

THE "CHILD" SYSTEM MANUAL

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

Healthy and secure, the child can now look forward, and forget the past. But there is still a fine line of discipline. Take great pains and time to explain every detail in a given situation. Let them ask questions and even vent their feelings. The children appreciate your trouble, although they may not show it. Unfortunately, most people cannot understand street children, and expect total respect and discipline on the first day. We know differently, and have to be ready to face their initial hostility or lack of a positive response forthcoming. They will almost certainly lie to you or even steal from you. Do not be dismayed.

Management Committees

Be very careful at all times how you deal with the children. If they leave now, they probably will not come back to you, or any other help centre in the future. Keep the programmes regulated, spend time with each child, encourage them and give them assurance about the future. Meet them in the classrooms, in the dormitories and take them out sometimes to meet donors or officials. Create a system of peer management with Action Committees (12-16 yrs), and Management Committees (16-18 yrs) and staff trainees (18-21 yrs) [ages need not be fixed, use your own judgment). Have them appoint their own assistants. Give a little special programme to them, a uniform, and a lot of responsibility. They will become your future managerial staff, if you treat and train them properly. This management system can be employed in all centres.

Create Management Committees made up of more senior (in maturity... not necessarily in age) children and give them the feeling that they are making all the decisions. You just sit by the side, watch and guide them carefully. You will see their natural talents soon develop. Make sure the committees meet at least once a week and reward them with prizes or outings. These committee members will soon be doing most of the management work and, if you train them nicely and patiently, they will do all the work, leaving you to concentrate on Public Relations for your organisation. Eventually they will take over stages and departments of your organisation.

Income Generation and Project Sustainability

One of the most important aspects of charitable projects like your "CHILD" strengthening Village and other "CHILD" projects, is the future support and development. The project can be supported by various income generation schemes. The following schemes could be put into operation, initially:

- a) Printing works: greeting cards, calendars, address books, orders from firms, companies, banks and government etc. for letterhead, envelopes, brochures and textbooks, packaging supplies etc.
- b) Products and materials from Vocational Training Workshops ("CHILD" System Fifth Phase).
- c) Agricultural products for sale to local markets and wholesalers.
- d) Interest from secure investments generated from:
 - i) donations received from public, charitable funding organisations, or private individuals and companies
 - ii) profits made from above schemes in the Corpus of the Trust
 - iii) grants from Government of India and other official sources
 - iv) Other International and National Agencies
 - vi) Corpus Fund Investments made by your organisation. Try to aim for a Corpus of Rs.50 Lacs over a period of ten years. This should sustain most programmes.