

# Permanent home under flyover for 12 street kids

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NEW DELHI, 31 DEC: IIT Flyover in South Delhi is not a mere flyover. Now it has become a permanent address for several street children.

The Aadhaar cards issued to 12 street children clearly mentioned IIT flyover, Aurobindo Marg, Hauz Khas, as their official address.

All these children aged between 8-15 live in a tent under the flyover. The children told The Statesman they are very happy after getting this proof of identity. Many of them were unaware about how the identity proof will help them but they said in the government school where they study teachers talk about the importance of the card.

One of the street children, eight-year-old Hemraj who got an Aadhaar card was very happy after seeing the photo on it. "I am looking nice in the photo I am very excited after seeing it," said Hemraj. Other street children like Nandini and Kailash were also very happy.

Some of the children were aware of the importance of Aadhaar cards as they will give them an identity in the Capital.

For the family members of these children the Aadhaar cards have come as a boon as they can easily admit their children to formal school and their bank accounts can be open.

The life of these street children is extremely tough and the economic condition of their families is very poor. They have to sell flowers at different street lights in the Capital.



"I return home from school around 1 p m after which I sell flowers till night," said Kailash, a street child.

The nights in Delhi have been very cold but for these small children but several people have come forward to provide warm clothes.

A former street child Subhash Kumar helped these street children to get their Aadhaar cards. The children were also helped by NGOs Chetna and Plan India who said it was not easy to admit these children to formal school.

"It was consistent efforts by parents and authorities that helped these children to take admission in school and get Aadhaar cards. Twenty two children got admission, and 12 of them got Aadhar card," said Sanjay Gupta from Chetna.