



April reminded us why this work matters.

Children who had been waiting found their way back to families. Parents who were struggling received the support they needed before things fell apart. And the people doing this work every day continued showing up with a kind of care that no system can manufacture.

This month, two more states signed formal agreements with us, meaning more children in more places will now have a real chance to grow up in a family, not an institution. That kind of shift doesn't happen overnight. It takes years of quiet, persistent work, and supporters who stay the course.

You made that possible. Not in an abstract way, but in the most real sense. Your belief in this work keeps it moving forward.

Warm regards,  
Kusum Mohapatra  
CEO & Regional Director  
Miracle Foundation India

### Transforming Children's Lives through Family Strengthening



For Raju (*name changed*) from Maharashtra, childhood changed suddenly at the age of three when his father passed away in an accident. The loss left his mother, elder brother, and grandparents struggling with grief as well as growing financial hardship. Meeting everyday needs such as schooling, healthcare, and household expenses became increasingly challenging.

At first, Raju was too young to fully understand the changes unfolding around him. But as the months passed, he slowly began experiencing the effects of disruption at home, economic strain, anxiety about the future, and eventually, separation from family.

As the family worked to regain stability, support from the local Child Welfare Committee connected the children to a Child Care Institution (CCI). Raju's elder brother entered the institution first, and two years later, at the age of six, Raju followed. Although the CCI provided schooling and stability during a difficult period, living away from home remained emotionally challenging for Raju. He adapted to the life and school routines, but his strongest connection remained with his family. His mother's visits and regular conversations reassured him that the separation was temporary.

Back home, Raju's mother steadily worked towards rebuilding the family's future by starting a small grinding mill, while his grandfather continued running a tea stall. Over time, the family's financial condition improved. Alongside this, the team remained in regular contact with them through counselling sessions, home visits, and follow-ups, helping prepare both the children and the family for reintegration.

As the family became more stable, the possibility of returning home gradually became real. With careful planning and counselling by the CCI Superintendent and team, Raju was reunited with his family in June 2023, following his brother's return in 2021.

Today, Raju is studying in Class 12 while supporting the family business alongside his studies, and his elder brother is pursuing a B.Sc. while helping manage the family's tea stall. Raju is also supported under the *Bal Sangopan Yojana*, which provides financial assistance of Rs. 2,250 to children from vulnerable families to grow up in family-based care. His journey reflects how family separation often stems not from the absence of care but from economic hardship and crisis. While institutional care provided temporary support during a vulnerable period, it was sustained family strengthening, counselling, and continued support that ultimately helped bring Raju back home.

### Celebrating Rakesh Kumar



For Rakesh Kumar, Child Protection Officer (Non-Institutional Care) in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, child protection work goes far beyond responding to emergencies. Having worked across districts like Gopalganj and East Champaran, he has seen how poverty and crisis often push children into institutional care. This month, we celebrate Rakesh's commitment to strengthening families and creating pathways for children to return home.

Miracle Foundation India's training on Family Strengthening and Family-Based Alternative Care have strengthened Rakesh's perspective and resolve further, encouraging him to look beyond institutionalization and focus on supporting families to stay together whenever possible. Since then, he and his team have worked towards understanding the reasons behind separation and exploring whether families can be supported to care for their children safely.

Today, a large part of his work involves counselling children and parents, conducting home visits, and preparing detailed assessments of a child's family situation and care needs while coordinating with local stakeholders to strengthen family support systems. According to him, every case requires patience and deeper engagement as the circumstances leading to separation are often complex and emotional.

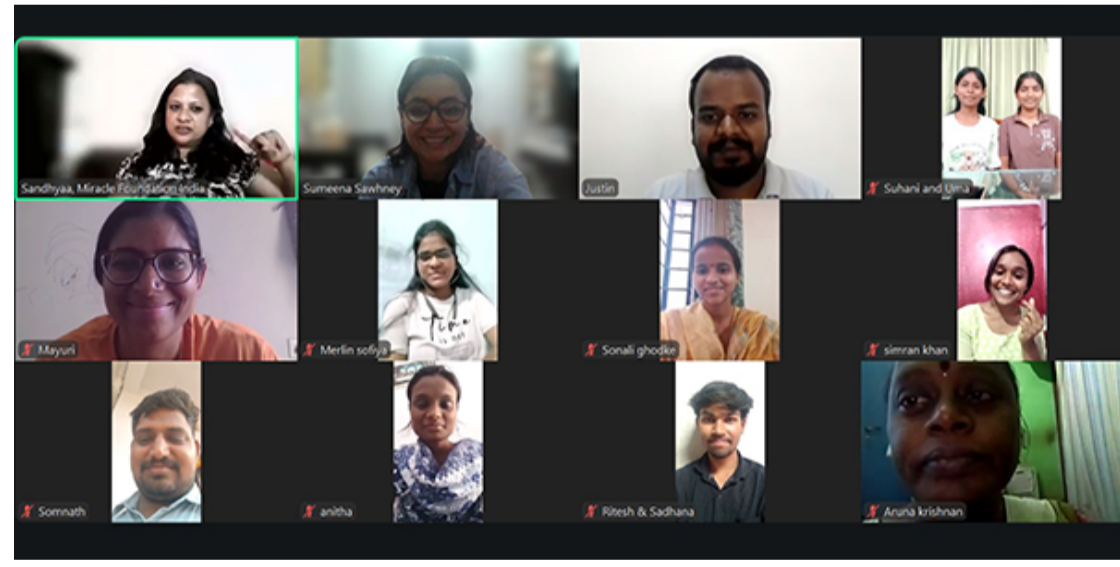
One case, in particular, stayed with Rakesh. A young girl was brought to a Child Care Institution (CCI); she had run away from home due to a strained relationship with her mother. When Rakesh and the team visited the family, the mother was initially hesitant about her daughter returning home. Through repeated counselling sessions, community involvement, and support under Family Strengthening initiatives, the child was eventually reunited with her family.

Experiences like these reinforced for Rakesh that reintegration is rarely a one-step process. It requires trust-building, consistent follow-up, and helping families address the challenges that lead to separation in the first place. Through sustained efforts, Rakesh and his team have successfully reunited more than 300 children with their biological families.

Beyond individual cases, he also mentors newly appointed staff from CCIs, Childline services, and other child protection stakeholders, encouraging more child-friendly approaches while working with children in need of care and protection.

For Rakesh, child protection is not only about ensuring children's immediate safety, but also about helping families become stable enough for children to grow up with care, connection, and belonging within their own homes and communities.

### Empowering Young Changemakers Through Youth Ambassador Program



Miracle Foundation India continues to strengthen its youth-focused initiatives by empowering young people with leadership opportunities, community engagement platforms, and pathways towards active citizenship and livelihood development. Building on our existing youth program, we have now further formalized it into a structured 12-month Youth Ambassador Program that provides young changemakers with dedicated mentorship, learning opportunities, and financial support to enable meaningful youth-led community action.

Under this initiative, we conducted the Youth Ambassador induction call on April 19, 2026, bringing together 10 selected Youth Ambassadors for the beginning of their leadership journey. The session created an inspiring and engaging space for these young leaders to connect with the larger vision of becoming confident, informed, and socially responsible changemakers.

Through meaningful discussions on leadership, community engagement, and collective responsibility, participants developed a deeper understanding of their roles, program expectations, and the support systems designed to guide them throughout the 12-month journey. More than just an orientation, the induction served as a powerful moment of motivation and reflection, encouraging youth to take ownership of their voices, lead with purpose, and contribute towards creating sustainable and positive change within their communities.

### Resource Links

- [6TH BICON CONFERENCE REPORT 2025](#)
- [From Promise to Practice: A landscape Report on Disability Inclusion and Civil Society Action in India](#)

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