



A Family for Every Child in our Lifetime

April, the first month of this financial year, has set a hopeful tone for the work ahead. Over the past month, we have seen meaningful progress across our intervention states in India as we continue working together to reimagine care for children. From strengthening gatekeeping mechanisms towards keeping families together, to building capacities on family-based care, we are seeing growing commitment at all levels—governments, communities, and the civil society.

I'm especially heartened by the collaboration we witness, with district authorities, child protection functionaries, and families—all coming together to make systemic change possible. These collective efforts reflect our shared belief that every child deserves the opportunity to grow up in a safe, nurturing family environment.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in this journey.

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

Transforming Children's Lives through Family Strengthening



Too often, children are institutionalized or separated from their families when those families lack the essential support systems needed to care for them. Challenges such as poverty, single parenthood, limited access to information, social stigma, and systemic barriers can leave families with few options. In the absence of timely help, they are sometimes forced to make an unthinkable decision, believing that an institution might offer their child what they themselves cannot.

Sangeeta (*name changed*), coming from a tribal community in East Singhbhum, Jharkhand, found herself in such a situation. After her husband's death, she was left to raise her 9-year-old son, Ravi (*name changed*), alone. With no family backing, no permanent home, but just some daily wage work that brought in not more than ₹120-150 on some days, she struggled to provide for Ravi. Despite his strong interest in studies, when he was in Class 4, Sangeeta began to consider institutional care.

Like many tribal families, Sangeeta lacked caste, income, and residence certificates, making her ineligible for government support. Reaching government offices meant losing a day's wage and travelling long distances—unfeasible for a single mother.

Miracle Foundation India, in collaboration with *Bal Kalyan Sangh* in Jharkhand, has been working to prevent unnecessary separation of children from their families by enabling timely community-based interventions and strengthening families. The intervention is running across the Kolhan division of the state, covering East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum, and Saraikela Kharsawan districts. During community outreach by the team, a volunteer identified Sangeeta's situation. Recognizing the urgency of her case, the team helped her access the *Panchayat-level Janata Darbar*, where she received guidance and support to apply for the *Mukhyamantri Aabua Awas Yojana*. With their assistance, she completed the paperwork, got her application approved, and the construction of her house soon began.

Ravi also received support through the sponsorship scheme that provided ₹4,000 every month for his basic needs. Sangeeta now receives support to strengthen her parenting skills and is being guided to explore additional income sources like poultry and kitchen gardening. Importantly, she has also become an active member of a *Mahila Group* under the *Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society*, giving her further access to resources, peer support, and livelihood opportunities.

This timely intervention made a significant impact. Beyond material support, Sangeeta's new home symbolizes dignity and security, while Ravi's sponsorship ensures he can continue his education. This is just one example of the many interventions by *Bal Kalyan Sangh* and Miracle Foundation India, along with the support of the social workforce, showing how early identification, community action, and system linkages can prevent unnecessary family separation.

Celebrating Jayesh Patel



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, achievements, and dedication of Jayesh Patel, Protection Officer, Non-Institutional Care, from Banaskantha, Gujarat.

Jayesh has been a strong champion of family-based care. Through revised Individual Care Plan (ICP) and Social Investigation Report (SIR) formats, he has been capturing comprehensive information, thereby tailoring interventions for children more effectively. Following his own orientation on the importance of keeping children in families, Jayesh also took the initiative of building the capacities of his colleagues—including social workers, counselors, outreach workers, house parents, and Child Care Institution (CCI) staff—on critical aspects such as prevention and gatekeeping, risk assessment, placement planning, and the importance of family.

This collective shift in mindset has had measurable results. Jayesh has successfully reintegrated 50 children with their families and linked them to the government sponsorship scheme. Through his efforts, along with the support from Programme Officer, Institutional Care, and the local social workers, around 2,500 children have been connected to the *Palak Mata Pita Yojana*, a state government scheme that provides ₹3,000 per month to children from vulnerable communities who have lost their parents.

One of Jayesh's most impactful contributions came during a Block-Level Child Protection Committee meeting, where he proposed a strategic linkage between the Education Department and the child protection system. Following his suggestion, the District Collector issued a letter to the District Education Officer to identify semi-orphaned and fully-orphaned children enrolled in government schools. As a result, 200 children were identified by school teachers and thereafter linked to *Palak Mata Pita Yojana* with the help of the District Child Protection Unit, including social workers and outreach workers.

Going forward, Jayesh aims to continue building the capacity of CCI staff on effective case management, and strengthening Village-Level Child Protection Committees across hotspot areas to identify and support children at risk, so they can grow up in safe and supportive family environments.

From Care to Leadership: Youth Ambassadors Making an Impact



Miracle Foundation India's Youth Ambassadors, drawn from Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and local communities, play a vital role in raising awareness about the importance of a family for every child and driving meaningful impact. This month, we celebrate Kalpana Kindo from Jharkhand, who became a Youth Ambassador in 2019.

At the age of seven, Kalpana was placed in a CCI in Odisha due to financial difficulties and family challenges at home. Separated from her family at a young age, the journey was not easy, but over the years, with the right care, consistent support, and growth opportunities, Kalpana began to discover her inner strength and purpose.

Her association with Miracle Foundation India began in 2008 and later deepened in 2017. In 2019, her selection as a Youth Ambassador enabled her to turn her lived experience into leadership. Determined to ensure others do not face the same challenges that she did, Kalpana began leading awareness activities focused on children's rights and protection. She represented Miracle Foundation India at the *5th Biennial International Conference on Alternative Care for Children 2023* in Kathmandu, Nepal, and participated in a three-day convention on sustainable development in Odisha. She has also been contributing to field surveys on care-experienced youth.

Now working as a B.Sc. Nursing lecturer at *Shree Dev Bhoomi Institute of Science, Education and Technology* in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, and preparing to pursue her Master's in Nursing, Kalpana is actively seeking spaces where she can mentor youth, especially those transitioning out of institutional care. Her goal is to build leadership among the next generation, and champion for a stronger support system for care-experienced young people.

Kalpana's story clearly showcases how supporting one young person can open the door for many more.

Strengthening Child Protection at Grassroots



Bhojpur district of Bihar recently witnessed impactful strides in grassroots child protection efforts through block-level orientation programs organized in Barhara and Sandesh blocks on April 21-22. These sessions, jointly supported by Miracle Foundation India and the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), aimed to build the capacities of key community stakeholders on child protection laws, gatekeeping mechanisms to keep families together, and the importance of family-based care. The programs saw active participation of Block Development Officers (BDOs), Child Development Protection Officers, Block Education Officers, Panchayati Raj Institution members, and other block-level officials, with a total of 75 stakeholders attending from across both blocks. The sessions helped clarify legal frameworks and community roles, setting the stage for a more responsive and preventive child protection system.

Ahead of these programs, a key coordination meeting was held with the District Magistrate (DM) and Assistant Director, Child Protection (ADCP), Bhojpur, to ensure district-wide alignment. The DM reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening child protection and assured continued support, recommending focused efforts in identified Panchayats and blocks. A practical action plan was subsequently developed, covering the formation of Child Protection Committees and Bal Sabhas; identification of vulnerable families; and their linkages to social protection.

Now do these developments not reflect a promising move toward collaborative, sustainable, community-led care and protection for every child.

Strengthening Child Protection Ecosystem Across States



Continuing efforts to build capacity for child protection on the ground in Tamil Nadu, the second training for child protection functionaries in Nilgiris District took place on April 24-25, with 18 participants from Child Care Institutions, Childline, and the District Child Protection Unit. Designed as a follow-up to the March 2025 session (an update on which can be found [here](#)), this training offered a deeper understanding of family-based alternative care, and emerging child protection concerns. Through hands-on activities, real-life case discussions, and peer learning, participants explored practical strategies to strengthen their fieldwork.

A key component was the session on the Individual Care Plan (ICP), where participants learned about the specific additions introduced by Miracle Foundation India, and how to accurately complete the form. The training also focused on equipping participants with practical tools and activities to help prepare children for transition back to family. Other topics during the session included addressing children's emotions and building their coping skills.

On April 24, Miracle Foundation India – in partnership with the State Department of Women and Child Development, *Muskan Foundation Pune*, and UNICEF – conducted a one-day training for Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) personnel in Washim district of Maharashtra. The session brought together 51 officers, aiming to deepen their understanding of the *Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015*, and the *Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012*.

Using interactive tools, videos, and real-life scenarios, the training helped officers strengthen their understanding of child protection laws and develop child-sensitive approaches when handling cases. The program emphasized the importance of creating safe, supportive spaces for children in conflict with law or in need of care and protection. A key outcome was the collective decision to hold bi-monthly convergence meetings to strengthen inter-departmental coordination, track case progress, and ensure timely action.

Together, these initiatives highlight a growing commitment to community-anchored, systems-based child protection, ensuring every child is safe, supported, and cared for.

Donor Testimonial



"Every child deserves love and opportunity, and Miracle Foundation India makes that happen. Supporting them has been a deeply personal experience for me. Knowing my donation helps a child feel safe, go to school, and dream big fills my heart with purpose. I'm proud to stand with an organization that's changing lives, one child at a time."

Sanjay Shah

Resource Links

- [A Practical Guide to Nonprofit Measurement, Evaluation, and Learning](#)
- [Webinar recording: 'Navigating Gender and Sexual Identities in the Context of Family-Based Care'](#)
- [Report of National Stakeholders' Consultation on Protecting Rights of Children Living with Disability and Intersectionality of Disabilities](#)

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MIRACLE FOUNDATION INDIA
G-28, Upper Ground Floor, Lajpat Nagar-III,
Behind Fab India, Lajpat Nagar,
New Delhi – 110024, India

(011) 48506375
contact@miraclefoundationindia.in
www.miraclefoundationindia.in

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