

# THE "CHILD" SYSTEM MANUAL

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

### **Strengthening Centres are there:-**

- 1. To provide a meaningful, healthy and happy home, and future to street/slum and working children in need, regardless of caste or creed.*
- 2. To give equal opportunity to all participants to learn a suitable skill that will ensure a satisfactory lifestyle for them in the future.*
- 3. To provide full education to all participants by the tutorial method, thus taking into consideration all propensities and possible defects.*
- 4. To teach the wonders of the world to all participants, by both theoretical and practical means.*
- 5. To ensure that full knowledge of preventive medicine, as well as applied cures for all common diseases, be understood by all participants.*
- 6. To provide a secure and solid future to each and every child requesting shelter and guidance, who, otherwise, would never have the chance of learning a trade, going to school, or having access to good health care.*

### **OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE "CHILD" SYSTEM**

#### **Making Contact**

The best method of introducing the children to your "CHILD" projects is to go and meet them personally and invite them, then let them come on their own. Give them a map or a landmark. Once you have a few children coming regularly, you can send them out to bring other children. This is the most effective method.

#### **Semi-Residential Street Child Night Rescue Centres**

These centres cater to the needs of children who sleep on the streets and platforms. Invite them to sleep safely at your centre, and provide a simple meal, if possible. Keep a registration book, and make the kids feel very important about signing the book each night. The children's physical appearance can be cleaned up, medical and dental checkups can also be performed. Slowly find out their activities in detail, and offer constant encouragement and advice to them about the difference between life on the street, and that available at the centres... and beyond. Their reactions to certain aspects such as classes in literacy, care and attention, cleanliness and punctuality training etc. should be very carefully monitored.

#### **Semi-Residential Street Child Rescue Education Centres**

These are your centres for psychological repair. By now, the children are cleaner, healthier and happier. More serious children may express to you that they do not want to beg any more, pick rags, or work in a filthy mechanic shop for long hours and meagre pay. They, almost certainly, will not want to sleep out on the street.

Now that they have made a decision, you can work on inner problems. This entails inviting them to stay permanently. There will, of course, be others who are improving, but still transient, so separate them in different dormitories, but do not make a different programme. Various classes can be implemented, but these must be non-formal and fun, and open to anyone. Show them videos regularly to satisfy their rampant desire for cinema, but be selective. Street kids love Laurel and Hardy, Charlie Chaplin, and cartoons etc. Laughter satisfies them, and is excellent group therapy. Take the children on outings to the next stage projects, as well as on picnics to interesting places as often as you can.

#### **Residential Strengthening Centres**

Educational and behavioural improvements are concentrated here. Remember that street life is like an addiction. After you determine that a child is giving up the strong desire for street life, be extremely careful that no situation arises that may create a relapse. This can easily happen, especially through the inexperience of new staff, or bullying by an older child. Life for the street child now has some meaning. It is up to you to maintain and increase the child's desire for a better future.