

# THE "CHILD" SYSTEM MANUAL

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

### What does it mean?

The "CHILD" system stresses the primary need of street children which is that of security, as they have no home or family around them. Circumstances beyond their control drive them away from their houses, and they need love, affection and security much more than food and clothing. Thus, the "CHILD" System believes that, given a safe place in which a street child can feel wanted, 75% of the battle to set such children on the path to a better life is already won. This then forms the main objective of the "CHILD" system - to provide a secure, healthy environment where a child can feel he or she belongs. It is a system that can be implemented anywhere in the world, but only by dedicated people.

### Institutionalisation Versus "CHILD" Rescue Centres

**IMPORTANT:** It should be noted that the author does not, in any way, condone "institutionalisation" of children, especially Street Children. Although the "CHILD" System utilises "semi-residential and residential" Rescue Centres, the children are there of their own accord, enroll themselves in the various programmes, manage the projects themselves, under guidance, and can leave whenever they like. The mood in the Centres must be like a home atmosphere, at all times. For first-hand experiences of how it is implemented, successfully, please visit the SKCV Children's Trust Centres in Vijayawada, AP, INDIA.

**REMEMBER:** A child's best situation is at home with relatives, in most cases... but that is not always the case. Your "CHILD" Centres are more like a home than anything else. Your "CHILD" Residential Centre should NEVER become an institution! What the System is meant to do is set up '*home environments*'. This can be done through individual family-type situations in small houses, or through the medium of larger family-style projects. Small groups of the older children can be encouraged to move in together and form a "Commune". It is your vigilance and good management that will make the difference between "institutions" and "homes".

The five phases that this manual takes you through, step by step, are:

- *Establishing your credentials, meeting the children where they gather*
- *Night & Day Rescue Centres for boys and girls, medical, educational etc.*
- *Voluntary Residential strengthening centres for boys and girls,*
- *Non-formal and Formal school/college & Vocational training workshop projects,*
- *Care Centres for trained and working children preparing to move into the world*