

THE "CHILD" SYSTEM MANUAL

Comprehensive Help for International Little Destitutes
{A manual for those working with street children.}

Semi-Residential Street Child Night Rescue Centres For Girls

Background Data

A smaller percentage of street children are young innocent girls. They sometimes have jobs working as domestic workers, cleaners or cooks, or making matchsticks, leaf-plates, flower garlands etc. Some of these pick rags and paper waste which is sold to exploitative businessmen, at well below the proper rate, but unfortunately, most just wander aimlessly in the streets and on the railway platforms, begging, stealing, or worse, selling their frail bodies, as they get older. Most of these, especially the youngest, eventually come under the control of "dadas" or "pimps", who live very well off the earnings of the young children under their cruel hand. The young girls are kept against their will in secret brothels, and live a life of total fear. The number of "girl street children", especially those in the "flesh trade", has increased dramatically over the past few years due to the desire of older men from both India, and other countries to enjoy sexual pleasure with young girls. Almost every major town and city in India and other Third World countries is recognising that the problem is growing. In India, a large percentage of young girls disappear from villages, to be sold by uncaring relatives to "agents" or are lured off, with promises of good food, jobs, cinema careers etc. by Pimps or their parents to live a miserable life of forced prostitution in the larger cities like Bombay, Calcutta or Delhi. Many suffer untold misery and disease, early pregnancy, abortion, and now in the age of AIDS, what will be their fate?

The Objective

The main objective of SKCV "CHILD" Girl Rescue Centres is to provide a secure and healthy environment for female children who, otherwise, do not have a home or family situation. The reasons for their homelessness are many and varied mostly not at all their fault. A young girl needs love, affection and security. Vulnerability to sexual abuse and exploitation, especially in the wild and uncontrolled world of the street, make hundreds of young girls easy prey for rogues, and a future about which a girl should never even have nightmares. The number of "street girls" is comparatively small, nonetheless, must be dealt with quickly.

As most of these young girls have been without guidance, some for many years, they have developed a mentality of survival that includes total freedom and variety. The most important feature of any centre that intends to help them is to provide, within a single area, as many varied activities as possible, which are all educational in nature, without seeming so. The programmes for street girls are of a different nature than those of boys, as girls are more easy to deal with and train. The problems and weaknesses are, however, basically the Same, therefore, the same love and affection and caring is required.

The Replicability

In the field of "GIRL STREET CHILD ASSISTANCE", there is a tremendous need, throughout the world for a tried and tested system that has been seen to actually provide the facilities and attention that these girls need. In order to be convinced to give up their life on the street, and lead more normal lives with a relatively good education, these girls need a secure, confident and suitable training in a skill or trade will enable them to support a family. They can perhaps help and train other young girls in the future.