



THE FORGOTTEN

PHOTO DOCUMENTARY ON STREET CHILDREN

SANDEEP JANGALA

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Many of us must have encountered situations at various traffic signals where small children come to us begging or trying to sell something. You must have also seen children on the streets or working at various places? Have you ever wondered about the life of these kids or what the future holds for them? Did you know that these children are denied the right to education?

Highlighting the plight of these kids “The Forgotten” brings to you their lives on the streets and how there are different perceptions in the minds of these kids about their future. The photo documentary also goes into various facets of the streets and stresses on the need of educating these children. Photography has been used as a medium to bring to you a very important social issue here. I always believed that photography was much more than lighting, compositions and other technical issues and “The Forgotten” is one such effort.

As I was going through my research for the documentary, I came to know about an NGO, which had been working in the field for a long time now. I was very much touched by the kind of work the NGO was doing to help these kids on the streets. A part of the documentary is dedicated to this NGO, showing the working process of the organization.

During my way through the process of documenting the issue, I came across some extraordinary children, some heart wrenching stories, which I wanted to convey to you. “The Forgotten” includes many such stories, which I hope will inspire you at a personal level. The documentary has been put together with utmost dedication and lot of research to convey a very important thing, that education is key that will open the bright future of these kids on the streets.



No one to care

Many children on the streets often fall prey to drugs



The story of five sisters

Many such children live with their parents in makeshift homes like this abandoned bus stand



Young and taking care



I am here, don't worry



Counseling

NGO's play a very important role in helping these kids out



Good habit

Discipline is imparted by teaching the child good habits



School, here I come

Those kids who have been properly rehabilitated are sent to the local government school



Hunger

One of the main reason why these children are forced into begging



Meditation

To develop the will power to lead a new and honorable way of life

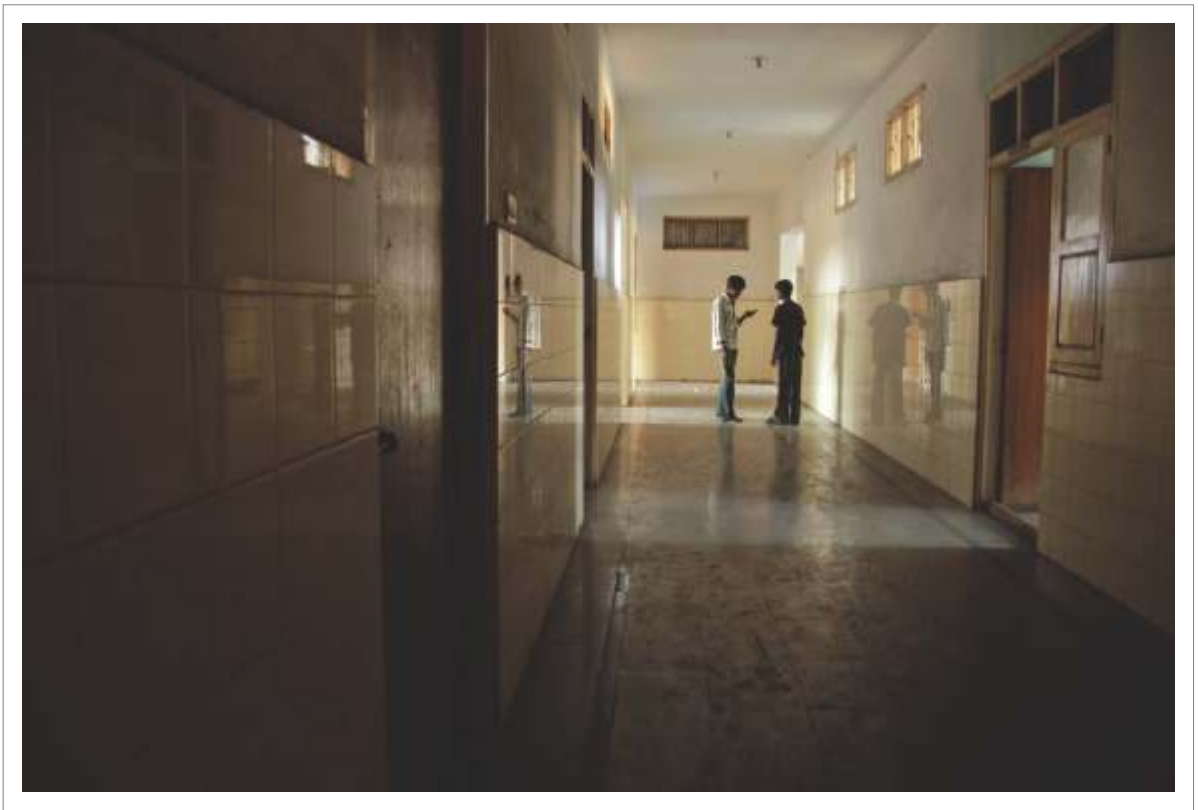


Building their way up

Recreational activities such as these play a very important role in making the child feel at home



Having fun



The big league

A place for rehabilitation and starting a new life



Imparting skills

The child is free to choose between studies or learning a particular skill



Always a smile

Chinna always sports a smile on his face and is today properly rehabilitated and goes to school daily



Monkey skills

The story of Ganesh who was reunited with his family following a missing child pamphlet found at a railway station



For how long will the light shine upon him



My dream, my vision

Once used to rear animals along with his parents, Animesh today wants to study and become a police officer



Will the picture be ever clear in the mirror



Cute

Inspite of all the hardships they never forget to have a smile on their face



Will they ever see the outside world



Innocence

So many questions unanswered



Deena

A classic example of a parent not interested in sending their girl child to school



Is it her fault to be born in a poor family



Precious childhood

Childhood, the most precious and enjoyable phase of anyone's life is a hardship for these kids. One of the best ways to help these kids would be by educating them. Education in fact is the key. The government has been putting in efforts through its various educational programmes and policies. However, the society at large also needs to share a part of this responsibility. We, as individual responsible citizens of this country can play an important role by gifting a child an educated life. The best and the most accessible way of doing this is by sponsoring a child's education through an NGO close to you. I hope that one day India will reach its goal of educating all it's children, because the future of this country depends on them and belongs to them as well. Thank you.

Acknowledgments

I have enjoyed extraordinary support from various quarters throughout my project. Most especially, I wish to thank my sir, Mr.Ramana Bandi for having guided me so well through the entire project and for inspiring me to do more at each and every stage through his support. I would also like to thank Mr.Srinivas Mekala for his valuable suggestions and guidance throughout the project. I am also grateful to The Don Bosco Navajeevan Society, Hyderabad, especially Rev.Fr.Salibindla Balashowry and Mr. Raja Reddy for giving me an insight into the life of kids on the streets and sharing with me their own experiences. A special mention should also go to all the street educators of the NGO who helped me, guiding me to various places and slums where the real problems could be identified. My father, Mr.J.Suresh Babu for having supported me when I decided to turn towards photography. In addition, my heartfelt thanks to my friends and colleagues, who have been there for me with kindness and love.

I dedicate this book to all of you.



SANDEEP JANGALA

Author

It was always heart wrenching for me to watch a kid hurl towards my car at a traffic signal and clean the windshield just to earn a rupee or two to tender to his hungry stomach. In fact, there are many kids on the streets in similar situations, some of them living all by themselves and some involved in some sort of child labour. So when I got an opportunity to present my thesis for my diploma, I narrowed down my choice of topic to these kids on the streets. I did a lot of research on the subject, interacting with various people and NGO's. Finally, after one year of work I bring to you "THE FORGOTTEN", my interpretation of life of kids on the streets. According to my experience, education is the most effective way of helping these kids out of their misery and I hope this book makes an impact in this direction. Thank you.

Mentors

