

# MOBILE TOY LIBRARY



**Location:** Bhubanswar, India

**Partner:** Global Fund for Children

**Issue Areas:** Extreme Poverty, Universal Education

**Points of Interest:** Contact with Mobile Toy Librarian

## The Organization

The Ruchika Social Service Organizations (RSSO) motto and mission is “if a child cannot come to school, then the school must come to the child.” RSSO’s goal is to bring education in a unique and creative way to street children, child laborers, and children living in slums of Bhubaneswar, Orissa. RSSO provides basic literacy and education, vocational training, nutrition, medical treatment, and emergency assistance to over 4,000 children and their families.

RSSO’s journey began on a railway platform in India. Many children work on the platform selling food and goods to passengers on trains. These children cannot attend school because their families depend on the income they earn on the platforms. RSSO began by telling stories to the children between train stops. These stories evolved into a school with chalked lines separating the school from the platform. Teachers began to teach song and dance lessons that were taught in the middle of crowds of passengers. Nutrition and personal hygiene programs were added, and RSSO started to provide medical care for children. Eventually RSSO started to work with parents and transition students into mainstream schools.

## Why the Need?

Twenty million children in India are forced to live and work on the streets. Many children work to help support their families, while others are orphans. These children scrape by doing many varied menial jobs such as sweeping, selling newspapers, running errands, or shining shoes. With funds already so tight, most of these children cannot afford to go to school. Slums across India are filled with children looking for food and work. Homelessness and street life have extremely detrimental effects on children. Their unstable lifestyles, poor living conditions, and lack of medical care make children more likely to have chronic illnesses such as respiratory or ear infections and HIV/AIDS.

## How Team Efforts Translate to Impact

RSSO saw the need for a similar program to the train platform school in the slums of Bhubanswar and created The Mobile Toy Library. This is a traveling school on a brightly colored bus that travels through the slum to the many RSSO schools. On board are educational games, toys, and books. A trained librarian goes with the toys to all preschool centers and works with the children. The children are given freedom to select their toys and play. Sometimes the children are taken inside the bus and encourage them to play with as many toys as possible. They are allowed to share the toys among themselves or change the toy with the help of the librarian. The librarian and preschool teachers create different games with the toys and use the animal toys to tell stories. This is a significant learning experience because these children often do not have the opportunity to play and learn.

## The Partner

The Global Fund for Children (GFC) is a leading institution on the rights of children. GFC advances the education and dignity of young people around the world. They envision a world where children grow up to be productive, caring citizens of our global society. GFC supports over 150 small, community-based groups that improve education for children who would otherwise be left behind.

## NGC's Approach to Sustainable Global Change

NGC and our Global Partners believe that people in communities all over the world are the real experts and know their community and solutions to their problems. We want to advocate and educate others on behalf of this model of sustainable global change. Additionally, we seek to empower our grassroots Global Projects with the financial resources to create change at the grassroots level. 100% of funds your team raises are sent to Mobile Toy Library.

By sending your team's funds directly, your project organization has the power to decide the best way to use the money. Since money will be spent in the community, your funds will also support the local economy.

Instead of sending toys, we are sending funds. This way the Mobile Toy Library can buy toys that are made and sold locally. By buying toys from local stores, the community's economy will be helped. This will also allow the Mobile Toy Library to find toys and educational materials that are best for the children.

## Additional Resources

Partner Website: [www.globalfundforchildren.org](http://www.globalfundforchildren.org)

Project Website: <http://www.ruchika.org>

CIA World Factbook (India): <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/IN.html>

Embassy of India: <http://www.indianembassy.org/>

BBC Country Profile - India: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/country\\_profiles/1154019.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/country_profiles/1154019.stm)

New York Times - India: <http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/india/index.html>

**See your team binder for more ways to educate your team about your project.**