The Challenge:
Protecting India’s At Risk children while developing responsible citizens of tomorrow.

ALL Children have a role in India’s future. And that’s what AVANI is all about.

AVANI Children’s Home
“Treat a child as she is and she will remain as she is.

Treat a child as she can and should be and she will become as she can and should be.

GOETHE, WRITER & STATESMAN
AVANI is committed to protecting children

OF THE ESTIMATED 85 MILLION child laborers in India today, over 40,000 of them work in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra. Many of these children have been sold or forced into hazardous occupations and into commercial sex work. Girls suffer the most.

It is our purpose to work alongside children from the homeless, migrant and nomadic communities. We do this by conducting surveys to identify children at risk, rescue those children in need, and provide them with food, clothes, shelter, healthcare, rehabilitation and an education up to standard 10 and beyond.
The name **AVANI** is an abbreviation of two Marathi Indian language letters, and one word. The Marathi letter ‘A’ stands for **Food.** The Marathi letter ‘V’ stands for **Clothes.** The Marathi word ‘NIWARA’ means **Shelter.**

The AVANI Organization works toward the prevention of child labor, child trafficking, and female infanticide by providing exploited, abandoned, and the poorest children in the Kolhapur District of India with proper nutrition, clothes, safe housing, and a quality education.

**Protecting Children**

**Child Labor Rescue Program** AVANI coordinates the rescue efforts of children from such work locations as construction sites, domestic work, retail shops, hotels and lodges. Also, minor children have been rescued from street begging, the bondage of brothels, and from exploitation by their own families.

Before the rescue operation takes place, we conduct our own surveys, paperwork must be filed, coordination of the involved government departments must be approved, and reports and court
hearings must be conducted following a rescue operation. Once rescued, these children are sent to the District Child Welfare Services (CWC) where they are housed and decisions are made as to the rehabilitation process.

**Brickyard Schools Program** Nomadic families migrate to the many Kolhapur brickyard worksites for a period from October-May each year. The families live in very small, unhealthy dwellings without proper nourishment and clothing. All family members work for the brick kilns mainly paying the interest on loans owed to the brick owners.

In recent times, the AVANI has rescued the exploited children of these families and provides teaching at or near the brickyard locations. Neither the government nor the brick owners provide funding or shelter for teaching. Avani relies on makeshift tents or the shade of a tree.

“Our message will always be rooted in the belief that long-term change and growth can only be accomplished by encouraging people to educate and do for themselves.”

if constructed sheltered cannot be borrowed from close-by facilities. However, at the end of the six months, all children receive a record of progress to carry to the school of attendance in the alternate six-month period.”
AVANI is committed to providing education

AVANI CHILDREN’S HOME

FOR RESCUED CHILD LABORERS. In 2005, a group of migrant laborers requested that Anuradha Bhosale create a special children’s home just for migrant children who were at risk of child labor. She accepted and helped create the AVANI Children’s Home, initially run out of a hut made from mud and cow dung lacking electricity or running water.

We use a value education based system of teaching aimed at developing the complete human being who should be psychologically, socially, and spiritually in
harmony with the needs of a society and not simply a cog in the industrial wheel of the nation.

In many cases, children who are victims of exploitation and child labor suffer from psychological, emotional, physiological, and social damage that must first be overcome before they are ready to learn.

Many of the children are first generation learners; many will be older than their age-appropriate standard peer group. Education can alienate poor children from their families. After they participate in a residential program, they are ashamed to go back to their homes and live in poverty and squalor.

The AVANI Children’s Home focuses on repairing the psychological, emotional, and social damage afflicting the children with the assistance of professionals from the local community volunteering their expertise.

Education starts at home. Our idea of basic education seeks to involve parents and other siblings in the process of vocational training for children.

We not only prepare children for the next step in their education, but train them in a vocation that will keep them
out of the brickyards, sweat shops and dangerous factories.

A community of students, teachers, and families insure each child has access to daily support and encouragement. The AVANI Children’s Home allows students to develop interests and relationships. Over time, the children will develop a love of learning and a desire to become socially, emotionally, and intellectually prepared to succeed. Most importantly, they will finally have access to the childhood they deserve.

The AVANI Children’s Home operates not out of pity but out of empowering compassion.

We do not receive government funding and could not exist without local community participation and much needed donations.

Everyday, AVANI has serious issues to solve and we need serious people and serious organizations to help us in order to accomplish our mission.

A mission to:
• protect children
• provide education
• improve lives