

Monthly newsletter January 2016



Organization introduction:

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 December 2015, the project has rescued and resettled 1796 children from various difficult situations. Along with this subsequently SOCH has running another project i.e. PANKH for the welfare of youths.

Introduction of project **RAKSHYAK**

RAKSHYAK Project identifies runaway, missing and abandoned children majorly focusing at railway stations. Project rescue the children 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 and put on institutional care with appropriate involvement of government's juvenile justice system.

Introduction of project **PANKH**

PANKH project 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 or belong to poor and without family background. The project aims to provide *counseling, mentoring, life skill building training and facilitating vocational training with job placement and follow up support.*

Rescue and resettlement details of children

Berhampur

No. of children rescued: **47**
Rescued by SOCH staffs: **46**
No. of children getting referrals: **01**
No. of children reunited with their families: **43**
No. of children Referred for institutional care: **04**

Khurda

No. of children rescued: **20**
Rescued by SOCH staffs: **19**
No. of children getting referrals: **01**
No. of children reunited with their families: **15**
No. of children Referred for institutional care: **04**
Provided food support: **01**

Bhubaneswar

No. of children rescued: **25**
Rescued by SOCH staffs: **21**
No. of children getting referrals: **04**
No. of children reunited with their families: **16**
No. of children Referred for institutional care: **08**
Escaped from the shelter: **01**

Out of 92 children

- ✓ A large majority i.e. **44** number of children belong to the age group of **11-14** yrs.
- ✓ **82** children were from Odisha and **9**, from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh respectively while **1** child address was unknown.
- ✓ **85** children were such who ran away from home for the first time only.
- ✓ A large majority of children ran away from home due to work purpose, city attraction. Education problem and scolding and punishment of children as well as by the peer group influences.
- ✓ In this month **74** children were boys while **18** were girls.

Details about PANKH Project

- ✓ Number of youth data collected : **14**
- ✓ Provided counseling to children at PUSS : **12**
- ✓ No of new vocational training courses added: **08**
- ✓ No of children enrolled in vocational training institution: **03**
- ✓ Number of CCI's added in PANKH network : **14**

STORY OF K.VARDHAN:

This is the story of 10 year old boy **K.Vardhan Reddy** (*not real name*), is the student of 5th standard escaped from his hostel, Vardhan belongs to district of Korkundain Andhra Pradesh. After leaving his hostel he came to Korkunda railway station and asked a passenger for Punjab train. After getting the information he boarded a train luckily a railway employee saw him as the child was sitting in very confuse state of mind. The Employee asked him for where he is going. Vardhan replied that he was going to Punjab to his family. After listen all the matter the rail employee got some doubt that he is unable to go his place alone he decided to help him. As the railway employee working in Khurda railway station and well known to SOCH so he wants to handover to child to SOCH staff at Khurda. While arriving at Brahmapur the railway employee saw SOCH team at Berhampur railway station he recognize them by their Uniform and call them and handover the child to SOCH staff at Brahmapur station with assurance that SOCH team will help him on **26th May 2015**.

After getting the child SOCH team also assured to child for help and brought him to Govt. Police station. As the child was hungry and tired, the staff provided him with food and asked him to take rest. Then SOCH counselor again counseled the child, Then Vardhan shared that He is the elder son of Mr. S Reddy who is working in Indian army in Bhatinda district of Punjab and Mother K Ramadevi Reddy is house wife. He is loving child of his parents and loved by both of his parent's. His entire families is living in Punjab but Vardhan and his younger brother K Yashwant Reddy both are living in Korkunda for study. Vardhan shared that one day he was missing his parents too much and so asked to the hostel in-charge to allow him to visit his place but he refused him. So he decided to escape from the hostel and next day early morning without any information even his younger brother he left hostel and runaway from there. After the counseling procedure staff counseled him about the problem of alone journey and importance of education and referred him to Childline for further rehabilitation. After three days his father Mr. K S Reddy reached to childline and child was happily reunited with his family on **29th May 2015**.

Team made a first follow up with his father on **13th June, 2015** and came to know that the child is regularly going to his school. During the second follow on **18th Sept, 2015** team came to know that the child is studying well and going to school on regular basis



Society For Children (SOCH), Plot no-657, F1-Sangam Nivas, Lalbahadur Shastri Colony, Old station bazar, Bhubaneswar-751006

Visit us: www.sochforchildren.org

Know us: [facebook.com/sochforchildren](https://www.facebook.com/sochforchildren)

Write us: sochforchildren@gmail.com

Contact us: 0674-2311444

