



Monthly Newsletter

Saarthi
March, 2025



Launched in August 2021 with support from UNICEF and Yuwaah, AICL is a platform for care leavers, by care leavers, addressing key issues like housing, education, health, and legal identity. In 2023, a partnership with UNICEF and Aide et Action strengthened its mission, providing peer support, building connections, and creating a "heart family" for care-experienced youth. This year, AICL focused on expanding its reach through a national database and enhancing services for a smoother transition after care. As this term ends, AICL remains a beacon of empowerment and solidarity.





"Stronger together - when care leavers unite, we create pathways to opportunity, advocacy, and lasting change."

Strengthening Care Leavers' Support: Saarthi Working Committee Meeting

The Working Committee Meeting on Strengthening Care Leavers' Support was held on March 21 at Zorba, bringing together Care Leavers, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and UNICEF representatives.

Pranab Panging opened the session with a warm welcome, setting the tone for meaningful discussions and a collective way forward. The meeting commenced with participant introductions, followed by a session where network leads and CSOs shared updates on their initiatives.

Expanding State Networks & Saarthi's Role

Moderated by Pranab Panging, this session featured panelists Mohsin, Rupam, Shankar, and Mausumi. Discussions highlighted state network developments, with insights from YSS, Odisha, Gujarat, and Assam networks. Key takeaways included the need to expand membership, Saarthi's role in advocacy, state-level collaboration, and capacity building. Saarthi was envisioned as a bridge connecting needs and opportunities, fostering belongingness, and supporting local career and livelihood initiatives.

Reaching the Unreached Care Leavers

Led by Ms. Sangita Bhatia (CAFT), panelists Mayuri, Tanu, Ritesh (UNICEF Consultant), Firoz, and Rajkumar explored challenges in reaching more care leavers. Another critical discussion on **CSR-NGO Collaboration** was led by Ms. Chetana Desai, with panelists Ms. Rashmi Sehgal (Payomatix), a Haldiram representative, Mr. Gaurav Kumar (Quess), and Raja Jha (Care Leaver). They deliberated on opportunities and challenges faced by recruiters in supporting care leavers.

The meeting culminated in an interactive session where care leavers shared key insights from regional meetings. A significant milestone was the launch of the Saarthi website, marking a new identity for the National Care Leavers Network. Mr. Prabhakar and Ms. Vandana emphasized the need for close collaboration with the government and solution-oriented approaches.

Day 2: Connection & Growth

The second day, facilitated by Dr. Kavita Maghnani and Nupur Pande, focused on building trust and community. Activities included:

- Mandala Magic:** A calming creative exercise led by Mayuri.
- Circle of Dreams:** Participants shared aspirations, each symbolized by a meaningful item.
- Trust Walk & Human Knot:** Engaging activities fostering teamwork, trust, and problem-solving.

The two-day workshop reinforced Saarthi's commitment to empowering care leavers by strengthening networks, expanding opportunities, and fostering deeper connections. Moving forward, the focus remains on advocacy, collaboration, and tangible impact in the lives of care-experienced youth.



Achivements of the Year



National Workshop: Saarthi-AICL organized a two-day Capacity Building and Networking Workshop in Delhi, bringing together 35 care leavers from 14 states. The workshop focused on enhancing leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills while providing a platform for care leavers to share experiences and build peer support networks. Representatives from UNICEF and Aide et Action participated, reinforcing institutional support. The event fostered solidarity, strengthened local networks, and empowered care leavers to advocate for their rights and navigate life after care.



Delhi Care Leavers

Meet-Up: AICL hosted a meet-up for care leavers in Delhi, fostering connections and strengthening peer support. The event highlighted the importance of unity and family-based care.

Inclusive Care Reform: Saarthi-AICL collaborated with CAFT-India for a roundtable on inclusive care, focusing on the needs of children with disabilities and policy advocacy for intersectional support.



Mental Health Support: Regular counseling sessions by Mr. Ankur Nag provided emotional resilience training, creating a safe space for care leavers to address personal challenges.



Strengthening State Networks

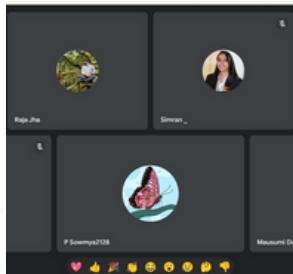
Saarthi-AICL expanded its reach by strengthening care leaver networks in Assam, Rajasthan, Bihar, and Jammu & Kashmir. Meetings with key stakeholders like UNICEF, DCPU, and Positive Yuwa Network paved the way for partnerships, resource sharing, and capacity-building opportunities for care leavers at the state level.



Expanding Networks: Saarthi's visits to Rajasthan strengthened collaboration with UNICEF, CLiC, and Positive Yuwa Network to support care leavers.



Soft Skills Training: Dr. Kavita Magnani led sessions on communication and interpersonal skills, equipping care leavers with tools to navigate personal and professional challenges.



P2E Initiative: Saarthi-AICL introduced the Passport to Earning (P2E) initiative, training care leavers in financial literacy, digital productivity, and employability skills for careleavers in Chhattisgarh



Launch of the AICL Newsletter — 'Saarthi'

In October 2024, NCLN launched its first-ever newsletter, Saarthi, serving as a platform to highlight care leaver stories, share network updates, and foster a sense of community. The newsletter became a tool for amplifying voices and strengthening internal communication.



Photo Gallery



UDAY: A Collaborative Step Towards Independent Living for Care Leavers

On March 28, 2025, Chhattisgarh became the hub of an inspiring and action-driven workshop—UDAY: Coming Together to Support Care Leavers for Independent Living. Organized by the Department of Women and Child Development (WCD), Chhattisgarh, in collaboration with Aide et Action and UNICEF Chhattisgarh, the event brought together care leavers, state government officials, civil society organizations (CSOs), social influencers, and hospitality industry experts to explore avenues for supporting care leavers in their journey toward self-sufficiency.

The workshop opened with a context-setting session led by Ms. Nupur Pande from Aide et Action, followed by an engaging panel discussion featuring care leavers and moderated by Ms. Mausumi Das. Ram and Anjali from Chhattisgarh shared their personal journeys, shedding light on the hurdles they encountered after leaving Child Care Institutions (CCIs). Shrawan from Bihar Network emphasized the advantages of collective advocacy and networking, while Mausumi illustrated the sustainable model of the Assam Care Leavers Network, highlighting its impact on education and employment opportunities for members.



The open-floor discussion facilitated meaningful exchanges between panelists and participants, providing a platform for care leavers to articulate their aspirations and challenges. With the esteemed presence of WCD Joint Director Shri. Nandlal Chowdhary, along with representatives from CSOs, CSR groups, Aide et Action, UNICEF, and social influencers, the event reinforced the collective commitment to creating robust support systems and career pathways for care leavers.

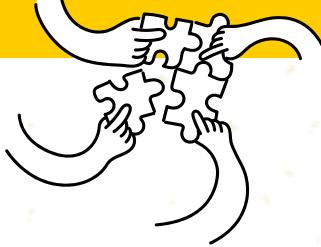
Through initiatives like UDAY, stakeholders are taking definitive steps toward a future where care leavers are empowered with the skills, opportunities, and confidence needed to thrive independently. As we move forward, it is imperative to strengthen these collaborations and ensure that care leavers receive the support they need to lead fulfilling lives.



Shri. Nandlal Chowdhary shared details of various government schemes available for care leavers, emphasizing the importance of utilizing these resources for education, skill development, and financial independence, and plans designed to assist care leavers in their transition to independent living. This was followed by a panel discussion featuring Mr. Priyank Patel, a social influencer, along with Mr. Raman, Mr. Jyoti Prakash, and Mr. Rupam from YCDA. The discussion delved into the opportunities available, the barriers faced by both industries and care leavers, and potential strategies to bridge the gaps.



"Empowering care leavers isn't just about providing opportunities; it's about creating a support system where they can thrive with dignity and confidence."



Our Psychologist



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Therapist & Mental
Health Specialist



Dr. Priyanka
- Clinical
Psychologist &
Child Protection
Expert



**Dr. Preeti
Upadhyay**-
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Thank you for reading!

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across fifteen state networks



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