

## Our safe team

Mr. Vaibhav Sharma : Director  
 Mr. Brajesh Chaubey: Research and Study officer  
 Mr. Manoj Kumar Srivastava: Outreach Worker  
 Mr. Abhishek Kumar Verma: Accountant  
 Mrs. Sharmila Gupta: Outreach Worker  
 Mr. Rakesh Mishra: Outreach Worker

## Mission & Vision

**Mission:** SAFE's mission is to develop awareness among the downtrodden communities so as to empower them and help them in gaining control over all factors that affect their individual life.

**Vision:** We visualize a society where substantial avenues are accessible to the poorest of the poor communities regardless of their social and economic origins, identifying them as visible inhabitants.

**Covering Area:** SAFE is presently active in the following districts of Uttar Pradesh: Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Ghazipur and Siddharthnagar.

## Thank you!

We express our sincere thanks for taking time and reading this news letter. We appreciate and encourage your support and cooperation to transform the lives of these underprivileged children and families in the near future.

For more information contact us at:

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 196-Z Manas Vihar Colony,  
 Near sharda Palace, Sangam Chauraha,  
 Padre Bazaar, Gorakhpur-273014,  
 Uttar Pradesh, India.

Emai: safesociety1@gmail.com  
 www.safebloodbank.ngo

# R.F.F. Helpline No.:180

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\*The names of the people have been changed in order to protect their identity.



# QUEST FOR SURVIVAL

Lost childhood along the railway tracks.....



Vol. : 2

April 2016 – September 2016

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## From the Director's pen

*Greetings! From SAFE Society!*



It gives me immense pleasure to present the news letter of our program called 'Revitalizing the safety nets for the street children of Gorakhpur railway station'. Journey of society began on 2005 October 2<sup>nd</sup>, when Dr. JK Srivastava our respected founder established SAFE as a registered organization to implement the Bapuji's dream of 'Gram- Swaraj'.

From the beginning SAFE's team has focused on most underdeveloped areas of Uttar Pradesh. In past ten years the activities were focused on development issues related to livelihood, public health, women empowerment and child rights. It is priority of SAFE team to give more emphasis to child rights, especially for venerable children living on the platform of railway station as childhood is most important foundation phase of life and later life is built on the influences, experiences and learning's of this period. Maximum among us are blessed to have loving care and education from parents, but it is not the case for millions of children struggling for their survival along the railway tracks. Proper childhood is a dream for them and life for them is struggle for hunger and survival. Among these most of them become addicted to various substances and unaccompanied children who land on platform also get these habits from them. To intervene in the situation Safe initiated its project from April 2015. This newsletter edition will provide you a brief about project, brief of changes of trend during past six months, events, new innovations and along with snapshots of few of our success story and experiences of stakeholders. As you go through this news letter you would know more about our work and we invite you for joining us to effectively contribute in welfare of these children.

**Vaibhav Sharma**  
 Director

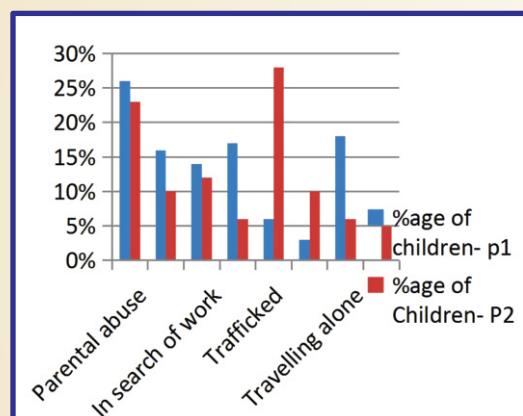
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## Research and Study officer's blog:



In the journey of one and half year of 'Revitalizing the safety nets for the street children of Gorakhpur railway station' project of Safe society ,the global problem of railway platform children has been tackled from various angles. The project started with support of Paul Hamlyn Foundation. Outreach for the re-integration of the children to their respective families at railway platform, detailed study to analyze the reasons behind children running away from their homes, situation analysis of Children and families permanently living on and around the station were started from beginning of project and were continued further. From the beginning of project i.e. April 2015 to September 2016 we could rescue altogether 330 unaccompanied children landed on the railway station due to various reasons. As per our observations number one reason of children to land on platform is trafficking in the past six months. Number one reason

of previous reporting period i.e. domestic battering and violence at home remains the main reason in this reporting period also and stands at number two. Out of 157 altogether in past six months 44 children ran due to trafficking and 36 children ran away from homes due to parental/guardian abuse which shows the seriousness of the issue. High positive variation is seen in average no. of children (Per month) from Bihar & Kushinagar with 5 & 5.13 figures compared during reporting period 1<sup>st</sup>-P1(April 2015-January 2016 ) to reporting period 2<sup>nd</sup>-P2(February 2016-July 2016) .

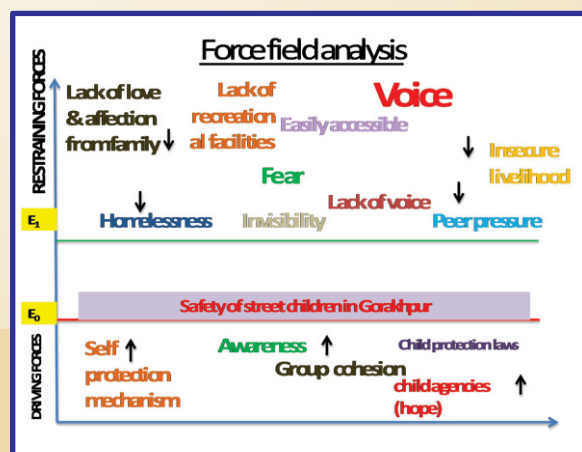


Border districts of Bihar with UP like Paschim Champaren, Batia etc. are having maximum case. Among Gorakhpur and the surrounding districts of Gorakhpur, Kushinagar has got maximum no. of 35 children landing on platform with positive variation 5.13 average children from the last reporting period. Within this reporting period of six months of outreach on Gorakhpur railway station we have contacted altogether 15 girls who have eloped from their respective homes to get married at the very young age without parental consent and settle down or to meet their boyfriend at another place, not mature enough to analyze their actual intension of their boy friends. Through our intervention all of them have been intercepted successfully and referred to Childline

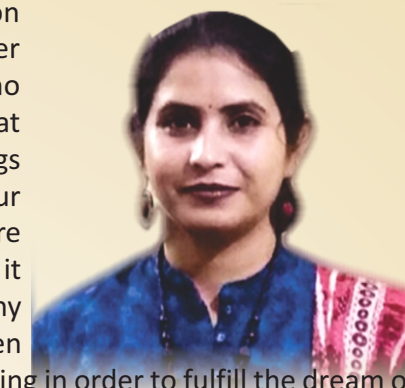
via AHTU & RPF. The influence of boyfriend is clearly visible in these cases. We also visited the families of children and made detailed study of their socio economic situation.

**Forces behind the situation:** Various types of internal forces are acting on the current scenario of children. This is depicted in chart. More negative forces like lack of love and affection, lack of recreational facilities, peer pressure etc are acting and less positive forces are acting to normalize the situation. We also visited new families living on the railway platforms and surrounding slums along with old ones. Various out of box innovation were done to involve these children in psycho socio support activities based on findings. Based on complete and comparative analysis of previous and present analysis report of our study, a concrete strategic approach will be developed and implemented to intervene in the situation of these deprived children and families.

**Brajesh Chaubey**  
Research and study officer



## Psychologist Blog



Child maltreatment is treated as an umbrella term to cover neglect, exploitation and trafficking. It is actually mistreatment of a child, especially, by a parent or other care giver that results in actual or potential harm to a child. Vision of "SAFE" that no child should be a victim of abuse and exploitation is really appreciable. Many at times, while traveling on trains, we must have noticed small children selling things or doing cleaning work. Although we notice them, and know somewhere inside our heart that something is wrong about the lives of these children but, again we are good enough at ignoring ... or in other words, we tolerate all this and accept it as it is. A big question is that why our blood does not boils for this situation and why don't we take the initiative to intervene so as to get their lives on track. Children being the future of our country should be given proper moral and social upbringing in order to fulfill the dream of a better nation.

The geographical settings and the ideal location of Gorakhpur railway station attracts hundred of children every month with varied intentions or motives and many of them make station their home and involve in variety of mal activities. SAFE has done a commendable work in getting interacted with these children making their case studies and ultimately relocating them with their families. Children who are already working on the platforms get addicted to the platform life and don't agree to go home even if they are given to work and earn because they have the fear that if they return, their parents will beat and abuse them. Relocation of such children is necessary and simultaneously counseling of their families also is necessary which could be done only after conversing with the child on one to one basis and diagnosing the actual reason of leaving the family and dealing with it accordingly. Beside counseling, children should be given temporary shelter homes or some sort of day care centers which provides them



a life which is secure and exudes a cozy feeling which in general a normal child should have. Here we can work on Carl Roger's "person centered therapy" according to which we need to understand a person with empathy not as a professional but unconditionally.

Moreover, workshops and seminars should be conducted in these shelter homes in order to create general awareness among these children and accordingly they can take their decisions in life. Also, job oriented small scale courses/training etc. could be provided to these children on voluntary basis by professionals or their assistants. Their energies could be directed in a positive way by providing them different recreational facilities / brain games according to their interests and they could be made part of award winning series like IGL , which is a welcome step. In addition to all this, Railways having a huge area for accommodation of such children may take help from Railway hospital authorities and can appoint doctors on voluntary basis as they have a strong workforce and updated equipments in order to provide medical facilities to these children and families dwelling near station, besides this special awareness about sanitation is a must for them. Shelter homes can provide specialists/psychologists for personal grooming of these children and most importantly for the training of the caretakers of shelter homes or the outreach workers in the field or child psychology. These shelter homes are their first school cum home through which these children should be taught with basic education and most importantly they should be counseled thoroughly about the style / quality of life this platform can lead to, whereas if they choose other paths, although they may have to work harder, but may lead them to an entirely different life, that is in spite of letting them get misguided we need to let them get reunited with their own selves first, by teaching them spirituality, inculcation of moral habits and meditation on regular basis. Moreover runaway child's energy and quickness should be used positively for the future working of the society itself as these children are self sufferers i.e. they have a keen sense to recognize such vulnerable children who run away from their homes out of certain reasons, these children can be used in identifying and approaching such children and bringing them in safe hands.

**Tarvinder**  
Psychologist

## Stakeholders' Feedback

**Mohit Agarwal**  
IPS,  
IG Gorakhpur Zone

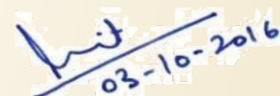
Date: 03-10-2016



### Message

I am aware that "Safe Society" is doing Commendable job at the Gorakhpur railway station for improving the situation of unaccompanied destitute children. They safely escort such children to GRP, CWC, RPF and Anti Human Trafficking Unit of Police. Respective police Units are also cooperating in their work. I understand that, they are doing their activities in an organized and structured mode. They are working for the welfare of the children after analyzing all the factors.

There is a need to encourage such type of activities in the society. I wish them success in their purpose and bright future in their noble work.

  
(MOHIT AGARWAL),  
IPS  
Inspector General Of Police,  
Gorakhpur Zone  
U.P.



At Gorakhpur railway station children who have missed their way, lost and which are forced or drifted to do child labor are united with main stream of society by the members of SAFE society. Efforts done by team are constant which also spreads positivity in society also. Efforts done by team are appreciated by all corners. I wish and pray to God to provide them inspiration and more speed to perform excellent work.

**Tarun Kumar Pandey**  
Inspector GRP Gorakhpur

At railway station the work done by SAFE society with their limited resources to handover children to safe hands, which came to railway station due to various reasons is too much appreciable. Analysis of reasons that Why children are taking such type of steps is also done by the society, it will prevent the future of children to become dark. I wish success for the work done by SAFE society and will be always ready to provide the cooperation required by them.

**Mr. Pradeep Kumar**  
Station Superintend

## Stakeholders' Feedback



## Recognition from Government bodies

**RSMS**  
पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे  
कार्यालय  
मुख्य सुरक्षा आयुक्त/रे0सु0ब0  
गोरखपुर  
पत्रांक - पी/578/अपराध विंग/बच्चों की बरामदगी/2015 दिनांक 15-07-16  
सेवा में,  
1- सेफ सोसाइटी, 196-Z  
मानस विहार कालोनी, संगम चौगहा  
पादरी बाजार, गोरखपुर-273014  
2- राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग (ला डिबीजन)  
मानव अधिकार भवन, ब्लाक--सी  
जी0पी0ओ0 काम्पलेक्स इना, नई दिल्ली-110023  
विषय - Request from Director/Safe Society/Gorakhpur for support in directing the concerned child-welfare authorities to cooperate with them to protect child rights in gorakhpur.  
संदर्भ - रेलवे बोर्ड का पत्रांक--2016/Sec(Crime)/41/NHRC/27 Dated 08.07.16.  
संदर्भित पत्र के अनुपालन में अवगत कराना है कि सेफ सोसाइटी (स्वयंसेवी संगठन गोरखपुर) के द्वारा गोरखपुर रेलवे स्टेशन पर भटकें हुए अनाथ एवं लावारिश बच्चों-बच्चियों की सुरक्षा एवं सहयोग हेतु यह संगठन गोरखपुर में कार्य कर रहा है जब कभी भी रेलवे स्टेशन पर इस तरह के बच्चे आर0पी0एफ0 या जी0आर0पी0 के द्वारा पाये जाते हैं तो इस संगठन के द्वारा सहयोगात्मक कार्यवाही किया जाता है तथा बुलाए जाने पर संगठन के लोग हमेशा तत्पर एवं कार्यरत रहते हैं। संदर्भित पत्र के अनुपालन में इस संस्था के डायरेक्टर श्री विश्व वैभव शर्मा से सहायक सुरक्षा आयुक्त/रे0सु0ब0/गोरखपुर क्षेत्र द्वारा वार्तालाप किया गया तो बताया गया कि आर0पी0एफ0 तथा जी0आर0पी0 के द्वारा उन्हें व्यापक सहयोग एवं समर्थन मिलता रहा है, परन्तु इस दिशा में बेहतर कार्यवाही तथा दूरगामी परिणाम हेतु कुछ विशेष अनुरोध एवं अनुमोदन हेतु अपना पक्ष रेल प्रशासन के सम्मुख बिन्दुवार रखा है जिसमें मुख्यतः उन्हें निम्न सहयोग की आवश्यकता है :-

In reference to the letter of railway board Security Commissioner also send copy to Safe Society & National Human Rights Commission regarding request from Director Safe Society for support in directing the concerned child-welfare authorities to cooperate with them to protect child rights.

RPF issued RPF Mitra Card for SAFE society members for smooth functioning, co-operation of activities.



## Activity Report



Children rescue and handover

missing/runaway children during the last six months and knew about the wellbeing of child. During the visit interaction was done by both child and the family with our interview tools to understand the situation of family from different aspects.



### 24 Hour outreach

As done in past Newsletter period the innovative activity of **24 Hour outreach** at station was conducted, in the dates of 16 April & 20 May. All the project team members including the Director and Project Coordinator participated in the outreach program on the station.

### Follow-Up house visits

As done during the period of last newsletter, SAFE's work does not end by reuniting the missing/runaway children with their families through the support of different government agencies. Our out research worker contacted thirteen families of

### Socio- Pshyco Support to children

A **group of children** was formed; a register was given to them. They were oriented on importance of group formation, conducting the group meetings & were motivated to discuss the issues related to them. **Badminton kit** and **Cricket kit** was given to children for playing.

**Children** were listed with interest of each child in cricket, badminton, acting and singing. They were linked to activity of their interest area. Regular meetings were conducted of the group formed & were constantly motivated for leaving wrong addictions and to resume their studies. A girl child and a boy has **resumed its studies** also.

## Trafficking-As a reason

Among the reasons of landing of unaccompanied or drifted children during the last six months trafficking is the biggest reason with highest increase of 22% over past ten months prior to these six months. As per our field workers observation, all most all the children who landed on the station were trafficked by contractor, village person and distant relative, unknown person as well as even by elderly ladies. They were lured for work and money. Availability of one more Out Reach Worker for outreach at station, team better understanding and positive change of the mindsets on issue and support from authorities to our interference in such type of cases was the factor for data enhancement which also coincides with the from **National Crime Record Bureau** data of increase of 25% in trafficking over past year.

**Case study- Trafficking case from Bihar champaran-** On 30<sup>th</sup> April five Mushar children from Paschim Champaran –Bihar, were been trafficked by a person named Dhanesh\* , who was serving as a carrier up to Gorakhpur and had received three thousand rupees for the act. He had to submit these children to unknown person who would contact him on platform. As seen by female ORW of Society, five children sitting along with a person she enquired from children and after that she called the Anti Human Trafficking Unit. Its news was published with photograph in maximum newspapers.

## Stakeholders Meeting

**Stakeholders** meeting was organized in the period like a porter (kuli) meeting and meeting with GRP and RPF. In porter (Kuli) meeting discussion was done on children, participants told that due to humanity on finding missed children, they help children; they also provide them food if needed. Card of society was given to all members and were told to handover such type of children to safe society members. They promised their cooperation in future. In GRP & RPF meeting awareness & sensitization on the issue of child rights and rescue mechanism for the unaccompanied children on the railway station increased and meetings ended with consent on to work in highly coordinated & cooperative way.



### Success Story

Chandan a fourteen year boy from Basti who had left his studies seven years back has resumed its studies and taken admission in class ninth as private candidate. He left his home seven years back due to economic crisis, came to station for his survival and earn by selling bottles at platform. He was been counseled by our outreach worker from beginning of project. Now not only he studies himself, he sends money to his two younger brothers for studies. He also become addicted to various substances, now he has left many by motivation of our workers. He is also motivating other to study. A girl named Usha of 12 years lives on platform. Her mother died of cancer six months back and his father works as a cobbler on station, she sells bottles on the station, on motivating her by SAFE team to come out of her emotional setback and resume her studies she responded positively progressively and now is studying in class fourth.



### Need based Story

A boy named Chandu of 12 years does not know about his parents, according to his memory he is bought up on railway station from his early childhood. Somebody took him to sub town Campearganj, he used to do lot of work there so he ran back to the station. He sells tobacco in trains, comes to the station after 5,6 days. He wants to study if somebody provides him proper livelihood or financial support.

### Need of the hour

Based on the situation, it is reflected that need of the hour is high speed rescue and rehabilitation programs to be implemented to properly intervene, to increase positivity in the situation and to bring positive change in the pathetic condition of all the categories of children and families identified.