



RED-LIGHT AREA MAPPING: KAMATHIPURA

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 Kamathipura

Kamathipura is an RLA in the India's commercial capital, Mumbai. The area spans across 14 congested lanes. The buildings in the RLA 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 are covered in red-coloured stains of the sputum thrown after chewing betel nut (*paan*) which is a common habit among the residents and visitors. While previously, the entire area functioned as an RLA, at present (as of 2020) **Lane no. 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14** have brothels functioning out of it along with the brothels on the main **Sukhalaji Street**.

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 the area also housed several video parlors that openly played X-rated films, and would supply X-rated films, video players, (and TV sets if needed) to the brothels on demand. The Kamathipura RLA is not a neighborhood, community nor a colony of a typical mainstream society. In the night, it is littered with a large number of unfamiliar faces desperately seeking sexual pleasure from the women and transgenders of the RLA.

Kamathipura being very close to the commercial heart of Mumbai has caught the attention of the fast-growing commercial establishments, housing sectors and thus the land sharks. It has been seen widely that as the city grows so grows the sex trade. However, since the traditional RLAs in Mumbai have severe limits to their expansion, the sex trade grows by dispersal. As the area was close to the heart of the city there was a definite change of hands from brothels to commercial establishments. Since 2007, Prerana has noticed that while the total volume of the sex trade is believed to have increased in the city, the sex trade in the RLAs 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.

Services in the Red Light Areas

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.



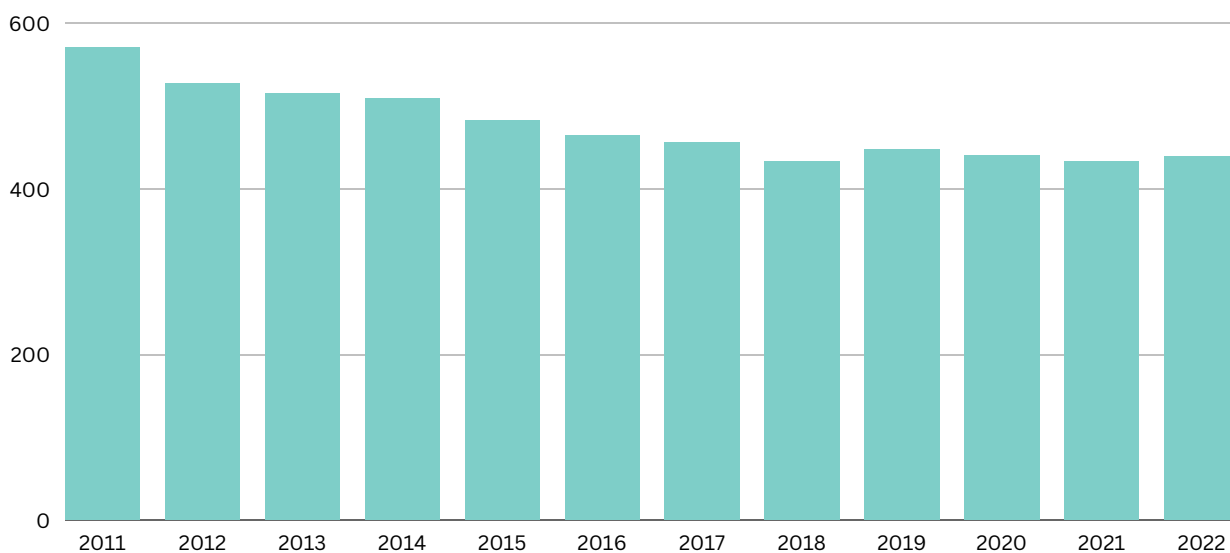
About Red-Light Area (RLA) Mapping

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. 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 RLA 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 Kamathipura, 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 decade

- 50 buildings in Kamathipura were covered in the 2021-22 RLA Community Mapping exercise. Within these buildings, 439 brothels are functioning, as of April 2021-March 2022.
- During this time, 9 brothels closed in the RLA while 15 formerly closed brothels have opened up.

COMMERCIAL AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS

1. Grocers, Food Stalls etc.



Restaurants and Tea Stalls

19



Ration Shops

3



Catering Services

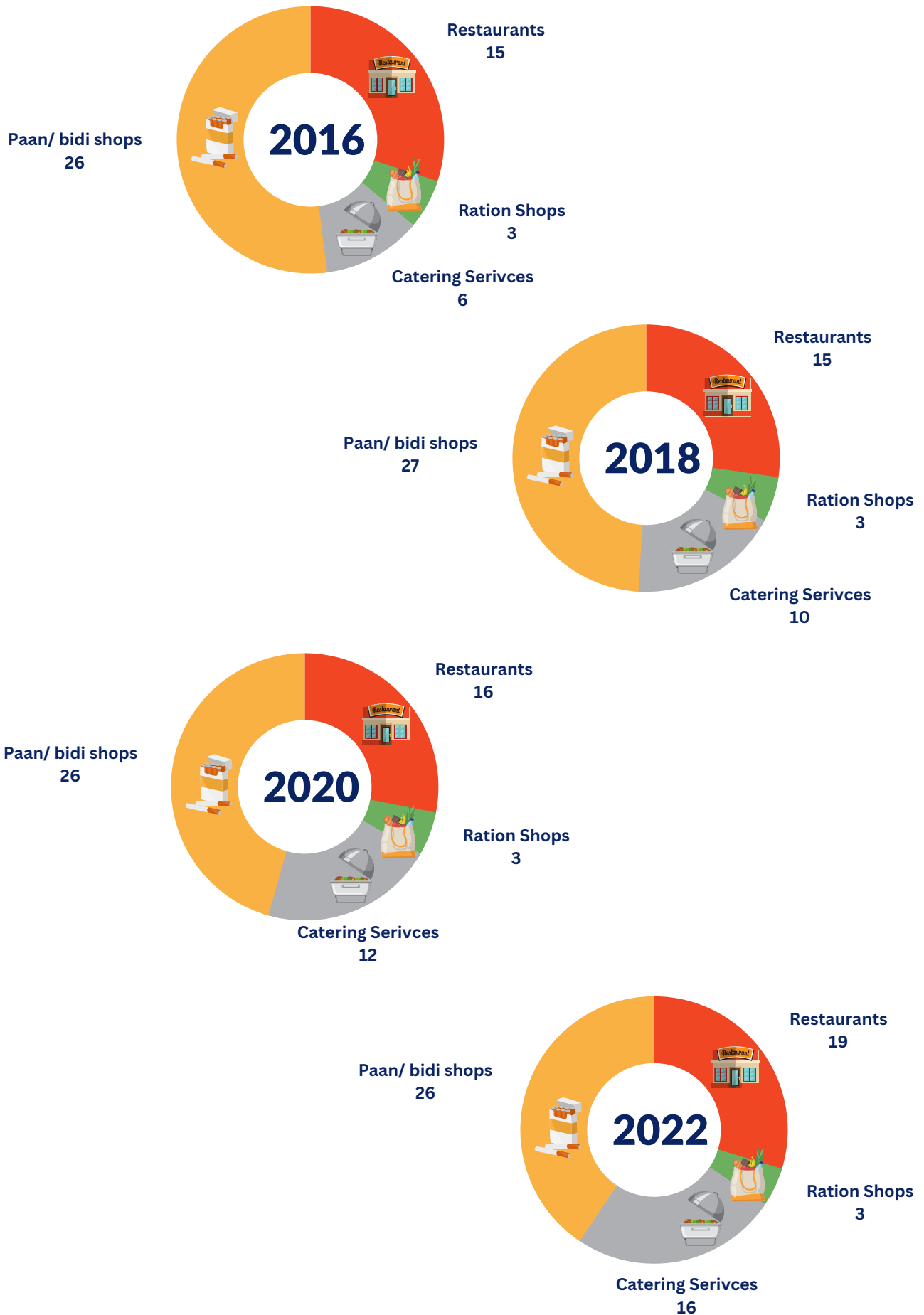
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Paan/ Bidi Shops

26

- Three new restaurants have opened in the area - one in the 9th, 10th and 11th lane each.
- Three new catering services opened up in the area in 2022.



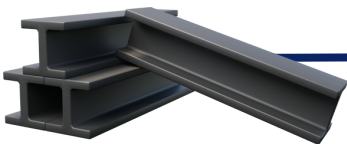
The Changing Landscape of Commercial Establishments in the Area Over the Past Years

2. Manufacturing Units



Zari waala

13



Metal Work

20



Bag Making

158



Leather Shoes

12



Cap Making

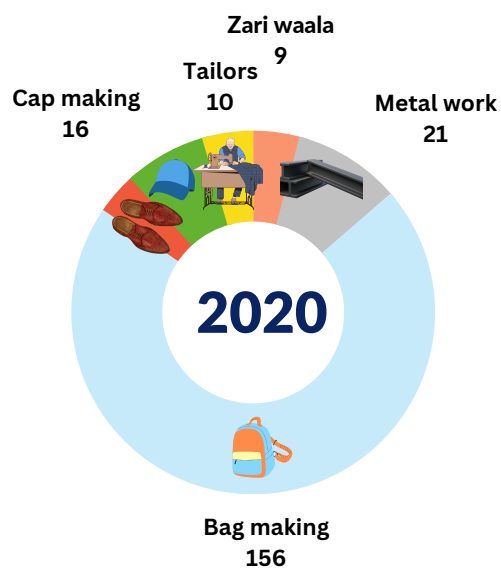
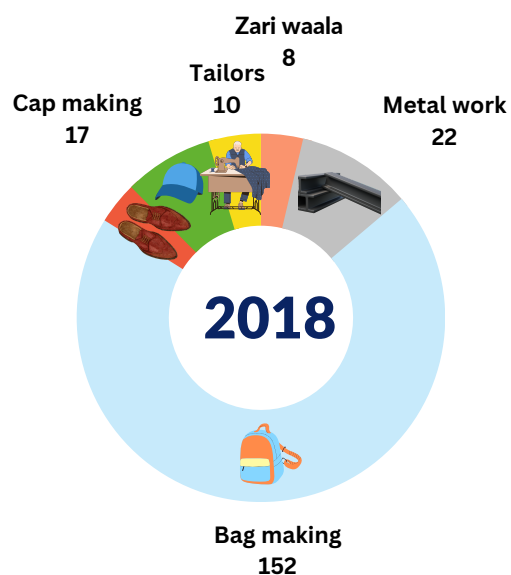
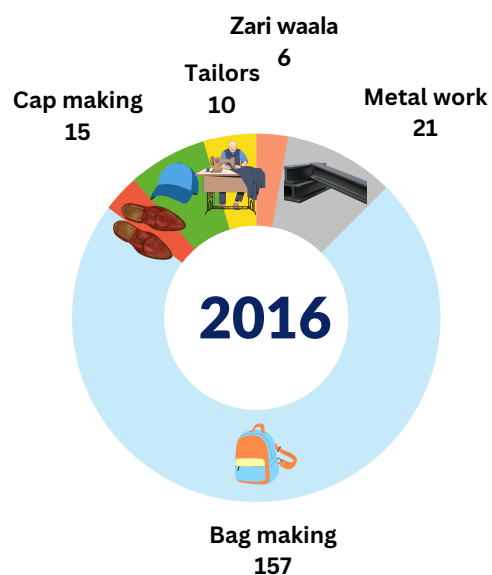
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Tailors

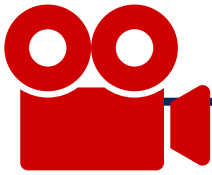
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- Four new zari waala units have opened up in the area.
- Four new leather shoe-making units have also opened up in the area during this time.



Changes in Number of Manufacturing Units in Kamathipura Over the Years

3. Entertainment



Video Parlours

1

- Video parlours running in the RLA provide adult entertainment and are frequented mainly by men.

SERVICES

1. Medical Facilities



Medical Clinics

10



BMC Health Post

3



Pharmacies

5

2. Educational Facilities



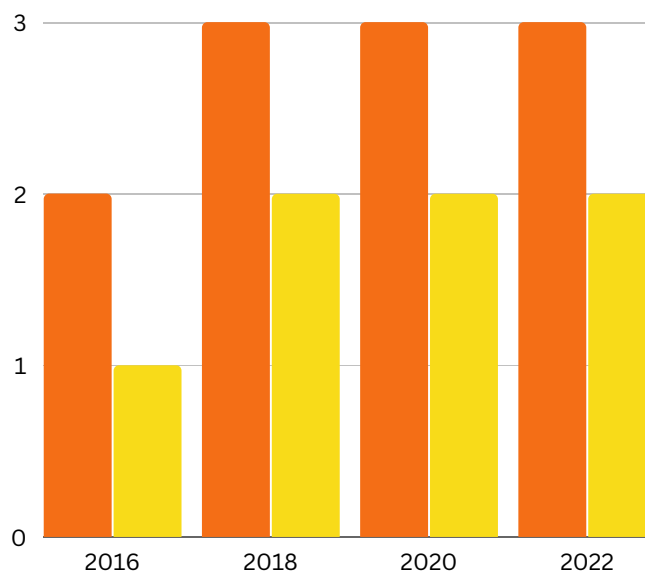
Pvt Schools and Colleges

3



BMC School

2



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

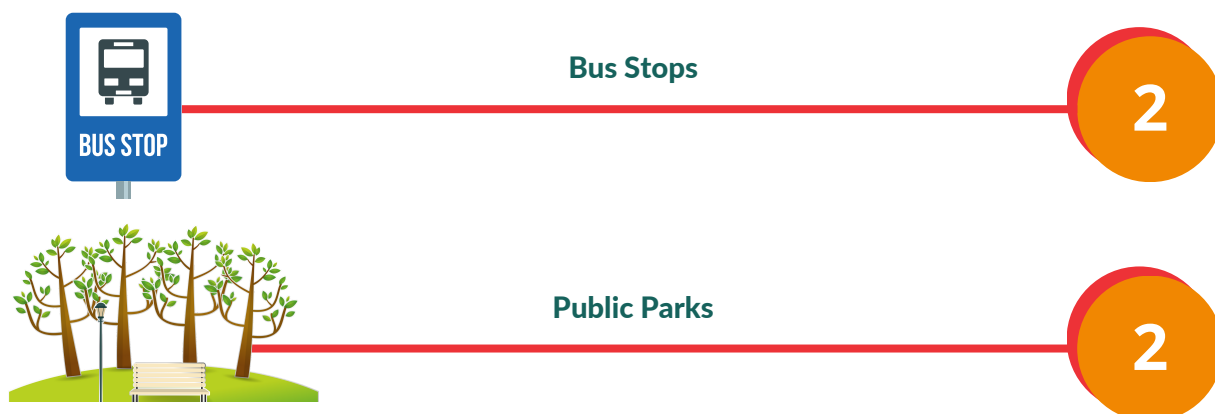
3. Civic Services



Police Stations

1

4. Other Services



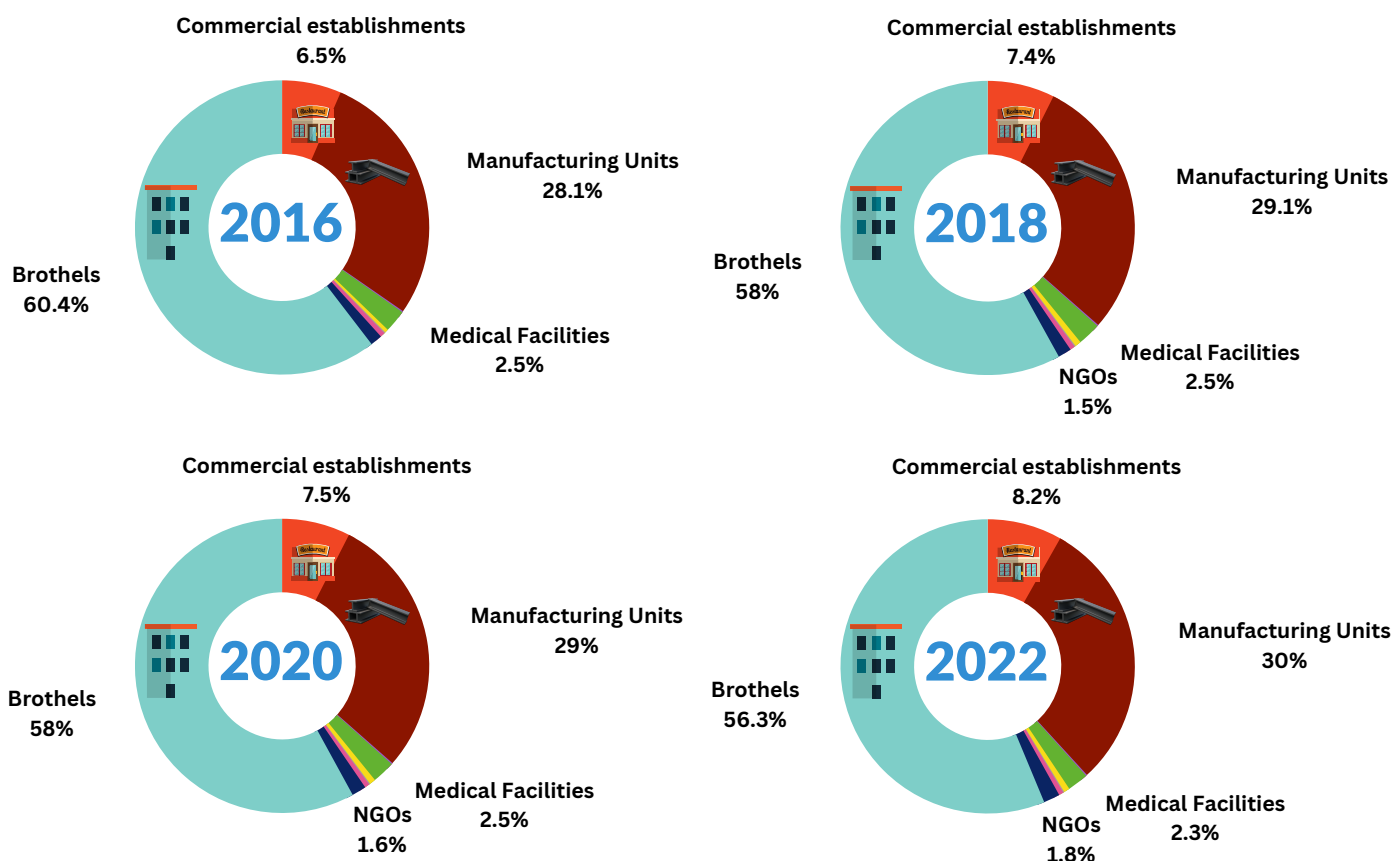
5. Non-Governmental Organisations



NGO	Services	Beneficiaries
Living Water Mission	- Provides financial and nutritional support - Conduct prayer services in the community	Women
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

NGO	Services	Beneficiaries
Bombay Teen Challenge	• Day and night care center for children • Meals for women • Free counselling • Treatment and rehabilitation for people living with HIV/AIDS	Women Children Youth
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
Sahas Foundation	• Provides assistance with applying for identity documents	Women Children
Salvation Army	• Day care center for boys and girls and night care center for boys • Pre-school • Medical services for children and women	Women Children
Nagari Seva Prabodhini	• Assist women who work in bars with issuance of identity documents and linkages to government schemes • Conduct check-ups for HIV	Women
Sai NGO (office shifted to Byculla)	• Health services for women • Medical services • Vocational training • Educational sponsorship	Women Children Youth
Young Women's Christian Association (WCA)	• Pre- school • Vocational training for women	Women Children
Savera Foundation	• Vocational training • Job placement for women	Women

NGO	Services	Beneficiaries
Mumbai Smiles	- Educational sponsorship - Medical services - Vocational training - Rehabilitation of women	Women Children
Seefar	- Community outreach - Livelihood training to women and female care leavers	Women Youth



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

- Over the last 7 years, the relative proportion of brothels in the Kamathipura 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 bag making, etc.



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

*Your trusted knowledge partner in the fight against
human trafficking*

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