CHAPTER-7 : REHABILITATION OF INMATES.

This chapter deals with the last role of the orphanages to the Inmates i.e. regarding rehabilitation or discharge from the orphanages. Obviously after keeping an inmate for the required period, the orphanage-authorities will ultimately like to reabsorb him/her in the main stream of Social life. The various rehabilitational-patterns analysed in this chapter are by ways of restoration to parents or relatives, marriage, adoption, employment or transfer to other orphanages. There are some other ways of leaving the orphanages by the Inmates. These are not rehabilitative in-fact, but still exist. These are discharge because of will/absence, ouster because of indiscipline, absconding by the self or deaths within the orphanages etc. So this chapter analyses the orphanage-leaving aspects of the Inmates life—thus making place for new admissions and continuing the cycle of orphanage-system.

The problem of orphanages or inmates is a Bio-Socio-Economic problem. With orphans, it is primarily Bio-Social and then economical; whereas, with the destitutes, it is primarily economical and then social and/or biological. The magnitude or type of problem faced by an individual is the product of these factors. That is why, at admission or prior to that, it is not the quality of food or other basic essentialities, which are essential for these unfortunate children, who have not been in a position to get two square meals or other rarest of the rare basic needs from their parents before coming to the orphanages, because of poverty or other reasons; but what is important and worth-satisfying to them is the surety or certainty of their getting the next meals or basic requirements all through the period they live in the orphanages. Such a surety gives them a chance, to tide over the uncertain past/present regarding basic requirements, to further stand and prepare for the safe future, related to, say food, clothes, shelter, protection etc. And this is no less contribution of the orphanages to the inmates and the society; notwithstanding the other flaws/weaknesses/shortcomings which have crept in, because of
(mis)managements or the staff or other reasons, in the orphanages. If seen in this perspective, admission to the orphanage itself is a temporary rehabilitation; as the inmates come here or are kept here to temporarily rehabilitate them with a view to rehabilitate them in still better ways and permanently, when discharged out of it.

Now we look at the general pattern, of individual orphanages, regarding the rehabilitation or orphanage-leaving-aspect of the inmates:

The rehabilitation pattern of two orphanages A and B are similar to a great extent. There, the upper age of stay for boys is 18 years and for girls 21-22 years. But this is a rule, which is not at all strictly followed. They can stay as per their circumstantial-requirement or wish. Their rehabilitation is neither considered at the time of admission and nor when it is a time to consider. The authorities just keep them, feed them, clothe them and sent to the schools also for study-n-to-pass time and not to produce a quality. By the time, the boy inmates cross adolescence, they either get fed up with the orphanage-life and leave for their homes if their parent/s are surviving; and if that is not so, they find out some manual jobs as labourers/peons etc in the factories or other private offices; of course, may be with the help of their authorities. The adolescent girls with parent/s alive, never try or join any such job. They are taken back or sent back to their parent/s. If such girls inmates are without parents, their marriages are arranged by the orphanages. The marriages of the boy-orphans are never arranged by their orphanages.

The procedure to be followed in the marriages is either through matrimonial advertisement in the newspapers or through one application form obtainable from the office of the orphanage on payment of Rs.10/- or so. Thereafter the necessary enquiries about the boy/s are made by some authorised staff-member (rarely by members of the M.C.s). The enquiries are regarding his house, property etc, besides his medical examination regarding potency. Of course, the formal consent of the girl inmate is also taken. And the marriage is solemnised. As a matter of guarantee of good behaviour, some amount is taken from the groom's side, which is deposited into "fixed-deposit" in the name of the girl; and which she can withdraw after five years or so, for her family use,
on being satisfied about her marital life. Whatever may be the reasons, including that:
- the enquiries have been casually done, or
- during enquiries things have not been clearly told, or
- the girls from the orphanages are underestimated by their partners or families; the girls in majority of the cases report that they have been deceived by marrying with a habitual drunkard or a patient of T.B. etc or with such other defects. Keeping in this view, remarks one of the staff: "That is why, this time, for the marriage on 14.6.92, we have made very careful investigations; so that the unhappy situations may not arise." The scholar has observed the entire process of this marriage, from beginning to the end; and also has the opportunity of informally interviewing the same couple, after about two years, when they were invitee of the orphanage, at the occasion of two such other marriages. Really, this marriage appeared to be a well adjusted one. There is another case of marriage on 18.4.76, at orphanage B, wherein after having three sons, aged 15, 7 and 6; the lady has deserted her husband after about 18 years, on the grounds of cruelty and suspected character or bigamy; and now she wishes a divorce and living back in the orphanage with her three sons. Regarding this situation, the 82 years old Superintendent remarks: "I do not think our daughter is perfect. In every marriage, to adjust, either one has to be like her partner or has to make her partner like herself. I think, our daughter has failed in doing so."

The second mode of rehabilitation at these orphanages A and B is the adoption. But the adoption is also rare, and only the inmates of very younger age are given/taken in adoption. For adoption the desirous couple comes to them or contacts them through someone known to the authorities. After necessary enquiries, satisfaction and completion of legalities, the inmate is given to the adopting couple. Only those inmates can be given in adoption, whose parentage is unknown. As the number of such cases is very less, that is why, less cases of adoption. There is no practice of probation period for mutual understanding or adjustment between the adoptors and the adoptee; however, follow up contacts through person/post are kept upto one or two years. One such inmate was given in
adoption to one issueless industrialist couple; but after some years, when the
couple could beget their own child, the couple tried to declare the adopted
child as a mental case and was harassed. Therefore, the orphanage authorities
intervened. But can they intervene to the extent of providing him same parental
love from the adoptors. Obviously, no. In another case from the same orphanage,
a male child was adopted at the age of three, by a widow already having a
daughter from her deceased husband. During the course of this study, the scholar
could see him running from every pillar to the post for getting his due share
from his "mother" and "sister" who now happens to be a lady-police-constable.
This adopted boy has come to the orphanage A, for getting attested-photocopy of
the "Godnama-papers" from the authorities, to get his share in the property
through court.

The third, but again rare, mode of rehabilitation is through
employment in the factories or in some private offices. Their education being
lower, both quantitatively and qualitatively, the inmates cannot get good jobs
outside. The authorities also do try and help such cases in getting employment
outside, or even inside the orphanages. There were two cases each, at orphanages
A & B, of such orphan-turned-employees. Also during the study, at orphanage A,
two more inmates were taken as employees; one as a store-keeper and another as a
Khaddi-Master. Against the general belief that an orphan-turned-employee will be
more suiting, dutiful and loyal to the orphanage, it has been observed, that
they prove a nuisance and problem to the orphanages. It takes a very long time
for such a staff to assume the role of a staff-member; otherwise "the once-long-
remained-orphan-at-the unconscious-level" of such a staff always haunts him/her
to remain 'loyal' to the inmates even for their wrong-doings. He works as a
back-biter/spy/instigator between the staff and the inmates. Secondly, for a
fresh staff, it takes some time to be desensitised towards the upliftment/progress
of the inmates; but such orphan-turned-staff, being already
desensitised to the highest level, because of their long living in the
orphanage, prove lethargic, time passing, self-centred and undedicated. So it is
suggested that inmates as employees be avoided. Better get them adjusted
elsewhere. One who has remained free of cost for a long time here, would have no
hesitation to continue the same attitude and to be corrupt in thought and practice as the chances permit.

Whenever an inmate gets employment, he is allowed to live in as an inmate for about four months; so that he can make his arrangements outside. He is given clothes and his "account-money" which he has earned by doing some productional work during his stay inside. But real instances show that such employed inmates lived forcibly for years in the orphanages till they were ousted with police-help or help from outside organisations as they turned master of the orphanage and all above the authorities and rules.

The fourth and most common mode of rehabilitation is by way of restoration to the parent/s or relative/s. All the destitutes, whose one or both parents are alive, are restored to them; when they (inmates) want to go to their parent/s or when the parent/s desire or when they have completed the upper age of stay. Similarly the staff-kids are also restored to their parent/s. Generally after the restoration/adjustment of their kids, such staff-members also leave the job in the orphanages; which means that their primary and only aim was to rear up their kids.

After the aforesaid rehabilitational-pattern at orphanages A and B, now we take up the same at orphanages C and D. Like A and B, the pattern at C and D is also almost similar and very simple. At orphanage C all are destitutes and the reason for their admission is poverty. Their only way of rehabilitation is by restoration to their parent/s. They keep the destitutes upto 12 or till they pass the 5th class. Thus orphanage C gives temporary relief to poor parent/s; and that too, due to the specific capacity to admit inmates (say 50), does not help the problem to its full gravity. At orphanage D, similarly, the inmates are restored to parent/s. There is practically no schooling arrangement, though it is so in record.

The rehabilitation-pattern at orphanage E depends upon two factors: First, they admit all boys; and Second, they admit boys between 7 and 12 years old. Therefore, marriage of girls and adoption of smaller inmates are altogetherly absent. The only modes left are by employment or by restoration to parent/s or relative/s.
Lastly the orphanage F is yet to develop its rehabilitational-pattern. Though they keep girls of all age-groups and boys upto 12, still there is no provision for adoption and marriage. The only two provisions of rehabilitation are (i) restoration of boys and girls to their parents or relatives and (ii) transfer of boys to orphanage E after the age of 12. Like other orphanages, there are few cases of absconding and deaths of inmates. But one thing is missing: some girls of unknown parentage or without parents are crossing puberty and have reached adolescence; but as yet there is no policy decision or action on the part of the management, of what to do in such cases? The same problem has also been pointed out by Sarthi Rajender (Dainik Jagran, 24.1.91, P3: 1-5). The responsible management should think of it better sooner than late.

Now we look at the rehabilitation from the statistical point of view. The data for orphanage A is available from 1.4.1938 to 8.10.1992; but in the record, the portion of rehabilitation w.e.f. 1.4.38 to 30.9.43 is badly destroyed/missing and cannot be read and used. Therefore, for this orphanage, as per availability of record, the record has been divided into four sub-periods of different spans, as in table No.57 (on the next page): the first span is w.e.f. 30.9.43 to 1950; the second span is w.e.f. 1951 to 1960; the third span is w.e.f. 1961 to 1970; and the fourth span is w.e.f. 1971 to 8.10.1992. The first three spans regarding orphanage A have been used to draw out general conclusion regarding the various modes of rehabilitation upto 1970 (in fact, this makes one sub-section of the table).

In the second sub-section of the table, we have computed the various modes of rehabilitation of various orphanages, from 1971 onwards, to draw out the general conclusion regarding the various modes of rehabilitation in all the orphanages; and also to compare with the previous modes at orphanage A prior to 1971. The available data for orphanages A, B, C and E is for the periods:
- 1971 to 8.10.92 (i.e. for 21 years and 9 months) for A,
- 7.12.76 to 11.2.93 (i.e. for 15 years and 2 months) for B,
- 6.5.77 to 15.9.92 (i.e. for 15 years and 4 months) for C, and
- 9.6.75 to 23.7.93 (i.e. for 19 years and 1 month) for E respectively. The data for the remaining two orphanages i.e. B & F was not provided and/or available,
Table No. 57 : Showing Rehabitational or Discharge pattern of orphanages A, B, C & E:
(Data for orphanages D & F were not provided and/or available, hence not computed)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orphanage</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>Total %</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1950-1955</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>1956-1960</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1961-1970</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1971-1975</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rehabitational-patterns</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To parents or Home</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>41.19</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To B/S/B/A/Others*</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>9.77</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>5.36</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To other orphans etc.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharge in absence/will</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3.64</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abandoning</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Ouster (disciplinary)</td>
<td></td>
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<td>To police/SDM/Court etc.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reasons: UK/RPD/Missing**</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>32.38</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>201</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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<th>Still living in</th>
<th>Total interviewed</th>
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<td>Temporarily to parents/relatives etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Admissions</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Duration</td>
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Average admissions per year:

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* Bm= Brothers, Sm= Sisters, Br= Relatives, Ao= Any Others.
** UK= Unknown, RPD= Record portion Destroyed.
*** Y= Year/s, M= Month/s.
From the first sub-section of the table, we can conclude that:

- 50.96% inmates were restored to parents or relatives;
- 0.96% inmates were rehabilitated by way of employment;
- 5.36% inmates (all girls) were married by the orphanage;
- 1.34% were given in adoption; (Thus in all 7.66% inmates were either employed, married or adopted through the orphanage A)
- 2.11% inmates died in the orphanage;
- 0.77% were transferred to another orphanage at Firozpur;
- 3.64% inmates were discharged because of absence from orphanage or will to go;
- 1.14% of the inmates absconded from the orphanage;
- 1.34% of the inmates were given to the police/courts etc by the orders of which they have been admitted temporarily;
- and lastly, for 32.38% of the inmates, either the way of rehabilitation is not known or the concerned portion of the record is destroyed or missing.

Similarly, from the second sub-section of the table, we can conclude and compare that:

- The percentage of those who were restored to parents and relatives have increased from 50.96% to 76.70% (i.e. by 25.74%); which indicates that the problem of destitution is increasing in the orphanages.
- The percentage of these who were employed, married and got adopted by the orphanage has gone down from 7.66% to 3.85% (i.e. by 3.81%); which indicates that rehabilitation by these ways, especially by marriage and adoption, have decreased.
- The percentage of death at the orphanages has also reduced from 2.11% to 0.47% (i.e. by 1.64%).
- The percentage of transfers to other orphanages or such institutions have gone up from 0.77% to 1.76% (i.e. by 0.99%). These transfers include the transfers of 7 inmates to Nishant Chandigarh, of 6 inmates to Nari Niketan Jind, and of two inmates to Faridabad.
- The percentage of inmates discharged because of absence/will has gone up from 3.64% to 6.09% (i.e. by 2.45%). The major responsibility for this increase
goes to the Chasnala Coal-Mines Tragedy, because of which were got admitted on 6.7.76 and got discharged on 1. months and 25 days.

- The percentage of absconders have gone up from 1.14% to (It is worth-while to note here that every admission Bio-Social compulsion. The degree of this compulsion varies case of orphans it is more than the destitutes. The a orphanages till this compulsion is unmanageable and, as or they think that they will manage, they abscond; which result of, their being dissatisfied/frustrated with:
  (i) the institutionalisation itself or the environment
  (ii) the services of the orphanage; or
  (iii) the behaviour within the orphanage at various lev managers or societies etc; or
  (iv) their desire or urge to go or to be rehabilitated other better place in the outside society, to be to go outside with the hope that he will be absconders can be of two types: (i) Real abscond want to live in the orphanage at any cost; and (potential absconders: those who develop a feeling of living in the orphanages because of various creation of the orphanages and they abscond as a

- A new phenomenon has developed in the orphanages at abo indiscipline on the part of the inmates, because sex-mixing at late adolescence stage, leading ultimate and unthought of ouster of the inmates from the orphanages such orphans/destitutes ousted is 3.63% (i.e. 31 inmate A & B, and none from other orphanages).

- The percentage of those who come for temporary stay by police/courts have gone down from 1.34% to 0.23% (i.e. percentage of those, whose reasons of discharge are
etc, has also gone down. This is so only at orphanage A and ity of the previous years, because of faulty/careless record.

tant inference which can be drawn from the second-section of

regarding the total number of admissions in the different

ung a specific period of time, leading us to calculate the

year (in average) at different orphanages. This average of

year for orphanages A, B, C and E is 17.66, 17.44, 11.87 and rely. Thus on an average, per year, 15.67 inmates are admitted

the various modes of discharge/rehabilitation, in the

of percentage, are: restoration to parents or relatives

aged because of absence/will (6.09%), ouster because of 3%, absconding (3.04%), employment (2.10%), transfer to other

%, adoption (1.05%), marriage of girls (0.70%), death within 0.47% and 0.23% of the inmates stay temporarily by the orders

rts. For the remaining 4.23% inmates the rehabilitation record

ed. So in majority of the cases the orphanages are turning to

orary relief to the destitutes, if seen in the rehabilitative