



FACTS ABOUT STREET CHILDREN

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WHAT IS A STREET CHILD?

Street children are those for whom the street, more than their family, has become their real home. There are over 18 million street children in India alone (Source: United Nations Development Program, Human Development Report, 1993). There is no protection, supervision or direction from adults.

Street children or orphans can be divided into three main categories:

Children on the Street: The largest category, these children have homes and most return to their families at the end of the day. Most earn a living for themselves and their families by begging or working.

Children of the Street: Children who have chosen the street as their home and a place to seek shelter, livelihood, and companionship. They are in contact with their family occasionally.

Abandoned Children: These children have severed all ties with their families and are entirely on their own.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING...

"In terms of the under-nutrition levels, certainly India is at a much higher level than the average Sub-Saharan African country."

Source: Werner Schultink, Chief of child development and nutrition for UNICEF in India, February 21, 2007

"The survey confirms that India has done little for its children ... Despite the excellent growth record for which India is getting greater and greater appreciation, efforts are still lacking and progress has been quite tardy in terms of women and children's health and nutrition."

Source: Shiv Kumar, Development Economist and Adviser to the Indian government, February 21, 2007

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