



► CONTENTS:

- Chairman's Message
- Community Mobilization Events
- Annual Fundraiser—Washington DC
- Survey—Out of School Children
- Empowering Youth
- Closure of Window of Hope
- Testimonials
- Internships

CHINAR *Daleel*

Chairman's Message



The third quarter of 2015 saw the closure of all flood relief activities as our main programming picked up speed. The high-

light of the quarter was the MOU with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) whereby TISS shall support the creation of a vibrant ecosystem to foster entrepreneurship especially for marginalized youth. There are over 2 million youth in Kashmir region out of which 50% are under or unemployed (600,000 of them are educated youth). This is our first major initiative for youth. Previously we have conducted various skill development workshops.

CHINAR International will be creating a business incubation center (CIBIC) where the selected young entrepreneurs shall receive proper guidance so that they can get their businesses off and running effectively. Besides management guidance CIBIC shall pro-

vide financial assistance, technical assistance, office space, shared basic business services and equipment. Failures encountered during the initial phase of operation of a venture shall thus be minimized. The pilot program with 5 young entrepreneurs selected after a business plan completion is scheduled to start in January of 2016.

In the education space CHINAR is in the process of finalizing a partnership with an education consultancy group which shall provide CHINAR with technical support and guidance to plan, develop and execute a strategy for education quality improvement in primary and upper primary education in government schools in J&K.

This quarter CHINAR continued to push community participation to promote quality education in the CHINAR adopted government schools which plays a vital role in building up parent-teacher-children relationship. In this regard, two consecutive community mobilization events and awareness programs were conducted at CHINAR adopted schools in Srinagar and Budgam. Apart from massive

community participation, both the events involved local volunteers, school teachers and educationists.

One of the objectives of our quality education program is mainstreaming of out of school children. This quarter CHINAR conducted surveys of drop out / never enrolled children in the catchment areas of all the CHINAR adopted government schools. Srinagar and Shopian districts have been surveyed. Budgam, Kulgam and Anantnag will be covered in the next quarter.

With the closure of free medical counter "Window of Hope" at Jhelum Valley Medical college, CHINAR completed all flood related activities. The window lasted for around 10 months and helped over 25,000 people.

In September, CHINAR held its Annual Fundraising dinner in Washington DC area. The event was attended by over 300 people and raised over 58,000 USD.

Irfan Shahmiri
(Chairman & Executive Director)



Community Mobilization Events

CHINAR's community mobilization initiative focuses on community ownership of school. The broader aim is to enhance parental participation and involvement of stakeholders in the promotion of quality education. It also creates a strong linkage between community members (especially parents) and school teachers, besides helping in enrolment and retention of children. Following are highlights of the



community mobilization event conducted in two districts—

Srinagar and Budgam.

District Srinagar

CHINAR International, in collaboration with department of school education Kashmir (DSEK), organized one day community mobilization event for its two adopted schools at Sheikh colony Kathi Darwaza, Makhdoom sahab. The main aim of the



event was to sensitize people, especially parents/guardians in the community, about importance of education.

The program was organized in order to meet the broader objective of CHINAR to improve quality of education through better community environment by providing counseling and guidance through eminent teachers, religious leaders and officers of education department. Around 250 people attended the event including parents of the adopted schools, Village Education Committee (VEC) members and head-teachers of the same education cluster. School children presented a skit of theme "Alim chu gash".

In order to promote community and youth participation, CHINAR engaged young musicians and singers from the community



who mesmerized audience with their songs.

District Budgam

A similar program was conducted in Malpora Brinjan, Zone Nagam, Budgam for

Government Middle School, Malpora Brinjan School adopted by CHINAR International.



Despite poor weather conditions, school children presented group songs, skits and speeches which attracted the attention of audience, besides highlighting the theme of



quality education.

Mr. Sheikh Mohammad Afzal, Chief Education Officer, Budgam while addressing the large gathering, praised CHINAR's initiative of improving quality education through community participation and teacher sensitization. School teachers, local volunteers, CHINAR Staff and officials from education department also attended the event.

Annual Fundraiser (Washington DC)

On September 19th, 2015, Chinar International held its Annual Fundraiser at the Samuel Riggs center, University of MD. Between the beautiful venue, the excellent work of the volunteers, the delicious Kashmiri food, the generosity of so many donors, and the hilarious comedian Azhar Usman, the evening was a smashing success. \$58,000 were raised for our programs, and we owe it all to the amazing support of the Greater Washington, D.C. area.



“Out of School Children” Survey

Under its quality education program, CHINAR aims to mainstream the out of school children in the selected districts of Kashmir.

With this initiative, a survey was conducted in the catchment areas of all schools adopted by CHINAR under DSEK project. The main objective behind the survey was to identify drop outs and never enrolled children under the age group of 18 years and mainstream them towards regular schooling. A standardized self devised assessment tool was used to collect quantitative and qualitative information from respondents. The assessment team included CHINAR team, local volunteers and teachers. A total sample of 1319 children were assessed in four districts of Shopian, Srinagar, Budgam and Kulgam.

District Srinagar

The survey was conducted in the areas close to Government Girls Middle School, Bachidarwaza and Government Middle School, Bahu din sahib.

A sample of 250 children were surveyed in the areas of Tujgrai Mohalla, Sheikh Mohalla and Androoni Kathi Darwaza, where 72 out



of school children were found which included both never enrolled and drop out cases.

District Shopian

In Shopian, the survey was conducted in the adjacent areas of Government Middle School, Check Saidpora. A sample of 346 children were surveyed in the areas of Check Shamsipora, Check Amshipora and Check Saidpora.

A total of 43 out of school children were found which included both dropout and never enrolled cases.



Business Plan Competition 2015 is CHINAR

Empowering Youth - Business Plan Competition 2015

International's initiative to start the first Business Incubation Center of the valley in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences. This collaboration is joined by a common purpose – *to make an impact and get the marginalized youth of Kashmir working and running businesses.*

Chinar International's Incubation center invites business proposals which are not restricted to any specific sector, products or services.

CHINAR aims to incubate 5 businesses in the first batch, the project proposals will be evaluated and shortlisted by CHINARs panel of experts include mentoring professionals from TISS, and many other experts from the



Closure of “Window of Hope”

Post September 2014 floods, CHINAR opened a free medical counter, "Window of Hope" at Jhelum Valley Medical College, Bemina, Srinagar. The window helped poor people affected by September 2014 floods with free medicines after consultation from doctors. In the initial two months, the counter targeted flood victims but later the medical support was extended to cater the needy sections of society. The counter was operational for more than 9 months from November 20, 2014 to August, 2015 and benefitted approximately 25,000 needy people. The medical counter was successfully closed by the end of August 2015. The Medical Superintendent, doctors and para medical staff appreciated CHINAR for running the counter, besides providing required medicines and surgical items to the hospital.



Testimonials



It was a matter of utter felicity and contentment to be a part of the working body of CHINAR INTERNATIONAL. The serenity within which organization works really

brings out the best in you. The commitment of the Project Coordinators to strive for the preeminent in their respective projects and for the collective betterment of the society was exceedingly stimulating. The inclusiveness of the workforce is one of the foremost things that really put a prize on the organization. I was given an opportunity to work at breadth and mug up from the collective sagacity of human resource of the CHINAR. The candidness with which each one of the PC's and other members of the organization dealt with me and let me in on the various elements of their work, has certainly infused in me the desire to work, to fill the destituteness of social sector. I wish you the best of futures.

Hamza Hassan,
Internee, Business Plan Competition



It was a rainy September 2014 morning, we entered a school at Zampathri only to be told to rush out to save our jeep from being washed away by gushing flood

water. Our team of four was determined to make a way out of there and then continue working even in that weather. Rest of our journey punctuated by three more visits to the beneficiaries of the program and a piping hot tea, roti and egg break at roadside shop led us to cross a bridge on the way back to Srinagar, only to know by the night that it had collapsed! Next two months after this fateful day are part of history now. CHINAR scaled many heights in rendering much in need services to humanity. And I am almost caught into the whirlwind to experience the journey along with CHINAR remotely!

The vibration, the determination, the energy, the love - *thy name CHINAR!*
Dr. Nandita Mondal, Tata Institute of Social Sciences
Director, CHINAR International



It gives me immense pleasure to put on record that working with your esteemed organization for past one year has been a grand opportunity.

Pertinently, your organization has adopted one of our schools namely, Middle School, Malpora, Brinjan, Zone Nagam, District Budgam, the assignments taken thereof have been done well. Being Chief Education Officer of the district, I feel euphoric and exhilarated to see your organization work with my able office. I am moved by the dedication and sincerity shown by your learned staff along with being given to the cause. Hope our collaboration will work wonders for future times to come and yield fruitful results. I wish your organization all the best.

Sheikh Mohammad Afzal
Chief Education ,Budgam

Internships



In the month of August, three students from Department of Social work, Kashmir University joined CHINAR for curriculum fieldwork. The fieldwork objectives were mainly based on understanding the practical aspects of social welfare management which included supervision, coordination, communication and monitoring and evaluation. Besides, they also participated in the ongoing project activities of the organization. In the picture the three interns (right side) are seen with Women Self Help group in Dal Lake with Project Coordinator Atif in the middle.

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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