



We are pleased to present the revised format of our monthly newsletter, which spotlights the real heroes on the ground: the social workforce. These dedicated individuals work tirelessly in challenging circumstances to ensure children stay safe within families.

In addition to highlighting their stories, we will share updates that impact our sector, providing you with insights and developments relevant to our mission.

We hope this new format helps you see our work from a fresh perspective. Your feedback is invaluable to us, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts on the newsletter.

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

From Struggle to Strength|
Sohanaben's Journey of Resilience and Empowerment



In an effort to prevent the need for institutionalization by empowering families and strengthening community support systems, Miracle Foundation India along with its partner organization, The Deepak Foundation, has been implementing the prevention and family strengthening program at community level in Chhota Udepur district, Gujarat.

A testament to the transformative impact of this initiative is the story of Sohanaben, residing in Jaloda village of Chhota Udepur district. Her husband's passing away suddenly made Sohanaben the sole provider for the family. She had to take care of her two young sons, aged 12 and 7, all on her own. On noticing the challenges being faced by her, particularly financial, the team of volunteers associated with Miracle Foundation India's program, with support from District Child Protection Committee (DCPU), took strategic steps to support Sohanaben and her children. The team initiated the process of securing a widow pension for her, ensuring a steady source of income. Additionally, they facilitated access to healthcare through the *Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana* card which provided her with a safety net for the family's healthcare needs. The team also assisted her by connecting her with the *Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana*, offering her Rs. 2 lakh insurance cover.

To further empower Sohanaben, the DCPU enrolled her in the *Mission Mangalam Yojana*, a program aimed at uplifting women through the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) where Sohanaben took on the role of Secretary in her SHG. Noticing her firm determination, the team also facilitated her participation in sewing training, equipping her with the skills needed to become a proficient tailor. With determination and resilience, Sohanaben ventured into sewing, initially catering to her village and eventually expanding her clientele to neighboring areas. The success of her sewing venture enabled Sohanaben to open a small grocery shop at her home, diversifying her sources of income.

With her business flourishing, Sohanaben is now using her earnings to improve her family's living conditions, while also ensuring her children's education remains uninterrupted. Upon benefitting from the support received, Sohanaben also joined as a volunteer to assist other women in similar situations.

This experience has significantly boosted Sohanaben's confidence and strengthened her sense of identity.

Celebrating Srinivas



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 are pleased to celebrate the efforts and achievements of Srinivas from Sheikhpura, Bihar.

Srinivas's dedication as a social worker with the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Sheikhpura, has profoundly impacted the community. Through his role as a Master Trainer, in collaboration with UNICEF India and the Bihar State Child Protection Society (BSCPS), Srinivas has spearheaded initiatives that have transformed the child protection landscape in Sheikhpura. His robust understanding of family strengthening and family-based alternative care, cultivated through Miracle Foundation India's capacity-building programs, has become a cornerstone of child protection efforts in the district.

One of Srinivas's notable achievements has been facilitating the Government Sponsorship Scheme that supports children from vulnerable communities by providing them with Rs. 4,000 a month. Under his guidance, the DCPU has provided sponsorship to 107 children, with applications of 50 more children in the pipeline. His commitment extends beyond administrative duties; he actively visits families to gather information for Social Investigation Reports (SIR) and works diligently to help reintegrate children with their families while linking them to necessary support services. His efforts were highlighted in a district-level workshop where around 40 key stakeholders, including Assistant Director, Child Protection, Sheikhpura; block-level officials; and members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), gathered to discuss prevention, gatekeeping and alternative care options. This workshop, supported by UNICEF India and BSCPS, exemplified his dedication to creating sustainable, community-led child protection systems.

Srinivas has played an instrumental role in capacitating various stakeholders on child protection. He has conducted extensive training sessions for Child Welfare and Police Officers across 17 police stations, child protection functionaries, Child Care Institution (CCI) functionaries, NGO personnel, and PRI members across Sheikhpura district.

These sessions focus on family strengthening and family-based alternative care, and emphasize on community-led prevention strategies. His efforts are not just about addressing immediate needs but also about creating sustainable systems that support child welfare in the long term. His dedication has already made a significant impact in Sheikhpura, but Srinivas knows there is still much work to be done. He continues to advocate for policies and practices that prioritize child welfare, and his ongoing efforts to train and empower local stakeholders ensure that his vision will simultaneously be carried forward by many others.

A big shout-out today to Srinivas!

Orientation of Care Collective - Centers for Excellence



The recent launch of the 'Care Collective - Centers for Excellence' program signifies a pivotal advancement in promoting family strengthening and family-based alternative care options for children from vulnerable communities and without parental care. In January 2024, Miracle Foundation India had facilitated five *Centers for Excellence*, namely *Aarambh* in Madhya Pradesh; *Cornerstone Children's Home* in Tamil Nadu; and *Amhi Amchya Arogya Sathi*, *New Vision* and *Vipla Foundation* in Maharashtra.

These centers aim to provide essential support and transition children from institutional care to family-based settings while empowering communities to prevent institutionalization through various initiatives. They are locally available to support district child protection systems in achieving state and district action plan targets.

A program orientation workshop was facilitated by Miracle Foundation India for *Amhi Amchya Arogya Sathi*, *New Vision* and *Vipla Foundation* in Pune, Maharashtra, from April 16 to April 18, 2024. These three organizations - now *Centers for Excellence* under *Care Collective* - bring a wealth of experience in the realm of child and family welfare. Through comprehensive sessions, participants gained rich insights into essential topics vital for advancing family-based alternative care while each of them shared best practices from their respective ends, creating a rich co-learning environment.

The workshop focused on developing a deep understanding of the roles and responsibilities of teams from the *Centers for Excellence* which included collaboratively designing and developing key stages of the program in consultation with state government departments and Miracle Foundation India. Additionally, deliberations were held on how to best demonstrate effective case management for safe child reintegration, collaborate with District Child Protection Units and local Child Welfare Committees on gatekeeping and prevention, strengthen families and guide policy and service design in family strengthening and family-based alternative care based on program evidence, all along fostering ownership and accountability.

Distinguished officials, including Rahul More, Deputy Commissioner of Women and Child Development, Maharashtra, and Yogesh Jawade, Assistant Commissioner of Child Development, Maharashtra, provided valuable insights and guidance, shaping discussions and outcomes. The workshop culminated in the formulation of a detailed action plan, with a clear roadmap for future endeavors and emphasizing shared goals towards transforming child care in Maharashtra.

Third Leadership Dialogue | The Role of Local Governance Bodies in Prevention and Gatekeeping



The third edition of Leadership Dialogues, organized on May 29, 2024, deep-dived into the role of local governance bodies in prevention and gatekeeping as well as focused on the diverse gatekeeping practices at the local level, including community-based mechanisms, that work towards ensuring every child has a family. The panel comprised Banku Behari Sarkar, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF-Bihar, Adv. Dr. Suchitra Ghogare-Katkar, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Satara, Government of Maharashtra; Nirmala, Secretary, Sarvo Prayas Sansthan, Madhubani, Bihar; and Sumitra Devi, Ward Member and Secretary, Village-level Child Protection Committee, Madhubani, Bihar.

The discussions in the dialogue revolved around the essential role of local governance structures in protecting children, emphasized on community sensitization, and highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts across multiple departments to establish a strong system for promoting children's safety and protection.

The recording of the third edition of Leadership Dialogues can be found [here](#).

Donor Testimonial



"Supporting Miracle Foundation India has been one of the most rewarding experiences for me over the years. I am continually inspired by their proactive communication about upcoming projects and the tangible, positive changes in children's lives. What sets Miracle Foundation apart is their commitment to nurturing children beyond their early years, aiding their transition into independent, productive members of society. This comprehensive approach deeply resonates with me and keeps me dedicated to their mission."

- Rahul Singla

Resource Links

- [Model Foster Care Guidelines 2024](#)
- Watch the video of the webinar of Foster Care Guidelines on IACN YouTube channel with the following link - <https://youtu.be/lmo-x0n1x-Q>
- [IACN 15th Edition Newsletter](#)

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