

First Edition of

Leadership Dialogues

Empower. Strengthen. Innovate.
Towards a Safer Future for Our Children

SPEAKERS

Bios





S.Thanasekarapandian

Joint Director of Social Defence, Regional Office of Social Defence, Chennai.

S. Thanasekarapandian, M.Sc., M.Ed., M.Phil., is the Joint Director of Social Defence, Chennai, overseeing child protection services across 17 southern districts. Since joining government service in 1994 through the TNPSC Group I exam, he has served as Superintendent of Children's Homes, District Child Protection Officer in Kancheepuram and Madurai, and Deputy Director of Social Defence. His work includes coordinating and monitoring government-run childcare institutions, de-addiction centers, and anti-trafficking homes. Promoted to Joint Director in 2017, he continues to lead efforts in social defence administration and child welfare.



Ms. Chhaya Gurav

Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Maharashtra

Chhaya Gurav Raut is a dedicated child rights and social welfare professional, currently serving as Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee, Nagpur. With over 15 years of experience, she has led child protection, women's empowerment, and adolescent health initiatives. Previously, she worked as Program Manager at Indian Centre for Integrated Development and District Training Manager at Magic Bus India Foundation, specializing in capacity building, life skills education, and policy advocacy. A skilled trainer and counselor, she has conducted extensive training on child rights, gender issues, and legal protections, working closely with government agencies and NGOs to strengthen community welfare systems.

Her expertise in policy implementation, child protection laws (JJ Act, POCSO), and women's legal rights has made her a valuable contributor to government programs. Passionate about social justice, she continues to work towards strengthening community resilience and fostering a safer, more inclusive society for children and women.



Mr. Albert Justin

Assistant Program Manager,
Miracle Foundation India

Albert Justin, a dedicated educator and child rights advocate, is a care leaver of Cornerstone Children's Home and a Youth Ambassador for Miracle Foundation India. With a B.Sc. and B.Ed., he has taught Mathematics at Cauvery International School while championing the rights of children in alternative care. He has presented at global platforms like the International Care Leavers Convention and BICON 2023, conducted youth-led webinars, and led a survey on progress in CCIs. Now a DPM at Miracle Foundation India, he continues to drive systemic change for vulnerable children.



Mr. Manoranjan Das

Development Practitioner
Catholic Relief Services

Manoranjan, a development practitioner with two decades of field experience, is dedicated to fostering equity and inclusion through child protection, disaster response, disability inclusion, and community resilience. He spent 10 years with CRS-India and now supports child protection under the *Changing the Way We Care* initiative, strengthening government and faith-based preventive actions for Non-Institutional Care. His contributions include developing District Child Protection Plans and integrating child welfare into Panchayati Raj governance under Mission Vatsalya. A trainer and member of the India Alternative Care Network, he is passionate about policy implementation, community empowerment, and exploring India's ancient landscapes.