

THE "CHILD" SYSTEM MANUAL

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

Try to recognise those "core members" who may have decided to stay with your organisation and join the faculty, rather than move out into the world. This is not so common but in such cases, these young men and women will be the most trusted and dedicated people on your staff. At SKCV such people have formed "The Future Group" which now manage everything.

Vocational Training Centres

This is the final stage of the "CHILD" system, apart from your advice bureau for those who have completed the system, and now have a family and a business of their own. The Vocational Training Centre provides a 3-4 year course (perhaps less for more simple skills), in up to fifteen comprehensive, but simple, workshops. The children (now grown up) obtain complete training in a skill of their choice, as well as theoretical knowledge, and a continuation of ordinary education as required. Management in business and financial training will also be given during the course. If, and when, there is a desire for marriage, it should be encouraged for mature students. It is our opinion that a loving family situation such as this, will definitely NOT create street children. Loans can also be arranged for your graduates to set up small businesses and homes.

Replicability

In the field of Street/Working Child assistance, there is a tremendous need, throughout the world, for a tried and tested system, that has been seen to actually provide the facility and attention that these children need in order to be convinced to give up their life on the street, and become part of mainstream society. The system should provide them a relatively good education, a secure and confident mood, and suitable training in a skill or trade that will enable them to support a family, and perhaps help and train other young street children in the future. SKCV Children's Trust has been working in this field for many years, and is convinced that, through the "CHILD" System, government and non-government organisations, and others who care world-wide, will be provided with a blueprint for development of programmes that will lead to this end. This, coupled with good staff, financial stability, as well as, comprehensive general education at the grassroots level in the city slums and rural areas, will definitely help to alleviate the problems of street children both in a curative sense... and in the preventive sense.

Instructional advice on working with street children

- Go to where the children hang around. Stay in places in where they congregate; observe the time when they go there and make your presence felt during those times.

This strategy has two purposes;

- for you to become familiar with the people, the children, the place, and...
- to make your presence part of the visual field of the children. Do this for some time, and be sincere about what you are doing. Do not be in a rush to get them to your centre. Street children can tell your motives immediately.
- Make it a point to smile at every child you meet. Do not expect that they will smile back. But keep on; it will make their world a little brighter, and yours, too!
- Just as you are getting to know and love the children, they too will be experiencing the same. Street children do not trust strangers right away. If you put on an air of authority, they may feel threatened and be suspicious of your motives.