

A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION THROUGH CASE STUDIES

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ABSTRACT

The Government is bound to ensure the health, education, non-engagement of children as labour and non-exploitation of juveniles. Several rules and regulations have been framed to safeguard the child rights through Juvenile Justice Boards (JJB) and Child Welfare Committees (CWC). The JJBs make sure that no juveniles in conflict with the law are imparted injustice and the CWCs facilitate the well-being of child victims. The recently adopted Juvenile Justice Amendment Act 2015 provides provision for stern action against the perpetrators of crime against children below the age group of eighteen. However, despite the existence of many legal provisions, the vulnerability of children in different dimensions cannot be undermined. Adoption provides a means for ensuring right to family for an orphan, abandoned and surrendered child. This paper attempts to reflect upon over a dozen cases out of the 120 children received in one of the adoption agency in Delhi during the span of three years. The case studies reflect upon the ignorance of parents' and duties towards their wards. Most of them abandoned their children owing to their financial crisis, shedding away their responsibility, for having physically or mentally challenged children, children born out of wedlock, being a girl child or pregnancy due to rape etc. Accordingly, the minor children deprived of a normal development, become prone to sexual abuse, early pregnancy, drug abuse, bringing shame to the society. This study helps to locate the status of a child in development ladder of Indian economy and shows how the disparity in development indicators actually accelerates the nature of exclusive development. Delay in child adoption is one of the major factors that deprive children from healthy development and being associated with a needy family.

Keywords: Abandoned, adoption, care, Child Rights, Juveniles, protection, Specialized adoption agency.

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INTRODUCTION

Adoption is prevalent in our society from time immortal. We know about the story of Lord Krishna in Mahabharata and the story of Moses in Bible, where both of them were brought up by their foster mothers. At that time there were no laws or regulation for adoption. Keeping the present Child Rights in view, the provision for the families to adopt an orphan or abandoned or surrendered child was made. It was a win-win situation for both the parents and the children to set up a family life, which otherwise was lacking in their lives. The concept of adoption is considered to be a good means to restore the family life to a child deprived of his or her biological family and simultaneously a hope for the parents otherwise deprived of a biological child. In India, the concept of adoption is not applicable to religious communities like Muslims, Parsis and Christians. For them, *Guardians and Wards Act, 1890* is applicable and the child does not fall in the category of an adopted child. Under this, a child who turns 21 years remains no longer a ward, but obtains an individual identity. When it comes to the orphan, abandoned and surrendered children, these aforesaid enactments remain silent. As such there is no codified legislation for the adoption of children in these categories.

In order to consider all these categories, a laudable attempt was made under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000. The enactment allows secular adoption of the child irrespective of his or her religious background. The enactment has given the right to all citizens to adopt and all children to be adopted. There are two legislations in particular that deal with the adoption of a child; *The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Acts, 1956* and *The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015*. Adoption is resorted for ensuring right to family for the orphan, abandoned and surrendered children, as per the provision of *J.J. Act 2015*, the rules made there under and the adoption regulations framed by the Child Adoption Resource Authority (CARA). The CARA is constituted to promote in-country adoptions and to facilitate inter-state adoption in coordination with State Agency. It regulates inter-country adoption too. The rehabilitation and social re-integration of the children in need of care and protection of children are done through restoring the children to their biological parents, adoption, foster care, guardians/kinship care or with a fit person. Despite these provisions, a large number of children fail to find an appropriate family for adoption and at the same time several needy families run from pillar to post to adopt a child.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Every human being below the age of eighteen years is known as 'child' according to the definition of United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)¹. In Geneva Conference (1924)², the need for special safeguard for the child had been widely accepted. It was also proclaimed in that declaration that the child by the reason of his physical and mental immaturity needs this special safeguard and appropriate legal protection. The Declaration of the Child Rights was adopted by the General Assembly on November 20, 1959. Thirty years later, the world leaders recognized that children should have human rights of exclusive manner and for that they need a Charter³. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1989) is the first legally binding international instrument to incorporate the full range of human rights—civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights within child rights⁴. The Convention sets out these rights in 54 articles and two optional protocols⁵. It spells out those basic human rights

that every child should have wherever he may live: the right to survival; to develop to the fullest; to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life.

Directive Principles of State Policy in Indian Constitution (Article 39)⁵ empowers the state to direct policies so that the tender age of the children are not abused and childhood are protected against exploitation and moral abandonment. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was set up in March 2007 under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005. Ensuring all laws, policies, programs and administrative mechanisms in consonance with the Child Rights perspective, became the Commission's responsibility.

The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and cooperation in respect of inter country adoption (or Hague Adoption convention) provides a formal international and intergovernmental recognition of inter country adoption to ensure that adoptions under the convention will generally be recognised and given effect in other party countries.

As per the JJ Act, a child in respect of whom an adoption order is issued by the court, shall become the child of the adoptive parents, and the adoptive parents shall become the parents of the child as if the child had been born to the adoptive parents, for all purpose, including intestacy, with effect from the date on which the adoption order takes effect and on and from such date all the ties of the child in the family of his or her birth shall stand severed and replaced by those created by the adoption order in the adoptive family. The child's best interest shall be of paramount consideration, while processing any adoption. Preference shall be given to place the child in adoption with Indian citizen and in his own socio-cultural environment. Siblings should not be separated unless it is in the best interest of the children and the consent of the children should be taken if they are above five years of age.

The prospective adoptive parents shall be physically fit, financially sound, mentally alert and highly motivated to adopt a child for providing a good upbringing to him. In case of a couple, the consent of both the spouse for the adoption shall be required and they should have at least two years of stable marital relationship. A single or divorced person can also adopt subject to fulfillment of criteria in respect to the adoption regulation. However a single male is not eligible to adopt a girl child, a single female can adopt a child of any gender. The prospective parent should also fulfill the age criteria as per the adoption regulation. Couple with three or more children shall not be considered for adoption except in case of a special need child or a hard to place child.⁶

ADOPTION AGENCY

Around 120 children were received in one of the adoption agency in Delhi during the past three years. Out of these children, 76 were abandoned in the cradle, placed at the gate of a SAA and 32 children were found abandoned on streets. Eight children were placed for short stay. Four children were surrendered by their parents.

Out of 120 children, five children were transferred to other agencies after having attained the age of 7-8 years. Four children died due to severe health reasons. Out of 32 children, who

were found abandoned on street, 13 have traced their parents and have been restored to their parents. Out of the total children received in the agency, 18 of them had some mental disorder or were children with special needs and remaining children were available for adoption.

CASE STUDIES

Children come to the Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA) under different circumstances. The basic three categories under which they come for care and protection at the SAA or CII agencies are: ORPHAN, ABANDONED or SURRENDERED. This paper explains through some of the case studies, the background situation due to which they come into care and protection at the adoption agencies. The actual names of the children have not been disclosed for confidentiality. In order to study the holistic aspect of children in need of care and protection, over a dozen case studies have been conducted randomly upon the children presented before the Delhi CWC during the past three years, which are narrated below.

Child G

During interaction, the girl child G narrated as to how she was left in an abandoned condition near a temple with severe burn injuries on both her legs at the age of 10. The burns were so severe and invasive that, one could see worms over the injury and bones coming out. Despite announcements, no one came to claim her. She was brought to the care and protection at a specialized adoption agency, as considering her medical condition she needed special care and attention, which could not have been provided in a CCI. She was given proper medical care at the agency and other routine needs were taken care of. Several reconstructive surgeries were carried out to bring her back to normalcy.

Simultaneously, efforts were made to trace her family members. With the efforts of Childline and police force, the family members of the girl were traced. The agency conducted a spot visit and found that she had two more siblings. Her mother had died and she was taken care of by her grandmother who was very old. Her father is a drunkard. When they were asked to take the custody of the girl, they refused for the same. At the same time they were also not willing to surrender the girl. During interaction, it was revealed that the house caught fire with a burning candle and she got bruised in it.

On their refusal, the girl was brought up by the agency. She was engaged in a non-formal education and other in-house activities of the home. She had lot of behavioral issues like bedwetting and shot temperedness. When she was around 11 years old, she was transferred to another CCI, as the SAA is licensed to keep children only till the age of 6 years, and they do not have facility for formal education. Now she has started attending a formal school.

The girl showed gradual improvement to her burns and was able to walk on her own with limping after several rounds of reconstructive surgeries. One fine morning, after about two years, her father, grandmother and her siblings came to claim her custody. The girl identified them. The Bench was reluctant to give her custody, but after repeated persuasion from the family and the girl herself, she had to be restored to her family, keeping the child under constant follow up and monitoring about her well-being.

CHILD R

A malnourished four and a half year old girl was brought to the SAA by the police. As per the Medical Legal Case (MLC), she was sexually abused, before she was found by the police. Her mother is a drug addict and HIV positive. The child had ear infection, uncombed hairs with ticks and lice over her head. Her genital parts were not intact. In view of the fact that her mother is HIV positive, the girl was also tested for HIV, which turned out to be negative.

The mother doesn't have a permanent place of residence and lives on footpath. She is a beggar and does not have a fixed source of income. She is unable to give care and protection to the child and hence R was kept in a SAA for care and protection. As per the statement given to the police by her mother, the child was raped by a person named "S". An FIR has been lodged in this regard.

The girl had a bad memory about her past and was not comfortable talking about her past. She doesn't socialize much with the children of her age group and prefer to remain with the caregivers and seeks their love and attention.

At present the child is around seven and a half years old and since her mother had not surrendered the child, she cannot be given in adoption. She has got an amount as victim compensation from the court and the same has been deposited in her account. She is close to her mother and at times is allowed and taken to meet her.

Because of the vicious atmosphere and considering the safety issue of the child, she cannot be restored to her mother and has been transferred to a CCI where her continuous growth and education can be taken care of. The girl had a traumatic and difficult childhood. Over and again, she reveals behavioral issues, which can be overcome by repeated counseling, engaging the child in activities and unconditional love and affection.

CHILD S

The baby S was found in the cradle of a SAA, when she was just around 6-7 weeks. On medical examination, the child had no signs of abnormality and she was healthy and alert. The very next day a lady around 25-30 years and her brother came to the SAA stating that they had left the child in the cradle and made a claim for the custody of the child. Since an FIR had already been registered the child could not be handed over to them without verification and enquiry.

The lady was called to the CWC to enquire about the facts. She stated that her parents are not alive and she is living with her brother who is unmarried. She had an affair with a boy and on knowing about her pregnancy, he had abandoned her. She carried on with the pregnancy with the hope that he will turn up. Even after 6-7 months of her delivery, he did not turn up and she did not have any information about his whereabouts. Her brother started pressuring her to leave the child and start of her life afresh. After abandoning the child, she was remorseful for her conduct and came back to claim her.

The address of the lady and the delivery details were verified with the help of Police station and were found to be correct. Later, when the lady was called to the CWC to take the custody of the child, she kept on giving excuses and never turned up. Now, the CWC is in a

dilemma, as the police is reluctant to give an untraced report of her parents as they have traced the whereabouts of her mother and it is mandatory before declaring a child legally free for adoption. Now the child is around 18 months old, and her mother has not yet come to claim the child. On repeated notices, it was found that the mother had changed her address to some unknown place. For this, now an untraced report has been sought from the police to declare the child legally free for adoption.

CHILD N

This child N was abandoned in the cradle placed at the gate of a SAA, when he was only three months old. The medical examination showed that he is suffering from osteogenesis imperfection, a case of congenital skeletal dysplasia and asymmetric shortening of all four limbs and angular deformity. The X-ray showed multiple fractures of bone and swelling in all four limbs. Since the bones are very weak and fragile, it was at a very high risk of fracture during transportation. The child was learnt to have been abandoned due to his present medical condition.

He is a very alert child, and can easily attract the attention of others with his sweet conversation. He is friendly, happy and a bubbly child. At present, the child is around five and a half years old. His medical condition is not good and has a disability to walk. He tries to stand with support, but due to softness of his bones he is unable to even stand. He is prone to fractures and injuries. Yet, he has started with basics of education and loves colouring.

The child has been declared legally free for adoption. No Indian family is willing to take the child in adoption with his existing medical condition. The future of the child is bleak. The only ray of hope is, if some foreign families come forward for adoption, where the child can grow with advanced technology, overcoming the disability of the child.

Girl J

The girl J, seven years, was left unattended at the gate of a SAA. The girl was able to tell her name and the whereabouts of her parents. She told about the past of being physically abused by her mother. During spot visit, the girl was able to identify her home. They lived in a one room rented accommodation. The mother was present during the visit. She told that she was married for more than twenty years and had no biological child. Her husband, an auto rickshaw driver found the child abandoned at the railway station when she was few days old. He searched for her parents at the railway station but no one came to claim the child. Thereafter, he took the child home and started raising her up. The mother started keeping ill health and also had mental health problem. On several occasions, she had to leave the child with the neighbours. Gradually, the child started having behavioural issues, and in a fit of rage the mother used to hit the girl. The financial condition clubbed with the mother's health compelled them to abandon the child.

The child is now 10 years old and when asked about her willingness of being given in adoption, she told that she does not want to go in adoption and wants to go with her foster parents only. The girl has strong memory and love for her foster parents even though they ill-treated her. Now the girl needs to be transferred to another CCI for her education and further growth and development.

SIBLINGS S1 and S2 (Male and Female)

A pair of sibling S1 and S2 were found abandoned at Anand Vihar railway station. At that time they were six and three years old respectively. Both the children were medically examined and were found to have no history of any kind of abuse. From the interaction with the children, it was learnt that they belonged to a tribal community. Their speech was not clear and spoke some dialect other than Hindi. On counseling and friendly interaction, they told the name of their parents and place to which they belonged. Based on the information provided by the children, the matter was assigned to the Anti-Human Trafficking unit and to various DCPUs at the district level, to trace the parents of the children. The information regarding the children was also published in various local newspapers, based on the details of information provided by the children. The information was also flashed on track the missing portal, but no one came to claim the children. From the interaction, it seemed that they are from a nomadic community and due to the ignorance of their parents might not have lodged a missing complaint and did not understand the complexity of how to trace back their children.

Since their family could not be traced with all the efforts, they were declared legally free for adoption. Because of the age and being a sibling group, no Indian parents have come forward to adopt these children. Now they are waiting for an inter-country adoption.

CHILD K

This is a case of health disorder. The child was abandoned at the cradle placed at the gate of a SAA, when he was just four days old. The child was healthy and active. The child got all medical care and other attention and was growing as per his age. The information about the missing child was published in a local newspaper. No one came forward to claim the custody of the child. The child was declared legally free for adoption and was given in adoption to an Indian couple. The couple noticed that the child bugged his head and suspected some mental illness and they returned the child after 25 days of his adoption. In order to confirm his medical problem a genome test has been suggested by the doctor, the expense of the test is too high, which is not possible on the part of the SAA and the prospective adoptive parents are also not willing to incur such huge expense. Now the child is approximately three years old and is undergoing an uncertain long wait for fresh adoption.

CHILD M

Child M was found abandoned when he was six years and was kept for care and protection at a SAA. The child was not able to provide much information about his whereabouts. The information about the child was published in a local newspaper but nobody came to claim the custody of the boy. He received formal education at the SAA. The boy was declared legally free for adoption after one year when no one came to claim the custody. Since, he was above six years of age; he was transferred to a CCI for formal education. The boy was admitted in a formal school for his continuous education. The boy had issue of speech problem and learning disability. Then all of a sudden, his parents were traced almost after three years of his missing with the help of Anti-human trafficking unit. His parents had lodged an FIR after the boy went missing, but the boy couldn't be traced for long due to jurisdictional issues and lack of follow-

up and ignorance on the part of child's parents. Simultaneously, the police was also not able to trace the parents at the initial stage. The boy was happy to be united with his parents.

CHILD P

Mother of P is mentally unstable. Both P (one and half year old) and his mother were found abandoned and they were kept in a shelter home meant for mother and child. The mother never fed him or was taking care of him. After few days, the lady abandoned the child and ran away from the shelter home. Since the home was not meant for small children, the child was transferred to a SAA. As the child missed out the initial parenting, he did not show any attachment with the caregivers and other children. He did not like anyone touching him and preferred to remain alone. With the help of local police and the address provided during the stay at Shelter home, her husband was traced. Later, the lady was also traced with the help of local police. The father identified the lady and the child and agreed upon to take care of them. The child's custody was handed over to his father.

XS and YS

Both the children were produced before the CWC bench by police, as they were found unattended by some passersby. As per the information received, their mother is not mentally sound and had abandoned the children. Her father is a daily wager and is not keeping good health. He was not able to take care of the children, due to which they remain unattended. The children were placed in the category of children of incapacitated parents.

When the children, aged 2 and 5 years respectively, were produced before the bench, they were found to be severely malnourished. Considering the safety and well-being of the children they were provided shelter in a Specialized Adoption Agency. Their father was not willing to give the children in adoption, so they are happily growing in the agency and are getting non-formal education.

Child Z

The child was born owing to an unwanted pregnancy. The minor girl did not come to know about the pregnancy due to ignorance. She came to know about the pregnancy very late and her parents were also ignorant about the girl's pregnancy. As per the MTP Act, it is not advisable to go for abortion after five months of pregnancy. Out of social stigma, the parents were not willing to keep the girl at home and she was provided with shelter till the child birth. After the delivery, the child was surrendered for adoption and kept in a Specialized Adoption Agency, once the due procedures were followed. The minor girl went back to live with her own parents. The biological parents have an option to claim the child back within a period of two months. If they do not turn up, the child becomes legally free for adoption. In this case, the mother didn't make a claim and so the child is made available for adoption on the CARA portal.

DISCUSSION

Reasons behind untraced children:

In most of the cases, due to the ignorance of parents and their illiteracy, an FIR is not lodged about the missing children. There is also hindrance in tracing the parents, for their being

nomadic or shifting from one place to another in search of job and livelihood. Sometimes, the children themselves do not want to go home, and therefore do not disclose about their family whereabouts as they do not get love in the family and are abused. At times they are forced to do a lot of household chores and take care of their young ones. Lapse on the part of the investigating agency is another reason. Lack of emotional bonding between parents and children, due to many children at home, or family dispute or repeated runaway tendency of children or remarriage are also very common. At times, these children are also willfully abandoned by parents, if they are suffering from any health issues or mentally or physically challenged. They also remain untraced if they are shifted to another CCI out of the vicinity of their home.

Need for non-institutional care and its aftereffects:

Psychologists say the children start feeling the emotions of the mother as soon as they are conceived in mother's womb, so it is always told to pregnant mothers to remain happy and to engage in activities which are good for the healthy growth of the child. The mother, who is planning to surrender or abandon her child, would be under constant stress and trauma which is not good for the healthy growth of the children.

When the children come into institutional care, they develop issues with the care giving staff. At times, due to inadequate number of care giving staff they are not properly cared. In the family setting, there is always someone available to attend their cries, whether under some pain or for wetting or when hungry. Under institutional care it is often seen that children develop the habit of rocking, which is sometimes mistaken by the prospective parents as some mental disorder. Children usually attract the attention of others by babbling, cooing or making funny gestures, when they don't find someone to react to their activities they simultaneously start remaining gloomy and sad, due to which we see a development delay in most of the institutionalized children. A number of children are attended by the same caregivers and a number of children remain in the same dormitory, due to which there is a possibility of children getting infected, sometimes the infection is so high that it is life threatening and last lifelong.

Suggestion for better child care

The ratio of caregivers to number of children should be increased. The institution should be encouraged to give the children in pre-adoption foster care, so that the growth and development of the child is not hampered and children do not languish in children home for years waiting for adoption procedure to be completed. Most of the adoptive parents are eager to adopt a newly born child. Although, the guidelines suggests children less than two years to be cleared in two months and children above two years to be cleared within four months, it takes almost 1.5 years to finalize the adoption, due to procedural delays and lapses.

Lot of agencies are involved before a child finally reaches the adoptive parents like, All India Radio, Newspaper publication, Police station, District child protection Unit, Child Welfare Committee, CARA, court proceedings, passport etc, which delays the adoption process.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS CNCP

Ignorance of Parents:

Due to ignorance or lack of proper care, children sometimes lost contact with their parents, and are not able to tell their address and finally come into SAA for care and protection. Tracing the parents become more difficult when they cross the jurisdictional area.

Willfully abandoning the children:

Some parents are not able to bring up the children due to financial problem, or health issues of themselves/children and prefer to abandon the child.

Due to death of parents:

Due to death of parents, the extended family members are sometimes not willing to take the responsibility of children. Sometimes the death of one parents also make the other person to shed the responsibility of children due to financial reason or for future marriage prospects.

Children born out of wedlock:

Sometimes children born out of wedlock are abandoned due to family pressure or social stigma.

Children born to minors or unwed mothers:

Sometimes such children are surrendered by unwed mothers due to social stigma, family pressure or for future marriage and settlement.

Girl child:

Parents abandon girl child, who are very prejudiced and desire a male child for family name.

Kidnapping and trafficking:

Children are sometimes kidnapped for the purpose of trafficking, and when the plan fails, the traffickers abandon the children and run away.

Children who are mentally and terminally ill:

Such children are abandoned, because parents are sometimes not competent and financially stable to bring up such children due to medical reasons.

Due to family dispute or from broken family:

When there is a dispute between parents or it seems that the marriage will not work out in such circumstances, the children are abandoned by the couple.

Children of incapacitated parents:

Sometimes due to financial reasons, the parents abandon their children. It is always good to relinquish the child in his/her best interest, because a relinquished child becomes automatically free for adoption after two months. In case of abandoned children, it takes months to get the child legally free for adoption, due to procedural delays. Thus, adoption of a relinquished child takes comparatively less time than that of an abandoned child.

Problems faced by older children in adoption:

Every family who is willing to go for adoption wants to adopt infants as young as a day old, so that they can enjoy each day of the child's life and also want to witness all the milestones of the child. However, this is not possible with older couples owing to their age. Once the child is above three to four years and remains in the institution, due to unavailability of suitable parents, the child starts developing behavioural issues, like hyperactivity or learning issues or lack of concentration, attention seeking behaviour, bed wetting etc. Sometimes due to lot of rejections from prospective parents, the children develop even behavioural issues. The possibility of adoption also become meager as the child grows older. Since the SAA is licensed to keep children less than six years of age, they need to be transferred to other agency for formal education, which again cause anxiety of separation and adjustment issues among the children.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

With the passing of time and involvement of various agencies, the process of adoption has become more complicated than before. Instances of buying and selling of children for monetary gains have increased manifold⁷⁻⁸. The statistics reveal that the number of adoption has started decreasing, which is a matter of great concern. The reason could be because the number of children available for adoption has decreased or some illegal adoption racket has come into existence or some of the children are languishing in various children home, as they are not licenced to do adoption. In order to address this issue, people should be discouraged to adopt illegally from nursing homes and from unknown people. More and more children homes, which are not licensed to do adoption, should be encouraged to register their children homes under JJ Act, so that more children could come into the loop of adoption.

The procedure of adoption should be simplified so that parents are not forced to practice illegal adoption and the procedural delays should be resolved. The process of pre-adoption foster care should be encouraged, so that children could get the advantage of living with parents from the very first day and simultaneously they can be prevented from developmental delays.

Some of the parents abandoned their children due to lack of financial resources with them. There is hardly any scheme in place for financial assistance and sponsorship. Government should come up with more of such schemes, so that parents do not abandon their children for want of financial resources. The case of child sexual abuse is increasing at a very rapid rate. It has come to the notice that girls are getting pregnant at a very young age due to their ignorance and elopement. For this, more of awareness programmes should be held at the school level to prevent the girls from sexual abuse and childhood pregnancy.

Not much importance is given to the caretaker, who plays a very important role in the growth and development of the children. Awareness programme should be held from time to time and proper incentives and remuneration should be given to the caregivers to increase their morale and accountability towards their profession. Every child has a right to live in a family and institutionalization should be the last resort.

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Annexure I

Category	Gender	Age (Years)	Helpline	Family history	Victim Status	Present status	Education	Custodian Agency	Remarks	Govt initiative
Orphan										
Abandoned										
G	Girl	11	Childline	Mother died	Burn injuries	family	Formal	CCI	Initially Parents not willing to take her back nor consenting for adoption	Police traced her parents
R	Girl	7	Police	Mother Beggar	Sexually abused	SAA	Non-Formal	CCI	Mother HIV+ve & drug addict. Mother not willing to surrender her for adoption	Received Victim compensation
S1	Boy	6	Rly Station	Parents not traceable	Language problem - Tribal community	SAA	Non formal	SAA	Legally free for adoption	Waiting for adoption
S2	Girl	3	Rly Station	Parents not traceable	Language problem - Tribal community	SAA	Non formal	SAA	Legally free for adoption	Waiting for adoption
M	Boy	6	Police	Parents were not traceable	Speech problem	Family	Formal	CII	Child happily reunites with parents	Anti-human trafficking unit traced parents after 3 years

P	Boy	1.5	Police	Mother mentally unstable	Behavioural Issues	Family	No	SAA	Child handed over to father	Traced father
S1	Boy	2	Police	Mother abandoned the children	severely malnourished	SAA	Non-Formal	SAA	Father is incapacitated and not willing to surrender the child	Police traced father
S2	Boy	5	Police	Mother abandoned the children	severely malnourished	SAA	Non-Formal	SAA	Father is incapacitated and not willing to surrender the child	Police traced father
Surrendered										
S	Girl	1.5	Cradle	Mother has abandoned the child	Illegal pregnancy	SAA	Informal	SAA	The child was abandoned by her unwed mother.	Child given in adoption.
N	Boy	5	Cradle	Parents not traceable	Physical disability	SAA	Non-Formal	SAA	Legally free for adoption. No takers because of disability.	Waiting for adoption
J	Girl	7	Police	Abandoned by foster parents	Behavioural issues	SAA	Non-Formal	CCI	Legally free for adoption, but no family for adoption due to age of the girl	Waiting for adoption
K	Boy	3	Cradle	Parents not traceable	Medical issues	SAA	Non-Formal	SAA	The child was returned by adoptive parents due to medical issues	Waiting for another family to adopt
Z	Boy	3 months	Surrendered	Unwed mother	Normal	SAA		SAA	Has completed two months relinquishment period	Waiting for adoption.

BOX-1

As per the JJ ACT 2015, “Child in need of care and protection “means a child -
1. Who is found without any home or settled place of abode and without any ostensible means of subsistence;
2. Who is found working in contravention of labour laws for the time being in force or is found begging, or living on the street;
3. Who resides with a person and such person (a) has injured, exploited, abused or neglected the child or has violated any other law for the time being in force meant for the protection of child or (b) has threatened to kill, injure, exploit or abuse the child and there is a reasonable likelihood of the threat being carried out or (c) has killed, abused, neglected or exploited some other child or children and there is a reasonable likelihood of the child in question being killed, abused, exploited or neglected by that person;
4. Who is mentally ill or challenged or suffering from terminal or incurable disease and having no one to take care of;
5. Whose parents are unfit or incapacitated to take care of;
6. Who have been abandoned or surrendered by their parents or guardians;
7. Who is a missing or run away child or whose parents cannot be found after making reasonable inquiry;
8. Who is abused, tortured or exploited;
9. Who is vulnerable or is inducted into drug abuse or trafficking;
10. Who is abused for unconscionable gains;
11. Who is a victim of armed conflict, civil unrest or natural calamity;
12. Who is a victim of or at risk of child marriage?