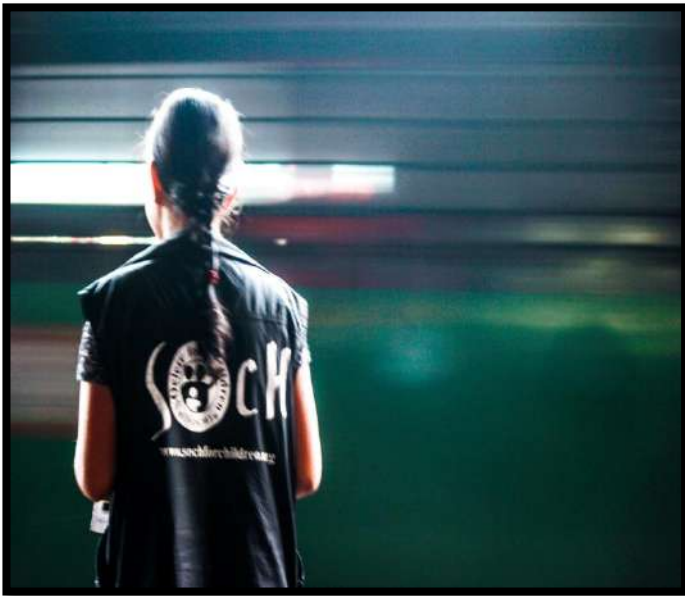


SOCIETY FOR CHILDREN (SOCH)



2nd Annual
Report
2013-14



www.sochforchildren.org



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Founder's Note

Dear friends, colleagues, well wishers and supporters,

It is my great honor to share with you the 2nd Annual Report of SOCH for the year 2013-14. This report comes to you with pride and pleasure of helping 344 children from various difficult situations during the year.

We all duty bearers to help the children at railway stations have worked together in order to help the children. This includes railway officials, govt. railway police, railway protection force, collies, vendors, cleaning staffs, passengers, child welfare committee, child line and other network NGOs. Behalf of the SOCH team, I would like to thank each one of them for all the actions and cooperation to help so many children.

I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Malcolm Harper for all his support and mentoring during the year, unless it would not have been possible to help the number of children, SOCH helped!

I must thank Mr. Pramod Kulkarni and Mr. Basavraj Shali from SATHI for all their support, collaboration and cooperation to SOCH.

I must mention and thank the support extended from Goonj to meet the children's clothing and other requirements.

We at SOCH committed to help runaway and missing children from various railway stations, so to stop child trafficking. We are open to work with mutual cooperation and collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, corporates and individuals. Please join us.

Thank you very much!!

Manoj Kumar Swain
Founder, SOCH.

CHAPTER-1

VISION, MISSION AND INTRODUCTION TO ORGANISATION:

Society for Children (SOCH) is a nonprofit organization which works at Bhubaneswar Railway Station in order to rescue children who are lost, missing or have run away from their homes. The main philosophy of the organization is that the safest and happiest place for children is their homes. Hence, the first action which the organization carries out after rescuing a child is to contact the family of the child, understand the reasons of runaway or missing in comprehensive way. SOCH involves govt. system and put all efforts to reunite the children with their family.

Along with tracing and contacting their families, the organization also aims to provide counseling to the child as well as its parents. The counselor tries to understand the reason for leaving home and helps the child understand the ills of platform life along with trying to empower him to make his own decisions. Similarly, parents are also counseled and provided psycho education about raising a child.

Vision: To create a just society, where all children are living happily, enjoying all their due rights.

Mission: To realize the rights of deprived children and their rehabilitation.

Aim and Objectives

- To rescue and resettle runaway, missing, abducted and abandoned children. First priority will be given to family reunion and last option for Institutional care.
- To rescue and resettle working children.
- To rescue and resettle begging children.
- To rescue and rehabilitate addicted and hard behavior street children through de-addiction and behavioral modification camp.
- To provide health care service to children.
- To give safe and nurtured environment for orphan children.
- To give safe and nurtured environment for physically and mentally challenged children.
- To encourage foster parenting and alternative care for children in need of care and protection.

CHAPTER-2

OUT REACH AND PLATFORM INTERVENTION

Railway station is a place which attracts all the children and it is also very easy to access for children to reach from one place to another. Outreach is the major activity of SOCH which help to access to identify the children at platform. It means to first reach out to the children on the railway platforms and identify the ones who are in need or in difficult situation and can be helped by us and can prevent from getting exposed to the platform life. In order to identifying children SOCH staffs do patrolling at platforms and try to cover whole railway stations.

➤ Platform intervention:



While outreach at platform we try to cover all the platform as per the presence of staffs and rescue the children before involving in many kind of odd jobs because there are so many factors those are responsible to make their life unsafe from traffickers, drug abusers etc. On the other hand those children who stay at platforms and loss their life before see the beautiful world. During outreach time the staff also creates good rapport with the stake holders and they also help to staff in the process of child motivating and in the situation of crisis management. During

the period April, 2013 to March, 2014, we were able to rescue 344 children with the help of railway authorities as well as due to the various stake holders at Bhubaneswar railway station.

Number of children referred from different stake holders during April, 2013-March, 2014

Children contacted by SOCH	Rescued by SOCH	Rescued and referred By										Total children brought to SOCH's temporary shelter
		RPF	GRP	Collies	Vendors	Cleaning staff	Old children	Parcel Workers	Local police stn	College student.	Child on his own	
411	296	14	00	03	06	16	01	04	02	01	01	344

Challenges in outreach:

Language problem:

Children come to station from various districts as well from the neighboring states and they converse only by their reign language. As a result of which SOCH team often face problem to interact with them.

Begging children:

The Organization finds it difficult to rescue children who are dependent on begging for earning money. Sometimes many girls are found to be involved in this activity where as their parents also involve themselves in such kind of activities.



Rescuing of Old children

The children have been staying at railway stations for longer duration is hard to convince and rescue. To survive their life they engage themselves in different types of odd jobs like Rag picking, pick pocketing, sweeping etc and addicted with the many kind of injure substances.etc.



Rescuing girl children:

Girls are usually trafficked by organized traffickers and hard to identify. They usually look like a family. Most of the cases, girls don't run away from home but they are trafficked by people from the neighbor villages/relatives, etc.

After rescued Liza got institutionalized (a case study):

Liza Padhi, a 13 year old girl belongs to Haldipadar village under Golanta police station of Ganjam district. Both her parents are beggars; her father is a drunkard who creates many problems and spends more money on alcohol instead of taking care of his family. She has one brother and three sisters. Due to poor financial condition, her parents are unable to afford proper education to their children, so they withdrew Liza from school after completion of std. 4 and engaged her in household activity. She was always being tortured and beaten by her father for silly reason for which she left home; for which she got acquainted with habit of running away from home continuously for the one year and started spending life at railway station. To fill her stomach she started rag picking, sweeping in the trains and platforms and begging etc. and addicted to many harmful substances. Later she was rescued by the child line staff and after keeping her in observation and counselling process, she was resettled with her family but after few days she again left home and started staying with a lady who was also a beggar. Later she was abused and exploited by her and lost her mental stability. Later she was in a traumatic condition and unable to help herself properly. She struggled a lot during those period to survive and to live with dignity. One day she came across with our SOCH staff Bhubaneswar Railway Station and shared her problems after proper listening to her by our staff. From that, she was rescued by SOCH staff on 6th March 2014. Finally she was referred to child line for further care and protection.

Network building with Stakeholders:

Networking with stake holders at the railway station plays critical role in rescuing and helping children at the railway station. SOCH conduct meetings with almost all stake holders at the station those includes GRP, RPF, Railway official, Coolies, cleaning staffs, Parcel member, vendors, etc. During the year 48 children have been referred by all the stake holders.

A few referral cases:

Ashish Kumar Patel, a twelve years old child, was wandering aimlessly at the Bhubaneswar Railway Station in a confused state of mind and seemed pretty nervous, when a vendor at Bhubaneswar station noticed the child, he offered him help. However, the child did not trust the vendor. The vendor then called up and informed SOCH via phone call. SOCH staff reached at the station within a few minutes and the child was rescued and helped.

Sukchain, 10 yrs old child was referred by Nutech member (Cleaning staff at Bhubaneswar railway station) named as Jagannath Behera while he was wandering at the Bhubaneswar railway station dated 3rd April 2013 from platform number two. At the time of rescuing many Nutech members, coolie members, and RPF members were present in that particular place and they also interacted with the child and asked him the reason to be at platform. RPF staff also talked with the child, after some communication the child agreed and came to SOCH's temporary shelter.

➤ Shelter Activities:

After rescuing children are brought to SOCH temporary shelter which is located near to the Bhubaneswar railway station. Here, children get food, clothes, shelter and necessary counseling. SOCH tries to build good rapport with children by involving them with different types of indoor games, watch TV, storytelling, etc and some time we conduct drawing competition among them. They feel very free and happily share their problems to staffs. If some time we found that the child is injured or some normal health problem then we provide them basic



treatment.

Children stay in temporary shelter for maximum 1 day. Lot of emphasis is laid on each child being engaging in various activities like playing, entertainment, and storytelling etc. The activities conducted with the interest of the child and during that period, the child get open up and also some time shared their problems

Provide cloths: Most of the time children are rescued with dirty clothes. So once they come to shelter, after getting freshen up, they are provided with proper dress.



Food providing at shelter: Most of the time, children are rescued from the railway stations are hungry, sometime they have not eaten anything since two/three days. So food is always ready at SOCH's temporary shelter and provided to the rescued children.



Drawing competition and non formal education: At shelter the children are also involved in drawing competition as well as non formal education. During this period the staffs tell some moral stories to them. These discussions impact the children a lot and they open up and start talking freely about their problems and issues.



Involved in recreation: Children at the open shelter are engaged with various indoor games, watching television shows, etc.



First aid service

If the rescued children have some injury or health problem, then we provide necessary first aid and also refer to nearest health center for proper treatment.



Siddhartha Rescued in unconscious situation (a case study):

On 23rd may 2013 at 10.50 am Siddhartha Das a 15 years old child of Angul district Odisha was found in unconscious stage near over bridge. After first aid SOCH staff interacted with child but he was unable to speak properly. During that time he was only mumbling his name. Later on our SOCH team found him as drugged and immediately he was referred to GRP staff. After which immediately he was taken to shelter home. In the shelter staff changed his clothes and gave him primary treatment. But there were no changes in child health condition. Then the child was hospitalized at capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar. At that time it was very difficult to find out his parents. In such situation, staff checked his pocket and belongings after which found some contact numbers from his money wallet and started to contact them. After few time his coworker contacted who was working with him at a garage. Staff shared all information about child and requested him for help us to locate his parents. After an hour he gave his parents contact number.

After receiving the contact number, our staff contacted with her parent's and informed about child situation and requested his parents to reach Bhubaneswar as soon as possible. Without any delay his father reached at hospital in the evening. After he meet his child he was unable to control himself and his eyes were full of tears. Then staff assured them that his child will be fine in few days. After two days of proper treatment the child became healthy the staff had very good conversation with the child and took all information about the incident due to which child suffered. From the discussion Child shared that he was working in a garage in Angul district from which he was going to attend a marriage ceremony in Barang Bhubaneswar. During the journey some unknown person gave him poisonous biscuit which left him unconsciously and stole all his money and Bag. But



somehow he was able to reach at Bhubaneswar railway station and with the help of SOCH he was rescued.

Later than Child father came to SOCH shelter along with child's valid documents and completed all official formality and took his child along with him. He also thanked a lot to all SOCH team for rescuing his son's life.

Counselling:

In order to deal with the vulnerable emotional and psychological state of mind of the rescued children, counseling facility is in place.

With their vivid imaginations, wandering curiosities, and playful attitudes, children need special care and nourishment for a healthy future.

The small children who run away from their houses for a better future, adventure or family problems often face the brutality of fate and

succumb to insurmountable pressure that street life renders upon them. With a view of this deadly consequence we do all in our capacity to unite such children with their family. SOCH staff, after rescuing the child from the station tries to counsel him so that his problem and also his run-away motive would become clear.

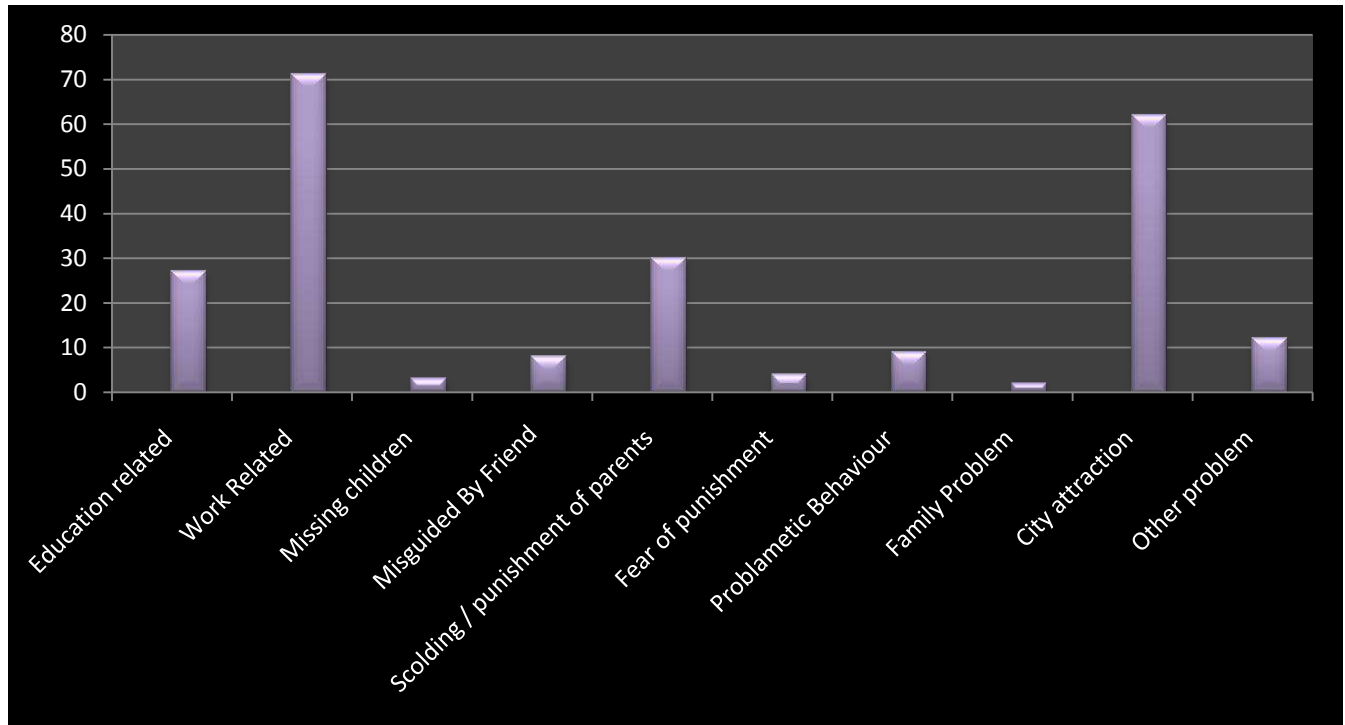


The counseling provided to children plays a significant role in finding out about the parents of the rescued children and on taking further steps in their reunion/rehabilitation as applies. The success rate of the cases depends on the extent to which the children are influenced by counseling. After proper counseling of the children it becomes easy for us to find out their problems and work effectively towards their welfare.

A fruitful counseling session reveals the real reason for having run-away from home and also the residential address comes out. This helps us to reunite the child with his parents. As this process requires expertise, SOCH team recently incorporated a counselor into the team to deal with these affairs. The whole process is carried on with extreme care and dedication so that the child meets his parents as early as possible.

Counseling is also provided to parents who come to take their children back to their homes. Counseling thus acts as a bridge between the child and his parents to attempt reconciliation and deal with the misunderstandings or miscommunication that could be responsible for the child running away.

Issues wise distribution of home placement children.



Positive experience:

The fear of studies pushed the child to runaway (a case study):

Siekh Asadula (12) year, a Muslim boy from Salapadiha village under Nachuni police station of khurda district studied in an Urdu school located near his home. Unfortunately his interests didn't lie in studies due to which his mother had to constantly put in extra pressure on him. The child by the virtue of being a child did not like to stay home & study all the time. To add to his condition, his mother often scolded him & sometimes didn't allow him to go out with friends. The child finding all these unbearable ran away from home, his first stop was meant to be his uncle's house, but fortunately he was contacted by SOCH staff at BBSR railway station on 11th May 2013. The child at the time of rescue wore a very dirty cloth and a 20/- note was discovered in his left pocket. After being rescued, he bathed & spent some time with the staff. During the counseling session the child expressed his displeasure to stay in his home due to constant scolding by his mother & instead wanted to study at his uncle's home. The child was counseled about the numerous hazards of street life, the value of Education and the importance of parents in life, but despite all this the child was in no mood to return to his home. He gave only his address but couldn't provide the staff with any contact number.



As a picnic was conducted on the date of 12th May 2013, so the child also participated in the picnic. While enjoying his new found liberty and having fun with all the other members he became more open and shared everything about his Family background. On the date of 13th May 2013, the staff counseled him again but the child had nothing new to say, as he reiterated his statements given at the time of rescue. The same day on the basis of the address provided, the Staff contacted the Local police station and gave all information about the child. It was brought to our notice that a missing person FIR had already been lodged in the local police station by his mother. Further confirmation was achieved through telephonic conversation with the police station. The police station

immediately contacted the mother who came along his uncle and aunt to the shelter house, overwhelmed by emotions on seeing her child the mother was unable to hold back her tears.

During further counseling his mother told that Asadula was the youngest and that his father worked as a mason in Bangalore. It was for his self development and progress she often scolded him. The staff put in their thoughts in front of the mother and clarified that Scolding and beating should be the last resort in her pursuit of correcting the child, further affection and love could be used as a supplement instead. It seems that the mother realized her mistake and assured us about a change in her behavior. The child after being a spectator to the discussion promised to study more and become a disciplined boy. But despite all our efforts he still did not want to return to his home rather wanted to stay at his his uncle's house. The staff understanding the dynamics of the story advised his uncle to maintain a fair bit of distance as too much love and affection from his side was distancing the boy from his parents and diluting the importance of parents in his mind. The rescue folded with the child being reunited with is mother in the presence of his mother on 13th May 2013.

Pritismita*saved her life before facing any problem (a case study)

9 year old *Pritismita's parents wanted her to help in their work and provide them financial support. To obey her parents, she was working as a domestic help to a mason but as she was being scolded by him regularly, she ran away from her work place. The child was not properly dressed and was wandering at the Bhubaneswar Railway station, looking very confused. She asked many passengers about train timings and its route for reaching her home. Meanwhile, she coincidentally asked the staff about train timings. By observing her condition, the staff understood that she needed help. Hence, they convinced her about our work and assured her sure help. They brought the child to the shelter on 11th Sept 2013 from platform no-1.



As she was not properly dressed, the staff provided her an extra pair of clothes and food after reaching the shelter. After eating, Pritismita was counseled by SOCH staff about her problem. Pritismita told that she is the 3rd daughter of their parents and belongs to Nakhara village under Chaudwar police station of Cuttack district. Both her parents' occupation is bamboo work. She has three sisters and one younger brother. It is difficult for her parents to manage such a huge family. However, in spite of hardships, her parents supported their education. By seeing their parent's condition, two of her sisters withdrew themselves from school after the completion of std. 3 and now support their parents financially by working in a private company. Hence, due to poor financial conditions, her parents forced her to work with a mason. She agreed to work with him but the mason scolded her and did not give any money in return for her work. Hence, she ran away from her work place. After listening patiently to the child, the staff assured her that they would do all that they can to help her.



The child did not have any contact number of her parents and neither had any idea about routes to her home. So the staff took the help of internet and traced the location of her house. Since her parents' financial condition was not good, the staff took the child with himself and reached her home. The staff explained the parents about the dangers of trafficking and they realized their mistake. The child was quite interested in studies and her parents promised that they will provide education to their daughter and the child was happily reunited with her family on the same day i.e. 11th Sept.2013.

Fear from punishment made a child runaway from his home (a case study):

On 17th June 2013, a staff of SOCH spotted twelve years old boy named *Gopi Murmu who was wandering here and there in the station. When he was asked by the staff about his presence all alone in the station, he told that he is searching for a job. But the staff doubted the child's statement and told the child that if he comes along with him then he can help him. So the child agreed and the staff took him to GRP for making a DD entry and then brought him to the shelter of SOCH.



After coming to the shelter the child took bath and had lunch. The staffs found Rs.13 and a biscuit packet with the child. At first the child was feeling little bit nervous but after sometime he became friendly with all the staffs. Then the staffs asked about his family background where he lives and the reason of leaving his home. The child says that his father's name is Gurai Murmu who is a farmer and mother's name is Kalpana Murmu who is a housewife. He belongs to West Bengal. One day before going to school he stole Rs.100 from his home and due to the fear of being beaten by his mother; he decided to run away from his home. And as per his decision he came to Bhubaneswar and started working in a hotel nearby Bhubaneswar railway station. He got Rs.1500 as his salary. But he did not like this work and again he ran away from the hotel and came to the station for searching another work.

So after listening to this, the staffs of SOCH counseled the child by saying that parents are precious in life and only they can look after him properly. Moreover stealing is a very bad habit which can create various problems in his life. No one would trust him anymore and it may also hamper his family status. After counseling, the child came to realize his fault and agreed to go back to his home. But unfortunately he did not remember any contact number. Thus, according to his address, the staffs contacted the local police station and told everything about the child. Through the help of the police the staffs contacted the child's parents and after three days the child's mother and uncle came to the shelter to take him. His mother told that when their child was

missing, they were very much tensed and tried their best to find him. At first they searched him in their village and then in the nearby villages. Also they did not forget to search him in their relative's house. But at last when they did not have any information about the child, they lodged a complaint at the local police station. They had also spent more than Rs.8000 to find him but when they did not get any information even after one month regarding their child they totally lost their hope to get back him.

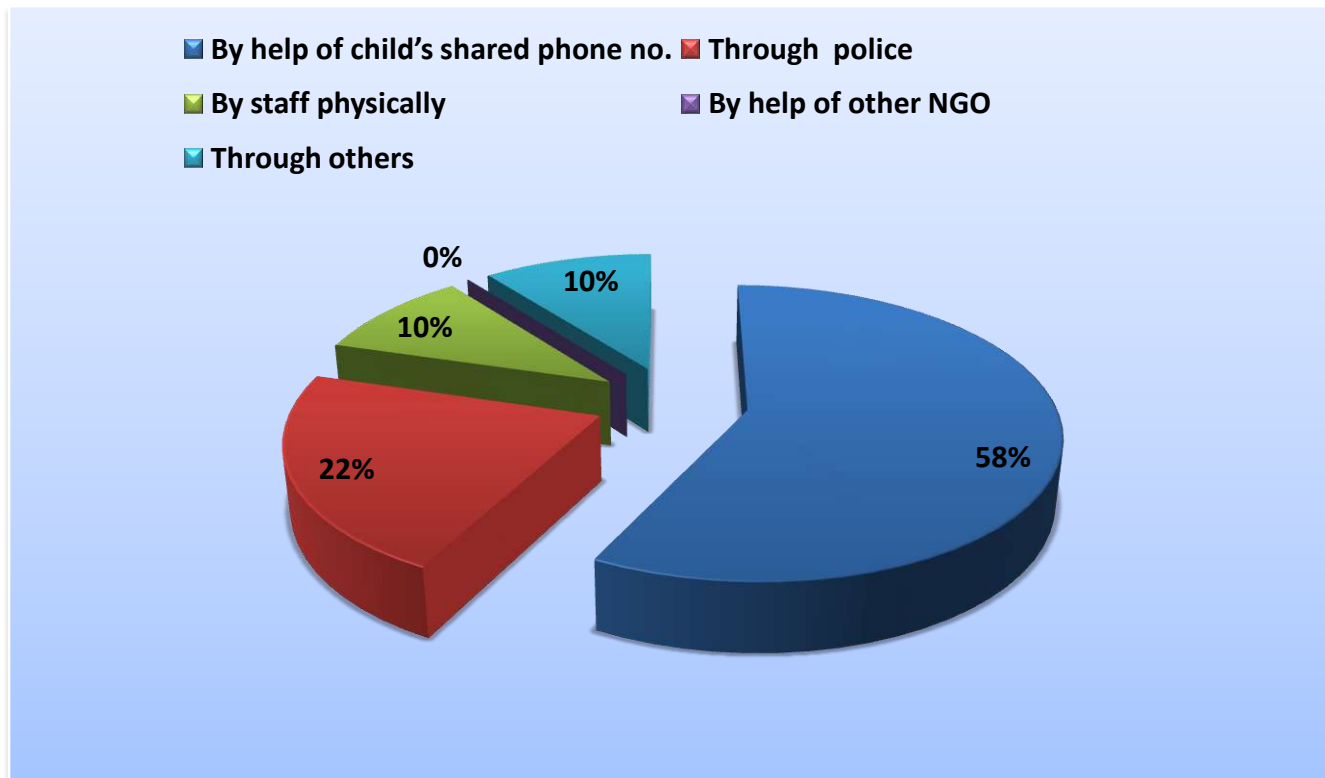
Having everything heard the staffs understood the mental situation of the child's guardian and counseled them by saying that too much rigidity or much permissiveness are both harmful for a child. So, "to be moderate" is the best way to guide a child. In addition to this love, affection and care are much more important in a child's life to grow up as a perfect human being. And on this note the child went back to his home on 19th June 2013.

➤ **Address tracing:**

After rescuing the children from various places, they are brought to SOCH shelter and are provided food and shelter till he is handed over to his parents. After giving the child some time to socialize he is counseled by the experienced counselor of SOCH and with that help the child's address is located. Sometimes however the child remains silent intentionally as he takes the SOCH staff as his enemies as they tried to curb his plan of running away from his home and this becomes a trouble as SOCH, due to its limited accommodation facility, they aren't able to take care after some days and so the children sometimes are handed over to the nearby NGO who takes over. So in case where the child is unable to answer about his residence, SOCH team allows him to socialize by giving him some time on his own to communicate with other boys in the shelter. Consequently the child realizes that the SOCH team is actually trying to help him and thus starts to interact with SOCH team. Sometimes however when the child still doesn't break, the SOCH team takes the help of the counselor who also tries hard to befriend the child. In the process food and other supports are given to the child. Sometimes however after all the efforts goes in vain to try to find out his address, the staff simply take the help of police to notify for any missing diaries. Also by the help of internet we try to solve the problems. Sometimes the subject can only remember the

village where he hails from and with that little help, his residence is located and his parents are contacted.

Address tracing status of home placement children



The child was home placed by staff physically

Rajendra Maharana*, an orphan was reunited with his adoptive parents after a separation of more than a year. Rajendra was adopted as a little child and was given equal love and concern as his siblings. However, Rajendra left home in a fit of rage when his father scolded him for bunking school.

He ended up in the town of Cuttack and started working in a hotel. But he ran away again (to Bhubaneswar) after being abused by the owner of the hotel. Fortunately, he was spotted by SOCH staff on 10th October 2013.

At the shelter, Rajendra seemed very nervous and frightened; so the staff gave him enough space to open up. Initially he lied about his family but later he opened up and accepted to having left home after being scolded.

Then raja counseled on dangers and problems of living away from home and family. Since he was an adopted child extra care was taken to counsel him about the importance of parents and family. Finally, he revealed the phone number to contact his family. Raja's father could not afford to take him home considering his ill health, so SOCH team took him home on 11th October 2013. It was a heart touching moment to see the elated villagers and parents after seeing the lost boy after more than a year. They repeatedly thanked SOCH staff for their help and hospitality.

Child address was traced by the help of police (a case study)

Fifteen year old Rajasekhar*, was spotted wandering aimlessly at Bhubaneswar Railway station on 2nd Nov2013. He appeared much older than his age. The SOCH staff noticed that the boy seemed completely lost and confused.

During the Initial enquiry, Rajasekhar mentioned that he had left home with parental consent to see his elder sister who lived in Jhansi. However he got confused and lost on the way. He also showed us the hundred Rupees given to him by his father for his travelling expenses. However, the experienced staff could sense that he was lying and took him to the SOCH shelter.

At the shelter, fresh counseling by trained SOCH staff gave way to a different story altogether - Rajasekhar revealed that he hails from Ganjuguda village (Phulbani sadar police station of Kandhamal district). He confessed to having run away from home to escape his drunkard father and his wrath. Rajakishore recalls how his father (a farmer) spends all the money and time on alcohol and often beats up his mother. It was after one such disturbing event that he decided to leave the house. It became quite evident that the child had become mentally disturbed due to the emotional and physical abuse he had seen and gone through.

The SOCH team ensured that Rajasekhar was counseled effectively. He was also counseled on hazards of life outside one's house and family. Finally, when he agreed to go back home, his address was located through the help of local police. The worried parents, who had lodged a FIR (kidnapping case) after he left, were more than happy to have their son back.

Then staff ensured that the father too was counseled and made him understand the emotional requirements (love and affection) of a child. The happily united family left for their village on 3rd Nov.2013.

Child shared his parents contact number:

*Saed Irphan a 12year old boy was living and studying in a residential *Madrasa* at Kendrapara away from his family members in Cuttack. One day, Irphan ran away from *madrasa* after being beaten for a second time by his teacher. While leaving the *Madrasa* campus, he had decided to go back to his village but on his way he went astray and after roaming around from one station to another for six days he fortunately reached Bhubaneswar railway station. While wandering at the station, he was spotted by a SOCH staff on 28th March 2014.

Irphan was escorted to the SOCH shelter, where he got freshened up and had some food. After which his counseling started, he claimed to have informed his parents about his Bhubaneswar visit where his uncles works for some shoe shop!! It was observed that Irphan is actually a very smart kid and very friendly in nature, so the counseling method was changed, and then he revealed the truth about his escape from the madrasa and his solitary adventures during the last few days. The Staff then tried to explain Irphan about the hazards of platform life and other risks associated with it. The child also spoke his mind, saying that he is not interested in studies and that's the reason he eloped from the Madrasa. He further informed that while in Cuttack, he was very irregular at school hence was sent by his father to a residential *Madrasa*, where he felt like a prisoner. After much counseling, the child agreed to return home on the condition of not going back to that *madrasa*, and then he shared his father's contact no.

The next day Irphan's father and elder brother came to the shelter. His father expressed his helplessness and said that even after providing everything within his limits, Irphan has become too unruly and disobedient. He further informed that they had been searching for Irphan for past 6 days but failed, for which they thanked the SOCH staffs.

The Child was explained about the importance of good education in life and also the need of family for a happy living. After all further formalities Irphan was reunited with his family on 29th March'14.

Parents counseling and home placement:

Parents counseling is also provided to parents who come to take their children back to their homes. Counselling thus acts as a bridge between the child and his parents to attempt reconciliation and deal with the misunderstandings or miscommunication that could be responsible for the child running away.

In other words, counseling parents ensures that they understand the problem of their children and the incidence of child leaving home is not repeated. This ensures that parents are clear what was troubling the child at home and what exactly made him leave home. Several people have appreciated this approach of SOCH.



A positive experience of Sanjay Barik(a case study):

12 Year old *Sanjay is the only son of Mr. Sibaram Barik, who belongs to VSS Nagar of Baragarh District. His father adopted the traditional occupation of the community of becoming a barber and his mother is a housewife. Being the only son of his parents, he was showered with a lot of love and attention. His parents dreamt of him becoming famous and upholding their name. Because of this, he was pressurized by his parents to spend more time on his studies rather than wasting time playing with his friends or watching television. But Sanjay did not like staying indoors and studying all the time. He protested against this and got into an argument with his parents, due to which his mother scolded him and did not allow him to go outside with his friends. Due to this reason, he ran away from home after stealing Rs. 100/- on 15th Sept 2013.

After running away from home, he went to Puri and enjoyed his stay and visit to the beach immensely. After this, he wanted to travel to Sambalpur in search of work and landed at Bhubaneswar railway station, from where he was rescued by SOCH staff on 17th September, 2013. During the time of rescue, he was very nervous and frightened and was unable to share his problem properly. He mentioned that he belonged to a poor family and due to financial problems; he was working in a hotel as a servant to provide financial support to his family. He also mentioned that he was staying at Sambalpur district near to Samaleswary temple with his parents. However, the staff observed that from the way of his communication and his physical getup, he did not

seem to belong to underprivileged financial conditions. Hence, the staff decided to motivate the child and brought him to the shelter. As he was so nervous, the staff gave him space to open up and thus with repeated interactions, the child opened up to the staff. During the counseling session, the child expressed that he felt like a captive at home as his parents were pressurizing him to study all the time. He was then explained about the hazardous life at the platform and the value of education at this stage. He then realized his mistake and desired to go back to home and also shared his father's cell number.

His father came to the shelter along with his uncle the next day. His father became very happy after seeing his son, as he had been missing since the past four days, even though they had tried searching for him at relatives' homes, nearby villages and had even lodged an FIR at their local Police station. His father mentioned that in spite of providing him everything, he was unruly and disobedient. Previously, a year back, he had run away from home and spent his life at Balunga station like an old child at the station. His father informed that the child was traced because of someone else's information. After listening to his father's side of the story, the child assured him that he would study hard and discipline himself. Then the child was happily reunited with his father on 8th September 2013. His father was so happy, that he distributed sweets amongst the staff and other children present at the shelter.

A habitual runaway child finally reunited to his family:

Samir Biswal is the only son of Jayanta and Sushila Biswal and belongs to Kuasurpur village under Jajpur town police station of Jajpur district. Being the lone child Samir gets all the attentions, love and care from his parents. But still there remained a little gap between the perfect harmony of parents and child. As a result this eleven year old boy ran away from his home to live his own life in his own way. So, he landed in the Jajpur railway station and started to live there. And gradually he made friendship with other children of the station. Coming under their influence Samir also engaged himself in begging activities though he had Rs.700 which had been stolen by him at the time of leaving his home. Having enough money in hand and without any parental guidance, Samir and his friends decided to visit Puri. So, without any delay they all set out for their journey. First they came to Cuttack and again when they were proceeding towards Puri, Samir being lost from his group landed at Bhubaneswar railway station and came in

contact to the staff of SOCH on 7th June 2013 at 9:10 a.m. who brought him to the SOCH shelter.

After reaching the shelter the child took bath, wore new dress provided by SOCH and took some food. The child was so smart that within a short time he became friendly with other children and started playing carom boards with them. So, seeing him opened up the staffs of SOCH started interrogating him. And they came to know that the child did not want to stay with his parents because his mother always beats him. Samir also told that since his mother is a laborer and goes out for work, he is made to do all the household chores which he dislikes it totally. And surprisingly admitting the child told the SOCH staffs that previously two years back in a fit of anger he had ran away from his home and went to Delhi. There also he was rescued by an organization to go back to his home.

After listening this, the staffs told him to give the contact number of his parents so that this time also he can return to his home. But the child was unable to recall any number. So, the SOCH staffs took the help of internet to trace his address and found it. Then they contacted to Samir's mother to take back her son and after staying three days at shelter his mother came. But his mother refused to take Samir along with her because it is the habit of Samir to run away from home and did not listen to anybody's advice. So, to make him understood about the bad impact of running away from home on his life and the importance of education in shaping his future, the SOCH staffs counseled him properly. They also counseled his mother and told to give love, care and guidance to her son. To keep her son in a jolly environment so that he would never think of running away from home leaving his parents. After having such a good counseling session the mother and the child understood their role and the child went back to his home on 10th June 2013 with a promise of never committing this mistake again to the SOCH staffs.

Happiness again comes to Shreenu's family:

Shreenu did leave his home several times in the past for trivial reasons. But this time he did not return back to home for six month and worked in a hotel at Nirakarpur, Khurdha as a hotel boy. He used to get Rs-2000/- per month in return of his work. His working conditions were not favorable. The hotel owner regularly scolded him and beat him. One day, he ran away from his work place as well. He fortunately landed at

Bhubaneswar Railway station and was wandering in confusion here and there. The child looked very distressed and did not know where to go. SOCH staff rescued the child at the platform no-3 on 11 Sept 2013. During the first interaction, he told that he had come there in search of work. The staff could see the issue and could convince the child about SOCH work. The child was then brought to the shelter.

Shreenu proved to be a very intelligent boy indeed. He opened up with all staff members within a short span of time and spent his time with staff members playing carom board. While playing he was counseled by the SOCH staff. After the initial resistance, he shared that he left home after being scolded by his father. His father was furious at him because he had gone to his uncle's home without informing to his family members. His father therefore in a fit of rage had beaten him. Thereafter, he worked as a servant in a hotel to bear his life expenses but after working six months in that hotel he was depressed again since he was being scolded by his owner. He again ran away in search of another job. Although the child was interested in studying, he did not want to return to his home because of the fear of his father. After listening to his problem the staff counseled Shreenu. The counselor explained that when parents get angry, it doesn't mean that they don't care or they dislike the child. They just do it because they are worried about the child's safety.

Then the child realized his mistake and was ready to return to his home. However, unfortunately, he could not remember his parents contact number. But he was able to recall his address. He belongs to Chandapur village under Raghunathpur police station of Jagatsinghpur district. His both parents are laborers. He belongs to a poor family.

As per the address, the staff contacted the local police station. His parents were then informed by the police. His father came to shelter along with his IIC (Krushna Prasad Pattanaik) and IAS (Chakradhar Mahapatra) of Raghunathpur police station. As soon as the father saw his son he burst out crying. The staff helped his father to calm down. The staff also explained to his father that scolding and beating is not the right way to guide a child, rather love and affection is.

The reunion was extremely emotional as the parents had been looking everywhere for the missing child. This happened when the parents had lost all the hope. The child was happily reunited to his family on 12th Sept.2013.

Involved the ASI of Laxmisagar PS in a Home placement:

Due to intensive network building with stakeholders, Laxmisagar Police Station is one of the important stakeholders from where we get referrals. In the month of September, the police station referred two cases to SOCH. Because of the work culture of the organization, we involved the police station officials in the home placement of both the referrals so that they also understand the working of the organization as well as feel the emotional satisfaction of reuniting a family.

A physically handicapped child was rescued by the SOCH staff.

Disability is not a curse for a disable person and the disable person is not a curse for the society. With love and affection they can live their life happily but their disability limits them from doing any work. And this is the case of fifteen years old *Arun who is a multi disabled child and belongs to Sambalpur district. After getting separated from his family Arun lands at Bhubaneswar railway station and was sitting all alone in the platform no.1. By seeing his condition one of the parcel members of the railway station tried to interact with him but Arun

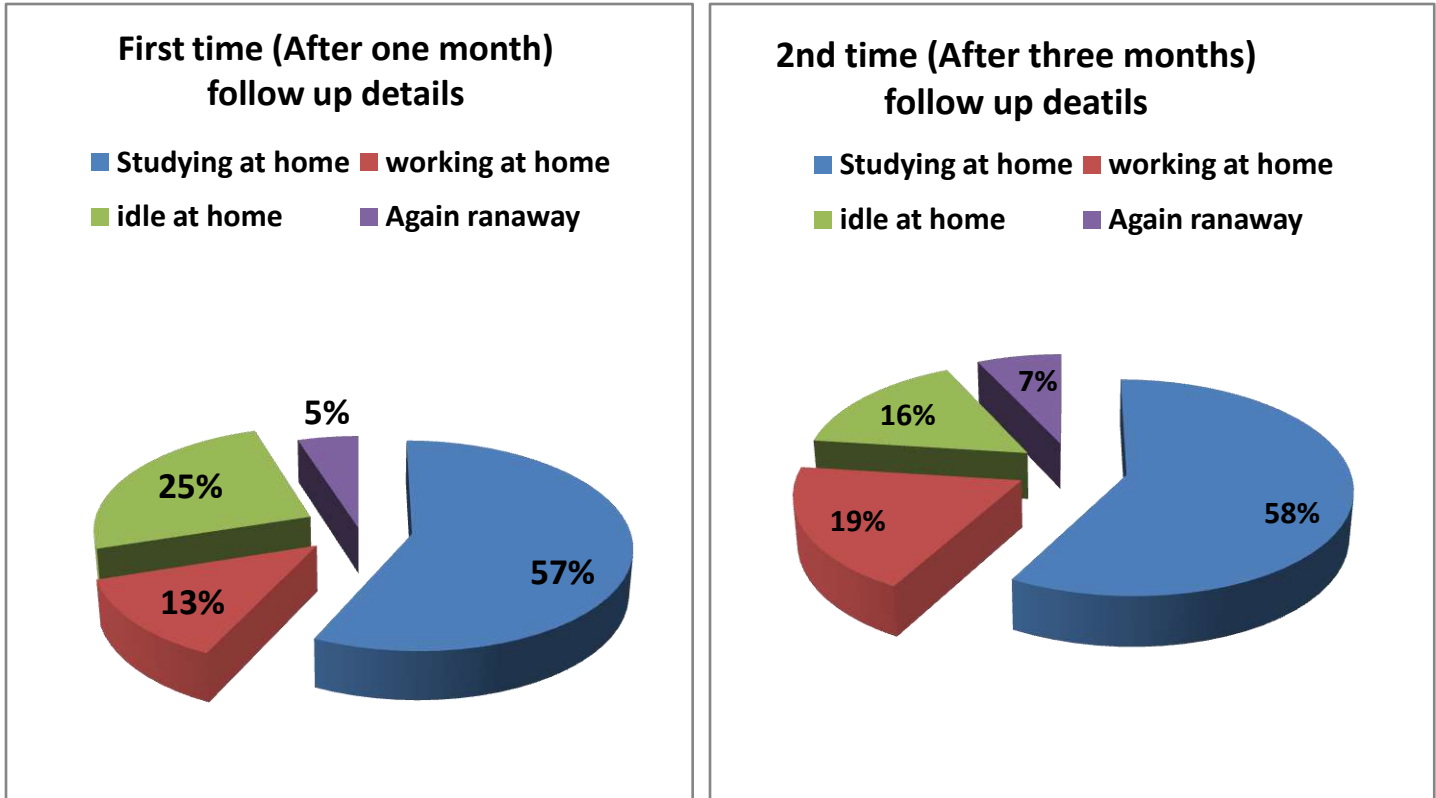


was unable to speak except some words. At this moment some passengers gathered around them and started to enquire about the child but Arun was unable to speak his problem. So, the parcel member called the SOCH and informed about the child. On receiving his call a SOCH staff went to the station and assured Arun a sure help.

Since, Arun is a multi disabled child so the SOCH staff took the help of RPF staff. And the RPF staff gave a handover letter to SOCH staff for referring the child to an organization. So, according to the letter the SOCH staff went to that organization but after seeing the condition of Arun they gave a place for his counseling. But it all goes in vain as the child cannot tell his name and address of his village except few words. On this that particular organization suggested the SOCH staff to produce the child to CWC and the staffs produced Arun on that same day i.e. on 20th July 2013. So, in this way the SOCH staff helped Arun from a difficult situation to a safer place.

Telephonic follow up of resettled children.

To know the status of children after family reunion, SOCH does telephonic follow up of resettled children two times i.e. Once after one month and again after three month. The main objective behind this telephonic follow up is that to know the status of children after home placement. During the time of telephonic follow up we talk with the child as well as with the parents and try to understand the situation at home in comprehensive way.



CHAPTER-3

VARIOUS SURVEY AND STUDY REPORTS

Conducting regular surveys is an important aspect of SOCH activities. The information thus gathered helps not only our activities but helps us to refine our partnerships with other stakeholders.

Here are the objectives of survey

- To explore the inflow of fresh and newly landed children at Railway station.
- To enumerate the main issues of runaway children at railway station.
- To identify the status of old children and know the issues associated with old children staying in and around the railway station.



This year, the staff has conducted surveys at Cuttack and Khurda Railway Stations with the objective of expansion of outreach and rehabilitation. The survey at Khurda junction was conducted from 8th – 10th July, 2013. In these 3 days of survey and outreach, the staff rescued 16 children from the station and referred them to Asha Kiran. The operation was supported by RPF which provided us a separate counseling room.

In association with an NGO Basundhra, another baseline survey was conducted from 22nd – 25th January, 2014 at Cuttack railway station

which has 5 platforms. During the four days of survey, the staff and volunteers contacted 31 children and rescued 9 children.

Early intervention at railway station

It is a three day program which was conducted twice from 29th – 31st January, 2014 and 20th – 22nd February, 2014. It is an intensive program in which various volunteers participate from 6 am in the morning to 8 pm in the evening. The idea is to increase our surveillance and monitoring with the help of various volunteers. This ultimately helps us to rescue the kids as soon as they land on the platform.



Children's day celebrations at Cuttack Railway Station:

The staff visited Cuttack Railway station in the month of September to understand the status of old children at the station for planning of camp activities at the station. There is a special home for children at the railway station. On 14th Nov 2013, children's day celebrations were held with the older children at the platform. These kids have been on the platform for quite some time and have also picked up innumerable bad habits including consumption of drugs.

Around 15 children were present at the railway station. The staff played some games with them as well as distributed clothes and sweets on this occasion. The staff also tried to explain the negative impact of a railway platform on a child's life as well as the importance and positivity of staying together with a family.

Birthday and festival celebration celebrations with

shelter kids: Due to the work culture of the organization, all the members of the SOCH work together like a family. Hence, birthdays of the members are celebrated in the shelter home to share the happiness with everyone – especially, the rescued children. Children should feel that they are at home at the shelter and be an active part in the celebrations at the shelter



1st Annual day celebration:

After a successful year of rescuing and rehabilitating children, SOCH held its first annual day celebrations on 29th November, 2013 in the presence of about 75 guests. The chief speaker for the celebrations was Mr. Malcolm Harper. Guests of honor included Mr. Maqbool Ali (president of accident society), Mrs. Jahanara Begum (HOD of psychology Dept, BJB College), Mr. Raghunath Mandal (course coordinator of IMS College), Dr. Gayatri Pattanaik (senior faculty of IMS College), Arun Kumar Pradhan (CWC chair person), Mr. Bhagban Biswal (Omm sai Pharmacy College) and Sadguru Harisankar Swami ji (Mukti Prashikhyan Bedanta Ashram). Members of different organizations which works in collaboration with SOCH like Asha Kiran, PUSS, etc. were also present along with parents of children rescued by us.



CHAPTER-4

AWARENESS MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS AT BHUBANESWAR RAILWAY STATION:

Building network: SOCH believes in proper networking through which facilitates transparency and clarity which also aid in further planning and direction to the organization. Hence, the staff has organized various stakeholders meeting at the station premises with TTE, GRP/ RPF etc, to clarify their roles and updating them on the status of the organization. This is for upliftment of children, those who are lost, missing and run away from home. These stakeholders includes

- Coolies (Those who carry heavy luggage for passengers manually)
- Train ticket examiner (TTE) staff
- Government Railway Police (GRP)
- Railway Protection Force (RPF)
- Parcel workers (Those who carry heavy load by the help of a carrier)
- Cleaning staff (Those who are clean the station and the part of a company called DYNAMIC)
- Various tea - stall owners, food and book vendors
- Auto rickshaw drivers
- Shops nearby the railway station

It is of utmost significance for the stakeholders to be able to observe and identify these children, since they are the ones who come in primary contact with these children. Therefore, there is a need to have regular meetings with them in order to sensitize as well as educate them about the ills of living on the platform and its impact on a child's life and

psyche. Their participation in the rescue of a child is extremely important and valued by SOCH.

To build and strengthen the organization's ties with these stakeholders, SOCH's conducting regular meetings with these stakeholders as well as submitting various reports to them. Along with this, SOCH staff has visited other organizations such as PUSS, Ruchika, Bhairavi Club, Asha Kiran etc. and works in collaboration for rescue and rehabilitation of children. SOCH also builds strong ties with various colleges such as XIMB Bhubaneswar, Niswass Bhubaneswar, BJB College, IMS Institute, TISS etc. through presentations as to spread awareness and mobilize volunteers.

Meetings with stakeholders:

On 22nd August 2013, SOCH has organized an introduction meeting with approximately 30 stall owners and vendors at BBSR railway station on issues and problems related to children. This introduction meeting builds rapport amongst the staff and vendors and helps in the creation of an enormous network of supporters and observers in the form of these vendors. Hence, the process of child rescue speeds up due to the assistance provided by these vendors through case referrals.



A huge number of children leave their home in search for work. Thus, it becomes very important to contact shops nearby railway station to introduce them about organization, explaining the laws of our country regarding child labour as well as sensitize them on issues of children at a railway platform. A meeting was conducted to explain the role of shopkeepers in rescuing children from the platform

on 24th September, 2013. Such meetings aid shopkeepers to remain observant and contact SOCH or the GRP/ RPF whenever needed.

Introduction meetings with the vendors and nearby shopkeepers were conducted again on 30th September, 29th October, and 19th December, 2013 as well as on 5th March 2014. Regular meetings was facilitated the rescue process by strengthening connections between the vendors and the organisation. SOCH staff visits each vendor at their stalls since the vendors keep on changing every few months.



Meeting with the cleaning staff:

The cleaning staff at the railway platforms is a major part of the network of stakeholders since they are present all times at the railway station. Hence, educating them about the organization, their part in rescuing a child and contacting GRP/ RPF or SOCH immediately is stressed during the meetings. In this year, dynamic meetings were held on 5th October and 6th December, 2013 and on 21st March, 2014. A meeting was also conducted on 7th November, 2013 with the watering staff at the station, since they are an important component of stakeholders who can help us in rescuing children.



Meeting with the Coolies and Parcel workers at the station:

Successful meetings were conducted with a large number of coolies and parcel workers, assembled at one place to create awareness about the organization, its work and their part in the rescue of children. Meetings with coolies were conducted on 30th September, 2013 and on 31st March, 2014 and with parcel workers on 1st November, 2013 respectively.



A referral case from coolie staff

Place: Bhubaneswar Railway Station, Date: 25th Jan 2014, Time: early in the morning at 6.45am. This was a unique experience, for the first time since inception of SOCH; one of its staffs rescued a girl child, she was about one year and three months old.



One of the coolies at Bhubaneswar Railway station observed something unusual. On the platform he spotted something wrapped in a cloth and rug. Curiously when he went nearby object to observe closely he was astonished to find a baby girl wrapped up in rugs. The coolie was dumbstruck at the sight of such a small, lovely and innocent girl child being left alone, abandoned and probably thrown away wrapped in dirty rugs on the Bhubaneswar Platform. After enough of looking around here and there, enquiring and

trying to find her parents or any possible relatives of the child, he thought of an alternative way to help the child.

Even after witnessing such a gruesome scene of a lovely, innocent angel like small girl being abandoned on the platform, the coolie didn't lost faith in mankind and decided that helping the angelic child would actually mean a service to God. He immediately gave a phone call to SOCH. After receiving the phone call a staff reached there, but by that time many passengers and curious passersby had gathered around the child and were inquiring about the matter. So the staff of SOCH convinced the crowd about the kind of work SOCH does, thus making the situation peaceful and less chaotic. Then the staff called the child line for further care and nurture that child needed as she was not well and needed immediate medical support.

Such shameful cases displays the kind of inhumane treatment a girl child gets even in this so called modern and better civilized 21st century India.

Meeting with Auto rickshaw drivers:

The main objective of that project is to rescue and rehabilitate to the needy children from Railway station as well as from the streets. Though Auto drivers are staying nearby the Railway station and moving their autos in many streets, so for them to know about our work we have successfully organized meeting with auto drivers on 20th June 2013 at Bhubaneswar railway station. Along with Secretary 10 auto drivers were present in the meeting.

Networking with other NGOs and Institutes:

CHILDLINE: Children whose addresses cannot be traced within a day need to be referred to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) through the Childline. Therefore, SOCH

works in collaboration with Childline to provide quicker assistance to the child as well as their families.

ASHA KIRAN: Asha Kiran provides a temporary shelter for children who are rescued from the Khurda as well as Bhubaneswar railway station.

BASUNDHARA: The staff also visited Basundhara Organization in Cuttack during this year. Basundhara is an orphan centre as well as a shelter home which provides refuge to the needy children. During the Cuttack survey, we met the Secretary Mrs. Saila Behera who informed us that they also provided shelter to those children rescued from Cuttack railway station.

CHETNA: It is a voluntary organization which is working in the field of children with intellectual disability since 1985. In the month of November staff visited Chetna, to get the information about organization.

SSA (SARVA SIKSHA ABHIYAN): SOCH staff visited Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) department and met with director Mr. Bidyadhar Sahoo. The organization provides residential support to children coming from a disadvantaged background along with continuing their education. The department agreed to help SOCH in its work of rescuing and rehabilitating children.

Networking with the management and social work colleges: The staff also conducted presentations in Xavier Institute for Management, Bhubaneswar to mobilize volunteers. This year we have mobilized more volunteers from various social work colleges like VISWASS, NISWASS, IMS, BJB and with Biju Pattanaik etc. There are some volunteers also involved themselves in child rescue, counseling and documenting work.



Other Visits: In the month of July, Mr. Suresh Kumar (State Coordinator) of Goonj Organization visited our shelter to see the infrastructure, our documentation pare as well as our activities which they are supporting to SOCH in terms of providing cloths, recreation materials, office stationary and other materials etc. In this month, they donated us a TV and a music system for children's entertainment. Mary Harper the granddaughter of Prof. Malcolm Harper visited our shelter along with PUSS secretary Mrs. Swati S patra for knowing about our work activities and they also visited to Bhubaneswar railway station with staffs.

On 11th Sep 2013, Ms Sinead wilkie, Alex Davis and Steph Kancy from Scotland came to SOCH with PUSS secretary to know about SOCH's Work. They also spent some time with children at shelter.

After presentation at XIMB their students visited to SOCH for further information about children issues and our activities. They are willingly to help SOCH in its documentary work. Shri Krushna Chandra Pattanaik and Shri Chakradhar Mohapatra IIC and ASI respectively of Raghunathpur police station under Jagatsinghpur Distrist. They came to our shelter during the time of one child home placement. The child was out of home from last six month and worked in a hotel at Nirakarpur under Khurda District. Missing complaint was registered on child name at the police station. After knowing SOCH work they became so glad and gave thanks to all SOCH staffs.





**Registered office: Plot no 349/3527(3rd Floor),
Behind Bhubaneswar Hotel, Cuttack Puri Road,
Bhubaneswar-751006**

**Field Office: Plot No-16/14 Behind Bhubaneswar
Hotel, Cuttack Puri Road, Bhubaneswar 751006**



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Contact us: 0674 - 23 11 444