

“I am very thankful to PCI India Drop In Centre (PCI DIC) for really changing my life. Had I been in the company of those at the station my future would have been ruined. They have not only united me with my family but have instilled confidence to face the situation”.

This is what Hritik says when contacted back to his home by the counselor. The story of Hritik shows that at the back of the mind of every street child, they miss their family and whatever may be the reasons of leaving, once they are counseled properly nothing finds them better but to be at home. However supports from the family members are also very essential to instill confidence in them.

One fine morning of June 17 , 2007, a PCI India outreach worker found a 12 year-old boy named Hritik, to the Nizamuddin Railway Station and took him to drop-in-center PCI Drop-in-Center (DIC) located in Sarai Kale Khan. He appeared very tense and was wearing a dirty red shirt and a soiled pair of shorts.

After being introduced to the PCI DIC staff, he was offered a shower and something to eat. He began to feel comfortable and there was a radiant smile on his small face. The Nizamuddin DIC counselor spoke to him at length to gather some basic information about his background. Hritik shared that he was living in streets when his parents died. At the age of 10 he was employed in a jelly company. The employer did not give him salary and when demanded he used to beat him, so he ran away from there and landed up in Delhi at Nizamuddin where he found the PCI DIC

The counselor took careful notes on what Hritik was telling to her, although she felt he wasn't being completely honest. She carefully assessed his hobbies and interests and suggested to start formal schooling for him, while staying at the PCI Short-Term Home Stay in Mewat, Haryana. The boy showed a great interest in furthering his education with the resolve to become a doctor.

During his stay at the Nizamuddin DIC, Hritik participated in some group counseling sessions with other boys. These group-counseling sessions use therapeutic exercises from the second EHSAS Module of RUCK London, focusing on life skills education and repatriation. This exercise titled, “The House Within Me”, is a valuable tool for psychological mapping. This exercise turned Hritik's mind, Hritik approached the Short-Term Home Stay's lead counselor and expressed a desire to find a relative who might look after him.

A trip was arranged to the populous state of Uttar Pradesh, to the town of Banda, where the boy claimed he was from. Hritik assured the counselor that he was committed to continue his education once he returned from Banda. On August 30, 2007 the Short-Term Home Stay's lead caretaker, Mr. Rajender Singh accompanied Hritik to Banda.

Once the two had arrived to Banda, a completely different story was uncovered. Hritik was part of an upper class family in this town. His parents were extremely happy to be reunited with their son. Hritik was found to be honest that his biological parents had passed away and he was adopted by an older couple at the age of 5 years from an orphanage. The couple, an educated family, had missed their son greatly since he was lost and had been searching for him for the last 3 months. He had left home because he didn't feel to be part of his new adoptive family, but the fact was that they loved him so much.

At present Hritik is now at a boarding school, B.S. Chitrakut in Uttar Pradesh. He is positive, hopeful and his relationship has improved greatly with his family. During one of the phone calls that the Nizamuddin counselor made to Hritik at his home, he excitedly told her that if he keeps

up with the good work at his school, Daddy will give him a bicycle in 3 months time!" he was also very thankful to the staff for changing his life.