

SOCIAL STATUS OF REHABILITATED ORPHAN CHILDREN OF BALGRAM IN MAHARASHTRA STATE

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Abstract: 'A Study of Contribution of Balgram in Socialization and Rehabilitations of Orphan Children in Maharashtra State' in this paper, contribution of child care institution/ Balgram in Socialisation and rehabilitation of orphan children in Maharashtra State is explored. In Maharashtra state 14 NGOs are running Balgram/Balsadan/Balgruh, which is based on international concept of Balgram of SOS Children villages. In Balgram child care plan, Children given long term supports for their holistic development, accordingly activities are planned and implemented so children should grow with respect, self-confidence and self-image. Most important is children get family environment, especially emotional supports from Balgram Staff. House mother/ care taker is heart of Balgram concept. The children grow as a brother and sisters in family home. Objective of the study are to study socialisation and rehabilitation process of Balgram, contribution of Balgram, scope of social work intervention and to explore the problems and prospects of Balgram Children. Based on these objective hypothesis are Socialization process of Balgram and rehabilitation of children may be closely associated to each other, Balgram provides family set up to the children who are in need of care and protection and Balgram play an important role in rehabilitation of the children who are in need of care and protection through socialization Explanatory research design, all the children of Balgram age 13 to 18 are included, Sample size: 277 current children +65 pass out children+ 46 Balgram staff=388 and Sampling method: Mixed sampling (Randomly and snow ball method). In data analysis cross tables are prepared according to the gender; Chi-square test is applied to understand the association between the two variables. Socio-economic status of the rehabilitation children is assessed according to the Kupuswami method (2017 indicators) Hypothesis testing explained along with conclusion and suggestion.

History of Balgram Maharashtra Movement and its Units

Through the centuries, and across all political, social and cultural frontiers, a child has been regarded as mankind's visible symbol of hope and renewal. However, for a least a hundred million children in India, hope has no meaning and renewal has no promise. They are born in poverty and spend their young life in the dark alleys of hunger, disease and ill treatment. Through the pioneering efforts of Dr. Hermann Gmeiner, a great humanist, the SOS movement was launched in Austria in 1949 to alleviate the hardship of children in distress. The SOS way is based on providing a sense of protection and security, emotional support and love for underprivileged children, through the provision of family child care warmth and affection.

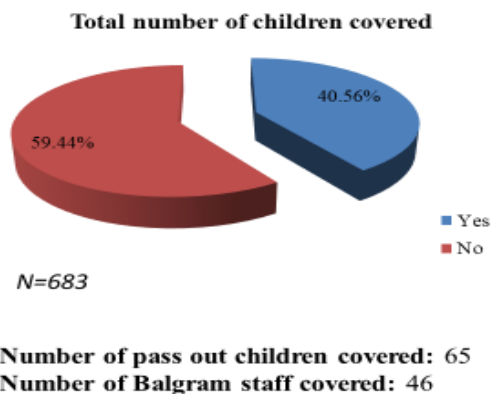
The SOS international movement reached India in 1964 and Maharashtra in 1974, which its headquarters in Pune. Balgram SOS Children's Villages (Balgram Maharashtra Pune) serve as rallying point for voluntary organisation in Maharashtra, in the field of child development. Its efforts have been especially directed towards establishing family Homes (Balgram / Balsadan and children's villages (Balgram) in the rural and tribal area of Maharashtra.

During the last 45 years 14 Balgram have been set up in Maharashtra and 85 Balsadan are run by 12 Voluntary organisation. Children who are lost in the world and belong to no one, are welcomed in the a Balgram, where 8-10 children are taken care of by on mother. Boys and girls of different age groups live happily in these homes as brothers and sisters and share the household chores with their mother. The snapped roots of orphans and destitute children are thus replanted into a new soil of motherly affection. This helps children achieve their full development in order to become good citizens of India.

In children in an SOS family home attend normal schools in the community. Balgram tries to help the children till they get settle in life. Bagram's reward is to know that these talented children have built up their lives and career. Many of them have got married and are bringing up their own children with utmost love protection and security. Balgram believed that the SOS way has to develop in the context of India ethos, where the focus is on motherly love and affection. SOS Is aided by efficient village directors (superintendent) co-workers, and child counselors who help these mothers build stable families.

Total Number of Students Covered

Total Balgram in Maharashtra: 14
Existing number of children in Maharashtra: **683**
Total children covered: **277** (Source-Krejcie and Morgan Model)



Sr. No	Name of the Institute	Capacity of children	Present children	No of children covered
1	Ashray Sansta Malegaon Nasik	40	30	09
2	Chandrabhan Athare Patil Balgram A. Nagar	100	50	37
3	Dilipshing Raje Ghatge Balgram Panhala	30	28	14
4	Sampark Balgram Bhaje	110	110	50
5	Sampark Balgram shelpimplgaon	60	60	31
6	Panchdee Sankul Balgram New-Panwel	20	20	16
7	Anand Balgram Sagroli Nanded	108	75	40
8	Kasturbha Trust Saswad	27	10	05
9	Kasturbha Trust Dharani	20	10	05
10	Neela Balsadan Ambernath	10	10	02
11	Bal Anandgram Lonavla	20	20	07
12	Dyanesh Balsadan (IIM) Phulgaon	30	30	23
13	Antar Bharati Balgram Lonavla	100	90	40
Grand Total		675	543	277

Institutional socialization of children

There are different types of institutions, basically two types of institutions Government Organizations (GOs) and Non-Government organizations (NGOs) are running children homes. The provisions of getting basic facilities have been made by these institutions but as far as psychological needs are concern the children may be deprived from emotional and family support. No doubt that the institutions may provide basic facilities as per requirement which is again necessary for overall development of child but there are always issues of fulfillment of psychological needs of every child. It may vary institution to institution. Within all the institution the concept of SOS Children Villages- Balgram has got great success.

Balgram provides following supportive activities to children for their all-round developments music, dance, singing, drawing, yoga, Art of Living, Gymkhana, Karate (self-defense) Computer classes, internet, Spoken English, Extra coaching, Library books, reading newspapers, Entertainment: TV, Indoor/outdoor games, Celebration of all the types Indian festivals, Various camps Summer/Winter Diwali holidays, Morning Evening prayers.

For Intellectual development facilities are General knowledge book, GK classes, Computer encyclopedia, Dictionaries, Internet facilities, IQ testing, Aptitude testing to know the skill and interest of the child

Personality / Skill Development facilities are reputed and successful personality motivator lectures organized, Essay writing, skill development

Health facilities are: First Aid Box, Monthly quarterly health checkup and treatment, maintain separate health file/ records of every child, Supportive food, dry fruits, seasonal fruits, multivitamin pills provided children, Various medical camps organized by local's donors, Clubs etc.

Rehabilitated Balgram children:

Ultimate goal of every children's home is the proper rehabilitation of each and every child. Rehabilitation is the final stage for the institutional children. There are many factors which influence the rehabilitation process. Every year thousands of institutional children left their organization/ Balgram for their future life. Women and Child Development department of government of Maharashtra have only six after care homes in Maharashtra. These are not enough for the children as their capacity to absorb the children are very less compare to needy children. Hence it becomes a moral duty of the Balgram to support the child start their earning. Boys are supported till they get employment and girls are supported till their marriage. Majority girls are currier originated so they focus on their own studies and they start earning. In short, the pass out girls are self-reliant. They live independently. It is also observed that most of the pass out children are homeless and unmarried.

Basically, after the age of 13 to 14 years, boys are shifted to youth home or other places but they get all types of supports from Balgram. Only girls are allowed to stay in Balgram till their proper rehabilitation. Majority girls are get married from Balgram only. According to the policy of Balgram if the girl gets married then itis considered as a proper rehabilitation. After marriage the girls get family, own house and social status as well. These are the good sides of institutional set up but still the institutional set up has drawback also.

While living the Balgram and entering in the common environment what the child think about self is most important. No one will treat unethically till he/she interact with other people. It is state of mind what one feels about self. One should be proud for what he

did in his/her life. He should feel satisfy and happy as he passed the very critical stage of life. Balgram gives all type of the training to every child. Hence it is expected that he/she should live their life with comfort. Institutional children in their childhood were fully dependent on others. Sometimes this dependency makes them handicapped. They think that whatever they required it is their fundamental right to receive from the Balgram. The children think that the employees of Balgram are not parents but they are helping hands/ servant for them. This thinking develops their begging habits. If their demands didn't fulfill then they blackmail emotionally or they become more aggressive.

It is observed many times that the attitudes of the institutional children often create problems in their smooth functioning. They are home sick. The rigidity in personality, introversion, dishonesty and greed observed in many children. Many institutional children are indiscipline. Some time they caught in theft, lying, physical assault of others, disrespect to institutional staff, misbehavior in daily prayer, irregular in study time, spoiling or destructing the equipment's, damaging property, defacing walls. Etc. Even it is also observed that absence of motivation among institutional staff. Very few institutional staff consider it to be a sacred duty or service. The main reason for this is the incentive system which is not motivating or encouraging for workers. It is acute shortage of devoted and committed staff as many institute authorities pays low salary and ask for more work times. The majority institutional staffs are on contract basis. They are not eligible for P.F, gratuity and other privileges. This has always kept the morale of institutional staff very low.

Problems faced by institutional care takers and other staffs: Balgram focuses to implement various activities the face following problems.

- Children have difference family background, behave with irresponsible character
- Maximum children are adamant, they do not listen the instructions of staff, few of them thinks that they are servant of them! Do not follow institutional rules
- Maximum children do not have gratitude towards institutional facilities
- Children avoid their higher studies, do not concentrate on studies, do not complete higher or regular education.
- Maximum children enjoy sports, cultural and other co activities.
- Some children feel insecure hence do not speak open mind with staff
- Staff always has to give the instructions, even for their daily studies and routines
- They do not think for their future
- children don't have gratitude for institutional studies
- They always try to get emotional support of the others. They think we get supports from the donors/ sponsors they why give the importance to Institute or their staff
- Maximum children pretend to be humble, respectful with institutional staff.
- Very few rehabilitated children support to Balgram.
- Comparatively rehab girls have more gratitude than boys towards Balgram

There are two types of arranged marriage one is within the cast and another is inter-cast. Social norms are different for the different communities. In Maharashtra alone more than 6000 cast are in existence and four main religions are there. Balgram children don't know their own cast as they respect all the religions and every community. Only few children know their original cast. Even institutional authority could not maintain any cast or religions. Many organizations keep the column of cast and religion empty while recording children's personal details. The major problems of some children are they do not have full names also. The basic documents include PAN CARD, VOTING CARD, ADHAR CARD, Bank A/C etc. It crates lots of problem to the children and these documents are very much essential for proper rehabilitation.

The contribution of Balgram in socialization is depending upon the committed and devotee employees of Balgram. These trained staff monitor the growth of the children as they have knowledge and experience on physical development and health care. Even they know the how to measures the protection of children in various accidents. They maintain personal files of all the children so they knew each child's strength and weakness. They are aware of child interest and according to that they motivate them for further education. Majority of the children take higher education according to their academic interest, so they finally get settled.

Why some orphan children are not settled down in society, in short no proper rehabilitation taken place!

- Low educational background and quality they hardly complete their education up to std 10th, VTC, ITI, or Diploma etc.
- Maximum children do not want to take their own responsibilities, enjoy comfort zone.
- Many children do not have proper place and permanent for residence
- Low income as a result couldn't bear their living cost, maximum spent on home rent, food and addictions.
- Many children do not have habit of saving for future, not think about their own future.
- Many children have complaining and blaming nature, low self-confidence and self-esteem,
- Maximum children are dependency nature, always expect supports from institute, society and friends.
- Few irresponsible nature, arrogant children are motivating to take of revenge of institutions/ staff (use retributive theory)
- Institutional staffs are paid very less as a result, not even they manage their own problem then how they will support to an orphan, in short institutional children are rare and care by low quality care givers.
- Children are staying with house mothers, the family and social background of mother is being neglected women (widow, divorcee, single women are appointed as a house mother)
- Society attitude towards an orphan is poor, they do not strongly support to orphans.

Problems faced by orphan children when they left Balgram:

- They face to get a house on rent with proper documents as a result they do not get a ration card, voting card, hence they couldn't do the voting as it is fundamental right of the Indian citizen.
- Not having permanent address, they can't open Bank account, do not get passport.
- Many of the children do not know their own full name, caste and proper age due to which they couldn't avail to the opportunities given by the government policies.
- At the 18 age children hardly complete their std 10th /12th, diploma or VTC-ITC so they do not avail for pay good jobs.
- Many of children are jobless, homeless and single (not married) No all-round development'
- Comparatively girls get more supports than boys, Institute arrange the marriages of girls but not support to the boy.
- Many Balgram institute do not allow to the children above 18 years. Married girls are un happy with these institute as they couldn't get chance to enter in institute like her home (Maher)

Considering all the situations, and problems of children, **following suggestions** are suggested by researcher, as orphan child should be properly rehabilitate and he/she become a good citizen of India.

1. The Balgram is taking lots of efforts to socialize the children but the children are not getting trained. Hence the more focused socialization is required.
2. The socio-economic condition of the children is not good. The more focused livelihood training should be given to the children.
3. The Balgram should create a matrimonial site which will help them to identify a good life partner.
4. The Balgram should take required efforts to generate sufficient ID proof of all the children. The Balgram must ensure that each and every child should get the AADHAR card, PAN card, bank account and ration card before leaving the Balgram.
5. Scientific approach should be adopted to identify the personal interest and skills and according to that the additional inputs should be given.
6. The children should be trained in such way that they should manage their life after leaving the Balgram. Hence more exposure on the daily life situations should be given to all of them.
7. The network of pass out children should be created. It will help them to solve the practical difficulties of life.
8. The Balgram should start the advocacy at government level. The separate platform should be created so that the administrative and legal issues could be minimized.
9. The Balgram need to improve their MIS system. After leaving the Balgram the institute should have the records of pass out children.

Suggestions for proper rehabilitation children who are above 18 years

1. Orphan child should get self-identity documents like an orphan certificate, Ration card, Aadhar card and voting card on permanent address of their own institute.
2. Every district should have a youth homes/ After care homes separates for girls and boys. These homes must maintain properly, where children should feel and attract to stay and take their higher education or develop professional skills.
3. Every institute should develop ***Child Rehabilitation Fund***, which could be utilise for higher education of the child those who are above 18 years.
4. Government should support the Orphan Child and treat a special class child (reservation) as a result every child will get an opportunity to take higher education and finally child will get good pay jobs.
5. Needy and homeless children should get affordable/ low cost homes from government schemes likes; Gharkul, MHADA, CIDCO and rural area. Government should make available reserve land for orphan
6. Government and NGO should support every orphan should get married and support him as guardians.
7. Those who wants to start their business these children should get proper support, guidance and economical/ financial support in term of sponsorship or business loan. t
8. Every institute start "Child Gift Money" scheme in which scheme institute will deposit certain amount from right child hood till the age of 18 years. This amount will be support the child to start his own life. He could start his business or able to invest in home.
9. State and Central Government develop a rehabilitation policy as a result every child get rehabilitate and every child become a part of society and enjoy all human rights of India.
10. The children who are economically sound enough, they should support their institute. Even they should directly support the children who are in process of rehabilitations.
11. Government should make compulsory to industries to utilize their CSR funds for rehabilitation of institutional children.

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