

CHINAR'S DALEEL

A FOUR-MONTHLY EDITION

In This Issue

Editor's note

Community Learning Centers

Warwan Valley Assessment

Teach with CHINAR -x (TWCx)

Two-day capacity building workshop

Livelihood distribution

Youth graduate from skill centers

Executive director's message

CHINAR International

Investing in Children & Youth

 www.chinarinternational.org

 info@chinarinternational.org

 CHINAR.International

 CHINAR_Int

 chinarinternational



Editor's note

- by Afifa Lone, Information & Communication Lead

2020 has been a challenging year with a major focus on COVID relief activities besides ongoing programs. For the initial five months, CHINAR International focused on awareness, emergency relief and remote education in collaboration with private and public partners on the ground.

In September, after re-assessing and analyzing the ground situation, we shifted gears to give more attention to education, which has been impacted for 17 months since August 2019. Hence, CHINAR started the second phase of Community learning centers, a contingency schooling program during crises, with over 600 students from 8 districts of Kashmir. Previously, CHINAR facilitated virtual classes, distributed study packets to students and conducted open-air classes. Over 1200 students benefitted from our remote education since April 2020.

Teach with CHINAR-x (TWCx) – a volunteer teaching program, provides education to over 100 students within their communities. We have 19 active volunteers currently in the program.

In December, CHINAR International launched its new website with an idea to streamline donation workflow, site navigation and overall design. Phase 2 of the website will be launched in the coming months.

With your support and encouragement, CHINAR has scaled up to 518 children, 50 families and over 1000 youth through its programs. We look forward to your feedback as we strive towards continuous learning and improvement.

Thanks so much for your support in 2020. Looking forward to the productive year 2021.

Community learning centers

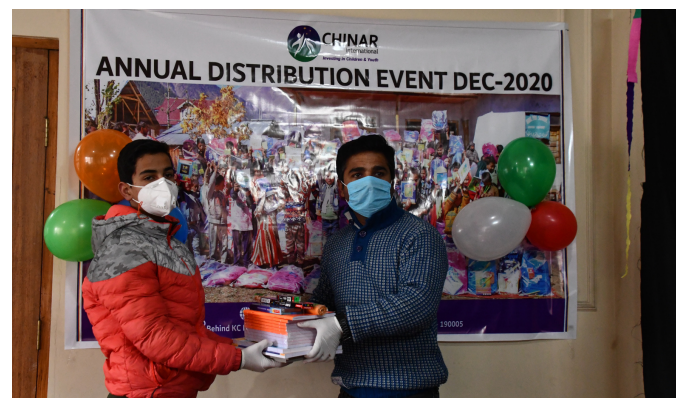
Phase - 2

CHINAR successfully launched Phase-2 of community learning centers, a contingency schooling program during crises across 8 districts of Kashmir division. These centers keep children engaged in creative ways using activity-based learning methodology with focus on remedial education, recreation and mental wellness. All the facilitators were trained in classroom management, lesson planning and learner outcomes in a detailed orientation program. Currently, we have 22 centers operational with over 650 students taught by our passionate community volunteers. Phase 1 of CLC started in August 2019, continued for 6 months with over 1500 children enrolled in 30 centers spread across 9 districts of J&K.



Annual distribution Srinagar

CHINAR held an Annual distribution event for providing stationery and monthly nutrition to children enrolled under Child development program. The support was given to 93 children from 45 low-income families coming from different parts of Srinagar district. The distribution was done in phases to follow COVID protocols. Similar events were held in Pulwama, Shopian, Kupwara and Doda districts.



Warwan valley

Assessment trip

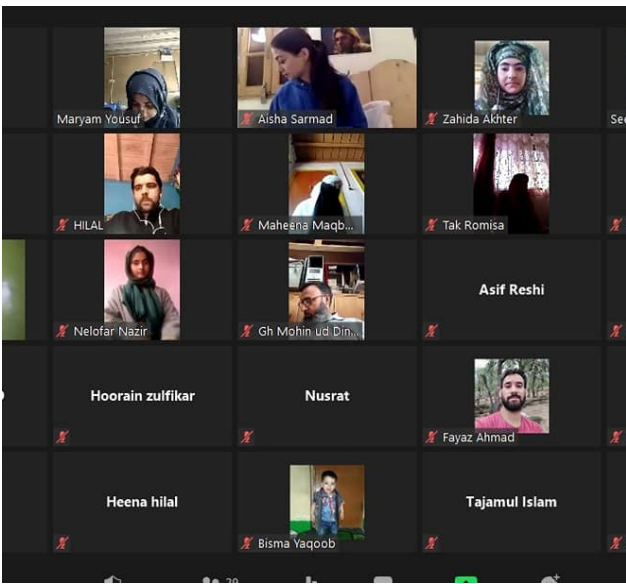
CHINAR made an assessment trip to remote Warwan Valley in the month of October. The team accomplished multiple objectives including community mobilization, teacher training and distribution of stationery and study packets.

Three community mobilization events were held at Margi, Mingli and Mulwarwan villages respectively. The main aim of these events was to create awareness among local masses about the importance of education, health and hygiene, and also resume the tuition centres suspended due to COVID constraints. Over 800 people including parents, community heads, teachers and volunteers participated in these events. After a thorough assessment and due diligence process, another tuition center was started in Gumri village with a total enrolment of 120 students.

Two female staff members - Mehreen and Ambreen who joined the trip for the first time showed tremendous passion and energy on the ground. Ambreen led the 3-day teacher-training program organized for the local volunteers who run community-learning centers at Warwan. The training focused on activity-based learning, lesson planning and classroom management. Mehreen, on the other hand, had multiple awareness sessions with females. She stressed on the importance of personal hygiene, girl education and women empowerment.



Teach with CHINAR-x(TWCx) Launched successfully



Launched in September, Teach with CHINARx (TWCx) program is one of its kind alternative solutions to continue education during crises with minimum dependency on COVID constraints, lockdowns, internet availability, and the opportunity to reach a large number of children. After a thorough screening and interview process, 40 volunteers were shortlisted for the program. CHINAR organized a 4- day induction training for selected volunteers enrolled under the program. The training focused on effective teaching practices, classroom management, lesson planning and student assessment along with multiple icebreakers sessions to keep the participants engaged throughout the training. We are immensely grateful to Rubina Majid, Founder and CEO of Learning Resource center, Hyderabad - for designing the training module and providing on-time mentorship to all the facilitators.



Over the last three months, Teach with CHINAR-x (TWCx) has witnessed a tremendous response from students, parents and the community. Currently, 19 active volunteers are fully committed to providing education to over 100 children in these testing times across 6 districts of Kashmir.



Worksheet support

CHINAR continues to deliver study packets to students across different districts of Kashmir. These packets comprise interesting worksheets - Mathematics, English and Science, which not only enhance student learning abilities but also keep them engaged during current crises. So far, over 1500 packets have been delivered to students across 8 districts of Kashmir.



Two-day capacity building workshop

Field staff

A two-day capacity building workshop was organized for the field staff across five districts of J&K - Srinagar, Shopian, Pulwama, Kupwara and Doda. The purpose of the workshop was to update the monitors about organizational programs, home visiting guidelines and their responsibilities on the ground.

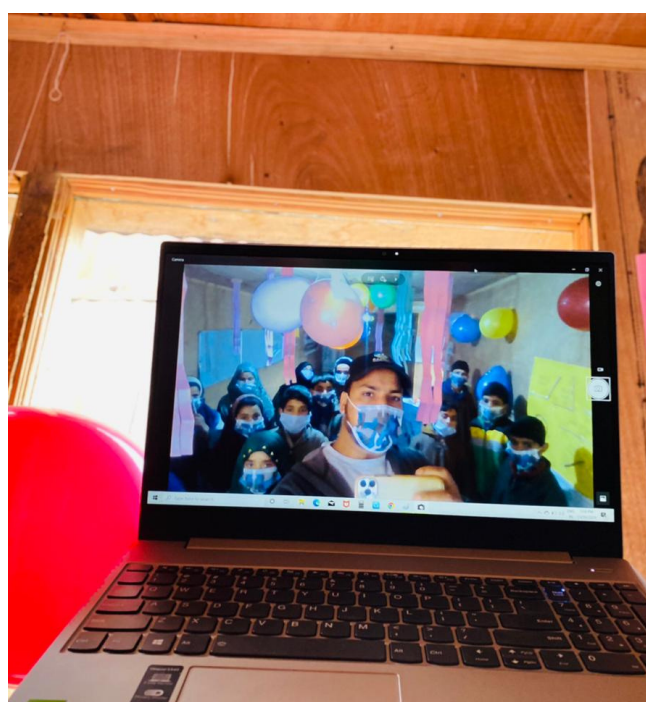
CHINAR team had multiple sessions with the monitors and field officers on thematic areas like rapport building, fieldwork challenges and selection criteria. The participants also had an exposure visit to the families in Srinagar to understand their issues and challenges. The workshop concluded with appreciation and awards to the monitors for their remarkable efforts on the field.



World children's day

Celebrated virtually

CHINAR celebrated World Children's day virtually through Zoom. Over 150 students from our remedial and community learning centers participated actively in the entertaining sessions organized by the team. Children also presented skits, naats, and group songs. In the end, a quiz competition was held and the winners were awarded prizes and gifts.



Scale up event

Budgam

CHINAR successfully concluded final phase of the assessment survey in selected villages of Budgam to identify potential beneficiaries for child development program. After a thorough assessment and verification process, 21 children from 10 underprivileged families were enrolled in the program. Following the final selection, CHINAR conducted a scale-up event at Arizal village to welcome new families and children in the program. Stationery, bags and hygiene items were distributed among children. Community elders and school teachers also participated in the event. Currently, 518 children from 233 families are enrolled in the program spread across 6 districts of Kashmir division.



Digital learning center

Launched in Kulgam

CHINAR launched Digital Learning Center at Malwan village of Kulgam district. Based on ground assessment, we found out that the area has less than 5% computer literacy as the students cannot afford monthly charges of vocational courses at private centers. Following the selection process and due-diligence, 32 students - both boys and girls from low-income group families enrolled for the course.



Livelihood distribution

Srinagar and Kupwara



CHINAR provided livelihood support to four marginalized families hailing from Srinagar and Kupwara districts. Muzaffar Ahmad Tiboo from Bemina, Srinagar is one such family, adopted during the 2020 scale-up survey. Being a skilled roadside vendor, he was provided livelihood in the form of furnishing items (winter rugs). His three children were also enrolled in child development program. Another family headed by Kauser Ali Dar received support in the form of paper/ supply bags.



In Kupwara, CHINAR provided livelihood to a widow - Fatima Begum from Changimulla, Handwara in the form of a sheep unit. Her three children are enrolled in the child development program for the last five years. Another family headed by Abdul Majeed Shiekh received support in the form of raw material for winnow making. In total, CHINAR has provided livelihood to 51 families across four districts of Kashmir division.

Internships

Five social work students from Kashmir University successfully completed their fieldwork internship for one month at CHINAR. The internship focused on social welfare management along with the participation in ongoing activities of the organization. CHINAR team provided full support and encouragement to the interns in achieving their objectives. While sharing experiences and learnings with the team, the interns thanked CHINAR for providing them an opportunity to learn about social work practices implemented on the ground. Certificates of completion were also awarded to the interns.





Youth graduate from skill centers Budgam, Srinagar and Kupwara

Another batch of 20 young women successfully graduated in a 6-month cutting and tailoring course from our skill development center at Bemina, Srinagar. The best trainees were awarded sewing machines based on their attendance, performance and socio-economic status. Similarly, 20 youth also graduated from our skill centers in Kupwara (10) and Budgam (10) districts. CHINAR is currently running 3 skill centers in Kishtawar, Budgam and Kulgam districts respectively. So far, over 400 youth have graduated from our skill centers spread across 6 districts of J&K.



Youth Development Workshop For kids in North America

A 5-day virtual youth development workshop was organized for youth in North America during the holiday break. With over 30 participants, the workshop was a great success. The goal was to create a youth-friendly space where young minds could share their ideas, challenges and accomplishments in a fun and interactive manner. The workshop focused on ice-breaker activities, inspirational talks by young development practitioners and the CHINAR immersion series.

Executive Director's Message

-Irfan Shahmiri, Founder & Global Executive Director



For the first time in 10 years, I have been away from Kashmir for over 10 months due to COVID constraints. I am very proud of the young leadership on the ground for stepping up in a big way to manage the COVID crisis and our main programs.

CHINAR International closed 2020 with a 5-day Youth Development Workshop (on zoom) which concluded on December 31st. It was inspiring and heartening to see the youth participation. They were articulate, engaging, well-informed and a lot of fun. I can say with confidence that our future is in great hands. The ground work for the launch of CHINAR International youth wing has begun.

Hope 2021 brings peace, prosperity, good health and a lot of happiness to your lives. All the best!