

**OUR SPECIAL THANKS**

For understanding and relating to SOCH work & activities and associate as a committed supporter

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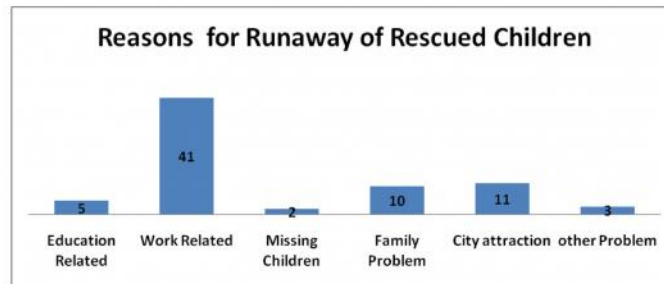
**WE AT SOCH**

Society for Children (SOCH) is a non-profit organization registered under Society Registration Act, 1860. It was established in July 2012 and is operational in Bhubaneswar, Berhampur and Puri Railway Stations of Odisha. SOCH works for the welfare of children and youths from difficult backgrounds through its three major projects:

Project "RAKSHYAK" (Rescue and Resettlement)  
 Project "PUNARJIVAN" (Behaviour Modification)  
 Project "PANKH" (Youth Mainstreaming)

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

Rescued 72 children from all the three clusters in August 2018.  
 Rescued 4521 children from all clusters since inception to till 31st August 2018.  
 Received 7 children referral from the Stakeholders in our three clusters.  
 Mobilised sponsorship for publishing of 6th Annual Report.  
 Launched "PANKH TRAVELS" in collaboration with OLA.



Sensitization and Awareness Meeting with Coolie Group at Bhubaneswar Railway Station



Sensitization and Awareness Meeting with Watering Staffs at Puri Railway Station



Sensitization and Awareness Meeting with Parcel Workers at Berhampur Railway Station.



SOCH Staff Updating Daily Dairy Entry at GRPS, Bhubaneswar



Nutrition Support to rescued children at Berhampur counselling centre



Single Member Sitting Of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) At Berhampur Counselling Centre



Counselling Assistance to a rescued child at Puri Railway Station



Child Referral received from stakeholder at Puri Railway Station



First interaction with a child at Bhubaneswar Railway Station



Rescued Child Reunited with Family after CWC production at Puri



Interaction with Labour Officer regarding a child labour case





## DEPRIVED FROM EDUCATION BOY RELIES ON JOB TO SEE HIS SISTER EDUCATED

Child labor is a pervasive problem throughout the world, especially in developing countries. Children work for a variety of reasons, the most important being poverty and the induced pressure upon them to escape from this plight.

The situation was no different for Subrat (name changed), a 14 years old boy from a small village in Bihar. Having lost his mother at an early age he and his younger sister were brought up by his father who is a daily labour by profession.

Though very passionate about studying Subrat could not continue his studies after standard 6 due to poverty and poor financial condition. But he is an optimistic child. He wants his dream to be fulfilled by his sister. But the real challenge for him was arrangement of funds for her education. His optimism did not allow him to give up so easily. He had made up his mind to arrange funds for her sister's education by any means. This is when he decides to work and earn money to meet the education expenses. Hence one fine day he runs away from his home without anyone's knowledge and boards a train. He landed in Puri, Odisha unaware of the fact that he was out of his native State boundary.

Anyhow he accepted the new milieu and continued his pursue. He gets an opportunity to work in a hotel as Hotel Boy and was assured of a healthy remuneration by the hotel owner. Time passed, Subrat did not leave any stones unturned to ensure he gives his best effort to please his hotel owner. It was already 2months at work and he was still unpaid. Instead the hotel owner was harsh on him, always scolding and even beating him for small reasons. At times Subrat was not even given food. When Subrat accumulated his courage to ask for his remunerations, it was suppressed with further thrashings to him. And that was it. Subrat decides to return back and look for opportunities in his own locality in Bihar. With this thought he escapes from the hotel.

It was the around 8:05AM, while patrolling at station on 17th August 2018, SOCH staff spotted Subrat at platform number -2 of Puri Railway Station. He was alone sitting at the station waiting for the train to return back to his home. But he had absolutely no idea about the train routes. He probably could have reached a different location but his planned destination.

There are few observations out of Subrat's story.

First he was ignorant about the Govt. Scheme for free children education which he was made aware of during counselling session. Had he known it, probably he would not have dropped out of school or thought of working and running away from home. May be Govt. needs to work more at the grass root level and spread awareness about its schemes.

Secondly his love of his sister, his will power and resistance was commendable as he did not drop his idea of working even after undergoing so much of atrocities.

Third, had he not been rescued in time, he might have reached a different destination and his future was uncertain as every day is not Sunday and every location is not safe.

The child was produced before Child Welfare Committee (CWC) on the same day for further care and protection. Currently, the child has been stationed at Open Shelter in Puri till his exact address is traced and he is reunited with his family.

<https://sochforchildren.org/donate/>