

ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

SUPPORT (Society Undertaking Poor People's Onus for Rehabilitation) is a voluntary Non-Governmental Organisation that has been actively working with street children, homeless youth and street families in the field of drug addiction and HIV/AIDS. SUPPORT has been registered under the Bombay Public Act, 1950. The goals of Support include reintegration of the street populace through economic, social and their spiritual development and the building up youth movements towards self-reliance.

During the course of our work for the last 10 years, we realized that there is need to provide structured programme to the drug using street children. Our programme follows certain patterns like outreach, day care, detoxification, rehabilitation, school, vocational training and repatriation.

This year the children showed lot of determinations and motivation to go through the programme, we were able to put children in the school and also in the vocational training.

For us the most worrying part has always been lack of space and basic facilities for the children. We are always unable to deal with the demand of the kids. We have to rent out the places in the slums for our vocational training programme which has been a very challenging experience of the organization.

We hope that we are able to resolve some of the problems with regard to basic facilities. One of the happiest and motivating aspects has been that despite all the difficulties, it has been a year of achievement for all of us.

RATIONALE

Our client group have two main factors in their life, one is the pull of the street and the other is drug use. In the rehabilitation programme, we try to act as facilitators in the life of the children to bring about a positive change and get them into mainstream. As long as the child is on the street, it is not really possible to live a full life, as they are constantly exposed to high-risk.

We encourage street children and homeless youth who have been entangled in substance use, to give up their drug habit and reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS, through a process of awareness, de-addiction and rehabilitation. The rehabilitation programme provides an alternate to street life by offering education or vocational skills, so that the youth can lead a respectable and healthy life in the society. We achieve this objective with the following process of de-addiction, education and repatriation :

De-addiction

- Awareness / Detoxification through medical treatment
- Reduce the stress and anxiety caused by street life / HIV
- Improve physical and mental condition through nutrition, hygiene and awareness

Education

- Enrollment of children into regular schools
- Vocational training for productive jobs in society

Repatriation

- Unite runaway street children with their families, where possible
- Job placement, after successful completion of education / vocational training

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

The number of children coming for rehabilitation is increasing. SUPPORT is an organisation working at grass roots with a population where we cannot refuse to take them rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation programme is the foundation for all the work of SUPPORT. The programme has evolved after long time association and work with children who are addicted to substance. In the programme a child goes through a process of self-reflection with the facilitators about his past and plans for the future. The child is brought to a level where he can take a decision to go to school, vocational training or home. SUPPORT has great satisfaction and pride in the performance of these children who have shown tremendous potentialities. We mention satisfaction and pride because we have been able to achieve seemingly difficult target and successfully met challenges-foreseen and unforeseen to give new dimension to the service to children who are in difficult situations.

The objective of this project is to rehabilitate 50 new street children with the existing rehabilitation facility. Through this project, the NGO expanded its services for another 21 new street children in the period of July to December.

At the beginning of this project, there were 103 children living in the centre and 21 new admissions were done. So all together there were total 124 number of children gone through the process.

The repatriation was also done for 5 children. 10 boys were referred to laundry section, 9 boys have referred to vocational training, one of the boys have referred to another NGOS, 60 children are into regular school, 18 children runaway from the centre and the rest are into the programmes.

ACTIVITIES HELD

Admissions

The following new admissions were done during the project.

Month	Admissions
July, 2005	11
August, 2005	02
September, 2005	00
October, 2005	00
November, 2005	04
December, 2005	04
Total	21

In the month of July, the highest admissions were done as more children came for detoxification. All these children are going through rehabilitation programme.

Developmental activities

Group sessions

The children come with many problems and disorientation, which we try to solve by taking various sessions. Their attitude has been built while living on the street which is not appropriate for the mainstream, for example, they have no routine in their lives. So we need to change this attitude and their behaviour pattern, all this we handle in the group sessions.

Some times the sessions are taken on the rehabilitation rules and regulations and senior children share their experiences of the rehabilitation programme. The new children get the inspiration to live life differently. Basically, group sessions motivates the children to live drug free life.

Individual sessions

Usually we take only group sessions, but some time we have to talk the child on a personal basis. In the personal discussion, we motivate the child to participate in the group.

Educational activities

Coaching classes

We have been periodically enrolling our children to municipal school. All these children have no background of education, so they find it difficult sit in the classes for long hours. In the school, it is also not possible for the teachers to give individual attention to our children.

So we started private coaching classes in our centre. For this, we have appointed qualified teachers and their responsibility is to take school syllabus. We have observed that the children who get involved in the classes are very comfortable as most of their queries have been taken care.

Some children who are unable to cope with the pressure of regular studying in school. The efforts are made to help ease the pressure through coaching classes.

The children who do not go to school, we make them sit in the separate group, where they have taught basic education. It becomes easier for us to enroll them in the school. These inculcate habit for sitting long hours in one place.

Schooling

School is the important component of our programme and the children admitted in the first phase will continue to go to school. Some new admissions were also done in this year. Some time we find it difficult to admit the child in the school as the authority ask for various documents of the children. At that time the organization approaches the higher authority and the child is given the admission. Our children are doing well in their studies and school appreciate their contribution in various activities like games, drawings etc.

Few children try to runaway from the school when they get obsession to go out and experiment drugs. We bring the child back and handle that in the group and his interest and motivation is revived again.

Repatriation

Reuniting the children with their families is one of the main objectives of the programme. When the child comes to us he is not willing to give proper address and whereabouts his parents, he is very undecided whether he wants to go back to his family. He has lot of doubts, whether he would be acceptable and rejected.

But our efforts have always being to reunite the child with the family and then only the rehabilitation is complete. So we make all the efforts to send the child as and when required.

The peer educators mostly do repatriation of the children. They complete all the formalities like taking photographs, signatures, etc. The name of the boys are listed below:-

Raju Matho

The boy was with us for last three years, he was admitted in school and was studying in 6th standard. But realize his interest going down and when we spoke to him he said he prefer to do something else. So we put him in the vocational training. But there also, he did not show any interest. At this point, he told us he prefer to go home. This boy also handed over to his family, which is also located in Delhi.

Vijay Ashok Thote

After completing his rehabilitation programme, we sent him to his native place which in Maharashtra called Pandharpur.

Vijay Bhaskar Thote

This boy was also referred by our day care centre for the treatment. After finishing the treatment, we handed him to his parents. He came from a small village in Maharashtra.

Ritesh Munna Sony

This boy referred from day care centre for his drug treatment. During his treatment, we realized that he was a slow learner. Due this, he took long time to adjust in the group. When he completed the rehabilitation process, he was given assignment to work as doorkeeper. In this work, he was very enthusiastic. In our discussion, we observed that he wanted to go back to his family, which was near Nagpur. One of our peer educator handed him to his family. He took all his stipend money with him. But to put this boy back to his family was difficult as he hardly remembered anything about his family or address. But our peer educators was very smart to find his home. They were very happy to have him back and publish the whole story in the local newspaper.

Dipu Pentor

This was boy referred from our day care centre for the treatment. After completing his treatment, we decided to send him back to his family. One of the organization who specially work to repatriate these street children. We asked them to hand over this child to the parents. But they failed to do this work, later our staff completed this task. This boy was also from Delhi.

Recreation

Our children performed at one of the children's function where many NGOS participated. Here the performance was appreciated.

On 26th July, a prestigious club for swimming and lunch invited our children. Wherein they enjoyed in the pool and had a great time. The children celebrated Christmas party with the guest.

Medical

Regular doctor visits have done during the six months in all the centers.

We have organized special dental camp in the centre. Few cases have referred to the hospitals for further treatment.

The diseases like TB, STI infection, Fever were seen in the centre. Proper medicines were given to those children and their follow up is going on in the Municipal hospitals.

Referral

Vocational training

The boys who are above age and do not suit the educational programme nor want to go back to the parents. Right away, we refer them for training. Most of them were above 18 years, so they were referred to laundry section. The laundry is one of the supplementary programme in vocational training. Here all the clothes of the children collected and washed at one place. We give them small stipend and this money is put in the bank. Ten boys are involved in this activity.

Other NGOS

We also get referrals from other NGOS so after completing programme of rehabilitation, we usually ask whether they want child back.

Runaways

As we work with drug using children which is the most difficult group to handle. Some time they have obsession and pull of the street life. At times they find it very difficult to control. They runaway and we find them again on the street. Here our outreach worker again motivates them to come back. If they show interest we always take them back.

DIFFICULTIES

In this period, we have gone through lots of difficulties while working with this group. Many a times, we were frustrated and disappointed to the point of NO RETURN. But our faith and friendship by friends and donars kept us going in this work. Given below are some of the difficulties and challenges that we faced :-

- Due to heavy rainfalls and floods in Mumbai on 26th July, most of our centres were washed away and damaged. All the documents like medial papers, children's record have been badly destroyed. The grains, which was stored in the kitchen, were all washed away and mixed with the filth which entered with water inside the kitchen. We had to repair all the centers to make it functional. Even our Vakola centre which is on 2nd floor, had water seeped in through the windows and the walls so we had no safe place at all. All the three days were spent in great difficulties. (write up attached).
- Most of the children admitted in the school late as they came to us after living on the street for long. They felt very insecure and uncomfortable among the other senior children. So some of them could not adjust with the other crowd and the education so they ran away from the school. So we become answerable to the school authority and the donar.
- Due to shortage of space, we keep school going and the children under treatment in one place. This affects our work as the daily schedule some times, clashes with these two groups.
- One of the limitation of the programme is also lack of recreation. We are not able to take all the games inside the centre as some of the games could damage electrical equipments. There is hardly any gardens where we could take the children for outdoor games.
- Very few people wants to work with this difficult group so there is always lack of staff. So the pressure on the limited staff has increases and they burn out.

Sometimes they even leave jobs and they cannot handle themselves with the children.

- Limited number of toilets and bathroom is another big limitation our programme where 100 children live.

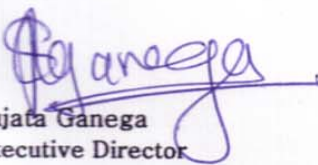
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Receipts & Payments till December, 2005

RECEIPT	Rs.	Ps.	Rs.	Ps.	PAYMENT	Rs.	Ps.	Rs.	Ps.
Opening Balance					Salary			30000.00	
Cash in Hand				Nil	Health and Rehabilitation			28539.00	
Cash in current account with SBICI Bank A/c				Nil	Rent & Utilities			28315.00	
Grant In Aid A/c			88000.00		TDS			69.00	
					Education Cess A/c			1.00	
TDS				69.00					
Education Cess A/c				1.00					
					Closing Balance				
					Cash in Hand	327.00			
					Cash in current account with SBICI Bank A/c	819.00		1146.00	
			88,070.00					88,070.00	

For SUPPORT


Sujata Ganega
Executive Director