



# SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN (SOCH)

*Saving lives building future*  
NEWSLETTER (JUNE 2016)

## WE AT SOCH

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 behavior children and Project "Pankh"; to mainstream the youths from CCIs and from different underprivileged section of the Society.

**For Foreign Donors: [http://www.orissa.org.uk/standing\\_order.html](http://www.orissa.org.uk/standing_order.html)**

## RAKSHYAK

It identifies runaway, missing and abandoned children majorly focusing at railway stations. Project rescues the children who are in need of help. Rescued children are brought to a temporary shelter for necessary counseling, food, shelter and cloth support. Due efforts 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.

**To Donate for Project Rakshyak: <https://milaap.org/campaigns/Rakshyak>**

## PUNARJIVAN

Project "Punarjivan" is a one month behavioral 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 addresses of the children are traced during their stay at camp and they are reunited with their families at the Camp Ending Ceremony.

**To Donate for Project Punarjivan: <https://milaap.org/campaigns/Punarjiban>**

## PANKH

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.

**To Donate for Project Pankh: <https://milaap.org/campaigns/PANKH>**

### Suraj Knocks at SOCH Seeking Help

Suraj Pandi (Name changed) a 15 years old boy hails from Tulasipur under Kholikort Police Station of Ganjam Dist. Odisha. He studies in 10<sup>th</sup> Class but always had his mind with his friends. On 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016, at around 12:00 pm Suraj knocks at the doors of SOCH Khurda office. He appeared looking for someone in particular and unable to find that someone he returned back and waited outside. This created doubts in the mind of the SOCH staffs that went ahead and inquired about him. Luckily Suraj found the man in particular he was looking for. He then introduced himself as the same child who had run away and was rescued before by SOCH few months before. Since he was very hungry he was first fed with some food.

Post refreshment he sat with the SOCH counselor and narrated how he ran away from home with his friend to Puri after being punished by his mother (fastened with a chain) for his indiscipline acts of not studying and always playing and developing bad habits of smoking and alcohol under the influence of bad company; as he thought his mother was being too strict with him. They both first went to Puri, spent a day on the sea beach after visiting the famous Jagannath Temple. The following day they decided to come to Bhubaneswar to find some job for them but to fail. Following which they planned to move to Surat where Suraj's father worked but his friend backed out in the last minute. This left Suraj confused and wandering and he landed at SOCH seeking help.

Coincidentally his mother had called a different SOCH staff inquiring about her son who didn't have any information about Suraj by then. Suraj's mother was updated and informed about her son's safety as soon as it was realized. Suraj was engaged with some games and shelter activities. He was also educated about the hazards/impact of running away and the importance of education in life before being forwarded to Bhairabi Club for further care and protection on that same day. Suraj was reunited with his parents on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016.



- *SOCH Volunteered the Trees for Tomorrow Campaign on the World Environmental Day on the 21<sup>st</sup> Raahgiri Day in Bhubaneswar.*
- *Apart from regular work schedules SOCH staffs were kept engaged with some Skill Enhancing Training Programmes on "Child Rights" by Prof. Pratap Kumar Rath, Utkal University; training on Counseling by Sathi, Vishakhapatnam and training on Fund Raising at Viswa Yuvak Kendra, New Delhi.*
- *June remained hectic as total of 122 children were rescued in our three clusters.*
- *100 out of the 122 rescued children were reunited with their loving parents.*
- *SOCH has received 13 referral cases from the stakeholders.*
- *4 youths were enrolled to the vocational training centers under the project PANKH.*