

Second Edition of

Leadership Dialogues

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

SPEAKERS

Bios & Highlights





Mr. Pankaj Pandey

National Program Officer, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)
Government of India

A dynamic development professional with twenty years of diverse experience in working with Central Government, State Government and Philanthropic NGOs across core areas such as Governance, Financial Inclusion and Literacy, Mr. Pankaj Pandey has been actively involved in strategic support, planning and implementation of the flagship schemes at the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India.

We, at Miracle Foundation India, are absolutely thrilled to have had an opportunity to host Mr. Pandey at the Second Edition of the Leadership Dialogues.

Key Highlights from Mr. Pankaj Pandey's Intervention

“Community-based organizations and Panchayats can provide support by assigning responsibilities to family members, both nuclear and extended, and non-family members. They can also provide special assistance to these families and help them benefit from livelihood activities and personal assets.”

“The challenge lies not in the availability of funds, but in their effective allocation and utilisation. While there is a framework for fund accumulation, the focus should shift towards enhancing the quality of training provided.”

“India's population of 1.42 billion is divided into two parts: one residing in rural areas and the other in urban areas. However, a significant portion of India's population resides in rural areas. If local governments fulfil their responsibilities adequately, they can certainly provide a better and safer life for any child.”

“Gram-level structures can function effectively with the correct assistance. Women and SHG can both be elevated. Given the resources available don't cost money and may be used to map vulnerable families. What is crucial is the participatory approach, and support of the community.”

“Panchayats are essentially the third tier of the government, and their responsibility is to develop and implement plans encompassing individual beneficiary schemes, personal livelihood plans, community asset creation and service plans, and social development plans.”



Ms. Smita Sen

Founder and Executive Director, Rupantaran Foundation

Ms. Smita Sen has been working with many national and international organisations as an individual consultant while engaging young people in social change processes, advocating gender-just society through Rupantaran. With more than 20 years in the development sector, she loves to express herself creatively and promotes art as a healing medium and tool to raise voices for the marginalised.

We, at Miracle Foundation India, are absolutely delighted to have had an opportunity to host Ms. Sen at the Second Edition of the Leadership Dialogues.



Key Highlights from Ms. Smita Sen's Intervention

“Community development programs aim to improve the overall well-being and infrastructure of a community, often including aspects like education, healthcare, and economic development. On the other hand, community-led child protection programs focus specifically on safeguarding children within the community from various risks and harms. To ensure the rights of children in these programs, it is essential to prioritize their needs, actively involve the community, and foster ownership and participation at the local level.”

“It's essential to avoid tokenism and ensure that child participation is genuine and meaningful. This can be achieved by providing children with opportunities to actively engage in decision-making processes, respecting their perspectives, and involving them in all stages of planning, implementation, and evaluation.”

“Structured approach ensures that local governance structures actively contribute to grassroots development, aligning community needs with governmental plans and resources effectively.”

“In the context of PRI members, their political agendas often overshadow child welfare concerns, leading to the marginalization of child-related issues. In certain areas, practices like child marriage are normalized, further exacerbating the challenges faced by children. PRI members, if have any affiliation with political parties, may deprioritize child-related issues due to an inherent conflict.”



Mr. N. Riyaz Ahamed Basha

District Child Protection Officer - Social Defence Department,
Tamil Nadu Government

With a diverse career background, Mr. N. Riyaz Ahamed Basha's expertise spans research, coordination, and grassroots-level project implementation. Recognized for his unwavering commitment to social welfare and child protection, he is known as a compassionate and effective advocate dedicated to making a positive impact in his community.

We, at Miracle Foundation India, are absolutely elated to have had an opportunity to host Mr. Basha at the Second Edition of the Leadership Dialogues.

Key Highlights from Mr. Riyaz Basha's Intervention

“Mission Vatsalya emphasizes the necessity for collaboration among various departments to address child-related issues comprehensively. Effective collaboration ensures a holistic approach to child welfare, where each department contributes its expertise and resources towards safeguarding children's rights and well-being.”

“Convergence is not limited to addressing issues reactively; it also encompasses preventive measures. Therefore, engaging all departments is essential. This structured approach ensures effective communication and collaboration across governance levels, ultimately benefiting the community. This is primarily how the convergence happens and they work together.”

“Quarterly Village Level Child Protection Committee (VLPC) meetings and Gram Sabhas serve as platforms for discussions and decision-making. Additionally, monthly state-level interactions provide an avenue for broader coordination and sharing of strategies.”

“Another initiative - Looking for You in Your Village, involves district officials spending a day in rural hamlets to assess ongoing operations like schools and anganwadis, fostering community engagement.”