



## A Family for Every Child in our Lifetime

Welcome to our monthly update for October 2024!

Through this edition, we are pleased to share powerful stories of change made possible by the dedication of our social workforce who are working tirelessly to uplift the lives of children and families. These efforts also highlight the impact of effective collaboration between governments, social workers and communities, driving positive transformation every day.

Additionally, we are delighted to announce the release of our [Annual Report - 2023-24](#) which showcases the work we have accomplished together with your support over the past year. We encourage you to explore this overview of our journey and discover the meaningful difference we have collectively made in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you for standing by us and supporting our mission! We are excited to hear your feedback on this edition.

We wish you all a very Happy Diwali! May we all help spread light in the lives of those who need it!

Kusum Mohapatra  
CEO & Regional Director  
Miracle Foundation India

### Transforming Children's Lives through Family Strengthening



To prevent the need for institutionalization by empowering families and strengthening community support systems, Miracle Foundation India, along with its partner organization, Deepak Foundation, has been working closely with communities in Chhota Udepur district, Gujarat.

Over a decade ago, in the village of Nani Dumali in Chhota Udepur, Miraben's (*name changed*) life took an unexpected turn when her husband suddenly passed away, leaving her to raise their six children - five daughters and a son - entirely on her own. The financial strain of ensuring their well-being weighed heavily on her. Recognizing the challenges she faced, volunteers from the Village Child Protection Committee and the Bal Panchayat, with support from Miracle Foundation India, began making regular visits to Miraben's house, encouraging her children to stay in school and pursue their goals. They facilitated her access to an *E-Labour Card* and enrollment in the *Ganga Swarupa Yojana*, securing her a widow pension of ₹1,250 per month. Besides, she was supported through an *Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana* card for healthcare, and educational assistance for her children. This provided the much-needed safety net for Miraben's family, easing their financial burden and ensuring access to essential services.

The team also encouraged Miraben to make the most of her farmland. They provided guidance and practical assistance to help her improve agricultural productivity, which became a reliable source of income for her family. Her son, after completing his 12th grade, has secured a job in Vadodara, earning ₹8,000 per month, and one of her daughters is now pursuing higher education.

The family's situation has gradually improved, with their combined incomes helping them manage their household expenses more comfortably. Miraben's story shows how community support and social welfare programs can transform women's lives in vulnerable communities, helping them overcome adversity, gain financial independence, and build brighter, more secure futures for themselves and their families.

### Celebrating Prakash Chandra



At Miracle Foundation India, as we strive towards enabling children to stay with their families and reach their full potential, we honor the incredible social workforce that makes it all possible! This month, we celebrate the efforts and achievements of Prakash Chandra who is working as District Child Protection Officer in Dumka, Jharkhand.

Since 2019, Prakash has been instrumental in advancing child protection in the district. His association as a Master Trainer with Miracle Foundation India since 2022 helped deepen his understanding on the importance of Family Strengthening and Family-Based Alternative Care for children, enabling him to effectively guide his colleagues and furthering their commitment to child protection.

Through tireless efforts together with his team, Prakash facilitated the admission of 17 single-parent children from a boys' care home in Siranra to *Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Residential School* and the admission of 13 girls from *Dhadhkiya Children's Home to Kasturba Gandhi Residential School*. This has enabled these children to receive free education together with residential facilities. Prakash and his team have also initiated a Family Strengthening process, collecting Social Investigation Reports and Individual Care Plans to connect children with the relevant government schemes, leading to a significant reduction in children in care homes.

In addition to his work on deinstitutionalization, Prakash has introduced critical health initiatives in care homes. Inspired by practices observed by him during an immersion tour in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, he ensures that the menstruating girls who are found anemic receive necessary supplements and good nutrition. His focus has also been on strengthening gatekeeping mechanisms, mapping at-risk children to prevent unnecessary institutionalization, and linking them with critical government schemes. He is also dedicated to making all Village Child Protection Committees fully operational by providing targeted training and fostering a supportive network to safeguard children's well-being. Prakash's commitment to child welfare continues to create a lasting impact in Dumka.

A big shout-out today to Prakash!

### From Care to Leadership: Youth Ambassadors Making an Impact



Miracle Foundation India's Youth Ambassadors, drawn from Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and local communities, play a vital role in raising awareness about the importance of a family for every child and driving meaningful impact. This month, we celebrate Akshata Santosh Shenoy from Maharashtra who has been an active part of our Youth Ambassadors Program since 2019.

After losing her mother at the early age of 11, Akshata and her younger sister were placed in a CCI. Despite the initial challenges of adjustment, her determination fueled her academic success, leading her to earn a B.A. in Economics and subsequently pursue a Master's in Social Work. Her own life experiences inspired her to mentor and uplift other care-experienced youth through the Youth Ambassadors Program.

Through this journey, Akshata has honed her leadership and soft skills, representing youth voices at national events and playing a key role in recruiting new Youth Ambassadors. She is also engaged as a Program Coordinator with *Parivartan Mahila Sansitha*. Besides, her passion has led her to join various networks, including the *National Care Leavers Network* where she serves as the Maharashtra representative, and the *India Alternative Care Network* where she contributes to strengthening aftercare support. Through these roles, Akshata is deeply committed to building a strong support network for care-experienced youth in Maharashtra, empowering them to navigate life after institutional care and achieve their potential.

### Promoting Child Protection in Tamil Nadu



Miracle Foundation India has been pivotal in advancing child protection in Tamil Nadu, with a strong emphasis on Family Strengthening and Family-Based Alternative Care. A key aspect of our efforts is capacity-building of the social service workforce at both state and district levels to enable them to serve as effective gatekeepers and strengthen community-based mechanisms to prevent child separation. Through our work, we are pleased to have gained recognition as a State Resource Organization.

In September 2024, our Tamil Nadu team was invited to conduct a comprehensive training program for 76 social workers from District Child Protection Units across all 38 districts of the state.

Together, we are creating a child protection system that prioritizes family-based care, ensuring that every child has the chance to grow up in a loving environment.

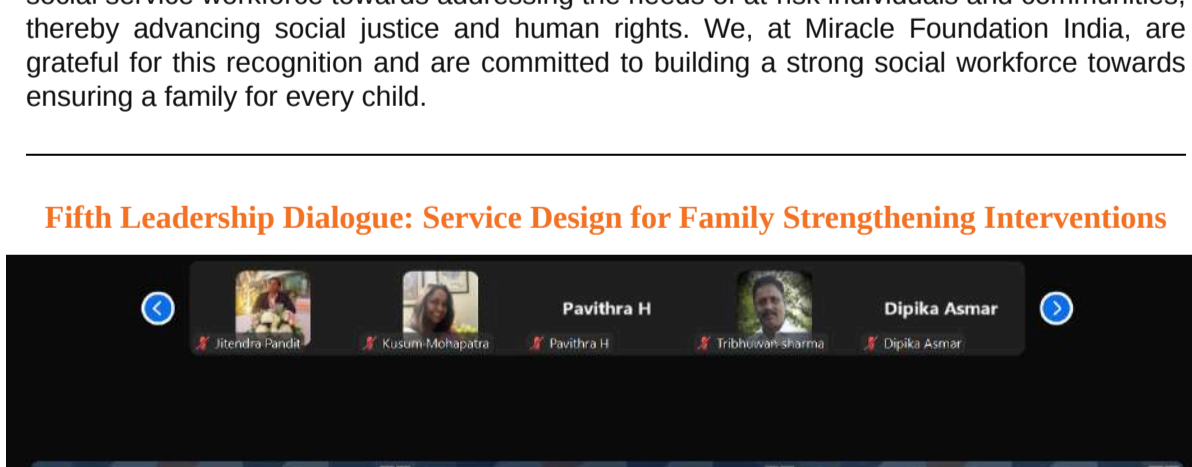
### Miracle Foundation India Joins GSSWA Steering Committee



Sandhya Mishra, Senior Director, Government Partnerships & Strategic Alliances, at Miracle Foundation India, has been selected as a member of the Steering Committee of Global Social Service Workforce Alliance (GSSWA).

GSSWA is an inclusive, representative network that strives to promote and strengthen the social service workforce towards addressing the needs of at-risk individuals and communities, thereby advancing social justice and human rights. We, at Miracle Foundation India, are grateful for this recognition and are committed to building a strong social workforce towards ensuring a family for every child.

### Fifth Leadership Dialogue: Service Design for Family Strengthening Interventions

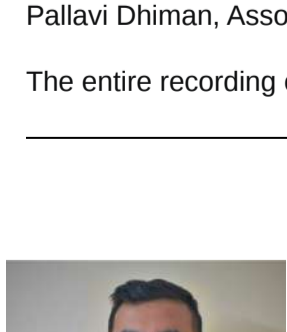


The fifth edition of Leadership Dialogues, organized on September 25, 2024, focused on discussing family strengthening services for children transitioning from Child Care Institutions to families or those at risk of separation.

The panel comprised Amitabh Awasthi, Joint Director, Directorate of Women & Child Development Department, Madhya Pradesh; Leena Prasad, Director, Advocacy, Research & Training, Udayan Care; Biplab Ghosh, District Child Protection Officer & District Inspector of Social Education, West Tripura District; Rasika Kaware, Manager, Growth, Haqdarshak; and Pallavi Dhiman, Associate Manager, Growth, Haqdarshak.

The entire recording of this insightful and engaging Leadership Dialogue can be viewed [here](#).

### Donor Testimonial



"I support Miracle Foundation India because I am truly amazed by the incredible work they do. It's a challenging task, but an essential one for the betterment of society. Children are special, and their rightful place is with their loved ones – their family. This organization is making that possible, and I'm proud to stand by their mission."

- Rahul Banerjee

### Resource Links

- [Government to launch revamped Vatsalya Mission portal for integrated child protection services: Official](#)
- [Families first: What foster care needs to succeed in India](#)
- [NCPDR asks social media platforms to explore ways to protect children online](#)
- [Proven Solutions for Children: Accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and beyond](#)
- [NALSA \(Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children\) Scheme, 2024](#)

### Have feedback on this monthly update?

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