



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20



CHINAR
International

Investing in children & Youth

CHINAR International

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2019 had a wonderful start with exciting developments across all the programs - community mobilization events, annual distribution for students, learning assessments at schools and youth graduating from skill centers. Major focus of this year shifted towards August crises 2019 and COVID Response.

As the year began, CHINAR continued to work relentlessly towards attaining the targets and goals in parallel with the vision and mission of the organization. Community participation in all the programs is our core strategy towards developing sustainable, scalable and time bound solutions. In the beginning of the year, we had successful community mobilization events in Kulgam, Doda and Kishtwar (Warwan) districts.

Ahead of Eid celebrations, CHINAR distributed clothes, Eiddi and other gifts to children across all the intervention districts - Shopian, Pulwama, Srinagar and Kupwara. This would not have been possible without the support of our generous donors in India and abroad. A big thank you for spreading smiles all around!

In youth space, our first batch of students under Entrepreneurship lab (E-lab) course graduated successfully and around 80 young women completed tailoring course from our skill development centers. So far, CHINAR has reached out to around 1000 youth through skill trainings, entrepreneurship courses, workshops and business incubation.

In the beginning of 3rd quarter, we targeted scale up surveys, distribution events for current beneficiaries, expansion of E-lab program and community mobilisation events in different districts. Post August 5, things changed drastically and our focus shifted from main programs to crises relief interventions. Incommunicado, no internet and uncertainty all around made it almost impossible to plan future course of action. As a part of relief operations, we provided food kits to our beneficiary base and general population especially daily wagers, catering to around 1300 families across all the districts of Kashmir region. In education, we started community learning centers, focusing on holistic education and all round development of students alongside mental wellness component. ***We had 30 centers operational across 9 districts with over 1500 children enrolled, 34 volunteer teachers are engaged in the program.***

The outbreak of COVID-19 in Kashmir led to the closure of CLCs and the schools. CHINAR initially focused on spreading awareness about the disease in order to stop individual and community spread with plans to focus on emergency relief and remote learning centers in coming months.

This annual report spans through April 2019 - March 2020, and includes activities across four major areas - child development, education, youth development and crises relief. It also contains our financial statement/balance sheet and audit summary of last year. We look forward to your feedback, suggestions and comments at info@chinarinternational.org.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to all the staff members (our jewels), funders, partners, Board of Directors and advisors for their constant commitment, engagement, and encouragement in all the initiatives undertaken during the year. Looking for a peaceful and productive year 2020.

Irfan Shahmiri

Global Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Annual distribution events held across five districts-Srinagar, Kupwara, Shopian, Pulwama and Doda. Students received books, stationery, bags and shoes ahead of new academic session.
- Ramadan Special distribution held across four districts - Srinagar, Shopian, Pulwama and Kupwara. Summer clothes, Eiddi and other gifts given to children enrolled under the child development program.
- This year, 10 students from different districts passed 10th class examinations with remarkable results.
- Student learning assessment conducted at 25 government run schools adopted by CHINAR. Remedial plan developed for each schools separately.
- Two successful community mobilization events held in Warwan Valley, Kishtwar and one in Baderwah Tehsil, Doda of Jammu division and one in Kulgam.
- Eighty young Kashmiri women graduated in a 6-month course in cutting and tailoring from our skill development centers spread across five districts of J&K state. First batch of students graduate from E-lab course at Kothibagh.
- August 19 crisis - Food kits/winter kits distributed to the most deserving families across different districts of Kashmir. Livelihood provided to 15 low-income families. Community learning centers started in 9 districts with over 1500 students enrolled.
- COVID-19 - Awareness drives in all the districts, emergency relief kits given to over 4000 families and 250 students enrolled in 9 remote learning centers

GOALS AND TARGETS FOR 2020-21

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- Scale up from 350 to 500 children in poverty.
- Scale up from 50 to 100 sustainable livelihoods for low-income families.

QUALITY EDUCATION

- Consolidate the performance of 25 existing schools
- Warwan education program - Provide remedial teaching to 600 children, currently at 485.
- Create child friendly spaces in districts under CHINARs intervention
- Launch Teach with CHINARx (TWCx) program

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- Entrepreneurship labs in four higher secondary schools.
- Skill development centers- 5 new centers.
- Youth forums(10)

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

“Provides critical support to children from most vulnerable communities to enable them to attain quality education”

This program is for vulnerable children from families that have no to little means of livelihood and are struggling to provide for their children. The selected child is provided with all necessities like school fees, stationary, clothes, shoes, school bags, nutrition, hygiene kit and basic healthcare. It provides market focused Community Finance for livelihoods to the guardians of vulnerable children so that the guardians can raise their families in a nurturing way. The target is to make the families self-reliant within 5 years.

Here is the list of activities carried out under the program this year:

Ramadhan Special Distribution event

In the holy month of Ramadan, CHINAR organized a special distribution event in Srinagar for the families enrolled in the child development program. CHINAR distributed summer clothes, Eiddi and other gifts among children ahead of Eid celebration. CHINAR’s global executive director, Mr Irfan Shahmiri



also attended the event and learnt about challenging journeys of the families and children enrolled under the program. Similar events were held in Shopian, Pulwama, Kupwara and Doda districts. Currently, 353 children from 140 families receive educational support under child development program.

“We are grateful to all the donors who contributed towards making a joyful Eid for our beneficiaries.”

Community Mobilization in Doda

CHINAR organized a community mobilization event in Tehsil Baderwah of Doda district to highlight the importance of education, health, and hygiene. Over 80 participants - including parents, guardians, field monitors, school principals and community heads - attended the event. CHINAR also distributed summer casuals, uniform, bags and shoes among 39 children from 18 vulnerable families.



Annual Distribution Event

As the new academic session started, CHINAR distributed books and stationery to all the children enrolled in child development program across four districts - Kupwara, Srinagar, Shopian and Pulwama. Besides, children also received winter essentials like pherans, socks, thermal sets and shoes to cope up with harsh winters. Parents, teachers, community heads along with



CHINAR staff attended the distribution events. In addition to this, CHINAR also provides nutrition and hygiene kits to the families on monthly basis.

Scale up survey to identify potential beneficiaries

In the first quarter of 2020, CHINAR undertook scale up surveys across five districts - Srinagar, Kupwara, Shopian and Pulwama to identify potential beneficiaries for our child development program, which ensures livelihood support to families and quality education to children. Following in-depth need assessment and thorough verification on ground, CHINAR will identify 221 more children to add to our current tally taking the total to over 500 children.



“TEN STUDENTS ENROLLED IN CHINAR’S PROGRAMS ACROSS FOUR DISTRICTS - SRINAGAR, SHOPIAN, PULWAMA AND KUPWARA QUALIFIED 10TH CLASS EXAMS WITH EXCELLENCE. THESE CHILDREN BELONG TO LOW-INCOME GROUPS WHO COULD NOT AFFORD EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES AND WERE AT THE VERGE OF DROPPING OUT FROM SCHOOLS. KUDOS TO THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT TEAM, FOR WORKING EXTREMELY HARD TOWARDS IMPROVING THE PERFORMANCE OF SUCH STUDENTS.”

QUALITY EDUCATION

“Works in low-resource government schools in collaboration with DOSE (Department of School Education) with the aim of school transformation for holistic development of children”

CHINAR collaborated with DSEK in mainstreaming of vulnerable children and providing quality education. This includes activities like remedial education, community mobilization, teacher training - sensitization - motivation - incentivisation - resource and other related infrastructure support like libraries and playgrounds. Under this program, CHINAR is providing support to around 6000 children under multiple projects like school transformation, community-learning centers and remote education in far-flung areas. As a part of school transformation, CHINAR has adopted 25 government schools with plans to scale up.

Following activities were conducted this year under the program:

Learning assessments at 25 schools

CHINAR conducted baselining assessment of student learning outcomes at 25 government schools spread across six districts of Kashmir region – Srinagar, Pulwama, Kupwara, Anantnag, Shopian and Budgam. The purpose of assessment was to gauge the competency levels of children in their respective grades.

The assessment tool, aligned with NCERT

learning outcomes is used to assess students from K to 8th grade in language and mathematics. Based on the baseline results, CHINAR creates remedial plan for each school, followed by training of teachers in effective classroom management.



Community mobilization Kulgam

In April, CHINAR organized community mobilization event at Middle school, Malwan. The main aim of the event was to sensitize people, especially parents/guardians in the community, about importance of education. Six middle schools (Malwan, Rangward, Mirpora, Shogund, Khaloora and Chandergee) and High School, Banimullah participated in the event.

Around 350 people attended the event including parents, members of Village Education Committee (VEC), DIET principal and community heads. The event highlighted the role of parents, teachers

and other stakeholders in the promotion of quality education at schools. Children performed skits, group songs and speeches to attract the attention of audience. The event marked the beginning of formation of parent associations in these schools to create supportive environment for government schools.



Warwan valley evaluation visit

This year, CHINAR made two assessment visits to remote Warwan Valley positioned in District Kishtwar. In June, CHINAR launched skill development center at Margi village where 40 unemployed young women learnt the art of cutting and tailoring services. Similarly, another community-learning center was started at Mingli village, which caters to 90



underprivileged students from two government schools. Community mobilization events, teacher training programs and youth interactions were also held during the trip.

Amidst all the chaos post August 2019, CHINAR made another evaluation visit to assess the situation on ground and check the progress of education and skill development programs. Currently, 400 students are enrolled at our remedial tuition centers in Margi (220), Mengli (115) and Mulwarwan (65) villages. So far, 80 girls have successfully graduated from our skill centers.



Teach with CHINAR coming up soon

CHINAR was selected for TFIx - Teach for India Incubator program 2019 cohort. As part of this program, while each entrepreneur crafts his or her own vision, all share the two-part Theory of Change: commitment to teaching children from marginalized backgrounds and building a movement of leaders in each region working for educational equity. CHINAR will launch Teach with CHINAR fellowship program to improve the quality of education in government schools of Kashmir. Through this fellowship, CHINAR aims to create a cadre of youth from local communities who will support schools in enhancing learning outcomes, reduce school dropouts and encourage community involvement in school education.

In the month of October, CHINAR launched Teach with CHINAR internship (for 3 months) in selected villages of Shopian and Pulwama districts where they will run three community-learning centers on pilot basis. These interns received three-day extensive training on leadership, classroom management, community involvement and team building at CHINAR office.

“Teach for India experts visited CHINAR office in Srinagar to streamline the process of fellow selection, and provide inputs for designing student and fellow curriculum for 2 years. A detailed project implementation plan was created to execute the plan on ground.”



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

“Works with unemployed youth through skill development and entrepreneurship support to enhance their capacities to become self-reliant”

A huge majority of Kashmiri youth is un-employed or underemployed and attaining a government job is the benchmark of being successful. Government jobs are scarce and private sector is still in nascent stage. Additionally, a significant number of skilled labors are imported from other states, as dignity of labor has not evolved in Kashmir as in other parts of India.

In this vertical, CHINAR works with unemployed youth through skill development, entrepreneurship support and counseling to enhance their capacities to become self-reliant.

Here is a list of activities under the program:

Youth Graduate from Skill Centers

CHINAR’s skill development program aims to train young women in marketable skills to make them financially independent. This year, over 80 young women successfully completed six-month tailoring course from our skill center Pulwama, Srinagar and Kishtwar districts. At the closing ceremony, CHINAR provided sewing machines to the most deserving girls based on



their attendance, financial strength, feedback from trainer and specialization in the skill. In December, CHINAR started one skill center at Bemina, Srinagar and one in Narbal, Budgam with 25 girls enrolled in each.

A group of 18 girls graduated in the basic computer course from our digital learning center at Bemina, Srinagar. CHINAR's evaluation team undertook viva of all the trainees and awarded certificates of appreciation to the toppers. Another batch of 25 students enrolled for the course, which started in November this year. So far, over 350 youth have successfully graduated in different courses, mostly cutting and tailoring from our skill centers spread across six districts of J&K state.



Design Your Own-Our first business incubation program

Mehnaza Khan, one of the success stories of CHINAR's Business Incubation Centres, is running her digital embroidery business in Srinagar. She embroiders shirts, kurtas, T-shirts, caps, logos, etc. Her business is gaining momentum as she is overwhelmed by large orders coming from multiple vendors.



CRISIS RELIEF

August 2019

During unrest times, CHINAR uses two-pronged strategy to help vulnerable sections, which includes immediate relief to families in distress and educational support to children within their communities. In addition, CHINAR also provides livelihood support to the families having no source of income.

Food kits: These are essential food items needed for the basic survival of low-income families especially those who are dependent on daily wages for their sustenance. Each food kit comprises of rice, flour, edible oil and other essential items. In total, 1350 food kits were distributed to the low-income group families across different districts of Kashmir region. Besides community participation, CHINAR collaborates with local partners on ground to identify the families facing acute shortage of supplies due to crises.



Winter kits: CHINAR provided winter kits to 107 selected families living in utter poverty across four districts - Srinagar, Shopian, Kupwara and Pulwama. These kits comprised of blankets, pherans, solar lanterns and other essential items.



“One of our USA board members, Mr. Altaf Lal, also attended the distribution event in Srinagar and had an interesting interaction with beneficiaries who shared their experiences and challenges. He greatly appreciated CHINAR’s work and applauded the team for their tremendous efforts.”



Livelihood: CHINAR launched a special livelihood program for families with no source of income due to conflict. A thorough assessment survey was conducted across four districts - Shopian, Pulwama, Srinagar and Kupwara to identify the most deserving families. In total, 15 families received livelihood support in the form of sheep units, provisional store, boutiques, etc.



Community learning centers: CHINAR started community-learning centers (CLC), as an alternative means, to continue education during difficult times when regular schooling is not possible. These centers served as a hub of multiple activities such as activity-based learning, remedial teaching, art and recreation. CHINAR provided an extensive 3-day



training to all teachers, volunteers and coordinators involved in the project. CHINAR's CLC handbook, explained systematic instructions on how to run these centers in an organized manner. In total, 30 centers operational spread across nine districts of J&K state - Shopian, Pulwama, Budgam, Srinagar, Bandipora, Baramulla, Kulgam, Kupwara and Kishtwar. Thirty community volunteers are engaged in providing activity-based learning and remedial teaching to over 1500 students.

COVID-19 Response

In the wake of Coronavirus outbreak across the globe, CHINAR launched a COVID-19 Relief Program in Kashmir. In the initial phase, CHINAR ran a massive awareness campaign, which involved sharing information about the coronavirus, its symptoms and precautionary measures through social media, posters, flyers, etc. in order to contain and stop the spread of the disease. Safety of the staff was a major concern so we arranged PPEs and developed protocols to work on ground. *“Efforts are underway to distribute essential food items and sanitation kits to the most deserving families and start remote learning centers for students across all the districts of Kashmir region.”*



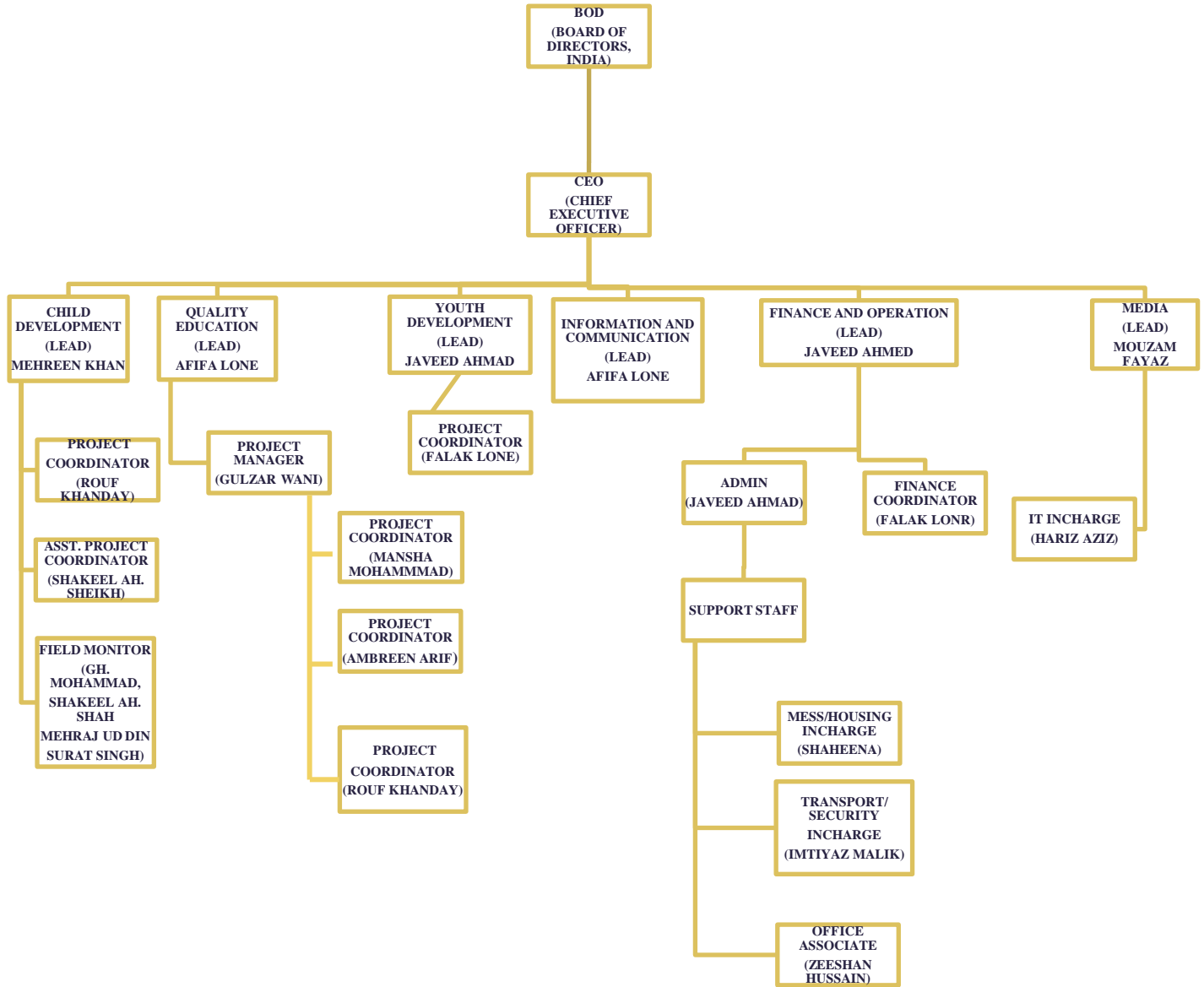
INTERNSHIPS

CHINAR's internship program focuses on creating young change makers through mentorship and guidance. This year, five interns coming from varied educational backgrounds successfully completed their internship. These interns are enrolled in different colleges/universities at local, national and international level - Kashmir University, Delhi University and Smith College in New York and Islamic University in Kashmir.

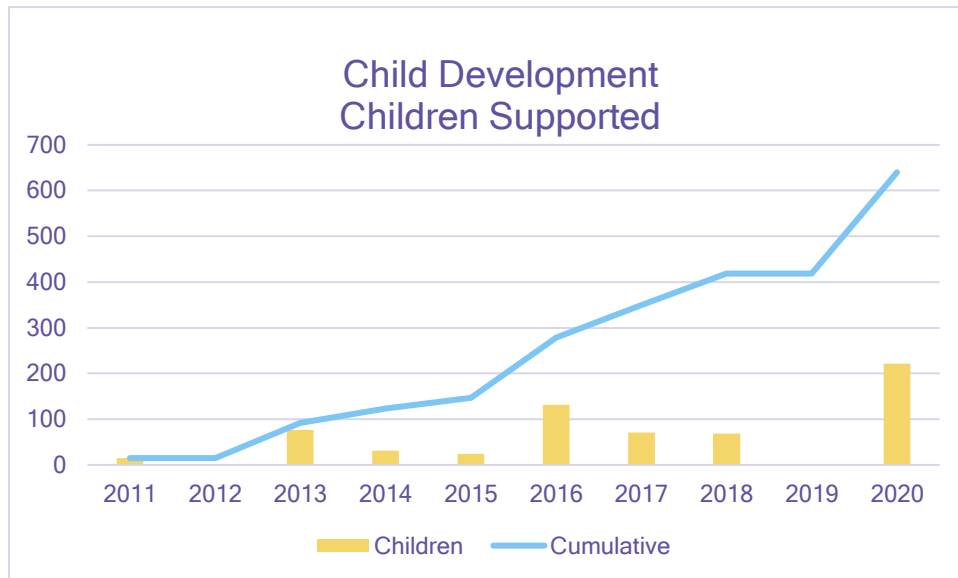
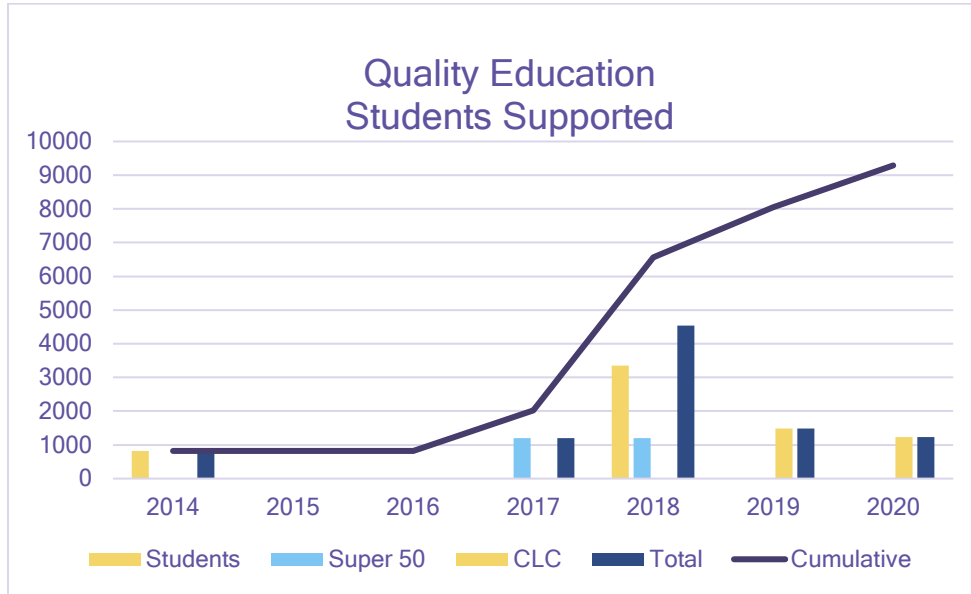


During their internship, the interns were engaged in remedial classes, developing academic preparation modules and scale up surveys. At the end of internship, the interns presented their learnings and reflections to the CHINAR team and received certificate of completion.

ORGANOGRAM



INFOGRAPHICS



DASHBOARD-MARCH 2020

District	Child development			Quality Education				Youth Development		
	Children	Families	Livelihood	No. of schools adopted	No. of students	Remedial/tuition centers	Community mobilisation event	Skills development trainings	Business Incubation	E-labs
Pulwama	73	37	4		0	1		23		
Shopian	81	38	18	2	349	1	2	28		
Kupwara	80	30	8	1	119	2		72	1	
Doda	39	18	0		0	3	3			
Srinagar	120	48	16	1	54	9	1	105		3
Anantnag				1	95	1				
Ganderbal										
Bandipora										
Baramulla										
Budgam				1	131	1	1	21		
Kulgam				19	2587	1	1			
Kishtwar					450	3	5	101		
Total	393	171	46	25	3785	22	12	350	1	3

FINANCIALS 19-20

S No	Particulars	1-Apr-2019 to 31-Mar-2020
1	Child Development	3,178,635.00
2	Livelihood Support	177,520.00
3	Quality Education	986,624.00
4	Community Learning Centres	1,178,718.00
5	2019 Crisis Relief	2,776,237.00
6	COVID-19 Emergency Relief	328,500.00
7	Youth Development	175,896.00
8	Skill Development Centres	221,756.00
9	Admin and Operations	2,102,331.27
	Total	11,126,217.27

BOARD OF DIRECTORS –INDIA



Irfan Shahmiri - Global Executive Director



Dr. Nandita Mondal - Chief functionary



Yasmin Hussain -Treasurer



Mahrukh Inayat- Secretary



Dr. Sarosh Khan-President



Shireen Inayatullah-Vice President

ABOUT US

CHINAR International is a non-profit, non-religious, non-political, social impact organization focused on empowerment of orphans, vulnerable children and marginalized youth in conflict areas through community-based approach and socioeconomic initiatives including quality education for children, livelihood support for guardians of vulnerable children and skill development for marginalized youth. We are operating in the state of Jammu & Kashmir supporting over 5000 children coming from 29 government schools and 128 marginalized families. CI has also helped around 75 families with livelihood support and around 250 youth in skill development and business incubation. In addition, when the floods of September 2014 hit the Valley, CI jumped into disaster relief activities helping over 90,000 people.

Vision

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

Mission

Empowerment of orphans, vulnerable children and marginalized youth in conflict areas through quality education and socio-economic initiatives.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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