



## Keep Smiling An initiative with street connected children's

Balaghat | MP | India

### Opportunity to Children's

Usually, we never see of the children connected to the streets, or we express more and more regret, or sometime gives a coin. There is a need to provide opportunities to these children and work with them for a long time. It is important to know why children are on the streets, our effort is for such children.

### Involving Street Connected Children's for CHANGE

Project Keep Smiling works with over 300 children who spend most of their time on the streets. There are many reasons for these children to be on the streets, many children are kept on the streets by their parents, and they have no option of livelihood and have been begging for years, which they find very convenient.

There are many families who are doing the work of collecting garbage, they have also engaged their children in this work. School was a better place for them to get a one-time meal, but due to the closure of the school for the last two years, the children are not able to go to school. We started trying to connect these children with some creative work, such as painting in a lamp, making decoration items from paper mache, raising employment opportunities for some older children. We connected about 50 children to theater so that they could learn acting. In view of the need of nutrition, nutritious laddus and ration were provided to them, to connect them with education, a two-hour class is being organized.



### Community Development Centre (CDC)

Opposite Maharishi Vidhya Mandir  
Near Lodhi Hostel, Bhatara,  
Balaghat MP 481001 India



## Exploring Talents

*Every Child is talented*

It is challenging to work with children who have lived a life of neglect and deprivation for many years, our team members are facing a new challenge every day.

Working with street connected children requires a lot of energy and new strategies. After gathering the children, there was a lot of talk and each child listened to his story. The children were connected to a local cultural institution, where the children could learn some acting and performed in three plays along with other children of the city.

A street play on prevention of violence and exploitation against women and children was prepared and presented in Balaghat city, on 26 January Republic Day, children presented street play in front of district administration officials, in which A. D. G. District Collector, S. P. and other officials and cabinet ministers of Madhya Pradesh, local MLAs, MPs were present. This occasion was an unforgettable moment in the lives of these children.

Before the festival of Deepawali, children were taught to paint in earthen lamps, children made beautiful paintings in about 500 diyas and after packing, sold in all government offices, the children got a lot of money, A.D.G. Sri Venkateswara Rao gave 15 thousand to encourage the children. New clothes and sweaters were bought for 100 children by adding all the amounts. In this way for the first time children got new clothes in Diwali festival.

Children's classes were started every day, children showed great interest in it, if there was no space, then this class is organized under a tree, children are learning words and numbers in it, stories and poems are also becoming a part of their lives.

It was necessary to take care of the health of the children, so we conducted health check-up of all the children and provided necessary medicines, for this CHMO Balaghat supported, as well as Dr. Savlani did the health check-up of the children. Our team provided kits for personal cleaning to children, children were also trained on cleanliness. The girls were given information on menstruation and they were provided with sanitary pads, Dr. Smita's cooperation was taken in this work.

It is very important that children should be made aware of their rights, especially the girl child, who are most at risk and can be the victim of any kind of exploitation. Children are being continuously informed about the child line and toll free number 1098.

Please support our project Keep Smiling, Nutrition was supported by Consortium for Street Children.

"These children need equal opportunity, protection and sensitivity, not pity."



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