



RED-LIGHT AREA MAPPING: FALKLAND ROAD

2022

About Prerana

Prerana is a civil society organization that started working in the Red-Light Areas (RLA) of Mumbai in 1986 first with a view to eliminate inter-generational trafficking i.e. trafficking of the children of the sex trafficked prostituted women, into the sex trade, its allied activities or exploitative labour. To achieve this, we at Prerana evolved several pathbreaking interventions, piloted them, and created a success story out of each intervention, and disseminated them widely to facilitate their mainstreaming. To address the issues faced by the prostituted women in the RLAs, we expanded the scope of our interventions to fight the violence perpetrated against them and to protect their legal and human rights.

About Falkland Road

The Falkland Road Red Light Area (RLA) is situated on a single street comprising of narrow and short bylanes. The main road (named P.B. Marg) is lined with buildings that consists of brothel-like establishments. Much like Kamathipura, in the Falkland Road RLA, the buildings contain numerous establishments that look like brothels as shown in popular media. These units are brothel-like establishments that are old and have extremely dilapidated infrastructure. Their walls and staircases are stained and covered in red-coloured *paan* stains (sputum thrown after chewing betel nut), which is a common habit among residents and visitors in the area.

The brothel buildings are juxtaposed in line with each brothel housing on an average of 15 women in a compact space of approximately 12'x7' or 80 sq. ft area. Each brothel has an average of two to four 4'x 6' beds. These beds are what the women use as their space for *dhandha* (attending to their customers) as they call it, and their home for both them and their children. The beds are separated by just a thin tattered sheet of linen.

The brothels are interspersed with a variety of shops – from restaurants to *paan*-cigarette joints and liquor stores. The area also has quacks (unlicensed medical practitioners) mostly claiming to be specialised in treating sexually transmitted diseases. Previously, it also housed several video parlours that openly played X-rated films, and would also supply X-rated films, video players, (and TV sets, if needed) to the brothels on demand. These have now been joined by the newer establishments like saree shops and scrap metal units. At night, the Kamathipura RLA is swarmed by a large number of unfamiliar faces seeking sex with the prostituted women and transgenders of the area.

Falkland Road, being very close to the commercial heart of Mumbai, has caught the attention of the fast-growing commercial establishments in the city, the construction sector and the land mafia. It has been seen widely that as the city grows, so grows the sex trade. Since the traditional RLAs in Mumbai have severe limits to their spatial expansion, the sex trade grows by dispersal in smaller blocks. Due to Falkland Road's geographical proximity to the heart of the city, there is a natural change of hands from brothels to other legitimate commercial establishments in the recent years. Since 2007, Prerana has noticed that while the total volume of the sex trade is believed to have increased in the city of Mumbai, the volume of the localised sex trade in the RLAs has certainly decreased.

What is a brothel?

*According to the **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956**, a “brothel” includes any house, room, [conveyance] or place or any portion of any house, room, [conveyance] or place, which is used for purposes [of sexual exploitation or abuse] for the gain of another person or for the mutual gain of two or more prostitutes.*

Some of Prerana's Flagship Interventions and Services in the RLAs for Child Protection and to Stem Violence Against Women

Night Care Centres (NCC)

The Night Care Centre program was initiated as a response to an expressed need for the safety and well-being of the children of the prostituted women. Located in/near the red-light area, the NCC is a safe shelter where children are taken care of so that they are de-linked from the traumatising influences of the happenings in the red-light areas during the dangerous night hours while their mothers are made to entertain customers. The NCC provides services such as – protected shelter, safe sleeping place, responsible adult supervision, wholesome nutrition, access to hygienic toilets and bathrooms, constructive recreation on a daily basis, and other periodic but regular services such as health check-ups, referrals, mental health support, education support, safe play options, along with opportunities for skills development, awareness sessions, and an overall platform for holistic personality development and growth.

The NCCs have a comprehensive nutrition and health component that adopts a holistic approach. Carefully planned nutritious meals are served four times a day (six times during Prerana's Summer Camp) to the children. Health and medical services follow a systematic process including a complete general health check-up, periodic follow-ups, and end-to-end support for the management of specific medical conditions.

Apart from this, our teams managing the NCC also work to ensure that the children have their personal Identity Documents like birth certificates, school bona fide document and other social protection Eligibility Documents like Aadhaar cards and ration cards. They also ensure that children have access to public services like public distribution systems (PDS). They hold meetings with the mothers on various issues and concerns related to their children's health, education and overall wellbeing. At present, Prerana runs three NCCs located in/near the red-light areas of Kamathipura, Falkland Road, and Vashi-Turbhe Stores.

Institutional Placement Programme (IPP)

IPP was evolved in consultation with the prostituted mothers in the red-light areas. Some mothers approached us saying that their children aren't safe in the brothels. In some cases children

expressed their safety concerns themselves. In certain other cases, it was the terminal illness of the mother. In some cases the cause of the mother's death necessitates Prerana social workers to refer the child to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and they are then placed into appropriate Child Care Institutions (CCIs). The mothers want to de-link their children from the traumatising impact of the RLAs and place them in other safe places for residential care and protection. While we firmly believe that a child must grow in a family and institutionalisation should be the last resort, the fact is that the family structure for these children is different. Their surroundings in the RLA are often unsafe for them, and their mothers are themselves struggling to fight violence. In such a situation, institutionalisation serves as the last resort. At present, the IPP is a structured intervention that involves collaborations with the government and non-government services, and child protection systems to ensure successful protection, rehabilitation and social reintegration of children in need of care and protection. The IPP program reaches out and supports children and mothers, and is run across all the three red-light areas we work in.

Educational Support Programme (ESP)

ESP is an intervention that caters to all educational needs of children living with their mothers in the Red Light Areas, and also those whose mothers have moved out of the red Light Areas and are still in the sex trade. ESP focusses on curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities. The team keeps a track of the progress made by the children at their respective educational institutions by visiting their schools and colleges regularly. They also actively follow up with the mothers, involve, encourage and support them to participate in their children's educational progress. Besides this, the program team organizes study classes during the evening hours wherein qualified teachers provide support to school/college-going students in their studies and project work. Prerana also collaborates with other donors to provide educational scholarships for students who want to pursue advanced or professional degrees, and to those students who have to pay school/tuition/extra coaching fees. This program is deployed at all the Prerana NCCs through a dedicated team of social workers, teachers, and other resource persons.

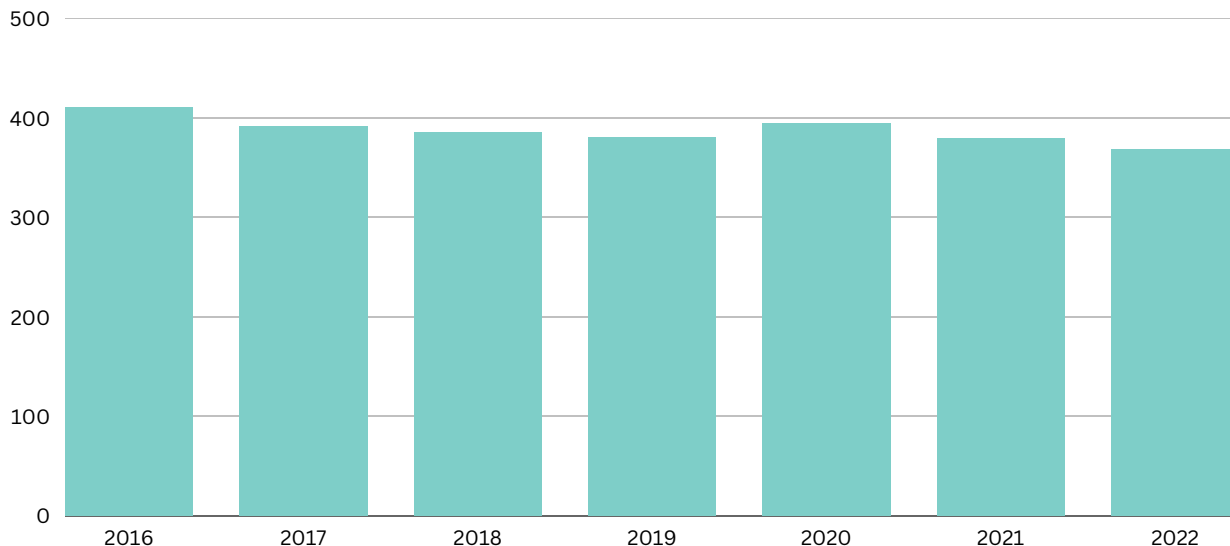


About Red-Light Area (RLA) Mapping

Over the years, Prerana has witnessed significant changes in the RLAs. Since 2011, Prerana has been routinely mapping the RLAs of Kamathipura and Falkland Road and since the year 2016, the RLAs of Vashi-Turbhe. Through this exercise, the team of Prerana's social workers has identified the changing structures and dynamics of the RLAs. Understanding this is crucial for planning welfare and developmental services and strategies. The annual mapping is undertaken in the months of February and March in the RLAs where Prerana's NCC services are being provided. Through this document, we hope to indicate the changes in the RLA of Falkland Road, in 2021-22.

BROTHELS

Between April 2021-March 2022, the following numbers have been observed:



Dwindling number of brothels in Falkland Road over the past seven years

- 23 buildings in Falkland Road were covered in the 2021-22 RLA Community Mapping exercise. Within these buildings, 368 brothels are functioning, as of April 2021-March 2022.
- During this time, **20 brothels closed in the RLA while 9 formerly closed brothels have opened up.**

COMMERCIAL AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS

1. Grocers, Food Stalls etc.



Restaurants and Tea Stalls

26



Liquor Store

3

Beer Bar

5



Ration Shops

3

Grocers (Kirana)

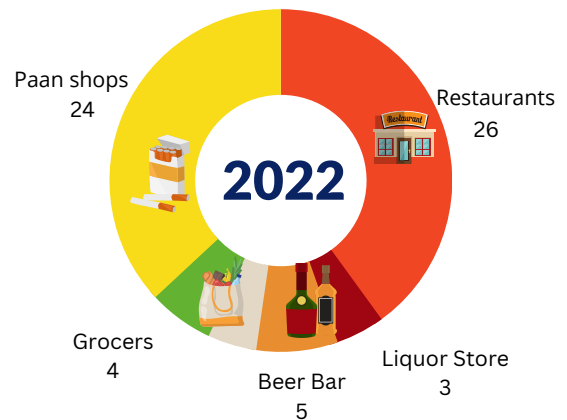
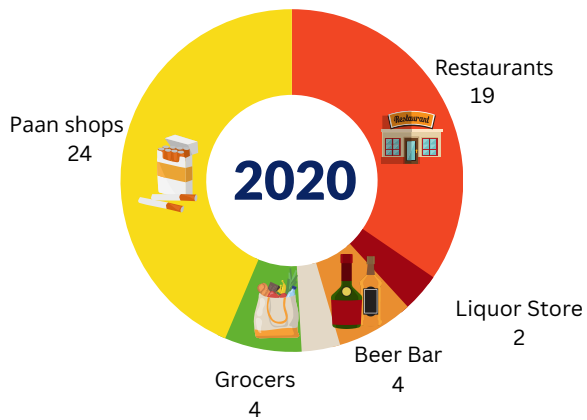
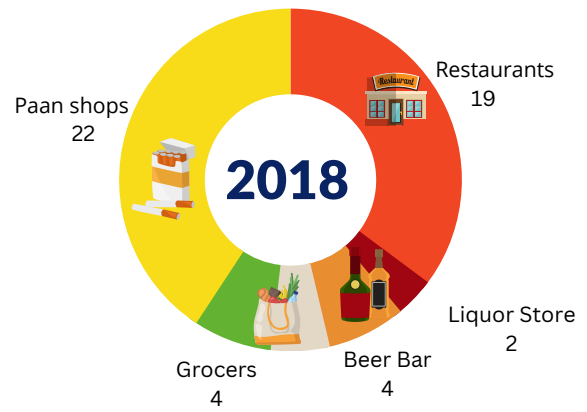
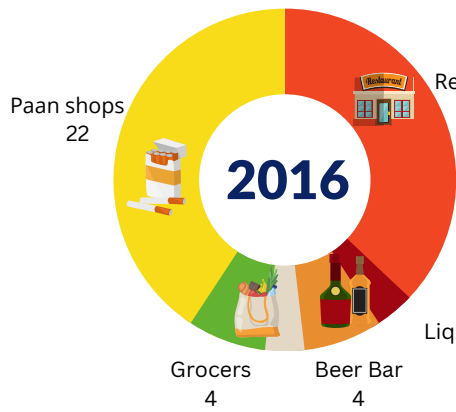
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Paan/ Bidi Shops

24

- No new grocers, food stalls, or liquor stores have opened or closed in the area during the period of 2021-22.



The Changing Landscape of Commercial Establishments in the Area Over the Past Years

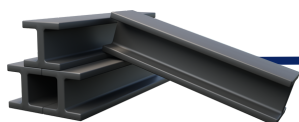


2. Manufacturing Units



Saadi Waala

89



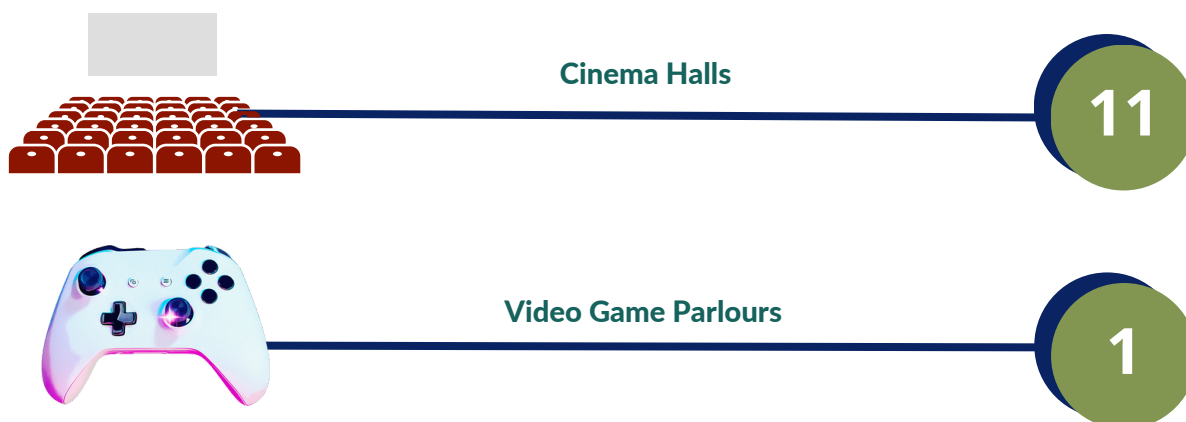
Metal Work (including scrap)

74



- Over the last 10 years, there has been a definite increase in the number of manufacturing units that have opened up in the area. 2 units were opened in 2021-22.
- Previously, *Zariwaala* (zari embroidery work), bag and cap makers, and leather work units also existed in the area but they have since got shut or converted to *Saadi Waala* (sarees which are roll-pressed) units.

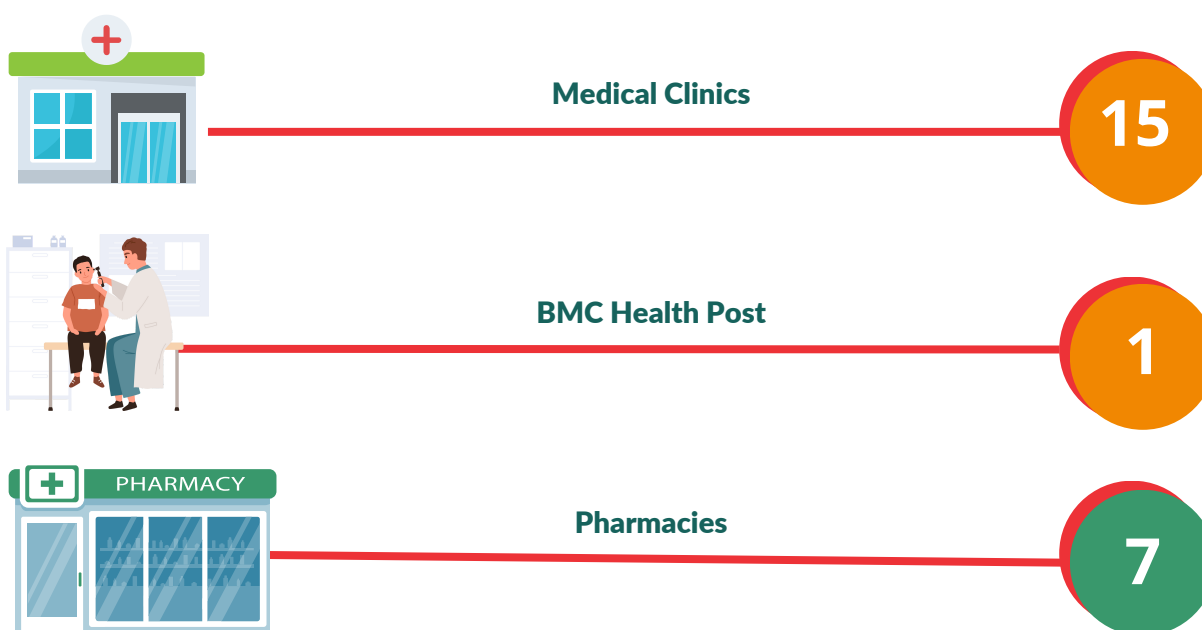
3. Entertainment

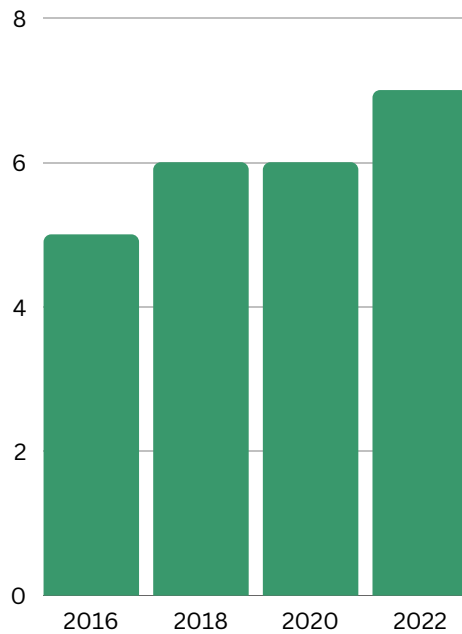


- Video Game parlours are frequented by teenagers, mainly young boys. In recent years, the number of these parlours has diminished in the area.

SERVICES

1. Medical Facilities





Number of Pharmacies set up in Falkland Road between 2016-22

2. Educational Facilities



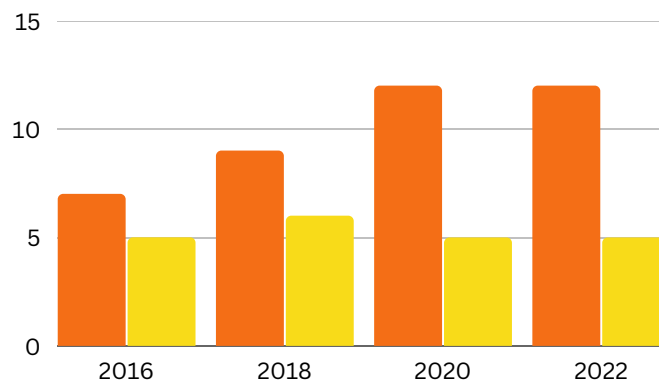
Pvt Schools and Colleges

12



BMC School

5



Comparison between Private Schools & Colleges in the area versus BMC Schools

3. Civic Services



Courts

1



Police Stations

1

4. Other Services



Library

1



Bus Stops

1



Public Parks

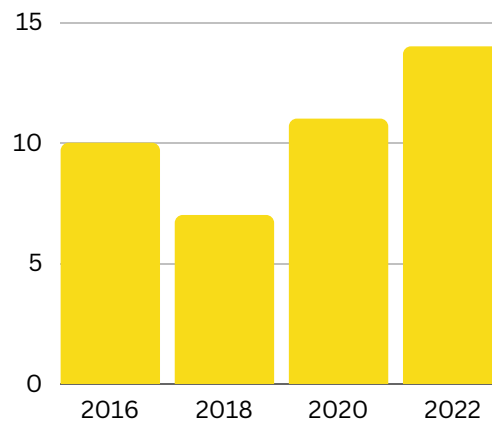
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5. Non-Governmental Organisations



NGOs

14

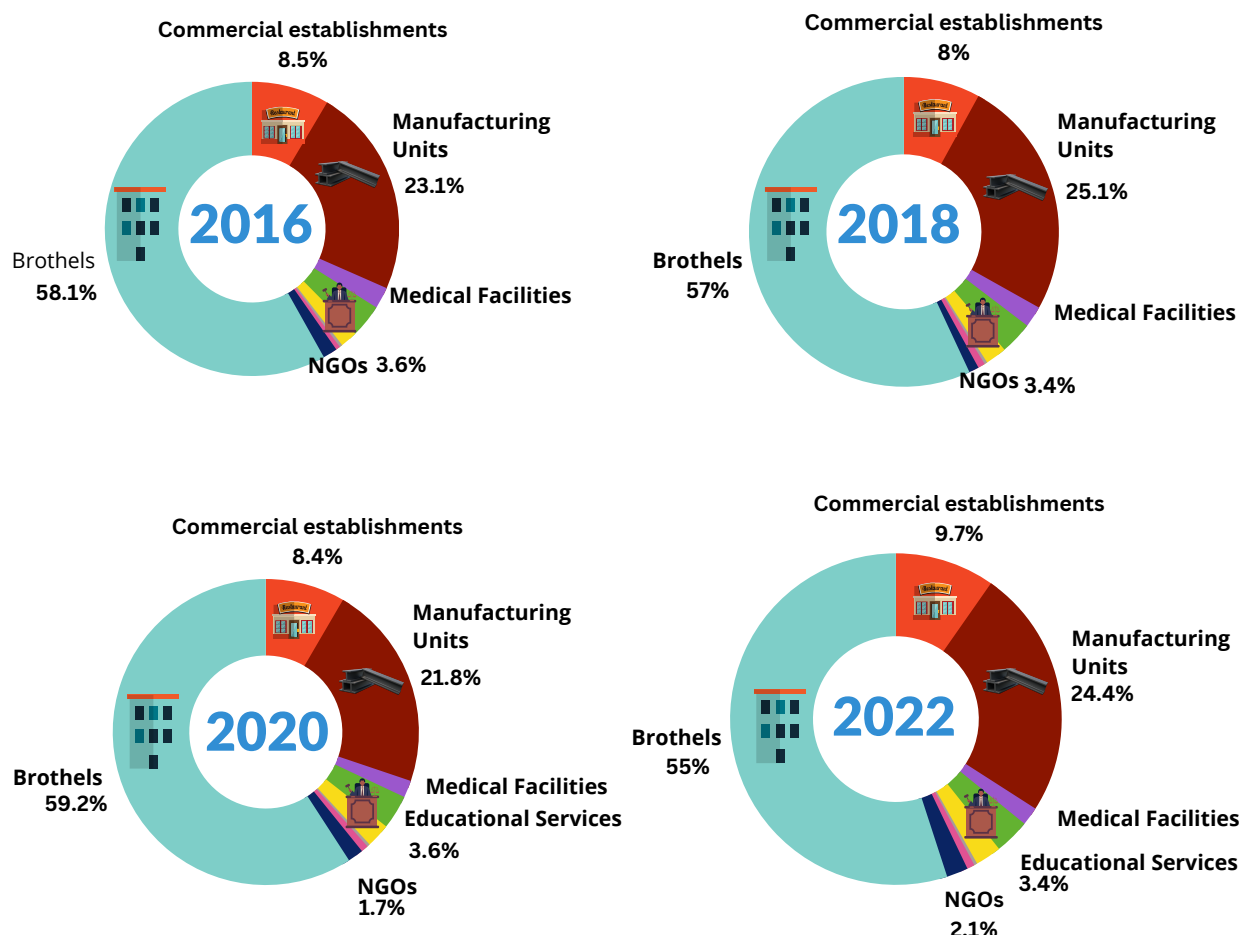


Number of NGOs Operating in Falkland Road in 2016-22



NGO	Services	Target Groups
Alert India	• Health services for women • Day care center for children	Women Children Youth
Apne Aap Women's Collective	• 24*7 Open shelter facility for children • Pre-school education • Study classes for girls • Educational sponsorship • Self-help groups • Grocery distribution to women living with HIV • Medical Services • Vocational Training	Women Children Youth
Asha Darpan	• Health services for women • Medical assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS • Medical facilities to women suffering with TB and HIV • Condom distribution to women in the red-light areas • Self-help groups	Women
Asha Mahila Sanstha	• Health services for women • Assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS • Medical facilities to women suffering from TB and HIV • Condom distribution to women in the red-light area	Women
Association for the Welfare for Persons with Mental Handicap in Maharashtra	• Counseling and child guidance clinic for children with special needs	Children
Indian Association for Promotion of Adoption and Child Welfare	• Educational sponsorship • Vocational training • Child guidance clinic	Children Youth
Lodha Foundation	• Library facility for children • Educational sponsorship • Vocational training	Children Youth

NGO	Services	Target Groups
Mumbai Smiles	• Educational sponsorship • Medical services • Vocational training • Rehabilitation of women	Women Children Youth
Navjeevan	• Day and night care centre for children	Women Children Youth
Oasis India	• Medical facilities for children • Day and night care shelter facility • Study classes for children • Educational sponsorship • Vocational training • Job placement for women and youth	Women Children Youth
Sai NGO	• Health services for women • Medical services • Vocational training • Educational sponsorship	Women Children Youth
Sanjeevani	• Pre-school education	Children
Savera Foundation	• Vocational training • Job placement for women	Women
Seefar	• Community outreach • Livelihood training to women and female care leavers	Women Youth



The Changing Landscape of Establishments and Services in the Falkland Road RLA from 2016-2022

- Over the last 7 years, the relative proportion of brothels in the Falkland Road RLA has reduced. The total volume of the sex trade is believed to have increased in the city of Mumbai, and it is also believed that the volume of the localised sex trade in the RLAs has decreased. Our data over the past years supports this finding.
- Commercial establishments in the area have increased over the years.
- The nature of manufacturing units has shifted from a high number of cap making and leather manufacturing units to saree shops and metal scrap shops.



DISCLAIMER

The information shared in this document has been derived from the residents/women/persons living in the mentioned RLA and are associated with Prerana through its various interventions and work done in the area. The Prerana team has attempted to maintain a high degree of accuracy while creating this resource. The document is primarily for informational purposes only.

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www.fighttrafficking.org

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