



Monthly Newsletter

Saarthi



February, 2025



"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller

"Empowering Care Leavers, Building a Brighter Future- Bihar Care Leavers Network (BCLN)"

The Bihar Care Leavers Network (BCLN) was established in 2021 with a mission to support young individuals transitioning out of care institutions. Recognizing the unique challenges care leavers face—such as securing stable housing, continuing education, finding employment, and obtaining legal documentation—BCLN provides crucial resources to ensure they build independent and stable lives. More than just a support system, the network fosters a sense of belonging, helping care leavers overcome societal stigma and financial barriers through mentorship, skill-building, and advocacy. By providing a safe space for peer support, BCLN allows care leavers to connect, share experiences, and collectively work toward solutions that improve their circumstances.

A major milestone for BCLN was its 2024 workshop, which brought together members to define a clear vision, establish a mission, and set strategic goals. This initiative strengthened advocacy efforts, laying the groundwork for policy changes and enhanced aftercare support systems in Bihar. During the workshop, participants engaged in leadership training, discussions on financial independence, and networking with stakeholders, reinforcing the importance of self-sufficiency and collective empowerment. The event also underscored the need for a more structured aftercare framework, ensuring that young individuals leaving institutional care have continuous access to guidance and opportunities.

BCLN actively collaborates with government bodies, NGOs, and child rights organizations to amplify the voices of care leavers and advocate for their rights. Through strategic partnerships, the network is working to increase educational scholarships, facilitate job placements, and promote skill-based training programs tailored to the evolving job market. With a strong focus on sustainability, BCLN is paving the way for a more secure and promising future for care leavers, ensuring they transition into adulthood with confidence and dignity.

Saarthi proudly recognizes BCLN as the State Network of the Month, celebrating its unwavering commitment to empowering care leavers and fostering positive change in the aftercare landscape. As the network continues to grow, its impact is a testament to the resilience, determination, and strength of care leavers who refuse to be defined by their past but instead, shape their own futures.



Building Connections: Saarthi-AICL and Vinimay Trust Empower Care Leavers

The Saarthi-AICL team visited Vinimay Trust, an aftercare shelter in Mumbai dedicated to supporting care leaver youth. The visit aimed to foster meaningful interactions with residents and introduce them to the Saarthi National Platform, a resource hub designed to enhance the social well-being of care leavers and strengthen community connections.

During the visit, the Saarthi team engaged with seven young individuals who shared their educational backgrounds, career aspirations, current job placements, and training programs. This open dialogue created a space for experience sharing, enabling both the team and the residents to gain deeper insights into the opportunities and challenges faced by care leavers.

Vinimay Trust plays a crucial role in helping youth transition from Children's Care Institutions (CCIs) to independent living. The shelter provides accommodation for young individuals



above 18 years of age at a minimal fee, making it an accessible and sustainable option for care leavers seeking stability.

The session proved to be highly informative and impactful. It strengthened connections between Saarthi and the young residents, creating avenues for collaboration. The insights gained will significantly enhance Saarthi's outreach efforts in the region, contributing to a more inclusive and supportive ecosystem for care leaver youth.

Through initiatives like this, Saarthi continues to empower care leavers, ensuring they have access to resources, mentorship, and opportunities to lead independent and fulfilling lives.

♥ Happy Corner ♥



At Saarthi, we love celebrating moments of joy, and this one is truly special! Mausumi, our Project Coordinator and a proud Care Leaver, recently embarked on a beautiful new chapter in her life—she got married!

Growing up in an orphanage, she longed for the warmth of a home. When she met Diwakar and his family, they embraced her with love, making her feel truly welcome and cherished. Calling someone "Mammy" felt unfamiliar at first, but now, it's a reality she cherishes.



And this Holi, for the first time, Mausumi is going home—to celebrate with her family!



Passport to Earning (P2E)

Passport to Earning (P2E) by UNICEF's YuWaah empowers youth (15-24 years) with free, job-relevant skills for employment and entrepreneurship. P2E offers courses in financial literacy, digital productivity, employability skills, and entrepreneurship in multiple languages, including English and Hindi

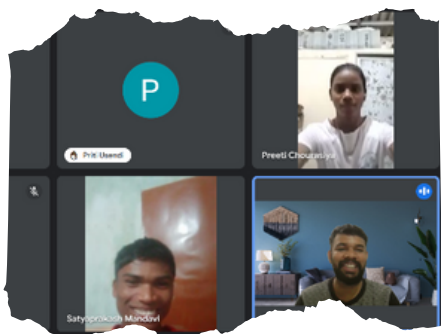
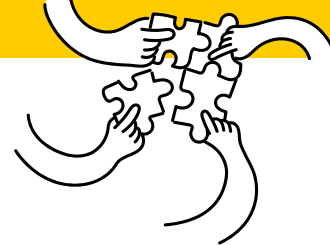
Why P2E?

- ✓ Free courses with certification from UN-recognized bodies
- ✓ Flexible learning—anytime, anywhere
- ✓ Job-focused skills to enhance career opportunities

P2E is supported by CBSE, Microsoft, Accenture, state governments, and youth organizations.

For guidance, connect with the Saarthi team and take your first step toward a brighter future!

Highlights of the Month

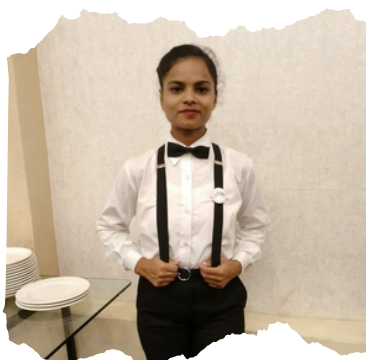


Empowering Youth: P2E Sessions

The Saarthi-AICL team introduced the Passport to Earning (P2E) initiative to youth in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, offering free, job-relevant courses in financial literacy, digital productivity, employability skills, and entrepreneurship.

Over three days, ten participants engaged in sessions, gaining insights into the learning platform. Many took the initiative to register for courses, demonstrating a proactive approach to skill development. The Saarthi team continues to provide support, ensuring accessibility for underserved youth.

Through P2E, Saarthi empowers young individuals in remote regions, bridging the gap between education and employment and fostering a brighter future.



From Challenges to Opportunities: Kabita's Journey with ACLA

Leaving a Child Care Institution (CCI) is often a daunting transition, filled with uncertainties and challenges. For Kabita from Guwahati, Assam, this journey was no different. However, being part of a Care Leavers Network transformed her life, guiding her toward new opportunities and self-reliance.

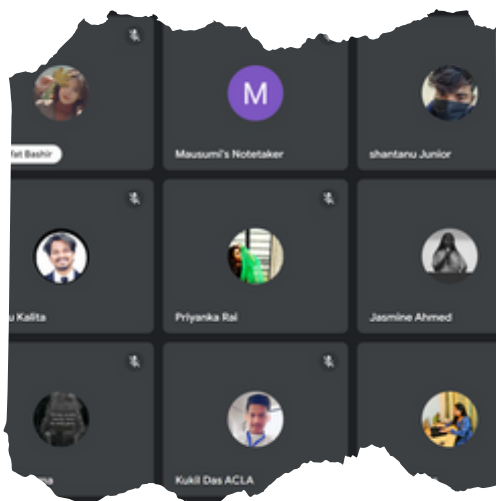
In 2021, Kabita joined the Assam Care Leavers Association (ACLA), a support network dedicated to empowering care leavers in Assam. With their encouragement and guidance, she navigated the crucial phase of career decision-making.

After completing her 12th in 2022, ACLA helped her join the Food and Beverage Steward training at Tata Strive, Sonapur, equipping her with skills for the hospitality industry.

Kabita's dedication and training led her to an incredible opportunity—On-the-Job Training (OJT) at Taj Bengal Kolkata, one of India's most prestigious hotels. This experience honed her practical knowledge and prepared her for a professional career in hospitality. Today, she is successfully employed at a reputed hotel in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, continuing to refine her skills and advance in her profession.

Reflecting on her journey, Kabita acknowledges the unwavering support of ACLA. From mentoring and career guidance to emotional and mental health support, the network played a transformative role in her life. "A Care Leavers Network teaches us how to access resources effectively and ensures that no care leaver walks this journey alone," she shares.

At Saarthi, we celebrate Kabita's inspiring story—one that reflects the power of collective support, resilience, and opportunity. Her journey is a testament to how care leavers, when supported, can thrive and achieve their dreams.



Empowering Voices: Discussions on Care Leaver Challenges

Saarthi recently hosted a series of online discussions to address the key challenges faced by care leavers in accessing essential resources. With 34 participants across four sessions, the discussions provided a valuable platform for sharing experiences, raising concerns, and proposing solutions. Participants actively voiced their viewpoints, highlighting critical gaps and offering practical recommendations for improving aftercare support. The engagement and insights from these sessions will play a crucial role in shaping future advocacy efforts and strengthening the support system for care leavers across India.

From Care Leaver to Care Leader: Surja's Inspiring Journey

Orphaned as a child in Gonda District, UP, Surja found a safe haven at Udayan Ghar, where she transformed challenges into opportunities. With skill-building, mentorship, and unwavering support, she built a bright future for herself and now dedicates her career to empowering others.

Through skill-building programs, mentorship, and education, Surja developed the confidence to shape her own path. Today, she is more than a survivor—she is a change-maker. Working at Udayan Care, she dedicates herself to supporting care leavers, ensuring that others like her get the opportunities they deserve. She leads Care Leavers Unite, UP, and is an active voice in the Association of Indian Care Leavers (AICL), advocating for the rights and empowerment of care-experienced youth.



Her impact goes beyond India. Recently, Surja represented the Global Care Leavers Community at the FICE event in Croatia, where she shared powerful insights on the employment challenges faced by Indian care leavers. She highlighted the importance of job readiness programs, mentorship, and long-term support to ensure that care leavers don't just survive but thrive in society.



At Saarthi, we take immense pride in celebrating Surja's achievements and the transformative work she is doing. Her journey is a testament to the power of resilience, community, and continuous support. Her unwavering dedication to advocacy is paving the way for a future where every care leaver becomes a leader in their own life.

"Without the continuous support that I received, my life could have taken a very different turn," says Surja,

Thank you for reading!

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