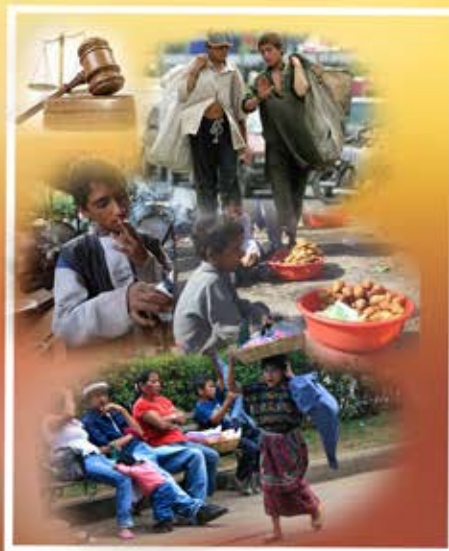


PUTHUYUGAM

PIONEER-PATHFINDER-PRACTITIONER and
PROPELLER to PROGRESS

A process document of decade long experiences
of the journey in association with
Children in need of Care and Protection

Dr.I.Sebastian M.A.,M.B.A.,Ph.D
Founder & Executive Director.



Documentation by
Dr.K.G.Umashankar
Development Consultant



VISION STATEMENT

Kingdom of Brotherhood where equality and justice reign. Everyone's right is respected and equal opportunity is provided to all.

MISSION STATEMENT

In participation with the grass root level people St. Joseph's Development Trust seeks to serve the weaker sections of the society such as the women, children, & youth and irrespective of caste, creed or religion. Also it offers them the equal opportunities to develop their potentials towards self-sustained life.

VISION OF A EMPOWERED SOCIETY

Kingdom
of Brotherhood
where equality and
social justice reign.

Everyone's rights are
respected and equal
opportunity is provided
to all.

EXISTING SOCIAL ORDER

A small
percentage of
rich and ruling class
who control and exploit
most of the resources.

Proportionally a small percentage
of service persons paid by the rich
ruling class to serve their interests and
to maintain the status qua.

Large poor population survive out of scarce
resources and suffer oppression, exploitation & debased
of opportunity.

PROCESS OF EMPOWERMENT

Challenge
them for
conversion to
share resources and
give opportunity to the poor

Challenge them to provide services
to the poor so as to enable them to
obtain equal opportunity.

Get the poor to hold themselves to a higher
standard. Assist them in adopting new empowering
beliefs that enable them to break through their old
limitation. Pack them with specific skills & strategies
necessary for lifelong success.

St. Joseph's Development Trust



PUTHUYUGAM

**PIONEER-PATHFINDER-PRACTITIONER and
PROPELLER to PROGRESS**

A process document of decade long experiences of the journey in association
with children in need of Care and Protection

Documentation by
Dr.K.G.Umashankar
Development Consultant

ST.JOSEPH'S DEVELOPMENT TRUST
A Centre for Development Activities
Genguvarpatti-625 203.
Periyakulam Taluk.
Theni District.

Message For You

A Word from the Executive Director	03
1. The Begining-The Pioneer	04
2. The Pathfinding Process and Practices	08
3. The Hands that Join-With us in the Journey.....	15
4. The Propeller to Progress we are Valued.....	16
5. Made for the Unit and the Home.....	18
6. The Stakeholders Speak.....	20
7. A Word to Conclude	24

A Word from the Executive Director

SJDT reaching out to the most vulnerable children (Juvenile Delinquents) over 20 years. Increasing complexity of modern life and the stresses of under development and poverty upon societies in transitional phases has increased the vulnerability of children. The concept of child rights has also evolved from basic concept of protection to a more encompassing and much broader spectrum of physical and psychological needs. It now includes rights that guarantees the survival, protection, development and participation which in turn can further encompass right to adequate living conditions access to medical services, right to education, accesses to information, play, leisure, recreation, cultural activities and the freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The right to be protected from all kinds of exploitation cruelty and abuse. Moreover all undertakings concerning children whether by public or private institutions the child's interest shall be the major consideration.

The problem facing children differ in the case of developing countries such as India. Population struggling with poverty the issues is of survival. Adequate food and health care and basic education are most pressing needs of these children. The survival struggle for children starts at very moment of its conception. The fetus faces two types of abuses. One in morbidity and feticide escaping this then the child faces death due to low birth weight, malnutrition and poor delivery mechanism. diarrhea, neonatal tetanus and acute respiratory infections continue to be the biggest killers and iodine deficiency a major threat to the mental and physical well being of millions of children. Escaping these killer diseases the children now a days face another set of new threats such as HIV and Hepatitis.

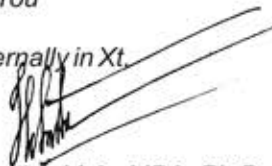
Following these challenges then come the struggle for accesses to quality education. It is during this time the fleeing private educational Institutions and tempting middle men for child labor market came as a major threat. Thus many children end up in adult world doing adult job.

A very weak legal system failed to provide protection to these children. Though there are laws that prevent child trafficking, child labor, child marriage, and child abuse ect. But yet many children still fall prey victims to these monsters.

SJDT started to work with these victims 20 years ago and still continue to work with them. This book gives you glimpse of what we have done to the children who come in conflict with law. Let me sincerely thank all these who supported us in this endeavor.

Thanking You

Yours fraternally in Xt,



Dr. I. Sebastian M.A., MBA., Ph.D.




1.



THE BEGINING - THE PIONEER

It was during 1995 St.Joseph's Development Trust incepted a study on the status and causes of street children in the district of Dindigul. This was a pioneering attempt made by a development organisation in the region as the children are found to be at more risk,vulnerable and exposed to various forms of labour and exploitation.

There was increasing demand for care and protection of children in the city of Dindigul where in Dindigul is also the district headquarters surrounded by three major industries,namely: textiles, leather tanneries and steel boxes and lock making units in large numbers.These units prefer to employ children in-order to extract more work and pay less than the prescribed minimum wages.The vulnerability of children in the district especially in the city of Dindigul is gaining momentum and has lead to the postulation that the children need care and protection and also education on a varied and strategic fashion and passion. Before we get into the details we need to have a bird's eye view of Dindigul is very essential.



Children are not the people of tomorrow,but are people of today. They have a right to be taken seriously, and to be treated with tenderness and respect.They should be allowed to grow into whoever they were meant to be.'The unknown person' inside each of them is our hope for the future.
- Janusz Korczak

The History

Dindigul district was carved out of the composite Madurai District on 15.09.1985 and the first District Collector was Thiru.M.Madhavan Nambiar I.A.S.Dindigul District had the names of Dindigul Anna, Quaid-e-Milleth and Mannar Thirumalai.

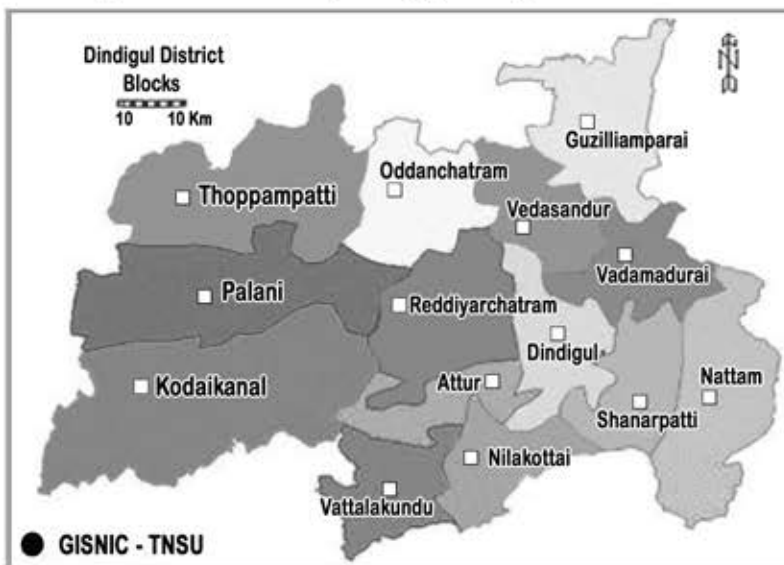
Dindigul, which was under the rule of the famous Muslim Monarch, Tippusultan, has a glorious past. The historical Rock Fort of this district was constructed by the famous Naik King Muthukrishnappa Naicker. It is located between 10005" and 100 9" North Latitude and 77030" and 78020" East Longitude. This district is bound by Erode,Coimbatore,Karur and Trichy districts on the North, by Sivagangai and Tiruchi District on the east, by Madurai district on the south and by Theni and Coimbatore Districts and Kerala State on the west. It is spread over an area of 6266.64 Sq.Km.It comprises of 3 Revenue Divisions,8 Taluks and 14 Panchayat Unions. According to 2001 Census,its population is 19,23,014.

For a long time, Dindigul town has been associated with Iron locks, Iron safe of good quality and durability. A lock manufacturing unit under co-operative sector is functioning here. Another industry for which Dindigul is noted is Leather Tanning. This district is having a flourishing handloom industry at Chinnalapatti, which is located at 11 Kms away from Dindigul on the Madurai-Dindigul road. Art-Silk saris and Sungudi saris produced in Chinnalapatti are famous through out India. More than 1000 families are engaged in this Industry. Dindigul city which is an important wholesale market for Onion and Groundnut has the network of inter-district roads connecting Coimbatore, Erode, Tiruchi, Karur, Madurai

Educationally, Dindigul is a well developed and popular city. It has got many High and Higher Secondary Schools to its credit. St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, a well disciplined Institution is one of the oldest institutions in this city. This district has the credit of having two universities, viz, Mother Theresa University for Women at Kodaikanal and Gandhigram Rural Deemed University at Gandhigram. Also a number of Engineering Colleges, Arts & Science Colleges, Polytechnics, ITIs are available through - out the district.

The district is privileged to have one of the "Six Celebrated Hill Abodes of "Lord Muruga" at Palani Hills, where the famous Dhandayudhapani Temple is situated on the hilly rock at a height of about 450 mts. Thousands of pilgrims come down to this holy temple every day particularly during festival days, like "Thaipooosam, Adi-kruthigai, Panguni Uthiram, Sura-samharam, Vaikasi-visagam and monthly karthigai". Provision of three Electric Winches and Rope Car are unique features of this temple. It facilitates the aged, children and the disabled to reach the temple in 8 minutes. The income of the temple which is the largest in the state is growing year by year. Besides this famous Murugan Temple,

is also another Murugan Temple at Thirumalaikeni, 25 Km away from Dindigul town which is becoming a growing pilgrim centre. Abirami Amman temple in Dindigul town and Raja Kaliamma Temple at Thethupatti 20 Km away from Dindigul are the other important Temples which attract thousands of pilgrims. Kodaikanal, a popular Summer Resort, located at an altitude of 2133 meters in Western Ghats is the " Princess of Hill Stations".



A notable feature of this Hillock is "Kurinji" flowers blooming once in 12 years. Peranai and Sirumalai are the two fine picnic spots of this district. There are Nine dams viz., Palar, Porundalar, Varathamathi, Kuthiraiaru in Palani Block, Maruthanathi, Kamarajar Sagar in Athoor Block, Parappalar and Nanganchiar in Oddanchatram Block, Mavoor in Nilakottai Block, Kudaganar in Vadasandur Block augment irrigation facilities to agricultural fields in this district. Nilakottai town is famous for the brass vessels and jewellery. Nilakottai taluk is famous for growing and marketting of flowers and grapes.

Oddanchatram is a noted market Centre for vegetables. Batlagundu is an important market Centre for Tomato. Pattiveeranpatti in Batlagundu Block is famous for Cardamom and Coffee curing enterprises.

Hence, the study revealed that there is a pressing need for care and protection of the street children who are found in sizable numbers and also in equal proportion of child labour in the locality. And that incepting an observation home for these children who are in need of care and protection was incepted in 1997. Thus the PUTHUYUGAM home for the street and working children came into existence.

To gain legitimacy, the St. Joseph's Development Trust applied for registration under the Department of Social Welfare - Nutritious Noon Meal Programme of Government of Tamilnadu. The government approved the inception of the home wide under the order stated as follows: G.O.306/dt/27.07.1997. The journey was about for 5 years and then when the Juvenile Justice Act (Care and Protection of Children) 2000 was passed in 2000 an upward movement was made by PUTHUYUGAM to become a regular home for boys and girls and hence the legal process was started and got concluded with an government order as :GO 24 / dt /19.08.2002 with the new face look of PUTHUYUGAM Children's Home for Boys and Girls along with the Reception Unit under the rules of Act came into existence. The home got registered also started to receive the support and also recognized as one of the fit institutions to admit children between the age group of 6 to 12 years.

Thus, it is evident that there is every possibility of the children to be at risk either in one or other form of the following:

- * Exposed to work and become child labour as there are different kinds of industries found all around the district.
- * Pilgrimage and picnic centres force to work and make to have a taste of the flavor of money and if not easily available lead to do small thefts and other unwanted activities which makes them to move to the risk and vulnerable situation.
- * Parents go to work and no care and attention at home, left out alone at home and come to streets and engage in unwanted works leading to become street children and also get motivated by others who migrate from neighbouring districts and engage in small works and become troublesome for both the family and the society.
- * Since there is every possibility of people coming from different cultural background and be together and have easy access to all kinds of activities of those kinds which is not in the dimension of their development and hence there is a risk of these children to get in to the practice of drug use and other unhealthy practices especially by the street children.

The major contributing factors for this situation are termed to be four E's which is expressed as: The lack of these four elements termed to be the root cause for the children to be at risk.



Puthuyugam got the privilege of being the reception unit as it had the proven track record and experience in working with the children in need of care and protection. Since the Dindigul district is noted to be one of the high risk areas the Child Welfare Committee was also formed and started functioning in the premises of PUTHUYUGAM where the Reception Unit was also inbuilt.

As per the amendments made to the act and the changes in the rules, PUTHUYUGAM went a step ahead to get recognized and to continue the process with a new order from the Government of Tamilnadu termed as: GO:58/dt/ 12.04.2012.

Thus with this background the PUTHUYUGAM Children's Home of Boys and Girls and Reception Unit started functioning in Dindigul.

The Juvenile Justice(Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 - Amended in 2006 and 2011 and the rules of the act are the guiding principles for the care and protection of children and also the children with conflict of law.

2.

THE PATHFINDING PROCESS AND PRACTICES

The **PUTHUYUGAM** Children's Home for Boys and Girls and Reception Unit has set itself as an example by adhering to the norms as established in the act.

To take into account what the act says about the various norms that are non-negotiable in the context of a reception unit are read as follows:

THE TAMILNADU JUVENILE JUSTICE(CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN)RULES,2001in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 68 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act,2000 [Central Act 56 of 2000], the Governor of Tamil Nadu is hereby makes the following rules.

42.Reception Unit

(1)There shall be a "Reception Unit" in every Children's Home which shall take care of children, pending enquiries by Child Welfare Committee.

(2) Admission of children in the Children's Home shall be made by the Child Welfare Committee. No children shall be admitted in the institution without a formal order from the Child Welfare Committee. Provided that a child can also be admitted in the institution round the clock by a formal requisition made by the persons who are empowered to produce child before the Child Welfare Committee till such time the child is produced before the committee at the earliest not exceeding six hours,excluding journey time or in exceptional cases on the next working day.

Provided further a child may also produce himself for being admitted in the institution and on such occasion the officer-in-charge of the institution shall record such information with two witnesses from the Children's Home with identification marks of the child, approximate age of the child and shall admit and thereafter, the officer-in-charge of the Children's Home shall produce the child before the Competent Authority and obtain the placement order.

(3) The officer-in-charge of the institution shall not dispose off the admitted child in the institution in any manner without the consent of the Child Welfare Committee.

(4) No girl child during admission shall be subjected to scrutiny and check-up by any male staff of the institution.

(5) Every girl child shall be subjected to Medical Examination within 24 Hours of her admission by a lady Medical Officer either by the Govt.Doctors or by the panel of approved lady doctors maintained in the institution.

(6) Every child on admission shall be kept in the Reception Unit till such time the enquiry related to the child is disposed by the Child Welfare Committee.

(7) The Reception Unit shall be kept incharge of a Child Welfare Officer who shall be responsible for the following activities:-

a).The officer shall arrange for eliciting information from the child or shall initiate intake procedure with the help of a Counsellor, Psychologist, Social Worker as the case may be.

b).The child shall be given orientation about the institutional activities.

c). The profile of the child should be prepared and the photograph of the child shall be taken immediately for record purpose.

d).The personal belongings of the child shall be kept in the safe custody of the of the officer-in-charge of the institution after recording in the relevent register and records.

e).The officer-in-charge of the Reception Unit shall arrange for the process of investigation relating to the

background of the child by way of Social Enquiry Report. The Social Enquiry Report shall be prepared by the Probation Officer and shall be submitted to the Child Welfare Committee directly in a sealed cover. The Social Enquiry Report is confidential in nature.

f).The Officer-in-charge shall also arrange for psychological counselling and guidance, special report from the professionals like Psychologist, Psychiatrist etc.,

g).In case of receiving any report, either from the Medical Officer or from the Social Worker or Psychologist, or Psychiatrist that a child is abused either physically or sexually the Officer-in-charge shall refer such information to the Child Welfare Committee which shall take into cognisance of the report and arrange for further enquiry.

(8) During their stay in the Reception Unit, the children shall be provided with adequate opportunities for:-

a).Yoga, Meditation and Physical Exercises.

b).Opportunities to play and relax, recreational facilities, cultural programmes among children, non formal education, creative learning etc.,

43.Disposition of children from Reception Unit.

(1) Children in the Reception Unit shall be discharged from the Reception Unit on the orders of the Child Welfare Committee. The Child Welfare Committee may order that:-

a).The child shall be restored to the care of parents or relatives as per the orders of Child Welfare Committee; or

b).The child shall be shifted to the regular unit of the Children's Home for further developmental activities of the child; or

c).The child shall be transferred to a similar Children's Home or a Shelter Home or a fit institution or under the care of fit person; or

d).If a child belongs to some other State/District, the child shall be transferred to the respective Child Welfare Committee for further enquiry and disposition.

44.Transfer/Escorts:-

(1) The transfer of a child to any of the Children's Home or Shelter Home in other state shall be made within a week of the orders of the Child Welfare Committee and in case shall be completed within 30 days by arranging proper escorts.

(2) The transfer of children shall be given effect by a travel document issued by the Officer-in-Charge of the institution. Escorting of children shall be made either by the staff of the Department of Social Defence, or from the panel of volunteers drawn from Non Governmental Organisations or from the community and duly approved by the Director of Social Defence. In this connection the Director of Social Defence shall maintain a panel of volunteers who will be willing to act as escorts.

(3) The staff of the Department of Social Defence or the volunteers who shall be engaged in escorting the children shall be entitled to receive T.A & D.A. as applicable to group C Officers of the State Government which is fixed from time to time.

(4) Girl child shall be escorted by female staff accompanied by a male staff in order to provide security to the girl child and female staff.

36.Procedure to be followed in respect of newly admitted children:-

1) There shall be a Reception Unit in each Special Home under the charge of a child Welfare Officer or a Social Worker.

2) Newly admitted child shall be admitted in the Reception Unit, for a period of fifteen days. The Child Welfare Officer may extend the period till such time the child is treated for infectious diseases or addiction to drugs etc., or to complete a detailed study of the child in conflict with law.

(3) Before admitting into the Reception Unit, the Officer-in-Charge of the Special Home shall verify the placement order and satisfy that the Competent Authority signs the document and the seal affixed. The other details relating to age, sex, identification marks, offence committed etc., shall be verified and confirmed that the person brought to the Special Home is the real person whose details are tallied with the entries.

(4) The following procedure shall also be followed in respect of the newly admitted children:-

- (a) Receiving and search in the reception unit.
- (b) Hair-cut (unless prohibited by religion), issue of toiletry items.
- (c) Disinfecting and storing of child's personal belongings and other valuables.
- (d) Bath.
- (e) Issue of new set of clothes, bedding and other outfit and equipment (as per rules and scales).
- (f) Medical examination and treatment, where necessary.
- (g) Attending to immediate and urgent needs of the child such as interviews, letter to parent(s), personal problems etc.,

(5) The Child Welfare Officer shall during the period of observation in the Reception Unit, problems etc., orient the children besides assessing the personality traits of the child. Orientation shall be on the following lines:-

- (a) The concept of institutionalization, institutional discipline, standards of behavior etc.,
- (b) Rules and regulations to be followed.
- (c) Orientation on Child Rights and the responsibility of the child to ensure the Rights within the institution frame.
- (d) Health and hygiene.
- (e) Self-improvement opportunities and participatory role of children in the institutional activities.
- (f) Duties, responsibilities and obligation during their period of stay.

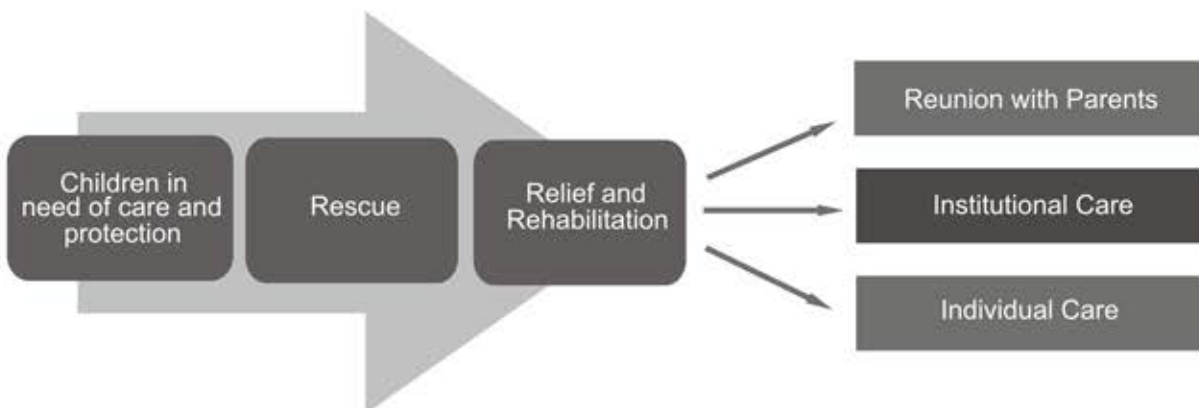
(6) The Child Welfare Officer shall concentrate on the following issues:-

- (a) Assess the educational attainment of the child and suggest for further improvement.
- (b) Assess the interest, strength and weaknesses, extra-curricular activities and other potentialities of the child.
- (c) Vocational aptitude of the child.

(7) The Child Welfare Officer shall open a profile of the child and record all information available including the Medical History of the child.

*All the children at
PUTHUYUGAM
irrespective of their
nature get the equal
opportunity and the
various occasions to
remember are
Independence Day
Republic Day
Children's Day
Deepavali
Christmas and New
Year
Pongal*

The process followed as mentioned in the act is presented as follows:-



Thus, over the decade long years PUTHUYUGAM has emerged as a model unit for others to follow as there norms are adhered to the optimum extent possible and the various aspects associated with the process are:-

S.No	Year	Number of Children		TOTAL	No of Children stayed for longer duration of more than 6 months
		Boys	Girls		
1.	1998	38	5	43	13
2.	1999	66	12	78	42
3.	2000	49	17	66	37
4.	2001	43	9	52	49
5.	2002	33	21	54	28
6.	2003	35	14	49	14
7.	2004	39	76	115	35
8.	2005	18	15	33	24
9.	2006	14	6	20	13
10.	2007	27	11	38	27
11.	2008	11	9	20	12
12.	2009	13	11	24	18
13.	2010	7	2	9	5
14.	2011	5	6	11	6
15.	2012	10	12	22	14
16.	2013	20	22	42	16
17.	2014	16	12	28	2
Total		444	260	704	355

The data reveals that it was not an easy task to manage the affairs of a unit and that the number of children and the period of stay has a strong impact. We have almost equal number of children stayed in the unit for an average period of 6 months which has a strong impact and the level of confidence and comfort that has been created in the minds of these children and the various stakeholders involved in the process is equally important to take in to account. To manage the affairs of the home and the unit the human resource has a fixed hierarchy with the superintendent of the home as the captain and followed with a standard pattern of staff which is stated as follows:

- a. Superintendent of the home
- b. Case Workers
- c. Counselor
- d. House Father for Boys and House Mother for Girls
- e. Educator-Yoga Music Teacher-Art and Craft Trainer
- f. Paramedical Staff- Part Time Doctor

On the other part

- a. Accountant cum storekeeper
- b. Cook and Kitchen Staff
- c. Helpers and Sweepers

The entire team takes care of the all the needs of the children who are in need of care and protection.

The routine of the PUTHUYUGAM Reception unit is stated as:

When a child who is in need of care and protection is brought, the following procedures are followed:

1. Receiving and admitting in the reception unit and the mandatory requirements are filled in the forms and information is passed to the Child Welfare Committee. Open up a profile of the child and record all the relevant information of the child which is available including the Medical History of the child.

2. Hair-cut and other works and issue of toiletry items to the child to get cleaned or helped to be clean when he/she cannot do on their own and issue of new set of clothes, bedding and other outfit and equipment (as per rules and scales).

3. Disinfecting and storing of child's personal belongings and other valuables in a separate place.

4. Medical examination and treatment, where ever necessary.

5. Attending to immediate and urgent needs of the child. Produce before the CWC and get necessary orders and also inform the probation officer to probe and communicate to parent(s), address the personal problems etc.,

6. The Child during the period of observation in the Reception Unit; shall get oriented on the personality traits of the child. Orientation shall be on the following lines:-

- a. Health and hygiene.
- b. Self-improvement opportunities and participatory role of children in the institutional activities.
- c. Duties, responsibilities and obligation during their period of stay.

7. The unit in-charge shall concentrate on the following issues:-

- a. Assess the educational attainment of the child and suggest for further improvement.
- b. Assess the interest, strength and weakness, extra-curricular activities and other potentialities of the child.
- c. Vocational aptitude of the child.

In the case of PUTHUYUGAM unit all the children admitted in the unit has ever experienced any discrimination or difficulty as all of them are treated equally on par with the other children in the home. For instance,



Recreation



Meditation



To School



Sports

Food as given to the other children with a prescribed balanced menu as practiced in the home.

- Separate space for boys and girls more care and special attention at the reception unit for those children who are in need of special care and attention. Opportunity to play indoor and outdoor games. Opportunity to have entertainment like watching TV, cultural programs, movies and attend festival occasions and celebrations of days of national importance Space and opportunity to learn and exhibit personal talents like Drawing. Singing, Dancing and Music etc.

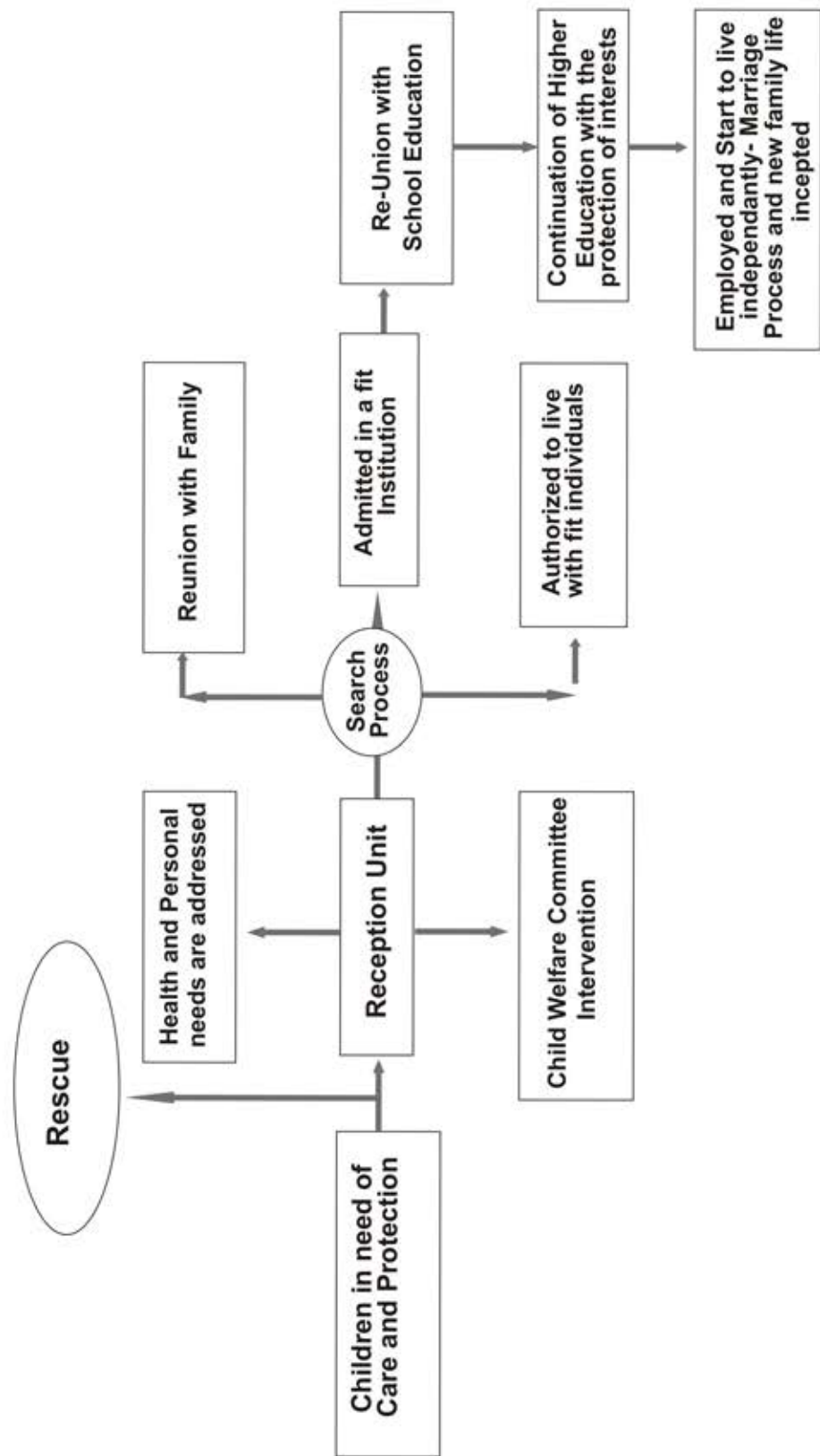
- Interaction with all others and never left alone.

- Educational interests are protected by making to attend the evening tuition classes and provision for books and other materials.

The faculties available are:

- Dormitories separate for boys and girls with attached toilet and bath facilities with round the clock water.
- Recreation Hall with indoor games.
- Equipments for outdoor games.
- Television with movie player.
- Public Address System to use at time of gatherings.
- CCTV
- Compound wall and gate to protect.
- Transport for school going children by the respective schools.
- Doctor on call.
- First Aid Box.
- Special provisions for girl children.
- Participate in the special camps for Christmas and New year.

The process followed at PUTHUYUGAM in the context of children in need of care and protection is presented in the following way:



3.



THE HANDS THAT JOIN - WITH US IN THE JOURNEY

Over the years PUTHUYUGAM has evolved a model to work with the various stakeholders who are involved in the process of ensuring the care and protection of children who are in need. There is an array of institutions with whom the unit and home has got associated in the process and has arrived at a model to follow by others. Some of the stakeholders involved in the process are:

S.No	Department/Agency/Unit	Convergence Process
1.	Department of Social Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu.	In the context of support for home in terms of affiliation- approval and recognition and provisions.
2.	Department of Social Defence, Government of Tamil Nadu.	Management of reception unit - Recognition and support to conduct various programs and institutional care and support.
3.	District Collector, Dindigul District.	As a authority of the district - recognition and recommendations as and when required for the effective functioning of the home.
4.	District Social Welfare Officer, Dindigul District.	In the context of running of the home and the aid to run the home - recognition and approval in the form of registration.
5.	Deputy Director - Regional Office of Department of Social Defence, Government of Tamil Nadu, Madurai.	Coordination with the CWC - Child Welfare Committee.
6.	Child Line	Rescue of Children and support for transfer and transportation in the local and reach out the children with special needs in a quick manner.
7.	Government Head Quarters Hospital	Medical treatment of the children.
8.	Police Station	Escorting the children - Security at the time of need.
9.	Municipal Administration	Drinking water and Sanitation.
10.	District Education Officer	Admission of Children in the schools to continue the education as per their age and qualification in the context of Right to Free and Compulsory Education.

4.



THE PROPELLER TO PROGRESS WE ARE VALUED

(A case note of the children)

My name is Mani, 8 years old and studying in 3rd standard at the Primary School in Gandhigram. Three years before I lost my parents in the train and came to Dindigul as I was told that my relatives are in Palani which is near Dindigul and I can go and stay with them. Meanwhile, I was made to stay at the Puthuyugam home in Dindigul where I had lot of friends. I used to play with them in the evenings and watch television with them. When they all go to school I feel alone for some time once the other people in the office come I feel happy. The uncle takes me out in his bike to the town and gets me snacks to eat. At times, the uncle come to the meeting also get me snacks and play with me. When they asked me what I want?, I told them I want to go school like other boys living there. Since I was too small they told me that they will send me to another place where there will be more children like me and I can also go to school with them. I refused to go out from here as I am very happy and everyone was very close to me and I was treated well for my wounds. But they said this home is not a suitable one for me and I have to go to a new place. I was in the home for more than three months and I was happy all through the period. I like everyone there and enjoyed playing, watching TV and games like Chess, Caremboard and so on. Living in the Dindigul home was a happier experience. Never cried as I was taken care of very well.

It is my pleasure and pride to say that I am a product of PUTHUYUGAM home. I was brought to the home as a child who has none to take care. All my needs are met in a very good manner. I went to school from there along with all other children and received all the benefits. It was an evergreen memory to be at the PUTHUYUGAM home. I was in need of care and support to live my life and I am very lucky that I was admitted at this home and that I could lead a happy life. The other boys in the home are also like me and all helped each other and lived together.

The house mother and the uncle of the home are very kind and they took excellent care of us. Whenever we fall sick, first aid is given and then we are taken to the hospital for further treatment. During the holidays and festival time we enjoy a lot. We use to watch movies.

We have the facility to play games both indoor and outdoor. We also have cultural programmes in which we use to sing and dance, practice is given to us. We are also taken to the main home to attend the Christmas celebration where we meet friends from other homes and the days will go very happily. I have not only got the school education, but also the opportunity to pursue my higher studies staying at the home. I got a job and moved out. Now I am married and have a family of my own. But I will never forget the days and the support I had from PUTHUYUGAM home. As I have learnt how to live together, gained courage and self confidence and methods to adjust with the situation, I manage my family to the fullest satisfaction of my spouse and child. It is true that all the children of PUTHUYUGAM will be role models to others who are like us and we are thankful to PUTHUYUGAM and will be remembering the home in our life forever.



I am Bhavani studying in 11th Standard and this is Annalakshmi studying in 4th Standard, we are staying in this PUTHUYUGAM home for the last few weeks as we do not have parents and others to take care of us. When we came here we were afraid as the place was very new to us and there are many boys living together. The house mother was very kind and the uncle was also very kind. They gave us new dress to wear and separate room to stay and food was served to us as it is served to all the others living in the home.

We were assured that we will be sent back to school at the earliest. All our personal needs are attended in the best way. We are allowed to move freely and also play with other children in the evening both indoor and outdoor games. We also get medicines whenever we are not well. We are happy. As we are good at drawing we were allowed to draw pictures on the wall and all others in the home liked the drawings very much. The home uncle recorded the pictures. The other boys in the home never treated us differently and every one use to call as sister and since we do not have any brother or sister to call us by name with an addition of sister to our name we feel very happy. The boys will tell their school stories in the evenings during the play hours. We the girls have our own space to live in a very safe manner. We are happy and feel like being with our family.

5.



MADE FOR THE UNIT and THE HOME



Medical Camp

*(The life of the Superintendent and the
House Mother of PUTHUYUGAM)*



Gardening



Cultural Programme



Talents



Sports

It is Mr. Augustin and Mrs. Mala Augustin who are also responsible in the process of the establishment and successful running of the PUTHUYUGAM Children's Home and Reception Unit since 1997. It is out of the tireless efforts of this couple who live residential and take care of all the children round the clock-round the year in a more passionable way.

It was a herculean task to manage the affairs as the complex nature of the process and the compliances to be followed in a structured and disciplined manner which alone can make the unit and the home a successful one. They have been able to achieve this because of the strong commitment, character and passion they have shown and exhibited over the years in running the unit and home in a more successful manner.

The excerpts from Ms Mala, reveals that, we use to get children from varied background and issues and we pay equal care and attention as like we pay to our own child. We never show or have any kind or form of differential treatment to any child who is in the reception unit or in the children's home. This applies in the context of food, clothes and other facilities like recreation and entertainment. We pay more attention to the girl children as their needs are different. Children with special needs are being provided with special care and attention.

Excerpts from Mr. Augustin reveals that, It was not an easy task to manage the children in the unit or in the home. As they are from varied background and with varied issues they behave differently during different occasions. One advantage we have is that the unit and home has full autonomy to deal with the affairs of the inmates and we should thank our management for this. We also follow the norms as established by the act and all other mandatory guidelines. At any point of time no delay is made in the context of extending or addressing the need of the child who has been brought to us for care and protection. We have the necessary database of the institutions associated with us in this process and the communication is made effectively and appropriate action is made at the earliest.

The driving forces are the children who come to our unit and home who are in need of care and protection and the management of our trust who have been showing keen interest in the overall development of children irrespective of their nature.

The presence of the CWC-Child Welfare Committee is an added advantage to us and it is very much helpful as the needs of the children are addressed in a fast and effective manner. It does not mean that we do not come across hard times. There are instances where we had tough times when children do not speak anything or refuse to eat or fall sick for a longer duration, it creates a worry among the team managing the unit and the home. The added advantage is that the children in the unit have ample time to spend with us and we could make them to get convinced and they speak to us in a more personal manner so that their issues are addressed in an effective way.

Some of the hardships are we need to sacrifice our personal functions and gatherings as this has become the round the clock work and also we need to be physically present as the onus is on us and we are equally accountable and responsible in managing the children. People curse us for not taking part in their family occasions but when see the children happy all those pains are waded away. It is the energy we derive from the children and we are moving on. We should thank all the stakeholders who are involved in the process and made us very effective in addressing the issue in a more strategic and effective manner. Children are also equally important and need to be appreciated for getting along with us over the years and had a happy life.

6.

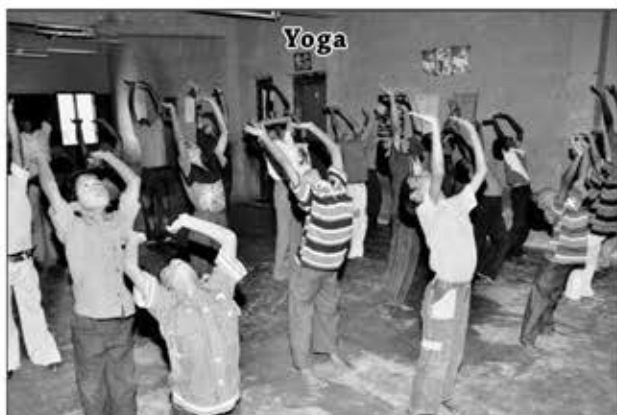


THE STAKEHOLDERS SPEAK

***Excerpts from the words of the Chairperson
Child Welfare Committee-Dindigul District :***

The effectiveness of the child protection mechanisms especially the child protection committees mainly depends on the effectiveness and efficiency of the reception unit and the support systems and services. Here in this context PUTHUYUGAM has evolved a model to be followed by other institutions in this context in particular.

"It has been an enriching and learning experience to be a part of the Child Welfare Committee along with the Reception Unit of PUTHUYUGAM where the Committee has its official sittings regularly. PUTHUYUGAM home has been listed as the reception unit for the District of Dintigul even before the units are established in all the other 32 districts in 2012. Since inception PUTHUYUGAM has shown and established a model for other units to follow the way how to manage the child who is in need of care and protection. The Reception Unit never behaved like a new place for the children whoever is admitted for a shorter period. It was not only a unit but also a partner in the process of establishing care and protection. Since the unit, home and the Child Welfare Committee are in one spell, the process has become effective and easy as the documentation of the process for disposal and also the necessary care in all respects of the child are being taken care in a more extraordinary way. The children admitted are taken care of for round the clock and safety is not at all a matter of concern as it is a boy or a girl. The facilities available are always in a highly commendable position. The children those who are admitted for a shorter period also enjoy all the benefits and facilities in equal to that of the other children at home and at times more than that.



The Child Welfare Committee always has felt the comfort and safety and sharing of resources and responsibilities. The superintendent of the home and the House Mother take care of the children as like they take care of their own children, since they are residential it has become more effective and easy to manage process. Both boys and girls have their own privacy and the facilities and also move along with the other children in the home. It is vital to note that the discussions with the earlier committees and the present one progress, there has been no difficult situation that has arisen but the children are being provided with all the mandatory requirements as that has been mentioned in the Tamil Nadu JJ Act Rules 2001 and amended in 2006. Health, Nutrition, Extra and Co-Curricular activities are those value additions the children receive in the home and also take part in the various events organized by the home and its parent institution. It is a rare phenomenon to note that the children find it difficult once the final decisions are made at the committee for them as they have experienced an enriching and ever remembering experience though it was a short span of time. It has been never felt that the committee should come in and make necessary recommendations for the newly arrived children, it is done as a part of the process and as a routine and the children feel at ease when they are produced before the committee. The CWC is always felt happy to be in the premises of PUTHUYUGAM and that they have set the model for others to follow.

The key elements that has to be mentioned here are that the maintenance of confidentiality of the children and their issues and also the records. It is not easy to have access to any of the information by any third person. Secondly the convergence and affiliation this unit and the home that has established over the years are very encouraging and supportive. This is a unique feature that every other unit and home has to follow if at all they would like to become a model like PUTHUYUGAM. Though the milestones are achieved it has not been in the limelight but the light of hope has been brightening up over the years. Many congratulations and best wishes to the team for travelling with us in the journey and creating a safe, happy and healthy living environment for the children who are in need of care and protection.

***Excerpts from the words of the Deputy Director, Department of Social Defence
Government of Tamil Nadu***

“The Children’s Home working in accordance with the JJ Act 2000, at PUTHUYUGAM Children’s Home for Boys and Girls is a unique unit in nature. Any child received or brought before the Child Welfare Committee, who is in need of care and protection is well addressed. The facilities available at the reception unit are of appreciating standards. The admitted child never felt lonely or depressed as each and every aspect of his/her requirements and interests are taken care to the best optimum level. The communication between the PUTHUYUGAM home and the Department of Social welfare is excellent. Prompt acceptance and response, timely reporting, meeting the legal requirements and compliances and supporting the functioning of the Child Welfare Committee are some the key additions we could see from the practice over the period of time. Any aspect associated with the management of children in need of care and protection is addressed in the best possible way. This is experienced at the time of accompanying during the time of rescue of children, presenting the child before the committee and also escorting the child at the time of transfer to other district or state and the preparation of the basic and required documents are done the unit in-charge or the superintendent of the home in one go. As the unit is well known in the locality it has become easy to have access by all those who are in need. It is also important to mention that the unit is part of the home which is capable of admitting children under the category of fit institution for the children between the age group of 6-12 years. Hence follow-up activities for all those children who are received is done in an very effective manner. It is always a pleasure to work with PUTHUYUGAM and its team.

**Excerpts from the words of the Probation Officer-Child Welfare Committee
Dindigul District.**

"The experiences of working with PUTHUYUGAM reception unit over the years have been an enriching experience. The atmosphere available at the unit never seems to be different and as well as the children both from the Children's Home of PUTHUYUGAM and the Reception Units are gelled together well and are also treated equally. Only in the context of education, there are some differences the home children go to school and reception unit stay back, but in the evenings they play together and sit for studies and share their thoughts", In addition all the children irrespective of their nature have equal access to all the resources and facilities available in the centre.

The processing of document and preparation of reports in the respective and required formats, escorting the children at the time of transfer and rescue not been an issue as the team has proven ability and commitment to proceed with the official code. On the other hand effective institutional relationship has been established and developed over the years with all the institutions who are associated in the process communication and co-ordination in the context of management of children is done in the best effective as the facilities available have easy access to them.

Filling up the required forms, and documentation work are also shared and kept ready to processing as the best interest of the child is protected at every respect ample space and opportunities are available for all those who are associated in the process. The work burden or pressure has never been experienced as the team takes care of all the required elements. It is true that PUTHUYUGAM has created a model to work with and wish the work to go further, officers may come and go but the procedures are still the best in practice.

Excerpts from the words of the Coordinator-Child Line 1098-Dindigul District:

Child line Dindigul District and Puthuyugam Reception unit has been coordinating together in the context of child care and protection. It has been a sharing and learning experience when a child is rescued and brought to child line, the information is immediately passed on to Reception unit, so as to inform the same to CWC. The initial care and protection is done at child line and counseling is also provided. For special cases medical treatment are initiated.

Child line works in close with reception unit in taking forward the process like presenting the child before the child welfare committee and further process is initiated. Child line also associated with reception unit on taking forward the child to continue to study. Regular sharing of information participation in events in the context of training is done from both the ends. Child line never feels different in working with unit.

Reception units almost like an extended unit of child line.as child line is an extended unit of Puthuyugam reception unit.

7.



A WORD TO CONCLUDE

It may look very small to take into account but the impact created by the PUTHUYUGAM Home and Unit is highly commendable. One of the best parts is that the children who passed out of the home and unit are willing to come back and share their memories which is a rare occasion to see in the recent time. Some of the aspects to be taken as key lessons for others to become a model or to follow this model are:

- Functional autonomy to the home management team to function as a unit.
- Presence of CWC in the premises of the home.
- Creation of all the needed facilities in the stipulated standards without any compromise.
- Creation and maintenance of lasting linkages with other stakeholders.
- Place and hope for the protection of the best interest of the children.
- Equal treatment to all children and special care and attention for children with special needs.
- Scope and Space to exhibit and improve the talents for the inmates of the home.
- Involving all the children in all the occasions.

If this would be the case, every institution can become a PUTHUYUGAM.

ST. JOSEPH'S DEVELOPMENT TRUST



SJDT started to work with these victims 20 years ago and still continue to work with them. This book gives you a glimpse of what we have done to the children who come in conflict with law. Let me sincerely thank all those who supported us in this endeavor.

Dr. I. Sebastian M.A., M.B.A., Ph.D

Founder & Executive Director

St. Joseph's Development Trust,
A Centre for Developmental Activities
Genguvarpatti (P.O) 625 203, Periyakulam Taluk, Theni District
Tamilnadu State, South India.
Tel: 0091(0)4546-236 856 / 236 342.
Email: sebaedsjdt@gmail.com / edsjdt@rediffmail.com
Web: www.sjdt.in