



## **Jharkhand Education Project Council (JPEC) on** **Mission to Educate Rag pickers**

- Jharkhand education project council (JEPC) has opened 11 dropping centers at various location in the state capital to educate rag pickers. The council has begun a project called ‘covering of out-of-school children’ to ensure a better future for rag pickers.
- The schools will function in four main cities of the state and several NGOs are helping the council.
- Beside Ranchi, there are around four schools which have come up in Dhanbad and another four in Bokaro. Few more schools will come up soon.
- There are about 12,000 street children in Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Bokaro and Dhanbad. Among them, almost all are illiterate.
- The JPEC project was approved in May, 2008 but didn’t take off due to some reason.
- Under the scheme, classes are being held for two hours in the afternoon. The street children will be offered meals everyday to lure them to schools. The classes will continue for nine months after that children will be shifted to government schools.
- JPEC joined hands with a dozen private schools to make the mission successful. The school management have allowed to use their rooms for classless once theirs are over. Teachers’ salary and study materials are being released from JPEC fund.
- JPEC has a 30-member team, who identifies rag pickers and convinces kids to attend classes. Even visit their homes and talk to their guardians.