



# Society for Children (SOCH)

Monthly newsletter 2016

## About SOCH

Society for Children (SOCH) is a non-profit organization registered under society registration act, 1860. SOCH has been running RAKSHYAK Project at major railway stations in Odisha for runaway, missing and abandoned children since 2012. Currently RAKSHYAK Project has been functioning at Bhubaneswar, Khurda and Berhampur railway stations. As per the figures till 31st March 2016, the project has rescued and resettled 2062 children from various difficult situations. Along with this subsequently SOCH has running two other Projects namely, PANKH and PUNARJIVAN.



### RAKSHYAK

*It identifies runaway, missing and abandoned children majorly focusing at railway stations. Project rescues the children who are in need of help. Rescued children are brought to a temporary shelter for necessary counseling, food, shelter and cloth support. Due efforts is being taken to trace the family address of the children. Children are being reunited with their families or put on institutional care with appropriate involvement of government's juvenile justice system.*



### PANKH

*It primarily focuses on youth who are above 16 years of age and they have difficulties in choosing their career and staying in Child Care Institutions, belong to poor- family background or are orphans. The project aims to provide counseling, mentoring, life skill building training and facilitating vocational training with job placement and follow up support.*



### PUNARJIBAN

*It focuses on the hard behavior old children, who have been detached from their loving parents since a long time. It is a behavior modification camp for one month. These children undergo a change in their behavior and attitude during their stay at camp due to the guidance of the professional teachers. The address of the children are traced by the staff during their stay at camp. At the end of the time period, the children are happily reunited with their families.*

### RAKSHYAK:

No. of children rescued: 114  
Rescued by SOCH staffs: 101  
No. of children getting referrals: 13  
No. of children reunited with their families: 96  
No. of children Referred for institutional care: 18

### PANKH:

No. of youth data collected : 300  
Provided counseling : 200  
No. of children interested in enrolment into vocational training institutions: 80  
No. of children enrolled in vocational training institution: 40

### PUNARJIBAN:

No. of children enrolled in behaviourl modification camp: 20  
No. of children reunited with family: 09  
Provided institutional care : 03  
Presently staying at Bhairabi club open shelter: 08

#### CHILD HAPPILY REUNITED WITH FAMILY DUE TO TIMELY INTERVENTIONS:

**L.Ashish** (not real name) a 12 year old student of class 5<sup>th</sup> from Mochisahi, under Laxmisagar police station, Dist: Khurda, Odisha. His father Mr. L.Chandramohan is working as a shopkeeper and mother Mrs.L.Gouri is a housewife. He has two elder sisters. At **10.12.2015** on 11.10 a.m. Ashish was spotted and referred to SOCH by RPF staff while he was sitting alone in a suspicious manner on a train standing on the platform no 04 of Khurda Railway Station. The staff of SOCH immediately rescued the children .At first contact the child was very nervous. So the staff tried to pacify the child by talking to him in a friendly manner and explaining the work of SOCH. Then the child was counseled at the office of RPF which develop a sense of trust in the child about the SOCH Staff.

During counseling the child shared that he ran away from home without the knowledge of anybody after being severely beaten by his mother after she was informed by the class teacher that he was not attending class since a week. But he was everyday going from home to the school. He was enraged by the punishment, he left his home and reached at the Khurda Railway Station by a rain from Berhampur where he was spotted by RPF and was referred to the SOCH. During the counselling sessions, the child was made aware of the hazardous ill impacts of platform life on the abandoned children. The staff also made him realize about the importance of parents and education in his life. This became very helpful in creating awareness in the child and he promised not to repeat such mistake in future. Then he shared the contact number of his mother with the staff

Immediately the information of the child was passed to the family over telephone. After few hours the parents of the runaway child reached at the Railway Station with all the necessary documents and received the child on the same day.

In the first follow up which was on **8<sup>th</sup> January 2016**, his mother told the child is continuing his study properly at home. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> follow up which was on **1<sup>st</sup> April 2016**, his mother told that the child is continuing his at home.

#### SOCH IN NEWS



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