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**COMPLETE REHABILITATION OF THE UNDERPRIVILEGED - A
CASE STUDY OF WAGHOLI EDUCATIONAL REHABILITATION
CENTRE OF BJS IN PUNE, INDIA**

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Abstract

Our Indian society today aspires to ensure better living standards to its citizens by progressing towards becoming a developed nation. Education is the only tool to bring about social change and contribute towards a bright future of its citizens. Till the time education does not reach the marginalized section of the society, the progress of our nation will remain a distant dream. This paper elaborates on the contribution of BJS an NGO towards complete rehabilitation of the children from disaster hit areas as a long term project. BJS has taken the responsibility of giving complete shelter and educational assistance of the children for their bright future. It is a qualitative case study where themes emerged through coding of the data through a grounded theory approach. The objective of this paper is to investigate the establishment of Wagholi Educational Rehabilitation Centre (WERC) for the purpose of complete rehabilitation of children and to explore the activities for complete rehabilitation .The Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana focused on holistic development of the underprivileged children primarily on their psychosocial development as they have faced trauma in life and needs to adjust to the new environment at this tender age. After that the focus is on education and personality enhancement to make them confident and self reliant and prepare them for a bright future.

Introduction

Our Indian society today aspires to ensure better living standards to its citizens by progressing towards becoming a developed nation. In the 21st century our nation aspires to strengthen democracy based on secular and liberal traditions and ensure inclusive development. Inclusive development is only possible if education reaches all sections of the society and all regions of the country, the purpose is to narrow the rural- urban divide. India also aspires to be a technologically advanced and knowledge driven country, it also aspires to develop as a strong economic power for which education system shall have to be restructured. Till the time education does not reach the marginalized section of the society, the progress of our nation will remain a distant dream.

There are an estimated 25 million children out of school in India (MHRD 2003 statistics, cited in World Bank, 2004), many of whom are marginalized by factors such as poverty, gender, disability, caste, religion etc. The idea of inclusive education is certainly highly relevant to our current condition, where differences in religion, faith, gender, ethnicity and ability are often seen as a threat rather than a source of richness and diversity.

“Every society that values social justice and is anxious to improve the lot of the common man and cultivate all available talent must ensure progressive equality of opportunity to all sections of the population. This is the only guarantee for the building up of an egalitarian and human society in which the exploitation of the weak will be minimized” (The Education Commission, GOI, 1966. 108)

Background of the Study

According to the report of the National Sample Survey Office NSSO (2014), 32 million Indian children of age up to 13 years have never attended any school, the majority of them belonging to the socially disadvantaged class.

There are many NGOs and the government organizations are carrying out commendable work in the sphere of educating the underprivileged, whether in the capacity of training teachers, creating infrastructure or initiating informal models of education.

There are multiple entities at play, and it is of utmost importance to invest in the future of these children. Education is the prime way through which the underprivileged can escape the vicious cycle of poverty.

Government collaboration with NGOs in the educational sector can make a significant impact.

Organizations that work for the socio-economic development of the underprivileged must be recognized and fuelled with appropriate funds to optimize their endeavors.

The key to reforming the education sector for the underprivileged lies in partnerships and collaborations with all agencies. Through this, progress will be fast-tracked, effective and will produce concrete results.

Several NGOs are working in the areas of Primary Education, Secondary Education, Higher Education, Non Formal Education, Adult Education, Computer Education, Skill Development, Vocational Education, Technical Education, Traditional Education, Rural Education, and Education for Minorities by serving the needs and causes. Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS) is a Non Government organization working for social cause with its area of work spread across the

length and breadth of our country. It is one of the very few organizations working for educational rehabilitation of the children from the disaster hit areas.

This paper elaborates on the contribution of BJS towards complete rehabilitation of the children from disaster hit areas as a long term project. BJS has taken the responsibility of giving complete shelter and educational assistance of the children for their bright future.

Need of the Study

- The society needs to be aware of the active work done by the BJS in the field of rehabilitation as a disaster response strategy.
- The complete rehabilitation of the underprivileged children with a vision of holistic development and the long term support given by the BJS with its hostel facility needs to be understood.
- The society should understand the result oriented work of BJS by rehabilitation of the children and providing them a bright future.
- BJS has rehabilitated children of farmers who committed suicide in the rural areas of Maharashtra, children from earthquake hit areas and also tribal children. Such unique contribution of the organization should be showcased, so that other organizations are encouraged to contribute for such noble cause.

Statement of the Problem

A case study of the Wagholi Educational Rehabilitation Centre in Pune, highlighting its contribution towards complete rehabilitation of underprivileged children from the disaster hit areas.

Definitions of Key Terms

Case Study

Conceptual Definition

It is an empirical inquiry that investigates contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context; when the boundaries between the phenomenon and context are not evident and in which multiple sources of evidence are used. (Yin,1994)

Operational Definition

An indepth study of the development of WERC and all its activities related to complete rehabilitation of the underprivileged children.

Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS) Pune

Operational Definition

It is a Non Government organisation established in Pune with a vision and mission of holistic development of the society. It's head office is located at Senapati Bapat Road Pune. It is running various educational institutions and rehabilitation centre in Pune and all over Maharashtra. The

main WERC campus at Wagholi has WERC hostel and BJS school which cater to the educational rehabilitation work of the BJS. They organize various social and educational activities for the upliftment of the underprivileged section of society and the Jain minority.

Complete Rehabilitation

Operational Definition

The complete responsibility of catering to the basic needs along with providing psychological, educational, social and overall support to the underprivileged children from the disaster hit areas.

Objectives of the Study

- To investigate the establishment of Wagholi Educational Rehabilitation Centre (WERC) for the purpose of complete rehabilitation of children.
- To explore the activities for complete rehabilitation at WERC.

Population

All the human resources involved with the rehabilitation work of BJS – The founder, committee members, programme head, children, parents and rectors are the population of the study.

Delimitation

- The study is delimited to the rehabilitation activities at WERC only.
- The tools are prepared by the researcher and not standardized in the study.

Limitation

- The findings are based on the responses of the participants.
- The findings are also based on the secondary data provided in the websites and documents.

Research Questions

1) How was WERC set up and established itself for the purpose of complete rehabilitation of the children from disaster affected areas?

2) What activities for Complete Rehabilitation are conducted at the institutes of BJS?

- What activities for psychosocial development conducted at WERC?
- What activities for Academic development conducted at WERC?
- What activities for Personality enhancement conducted at WERC?

Research Methodology

Yin, R.K.(1984,p.23) defines the case study research method as an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real life context when the boundaries

between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident, and in which multiple sources of evidence are used.

A case study is indepth exploration of bounded system (events, activities, processes) based on extensive data gathered.

The present study is a qualitative case study to get a detailed understanding of the contribution made by BJS – A non government organization in the field of long term rehabilitation of the underprivileged children from the disaster affected areas. The present study is a Case study as a single social unit is considered for the study and a holistic description within the boundaries of the unit is established.

The study is an Institutional Case Study which addresses a phenomenon (program/activity) in the study which is Complete Rehabilitation. The phenomena is studied in the natural setting.

Case Study Design

Case studies are particularistic, descriptive and heuristic research where the design depends on what the researcher wants to know. In a Case Study research the hypothesis can arrive in the end which becomes the output of the research conducted.

The study is Exploratory in nature as it explores the phenomena in depth and its various elements. The focus is on the ‘What’ aspect. The researcher had to spend long time on the site to identify themes or categories of behaviour and events rather than test hypothesis or prove relationships. (Yin, 1984)

Data Collection Technique

Since Case study research has a flexible and open ended technique of data collection and analysis, in the study data is collected from multiple sources for authenticity of the findings.

Primary data- Semi structured Interview Schedule of Founder, Project Officer, Hostel Manager, Medical officer.

Open ended Questionnaire of Rectors

Secondary Data- Website data, BJS report and Newspaper clippings.

The WERC Hostel Facilities and functioning aspects are considered from the point of view of Holistic development of the children. These key aspects guided in preparing the tools for data collection. The tools are validated by a team of experts in the field of education and their suggestions are considered in preparing the final draft of the tools.

Sampling

Flick (2009) suggested that individuals are selected as participants owing to their relevance to the research topic, the data is collected till it reaches a Saturation point and no new information can be attained.

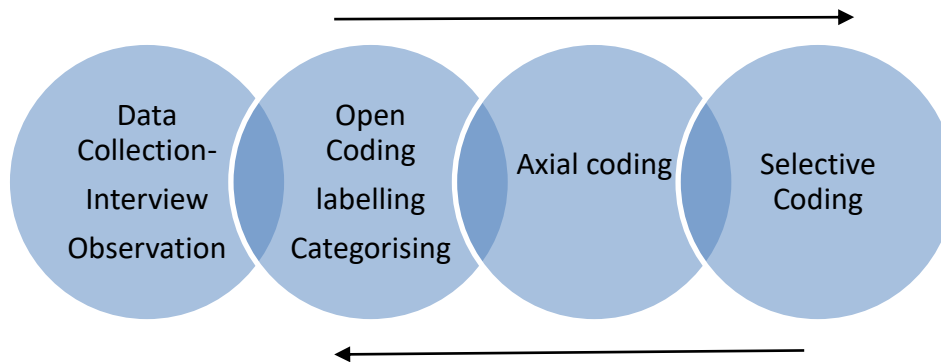
The researcher did sampling in order to deepen the understanding of the phenomena of Complete Rehabilitation, so the main purpose is to collect cases, events, actions which assist in it.

Purposive sampling is done to get different perspectives on the objectives of study. Five rectors are selected by this technique for the study.

Data Analysis Procedure-

Coding of the data is done and Constant Comparative analysis is carried out to develop common pattern or themes in the study to create descriptive knowledge. This is an inductive approach where human phenomenon is understood in the context by comparing the data and common pattern and themes are developed. (Thorne, S. 1999, p64).

Theoretical Sampling & Memo writing



Constant Comparison

Fig1 : Stages of coding

The present study follows a linear analytical structure to develop the report.

Findings

Objective 1

- **About Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS)**

BJS has been working for the social cause since 1985 in the areas to improve girl child ratio, mass marriage, disaster management and education in our nation. BJS is a Non- profit, Non Political, registered Organization with a nationwide presence. The main mission of BJS is to collectively contribute towards national building through the holistic development of the society. The founder MrShantilalMuttha is recipient of many National awards.

(About Founder ,n.d)

- **Basic Information on Rehabilitation**

BJS has the enviable legacy of responding to Natural calamities and disasters of gigantic magnitude in an ever alert, and effective manner. BJS has worked for disaster response in many places as mentioned in Table I below

Table I Places of Disaster Response Work of BJS

S.No	Location	Year	Task Done	No. of Children Rehabilitated
1.	Latur Earthquake- Maharashtra	1993	Rehabilitation	1200 Boys
2.	Jabalpur Earthquake- Madhya Pradesh	1996	Rehabilitation	56 Boys
3.	Orphans & Tribals	1998 onwards	Rehabilitation	350 Boys
4.	Maharashtra drought	2013 & 2016	Rehabilitation	536 (Girls+ Boys)

(Source- Website BJS India.org)

The details of the rehabilitation work is mentioned in BJS website, reports and also mentioned by the founder in the interview. 14,417 disadvantaged children have in total passed from the WERC. The children of suicide farmers are rehabilitated from the Maharashtra drought hit areas since 2016 in phases. At the time of study the WERC had children from Maharashtra drought hit areas and tribal region.

- **Need for Complete Rehabilitation**

The BJS understood that Rehabilitation of the children from disaster affected areas needs to be done in totality in order to provide them a bright future. Education is the only means to give a secure future to these children. Educational Rehabilitation is only possible if initially the basic needs of the children like food, clothing and shelter are fulfilled and psychological support is given to the children to deal with the trauma. Then only the educational and overall personality development of the children is possible.

- **Set up of Wagholi Educational Rehabilitation Centre**

To find a permanent solution Wagholi Educational Rehabilitation Centre was set up on 10 acres land with 280000 sq. ft. educational complex with the assistance of State government and world bank. A well planned building with all facilities like hostel, mess, laboratory, library, rooms is set up to accommodate more than 1000 students.

- **Objective behind establishing WERC**

WERC was inaugurated on Nov 29, 1998 by former Chief Minister of Maharashtra Mr Manohar Joshi and the children were shifted there from Pimpri temporary establishment with a mission of holistic development of children . Free education from 5th standard upto graduation was provided to students at the BJS school and college set up at the same premises. Children were given free lodging, boarding, medical facilities and disaster management training facility. (Rescue, relief, n.d.)

“ 1200 children affected by Latur earthquake proved themselves in every possible aspect of their life and made best out of every small opportunity throughout these 25 years , nothing has been

more fulfilling than seeing these kids grow and excel in their chosen paths” as quoted by Mr. Shantilal Mutha

The Project manager also gave the details about the set up of WERC and the objective behind its setup. Similar details were found on the website of BJS.

Objective 2

Table II Findings related to Objective 2

Category	Theme	Sub Theme	Findings/ Quotations
Complete Rehabilitation- WERC	Basic Needs		Basic utility items- school uniform, stationery etc given free of cost as told by Hostel Manager Most Parents are daily wage workers(Project Manager Interview)
	Psychosocial Development	Emotional Adjustment - Resilience	Children who have seen suicide in their family are 33% more prone to suicide(WERC Report) Prime focus is on adjustment of these children remarks Hostel Manager in Interview.
		Strategy for Counseling - Project Manthan	Problematic children identified and counseled by team of doctors. Positive results of project are seen in children (Manthan Report)
		Creating Comfortable Environment	Rectors mentioned it is difficult to read minds of children so they are not left alone and encouraged and bullying handled properly in hostel.
		Activities for Well being	Activities- Yoga, meditation (Observation) Students are fond of Yoga(Hostel Manager)
		Heart Wrenching Experience	Incidents of Suicide attempts in hostel as told by Project Manager.
	Academic Growth	Supervised Schedule	Disciplined routine followed, supervised study by rectors , General Knowledge test every month, academic support by school-(Rectors)
		Self Motivation	Boarders prepare own schedule and assist each other in Home work
		Reduction in drop outs	Rate has reduced to 70% in last three years (Records- WERC)
		Academic Issues	Few untrained Rectors, No Coaching for competitive exams and Career guidance, difficulty in English subject
		Future Prospects	Indira Institute, Talensetu Foundation, MIT Aurangabad adopted Boarders for higher education as told by Hostel Manager
	Personality Enhancement	Confidence building	Great personalities visited WERC and inspired children with encouraging speech.

			Student's outstation visit to Mumbai(Source- Social Media & website)
		Self reliance	Involve in Sharma karya, Self work in premises , sewing for girls, 72 minister cabinet formed as told by Hostel Manager
		Value Education	Evening Prayer, Tree plantation drive, temple visits (Source- Observation)
		Physical Development	Two hours outdoor games in evening (Source- Observation) and school competitions participation
		Creativity	Nai Khoj room activities, competitions – Mehndi, essay, Poster, Paani foundation events organized
		All round development	Chaitanya 16 Annual gathering of WERC (source- event Website)
	Unique Achievements	Events	Gold Medal at national & State level Co curricular activities-(source- Website & Project Manager Interview)

Interpretation and Discussions

Kalra(2019) in an explanatory study identified that Non government organizations are playing a very critical role in the process of managing development initiatives of various kinds at the rural level. NGOs have been constantly working day-in and day-out to solve various problems concerning children, women, environment etc. WERC has fulfilled the basic needs of these rehabilitated children by providing best quality nutritious meals, shelter, clothing and daily need items free of cost and the founder has never refused for any facility for them. The number of boarders in each room should be reduced. The staff initially worked towards life skill enhancement, resilience and better emotional adjustment especially with children of farmers who committed suicide, before improving their academic levels. Project Manthan with a team of doctors had a positive impact on those children who were emotionally unstable and were unable to cope up with the tragedy at home. Rectors supported these children by closely monitoring their activities as these children were more prone to suicides. These children were always involved in various tasks so that they don't get time to think about their past. Daily Meditation and Yoga helped in improving their emotional well being. More trained and experienced rectors are required to handle these children.

Varied exposure like visits, cabinet set up, evening prayers, outdoors helped in personality enhancement of the students. The boarders and ex boarders were involved in Shramdaan activities for water conservation helped in involving the children in community development and developing in them a sense of responsibility for the society. The personality traits are shaped by the social exposure and person's ability to grasp from the external world. Life skills help individual to behave appropriately to the situation. (Yadav & Iqbal, 2009).

It is observed that the frequency of outdoor visits is very less. Annual event- Chaitanya 16 is organized with great enthusiasm by the children and has a value based approach. The school dropout rate has also reduced significantly over the years. The staff applies need based approach

to tackle issues related to the boarders. The avenue of vocational training and career guidance should be improved at the centre for giving a better future to the boarders which is the vision of BJS.

The hostel life has deep impact on the behavior of the child by making them punctual, confident, emotionally strong and enhances management skills in them. Hostel life also moulds the child's personality by making them more goal oriented, realistic, and self reliant. (Yadav & Iqbal, 2009).

Conclusion

The Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana focused on holistic development of the underprivileged children primarily on their psychosocial development as they have faced trauma in life and needs to adjust to the new environment at this tender age. After that the focus is on education and personality enhancement to make them confident and self reliant. The main purpose is to mould the children so that they can emerge as capable and responsible citizens of the society. They were given an environment which made them capable to face the challenges of the present era of global transformation.

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