



“WORKING WITH YOUTH AT RISK” SERIES. ISSUE 10

## **MOSCOW'S RAILWAY STATION CHILDREN:**

NAN Foundation's Experience in Working  
with Homeless Children Living at Moscow Railway  
Stations

An Overview of Problems Hampering Organization  
of Work with Youth at Risk

Moscow 2006



**No to Alcoholism and Drug Addiction (NAN)  
Russian Charity Foundation**

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Children Living at Moscow Railway Stations**

**An Overview of Problems Hampering Organization  
of Work with Youth at Risk**

**EDITED BY O.V.ZYKOV AND L.A.GONCHAROVA**

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## **Preface**

In October 2005, with the assistance of the British organization Railway Children, the NAN Foundation started working with homeless children at the railway stations of Moscow. This activity came as a logical follow-up of our efforts to establish a Rehabilitation Environment for minors at risk started by the NAN Foundation back in 1992. Initially, our efforts were focused on setting up a system for provision of assistance to neglected children who generally live with their families but regularly run away from home. At this stage, we concentrated on working with those children who don't live at home or simply don't have one, i.e. with homeless children living on the street or at railway stations. That's why the project was titled "Moscow Railway Stations Children". With reference to the project's outputs, we have prepared this document comprising the findings of theme surveys, a description of social work techniques, an overview of the homeless children situation in Moscow and other Russian regions and a problem analysis relative to general organization of work with Youth at Risk.

Therefore...

## MOSCOW’S RAILWAY STATION CHILDREN

*By: O.V.Belyaeva, Y.I.Berlieva*

In order to establish an efficient system of assistance to homeless children living at Moscow’s railway stations and adjacent territories, this project was to achieve the following specific goals:

- Identify the characteristics of social disadaptation, compile a socio-psychological profile of homeless children living at Moscow’s railway stations and formulate methods for working with this homeless children category.
- Identify all government, municipal and non-government bodies addressing the issue of homeless children living at Moscow’s railway stations and develop a system of inter-departmental cooperation aimed at achieving tangible results.
- Ensure the homeless children’s access to social, medical and legal assistance.

Achievement of the above goals was to create the basis for building an effective system of assistance to homeless children living at Moscow’s railway stations.

### **THE BEGINNING**

Initial training of social workers to be deployed at railway stations was completed in October 2005. The training course covered communicating techniques, reporting procedure and drafting of questionnaires that were to provide data to be used in the study. The questionnaires were based on existing materials prepared by Railway Children, while all street assignments were done jointly with International Humanitarian Association Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF).

Field assignments carried out from November 2005 till August 2006, were focusing on locating the main homeless children’s hang-outs, identifying their basic needs, providing (social, medical and legal) assistance, performing an analysis of the homeless children

issue and providing an overview of the systems and organizations addressing the same.

A total of 248 field assignments were done during the reporting period by joint teams comprised of the NAN Foundation (5 persons) and MFS (10 persons) representatives. Overall, we made contact with 300-400 children and teenagers.

**80 initial contacts** mean that a given child was spotted by the social workers for the first time. It's imperative that social workers provide help and support to runaways who haven't yet adapted to living on the street because these children are easier motivated to family reunification or return to the orphanage (it's known that teenagers often run away on the spur of the moment).

**Valya Balashov, 13 years.**

*Comes from a low-income family, ran away from home after a quarrel with the parents. After a discussion with the project staff and a meal, decided to return home. He was given a ticket to his home town and has never been seen at the railway station ever since.*

*Even when the situation home is bad, a child who is a newcomer on the street has better chances of quick re-socialization provided that a corresponding advice is given to his family.*

**Anya, 15 years, Orekhovo-Zuevo (Moscow region)**

*An orphan. Until recently was reared by an aunt who finally refused to take care of the girl. Her brother is a drug addict and Anya is afraid to live home because of his bouts of aggression. Stayed in contact with the project staff, after an unsuccessful attempt to return home decided to undergo another rehab course at Kvartal rehabilitation center. Wants to go to an “orphanage”.*

**672 follow-up contacts** mean children with whom we maintained a regular contact. The task of motivating these children takes longer and is hampered by their having adapted to street living.

### A positive example:

Amir, 17 years, Orekhovo-Zuevo (Moscow region)

Been living on the street for over a year. Comes from a low-income family of 3 children. The mother is an alcoholic. We managed to convince him to take a rehab course at Kvartal center and he hasn't been seen at the railway station ever since. Wants to find an employer providing a place to live, planning to become a carpenter.

### Statistics of Field Assignments and Contacts with Children

	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Total
Field assignments	19	29	20	33	30	32	34	26	25	248
Total contacts with children	83	92	52	113	105	111	106	43	47	752
Including INITIAL contacts	23	7	10	9	6	8	7	7	3	80
FOLLOW-UP contacts	60	85	42	104	99	103	99	36	44	672
WITH BOYS	59	67	42	91	81	79	85	26	38	568
WITH GIRLS	24	25	10	22	24	32	21	17	9	184
Under 9 years	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
9-11 years	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	7
12-14 years	12	17	5	4	4	2	6	1	0	51
15-16 years	32	25	24	58	39	46	39	27	17	307
17-18 years	39	49	22	51	60	59	61	15	29	385
Muscovites	15	24	4	29	35	45	29	10	7	198
Non-Muscovites	68	68	48	84	70	66	77	33	40	554
< week	8	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	11
< month	2	2	2	5	2	0	3	0	0	16
< year	23	23	11	13	9	15	29	18	11	152
> year	50	67	39	95	94	96	71	25	36	573



## **STREET WORKERS...**

We have reviewed all approaches to find out that not all criteria traditionally specified for street social workers were important for us (useful for our work). For example, a frequently seen age restriction to 25 years maximum proved irrelevant for the purposes of our job. Of all people responding to our offer we selected 5 most fitting for the job. Four of these were NAN Foundation staffers, the fifth was an external expert. All had college background. The group comprised 2 psychologists, 1 lawyer, 1 social expert and 1 teacher. Education background proved to be an important albeit insufficient selection criterion.

The project was implemented in conjunction with the International Humanitarian Association *Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF)* – given that their social service has been working with Moscow’s homeless children for over 2 years, their expertise and assistance were invaluable.

MSF people delivered a crash street work course, after which we were thinking that we had understood everything and were ready to work on our own. Reality was different though :: it took us almost a month before we were able to identify our target audience on the street.

### **...Who are They?**

- Although the age is important, psychological age matters more than physical one. A street worker has to be at least 18 years old, but the upper age limit is difficult to define. An important thing is the ability to walk long distances, good physical shape also helps although it’s not critically important. The most important thing though is the ability to make contact.
- A street worker has to carry a “business kit” (basic medication, business cards, instruction booklet with the addresses and location map of the centers offering assistance to the children). In our assignments we were using the MSF brochure showing the Children Center’ location, our medics always carried an array of basic medicine, vitamins, condoms and a card showing the address of a medical aid post providing assistance to homeless adults and specifying the day of the week reserved for homeless children.

- Clothing worn during assignments has to be comfortable and adequate to the season. It wouldn't hurt to have some sort of identification like a bag with the MSF logo. We carried our NAN Foundation cards which we were using when contacting railway station employees (asking permission to pass through the turnstile to the platform).
- “We all come from childhood”: it's important for the street worker to remember that he was once a teenager who couldn't comprehend the adults' ways. Moralizing and preaching can hardly help establish contacts.
- The “golden mean” rule: sympathy and sensibility on the one hand and sufficient maturity and professionalism helping to withstand other human being's pain and one's own helplessness – on the other.

### **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR STREET WORKERS**

- Assignments must be done only by two, sometimes three persons but never alone. This is too dangerous. Generally speaking, while one member of the team communicates, the other covers him.
- Children can often be found in an altered state of mind. Before trying to make contact, one has to assess the degree of the teenager's adequacy and aggressiveness. Volatile compounds and alcohol may cause hallucinations and aggression. Communication with such a teenager may be unsafe but it will surely be totally useless.
- It's good if one person in the pair has a medical background. Children often suffer from wounds caused by injections.
- Never hand to the children anything of value, for example, mobile phones.

The homeless children's idea of what is good and what is bad significantly differs from ours. The basic law says: "Good is what helps to survive". Accordingly, a usual thing would be to ask for your mobile "to make a call to mum or a friend" and run away with it. The most interesting thing is that when you see the same boy next time, he would probably behave as if nothing had happened and can even return to

you your SIM-card. He needs money to survive and fraud is not the worst thing he is prepared to do to get some.

- Remember about personal hygiene, always carry disinfecting wipes. Children like to be greeted by a handshake, however, don't do it if you feel squeamish. They will most probably see that and you won't be able to make contact.
- The problem of “unnecessary knowledge” (children often do unlawful things) should be tackled by each street worker on his own. You can honestly ask to be spared unnecessary details. However, you should always clearly state your own personal attitude and, on occasion, you could discuss it with the teenager.
- Never invite the children to your place and don't try to establish personal relationships. We have already mentioned personal hygiene. Here we are talking about psychological hygiene. There are limits to what you do and you shouldn't cross them.
- Avoid too much involvement in the child's predicament. You have to do your job honestly and professionally but you also have to remember that your ability is limited.

### **Where?**

The project was implemented at the following Moscow locations: Kursky, Paveletsky, Yaroslavsky, Kazansky and Leningradsky railway stations, other target group hangouts like Serp i Molot railway stations, Alekseevskaya, VDNH, Krasnopresnenskaya, Petrovsko-Razumovskaya, Pushkinskaya and other subway stations.

### **How?**

#### **The Structure of First Contact**

**Greeting** – Hi, my name is...

**Introduction** – I work for the NAN Foundation, we help children who live on the street... And what is your name?

You might ask if the kid is hungry and offer to buy him some food.

If the child feels like talking to you, don't rush him with your questions, ask them one at a time so that it doesn't sound like a police interrogation. Communication has to be comfortable.

Sometimes the child may speak out to you asking to spare some change and then you can use the opportunity to talk to him.

– *What do you need the money for?*

– *To buy food (the answer will always be plausible but normally having nothing to do with reality).*

– *I’m not going to give you money but we could drop into a fast food outlet, buy some food and talk. I work for the NAN Foundation, we help children in difficult situations. Maybe we could help you as well.*

- Never give money to the children. Even if they say they need it to buy food, they will use on drugs. You could buy some food in a nearby kiosk, drop into a Macdonald’s or another cheap cafe. In addition, children know how and when they can get food from Moscow-based charity organizations.

*“I know you waste money to buy drugs. I’m sure drugs are death and I don’t want to help you kill yourself. I hope very much that one day you will understand that you are ill and need medical treatment”.*

- Locations where free food is handed out present another opportunity to make contact with the children and carry your message across.
- Sometimes when you see a loitering teenager, you can introduce yourself (explaining the purpose of your job) and ask if he needs any help. You could get an answer that he’s just waiting for a friend or taking a stroll. However, if you see the same kid at the railway station the next day, you can feel free to ask if he’s taking too long a stroll or if the friend he’s waiting for got lost.
- Never interfere into clashes between the children or between children and other people. What a street worker could do is provide medical assistance, if needed, call for an ambulance, etc.
- If the children already know one of you, making the first contact would be easier. They often approach the person they know, then you can ask for any news, look for any changes, etc.

- Asking the police to help is a bad idea. Children are terrified of being sent back, besides, their way of life — many of them make a living by stealing and pan handling — precludes contacts with the police.
- “Relax, have a smoke!” Don’t be too insisting. If the child is clearly indisposed, don’t run after him, don’t ask every passer-by if he saw any homeless children around, etc. The fact that we don’t see the children on the street doesn’t mean they don’t see us. What you could do is stand for a while in a visible location and the children who know you will most probably come out of their hiding.

### **What We Can Tell the Kid**

Surely you could tell something about yourself, often some brief statements like saying that you prefer orange juice just like him will help you make contact.

### **What Message We Have to Carry Across**

We spoke about the assistance the children could get from the NAN Foundation, namely at the Path to Home shelter (for children under 16 years old) and the Kvartal rehabilitation center. We also spoke about the MSF daytime center.

Even if the children are already aware of these opportunities, it’s well worth reminding them because instead of going to an abstract place, teenagers would be more interested to come see a specific person. If they feel like continuing a dialog with you, they will come to the center looking for you. If you see that the child is interested, you can tell him you can be found at Kvartal, MSF and so on.

### **What You Learn**

You won’t always find out everything you want right away, you will often be told lies. The same kid could use three different names and tell three different life stories to different street workers. That you have to remember.

We try to find out the child’s personal data for his file — age, where he comes from, whether he has any relatives, uses psychoactive substances, has any health problems and so on (see the questionnaire).

## **Wrapping Up**

Friendly goodbye and invitation to visit the center...

## **What You Shouldn't Ask Right Away**

If the kid has been living on the street for more than half a year, he normally has a shelter of his own. If he doesn't say it himself first, never ask where that place is (when VDNH children invited us to visit their attic “kip” six months after we first met them, we took it as a sign of great confidence :).

## **THE CHILDREN**

**IT'S NOT TRUE** that all the street children are dirty and shabby. You can surely see children like that on the street but, as a rule, they are either newcomers who had no time to adapt to the situation or those living on the street for a long time, having a long record of chemical dependency and paying no attention to their appearance. Very often these children suffer from brain lesions developing as a result of their drug abuse. However, a majority of street children look just as any other teenagers. How can you identify them?

## **TELLTALE SIGNS**

- **Appearance.** Street children almost never carry backpacks, bags or briefcases. It's hard to say why, but in contrast with homeless adults, street children always travel light. Probably it has something to do with a need to often flee from somebody which is easier to do without backpacks.
- **Loitering.** Street children are never in a hurry. They spend their time sitting on the parapets or strolling around but there's no sense of direction in what they do. Their stare is unfocused even when they look at you, maybe due to a lack of interest or because a direct look in the eye can be interpreted by adults as aggressive intentions.
- **Pan handling.** This is the street children's main method for making their living. While they often do it next to retail outlets, sometimes they do it on the street.

- Footwear. Another telltale sign of a child living on the street is dirty footwear, often off-size and out of season, sometimes worn out. Getting new footwear is no easy thing — footwear handed out by charity organizations is rarely modern and of the needed size, while stealing footwear is more difficult than clothing.
- Hands. The hands of the children suffering from chemical abuse are very dirty (when adding glue inside the polythene bag, it’s hard to keep the hands clean and nobody cares about washing them after every fix). If the child is an intravenous drug user, his hands are unnaturally swollen and have a characteristic unhealthy appearance.
- Often the polythene bag containing the glue is secreted inside a sleeve, so one sleeve is dangling loose or taut (when held by the hand) making the kid look a little askew.
- Of course, these children can be easily identified by the paint smell.
- The kids hang out in packs in specific locations.

## **DWELLING**

The kids who recently ran away from home typically spend nights where they can, which makes finding them difficult. However, it’s worth the trouble because this category has the best re-socialization prospects.

Teenagers who become part of a street gang live in permanent, secret pads. Asking to show their pad soon after you make the first contact is a bad idea because this info is considered secret and the perpetrator can be punished for the disclosure while the others will treat you with distrust.

The children are very afraid to lose their “home” and be sent to hospital or an orphanage. These institutions arouse nothing but fear and rage.

## **NIGHTS ARE SPENT**

- In building basements
- In attics

- In plant rooms
- In elevator shafts
- Under the railway platform

Anyhow, the pad is a difficult to access and, if possible, a dry place. “Amenities” may vary from cardboard sheets on the concrete floor to makeshift power supply, an immersion heater, TV and DVD player.

The main function of the pad is to ensure a relatively quiet sleep and the possibility of a quick departure.

## **HANGOUTS**

- At railway stations. Some of them — Belorussky, Rizhsky and Saviolovsky — are least popular, we never saw any children there. At Kievsky, Leningradsky, Yaroslavsky and Paveletsky stations, staff members told us that they had seen children looking like homeless, but we were unable to locate them despite all our efforts (we visited the station at different time and on different days of the week). At Kazansky station, we have seen just one teenager who told us he normally hangs out at Kursky railway station. It later turned out that Kursky station is indeed the favorite hangout of homeless children.
- In crowded places. Near Pushkinskaya, VDNH, Alekseevskaya, Petrovsko-Razumovskaya subway stations. The reasons for choosing these locations: there’s always somebody to solicit for money, one can easily get lost in the crowd, but the most important reason is the vicinity of a DRUG-STORE where one can buy drugs like stadol and butarphanol. In the initial stage of the project, some children were hanging out at Petrovsko-Razumovskaya subway station later moving to Alekseevskaya. Officially, stadol and butarphanol are not over-the-counter drugs, but...
- Near retail outlets located in the same areas.
- In locations popular with tourists (Arbat, Okhotny Ryad, VDNH, etc.), for the same reason — pan handling.

## **FOOD**

A common opinion that street children are always hungry is not exactly true. Today, there are several Moscow-based organizations providing food for homeless people, including Salvation Army, Active



Assistance to Children. Many Russian orthodox churches also provide food for the homeless. Inanition of the body is normally caused by systematic psychoactive substance abuse.

Besides, the children have some money obtained by pan handling or by other methods. However, they prefer to spend this money on drugs. Once we saw an amazing episode when a homeless teenager snatched a carton of cheap cigarettes from a drunken client at a tobacco kiosk. To our surprise, the agitated teenagers (all smokers) immediately started selling cigarettes to passers-by at half-price.

*– You are smokers, you could last on these cigarettes for a couple of weeks, right?*

*– What for? You can always ask for a cigarette. As for money, we need it right now for a fix – the drug-store will close soon.*

A meal is often just a pretext for making contact. Sharing bread with someone implies a friendly conversation and you can find out a lot of interesting things from the very beginning. Our experience confirms the opinion that provision of this kind of assistance only leads to welfare mentality. Undoubtedly, provision of food and clothing is necessary to change the person but, without any psychological and socio-pedagogical assistance, it would do more harm than good. When a person’s only efforts are taken with the desire to get a fix, and the rest is delivered to him on a platter, the resulting vicious circle is very hard to break due to the absence of critical attitude to oneself and one’s way of life. Dope becomes an indispensable medicine and all life discomfort – just an excuse for dependency.

*– How can you stop drinking with a life like this!*

This attitude is more often characteristic for adults. Children use psychoactive substances easily, it’s a sort of fun and games in which they see no harm. When asked why they do it, a typical answer would be:

*– I’ve got nothing to do anyway and I’m bored, a fix helps me cheer up.*

### **The Project’s Target Audience**

The target audience may be divided into two subgroups: neglected children and homeless children.

**Neglected children** – typically from Moscow and its outskirts,

from conflicting and dysfunctional families. These children regularly run away from home for brief periods. Alternatively, they live at home but spend all their time in the company of homeless children living the same criminalized life.

**Homeless children** – come from all over Russia, including Moscow and Moscow region. Typically, they are either orphans or social orphans whose parents were deprived of their parents’ rights. These children run away from their foster-parents or state-run custody institutions (orphanages or boarding schools).

The main reason for the homeless children’s plight is disparity between the child’s needs and the capabilities of the state-run system of social custody. Most homeless children run away from government orphanages.

Frequently the child incapable of adapting to such an environment doesn’t get any moral support or adequate expert assistance. On the contrary, children often encounter aggression from the staff or other inmates. In some cases, the child’s disadaptation results in aggressive behavior. In our opinion, indifference, the absence of an adult being a positive role model and violence are the basic reasons for choosing the street.

### **Characteristics**

The children are suspicious and, when contacted on the street, reluctantly speak of themselves or tell made-up stories, often introducing themselves by different names and telling different life stories. In most cases, this is done for fear of being sent back, although there may be other reasons for such behavior. Street contact is important for establishing a more trusting relationship, after which the children might show up at the MSF daytime center. After a while, the children become more open, disclose addresses and phone numbers of their relatives which makes possible data verification. At this stage, correctional therapy may be started.

During their field assignments, we have encountered children who were “newcomers” on the street. In most cases, these children are ready to change their situation, view their life on the street as unacceptable and often return home or agree to be sent to a shelter.

*Two neglected children from Balashikha aged 13. Valentin has been living at the railway station for 6 days, Sasha says that he spends nights at home. Valya is unkempt, dressed in warm wind-cheater and sneakers that fall apart. Says he was born in Murmansk, later the family moved to Rostov-na-Donu and some time ago the parents found a better-paid job in Moscow. According to the boy, he ran away from home because he was tired of his parents and looking for freedom. From conversation we find out that he had a quarrel with the parents.*

*We accompanied the boys to the MSF daytime center where they took shower, had some food and then returned to Kursky railway station, promising us to come to the center on a regular basis.*

*We never saw these boys again. Railway station “veterans” told us that they had returned home.*

In contrast with neglected children, an overwhelming majority of homeless children are not Muscovites but come from Moscow region and neighboring oblasts. A small percentage of homeless children come from distant Russian regions and other CIS countries.

*In December, one boy left for home in Belarus, a girl from the Orenburg region – to her brother living in Ryazhsk and yet another boy – to his parents living in Ryazan.*

All children encounter violence in the family and at government institutions (boarding schools, shelters, clinics) which typically becomes the reason for their running away.

The children living on the street for over a year very rarely have a desire to change anything. They assess their life as satisfactory, although no one wants to live the rest of his life in the same manner. Very often they hope for a windfall (I’ll find a treasure-trove, get an inheritance, steal and get away with it). The criteria of good and bad are based on the principle of survival. The same principle justifies any action. The most important values are money and force.

### **Dasha (with a dog), Podolsk (Moscow region)**

*One of the railway station’s “veterans”. Although she occasionally goes home, she doesn’t want to live there because of the strained relations with her aunt. The mother died 2 years*

***ago from tuberculosis. The father died when Dasha was only 1.5 years old so she doesn't remember him. Completed 9 grades at school. Suffers from chemical dependency (glue). Makes her living by pan handling. To feed her dog, goes to Kutchino.***

Some teenager bands migrate preferring to hang out near drug-stores where they could buy drugs altering the state of mind (like stadol or demidrol). Many children inhale (use) glue, varnish or other chemical substances producing the same effect. For some children, chemical dependency becomes the main purpose in life although a majority of the teenagers view it as a fact of life which helps avoid internal conflicts and forget about tomorrow.

During a face-to-face conversation, the children are less reticent; however, from the behavior correction point of view, group therapy is likewise important. Duration of correctional work would be directly proportionate to the duration of the children's life on the street.

Most of the children seen at railway stations are over 15 years old. Younger children were seen once or twice, and we were able to convince them to return home (Valentin and Sasha from Balashikha, Moscow region).

In an overwhelming majority of cases, the children run away from dysfunctional families, i.e. single-parent families or from parents suffering from alcohol or drug abuse.

**Nikita, 14 years, Noginsk (Moscow region).**

***Mother died 3 years ago, father has been drinking and beating up the boy ever since he returned from prison. "I'm not going to come back until Dad is locked-up again..."***

Boys are seen on the street much more often than girls. Most girls living on the street speak of their wish to live at home. Older girls try to establish permanent or long-term relationship with boys.

**Zhenya V., 16 years, Orenburg region.**

***Refused from rehab course (uses drugs) explaining that she wants to stay together with her boyfriend who also lives on the street. After sorting it out with the boy, decided to go to her brother living in Ryazhsk.***

Girls tend to be less satisfied with their living on the street.

**Anya N., 16 years, Moscow.**

*With mother deprived of her parental rights, the girl has escaped from an orphanage several times. When asked why, she replies: “It’s dull there”. Been living on the street for 3 years.*

## **PROBLEMS**

As already mentioned, most children living on the street for a long time are quite happy with their lives and do not want to change anything hoping that life will take a turn for the better without any efforts on their own part. Correctional work is possible albeit hampered by the altered system of values (survival matters most). The absence of a minimal motivation to change their lives is a serious obstacle for working with these children.

Another problem is our limited resources which precludes our activities with families living outside Moscow city limits.

**Brother and sister Boudanov, 13 years, Elektrostahl (Moscow region).**

*Although they have mother and a stepfather, the children live at an orphanage and see the family on weekends. The relations with the stepfather are strained, the children complain of physical abuse. As of today, Olesya often runs away, however, we can’t influence the family – they live too far away from Moscow.*

Problems the children encounter could be categorized into internal and external-related.

### **External-related problems:**

1. Violence in the family and in orphanages are the most frequently named reasons for running away. The children don’t want this information disclosed because they fear harassment. (Some teenagers report that the Orekhovo-Zuevo orphanage is infamous for bullying: elders force younger children to pan handle, physically abusing those who refuse to do it).

2. Formalities required for admitting the child into a shelter. Prior to admittance, the child has to pass a physical checkup. In Moscow,

there are only 3 hospitals dealing with homeless children – DGKB (Children’s Municipal Clinic) #21 (80 beds for homeless children), Tushino Children’s Municipal Clinic (for children aged over 15 years, 60 beds) and Morozovskaya Children’s Municipal Clinic (for children aged under 15 years, 30 beds). The children are reluctant to speak of their experience at the clinics and all comments are negative. Frequent complaints of physical abuse by the staff, humiliation by security, etc.

3. Children often reject rehab course and hospitals because of their distrust of the adults and suspicion they would be returned to the places they already escaped from.

4. Some reports of pedophilia which are practically impossible to prove.

5. Police brutality. According to the teenagers, on very cold days last winter, the police and railway station security threw outside those who refused to pay them off.

### **Internal problems:**

1. Unawareness of any alternatives. For children from dysfunctional families, the possibility of any relationship other than that from which they are running away is very difficult to imagine.

2. After some time on the street, teenagers adopt a welfare attitude viewing the world from the standpoint of their own benefit. Any wrongdoing is acceptable without remorse. Priority is given to survival.

3. An altered system of values. Knowing one’s ability to survive, priding oneself on their ability to steal and deceive becomes more important than family, home, study, etc.

4. Deceit. Children often tell lies due to distrust and fear of being forced to return. For some teenagers this becomes a way of life, they seem to enjoy telling fantastic life stories. Stories like this can be identified only through regular communication with other street workers.

### **Socio-economic Profile (an extract from the 2005 MSF report)**

“After an analysis of the target audience’s socio-economic profile in 2005, we have made the following conclusions:

- A majority of homeless children come from single-parent families, from families with a non-working parent or where one of the parents died or was doing time in prison.

- A majority of homeless children opt for living on the street as an alternative to a chronic neglect from their parents, relatives, teachers and society in general.
- Many had to run away because of domestic violence or sexual abuse.
- Children run away because of unsatisfactory living conditions (when a family of five has to live in a single-room dwelling).
- Running away may be provoked by the parents’ alcoholism.
- Running away may be provoked by lack of attention from the orphanage staff.
- The issue of homeless children may be fuelled by immigration from the former USSR republics.
- Many teenagers from all over Russia come to Moscow because they perceive this city as a “paradise” where they could have a good time and make some money.
- 81 % of the children are urban residents.
- 20% of all children ran away from home, 80% – from child care institutions (with 10% of these running away from orphanages and the remaining 90% – from shelters).
- 80% of the children escaping orphanages report abuse by staff or senior children; the child views the “freedom” of street living as the best choice as compared to the restrictions and hazards of staying in the orphanage.
- Homeless children “by definition” cut themselves loose from their families and the adult world which they, based on their experience, see as hostile to them. This break-up with society leads to a certain dependency on their sense of freedom. However, on the street, freedom is a relative concept: police round-ups, crime, drug dependency and prostitution are facts of street life. A homeless teenager often lives in a world of his own dreams, in a world of illusory freedom. He finds shelter and recognition in a band of teenagers like him. Gradually the teenager withdraws into oneself, gets weaker and becomes more a victim rather than a leader.

- Only 2% of the children carry any documents.
- An overwhelming majority of homeless children don't go to school and have no job; some stay in the same grade for several years or ignore school altogether.
- In order to survive, homeless children bunch together while still preferring independence and relying on themselves only (allegiance to the band and solidarity depends on the situation).
- Many homeless children are constantly or occasionally involved in criminal activity like petty thefts, organized crime, etc.
- Non-criminal income requires a more “creative” approach; however, the idea of money management is foreign to a majority of the homeless children: they immediately spend all the money they make.
- Chances of becoming a prostitute are very high for girls living on the street for more than six months.
- Younger boys are especially vulnerable to sex abuse, they are attracted by easy money and gifts (in 2005, two of the project's children became victims of sexual abuse).
- More than half of the project's children were at least twice detained by the police on suspicion.
- More than 70% of the children were at least once escorted to a hospital or an orphanage from where they ran away again.
- After six month of living on the street, homeless children gradually become unwilling to change their lives which seriously hinders the re-socialization process”.

### **The Main Objectives to Be Achieved through Contact with the Children**

As already mentioned earlier, the main purpose of our contact with the children is to identify the reasons for their living on the street, find out how they survive in this situation and whether they see any prospects for the future or want to change anything.

Another important goal is to inform the children about “safe” institutions where they could get assistance. We invited the children to the



MSF daytime center and to the Path to Home shelter. In addition, given that most street children use psychoactive substances, we encouraged the children to go through a rehabilitation program at Kvartal. Acting together with the MSF people, we even organized “study tours” to the rehabilitation center where the children could for themselves see the facilities and conditions, talk to those teenagers already undergoing the rehab course.

The mere fact of our target audience receiving positive information on Kvartal as a place where they don’t have to fear the doctors, a place providing medical and psychological assistance can surely be regarded as an important project output.

### **Kvartal**

*An extract from a report by Veronica Gottlieb’s (Director of Kvartal rehabilitation complex).*

In the 9 months of its operation, Kvartal rehabilitation complex has treated 9 teenagers (two of them aged 16 and seven – between 7 and 15 years, including two girls).

As of the date of admission, one of the teenagers was using opiates, another – alcohol. The remaining teenagers were using a combination of various psychoactive substances, including volatile organic compounds (glue, furniture polish), alcohol and opiates.

Admission of each teenager to the inpatient department was authorized by the Moscow Government’s Health Care Department (with the application submitted by MSF).

Most of the teenagers had visited Kvartal prior to the admission in the course of a “sightseeing tour” organized by social workers.

The 45-day rehab course was to comprise several stages:

Motivation, diagnostic, rehabilitation and preparation for discharge. After the discharge from the inpatient department, the teenagers were to receive individual psychological advice within the framework of the daytime center operations.

The purpose of the motivation stage (working with the psychologist and psychotherapist) was to get an understanding of the center’s internal regulations, formulate the teenagers’ needs and the center’s

capacity, motivate the teenagers to take part in the program and subsequently adopt the values of healthy living.

The diagnostic stage comprised medical and psychological examination and compiling an individual rehabilitation program.

Bearing in mind the children’s way of life, their poor physical condition, the absence of regular medical assistance, the center’s doctors were trying to provide a maximum of diagnostic, consulting and medical services often exceeding the scope of standard medical assistance programs for drug addicts. The examination included lab diagnostics, consultations by a pediatrician, neurologist, phthisiotherapist, ECG, EEG, abdominal ultrasound and fluorography. As a result, the doctors identified 1 case of hepatitis C, 1 case of bubonadenitis, 1 case of conjunctivitis and 2 cases of acute respiratory disease.

Unfortunately, only two of the nine teenagers admitted to the center have completed the rehab course (with yet another girl currently undergoing treatment). One of the two teenagers, after spending 50 days at the inpatient department, got a farm job with the assistance of an MSF social worker. On the average, the teenagers stayed at the inpatient department for no longer than 10-18 days (with two leaving on the second day). Three of those who interrupted the initial rehab course later returned to the center.

All children had psychopathologic changes (one or both of their parents had suffered from alcoholism), 6 teenagers were orphans raised in boarding schools.

All the patients started to use psychoactive substances when they were 7-10 years old, seven started with inhaling glue vapors, the other two initially were using alcohol.

Three had a criminal record, two of them did time in prison.

At first the patients were reluctant to communicate with the center’s staff and reticent. Many children had a similar behavior pattern: turning their faces to the wall and hiding the head under the pillow.

In general, the teenagers had trouble coming to terms with the department’s internal regulations and attempted to make their own laws, some behaved aggressively, extorted cigarettes and food, attempted to bully younger children, demonstrated disrespect to the department’s staff. However, during the second hospitalization they

were trying to behave adequately (less swearing and attempts to violate the regime).

Psychological testing of all 7 patients (2 left the center on the second day) revealed hypomnesia, reduced cogitativity, reduced working capacity and a short span of attention. Six patients displayed low self-esteem, petulance, a feeling of loneliness. Only 2 of the patients revealed a higher than usual level of aggression.

One of the basic problems relative to interacting with the children was the absence of any aspirations. Initially, some of the teenagers did express their wish “to kick the habit”, however, most of them had no motivation to change their way of life. Frequently, they acted in the hope of “getting some rest and lots of sleep”.

Some children avoided contact with psychologists, showed little interest towards individual and group psychotherapeutic sessions, were reticent or were trying to degrade the topics being discussed by the group.

After a discussion of the problem with the MSF center staff, it was resolved that the center’s internal regulations would be explained to prospective patients before they decide on possible hospitalization.

### **Path to Home Shelter**

*An extract from a report by Tatiana Kharybina (Director of the Path to Home shelter)*

Three children were referred by social workers as a result of field assignments done in conjunction with the MSF:

- Boudanova, Olesya, date of birth: July 3, 1992
- Boudanov, Dennis, date of birth: July 3, 1992
- Potanina, Valentina, date of birth; November 23, 1991.

### **The Boudanovs.**

Originally from Elektrostahl (Moscow region), the family consisted of the mother, stepfather, elder sister, brother and grandmother. The children went to a local boarding-school where they stayed for 5 days a week. Dennis is very attached to his sister Olesya. In the last 1.5 years, the girl’s relations with her mother have become strained, she alleges that her mother doesn’t love her. The girl prefers to think

of herself as an adult, she likes freedom and flirting, tries to be the focus of attention and spends most of her time on the street, which displeases her mother. After a routine scandal, the girl ran away from home and headed for Moscow. After coming back, she made peace with her mother but ran away again after the next quarrel. Dennis supports his sister and regularly accompanies her in her trips. When we first saw them at a Moscow railway station, it was Olesya's seventh escape from home and Dennis' – third.

The brother and sister stood out from other homeless children. When offered to go to the shelter, they quickly agreed.

Initially the children reported that they had been suffering from physical and psychological abuse. Despite their allegations of having been disciplined with an implement less than 2 days before their arrival to the shelter, medical examination revealed no signs of a beating. The findings of psychological testing and further work with the children did not confirm the allegations of physical abuse. Teachers from the children's hometown boarding school also denied any knowledge of physical abuse, saying that the mother did care about her children (they were always neatly dressed), but paid little attention to them because of her preoccupation with her work. We asked the boarding school headmaster to inform the mother about the children's whereabouts.

The arrival of the mother and other relatives (an uncle, an aunt and the granny) came as a surprise to everyone. The mother demanded that her children are returned home. Speaking to the children, we emphasized that they did have a choice and they would go back home only if they agreed to. We also explained to the mother that we would protect the children's rights. The children were free to choose between staying with us, returning home or returning to their boarding school.

The family reunion went pretty well. After a long conversation, the children decided to return home.

After a long discussion, our psychologists convinced the mother to start visiting a psychologist in her home town.

### **What has been done:**

- Initial discussion of the children's problems and impressions of their behavior on the social workers

- Making contact with the children
- Verifying the information and personal data reported by the children
- Gathering information on the children’s family
- Physical checkup, daily observation by the center’s doctors
- Regular sessions with the psychologist, testing to verify allegations of physical abuse, etc.
- Modeling of various family situations with the psychologist
- Review of the data gathered and coordination of the treatment course
- Contact with the boarding school, verification of the children’s identity
- Verification of the children’s home address
- Cooperation with the Elektrostahl-based bodies in charge of custodian care
- Contact with the family.

### **Vlada Potanina**

Vlada is an orphan and used to live in Ukraine, at boarding school in the city of Kertch. Emotionally unbalanced, quick-tempered, resentful, likes traveling and believes that moving to another place would be a change for the better. Although she has a grandmother living in Kertch, according to the girl, the relationship with her is strained. Vlada remembers her parents’ stories about her aunt living in Irkutsk and an uncle in Yakutsk. The girl decided to find them and ran away from the boarding school. She crossed the Russian border on her own and arrived to Moscow hoping to get to Irkutsk. After spending a few days at a railway station, she was spotted by social workers from the NAN Foundation and MSF. After discussing the situation, we offered to the girl to stay at the shelter until we locate her aunt’s address and contact the aunt. The address was subsequently located but in a phone conversation the aunt told us she could not take care of the girl because she’s divorced and had raise a little daughter. The aunt promised to maintain regular contact with her niece by mail and possibly come to see her.

We were unable to find any of the girl’s relatives in Yakutsk since she only knew her uncle’s first name.

While at the shelter, Vlada took some classes, got around Moscow and actively participated in the activities of the shelter’s children. After a while, the girl started missing her brother and her home town. As soon as we received all necessary documents from the boarding school and the Ukrainian embassy, MSF people helped us return the girl to Kertch, Ukraine.

**What has been done:**

- Initial discussion of the girl’s problems and impressions of her behavior on the social workers
- Making contact with the girl
- Verifying the information and personal data reported by the girl
- Gathering information on the girl’s family
- Physical checkup, daily observation by the center’s doctors
- Regular sessions with the psychologist, testing
- Individual classes
- Review of the data gathered and coordination of the treatment course
- Contact with the boarding school, verification of the girl’s identity
- Gathering information on the relatives
- Contact with the relatives.

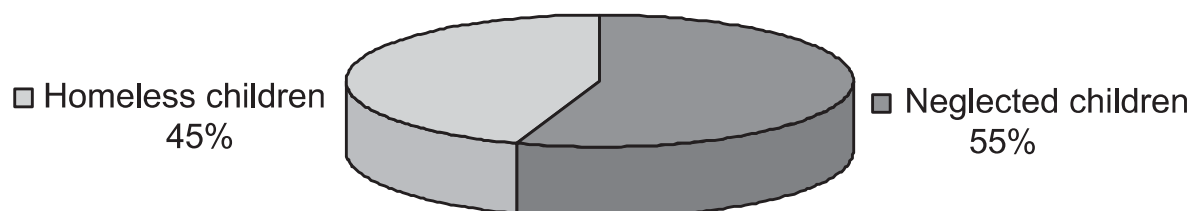
An advantage of the Path to Home shelter is that children can be admitted there without having to go to a resented hospital.

Once the child is admitted, street workers continue communicating with him, thus facilitating his adaptation process.

## SURVEY RESULTS

*A total of 159 questionnaires were collected from:*

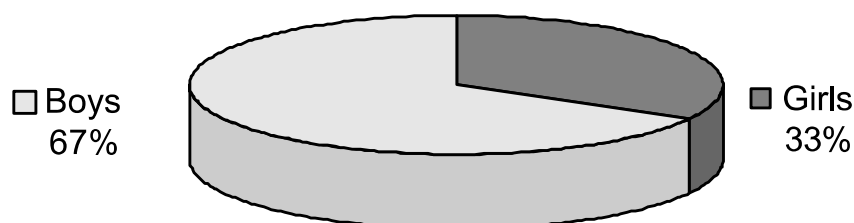
- 71 homeless children*
- 88 neglected children*



*Gender*

*Girls – 33%*

*Boys – 67%*



Gender-related aspects of teenagers' behavior are different and should be taken into account by social workers.

Both boys and girls run away from something and are looking for something. The most frequent reason for running away is psychological or physical (including sexual) abuse no matter where and why it occurs – at home (with the parents not necessarily being alcoholics), at a state-run institution where the child was placed after loss of a parent, etc.

Often the reason for running away is the feeling of desolation and neglect when the parents have no time for loving their child.

A typical example:

Two neglected girls, both from a single-parent family, hang out at Tushinskaya subway station. Their mothers work for a living, one as a cleaner at several locations, the other – as a sales rep of a large company. In both cases, most of the mothers' time is devoted to breadwinning while both girls hang out on the street and experiment with volatile compounds (adhesive, varnish).

Due to their age, the kids can't plan the future, in a conflict with the adult world they SUFFER and they RUN AWAY, typically without any plan. They simply hope that THERE they'll fare better. But when they see the same violence and indifference at a new place, they break down and start learning to live without feelings, reluctant to let adults into their lives and associating adults with 2 things – harm and money.

Therefore, gender-related aspects determine the following trends in the teenagers' behavior:

Most girls speak of their desire to have a family of their own. However, having no experience of valid relationship they can substitute sex for a family. Looking for love and support, in reality they get a surrogate of sex and become disappointed in human relationships. Three girls from the group are pregnant (in February, we helped one of them to leave for Ryazhsk where her brother lives). Three girls are already mothers; one of them manages to live on the street with her baby, while the babies of the other two girls were placed at state-run institutions.

The most important thing for boys is “achievement”, a feeling of being able to take care of himself. Looking for independence, they lose the opportunity for legal socialization because the state-run custody system leaves the child with no choice. The system doesn't care where the child wants to live, what profession he wants to learn, etc. With no documents and chased by the police, the teenager can make his living mostly by criminal activity.

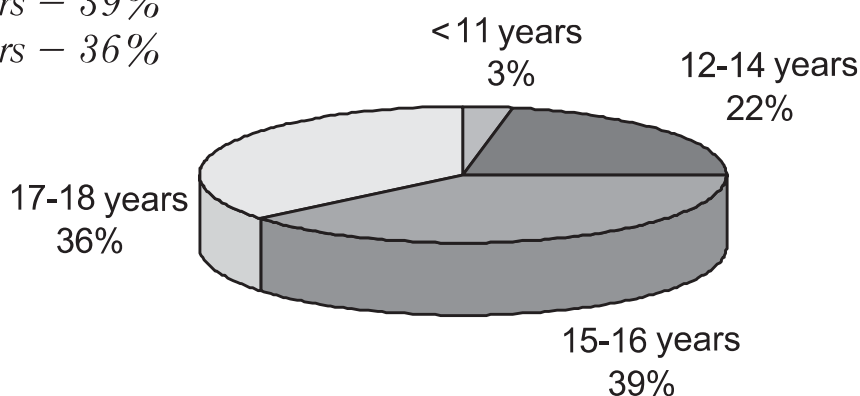
### **Age**

*< 11 years – 3%*

*12-14 years – 22%*

*15-16 years – 39%*

*17-18 years – 36%*



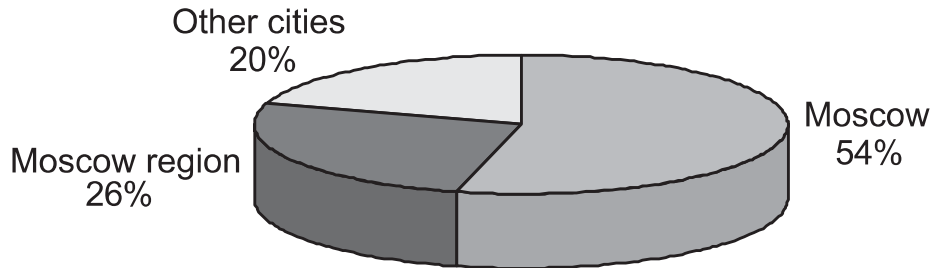


**Original residence**

Moscow – 54%

Moscow region – 26%

Other cities – 20%



**Biological parents**

Father only – 7%

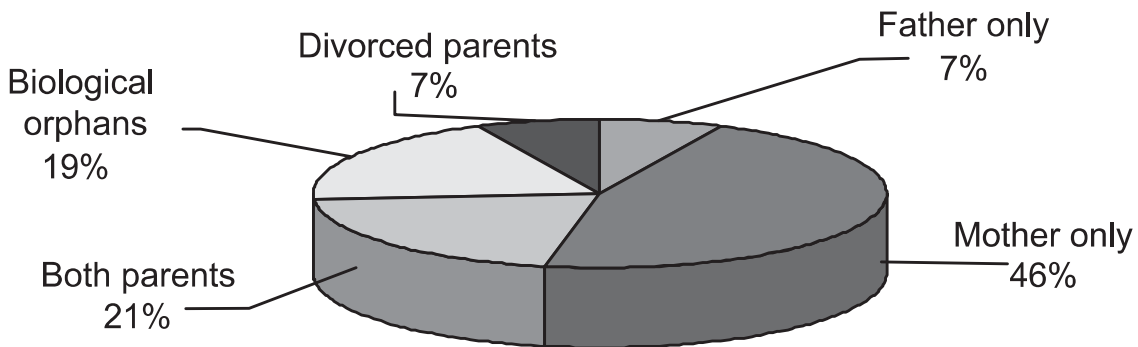
Mother only – 46%

Both parents

(even if the parents are alive, the child may be a social orphan when the mother is deprived of her parent rights and the father is in prison) 21%

Biological orphans – 19%

Divorced parents – 7%



**Social orphans**

20% of the children are social orphans

Overall, 39% are children with no parental care (either social or biological orphans).

**Income source**

Typically, the children have several income sources, normally combining pan handling and stealing. Some bands make their living exclusively by stealing on principle.

**Income sources**

*Pan handling – 33%*

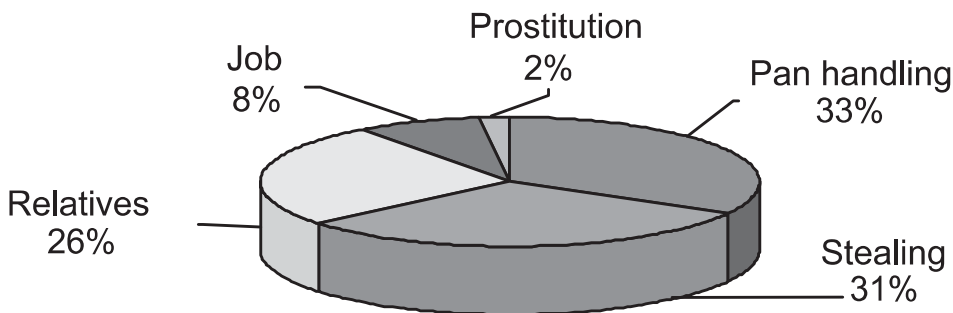
*Stealing (including thefts from home, robbing and banditry) – 31%*

*Relatives – 26%*

*Job – 8%*

*Prostitution – 2%*

*We assume that actual percentage of this income source may be higher, but it’s under-reported.*



It’s amazing and worthy of respect that 8% of the children are trying to get some job.

**Education**

*None (normally children living on the street together with their parents) – 3%*

*1-3 grades – 4%*

*4-5 grades – 6%*

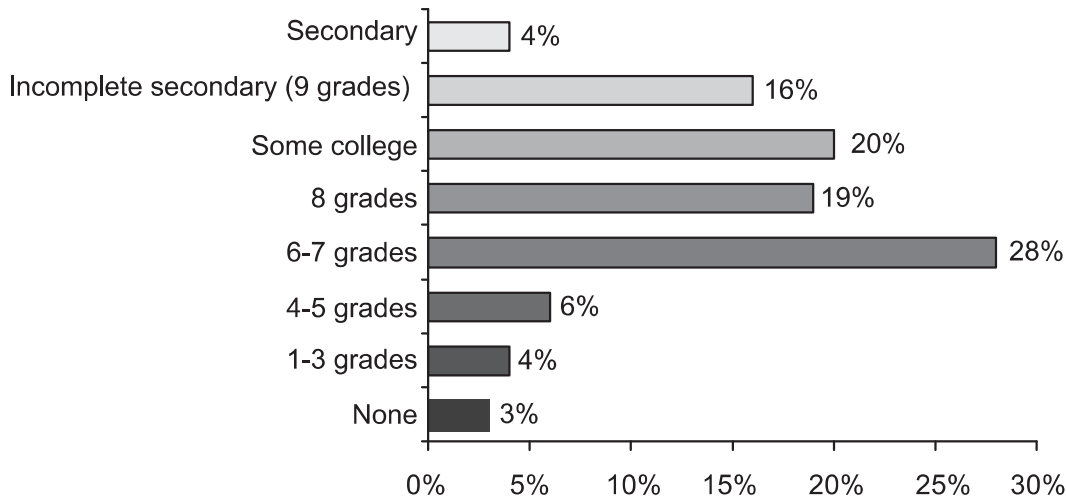
*6-7 grades – 28%*

*8 grades – 19%*

*Some college – 20%*

*Incomplete secondary (9 grades) – 16%*

*Secondary – 4%*

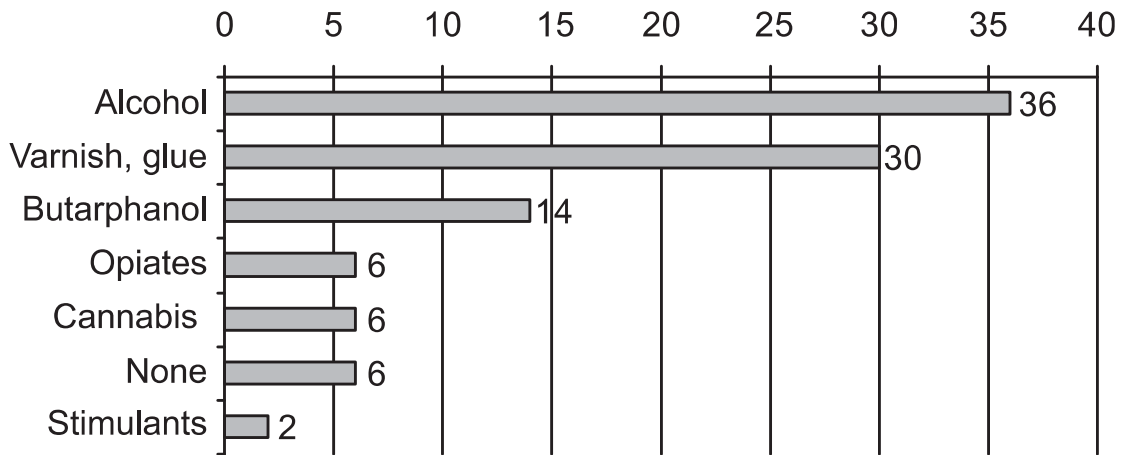


## Substance Abuse

With rare exception, the children suffer from dependency on a combination of several substances depending on their accessibility, popularity in a given group, etc.

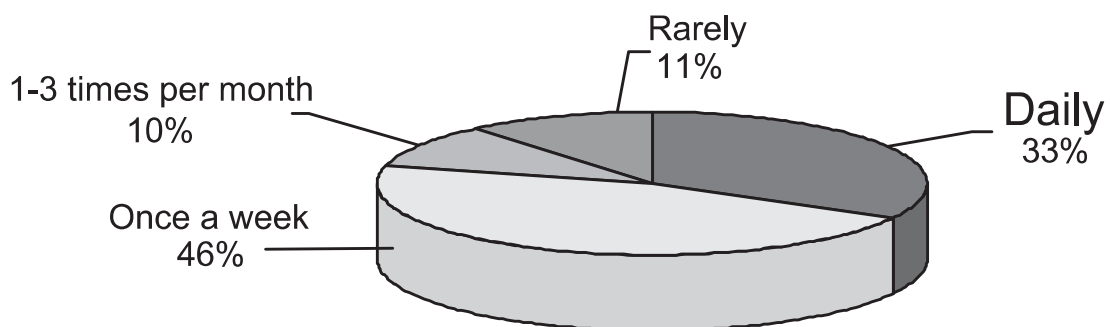
### *Substance popularity*

Alcohol	36%
Varnish, glue	30%
Butarphanol	14%
Opiates	6%
Cannabis	6%
None	6%
Stimulants	2%



The situation in Moscow has been recently characterized by the revival of home-made opium and stimulant production.

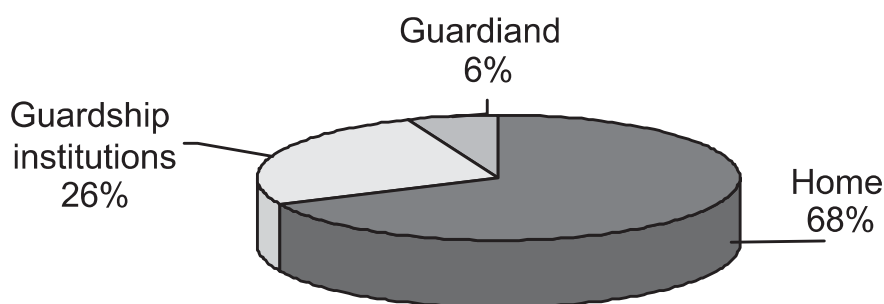
### *Frequency of use*



*Daily (the largest interval between the fixes being 3 days) – 33%*  
*Once a week – 46%*  
*1-3 times per month – 10%*  
*Rarely (less than 12 times per year) – 11%*

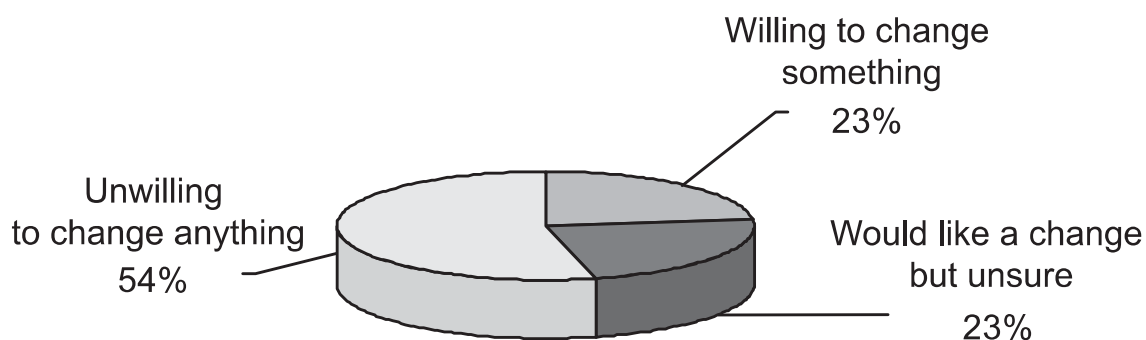
***Running away from***

*Home – 68%*  
*Custody institutions – 26%*  
*Foster parents – 6%*  
*1 boy was born on the street*



***Willingness to change the situation***

*Willing to change something – 23%*  
*Would like a change but unsure of what should be done – 23%*  
*Unwilling to change anything – 54%*



Those who want to change something, have a very vague idea of any possible alternative and often are incapable of clearly formulating their wishes, they typically can say what they wish had never happened (like parents' drinking, mother's death, domestic violence, etc.).

Those unwilling to change anything are either neglected children who haven't yet faced serious trouble resulting from their substance abuse or asocial way of life – because their parents keep “saving”

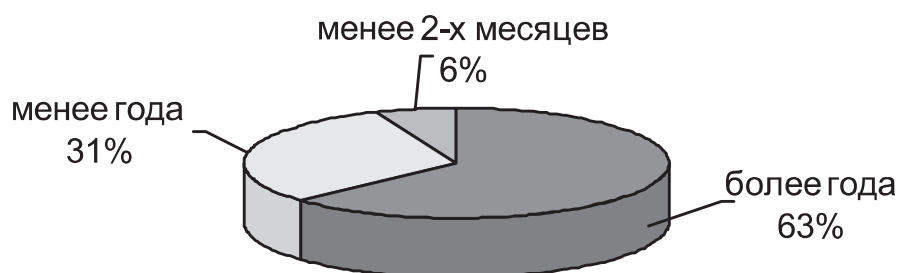
them, or children living on the street for a long time who have adapted to its conditions and developed a corresponding system of personal values.

***Living on the street***

*Over a year* 63%

*Less than a year* 31%

*Less than 2 months* 6%



Almost a third of all street children are “newcomers”, it’s a lot of children to win back

**CONCLUSIONS MADE BY THE NAN SOCIAL SERVICE**

The primary target audience is the children who have been living on the street for less than a year. Long-term activities should be structured so that the program would first take care of the “newcomers” and afterwards organize psychological correction for the street veterans.

Deprivation of parents’ rights does not resolve the issue of dysfunctional families, only transferring the problem to another dimension.

As already mentioned before, children run away for different reasons. Adults finding themselves in a similar situation would normally file a lawsuit, call the police and so on. The basic difference is that a child fleeing from abuse or violence automatically becomes an outlaw finding himself between the devil and the deep sea: on the one hand, a rigid state-run system regarding the kid not as a CITIZEN but as a CHILD to be returned to the environment that abused him, and on the other hand, charity organizations preoccupied only with ensuring the child’s biological needs where the child runs the risk of being abused again.

As already mentioned, the mere provision of food and clothing accustoms the teenagers to welfare, a reluctance to do anything even

for earning daily bread. On the other hand, the rigidity of state-run institutions leads to repeated escapes and the understanding that “you can’t change anything and your opinion doesn’t matter”. This in turn leads to distrust and sometimes to hatred of the adult world and a belief that all you have to do is survive until you are 18 and then everything will change. Alas, by the time the child turns 18, his system of values will be so distorted that it will leave him no chance for re-socialization.

Newcomers on the street who are looking for a job (collection of empty bottles, goods handling, etc.) can’t get it officially because any employer must report them to the police or custody authorities who are required to return the runaway to the place he escaped from. At the same time, living on the street, they see their comrades who steal for a living (making more money) and regard any assistance to them as granted. Due to their age, even the children with no traumatic experience like domestic violence or loss of a parent display a very low resistance level to the reference group values. Sooner or later, the child accepts this way of life while violence and inertia only speed up the process. Besides, these children live in an asocial environment which has NO MENTORS capable of explaining that stealing is bad not because you are likely to end up in a prison but because it’s BAD. In addition, street children distrust adults too much to believe their moralizing.

In fact, the child has to make a choice: put up with violence and return to the place he ran away from or live as an outlaw. Living on “welfare” looks appealing: “I can get free food and clothing and I can do whatever I fancy”. Unfortunately, the child has a very vague idea of WHAT he actually WANTS. Given that dependence on chemical substances altering the state of mind is prevalent among the street children and comes for granted, the teenager sooner or later starts using them which only accelerates the degradation process.

In the course of the joint project, Kvartal rehabilitation center has provided assistance to 12 homeless children referred to the center by street workers from both organizations (NAN Foundation and MSF).

Thanks to the cooperation with MSF, our people were able to establish a trust-based contact with the groups of homeless children. The children had an opportunity to get acquainted with the rehabili-

tation environment staff from the NAN Foundation which made possible to better motivate the children to undergo an inpatient treatment course.

Another positive aspect is that the MSF and NAN Foundation experts can provide a social follow-up on a given child during the treatment course and after its completion.

Of the 7 teenagers undergoing the rehab course at Kvartal, 2 took a complete course while another 5 stayed at the center for fairly long. One of them (with the MSF assistance) later found a job. Three teenagers received assistance at the Path to Home shelter.

We are sure that positive results can be only ensured by a stage-by-stage structure and close links between all the rehabilitation environment components.

Assistance should be diversified. The basic goal is not encouraging the welfare mentality but helping the teenager to find its place in society.

We believe that joint activities of various bodies of authority would prove very useful. The rehabilitation environment should be comprised of the following stages:

- Street work
- Daytime center (low-threshold center)
- Social lodging house
- Shelter
- Employment service
- Foster parents' school
- Psychological and social advice to biological parents

**Street work:** social work on the streets of Moscow is currently carried out by the MSF social service and social workers from the NAN Foundation. The city's Street Children center which was actually established for that purpose doesn't do any real social work. Anyway, we have never seen any member of the Street Children center on a field assignment although we regularly ran into people from other organizations helping the homeless (like the Charity Fund, Active Assistance to Children, and Salvation Army).

**Low-threshold daytime center:** is meant both for actual and potential runaways. Apart from the MSF daytime center, there exists a number of low-threshold clubs (state-run and non-government) although these, being situated in Moscow’s residential neighborhoods, focus on neglected children. Besides, the number is too small to accommodate all the street children.

**Lodging houses for homeless children:** This should be a place where a child who, while tired of living on the street but not yet ready to go to an orphanage, could spend a few nights knowing that he won’t be locked up nor sent back to where he ran away from. Controlling their behavior would be difficult but obviously staying at the house would do less harm to the child as compared to staying on the street. Besides, this way the girls would stand a better chance of not getting involved into prostitution. It may be worthwhile to specify the condition that the lodging house is only open for those kids who regularly visit the daytime center (to have classes and see the psychologist). To-date, no lodging houses of this kind are available in the city.

**Shelters:** Today there are at least 12 shelters in Moscow, all affiliated to the Department of social protection. The admittance procedure is strictly regulated: a homeless child first must have a physical check-up at a specially designated children’s clinic. However, the clinics don’t provide any psychological support while the children’s freedom of movement is severely restricted. As a result, the children run away back to the street. The only shelter in Moscow welcoming street children is the Path to Home shelter.

**Employment service:** A closer contact with employment agencies has to be maintained. It would be reasonable to give the target audience an opportunity to become legitimate — have a job, even if low-paid, and a place to live. (The shelters also should maintain contacts with educational institutions having own hostels).

**Foster parents’ school:** Should be set up at each institution (an orphanage or a shelter) taking care of parentless children with the purpose of adopting these children by foster parents. These programs are currently being implemented only in 2 or 3 of the city’s shelters.

**Psychological and social advice to parents:** The main job of this service would be prevention of family break-ups and prevention of kids’



running away from problem families. Currently these functions are to be performed by the state bodies in charge of custody, commissions for juvenile affairs and protection of minors' rights. In actual fact, what these bodies are doing now is only retroactive response to the fact of a family break-up, the child's running away or physical abuse.

Social workers from various organizations and rehabilitation environment levels have no idea about any other bodies doing the same job. While cooperation between the NAN Foundation and MSF has continued for a few years, this project became the first opportunity for the Foundation's staff to work with homeless children on the street. Our offers to undergo a rehab course initially met an ironic response from the children. Many children became sullen or rude upon hearing of the word “clinic” (Kvartal's). The first teenagers admitted to Kvartal were totally unprepared to comply with the center's regime and usually stayed at the in-patient department for no more than 2-3 days. They refused to continue the treatment and left, however, they quickly spread the word about the center that doesn't force the children to stay. *For homeless children (as probably for anyone else) it's important to know that they would not be forced to do something even for their own good. You can't force people to happiness.*

The biggest obstacle for the project turned out to be the activity of state and municipal bodies of authority responsible for providing assistance to homeless children. Many children reported that they had escaped from orphanages because of maltreatment and violence. Homeless children picked up on the street are sent to clinics for disinfection and medical checkup only to be later sent to an orphanage or a shelter. Very often the children don't wait until the orphanage and escape from the clinic because medical treatment doesn't comprise any rehab components needed by the children who view their stay at the clinic as grounding with a perspective to be sent back to where they have already escaped from. A closed character of these institutions, the absence of public control, and the lack of reliable statistics make monitoring of their activities difficult.

The children themselves view their clinic experience very negatively. Even if a child consents to an orphanage, he would do anything to

stay away from the clinic. This fear is caused by a negative and even aggressive attitude to homeless children by the medical staff.

**Overall concept:** Ideally, all the organizations involved in the process must have a general understanding of the rehabilitation environment, the homelessness phenomenon and other conditions they have to face. If psychoactive substance abuse is currently perceived as a malady by one authority and as laxity – by another, we are going to have a corresponding public attitude towards the children and their parents.

No child should be placed into a child care institution *without his consent*, at least, that should apply to all children aged over 14 years. Today, nobody is interested in the teenager’s opinion, he is automatically sent to a corresponding local institution without even an attempt to analyze the reasons for his repeated escapes from there. This is a violation of the minor citizen’s rights (of which he is unaware).

## STORIES

### **Anya, 15 years, Moscow.**

We met her nearby Alekseevskaya subway station.

– *Have you been here long?*

– *A third year.*

– *Why?*

– *Mom is a heavy drinker...*

The mother is an alcoholic deprived of her parent rights. Anya has a sister who lives at another orphanage (the girls are registered in different districts and were placed in different orphanages).

This is not the first Anya’s escape from a child care institution. Having escaped, she mostly lives on the street although sometimes she does visit home to take a shower. She is reluctant to speak of her life. Her requests are more like demands. It appears that she regards every adult as a milk-cow. Whenever her requests are turned down, she is greatly offended and seems to be sincere about it.

### **Yura, 16 years, Moscow.**

Been staying on the street for almost 3 years. The family is large but the mother was deprived of parent rights due to alcoholism. Been to an

orphanage several times but thinks of everybody involved in his orphanage plight as enemies. Proudly speaks of his escapes and living on the street. Has been a patient at clinic #6, Tushino and Morozovskaya clinics, of which speaks negatively. A rare visitor to the children’s center believing the atmosphere there is dull and requires one to be sober.

– *No big deal!*

Suffers from chemical dependency (inhales glue vapors, often uses other chemicals). Towards the end of the project, was sentenced to a time in prison for stealing.

### **Slava, 16 years, Moscow**

The parents are divorced. Has good manners, stands out from the rest of the children. Been on and off the street for almost 3 years, recently has been staying on the street longer.

– *Your parents are worried about you?*

– *I come home. Sometimes... (smiling)*

– *Why don’t you live at home?*

– *They don’t need me anyway, they scream at me all the time.*

*All they do to keep me happy is giving me money.*

According to other teenagers, Slava used to often turn up with gifts from his parents like roller skates or a bike. Recently has been using psychoactive substances on a regular basis. Developing apathy, several times was seen nursing a hangover. Doesn’t want to go to the clinic, believing he can kick the habit any time.

### **Olesya, 13 years, Moscow region.**

Ran away from an orphanage several times together with her twin brother. Has a stepfather, mother and grandmother. The mother is an ex-alcoholic with a criminal record. The girl reports having been abused by the parents, her brother confirms that. The mother says she only disciplines her when the girl runs away from home and that her disciplining involves no physical abuse (just grounding).

With the help of the elder brother, we managed to convince the girl to return home. A week later, she was again seen at Kursky railway station (without her brother). Quickly joined a band of older boys. Thinks of them as her brothers, obviously looking for parental attitude. Both the girl and her family require long-term psychological guidance.

## WHAT NEXT?

### **Who is working with the railway stations’ children?**

During their field assignments, our social workers did come across other non-government organizations helping homeless children:

The Salvation Army regularly dispenses food and clothing. It also runs a weekend summer camp immensely popular with the kids.

The MSF is involved in pedagogical and psychological activity aimed at teenagers’ adaptation. Active Assistance to Children provides food, tries to motivate the children to seek assistance and refers them to orphanages and clinics.

The Russian Orthodox Church provides a special “social bus service” to dispense food and provide medical assistance.

There’s a rumor of a certain individual, an ex-street kid himself, who has become a rich businessman. This person reportedly provides food for Moscow’s homeless children on a regular basis. Since we have never met him personally, there’s no evidence confirming the existence of this person.

We also have information that Monar, a Polish charity organization, acting jointly with the organization called Active Assistance to Children is planning to set up a Moscow-based low-threshold center for supporting homeless children. We have met with representatives of these organizations and agreed to cooperate in the future.

According to the Health Care Department, apart from the already mentioned clinics (DGKB #21, Tushino Children’s Municipal Clinic and Morozovskaya Children’s Municipal Clinic), the department operates 6 specialized mobile teams whose task is dealing with homeless children. However, social workers from the NAN Foundation have never seen any of these mobile teams; probably they are involved in transporting the children from police stations to hospitals and from hospitals to orphanages.

According to the Health Care Department, in 2005, the Moscow-based medical institutions have treated 7517 homeless and neglected children. Of these, 6565 were hospitalized. Geographically, these children came from:

- Moscow – 28.5%
- Moscow region – 13.9%
- Other Russian regions – 22.8%
- CIS and other foreign countries – 34.8%

After medical examination and treatment, the children were sent to:

- Custody institutions – 44.8%
- To their parents (in accordance with the established procedure) – 50.5%
- To specialized medical institutions (tuberculosis and narcological dispensaries, surgical and infectious hospitals) – 4.7%

### **Problems. Change in needs**

The main problem encountered during the study of street children was their initial reluctance to communicate with someone they don't know (people from the NAN Foundation). It took some time before the children got accustomed to the Foundation's social workers so that they could conduct their survey with more efficiency.

Other problems emerged when, upon leaving the MSF daytime center, the children were forwarded to the NDA Foundation's shelter and rehabilitation center. The first cases of the children (who had consented to receiving rehab assistance) sent to the Foundation's child care institutions indicated that the children have trouble coming to terms with the local conditions and tend to leave after the first conflict. The reasons were identified after a review of the situation conducted jointly with the MSF experts: the children had not received enough information on the internal regulations in force at the Foundation's institutions. Accustomed to freedom, they were not ready to comply with the regulations, were trying to set their own rules. It was decided that the children have to receive more information on the Foundation's child care institutions (the shelter and rehabilitation center) before their admittance from the Foundation's workers who would then accompany the kids to the institution. It was also decided that the Foundation's social workers would organize psychotherapeutic sessions for the railway children attending the MSF daytime center. This would be an additional motivation for the children and ensure trust between the kids and the Foundation's social workers. The

latest events (behavior of the children recently admitted to Kvartal rehabilitation center) indicated that the situation has changed for the better.

### **External factors**

During field assignments at the railway stations and adjacent territories, we did not anticipate that the police would gladly cooperate with the social workers. However, neither the police nor the railway stations' staff never caused any problem and ensured our free passage to the territory (upon presentation of social worker ID cards issued by the Foundation).

The police normally chase homeless children off their beat or book them in case of any obvious misdemeanor.

Bottom line: none of existing government or non-government organizations are in a systemic way addressing the issue of homeless children.

### **What next?**

Violation of children's rights is a most pressing issue for Russia. This violation and the lack of the right's protection mechanism are the primary cause for the emergence of street children. While this topic (on which the NAN Foundation has been working since 1992) falls outside the scope of this document, it should be noted that at present we continue working on restoration of Russia's juvenile justice system and have already made considerable progress.

### **An Extract from the 2005 MSF Report**

“In recent years, a sufficient number of social shelters ready to take care of homeless and neglected children have been established in Moscow. In addition, there emerged a system (the police – the hospital – the shelter) responsible for provision of assistance and children's distribution to social institutions. However, the results of the MSF-funded program for assisting homeless children and teenagers that has been in operation since 2003 indicate that some of the children living on the street fall outside the scope of the activities carried out by the Moscow City Government. This can be explained by the absence of a systematic street work (regular 2-3 week field assignments normally performed by teachers college undergraduates on a vocational practice can not achieve the desired effect). Homeless children are

unable or unwilling to make contact with the adult world. In addition, they are frequently unaware of the opportunities they have regarding medical and social assistance.

There exists a network of well-equipped and operating social shelters for homeless and neglected children, there are hospitals providing medical examinations and treatment. BUT this infrastructure has NO outreach to the street children. The only link between the children and these institutions is provided by the police whose basic job is dealing with crime rather than doing social work.

Street work has proved its effectiveness in many countries, including Russia. Most often, social projects are initiated by NGOs and supported by the government. As of today, the government bodies are unable to carry out permanent social work since the position of a street social worker is yet to be included into the official payroll list. Moscow's first project – Moscow Street Children – was launched in 1997 by the NAN Foundation and the Humanitarian Association Equilibre (France) with the support of UNICEF. Despite positive outputs, the project was discontinued in 1998 due to reasons beyond the organizers' control.

The MSF experience in Moscow shows that if the work with homeless children starts within their environment (on the street) and is continued at the Daytime Center, the re-socialization process can encompass older teenagers currently untended by the social workers (more than 75% of all homeless children admitted to Moscow's institutions are under 15 years old. At the same time, up to 80% of all street veterans are senior teenagers aged 15-17 years).

The program's outputs enhance the efficiency of measures aimed at prevention of children neglect and homelessness, criminalization and drug abuse among minors.

This program prepares factual basis (model) for setting up a system (systematic street work and Daytime Center), providing an outreach to the homeless child and a link to his relatives, social (medical) institutions and society in general".

We appreciate the dedication and support shown by all MSF staff in the course of the project's implementation and hope that our partner relationship will be continued.

## **STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

### **Children and Teenagers’ Polls within the Framework of the Moscow Railway Children Program**

*By: Anna Solovieva*

The purpose of the exercise was to identify correlations between the children’s social and physiological characteristics and define criteria to assess the probability of re-socialization for homeless and neglected children.

The analysis has used polling data received from 159 children (71 of these being homeless and the remaining 88 – neglected children).

The respondents were broken into three groups depending on their dependency on psychoactive substances.

The group with a strong chemical dependency is comprised of children indulging in continuous pathological use of psychoactive substances. Overall duration of their normal state of mind is less than that in the altered state.

The group with a moderate chemical dependency is comprised of children who use the psychoactive substances 1-2 times a week.

The children with a prevailing normal state of mind (who use psychoactive substances 3 times a month or less) were put into the group with a minor chemical dependency.

Each of the above groups was divided in two subgroups: some of the teenagers were willing to change something in their lives, other were not. Overall, that made 6 groups of teenagers. Social characteristics were assessed by 27 objective and subjective parameters derived from the responses in the questionnaire (Table 1).

Single-value parameters were expressed as a percentage. For example, the teenager’s gender is a single-value parameter because a given teenager can either be a boy or a girl. To calculate the percentage of girls in the sample, their number was divided on the total sample quantity (i.e. 159 teenagers). Multiple parameters were described as ratings. For example, one teenager uses only alcohol, another uses



alcohol and chemical substances, while yet another – a variety of psychoactive substances. The use of psychoactive substances is a multiple parameter. To calculate popularity of, say, alcohol, the number of teenagers using alcohol was divided on the number of all psychoactive substances being used (which has got to be much more than 159 because some teenagers use two or more substances) and multiply these by 100.

**Table 1. Social Characteristics of Street Children**

Group	Suffering from strong chemical dependency and UNWILLING to change anything	Suffering from moderate chemical dependency and UNWILLING to change anything	Suffering from minor chemical dependency and UNWILLING to change anything	Suffering from strong chemical dependency and WILLING to change something	Suffering from moderate chemical dependency and WILLING to change something	Suffering from minor chemical dependency and WILLING to change something
Number	1	2	3	4	5	6
Total persons in the group	36	39	11	16	34	23
General characteristics						
% of homeless	0,75	0,1	0,27	0,75	0,41	0,48
% of girls	0,19	0,41	0,36	0,19	0,41	0,35
Prevailing age	17-18	17-18	15-18	17-18	15-16	12-16
% of children under 15 years	0,14	0,29	0,27	0,12	0,23	0,43
% of orphans (biological and social)	0,47	0,22	0,27	0,43	0,41	0,57
Income						
% of children not engaged in stealing	0,14	0,36	0,64	0,19	0,53	0,91
% of children with legal income	0,06	0,26	0,45	0	0,21	0,35
Use of psychoactive substances						
PS Popularity						
Stimulants	3	7	0	0	0	0
Opiates	6	3	0	21	4	0
Grass	6	8	15	3	4	0
Butadienes	24	7	0	31	11	0
Adhesive	40	23	8	21	39	22
Alcohol	21	52	62	24	42	26
Average “fixes” per week	1,83	1,54	1	1,81	1,59	0,48
Trouble with the law						
Average number of bookings	2,39	1,26	1	2	1,29	1,52

Reasons for running away						
1)	Was looking for freedom 33	Use of PS in the family 22	Was looking for freedom 41	Use of PS in the family 23	Use of PS in the family 21	Violence 18
2)	Disliked the orphanage 17	Conflicts with parents 21	Conflicts with parents 17	Parent neglect 20	Domestic violence 15	Disliked the orphanage 18
3)	Use of PS in the family	Was looking for freedom 17	Parent neglect 12	Was looking for freedom 14	Conflicts with parents 13	Conflicts with parents 18
Total answers “Was looking for freedom”	33	17	41	14	9	10
Problems on the street						
1)	Police 54	Don't see any 36	Don't see any 39	Police 48	Protest 31	Violence 24
2)	Don't see any 18	Protest against parents 34	Protest against parents 31	Violence 20	Police 24	Don't see any 24
3)	Violence 17	Police 23	Police and violence 15	No place to live 16	Violence 21	No place to live 21
% of children staying on the street for over a year	0.92	0.35	0.46	0.94	0.5	0.35
Total answers “Don't see any problems”	18	36	39	12	19	24
Total answers “Police”	54	23	15	48	24	14
Voluntary referrals						
Average number of rehab courses in state-run medical institutions	1,78	0,74	0,36	1,75	1,21	1,13
Popularity of institutions						
Kvartal	11	24	0	26	37	7
MSF Daytime Center	43	10	36	52	26	25
Path to Home	0	0	9	0	4	25
Other	24	12	9	22	12	22
None	22	54	55	0	21	21
Average number of referrals	1,19	0,74	0,55	1,44	1	0,95
% of children completing NAN course	0,11	0,46	0,27	0,25	0,53	0,09

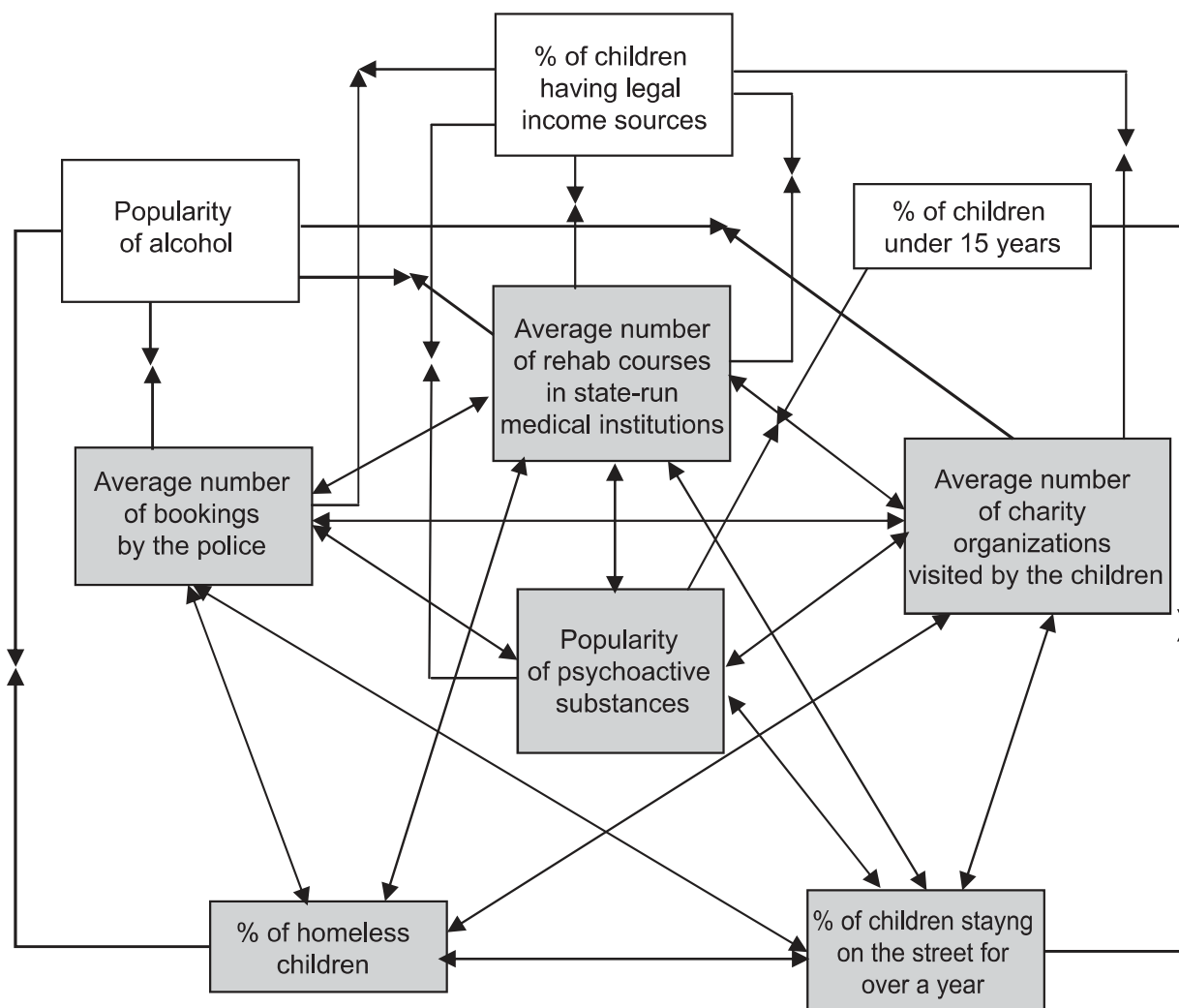
Using the correlation analysis method, we have identified nine most significant parameters. The significance of a given parameter was assessed by the number of reliable ( $p < 0.05$ ) correlations with other parameters (Table 2).

**Table 2. Most Significant Parameters Characterizing the Degree of Children’s Socialization**

Factor	Number of Reliable (p<0.05) Correlations	Mean of Sample
Popularity of psychoactive substances	11	14
Average number of rehab courses in state-run medical institutions	11	1,21
Average number of bookings by the police	10	1,45
Percentage of homeless children	10	0,45
Percentage of children staying on the street for over a year	10	0,64
Average number of charity organizations visited by the children	10	0,92
Percentage of children with legal sources of income	9	0,25
Popularity of alcohol	8	36
Percentage of children under 15 years	6	0,25

The above nine factors are in fact criteria of the child’s social adaptability. Diagram in Fig. 1 shows the correlation between these criteria. We identified six closely inter-related factors contributing to children’s de-socialization. These form a vicious circle difficult to break through. The longer children stay on the street, the more chances of their having trouble with the law, the greater their activity to try finding some “solace” and “resolve” all problems with psychoactive substances, the more estrangement from the parents, the more frequently they are subjected to forced “help” from state-run medical institutions, from where they flee, unable to bear the humiliation, and become outlaws again. The cycle is complete. Strange as it may seem, part of this vicious circle is formed by some charity institutions which, instead of encouraging children’s re-socialization through various rehabilitation programs and breaking the vicious circle, limit their activity to provision of free food, clothing and medical

**Fig 1. Inter-relation of Children’s Social Adaptability Criteria**



treatment, “helping” the children to survive and better familiarize themselves with the asocial role of a homeless child and drug addict.

It can be seen from the Diagram that the six factors dragging the child down the social ladder are countered by three factors of the opposite direction. The first one is age. The younger the child, the less time spent on the street, the less chance of indulgence in psychoactive substances. The second indication of the child’s normal social adaptability is preference of alcohol to other psychoactive substances. Occasional drinking is tolerated by the law and society. Accordingly, drinking doesn’t stigmatize the children; it doesn’t break their family relationships nor makes them homeless. The third and the strongest factor encouraging the child’s socialization is the desire to obtain legal income i.e. work or ask (as opposed to stealing) for money from their parents.

It's important to emphasize that while all the six factors forming the vicious circle of de-socialization are closely inter-related with three of them (namely, the law, state “help” and charity organizations) being organized systems, the three above-mentioned factors are not inter-related at all, being purely the matter of a personal character. What we see is a face-off between the de-socialization system and a lone personality with the forces being unequal. The conclusion: we have to establish a system oriented to children's re-socialization, not only their physical survival.

Straight arrows indicate positive correlations (where an increase in one parameter brings about a similar increase in another).

Broken arrows indicate negative positive correlations (where an increase in one parameter brings about a decrease in another parameter).

The so-called vicious circle of de-socialization is marked grey.

Based on the derived criteria, we have assessed social adaptability for each of the six groups of teenagers. The comparison was made against the average value for the entire sample. Where the group indicator differed from the average value by less than 10%, it was marked as zero, if it characterized the group towards social adaptability – as +1, otherwise – as -1. The findings are shown in Table 3.

Two groups with a strong chemical dependency are pretty similar. Both are totally asocial and three quarters of their members are homeless teenagers with a prevailing age of 17-18 years. Re-socialization of these teenagers is very difficult. Representatives of group 1 are unwilling to change anything, they are tough and secretive. Their only problem on the street is the police, while the most frequently named reason for being runaways is their desire to be free. Representatives of group 4 declare their willingness to change something in their lives. However, the highest degree of chemical dependence in this group gives rise to doubts whether they would be capable of realizing these desires and whether they were sincere in their representations.

Teenagers from groups 2 and 3 are socially adaptive. These groups have the smallest percentage of orphans and homeless. Asocial elements of their behavior mainly stem from their protest against their parents. Behavior of group 2 teenagers is more asocial: they suffer

**Table 3. Degree of Socialization for Six Groups of Teenagers with Varying Chemical Dependency and Desire for Change**

Group	Suffering from strong chemical dependency and UNWILLING to change anything	Suffering from moderate chemical dependency and UNWILLING to change anything	Suffering from minor chemical dependency and UNWILLING to change anything	Suffering from strong chemical dependency and WILLING to change something	Suffering from moderate chemical dependency and WILLING to change something	Suffering from minor chemical dependency and WILLING to change something
#	1	2	3	4	5	6
Popularity of psychoactive substances	-1	1	1	-1	1	1
Average number of rehab courses in state-run medical institutions	-1	1	1	-1	0	0
Average number of bookings by the police	-1	1	1	-1	1	0
Percentage of homeless children	-1	1	1	-1	0	0
Percentage of children staying on the street for over a year	-1	1	1	-1	1	1
Average number of charity organizations visited by the children	-1	1	1	-1	0	0
Percentage of children with legal sources of income	-1	0	1	-1	-1	1
Popularity of alcohol	-1	1	1	-1	1	-1
Percentage of children under 15 years	-1	1	0	-1	0	1
Degree of socialization	-9	8	8	-9	3	3

from chemical dependency; two thirds of them make their living by stealing. While re-socialization for these groups is not required, preventive measures are hampered by the fact that these teenagers are unwilling to change anything because their parents often shield them from the consequences of their wrongdoing. Representatives of group 3 resemble normal kids of overly-anxious parents who insist on a “treatment course” for their children on the slightest evidence.

Groups 5 and 6 are not so socially adaptive as groups 2 and 3. However, given that almost 50% of these groups are homeless and that 57% of group 6 and 41% of group 5 are orphans, it becomes obvious that their level of social adaptability is nothing else but their personal achievement. They want to change their lives. They are trying to defy the system that is dragging them to the bottom (see above). Conclusion: groups 6 and 5 have the best prospects for re-socialization.

## JUST ANOTHER DAY

*By: Gallina Komova (social worker)*

It was a cold winter day with strong gusts of icy wind. We met as usual at Kurskaya subway station in the center of the vestibule from where we started our itinerary without any hope for success. And indeed, we saw nobody...

Coming back from Alekseevskaya subway station (the last stop on our itinerary) in the pedestrian underpass we had a glimpse of something painfully familiar right in the middle of the crowd of indifferent passers-by. A confused boy in oversize boots and a thin shabby windcheater.

He was looking around in confusion, clutching to a large plastic bag (with some toys, as we saw later).

We decided to talk to him. At first, he didn't answer and we almost made our minds to leave the frightened kid alone. Finally, he responded. It turned out that the boy had only a smattering of Russian. We decided to buy him some food. I bought a kilo of tangerines, a bottle of juice and a bagel. He put everything in the bag, which somewhat surprised me.

We decided to see him "home". Along the way, the kid gradually got accustomed to us and even somehow told us his story.

About five years ago he came to Moscow from Dagestan with his elder brother. The brother found a job, married a local girl and the boy was staying with him. When the brother died, his widow simply threw the boy out. In order to survive, he found a job at an open market and some dwelling in the outskirts of Moscow. Not every 9-year old would have been capable of anything like this.

We got off at Rizhskaya and went through the market down the winding, practically deserted road. That place almost scared me. But it only was a shortcut to the railway platform. We got into the train to get warm — toward the evening, the wind increased and was turning into a snowstorm. The boy didn't want us to accompany him until the end, but we agreed to meet on the next day at the market (of course,



he didn't show up either forgetting or being undisposed, which is probably not so important now).

We got off feeling so sad, and our tears were slowly turning into ice. A little boy all by himself in a huge world where nobody needs him, with little hope of any assistance or even understanding from adults. And all he owns is a yellow toy truck and a couple of tin men — mementos from the so far away childhood that ended so abruptly.

## **HOMELESS AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN IN RUSSIA: A BRIEF SURVEY OF VARIOUS APPROACHES TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE**

*By: N.Khananashvili*

The current status of the homeless and neglected children issue in Russia is perceived by many government and non-government organizations as nearly catastrophic.

Isolated data quoted by officials representing government bodies in charge of law enforcement, social protection, education, sociological and statistical organizations clearly indicate the absence of precise and reliable information on the number of homeless and neglected children, not to mention an established systemic notion about the principles, procedures and methods of working with these underprivileged categories of population.

Depending on the source, the total number of homeless and neglected children varies anywhere from 360 thousand<sup>1</sup> to 2 and even 5 million<sup>2</sup>.

It would be reasonable to assume that this kind of data variation stems from the fact that the higher figure quoted approximately indicates the number of neglected children, while the lower — the number of homeless children.

At the same time, a lot is being done in many Russian regions to assist both neglected and homeless children.

In accordance with the definition of Article 1 of the federal law #120-FZ “On the Basic System for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Neglect” dated June 24, 1999<sup>3</sup>:

“*Neglected children* are minors without no parental control due to a failure to perform (or improper performance) of duties relating to the

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<sup>1</sup> According to the Ministry of the Interior, every year the police are booking approximately 1 million minors for various delinquent activities, some 360 thousand teenagers are registered by the police as delinquents: <http://www.mvdinform.ru/news/6587/>.

<sup>2</sup> Analytical Bulletin of the Federation Council # 20 (176), p. 35-36.

<sup>3</sup> Collection of the Russian Federation laws, 1999, #26, p. 3177.

children’s parenting, education and/or care on the part of their parents or other lawful carers”; and

*Homeless children* – neglected children who have no permanent domicile and/or a place to live”.

In our opinion, it would be useful to review and systematize various approaches to work with minors who find themselves in difficult situations and fall within the scope of the above definitions.

With reference to the data available, it would be reasonable to categorize the approaches to addressing the issue of homeless and neglected children as follows:

### **1. Paternalistic (Government) Approach**

This approach which, with a certain degree of success was used in the Soviet era still prevails in many Russian territories. Bearing in mind that this approach was largely based on repression and administrative-command methods, it would be fairly safe to assume that in the new situation it would, at best, prove inefficient or efficient only in the short term. However, given a multitude of available statistical data, it would be premature to speak of any sustainable effect. The following demographic data can best characterize the quality of the government’s childhood and family support policy: in the period from 1998 to 2005, overall number of children in Russia has declined from 35.8 million to 30.1 million, or almost by 19%<sup>1</sup>.

However, a mere increase in the funding to finance children and family support measures would be hardly reasonable. In this context, the current economic growth in Russia may not be as useful for the target group under consideration, since it encourages the authorities to rely on additional funding from the federal budget rather than on efforts to identify own and other internal innovative, social, managerial and technological resources.

Let’s discuss in more detail a few examples reflecting various levels and “shades” of the current paternalistic approach adopted by government authorities.

#### **1.1 The city of Krasnoyarsk program “Prevention of Children**

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<sup>1</sup> Official statistical data: [http://www.gks.ru/free\\_doc/2005/b05\\_13/04-07.htm](http://www.gks.ru/free_doc/2005/b05_13/04-07.htm)

Neglect and Juvenile Crime in Krasnoyarsk” for 2004-2005 (<http://gorsovet.admkrsk.ru/law/docs/707.doc>), while declaring the need to allocate social resources, specifies little, if any, practical action to address the issue.

1.2 The report delivered by the Head of Moscow’s Ivanovsky District (for the first half of 2005) ([http://dto.mos.ru/?atc\\_id=3714&atc\\_mode=print&atc\\_params=&list\\_type=&date](http://dto.mos.ru/?atc_id=3714&atc_mode=print&atc_params=&list_type=&date)) is a fairly illustrative example of the government’s paternalistic approach. The report provides information on the number of children who were encouraged to participate in the activities of children’s organizations established over the reporting period. That appears to be a positive fact – until we take a closer look at the situation in Moscow, finding out that these children’s organizations were established by an administrative order, in response to a directive by the authorities. It’s obvious that this exercise involves neither public initiative nor any initiative from the children.

1.3 Another example is the report of the office for the support of homeless and neglected minors and children with families (Moscow’s Department for Social Support). While the report includes such an activity as “organizing interaction between NGOs providing assistance to the families having disabled children, low-income families and families at risk” (<http://www.kszn.ru/kszn/index.jsp?page=13&id=68>), the author’s personal experience with the Moscow authorities and information received from many people representing Moscow-based NGOs testifies that all the above is nothing else but a politically correct declaration. In fact, the website itself is only a well-designed frame, poorly informative and hardly interactive.

1.4 The 2003 report on similar activities at another Russian region – Khanty-Mansiysky autonomous district – looks a little better.

It’s typical that efficiency of the work performed is associated in the report with the increase in the number of recently established institutions (<http://child.uriit.ru/Docu/D0005/2003/F0025.htm>):

“The number of local institutions (services) responsible for the prevention of minors’ neglect and delinquency has grown to:

- Centers for social and psychological support – 10
- Boarding schools – 15
- Social shelters – 12

- Social rehabilitation centers for minors – 13
- Centers for psychological and pedagogical assistance – 10
- Centers providing integrated social services to the population – 15
- Centers for assistance to orphans and parentless children – 5
- Telephone hotlines – 36
- Consultancies – 147
- Juvenile services – 2
- Public reception offices for children – 25".

The document's inconsistency is revealed by the fact that it simultaneously reports an increased number of boarding schools and juvenile services. It's obvious that if juvenile services are a sign of the times, boarding schools are a clear anachronism.

1.5 The prospective program “Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Neglect in the Mytishi district for 2004-2007” drafted by the municipal authorities of the Mytishi district (Moscow region) (<http://www.mytyshi.ru/socio/committee/programme.php>) reveals that the municipality is poorly prepared for program implementation.

The document declares the following expected outputs from the program implementation:

“Implementing the measures provided for in the program will:

- Enhance the effectiveness of social rehabilitation work with children and teenagers finding themselves in difficult situations or conflicting with the law;
- Improve interaction between various bodies within the system for the prevention of juvenile delinquency and children neglect;
- Create conditions for further reduction of offences and crime committed by minors;
- Reduce the number of homeless and neglected children and teenagers;

It's obvious that all the above outputs with the exception of the last one, can not be reliably measured or quantified.

1.6 Even when the authorities are ready to absorb innovative ideas and research (as demonstrated by the inter-departmental program “Prevention of Children Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency for 2004-2006” adopted in the city of Magadan (<http://www.cityadm.maga->

dan.ru/programm/beznadzornost.php), that takes into account the ideas implemented in the course of the ARO program (<http://www.aro.ru/>), the document does not ensure a program approach. For example, efficiency is to be assessed by the executing party itself which can hardly assist in the actual (not the declared) efficiency. It is fair to say that the program also provides for active NGO participation in its implementation.

1.7 In 2005, the Presidential Administration prepared a draft Presidential Decree “The Principles of Government Social Policy for the Protection of Children until 2010” (the National Action Plan for the protection of children)<sup>1</sup>.

Public hearings held at the Presidential Council for the promotion of civil institutions and human rights have demonstrated that Russia’s civic institutions are ready for fruitful and constructive cooperation with the government authorities responsible for formulation and implementation of government policies aiming to protect children’s interests, including the activities to combat children neglect and homelessness<sup>2</sup>. However, as of today the Russian Federation government and competent authorities haven’t even responded to the comments made by a group of civic society experts<sup>3</sup>. The work on the final version of the Plan has not been started and no clear interaction procedures have been proposed to the NGOs that, acting in the children’s interests, had submitted their proposals on amendments to the National Action Plan. The interaction is to be organized by newly-established coordination bodies. However, in reality this is not always the case. For example, the Coordination Council for prevention of children neglect and homelessness set up at the Russian Federation Health Care and Social Development Ministry refused to perform coordinating functions in the finalizing of the National Action Plan for the protection of children until 2010 despite the authority delegated to it by a ministerial decree<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The draft was posted at the Health Care and Social Development Ministry’s website: [http://www.mzsrrf.ru/doc\\_coleg/21.html](http://www.mzsrrf.ru/doc_coleg/21.html).

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.sovetpamfilova.ru/text/1051/>.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.sovetpamfilova.ru/text/1238/>.

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.mzsrrf.ru/prav\\_prikaz/83.html](http://www.mzsrrf.ru/prav_prikaz/83.html)

1.8. Strictly speaking, the above examples illustrate the general activity pattern of the government bodies best seen at the federal level. For example, the federal program “Children of Russia in 2003-2006<sup>1</sup>” comprises an already endorsed federal subprogram “Prevention of Children Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency” aiming to build the basis for an integrated solution relative to the prevention of children neglect and juvenile delinquency, their social rehabilitation.

Reports on the implementation of this program testify about the inability of government bodies to appropriately plan their actions. Program efficiency is evaluated by the value of purchased equipment and reports about sponsored competitions, summer camps (which is not bad in itself, however, it narrows down the government’s responsibility to a mere organization of summer vacations). Accordingly, efficiency is measured as a range of services provided while it should be measured as satisfaction of the target audience’s needs in such services. With this approach, the number of parties “interested” in the services will inevitably grow with the passage of time. The source quotes no tangible results from the program’s implementation evidencing any improvement in the situation. Moreover, in the last 2 years (since July 2004), the website doesn’t say anything at all about the implementation of the above program.

The above information is a good illustration of the fact that the current status of systemic and complex activities leaves much to be desired.

## **2. Scientific and Educational (Methodological) Approach**

This approach is based on extensive research work of educational and methodological nature based both on the researchers’ (teachers and psychologists’) own modest experience and on complex systemic research carried out for many years by many Soviet and later Russian R&D institutions.

Considerable volume of earlier humanitarian research in this field may not be always acceptable in today’s situation because of its heavy

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<sup>1</sup> The information was posted at the website of the Children of Russia program: <http://www.mto.ru/children/structure.html>

ideological bias, very typical for the Soviet era. Nevertheless, some of this research does look interesting.

2.1 The Youth at Risk (2003-2006) program for the city of Stavropol was devised by the municipal educational center and may be regarded as a significant step in the right direction relative to the development of solid material and its practical approbation. The information posted at <http://centrobr.stavedu.ru/eks/risk.htm> relative to this project and other research (<http://centrobr.stavedu.ru/>) is aiming to create conditions for personality development, prevention of juvenile delinquency, provision of individual assistance to a person, family of group finding themselves in a difficult situation.

2.2 Prospective lecturing experience has been accumulated at the Faculty of Sociology of Saint-Petersburg State University. The faculty's Center for scientific social research and student initiatives operates as a site for refining and implementing the models of inter-departmental interaction between the government and non-government social protection institutions and the municipal authorities. The main field of activity is organizing work with children and their families. The Center's website provides extensive information on the various activities of the faculty's lecturers and students: <http://www.soc.pu.ru/inf/cspwsi.shtml>. The students take an active part in the implementation of a number of projects ranging from work with street children (2001) to the study of social and technological aspects of juvenile justice within the framework of the International conference held in the beginning of 2006.

2.3. Another department at Saint-Petersburg State University – the Faculty for retraining of social workers and sociologists offers a short-term 78-hour retraining course titled “Social Protection of Family and Children” ([http://sociology.net.ru/seminars/new\\_children.doc](http://sociology.net.ru/seminars/new_children.doc)). A fairly spacious approach to the issue of children and family rights protection and the fact that the course offers an interpretation of existing experience in initial implementation of juvenile justice elements in Russia merit special attention.

2.4 The materials on juvenile justice provided by the Rostov branch of Russian Justice Academy (<http://www.rfrap.ru/juvenal/>) and the juvenile justice portal (<http://www.juvenilejustice.ru/>) appear fairly



interesting. While the portal is excessively focused on regional events, it remains an interesting and useful information resource providing evidence of extensive research and significant hands-on activities carried out by a regional educational institution with the purpose of establishing and developing Russia's juvenile justice system. Successful introduction of juvenile courts within the framework of the experiment carried out in the Rostov region in the last few years creates the basis for disseminating the experiment's outputs to other Russian territories and expanding the overall scope of specialized juvenile proceedings.

2.5 Of certain interest is the survey conducted by Independent Institute for social policies (Khabarovskiy krai) on the issue of homeless and neglected children as well as efforts to address these negative phenomena: (<http://www.socpol.ru/grantprog/pdf/Baykov.pdf>). The survey came to interesting conclusions relating to the target group stratification, the authorities' attitude to existing problems, including a very limited and specific character of inter-departmental cooperation, and to “the anomic condition of managerial mentality, its controversial and paradoxical character”. As an example, the survey highlights a formally democratic approach proclaiming the need to protect the child and family's interests and a simultaneous orientation to a more severe punishment.

2.6 It should be noted that not all materials prepared by government and especially non-government bodies (including materials based on own experience) represent an appropriately consolidated and formulated product. It's not unusual for methodological materials to have certain defects basically stemming from the lack of hands-on experience on the part of methodologists. The worst scenario however is when a solid and logically structured material is never implemented due to bureaucracy of the government mechanism. This deficiency hinders the implementation of already existing development potential.

In this context, one document worth mentioning would be a methodological handbook titled “Organizing Interaction between Juvenile Institutions for Social Rehabilitation and NGOs Dealing with Children Neglect” which was compiled and published in 2002 by the Social Development Ministry's R&D Institute for Family Affairs

(<http://file.opekainfo.ru/dl/uploads/Coordination.doc>). It's a pity that the now reformed Ministry for Health Care and Social Development never showed any interest in this document...

Some key indicators of effective scientific and educational-methodologic documents are as follows:

- Accumulation of usefull hands-on experience based on experience from other Russian regions and abroad;
- Innovative adaptability;
- Active participation of all interested parties in the process of creating a new product;
- A tolerant (non-repressive) solution encouraging socialization.

### **3. Practical (Applied) Approach**

The issues relating to direct practical assistance to neglected and homeless children at the grassroots level are tackled by quite a few government (municipal) and non-government organizations operating in various Russian regions.

Experience gained by these organizations appears important in many aspects since it allows, in direct contact with the target audience and adjacent groups, to identify the main reasons for children neglect and homelessness, trace the cause-and-effect relation between these phenomena and such social pests as drug addiction and crime (both related to minors and committed by minors).

3.1 The experience accumulated by the NAN Foundation's Stavropol branch appears very useful. Practical and highly effective activity at specific sites is combined with fairly advanced educational programs implemented by the branch throughout Russia's Southern Federal District and is consolidated in informative and professionally structured handbooks. (See the NAN Bulletin at <http://nan-stv.narod.ru/PDF/vita1.pdf>).

3.2 Practical social work carried out in various regions at the grassroots level varies from the the most basic and day-to-day social services (such as fairly high-profile activity by the Committee for Civil Rights led by A.Babushkin, providing assistance to homeless children in central Moscow – <http://www.hro.org/child/>) to

somewhat exotic ones (as the program offered by the non-government charity organization Uppsala Circus from Saint-Petersburg – <http://www.ndc.org.ru/crno/eurasia/39.rtf>) organizing public events to encourage socially-acceptable forms of children behavior. There’s a bit of controversy about the lasting effect of this activity – it can’t be ruled out that homeless children will thus be encouraged to stay on the street.

There’s no doubt that assistance to the children finding themselves alone in a huge megapolis is extremely important, however, to be efficient and keep pace with the dramatic development of the homeless children situation in today’s Russia, it should be supported by an appropriate systematic work of government bodies.

Experience gained in the course of work started in 1990s by the NAN Foundation in Gagarinsky and Cheriomushkinsky courts of Moscow and by some NGOs and experts in the Rostov region, Saint-Petersburg, Saratov, Tyumen, Dzerzhinsk, Perm and Irkutsk (with a gradual clarification of prospects for building a system of juvenile justice) is becoming the basis for creating practical mechanisms for constructing the links between the public and the government relative to juvenile delinquency situation.

Based on that experience, one might distinguish two models of pilot projects. The first one implements the new approach through judicial authority (in Rostov-na-Donu, Saint-Peterburg, Saratov). It’s used for testing new operation models for courts, Commissions on juvenile affairs and protection of minors’ rights with the participation of social workers. A number of such projects have resulted in formulating new duties for *amicus curiae*. However, the participation of NGOs is fairly limited or totally absent.

The second model implies a significantly wider systemic involvement of NGOs throughout the entire process of control, search for effective solution and provision of social services to the target audience (the NAN Foundation and its regional branches, other public and not-for-profit organizations promoting juvenile technology: <http://www.nan.ru/?f=document/index&d=document/2prof>) and creates a prototype of relationship between the state and the public. It’s used for testing implementation models for various programs real-

izing the rehabilitation approach in public justice. It’s important to note that in the regions, promotion of new forms of work with juvenile delinquents, Youth at Risk and dysfunctional families was done by initiative groups comprised of urban managers, criminal lawyers, social work experts, corrective justice experts, psychologists and NGO representatives.

3.3 The Judicial Reform Center working on the implementation of corrective justice technologies, including conciliation technologies actively operates in a number of Russian regions: <http://www.sprc.ru/>.

It should be remembered that combating children neglect also implies considerable preventive efforts in other (non-street) environments, primarily at school and in the family. Therefore, even the materials which, at first glance, have little to do with the issue of neglected and homeless children should take into account the importance of early prevention of asocial behavior that would subsequently manifest itself in running away from home or dropping out of school.

3.4 It goes without saying that programs being practically implemented by educational institutions can potentially assist experts in better understanding whether a given social or legal technology would be acceptable. An example of such a hands-on approach is the project titled “Mobile Street Work with Children and Teenagers in Murmansk” implemented by the Saint-Petersburg Institute for early intervention ([http://www.eii.ru/save\\_the\\_child/mobilmurm.htm](http://www.eii.ru/save_the_child/mobilmurm.htm)). This project as well as many other innovative projects of this organization oriented to early prevention should be recognized as very positive and highly efficient.

3.5 The technologies motivating active children’s participation in school activities are undoubtedly effective and modern. In fact, school is the place (in addition to the family) teaching the child to interact with the surrounding world, both adult and children’s. One of the most advanced developments in this field is the social-minded school model that has been promoted by Siberian NGOs for some years. The greatest progress was made by the Krasnoyarsk-based Center for local-level cooperation. The organization’s library contains many own methodological materials compiled at a professional level ([http://kccp.ru/ru\\_site.php?page=2&cat=2](http://kccp.ru/ru_site.php?page=2&cat=2)).

3.6 The forms and focus of activities carried out by the social and psychological service of Krasnoyarsk grammar school #2 (<http://gimn2.ru/Htm/ps04.htm>) is an example of interactive innovative approach also containing the already mentioned elements of own hands-on experience, interactivity and tolerance.

3.7 At the same time, a cardinally dirrefing approach is easy to find. It was demonstrated in the Commission’s Statute adopted by a Volgograd school in the course of implementing the already-mentioned federal law “On the Basic System for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Neglect”. The text of the Statute is nothing else but an example of formalistic dogmatism. This conclusion can be drawn from the following extract:

“4.2. The reference documents for the Commission’s activities are:

- the Commission’s action program for the current school year endorsed by the headmaster;
- the list of delinquent schoolchildren and dysfunctional families;
- personal files with an indication of individual preventive action taken relative to Youth at Risk;
- minutes of the Commission’s sessions;
- information on how the Youth at Risk spend their summer vacations;
- yearly statistical data and a comparative analysis relative to the work with Youth at Risk (for the last 3 years);
- results of inspections carried out in accordance with the in-house controlling process and in the form of memos and information letters;
- monitoring data;
- a review of the Commission’s activities at the end of school year”.

For full text see <http://www.vospitanie.ru/dzvolg.ru/htm/poloj.htm>.

It’s highly unlikely that any of the above activities will be truly successful because, with a high degree of probability, the document was based on materials compiled by methodological departments of the regional (municipal) education system. This is very different from the

individual approach offered by Krasnoyarsk grammar school #2 ("social work in the family, assistance in building proper relationship with the teachers aimed at improving social and pedagogical work with the children, assistance in resolving conflicts between the teacher and the child, interaction with external organizations – the center for prevention of drug addiction, the diagnostics and correction center, the center for medical, psychological and social assistance, the district court)" – a far cry from “personal files with an indication of individual preventive action taken and minutes of the Commission sessions”.

3.8 Working directly with the target audience is necessary as a starting point for subsequent data consolidation. However, sometimes a body initially designed for practical work starts operations as a purely bureaucratic organization largely preoccupied with methodological work and poorly articulated public events. An example: the Moscow-based Street Children center. While formally proclaiming social work with homeless children as one of its activities (<http://www.moscow-street.ru/programs.html>), in actual fact no such activities are carried out neither by the center nor by its branches around Moscow.

#### **4. Integrated and System Approach**

This approach results from a deep understanding of on-going processes. As this understanding grows, one starts to comprehend the issue’s magnitude and the need to address the set goals by attracting all public resources available (at the regional or municipal levels – the resources of the local community, including those provided by civic institutions).

While some system elements can be found practically in every of the above examples relating to other approaches, a full-scale integrated approach is something seen not too frequently.

A few examples:

4.1 The Tomsk region. An analysis of the materials posted at the Tomsk regional administration’s website (<http://tomsk.gov.ru/pls/guber/web.page?pid=95259>) reveals a fair understanding of the goals relating to the prevention of children neglect and homelessness (key positions provide evidence of innovative approach, preparedness to formulate social standards and evaluate own activities, and under-

standing of a multi-resource approach, including increased cooperation with NGOs):

“To improve prevention of juvenile delinquency and neglect, it shall be necessary:

- To make amendments to the Tomsk regional law “On Prevention of Children Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency and Protection of Minors Rights” and to other legal acts to expand the possibilities of legal regulation of the relationship emerging between the competent authorities in the course of such prevention and transportation of runaways from home, orphanages, boarding schools and other custody institutions;
- To devise at the regional and municipal authority level legal and regulatory acts on organization of commissions for juvenile affairs and protection of minors’ rights, interdepartmental cooperation between the bodies of authority and institutions within the system for the prevention of children neglect and juvenile delinquency, adoption of orphans and parentless children;
- To develop and implement government social standards and criteria for assessing the efficiency of the social protection bodies of authority and institutions relative to social services provided to families, women and children;
- To reorganize social shelters for children and teenagers at Tomsky and Parabelsky districts, and the city of Tomsk into social rehabilitation centers for minors;
- To take action on further development of regional extended education, leisure and recreational institutions for children;
- To develop new technologies and forms of prevention of minors’ neglect, including family care groups and foster families;
- To improve cooperation with non-government organizations and businesses in order to use their potential for implementing the programs for prevention of children neglect and juvenile delinquency”.

As of today, the Tomsk region is implementing an integrated program for prevention of children neglect and social orphanage. Judging by the available materials, it can be concluded that the region had

adopted a fairly serious systemic approach to addressing the issue of children neglect and homelessness.

4.2 Another example would be Permsky krai. The mere fact of establishing within the regional administration a department for human potential development to tackle the issues relating to preservation, development and children’s rights protection speaks for itself.

The newly-established department will have the functions of:

- The regional administration’s committee for children’s rights protection;
- The regional administration’s department for social policies (except for the functions relating to the support of public initiatives);
- Consultant, executive secretary of the regional commission for restoration of rights of rehabilitated victims of political repression;
- The department for regional social development (relative to preparation of social programs);
- The regional education department (relative to preparation of regional education development programs);
- The regional health care department (relative to target-oriented programs for health care and medical research development);
- The regional labor department (relative to implementation of the government’s labor protection policy).

It should be noted that the issue of children rights protection occupies an important place in the above list.

This integrated and systemic approach has been implemented in the Perm region since the end of 1990s when the region successfully pioneered the mechanisms of social control and government grants.

4.3 Yet another example of a systemic approach would be the activities of the NAN Foundation carried out within the scope of children rights protection. Having started this work in 1991, to-date the Foundation has:

- Established one of Russia’s first (and Moscow’s first) shelter for children and teenagers (the Path to Home shelter in 1992);
- In conjunction with the Russian authorities, the Foundation’s experts have proposed a package of draft regulatory acts aiming to



establish and develop Russia’s juvenile justice system (this work started in 1997);

- Published a systemic document – guidelines for implementing Juvenile Technologies, a territorial model of rehabilitation environment for minors at risk <http://www.nan.ru/?f=document/index&d=document/2prof>, 2001);
- Signed an agreement with 3 courts of the South-West Administrative District and the District Prefect office on establishing an experimental site for operational techniques’ fine-tuning.

At present, the NAN Foundation, together with Canada’s International Development Agency and the Association of Canada’s Colleges and Universities is implementing a multi-regional project aimed at setting up and fine-tuning of specific components of a juvenile probation system.



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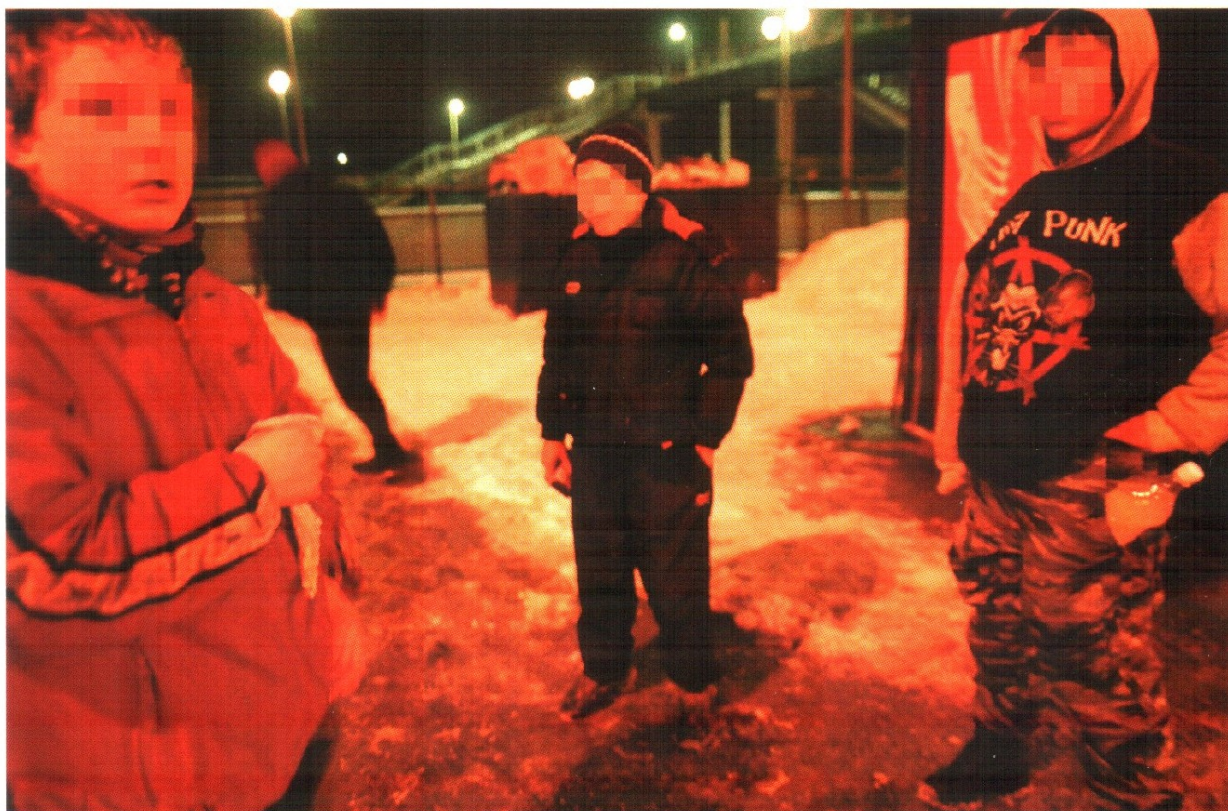
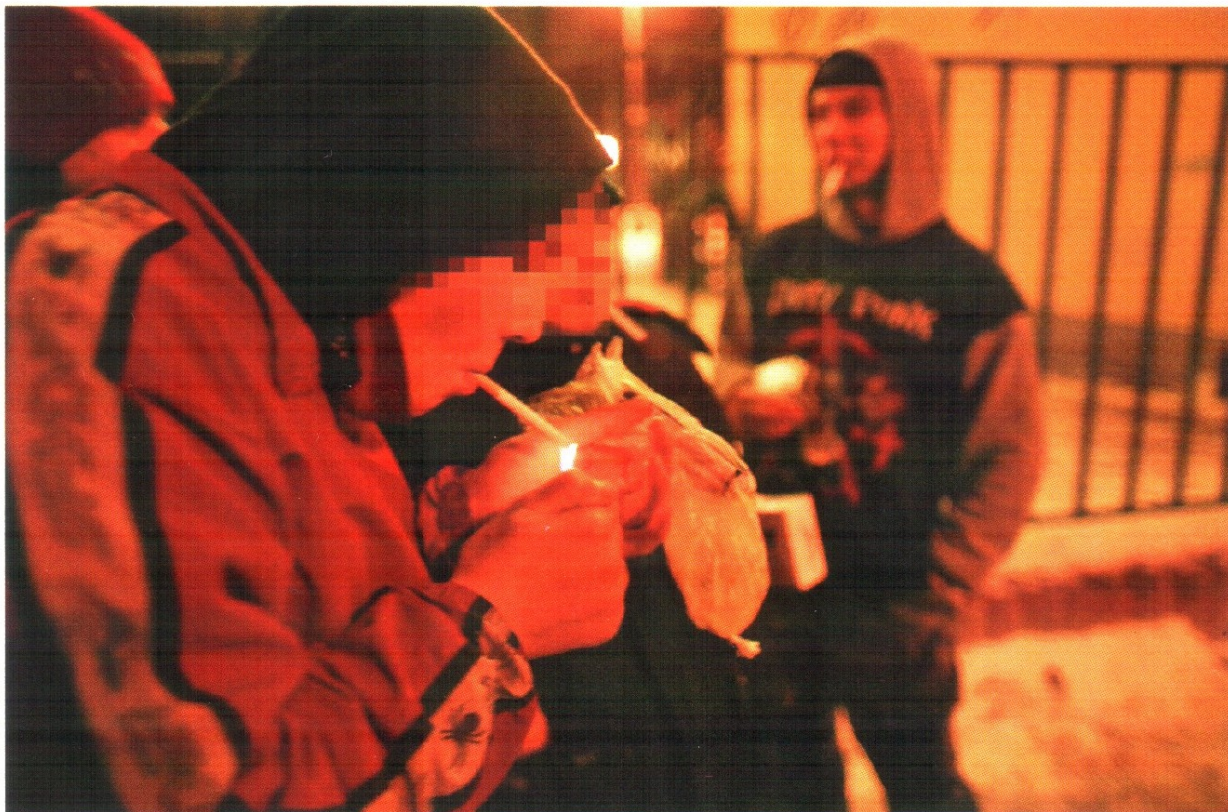


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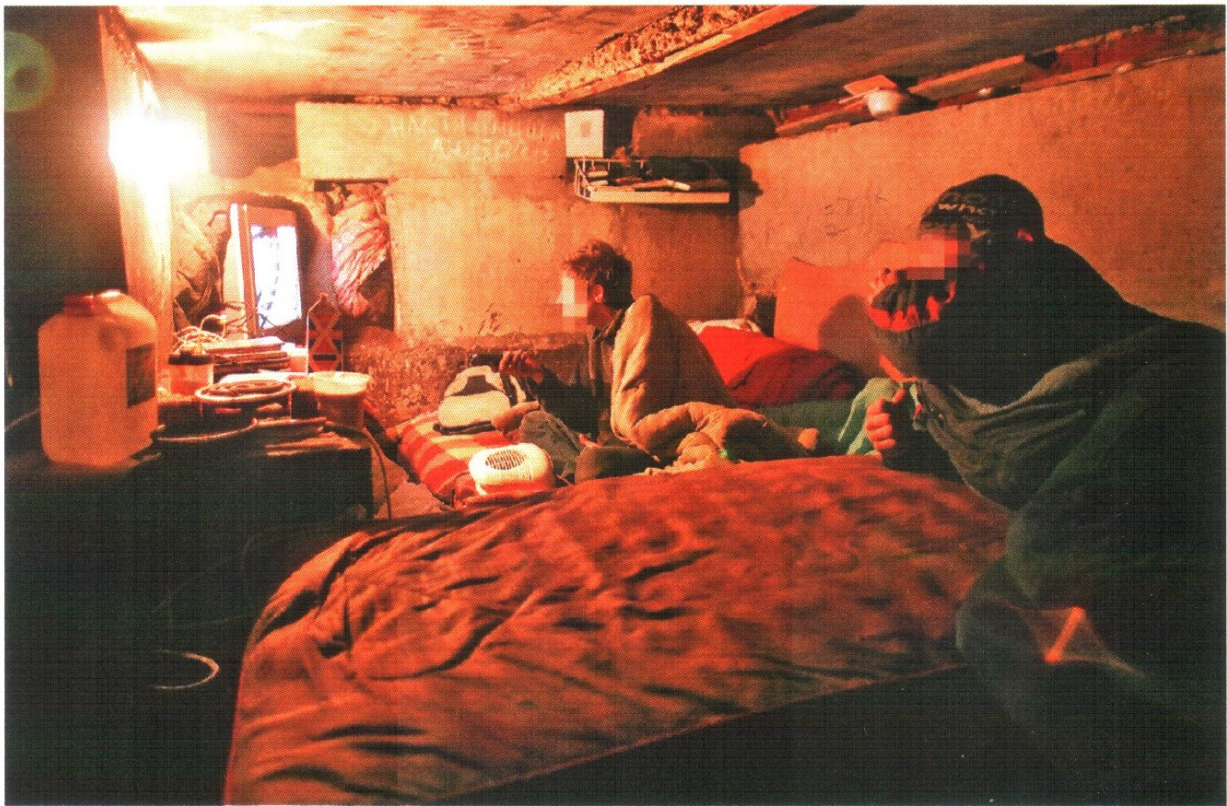
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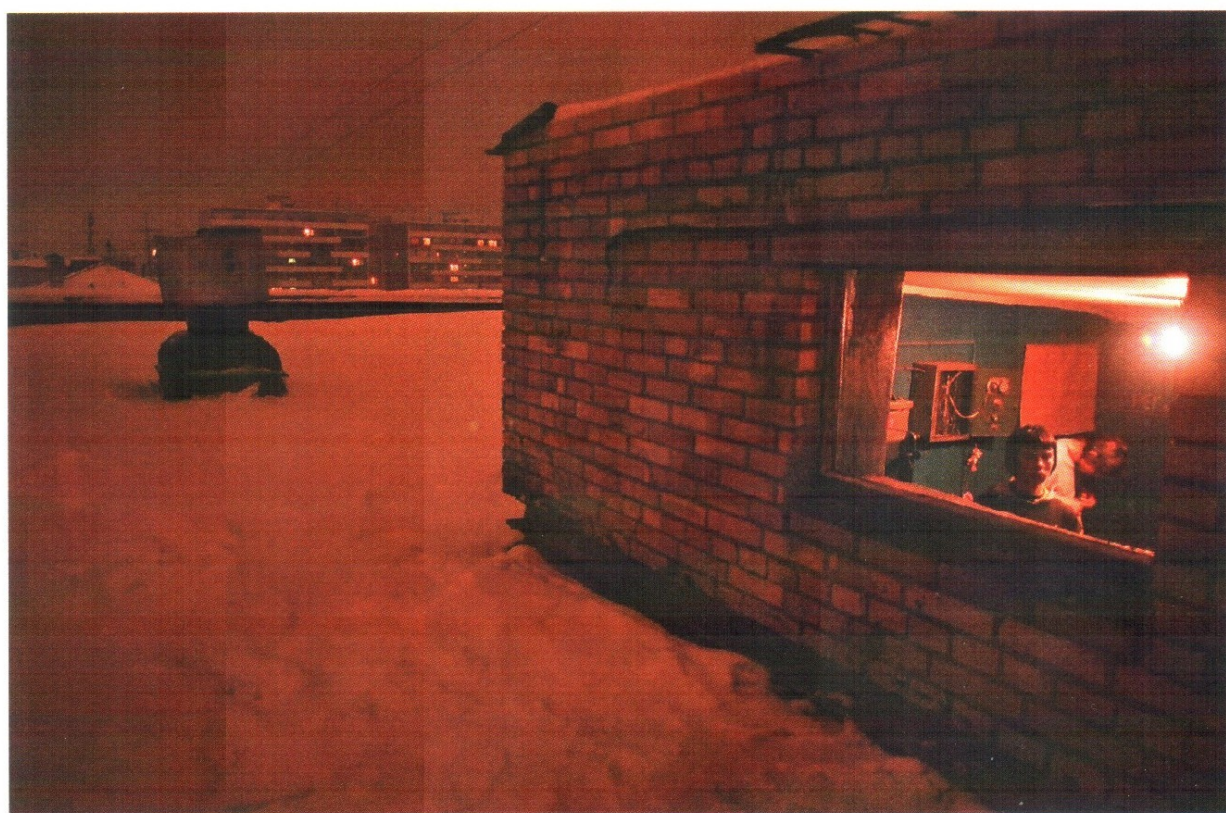


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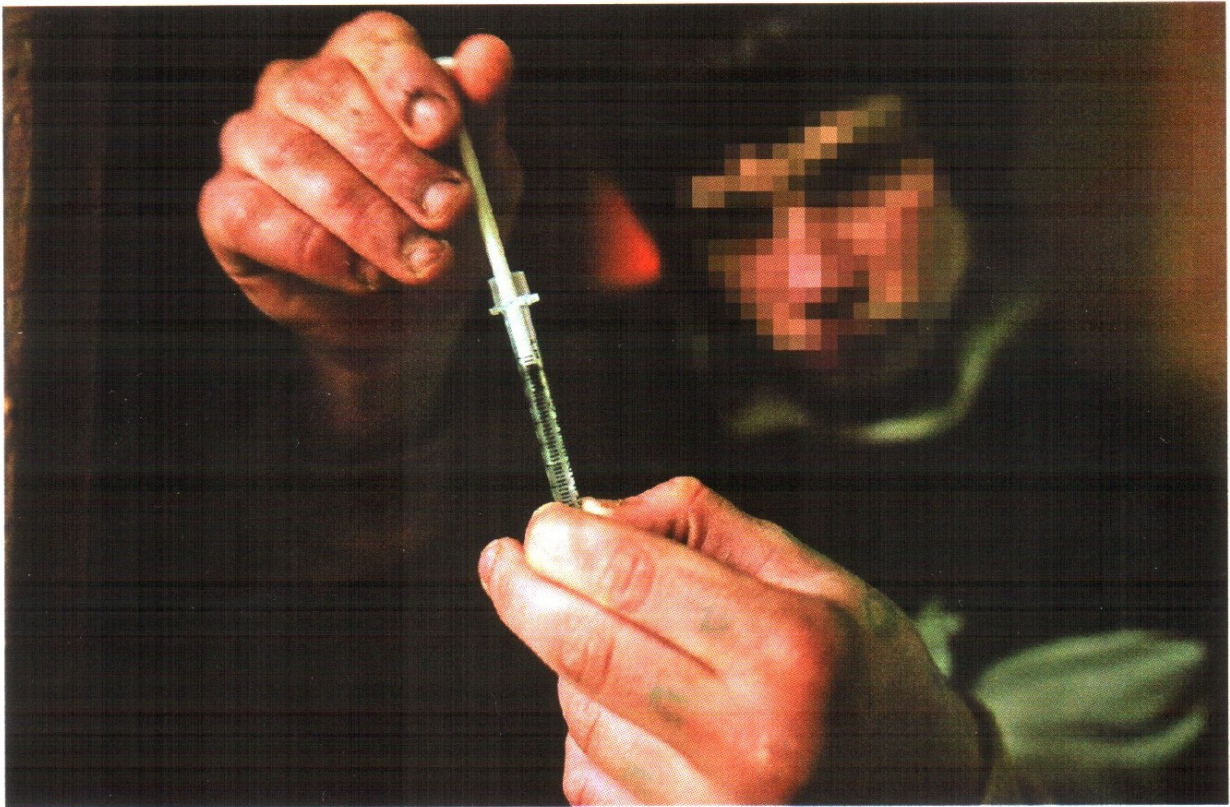


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## **CHILD ABUSE AS A CATALYST OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, DRUG ABUSE AND HOMELESSNESS**

*By: Oleg Zykov*

All forms of asocial juvenile behavior stem from violence, not necessarily physical but always psychological. Neglect can also be regarded as a sort of violence because the child, especially at the tender age, perceives neglect as abuse and demonstrates his protest which, at a first glance, may seem inadequate or too brutal. However, this is an additional sign confirming the gravity of his feelings. Accordingly, an adult can hardly imagine and assess the storm of emotions a child feels when subjected to physical abuse.

While there exist varying classifications of violence forms, mine is based on the child's environment and technical limitations of possible response to abuse by the public. The main factor increasing the risk of abuse depends on how closed is the micro environment in which a given child is raised. Accordingly, I distinguish three zones in which the child may be subjected to violence:

- Domestic violence;
- Violence in closed educational institutions (orphanages, cadet schools, public schools, etc.), including correctional facilities of the Federal penitentiary service;
- Violence using psychological and pedagogical techniques (children's hobby groups, scout and pioneer organizations, etc.).

While in all the above cases the closed character of the environment may be defined by both physical factors (restricting the child's ability to freely communicate with the outward world) and by psychological factors, only in the latter case we can often observe a special sect-like type of a closed children's community. A dramatic example of this type of abuse is an organization called The Path to the Sunny Side which for many years used the front of a children rights protection and tourist organization for a pedophilic sect led by its charismatic leader Yuri Ustinov (now hiding from the police) and was practicing a system of “secrets” creating pre-conditions for psychological deviations and

manifestations of mental disorders, basically borderline cases, for the children recruited by the sect.

Proliferation of all forms of violence in our society is the best evidence of the absence of a children rights protection system, crudity of methods used to identify and assert maltreatment, virtual absence of mechanisms for the prevention of child maltreatment (primarily stemming from today’s totally inefficient departmental system of making decisions relating to minors. This gave rise to the need to formulate a **decision-making theory** relative to minors described below.

The first step would be identifying **efficient decision criteria**. These are:

- Decision’s legitimacy;
- Specific focus on the beneficiary;
- Decision’s qualification.

In any non-totalitarian society there are two basic **decision-making mechanisms**:

- Departmental mechanism;
- Judicial mechanism.

Let’s review these mechanisms from the point of view of the criteria proclaimed.

### **Departmental mechanism**

1. Are departmental decisions legitimate? Not entirely because departmental decisions are primarily based on departmental regulatory acts rather than on federal legislation. As a result, decisions passed by one ministry often contradict to decisions passed by other ministries which precludes any coordinated decision-making strategy. This equally relates to the decisions made by bodies of authority affiliated to different departments which results in negative effect on the destiny of specific children.
2. Departmental decisions lack a specific focus. Departments deal with children categories depending on the departmental character of the child’s problem. The Ministry of the Interior deals

with delinquents, the Health Care Ministry – with teenage drug addicts, while social protection bodies – with children neglect and homelessless. Nobody seems to be interested in a specific child.

3. The quality of departmental decisions is very selective, their basic goal being justification of financing of the department’s operations (including a subsequent accounting for expenditures and maintenance of “an appropriate document flow”) rather than resolving the problems of specific children. These decisions ignore an obvious fact that all problems stem from the family and micro-environment conflicts. Assistance will not be possible if these conflicts are ignored. All forms of asocial behavior emerge after the child has run away from home following an irrepressible conflict in the family. Isolated efforts to prevent drug addiction, juvenile delinquency and homelessness are not going to help a given child in resolving his life collisions.

### **Judicial Mechanism**

1. There’s no doubt that all court rulings are based on the federal legislation and therefore are absolutely legitimate.
2. Court will always consider specific cases and its rulings will always relate to specific children.
3. What about the quality of court rulings? It’s obvious for experts familiar with legal proceedings relating to minors’ cases that in many cases court rulings are not only unqualified but unintelligent and ignore the child’s psychology and specific social context causing the delinquency. Court rulings are almost never oriented to re-socialization. The child is viewed not a subject of re-socialization but as an object of repression. There’s no understanding that delinquency is normally a manifestation of a protest, a symptom of a social malady requiring a cure. And worse of all, no conclusions are made about the reasons causing delinquent behavior, no efforts are taken to establish efficient social policy mechanisms based on consideration of the fact that the rights of a given child were violated.

Can the situation be changed if efficiency of departmental decisions is improved? From the above, it's clear that, the scanty departmental potential will not be enough for ensuring a cardinal change in the situation.

Can a judicial decision be improved? Obviously yes. The problem can be resolved if the judges are trained in child psychology and sociology, if courts have a social service assisting the judge in making a qualified decision, preparing the hearing and suggesting optimal forms of the child's rehabilitation, preparing draft court rulings for bodies of authorities and institutions whose action or inaction contributed to criminalization of the child's behavior. Another critical element is a close link between the court ruling and rehabilitation programs and processes on-going within the court's jurisdiction, a focus on the development of pretrial and extrajudicial proceedings as well as conciliation procedures. All this can be defined as juvenile justice.

This has become the focus of considerable efforts taken by the NAN Foundation. Our objective is obvious — restoration of Russia's **juvenile justice** system.

The most dramatic form of child maltreatment is **domestic violence**. The closed family environment leaves no chance for the child to change the situation, inevitably and irrevocably crippling the child's psyche and hindering his personality development. Society has to devise a mechanism of intervention into family affairs at the first signs of such tragic phenomenon as child abuse. The NAN Foundation is currently working on a special manual on child abuse to help formulate the principles of an integrated approach to addressing this issue, including a description of signs evidencing the fact of abuse, detection mechanisms and technologies for the prevention of child abuse. At the same time, we perfectly understand that arbitrary, non-legal, out-of-court interference into family affairs is unacceptable. This collision can only be resolved via the juvenile justice system. Juvenile court can pass optimal rulings on interference into family affairs with the purpose of its preservation, doing it within a legal framework approved by the public.

In context of the above, I would like to suggest a classification of **forms of interference into family affairs**:

1. Unacceptable interference, or repressive-mechanistic control. This kind of interference takes no account of the family situation, involves no analysis of the family's problems, and is not oriented to correction of these problems.
2. Necessary (correctional non-repressive) interference, its conditions being the presence of dysfunctions (of which the family members are conscious), active willingness of the family to overcome such dysfunctions or their readiness to accept assistance in developing parenting skills, building a constructive dialog with the child. This interference may come in the form of individual or group psychotherapy and psycho-correction, correction follow-up aimed at developing self-control skills (including attendance of mutual help groups, etc.).
3. Inevitable (correctional-repressive) interference, its conditions being obvious symptoms of violation of the child's rights denied by the family, the presence of psychological and especially physical abuse (including sexual abuse); unwillingness of the family to accept assistance, the absence of internal potential for overcoming the dysfunction on their own. The main symptom of child abuse would be running away from home. In a situation like this, the child could be temporarily or permanently removed from the family.

In any scenario, it's important to understand that depriving the biological parents of their rights and the child's removal from the family primarily affects the child and is acceptable only where it becomes obvious that the family no longer has any resources for its own preservation.

The child's removal from the biological family will require resolution of the child's further destiny. It's pretty obvious that exiting system of boarding schools has become a gross anachronism. The boarding school system has to be phased out.

Accordingly, I would like to present my view of existing forms of child-rearing practice from the standpoint of the responsibility concept.

At present, there exist the following forms of **child-rearing practice**:

- Rearing by biological parents;
- Foster care (when foster parents are legally no different from biological parents);

- Custodian care (when custodians receive a fixed amount from the state and bear full responsibility for child care, while the state has a minimal interference into the rearing process);
- Rearing in a foster family (when foster parents sign a contract with local authorities setting forth a system of relations between the foster family and such authorities in the child care process, which initially creates better conditions for interference into family affairs and the child care process);
- Rearing in a foster family (when the conditions of the child’s living in the foster family are regulated by a special contract). In this case, foster parents act as custodians and don’t bear full legal responsibility for rearing the child. The functions of a custodian are carried out by a care institution;
- Rearing in family groups (with a group of children formed at a custody institution and one or two adults acting as surrogate parents). The scope of their activities is specified by job descriptions endorsed by the administration of a given custody institution;
- Rearing in orphanage-type institutions (involving no family relationship) where the child care process is based on a children’s collective. In this case, personal relationship of the family type between the members of the staff and the inmates is virtually absent. The child care process is supervised by the government via the system of orphanage administration.

After reviewing the above, one can easily come to the conclusion that the state’s responsibility for rearing the child is growing proportionately to the diminishing of the parents’ responsibility. These two alternative systems of responsibility do not complement each other. As an adult who made a child custody commitment transfers responsibility for this custody to the state, his responsibility to the child decreases and this inevitably affects legal, social and psychological aspects of the process. This, in turn, directly affects the quality of the rearing process and the adult’s capacity to influence the formation of a socially and psychologically sound personality.

This argument should not be interpreted as an appeal to reject any of alternative forms of child care. The basic goals of the **responsibility concept** would be as follows:

- Defining priorities in the process of developing diverse forms of child care, reflecting a balance between the readiness of the state to differentiate the child’s problems and family problems from excessive monitoring of family affairs (i.e. a paternalistic solution) and the family’s willingness and capacity, as a basic public institution, to get involved into an active and responsible process of self-realization;
- Providing a certain logical basis to be used for making conclusions on comparative efficiency of the above forms of child care to ensure the conditions for formation of a multifaceted personality.

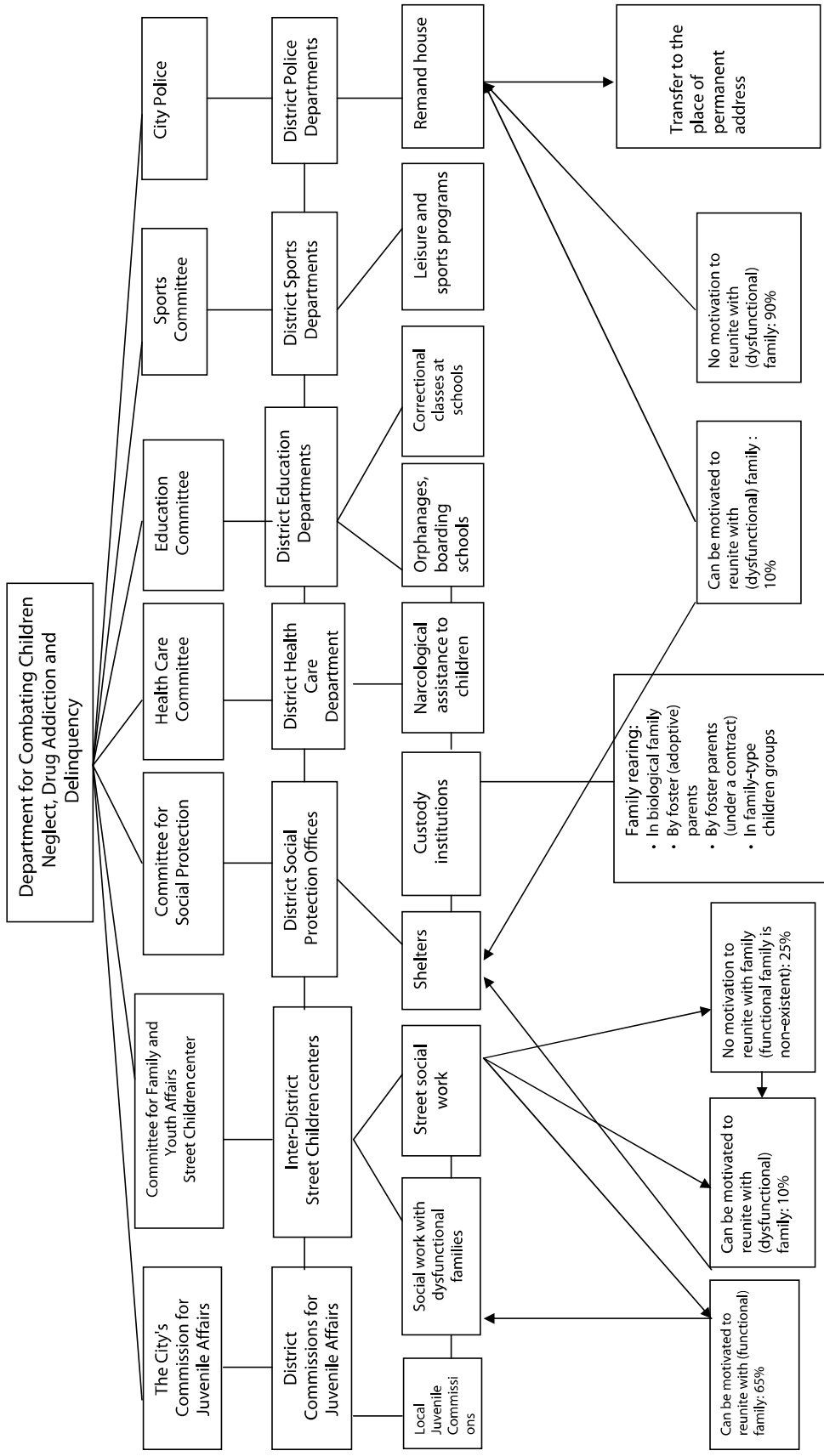
Such goal setting allows to understand the current contradiction between the need to reform the system of children rights protection and existing paternalistic tandem between the government institutions and the public resulting in a disadvantage for the child.

We have to remember that in any case, violation of children’s rights is possible within any form of child care. The process of family development will bring about specific procedures and mechanisms which, in turn, will influence the development and improvement of alternative forms of child rearing, while their efficiency will be determined by the destiny of specific children coming in sight of the juvenile justice system rather than abstract reasonings and concepts.

Bearing in mind that this brochure is primarily dedicated to organizing the work with Youth at Risk, and trying to bring our proposals nearer to formal standards, this material is concluded by a diagram of inter-departmental interaction aimed at optimizing the activities of the city’s social services.



# BODIES OF AUTHORITY WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OF MOSCOW RESPONSIBLE FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION



**Youth at risk: MUSCOVITES**  
 in bedroom communities - 85%  
 at railway stations - 15%

**Youth at risk: NON-MUSCOVITES**  
 in bedroom communities - 15%  
 at railway stations - 85%

## TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

### NAN Foundation

The national non-government charity fund **No to Alcoholism and Drug Addiction (NAN Foundation)** was established in 1987 and since 1991 operates as the nationwide non-government charity foundation.

NAN Foundation operates more than 60 regional branches in various Russian regions.

The Foundation is an associate member of the UN Public Relations Department, a number of international associations and closely cooperates with UNESCO, UNICEF, the UN Narcotics Commission and other organizations.

In 1998, the Foundation was awarded the Euro-American Democracy and Civic Society Award.

For many years the NAN Foundation has been working on social technology aimed at preventing alcoholism and drug abuse, providing assistance to people suffering from chemical dependency; drafting integrated programs for helping children in critical situations; working on restoring juvenile law in the Russian Federation; propagating the principles of healthy living; implementing programs and technologies encouraging the development of civil society institutions; formulating social policies based on public initiative.

### **Our Objectives**

- Encouraging the use of spiritual-oriented techniques for treating chemical dependency.
- Creating a complex system for assisting children who find themselves in a predicament, restoration of Russia’s juvenile law.
- Promoting public initiative in Russia and formulating efficient social policies.

### **Scope of Activity**

- **Containing the spread of alcoholism and drug abuse in Russia.** At present, the Foundation’s activities in this field are focused on establishing the so-called **healing subculture**, a new phenomenon in Russian psychotherapeutic practice that makes possible

the provision of a most efficient assistance to the public in general in a most democratic manner.

The framework of the healing culture comprises alleviation programs developed for drug addicts. Yasen, the program aiming to prevent HIV infection among drug addicts operated by the Foundation’s Moscow branch in the capital’s South-Western administrative district is already in its third year.

Structurally, the healing subculture is represented by consulting and information-support centers, their basic purpose being provision of maximum public access to reliable information on treatment and rehabilitation techniques, self-care groups.

In 2004, the Foundation has launched a program providing assistance to people suffering from gambling dependency and their families.

- **Establishing a system of medico-social and legal assistance to children.** This program started in October 1992 with the opening of Russia’s first shelter for homeless children. In 1995, we developed an integrated approach to addressing the issue of homeless and neglected children, i.e. assisting children finding themselves in a critical situation – the Rehabilitation Environment (RE) Concept for under-age risk groups.

The NAN Foundation initiated the movement to restore Russia’s juvenile law.

- **Propagating the priority of healthy living.** One of the Foundation’s basic goals is propagating the values of health living. The Foundation has assembled a team of professionals in the field of arts and PR-campaigns that organizes public action (like presentations, exhibitions, charity and motivational events, etc.), formulates the strategy of interacting with the mass media, participates in defining the principles of social advertisement, develops new humanistic social technologies aiming to encourage the adoption of healthy living standards by the public (such as the Clean Slate technology). This technology provides an opportunity to offer the young people a method for developing a negative attitude to drugs through mechanisms of forming a positive youth culture.

In 1998, the Foundation’s experts drafted the Conceptual Program for initial prevention of drug dependency among teenagers that was later endorsed by the Narcology R&D Institute affiliated to the Health Care Ministry. The program provides for regular training of experts working with children and teenagers in Moscow and other Russian regions. To-date, we have conducted over 60 seminars which were attended by some 1500 participants. This activity was instrumental in developing an initial prevention concept titled the Positive Majority.

- **Promoting and development of Russian civic institutions, reforming the social infrastructure** (social control, funding of social projects, development and implementation of modern democratic social policies).

Since 1993, the Foundation has actively participated in the development and implementation of such civic institution as non-government not-for-profit organizations (NGOs). In 1994, the Foundation’s experts devised a draft federal law “On social control at the government and local levels”, which subsequently became the banner for rallying all NGO efforts. The essence of social control is setting up competitive mechanisms for implementing government-funded social programs, using the tools provided by an independent external expert judgment and active participation of NGOs in the implementation of such programs on a competitive basis. As an analog of democratic norms associated with social contracting, social control is more oriented to a specific program approach to addressing public issues of social importance.

However, social control represents only a fraction of the NAN Foundation’s system of interests in this field. In recent years (starting from 1997), the Foundation’s experts have been actively involved in the development of an efficient social policy. Acting on the assumption that such social policy can only be based on the principles of supporting public initiative (i.e., with strong public efforts to overcome government paternalism and social dependency), the Foundation’s experts have devised a number of social, legal and socio-economic innovations that make possible viewing social policies as an aggregate of social technologies based on

humanistic democratic values and principles rather than as an abstract idea.

The Foundation’s considerable publishing activities ensure a public outreach for all the issues addressed by it. The literature being published is a mix of publications prepared by the Foundation’s experts with reference to results achieved by its programs and projects and other relevant publications.

The Foundation cooperates with the State Duma and the Moscow City Duma, various Russian ministries and committees, representatives of regional authorities. On social policy issues, the Foundation also cooperates with a specter of politicians and political parties. The Foundation’s specialists are engaged in an active educational work in many Russian regions.

**Says Oleg Zykov, President of the NAN Foundations:** *“The basic modus operandi of our organization is using specific assignments to influence those aspects of public activity that are of professional interest to us. All our activities are aimed at implementing the values of healthy living as a national priority”*.

*We are open for cooperation. We are interested in disseminating our ideas. We are confident of tomorrow.*

**Address:** 117449 Moscow, Shvernika str. 10-A

Phone: (495) 126-3475, fax: (495) 126-1064

E-mail: nan@nan.ru www.nan.ru

## **KVARTAL**

Kvartal, a rehabilitation facility for children and teenagers was commissioned in 2002 to provide rehabilitation services to children and teenagers using psychoactive substances.

The rehabilitation center comprises the following departments:

### **1. Outpatient department:**

- Reception by psychotherapists and therapists for substance abusers;
- Consultations by psychiatrists;
- Lectures for parents;
- Parental efficiency training course.

## **2. Round-the-clock hospital department:**

- An integrated medico-psychological rehabilitation program;
- Social and legal assistance to children and teenagers;
- Correctional pedagogies.

## **3. Day patient facility:**

- Post-rehabilitation support program;
- Social adaptation;
- Parent self-help and mutual-help groups.

The center's has a qualified staff of therapists for substance abusers, psychotherapists, psychologists, social workers and a lawyer.

The center is equipped with modern facilities for sports, recreation, vocational and creative activities.

Our activity is based on the concept of an integrated rehabilitation environment, a place where the child feels protected, where he can get assistance and learn to choose a healthy model of behavior.

The program's efficiency results both from the efforts of the center's staff and from active parent participation in family psychotherapy courses.

Rehabilitation of children and teenagers suffering from substance abuse is normally a long process. The first 1.5 – 2 months are spent by the teenager in the inpatient department where he participates in an intensive rehabilitation program.

### **The integrated program comprises:**

- Medical treatment;
- Individual and group psychotherapy;
- Art therapy and theater;
- Lectures and debates;
- Fitness and swimming classes;
- Vocational lessons (labor therapy);
- Computer classes;
- Individual treatment by correctional instructor;
- Psychological testing and career guidance.

After discharging, rehabilitation is continued in the daytime patient mode, thus ensuring that the teenager can get further support, follow up on the new ways of behavior and adapt in society. During this

stage, the center’s social worker continues to actively work with the teenager’s family and school teachers.

Outpatient program is offered to teenagers and their parents where the teenager shows deviations from normal behavior patterns or has family relationship problems. Assistance in resolving these problems is an important component within the program for preventing psychoactive substance abuse.

**Address:** Moscow, Leninsky Prospekt 89-A

Phone: (495) 935-97-95, 132-88-32

## **THE PATH TO HOME**

**The Path to Home children’s shelter** was put into operation by the national charity foundation No to Alcoholism and Drug Addiction (NAN Foundation) in 1992.

While initially the shelter was meant for children whose parents were receiving alcoholism treatment, it turned out that this category of children is much less numerous as compared to homeless and neglected children in need of adult assistance. The shelter started working with children picked up by the police at railway stations, uninhabited basements and garrets. Some kids came themselves, other were brought by adults. But all of them needed help, warmth, kindness, and understanding. It was important to define the child’s social status, find his parents, teach the children to regain their confidence in adults, live in civilized conditions, return the child to his family. In 1992, the Path to Home became Moscow’s first children’s shelter.

The shelter’s main goal is providing assistance to children in critical situations and reunification with their families.

The shelter can simultaneously take care of 35 children aged between 4 and 15 years. It has a highly-skilled staff comprising medics, psychologists, teachers, child minders, social workers, etc.

The shelter takes care of:

- Neglected children devoid of parental care due to the parents’ death, illness, alcohol or drug abuse;

- Homeless children whose parents became victims of housing scams, lost children or those who ran away after a conflict with parents or because of domestic violence;
- Children with deviations in behavior, those who like vagrancy, use alcohol or drugs, belong to various gangs, including criminal ones.

Children can be brought by adults or can come to the shelter on their own.

These children need special attention and sympathy. They suffer from a multitude of chronic diseases, intellectually lag behind their equals in age, trust nobody, are accustomed to living on their own and making money (albeit not always legally). They cherish their freedom and do not know any better.

Our goal is to reunify the child with his family, restore his confidence in adults, become a full-fledged member of society. The children receive medical, psychological, social and legal help from the first minute of their stay at the shelter. The child is discharged once he's adapted to normal conditions of living in a family (either his own or that of foster parents) or in a children's institution.

**The shelter's doctors** do physical checkups (upon the child's admittance and on a regular basis after that), conduct initial disinfection, identify and treat chronic ailments, define the status of functional and psychological deviations, devise individual treatment and rehabilitation programs.

**Psychologists'** job is to restore the child's confidence in people, identify and analyze his psychological traumatic experience, help reassess own life experience, devise an individual correction program, prepare the child to new conditions of life, work with parents, help sort out the conflicts between children and parents, work with potential custodians.

**Child minders'** job is to stay with the children throughout the day, organize their leisure, help with the homework, teach playing and communication skills, monitor the child's psychological and emotional condition, conduct individual and group enrichment classes.

**Teachers** assess the child's educational level, conduct individual classes. Those children whose lag behind have individually-tailored classes. Those who used to go to school, display a motivation for learn-



ing and an adequate knowledge base, start going to a regular school located close to the shelter.

The shelter is home to a number of hobby groups like drawing, artistic modeling, decorative artwork, beading, and a puppet theater.

**The shelter’s social service’s** job is to define the child’s social and legal status, protect the child’s rights in court, collect information on his family, visit the child’s family to assess its income and living conditions, look for potential foster parents, obtain and restore the child’s documents, maintain contact with government bodies and take part in settling the child.

All the shelter’s units operate in close contact with each other, which facilitates provision of assistance and reduces the number of escapes from the shelter to a minimum. The child always has a choice: to leave or to stay and see how other children live, try to understand why they have no desire to leave the shelter.

The shelter’s staff pays a lot of attention to working with the parents, potential foster parents, remembering that our main goal is the child’s reunification with family (either his own or a foster family), the basic criterion for that being love between the child and the parents. If the parents suffer from alcoholism, they are offered a treatment course. Subject to consent from custody bodies of authority, the parents may visit the children at the shelter and even take them home for a weekend provided that they remain sober and have satisfactory living conditions. If the child doesn’t want to come back to his parents for reasons of domestic violence, the shelter will try to find foster parents, the first candidates being the child’s relatives and old friends.

**Address:** Moscow, Profsoyuznaya str. 27-4.

Phone: (495) 128-66-20

[www.nan.ru](http://www.nan.ru)

## **MSF**

**International Humanitarian Association Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF).** The first MSF-funded program to help Moscow’s homeless was launched in 1992 and was followed by a similar program

in Saint-Petersburg. These programs focus on providing medical and social support to homeless people and creating favorable conditions for their social rehabilitation.

The MSF model of assistance to the homeless was officially recognized in Saint-Petersburg (May 1999) and Moscow (November 2003) and endorsed by the corresponding bodies of authority.

In 2003, based on its 12-year experience in providing medical and social support in Moscow, MSF launched an assistance program for homeless children and teenagers. The project was launched to bridge the gap between the street children and the public.

**Phone:** (495) 253-24-47

### **MSF DAYTIME CENTER**

**Daytime center** for homeless children opened by MSF on March 9, 2005 is located between Paveletskaya and Tuskaya subway stations.

Normally the center is open for teenagers from 14-00 till 20-00 Monday to Friday but, when needed, it works on weekends too. The center's working hours take into account the living habits of its target audience who are normally asleep until noon. In accordance with the timetable, the children's leisure time starts at 14-00 when they can have their clothing washed and pressed, take shower, have some tea, play computer games, work out, etc. At 15-30, a member of the center's staff organizes a "circle": all children get together and each recalls how he/she has spent the day/night, sharing his expectations about classes he is about to attend in the next two hours. Interactive classes and athletic games are conducted by various members of the center's staff and focus on healthy way of life, mental health and skills useful in daily life. At 18-00, a second "circle" is held when the teenagers are asked to briefly speak on the new things they have learned during the classes and how this new knowledge could be used in their daily life; they are also asked to express their views on the future classes. From 18-30 till 20-00, the children have free time. The center's multi-profile team assigns top priority to personal work that

continues throughout the day; when in the center, the teenagers have to visit a doctor, if they want (or subject to mutual agreement) they can consult a psychologist and they can always ask for assistance from a social worker.

**Address:** Moscow, Danilovskaya emb. 4-7

Phone: (495) 980-91-36

## RE

**Rehabilitation Environment (RE).** The rehabilitation environment concept was devised and tested by the NAN Foundation in 1995. Rehabilitation environment is a territorial network of institutions, organizations, public initiatives involved in the search and rehabilitation of teenagers who suffer from dangerous or adverse social conditions.

**The main objective of RE** – ensuring the principles of uninterrupted and unified approaches in the course of multi-profile assistance to the teenager starting from the identification of any signs of his/her inadaptability and until restoration of his/her adaptation capabilities.

The RE concept features legal, informational, organizational and educational aspects.

**Legal aspect:** This aspect is the basis of the RE concept. Its essence lies in the restoration of juvenile justice system in Russia, its central figure being the juvenile judge ensuring legal protection of the minors' rights. All existing and newly-created social organizations responsible for preventive measures and protection of children's rights can functionally rally around this key figure. This rally is exactly what can create RE as an integrated complex functioning for the benefit of the child.

The main goal of activities within the framework of the legal aspect is implementing the basics and principles of juvenile law into the current practice of law enforcement and human rights' protection, which implies the development and implementation of legal and socio-psychological technologies to address the problems facing the minors and protect their rights.

**Informational aspect:** A part of the system enabling all RE participants to take part in the overall rehabilitation process for Youth at Risk. A common information support network will ensure that all organizations, irrespectively of their affiliation, may come to terms; common databases ensure swift response to arising problems and make possible preparation of effective prevention programs based on an analysis of available data.

**Organizational aspect:** Considers the interaction between all RE participants (institutions, organizations and programs) within the territorial and departmental management system.

The main goal of activities within the framework of the organizational aspect is creating a functional module to ensure efficiency and quality of the rehabilitation process with coordinated efforts of all the participants.

**Educational aspect:** Ensures building a non-stop training system for experts working within a specific territory and dissemination of social technologies used in the work with Youth at Risk.

The model version of the RE concept was tested by the NAN Foundation in one of Moscow’s administrative districts. At present, this program is being implemented by the Foundation’s regional branches.

Dissemination of existing experience will be ensured by a special publication series comprising research, methodological and applied publications designed to assist the process of social rehabilitation of the minors at risk.

*For a more detailed description of the RE concept (the monograph titled *Juvenile Technologies for Working with Youth at Risk*) and many other publications on this topic, see the NAN Foundation website [www.nan.ru](http://www.nan.ru) (Publications).*

## **Psychoactive substances**

Psychoactive substances — chemical substances leading to effects that are detrimental to mental health.

## **Neglected**

**Neglected children** – minors without no parental control due to a failure to perform (or improper performance) of duties relating to the children’s parenting, education and/or care on the part of their parents or other lawful carers.

*(In accordance with Article 1 of the federal law “On the Basics of the System for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Neglect dated June 24, 1999 (#120-FZ).*

## **Homeless**

**Homeless children** – neglected children who have permanent domicile and/or a place to live.

*(In accordance with Article 1 of the federal law “On the Basics of the System for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Neglect dated June 24, 1999 (#120-FZ).*

## APPENDICES

### Social Worker’s Assignment Report

Date: November 22

Expert’s name: Gallina Komova

Location	Children
Kursky railway station	Katya Vasina
	Dasha with a dog
	Rita
	Klinok
Serp i Molot railway platform	Андрей

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Klinok	2	1			+				+				+														
	Dasha with a dog	2	2			+				+				+												+		
	Rita	2	2					+						+												+		
	Katya Vasina	2	2				+			+				+										+		+		
	Andrey	2	1					+		+				+										+				
		Contact 1-2																										
		Male - 1 female - 2																										
		Under 8																										
		9-11																										
		12-14																										
		15-16																										
		17-18																										
		Moscow																										
		Non-Moscow																										
		< week																										
		< month																										
		< year																										
		> 1 year																										
		Documents																										
		Job																										
		Study																										
		Dwelling																										
		Medical instit.																										
		Orphanage																										
		Lawyer																										
		Contact with the family																										
		Food																										
		Clothing																										
		Medicine																										
		Leisure																										
		Other																										

## Social Service Monthly Activity Report

1	Period	November
2		Kursky railway station, Serp i Molot station, Petrovsko-Razumovskaya subway station (next to Saviolovsky and Rizhsky railway stations), Alekseevskaya subway station, the "Three Railway Stations" square
3	Number of visits	19
4	Total contacts with children	83
5	Of these INITIAL CONTACTS	23
6	FOLLOW-UP CONTACTS	60
7	WITH BOYS	56
8	WITH GIRLS	24
9	9-11 years	0
10	12-14 years	12
11	15-16 years	31
12	17-18 years	38
13	Born in Moscow	15
14	Born outside Moscow	62
15	< week	8
16	< month	2
17	< year	20
18	> year	47
19	Children brought to NAN	3 (Kvartal) gor Kurochkin Andrei Bulgakov Andrei Koltsov
20	Teenagers discharged ahead-of-schedule	Igor Kurochkin
21	Children sent home	0

## Questionnaire

Social worker's name:

Date:

Location:

Time:

---

### General Data

Full name

---

Gender

---

Age

---

Nationality, ethnic group

---

Homeless

---

Neglected

---

Living on the street

---

In transit

---

### Duration

First time on the street ever

---

Less than 1 month

---

Several months (be specific)

---

Less than a year

---

1-3 years

---

3-5 years

---

Over 5 years

---

Repeatedly ran away from home, orphanage, etc.

---

### Place of birth

Moscow

---

Moscow region

---

Another city, region

---



**Family**

Parents	BOTH	SINGLE	NONE	
Brothers or sisters	one	two	more than two	none
Other relatives (specify)				

**Child’s income source**

Money given by parents (relatives)

---

Working

---

Pan handling

---

Stealing

---

Do you share any of your money with anyone?

---

Do you save money (for what?)

---

Typical daily income <10 rubles 10-50 rubles 50-200 rubles  
200-500 rubles >500 rubles

---

**Education**

Primary

---

Primary+ ..... years

---

Never went to school (why?)

---

Literacy	reading	writing	count
Can you continue your education?	YES	NO	
Do you want to continue your education?	YES	NO	

**Health**

Do you use psychoactive substances? (specify)

---

How often?

---

Any health complaints?

---

Other

---



---

**Identification – documents**

Birth certificate

---

Passport

---

None

---

**Reason for going around without documents**

Lost them

---

Don't care

---

No idea where to obtain

---

Other

---

**Ran away from**

Home

---

An orphanage

---

A shelter

---

Was born on the street

---

Other

---

**Reasons for running away**

Death of a family member

---

Foster parents

---

Poverty

---

Violence

---

Got lost

---

Was dumped

---

Was looking for freedom

---

Someone in the family started using psychoactive substances

---

Care-taker was imprisoned

---

Was influenced by friends

---

Other

---

---

**Reasons for choosing Moscow and this particular railway station (location)**

An opportunity to work

---

Friends' (company) influence

---

Accidentally

---

Other

---

**Night accommodation**

Home

---

Railway station

---

Shelter

---

A permanent place

---

Anywhere

---

Other

---

**Possibility to satisfy basic needs (where?)**

Lavatory

---

Washing

---

Potable water

---

Food

---

Place to keep personal things

---

**Time spent at the railway station**

Occasionally

---

Daily 2-4 hours

---

Daily 4-6 hours

---

Daily 6-8 hours

---

All day

---

**Basic problems**

No place to live

---

No family

---

No food

---

Violence

---

Police

---

Other

---

### **Trouble with the law**

Have you ever been imprisoned? For how long?

---

Have you ever been detained by the police? How many times?

---

Are you registered by the police (as a delinquent)?

---

Are you registered by the police at your permanent address?

---

Are the police looking for you?

---

Have you been subjected to police harassment?

---

### **Help opportunities**

Do you know of any children’s charity or social organizations?

YES

NO

---

Have you ever asked for help? Where?

YES

NO

---

Did you get any help?

YES

NO

---

If not, why?

---

If yes, what kind of help?

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### **Reasons for not asking for help**

Was afraid they would send me back

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No telephone

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Don’t know where to go

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Don’t believe they will help me

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Other

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### **Help from the government**

Have they ever put you to a hospital? Which one? How any times?

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Have you ever run away from the hospital? From which one? Why?

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Have you ever run away while in transit from the hospital to the shelter?

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Have they ever sent you to a shelter?

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How many times? For how long? To which one?

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Have you ever run away from a shelter? From which one? Why?

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**How do you assess your current life?**

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**Changes**

Don't want to change anything

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Want to change only.....

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Want to change my life cardinally

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What would you like to change in your life?

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How could we help you?

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**Other comments (further developments in life, peculiarities in behavior, etc.)**

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# CHILDREN'S RE-SOCIALIZATION SCHEME WITHIN THE MOSCOW'S RAILWAY CHILDREN PROJECT

