

CURRENT AFTERCARE PRACTICES

February 2024, India

Compilation of the Current Aftercare Practices

Multiple states, India

February 2024

Udayan Care



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Introductory Note:

This is a compilation of the information gathered on Aftercare practices from different sources around the as on date practices by state governments and NGOs in different states of India. The information is based on the easy access and availability of information by Udayan Care and is not a exhaustive illustration. The objective of this compilation is to understand and plan an exposure cum learning visit to officials of the Bihar state functionaries and to see some of the existing good work being carried out in those states, so that the elements of them can be contextualized and replicated in the state of Bihar.

The document also aims to shed light on the housing models existing in different states, so that the Govt. of Bihar can pilot the setting up of a community group housing project for care leavers in the state. It is important to note that there is no clarity on the registration of aftercare residential facilities run by voluntary organizations or the government under the JJ Act 2015, perhaps due to the fact that law envisages Aftercare as a non-institutional model and while it does prescribe community group housing under Rule 25 of JJ Rules, norms for its set up and monitoring are not elaborated.

State 1: Current Aftercare Practice in Rajasthan:

Policy on Aftercare: In Rajasthan, on 15th October 2020, the Department for Child Rights, Govt. of Rajasthan, (DCR) issued an order for Aftercare under the name **Samarth Yojana** (Aftercare Scheme). The DRC has rolled out the Mission Vatsalya Scheme across the state and ordered to provide benefits to youth according to the same scheme.

High court JJC of Rajasthan is regularly involved in the monitoring of Institutions and non-international alternative care, including Aftercare in the state.

Trainings on Aftercare: During June 2023, CWC training on Aftercare which was facilitated by CRC RIPA and organized by CLiC, which is the Care Leavers Network in the state.

Transition Planning: On a regular basis assistance is provided to CCIs staff for mapping of children to linkage with the Aftercare scheme. Children in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) are being educated through the near-by skilling academy, and their progress is tracked by the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU).

Linkages to Care leavers for skilling and jobs: At present 49 youth are linked to Aftercare services by the state govt. Department for Child Rights is doing work on this, currently, this is under the pipeline.

With the support of UNICEF, the care leaver network CLiC is providing support to youth in regard of Jobs, education, and essential documents. Youth are supported in finding jobs through CLiC. CLiC has built a network of corporates and through various partnerships, youth are placed. Before they are placed in jobs, they receive training and programs through online/offline platforms. CLiC also is responsible for follow up of youth after job placements.

Additionally, for those interested in entrepreneurship, the state extends support of up to Rs.60,000/- in two instalments. This comprehensive approach aims to empower and facilitate the successful transition of youth care leavers into independent and sustainable livelihoods.

Aftercare Homes: there are 30 notified Aftercare homes run by the State govt. Rajasthan's. The department has notified 30 Aftercare homes, administered by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with administrative support from the Child Rights Department. The Mission Vatsalya allocates Rs.4000/- per youth to these Aftercare Homes, earmarked for skill development, legal identity, job placement, and education.

Identification of children eligible for Aftercare support occurs within the age bracket of 14-18 years while residing in child care institutions. The selection is based on the long-term rehabilitation order issued by the respective Child Welfare Committee.

Care Leavers Network: Care Leavers Inner Circle Forum (CLiC) is the state level network registered as a Section 8 company under the Companies registration Act since 2021.

It has a team of 12 full time team members, all Care Leavers. It is the first non-profit organization incubated at the innovation center of reputed engineering college MNIT, Jaipur and recognised as a start-up with DIPP, Government of India. It has a professional team of mentors who inspire them to have the ‘start-up/entrepreneurial’ mindset and work towards creating a large-scale impact. Currently it has onsite projects running within Rajasthan across all 33 districts covering every city/village wherever a childcare home is operational. They have a full website with mission to create a network of care leavers and provide them with all the support they need to become self-reliant.

CLiC is supported by UNICEF, DCR and several CSR initiatives like Josh Community.

CLiC has many achievements so far:

- Physically visited 80 childcare homes in Rajasthan establishing direct personal connect with the founders as well as children staying there.
- Created a database of over 700 children between age of 15-18 years who will be moving out of childcare home in the next 2 year.
- Built a network of 600+ care leavers (18+ year across India).
- Issued CLiC membership cards to 125 care leavers registered with us as on March 2023.
- Have a running helpline for the care leavers to contact us in case of any help required.
- Started DHRUVA (Digitally skilled, hungry for growth, ready to perform YUVA) launchpad providing access of computer and Digital skilling program to the care leavers.
- Launched an exclusive mobile app for care leavers to search and apply for jobs in the digital sector. Through this app, provide access of jobs to as many care leavers as possible who are digitally skilled.
- Helped care leavers get computer-based jobs in good companies.
- Arranged housing support for care leavers.

State 2: Current Aftercare Practice in Madhya Pradesh:

Policy: Alternative Care and Aftercare is being institutionalized in the state, as part of the child protection services. Extensive systemic focus is achieved towards transition preparedness, strengthening follow-up mechanisms and restoration and rehabilitation, including linkages to schemes and services. The state govt has a partnership with UNICEF and Uayan Care as the technical partner since 2020 to strengthen the work on Aftercare.

Under the CM Bal Ashirwad Yojna, notified as a state funded scheme in 2021, 27 youth have been linked.

A State organised consultation was organised on 27 June 2023 to develop the Aftercare Guidelines and to make it part of the 5 years State Action Plan on FBAC. (copy has been shared with the Bihar state government). The development of SAP and Aftercare Guidelines are part of the monitoring meetings by the MP High Court JJC that is being held regularly in the state.

Advocacy by UNICEF and partners has resulted in declaring Assistant Directors' responsible for additional role of State and District Nodal Officers for Aftercare (SNOA and DNOAs

respectively) by the state dated 23rd December, 2022. In this regard in 2023, a detailed ToR for the Nodal Officers is developed, and has been approved by DWCD MP.

47 Nodal officers of all the 53 districts were virtually oriented on 23rd June, 2023 regarding their expected roles and responsibilities, with a view to act as centralized support service to aftercare youth. The nodal officers have developed the list of care leavers from their concerned districts for further follow up. They are being provided handholding support by the technical partner whenever required.

In 2022, the State govt. issued a circular to CWCs regarding linking above 18 youth (staying in institution) with Aftercare program. CWCs started giving directions in its orders linking youth with Aftercare services. 120 Aftercare youth are receiving their Aftercare support.

In November 2022, through State govt issued two circulars, DCPGs have been designated as State Nodal Officer on aftercare (SNOA) and District Nodal Officer on Aftercare (DNOA) in all districts.

Orientation and trainings for all the designated officers have been conducted. A ToR has been prepared which is being processed by the Dept.

Transition Planning: ICPs are being developed for children between 15 to 18 years in all CCIs with special focus on preparing them to leave care. Trainings have been given to all functionaries in batches to develop ICPs and the SCPS is also monitoring the quality of these ICPs and their implementation.

Aftercare Home: there are 2 dedicated Aftercare Homes for care leavers (1 for boys and 1 for girls). The strength approved for both the homes is 25. Youth receive aftercare support on vocational training, education, life skill, job preparedness and placements. The state is receiving support from CSOs, corporates, institutions for above services. through a MoU terms and conditions are specified and agreed upon. If a youth is coming above 70 km, boarding and lodging support are provided. Children staying in CCIs are also linked with Municipal Corporation and CRISP'S skilling centre Madhya Pradesh

The Aftercare home is staffed with 1 in-charge, 1 case worker/teacher, 2 care givers, 1 guard and other grade 3/4 staff. For other staff, vacancies have been advertised by the WCD. CWC orders are necessary for the stay of any youth. The age criteria for admission range from a minimum of 18 to a maximum of 21 (in some cases, 23). Efforts are made to place youth in jobs or education based on their interests to facilitate their reintegration into society. While youths with special needs occasionally stay, there are no specific provisions or facilities for them, resulting in lower preference for their stay. The Aftercare home links youths to further education and vocational training programs such as stitching, computer skills, and hospital management based on their Individual Care Plans (ICP). Soft skills and life skills sessions cover topics such as mental and physical health, career and education, good and bad touch, legal awareness, effective communication, interpersonal relationships, and professional grooming. Collaborations with various CSOs, skilling agencies, and other departments provide additional support to these youths. Assistance is also provided in developing legal documents like Aadhar, PAN, and bank accounts. The DCPU serves as the monitoring agency for this Aftercare home.

Skilling: The MP Skill Development Corporation has more than 45 schemes/courses for CCIs' children and youth. There are many NGOs that are running stitching, computer, bridge classes, sports, yoga and English-speaking skill units within CCIs and the 2 Aftercare homes.

Aftercare Support services: State ensures identity documents like AADHAR and Samagr card, Ayushman scheme linkages for food receipt and medical support and ensures enrolment in govt. school, and in private schools for some of them. Tele-manas provide counselling support is given to care leavers.

Linkages: Increased convergence by multiple departments across all the 52 districts is demonstrated for strengthening the protection of children, particularly for the roll out of Alternative care and Aftercare services. **524 care leavers supported** for their independent living through linkages to various support services, which include education/academic support through Bal Ashirwad scheme, career counselling, vocational trainings to 127 youth, job placements to 128 youth, housing, health etc.

Database of Care Leavers: The SCPS maintains a central database of all care leavers since 2021.

Care Leavers Network: Yuva Shakti Sangathan is the state network of care leavers and has 395 care leavers as members from different districts. The unique thing about this network is that it is recognised by the state government as well as the MP JJC and it officially onboards children in the age group of 17 to 18 years in CCIs who volunteer to become its members.

The network was started by the GoMP's Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD), in August 2020, as part of its aim to strengthen Alt Care and Aftercare. It has its own core group and have developed their own annual plan of action for 2024. The network has had **5 interface meetings with DWCD officers and 42 district level meetings** were organised. The members have been provided with number of opportunities for skill development in the areas of leadership, communication, online safety, mental health, participation, positive masculinity and gender. The youth capacities are also enhanced with 21st century skills. The network has trained over **30 care leavers as peer facilitators** to deliver life skill sessions to CCIs and to youth both off line and virtually. Some of their key achievements have been:

- Advocacy by YSS for identity documentation of care leavers resulted in letters to the Dept. for processing various identity documents for care leavers.
- 163 care leavers in need of following documents have been submitted with the Dept. by YSS and is being processed.
- An Aadhar card details' correction camp was facilitated, and 27 youth have got their details corrected till date.
- A free medical examination camp was facilitated by and for YSS members in collaboration with Family Planning Association of India (FPAI) Bhopal, with 20 youth benefitting.

- Leadership of YSS is being evolved through various capacity building initiatives and a core- committee has been set up, with 30 members representing 9 districts.
- YSS also acts as a strong platform for care leavers to bond, interact, and present their voices and opinions across various platforms and structures.
- YSS held a consultation with 38 members to develop their inputs for State's Aftercare Guidelines. They compiled their input and presented it to department to potentially be included in the Guidelines.
- A state-level annual advocacy and action plan for YSS activities has been developed by YSS members to further share with Dept. for annual planning of activities.
- The Individual Aftercare Plan (IAP) as mandated under Mission Vatsalya has been has been developed and piloted with 35 care leavers with focus on different aspects of independent living including vocational and educational requirements, housing, identity documentation status, and mental and emotional wellbeing.

State 3: Current Aftercare Practice in Assam:

Policy: UNICEF has submitted the draft guidelines to the state and is waiting for approval. In the state JJC meetings, State updates about Aftercare program and its progress. The same get reported in meeting minutes.

Out of 35 districts, state is implementing Aftercare Program in 22 districts.

Database of Care Leavers: Separate data base system of children leaving institutions and care leaver linked to Aftercare program is maintained at state level.

Linkages: From last two years more than 100 Aftercare youth are receiving financial support under Aftercare program through bank transfer.

Aide et Action through its UNICEF supported project organizes interface meeting between potential care leavers and skill training providers institutions on a quarterly basis. Apart from this, organisations like ECHO, Assam skill development mission and other private institutions are also linked to state to provide skill training to care leavers.

Skilling: The state Assam Skill Development Mission runs courses like hospitality, beauty and wellness, health care, retail, electronic and hardware, domestic worker etc. and other private institutions for skill trainings.

Job placements: The state care leavers networks supports youth and till now 12 care leavers have received job in different states

Aftercare homes are run by NGOs, SoS and Snehalay

Care Leavers Network: The Assam Care Leavers Association (ACLA) is an umbrella youth collective of care leavers and was registered under the Trust Act, 2021 on September 1st 2021. Its formation was facilitated by Aide et Action in collaboration with SCPS and UNICEF. State organises annual event on Aftercare every year with Assam Care Leavers Association. Apart from that small district level consultations keep on happening by district authorities and care leavers network.

Currently, the strength of the association is around 400 members. The association is working towards procuring legal documents, supporting Care Leavers to complete their higher education, linking young adults with Skill building institutions and employment opportunities and providing social-emotional support to those spaced out of CCIs.

State 4: Current Aftercare Practice in Odisha

Policy: Odisha Aftercare guidelines is notified since 2021, but not implemented much.

Green Passage Scheme Launched in 2016-17, the "Green Passage Scheme" Scheme by the Higher Education Dept., Govt. of Odisha provides free higher education to children without biological

or adoptive parents 2. Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) has recently been amended to include benefits to urban areas that will benefit care leavers.

State has planned to **orphan survey** to identify children living without parental care in every 4 year.

Transition Planning: Children leaving Child Care Institutions are placed in various modes including pre job training and placement, higher education and marriage at attending the legal age.

Mapping of CCIs is conducted and children are linked with skill development agencies. Over 200 children were supported in FY 21-22.

E- Sikhya (Smart education) in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) covering all 234 CCIs. It is supporting around 7000 children learn online and personalized learning application loaded in TABs.

Chief Minister of Odisha has instructed senior officials to visit Child Care Institutions during field tour. The CM celebrated Diwali with children at a CCI in 2022, after which any senior officials and all District Collectors celebrated Diwali at different CCIs with children.

Homes: After Care Homes are being piloted in 3 districts. Some CCI's are selected to provide Aftercare home support to above 18 youth care leavers

There are 2 Care leavers networks in the state. One is active, which is called **Orrisa Care Leavers Association** (<https://odishacareleavers.org/>), with YCDA providing technical support and registered in 2020 and the second one is led by Sanjog NGO and has been registered in 2023.

State 5: Current Aftercare Practice in Telengana

No information on policy or state led practice:

Network: Telangana has a care leavers network that is called CLAT (Care Leavers Network of Telangana) since 2022, where president and secretary of the CLAT help other care leavers to do the identity documents like Aadhar card, Caste certificate, Income Certificate, Pan Card and Voter ID.

State 6: Current Aftercare Practice in Andhra Pradesh:

No information on policy or state led practice:

Network: There is a Care Leavers Network in the State and it is named Care Leavers Association of Andhra Pradesh (CLAAP). Though it is was formed 2 years, the activities have been slow to pick up due to exams and other issues of CLs.

Current Aftercare Practice in Maharashtra

- **Maharashtra** has an integrated Guideline on Alternative Care since 2018, with a special section on Aftercare. It provides for 2% reservation to orphans in education and jobs.
 - The Maharashtra State Probation and After care association is the nodal agency to coordinate aftercare services at district level under the supervision of the DCPU.
 - There are six Government boys and three NGO-managed Aftercare Homes in Maharashtra with a total intake capacity of 600 and 110 respectively.
 - The Government provides grant-in-aid per month per resident of these homes for providing residential facilities, food, clothes, education, medical facilities, counselling, vocational guidance, etc.
 - NGO Prerna has set up many group hostels for girls where the residents manage everything independently
 - There are no aftercare homes for girls in the state
 - CCIs have been trained to work on transition planning and skilling of children through their ICPs
 - No formal state level network exists though there are many small alumni groups in different parts

The Aftercare Association was renamed in 1960 as the Maharashtra State Probation and Aftercare Association (MSPAA). It was in 1959 that an Aftercare Home for girls was opened in Mumbai. In 1996, the Associations got registered as a civil society organisation, with the Govt. of Maharashtra recruiting the staff but the management decisions were taken independently. The State government has thus recognised the body as a nodal organisation to support the young probationer offenders and youth from various CCIs. MSPAA has a network in 35 districts under the District Probation and Aftercare Associations and is responsible for implementing the existing rehabilitation schemes such as 'Earn and Learn Scheme' etc. MSPAA and its district partners are mandated to implement the Aftercare programme in the State.

For a total of 36 districts in Maharashtra, there are seven Government Aftercare Homes, of which 1 is managed by an NGO. Six of these seven homes are for boys, while only one is for girls. As of January 2019, the total capacity of each house is 100, except one boy's home with an allocated capacity of 40. Hence at any point of time, a total of 540 male CLs and 100 female CLs can be provided accommodation in these Aftercare homes. The seven homes are located in Amravati, Aurangabad, Kolhapur, Mumbai, Nagpur, Nashik, and Pune (6 for males and 1 for females). No Aftercare Homes exist in rural locations of Maharashtra and therefore, CLs from such locations have no option but to move to a different district or sustain themselves without any Aftercare provision.

Commonly, there appear to be two main types of Group Homes:

- Group Home actively run and monitored by a Civil Society Organization (CSO),
- Group Home externally assisted (GH-EA) by a CSO (a model innovated by Prerana).

Prerana has experience of running Group Home. This is, however, limited to the tier 1 and tier 2 cities only in the state of Maharashtra.

In the case of structures used for GH facilities, the civic authorities like a municipal corporation, municipal council, or Zilla Parishad help in validating the legal status through a legal ownership deed, legal occupancy status (valid rightful ownership), and/or some legal paper agreement. This also includes the legal title and validity search of the premise. The lease agreement is generally registered at the sub-registrar's office and the local police station is kept informed about the number of people living in the flat along with a copy of the residents' identity documents.

Prerana is engaged in the **Externally-Assisted Group Homes (GH-EA)** for girl victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and other care leavers above the age of 18. Once four to six girls agree to live together, Prerana assists them with the identification of a residential unit and the registration of the lease agreement. Sometimes, there are GHs that are being run by older girls with whom Prerana has worked in the past. Girls exiting CCIs might be placed in such GHs with external financial and other assistance provided by Prerana. The girls, who have exited the institutional life as care leavers might not be under the direct jurisdiction of the CWC. However, the CWC may have appointed an individual/ organization to follow up on the youth care leaver post their discharge from the CCI. The residents are thus independent adults who can take decisions about their life and residence. To that extent, the residents may decide to come together, rent a residence and manage the functioning of the residence (Group Home), until new residents take their place.

Prerana also works on a few other critical things to assist the care leavers.

- Checks the legal validity of the unit: Prerana carries out a 'title search' to assess the legal validity of the dwelling unit/establishment as well as the competence of the individual who is the signing authority.
- Section 2 (41) of the JJ Act 2015, "open shelter" means a facility for children, established and maintained by the State Government, either by itself, or through a voluntary or non-governmental organisation under sub-section (1) of section 43, and registered as such, for the purposes specified in that section;
- Facilitates the signing of lease agreements: Prerana acts as a link between the real estate agents and the residents. The organization also ensures that the lease agreement is signed in the name of one of the resident/s and not in the name of the assisting organization. Often, this resident is a senior care leaver who has had some experience of living in a GH or aftercare facility and is in a position to mentor care leavers.
- Audits the residential area: Prerana conducts visits to the units to check the physical safety of the structures (like checking for exposed electrical wires, safety concerns from disasters and hazards), as well as the physical and social environment (such as the proximity to public transit systems). A representative from the organization meets the neighbours, maps the basic amenities and community resources available, and acts as a link between the landlord or the real estate agent (wherever involved) and the resident girls.

- Assigns a duly vetted local guardian: Usually, a woman, who the organization is familiar with or who has volunteered with the organization is assigned to guide and support the residents. This mentor is usually residing close to the GH. The guardians are made aware of Prerana's Safeguarding and Protection Policy.
- Orients the residents with the community: This includes discussions with the residents about setting ground rules for visits by the landlord, and the in- and out- times for the residents.
- Aids financially to set up the GH-EA, if required: Pays the rent for up to one year, if required. For girls solely pursuing education, Prerana makes the contribution on their behalf for rent and essential services like groceries.
- Conducts regular follow-ups with the residents: This includes visits from an organizational representative (at least twice a month) and regular follow-ups through phone calls. A GH-EA is not a constant set-up where one group commences the GH and stays put till the end. For their own reasons, residents leave, and new ones join. Thus, the GH-EA must allow for such change in the configuration. This means that the person in whose name the lease gets signed needs to step up and take responsibility till the lease agreement is valid and renewed. In case the CWC has passed a follow-up order to Prerana and the care leavers decide to leave the GH-EA then the Prerana social worker accompany the care leavers to the CWC during which the care leavers share their plan and the CWC may assess the safety and soundness of this plan. In most cases, after assessing this plan the CWC takes decisions to close the case.

In Prerana's experience, sometimes, the organization facilitating the GH-EA may also terminate its association after completing the stipulated time period and may be unable to continue providing the assistance. In such cases, termination is planned and structured and in consultation with the Care leaver and CWC (if relevant). In some cases, the residents may approach another organization to provide the continuation of external assistance. In some other cases, the organization may take the initiative to put the resident women in contact with another CSO which is willing to provide the support externally. If the organization facilitating the GH-EA recognizes that the residents are self-reliant and capable of running the facility independently, they may decide.

The operational guidelines are slightly different in Aftercare Homes (AH) as compared to a GH or a GH-EA. AH can be run by the government, CSOs, or voluntary organizations. Often, they are run by those voluntary organizations that have a CCI and extend their services to the care leavers during their aftercare phase. In such cases, the rules of the AH may be similar to that of the CCI, with relatively more independence granted to the now-adult residents. AHs also have their own rules and manuals/SOP/checklists/best practices/guidelines set by the authorities with or without consultation with the residents, to be followed by the residents and staff. In a GH or GH-EA, the rules are set down by the resident girls and facilitated by the organization.

The care leavers who are not prepared to live a fully independent life or are full-time or non-earning students usually opt for an AH. On the other hand, those who feel prepared for a fully independent life prefer a GH either supervised or externally-assisted. The preparedness of the girls is assessed through an inclusive consultative process.

Prerana follows a participatory process and works with the residents in evolving rules that are in their best interest and address their needs. They are in the form of ‘self-regulatory mechanisms’; the residents put together a ‘document of rules’ to which all the residents give their commitment. These rules are often revisited whenever required. Prerana’s role is thus that of a facilitator, helping care leavers to lead, make informed decisions and take charge of their lives.

An individual who has been a part of the JJ system needs to be in a physically safe space that protects them from abuse, exploitation, harassment or any other forms of violence.

In case of an AH or a GH, it is essential that the residence is in an area away from the potential dangers of re-trafficking and re-victimization—and the neighbourhood is conducive to their rehabilitation.

- Organizes orientations on personal safety: This includes sharing information and contact details of helplines and support organizations in the immediate neighbourhood. Prerana also educates the residents about situations where the girls should approach the police station, as well as their rights while at the police station.
- Creates a system to screen and monitor visits from non-residents at the GH: Since a GH prepares residents to eventually manage a home, visits from guests are only rightful and obvious. For a fulfilling social life, it’s important that the girls learn to build social relation. However, this might not always be easy and carries several safety implications.
- Mobility and Self-Dependence: A person above the age of 18 years is legally an adult and should not be constrained from moving about freely. Freedom of movement enables self-dependence and makes the residents confident to navigate life on their own. Thus, it is essential that residents in an AH or GH have access to society without restrictions on their movements. While safety must be ensured, the restrictions should not adversely affect the positive mobility of the residents. It is important to help the residents take responsibility for their safety and well-being, fulfilling their potential while also intermingling and negotiating with one’s own social environment.

In a GH-EA, Prerana helps residents understand safety in operational terms and discusses helpful tips to stay safe since the external, authoritative supervision is limited. Prerana undertakes the following activities to help residents take responsibility for their personal safety:

- Helps residents evolve ‘self-regulatory mechanisms’
- Creates a ‘Code of Conduct,’
- Provides regular individual and group counseling to deal with challenges in independent living,
- Installs disaster-mitigation devices, mechanisms, and systems e.g. fire extinguishers.

Collective living is bound to cause differences of opinion and conflict among the residents. These conflicts are to be dealt with constructively and fairly. However, it may not be possible for an organization to always mediate between the residents, making it necessary for them to be equipped with basic conflict-resolution skills, especially at a GH-EA. In the case of an AH, if a resident has concerns that require to be addressed by the organization, there are mechanisms already put in place. In the GH-EA by Prerana, **the residents work together to create certain rules**. The organization facilitates sessions on conflict resolution, financial management and safety for the residents. If the conflict or concerns are external, the organization acts as a mediator. Prerana also organizes alumni meetings where the alumni share their learnings of overcoming the challenges of living together. In Prerana’s experience, the informal network of care leavers acts as great support for the care leavers.

Prerana undertakes the following activities to facilitate conflict resolution amongst residents:

- Sets up internal systems of conflict resolution: Prerana sets up systems for residents to meet regularly to discuss all kinds of concerns in group living. The residents can also report to the social worker in case of more serious grievances.
- Sets up externally assisted systems of conflict resolution: Prerana brings in peers to help conflict resolution. This is done only after the residents agree and want an external set-up. The external peers are also decided and finalized after consultation with the residents.
- Organizes group and individual counselling sessions: This helps the residents navigate difficult situations at the individual and the group level.

Current Aftercare Practice in Chhattisgarh

- **Chhattisgarh** has a detailed Guideline on Aftercare named **Mukhyamantri Bal Uday Yojna.**, which provides for 4000+3000 = 7000 Rs. per month, plus 1000 extra to youth in group housing for rent.
 - It also mentions that JD will be State Nodal person for aftercare and DPOs will be District Nodal officers.
 - Higher edu and vocational training expenses are to be borne by state (including logistics)
 - NGO/civil society facilitated Aftercare housing - to get 10k by state
 - Provision for entrepreneurship and paid visits by trained psychologists and doctors

Current Aftercare Practice in Gujarat

There are only two districts in Gujarat (Rajkot and Vadodara), that have a Government Aftercare residential facility for male CLs. CLs from other districts face difficulties after 18 years if they relocate to another district. CLs from other districts are referred to State Homes for Men and Women (Nari Gruh, Lohana Vikas Gruh, etc.). Female CLs are generally referred to institutions such as Nari Gruh and Lohana Vikas Samaj that provide accommodation and skilling services to all vulnerable women, without meeting the specific needs of Aftercare. Effectively, Aftercare facilities for girls are unavailable and superintendents of State Homes, Nari Gruh, etc. are not sensitive towards the needs of CLs. In matters of skilling, employment and even marriage, the institute does not get involved, although the young women are free to pursue what they wish. Although these residential facilities fulfil basic necessities of food, shelter and education, they are not proactive in ensuring reintegration of CLs with the mainstream society. According to data available, as of 2017, from the Social Justice and Empowerment Department (SJED), Government of Gujarat, 29 CLs in the age group of 18 to under 21 are accommodated in the two Aftercare facilities located at Vadodara and Rajkot, and across the State home for Women.

In some special cases, the CWCs allow CLs to stay in CCIs even beyond 18 years of age. The freedom accorded to them at this stage increases as they can now opt to look for jobs, and come and go as they please. The rules, regulations and restrictions imposed on children in CCIs are relaxed for CLs by CWCs. The Government of Gujarat has notified DCPUs and Social Development officer (SDO) that they may continue to provide Aftercare support/services to CLs within the CCI itself, so that they may remain in the same district and the continuum of care may be maintained.

Current Aftercare Practice in Karnataka

There is 1 Government Aftercare Home functioning at present at Belgaum and two Aftercare units attached to Children's Home for boys and the Children's Home for mentally challenged boys at Bangalore, both managed by the Government.

There are a couple of NGOs that provide Aftercare support in non-institutional manner by encouragement to pursue education in high schools, ITI, Polytechnics and Colleges; helping them to secure a job, and helping bring them to the mainstream of society. Districts in Bengaluru has Aftercare homes managed by **WeLive** Foundation, catering to both boys and girls, each accommodating 25-30 children. Notably, these Aftercare homes operate without financial support from the government, relying instead on funds generated through CSR initiatives or philanthropic contributions. Residents of these homes receive comprehensive amenities, including accommodation, food, and electricity. In return, they contribute Rs. 3500 to the We Live Foundation. This initiative falls under the bridge home program, with each residential Bridge Program center having 2 full-time dedicated staff and 2 shared staff, in addition to 2 part-time staff.

Youth residents in these Aftercare homes shoulder the responsibility of running the facilities, covering tasks such as maintaining premises, cooking, cleaning, ensuring safety, conducting sessions and classes, managing accounts, and other necessary duties. Quarterly training sessions are conducted on mental health, gender, sexuality, dealing with hearing and speech impairment, working with people living with HIV, and Life Coaching.

These homes adhere to policies such as POSH Guidelines, a program guidelines handbook, travel policy, substance addiction policy, and medical standard operating procedures.

Educational support for youths is provided through IGNOU, NIOS, and various colleges.

Vocational training covers general skills (English, Computers), interior design, office administration, digital marketing, retail operations, fundraising, craft design and business, and obtaining a driving license.

Mental health support is a priority, with counsellors specializing in somatic, grief, anger, and general counseling available for both staff and youth. Special educators are engaged to provide specialized skill training programs for children with special needs. Assistance is offered in developing legal documents such as Aadhar, PAN, and bank accounts, while medical insurance is provided through private health insurance to ensure the holistic well-being of the youth.

Current Aftercare Practice in Delhi

There are two Government Aftercare Homes, one for boys in Alipur and one for girls. Each of the Govt. Aftercare homes in Delhi has a total capacity of 100. Hence at any point of time, a total of 100 males CLs and 100 female CLs can be provided accommodation in the government Aftercare homes in the city. As per officials from the two homes, the capacity is never totally utilized.

There are twelve NGOs in Delhi that provide Aftercare services to young adults in some form or the other. A few of them have their own Aftercare facilities where young adults exiting from their own CCIs are provided accommodation. These NGOs also provide needs-based support to their own CLs in education, vocational training, employment and health. A few models are run by NGOs like Rainbow that provide group housing and charge youth if they are earning.