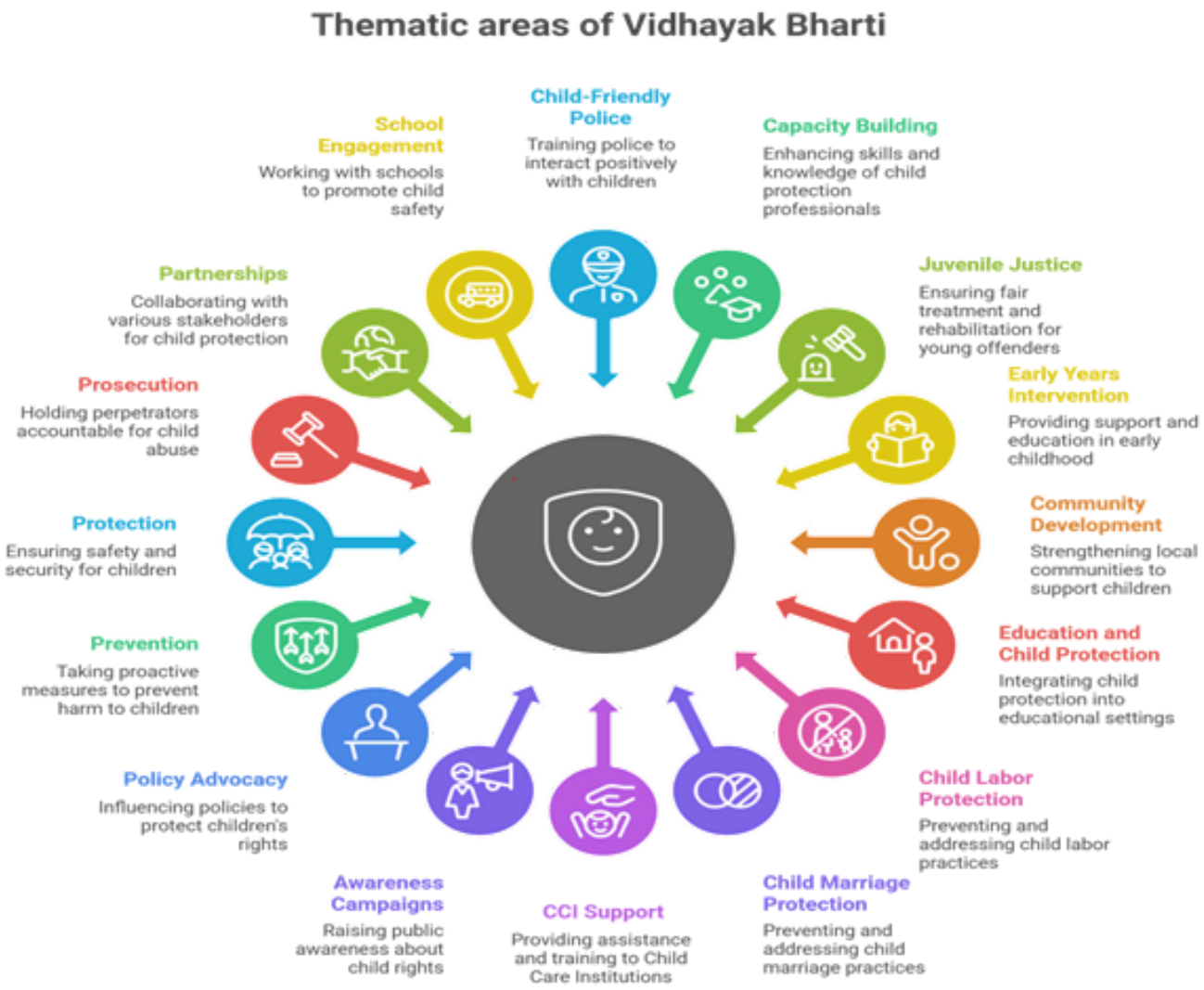
Macro-Level Changes (Systems, Institutions, and Policy Environment)

- Strengthened child protection systems, through structured case management processes, MIS development, and standardized documentation aligned with the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.
- Improved institutional capacity, with police personnel, CCIs, Childline teams, Probation Officers, and government officials better equipped to implement child-friendly and legally compliant practices.
- Enhanced coordination among stakeholders, including CWCs, JJBs, police, DCPUs, schools, and community institutions, resulting in smoother referrals and timely interventions.
- Increased adoption of child-friendly procedures within the police system, supported by large-scale engagement, training, and development of awareness materials.
- Greater accountability in statutory mechanisms, with improved implementation of Social Investigation Reports (SIRs), Individual Care Plans (ICPs), and follow-up orders.
- Contribution to long-term social change, reflected in declining trends of child marriage, increased school retention, and growing recognition of children's rights within communities and institutions.
- There has been a **steady decline in child marriage incidences over the last three years in Dhadgaon**
- Child Friendly Police coming up on the agenda of the system
- Need acknowledged and readiness shown in the system at different levels; some movement and actions begun as well in terms of process
- Ward and village level Child Protection Committees work getting institutionalised

Our Work

- At Vidhayak Bharti we strongly believe in working on both the **prevention and response** level to varied issues of child protection.
- **Prevention level** work involves awareness, sensitisation with children, their families, schools as well as with system stakeholders like the police, child welfare committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, ICDS, DCPU, communities, PRI's, Village Child Protection Committees (VCPC), District and Taluka level Child protection committees etc.
- **Response level** work involves working with stakeholders to resolve that children are facing through technical case support, handholding, mentoring, aiding institutions in setting up systems of response

Our Thematic areas and Interventions according to this:



Child Friendly Police

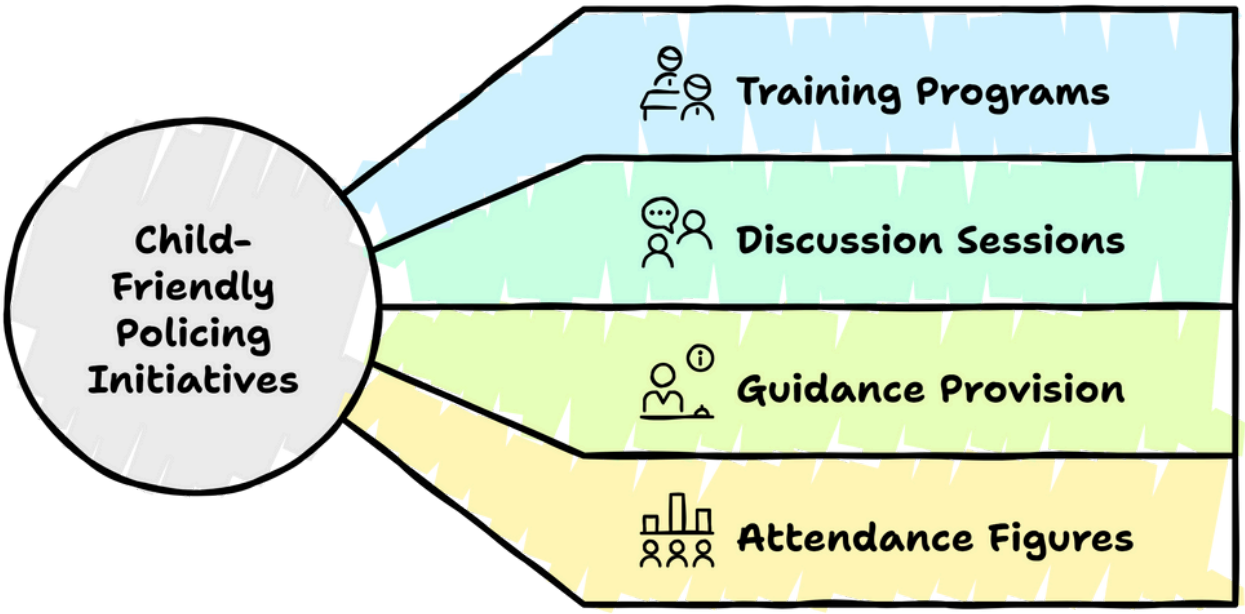
Police are the 'first responders' to any case where a child has been a victim of an offense or has committed an offence themselves. Section 2(15) of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 describes the word child friendly and mandates that all systems function in a 'child friendly manner'. Since 2017, we have set out to, in collaboration with the police department, to operationalise this term and understand/ demonstrate it on ground. We are working with 6 city and 2 railway police stations closely to understand the on ground reality and support the police in improving their work at prevention & response level with children and the community.

Keeping in mind the nature of work, work schedule and load of the police, we hold 'in-police station' sessions covering basics of the law and essential procedures to be followed. We have remained flexible in our approach and reach out to several police personnel in one-to-one discussions using our handy legal flyers. In this way we have been able to explore new forms of capacity building and learning on ground issues from the police.

We focus on generating discussions, sharing case stories. In-service training on child related laws and issues at zonal or district level are usually held for only a handful of the staff from each police station. Through this model, we have attempted to widen the scope and reach of information. Around 1456 new police have been reached out to this year

No	Process for Child Friendly Police	No of activities	Attendance
1	Police Station Visits and Discussion with Police officers related child friendly Police and processes and procedures	Regular	456
2	Meeting and implementation with zonal Officer of Zone 4,5,7,11,12 regarding Child protection and child Friendly police booklet and conducted training with police personnel	3	263
3	VIDHAYAK BHARTI guided Police personnel on child friendly procedures related to Child sexual abuse cases, organised by MSCPCR and Police Headquarter in Thane	2	169

No	Process for Child Friendly Police	No of activities	Attendance
4	Conducted training of Palghar police, child line workers, Child Welfare Committee members on child rights, child protection and child friendly police and Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act, 2015.	3	128
5	19 police stations of Mira - Bhayndar & Vasai - Virar Police – conducted training on Child friendly police and JJ Act, 2015 of police officers	2	245
6	Guided 136 police personnels and Staff working in Courts on **Effective implementation of Manodhairya scheme and Judicial procedures** organised by District legal Aid Authority of Mumbai and Suburban Mumbai	1	136
7	Guided and provided technical support to police personnels, NGO Workers, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile justice Board and others related Child friendly procedures and processes while handling cases	Regular Basis	1456





Police training with Navi Mumbai police department's police officers about Child-Friendly police

During police training, activities are conducted with the police officers





Police training at Police station level with Dahisar police station, Mumbai

Capacity Building of various stakeholders

Capacity building of key stakeholders remains one of the **core focus areas of Vidhayak Bharti's work.** During the reporting year, the organization placed strong emphasis on strengthening the capacity of **police personnel, child care institutions, Childline teams, child protection officials, and allied systems** to ensure a child-friendly, rights-based, and legally compliant response to children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law.

In Mumbai visited all 94 police stations. Held discussions with police personnel about implementing child-friendly procedures. Discussed plans for police training on child-friendly processes. And Collaboration on the creation of awareness materials for distribution across all police zones. Scheduled training sessions for police personnel aiming to enhance awareness and adoption of child-friendly procedures. By collaborating with the Police Department and DLSA, conducted training sessions to enhance the understanding and implementation of the Juvenile Justice (J.J.) Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act among police personnel.

We have been providing technical support where needed in person and over phone (1545 requests).

Also in Palghar District , Vidhayak Bharti organized a comprehensive 3 training workshops for CCI staff on an interval period to enhance their understanding and implementation of case management procedures. This workshop attended by all the current working Child Care Institutions (CCI) staffs, Childline team, Child Welfare Committee (CWC), and District Child Protection Unit (DCPU). The trainings were Led by resource person Santosh Shinde, the sessions focused on critical aspects outlined in Form no. 7, 14, and 45 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015, and State Rule, 2018, approach of professionals which are most important part of case management process, Vidhayak Bharti had conducted the 2 training session for Childline team. Vidhayak Bharti was invited to deliver a training session on for the Child Marriage Prohibition Officer and Gram Sevak/ Child Development Project officer (CDPO) at Collector's Office, Palghar (W)and discussed Current Ground Reality , History of the Act, Child Marriage an issue, Roles and Responsibilities of the governmental entities, Penalties given by law and Prevention Steps to be followed. Vidhayak Bharti held a 3-training session on an interval period for rural Palghar Police, Child Welfare officials and Special Juvenile Police Unit on Online and Offline mode. Also, two days trainings for the first time with the Mira-Bhayandar, Vasai Virar Police on the Juvenile Justice System and the role of police.

Through sustained engagement, structured trainings, and system-level collaboration, Vidhayak Bharti has contributed to **improving institutional capacities, strengthening legal compliance, and promoting child-friendly practices** across multiple child protection stakeholders. These efforts are instrumental in creating a **safer, more responsive, and rights-based child protection system**, and will continue to be a priority area in the coming years.

No	Topic of Capacity building	Attended by	No of activities	Attendance
1	Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection)Act, 2015 and child protection	Law students	5	584
2	Child friendly procedures related children cases organised by UNICEF and Maharashtra Legal aid services authority	Online meeting attended by Judges of DLSA of 36 districts	1	38
3	Implementation of JJ (care & Protection) Act, 2015 and child Friendly role and responsibilities of Judges	Maharashtra Judicial Academy, Uttan	1	28
4	Capacity building of child line staff on case management	Child help line staff	2	28
5	Sangad Training series on JJ (Care and Protection) Act, 2015	Volunteers from Allover Maharashtra	5	79
6	Juvenile Justice System and Role of Police	rural Palghar Police, Child Welfare officials and Special Juvenile Police Unit on Online and Offline mode.	3	178
7	Child Marriage and Current Ground Reality , History of the Act, Child Marriage an issue, Roles and Responsibilities of the governmental entities, Penalties given by law and Prevention Steps to be followed.	Prohibition Officer and Gram Sevak/ Child Development Project officer (CDPO)	1	123

No	Topic of Capacity building	Attended by	No of activities	Attendance
8	**Capacity Building of Probation Officers and CCI Staff:** To strengthen case management quality within institutions byEffective case documentation and reporting, Structured follow-up procedures, Child-friendly communication and engagement	CCI Staff and Probation officer	4	24
9	**Quartly training sessions** with CCI staff which will focus on documentation standards, child-friendly practices, procedural compliance, and effective implementation of **Individual Care Plans (ICP) and Social Investigation Reports (SIRs)**	CCI Staffs and Probation officers	4	45



Training with Chairperson's and Members of CWCs of Maharashtra



Police training with Palghar police department's police officers about Child-Friendly police

Capacity building of Child Help line at Palghar





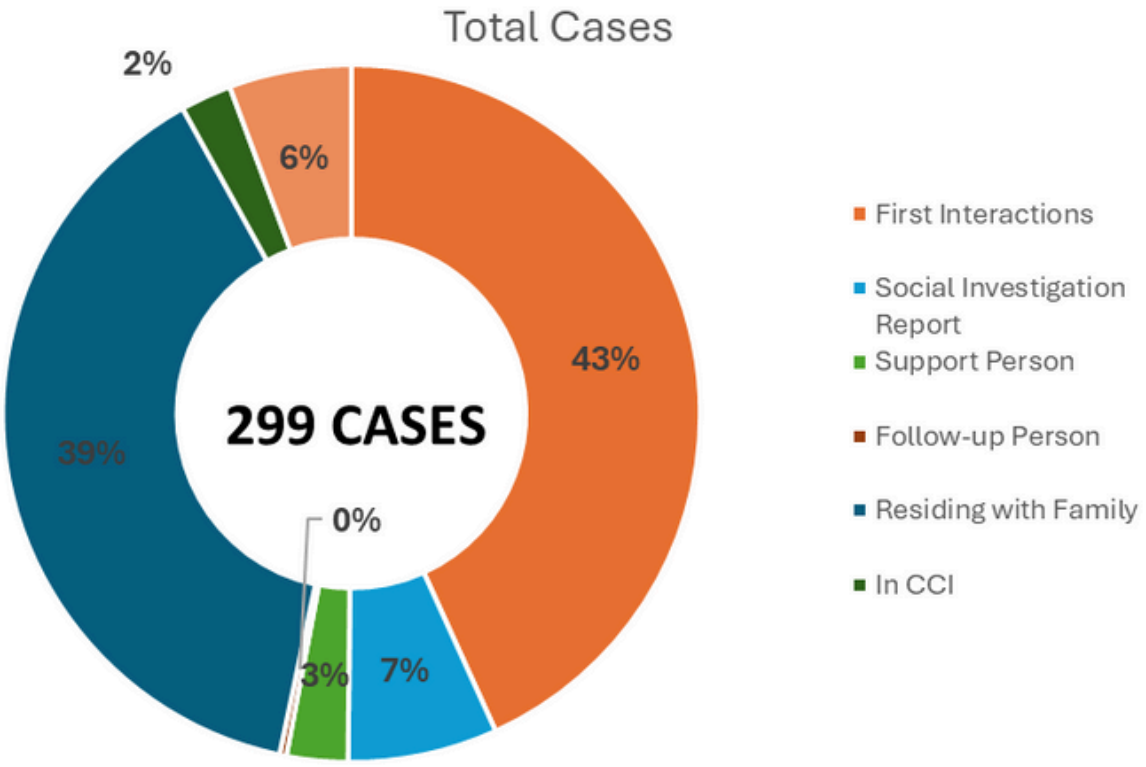
Training with CWCs members of Nashik, Jalgaon, Nandurbar & Dhule also CCI, DCPU

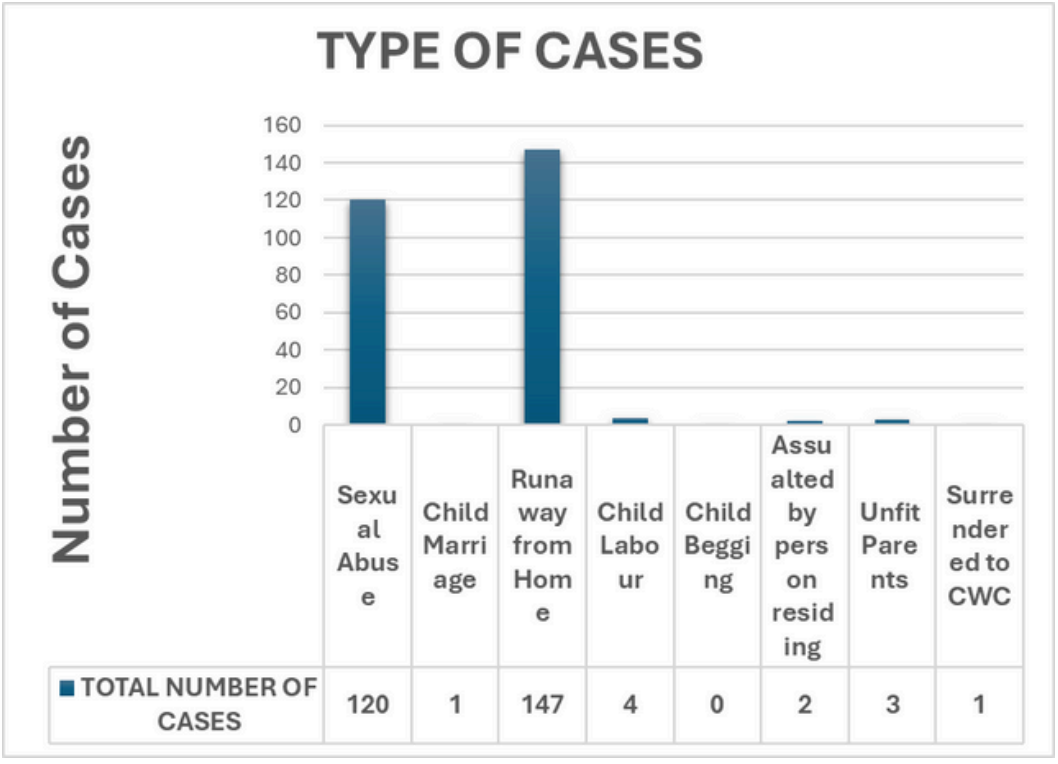
Case Management & strengthening Juvenile Justice

Many marginalized children in Mumbai and across Maharashtra face situations of extreme vulnerability and require care and protection. While institutionalization is often used as an immediate response, Vidhayak Bharti strongly believes that **children belong within safe, nurturing family and community environments**, wherever possible. Children who come in contact with the juvenile justice system frequently encounter barriers in accessing their rights and in achieving healthy psychosocial and economic development.It is extremely crucial that 'child friendly' reflects in the experience of a child in need of state intervention – be it the judiciary or the rehabilitation system. From the incidence, to making the complaint, registering of the offense, the judicial process, interim relief and long term rehabilitation - involves many stakeholders at different levels. Coordination at each stage is key for effective intervention. Vidhayak Bharti works to ensure that children are able to **claim their rights through effective state systems and active civil participation.** Our approach to case management is grounded in strengthening **community support systems, responsible parenting practices, and the juvenile justice system** so that responses to children's needs are timely, child-friendly, and rights-based. This work aligns closely with our core principles of **prevention, participation, protection, and prosecution**, ensuring a holistic child rights framework. During the reporting year, Vidhayak Bharti developed a **comprehensive documentation and case management system** to ensure consistency, accountability, and quality in child-related interventions. A structured **Management Information System (MIS)** was created, including: Stakeholder tracking sheets, Case intake and case status tracking sheets, Standardized formats for home visit reports, case fact sheets, follow-up reports, meeting reports, and other field visit documentation. These tools strengthened systematic case tracking, improved coordination with statutory authorities, and ensured continuity in follow-ups and decision-making processes. Vidhayak Bharti actively engaged in **case management of children referred by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC)** during the year. The process began with **initial interactions with children facing difficult and vulnerable circumstances**, aimed at understanding their safety, emotional well-being, family context, and immediate needs.Based on these interactions, the CWC issued **Social Investigation Reports (SIRs)**, which provided critical assessments and recommendations guiding further interventions. In several cases—particularly those involving child sexual abuse—**Support Person Orders** were issued under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015. Additionally, **Follow-Up Person Orders** were received to ensure continuous monitoring and post-restoration support for children, preventing re-victimization and system re-entry. Vidhayak Bharti played a key role in implementing these orders by providing psychosocial support, coordinating with families, engaging with schools and service providers, and maintaining regular follow-ups with statutory bodies.

Coordination with CWC and Juvenile Justice Board (JJB): Vidhayak Bharti also held **regular coordination meetings with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB).**

These meetings facilitated clarity on roles, improved case-related communication, and strengthened collaborative decision-making to ensure that interventions remained aligned with the best interests of the child. Through structured case management systems, continuous engagement with statutory authorities, and capacity building of institutional stakeholders, Vidhayak Bharti has strengthened the **quality, consistency, and child-centricity of responses** within the juvenile justice framework. These efforts contribute to safeguarding children's rights, promoting family-based care, and ensuring that children receive the protection and support necessary for their holistic development.





Community Participation in child Right and Child Protection

Community participation is a critical pillar of Vidhayak Bharti's child protection approach. We believe that children are best protected when families, community members, and local institutions actively participate in identifying risks, preventing harm, and responding to child rights violations.

During the year, Vidhayak Bharti strengthened village- and community-level mechanisms by engaging schools, parents, community leaders, teachers, women's groups, and youth to create awareness on child rights, child marriage, child labour, and the importance of education. Regular community meetings, counselling sessions, and awareness activities helped communities recognize early warning signs and take timely preventive action. The organization promoted collaboration between communities and statutory systems such as Child Welfare Committees, Childline, police, and schools, enabling smoother referrals and follow-ups. By empowering communities with knowledge and linking them to formal child protection services, Vidhayak Bharti contributed to building locally owned, sustainable child protection mechanisms that place children's safety, dignity, and best interests at the center.

BMC day program at Cooper Hospital





Meeting in collector office at Palghar

Strengthening Systems

This year too we continued and expanded our work in 3 districts of Palghar, Nandurbar and Raigad and Thane focusing on strengthening of implementation of Integration Child Protection Services (ICPS) Scheme at district level. In this endeavour, we focus on district level stakeholders of child protection – from district child protection unit (DCPU) police, special juvenile police unit (SJPU), child welfare committees (CWC), juvenile justice board (JJB), child Care Institutions, PRI systems, Village and Ward level child Protection committees and overall district administration (collector office for example) and work on orienting, sensitising, and bringing them together on various child issues and working on building an effective environment of child protection

Awareness building on Child Rights and Child Protection

Awareness building on child rights and child protection is a key strategy of Vidhayak Bharti to prevent violations and strengthen community and institutional responses. During the year, the organization conducted structured awareness activities across urban, rural, and tribal areas to enhance understanding of children's rights, legal protections, and available support systems. Vidhayak Bharti engaged **children, parents, teachers, community leaders, women's groups, adolescents, and frontline workers** through community meetings, school-based sessions, village-level discussions, and targeted campaigns. Key themes included the **rights of children under the Juvenile Justice Act**, prevention of **child marriage and child labour**, protection from **abuse and exploitation**, importance of **education**, and mechanisms for reporting and accessing support services such as **Childline (1098), CWCs, and police.** Special emphasis was placed on empowering communities to identify early warning signs of risk, respond appropriately, and collaborate with statutory systems. Through sustained awareness efforts, communities demonstrated improved reporting, increased school enrolment and retention, greater resistance to child marriage, and stronger engagement with child protection institutions. These initiatives contributed to creating a **protective environment where children's safety, dignity, and best interests are prioritized**, reinforcing Vidhayak Bharti's commitment to prevention, participation, and protection of child rights.



Children's rally for awareness about child marriage and Child labour

Nandurbar : Child Protection through Education

During the year, Vidhayak Bharti strengthened village- and community-level mechanisms across **20 villages in Dhadgaon block**, addressing issues of school dropout, child labour, child marriage, and socio-economic vulnerability among tribal families.

Child population (0-18 years)			Child population (6-14 years)			Child population (15-18 years)			Adolescent (10-18 years)		
B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
5198	**5011**	**10209**	**2812**	**2793**	**5605**	**1038**	**865**	**1903**	**2327**	**2081**	**4408**

The project reached a **child population of 10,209 (0–18 years)**, including **5,605 children (6–14 years)** and **1,903 adolescents (15–18 years)**. Through sustained community engagement, awareness meetings, counselling sessions, and collaboration with **CBOs, Mahila Mandals, VCPCs, and School Management Committees (SMCs)**, communities were sensitized on child rights, the importance of education, and the harmful impacts of child labour and child marriage.A key outcome of strong community participation was the **prevention of 1,655 out of 1,669 (99%) identified high-risk child marriages**. While 14 cases occurred due to adolescent elopement, there has been a **steady decline in child marriage incidences over the last three years**, reflecting positive shifts in community attitudes and parental decision-making.The initiative also focused on mainstreaming children engaged in labour back into education, despite complex social and economic challenges. Adolescents were supported through **life skills education**, benefiting **1,584 girls** across **142 groups**, enhancing their decision-making, communication, and problem-solving abilities. Vidhayak Bharti further strengthened family resilience by linking vulnerable households to **social security schemes** such as MGNREGS, PDS, livelihood programs, and crop insurance. Additionally, **4,013 adolescent girls** were connected to education and welfare schemes including Savitribai Phule Yojana, Palanhar Yojana, SC/ST scholarships, and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya. Through regular village meetings, home visits, and school–community coordination in villages such as Harankhuri, Mandvi, Borvan, and Chondwada, communities increasingly took ownership of child protection. Parents, Panchayat members, and SMCs actively promoted school enrolment and worked collectively to create a **local safety net that prioritizes children's education, protection, and wellbeing.**

In Nandurbar district, particularly in Dhadgaon tehsil, VIDHAYAK BHARTI, with the support of CRY (Child Rights & You), has played a strategic role in **strengthening child protection and education systems** across 20 tribal villages of the Dhadgaon block. The initiative focused on addressing systemic drivers of school dropout, child labour, and child marriage through coordinated, multi-stakeholder engagement. The program worked closely with key government systems, including the **Education Department, Gram Panchayats, Department of Women and Child Development, Health Department, Police Department, and Village Child Protection Committees (VCPCs),** to improve

identification, referral, and response mechanisms for children at risk. By strengthening community-based vigilance and institutional coordination, the initiative contributed to the **prevention of 99% of identified at-risk child marriages among adolescent girls** and supported the **rescue and reintegration of child labourers into formal education**, reinforcing the right to education. As an **active member of the District Child Protection Committee (DCPC)**, VIDHAYAK BHARTI consistently raised and advocated on critical issues related to child marriage and child labour, contributing to improved district-level dialogue, accountability, and convergence among departments. The program also emphasized **strengthening school systems** by collaborating with schools to create child-friendly, inclusive, and welcoming learning environments. Efforts were made to identify and address structural and social barriers leading to dropout and non-enrolment, thereby improving retention and continuity in education. This systemic approach ensured that prevention, protection, and rehabilitation efforts were embedded within existing governance structures, enhancing sustainability and long-term impact.

Activities with children's group at Dhadgaon





Session with Children at BRC, Dhadgaon, Nandurbar

Strengthening the juvenile justice system in the MMRDA region supported by ISHIJAS foundation

The Fresh Start initiative focused on **strengthening the juvenile justice system in the MMRDA region supported by ISHIJAS foundation** by enhancing institutional capacities, standardising case management processes, and improving coordination among key stakeholders. The program aimed to promote a **child-friendly, rights-based juvenile justice framework** that ensures consistent, timely, and quality responses for children in contact with the law and children in need of care and protection. Through structured case management interventions, the initiative supported **54 child cases (CNCP and CICL)** across Observation Homes and Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in Mumbai. Learnings from these cases were systematically used to strengthen practice standards and inform institutional improvements. VIDHAYAK BHARTI facilitated **regular capacity-building and orientation programmes** for Probation Officers, Child Welfare Committee (CWC) members, and CCI staff, with a focus on roles under the JJ Act, child-friendly procedures, inter-departmental coordination, and accountability mechanisms. To institutionalise good practices, the project developed and promoted a **standardised system for case documentation, monitoring, and follow-up**, supporting greater consistency and continuity across institutions. The initiative also strengthened **legal and psychosocial support mechanisms** within the system by facilitating child-sensitive engagement during police and court processes. This contributed to improved coordination between justice, care, and protection institutions, reduced procedural gaps, and more informed decision-making in the best interests of the child.



Parents session on positive parenting

Child Safety Net Programme – Palghar District, supported by the Azim Premji Foundation

This program is focused on **strengthening the child protection ecosystem in Palghar district** by institutionalising structured case management practices and enhancing inter-agency coordination. The initiative aimed to improve the system's ability to prevent harm, respond effectively to child protection concerns, and ensure continuity of care in line with child rights and statutory frameworks. Through the management of 299 above **child protection cases**, the project functioned as a **demonstration and capacity-building model**, integrating psycho-social, medical, legal, and educational interventions within existing government and community systems. Close collaboration with the **Child Welfare Committee (CWC), police, Child Care Institutions (CCIs), and community-based stakeholders** strengthened referral pathways, decision-making processes, and accountability mechanisms. Targeted **capacity-building workshops for police personnel, teachers, and frontline workers** enhanced understanding of child-friendly procedures, early identification of risk, and coordinated response protocols. Regular case reviews and follow-up mechanisms supported **safe and sustainable reintegration of children** into family-based care or appropriate alternative care arrangements, reinforcing the system's ability to ensure long-term protection rather than short-term relief.

Some of the photogrphs:



Law related training session for stakholdres at Palghar

Strengthening the local sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and family planning (FP) delivery ecosystem in Mahad, Raigad, supported by Samhita (Collective Goods Foundation)

This initiative focused on **strengthening the local sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and family planning (FP) delivery ecosystem** in Mahad, Raigad, supported by Samhita (Collective Goods Foundation) by enhancing frontline capacity, community-based referral systems, and access to reliable health information for young women. The project strengthened public health outreach by **building the capacities of 55 ASHA workers**, trained as Swasthya sakhi, to deliver informed counselling, conduct basic screenings using diagnostic kits, and leverage digital tools for tracking, referrals, and follow-up. This contributed to improved last-mile service delivery and stronger linkages between communities and formal healthcare providers. To deepen community ownership and sustainability, the initiative established a **cadre of 30 Women's Health Champions**, who functioned as peer educators and referral facilitators. These champions supported demand generation, early help-seeking behaviour, and continuity of care by connecting women to appropriate SRH/FP services within the existing health system.The project also institutionalised **training and digital learning modules**, along with structured outreach campaigns, to strengthen knowledge systems around contraception, menstrual hygiene, nutrition, and financial literacy. By embedding information dissemination and counselling within community and frontline health structures, the initiative enhanced the system's ability to reach and serve **3,000 women aged 19–29** in underserved communities. Following are some of the photos of above processes.



Training with Health workers

Strengthening school-level WASH and hygiene systems

The initiative focused on **strengthening school-level WASH and hygiene systems** in two urban government-aided schools—Children Public School and Niwara Vidyalay—by integrating infrastructure improvements with capacity building, behaviour change mechanisms, and institutional accountability with support of Samhita and Eureka Forbes. The project addressed systemic gaps in **sanitation, safe drinking water, and menstrual hygiene management (MHM)** through the renovation of toilet facilities, installation of **RO+UV water purification systems**, and establishment of dedicated, safe MHM spaces. These interventions were designed to align with school standards and promote sustained operation and maintenance within the school system.To institutionalise hygiene practices, **teachers were trained as key implementers of hygiene education**, enabling regular, curriculum-linked sessions on handwashing, menstrual health, and personal hygiene. **Structured weekly awareness drives** were introduced to embed behaviour change within routine school processes rather than as one-time activities. By combining infrastructure, capacity building, and behaviour change, the initiative strengthened the schools' ability to provide a **safe, inclusive, and child-friendly learning environment**. Improved attendance among girls, better handwashing practices, and enhanced overall school health reflected the project's success in creating **sustainable WASH systems within schools**, rather than stand-alone improvements. Following are some of the photos of processes and work done



Resources created

Every year we try our best to come out with as much multimedia material in Marathi especially to ensure maximum reach of the principles, information and ideas of juvenile justice, child rights & child protection.

We put out our content under the Creative Commons License for free use and dissemination accessible at www.vidhayakbharti.org/resources/

We were pleased to find out that some of our material in PDF formats were being circulated in department trainings on child protection. A government school teacher in rural Amravati, who was the appointed Bal Rakshak, shared with us our own Child Protection Committee booklet as a resource! In other instances, we had some police personnel tell us that they used our videos to prepare for their exams. We feel happy the way the information is spreading as the aim was always to make them as accessible as possible.

This year alone we came out with 27 new videos, 30 posters, 4 new flyers, a new edition of the Child Friendly Police Booklet



Awarness program at Dhadgaon with help of local play call 'Songadya'

Advocacy & Research

Advocacy and research are integral to Vidhayak Bharti's mission of strengthening child protection systems and ensuring that children's rights are upheld in policy and practice. The organization believes that **evidence-based advocacy,** grounded in field realities, is essential to influence systemic change and improve the effectiveness of child protection mechanisms.

During the year, Vidhayak Bharti actively engaged with **government departments, statutory authorities, judiciary-linked institutions, and civil society platforms** to advocate for child-friendly, rights-based approaches within the juvenile justice and child protection systems. Drawing from extensive case management experience, the organization highlighted gaps in implementation of the **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2015, POCSO Act,** and related rules, particularly in areas of police response, institutional care, and post-restoration follow-up.

Vidhayak Bharti contributed to dialogues and consultations with **Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), District Child Protection Units (DCPUs), police leadership, and legal services authorities**, advocating for improved coordination, standardized documentation, and consistent use of Social Investigation Reports (SIRs) and Individual Care Plans (ICPs). The organization also supported awareness and advocacy efforts aimed at strengthening prevention of child marriage, child labour, and school dropout at district and community levels.

Vidhayak Bharti has played a significant role in **legal advocacy**, including contributing to public interest efforts that strengthened enforcement of child rights provisions under existing laws. The organization's advocacy work reinforces accountability within state systems and promotes the child's best interest as a central principle in decision-making.

Research at Vidhayak Bharti is **practice-oriented and action-driven**, rooted in insights from case management, community interventions, and system-level engagement. During the year, the organization systematically documented trends related to child marriage, child labour, school dropout, and institutional responses to children in need of care and protection.

Field learnings were translated into **case studies, analytical notes, and training content,** which informed capacity-building programs for police, CCIs, Childline teams, and community stakeholders. Data generated through MIS systems and case tracking tools supported evidence-based planning, monitoring, and advocacy.

Knowledge Sharing and Learning Vidhayak Bharti actively shared learnings from research and field experience through **trainings, workshops, stakeholder consultations, and advocacy platforms**, contributing to collective learning within the child protection sector. These efforts strengthened institutional practices and encouraged replication of effective models.

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) by partner Vidhayak Bharti: Based on Vidhayak Bharti's PIL in Mumbai High Court, the honorable High Court had struck down a Maharashtra government notification that provided exemptions to private schools from reserving 25% of their seats for EWS (Economically Weaker Section) students if a government or aided school was located within a one-kilometer radius. The High Court's decision was upheld by Supreme Court reinforcing the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, which mandates that 25% of the seats at the entry level (Class 1 or pre-primary) in private unaided schools must be reserved for children from economically weaker and disadvantaged sections. These students are entitled to free education, with the government reimbursing their tuition fees to the schools.



The Road Ahead

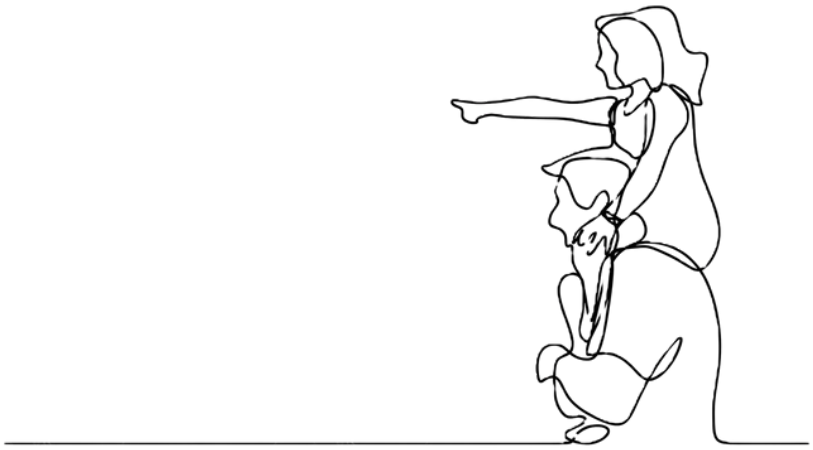
As Vidhayak Bharti moves forward, the organization remains committed to strengthening child protection systems and ensuring that every child grows up in a safe, nurturing, and rights-respecting environment. Building on the learnings and impact of the past year, our future strategy will focus on **deepening community ownership, strengthening institutional capacities, and advancing evidence-based advocacy.**

At the **community level**, Vidhayak Bharti will continue to invest in preventive approaches by strengthening Village Child Protection Committees (VCPCs), School Management Committees (SMCs), Mahila Mandals, and youth groups. Greater emphasis will be placed on adolescent empowerment, mental health, life skills, and career pathways to address emerging vulnerabilities and reduce risks of child marriage, child labour, and school dropout.

Within the **juvenile justice and child protection systems**, the organization will expand structured **case management support**, strengthen MIS and documentation practices, and institutionalize regular capacity-building programs for police, Child Care Institutions, Childline teams, Probation Officers, and statutory authorities. Special focus will be given to promoting **family-based care**, effective implementation of Social Investigation Reports (SIRs) and Individual Care Plans (ICPs), and sustained post-restoration follow-up.

On the **advocacy and research front**, Vidhayak Bharti will enhance practice-based research, generate evidence from field experiences, and engage more strategically with policymakers, legal institutions, and state authorities. The organization aims to contribute to policy dialogue on child-friendly policing, alternatives to institutionalization, prevention of child marriage, and improved inter-departmental coordination.

Vidhayak Bharti will also seek to **expand partnerships** with government agencies, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and CSR partners to scale successful models and reach more vulnerable children and families. By combining prevention, protection, participation, and prosecution, the organization will continue working towards a **robust, child-centric protection ecosystem** that upholds children's rights and dignity.



We can’t do it without you

As our work grows and our team, we are now focussed on running the Child Resource Centres in Dhadgaon Taluka, Nandurbar. We aim to create a safe, learning environment for the children and young people of these tribal villages so that these children can be protected from issues like school push-out and early marriages.
If you wish to contribute to helping us build and improve the environment of these centres, **you can donate to:**

Vidhayak Bharti
Account No.: 34753067976
IFSC Code: SBIN0006055
Branch: Gokuldham (Goregaon-E)

If you wish to contribute your time, skills and expertise to our work and to child protection, head on over to our website www.vidhayakbharti.org and check out the ‘Get Involved: Volunteer’ page there. Look forward to you joining our journey!



Training session at Mahad with Health workers

Acknowledgement

Vidhayak Bharti extends its sincere gratitude to all individuals, institutions, and partners whose support and collaboration made our work during the year possible. We are deeply thankful to the **children, adolescents, families, and community members** who placed their trust in us and actively participated in building safer and more supportive environments for children.

We express our heartfelt appreciation to the **Government of Maharashtra**, particularly the **Department of Women and Child Development, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, District Child Protection Units, Childline teams, Police Departments**, and **Legal Services Authorities**, for their cooperation and continued engagement in strengthening child protection systems.

We are grateful to our **funding partners and donors** for their invaluable financial and technical support, which enabled us to implement impactful programmes across diverse geographies. We also acknowledge the contributions of our **civil society partners, community-based organizations, Mahila Mandals, School Management Committees, Panchayats, and local leaders**, whose grassroots efforts were instrumental in creating sustainable change.

Our sincere thanks to the **Vidhayak Bharti team members**, field staff, volunteers, and resource persons for their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to child rights. Their tireless efforts continue to drive meaningful impact on the ground.

Together, with shared vision and collective action, we move closer to a future where every child grows up with dignity, safety, and opportunity.

Our Co-travelers

CRY,
UNICEF,
Azim Premji Foundation,
ISHIJAS Foundation,
Ambabai Devasthan, Goregaon,
Department of Women and Child,
Children's Aid Society,
State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights,
YASHADA,
District Legal Aid Services Authority,
Child Welfare Committees,
Juvenile Justice Board,
Home Department,
Special Juvenile Police Units,
Education Department,
District Administration of Nandurbar and Palghar,
DWCD Officers,
SAMHITA (CGF),
DCPU (Nandurbar),
Yusuf Mehar Ali School, Tardeo,
Railway Children,
TISS

Compliances:	
Registration Certificates (Trust and Society)	Yes
Trust Deed	Yes
Last 3 years audited financial statements (with all schedules & annexes)	Yes
80-G Exemption Certificate	Yes
PAN card copy	Yes
TAN card copy	Yes
FCRA Certificate	N.A.
12-A Certificate	Yes
CSR Certificate	Yes
Darpan ID	Yes
All documents are available for perusal on www.vidhayakbharti.org/legal-documents/	



Annexure: 1

Schedule VIII (Vide Rule 17 (1)
[Vide Rule 17(1)]
VIDHAYAK BHARTI
REGISTRATION NO. - F-42338 Mumbai

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH, 2025

FUNDS & LIABILITIES	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	PROPERTY & ASSETS	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
Trust Funds or Corpus			**Immovable Properties**		-
Balance as per last balance sheet	334,700		(Suitable classified giving mode of valuation)		
Addition during the year	8,500	343,200	Additions or Deductions (including those for depreciation). If any during the year		
Other Earmarked Funds			**Investments**		-
(Created under the provision of the trust-deed or Scheme or out of the					
Depreciation Fund	-		(Suitably classified giving mode of valuation)		
Reserve Fund	-				
Sinking Fund	-		**Fixed Assets (Furniture & Fixtures, etc)**		
Any other Fund	-	-	Balance as per Last Balance Sheet	204,914	
			Additions	35,000	
			Deductions	66,051	173,864
Loans (Secured/Unsecured)					
From Trustees	-		**Loans (Secured or Unsecured)**		
From Others	-	-	Good/Doubtful	-	
			Loan Scholarships	-	
			Other Loans	-	-
Liabilities					
For Expenses					
For Provision of Audit Fees	-		**Advances**		
For Advances	-		To Trustees	-	
For Rent & Other Deposits	-		To Employees	-	
For Sundry Credit Balances	-	-	To Contractor	-	
			To Lawyers	-	
			To Others - Profession Tax	1,400	1,400
Income and Expenditure Account					
Balance as per last Balance Sheet	1,254,402		**Income Outstanding**		
Less:- Appropriation, if any	2,200		Rent	-	
Add:- Surplus	716,825		Interest	-	
Less:- Deficit	-	1,973,427	Grant Receivable - CRY Programme - Ujwal	-	-
			Cash and Bank Balances		
			In Bank Account	-	
			(In Fixed Deposit Account)	-	
			With the Trustees	-	
			With the Managers	-	
			As per Schedule (Cash & Bank)	2,141,363	2,141,363
Total		2,316,627	Total		2,316,627

The above Balance Sheet to the best of my belief contains a true account of the Funds & Liabilities and of the Property and Assets of the Trust.

FOR M A SINGH & CO
Chartered Accountants
FRN :- 160570W

Megha Agraj Singh – Proprietor
Membership No. 625341
Place: Mumbai
Date: 09/09/2025

FOR AND ON BELHALF OF THE TRUSTEES OF VIDHAYAK BHARTI

Mr. Rangnath Satavase
Chairperson
Place: Mumbai
Date: 09/09/2025

Mr. Santosh Shinde
Secretary

Mr. Sudhakar Kambale
Treasurer

M A SINGH & CO FRN: 160570W CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

VIDHAYAK BHARTI F-42338

Annexure: 2

VIDHAYAK BHARTI
REGISTRATION NO. - F-42338 Mumbai

RECEIPT AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH, 2025

RECEIPT	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	PAYMENT	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
To Balance b/d:					
Cash in Hand	11,570		By Professional Fees	300,000	
Cash in Bank	1,380,618	1,392,188	By Salaries	4,858,400	
			By Repair & Maintenance	38,326	
			By Printing & Stationery	5,785	
To Grants			By Rent	588,000	
CRY - Child Rights & You	2,952,950		By Office & Admin Expenses	330,418	
Ishijas Chemical Pvt Ltd	2,500,000		By Program Exp.	1,885,131	
Azim Premji Foundation	1,509,000		By Travelling Exp.	398,462	
Collective Good Foundation - Swasthya Saathi	1,006,000		By Telephone & Internet	40,801	
Collective Good Foundation - WOHLA	1,120,000	9,087,950	By Bank Charges	591	
			By PT Late Fees	1,000	
			By Audit Fees	50,000	
To Other Donations Received		137,200	By Profession Tax paid	31,200	
To Donation Received as Corpus		8,500	By New Laptop	35,000	
To Bank Interest Received		99,412	By PTEC	5,000	8,568,114
			By Interest paid		
			CRY - Nandurbar		15,772
			By Balance b/d:		
			Cash in Hand	5,096	
			Cash in Bank	2,136,268	2,141,364
TOTAL		10,725,250	TOTAL		10,725,250

FOR M A SINGH & CO
Chartered Accountants
FRN :- 160570W

Megha Agraj Singh – Proprietor
Membership No. 625341
Place: Mumbai
Date: 09/09/2025

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES OF VIDHAYAK BHARTI

Mr. Rangnath Satavase
Chairperson
Place: Mumbai
Date: 09/09/2025

Mr. Santosh Shinde
Secretary

Mr. Sudhakar Kambale
Treasurer

M A SINGH & CO FRN: 160570W

VIDHAYAK BHARTI F-42338

Our Contact Information :

Regd Office: Vidhayak Bharti, c/o Santosh Shinde,
Plot No. 5/1, 11/B/11, Vishakha Society, Nagari Nivara Complex,
Goregaon (East), Mumbai 400065

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School, Near Tulsiwadi Post Office, Tardeo,
Mumbai Central (West), Mumbai 400034

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