Conversation with Vishal & Pavithra

In this People First Talk, we explored what kind of leadership we need today and how to cultivate it, especially in young people. Watch the talk [here](#).

**Key ideas**

- We need leadership that is centered on treating every person with care and dignity.
- We must shift from thinking of young people as beneficiaries to equal partners.
- Young people, and all of us, have a need to be seen and heard. When we create spaces for that, young people start believing in themselves and in their own agency.
- We must value the wisdom that exists within communities and recognize the power of those in the community to transform their own lives - what they need along the way is supporters, champions, and people who step back and let them shine.
- We must distribute leadership to young people, parents, teachers - those with lived experience - who can give us access to insights that we may never have on our own.
- Beyond focusing on individual leadership, we must work collectively to challenge social conventions and norms that create systemic barriers for young people.
- To transform systems around us, we must first start with work on ourselves, taking an honest look at our own prejudices, limiting beliefs and role in the current system.

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“**We need to bring more love into the world, respect each other, and break out of these superficial boundaries that are keeping us apart.**” — Vishal Talreja

“**Once you ignite leadership in young people who come from difficult backgrounds, it has a ripple effect. That's a sustainable way of building leaders.**” — Pavithra KL

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Our next People First Talk will be with Jacqueline Novogratz, Founder and CEO of Acumen, on July 28 at 10am EST / 3pm BST. You can register for the talk [here](#).

*For more information on the People First Community and effort, please visit [peoplefirstdev.org](http://peoplefirstdev.org), or sign-up [here](#).*