



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Beginning of the new financial year sees no respite from heat and children. SOCH rescued 92 children from all the three clusters in April.
- Received 5 referral cases from the Stakeholders.
- Enrolled 2 youths into the vocational training centers under the project Pankh.
- Mobilized 4 ladies for project Pankh Travels.
- Received approval for announcements at Berhampur railway station about SOCH.
- Received custody for rescued children at SOCH Temporary shelter from Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Ganjam

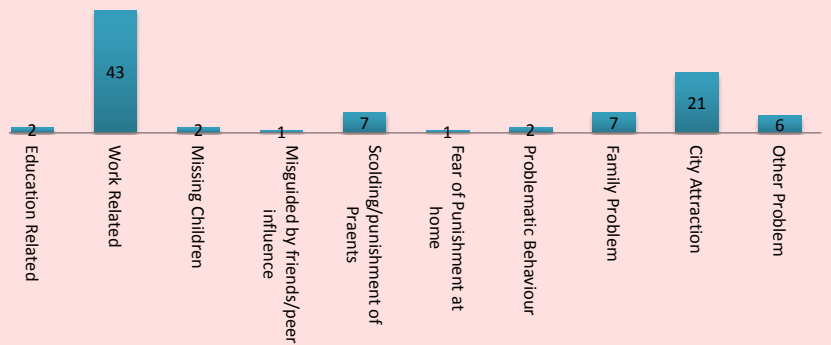


Mr. Manoj Kumar Swain (Director SOCH) receiving Award from “Punya Utkal” Organization on behalf of SOCH for its social contribution

Society for Children (SOCH)

is a non-profit organization registered under Society Registration Act, 1860. It was established in July 2012 and it's operational in Bhubaneswar, Khordha, Berhampur and Puri cities of Odisha, SOCH works for the welfare of children and youths in difficult situations through its three major projects: Project “RAKSHYAK” (Rescue and Resettlement), Project “PUNARJIVAN” (Behaviour Modification), and Project “PANKH” (Youth Mainstreaming).

ISSUES WISE CATEGORY OF RESCUED CHILDREN



SPECIAL THANKS

- Ms. Subhalakshmi, Mrs. Nibedita Patro, Mr. Prafulla Kumar Biswal, Mr. Dibakar Sahoo, Mr. Prasanjit Pattanaik, Mr. Krushna Chandra Mahapatra, Mr. R. Sree Ram & Mr. Rakesh Kumar Jena
- We also thank Mr. K.T. Suresh for his donation to SOCH.

COMPULSION AND SOCIAL EVILS FORCES A 12 YEARS OLD CHILD TO BEG

There is a very thin line between Belief and Superstition but a polar difference in the outcome of both. Belief is power whereas Superstition is inability. This is where the common see an opportunity.

11th April 2017, SOCH Puri: A 12 years old boys is spotted begging at Platform No. 8 of Puri railway station by SOCH outreach workers at around 11:30 AM. He was not among the regularly seen platform children. He seemed to be a new face. This prompted an initial discussion with the child by the SOCH staff which made the child nervous and he started crying and was inconsolable. He calms down after being assured of help by RPF and few other Stakeholders. He had a Hindi dialect with few belongings that carried a letter in Odia dialect. He shares his roots to Raipur District of Chhattisgarh State. On being asked as why he was here begging, he answered, he wants to support his family; a family where his father has a honey business and mother is a housewife with two daughters younger to him.

With few observations and no further questions the child was brought to the SOCH Counselling Center to relax and refresh. It took a while for the child to get into a comfort zone and open up. It was as if he had adopted silence as a self defense mechanism. Engaging him with some indoor activities and casual talks worked. His nerves were at ease now and he shared when, how and what made him take up this work.

It was a year ago when he started begging to meet the ends for his family as his father's income was not sufficient. And it was just a week before from the day that he arrived at Bhubaneswar where he met with a stranger who gave him a letter and advised him to start begging in the villages which he followed obediently. Finally the answer to the initial observation about the Odia letter was achieved. It read that “This child has killed a calf by fastening it with a rope. So please help him get rid of the curse.” which according to the child was not true and he stood by his initial statement of supporting his family.

He was then educated about the hazards of begging and importance of education and parents in life and forwarded to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for further care and protection on the same day.

Who was at fault? Is it the child who had his reason for begging later to be exploited by a conman for self benefit or is it his parents who did not bother to stop him when he took such a bold decision with an eye of supporting them or is it the conman who saw an opportunity in the compulsion of the child and exploited him or is it the society that is yet to come out of age old superstitious methodology of compunction?

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Members of "Friends of SOCH" (FOS), Bhubaneswar Chapter sharing a Token of appreciation in the FOS Regular Meeting



CSR Team from Reliance Foundation and SOCH Director discussing scope for association



SOCH staff collecting donations received at Panda Travel Mart, Bhubaneswar



Child Welfare Committee (CWC) single member sitting at SOCH Berhampur Office



Orientation with prospective Lady Drivers for Project "Pankh Travels"



SOCH remained an Integral part of the "Sathi" Annual Day Celebration at Bangaluru