

12 months, 18 railway stations, 10 thousand children

Between April 2016 and March 2017, SATHI and its partner NGOs helped more than 10 thousand children from 18 railway stations across India. These were children who had run away from home or separated from families for various reasons. They were brought to the safety of a shelter through the efforts of nearly 75 outreach workers who patrolled the stations every day for 8 to 10 hours looking out for children in need of help.

9867 children were rescued from the following locations through regular presence

Name of station	No of children helped
Yeshwanthpur	465
Old Delhi	722
New Delhi	873
Pune	379
Mughalsarai	160
Kanpur	869
Patna	921
Kolkata	1227
Berhampur	454
Varanasi	1004
Visakhapatnam	421
Vijayawada	431
Allahabad	661
Raipur	382
Darbhangha	220
Bhubaneswar	460
Puri	76
Khurda	142
Total	9867

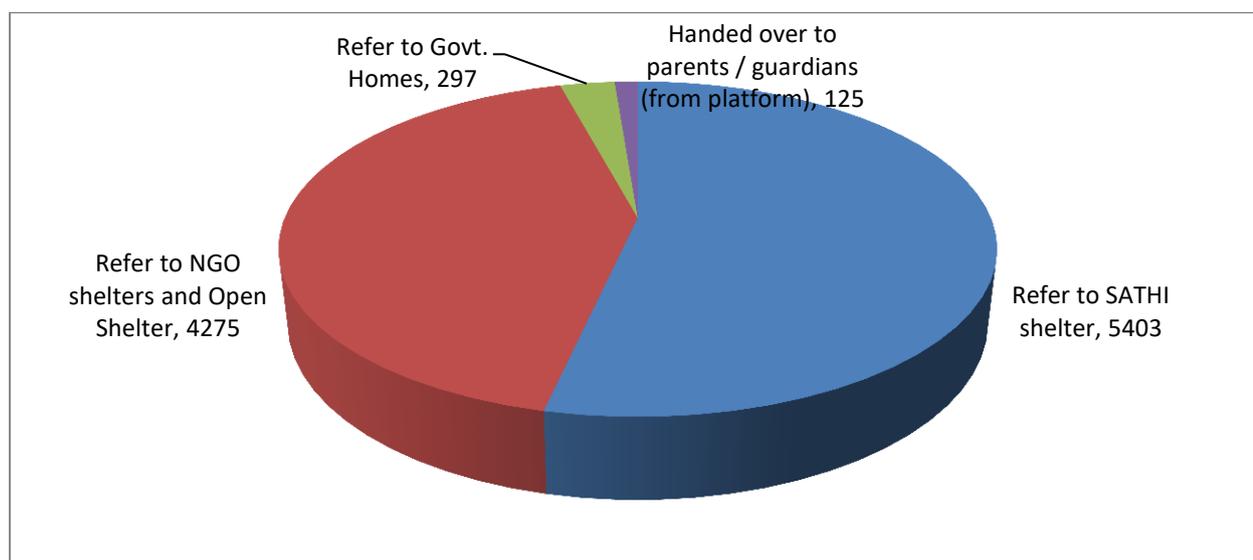
233 children were helped through special rescue drives conducted in other locations. The drives lasted 3 to 5 days

Name of station	No of children helped
Jaipur	24
Mumbai CST	36
Howrah	35
Guwahati	32
Rourkela	16
Bilaspur	28
Raigada	11
H Nizamuddin	18
Vizianagaram	6
Haridwar	27
Total	233

A total of **10,100 children** were rescued from different railway stations by SATHI and its partner organizations – CINI (Kolkata), SOCH (Odisha), Salaam Balak Trust (Old Delhi) & SKCV (Vijayawada).

Status of children rescued

Among the children rescued, 5403 children were brought to SATHI run shelters and 4275 children were referred to shelters run by other NGOs and 297 children were referred to Govt. Children Homes.



Analysis of the profiles of the children

At SATHI, a cloud-based MIS is used to upload and archive profiles of all children rescued and reunited with their families. The data is easily retrievable for review and analysis. The following paragraphs and tables contain a brief analysis of the profiles of approximately 4900 children helped by SATHI.

Age and education level of children

Most of the runaway and separated children are in the age group of 14 to 16 years. In fact, data shows that 14 and 15 year olds constitute more than 33% of the total children rescued.

Age group	Percentage of children
Less than 8 years	< 1%
8 to 10 years	5%
11 to 13 years	35%
14 to 16 years	54%
> 16 years	< 6%

In terms of education, we find that nearly 13 to 14% of the children are illiterate, while a majority of them have studied at least until the 5th standard.

Education level of the children	Percentage
Illiterate	13%
Upto 4th std	19%
5th to 7th Std	32%
8th std and above	30%
Study in Madrasa	6%

Family situation of the children

It is found that in cases of a large number of children, both parents are alive. Less than 3% of the children are orphans and presence of step parent is found in less than 2% of the total number of cases.

Status of parents	Percentage of children
Both parents alive	83%
Father passed away	9%
Mother passed away	5%
Orphan	<3%

How many times have the children left home?

Data reveals that 91% of the children have left home for the first time. Only a small percentage of children are found to be habitual runaways.

Number of times runaway / separated	Percentage of children
1 st time	91%
2 nd or 3 rd time	7%
More than 3 times	2%

How far do these children travel?

An analysis of profiles of these children reveals that nearly 59% of the children have travelled more than a 100 kms away from their homes.

Distance travelled	Percentage of children
Local (children from nearby areas)	16%
<100 kms	25%
100 to 400 kms	29%
> 400 kms	30%

Further, about 26 percent of the children rescued belong to the same district where found

40 percent of the children belong to different districts, but from the same state

33 percent of the children belong to different state and a tiny percentage of children belong to Nepal and Bangladesh

How long have the children been out of home (before NGO contact)

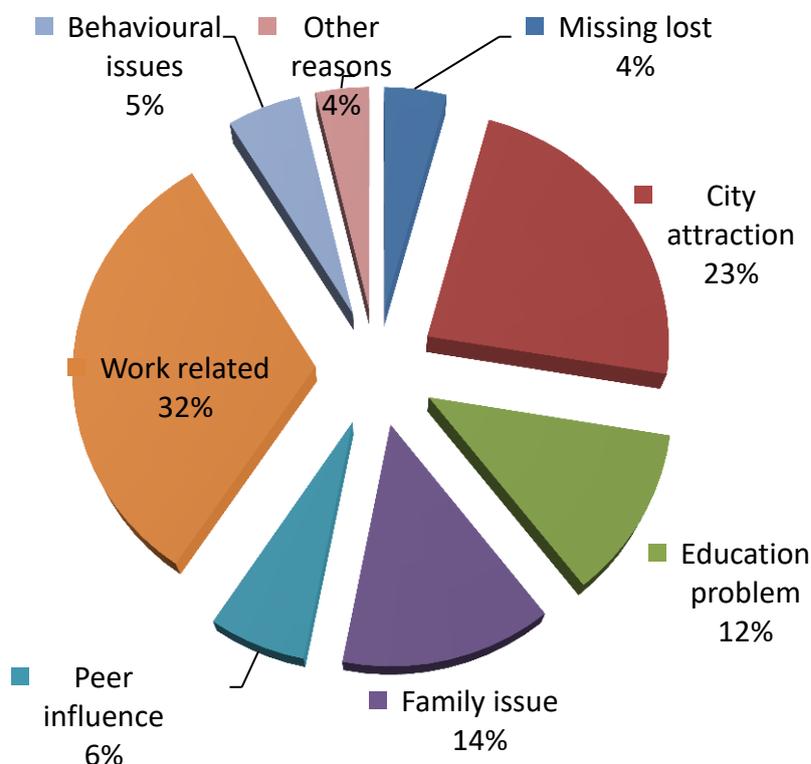
As a result of our early intervention approach, nearly 95% of the children helped are those who have been out of home for less than 1 week.

This further translates into early reunification with families and also prevention of child from prolonged exposure to risks of platform / street life.

Duration out of home	Percentage of children
Less than 1 week	95%
1 week to 1 month	3%
1 month to 3 months	1%
More than 3 months	1%

Why do the children leave home?

Among the broad categories, city attraction and work related issues constitute the highest percentage of reasons for children to leave home. Among the total number children, about 12% are children who have come for work with knowledge of parents.



The 10 most common reasons for children to leave home are:

- Came to city out of own interest
- Came to city with friends
- Desire to earn money for self
- Repeated scolding / beating
- Want to support family
- Not interested in study
- Misguided by friends
- Minor mistakes/disobeyed instructions
- Quit work & returning home
- Lost way

Select cases of children helped by SATHI in 2016-17

RPF helps rescue 11-year old Aditya

On 4th August 2016, a young boy named Aditya Rath was seen wandering alone at Berhampur railway station. Staff of Railway police force (RPF), Mr. D.E. Rao spoke to the boy. Aditya said that he was travelling to Pune to get medicines for his father. Aditya seemed to be from a well-to-do family. However, his story was not very convincing so he was brought to the Railway Police Station. SATHI and partner NGO, SOCH at Berhampur, were intimated. SATHI brought Aditya to the shelter and he revealed why he had run away. He was overburdened with his studies and wanted some relief. He got out of home to ride his bicycle when he was persuaded by a stranger to accompany him to the railway station. The young boy obliged. SATHI contacted the father and they were reunited. It was a moment of joy to see Aditya go back to the safe environment of his home.

A father who has become caring and loving towards his son

Alishan, a 12 year old boy from Bhadoi, Uttar Pradesh was found on Varanasi railway station. He lived with his father, step-mother and two brothers. All the boys studied at a Madrasa in Allahabad.

Alishan's step mother was not very fond of the boys. She would never visit the boys at the madrasa and was not even welcoming when the boys got back home. It was only the father of the boys who would visit them at the madrasa. One day when Alishan returned to home from Madrasa, his step mother did not treat him well. That day, Alishan was left to sleep outside in the cold. This was the first time Alishan ran away from home. Since then, the young boy has been repeatedly running away for his step-mother.

After repeated interactions, Alishan shared his mobile number and his father was requested to come to Sathi. Alishan's father was very happy to see his son. We shared with his father about the problem Alishan faced at home and the love and care that Alishan craved for. Father was emotional and agreed to keep his son with him. Finally, after five days of rescue, Alishan returned back to his home. We have been regularly following up with



Alishan's father and brother enquiring about Alishan. Now, the boy stays with his family and is studying in a private school near his house. His father is caring and trying to convey his love and care to the child. Step mother is kinder now. The boy too is less irritated of step-mother.

Using the Internet to Take a Mentally challenged Child Home

Monti, 117, Shakurpur was tattooed on the hands of a 10 year old who was rescued from Kanpur railway station. He was a quiet child and mostly resorted to gestures as a means of communication. The tattoo seemed like an address and the staff tried to search for Shakurpur in around various districts of Uttar Pradesh. The efforts were futile. While speaking with the child again, the staff noticed that he had another tattoo that faintly looked like the letter 'D'. It struck the team that he could belong to Delhi and they contacted the Delhi Police. It took 11 days of relentless efforts to find the boy's address. The team could contact his mother and she was relieved to hear about her son. She told the staff about her son's mental health and promised to be careful from then on. We salute the mother.

CWC finds a Runaway, Sathi Sends Him to family

Suraj was 10 years old and his mother decided he was old enough to go to the shop alone, buy vegetables and come back responsibly. So she gave him 100 rupees to buy vegetables. But alas, Suraj had other plans. He boarded a train from Delhi seeking adventure and landed in Nashik. The local police rescued him from the street and referred him to the Observation Home at Ahmednagar. Once he was transferred to Delhi, the CWC, Mayur Vihar, contacted Sathi to trace the child's parents. Suraj did not remember much. Sathi gathered from his records that he belonged to Naibasti in Paharganj, a locality in Delhi. The team took Suraj there but he could not help much. The Sathi team began its search and located Naibasti in Ghaziabad. Suraj vaguely remembered a few landmarks. Using the information they could gather, Sathi contacted the local police at Shahidabad. They, in turn, connected with Hindal Police Station. A constable, a few locals and Team Sathi's extensive search helped the boy reunite with his parents after two and half years. The parents, CWC and the locals lauded Sathi for their efforts. Suraj's father said he planned to put his son in school the following academic year.

Lost, Addicted, Reunited, an Eight –Year Ordeal

Rohan was a young boy from Assam. His family migrated to Delhi in search of work. His parents were labourers. Rohan had studied till 5th in Assam but did not continue his studies in Delhi. Left alone at home, he was bored and ran away. He moved among stations of Delhi, Allahabad, Kanpur and Varanasi. Living on the platform, Rohan was addicted to substances. Soon, he forgot his family.

Fortunately, he was rescued by railway police at Allahabad and referred to Allahbad Govt. Home. Since then he has been escaping from various Govt. Homes till he reached Kishalaya Govt. Home at West Bengal on 15th September 2014. His journey between platforms and Govt Home had exhausted him. He then had started remembering his parents. He showed interest to go home. Many NGOs and staff at Kishalaya Govt. Homes tried to trace Rohan's family but in vain. Thus, Rohan had spent 3 years at the same Govt. Home when SATHI met him.

On December 2016, Rohan was included in SATHI'S Home Orientation Camp. Initially, he would disturb and demotivate the other boys at the camp. After a week, he began participating. During one of the sessions called 'Remembering my family' Rohan had a sudden burst of emotions. He remembered his family and desperately wanted to go back home. Rohan said he was from Malda. Staff, using Google Search traced Malda to Assam. With the help of police Rohan's father was contacted. His father came with some relatives to the camp. He was very happy to meet his son after 8 years. It was 31st January 2017. The father said he had been looking for his son desperately in Delhi. The boy and his father were happy to go home. Rohan has been trying hard to get over his addiction and he keeps in touch with the camp teacher regularly.