

Reunion with family is the Aadhaar side of his story

Identity helped NGO rescue man lost in heap of misery. Any takers for privacy?

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A mentally disturbed youth, who was picked up from the streets of Mangaluru, was reunited with his family — thanks to the biometric features of Aadhaar card.

Joseph Crasta, Managing Trustee of Snehalaya Charitable Trust, which has been taking care of the youth, told BM: "Four years ago, locals who found Somashekar, aged about 29 years now, near Bondel Church handed him over to us. He was found near a garbage dump and was treated at the Yenepoya Hospital. He was rehabilitated at Snehalaya Psycho Social Rehabilitation Centre. We are in the process of getting Aadhaar cards for all inmates. However, the application of Somashekar was rejected stating that an Aadhaar card already exists in his name. We immediately got in touch with an officer at the Bengaluru Centre and they helped



Somashekar, when he was lost, and (at extreme left) after his reunion with family

us locate his address and in turn we were able to reach out to his family."

"The only place the boy gave us was Mathahalli (near Nelamangala). Though we tried to get more details, we failed. It was because of his Aadhaar card that he could reunite with his family which has been

looking out for him for the last four years. His father passed away in between," he said. His family arrived on Tuesday. According to Geetha, his brother's wife, the family is excited to welcome him. An official from Aadhaar centre in Bengaluru said, "An individual can apply for

Aadhaar card only once. If the applicant applies for the second time, it will get rejected. It took us about a week to get the details of his family.

There have been several cases, where people have been reunited with their families."