

# UPDATE FOR ASHA SILICON VALLEY

## GAYA RESCUE PROJECT BIHAR INDIA

For the purposes of this report the project goals will be measured against achievements and progress.

### Project Aims

Within 20 years (2004-2024) our ultimate aim is to get the government to recognise its responsibilities towards all children, especially those most vulnerable and at risk and to implement and fund initially, at a district level and then at a State level programmes to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children at risk of harm and exploitation. In order to achieve this the Project has three main branches:

1. **Child protection, basic health care and education**
2. **Community awareness programmes,**
3. **Juvenile justice and child rights.**
4. **Involving the government particularly, but not exclusively at a local state level**

### Meeting Children Needs

S.No	Aim	Progress
1	To provide services for vulnerable children. The target number of children who will be helped over the period will be 1000 per year and we will aim to increase this figure by 10% annually	<b>Demand for our services has increased substantially with a 27% increase in referrals to Rescue Junction from the police, the public and railway authorities. Over 1500 have come through the centre during the reporting period</b>
2	To undertake surveys at Koderma and Jehanabad Stations to assess the need for outreach programmes in order to reach more vulnerable children and help prevent child trafficking	<b>Both surveys have been undertaken . Jehanabad was found to have no significant amount of children living on the station or incidence of Child trafficking. It is not on the main line. Koderma however is very much on the main Calcutta to Delhi line and a substantial population of tribal people (Adivasi) live in the general area nearby. It is desperately poor. The survey established a need for an outreach centre.</b>
3	To train staff in child abuse awareness and counseling. We will aim to undertake three training periods per annum with ongoing staff assessments by the Project Director and senior management staff. Every member of staff will be assessed on an annual basis in order to help us determine their training needs	<b>This aim has been achieved and is now regular practice.</b>

4	To establish a Child Trafficking meeting with the local administration to help co-ordinate efforts to prevent child trafficking and strengthen child protection in the area..	<p>Achieved and then some. The Trust is now an official member of the following bodies, set up by the local administration</p> <p>Official member of anti child labour committee in Gaya</p> <p>Member of observation committee for the Government Remand home for juvenile offenders</p> <p>Member of the Gaya education Department observation committee</p> <p>Member of Bodhgaya primary health care centre patient development committee</p> <p>Member of child protection committee Gaya</p> <p>Member of Child Line advisory Board Gaya</p> <p>Many of these Boards and committees have significant legal powers.</p>
5	To actively campaign against child marriages and reduce the number of marriages in the project area by raising awareness and offering support via the Childline 1098 number and at the Centre, especially to the children at risk of child marriages. Our aim is to prevent (by local intervention) 20 child marriages in 1st year, 30 in 2nd and 40 in the 3rd year.	<p>Limited success. Police report such recorded incidents as down by 25% as compared to previous year. We are looking at using our health team and village education network more pro- actively in this regard and there have been early signs of success.</p>
<b>Raising community awareness</b>		
1	To increase awareness of Rescue Junction by 75% of those surveyed during the 3 year grant period through holding a child safety week involving the media, local schools, the police and the judiciary with street theatre and events, and to expand our outreach programme.	<p>Some progress achieved, partly due to press coverage of major of child labour raids on factories rescuing sometimes hundreds of children. in addition rescue junction is now a member of the following local government boards..</p> <p>A committee which has the power with the police to investigate child labour, raid premises and order arrests of those employing children and impose fines.</p> <p>A member of the organising committee for the annual festival where people come to Gaya from all over India to respect the souls of those departed</p>
2	To raise awareness and advocate for the judiciary to increase sentences for child traffickers. Our measure of success will be 'judged' by measuring sentences awarded.	<p>Significantly, the local bar association have visited Rescue Junction but crucially, and this is unique Rescue Junction has been invited to join the monthly crime meeting of all police officers in charge across the whole district. The percentage of persons receiving maximum or near maximum sentences has increased to an average of 5 years for child abuse and child trafficking. Over 40 people have been arrested in the last 12 months</p>

<b>Involving the Government</b>		
1	To continue our efforts to secure State Government funding. we will appoint a local Liaison Officer in Patna to Help co-ordinate our efforts in this regard Specifically a successful outcome to our current application under Section 34C of the State Welfare Department rules for approval to receive State Government funding	<b>Partly achieved . The person was immediately appointed following receipt of the grant and has achieved recognition under section 34C and therefore opened the door to state funding. This work is ongoing . How best to achieve this aim will form part of the fund raising review.</b>
2	To continue to liaise with the government to develop new initiatives including the provision of vocational training both for street children at Rescue Junction and at the local remand home. The vocational training would be practical in nature such as fridge and air conditioner maintenance or mobile phone repairing, craft and sewing. The aim will be to target and potentially reach out to 100 youngsters a year giving them a real future.	<b>Partly achieved. Due to a separate appeal some craft training introduced for girls at Rescue Junction. The Trust was able to restart computer training at their main office centre due to locating a national resource donating renovated computers to NGO's.</b>
3	To work with the police to ensure there are specially trained officers in every police station in the district to work with juveniles as per the existing provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act 2000. There are 7 police stations in Gaya City and 32 in the District, including Gaya City. We will be working directly with the Gaya Superintendent of Police and the local administration in order to help achieve this aim.	<b>Partly achieved. Three officers appointed at the time of writing this report</b>

## **Conclusion**

We are now almost at a stage with the project which we had estimated would take 20 years to achieve, with the notable exception of getting the State Government to put its money where its mouth is . The winner of the Nobel prize Kailash Satyarthi recently stated that most child trafficking originated in Bihar, but without ASHA Silicon Valley assistance in the past up to present the centre would have virtually closed down.

At the time of writing this report we are in consultations with the authorities in Hyderabad concerning the rescue of 225 children. This is no longer that unusual.

We are determined to achieve our goals to reach out to more children and achieve our aim of securing the projects future. Despite some setbacks we are on the way to achieving our goals and we thank you for your most vital support.

Nick Hansen

Fund Raiser and Liaison Officer

People First Educational Charitable Trust

Bodhgaya

02/06/15

