

## Salvation Of Oppressed Eunuchs

**S**alvation Of Oppressed Eunuchs was formed with the primary objective of providing a platform for expressing and understanding the rather unique circumstances that eunuchs find themselves in, leading to the alleviation of their problems.

The organisation includes, among others, senior corporate executives and professionals from management, media and law. Also on the Board of Members are eunuchs, since this is vital in gaining the proper perspective for identifying the distinct issues pertaining to the eunuch community in India and redressing them in the Indian social context.

Though the activities of the group have continued informally through the years, a need was felt to lend a formal structure to their activities and as a result, a Non Government Organisation was formally registered in February 2011 under the name of 'Salvation Of Oppressed Eunuchs'. The organisation aims to carry on the aims and objectives of the founder members and enhance its activities, while adhering to the principles of transparency and equitable development of the eunuch community.

The organisation has been actively working with the eunuch community since 2006, when a group of professionals, who were well settled in society, felt the need to look beyond the confines of their routine existence as the means to discharging their yearning for social and humanitarian causes. Realising the need to focus on the requirements of eunuchs as a distinct community, they started with the oft repeated dictum of 'A sound mind in a sound body'. Activities



Four eunuchs, accompanied by the author, familiarising themselves with banking facilities at Bank of India, Nariman Point, Mumbai

were commenced with the organisation of a health camp for eunuchs in Virar, a distant suburb of Mumbai. During this, free health check-up by qualified medical practitioners and medicines were provided to them as the first step towards enhancing the quality of life for eunuchs. The camp also included the promotion of good health practices among them, since this would address many health issues, such as HIV and sexually transmitted diseases faced by the community.

Since then, a number of such camps addressing the various issues faced by the community have been organised on a regular basis.

Their success established a base upon which, the scope of activities was gradually expanded to include the provision of basic necessities, such as food and clothing, as well as arranging education classes for the promotion of literacy.

A basic impediment to the rehabilitation of eunuchs in society in general and the implementation of a lasting solution for their issues stems largely from their exclusion from the shared social fabric. The integration of the eunuch community into general society is precluded by the ignorance of the public at large about this particular section of humanity.

Most people know next to nothing about them and their reaction to the sight of these unfortunates has its origins not in fact but in the often fanciful, derogatory and slanderous misconceptions that have been handed down through the generations. If eunuchs are to form a part of society, then the common man has to at least possess proper information about them and realise that they are also 'regular' humans.

To achieve this objective of dissemination of information, the organisation followed a twin pronged strategy; the commissioning of:

1. A documentary about the circumstances that lead to a eunuch being driven out of his home and forced into leading a shadowy existence with this

- community. The film provides exhaustive and accurate depiction of a eunuch's life, deprived of any semblance of dignity and self-respect; and
2. A book that provides relevant and comprehensive information about eunuchs and their community in India. The book addresses the social as well medical aspects of eunuchs and contains exclusive photographs and information in order to promote better understanding about them.

There is still a need to formulate and implement programs aimed at establishing eunuchs 'on their feet', so that they are not despised and considered as parasites. The answer lies not in the provision of largesse from external factors but rather in the promotion of activities and industry among eunuchs that establish a firm foundation for them to become self-reliant, address and resolve their issues internally.

SOOE proposes to promote such activities and industry by the eunuch community through the provision of a platform for identifying, implementing and managing appropriate avenues of self-sustenance in the long term. It is only by being considered as productive members of society that eunuchs will be accorded the respect and dignity that are the fundamental right of every human.

Towards this end, SOOE invites participation , first by educating society about this much maligned community and second by participating in and lending their support to activities aimed at the progress and development of self-reliance among eunuchs.

SOOE believes in complete transparency in all affairs and hence, makes all books of accounts freely available for inspection by everyone, whether a donor or not.

Contributions may be sent in favour of:

**Salvation Of Oppressed Eunuchs**

1) By direct wire transfer at (under advice to us):

A/c No. - 005720110000423  
SWIFT Code - BKIDINBBNRP  
Bank of India  
Air India Building  
Nariman Point Branch  
Mumbai 400 021  
India  
Tel : +91-22-22024048  
Fax : +91-22-22024761

2) Drafts, cheques may be sent to SOOE the following address:

5/1202, NRI Complex  
Nerul (W), Navi Mumbai 400706  
India  
Tel : +91-9323636360 / 9833169508  
+91-250-3299798  
e-mail : sooeorg@gmail.com

SOOE wishes to thank all those who have lent their support to its cause and will always strive to justify the faith reposed in the organisation.