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*“I got my happiness,
my brother back”*

Anuj



Coming together

Irrespective of the age of a child or an adult for each one of us becoming independent and emotionally able requires a surrounding that may always answers to our curiosities being non-judgmental and giving. It is this initiation process into life that shapes our aspirations, our ideology and our very way how we see the world around. Ensuring better care and support to a child until they become sustainable themselves is not only one's requirement, but also his/her fundamental right. But circumstances had a different plan for little Anuj. Anuj was born in the small township of Chindwara in Madhya Pradesh. Less does he remember of his childhood, but his reminiscence tells us that poverty ended up in displacing their family forever. After their mother left them the ensuing hostility in life and growing alcohol addiction of his father brought them to Amarawati, where his father started to work with a local craftsmen, welding iron to make a living. As if the circumstances were yet not forgiving his father got caught up in a fight, which forced Kisan Lal flee with Anuj, leaving 2 year old Sunil behind.

Anuj shares how his father had beaten him on that unfortunate day dragging him into the Train as they escaped from Amarawati, only to disembark up at Itarsi where they took refuge at the Railway Malgodam. In the ensuing days his father would work as a rag picker, forcing Anuj to work with him, when one day Jeevodaya outreach team intercepted him at the railway platform and brought him to the Drop-in-centre. For the next few months, Anuj would come every day at the drop-in-centre to receive informal education, play with other children, watch Television and would often spend his night sleeping at the Jeevodaya shelter, when witnessing his interest in studying he was asked if he would want to learn more. With the encouragement from Sr. Clara he was brought to the Jeevodaya Boys Home.

Anuj's father's only concern was that his child may not get forced into further victimization. Once assured, Kisan Lal was overwhelmed with joy that his child would finally receive the care and support that he couldn't provide him. With counseling and assurance from Sr. Clara founder and Director of

Jeevodaya, Kisan Lal left Anuj under the patronage of Jeevodaya Boys Home. He would visit him sometimes, and Anuj would also go with a Jeevodaya staff to meet his father, when suddenly the communication broke only to know in the future that he passed away few months later. Anuj never forgot his younger brother during his growing up process. As he grew up, so did his conscience and his urge to bring back his younger brother. After a period of 12 years one morning he suddenly woke up with a recollected memory and shared the same with the Social worker at the SPARC and Sr. Clara telling her not only the place from where they ran away but, also the major landmarks through which Sunil could be traced down.

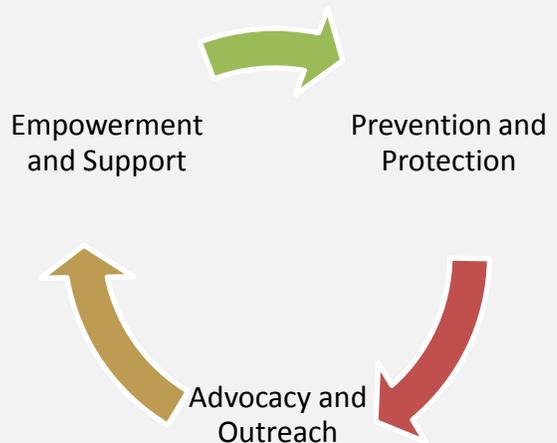
With the description that Anuj gave of the whereabouts of his brother, Jeevodaya senior outreach worker Philip took Anuj to Amaravati where after a search of 3 days Punit was found. The family with which Sunil was living resisted vehemently following which the Jeevodaya team, deeply intrigued and doubtful made a second attempt to meet and access the situation of Sunil when it was found that he was kept in poor conditions and it was decided Sunil has to be rescued out. Noticing the complexity of the events Sr. Clara discussed the case with Mr. Vishnu from Angan Trust who briefed in detail the legalities that surrounds the case and the key government functionaries that can play an important role in rescuing Sunil. It was during this meeting when it came into light that Anuj can claim guardianship of his younger brother after he turns 18(adult), which was only a months away. During the same period of 2013, Railway Children conducted a knowledge sharing workshop where the case was discussed with the Railway Children Programme officer Joju Warghese, and Jyoti, Programme Coordinator from Rescue Cell for Juvenile Justice (RC JJ) and a road map to rescue Punit was prepared. In collaboration with the RC JJ and CWC team of Amaravati, the quest to rescue Sunil began.

Sunil was not cooperating with the rescue team as he still believed that his father and brother had abandoned him and they do not have any right over his plight any more. Above all, the family with

whom Punit was, not only cancelled every possibility through which he could be intercepted, but also brain washed Sunil, including threatening him if he tries to meet Anuj. To break this barrier Jeevodaya 's rescue partner RCJJ team of Amarawati intervened with support from the Local Police and the CWC team and finally Anuj could meet his brother after an await of 12 years. To facilitate the process RC JJ team advised Jeevodaya if Anuj can submit a written letter to CWC, Amarawati informing them the situation in detail and claiming Sunil's guardianship which Anuj submitted promptly. On the fateful day of June 16th Jeevodaya along with Anuj was asked to appear at the CWC court. The family presented the papers issued by the Gram Panchayat to prove their legal rights over Sunil, claiming adoption which was promptly dismissed by the CWC. After continuous advocacy of Jeevodaya, efforts of RC JJ and Anuj, Punit was finally rescued from the dark wells of bonded labor on June 16th, 2016 after Anuj took responsibility of Sunil as his legal guardian, and Jeevodaya ensured continuous education support in front of the CWC until Anuj is independently earning on his own to support Sunil.

“On rescue, Punit had only one pair of clothes which he was wearing; he had never received any formal education. While leaving, no one from the employer family came to see him off, while Sunil was crying bitterly leaving the place where he had spent his 12 years of childhood.”

Jeevodaya uses a 3 pronged approach in providing a holistic 360 degree solution to the child,



The Outreach Brigade Advocating for the rights of the needy children

Samyog – Samyog is the outreach and advocacy vertical of the Jeevodaya programme, that works in close coalition with the state machineries, Railway Authority, GRP, RPF, other railway stake holders including local vendors who first comes in proximity with these children, and helps us identify and scan into the landscape so that no child is left untapped into vulnerability. Through continuous liasoning and working in close coordination with Child Welfare Committee, Samyog has appeared as a backbone of the Jeevodaya project. The Samyog outreach programme not only conduct these rescue operations but also counsels these children and their peers so that such incidences of hostility that pushes a child to take high risk decisions could be prevented. They are provided with psycho-social counseling, basic health care facility, including referral to CWC & to the Rehabilitation centre keeping CWC and the Railway police in close coordination. These children are screened on the basis of their mental health, and the kind of aid that they immediately are in need off.

The centre also provides daily non-formal education to railway children and children from the nearby slums, recreational activities, both indoor & outdoor game facilities, community festival celebration. Everyday 8-10 boys are rescued who take refuge at the Samyog drop-in-centre to spend their night.

Empowering women on Woman's day

As the old quote goes when a man is educated he alone is empowered, but if a woman is empowered it affect the lives of everyone in the family. Understanding the relationship that bringing children out of platform and streets cannot be possible until their mothers are not empowered Jeevodaya organized Woman's day programme on March 8th at the Itarsi, Railway platform with the earlier rehabilitated women from the platform who were homeless and earned a living by begging, selling Gutka, or rag picking, by providing them with livelihood skills and connecting them to the market so that their

products could directly reach the consumer without middle mans.

The programme brought together 22 earlier rehabilitated women who brought attention into many other women on the platform who still depends on selling everyday items on trains for a meager living. These women have stood out as role models and today runs a Self Help Group(SHG) were they with support from Jeevodaya provides counseling and necessary training support to such women and girl who need life skill education, livelihood skills and conducts regular training on cleanliness and menstrual hygiene. These women through this SHG group also discusses on the problems of the area and the initiatives that has to be taken at family and community levels.

The programme acknowledged their achievement and celebrated the day by awarding 2 of them in presence of Woman Senior-Inspector Pragya Sharma, RPF Sub Inspector Shweta Suryawanshi, Constable GRP Gurjeet Kaur and the only Woman Coolie from Itarsi Railway Station Rambati Bai.



The New Movement – Clean and be Clean

On March 3rd in lines with the Prime Minister's Swatch Bharat Abhiyan, Jeevodaya organized Clean Itarsi Station awareness programme. The programme was supported by Railway authority, GRP, RPF and the Local Police and was participated by all Jeevodaya Staff, Shelter home children, GRP and RPF staff and 70 cleanliness and sanitation staff of the railway.

The whole day programme was conducted by circulation of IEC materials, Jeevodaya children took the lead in reaching to the passengers on the station and inside the train in sensitizing them on better hygiene and requesting them to maintain cleanliness at the station. On the day Caps were also circulated among the cleanliness staff to encourage and acknowledge their contribution in making our platform a better place.



Training on making of Paper Envelops of the Self Help Group(SHG)

Jeevodaya conducted 5 days training programme with the help of Jeevodaya SHG(Meri Saheli). Women from the SHG group along with others from the community of Nala Mohalla and Ojha Basti were trained in making paper envelop and to connect them directly to the market.

The training was conducted by Prahlad Nigam(Aagaz Social Welfare) and Kamala Tiwari from Itarsi Municipality.



Ensuring collective efforts by involving Multiple Stakeholders

A facilitation workshop was organized to establish and strengthen the network of the government and non- government, private functionaries, local vendors to work in close coalition in identifying the vulnerable and take necessary initiative in pulling them out of visible danger or victimization.

The event also helped in breaking many barriers in bringing out the challenges the police faces and the helps that the local vendors and civil societies would need from the government functionaries in intercepting such children and effectively bringing them back to a holistic environment.



Awareness Programme with State Machineries

The programme was organized to sensitize and bring in to light the kinds of vulnerability children faces in the streets and at the Railway Platforms and the methodology in rehabilitating them, legal protocol and challenges that a duty bearer has to face and how with mutual cooperation that could be overcome in safeguarding safety and security to these vulnerable children. The programme was attended by GRP and RPF, Station Superintendent and other dignitaries.



CHIRAG and SPARC

Preventing and Protecting the rights of children

Jeevodaya's rehabilitation programme for Boys SPARC and for girls CHIRAG, provides shelter and education support to 39 boys and 30 girls. These children according to their eligibility and interests are provided with formal school education and are empowered with vocational training according to their interests. Children are also provided with bridge and remedial courses to reintegrate them back to mainstream education system. Along with facilities like food, drinking water, clothes; the children are also given proper psycho-social counseling and are encouraged to handle their everyday chores themselves under the proper guidance of the house mother and the social worker. Electronically equipped the children

are also taught in computers, and a spacious ground for extracurricular activities and sports are some of the facilities that the programme promises.

Details	Boys	Girls
No. of orphan children (children with one or no parents) residing at home	23	28
No. of economic orphan children (children with two parents) residing at home	11	06
No. of new children admitted to the home	00	03
No. of children rehabilitated from Jeevodaya	01	00
No. of children studying outside the home and supported by the home	02	1

(During the period of April to June)

Activities at a Glance

Formation of Family Groups

Family groups are formed at our homes to increase the team spirit among the children and raise their competitive behavior in performing for their group. Meal time, prayer time, sports, and even dormitories have been divided into family groups. This also helps children take care and understand of their own problems and accordingly take initiative for their welfare. With proper guidance and facilitation of the processes children take ownership which helps them in building their leadership skills and have a say of their own in handling their day to day activities.

Ensuring Holistic Health Care and Prevention



Jeevodaya takes utmost care of its children, who are provided with food that has been prescribed by the nutritionist and tested for both quality and taste. It involves children taking ownership in house care, preparation of menu, taste, quantity to assess children's appetite and help cook prepare food accordingly.

The children are brought up in an environment where they grow to become responsible citizens for which various cultural programmes, debates are organized, to help them learn the beauty of diversity and recognize the same. Mother's day celebration also took place in Jeevodaya where children planned the entire programme with the help of social workers. Children are motivated for their creative expression and are encouraged to come up with new ideas like preparing greeting card, painting, songs and dance.

Capacity building of the staff

- Knowledge sharing workshop was organized for the Social worker at Chirag and Sparc in Delhi, organized by Railway Children.
- Child Protection Policy training by MFI was conducted for all core Jeevodaya staff members
- Training on managerial role and team building.
- Attended workshop on quality care to the children, organized by Bachpan organization.

Field Trips/Exposure Visits, Special Events And Celebrations

- Birth day celebration of Prince, Sonu, Clement, Himanshu and Asha
- On May 15th, small children were taken to Pachmarhi on a picnic trip
- Boys and girls were taken for exposure visit for one month also as a part of their summer camp of all non-english medium going children in Don Bosco Ahmednagar, Maharashtra and Don Bosco Dakor, Gujarat.
- On May 30th, Mango party was organized sponsored by MFI

School Results

18 children passed with first division marks, with other passing with good percentage. Sumartal from SPARC and Vijeta from Chirag topped in their respective schools from their class.

Rescue of 20 children from the Railway Station

Childline Khandwa contacted Jeevodaya who in close coalition with the GRP staff rescued 20 run away children from Bihar who were on their way to Nasik. As it was the first case of human trafficking in Itarsi of this scale, Jeevodaya took lead in sensitizing the GRP and the Collector office in understanding their role in rescuing and rehabilitating these children back to their families.

In absence of necessary state model and required awareness on the issue these children stayed with Jeevodaya for 1 month, with any support from ICPS, Collector local functionaries to rehabilitate them. In absence of the necessary funds and abiding to core principle of providing safe house to these children Jeevodaya tried to raise public funds. During the same period DCPO (District Child Protection Officer) visited at Jeevodaya SPARC home for boys to understand the plight of the rescued boys and constructively work with Jeevodaya in rehabilitating them.



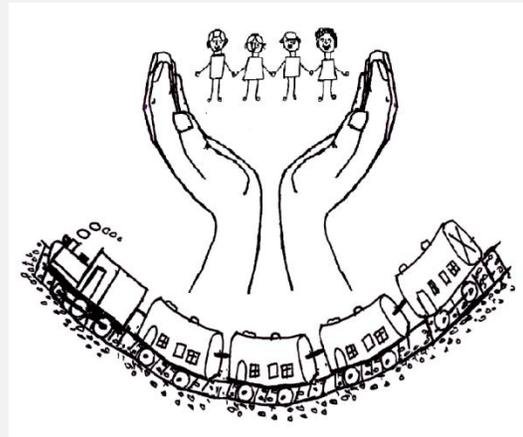
But it was only after Media note of the issue and advocated jointly with us the rights of these vulnerable children is when necessary steps were taken and they were rehabilitated back to there respective CWCs. Jeevodaya initiated and coordinated with the local government departments in Itarsi and state functionaries in Bihar for establishing a standar protocol for the proper handing over and reunification of these rescued trafficked children.



As per the order receive from ICPC, Jeevodaya initiated and did the family visit of all the children, prepared and submitted SIR of all the children to CWC. Transferring process of the children those who are from other state is going on. Rescued 67 children who were trafficking from Bihar for child labor, from Itarsi railway station with the help of Child line, RPF and GRP and provided temporary shelter to 20 children

Health and Hygiene Camp for the children of Ojha Basti

Jeevodaya with support from Railway Children organized Health and Hygiene camp from June 17th to June 18th, 2016 for the children of Ojha Basti, Itarsi. The initiative scored vast recognition and acknowledgement from the key stakeholders of the state machinery our agents of change, duty bearers including Itarsi Municipal Corporation, Chief Medical Officer, Railway Police, District Police, Child Welfare Committee etc who found the intervention first of its kind in the Sub division and appreciated for the research based approach in engaging the communities that has been marginalized and have faced social exclusion since beginning.



For more information please contact us:

Jeevodaya Society
Behind Janta Talkies, Nehruganj, Itarsi-461111,
India
Phone & Telefax : 07572-236191
Mobile : 09425040188
E-mail : jeevodaya1999@rediffmail.com