



Monthly Newsletter

Saarthi

December 2024



"Empowering care leavers with skills, collaboration, and a sense of community is the first step toward building a future where they thrive, lead, and contribute to society."

Saarthi – Association of Indian Care Leavers (AICL) organized a transformative two-day capacity-building workshop in Chhattisgarh aimed at strengthening the local Care Leavers Network. The workshop focused on equipping care leavers with the tools they need to develop leadership skills, engage in collaborative efforts, and understand the resources available to them.

The first day kicked off with a Logo and Name Creation Workshop led by Ankit, where care leavers worked in groups to design a logo and select a name for the newly formed Chhattisgarh Care Leavers Network. The session fostered creativity and collaboration, giving participants a sense of ownership over their network's identity. The Teamwork Development session, conducted by Mr. Purushottam, emphasized the importance of working together. Participants were divided into three groups and performed skits to demonstrate the value of teamwork. The session encouraged the care leavers to open up, share their experiences, and build stronger connections across districts.

Ms. Shruti Nerkar, Deputy Director of the Department of Women and Child Development shared valuable insights into the educational and vocational opportunities available to care leavers in Chhattisgarh.

This session highlighted the various programs that can support their transition to independence. The evening saw a networking session at Nukkar Café, where care leavers engaged with local regional actors, UNICEF representatives, and staff from Aide et Action. The day ended with music, dance, and lively activities enjoyed by 35 care leavers.

The second day focused on the importance of building a strong, supportive care leaver network. Mausumi and Raja from Aide et Action emphasized the significance of such networks in supporting care leavers' well-being and growth. Dr. Kavita Magnani, National Coordinator of IACN, led a session on soft skills, particularly focusing on effective communication and self-expression. Through interactive activities, participants learned how to communicate confidently and express themselves effectively within their communities.

The workshop proved to be an essential step in empowering care leavers in Chhattisgarh, equipping them with the skills, resources, and network needed to build a more inclusive future.



Saarthy Participates in CAFT-India's Conference on Inclusive Care Reform

Saarthy – Association of Indian Care Leavers (AICL) actively participated in a two-day conference organized by CAFT-India, focusing on child protection, disability laws, and inclusive care reform. The event brought together key stakeholders, including government officials, civil society representatives, and care leavers, to address the challenges faced by children and young people with disabilities.

Saarthy had the unique opportunity to host a stall at the conference, where they showcased their work, shared key initiatives, and interacted with

stakeholders to build meaningful connections and collaborations. Key sessions explored the harmonization of child protection and disability laws, the current state of inclusive care reform, and community perspectives. Panel discussions highlighted the need for unified policies, grassroots-level engagement, and collaborative efforts to create accessible care systems.

The conference concluded with participants divided into groups to discuss the SIR (Situation, Impact, Response) framework and provide critical inputs for future care reforms. Saarthi's contributions, including insights from care leavers, underscored the importance of inclusive policies and sustainable solutions for empowering individuals with disabilities and care leavers alike.



Happy Corner

Care leavers from across Chhattisgarh gathered for a special dinner to celebrate the successful conclusion of the Capacity Building and Strengthening Workshop and the formation of the Chhattisgarh Care Leavers Sangathan. The evening was filled with joy, laughter, and heartfelt connections as social influencers and celebrities, including Mr. Aakash Soni, joined the celebration. This event not only provided a platform for care leavers to unite but also showcased the strength and resilience of the community.



Haldiram Skill Academy - Industry-Related Professional Course

Course Details:

- Duration: 24 weeks (6 months)
 - 1 week at Haldiram's Skill Academy
 - 3 weeks at Haldiram's factory (Sector 155, Noida)

Eligibility:

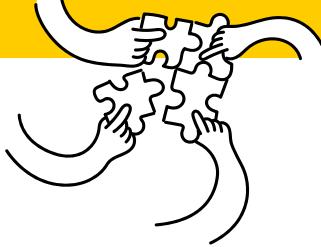
- Minimum 10th pass
- Age: 18 to 35 years

Highlights:

- Salary/Remuneration from Day 1 (Government slab for unskilled)
- 100% job placement assured

Timings:

- Full-time commitment:
 - 6 days a week at Haldiram's Skill Academy (9:00 am to 5:00 pm)
 - 6 days a week at the factory (8 hours)

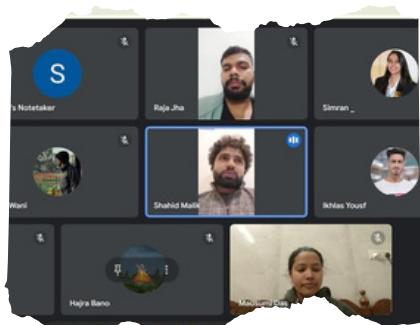


Event Highlights



AICL Monthly Meeting Highlights

The Association of Indian Care Leavers (AICL) is hosting monthly meetings to foster ongoing communication and stay connected with care leavers nationwide. In the November meeting, AICL shared updates on a revamped newsletter, and discussed contributions to a global Care Leaver Support Program. Members also gained insights from Surja's presentation on care systems and best practices from a recent FICE event in Croatia. These meetings ensure continued engagement and collaboration among care leavers and AICL members.



Building Bonds: Delhi Care Leavers' Meet

The Saarthi team hosted a heartfelt gathering for care leavers in Delhi, fostering connections and a sense of community.

Through open conversations and engaging activities, participants bonded over shared experiences in a safe, supportive space. The event emphasized the importance of trust, understanding, and mutual support, reminding care leavers they are not alone in their journeys.

State level meeting: J & K

The Association of Indian Care Leavers (AICL) hosted a meeting with the Jammu & Kashmir Care Leavers Network to strengthen connections and foster collaboration. Discussions focused on the progress and challenges of the J&K network, including low member participation and unique socio-cultural issues faced by care leavers in the region. AICL provided guidance on engagement strategies, network registration, and leadership development. The meeting highlighted AICL's commitment to supporting state networks through ongoing communication and collaborative efforts to empower care leavers across India.

Success Story: Jyotiprakash, a Care Leaver's Journey

Jyotiprakash's journey from a care leaver to a community leader is a testament to resilience. After losing his parents and spending years in a Child Care Institution (CCI), he faced immense challenges upon leaving at 18. With no family support, he started offering home tuition to fund his education and later worked with CHILDLINE (1098), which introduced him to the concept of aftercare services.

Inspired to help other care leavers, he founded the Odisha Care Leavers Association (OCLA), which now supports over 250 members. OCLA offers job placement, counseling, and links care leavers with skill development programs. Despite facing challenges like securing funding and matching skills to jobs, Through his story, Jyotiprakash has shown that with perseverance, support from the community, and a vision for change, care leavers can thrive. His work continues to inspire others to take charge of their futures, and with more support, OCLA is paving the way for many to follow in his footsteps.





A Journey of Resilience: Jammu & Kashmir Care Leavers Network

In 2022, under the LIFT Fellowship Programme, Rayees Ahmad Bhat and Sufeera Jan embarked on a mission to create the first Care Leavers Network in Jammu & Kashmir. What began as a small WhatsApp group with just three members has grown into a supportive community of 76 care leavers, with 30–35 actively engaging in activities such as job assistance, career guidance, and mental health support.

The fellows faced a stark reality during their outreach efforts: Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in Jammu & Kashmir had no records of children who had exited their care. Undeterred, the team employed snowball sampling, relying on personal connections to trace and unite care leavers.

Today, the network operates informally, focusing on providing career guidance, mental health support, and job placement assistance. It's more than a group—it's a family working to bridge sociological and cultural gaps, fostering unity and empowerment. The network's goal is to formalize its operations by registering as an official organization, enabling larger-scale activities to uplift care leavers.

This is not merely a story of progress—it's a story of impact and dreams. The Jammu & Kashmir Care Leavers Network is a testament to the strength of collective action, striving for a secure, inclusive, and empowered future for care leavers in the region. Together, they are turning their dream into a reality, step by step.

Thank you for reading!

Team:
Lead: Ms. Nupur Pande
Editor-in-Chief: Simran
Content Curator: Mausumi Das & Raja Jha



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfGyx9Hp67qYQGnwBMX3KhaxyQua4LbA6Clnqu-bP7vGhe5TA/viewform>

