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# CHINAR *Daleel*

## Chairman's Message



In the first two quarters of 2015, CHINAR concluded flood relief work and refocused its attention on its programming for children and youth. With the help of generous donors from across the world, CHINAR delivered flood relief to around 90,000 people in the form of clean drinking water, food, clothing, shelter & home reconstruction, medicine, and livelihood support in all flood affected districts. Post-flood, the Kashmiri diaspora in the USA and Canada launched a massive clothing drive to collect clothes for the flood victims in Kashmir. Three containers carrying total of 1500 boxes of clothes were distributed among 2,500 flood affected families. In January, CHINAR conducted a qualitative assessment study titled "Impact of Flood 2014 on the Education of Children in Selected Areas of District Budgam, Srinagar and Anantnag", in partnership with UNICEF. The study gives a

comprehensive picture of the infrastructural damage to educational institutions at primary and upper primary level. Assessed in the report are sanitary conditions of buildings, study material losses, and the psychological impact on children who missed six months of schooling and witnessed loss of life and property. After the study, CHINAR provided floor matting and furniture to 30 government schools in Srinagar district so that they resume their class work post flood. At present, work is underway on a pilot program in collaboration with the Department of School Education Kashmir (DSEK). Six government schools in five districts of the Kashmir region have been adopted in order to improve the quality of education they provide. In February, CHINAR organized a 5 day residential teacher training boot camp for the teachers of these schools. Child baselining events for the same schools were also conducted to assess the competency levels of children in their respective grades. Remedial plans for each school are currently being devised. In April, CHINAR launched its first intervention outside the Kashmir region by starting a pilot program in Bhaderwah, Jammu. After thor-

ough assessment and screening of families, 23 children were selected for CHINAR's child assistance program. In January, CHINAR created its first women's Self Help Group (SHG) comprised of 10 young women from the Dal region. The group aims to make its members, women from low income backgrounds, financially independent. Currently groundwork is underway for exciting business incubation project for marginalized youth in partnership with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). The project is due to start in late October. Expansion of our established programs for children and their guardians are planned with the start of the new school year in November. This is a combined edition for the first two quarters of 2015 and covers both flood rehabilitation work and recommencement of the CHINAR's main program activities. Kindly give us your valuable feedback and help us in improving lives of those who need it most.

**Irfan Shahmiri**  
**(Chairman and Executive Director)**  
**July' 2015**

# Clothing Drive in North America



During September 2014 floods tens of thousands of houses were damaged and people had left their homes without carrying their belongings with them. Since winter was approaching, clothing was also a basic necessity in addition to food and



shelter. While CHINAR team was busy in relief and rehabilitation work, the Kashmir Diaspora in North America, besides collecting funds, started a clothing drive to collect clothes for flood victims. Not only Non Resident Kashmiri but locals of these areas also participated in the drive. Three containers of clothes which included 1500 boxes were shipped from North America to India .These boxes contained used summer and winter clothes, blankets , some quilts, rugs, sweaters, jackets, towels footwear and handbags. It



took huge efforts to get these shipments cleared from various authorities at the Indian port and then transport it to Kashmir. CHINAR's Delhi office was instrumental in getting making this happen. When the shipment reached Kashmir in



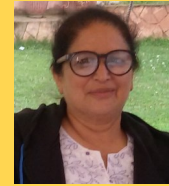
ending January, the clothes were segregated for male female and children followed by packing and tagging afterwards. Then these clothes were distributed along with solar lanterns that CHINAR had received as donation from The Energy and Resource Initiative (TERI). These clothes were distributed in the affected areas of Palpora(1640), Bemina(600), Narbal(2800),



Duslipora(1170), Pulwama(313), Kehnimhama(600), Qamarwari(2056) and others (1185). In addition to this 60 cartons of clothes were distributed at Banat orphanage in Gopalpora (Srinagar) through a local donor. Moreover, 1254 solar lights were also distributed along with these clothes.

**"A total of 10364 packets of clothes were distributed in different areas of valley by CHINAR team with the participation of local community members."**

## Being a Counsellor



As a counsellor I love to spend time with people and help them with talking therapy.

Counselling is always

a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> phase and life experience is highly valued where i should be able to build trust and make people feel relaxed, for that we need patience and sensitivity. I always try to be non judgemental and work with people from all back grounds.

Few months back, I got a chance to visit Sadpora (name changed ) where I met a lady namely Hajira (name changed ) - a widow with six children all of them being minor. Hajira though only thirty six year old, looks like an elderly sixty five, seems to be with no interest in life except her attraction for children. Hajira narrates "life has no value for me as it is full of misery and misfortunes,". She has no source of income and faces lots of financial problems in life. Hajira has been sued many times by her relatives in concern to her house and land. She has to report to the court once or twice in a month along with her children when she is not able to pay even her bus fare, most of the time she feels insecure so far as her children are concerned in terms of non availability of two time meals per day. Lastly what I gathered was Hajira has no psychological problems but financial and social issues.

*Yasmeeen Durrani*

*Counselor*



## 5-Day Residential Teacher Training Boot Camp



CHINAR organized 5-day residential teacher training boot camp in collaboration with Directorate of School Education (DSEK) starting from February 18 till February 22, 2015. This training boot camp is one of the major components of the DSEK project and its aim was to inculcate child-centric elementary teaching methodologies among teachers.

All the teachers from six adopted schools attended the training. The trainers included district resource people (DRP) from DSEK from all the five districts viz. Anantnag, Budgam, Kulgam, Shopian and Srinagar. Besides, Rehana Kounsar, Head Mistress, Govt Middle School, Panthachowk was one of the guest lecturers. The hon'ble director for School Education, Mr. Showkat Ahmad Beigh, along with two Joint Directors inaugurated the training program.



Following were the major objectives of the training program:

- ⇒ Learn modern teaching skills
- ⇒ Encourage maximum child participation
- ⇒ Learn elementary level teaching techniques/strategies
- ⇒ Learn child-centric teaching approaches
- ⇒ Relate external environment with internal classroom environment
- ⇒ Make child an independent learner
- ⇒ Focus on play way methods of teaching
- ⇒ Learn exemplary teaching methods
- ⇒ Molding/brushing of inbuilt skills among children
- ⇒ To enhance parental participation
- ⇒ Learn integrated teaching practices



### Case Study - Zulaila

Zulaila, an 18 year old high school graduate has not stopped receiving congratulatory messages even two months after declaration of her class 12<sup>th</sup> results. Zulaila is a CHINAR beneficiary who secured 78% in her class 12<sup>th</sup>. She was enrolled in CHINAR's RESP program along with her other two siblings in 2011. Since then, she has been receiving educational support which includes School/tuition fee, uniform, stationary, hygiene and basic health care. Zulaila is an orphan who lost her father six years ago and the poor family survives mostly on community help. Four years ago just when Zulaila's mother was thinking about getting her three girls out of school CHINAR stepped in. Today, Zulaila and her sisters Zulaikha (16) and Zunaira (14), are not only studying but they are at the top in their respective grades. Zulaila has now enrolled in BCA course and CHINAR continues to support her for future education.

*"CHINAR has adopted one of the schools in Shopian, most of the children in this school belong to low income families. To evaluate the performance of students, CHINAR team visits the school on monthly and shares the feedback with us. It has helped us in identifying the issues or problems that exist in the school so that we can work on them. CHINAR has played a significant role in the promotion of quality education through the DSEK project. Thanks for your support and cooperation!"*

**Mohd Sadiq-CEO, Shopian**



# Impact of Flood on Education in Kashmir

CHINAR conducted a qualitative assessment study - "Impact of Flood 2014 on the Education of Children in Selected Areas of District Budgam, Srinagar and Anantnag", in partnership with UNICEF. The main aim of the study was to understand the impact of the flood on education so as to design relevant interventions that ensure continuity of children's education. The study had two broader objectives:

1. **Understand the impact of the flood on the education of children** who are unable to go to school because (i) they have been displaced from their homes and are now living in shelters/camps, etc., and (ii) whose schools are non-functional because they have been declared unsafe /unfit / unhygienic by the government.
2. **Explore the educational needs and priorities these children** and explore mechanisms that will keep children in schools and prevent dropouts and children opting for child labour

The methodology involved assessment of children and selection of children, focus group discussions with selected children, parents and community and interviews with stake holders on post flood strategy.



The study gives a comprehensive picture of the infrastructural damage to educational institutions at primary and upper primary level. Assessed in the report are sanitary conditions of buildings, study material losses, and the psychological impact on children who missed six months of schooling and witnessed loss of life and property

Since September 2014 floods, while CHINAR International has been doing a lot of flood rehabilitation work like rescue, relief and shelter; at the same time the organization has organized and supported multiple medical camps with teams of physicians and distributed free medicine to needy population affected by the floods.

## Window of hope still continues...

CHINAR started a counter called 'Window of Hope' on 20th November, 2014 in the JVC hospital, Bemina, Srinagar where medicines are provided to needy free of cost. The counter caters almost 100 patients per day. CHINAR has donated surgical instruments (dialysers, surgical kits, etc) to other hospitals as well - like JLNH Hospital Rainawari, SMHS etc. Further

CHINAR also donated medicines to Psychiatric Hospital, Kathi Darwaza, Al-Rahat Orphanage, Bemina etc.

Since September CHINAR Medical Team has observed that many people who were affected by the floods have lost their means to earn basic livelihood and aren't able to purchase medicines for vital medi-



cal problems faced by them like: Diabetes, Thyroid, Nerve issues and many other high value medicines and injections. This is the main reason that CHINAR's 'window of hope' is significantly contributing to the lives of the affected population especially poor by giving them a solace through free medications. Despite swine flow threat in the valley, during winters, Window of Hope continued to work at JVC. CHINAR aims to cater and reach to most of the patients with free medicine.



*CHINAR International has been a real support for the innovations in education of vulnerable children in Kashmir. The flood response was tremendous in terms of relief and rehabilitation. WE SALUTE CHINAR TEAM*

**-Ruheed Gul, District Coordinator Ped gogy,SSA,DIET,Anantnag**

# Success Events



## Distribution event (Srinagar)

Under Remote Child Sponsorship Program (RCSP) and Remote Education Sponsorship Program (RESP) programs, CHINAR organized distribution event on May 15, 2015. CHINAR distributed clothing, school uniform, school bags, school shoes, stationery and hygiene kits (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo) among 45 children. Besides, CHINAR also distributed clothes among those beneficiaries who were flood affected. RESP/RCSP/RFSP is a flagship program of CI under which CHINAR looks after educational needs of selected children.



dren.

## Baselining Events- Srinagar, Shopian, Kulgam and Budgam

In the month of May, the annual child baselining event was conducted in five adopted schools under DSEK project. The main objective of the event was to assess the competency level of children in their respective grades using standardized CHINAR baselining tool.

During the visit, CHINAR team conducted a meeting with the headmaster and staff

members of each school. The quantitative and qualitative information regarding the school infrastructure was also collected through school mapping sheet. Following are the schools where baselining event was conducted:

- Budgam-Middle School, Malpora, Brinjan
- Srinagar-Girls Middle School, Bahu Din Sahab
- Srinagar-Upper Primary School, Bachi Darwaza
- Kulgam-Govt Middle School, Malwan



- Shopian-Upper Primary School, Chek Saidpora

## Bhaderwah-New Launch



CHINAR International in its first intervention outside Kashmir division started a pilot project of 23 vulnerable children started in

Bhaderwah tehsil of Doda district in Jammu division. A week long survey took place wherein our team did a thorough door to door survey in Bhaderwah town and other adjoining areas like Shapan, Thanala, Ghatta etc. After the survey the short listing of the child beneficiaries was done per the standard guidelines of the program.

The program was finally launched by the onset of spring this year, the intervention started with signing of the contracts with the selected families.

Following the signing of contracts, all the



selected families and children were assembled and a distribution event was held in the picturesque valley of Bhaderwah. CHINAR selected 23 children from both the Hindu and Muslim communities under its Remote Education Sponsorship Program (RESP). The support includes school/ tuition fees, uniform, stationery, clothes, nutrition, hygiene kit and basic healthcare. In this regard, CHINAR had its first distribution event at Bhaderwah, on June 28th, 2015. Children were provided books, stationery, uniform, shoes, shoe-polish, lunchboxes etc.

# Guest Lecture Series



CHINAR International (CI) has initiated a guest speaker series where we are trying to connect subject-matter experts (visiting the valley) with students in Kashmir to inspire and motivate them to scale new heights.

Arshad Iqbal was our first speaker who addressed 10+2 Science students of a private and government school viz. DPS Srinagar and Kothi Bagh Girls Higher Secondary School. Both the sessions were very interesting and fruitful; the speaker introduced new and innovative ideas and mod-

ern pedagogy. The faculty of both the schools along with the principal was also present who reiterated the usefulness and the importance of such lectures.

Outline of the Lecture:

- Introduction.
- Brief overview of Arshad's work in USA. The importance of VLSI DIGITAL Circuits - the fact that they are at the Core of all Information Technology revolution is usually not appreciated by the general public. And the Digital Microprocessor is the central component of the Internet Backbone.
- Discuss various Simple High School level topics from Physics and Mathematics and show how relevant they are to modern Science and Engineering. And hence how important it is to understand them.
- Digital Circuits with example of Logic



- Circuits ( a bit of Boolean algebra and Set theory mixed together).
- Questions and Answers.

**Arshad Iqbal is a Senior Design engineer with Cavium Corporation (an overseas Microprocessor Design company in USA). Arshad holds a Master's degree from state university of New York**

# School Matting



Last year, September floods brought unprecedented damage to life and property. Education sector was one of the worst hit. Loss of study material, untimely examination, infrastructural damage had a huge impact on education. CHINAR International, as an education based NGO, considered it as its responsibility to facilitate some help to schools so that they start their class work again.

After consultation with authorities in education department and school surveys, it was found that even after five months since floods, students didn't have proper matting in schools to sit on. The matting was either absent or dirty which not only increased chances of infection among children but also affected attendance of children in schools as most of the students were uncomfortable sitting on dirty or unfurnished floors. Sensing the need of the hour, CHINAR decided to provide furnishing material to the schools. CHINAR provided matting (thermocols and durets) to 30 government schools in Srinagar district so that they resume their class work post flood.



**CHINAR donated computers, printers and stationery to the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir (DSEK). September 2014 floods resulted in huge infrastructural damage to education sector. Besides the heavy damage caused to various education departments, hundreds of school buildings were collapsed. due to the devastating floods.**



# Self Help Group in Dal



People with low socio economic status form Self Help Groups (SHG's). The members save very small amount of money and these small amounts to each other in times of dearth of resources and immense needs. They also try to solve many of their problems together as 'self help is the best help.' This is the story of 10 girls whose journey with CHINAR has been extraordinary. Moti Mohalla, Kalan – Dal is situated in the middle of the city, this place is ignored and the people here mostly are down trodden. Men in this area are labor-

ers and the women folk apart from doing the daily household work, do menial agricultural work and other stuff to support their families. Hafeeza, a woman in her 30s is one among them, Hafiza's husband is a driver and her two children are students. She is a handicraft artisan who works for a middle man (broker) and makes peculiar designs on curtains, bed covers, cushion covers, makes purses, gloves and other things which owe their recognition to



kashmiri culture. However she only gets paid minimum wage by her broker, she makes not more than Rs. 2000/- a month

if she works extensively. CHINAR identified Hafiza and other 9 girls from the same area who had the similar skill set, formed a group, supported the group with all the raw material, ply and machinery required so as to make this group self sufficient and not to depend on the broker to get them work for a minimum wage. CHINAR realized what it had envisioned, a self help group who worked for themselves rather than them being a third party worker. These girls have set an example to the whole area, wherein even trying something new seemed like a taboo at one point in time.

# Financial Update



Child Nurture and Relief is a child welfare and community development non-profit organization, which is dedicated to two

major areas: quality education for children and empowerment of marginal communities. However, when the floods of September 2014 hit the Valley, CHINAR had to jump into disaster relief activities and thus maximum of its expenditure (2.71 crores approx) in the financial year 2014-2015 was incurred on the relief and rehabilitation activities only.

NSB and Associates- a chartered account firm, was appointed to conduct the

secretarial and statutory audit of the company for the financial year 2014-2015 as required under companies Act, 2013. The auditors' report and secretarial auditors' report does not contain any reservations or adverse remarks. Proper books of account as required by law relating to preparation of the financial statements were prepared.

NSB and Associates states, "In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the financial statements give the information required by the Act in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India"

Since its foundation CHINAR always had a deep learning culture. This differentiated

capability makes us uniquely equipped to embrace change and to amplify and accelerate value creation for our beneficiaries and ourselves. Moreover, all the organizational affairs are managed in a fair and transparent manner. This is vital to gain and retain the trust of our donors and beneficiaries.

Looking at CHINAR today, we can see that it has been a year of great transition for the organization. Going forward, I see tremendous potential for us to grow and lead in the social services sector.



# Testimonials



*"Many thanks to CHINAR for providing an opportunity to visit and interact with their staff and the people in communities it was*

*working with. For in doing so, two very interesting things happened: I gained an insight into the lives of people devastated by the floods in Srinagar and thereabouts, otherwise forgotten or hidden from mainstream society, and also learnt how local communities were being supported by CHINAR to help improve their situation. This was not 'voyeur tourism' for us to stare at the misfortunes of others, but an opportunity for the more fortunate to learn and be educated about a world other than their own. All in all, a well deserving program that is working to protect and educate children within communities so that may help themselves to break the poverty cycle."*

**Aditya Malaviya- (Consultant)**



*"Running a busy practice, the most valuable thing you have is time. I have been impressed with CHINAR International (CI) and have*

*supported the organization in the past, but the recent floods and the widespread devastation prompted me to make the final step and devote my time as well to organization. I believe CI is a unique organization with an excellent work environment and great leadership from Irfan Shahmiri. CI has done exceedingly well with child education and flood relief and rehabilitation showing tangible results on the ground, that are certainly commendable. I am confident CI has a great future and will play a key role in uplifting poor and marginalized children in Kashmir and beyond."*

**Dr. Khalid Ashai— (Director CHINAR International USA)**



*"In the journey of life we come across people of diverse personalities who leave same indelible imprints on the horizons of our*

*memories. These memories initiate the process of reflection which prevails upon and enrich our experience as time passes by. Our journey with Mr Irfan shahmiri and his whole CHINAR family proved to be a bliss and blessing for reasons manifold. Its our privilege to work with CHINAR team who work with sincerity, dedication, humility, generosity and devotion. Moreover our journey so far with CHINAR is sacred and heavenly as it defines the purpose of human existence. May the tests of time prove it timeless!"*

**Sulaiman Mir—Principal Ain-ul-Ilm Institute of Morality and Science (AIIMS) - CHINAR Partners**



Dr. Sarosh Khan



Dr. Nandita Mondal

CHINAR International welcomes two new members to our India board: Dr. Nandita Mondal and Dr. Sarosh Khan. Dr. Nandita Mondal has over 25 years of experience in the social services sector and is currently on the faculty of Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai. Dr. Sarosh Khan, is an experienced and well respected physician in Srinagar.

**CHINAR International (CI) is a child welfare and community development non-profit organization working in two areas: quality education for children and empowerment of marginal communities. However, when the floods of September 2014 hit the Valley, CHINAR International jumped into disaster relief activities as well.**

**Mission Statement:**

**"Empowerment of vulnerable children and marginalized youth in conflict areas through quality education and socioeconomic initiatives."**

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