

- Editor's note
- Scale up survey
- First skill development center launched in Srinagar
- HCL foundation's CSR conference
- Teacher training programme in Srinagar and Kulgam
- Warwan Community Center Evaluation
- Medical cum baselining event at Srinagar
- Entrepreneurship lab launched
- Annual distribution event
- Baselining assessment at 25 schools
- Youth graduate from skill centers
- Youth to youth connectivity
- Leadership workshop
- Super-50 update
- Summer internship concludes
- CHINAR features in Coffee Table book

Editor's Note



As we enter into a new fiscal year, the roster of activities and events begin to multiply as we scale up our programs across different districts. In 2nd and 3rd quarters, we had exciting developments at all fronts including scale up surveys, launching skill development centers and Entrepreneurship labs (E-labs), and capacity building workshops for our teachers. It is worth mentioning that our dedicated staff has done an incredible job at expanding our outreach and strengthening our services on ground. Kudos to all of them!

In 2nd Quarter, scale up surveys were conducted across all the districts to identify potential beneficiaries for education and livelihood support. After thorough assessment and community participation, 120 children have been shortlisted for the final selection. This year, we target to add 60 more children to our current tally of 300 children. Meanwhile, annual distribution events were held across all districts where children received educational supplies

in the form of books, stationery, uniform, shoes, etc. Besides, we held one-day medical and baselining camp for Srinagar beneficiaries where children were assessed for basic competencies along with general health checkups.

Our board members from India and USA also attended the event.

Two major developments in youth included launch of E-labs and skill development center in Srinagar. E-lab, which aims at developing entrepreneurial thinking among young students, was launched at Government Higher Secondary school-Kothibagh. Our trained staff deliver sessions and perform activities with students based on entrepreneurship development curriculum designed by Udhya Learning Foundation. We also started our first skill development center in Srinagar at Government Higher Secondary school, Nowhatta where 15 girls from marginalized communities learn the skill of cutting and tailoring and e-lab is in the pipeline.

In June, we did base lining assessment of student learning outcomes at 25 government

schools spread across five districts of Kashmir region. Based on the assessment, teachers were trained in effective classroom management and child-centric methodology during an extensive 2-day workshop. In Tehsil Warwan, we saw tremendous improvement in learning levels of students enrolled in our community centers; girls who graduated from skills centers are fully trained in tailoring skills.

As we grow as an organization, we thrust on developing effective relationships with our partners and collaborators who support us in taking our mission forward. I would like to thank all our donors, partners, board members, advisors and supporters for unwavering support to our organization. I truly understand that our successes would not have been possible without your efforts.

I encourage you to read this combined edition of 2nd and 3rd quarters, which covers all the activities around children and youth. Please send us your feedback.

Ajifa Lone

Information and communication Lead



SCALE UP SURVEY

In the second quarter of 2018, we undertook scale up surveys to identify potential beneficiaries for our child development program, which ensures livelihood support to families and quality education to children. A survey was conducted across four districts- Srinagar, Kupwara, Shopian, and Pulwama to collect baseline data of the families.

Starting May, 60 families were surveyed in Srinagar out of which 28 qualified for the final round of selection. In June, a

survey was conducted in the selected villages of Shopian and Pulwama where 51 families were identified for the main program (Shopian: 29, Pulwama: 22).



Similarly, 25 families were surveyed in Tehsil Handwara of District Kupwara. In Doda, 9 families got selected for the final round. Currently, 293 children from 128 families are enrolled in our program and we target to add 60 more families to our current tally.



HCL FOUNDATION'S CSR CONFERENCE

CHINAR participated in a one-day CSR conference organized by HCL Foundation at Rail Bhawan, Jammu on 1st May 2018. The conference was to educate NGOs on various aspects of CSR, how to effectively write a CSR proposal and specific inputs related to the HCL Grant. There was also a panel discussion on the education, environment and health sectors of J&K led by eminent panelists (Dr. Kavita Suri from Jammu University on Education, Dr. Shafia Wani from J&K IMPA and Dr. Ravi Sharma, KAS respectively).



FIRST SKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTER LAUNCHED IN SRINAGAR

CHINAR International launched its first skill development centre at Govt. Girls HSS, Nowhatta in district Srinagar. The main aim of starting the skill center is to impart skills to these girls so that they become self-reliant. Fifteen girls belonging to marginalized communities were enrolled in the center to learn the art of cutting and tailoring. CHINAR had already established such centers in Kupwara, Shopian and Pulwama districts in a rented space. However, it's CHINAR's first center in a government school, which cuts down on the expenditure of running such a center.



In order to address the huge challenge of dependency on government jobs among youth, we are working on a framework for starting Entrepreneurship labs, at two girls' higher secondary institutions- Nowhatta and Kothibagh. These labs will provide an opportunity for the students to understand the entire value chain

analysis and a practical exposure to the various components of business. A detailed curriculum has been devised for this purpose.

We are thankful to principals of both the institutions – Ms. Romana Qazi and Ms. Mumtaz Pandith for their valuable support and cooperation.



TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP IN SRINAGAR AND KULGAM

CHINAR International held teacher-training workshop for all 25 elementary schools during summer vacations. Training was conducted for two days in three phases-one in Srinagar and two in Kulgam. The workshop focused on implementation of child-centric methodology towards teaching-learning processes in schools. In Srinagar, Joint Director Training, Mehboob Hussain, who urged participants to inculcate teaching values during training sessions, inaugurated the workshop.



Day one of the workshop focused on creating a vibrant value-based classroom culture that enables a child to flourish and achieve his best potential. On second day, teachers were trained in activity-based learning catering to KG and lower primary students. Teachers role-played as students in games, which imparted values and skills while learning different subjects. Teachers also learnt about Early Childhood Education and creating self-learning corners in classrooms up to lower primary.

Masooma Somji, a volunteer trainer from Tanzania, trained teachers in early childhood care and education and creating low-cost teaching-learning aids for encouraging children to learn independently in poor infrastructure settings.

Director School Education Kashmir, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Itoo, concluded the workshop. He assured that recognition will be given to top-performing schools and teachers based on progress made in their respective schools. He also promised schools about resolving pending issues related to infrastructure and teachers in the schools.



Teachers gave positive feedback about the training and promised to start implementing child-centric teaching methods at schools.

WARWAN COMMUNITY CENTER EVALUATION

CHINAR team visited the two community learning centres established last year at two villages of remote Warwan Valley in Kishtwar. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate performance of children enrolled in these centres and the unem-



ployed girls receiving training in cutting and tailoring skills.

During our assessment, we found out students showed dramatic improvement in learning levels at both the centres. In Margi village, students showed 82% growth in English writing, 80% growth in Mathematics and 30% improvement in English reading. Our skill centre graduates are now adept in stitching clothes and become self-employed. As winters are approaching, these young women



are keen on learning the art of stitching 'pherans' and need an extension of training course. This center has empowered women from this remote region of J&K, which remains cut off from rest of the world for 6 months during winters.

CHINAR International was one of the organizations that presented during a workshop organized by Ministry of Human Resources Development regarding Govt. – NGO collaboration held at The Lalit Grand Palace, Srinagar on 12th April 2018.



MEDICAL CUM BASELINING EVENT AT SRINAGAR

CHINAR International conducted one-day baselining and medical event for children enrolled in child development program.



Inaugurated by Mr. Syed Farooq- one of our board members from US, health and dental check-ups of 88 children from Srinagar District was under taken by a team of doctors from the valley including Dr. Zahida and Dr Ajaz. Besides, CHINARs education team did baseline assessment of all

children to gauge their competency levels in language and mathematics. A team of psychologists had counselling sessions with children and parents attending the event. Mrs Shireen Inayatullah, our board member in India, also participated in the event. Board members were glad to see the progress of students. Many thanks to the team of doctors for sparing their Sunday and examining children at Srinagar.



ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION EVENT



CI conducts distribution event every year to give out educational supplies to the children enrolled in child development programs. Supplies given include school uniforms, school shoes, hygiene items, bags and stationery. In May, we conducted distribution events across all the five districts-Srinagar, Shopian, Pulwama, Kupwara and Doda where children received these supplies.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP LABS LAUNCHED

The idea of E-labs is to inculcate the knowledge of entrepreneurship among young students at an early stage. The basic purpose behind this initiative is to make the youth aware of the idea of entrepreneurship so that they become self-

reliant by starting their own ventures in future. These students are given a lab-like environment where they experience the entire entrepreneurial value chain right from production to the marketing strategies and experiment their business ideas.

To impart the training, CHINAR team uses a 6-week module devised by Udhyan Learning Foundation, a Bangalore-based organization focused on developing entrepreneurial thinking among young minds. In September, we launched

e-labs at two girls' government higher secondary schools in Srinagar-Kothibagh and Nowhatta. Around 100 students have enrolled themselves for the training at both the institutions. At the end of training, each student will receive a cer-



BASELINING ASSESSMENT AT 25 SCHOOLS

CHINAR conducted baselining assessments of student learning outcomes at 25 government schools spread across five districts of Kashmir region. The purpose of assessment was to gauge the competency levels of children in their respective grades.

The assessment tool, aligned with the Learning Outcomes prescribed by NCERT was used to assess students up till Class VIII in English and Mathematics. Based on

the baseline results, teachers will be trained in effective classroom strategies to improve learning outcomes of students.



LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

A two-day session on leadership and programme management was facilitated by Zeba Durrani, one of our directors from US board with our team at Srinagar office. We had a great time learning about using a Kan-Ban Board to help streamline our project management processes. All the team members undertook the Myers Briggs Type Indicator assessments to understand various personali-

ties and improve team building. We thank Zeba for the valuable sessions that will improve productivity of the organization and efficiency levels of team.



YOUTH GRADUATE FROM SKILL CENTERS

In September, a group 16 young Kashmiri women from Magam village of Tehsil Handwara successfully graduated in an extensive 10-month course in cutting, tailoring and stitching. This center started in December last year as a part of skill development programme, to provide marketable skills to young women so that they become self-employed and create sustainable livelihoods for

themselves. At the closing ceremony, CHINAR team congratulated all the graduates and awarded them certificates of completion.



YOUTH TO YOUTH CONNECTIVITY

In August 2018, CHINAR started an initiative to link Kashmiri youth around the world with innovative immersive audio-visual technologies. When you experience this innovation, you come face-to-face with someone at the other end. This will open huge possibility of knowledge sharing, building relationships and getting access to resources on either side. It will act as a medium for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and culture. This will provide a proper platform for the positive energy of Kashmiri youth. It can also be used as a tool to overcome some of the issues faced by youth in the Kashmir Valley.

I have had the pleasure of looking at the amazing work done by CHINAR, first



-hand. Although there is so much more to be done, but someone has to take the first step, and this organization has done that, in every sphere of public life. The hope that CHINAR has inspired into people who had nothing to look forward to has been a joy to see. This is perhaps the greatest success of CHINAR, giving people something to look forward to. I have seen that glint in people's eyes that everything is going to be alright, and it is fulfilling. CHINAR is trying its best to reach places and people that no one else has and provide help where it is most needed.

*Zaffar Ishaq
An internee*



SUPER 50 UPDATE

CM's Super-50 is an initiative by Directorate of School Education, Kashmir (DSEK) where talented students of Kashmir division receive special coaching to qualify medical and engineering entrance exams like IIT-JEE, NEET and JK CET. However, the scheme was not successful last year due to lack of monitoring and supervision of Super 50 centers spread across 11 districts of the valley. This year, CHINAR International signed a MoU with Avanti Learning Centers, a premier entrance-coaching provider, to be CHINAR's technical partner in implementing the program in the re-

gion. The various entrance examinations were held and their results declared in this quarter. This year 239 students qualified examinations for admissions to prestigious engineering and medical colleges of India.

Final statistics as on 1st July, 2018:

- JEE (Main): 11 (For admission to IITs and NITs of India)
- NEET: 138 (For admission to medical colleges of J&K and rest of India)
- JK CET: 90 (For admission to engineering colleges of J&K)

TOTAL: 239

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS CONCLUDE

CHINAR believes in creating young change makers through mentorship and guidance. In this quarter, four interns successfully completed their one-month internship with us. All of them were a young group of undergraduate students having varied educational backgrounds- education, liberal arts, history and business studies and were enrolled in different colleges/ universities within and outside state.

During their internship, the interns were

engaged in scale up surveys, research and documentation, baseline assessments in schools and compilation of case studies. At the end of internship, they presented their learnings and reflections to the CHINAR team.



CHINAR IN HCL'S COFFETABLE BOOK

CHINAR International was shortlisted among the top 10 NGOs out of 3500 entries for the award of the Rs. 5 crore grant by HCL Foundation. As part of the due diligence and field verification process, we had two experts from HCL Foundation who visited our office and our intervention sites.



The expert team assessed CHINAR's processes and interacted with our stakeholders in Zampathri, Shopian over the course of 3 days. CHINAR's programmes will now be published in the 3rd edition of *Fifth Estate*, a Coffee Table book published by HCL Foundation, which is considered a gold standard of NGOs in India. We thank HCL foundation for giving us an opportunity

In August, Ms. Sehla Ashai, one of our directors from US board visited our Srinagar office. She was accompanied by Mr. Zaid Ashai, Chairman and CEO of Nexamp, a solar power solutions company based in Boston. The team had an amazing experience interacting with them and sharing their thoughts. We would like to thank them for spending time with the team and encouraging their efforts. We look forward to your continued support!



PICTURE GALLERY



Volunteer teaches students in Warwan Valley



Parents and children at medical event, Srinagar



Happy faces of children after receiving supplies



Trained women from skill center display stitched clothes



Interns pose for a group photo with the team



Teachers during a group activity in Kulgam

Distribution of Ramadhan special food kits

In the holy month of Ramadan, CHINAR distributed special food kits to 110 families across four districts-Shopian, Pulwama, Kupwara and Srinagar. These food kits, comprising of pulses, sugar, flour, cooking oil, tea and spices are given out to families ahead of Eid-ul fitr so that they do not face any shortage of supplies on the occasion. We are grateful to all the donors who contributed towards making a joyful Eid for our beneficiaries.



Audit Summary

CHINAR International registered under section 25 of the companies Act is bound to follow all the laws of companies Act 1956. As per the law all companies are required to have audited financial statements and must have their financial statements independently reviewed by an independent auditor. In July 2018 we had an external Audit which was conducted by NSB and Associates- a Delhi based chartered accountant firm, for the financial year 2017-2018 who examined Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2018 and income and expenditure Account. The Gross revenue of the company during the year was INR 1.45 Lac as against INR 2.45 Lac in the previous year. Also, total expenditures during the year was INR 127.96 Lac as against INR 105.69 in the previous year which indicates the Excess of expenditure over income for the period as INR 126.23 Lac as against INR 103.24 Lac in the previous year.

Majority of the amount has been spent on our main programs that is, child development (40.02%), quality education (23.97%), youth development (8.56%) and education and unrest study(5.05%). All the financial affairs at CHINAR International are being managed in a fair and transparent manner resulting in error free audit since last 4 years.

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.

Vision:

Peace, prosperity and progress in conflict areas of the world.

Contact Us:

www.chinarinternational.org

www.facebook.com/chinar.international

Email—info@chinarinternational.org

Twitter: CHINAR_Int

Donate online at www.chinarinternational.org or send us a check (in the name of CHINAR International) to our USA or Kashmir office.

USA Office:

1037 Sterling road, Suite 201,
Herndon, VA-20170
Phone: +1703-468-1010

Kashmir Office:

145 Nanda Estate
Shivpora, Srinagar 190004 (J&K)
Phone:91-194-2430898

Delhi Office:

Sector 44, Plot No. 115, 5th Floor
(near Hotel Ramada)
Gurgaon, Haryana 122003

