

# THE "CHILD" SYSTEM MANUAL

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

## The "CHILD" Non-formal School - 1

### ■ Who Benefits?

The School is primarily meant for street children who, due to unfortunate circumstances, have been left with little or no academic knowledge, though they may have already reached the age of 14-15yrs. The goal is to teach these children the basic 3 R's, and to encourage them to learn how to work by themselves, using their own imagination and intelligence, through the medium of arts and crafts, mental and physical exercises and teaching aids. The teachers act as personal guides, utilising the tutorial method, enabling the children to learn quicker and better, and, in turn, helping the children to absorb the syllabus within as short a time as possible. The children quickly become disciplined, confidently educated and happy, developing good strong character and a cultivated intelligence.

### ■ How they benefit

The main aim of the School is to ensure that these children do not grow up to be illiterate adults. Therefore, they are taught only what is absolutely essential for a child to know, i.e. reading and writing fluency in two languages, {Mother Tongue and English} and mathematics to help them learn to calculate up to long division and fractions to prevent them from being cheated later in life. General Knowledge and Morals classes place special emphasis on teaching the children to be aware of their local environment and the World in general. Those children who show scholarly aptitude are given much encouragement to follow the Indian Government curriculum, catch up what is lacking, and are then placed in local private schools. They are further encouraged to go on to college, and then perhaps university. Those not apt to study in detail are given basic education, and then placed in the "CHILD" Vocational Training Schemes where they perfect a skill to provide income for their future life.

### ■ Research Development

As previously stated, the school system of teaching is non-formal, utilising interesting pictures, charts, games, educational TV programmes and video/audio tapes, professional teaching aids and sections of other professional non-formal school curricula to teach instead of the usual methods, which can tend to be tedious and boring for these children, most of whom have spent many years of 'freedom' on the street. Reference is made to a number of books relating to one topic, and the staff combine important and relevant points into colourful charts, thereby making the subject matter easier to understand, and more exciting to the children

### ■ School Curriculum

Educational Games

Games relating to the classroom topics can be taught, which the children play very enthusiastically while learning at the same time. To minimise dissatisfaction and keep a semblance of variety, no two consecutive classes are held where the children have to be studying academically: a serious study class is always followed by an out-of-schoolroom class such as hygiene, cooking or games. Each class lasts approximately 45 minutes during which the children learn to write, to read and play a related game. The next class may be gardening or cooking class. (see Schedule)

### ■ Languages

Mother tongue and English are taught to all the children from the beginning, with special classes for copy writing and reading. Tedious rote-learning is avoided, and replaced by songs, or processes where they recite and write. The children are encouraged to practice what they are taught in their day-to-day lives. i.e.. Correct language utilisation and grammatical instruction. Concentration is on the correct usage of their mother tongue. English is fast becoming universally accepted in India and throughout the world and is therefore also emphasized.