

3rd Annual Report



SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN(SOCH)

Saving lives building future

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DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear friends,

I am pleased to publish our 3rd Annual Report before you with much pride and satisfaction. With all your supports, cooperation; our baby SOCH has started walking, thank you very much for all the nurturing, guidance and being with us.

Year 2014-15 has been a year of success for celebration; our team has rescued 524 numbers of children from various difficult situations during April 2014 to March 2015. Since April, 2015, we have expanded our work to Berhampur as well. Considering the need, we are preparing our self to expand our work to Puri in 2016.

We are also seriously thinking to help the youths coming out from various child care institutions for their proper rehabilitation after they attain 18 years of age. We need your help in this area as well, as you did in past helping so many children from street and railway stations.

I encourage students and young professionals from corporates to join their hands with youths at various child care institutions for necessary guidance, mentoring and support to show them a path of bright future.

Friends from corporates, govt. organizations and other voluntary organizations should come forward to work together for betterment of our children and youths. Since inception we at SOCH always ready to work with collaborations and partnerships.

I would like express my gratitude to Prof. Malcolm Harper and all our friends at friends of the children of Odisha for their continuous supports, guidance, which always boosted our confidence to move forward and help so many children.

With this note, I would like to conclude with expectation to work with collaboration and cooperation to help the children and youths at various difficult situations.

Thank you very much,



*Manoj Kumar Swain,
Director, SOCH!*

ABOUT SOCH

Introduction to Organization: Society for Children (SOCH) is a non-profit organization registered under society registration Act, 1860. SOCH has been running Child Rescue Project at major railway stations in Odisha for runaway, missing and abandoned children since 2012. Currently Child Rescue Project has been running at Bhubaneswar, Khurda & Berhampur Railway stations. The main philosophy of the organization is that the safest and happiest place for children is their homes. Hence, the first step which the organization takes after rescuing a child is to contact the family of the child, understand the reasons of runaway or missing in comprehensive way. SOCH involves Government System and put all efforts to reunite the children with their family.

Along with the child's address tracing and reuniting them with their families, the Organization also aims to provide counseling to the child as well as its parents. The counselor tries to understand the reason for leaving home and helps the child understand the hostile effects of platform life. Also we provide with psycho-social education to parents for maintaining healthy relation with child.

Over the past 03 years, our work has benefitted thousands of children and young people living alone and at risk on the railway platforms. Our work aims to create and enable sustainable change in the lives of children, communities and in the wider policy and practice that affects all children living alone on the railway platforms

Vision:

To create a just society, where all children are living happily, enjoying all their due rights.

Mission:

To realize the rights of deprived children and their rehabilitation.

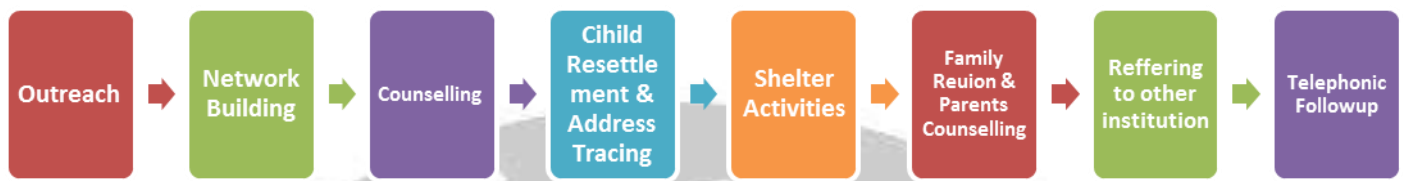
Aim and Objectives:

- To rescue and resettle runaway, missing, abducted and abandoned children. First priority will be given to family reunion and last option for Institutional Care.
- To rescue and resettle working children.
- To rescue and resettle begging children.
- To rescue and rehabilitate addicted and hard behavior street children through de-addiction and behavioral modification camp.
- To provide health care service for children.
- To give safe and nurtured environment for orphan children.
- To give safe and nurtured environment for physically and mentally challenged children.
- To encourage foster parenting and alternative care for children in need of care and protection.

SOCH MILESTONES

Year	Achieved Milestone
August 2012- March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ SOCH has rescued and saved the lives of <i>211</i> children from various difficult Situation.✓ In other hand, we had reunited <i>158</i> children to their respective families.
April 2013-March 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ In this year we helped <i>344</i> children before going in the hands of others at railway station✓ We restored <i>191</i> children to their loving family✓ Received <i>48</i> referral children from our key stakeholders
April 2014-March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ SOCH had saved <i>524</i> beautiful lives of children with the help and cooperation of all stakeholders.✓ SOCH given the great joy to <i>294</i> families by reuniting their children with them.✓ Able to create strong network among the stakeholders✓ Mobilized volunteers.✓ Got <i>57</i> referral children through our key stakeholders

ACTIVITIES OF SOCH



2.1. Outreach Activity

A child running away from home usually catches train; often with no destination in mind. Once it reaches a railway platform where they are exposed to an unknown world and an easy prey to criminals. Most of the children who had eloped from their homes make the platform their home where within no time they learn to survive with no protection, supervision, or guidance from responsible adults. Under these circumstances they become prone to adopting criminal behavior and soon become victims of exploitation, sexual abuse and criminals and unlawful activities. SOCH is carrying out a variety of activities in order to rescue the child from difficult situation and do resettlement. The activities include outreach, network building, shelter activities, Counseling, Home placement and Telephonic follow up, Outreach involves platform intercession, observation, handling crowd situation, first interaction with child and motivating him/her for coming to shelter, provide rescued child information both to RPF and GRP, organizing and conducting awareness meetings with stakeholders.

SOCH's main project is "rescue and resettlement of the runaway children" it basically starts from outreach activity in the Railway Stations. Our outreach workers go out on the railway platforms to find vulnerable children before an abuser can. As more number of trains pass by various corners of the country, hence liability is there that children come to the Railway Stations after running away from home, after being trafficked or missing. Outreach to runaway children is the major activity of SOCH; which helps to identify the children at platform. The outreach workers / field workers patrol around the railway platforms to rescue newly landed runaway/missing/abandoned children. The SOCH staff tries to cover the railway station for maximum time in day and evening to protect the children before they are exposed to harmful platform life.

CASE NO-1 "I don't want to study, I want to earn money"

Ritesh Kumar (not real name) is a 14 year old boy studying in the 8th standard and he was from Bahadi Vigaha, Bihar. He ran away from home with the intention of getting a work outside his hometown but fortunately he came into contact with SOCH staff on 18th July 2014. While interaction he said that he came to the station with his cousin brother in search of work but in the course of the interaction he also revealed the fact that he came to Bhubaneswar for search of his cousin brother. This rather suspicious behaviour of his convinced the staffs that the child has some problems that is in need of attention. The staff was able to convince the child to bring him to the safe shelter of SOCH.

Ritesh was well-dressed and kept a luggage bag with him that contained his clothes, two mobile phones and some fifty-four rupees. At the SOCH shelter he was again counselled by SOCH



staff and then he revealed that compelled by his family's poor financial condition he worked in a hotel at Delhi and got Rs-6000/-per month. But the work was rather difficult for him as he never had any such experience before. This led him to search for another job. In the meanwhile he was come contact with a person who hailing from the Odisha state, who offered him a new as well as a more comfortable job. Hence, the child framed his plans accordingly and his search for the new job brought him to Odisha. In between the conversations his mother called him on his mobile phone and fortunately that call received by SOCH staff. The call specified that Ritesh run away from home because of education problems.

After staying three days at shelter his father came to shelter to receive his child and was extremely happy seeing him in a safe place. His father told that he has no interest in his studies and didn't attend the school regularly. So to reform her disobedient son, his mother scolded him and this made him leave his home. Since then, he was working in a hotel at Delhi with ever informing his parents about his whereabouts from last one month. This made his parents exceedingly worried since they had a lot of hopes on Ritesh that he will study hard and come up well in life. SOCH staffs counselled Ritesh on the importance of education and the virtues of a disciplined life. Finally the child was happy reunited with his family on **20th July 2014**.

In the first follow up which was on **23rd August 2014**, his mother told that the child is continuing his study at home and in the second follow up which was on **7th November 2014**, his father told that the child is continuing his study.

2.2. Platform intervention:



Platform intercession plays a major role in outreaching the children. During outreach activity our field workers tries to cover all the platforms. At Bhubaneswar and Khurda our outreach worker covers total 11 platforms, out of which four are from Bhubaneswar Station & seven from Khurda station. In this platform intervention process outreach staff covers the platform to immediate help and rescue service to a needy child from vulnerable situation. This is done to save the life of children before going into bad hands and involving in unusual activities. In outreach activity and platform intervention, SOCH staff develops and builds good rapport with the key Stakeholders i.e. Railway Authorities, Railway employees, vendors, hawkers, Coolies, Cleaning staffs etc. This is type of involvement with our

stakeholders is on regular basis, where we aware them about run away child conditions and how as a stakeholders they can take progressive step to save the life of a child.

Details of children referred and brought to SOCH shelter by the help of Stakeholders:

The below table will inform you about the numbers of children rescued by the SOCH outreach staffs through platform intervention. Total 524 children rescued and saved their lives from Bhubaneswar and Khurda station:



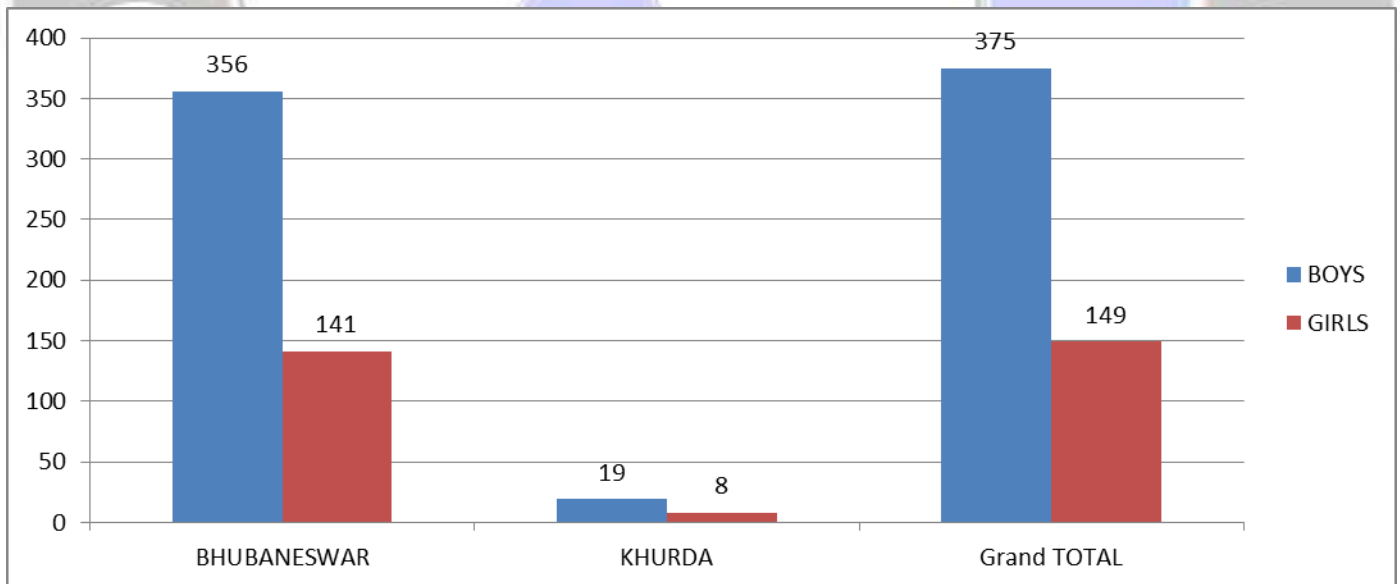
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Operational Area's	Contacted By SOCH	Rescued by SOCH	Rescued and referred by stakeholders															Total children brought to SOCH shelter
			GRP	RPF	TTI	VENDORS	HAWKERS	COOLIE	CLEANING STAFFS	AUTO DRIVERS	OLD CHILDREN	STN. MANAGER	CHILD HIMSELF	WATERING STAFFS	RLY. CLERK	PARCEL WORKERS	LOCAL PERSON	
Bhubaneswar	451	325	12	08	01	08	02	01	10	01	02	00	01	00	00	01	03	375
Khurda	211	141	01	00	00	00	02	00	00	00	00	01	00	02	02	00	00	149
Total	662	466	13	08	01	08	04	01	10	01	02	01	01	02	02	01	03	524

With **THREE** years of research and work in this field, it was found that-

“A child on the platform never grows up – he just ages. Longer the time that the child stays on platform, higher will he be at risk of abuse. Addictions, Sexual abuse, petty thefts and odd jobs become part of daily survival.”

90% of children who are found on platforms are children who ran away from their homes, in a moment of impulsiveness. There would have been a fight at home, or they would have been berated or the general environment was such that it led them to take this extreme step. Once, a child has run away, the child and the family both go through the emotional trauma. In fact, the child wants to go back, but neither has the courage nor the means.



The Above figure reflects that in this year more boys' children were rescued by SOCH in comparison to girls. It was found that, the Girls are probably may be trafficked by the trafficker in an organized way, due to which it is difficult for staff to identify and rescue them. But SOCH give their best efforts to save the lives of the girl children in a very possible way.

CHILD RESCUE PROCESS

1. Identifying & traces a child in need

2. Initial interaction and building rapport

3. To observe and understand the child's problem

4. Bring the child to the SOCH's Temporary shelter & informing RPF in Railway stations



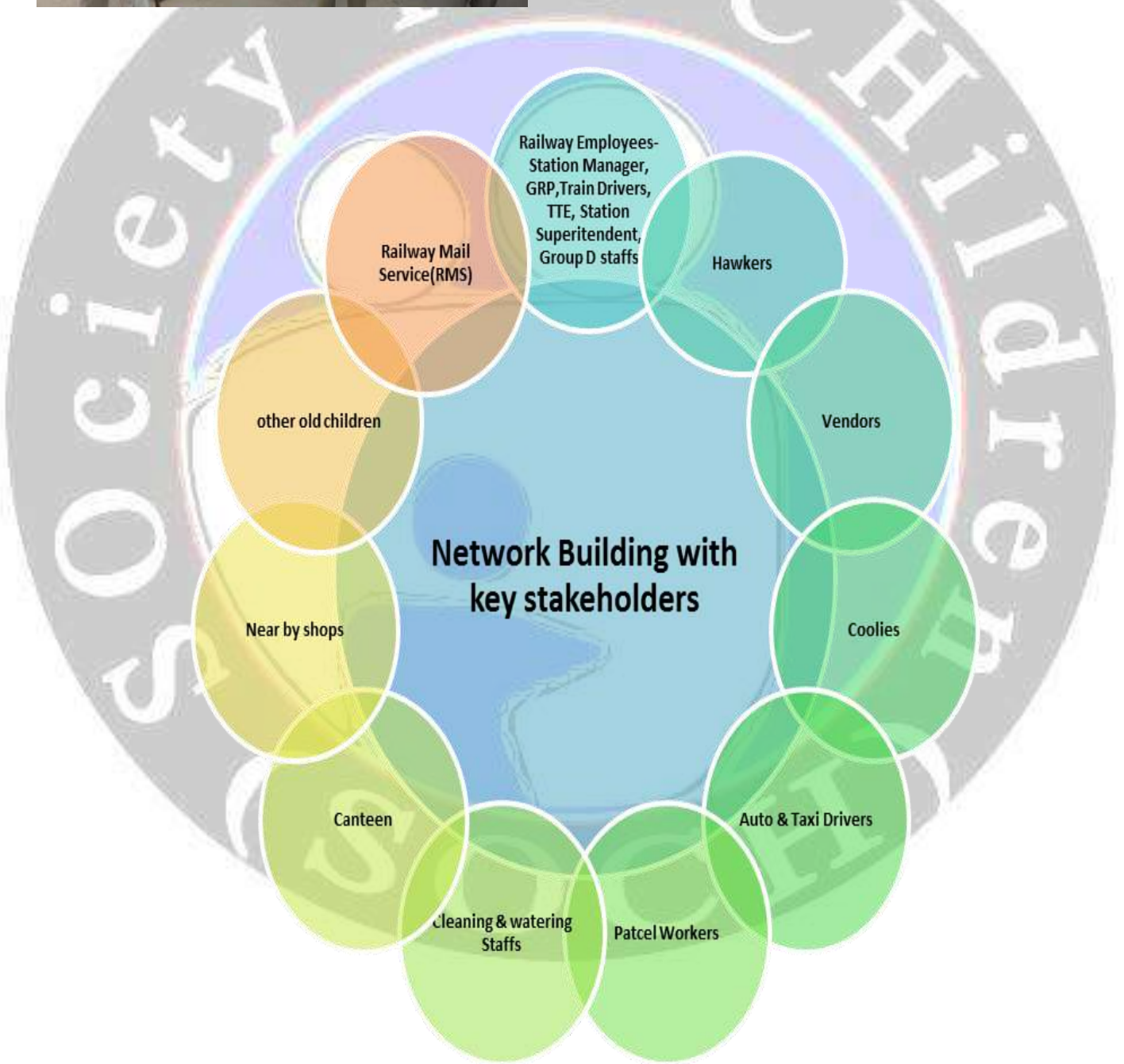
CASE NO-2 "A trafficked by her uncle"

It is a unique experience for staff to rescue a girl child named **Alisha Mallick** (*not real name*). She is a 15 year old girl child belongs to Kandchhakra village under Paralakhemuni police station of Ganjam District. Alisha was with her cousin uncle and was sitting alone in the platform no 4 at Bhubaneswar Railway station. While outreaching, staff doubted upon her by observing her dress up. However, staff interacted with her and tried to know about her actual situation. In between the interaction with child his uncle came near to staff and started enquiring and argued with staff. Due to this situation many passenger gathered around. Hence, staff clarified him about our work objectives and also showed him organization's identity card. Still then, her uncle was not ready to accept this truth. Therefore, SOCH Staff took the help of GRP police and finally rescued the child on 15th January, 2015.

After reaching at shelter the child was counseled by SOCH staff. During counseling process she shared that she is the 3rd daughter her parents and having two brothers and sisters. Her father was dead and her mother is working as a labour and with the wages amount it is very difficult to run and manage a family. Thus, Alisha used to help her mother in house hold work despite of continuing her study. So gradually, by the flow of time she assists her mother and helped her in each and every work. In the mean while she came in contact with her cousin uncle and was influenced by him for getting job in city and can earn lot of money. The statement of his uncle inspired to Alisha, where she can earn ample amount of money and support to her family which will eradicate their deprived situation. Finally the child was agreed with the proposal of his cousin uncle and came to Bhubaneswar with a dream in her eyes which was totally new for her. Her mother was aware about her job at city. She also allowed her to move on with her cousin uncle to earn money. She came to Bhubaneswar with a full of spirit but unknown about her particular working place.

As Alisha was not in the age of working anywhere, hence our SOCH Staff decided this matter to be a child labour case. Further SOCH staff brought the child to shelter where she got counseled and referred her to **CWC** members on the same day and from there she was referred to **CHILDLINE** for further care and protection.

NETWORK BUILDING





Network building plays a dynamic role in Child Rescue and Resettlement Project. By developing this networking process it helps in rescuing and saving the lives of children. Under networking process SOCH organizes various sensitization activities, regular monthly meetings where SOCH staffs provide the information related to run away children problems at railway stations and how SOCH is doing the interventions in rescue of children and reuniting them with their families. Throughout this journey so far, SOCH

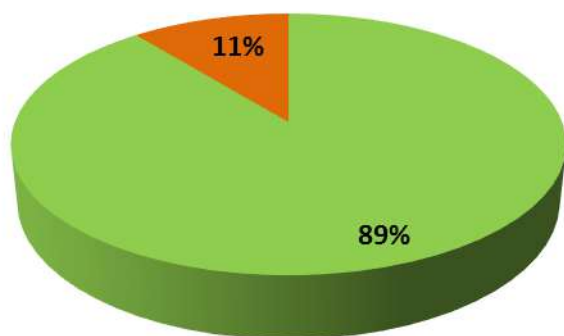
Team has created and build healthy network with the stakeholders. As a result of which many referrals of children were from our key stakeholders. Mostly those referrals are received during holidays and night hours. In the year **2014 – 15** we have received **57** referral children from both Bhubaneswar and Khurda Station. Our stakeholders giving there immense effort & join their hands in saving the lives of children.

Here some data on stakeholders meetings which we have on regular basis, to give handholding support and guidance step by step. The below table will show the details on the number of meetings was held with Bhubaneswar and Khurda Railway Staffs.

Sensitization and Awareness Meetings-

Sl. No	Key Stakeholders	Meeting organized	
		Bhubaneswar	Khurda
1	SOP (Standard Operating Procedure)	04	00
2	RPF	03	01
3	GRP	01	00
4	TTI	02	01
5	Group-D	01	00
6	Cleaning staff	08	06
7	Vendors	04	03
8	Parcel Workers	04	03
9	Auto drivers	02	03
10	Taxi Driver	01	00
11	Coolie	02	03
12	Hawker	01	03
13	Near shop	03	00
14	Watering Staffs	00	05
Total		36	28

■ SOCH ■ Stakeholders



From our compilation it found that **11%** of children were rescued and referred by our stakeholders and this is possible due to the strong networking system with the stakeholders.

CASE NO-3 “RPF staff comes forward to save the life of a child”

Subasis (*not real name*) a 14 years old child from Aruha, Jajpur district left his home many times for silly reasons. He was a disobedient child. He enjoyed running away from his home and was caught hold by RPF staff at Bhubaneswar railway station on **25th Nov 2014**. At that time he was stealing the bag of a passenger. After a while he was again handover to SOCH staff for his care and protection.

He was a smart child within the couple of moment he became very friendly with everyone and started sharing about his suffering problems. Firstly, he shared that he was always being scolded by his elder sister regarding studies which Subasis does not like. As a result of which he ran away from home with the hope to work outside instead of studying. Hence he wants to move from station to station but in the mean while he entered into the train and while shifting luggage he was caught by the police. So, staff explained him regarding the importance education as well the ill consequences of platform life. However, the child realized his mistakes and promised for not to do this mistake in future. As he provided his contact number to RPF staff so that his address was traced by them.



After getting information his mother came to the shelter immediately along with her daughter. His mother was very happy to see him at the shelter. She expressed her feelings by saying that, despite of providing everything to Subasis he behaves very rudely and disobedient in nature. He does not like to stay in home rather he spent his much of his time with his friends instead of studying. He did not follow any instruction of his mother. At shelter staff also explained him the importance of parents and education in his life. After that staff took the child as well parents to **CWC** (Child welfare Committee) from where the CWC member again did the counseling of child and assured for better study and more discipline. After this the child was happily reunited to his family on **25th Nov. 2014** with a smile and future hope on his face.

In the first follow up which was on **11th December 2014**, his mother told that the child is continuing his study at home and in the second follow up on **4th March 2015**, his sister told that he is doing studying properly at home.

CASE NO- 4 “A missing child was rescued by Dynamic Group of our Stakeholders (Bhubaneswar Railway Station) and referred to SOCH Staff. This is due to strong networking!!”

Vikrant Barik a 10 year old child, rescued from Bhubaneswar Railway Station. He was traced at platform no. 3 dated on **15.02.2015**. Vikrant belongs to Gajaraj Nagar village, comes under Raj nagar Police Station of Kendrapada District. He is the only son of his parents, His father’s name is Mr. Gajendra Barik and mother’s name is Mrs. Sachinda Barik. He is also having one younger sister named Subhadra. He belongs to very small and poor family. But due to definite difficulties in his family he decided to do work and earn money to support his family income.



During the time when Vikrant was traced out, he was not in proper dress, was bit confused where will get a job and looking distress. After he was rescued staff explained him about SOCH and our work activity. Being influenced by our words, he came to SOCH shelter with the staff. At shelter he got freshened up and had some food. After that counselling process was started. In this period he became very friendly with all the staffs. During the counselling session Vikrant shared that, his father is a TB Patient and mother is Paralysis. Due to extreme poverty his parents were unable to provide him education; as a consequence of this he left his studies. He started helping his mother in household activities. So he thought for leaving home for work and earn money. As a result of which he can help his family to run the house. He left home to search work, by taking prior permission from his parents. By taking into consideration his condition, he was referred to **CHILDLINE** for further Care and Protection.

Vikrant reached Bhubaneswar from Kendrapada in search of work. But fortunately he was in safe hands of SOCH. The child’s home address was traced by an NGO and his parents reached SOCH shelter to receive him. During the parents counselling it was understood that Vikrant was a missing child, and his parents had lodged complain in the nearest police station. He said lies to his parents and had run away from home. During that time his mother was hospitalized, and he was sent for purchasing foodstuff and from there he fled away. By hearing the narration from his parents, staff counselled him regarding hostile effects of the platform life. Also explained them; education is important for a child to build his future. As they were very poor, SOCH help them in monetary support to reach the NGO, where they can receive Vikrant. Later SOCH staff show them the exact location & direction where they can go to that NGO and receive their son.

COUNSELLING

Childhood is not as an easy, carefree time. But children do have problems and feel stress. Times of special changes like divorce, separated, alcoholic, step family and educational and other problems, this move can be stressful for children. During times like that, children may have a range of feelings that are very confusing.

Children need time to adjust to major family changes. During these times, parents should give as much support as possible to the children. Often support from parents is enough to help the children adjust to the family event and move on. Some children need a little more help, though; they may need the help of a professional counselor. Counseling for children is one of the most important & complicated job to understand their thoughts process.

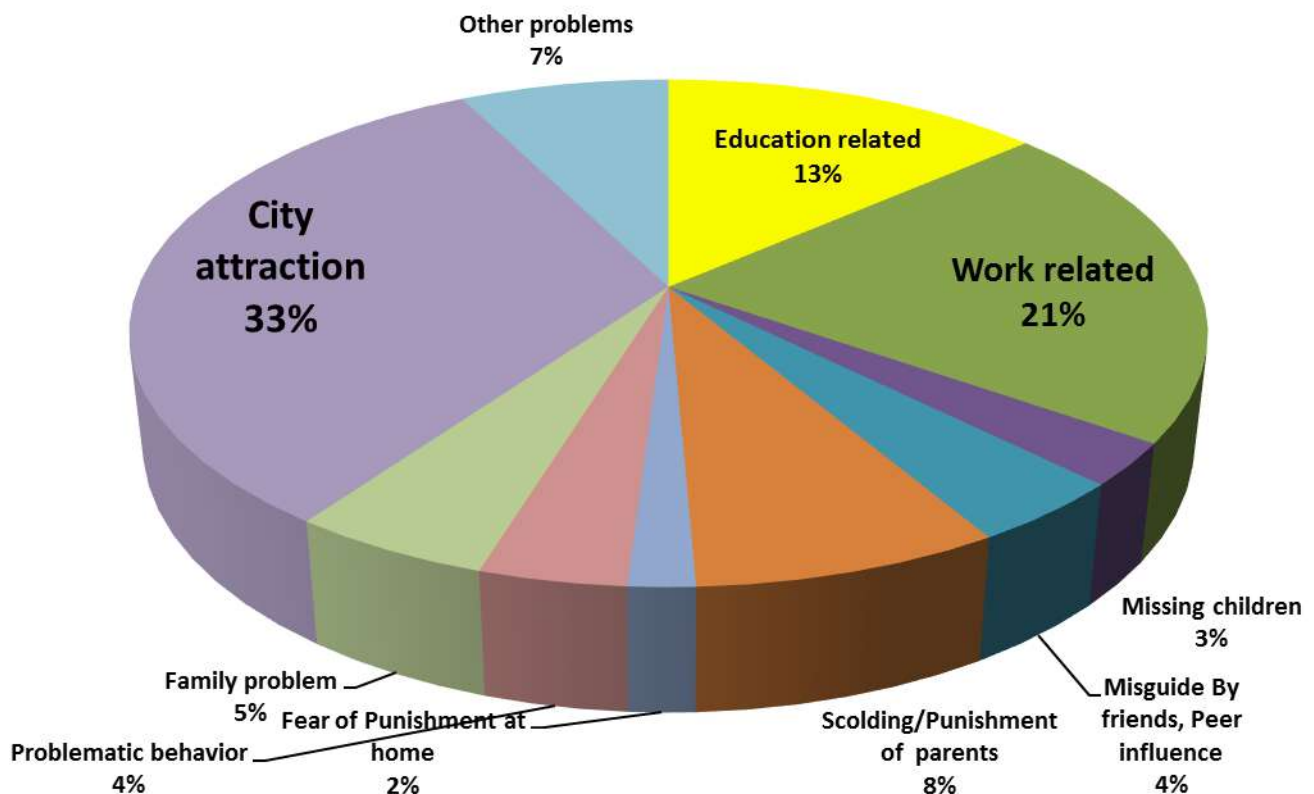
Thus, SOCH provides counseling to every rescued child by professional and experienced counselor. It help the children get in touch with their feelings and help the child to understand and clarify their views of their life space, and to learn to reach their self-determined goals through meaningful, Some children may have difficulty sharing their feelings, because they want to keep the family event a “secret.” Other children can show their feelings in ways that cause problems by acting out, becoming violent or becoming very quiet and withdrawn.

The primary counseling provides at the first time of first contact to a child at the station. Where we have established a friendly relationship with the child, so, the children get faith on us. After bringing temporary shelter we used different type of methods of counseling as per the need of child.

There is such as many issues which move to child to disconnect with their family

Family and Step-Family Relationships	Educational Problem	Maltreatment
Bereavement/Loss	Emotional and Psycho-Social Problems	Alcoholic parents
Poverty	Behavioral Problems	City attraction
Child Labour	Fear of punishment/Scolding by Parents	Misguiding by friends and other influences

Issues handeled in this year



CASE 5- “Twins Brother Story”

Khirod Badset & Kiran Badset (*not real name*) is twin’s brothers of 14years age. They both were studying in class 7th standard of Govt. High School, Unit-2, at BBSR and originally they were from Tumudibandha (Sagadia sahi) village under Tumudibandha police station of Kandhamal district from Odisha.

One day SOCH staff was doing their regular visits and at that movement the staff came across that two twin’s children on Bhubaneswar railway station. The staff found that these twin’s brothers were looking confused and roaming here and there. After observing them the SOCH staff interacted with them. During the interaction period the SOCH staff came to know that, they both were run away from their residential hostel without informing anyone in hostel. After listening to the whole incident, the SOCH’s staff informs them about the hazardous effects of platform life and brought them to the shelter.

After reaching the shelter both the bothers had their food and both the brother were looking relived and this can be seen from their behavior and after few hours they engaged themselves in outdoor games. When both the brothers were comfortable with all and had developed the friendly relationship with the staff, then the second round of counseling was started, to know more about them and their family background.

So after further counseling, the SOCH staff came to know learnt that they belong to a middle class family. Their father is a teacher and her mother was a house wife. They were having two more siblings and they were staying with their parents. For better education their parent sends both of them to this Bhubaneswar residential school. But in hostel both the bothers were not happy because of poor food quality and they were having the difficulties they adjust themselves in hostel. Many times they had complained this thing to their father, but father didn’t take any positive step on it. Hence, they ran away from the hostel without informing anyone in hostel & their parents. After the conversation the staff got the contact number of their mother.



After three days, their mother came to shelter along with their cousin sister. After seeing her sons in safe and good place she become so happy and in happiness her eyes fill with tears. Then she describes the condition of his house and these two brothers were very disobedient at house and due which their father sends them to residential school ate Bhubaneswar. After getting the information their run away information from the hostel, we all were panic and

searching both of them. After listening to these entire situations, the SOCH staff explained the value and importance of education and how parents only thinks and for their children and this should be accepted by children for better life in future.

After getting her two children in safe condition she was so grateful upon the SOCH staff and their selflessness works towards children and fills all the formalities and took the twin’s brother with her.

Sometime small effort from our hand can bring happiness to a family.

Case No -6 “I want to study but my mother wants me to do the works”

Gelhi Jena (not real name), a 12 year old girl, studying in 4th standard and addressing from Chuna Bhati village under town police station of Balasore district, Odisha. She is a daughter of a single mother and having three more sister siblings. Her mother is working as a maid servant and earns money for their survival. Gelhi by herself came to old SOCH’s office on **25th September 2015** and one of the SOCH staff rescued her. At the shelter during counseling process the staff came to know the reason of her runaway. Gelhi told that, “Her mother was physically abusing her and forcing her to her to do household works and to earn money for their house.” But Gelhi was not interested in household works, she wants to go to school and complete her education. After severely being beaten by her mother, she ran away from home without informing her. Then she reached at SOCH, because earlier she was rescued by the SOCH and we done her home placement. After counseling her, the staff educates her regarding the child rights as well as unsafe effect of platform life. With concern of the above issues and situations, on the same day SOCH staff referred her to the **CHILDLINE** for further care and protection. From there she was referred to Balasore CHILDLINE center on **29th September 2015** for further institutional care.

CHILD RESETTLEMENT & ADDRESS TRACING

Child Resettlement: Our approach to the issue

We believe that no child should ever be forced to live alone and at risk on a railway platform. We want to be able to reach as many children as possible and make a real, lasting difference to their lives. We believe that the more people who help us, the greater the impact we can have, and the more effective our work will be in helping children stay safe.

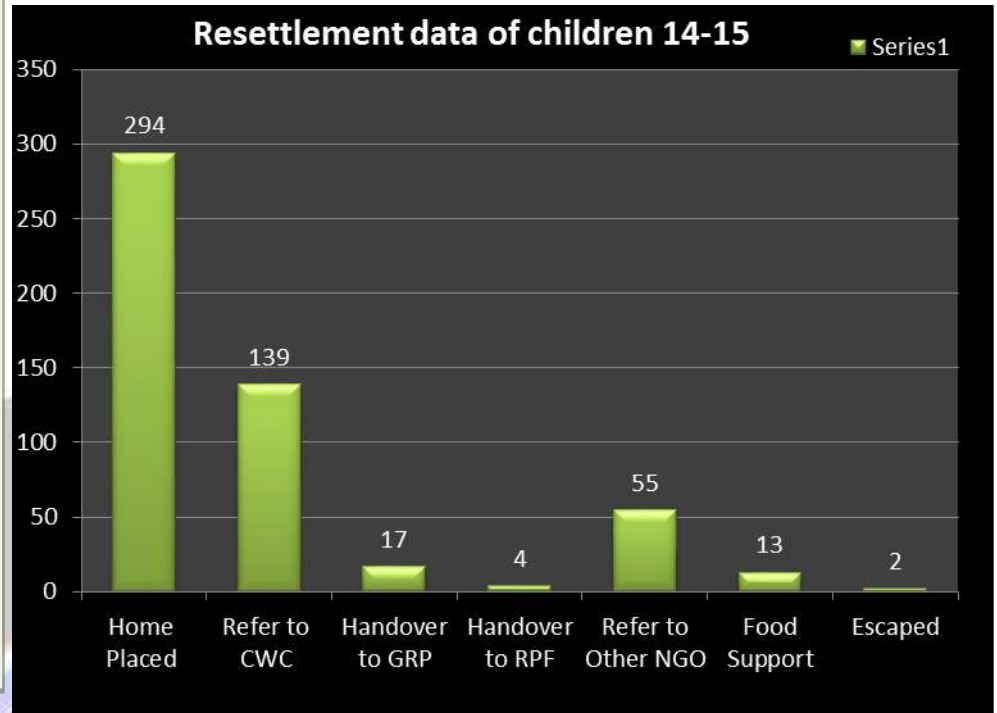
SOCH identifies runaway, missing and abandoned children, majorly focusing at Railway Stations. The staffs of SOCH rescue the children in need of help. Rescued children are brought to a temporary shelter for necessary counseling, food & shelter, first aid treatment if needed and provide clean cloth. Our immense effort is taken to trace the family address of the children and we reunited them with their families and in some cases we put children in institutional care with appropriate involvement of government’s juvenile justice system.

In the year **2014-15** SOCH has helped **375** children at Bhubaneswar Railway Station and **149** at Khurda Railway station. The details of children resettlement data is mentioned below:

Resettlement Details of children

Operational Area's	Total no. of children in shelter this year			Home placed	Referred to CWC	Handover to RPF	Handover to GRP	Referred to other NGO	Remaining children end of the Month	Escaped from SOCH	Food Support
	Children in the shelter as per 30 th March 2014	Brought to the Shelter	Total								
Bhubaneswar	08	375	383	210	112	00	00	42	08	02	09
Khurda	00	149	149	84	27	04	17	13	00	00	04
Total	08	524	532	294	139	04	17	55	08	02	13

We believe family is the best place for children where they can get natural love, affection care and protection for overall growth and development. So, we put our full efforts to reintegrate a child to his/her family. With this guardianship 56% children were happily reunited with their families with the help & coordination of CWC and railway authorities.



SHELTER ACTIVITIES

“To provide food, first aid treatment, clean cloth and safe shelter support”:



Since its inception, SOCH has tried to restore childhood to all those children who are on the brink of starvation and deprivation. Children that SOCH works for are those fighting for their daily battle for survival as rag pickers, shoeshine boys, street vendors, domestic helpers or even beggars. They are children living on and off the platforms at the mercy of the elements of nature, criminals, and drug addicts. Many of these children are subjected to violence, abuse and exploitation followed by disorientation and delinquency ending up in a life of abandonment and social alienation.

During our interventions we found many children on the platforms in unhealthy conditions, which will bring the attention of an abusers looking to prey on lonely, desperate, vulnerable children. Children are constantly at risk of sexual abuse, exploitation and violence. SOCH identifies those children and bring them to the temporary shelter home, where the children will get a safe and protective environment and feel comfortable to stay. We provide them food and clean dress to wear, though it was found that when we rescued children they were starving from 2-3 days and don't have clean clothes to wear.



In case when children have to stay in the temporary shelter home more than 6 hour, in that period we provide them non formal education and engaged those children in various recreational & indoor games like drawing, puzzle games, caroms, painting etc. Due to this game therapy the children become comfortable in the shelter make them intimate with the SOCH staffs where they shared their grief.



Case No- 7 “Poverty makes me rag picker”

This is a story of Nine year old named **Hemanta** (*not real name*) who belongs to a poor family. His father Ranjan Mohanty owns a petty shop near to Bhubaneswar railway station while his mother Kuna Dei is a housewife. But due to some problem, his father was being arrested by police and sent behind the bars since last 6 months. Hence, Presently Hemanta and his siblings are living with his aunt and uncle who are rag pickers and living in Tapabana slum, Bhubaneswar in Khurda district. Despite of poverty, Hemanta and his siblings were provided education with support from his uncle. But on the particular day without informing to his aunt Hemanta landed at Bhubaneswar railway station with a poly bag for involving himself in rag picking activity and getting a pocket full of income.

SOCH team spotted him at the platform no-1 and counseled him. He was brought to SOCH shelter home with the help of one GRP staff. He was provided with cloth and food. Hemanta revealed that he has come for rag picking with the aim to provide financial support to his family. However, the child realized his mistake and took rest at shelter home. In the very next morning he went to Nandankanan, with SOCH staff for an excursion. During visit period he was extremely happy.

After staying one day at shelter his uncle came to SOCH shelter to receive him and became very happy seeing him in a safe place. They were very worried after his runaway and searched him everywhere near to his slum as well as railway station. While searching at station he got information from GRP staff about the child. SOCH staff briefed about the issues of trafficking and bad impact of station life. Finally Hemanta was happily reunited with his family on **6th Nov. 2014**.



In the first follow up on **11th December 2014**, his sister told that the child is continuing his study at home where as during the second follow up on **4th March 2015**, his sister also told that he is properly continuing his study.

ADDRESS TRACING



At street level we strive to meet the immediate needs of children at risk on the streets and platforms of Bhubaneswar & Khurda. We have trying to create a 'child friendly stations' with the help and engagement of the stakeholders & people who work at them, who now look out for and help children alone and at risk.

With their involvement, we can help more children than we could by ourselves. Our outreach workers spend time with children, gaining their trust and providing someone to talk to and a safe place to stay, while we work out the best long-term solution for their individual circumstances

and our best possibility is, we work to reunite children with their families.

The address tracing of the child's family is done by the help of counseling process. In counseling process we try to communicate with the child and develop the trust, in which the child can share his/her information and by that information SOCH staff contact to the child's parents.

In some cases we rescued out of state children where we feel difficult to communicate with those children and due to this we can't get the contact details of their parents. In this type of cases we halt the child in our temporary shelter for counseling purpose and later SOCH hand over children to nearby NGO working with children and produce them in front of CWC (child welfare committee) & CHILDLINE.

Sometime our stakeholders like local police, Railway Protection Force (RPF) and local NGOs help the staff to locate the address of the child. Apart from that by the help of internet service we try to trace the address of child by the landmarks shared by the child during conversation.

While in address tracing sometimes the authentication of the detail received from the child take days or even month. It is desirable that the child is regularly counseled to understand the factors that made him run away from home. Phone numbers, mobile numbers, house number, street number, prominent land mark like a temple, market place, etc. are all vital inputs in the tracing of the address. While it would be unfair to expect the children to provide accurate address details all the time. In some cases, the children could be encouraged to draw maps, pictures and landmarks to understand their details. In extreme cases, where the child is unable to reveal any details, a physical visit by the SOCH staff along with the child, to the localities identified by the child becomes necessary to trace the child's address.

Address traced by the help of stakeholders:-

Operational Area's	By help of child's shared phone number	Through police	By SOCH staff	By help of other NGO	Through others	Total
Bhubaneswar	107	35	13	47	08	210
Khurda	29	09	12	26	08	84
Grand Total	136	44	25	73	16	294

PARENTS COUNSELLING

“We not only counsel the child in distress but also the parent before re-uniting the minor with them”

The parents counseling strategy plays a crucial role in this rescue project. It was found that, the majority of children had come across over the years was due to broken families, parents living in separation, no proper parental care for children, and lack of attention have been major causes for children running away from their homes.

So, it shows that parents of runaway children too need counseling. It plays as a bridge between the child and his parents to endeavor and deal with the misunderstanding and miscommunication that could be responsible for the child running away. Thus, we provide parents counseling therapy, when they came to the shelter to take their child back to home. This process reflects and decreases the ongoing problems between the child and parents. In some cases the SOCH staff gives some suggestion to parents in solving the problems which may create a healthy bond between parents and the child. In some cases parents get emotional and show unbounded feelings and lovable emotions as they see their children after a long period, which may be a month also. This shows the overwhelming joy, relief and extreme happiness in the eyes of the family.



FAMILY REUNION

“Children have a right to a safe and happy home. Home restoration is the best intervention for runaway children”



There is no place like home for a child and thus the child should be placed at home as soon as possible. With this thought, SOCH worked in a concerted manner to reintegrate “runaway” children with their families.

SOCH resolved to take them back to where they belong. It believes that in a society like India where the familial bonds are so strong, children, irrespective of the challenges, seek to find the lost sense of identity and belongingness which lie only in their homes. SOCH has understood over the years that a runaway child first needs to openly discuss and share the concerns due to which he/she decided to flee. Counseling is necessary but it is not merely about talking to the child, it is about engaging the child using various techniques to support the child in his/her decision and the desire to go back to the family.

CASE NO-8 “A deaf and dumb child happily reunited to his family by SOCH”

Bikash Sahoo (not real name) 15 years old boy was studying in Benagaon Vidya Vihar, when he fled from home being attracted by the fascination for the city life. Fortunately, he came into contact with the SOCH staff at Bhubaneswar railway station on **1st July 2014**. While in the initial interaction with the child; the staff found that, the child was unable to share information with the SOCH staff. Whatever information was shared by the child was in sign language. However, soon afterwards the staff came to know that he is a deaf and dumb child and hence the staff used writing methods to elicit information from him at station premises. But the child remained taciturn, only expressing the name of his parents and the village from where he hails. Somehow by using some nonverbal communication the staff could gain the confidence the child and persuaded to him in coming to their shelter along with them.



When the child came to the center, he was properly dressed and having a school bag in his hand. Inside the school bag there was a disability certificate that provided the staff the necessary information about his background i.e. Bikash Sahoo is the son of Mr. Gobinda Chandra Sahoo hailing from Tankula village under Jankia police station of Khurda district. After reaching the shelter the child broke out into tears & feeling scared. When SOCH staff found that the child is not comfortable in the shelter then, the staff involved the child in different kinds of indoor games. Soon the child became calm. But as the child did not share any sort of information, so that staff was not clear about his runaway reason. Through the help of certificate, the staff contacted the police station to track down his parent's address.

After staying for two days at the SOCH shelter the child's parents came to SOCH shelter to receive their son. His parents were quite disturbed after their child fled away. They had searched all the nearby places. Even his father who worked at Delhi as a plumber came to the village in search of his son. His parents expressed that the child is totally ignorant about the other places. He only goes to school and comes back from school- that's the child's geographical knowledge. However, by means of the sign language of his mother the staff learnt that the child had visited Puri after running away from home. From Puri the child boarded an unknown train eventually landing up at BBSR station and becoming a runaway railway child. Thus, the staff gave the suggestion to his parents that they should spend time with the child so that the child should not think of going outdoors without the permission of the parents. Finally the child was happily **reunited** with his family on **2nd July 2014** after the all formalities got cleared.

In the first follow up which on **23rd August 2014**, his father told that the child is continuing his study at home and in the second follow up which was on **7th November 2014**, his brother told that he is studying at home.

REFERRAL SERVICES TO INSTITUTION

Family reunion and sending the child back to home is not the end, but there are some family cases sounds like a happy ending, which are truths and dilemmas that SOCH has to deal with every day. There are children who come from very poor families, there are also some who come from an abused environment; in such cases the SOCH Team has to decide what is best for the child. In those cases the child doesn't show its interest to go back his/her home. There are instances when children have been sent to Government shelter homes instead of their own homes. Organization like **RSSO, ASHA KIRAN, PUSS, VJSS, BHAI RABI CLUB** (support Child line), they support and provide immediate shelter to those children. In those child care institutions the children were again counseled by the professional counselor and the child's decision is respected and accepted by the CWC members and the organizations.

CASE NO-9 "My house owner used to beat me for silly mistakes"

The child was being contacted and rescued by GRP police on **22nd January, 2015** and then she was handed over to SOCH staff on the same day. **Mamata Sunamajhi** (*not real name*), 8 years old little girl dropped her study after completion of class 2. She belongs to Kotagarh police station of Kandhamal district. But she did not share her village name and she was brought to shelter.

At shelter the child got was freshen up and have some food. Hence, she became more opened up with staff. In the mean while during the counseling process she shared that his father Mr.Puspakanta Sunamajhi is a laborer at brick kiln while his mother Draba Sunamajhi is a house wife. They are total 6 children in their family. Due to poverty her parents were unable to do adequate expenses for her study. As a result of which she worked as maid servant at Bijipur Village in Ganjam district keeping it in knowledge of her parents. She was doing so to fulfill their economical need. She was having nil experience in the household work, still was pressurized to do the work by the owner. Apart from this the owner very wisely put her name in school only in pen and papers. It was so unusual that she was being beaten and scolded by her owner for her silly mistakes. Thus, Mamata couldn't adjust herself in that environment rather runaway from there and became an unknown child for all. Hence, after reaching at Bhubaneswar Railway Station she was wandering at station premises without any aim. After listening to her the staff assured her for sure help.

Taking this into consideration the staff shared the matter with CWC member and as per their instruction they referred the child to CHILDLINE for further care and protection on same day. Taking into account Mamata's beautiful life was handed over to safe hands.

CASE NO- 10 "In a day two sisters were able to save their beautiful life....before going to the wrong hands"

Swapna and **Tikina** are two sisters age of around 13 and 10 years respectively. They belong to Thanuala village of Dharmasala police station, Jajpur district. They ran away from home due to the fear of being scolded by their father. They were wandering aimlessly here and there at Bhubaneswar railway station in a very confused state of mind, meanwhile our outreached staff spotted them at the platform no-1. They both were in school uniform and were looking distress and agitate. However, staff interacted with them and tried to know their suffering problems. But in the initial communication they were not ready to share their problem rather trying to skip from that place. Hereafter, staff makes them understand about our work and assured for sure help. Finally SOCH staff brought them to SOCH temporary shelter on **10th January 2015** at 6.25 pm.

At shelter both got freshened up and had some food. Thereafter, they were counseled by SOCH staff. During the counseling process they expressed that soon after the classes got over in school they had gone to the area adjacent to their home for plucking berry, without the prior knowledge of their parents. But in the

meantime their parents were looking for them here and there but could not able to locate them. But any ways after spending some time they returned back to their home. But during that time their mother scared them for getting punishment from their father. Both the sisters got panicked after listening to this and as a result of which they ran away from home and landed at Bhubaneswar station. But after reaching at station they were totally blank about what next they will do and where to go? Hence, in this confusion situation they were wandering at station premises. Soon after listening the matter staff assured them about our work.

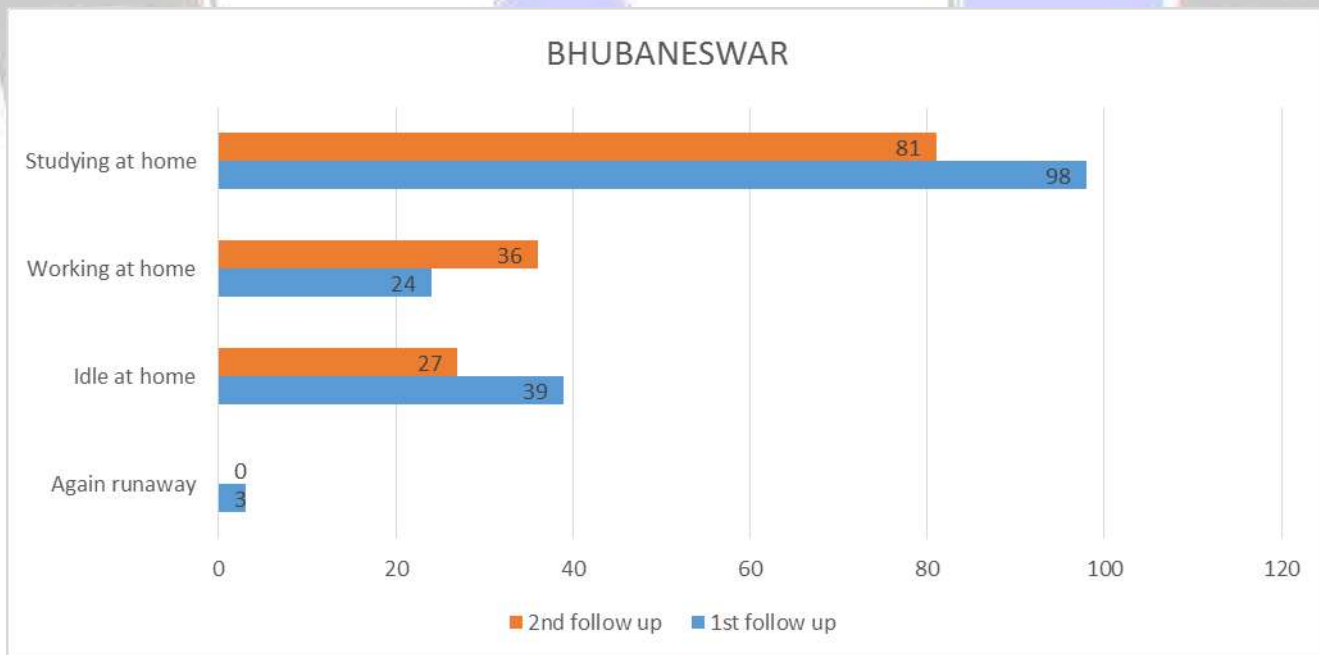
After that with taking the situation into consideration the staff shared the matter with the **CWC** member. According to CWC instruction staff referred the children's to **CHILD LINE** for further care and protection on the same day only. Hence, both the sister saved their beautiful life before falling into the hands of abuser.

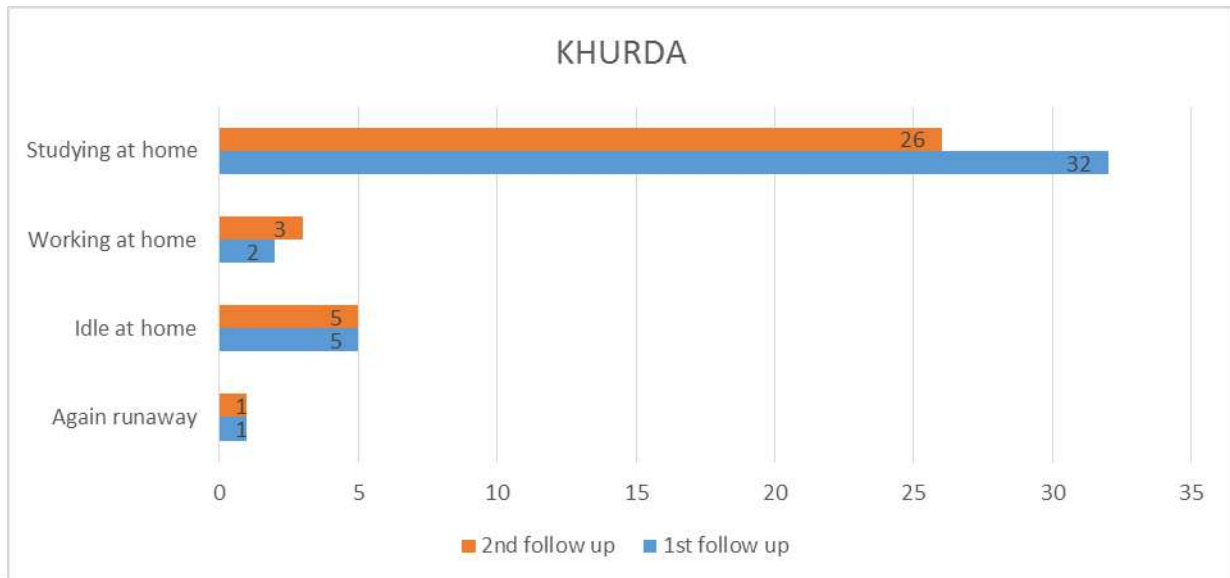
FOLLOW UP SUPPORT

The entire effort of rescuing and rehabilitating the child does not end with reuniting the child with his family. SOCH team also makes 2-3 follow-up calls per child per year to ensure that the child is being looked after well, and is not facing any issues that might threaten flight once again. In addition to this, we provide counseling to both child & parents that encourage habitual runaways and children addicted to the streets and bad habits to clean up their act go back to their families if right for them, to develop healthy family relationship and focus on their studies.

The following graph shows the telephonic follow up status from Bhubaneswar & Khurda, of those children who were reunited with their families, Bhubaneswar cover the period from *January 2014 to December 2014* and Khurda data is from *April 2014 to March 2015*. The following data only includes first and second follow up calls done by the SOCH staffs.

Details of resettled children at Bhubaneswar





CASE NO-11 “Two friends lost their way to home...”

Pintu Nayak (*not real name*) a 14 years old boy lost his path with his friend named as Nishikant, by the influence of an unknown person. He belongs to Binjha village under Bandh police station of Bhadrak District. His father is a farmer where as his mother is a house wife. He has one elder and three younger sisters. His friend also belongs to the same village. Both Pintu and his friend got lost one day when they went to see a cricket tournament. However, they reached in their local railway station which was not very far from their home. Hence, in between the station the unknown person who looks like a cricket player helped them to board a train. Hence, they reached at Bhubaneswar Railway station where they were being helped by a lady. As a result of which the lady contacted them to GRP and later on they were referred to SOCH by GRP staff on **15th Feb 2015**.



It was the evening time around 8.30 PM, the child reached at SOCH shelter in a very anguish and nervous situation with his friend. Thus, the staff of SOCH made them comfortable at shelter. During counseling period the child shared that he was being beaten by his father as he stayed more days in his uncle’s home despite concentrating on studies. In this painful situation his mother also did not support him. This gave more pain to Pintu. Hence, he made a plan with his friend to run away from his home and accordingly to the plan both of them did that. But his way of communication and physical appearance was more suspected to staff so; staff engaged them in various indoor games and same time explain them the dangerous situation of platform life. However, in the very next morning the child shared his exact problem what was really happened with him. He shared that, with the influence of an unknown person who separated them from their families and brought them in this difficult situation. The child started crying while sharing his sufferings, so staff assured him and Nishikant for sure help. SOCH Staff tried to contact to his family as per the contact number shared by child, as the child had a mobile phone with him.

His father reached at shelter by getting information from GRP and started crying after seeing his son. His father shared that, Pintu is a good enough at school as well as in his family. Having a single son he fulfills all the dream of his parents. But this incident gave him so distress and pain in his life. But by the blessing of God we again got back “my life my son”. He also expresses his gratitude to SOCH Team, for whom he got back his son in good and safe condition. Hereafter, the life of Pintu is being saved. With this both the children and his father went to **CHILDLINE**.

“So join hand with us for saving the beautiful life of children. A small step by you..... A life.....is changing moment for children. Save live.... Building future...”

In the first follow up which was on *10th march 2015*, his mother told that the child is continuing his study at home and in the second follow up on *4th June 2015*, his mother also told that her child is properly doing his study at home.

EVENTS OF THE YEAR 2014-15

In the year 2014-15 SOCH has taken many initiatives to celebrated various functions and conducted various activities with the key stakeholders and staffs.



ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATION-

Every year SOCH celebrates annual function and invites our key staholders, other organization, rescued children along with their parents and some eminent perosn & our well wishers. In this function children perfrom their cultural activities and SOCH ecourages them by giving gifts and prizes.

EARLY INTERVENTION AT RAILWAY STATION-

Conducting regular early intervention surveys is an important aspect of SOCH activities since it helps to understand the status of the children at the Railway Stations as well as focus on its prevention in collaboration with stakeholders, which influence a child's life.

As the platforms are filled up frequently by runaway and missing children hence, to understand the status of begging, fresh, old and new children at the Railway Stations the survey is done. Also, to understand the inflow as well as the timings of the children arrives at the station. The staff conducted early interventions thrice at Bhubaneswar Railway Station. It was for three day and two day respectively. Intervention which was conducted from 9th-10th Sep 2014, 29th-31st Dec 2014 and 27-28th Feb 2015 and 11th – 13st September, 2014 and 24th – 27th December, 2014 and 24th and 26th February, 2015 both Khurda and Bhubaneswar respectively. It is an intensive program in which various volunteers participated from 6 am in the morning to 8 pm in the evening along with the SOCH staffs.





Baseline Survey at Brahmapur Railway Station-

Brahmapur Railway Station is situated on the East coast railway line which is a major route connecting the two metros Kolkata and Chennai of India. It is directly connected to Delhi, Ahmadabad, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Cuttack, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Puri, Vishakhapatnam, Kolkata, Raipur, Sambalpur and many more cities of India. It is one of the busiest railway station of the Indian state of Odisha. Currently Brahmapur Railway Station has 3 platforms, while the fourth one is under construction.

Objectives of the survey-

- To understand the inflow of freshly landed runaway and missing children at Brahmapur Railway Station.
- To understand the issues associated with old children staying in and around at Railway station.
- To rescue all the needy children came in contact while doing the survey and resettle them with help of a local based NGO & Brahmapur Child line.

In order to know the current situation of the missing, runaway and old children at station, we conducted three days survey at Brahmapur Railway Station on *18th to 20th Sept, 2014*. The survey was conducted in the two shifts with the time of 8 hours. The shifts of the survey is mentioned below in a table format.

Shifts	Timing	Duration
Morning	6Am to 2 Pm	8hrs
Evening	2Pm to 9pm	7hrs

Within this three days of survey we came across **19** children and rescued **16** children. Out of those **16** children **9** children were boys where as **7** children were girls. The survey was successfully conducted with the help of Railway authorities, stakeholders and child line of Brahmapur railway station.

Conducted a brief survey at Rourkela and Jharsuguda Railway Station-

SOCH Team did a baseline survey at Rourkela and Jharsuguda railway station to know the status and condition of long-standing children and the flow of new children in per day. The survey was successfully completed with the help of railway authorities and stakeholders to know the current situation and structure of the station.

Children's day celebrations at VJSS (One open shelter)-

On the eve of Children's Day (14th Nov 2014), we had celebration at VJSS (Viswa Jeevan Seba Sangh) an open shelter in Khurda district. In this shelter there are 18 children. On that day we provided new clothes to all the children and organized various competitions for them. We distributed the prizes and sweets among the children. We spend our quality time with all the children and return the children were very happy from our activities and actively participated in each and every competition. The coordinator of that organization is Mrs. Sita Baral, was also very happy with our work and involvement. She conveyed her gratitude to SOCH staff.





Capacity Building and Training Programs-

Building the capacity of new and current staff is an essential part of any organization implementation. Basic training for all staff should cover guiding principles, goals and other important activities of the organization. So for SOCH conducts the training program every month or quarterly basis. The training was conducted on every monthly and quarterly Meeting when all cluster members are present. Apart from that SOCH staffs had attend some workshop and conference with the coordination of other NGO's.

Along with that SOCH had cpnducted many workshop and TOT session for the staffs on the topics like Couseling, Life skills, Personality development and accounts related trainigs.

In this year SOCH staff had attended SANJAHA workshop organized by GOONJ, which was a great experience and learning for all the staffs.

Submitted work progress reports to various stakeholders and Railway Authorities-

SOCH believes in maintaining proper documentation of all works and activities to facilitate transparency and clarity which also aid in further planning and direction of the organization. Hence, the staff prepares monthly and quarterly reports in the end of the month and Quarter. and submit it to various stakeholders and other organizations which are collaboratively work with SOCH. Hence, every month, the staff submits reports to Station Manager (Gazetted and Non Gazetted), TTE, GRP/ RPF at the Bhubaneswar Railway Station as well as the other stakeholders like IIC of Laxmisagar Police station, other supporters etc. to clarify their roles and update them on the status of ongoing activities of the organization.

Circulation Monthly Newsletter-

To give regular upadates, highlights and news on SOCH ongoing activities, SOCH circulates newsletter every month. We send this newsletters to all the supporters, volunteers and visitors to keep them informing about our achievements. .

Visit to After Care Center-

With the objective to help youths and bring them to the mainstream of the society,SOCH taken an initiative for them by providing jobs in SOCH or in the other intrerest areas. So, for this purpose, SOCH staff has visited to Berhampur Blaashram and Utkal Balashram to collect their information and to know their interests area of job.

Collaboration with other Organizations, Railway Authorities and some Govt officials-

SOCH works collaboratively with many other Organizations and Railway Authorities like, GOONJ, Asha Kiran, Support Childline, Bhairabi Club, GRP/ RPF and DCPU Office etc respectively. SOCH has able to maintain rapport with them in a very effective way.

GOONJ:

It is an international organization working with street and runaway children & provide them basic needs, care & protection to children. Hence, SOCH receives donations like, clothes, shoes, games, television and utensils etc needed for children.

Support from Childline-

Children those address cannot be traced within a day, they need to be produce before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) through the Childline or by the SOCH directly. Therefore, SOCH works in collaboration with the Childline to provide quicker assistance to the child as well as their

PUSS (Palli Unnayan Seva Samiti):

It is one of the Organization which provides shelter home for children who are rescued from the Bhubaneswar and Khurda Railway Station. The secretary of the organization Mrs. S.Swati is a very cooperative and kind hearted person and happy to help us in this rescue project.

families.	
<p>DCPU Office- As SOCH got registered (under society registration Act 1860, having the registration no 23515/51), the staff visited District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and met with DCPO Mrs. Banishree Pattnaik to seek permission for the open shelter and for help to more number of children at Bhubaneswar and Khurda Railway Stations.</p>	<p>RISE Organization- With the aim of help to poor and needy children by providing vocational training, we visited to RISE (Rural Institute for Social Empowerment). It is a nonprofit registered trust motive to work with community for empirical social research and capacity building of students. We met to Mr. Prasant Panda is Programme Manager of the Trust. We also introduced him regarding our activities. As per our observation they are happy with our work and also ready to support us.</p>
<p>VJSS (Viswa Jivan Seva Sangha)- It is one of the child care institution at Khurda District. Which also provide immediate care and protection to the needy children after the instruction of CWC Committee Therefore, SOCH has created a good networking with this organization. As a result of which they provide a quicker action to the children.</p>	<p>Support Childline Bhairabi Club- Children whose address cannot be traced within a day need to be referred to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) through the Childline or by the SOCH directly. Therefore, SOCH works in collaboration with the support Childline to provide quicker assistance to the child as well as their families.</p>
<p>Asha Kiran- It is one of the Organizations which provide a temporary shelter for children who are rescued from the Khurda as well as Bhubaneswar Railway Station. The secretary of the organization Mr. Sastri is a very cooperative and kind hearted person.</p>	<p>With all the Railway Authorities- From inception till date SOCH created a strong networking with the Various Railway Authorities by conducting awareness meetings and interacting with them in regular basis. In the mean while, SOCH also updates them about our monthly progress by submitting our reports in regular basis.</p>

OUR VISITORS FROM INDIA & OVERSEAS

Mr. Bismaya Mohapatra, Director of RSMS Pvt. Ltd. visited our organization to know about the organization and its work.



Mr. Suresh Kumar, State Coordinator of GOONJ Organization) visited to SOCH to know about our work updates and distributed a pair of cloth to a rescued child.

In the month of November & September, 2014 Prof. Malcolm Harper, our supporter and some other overseas volunteers had visited to our office to know and explore about our ongoing work and spend quality time with children.



The students of **IMS** and **NISWASS** College from Bhubaneswar visited to our organization for exposure visit.



Ria Banarjee Secretary of Human Right Commission, **Jharkhand** visited to our organization to explore more about our work.

Mr.Mangirami Reddy, Director of **THE WORLD** organization from Andhra Pradesh visited to our organization to know about our organization strategy of work.

Mr. Pramod Kulkarni, Director of **SATHI** organization visited to our organization to know about our work and guided the **SOCH** team in this field of work.

Mr. Sanjay Tiwari from “**Railway children**” which is an international Organization had visited **SOCH** to know about our work & achievements.

Prof. Malcolm Harper, Mr.Cristopher Pouncey and **Dr. Sheila** visited to our organization to know about our work. During their visit they met with Station Manager, TTE and other stakeholders. After the meeting with the stakeholders they went through various documents and **SOCH** staffs presented more information and activities undertaken by our organization.





On 27th January, 2015 **Prof. Malcolm Harper, Mr. Jimmy Mulville, Mrs. Karen Mulville and Ms. Linda Deverell** visited our organization for reviewing our work. And after that they visited to Station. There they met with various stakeholders and had a brief meeting was conducted with IIC-RPF, IIC-GRP and with other railway authorities.

On second day visitors visited to Brahmapur Railway Station and met with **GRP- ASI** named as **Mr. P.K. Rao** and **RPF- SI** **Mr. P.K. Roul** respectively and spend some time at Brahmapur project office and spend some quality time with SOCH team.



On 27th January 2015 **Prof. Malcolm Harper, Mr. Jimmy Mulville, Mrs. Karen Mulville and Ms. Linda Deverell** visited Khurda office to see our work. After then they visited to Station and met with OIC, GRP, Station Manager and some other stake holders.



Our mentor and supporter **Prof. Malcolm Harper** visited to Khurda office to know our work status and spend some time with children at Khurda shelter home.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

In this year we helped, resuced and saved the life of **524 children** and reunited **294 children** to their families.

In this year we have created good networking with the key stakeholders. Due to this on & off working hours they have provided full support. As a result of which we got **57 children** from their referral.

Mobilized two computers from **Infosys**.

In the whole year got whole hearted support from **GOONJ** in form of cloths, books, toys, office assets, recreational items etc.

Due to the support and cooperation from our Donors and Railway Authorities we could extend our work to **Brahmapur Railway** station from the year **2015-16**.

Being an NGO working for rescue and resettlement of children in Odisha, gradually we are developing good relation and building network with **Government department** and other **NGO**.

Mobilized **18 volunteers**, who are actively giving their qulaity time in the activities of SOCH.

This year 14-15 has given us a new experiences and learning as we had conducted a baselene survey and many places taken Early Intervention initiatives to save the life of the children.

OUR FUTURE PLAN OF ACTION

In 2015-16, we at SOCH planning to expand our child rescue and restoration work to Berhampur Railway station.

There are hundreds of old addicted street children are there at Berhampur, Khurda, Cuttack, Puri and Bhubaneswar railway stations. We plan to start a de-addiction camp for them in order to bring them to mainstream society.

There are hundreds of youths from various child care institutions struggling to come to mainstream society, so we are planning to start a project for their counselling, mentoring, skill building and job placement with all necessary support to bring them to mainstream society to make them productive citizen of our society.

So we expect your support and cooperation in order to realize our plan for betterment of children and youths.



STAKEHOLDER'S BLOG

"SOCH" is an unique voluntary organisation who keeps vigil on the Platform of Bhubaneswar Railway Station with a dedicated team of Volunteers.

They smartly detect any child in distress and rescue and restore them to refrain from falling in criminal hands.

I heartily appreciate the service of "SOCH" from the core of my hearts.



Thank you.

Chittaranjan Nayak.

Station Manager BBSR STN.

SOCH

K. Sanjosh Sou Acheri

ବ୍ୟାପକ ବିକାଶ/କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ସମ୍ପର୍କୀୟ କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ଯାହା ଯେ ଯେ
 ଧ୍ୟାନରେ ବିକାଶ/କ୍ଷେତ୍ର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରନ୍ତୁ, ତାହା ଯେ ଯେ
 ବିକାଶ କରନ୍ତୁ ତାହା ଧ୍ୟାନରେ ବିକାଶ/କ୍ଷେତ୍ର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରନ୍ତୁ
 ବିକାଶ କରନ୍ତୁ ତାହା ଧ୍ୟାନରେ ବିକାଶ/କ୍ଷେତ୍ର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରନ୍ତୁ
 (Soch) କୁ ସମର୍ଥନ ଦିଅନ୍ତୁ।



Vendor BBSR STN.

K. Sanjosh Sou Acheri

Any creature that takes birth in the world, thinks of itself. But a few think of others and they are great and eminent. 'SOCH' and its team, therefore, are undoubtedly praiseworthy. My pride touches the sky ~~high~~ for I am in touch actively with it.



*SK BARIK
 TTI / BBS
 F. Lo Rly.*

Soch organization ଯାହା ଯେ
 18 କର୍ମୀଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଗଠନ କରାଯାଇଛି
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରନ୍ତୁ, ତାହା ଧ୍ୟାନରେ ବିକାଶ
 ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠା କରନ୍ତୁ। ଯାହା ଧ୍ୟାନରେ ବିକାଶ
 Rescue କରନ୍ତୁ ତାହା ଧ୍ୟାନରେ ବିକାଶ
 କରନ୍ତୁ ତାହା ଧ୍ୟାନରେ ବିକାଶ
 କରନ୍ତୁ ତାହା ଧ୍ୟାନରେ ବିକାଶ



Sarbeswar Samantray,

*S. R.
 466222 (Brook Bell)
 969226163*

I would like to Congratulate "SOCH" and its hardworking team for such holy deed. I am eyewitness of their caring and loving job of helping children in this in which

There occurs no relation between Parents and children sometimes. I am proud and thankful to be a small part of such a great organization.



*P. K. Prasad
 CTI BBS*

ପ୍ରକାର ଚୋରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ସୁଦୃଢ଼ ଆଘାତକାରୀ ବିଭାଗୀୟ କମିଟିର
 ଚାଲୁ ସାମ୍ବାଦିକ ଉପସ୍ଥାପନା । ଚୋରୀ ଚଳୁ ଏମ ପ୍ରକାର
 ଏବଂ ବିଭାଗୀୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ନିଜ ଚୋରୀଙ୍କୁ ଏସିଏ କମିଟି
 ଏବଂ ସୁ ଚୋରୀଙ୍କୁ ଚୋରୀ ଚଳୁ ଚଳୁ

ମୁଁ ଚୋରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରାୟ ୫ ବର୍ଷ ଯେତେ କାଳ କମିଟିର
 Soch କମିଟି ଉପସ୍ଥାପନା କରୁଛି । Soch ବିଭାଗୀୟ
 ପାଠକ କାଳ କିନ୍ତୁ ମୋପାଠକୀ ପ୍ରକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ପ୍ରକାରୀ
 ଏବଂ ଚାଲି କିମ୍ବା ମାତ୍ର ଚୋରୀ ଚାଲି କିମ୍ବା ବିଭାଗୀୟ
 ଚଳୁ କରୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ନିଜ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ପାଠକ ଆଠକ
 ଲ୍ୟାପ ବିଭାଗୀୟ ଲ୍ୟାପ କିମ୍ବା



ଶୁଭାଞ୍ଜନ
 Cleaning staff, Khordha



Ganjeeb kumar Sathi
 D/SI and staff
 8456017393

ମୁଁ Anil Kumar Sathya : ଚୋରୀଙ୍କୁ ବିଭାଗୀୟ Watering
 ଚୋରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଚଳୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁ । Soch କମିଟି
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ଚଳୁ ବିଭାଗୀୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ଚଳୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ବିଭାଗୀୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ଚଳୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ବିଭାଗୀୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ଚଳୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ବିଭାଗୀୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ଚଳୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ବିଭାଗୀୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ଚଳୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ବିଭାଗୀୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ଚଳୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ବିଭାଗୀୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ଚଳୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ବିଭାଗୀୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ

Soch Soch for children କିମ୍ବା ଆମ ଚୋରୀ ଚଳୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 ଚଳୁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ
 କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ



Anil Kumar Sathya
 Watering staff, Khordha



Kaushal Chandra Sahoo
 Cook, Khordha road.

Parents View's

Society for children. I happy The office
 N.S.C Good job for Good job for S.C
 @ My child. coming my home.
 I like that the office. u Rishu



Parents Comments on our Organisation
 Soch organisatio का मैं बहुत-बहुत अमारी इस संस्था का
 से मेरी का बहुत अंतरा होगा और यहाँ संस्था बहुत अच्छा है
 इनका काम करने का तरीका भी बहुत अच्छा है. मैं इस
 संस्था का बहुत अमारी है. — K. Ramdar

शुभ चिंतन का माता पिता का बहुत बड़ा भूमिका है
 सब शुभ Society for children को बहुत बड़ा चिंतन का माता पिता
 का शुभ भावना का बहुत बड़ा है Society for children
 का शुभ भावना का बहुत बड़ा है, चिंतन का माता पिता



Fathers Opinion
 बहुत बड़ा पुरुष का बहुत बड़ा भूमिका है
 बहुत बड़ा पुरुष का बहुत बड़ा भूमिका है
 बहुत बड़ा पुरुष का बहुत बड़ा भूमिका है

Screened by: _____ Date: _____
Parent's opinion :- शुभ भावना का बहुत बड़ा भूमिका है
 बहुत बड़ा भूमिका है। बहुत बड़ा भूमिका है।
 Subbal Parthen



* शुभ भावना का बहुत बड़ा भूमिका है
 शुभ भावना का बहुत बड़ा भूमिका है
 शुभ भावना का बहुत बड़ा भूमिका है
 शुभ भावना का बहुत बड़ा भूमिका है
 शुभ भावना का बहुत बड़ा भूमिका है
 शुभ भावना का बहुत बड़ा भूमिका है

ANNEXURE-1: OUR TEAM

SL No.	Name	Qualification	designation
1	Ishwar Kumar	BA	Coordinator
2	Chinmai Panda	B.Tech (Agriculture Engineer)	Communication Officer
3	Madhusmita Roul	MSW	Program assistant
4	Krushna Ch. Mohanty	B.Com	Accountant
5	Laxmipriya Singh	MSW	Counselor
6	Paresh Kumar Biswal	Intermediate	Field worker
7	Nepal Ghadei	MSW	Asst camp teacher
8	Rasmita Das	MSW	Counselor
9	Nibedita Rout	MSW	Field worker
10	Uma Sankar Mahapatra	B.A	Field Worker
11	Manjushree Das	MSW	Field Worker
12	Utkal Maity	MSW	Field worker
13	Nrusingh Ghadei	BA	Field Worker
14	Sachikant Sahoo	BA	Field Worker
15	Subhendu Swain	Intermediate	Field Worker
16	Pankaj Ghadei	BA	Field Worker
17	Joshlin Panigrahy	MSW	Field Worker
18	Kumar Mohapatra	10 th	Cook cum care taker

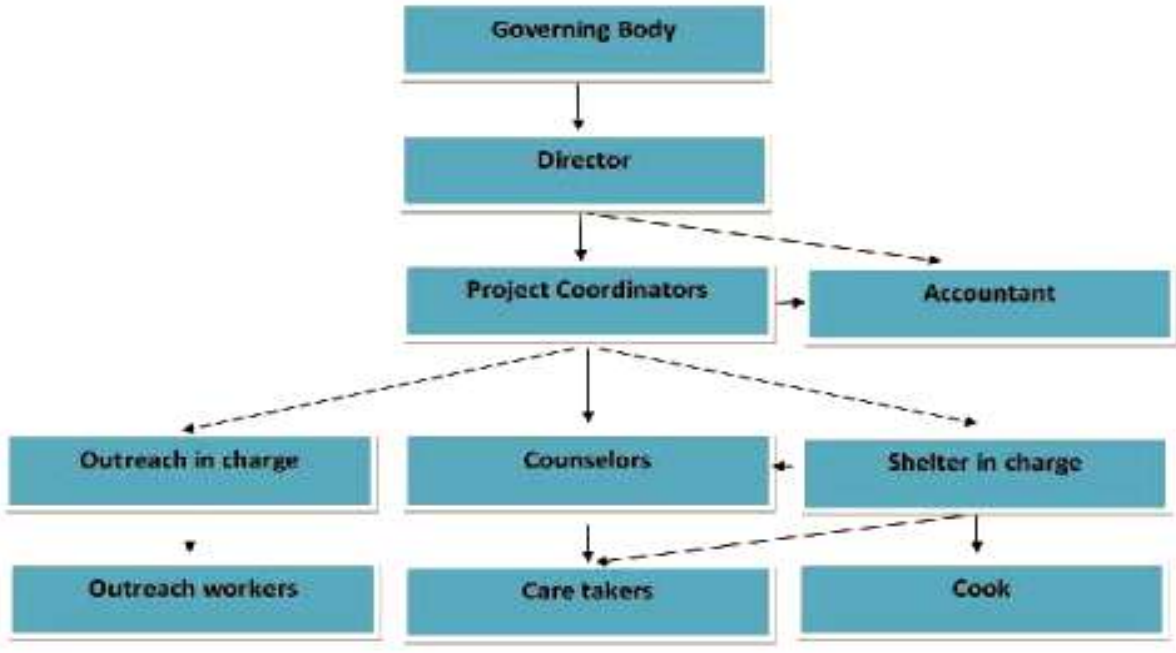
OUR VOLUNTEERS

SL. No.	Name	College Name	Project Involvement
1.	Gitanjali Pradhan	IMS college	In child rescue
2.	Snehanjali Mahapatra	IMS college	In child rescue
3.	Lopamudra Mishra	VISWASS College	In child rescue
4.	Manjushree Das	BJB College	In child rescue
5.	Smruti Sagarika Mohanty	BJB College	In child rescue
6.	Swapneswar Kanhar	BJB College	In child rescue
7.	Pranaya Keshari Mahapatra	BJB College	In child rescue
8.	Rajesk Kumar Nayak	BJB College	In child rescue
9.	Sourav Kaustav	BJB College	In child rescue
10.	Dillip Ku Das	BJB College	In child rescue
11.	Tanisha Singh	TISS Mumbai	Child counseling
12.	Arjun	TISS Mumbai	Documentation
13.	Sushma	TISS Mumbai	Documentation
14.	Mathew nanda	TISS Mumbai	Documentation
15.	Vivek	TISS Mumbai	Uniform design
16.	Sayan Chaterji	XIMB	Documentation
17.	Manisha Singh	XIMB	Documentation
18.	Amit	XIMB	Documentation

ANNEXURE-2: OUR GOVERNING BODY

SL. NO.	Name	Designation	Age	Occupation	Associated with Organization since
1	Mr. Pramod Painuly, S/o – Mr. Surendra Painuly	Chairperson	37	Social Work	2nd July, 2012
2	Mr. Manoj Kumar Swain, S/o – Mr. Kailash Chandra Swain	Secretary	29	Social Work	2nd July, 2012
3	Mr. Narayan Mohanty, S/o – Mr. Niranjan Mohanty	Treasurer	29	Social Work	2nd July, 2012
4	Mr. Saroj Kumar Nayak, S/o- Mr. Raghunath Nayak	Member	31	Social Work	2nd July, 2012
5	Mr. Sunil Kumar Chaudhary, S/o – Mr. Ram Chaudhary	Member	33	Social Work	2nd July, 2012
6	Mr. Gajanan Rauta, S/o – Mr. Biswanath Rauta	Member	29	Social Work	2nd July, 2012
7	Mr. Pawan Mishra, S/o – S.K.Mishra	Member	31	Social Work	2nd July, 2012

ANNEXURE-3: OUR ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE



OUR OPERATIONAL AREA

BHUBANESWAR
KHURDA
BRAHMAPUR



SOCH ON MEDIA



ଶ୍ଵେଦନରୁ ୩ ନାବାଳକ ଉଦ୍ଧାର



ଭୁବନେଶ୍ଵର, ୨୧ ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ (ନି.ପ୍ର)-
ଶୁକ୍ରମାସ ସରିବା ପରେ ରେଳବାଇ
ଆଜି ପୁଲିସ୍ ଶନିବାର
ଭୁବନେଶ୍ଵର ରେଳଷ୍ଟେସନରୁ
୩ ଜଣ ନାବାଳକଙ୍କୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର
କରିଛି । ତିନି ଜଣ ନାବାଳକ
ନୟାଗଡ଼ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଶରଣକୁଳ
ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ବୋଲି ଜଣାପଡ଼ିଛି ।
ସେମାନେ ଜେଲେ ଦାସି ପୁଷି,
ଆଣ୍ଡେ କୁମାର ସାହୁ ଓ ମୁନା
କେହେରା । ସେମାନଙ୍କର
ଉଦୟ ୧୫ ବର୍ଷ ବେଳା । ଦେଉରାଣା ସ୍ଵେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ
ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଶୋଭା ସମାଜରେ
ଏହି ନାବାଳକଙ୍କୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର କରିବା ପରେ ପୁଲିସ୍
ପରିବାର କୋର୍ଟକୁ ହସ୍ତାନ୍ତର
କରିଛି । ଭୁବନେଶ୍ଵର ରେଳଷ୍ଟେସନରେ
ଅନେକ ସମୟରେ ଶୋଭା ଦାନୀ
ଆସିଥିବା ନାବାଳକଙ୍କୁ ପୁଲିସ୍
ଉଦ୍ଧାର କରୁଛି । ଶନିବାର ଉଦ୍ଧାର
କରାଯାଇଥିବା ଏହି ନାବାଳକମାନେ
ମଧ୍ୟ ଘର ଯାଏଁ ପଳାଇ ଆସିଥିବା
ଜଣାପଡ଼ିଛି ।

ରେଳଷ୍ଟେସନରୁ ନାବାଳିକା ଉଦ୍ଧାର
ଭୁବନେଶ୍ଵର, ୨୧ ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ (ନି.ପ୍ର)-
ଶୁକ୍ରମାସ ସରିବା ପରେ ରେଳବାଇ
ଆଜି ପୁଲିସ୍ ଶନିବାର
ଭୁବନେଶ୍ଵର ରେଳଷ୍ଟେସନରୁ
୩ ଜଣ ନାବାଳକଙ୍କୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର
କରିଛି । ତିନି ଜଣ ନାବାଳକ
ନୟାଗଡ଼ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଶରଣକୁଳ
ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ବୋଲି ଜଣାପଡ଼ିଛି ।
ସେମାନେ ଜେଲେ ଦାସି ପୁଷି,
ଆଣ୍ଡେ କୁମାର ସାହୁ ଓ ମୁନା
କେହେରା । ସେମାନଙ୍କର
ଉଦୟ ୧୫ ବର୍ଷ ବେଳା । ଦେଉରାଣା ସ୍ଵେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ
ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଶୋଭା ସମାଜରେ
ଏହି ନାବାଳକଙ୍କୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର କରିବା ପରେ ପୁଲିସ୍
ପରିବାର କୋର୍ଟକୁ ହସ୍ତାନ୍ତର
କରିଛି । ଭୁବନେଶ୍ଵର ରେଳଷ୍ଟେସନରେ
ଅନେକ ସମୟରେ ଶୋଭା ଦାନୀ
ଆସିଥିବା ନାବାଳକଙ୍କୁ ପୁଲିସ୍
ଉଦ୍ଧାର କରୁଛି । ଶନିବାର ଉଦ୍ଧାର
କରାଯାଇଥିବା ଏହି ନାବାଳକମାନେ
ମଧ୍ୟ ଘର ଯାଏଁ ପଳାଇ ଆସିଥିବା
ଜଣାପଡ଼ିଛି ।



ରେଳଷ୍ଟେସନରୁ ନାବାଳିକା ଉଦ୍ଧାର
ଭୁବନେଶ୍ଵର, ୨୧ ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ (ନି.ପ୍ର)-
ଶୁକ୍ରମାସ ସରିବା ପରେ ରେଳବାଇ
ଆଜି ପୁଲିସ୍ ଶନିବାର
ଭୁବନେଶ୍ଵର ରେଳଷ୍ଟେସନରୁ
୩ ଜଣ ନାବାଳକଙ୍କୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର
କରିଛି । ତିନି ଜଣ ନାବାଳକ
ନୟାଗଡ଼ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଶରଣକୁଳ
ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ବୋଲି ଜଣାପଡ଼ିଛି ।
ସେମାନେ ଜେଲେ ଦାସି ପୁଷି,
ଆଣ୍ଡେ କୁମାର ସାହୁ ଓ ମୁନା
କେହେରା । ସେମାନଙ୍କର
ଉଦୟ ୧୫ ବର୍ଷ ବେଳା । ଦେଉରାଣା ସ୍ଵେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ
ଅନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଶୋଭା ସମାଜରେ
ଏହି ନାବାଳକଙ୍କୁ ଉଦ୍ଧାର କରିବା ପରେ ପୁଲିସ୍
ପରିବାର କୋର୍ଟକୁ ହସ୍ତାନ୍ତର
କରିଛି । ଭୁବନେଶ୍ଵର ରେଳଷ୍ଟେସନରେ
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ଆସିଥିବା ନାବାଳକଙ୍କୁ ପୁଲିସ୍
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କରାଯାଇଥିବା ଏହି ନାବାଳକମାନେ
ମଧ୍ୟ ଘର ଯାଏଁ ପଳାଇ ଆସିଥିବା
ଜଣାପଡ଼ିଛି ।

Rekindling lost DREAMS

The Society for Children (SOCH) organisation operates out of a modest room near Kalpana Square, and is headed by a team of eight which includes a founder Manoj Kumar Swain. Set up in 2012, the seemingly fledgling organisation has so far rescued and reunited over 700 runaway kids with their families.

"We believe in rescuing and reuniting runaway children with their families. Home is where they belong," says Manoj, an alumna of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). His association with a non-profit organisation in Pune in 2010, during which he ran into some children trafficked from Orissa, sowed the seeds of inspiration to do something for the children of his home state.

"We conducted a survey in Orissa to delve deeper into the issues of runaway children. The survey findings were alarming: more than 100 children ran away from their homes per day, mostly due to trivial issues. Most of them tended to land up at the city railway station. They are subsequently forced to resort to begging as a means of survival. Boys are later trafficked to metro cities by

CHARITY CIRCUIT

Children begging at traffic junctions and railway stations, or eking out a livelihood by working odd jobs is an all-too common sight in our country, but what's even more disturbing is the reckless indifference meted out to them by society at large. A survey reveals a majority of these children have either run away from home over trivial reasons, or have been trafficked. This week's edition of Charity Circuit features Society for Children (SOCH), an organisation working for these homeless kids, who in a fleeting moment throw away secure lives full of promise



Top: A child speaks at the annual event of the organisation after being reunited with his family; A runaway child being counselled by a volunteer of SOCH

beggar gangs while the girls are sold to red light areas. The situation was so depressing, that I decided to quit my job in Pune and devote myself to rescuing these misguided runaway kids in my state," says Manoj, who found strong support from his friends in setting up SOCH.

The two-year-old organisation has volunteers who make frequent rounds of the city railway station throughout the day to spot and rescue runaway children. "They mostly land up at railway stations because they can travel on trains for free and Bhubaneswar being the capital city, most of them come here. The children are mostly from the age group of 10-14 years and sometimes kids as young as six have also been rescued," he adds.

Manoj acknowledges the help of railway authorities in his efforts. "Initially when I spoke to the railway officials I had trouble convincing them of the gravity of the situation, but when after two months a high number of cases were brought to their attention, they took it seriously and offered us all help we needed," adds Manoj.

Manoj and his group conducted a num-

ber of awareness meetings with the railway police force, the vendors, cleaning and parcel staff, the TTEs and the porters on how to identify and rescue runaway children. "We have built up our network and nowadays even if our volunteers are not at the station, we get a number of calls from them about such kids," says Manoj.

After being rescued, the children are taken to a shelter home run by the organisation where they are provided with food, clothes and first-aid. Speaking on their resettlement plan, organisation coordinator Ishwar Kumar says, "We first try to be the child's friends and win his faith so they begin to trust us and open up. Thereafter, a coun-

selling session by professionals begins and in time, the address of the child is traced. We make them understand their mistake and finally hand them over to their families."

Why do so many children run away from home? Manoj explains, "There are hundreds of them each week. Most of them abandon their homes for silly, trivial reasons. But we cannot tell them that. We need to be understanding and have to give them a lot of room. Their reasons may seem silly to us, but for them it is a very big decision to abandon the security, comfort and happiness of their home. So they need to be handled carefully."

There are cases when the child in question is unwilling to go back to his/her home no matter what. Such kids are referred to childcare institutions where they are taken care of. "Sometimes the child is so badly

abused or ill-treated at their home that they are extremely reluctant to go back. In such cases, there is no point in reuniting them with their families because they might run away again," says Manoj.

The organisation has rescued around 700 runaway children until now. While most of them are boys, the number of girls is quite low. "Girls don't leave their home alone and are rather trafficked from their natives places in lure of money and jobs. So, we witness fewer runaway cases of girls because even when they are trafficked, they are accompanied by someone which makes it difficult to figure out," adds Ishwar.

Manoj plans to widen his network across the state. "We will soon have a presence in major stations across the state. We have already begun our survey in the Khandra railway station," he says. ANWESHA ANBAILY

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