



SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN (SOCH)

Monthly Newsletter

April-2016

Established in July 2012, Society for Children (SOCH) is a non-profit organization registered under society registration act, 1860. Currently operational in Bhubaneswar, Khurda and Berhampur cities of Odisha, SOCH has been running Project "Rakshyak" rescue and resettlement of runaway, missing and abandoned children. As per the figures till 31st March 2016, the project has rescued and resettled **2062** children from various difficult situations. SOCH also runs Project "Punarjivan"; one month behavioral modification camp for hard behaviour children and Project "Pankh"; to mainstream the youths from CCIs and from different underprivileged section of the Society.



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



- Project "Punarjivan" is a one month behavioural modification camp that focuses on the hard behavior old children, who have been detached from their loving parents for a longer period of time. These children under the supervision and guidance of professional teachers follow a structured and planned daily schedule that brings about a change in their behavior and attitude. The address of the children are traced during their stay at camp and they are reunited with their families at the Camp Ending Ceremony.



- It primarily focuses on youth who are above 16 years of age staying in Child Care Institutions, belong to poor- family background or are orphans who generally face difficulties in choosing their career. The 5 major components through which project "Pankh" operates are counseling, mentoring, life skill building training support, facilitating vocational training with job placement and follow up support.

Achievements of this month

- April was a productive month. In spite of scorching heat and summer, SOCH has saved **71** beautiful lives of children.
- Stakeholders have been active. SOCH received **12** referral cases from the stakeholders.
- SOCH objective was majorly accomplished when **49** families were reunited with their children.
- Follow up of all resettled children under Project "Punarjivan" confirmed that they are happy being with their family.
- As a part of Project "Pankh" **5** youths were enrolled into vocational training centers.

Rohan Minz (name changed), a 14 year old boy hailing from Telinghana Mangapada under Sundergarh Police Station of Sundergarh district Odisha, is the only Son of Mr. Birsha Minz (a seasonal labour) and Mrs. Saniara Minz (a seasonal labour). He has a younger sister. Parents being seasonal labours Rohan's family found it very difficult to meet ends. This poverty stricken family went into further distress when Rohan's mother was contaminated by Tuberculosis (TB). Unable to bear the expenses for the treatment Birsha sold Rohan to two strangers as bondage labour for meager Rs 3000/-. Rohan was first taken to Balugaon from where he was forwarded to Tamilnadu. Here he was assigned some tough building construction job. New place, inconsistent & long working hours and tough job nature made Rohan mentally disturbed and his life miserable. On requesting the site supervisor to release him and let him go, Rohan was severely beaten up. Witnessing this, Rohan's acquaintances at the construction site helped him escape along with one of the acquaintances. Both of them arrived at Behrampur Station on 25th March 2016 evening with no money to travel further or eat. Rohan started begging for food at the Station when he came to the notice of SOCH. He was then taken to SOCH temporary shelter where he was offered refreshment and rest. Assured that Rohan was in safe custody, Rohan's companion left the city.

Rohan shared all his miseries and his Parent's contact no. during the Counselling. His parents completely ignorant about all these were informed about Rohan, who then immediately rushed to receive him. Rohan was reunited with his family on 29th Mar 2016. And a follow-up call on 30th April 2016 from SOCH confirms Rohan is happy and has started going to school.

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