



THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, MUMBAI (ESTD. 1927)



I was glad to visit the Home and see the boys and girls there. Each one of them has to become a good citizen and a worthy child of India. Every son and daughter India has a right to our care and affection.

Jawaharlal Nehru
Nov 6, 1950

First PM of India Jawaharlal Nehru Visited the Children's Aid Society's Observation Home, Umerkhadi in 1950



Guard of Honour was given to the 1st President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, on his visit to CCH of the Children's Aid Society in 1949-50.



National Award for 'Best Child Welfare Institution' in 1983-84 from the then Hon'ble President of India, Dr. Giani Zail Singh



First Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's visit to Observation Home, Umerkhadi - 1950

Children's Aid Society (CAS), Mumbai, was established on 1st May 1927 by the Bombay Presidency (then British India) to implement the Juvenile Justice system under the Bombay Children Act, 1924. In 2027, CAS will complete 100 years of service, having continuously implemented the evolving Juvenile Justice framework, including the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

As the Society marks this important milestone, it recalls the honour of receiving the prestigious national award for 'Best Child Welfare Institution' in 1983-84 from the then Hon'ble President of India, Dr. Giani Zail Singh. It reflects a long and meaningful journey of care, protection, and rehabilitation of children in need and children in conflict with the law. Over the decades, CAS has grown to be regarded as one of Asia's largest child welfare organisations, shaped by a strong commitment to child rights and social responsibility.

Since its inception, CAS has provided care and support to over a million children through its residential homes (Child Care Institutions) and educational institutes across Mumbai. Widely recognised across India, and visited by child welfare professionals from within the country and abroad, CAS continues to stand as a trusted and respected institution, completing a century of service grounded in compassion, care, and reform.

CHILDREN'S HOME AND OBSERVATION HOME, UMERKHADI (ESTD. 1927)

Historically, this facility was once Dongri Jail, where prominent Indian freedom fighters such as Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Veer Savarkar, and Gopal Ganesh Agarkar were imprisoned during British rule. In 1927, the premises were converted into an Observation Home under the Children's Aid Society, marking a significant transformation from incarceration to child welfare and rehabilitation.

The Observation/Children's Home, Umerkhadi functions as a place of care, safety, and rehabilitation in accordance with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. The Home serves both Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) and Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP), including boys and girls. It is unique in its multi-functional role, being recognised as an Observation Home, Special Home, Place of Safety (the only one of its kind in the state), and a Children's Home.

At this Home, the focus is on rehabilitation rather than punishment. Several positive initiatives have been undertaken to strengthen rehabilitation and promote child-centric care. These include the establishment of a De-addiction Rehabilitation Centre, significant infrastructure upgrades such as newly created classrooms, a basketball court, an open gym, and a dedicated cultural hall. The Home also offers vocational training programmes and places a strong emphasis on creating a safe, supportive, and child-friendly environment.

Each year, more than 500 children are brought to this Home, and at any given time it provides care and protection to over 120 boys and girls. With a continuous and dynamic flow of children since its establishment in 1927, the Home has supported and rehabilitated over seven lakh children to date. This scale and legacy of service have established it as one of the largest Observation Homes in India, reflecting its enduring role in the nation's juvenile justice and child protection system.



THE DAVID SASSOON INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL (ESTD: 1939)

David Sassoon Industrial School, Matunga, Mumbai, is a historic and prestigious institution dedicated to the care, protection, rehabilitation, and reformation of children, and is among the oldest child welfare institutions in India. Originally established in 1819 at Sewri by British-era educationist and social reformer Dr. John Andrew Buist, the institution was founded to support orphaned, neglected, and delinquent children. With the expansion of its work, it was relocated to Lamington Road in 1857, and later formally named the “David Sassoon Industrial and Reformatory School.” On 15 February 1913, the institution was re-established at its present campus in Matunga, along with the existing building and infrastructure.

In the interest of child welfare and systematic administration, the institution was transferred to the Children’s Aid Society, Mumbai, by Government Order dated 14 January 1939.

The institution offers a nurturing environment that provides shelter, formal education, vocational training, and emotional support to help children rebuild their lives. Vocational training is a key component of the institution, with four courses offered through government vocational boards, including tailoring, carpentry, welding, and turner-fitter.



THE CHEMBUR CHILDREN'S HOME, MANKHURD (ESTD: 1939)

Chembur Children’s Home was established in 1939 and inaugurated by K.M. Munshi, then Home Member of Bombay State. This home offers care and protection to boys who are orphaned, abandoned, or come from broken families and challenging backgrounds.

The institution functions as an open home for children referred by Child Welfare Committees across Maharashtra, offering formal education, vocational training, sports, and recreational activities. Over the years, more than 6 lakh children have been served through this Home. Through structured casework, counselling, family reintegration, aftercare, and job placement support, the institution has enabled innumerable former students to build successful lives, with alumni serving in government services, private organisations, scientific institutions, public transport systems, entrepreneurship, and professional sports, including support roles with Indian and IPL cricket teams.



BHARAT RATNA DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM DIVYANG MULANCHE BALGRUH, **MANKHURD (ESTD: 1941)**

Established in 1941, this is India's first and Asia's largest residential care home for children with Intellectual Disabilities under the Divyang Kalyan Department, Government of Maharashtra. In 2024, it was renamed to honor Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The girls' section, Pitruvatsalya, was inaugurated by Bharat Ratna Mother Teresa in 1977, creating a safe and compassionate space for girls with intellectual disabilities. Today, this legacy continues with care grounded in empathy, dignity, and the belief that every child deserves a life of joy and possibility.

The Divyang Home follows a structured and compassionate approach to the care and rehabilitation of persons with intellectual and multiple disabilities. Each resident undergoes detailed educational, medical, and psychological assessments, followed by an Individual Educational Plan (IEP) and a customized rehabilitation plan. Support includes special education through initiatives such as the DISHA Project, assistance with personal documentation including Aadhaar cards and bank accounts, healthcare services, and life-skills training. Residents continue to receive care and support throughout adulthood, contributing to a marked improvement in life expectancy and quality of life. Residents range from 6 to 80 years of age and fall across categories from mild to profound intellectual disability, often accompanied by behavioral, psychiatric, or medical conditions. The rehabilitation process is strengthened through regular occupational therapy, speech therapy, music therapy, yoga, and Anapan practices, ensuring holistic care and well-being.

Over the past decade, the Home has achieved meaningful rehabilitation outcomes, with several residents successfully reintegrated into the community. Fourteen former inmates are employed across sectors such as hospitality with international hotels, volunteering organizations as caretakers, and skilled services including cooking, electrical work, housekeeping, barbering, and laundry services, reflecting the Home's core objective.

Many have excelled in sports at national and international levels, including representing India at the Special Olympics 2023 in Germany, with two teams winning silver medals in basketball and handball. These achievements were formally recognized by the Governor of Maharashtra recently.



THE NEW CHILDREN'S HOME (ESTD: 1960) AND **THE ADDITIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME (ESTD: 1974)**

The New Children's Home and the Additional Children's Home follow a structured admission and rehabilitation process to ensure the safety, care, and long-term well-being of every child. On admission, each child undergoes a medical examination, followed by detailed case management and investigation by the Probation Officer. Family background and social history reports are prepared and submitted to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), based on which an individual rehabilitation plan is developed or a transfer to a suitable NGO or Child Care Institution is recommended. Supportive processes such as enrolment in normal schooling and completion of essential personal documentation, including birth certificates and Aadhaar cards, are also undertaken.

Based on the child's age and specific mental or physical needs, appropriate long-term rehabilitation pathways are identified. Orphaned children below 12 years are referred for adoption through recognised agencies. Children above 12 years are transferred to specialised institutions such as BKN or CCH for further care and education.

Every year, nearly 1,000 to 1,500 children pass through the Home, receiving immediate care, protection, and guidance, while at present the Home supports 23 girls and 35 boys. Several girls have been successfully placed in adoption, including international adoptions, enabling them to grow up in stable family environments. Others have transitioned into adulthood with dignity.

During the catastrophic Mumbai floods of 26 July 2005, Asma Ayub Khan, then just 13 years old and a resident of the Home, saved nearly 40 children from drowning by repeatedly carrying them through deep, murky floodwaters to safety, despite not knowing how to swim. In recognition of this exceptional act of bravery, she was honoured with the Bapu Gaidhani Award, one of the highest categories under the National Bravery Awards. Asma was among the 24 children selected for the 2006 National Bravery Awards and received the honour from the then Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, on 24 January 2007, ahead of the Republic Day celebrations. Her courage stands as a powerful symbol of resilience, compassion, and the transformative spirit nurtured within the Additional Children's Home.



BAL KALYAN NAGARI, MANKHURD (ESTD: 1974)

Bal Kalyan Nagari was conceived as a visionary residential project to address the long-term care, protection, and rehabilitation needs of children covered under the Bombay Children Act. Founded in 1974 and inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, the project was developed on nearly 60 acres of land made available to the Children's Aid Society by the Government of Maharashtra at Mankhurd. The campus was planned as an integrated child welfare complex, comprising dedicated sections for destitute children, boys under the Children Act, girls in need of care and protection, and children with intellectual disabilities. Envisioned as a model of scientifically planned rehabilitation, the project brought together the support of the Central and State Governments, the Bombay Municipal Corporation, charitable trusts, industrial houses, and the citizens of Bombay, making its successful implementation possible.

The institution functions as an open home for children referred by Child Welfare Committees across Maharashtra, providing formal education, vocational training, sports, and recreational activities. Over the years, more than one lakh children have been supported through this Home. Through structured casework, counselling, family reintegration, aftercare services, and job placement support, the institution has enabled many former residents to build independent and successful lives, with several going on to establish stable families through marriage after attaining adulthood.



MADHYAMIK VIDYALAYA, MANKHURD (ESTD: 1984)

Madhyamik Vidyalaya, established in 1984 and located in Mankhurd, is a nurturing educational space for children from child care institutions as well as underprivileged children from the surrounding communities. This is purely an educational institution being run by the Society for the benefit of the children in the Society's institutions at Mankhurd, and education is provided up to X standard. Many children have successfully completed their 10th grade and done well in life. This school extends its services to other children in the neighborhood.

Over the years, alumni of Madhyamik Vidyalaya have gone on to become engineers, doctors, lawyers, civil servants, and artists. Some have received national awards for bravery and creativity, living proof of the school's transformative impact.



INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE (I.T.I), MANKHURD (ESTD: 1989)

Recognizing that not all children are able to complete formal education, and that vocational training plays a vital role in upward mobility, the Children's Aid Society established its own Industrial Training Institute (ITI) at Mankhurd in 1989. The initiative was guided by the objective of equipping young people with practical and employable skills that support rehabilitation, self-reliance, and long-term livelihood opportunities. Priority admission is given to children from other CAS Homes, particularly CCH and BKN, with the remaining seats made available to children from outside the Society.

The ITI offers long-term certified courses in trades such as Fitter, Wireman, and Electronic Mechanic, with specific programmes for girls. To ensure that no child is left behind, the Institute also conducts short-term, job-oriented courses in welding and computer skills for those who may not have completed the 10th standard. Over the years, trained students have secured employment in leading public and private sector organizations in India and abroad, including BARC, Mazgaon Dock, the Indian Navy, BMC, ONGC, and private firms such as Godrej, Siemens, and L&T. Several students have also gone on to start their own projects and businesses, applying the skills gained at the Institute to build independent and sustainable livelihoods.



INSTITUTIONS OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY MUMBAI

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