

Aadhaar 'links' mentally ill boy with family



Sonu Khan with his mother Mehrunnisa and brother Hassan Khan in Jaipur. DH PHOTO

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JAIPUR: A mentally challenged teenager, who went missing two and a half years ago, was reunited with his mother in Bengaluru on Wednesday, all thanks to the Aadhaar card.

The case relates to an Aadhaar enrolment drive that happened at Home for Mentally Retarded Children, Hosur Road, where officials had taken biometric details of all the boys.

However, during the biometric assertions it was found that fingerprints

of 15-year-old Sonu Khan would not register as he was already registered.

UIDAI suggestion

The details on the website of UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) suggested that Sonu Khan was a resident of Ekta Nagar, Karni Vihar at Ajmer Road of Jaipur.

Children's Home Superintendent then contacted the respective police station in Jaipur and also called the boy's mother Mehrunnisa.

"When I received a phone

call and his photo on WhatsApp from the Children's Home, it was like a dream come true. I had lost all hopes of finding my son but I used to pray every day for his good health and safety. I couldn't stop crying. I still remember the day I lost him on Ajmer highway and ever since I kept searching for him," Mehrunnisa told *DH*.

A vegetable vendor in Jaipur, Mehrunnisa last saw her son playing outside her home on Ajmer road, in March 2015.

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However, police and the remand Home are clueless on how the boy reached Bengaluru.

On Monday, Mehrunnisa along with the Sub-inspector of Karni Vihar Police station reached Bengaluru to collect Sonu. People at the Children's Home described Sonu's meeting with his mother eternal, as both could not hold back tears of joy. "Sonu, who couldn't speak a word in last two years, was all tears when he saw his mother. He came running and hugged her. Everyone here was in tears too," Mukta Bai, probationary Officer at Children's Home, said.

He was enrolled in the remand home on April 17, 2015 and was mildly retarded. Sonu was sent to the Home for Mentally Retarded Children from the remand house.

"Last year when we started making the Aadhaar cards of all inmates, Sonu's card got rejected. So, this July when we again tried to make his card, it showed that he is already registered. His fingerprints matched.

He was well behaved and was good at making paper envelopes he learnt at the skill institute during his stay at the Home," Mukta shared.

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