



# CHAURAHA FOR BOYS

IN DANGEROUS AND  
DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

**Bhopal, Patna, Varanasi, Bhubaneswar,  
Mumbai, Akola, Sitamarhi**

SUPPORT AND MENTORING FOR BOYS  
ENGAGING PARENTS AND COMMUNITY  
WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT SERVICES

## CHAURAHA BOYS

## ARE VULNERABLE


Health risks, injury and exposure to brutal violence are a part of daily life for millions of boys who work in the garbage dumps, railway platforms, construction sites, mines or factories.

**Twelve year old Ramesh attends school only when he can. On most days he works as a daily wage laborer. On days when he doesn't earn he prefers to stay out with friends, fearing a beating at home. 50% of boys in India, many in situations like Ramesh's drop out of school between Class 1 and Class 8 (Times of India 2011)**

A Maharashtra based research by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (2008) found that most juveniles in conflict with law are between 16-18 years and besides trying to look after themselves are the single earning members supporting five to seven member families.

A study by Save the Children UK (2007) shows that most children resort to dangerous adaptive strategies only when they do not know any other way to survive. 97% of juvenile offences are committed as survival strategies by boys under pressure to earn.

Over 1219470 boys are in hazardous work (Census 2001). An ILO study shows that the number of adolescents in hazardous labor is increasing by 10.4% in Asia. Most this work is in urban centers in construction, mining and workshops in spaces where children cannot be found and activities can't be monitored.



मैं बड़ा होकर  
इंजिनियर बनूंगा।  
श्रीराम



# A SAFE CHILD HAS ACCESS TO SUPPORT AND SERVICES

**Safe Spaces:** Aangan runs neighborhood drop-in Youth Centers where children relax, learn, talk and do group work on risk-related themes, envisioning and planning for a different future.

**Access to Services:** Through the Chauraha GO book children identify key risk and protection factors. Plans are developed to ensure access to health, educational and other basic services including de-addiction, counseling, government schools or hospitals.

**Community and Family Connectedness** Parent meetings and community events where police, parents, neighbors, role models and potential employers interact with boys, who are typically marginalized and viewed only as “troublemakers”. Strong community linkages and collective action help them to be recognized as change-makers!

**Access to opportunities** through educational and vocational planning for child to get out of hazardous work and plan towards a different future. This includes support during planning, involvement of parents and assistance to implement initial steps.

# Aangan Youth Centers

Reaching isolated, out of school boys, in hazardous work, engaging in dangerous behavior

The Center is a space to enjoy childhood and dream of a different future

Mentoring and planning for children

Group workshops on themes like drugs, peer pressure and negotiation

Community events for parents and adults to interact with boys in a positive manner



# GROUP & INDIVIDUAL WORK with CHILDREN

Ready for Change:  
Peer Leader  
Training

Emergency  
Numbers: A  
Neighborhood  
Campaign

Drugs, peer  
pressure, decision  
making and other  
group work

A Planning tool  
for boys to chart  
their own course



A photograph showing a yellow JCB backhoe loader in a large pile of garbage. A man in a white shirt and grey trousers stands to the left of the machine, looking towards it. The background shows some trees and a building under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent blue box at the top of the image.

# Bringing change at Community and Individual Level

## **Building Pride: how Wadala children got the city to do its job**

Sickened by the piles of garbage that create a health hazard for the community, children in Wadala mobilized to force the BMC to do their job. A signature campaign got the community's support; armed with that and photographs as evidence, children approached the Municipal Corporation.

The very next day, the bulldozers and trucks arrived!



In a study by Aangan 2009, more than 60% boys believed they would have liked to access an adult with whom they could discuss important matters related to education, relationships and career, but rarely or never did so.

CHAURAHA ENSURES FAMILY INVOLVEMENT AND HELPS CHILDREN ACCESS COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

## ENGAGING PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

In order to rehabilitate and educate marginalized youth effectively, family and community must become full partners in the process (Sanders and Epstein 2001)



## Examples of Parent Support

Supporting parents

Facilitating school admissions

Facilitating difficult conversations

Linking parents with services



# ACTIVATING GOVERNMENT SERVICES



## **Working with Education Officers:**

After Aangan did a survey with 103 boys in Bhopal to understand educational levels and vocational interests, the education officer is getting them re-admitted/admitted into school.

## **Four Juvenile Justice Boards**

in Patna, Mumbai, Varanasi assign social workers for supervision after children leave Observation homes to ensure effective reintegration

## **Facilitating Dialogue with police**

In eleven neighborhoods of Mumbai, Bhopal, Varanasi and Patna, local police, boys and communities overcome a traditionally tense and adversarial relationship to begin trusting each other.

