

Welcome to our monthly update for September 2024!

Through this edition, we are pleased to bring to you stories of transformation that has been made possible through the dedicated efforts of our social workforce - all aimed towards promoting the well-being of children and families.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition and recognize the remarkable efforts being made by governments, communities and the social workforce. Your feedback is invaluable to us, and we eagerly anticipate hearing your thoughts and reflections.

Thank you for your unwavering support and belief in our mission.

Kusum Mohapatra
CEO & Regional Director
Miracle Foundation India

Transforming Children's Lives through Family Strengthening



Suraksha (*name changed*) and her younger sibling come from a family facing extreme hardships in Mahabubnagar, Telangana. Despite her best efforts, their mother, a single parent living with HIV, struggled to make ends meet, and at one point even considered pulling Suraksha out of school so that she could help support the family.

Through a local social activist, when the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in Mahabubnagar learned about Suraksha's situation, she was placed in a Child Care Institution (CCI). Here, she was provided with a stable environment that allowed her to continue her education. When Miracle Foundation India's team began facilitating the reunification of children living in institutional care with their families, Suraksha was also identified for reintegration.

Recognizing the family's economic challenges, the team intervened not only by facilitating Suraksha's education but also by working closely with her mother. They helped enroll her for the *Widow Pension Scheme*, through which she started receiving ₹1,000 per month, and linked the family to the *Public Distribution System* which helped them with monthly groceries. Further, to ensure her health needs were addressed, she was connected with *Antiretroviral Therapy* for her HIV treatment.

Through *Life Skills* sessions focused on parenting, family care, health and hygiene, and counseling sessions on the importance of education, Suraksha's mother underwent a significant transformation in her perspectives. She gradually came to appreciate the value of her daughter's education, understanding its role in shaping a brighter and more secure future.

In 2023, after a thoughtful reintegration process, Suraksha was smoothly reunited with her family. Today, Suraksha is in her Second Year of *Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology*; she plans to secure a job in a medical hospital in Mahabubnagar or Hyderabad. With her income, she hopes to support her family's financial stability, including her mother's healthcare. She has become a role model for her younger sibling, who is now in the Grade VI.

Although the stigma surrounding her mother's HIV status persists in the community, the team continues to work with local self-help groups and Panchayat representatives to connect the family with community support. Extended family members have already started assisting, helping the family gain some stability.

Inspired by incredible stories of transformation such as this one, we strengthen our resolve to champion family-based care and build meaningful community partnerships.

Celebrating Jayant Jathade



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 Jayant Jathade from Gadchiroli, Maharashtra.

Since 2019, Jayant has been working as a Social Worker at the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) in Gadchiroli, committed to ensuring the well-being of children. Following Jayant's association as a Master Trainer with Miracle Foundation India in 2020, through training on the importance of strengthening families and ensuring family-based care for children, Jayant further deepened his understanding on child protection.

His efforts subsequently focused on strengthening the understanding of the staff of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and helping them see the value of reintegrating children into families. Initially, there was hesitation among some staff due to concerns about job security, but with Jayant's continued guidance, they gradually embraced the importance of family-based care.

Gadchiroli district has hilly terrain, and the villages are located remotely, making it difficult for families to access government schemes. Nevertheless, Jayant and his team work diligently to connect families and children with crucial social protection schemes such as the *Bal Sangopan Yojana* which provides ₹2,100 per month to children from vulnerable communities, and the *Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana* which provides ₹1,500 per month to single, widowed and destitute women.

In Gadchiroli, the predominantly Adivasi community faces challenges such as malnutrition, early pregnancies, unhygienic delivery practices, and high rates of maternal and child mortality. To tackle these issues, Jayant held a meeting with the concerned district-level government functionaries. It was thereafter decided to organize a capacity-building workshop for related stakeholders on child protection laws, such as the *Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015*; *The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006*; and *The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986*. The workshop brought together over 300 participants, including teachers, village heads and government officials. This initiative was in fact so successful that it led to the creation of a WhatsApp group where stakeholders could regularly discuss child-related issues, facilitating quick interventions and solutions.

Despite the district's remote location and limited resources, Jayant and his team's efforts resulted in a significant increase in child protection cases being addressed. His commitment to family strengthening continues to make a transformative impact on the lives of children in Gadchiroli.

Looking ahead, Jayant seeks to further advance collaborative efforts, including training and facilitating exposure visits for police and government officials to enhance their sensitivity towards children's welfare.

A big shout-out today to Jayant!

Workshop towards Advancing Family-Based Care Held in Jharkhand



Miracle Foundation India, in collaboration with UNICEF India, organized a division-level learning and sharing workshop on August 9, 2024, on family-based care, in Dumka, Jharkhand. It was attended by 110 stakeholders from across all districts of the Santhal Pargana Division, including officials from District Child Protection Units, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Board, Special Juvenile Police Units, Child Helpline, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Child Care Institutions and civil society organizations. Families and children from the communities we are working with also actively participated in the meeting.

The workshop, centered on discussing best practices in family strengthening and family-based alternative care, showcased successful initiatives and their positive impact on children's development. All participants unanimously emphasized the importance of promoting family-based care in Jharkhand.

The meeting served as a key platform for bringing together the social workforce to share their experiences, engage in collective discussions, and collaborate on advancing family-based care in the state.

Miracle Foundation India Joins ARC Network in Maharashtra

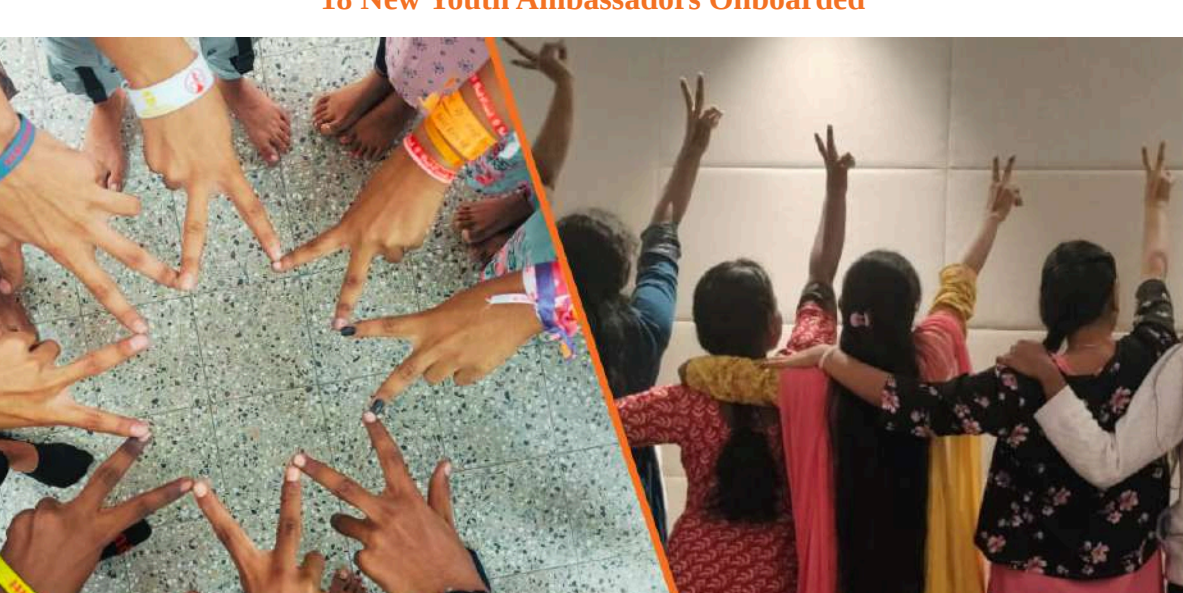


Miracle Foundation India has now become an executive member of *Action for the Rights of the Child Network* (ARC Network) in Maharashtra.

We were pleased to host a General Body meeting of the network in Pune on August 30, 2024, where we discussed crucial initiatives such as developing a Child Safeguarding Policy for schools, Child Care Institutions and NGOs; submitting the list of out-of-school children to the Education Department; streamlining the *Bal Sangopan Scheme* process; planning convergence with various departments; creating a public manifesto for child rights demands; and launching child protection and safety campaigns.

We are grateful to all members who participated in the meeting and contributed to these important discussions. Together, we're making meaningful strides towards children's rights and protection.

18 New Youth Ambassadors Onboarded



Youth engagement and empowerment have long been the cornerstone of Miracle Foundation India's mission. With a view to creating a structured platform to enable youth to harness their potential and passion, and to eventually become catalysts for positive change, we are formalizing their participation through our 'Youth Ambassador' program. Our Youth Ambassadors, drawn from both Child Care Institutions and local communities, play a vital role in engaging with communities and raising awareness on the importance of a family for every child, driving meaningful impact along the way.

Through dynamic orientation workshops, we were pleased to onboard nine Youth Ambassadors in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, on July 27-28, 2024, and nine Youth Ambassadors in Nagpur, Maharashtra, on August 3-4, 2024. Facilitated by *i2i Skills* in Coimbatore and *Play for Peace* in Nagpur, the interactive sessions during these workshops introduced the Youth Ambassadors to their roles and responsibilities, while also providing them with training in leadership, communication and community engagement. The team-building activities helped foster camaraderie and collaboration. By the end of the sessions, the Youth Ambassadors had developed actionable plans to create positive change in their communities.

This initiative marks a significant step forward in empowering young individuals to lead transformational efforts and support our vision of ensuring a family for every child.

Donor Testimonial



"I fully support Miracle Foundation India because their mission resonates with me on a deep level. The work they do is not only challenging but also truly transformative. Reuniting children with their families is a difficult yet crucial task, ensuring that each child grows up in the love and security of a family environment. Miracle Foundation [India] builds the foundation for a better life for these children, and their impact on society is remarkable. I am proud to support an organization that is making such a profound and positive difference for those who need it the most."

- Vinayak M.

Resource Links

- [India has a new set of foster care guidelines: How it will affect couples, singles](#)
- [SDG India Index - 2023-24](#)
- [Divestment of Residential Care Services: Guidelines and Recommendations for Donors Supporting Residential Care Services](#)
- [Govt reconstitutes NIPCCD's Executive Council, General Body after 5 decades](#)

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