



RED-LIGHT AREA MAPPING: VASHI-TURBHE

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 Vashi-Turbhe

The Vashi-Turbhe RLA is much smaller compared to the Falkland Road RLA, a major difference being the absence of 'pucca' vertical buildings, like chawls. The area is composed of 'kuccha' hutments. As compared to the red-light areas of Kamathipura and Falkland Road, the Vashi-Turbhe RLA is still growing in size.

The proportion of pimps to the prostituted women was higher here and that distinguished the Vashi-Turbhe RLA from Falkland Road RLA. The captivity of the prostituted women was worse than in the Falkland Road RLA and the women lived in 'bondage', facing severe restrictions on their freedom to move around, by the shop keepers and local residents. In the past, we had observed that the women just stayed in the vicinity of the RLA but now Prerana's social workers find that women also stay within the RLA. These are brothel-like establishments that are old and have extremely dilapidated infrastructure. The prostituted mothers were highly vulnerable and there was acute and visible malnourishment among their children.

Prerana began its work in the Vashi-Turbhi RLA in 2001. Since then it has seen a considerable change in the dynamics of the area. A majority of the women in the area come from Nepal, Bangladesh, and Kolkata. Women in the Vashi-Turbhe RLA migrate and in some cases are moved by the perpetrators from other RLAs like Kamathipura in Mumbai and Budhwar Peth in Pune etc. for various reasons. The RLA is concentrated in one specific area and the women aren't allowed to entertain customers outside of this area.

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.

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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.



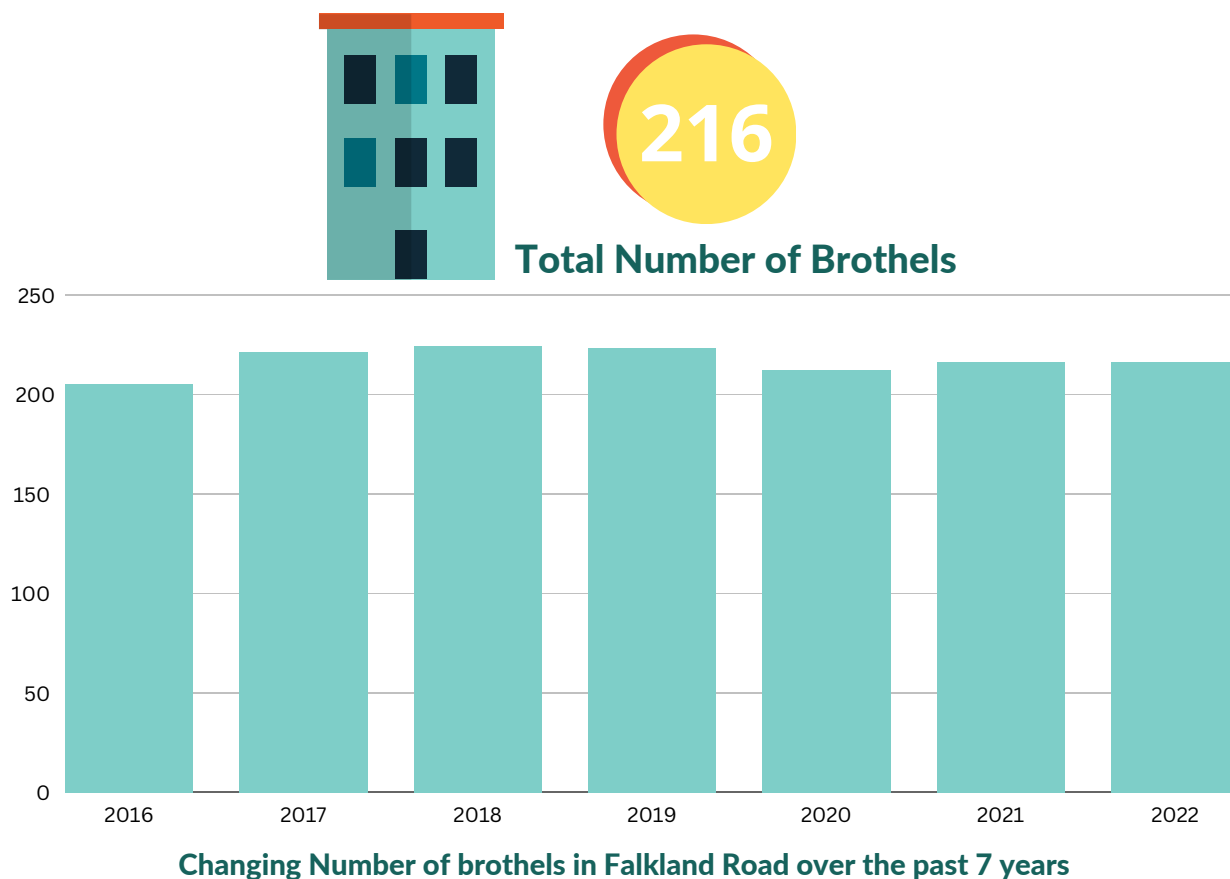
About Red-Light Area (RLA) Mapping

Over the years, Prerana has witnessed significant changes in the RLAs. Since 2011, Prerana has been routinely mapping the RLAs of 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 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 Vashi-Turbhe, in 2021-22.

BROTHELS

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



- Prerana's team noted that a total of 216 brothels are currently functioning in the Vashi-Turbhe RLA as of April 2021-March 2022.
- During this time, **7 brothels closed in the RLA while 7 formerly closed brothels have opened up.**

COMMERCIAL AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS

1. Grocers, Food Stalls etc.



Tea Stalls

3



Beer Bar/ Hotel

1



Ration Shop

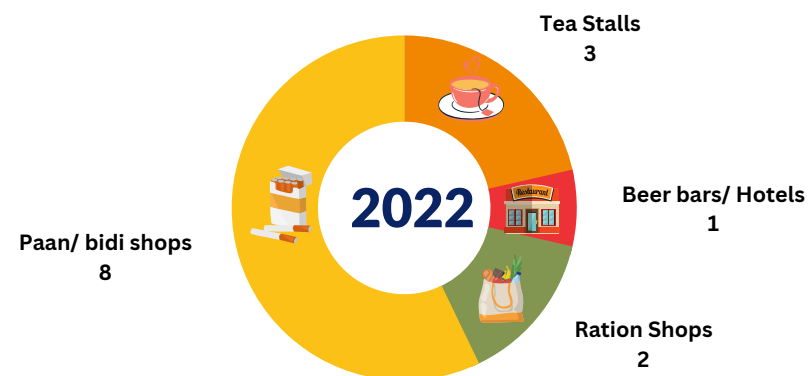
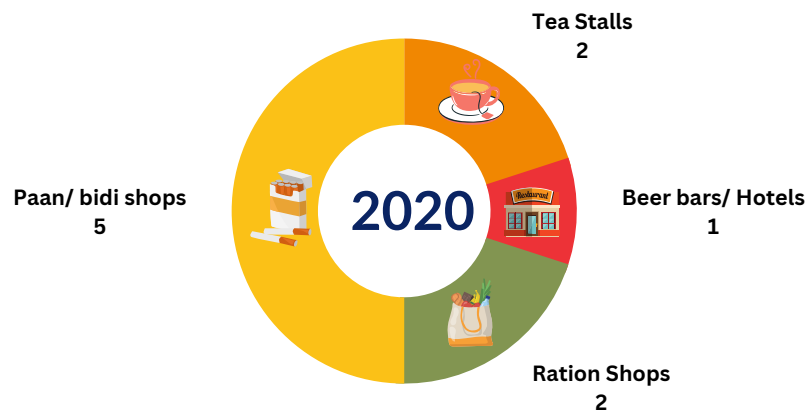
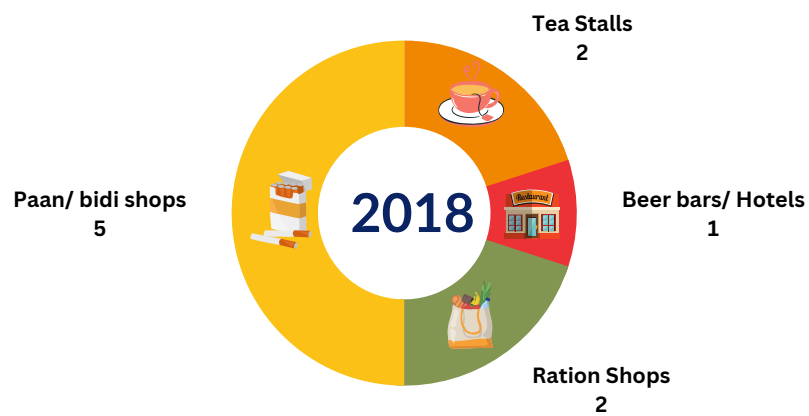
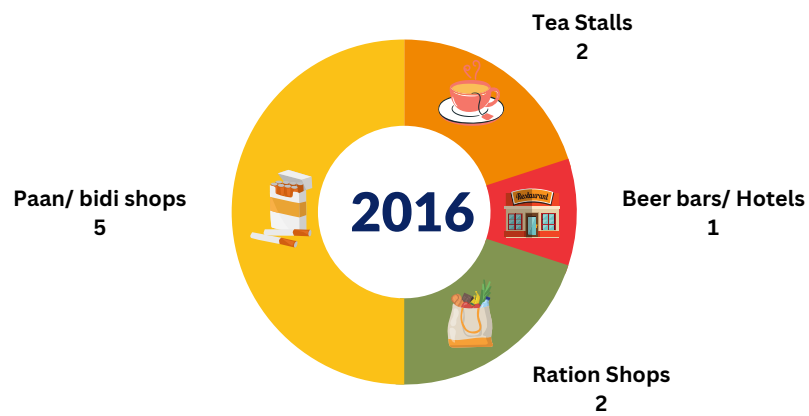
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Paan/ Bidi Shops

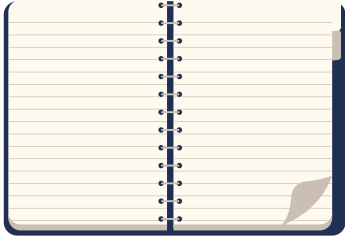
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- The bar is in a hotel situated at the entrance to the red light area.
- The number of *paan* shops has increased in the area; three new ones have opened up.



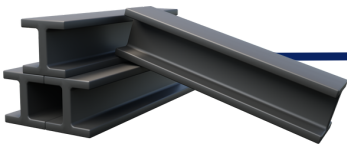
The Changing Landscape of Commercial Establishments in the Area Over the Past Years

2. Manufacturing Units



Drums and Paper

7



Metal Work

1



Spices

1



Plastic

1



Scrap Metal

1



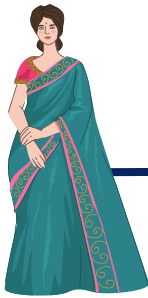
Scrap Cloth

1



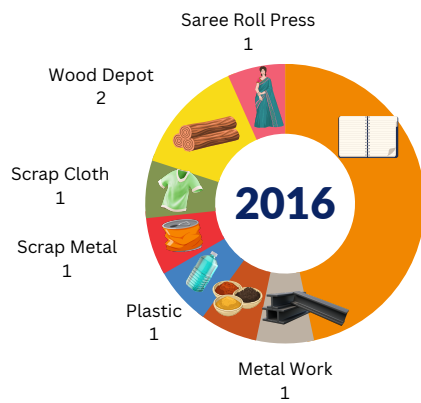
Wood Depot

2

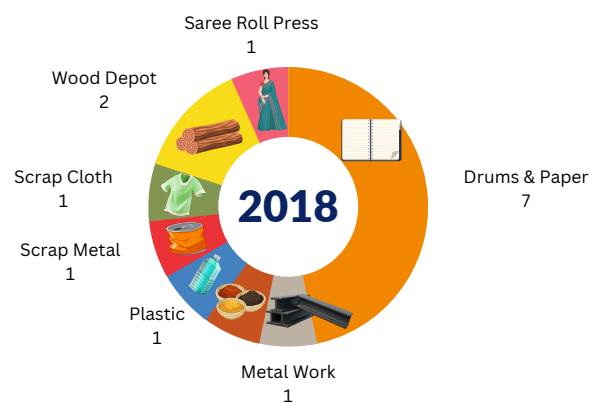


Saree Roll Press

1



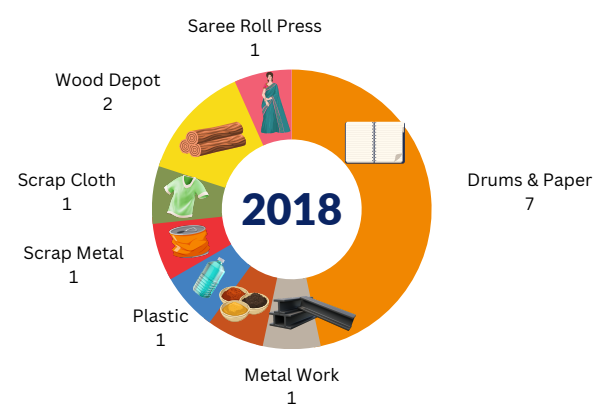
Drums & Paper
7



Drums & Paper
7



Drums & Paper
7



Drums & Paper
7

The Unchanging Landscape of Various Manufacturing Units in Vashi-Turbhe

SERVICES

1. Medical Facilities



Medical Clinics

3

- There is no medical store in the red light area. Women walk to the Turbhe Store, KK Road to purchase medicines.

2. Educational Facilities



Schools

3

- All three schools have classes till 10th standard only.

3. Civic Services

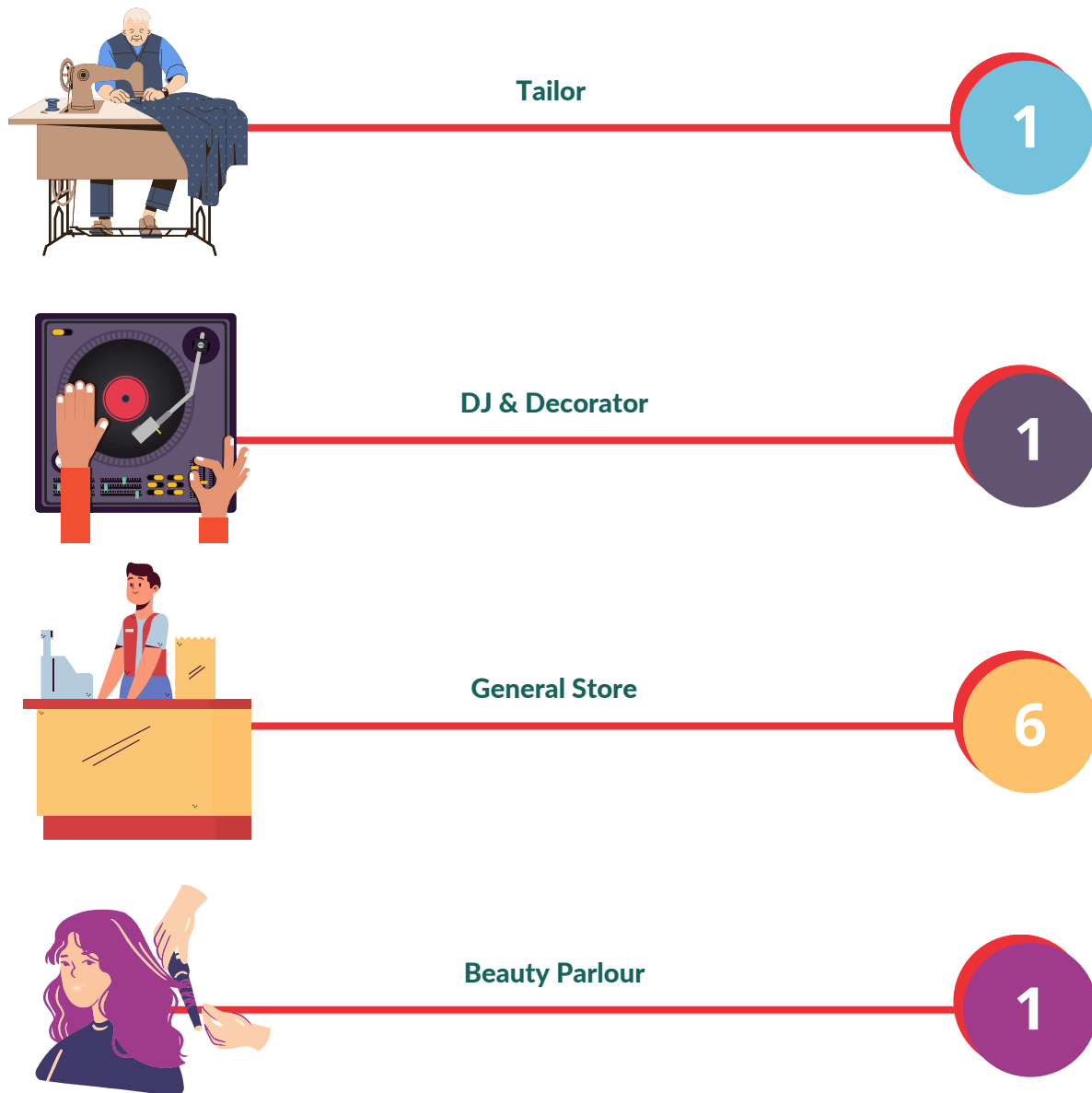


Police Stations

0

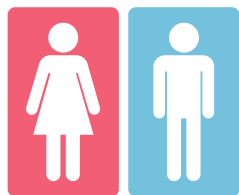
- There is no Police station nearby. The red-light area comes under the jurisdiction of Sanpada Police station.

4. Commercial Services



- Two new general stores have opened up in the area.
- A new beauty parlor has opened in the area. Its staff comes and provides services to the women in the red light area.

5. Other Services



Public Toilets

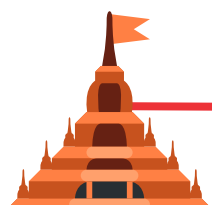
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Public Parks

1

6. Religious Places



Temples

2



Prayer Spaces

7

- There is no church in the area but some organisations conduct prayers in their vicinity with the women and children from the red light area.

7. Non-Governmental Organisations



NGOs

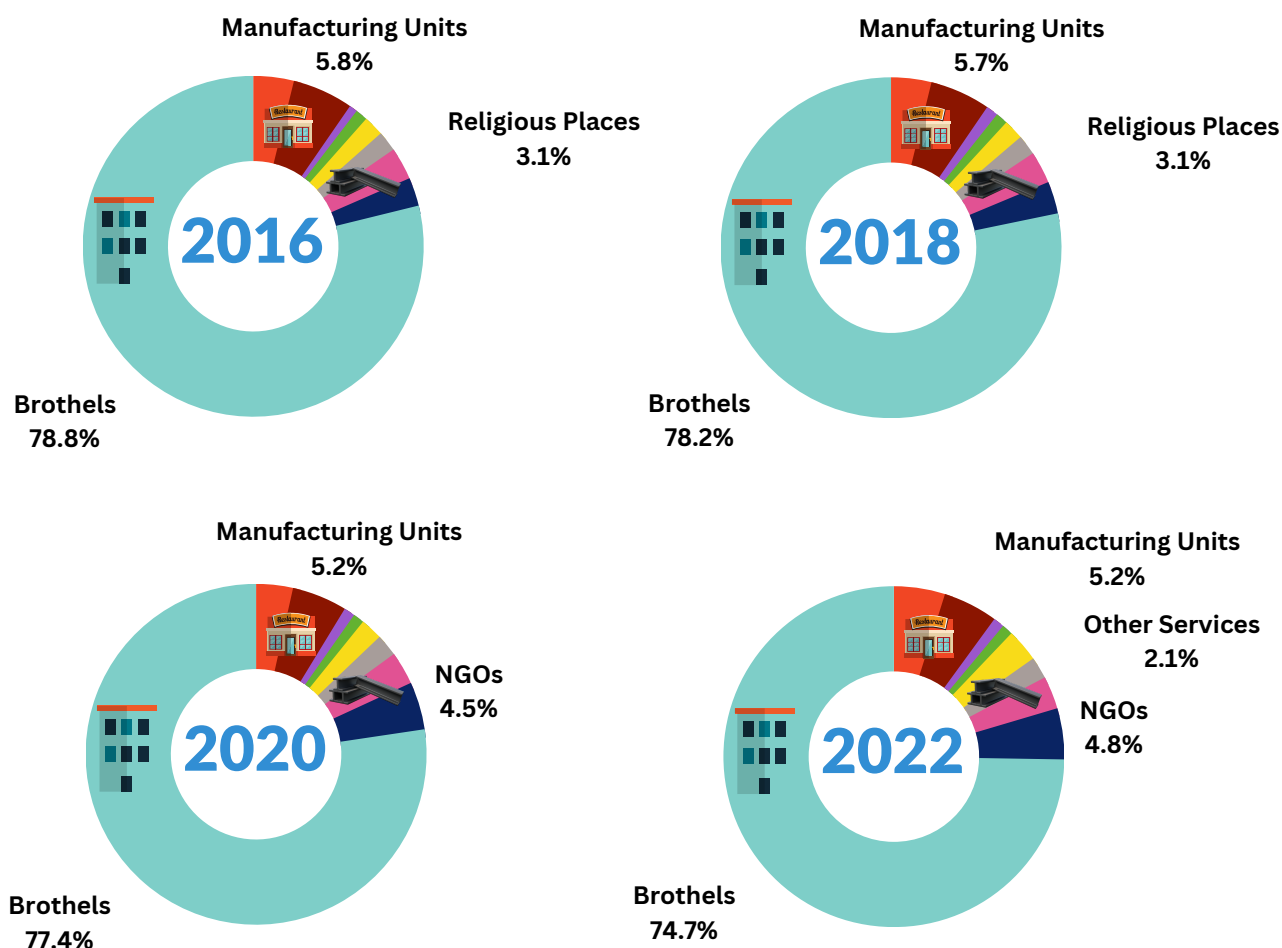
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- Two new NGOs have opened up in the area.



NGO	Services	Beneficiaries
Alert India	• Vocational Training for youth • Job placement • Health awareness • Medical services	Women Children
Apne Aap Women's Collective	• Outreach visits • health services for women • Vaccination Assistance	Women
Bombay Teen Challenge	• Adult literacy program for women in the sex trade • Health services for women	Women Children
Child Fund India	• Distribution of hygiene kits during COVID-19	Women
International Justice Missiom	• Legal aid clinic	Women
Manna Prayer House	• Balwadi(pre-school) • provide meal (breakfast) to children	Children
Prem Kiran	• Medical services • Vocational training for women • Outreach visits • Rehabilitation of children (facilitating placement of children in in Children's Home)	Children
Rahab Scope (name changed to Tree of the Life)	• Conduct recreational activities for children • Vocational training for women (making hand bands, packing and selling it) • Medical services	Women Children

NGO	Services	Beneficiaries
Sahara	• Medical assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS • Nutritious meals to people suffering from tuberculosis and living with HIV	Women Children
Sahasee Embers	• Vocational training for women • Health facilities • Day care center	Women Children
Save The Children India	• Vocational training for youth • Health facilities for youth, children and women	Women Children
White Stone	• Medical services for women and children • Vocational training (tailoring and jewelry making)	Women Children
Love Without Reason	• Provide bag making training to women, post which the women are provided orders to make bags for which they are paid.	Women



- Over the last 7 years, the relative proportion of brothels in the Vashi-Turbhe RLA has increased. 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.

➤ 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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