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Society for children (SOCH) is a nonprofit organization established in 2012 working at Bhubaneswar, Khurda and Brahmapur Railway Stations of Odisha. It works to rescue children who are lost, missing and have run away from their homes and resettle them with their respective families or provide institutional care. In this journey so far SOCH has rescued 1123 children and have home placed 656 children with their families. Other children are referred to GRP, RPF, and Child Welfare Committee and also to other Institutional Care.

OUTREACH and NETWORK BUILDING



The main objective of SOCH is to do outreach at railway platforms in order to rescue and resettle runaway, missing, abducted and abandoned children. Apart from this, network building is important among all the stakeholders as it plays an important role in child rescuing. SOCH staff tries to aware and sensitize them regarding child issues. Our stakeholders include Railway Authorities i.e.: GRP, RPF, TTE and Railway employees like coolies, vendors, cleaning staffs, parcel workers, auto drivers etc. The patrolling procedure is carried out at Bhubaneswar, Khurda and Brahmapur Railway Stations to identify the needy children.

RESCUE AND RESETTLEMENT DETAILS

BHUBANESWAR

No of children rescued: 18
Rescued by SOCH staffs: 10
No of children getting referrals: 08
No of children home placement: 05
No of children Referred to other NGO-13

BRAHMAPUR

No of children rescued: 12
Rescued by SOCH staffs: 12
No of children Referred to other NGO through GRP-12

KHURDA

No of children rescued: 14
Rescued by SOCH staffs: 12
No of children getting referrals: 02
No of children home placement: 09
No of children Referred to other NGO: 05

Out of 44 children:

- ✓ A large majority i.e. 24 children belongs to the age group of 11-14 yrs.
- ✓ 38 children were from Odisha and 2 from Bihar and other 4 children from WB, AP, Assam and UP.
- ✓ 16 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 and city attraction.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS AT RAILWAY STATION



TTI Meeting [Bhubaneswar]



Coolie Meeting [Brahmapur]



Vendor Meeting [Khurda]

Various meetings were held with the stakeholders in the month of April, 2015. They are available all the time at the railway station. As they play a vital role in child rescuing, hence we aware them about the organization and child issues organizing these meetings.

UPCOMING EVENT

- * To organize de-addiction camp for old children for their behavioral change.
- * Organize Thanks Giving Ceremony at Khurda.

CASE STUDY OF BIPIN

“An only child of 9 years – who cannot speak and wandering helplessly at the Bhubaneswar railway station at night”

This is the case of Bipin who was referred to us by the platform cleaning staff on 5th Apr 2015. We reached the platform at around 8:30 PM on that day to find Bipin sitting at the platform looking sad and lost. During the counselling, we got to know Bipin had severe speech impairment. We had to use sign language to communicate with him and convince him to come with us to the shelter. After much effort, he did relent and visited the SOCH shelter with us.

At the shelter, he freshened up, changed his ragged clothes to clean ones and had his dinner. Meanwhile, all assurances were given to him that we would definitely try to trace his family and reunite him with them. The counselling continued the next day as well but we were not able to make much head away as Bipin was neither able to speak nor was able to write anything for us. He however was quite happy in playing with the various toys available at the shelter.

To resolve this difficult case, we reached out to the Childline coordinator staff on the subsequent morning. On their advice, Bipin was handed over to the childline that day itself. SOCH got to know about the child's name, address and the parents' details from Childline itself as he had been rescued by them earlier as well.

