



Monthly Newsletter

Saarthi

January, 2025



"Together, we are building a future where every care leaver stands tall, supported by a network of hope, empowerment, and opportunity."

"Karnataka Care Leavers: Uniting Voices, Empowering Futures."

Saarthi is proud to showcase a remarkable achievement in the care leavers' journey in India with the successful formation of the Karnataka State Care Leavers Association during a two-day capacity-building animation program on 19th and 20th January 2025 at the ECHO Centre for Juvenile Justice, Bangalore. This event, organized by the Directorate of Child Protection (DCP), Government of Karnataka; UNICEF; Child Rights Trust (CRT); and Karnataka Child Rights Observatory (KCRO), brought together 75 participants, including 29 care leavers, officials from Child Protection Units and Child Care Institutions, and CSOs working on aftercare services. The program featured inspiring sessions, from life skills workshops on communication, decision-making, and accessing social security schemes to career guidance and confidence-building.

The highlight of the event was the official launch of the Karnataka State Care Leavers Association, a pioneering initiative aimed at empowering care leavers with resources, peer support, and advocacy opportunities to navigate their transition into independent living. Care leavers courageously shared their personal experiences, fostering an environment of empathy, connection, and mutual support. Esteemed experts and dignitaries, including representatives from UNICEF, CRT, and various CSOs, enriched

the event with their insights and guidance. Key discussions included the development of a statewide action plan to address aftercare needs, emphasizing data-driven approaches, capacity-building, and collaborative strategies to support care leavers comprehensively.

This landmark event signifies a step forward in creating a robust support network for care leavers, ensuring they have access to essential life skills, vocational training, and confidence-building opportunities. Saarthi commends the dedication and collaboration of all stakeholders involved and reaffirms its commitment to supporting similar initiatives nationwide, paving the way for a brighter, more inclusive future for care leavers across India.





CLAN-Delhi- Baithak

CLAN recently hosted Baithak 4, a transformative session focused on Self-Discovery and Personal Brand Building. Held on January 25, 2025, this session provided Care Leavers with an opportunity to reflect on their unique journeys, embrace their challenges, and recognize their strengths, helping them build a clear and confident sense of identity and purpose.

Since its inception in 2017, CLAN has proudly been the first network dedicated to Care Leavers in South Asia. Over the years, we have worked tirelessly to equip youth transitioning out of care

institutions with the essential skills, resources, and support they need to thrive, aiming to empower them as strong and dignified citizens of India.

The CLAN Baithak is central to our mission of creating a supportive community where Care Leavers can connect, share their challenges, and identify the support they need. Based on these conversations, CLAN curates sessions designed to uplift and empower, fostering resilience and growth within the Care Leaver community.



Happy Corner



Gayatri Pathak has been chosen for the prestigious Tarpan Yuva Award 2025 for her incredible contributions to the welfare of orphans. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor!

Manisha Goswami from Positive YUVA Network participated in a pre-budget meeting with Rajasthan's Honorable Chief Minister, Mr. Bhajanlal, advocating for care leavers and youth living with HIV. 🌟



Jyotiprakash has entered a beautiful new phase of life with the arrival of his baby! Warm wishes to him and his family on this joyful journey.



Opportunities

Are you looking to build your career with employment skills training? Here's an exclusive After Care opportunity designed to support your growth by Salam Balak Trust!

Program Highlights:

- ✓ Skill-based Training in a field of your choice
- ✓ **Duration:** 6-12 months
- ✓ **Location:** Delhi NCR
- ✓ **Residential Facility:** Available for outstation candidates
- ✓ Guided Career Counselling & Assessment

Eligibility Criteria:

- ◆ Must not have received any aftercare support in any state
- ◆ Minimum 8th pass qualification
- ◆ Age 17+

Limited Seats Available! Don't miss this chance to shape your future.

Interested? Contact:

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Highlights of the Month



LIFT Batch 3 Fellows!

AICL Saarthi congratulates all the LIFT Batch 3 Fellows and LEAP Launch Program, organized by Udyan Care and supported by UNICEF.

We are proud to share that our team members—Ms. Nupur, Mausumi, and Raja—actively participated in the event, engaging in insightful discussions and learning sessions that will further fuel their contributions to social impact.

We welcome all the Batch 3 fellows with open arms and extend our best wishes as they embark on this incredible journey of growth, leadership, and innovation.

Bihu Celebration by ACLA: Honoring Culture, Building Unity

The Assam Care Leavers Association (ACLA) celebrated the vibrant Bihu Festival, blending Assam's rich cultural heritage with a spirit of teamwork and unity. The event brought care leavers together, fostering connections and a sense of belonging. Events like these not only honor traditions but also strengthen community bonds, empowering care leavers to grow and thrive.

Through culture, we unite. Through unity, we empower.



Healing begins with a conversation

We are thrilled to share that the Saarthi has taken another impactful step in supporting care leavers by offering personalized, one-on-one counseling sessions with **Mr. Ankur Nag**, a professional psychologist and expert in mental health.

These counseling sessions are designed to provide care leavers with a safe space for reflection and healing, offering valuable insights and guidance on a range of psychological concerns and mental well-being.

We encourage all care leavers to take advantage of this unique opportunity and make their mental health a priority.

Celebrating Bastar Culture at the Bijapur State Festival



As part of our efforts to showcase cultural heritage, Saarthi features a vibrant performance of a traditional Bastar dance. Led by Ram, a dedicated care leaver, the team of eleven enthusiastic children spent two days rehearsing, overcoming challenges in choreography and costumes. Ram's leadership and tireless work in coordinating the group, managing traditional dhotis, and keeping spirits high were instrumental in making the performance a success.

On the festival day, their energy and passion lit up the stage, captivating the audience and earning an award for their efforts. This experience not only strengthened the team's camaraderie but also highlighted the power of cultural expression in building confidence and unity. Saarthi is proud to celebrate moments like these, where care leavers lead the way in preserving and sharing their rich heritage.

Amplifying the Voice of Care Leavers: Raja Jha Represents Saarthi-AICL at Ahvaan 2025

Saarthi-AICL proudly acknowledges the participation of our Project Coordinator, Raja Jha, at Ahvaan: National Conference on Aftercare Services on January 29, 2025, in Mumbai. Organized by Catalysts for Social Action in collaboration with A Future for Every Child and UNICEF, the event brought together experts to enhance Aftercare services for care leavers transitioning into independent adulthood.

As a panelist in **"Voice of Care Leavers,"** Raja Jha highlighted key challenges and solutions for Aftercare, emphasizing:

1. Redefining Equality in Aftercare: Opportunities in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) are often distributed equally among children, but true equality means recognizing individual abilities and needs. Children with different capacities require tailored support to ensure fair access to opportunities.

Solution: Service providers must assess each child's needs before distributing resources to ensure equitable and effective support.



2. Bridging the Opportunity Gap: While metro cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur, and Gujarat have multiple Aftercare programs, states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha lack adequate resources, creating disparities in support.

Solution: Organizations must extend their outreach to underserved states, ensuring equitable access to education, employment, and other essential services.

3. Strengthening Care Leavers Networks: A lack of centralized data makes it difficult to track and support care leavers. Emerging Care Leavers Networks can play a vital role in data collection, advocacy, and policy-making.

Solution: The organization must support the state network and foster its capacity to solve the challenges in its own community.



success. By bridging gaps in opportunity, personalizing support, and strengthening care leavers networks, we can ensure that care leavers have the foundation they need to thrive. It is now up to policymakers, organizations, and society to take collective responsibility and translate discussions into tangible actions for a more inclusive and sustainable future for care leavers.

Thank you for reading!

Team:

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