



QUEST FOR SURVIVAL

lost childhood along the railway tracks....

follow us on
www.safebloodbank.ngo
https://twitter.com/society_safe
www.facebook.com/safe.society1



Contents

Research and study officer's blog

Art based therapist blog

Stakeholders Feedback

Activities of Project

- 24 hours out reach
- Follow up
- Socio -psycho support to children

Various support from stakeholders

- support from Policy makers
- support from businessmen

Ru-Ba-Ru Program

Trfficking as a reason

Case Study

Capacity building

Strategy Meeting conduction

Need of the Hour

From the Director's Pen

Greetings! From SAFE Society!

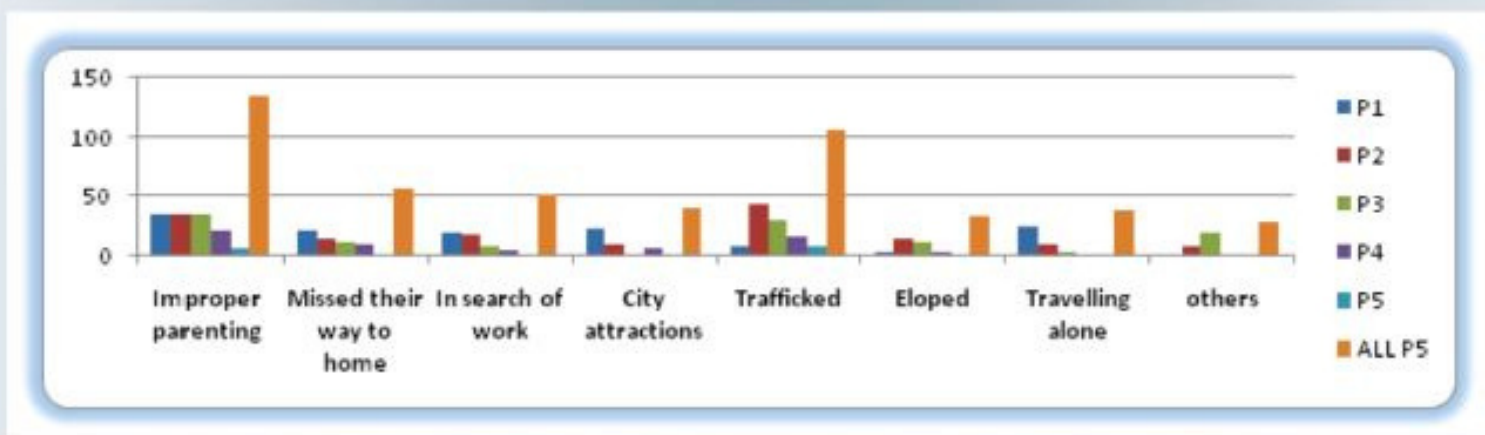
With immense pleasure, news letter of our program called 'Revitalizing the overall development and safety nets of the street children of Gorakhpur railway station' is in front of you. In past ten years of our society work, the activities were focused on development issues related to livelihood, public health, women empowerment and child rights. SAFE team priority now is to give more emphasis to children overall development, especially for vulnerable children living on the platform of railway station as childhood is most important foundation phase of life and influences, experiences and learning's of this period ultimately shapes the adulthood of person. Millions of children struggling for their survival along the railway tracks and not having proper and loving care of their parents are astonishing reality. Struggle for hunger, survival and development for platform children is supported through Safe initiated project from April 2015. With our journey it was realized that deep psychological intervention is also needed to tackle the issue. This newsletter edition will provide you a brief about project, brief of changes of trend during past year and half, events, new psycho –social support and other innovations and experiences of stakeholders. As you go through this news letter you would know more about our old work along with new baby steps taken for children welfare. With your expertise, time and other resources we invite you for joining us to effectively contribute in wellbeing and overall development of these children.

Vaibhav Sharma
Director

Research and Study officer's blog:

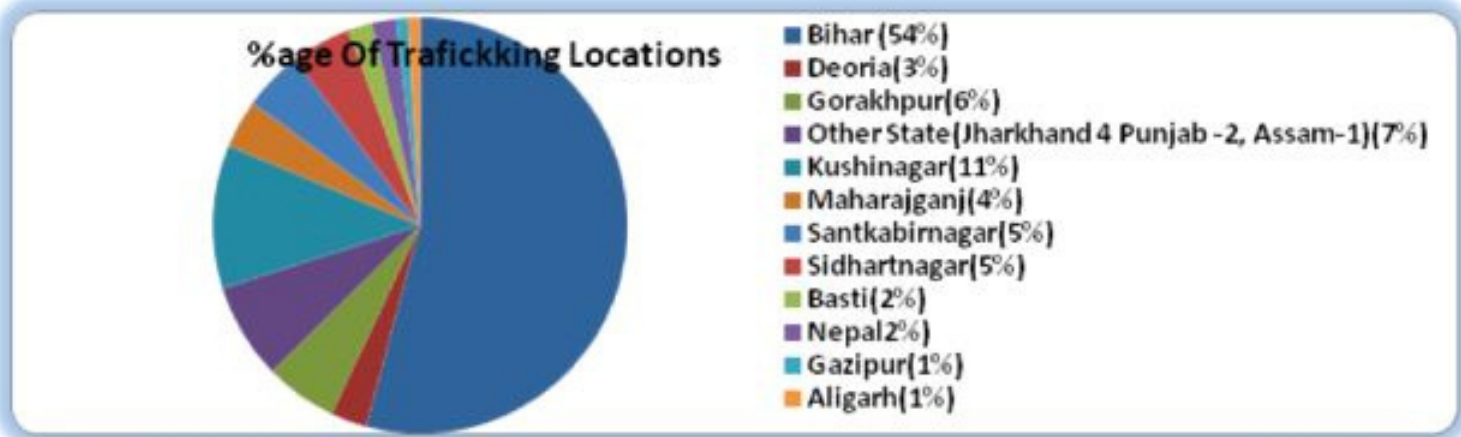
In the journey of nearly three year of 'Revitalizing the safety nets for the street children of Gorakhpur railway station' project of Safe society ,the global problem of railway platform children has been tackled from various angles. The focus of project has gradually shifted to overall development of railway children which is running 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

Reasons:



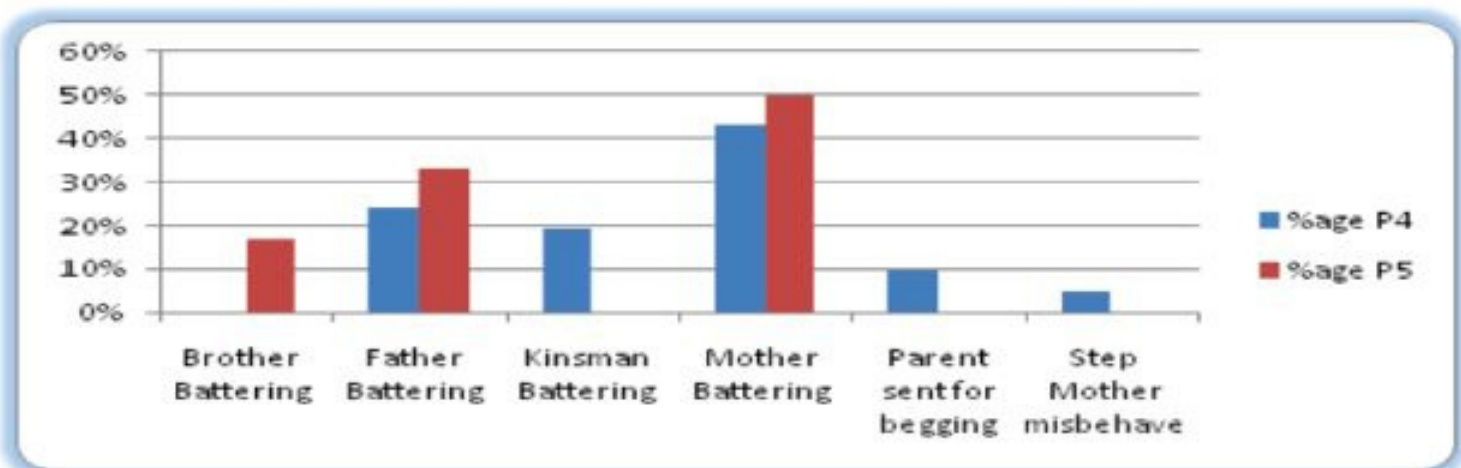
further and analysis has lead to formation of strategies for overall development of child and more psycho-social support activities like group formation ,regular games , fun with learn activities, yoga, meditations and therapies were added later on. From the beginning of project i.e. April 2015 to March 2018 we could rescue altogether 496unaccompanied children landed on the railway station due to various reasons with is expected to the cross landmark achievement of 500 children during ongoing month of March 2018. During this newsletter period from October 16 to March 18,166 children were rescued. As per our analysis number one reason of children to land on platform is trafficking in the past one and half year. Number one reason of previous newsletter period i.e. domestic battering and violence at home remains the prominent reason in this newsletter period also. Out of 166altogether in newsletter period 50 children ran due to trafficking and 45children ran away from homes due to parental/guardian improper parenting which shows the seriousness of the issue. Category of missed their way to home and in search of work are third and fourth reason respectively of reaching of these children at railway platforms. For trend analysis we have divided our research study in five periods- period 1st-P1(April 2015-January 2016),period 2nd-P2(February 2016-July 2016), period 3rd-(August 2016 To March 2017), period P4- (April 2017 To September 2017) and period P5 – (October 2017 To March 2018).Border districts of Bihar with UP like Paschim Champaren etc. are having maximum cases of children(182) overall and 79 in the period. Gorakhpur district has got second highest number of children (69) in all periods. In all periods of outreach on Gorakhpur railway station we have contacted altogether 34 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 intentions of their boyfriends. Through our intervention all of them have been intercepted successfully and referred to Childline via AHTU, GRP& 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.



We also visited new families and children living on the railway platforms and surrounding slums along with old ones. Based on complete and comparative analysis of reports of our study, a concrete strategic approach was developed and systematically implemented to intervene in the situation of these deprived children and families. Various out of box innovation were done to involve these children in psycho socio support activities based on findings like various games, fun with learn, yoga ,exercises and meditation and therapies to help these children. Team members are regularly trained and sent on exposure visit on related topics to make them properly understand and carry out various activities effectively.

Improper Parenting Details :



Brajesh Chaturvedi
Research and study officer

Art Based Therapist Blog

Art with children on the street: If we want to work with children we need to engage with non cognitive tools like theatre, art, and storytelling, story building. The arts work as our friendly boatman carrying us through the wasteland of a child's disturbed psyche. The arts become a container for the children to express themselves. The healing through the arts is not so much curing them of their habits of self destruction. The playing out of their painful past or the playing out of the imagined safe future creates a reworking of a neuron, or a reworking of one's emotional pathways regarding the self. Children often feel good in this process and this



increases the trust with each other and the facilitator. We used the EPR (embodiment, projection and role) method which is embodiment- the use of the body, then projection- which is projecting through the act of using crayons, paints, drawing, then role play is the choice of taking roles. Child starts giving information as it moves through embodiment, projection and role play which are a method of using a variety of art form under this framework.



Children open up through this process, they break their cultural silence, express their needs, allowing a space for empathy and the children get involved, and they get the courage to express. There is a space for resilience when the child watches its own emotions.

For the care givers it allows a development of their own creative skills to reach out to a child, involves spontaneous empathy, encourages resilience and makes them non – judgmental. It bring both the care giver and the child within the container of art based processes that allows mutual healing for both the groups, so much that one is not sure "who is healing whom" .

In a country filled with runaway children and an incredible space of violence , arts based process or arts based therapy brings the symbol of swa – adhyay in practice not just for the children but for all the concerned stake holders connected to the street and to the platform.



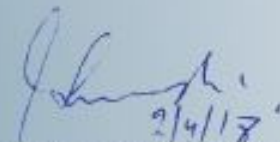
Stakeholders Feedback

Message

“Safe Society” is deeply involved in improving the lives of the poorest destitute children of our society. They mostly work near the Railway stations where such children frequently collect to make a living selling water or collecting garbage from Trains and Platforms.

Their work is also research oriented and their committed volunteers undertake in-depth psychological interventions like “Art based therapies” and “learn with Fun” techniques.

Their activities are highly commendable and I wish their efforts “All success” in the future.



(Ajay Kumar Singh)

Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer
North Eastern Railway



There are various reasons of running away of children from homes or getting drifted. After passing through various situations children make railway station as their home and due to peer effect they become addicted also. To reintegrate these children with the society is tough job. Safe society has accepted this challenge and with their limited resources they are constantly trying to reintegrate these children with main stream society. Safe society's effort of awareness generation of public about child protection, teaching railway children and reintegrating children with parents is commendable and provides inspiration.

Mr. Pradeep Kumar
Station Superintendent

Stakeholders Feedback



"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 different agencies or call different agencies like GRP, RPF and Anti human trafficking unit. They also help children on and around railway station in different ways. I understand that they are doing their activities in organized and structured mode, based on their research work and also conducting in depth psychological interventions like Art based therapies, fun with learn, related laws and meditation activities etc. Training of different agencies on related topics is also one of their main activities.

I wish them success and bright future in their noble work of succoring the plight of children.

Abhishek Yadav
IPS
SP GRP
Gorakhpur



Safe society work of reintegrating children with their families and to help helpless and deprived children is highly appreciable. Their behavior with RPF is satisfactory. They always ready to help children in need. For such type of service of society, may God make their work more effective and fast. Best wishes to Safe society.

Mr. Bhasker Soni
Inspector, RPF

Activities of Project

24 Hour outreach:

Innovative activity of 24 Hour outreach at station was conducted randomly in different months. All the project team members including the Director and Project Coordinator participated in the outreach program on the station. Various negative activities for platform and runaway children were noticed on platform and in trains.

Socio- Psucho Support to children:



Four groups of children were formed; and activities were documented. In group meetings children were motivated to discuss the issues related to them. In group activities games like Badminton, flying disc, kho-kho and Cricket were played along with fun with learn activities. Regular activities were conducted of the groups formed & were constantly motivated for leaving wrong addictions and to resume their studies. Children were also involved in therapy and meditation along with team members to channelize their energies towards positivity like Art Based Processes etc. Celebration of important events like republic, Independence day, Khechri, Dewali and Holi festival were done. A girl and a boy resumed their studies in past newsletter period continued their studies.



Follow-Up house visits:

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 sixty families of missing/runaway children



during the last one and half year and knew about the well being 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 social and economic aspects. Community meeting with villager was done and they were told about precautions and safe guards for not running away of children from homes. Findings were utilized for further improvement of activities and keeping the children with their families in better way.



Various support from stakeholder :



Support from stakeholders were also taken, like Book Stall shopkeeper, vendors, Press reporter, TT,RPF and GRP, Station Superintendent, porter (kuli),washing staff, Tempu driver etc. social activists, experts of field of psychology, law, child laws, media etc. supported our activities.

Support from Policy makers:

PC and Director also met U.P. Chief Minister, Central State Finance Minister, Central State Railway Minister and Local Member of Parliament and explained them about the challenges faced in functioning and they extended their support to us.

Letters were written to NCPDR, MOWCD, NIPCCD, railway authorities, social activists, politicians etc for cooperation in our activities. Our quarterly report was sent to different stakeholders and its number has reached to nearly fifty. PC also met child rights expert in United Nation Lucknow, Asst. Director NIPCCD, DCM-NER, ACPO, Childrights in-charge UPMSP and got their support.



Support from businessmen:



Businessmen donated clothes, books including Child Encyclopedia, sweets etc for children.



Ru-ba-Ru program

Communication with school children - in coordination with Unicef, UP police, UP Police **Mahila Samman Prakosth** was conducted in three schools about problems and issues of children and women, laws, Govt. agencies, departments and helpline numbers.



Trafficking as 'Biggest reason:

Among the reasons of landing of unaccompanied or drifted children during the last one and half year, trafficking is the biggest reason and Improper parenting as is as second. 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 and unknown person. They were lured for work and money. Total number children trafficked as per our first contact analysis of all periods figured 107 out 192 suspected children handed over to Anti Human Trafficking Unit, 50 children out of 100 suspected were of this newsletter period.

Capacity Building:

Capacity building of team was done from various dimensions like Child Therapy theory and workshop, Child Meditation Therapy Workshop, Community process facilitation training, Nepal exposure visit of child issues at border and inside Nepal, Acting Awareness and Training, MIS Training, Accounting Capacity Building, Institution Visits etc. to enhance the capacity of staff so that they can work more effectively and efficiently with children.



There is enormous change in MIS and accounting at personal level after training of MIS and accounting. Now I have become more capable of handling big amount of data. It has also enhanced transparency.

Mr. Abhishek Ku. Verma
(Accountant)



Case study- Trafficking case from Bihar

Case study- Trafficking case from Bihar On 8th of February our team members inquired from a lone boy on escalator of platform 9 that where he is going, he replied that he is going to Kerala with contractor for working. They also noticed three groups of boys at different spots of platform; they waited and observed that whether boy is part of this group of children or not. After some time boy met with these children. Staff members communicated with children came to know that all were going to Kerala with contractor. When suspicion confirmed they informed Anti Human Trafficking unit and team took them with themselves. AHTU was not able to capture contractor. Different newspapers published the news of same with prominence.

Strategy meeting conduction:

Strategy meeting conduction: On 19th of October a strategy meeting was conducted in which participants from international and national agencies like childline national office, Plan etc., Government officials, social activists, university professors, local NGOs, other stakeholders and media participated. In this meeting they were made aware about our activities and finding of research work. They gave their views for coping up with the issue. 50 of these participants shared, recommended and discussed among themselves issues on the topic. Finally we could be able to develop a comprehensive strategy for the wellbeing of these children.



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 and already taken steps are to be intensified and result oriented to properly bring change in the situation. Intensified influencers intervention is needed to make administration more active for the cause of children and supporting the structures of child friendly activities. In-depth psychological interventions are needed to be more intensified for sustainable effects.

Our Safe Team

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.

Achievements:

Safe society has been granted special consultative status from economic and social council (ECOSOC) of United Nations and Safe society is also Member of Global Partnership to End Violence against Children.

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:

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

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

R.P.F. Helpline No.: 182

Published by SAFE SOCIETY, India with support of Paul Hamlyn foundation of U.K.
Printed @ Vani CTP Processor & Digital Press, Gorakhpur. 300 copies Published.
Graphic Designing & Photography by Gaurav Gupta

Copyright notice: Except the views expressed by the stakeholders, SAFE SOCIETY takes complete responsibility for the entire content of this news letter. The information and images of this document must not be reproduced without prior written permission and proper acknowledgment. *The names of the people have been changed in order to protect their identity.