

COMMITTEE
FOR THE
WELFARE OF
PRISONERS



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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners (CWP) is a successful example of a public-private partnership in Sindh. CWP was notified by the Government of Sindh in 2004 under the Chairpersonship of Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid to provide legal aid to underprivileged adult female and juvenile prisoners. The scope of CWP's outreach expanded in 2011 to include prisons accommodating adult male prisoners, and in 2017 to allow for a greater focus on rehabilitation processes and legal empowerment of prisoners to discourage recidivism.

CWP works through its project known as the Legal Aid Office to provide free legal aid and representation to underprivileged prisoners, irrespective of their age, gender, ethnicity or religious beliefs in the province of Sindh so long as its means criteria and threshold is met. The objective of the Committee is to improve access to justice for prisoners and is built around the belief that free legal aid is a fundamental right, as well as the right to fair trial and representation before the court. The Committee supports Sindh's Criminal Justice System by advocating for speedy trials and case resolutions on behalf of clients. This in turn reduces the burden on and de-congests the overly crowded and under-resourced prison system. At present, the Committee provides its services to prisoners in 24 prisons in Sindh.



JUSTICE NASIR ASLAM ZAHID



TERMS OF

REFERENCE :

1. To provide legal awareness and legal empowerment to prisoners;
2. To provide free legal aid, advice and assistance to prisoners;
3. To work for the welfare of juvenile prisoners, women prisoners and children living with their mothers in prisons in the areas of education, health rehabilitation and livelihood support and
4. To review laws, rules, regulations and policies related to prisoners and prisons and suggest repeal, amendment or new legislation if needed.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

FOR THE WELFARE OF PRISONERS



Justice Nasir Aslam Zahid
Chairperson



Haya Emaan Zahid
Secretary / Member



Inspector General of Prisons Sindh
Member

**Additional Secretary (Prisons),
Home Department, Government of Sindh**
Member

**Deputy Inspector General
of Prisons Sindh
(concerned regions)**
Member

**Additional Secretary,
Women Development Department,
Government of Sindh**
Member

**Director, Women
Development Department**
Member

OUR TEAM





GEOGRAPHIC FOOTPRINT:

CWP provides legal representation in 49 judicial districts across Sindh through a team of 38 specialized and Sensitised lawyers.

KARACHI

Courts Covered

1. District and Session Court Malir
2. District and Session Court East
3. District and Session Court East
4. District and Session Court West
5. District and Session Court South
6. District and Session Court Central
7. Judicial Complex
8. Anti-Terrorism Court
9. Control of Narcotic Substances Court
10. High Court of Sindh, Karachi Registry.
11. Remand Home

Number of lawyers

18

TOTAL NUMBER OF
COURTS COVERED

49

HYDERABAD

Courts Covered

1. District and Session Court Mirpurkhas
2. District and Session Court Tando Allahyar
3. District and Session Court Tando Muhammad Khan
4. District and Session Court Jamshoro
5. District and Session Court Kotri
6. District and Session Court Matiari
7. District and Session Court Hyderabad
8. High Court, Hyderabad Bench

Number of lawyers

04

TOTAL NUMBER
OF LAWYERS

38

LARKANA

Courts Covered

1. District and Session Court Larkana
2. District and Session Court Kamber

Number of lawyers

03

KHAIRPUR

Courts Covered

1. District and Session Court Khairpur
2. Taluka Court Kingri
3. Taluka Court Kotdiji
4. Taluka Court Gambat
5. Taluka Court Sobhodero
6. High Court, Sukkur Bench

Number of lawyers

02

SUKKUR

Courts Covered

1. District and Session Court Sukkur
2. District and Session Court Ghotki
3. District and Session Court Shikarpur
4. High Court, Sukkur Bench

Number of lawyers

04

SANGHAR

Courts Covered

1. District and Session Court Sanghar
2. Sinjhoru Court
3. Khipro Court
4. Shahdadpur Court
5. Tando Adam Court

Number of lawyers

04

DADU

Courts Covered

1. District and Session Court Naushero Feroze
2. Taluka court Kandiaro
3. Moro Court
4. Bahria Court
5. District and Session Court Dadu
6. KN Shah Court
7. Mehar Taluka Court
8. Johi Court
9. Sehwan Court

Number of lawyers

03

NAWABSHAH

Courts Covered

1. Qazi Ahmed
2. Daur
3. Dolatpur
4. Sakrand

Number of lawyers

02

GEOGRAPHIC FOOTPRINT:

LARKANA

House# 170, Sachal Sarmast Colony, Near Khuhra Sport Complex Larkana.
Phone: 074-4756029.

NAWABSHAH

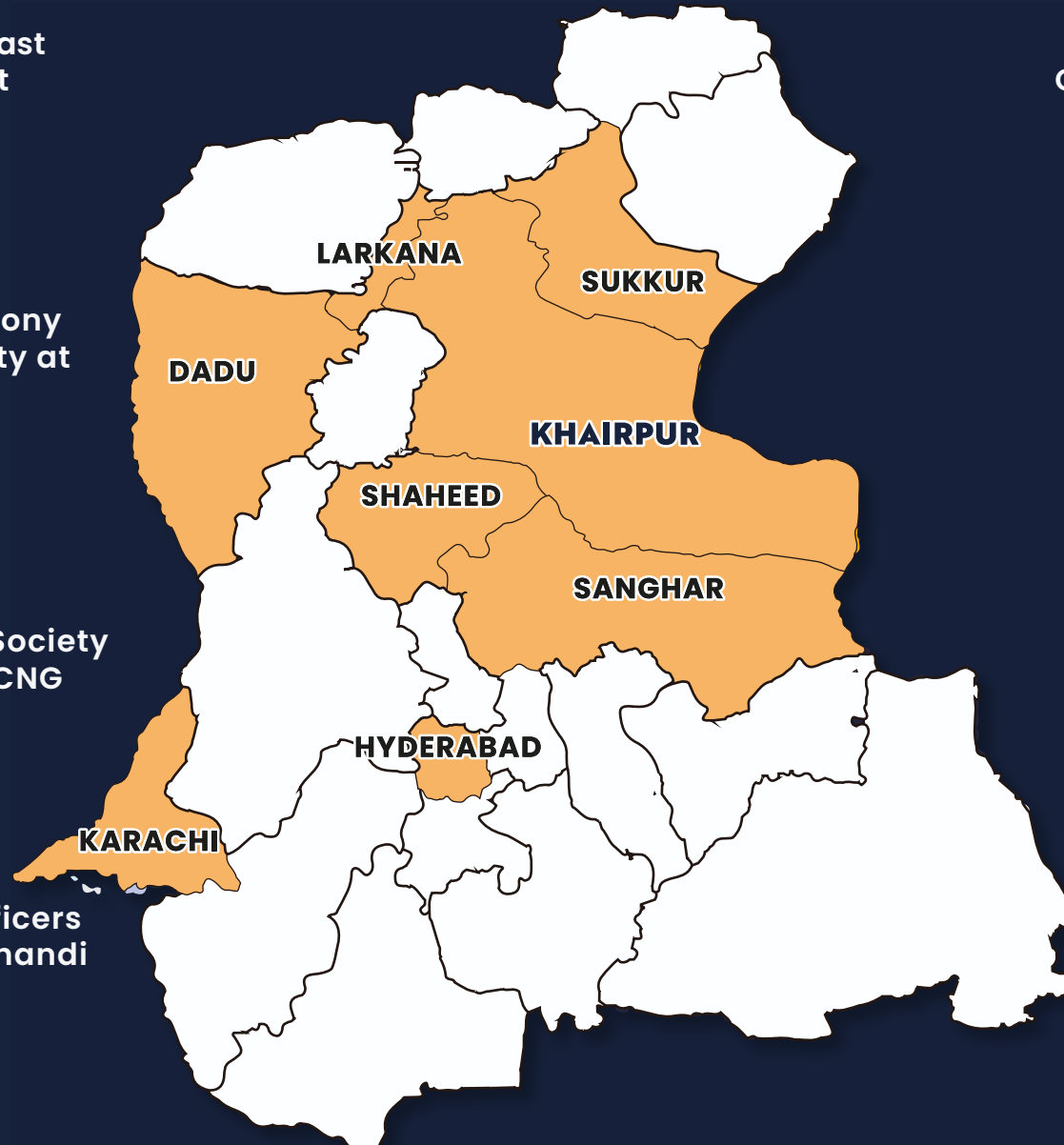
House# 11 Khairshah colony link Road Housing Society at Nawabshah
Phone: 0244-381437,
0244381379

SANGHAR

House# 129/2, Housing Society near Gokhlani Brothers CNG Station at Sanghar.
Phone: 0235-541181-2

HYDERABAD

House# 153, Defence Officers Housing Society, Main Thandi Sarak, Hyderabad.
Phone: 022-2720042-3



SUKKUR

Bungalow# A-32, Friends Cooperative Housing Society, Shikarpur Road, Sukkur, Pakistan.
Phone: 071-5807215-6

KHAIRPUR

Street No. 1, House# 4, 1st Floor, Citizens Colony, Near Garhi Pul Khairpur.
Phone: 0243-686022-23

DADU

Near Qalandari Hotel Moundar Naka Moro Road Dadu
Phone: 0254-610050

HEAD/KARACHI

Block C, 1st Floor, FTC Building, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi
Phone #02135634112-5

FREE LEGAL AID AND ADVICE

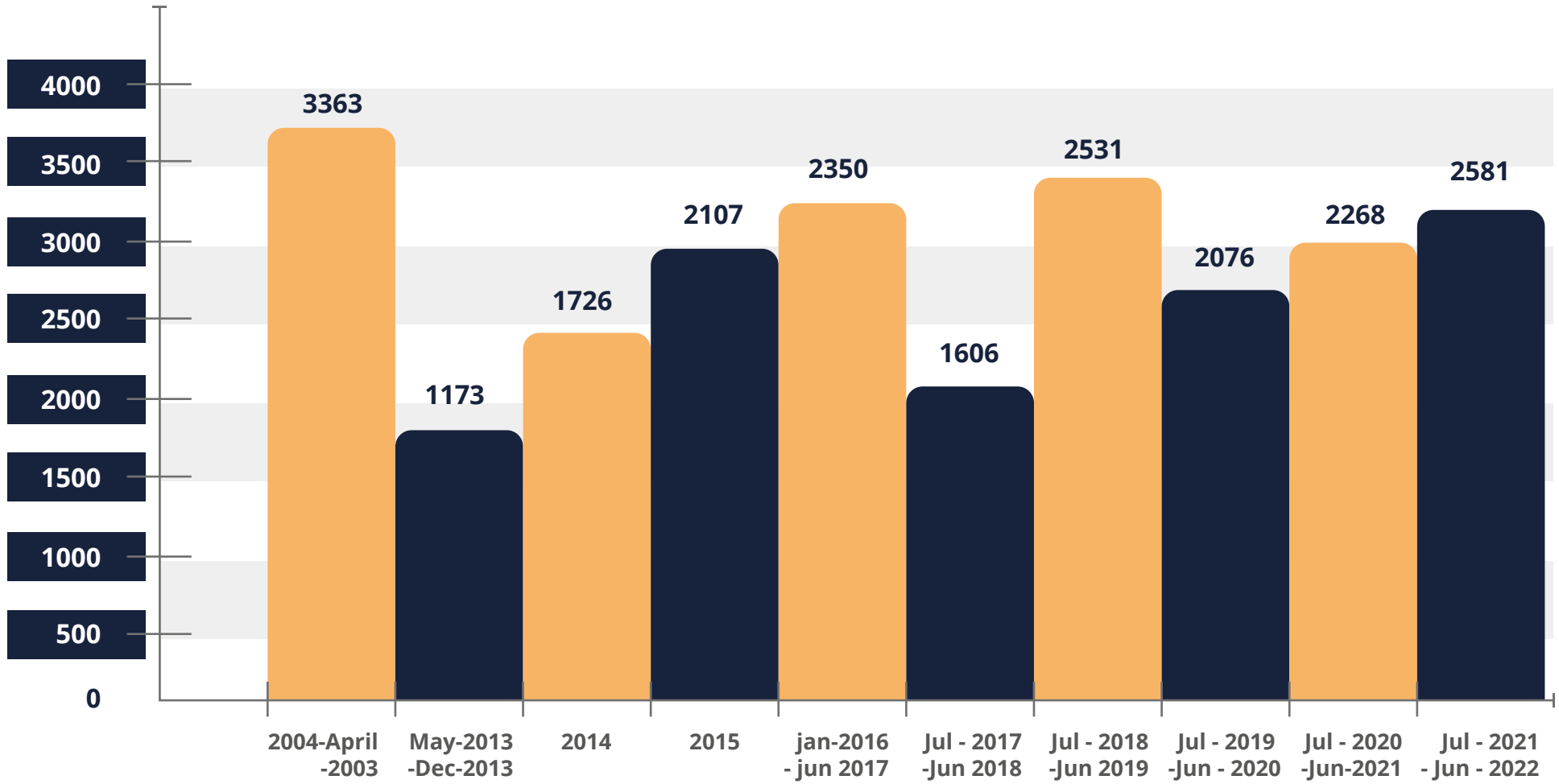
CONSOLIDATED PROGRESS FROM 2004 – JUNE 30, 2022

| | 2004-Dec-2019 | Jan-2020-jun-2022 | Grand Total |
|--|---------------|-------------------|-------------|
| » LEGAL AID CLINICS CONDUCTED | 8799 | 3700 | 12499 |
| » INTERVIEWS OF PRISONERS CONDUCTED | 29008 | 14225 | 43233 |
| » VAKALATNAMAS FILED FOR REPRESENTING PRISONERS | 18702 | 7093 | 25795 |
| » CASES DISPOSED BY COURT ORDERS | 16298 | 5483 | 21781 |
| » APPLICATIONS FOR BAIL GRANTED | 5526 | 3268 | 8794 |
| » ACQUITTALS ON MERIT | - | - | 9586 |

Right to a fair trial and due process is a fundamental human right that is ensured in Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and in Article 10A of the Constitution of Pakistan. However, a large number of under trial prisoners (UTPs) in Pakistan remain deprived of such rights, largely on account of lack of free legal aid services and legal awareness. Against this backdrop, CWP provides legal aid and advice to UTPs across 24 prisons in Sindh.



FROM 2004 TO JUNE 2022



LEGAL AWARENESS AND EMPOWERMENT

PRISON PARALEGAL PROGRAM

CWP started a Prison Paralegal Program in 2017 in the Central Prison and Women's Prison in Karachi. This program was later scaled to the Central Prisons in Hyderabad and Sukkur. This is a first-of-its-kind convict led paralegal program inside prisons. The objective was to create a sustainable mechanism for all new inmates in prison to be informed on prison norms and rules, prisoners' rights and duties as well as the Criminal Justice System and to promote legal literacy amongst prisoners. What makes this program unique is the sustainability which is ensured through training convicts as paralegals who then transfer knowledge to other prisoners



A paralegal is a person who is trained on substantive knowledge of legal matters but is not qualified as a lawyer. Paralegals work to help other prisoners and assist them on different legal issues. All new arrivals attend legal awareness sessions twice a week that cover: Introduction to the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Fundamental Rights, Introduction to Crime, Criminal Law: The Basics of Criminal Law, Criminal Trial, Defenses and Sentencing, Probation, Parole and the Reasoning behind Sentences, Juvenile Justice, Gender Sensitization and Marriage and some chunks of Sindh Prisons and Correctional Facilities Prison Rules 2019.



Since 2017, 251 inmates have been trained as paralegals who have in turn provided awareness to 6,454 prisoners

ADULT LITERACY AND LEGAL LITERACY

In 2018, CWP collaborated with Society for the Advancement of Health, Education and the Environment (SAHEE) to provide adult literacy classes in the Women's Prison Karachi.

The purpose for these classes is to impart basic education among prisoners so that they are able to learn basic words and language concepts that build and support their communication and information exchange. This also supports laying down the foundations for their empowerment and can help in reducing poverty and crime. 50 female prisoners attended these classes for basic literacy skills.



INITIATIVES FOR JUVENILE'S EDUCATION

CWP collaborated with the Legal Aid Society (LAS), to initiate a basic literacy program for juveniles in YOIS Karachi. The initiative leverages technology to improve the quality of learning experience and lesson delivery. This is achieved through curriculum-aligned and engaging digital lessons that improve student engagement and knowledge retention.

This collaboration also delivers life-skills based education to juvenile in order to improve their learning outcomes, teach them basic life-skills such as teamwork, entrepreneurship, community service etc. in order to improve their chances of rehabilitation into society.

THE EARLY LEARNING CENTRE (ELC)

Early Learning Centers (ELCs) in the Women's Prisons in Karachi and Hyderabad aim to neutralize the prison environment, normalize the living experiences of children incarcerated with their mothers in prisons, and help them to re-integrate with society after their release.

Imparting education among children through learning methods customized to the prison context, ELC provides its services to children between the ages of 2 to 9 who were studying or have studied at the pre-primary level. Up until June 2022, a total of 176 children had attended ELCs in Karachi and Hyderabad.

In addition to provision of basic education, CWP-LAO in collaboration with the AMI School established a sensory garden outside ELC Karachi in 2021. The garden was inaugurated by Advisor to the Chief Minister of Sindh on Law and Inspector General of Prisons on 11th November 2021.



The sensory garden has multiple elements such as, play area, music wall, tree house, sandpit, bird cage and a pond with fish. This initiative is an attempt to replicate life outside prison to inculcate general ethics among children in a friendly environment. A similar garden is under construction in ELC Hyderabad.

CHILDREN'S PLAY ROOM

Children under the age of 9 years, residing inside the prison with their incarcerated mothers are deprived of necessities. The population of children in Karachi and Hyderabad required a full-time ELC. However, since the population of children in Sukkur was low, a children's play room was curated to allow for space recreation.



FOOTBALL

CWP in partnership with Karachi United Football Club (KU) organizes football training camps for juveniles in Karachi. The camps are organized twice a week to engage juveniles in a healthy recreational activity and allow them to learn essential life skills such as team building, leadership, sportsmanship, discipline and hard work. Released juveniles are connected with KUs regular training camps organized in Centers of Excellence spread across the city. A total of 612 juveniles have been enrolled in football camps up until June 2022

WELFARE AND REHABILITATION

SEWING CENTER

Keeping rehabilitation needs and economic empowerment of women in consideration, CWP-LAO runs sewing classes for female prisoners in the Women's Prisons in Karachi and Hyderabad. In addition to enhancing vocational skills, the activity provides constructive recreational avenues for women inmates. At present, 42 women are engaged in weekly sewing classes.



GYMNASIUM

CWP has recently established a gymnasium in the Women's Prison in Karachi. It is one of the key rehabilitation steps that not only improves the physical health of women inmates but also provide an additional measure of reducing stress and anxiety among women inmates. An experienced gym instructor runs classes twice a week

MENTAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS

Studies have shown that those incarcerated are two to four times more likely to suffer from depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia etc. in comparison to those who are not. There can be many reasons for a disproportionately higher rate of mental disorders in prisons such as the existence of a disorder prior to incarceration which may be exacerbated by the stress of imprisonment and poor living conditions.

CWP in partnership with Sehat Kahani (SK), provided women inmates in the Women's Prison Karachi with mental health counselling. Visits were conducted twice a week for counselling services; a psychiatrist would visit twice a month or as and when needed. The mode of this activity was impacted during COVID-19 when prison visits were suspended, therefore, an online training mechanism put in place for continued operations.

An online training session was conducted with juvenile prison staff on mental health of prisoners. The training focused on breaking the stigma related to mental health and promoting discussion around mental health for both, prisoners and staff. This session was attended by 25 participants from Juvenile Prisons of Karachi and Hyderabad.

In order to create a cross-referral mechanism, CWP advocates along with Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center (SLACC) lawyers were trained by Sehat Kahani to identify callers and beneficiaries in need of mental health support. These cases, once identified, are to be referred to Sehat Kahani for psychological sessions and diagnosis through a live case tracker sheet. This collaboration empowers our beneficiaries emotionally, validates their traumatic experiences and guides them on how to manage various symptoms such as memory loss when faced with depression and/or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).



COMPUTER LAB AND GAME ROOMS

A computer lab was established in the juvenile detention facility in Hyderabad in October 2017. Through this initiative juveniles are trained in IT skills to equip them with technical skills to enhance their professional capacity post incarceration.





**REVIEWING LAWS,
RULES, REGULATIONS AND
POLICIES RELATED TO
PRISONERS AND PRISONS**

PRISON CONDITIONS SURVEY

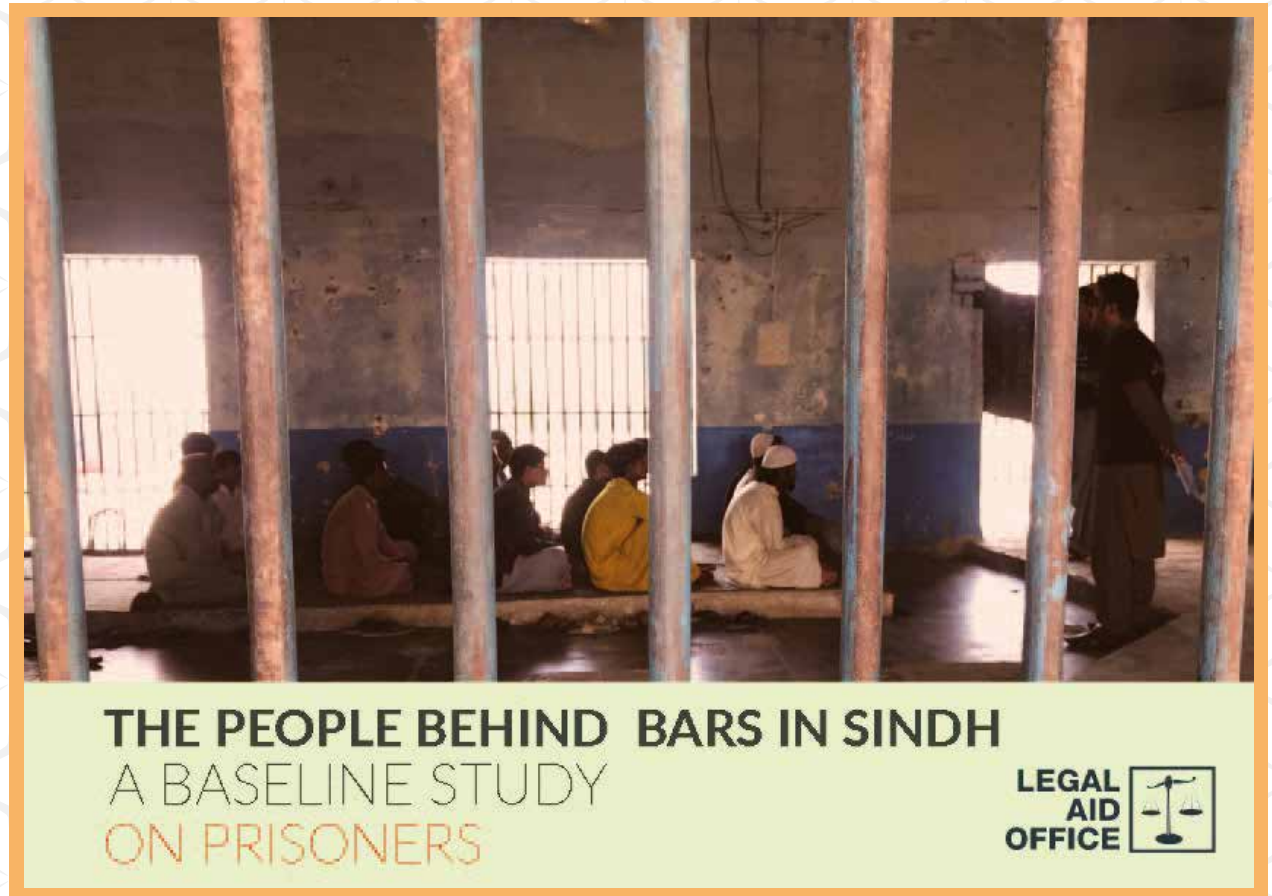
CWP conducted a prisons condition survey across 20 prisons in Sindh. This research provides a baseline for an evidence-based review of the current status of prisons across Sindh for informed policy, administrative and legal reform and development.



PARALEGAL BASELINE SURVEY

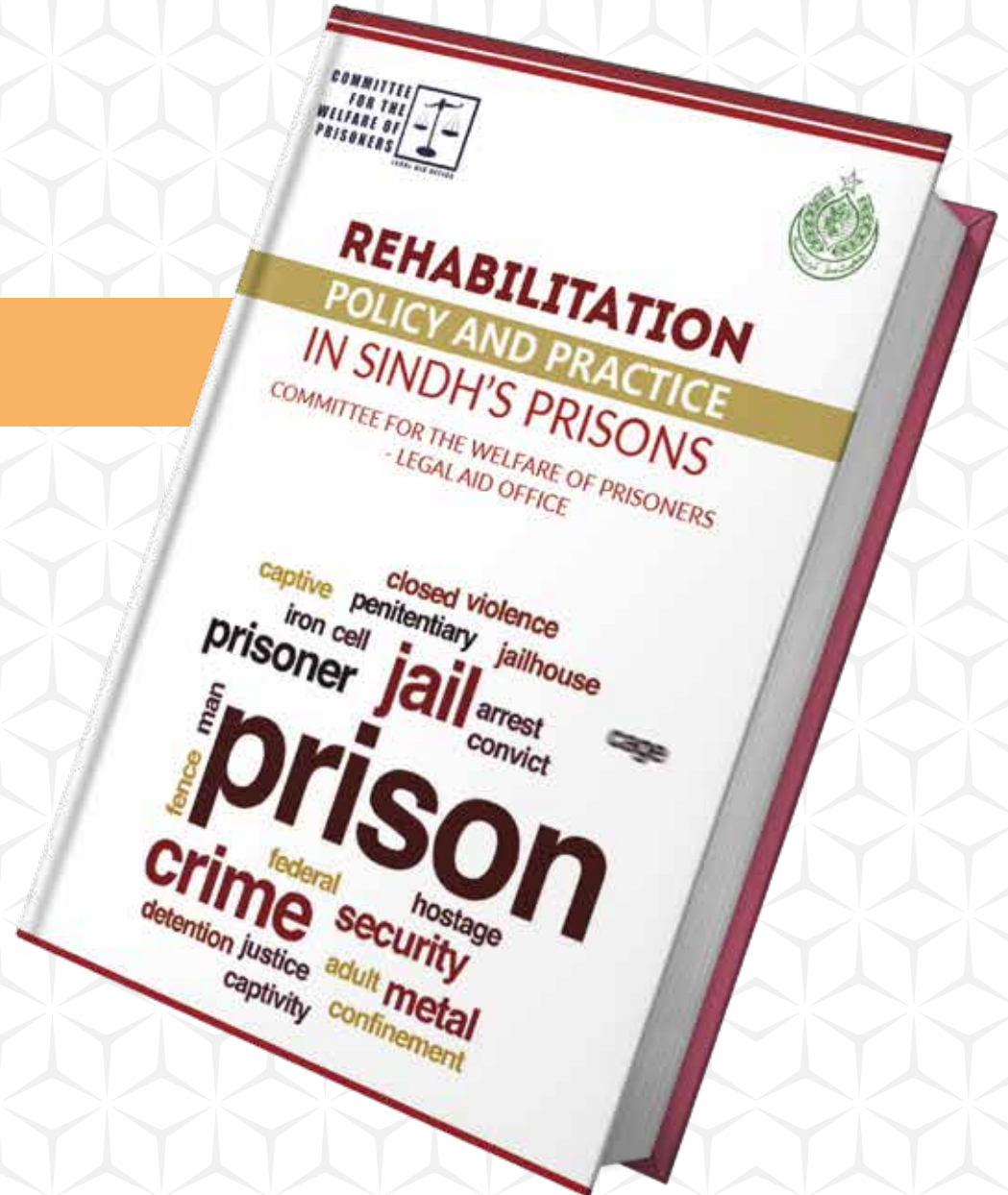
CWP conducted a baseline survey in 5 adult male prisons and 1 adult female prison in Sindh. The study identifies current levels of situational and legal awareness, empowerment and access to legal representation and legal aid for prison inmates in Sindh.

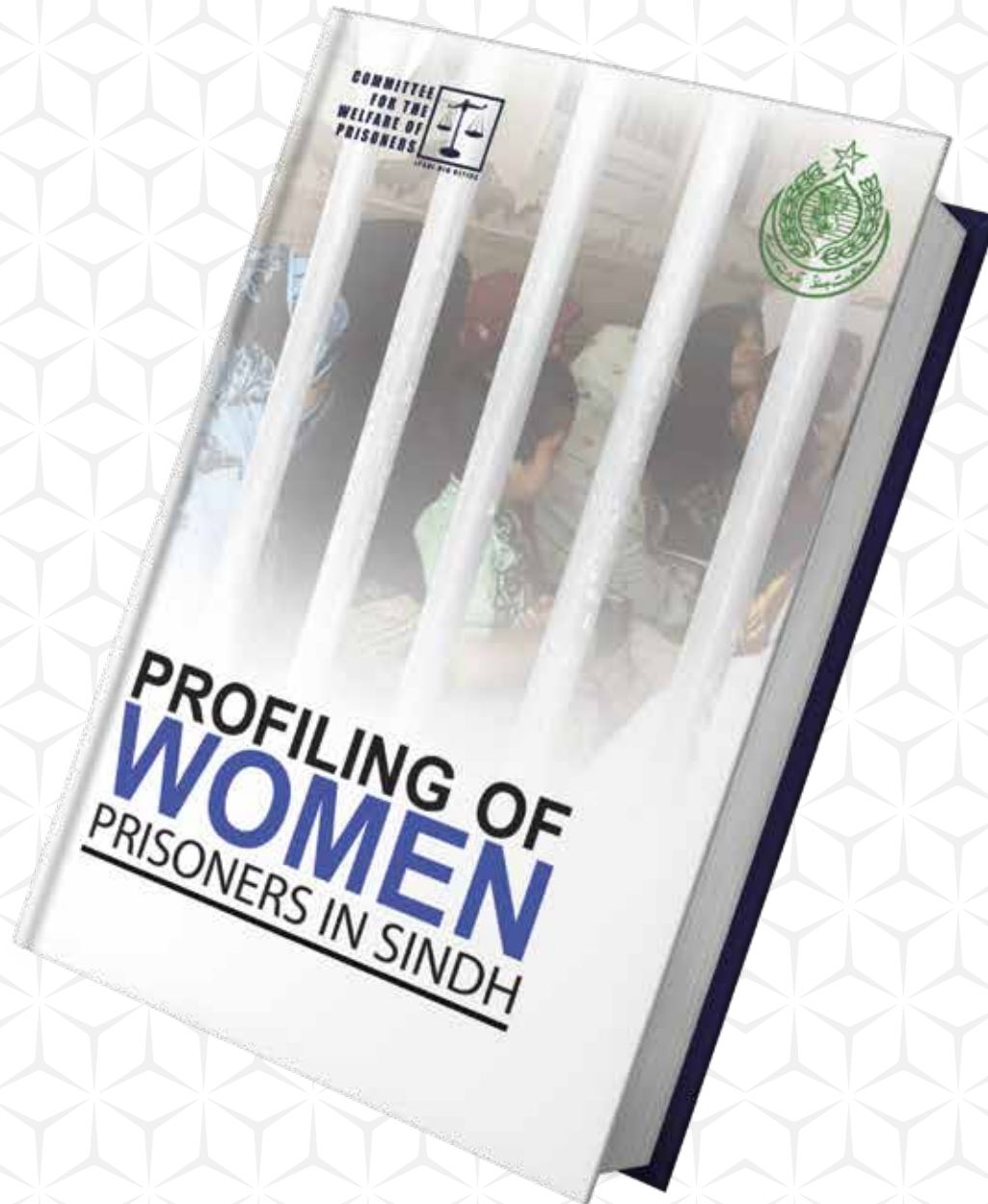
The study also provides the opportunity to poll prison inmates on rehabilitation needs including vocational and skills based training and medical and psycho-social services. The study serves as an evaluation of the satisfaction of under trial prisoners with the legal representation that they currently have and the awareness of the legal aid service. This baseline can be used as a benchmark to evaluate the Prison Paralegal Program and other activities conducted by the CWP.



REHABILITATION FRAMEWORK AND POLICY

This paper describes and assesses the rehabilitation framework within Sindh's adult male prisons to provide a contextual understanding of the applicability of prevailing criminological rehabilitation models. This paper also provides an analysis of the framework, with recommendations for the Prison Department on how to create a sustainable rehabilitation program in Sindh.



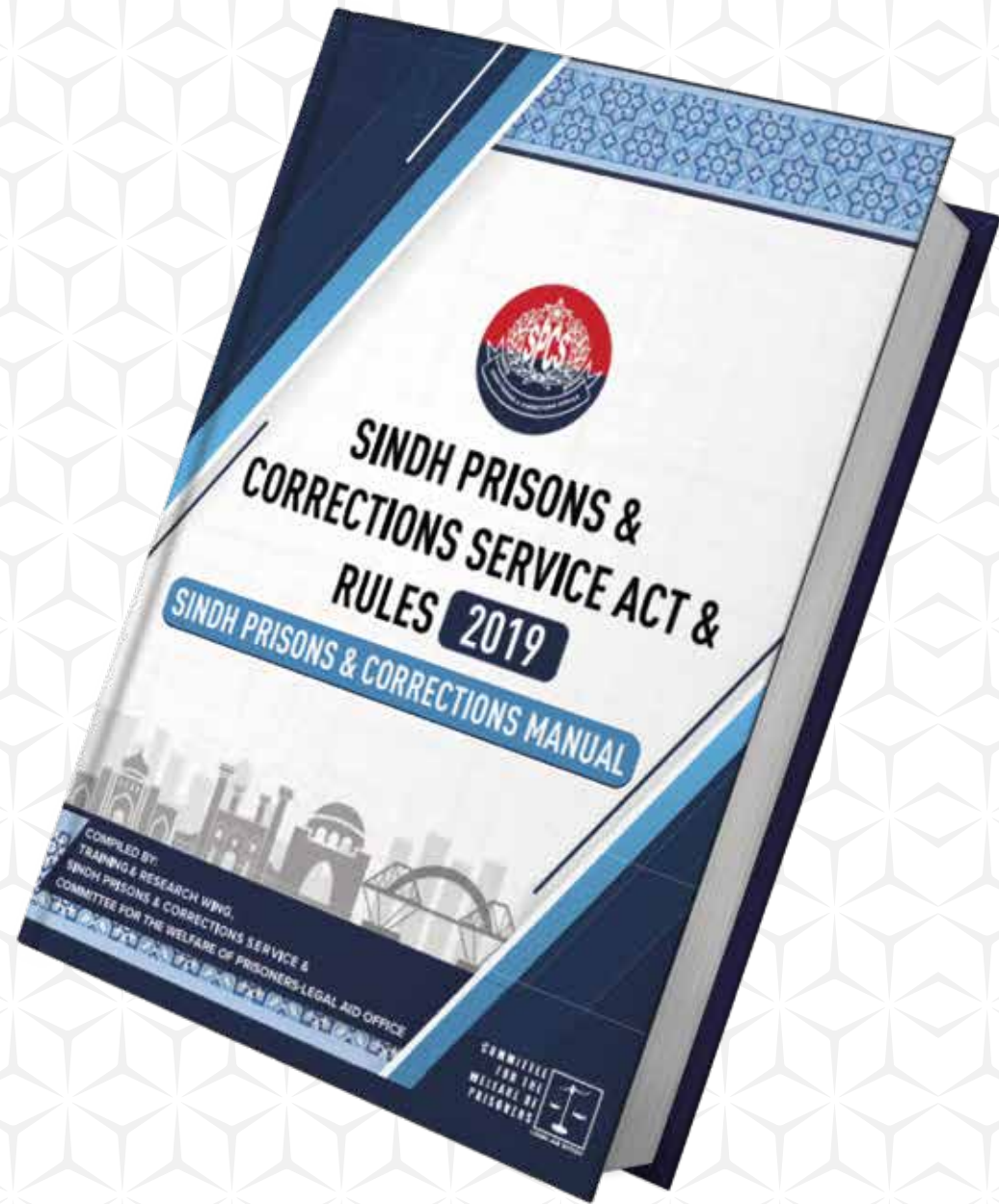


PROFILING OF WOMEN PRISONERS IN SINDH

The study explores socio-economics and demographic dynamics to understand criminality among women to contribute to the literature in this content.

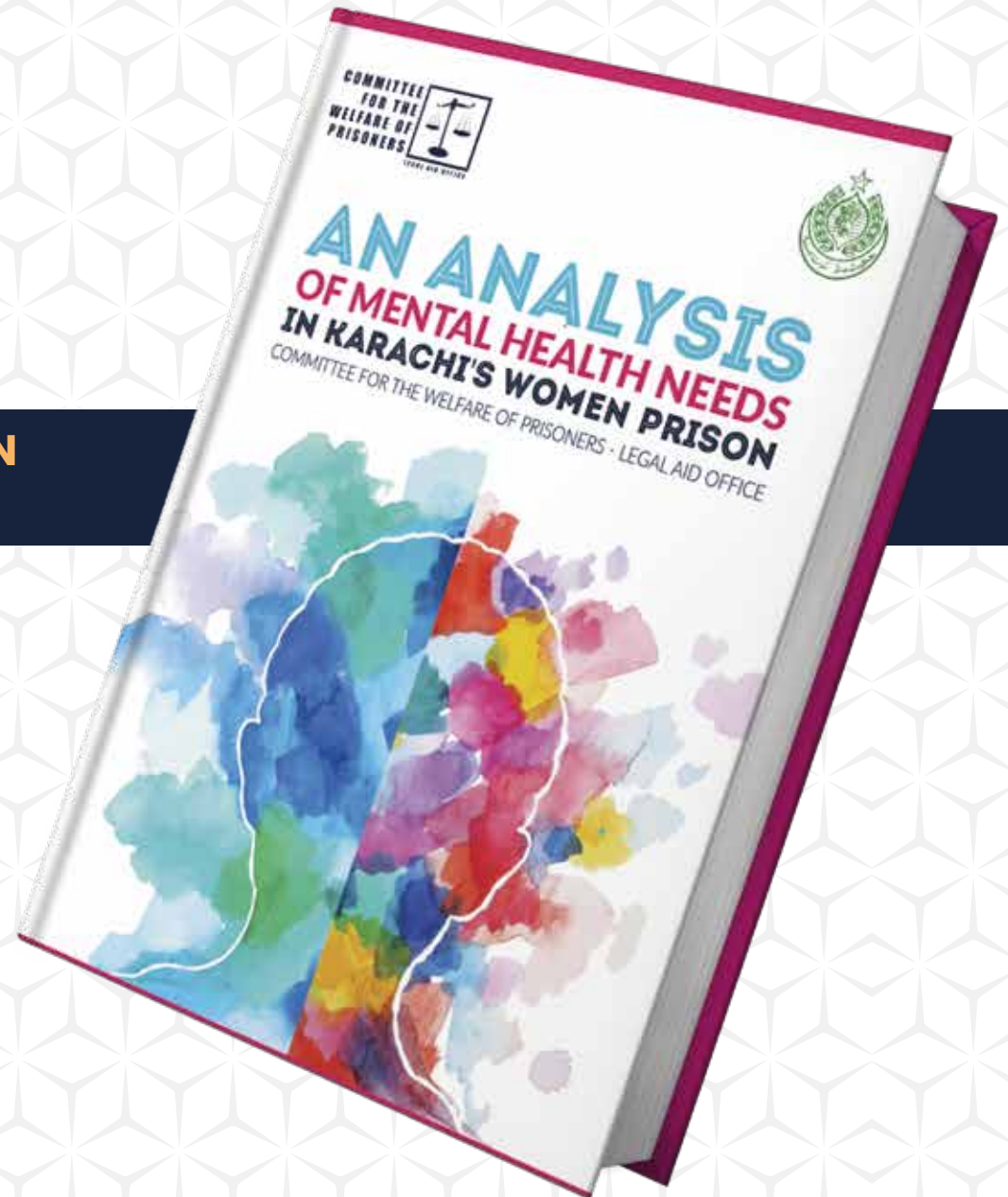
PRISON LAW REFORM

The Sindh Prisons and Correction Services Act 2019 was successfully passed by the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 17th May, 2019. The Committee also assisted in drafting the revised Prison Rules which were approved on 31st March 2020. This is how, Sindh became the first ever province of Pakistan which introduced Sindh Prisons and Corrections Services Act in June, 2019. Aligned with broader tenets of dignity and humanitarian equity, the Sindh Prisons and Corrections Services Act & Rules 2019 advocates for the treatment of all prisoners with respect and value without discrimination, and for the reform of the prison system into a rehabilitative and educational service.



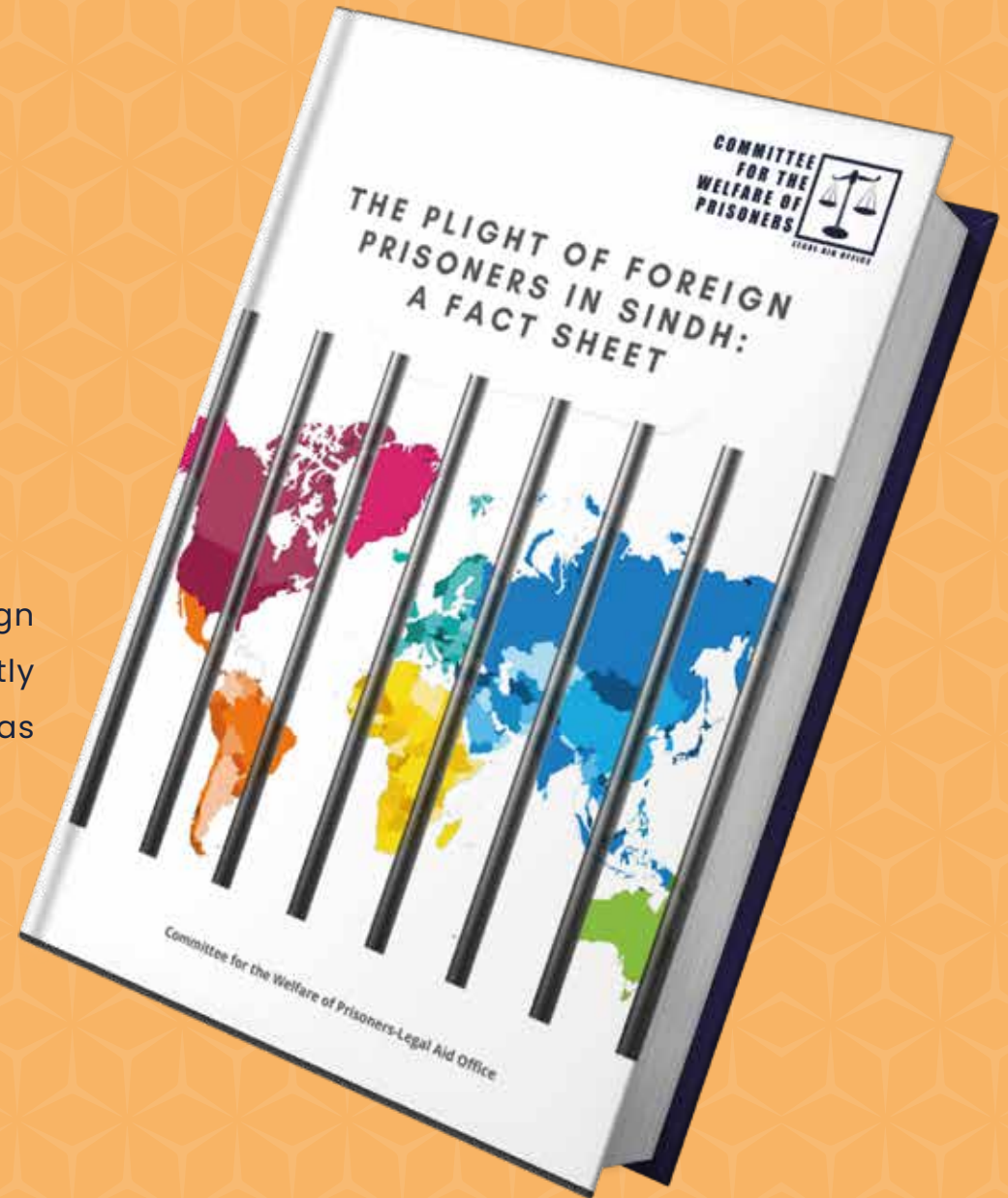
ANALYSIS OF MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS IN KARACHI'S WOMEN PRISON

This study is an introductory paper focusing on recognizing the increased incident of mental health issues for incarcerated women from Central Prison for Women Karachi.



THE PLIGHT OF FOREIGN PRISONERS IN SINDH: A FACT SHEET

This fact sheet highlights the unique vulnerability of foreign national prisoners, a group in prison that is all too frequently neglected. (Foreign national prisoners are defined here as prisoners who are not citizens or residents of Pakistan.)



DEVELOPING TRAINING MATERIAL ON NEW PRISON RULES

CWP firmly believes that basic legal awareness and sensitization towards rule of law should be directed not only towards enhancing the competencies of its staff members, but towards every citizen of the country which, in turn, will contribute to the legal empowerment of the entire nation.

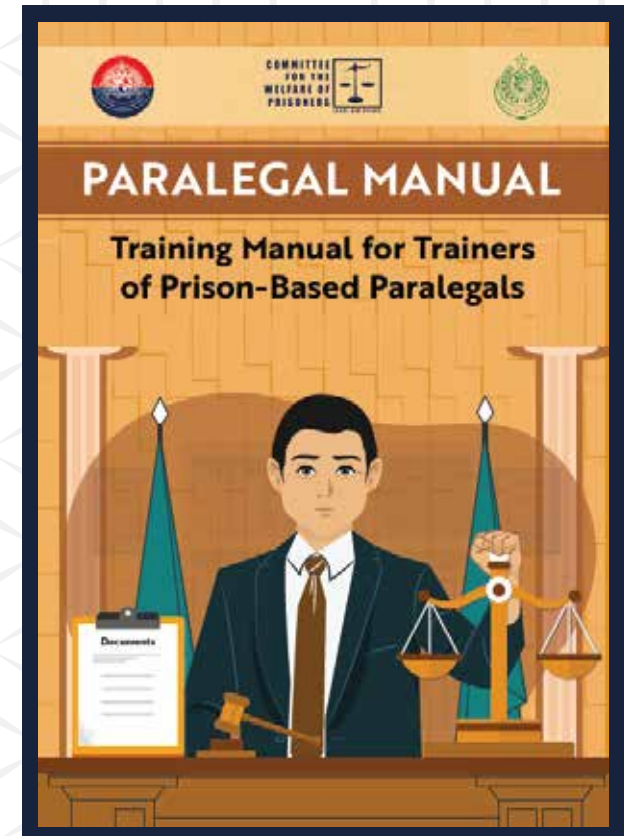
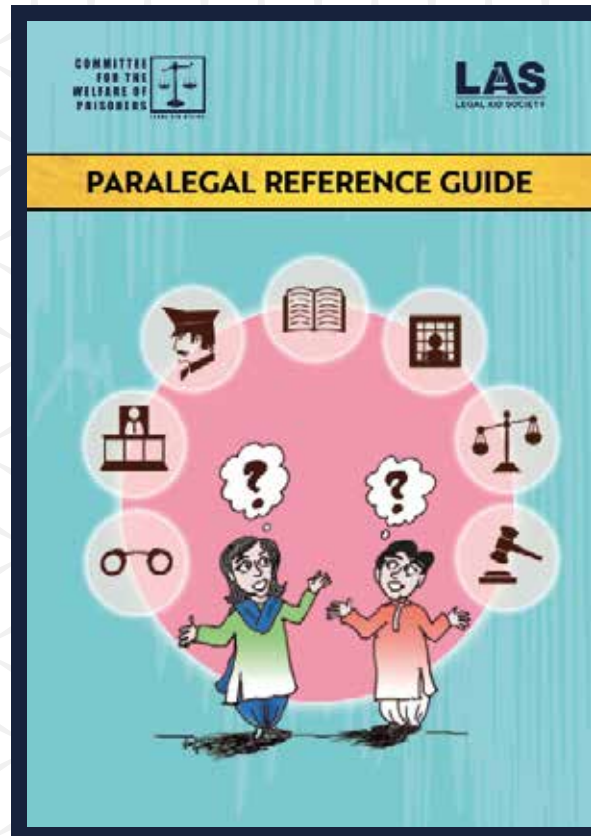
Following this principle, CWP ensures that legal awareness is an integral part of the training curriculum for its team, along with all associated staff involved with prison management in Sindh. In order to do so, we have prepared training material pertaining to admission, authorized absence, admission & visitation, early discharge, rehabilitation & wellbeing of prisoners, and general rules relating to prison officers and staff. We are aware that it is the people working in these prisons that are key to delivering desired changes and are working effectively towards building their capacities to implement these changes by providing them with comprehensive and accessible training.



REVISION OF PRISON PARALEGAL

PROGRAM AND IEC MATERIAL

CWP has successfully developed, revised and printed Information, Education, and Communication materials (IEC) to raise awareness regarding the adoption of Paralegal Program interventions implemented by CWP. The specialty of this guide is that it mentions the techniques on practical basis using various learning methods like games, role-plays, simulation, exercise, and group activities. The guide also contains content relevant to basic knowledge of the law, prison rules, criminal law & different stages of a trial. We seek to incorporate major changes of the Sindh Prisons and Correctional Services Act 2019 within the paralegal teaching curriculum as well



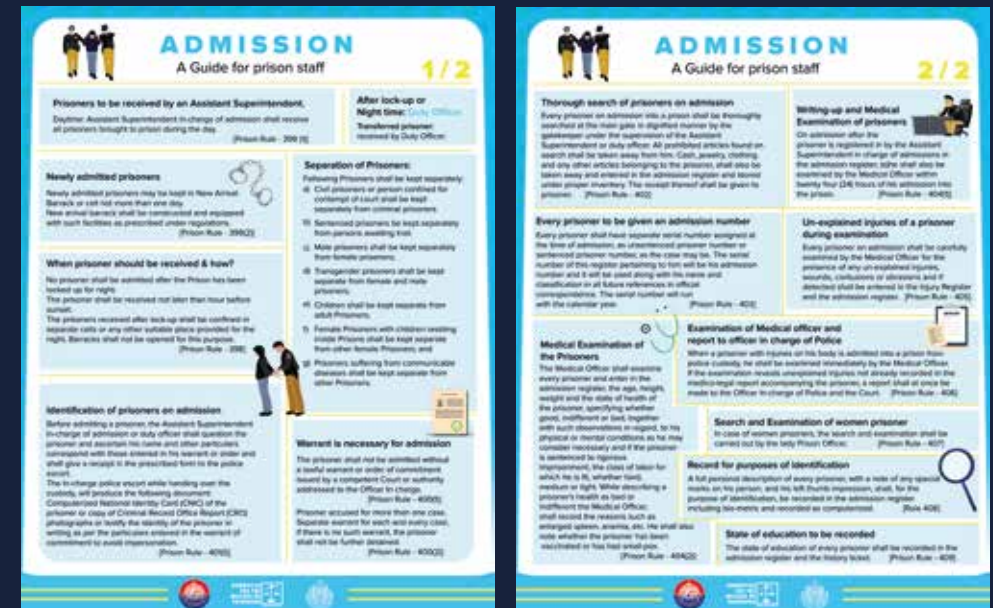
DEVELOPEMNT OF NEW IEC MATERIAL

The awareness of inmates through the publication and dissemination of IEC material is an integral part of the program towards the legal awareness of inmates. We have prepared IEC material pertaining to admission, authorized absences, admission & visitation, early discharge, rehabilitation & wellbeing of prisoners, and general rules relating to prison officers and staff



DEVELOPMENT OF BROCHURES AND POSTER

CWP has developed a set of brochures and one poster based on prison rules, visitation rights, remission and application and petition. These IEC materials were designed and developed under the revised Sindh Prisons and Corrections Services Act & Rules 2019. These are available in English, Urdu and Sindhi language.



DRUG USE AMONGST WOMEN DETAINEES: CORRELATES OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONGST UNDER TRIAL WOMEN IN SINDH PAKISTAN

The aim of this research is to examine drug use among women detainees across prisons in Sindh, Pakistan to explore the social factors that correlate with drug abuse among women detainees, or the patterns/correlations between substance abuse and criminality amongst women.

Drug use amongst women detainees:

**correlates of substance abuse amongst
under trial women in Sindh, Pakistan.**



Drug use amongst juvenile detainees:

correlates of substance abuse
amongst under trial juveniles
in Sindh, Pakistan.



Pakistan is currently facing a massive rise in drug abuse particularly among the youth. A survey conducted by the South Asia Strategic Stability Institute concluded that




of the students in
private schools were
addicted to drugs.



Juveniles across all
the Youth Offenders
Industrial Schools in
Sindh make up



of the total prison
population (Population
Statement of Sindh Prisons,
15th March 2022).



Of all the juveniles in
YOIS across Sindh,



were imprisoned or are
under trial for drug
related crimes.¹

¹ The percentage of juveniles in drug related crimes was calculated by identifying the number of young offenders in each YOIS arrested for drug related crimes.

DRUG USE AMONGST JUVENILE DETAINEES: CORRELATES OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONGST UNDER TRIAL JUVENILES IN SINDH, PAKISTAN

This research examines data from the Case Management System maintained by the Committee for the Welfare of Prisoners – Legal Aid Office to explore patterns and correlations between drug use and criminality as well as social factors which may have an impact on the use of drugs amongst juveniles. This research has been disseminated amongst relevant stakeholders and is also available online on our website.

GET IN TOUCH!



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**COMMITTEE
FOR THE
WELFARE OF
PRISONERS**



LEGAL AID OFFICE

